

CROSSROADS

In Preparation for Easter

Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 1,
9:00 am & 11:00 am.

Recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Children are invited to join the Palm Parade!

"Which Procession Are You In?"

Luke 19: 28-40

Maundy Thursday April 5, 7:30 p.m.

In remembrance of Jesus' last supper, we gather to sing hymns, read scripture and celebrate communion in this very moving Tenebrae Service which will involve the music of Taize. TENEBRAE is derived from the Latin word meaning darkness or shadows.

Easter Sunday April 8,
9:00 am. & 11:00 am.

Celebrate the resurrection!

"See What Love Can Do!"

John 20: 1-18

There will also be an Easter Egg hunt beginning at 10:30 and a pancake breakfast (available between 9:00 – 10:30).

Children's Sunday School classes are meeting at the normal times. They will be eating breakfast together.

Adult Classes are also meeting.

A Word From the Worship Ministry Team

Lent is a time of reflection, usually accompanied with fasting and penance; it's a time to go inward and prepare for Easter. It's traditionally quiet, dark, contemplative. That's the reason that the liturgical colors are purple and black and why many of the Lenten hymns are played and sung in minor keys. It's also the reason why the curtains have been closed on the baptistry the last few weeks.

On Easter Sunday the curtains will be opened, the sanctuary will be filled with beautiful lilies (see the announcement below about ordering lilies in honor or memory of someone you love), the sound of bright, joyous music will be heard, and the symbols of new life will be all around us. On that day we will be doing baptisms of young people who are excited about taking an important next step in their faith journey! It will truly be a joyous day!



Easter Flowers

Please let the church Office know if you want to donate money (\$10.00 per plant) for Easter flowers in memory, in appreciation or in celebration of anyone.

Please make your donation by April 1, 2007

Forms are available in Church or from the Church office.





Compass Sanctuary

by The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

When I was in college I spent a summer traveling through England studying the architecture of cathedrals and what they communicated about the church's understanding of who God is. We were able to trace how the buildings began to change as the image of how God acts in the world continued to evolve. It was fascinating.

The first one that we studied was in Durham. It was the oldest of them all. Sir Walter Scott once described this place as "half fortress, half house of God." Beside the door was a plaque that stated clearly, "In the middle ages the Cathedral provided a refuge for fugitives. Anyone who had committed a serious offense could claim sanctuary by knocking on this door. The fugitives were given 37 days to organize their affairs. They had to decide either to stand trial or to leave the country by the nearest port."

As I remember this I'm struck with how much differently we tend to view church today. Now the mentality is to gather to be built up, "fed" is the word that I hear used the most. We come to be inspired how to be a better person. But back in the middle-ages people came to the cathedrals seeking shelter and protection. The word sanctuary actually means, "a place of refuge or safety."

This week we have welcomed 30 people into our church building, offered them shelter, food, and true Christian hospitality. Without this program they would be on the street or living in their car. It is one of the things that I am most proud of that we do as a congregation. It transforms us and reminds us what it means to truly be the church!

There is a story about an ancient Rabbi that asked his disciples, "how can you tell when the night has ended and the day was on its way back?" One of his followers ventured a guess, "When you can see an animal in distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?" The rabbi shook his head. Another responded, "When you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig or peach tree?"

Finally the rabbi responded, "It is when you look on the face of any person and can see they are your brother or sister. Because if you cannot do this, then no matter what time it is, it is still night!"

I look forward with great anticipation when there is no need for ministries like Winter Nights to house people who

would otherwise be homeless. But until there is, I am incredibly grateful for churches like this one who offer sanctuary to our brothers and sisters in the name of Christ who loves us all, and rejoices when we find home in the loving embrace of God.

As always, I am proud to be your pastor,

STRONG *in the* **Broken Places** a sermon series for Lent

Lenten Sermon Series

Continues

Strong in the Broken Places

Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, preaching
"The world breaks everyone. Afterward,
many are strong in the broken places."
-- Ernest Hemingway

March 18

4th Sunday in Lent

Broken Thoughts

Mark 8: 31-38

March 25

5th Sunday in Lent

Broken Faith

Luke 19: 29-44

Serving in Worship...

