

CROSSROADS

Official Notice

First Christian Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2007
10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

The Annual Meeting of the
Congregation will include:

- Reports from each Ministry Team
- Treasurer's Report
- Introduction & approval of 2007 budget
- Presentation of the slate to serve on the Nominating Committee
- Senior Minister Russell Peterman's Vision 2007 Statement

A New Sunday Schedule for the New Year!

The Worship Ministry team, with the full support and blessing of the Church Board, is excited to announce that starting in the New Year, we will be adjusting slightly the Sunday morning schedule. These changes, while minor, are likely to have BIG effects in terms of allowing more people, especially young families, to come to worship.



Starting **Sunday, January 7**, the early service, which will continue to have the same casual, contemporary feel, will begin at **9:00 a.m.**; Sunday School for all ages will begin at **10:00 a.m.**; and our second, more blended service will begin at **11:00 a.m.**

Other churches that have made similar adjustments in scheduling report finding worship attendance increasing dramatically! In a hurried, fast-paced world, giving folks a little more time to get the family up and going on a Sunday morning is often a very welcomed gift.

NOOMA Group to Begin

You are invited to join a new group that will be viewing and discussing a series of short films that combine the latest in professional cinematography with fresh insights about God, spiritual practices, and how to be a good Christian in the world. Each **NOOMA** touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and it comes in a way that fits our world

The word **NOOMA** is an English phonetic spelling of the Greek word "pneuma", which is commonly translated to "spirit" or "breath". Pneumatology refers to the study of spiritual beings, particularly the interactions between humans and God.



This group will meet **every other Wednesday**, starting **January 17** and will meet at Russ's house, which is very near the church. If needed, we will offer child care, but it will need to be requested in advance. For more information, please feel free to contact Russ Peterman at 925/689-7503, or russ@concordfcc.net

*Compass**The Three Questions*

By Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister



Several years ago a friend gave me a children's book entitled "The Three Questions" written and illustrated by Jon Muth. It is a beautiful, poignant book based upon a story by Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian novelist and social reformer.

The book tells the story of a boy named Nikolai and his animal friends. Nikolai, like all of us, struggles with knowing the best way to act. "I want to be a good person," he tells his friends, "but I don't always know the best way to do that. If only I could find the answers to my three questions then I would always know what to do."

- When is the best time to do things?
- Who is the most important one?
- What is the right thing to do?

Nikolai's friends are well-intentioned, but not much help. Their simplistic answers just don't seem quite right! So, after much thought, he decides to ask Leo the turtle his three questions. Leo is wise, and Nikolai thinks he will surely know the answers to these important questions!

Nikolai climbs the high mountain upon which Leo lives, and finds him digging in his garden. Nikolai shares with Leo the three questions that are nagging him—and Leo simply smiles and listens. Later, as they make their way down the mountain, they hear a cry for help. A panda has fallen and hurt her leg. Nikolai rushes to help her and carry her to safety, bandaging her leg. When the panda wakes, she is worried about her child, all alone in the woods. Without hesitation the boy runs back into the forest where he finds the panda's child, cold and shivering. He brings panda cub to her mother and lays her in her mother's. Leo smiles when he sees what the boy has done.

The next morning the panda's leg is healing, and she and her baby thank Nikolai for his help. The boy feels a great peace within himself—but also a nagging disappointment because he hasn't found the answers to his three questions!

"But your questions have been answered," says Leo. Nikolai is unsure! "Yesterday, when you found the injured panda, the most important time was the time you spent mending her leg and saving her child. The most important ones were the panda and her baby. And the most important thing to do was to take care of them and make them safe!"

"Remember then that there is only one important time, and that time is now. The most important one is always the one you are

with. And the most important thing is to do good for the one who is standing at your side. For these, my dear boy, are the answers to what is most important in this world. This is why we are here!"

In the year ahead, friends, there will be—for all of us—changes and rearranges. There will be joy and sorrow, and there will be moments of unforgettable poignancy and beauty. There will also be times we will wish never happened. Still, in each of these moments, our call will be simply to be present, and to be aware of the unending grace of God always behind us, around us and before us.

