

# CROSSROADS

## Contra Costa Geographical Area Meeting

Our Geographical Area Meeting, during which we will vote for representatives to the Regional Board and various Regional Committees, will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 3:00 pm in First Christian Church, Vallejo, 1035 Indiana Street, Vallejo, Ca 94590 (707-643-7973).

All are welcome to attend this event.

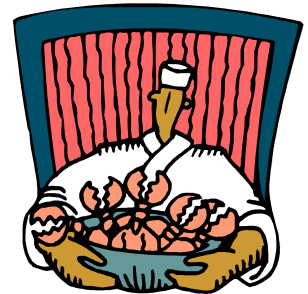
## Mexico Mission Crab Feed

It's time again.....Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 5th for the Annual Mexico Mission Crab Feed!!

It is the 30th anniversary of the Mexico Mission trip this year and we are looking forward to an awesome turn out!!

Spread the word.....great meal and silent auction!!!! Tickets will go on sell in March!!!

If you would like to help--please contact Denise Schneider -cell phone 925-989-4386.



## Movie Night

There will be another Movie Night on Friday, February 22, 2008 in the Sanctuary, featuring ***Evan Almighty***.

Dinner is at 6:30 pm and the movie begins at 7:00 pm.

Tickets for the dinner **must** be purchased in advance.

2 slices of pizza, salad, popcorn, drink = \$4.00

Popcorn and drink only = \$1.00

Movie admission—FREE



## Craft Group

Do you like to do crafts? I love to knit, make cards and scrapbook! I think it would be fun to get together at the church and do our crafts together. Even if you don't like to do crafts come and join us and just chat! Come to the church library on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and/or on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m. Come join the fun bring your projects. Any questions call Lynne Hile (925) 229-2729

ALL WELCOME!

Email me at: [Lynneh59@aol.com](mailto:Lynneh59@aol.com)



## Compass

### One Life. Six Words. What's Yours?

by The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

Legend has it that Earnest Hemingway was once challenged to write an entire story in six words. He came back with "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." He claimed it was his best work.

The Hemingway legend prompted SMITH Magazine, an on-line magazine devoted to telling stories, to challenge their readers to write their life stories in six words. More than 15,000 did, and 832 of these life stories are in a new book entitled, *Not Quite What I Was Planning: Six-Word Memoirs by Writers Famous & Obscure*. The book is very difficult to put down!

And so I wondered, what would my life story be if I had to tell it in six words? You people hear me preach all the time, and so let's be honest--I'm never short on words. I can't even order coffee in less than six words!

Still, I decided to give it a shot. I have a whole page filled with my efforts, but I'll spare you all but these six:

*Every report card: "Conduct needs improvement"*

*Knew better, but did it anyway.*

*Took road less traveled. Stubbed toe.*

*Plays well with others. Almost always.*

*Boy, that was fun. What's next?*

*God knows me. Loves me anyway.*

During this season of Lent we are daring to ask difficult questions about our lives. As Frederick Buechner says, this is a time for us to "ask one way or another, what it means to be ourselves." We are attempting to do the hard work of the soul to discover our true selves.

With that in mind I want to try something a little different here. I want to hold a contest. Here's how it's going to work: you have until noon on Good Friday (March 21) to submit your six word memoir. Enter as many as you want. They need to be original – no giving me six words straight from a quote or song, no matter how well they sum up your life. Email them to me (russ@concordfcc.net) or send them to the church office. There will be a prize for the best one!

The truth is, we all have a past--families we come from, things we've done, mistakes we've made, joys we've experienced. Where we've been and what we've done has shaped us into who we are today! We have to embrace our story. We don't have to be proud of it, but we must claim it, because it's our own.

May we discover within the spiritual courage to embrace who we are and who God is calling us to be.

With lots of hope,

## Lenten Sermon Series



One of the central, grounding narratives in scripture is the Exodus story. During Lent we will use the image of what it meant to the Israelites to leave a painful past for a new land as a way to encourage us to ask the hardest, most difficult questions we can about the direction God wants us to move in our lives. Using this image of "Leaving Egypt" we will consider what God is inviting us to leave behind in order to be fully alive.

### February 17

"Leaving Ignorance for Awareness"

Exodus 15:22-16:3

### February 24

"Leaving Control for Faith"

Exodus 16: 9-21

### March 2

"Leaving Addiction for Healing"

Matthew 4: 1-11

### March 9

"Leaving Despair for Hope"

Exodus 25: 1-9

### March 16

"Leaving Greed for Abundance"

Luke 19: 1-10

## Greeter Schedule



February 17 Elaine Sherman and Elaine Ortiz  
 February 24 The Gay Family



Come join your Sisters and Brothers for the 154th Annual Meeting of the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada at Asilomar! April 25-27, 2008. Plan now to share in this time of worship, workshops, fellowship and fun as we look ahead and see what exciting ministry is in store for us.