March 18, 2007
Strong in the Broken Places
Mark 8: 31-38
 "Broken Thoughts"

9:00 AM

Elder: Rick Marr

Deacons: Greg Mitchell & Cho Nai Cheung

11:00 AM

Greeters: The Henry Family

Table Elder: Toni Barmore

Offertory Elder: Ellie McDougal

Time for Children: Carolyn Partney

Scripture Reader: Matt Landberg

Diaconate: Hugh McNamar [captain] Mike Hecker, Tom Kilpatrick, Kate Landberg, Lori Landberg, Diana Sage

Ushers: Elaine Sherman [captain] Linda Smith, Ruth Langley

March 25, 2007
Strong in the Broken Places
Luke 19: 29-44
 "Broken Faith"

9:00 AM

Elder: Diane Maltester

Deacons: Ken and Pat Rishell

11:00 AM

Greeters: Denise and Bobby Schneider and Mandy Hanks

Table Elder: Debbe Hughes

Offertory Elder: Diana Carlisle

Time for Children:

Scripture Reader: Andie Raymond

Diaconate: Denise Schneider [captain] Patti Halter, Matt Hecker, Janet Hecker, Lynne Hile, Andie Raymond

Ushers: Doris Hamblin [captain] Kay Waggoner, Dee Laird, Gloria Mattson

"Baptism and Belonging"
 Class

March 18—April 1

The Baptism & Belonging Class, formerly known as the Pastor's Class, prepares young people who are interested in becoming "full" members of the church by being baptized, or who just want to find out about the church and grow in their faith.

The class will meet Sunday afternoons, 12:30-2:00 pm for the next three Sundays, March 18-April 1, and will be taught by Russ Peterman, Michelle Harris-Gloyer and Sarah Partney. Those who are interested will then be baptized during the worship service on Sunday, April 8 (Easter Sunday).

Traditionally this class has been open to anyone in the 5th grade or older. Kids younger than that who are interested in participating need to have their parents meet with Russ Peterman.

While the Disciples traditionally baptize "believers," we frequently have young people come to our churches that were baptized as infants, and are looking for a confirmation-like class. We have, in the past, adjusted slightly the curriculum of this class to accommodate folks who are looking for more of a confirmation experience, and then formerly recognize them in worship. It is our tradition as Disciples to recognize all baptisms – both by immersion and by sprinkling.

If you have questions, or would like to sign up for the **Baptism and Belonging Class**, please contact the church office, 925/685-7503.

"Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism unto death, so that... we too might walk in newness of life." -- Romans 6:4

Regional Young Adult Updates

From Matthew and Michelle Harris-Gloyer,

Directors of Young Adult Ministry (ages 18 post high school to 30-ish)

Upcoming Events:

March 24 – CGC Work Day!

Come to the Community of the Great Commission, the CCNC-N's campgrounds, for a day of work to help make the camp safe from fire. Let's have a young adult presence at this important effort. Come to camp on Friday night – we'll hang out and make a mini-retreat out of it!

Register NOW! <http://www.ccncn.org/cgc.htm>

April 27-29 – Annual Meeting at Asilomar – including Young Adult After-Session – The BIGGEST Thing at Asilomar *EVER!!!*

Friday night, April 27th, will be the after-session sponsored by Young Adult Ministries of the CCNC-N. This after-session is geared toward young adults (18-30ish), but ALL are invited to come share in the fun, contagious energy, and buzz around this emerging ministry! Play a BIG game, eat a BIG snack, worship a BIG God, and share some BIG laughs!

Register NOW! <http://www.ccncn.org/07AMReg.pdf>

July 20-25 – General Assembly – including Young Adult Pre-Event!