Blessings upon you in the New Year,

Christmas Cards

The following people placed cards on our Christmas Tree this year:

Jeanne Clark; Don & Kathleen DeGiobbi; Jan Eversole & Luz Porto; Shirley Hall; Michelle & Matt Harris-Gloyer; Dee & Collier Laird; Gary, Lori Kate & Matthew Landberg; Ellie McDougal; Don & Cookie Orescanin; Joyce Parlin; Russ Jake and Ella Peterman; Bill & Bev Plambeck; Tim, Paula, Kristin & Ian Rose; The Schneiders; Linda Smith; Jayne Spencer; and Sue, Scott & Meg Sumner-Moore.

Serving In Worship...

January 7, 2007
Isaiah 43: 1-7
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
 "Marked by Love"

9:00 AM

Elder: Estella Stephenson

Deacons: Todd & Lisa Morgan

11:00 AM

Greeters: The Gay-Stephenson Family

Table Elder: Debbe Hughes

Offertory Elder: Carolyn Partney

Time for Children: Ellie McDougal

Scripture Reader: Matt Hecker

Diaconate: Gloria Mattson [captain] Bill Plambeck, Dean or Debbie Henry, Emrys Lloyd-Roberts, Kym West, Elaine Sherman

Ushers: Mike Hecker [captain] Luz Porto, Jan Eversole, Kate Landberg

January 14, 2007

9:00 AM

Elder: Rick Marr

Deacons: Don & Cookie Orescanin

10:00 AM

Greeters: The Sumner-Moore Family

Table Elder: Diana Carlisle

Offertory Elder: Toni Barmore

Time for Children: Carolyn Partney

Scripture Reader: Judi Carlisle

Diaconate: Don DeGiobbi [captain] Mark or Julie Hood, Collier Laird, Al and Bev Lockwood, Luz Porto, Pat Watson

Ushers: Elaine Ortiz [captain] Patti Halter, Janet Hecker, Lisa Crays

My Deepest Gratitude

I want to thank you all for your prayers, your friendship, your cards, and your support during my recovery from surgery. I want to say a special thank you for the prayer blanket you gave me - it is the most special gift I have ever received and I was deeply touched by your thoughtfulness.

Also, thank you for looking out for Luz in my absence. I know she relied heavily on God and your prayers, friendship and support during this trying time for her. All of you being there for her in this time of need was a great comfort to us both.

Let us not waste the precious time on earth God has given us wishing for things we don't have and be thankful for what we do have and live each day as if it were our last. Let us treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Just for today

Let us show kindness and appreciation to others

Just for today

Let us not be envious of others accomplishments

Just for today

Let us praise someone for a job well done

Just for today

Let us see the good in all people

Just for today

Let us not listen to others gossip

Just for today

Let us not judge under the influence of others

Just for today

Let us give that helping hand

Then perhaps someone will do the same for us

Just for today.

God Bless, and love to you all.

Jan Eversole

Mid-Winter Youth Retreat 2007 "Survivor - Mt. Hermon Island"

For youth in grades 6 – 9 and adult sponsors. January 13-15, 2007 (Saturday to Monday) Mt. Hermon Christian Conference enter in Felton, CA. Cost: \$100 before December 22nd, \$125 after December 22nd. Join us at "Mt. Hermon Island" for a Survivor weekend where nobody gets voted off! Just what does it take to survive in this world? We'll be pushing ourselves to the limits in community, worship, games, exploration, and activities that help us learn what we need to survive. Registrations for Mid-Winter have started to come in and we are looking forward to an incredible weekend.

Taizé Service Wonderful Success

On Sunday, December 31 we gathered for one service of worship at 10:00 am. We used this day as an opportunity to experience a unique style of worship that focused on a form of musical prayer known as Taizé.

The songs were not sung as hymns, but rather as a series of prayers. Each chant was repeated several times over, allowing participants not only to learn the chant, but to allow it to become a prayer of the heart.

This style of worship comes out of a monastic community in southeastern France, founded in 1940 with the mission of healing the divisions between Christians and within the human family. To this day that community seeks to create a place where reconciliation can become a concrete reality every day. It is an ecumenical community which includes 100 brothers – many of them Protestant – from over twenty different countries.

Throughout the year, thousands of Christian people from all over the world, young and old, gather at Taizé to pray, to sing, and to search for refreshment and renewal.

To find out more about Taizé, go to www.taize.fr

Many in our congregation commented that this style of worship was incredibly rich and meaningful – especially at this time of year, as we look back on the year behind us, as well as begin to look ahead to what God may be calling us to do and be in the year ahead. The Worship Ministry Team will be looking into ways in which we incorporate this style of worship on a more regular basis, perhaps with periodic evening services.

Much thanks to Tim Rose, Diane Maltester, and Scott Sumner-Moore for their incredible musical leadership in this service! We were all blessed by their profound gifts.

A Gracious Welcome to our Newest Member

With much joy we welcomed Bill Bush into membership on Sunday, December 24. In many ways we are welcoming BACK Bill as he grew up in this church before going off to college and then joined the military, serving in Vietnam. Several months ago he was feeling a tug to renew his relationship with God and be reconnected to the church. At that same time he happened to be in the neighborhood and drove by FCC Concord and was reminded of his roots here. The next Sunday he was in worship, and has been participating regularly ever since. He joined on Christmas Eve, he said, as his Christmas Gift to himself!

Bill is a Construction Supervisor and has a lovely wife and grown children. He lives at 2435 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

He is very interested in doing "hands-on ministry" and is already involved in the House and Grounds Ministry Team who has warmly welcomed him into the God Squad!

Welcome back, Bill! We are blessed by you and look forward to doing ministry alongside of you!

FebCamp 2007 "Just Imagine..."

For youth in grades 9 – 12. February 17-19, 2007 (Saturday to Monday) Mt. Hermon Christian Conference Center in Felton, CA. Cost: \$125 Registration deadline: January 26, 2007. What would happen if God's imagination went wild in the world? What if we could start to live as if God's dreams for us and the world had already come true? Join us as we explore the gifts of imagination and creativity to seek a better world. The Regional Youth Council is planning an exciting weekend full to the brim with fun activities and meaningful experiences. Our keynoter will be Robert Shively and the co-directors are Carl Cordes and Flo Tinsley.

January - February 2007 "Greeter" Schedule

Thank you to all of the wonderful smiling faces who have greeted our members and guests during 2006. In the spirit of "Every Member in Ministry and in Prayer" we are asking everyone to take a turn being a "Greeter" at the late service in 2007!

"Greeters" arrive at 10:30 am and welcome members and guests as they arrive for the 11:00 am service through the main entrance doors. Guests need to be shown where to sign the Guest Book. "Greeters" usually seat themselves shortly after the beginning of the service.

The Hospitality Ministry Team will send out postcards notifying members when it will be their turn to "Meet and Greet". A reminder phone call will be made the week prior to the scheduled date. If you are unable to serve, please trade with someone on the schedule, or call Janet Gay at 687-0470.

Thank you for helping to create an environment that welcomes everyone who comes through our doors.

- January 7 -The Gay-Stephenson Family
- January 14 -The Sumner-Moore Family
- January 21 -The Hammel-DeBella Family
- January 28 -Edith Armstrong & Nina Nicholas
- February 4 -Matt and Michael Hecker
- February 11 -The Hile Family
- February 18 -The Landberg Family
- February 25 -Jan Eversole and Luz Porto

GULF COAST MISSION TRIPS ARE SET

Registration materials are being mailed this week to each congregation and will also be available at www.ccncn.org Week #1... March 25-31...FCC Beaumont/Port Arthur, TX (note change) Week #2...April 1-7 (Holy Week)...Disciples of Grace CC in Covington/ Slidell *Interest is already coming in from across the region including a Disciple from Yuma, AZ where there is no DOC church. We still are hoping for a couple more volunteers to help with the administrative tasks. This is a great opportunity for someone who might not be able to go on the trip but would like to help.*

CWF SPENDING UP THANKS TO YOU

CWF had four very successful fund raisers this year. They were our Spring Style Show, September Tupper Ware Party, Fall Soup Luncheon (with money from the hat raffle and Tupper ware sales) and our December Bake sale (with Tupper ware auction). Thanks to your support these fund added to the money we collect every time we have a meeting. We have expanded our outreach this year and we'd like to share our joy with you.