If you are interested in learning more about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), its beliefs, structures, programs, and members... or you want to get inspired by some workshops with ideas you can take back to your congregation... or you want to worship God and fellowship with a few thousand other Disciples – General Assembly is for you! <http://www.disciples.org/ga/>

The YA pre-event is designed especially for 18-35 year olds and will take place July 20-21: <http://www.disciples.org/ga/yva/youngadults/>

Visit this site for info on affordable housing for youth & young adults at Texas Christian University: <http://www.disciples.org/ga/housing/oncampus/>

If you plan on attending GA, or are interested in doing so, let us know. We can then network accordingly!

Save the Date:

August 10-12 – Young Adult Retreat!!

Camp Tuolumne Trails near Groveland, CA – just 26 miles from Yosemite National Park! www.uccr.org/TuolumneTrails.htm

More details to come!

Questions?

Contact Michelle at michelle@ccncn.org or 317.509.9521.

Call for Dancers!

On the *move* for worship Easter Sunday...

Are you interested in creative movement as a part of worship, for your health, and/or for fun? I am coordinating a group dance to be shared in worship on Easter Sunday. We will coordinate two to three weekday evenings to meet at the church, enjoy fellowship, stretching, and moving together!

All ages and abilities welcome!

If you're interested (or have questions), please contact me by Monday, March 19th, at 317.509.9521 (cell) or michelle@concordfcc.net.

Michelle Harris-Gloyer



Youth Group News

JYF NEWS

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 18, 2007, after late worship. We will gather in the Library for lunch (bring your own), and then enjoy a fun movie. Our young friends who will be participating in the Winter Nights Program will be invited to join us. Your parents can plan to pick you up at 2:00 PM.

Fun activities are planned for Easter Sunday, including the traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Watch your Crossroads as well as the Sunday bulletin for information on this.

SAVE THIS DATE: April 22 – EARTH DAY – Our JYF group and friends will be going on a field trip to the Martinez Shoreline Park for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship. We will keep you posted on more information later!

For those new to our congregation, JYF means Junior Youth Fellowship, and is for those in grades 3 - 4 - 5. We often include siblings as well. Call Sarah or Carolyn at 925-458-4058 if you have questions.

See you on the 18th! Sarah and Carolyn

MARCH 18 5:00-9:00PM

We will be serving dinner for the Warm Winter Nights Program on Sunday, March 18th. We will be arriving at 5:00pm to prepare the meal and staying through 9:00pm for clean up and activities with the children from the program. We had a wonderful experience last year and we look forward to having you all there! If you have any questions, please contact

Sarah directly@ (925) 597-0636.

MEXICO MISSION 2007

There will be one more Information Session on March 25th from 12:15 - 1:00 in the Library. Anyone planning on participating that has not attended one of the previous sessions must do so now in order to go! This is the last one in Concord, Redding and Chico have already had theirs. We would love to have you come and learn about the trip.



Outreach Ministry News

Luz, Carolyn, and Michelle met on Wednesday, March 7, to brainstorm plans for the coming year.

WHAT'S NEW?

Beginning March 18th, we will have an OUTREACH information area in the Narthex for you to stop by, check out, and sign up the outreach ministry that touches your heart.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS to watch for:

March	24	CGC Work Day
April	1/8	Easter Special Offering (general ministries – 2020 Vision & Strengthen congregations for mission)
	4	Outreach Ministry Team Meeting – 7:00pm Library This meeting is open to all who want to share in this ministry.
	28	Meal for the Homeless Shelter
May	5	Habitat for Humanity Work Day
	20/27	Pentecost Special Offering (new church ministries)

We have many other new and exciting ideas, but also welcome those you might have that we have not considered. Please contact one of us if you cannot attend the meeting on April 4.

REMEMBER – EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY

Yours in Christ,
Carolyn Partney



Work Day

In partnership with Lafayette Christian Church
Saturday, April 21
8:45 am to 4:00 pm
West 5th and K Streets
Antioch

- Do you want to put your hands to work helping in your community?
- Have you always wanted to get involved in mission work but don't have the time to go to Mexico or the Gulf Coast?
- Are you feeling the call to "get dirty for Jesus?"