Our normal CWF budget expenditures are the following:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Disciples Mission Fund | \$1,700 |
| Week of Compassion | \$100 |
| International CWF | \$5 |
| Church Women United (local churches) | \$25 |
| CWF Love Offering (Regional) | \$75 |
| CWF Training Fund (Regional) | \$50 |
| Church Reconciliation Offering | \$100 |
| Minister's Discretionary Fund | \$125 |
| Least Coin | \$94 |
| Conference Scholarships | \$175 |

The following disbursements were approved at year end as our fund raisers were so successful -
- THANK YOU

| | |
|---|---------|
| STAND (Battered Women) | \$50 |
| Bay Area Crisis Nursery | \$50 |
| Our Helpful Custodian | \$50 |
| Our Church Deficit | \$800 |
| Conference Funds to Debbe Hughes for Feb. trip | \$200 |
| All costs related to the white curbing beside church driveway | \$1,107 |

Our non-cash Out Reach

4 - Big bags of gift items for children in STAND housing facilities to give to their mothers at Christmas.

15 - Food boxes for the Interfaith Council's food program for low income families. Approx. \$750 Dry milk and canned foods for SHARE.

We welcome any woman that would like to gather with us either the second Mon. Evening at 7:00 or the Second Tue. morning at 9:30. Each group uses their own study material. We also have a quarterly brunch and program. All women are welcome to ALL our activities. Please check the CHURCH calendar for time and date of future CWF activities www.concordfcc.net
Cecelia Ambach



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN CONCORD**

A PLACE TO WORSHIP, TO GROW, AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Staff:

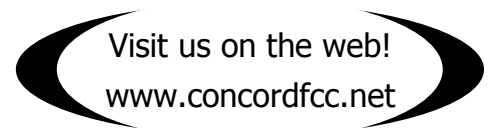
| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Senior Minister: | Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman | russ@concordfcc.net |
| Student Associate Minister: | Michelle Harris-Gloyer | michelle@concordfcc.net |
| Director of Youth Ministry: | Sarah Partney | sarah@concordfcc.net |
| Office Manager: | Emrys Lloyd-Roberts | emrys@concordfcc.net |
| Organist: | Robert Coslett | |
| Custodian: | Daniel Blanton | |
| Website: | www.concordfcc.net | |

Contact Information:

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 Phone: 925-685-7503 Fax: 925-685-0963
 Address: 3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord CA 94519

CROSSROADS

Email submissions and subscriptions to: info@concordfcc.net
 Submission deadline for next issue: Tuesday January 15, 2007 11:00 a.m.



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 7, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 10:00 am — Sunday School for all ages / Education Wing
 11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 6:00 pm— Youth / Youth Building
 6:00 pm – Church Bowling League

Monday, January 8

4:00 pm — Staff Meeting / Senior Pastor’s Study
 6:00 pm—Mexico Meeting / Youth Building
 7:00 pm—Rachel Ruth Circle / Library
 7:00 pm—Elders / Discovery Room

Tuesday, January 9

9:30 am—Mary Martha Circle / Library
 12:00 am—Diving Deeper Group / Church Office
 7:00 pm—Finance Team / Library
 7:00 pm—Outreach Team / Discovery Room

Thursday, January 11

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Sunday, January 14, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages / Education Wing
 11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 6:00 pm— Youth / Youth Building
 6:00 pm—Church Bowling League

Monday, January 15

3:30 pm—Staff Meeting / Senior Pastor’s study
 7:00 pm—Prayer Meeting / Wendy Collins’ home

Tuesday, January 16

7:00 pm—Visioning Team /Discovery Room

Thursday, January 18

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Saturday, January 20

8:30 am—House and Grounds Team