Please join us for the Concord/Lafayette Habitat for Humanity work day on Saturday, April 21. All interested parties age 16 and over are invited to help make a difference in one family's life. Previous construction experience is not required!

Contact Janet Hecker at janetmrh@aol.com for more information.



March Greeters

March 18 -The Henry Family
March 25 -Mandy Hanks, Denise and Bobby Schneider

Hospitality Ministry Team

The Hospitality Ministry Team has rescheduled the March team meeting to the first Sunday in April on 4/1/07. Please join us after late service at 12:15 pm. Bring a bag lunch and your ideas for helping FCC-Concord to be the most welcoming place to be! If you have ideas, but are unable to make the meeting, please contact any of the members below. We would love to hear from you!

Current Team members are:

Janet Gay – Team Leader
 Toni Barmore
 Haley Barmore
 Zak Gay
 Gloria Mattson
 Jane Mitchell
 Hope to see you there!

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot begin to express our heartfelt gratitude to our extraordinary church family for the outpouring of love and support following the sudden passing of our mom and grandma, Estella Stephenson. She was an amazing woman who surrounded herself with equally amazing friends. We are all fortunate to have been blessed with knowing all of you through her.

Her love lives on in each of us.

May God bless you all.

Janet, Mike, Zak & Nik Gay
 Ken Stephenson

Accommodation Wanted

Katie Blaisdell, currently a Chapman University student, is looking for a home this summer. Her plan is to sign on with a temp agency so that she can counsel camp and get involved in other similar activities. However, in order to do all those things, she needs to live rent free.

Do you have a room you can let her sleep in for the summer (probably about June 1 to August 27)? She is a good cook and is happy to make dinner a couple nights a week and/or grocery shop in return.

If you can help, please contact the church office.

Listening Session

March 18, 2007 at 12:15 pm

During the Congregational Meeting that was held between services last month, the Visioning Team gave a presentation that outlined some new ideas and potential new directions for our ministry together. This presentation was followed by a discussion session, but time limitations forced us to end the meeting before everyone had a chance to be heard.

Further to the session on March 4, and recognizing the need for further dialogue, we are scheduling another follow-up session with the Visioning Team members. This 'listening' session is another chance for your voice to be heard or to ask any questions you may have.

This second session will be held on March 18th at 12:15 PM in the Library. The Visioning Team wants *everyone* to be a participant in the ministry of the church. You can help to shape this reality! Please join us for this listening session and tell us what your dreams are for the future. Hope to see you there!



AN INCLUSIVE, LOVING COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND JUSTICE,
SEEKING, CELEBRATING AND SERVING CHRIST THROUGH OPEN
MINDS, COMMITTED HEARTS AND WILLING HANDS.

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

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:

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am—4 pm.
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: Monday March 26, 2007 11:00 a.m.

Visit us on the web!
www.concordfcc.net

All submissions are subject to editing!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 18, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
10:00 am—Sunday School
11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
12:15 pm—Listening Session / Library
12:30 pm—Baptism & Belonging / Discovery Room
6:00 pm— Youth / Youth Building
6:00 pm – Church Bowling League / Paddock Bowl

Monday, March 19

3:30 pm — Staff Meeting / Senior Pastor's Study
7:15 pm—Board Meeting / Library

Tuesday, March 20

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group / Church office
6:00 pm—Nominating Committee Meeting / Library

Wednesday, March 21

7:00 pm—New Beginning Conference Call

Thursday, March 22

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Saturday, March 24

2:00 pm—Mexico Leadership Meeting / Library

Sunday, March 25, 2007

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
11:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
12:15 pm—Mexico Information Session / Library
12:30—Baptism & Belonging / Discovery Room
6:00 pm— Youth / Youth Building

Monday, March 26

3:30 pm—Staff Meeting / Senior Pastor's study

Wednesday, March 28

7:00 pm—NOOMA/ Russ Peterman's home

Thursday, March 29

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Saturday, March 24

All Day—CGC Work Day