Preachers, teachers and speakers are:

Rev. John and Rev. Tamara Nichols-Rodenberg from the Disciples Seminary Foundation

Rev. Ben Bohren, Regional Minister—President

Plan now to share this time of worship, workshops, fellowship and fun as we look ahead and see what exciting ministry is in store for us!

Forms are available in the church office or on line at [www.ccn.org](http://www.ccn.org)

*Serving in Worship...*

**February 17, 2008**  
**Lenten Sermon Series**

**Leaving Egypt**

"Leaving Ignorance for Awareness"

Exodus 15:22—16:3

**9:00 AM**

**Elder:** Rick Marr

**Deacon:** Terri Gross

**11:00 AM**

**Greeters:** Elaine Sherman and Elaine Ortiz

**Scripture Reader:** Linda Smith

**Table Elder:** Diana Carlisle

**Offertory Elder:** Wendy Collins

**Time for Children:** Carolyn Partney

**Diaconate:** Gloria Mattson [captain] Judi Carlisle, Dean Henry, Debbie Henry, Bill Plambeck, Luz Porto, Elaine Sherman

**Ushers** Patti Halter [captain] Pat Watson, Kay Waggoner

**February 24, 2008**

**Lenten Sermon Series**

**Leaving Egypt**

"Leaving Control for Faith"

Exodus 16: 9-21

**9:00 AM**

**Elder:** Kelsey Gross

**Deacons:** Greg Mitchell & Cho Nai Cheung

**11:00 AM**

**Greeters:** The Gay Family

**Scripture Reader:** Bill Bush

**Table Elder:** Toni Barmore

**Offertory Elder:** Sarah Partney

**Time for Children:** Diana Carlisle

**Diaconate:** Don DeGiobbi [captain] Tom Kilpatrick, Al Lockwood, Bev Lockwood, Meg Sumner-Moore, Sue Sumner-Moore

**Ushers:** Elaine Ortiz [captain] Hugh McNamar, Luz Porto

### Lost/Misplaced?

Heavy duty card table left in the Church Fellowship Hall for use by the Cub Pack. It has Ken Rishell/682-6279 on the bottom. We may be meeting in the Fellowship Hall in the future and I need it back.

Thanks,  
Ken Rishell

### Spring Gathering of Women

Stillness...Moving Closer to God

March 8, 2008: 8:45 am to 3:00 pm

Cost \$20

Fruitridge Christian Church, Sacramento

Rev. Diane Wilson, Hospice Chaplain,  
Facilitator

And various workshop leaders offering ways to deepen our prayer practice and spiritual experiences and relationships.

Sponsored by the Regional Women's Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California-Nevada.

More details and application forms available in the church office

### CCNC-N Weekly E-news

The Weekly E-News is an email newsletter sent by the Regional Minister, Ben Bohren, each week to members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada.

By signing up, you could begin receiving news updates, information about upcoming events, devotionals, prayer requests and much more every week. You will stay up to date with your larger church family and feel more connected to the Region.

To sign up, simply send an email to [info@ccncn.org](mailto:info@ccncn.org) giving your name, email address and congregation.

### Gulf Coast Mission Opportunities

Now is the time to commit to travel to the Gulf Coast to assist in the recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

It's been 2-1/2 years since Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, from the eastern parts of Texas, across Louisiana, into Mississippi and beyond.

A lot of work has been completed, but there are many more years of rebuilding to be done!

There are two ways that members of the CCNC-N Region can participate:

1) You can travel with us on one of the trips! You must be a minimum of 16 years of age or just young at heart! You don't need to know how to do construction, you just have to have a willing heart and an open mind. If you can push a broom, wield a paintbrush, or follow directions from those who are skilled in construction, then you would be a great addition to our teams.

However, here's the commitment part: Deadlines are quickly approaching for full payment for the early trips, so that airfare may be purchased:

Trip #1: March 15-22 (Covington, LA--New Orleans area) Deadline is February 8th

Trip #2: March 29-April 6 (Gulfport, MS) Deadline is February 22nd

Trip #3: June 14-21 (Slidell, LA--New Orleans area) Deadline is May 9th.

Although you are welcome to commit to a trip after the deadline, you will be responsible for the additional costs of airfare due to last-minute purchase. Scholarships are available from the Regional office if you need assistance in gathering the \$750 costs associated with the trip.

For registration and scholarship forms please see the region's website at [www.ccncn.org](http://www.ccncn.org)

2) If you are unable to travel to the Gulf Coast, you can support the mission trips through financial sponsorship. Many individual congregations have made plans to assist participants within their churches. However, if your congregation is not sending any participants, you can help sponsor the Gulf Coast trips through your generous donation. If individuals or congregations would like to help sponsor the Gulf Coast Mission Trips, please contact Quan Walker at the Regional office.

## As Disasters Increase, Giving to WOC More Important Than Ever

Thursday, February 07,  
2008

Later this month thousands of Disciples members and friends across the U.S. and Canada will begin making their gifts to the 2008 Week of



Compassion Offering. So far, we have been deeply encouraged by the very significant number of requests for additional materials and the many positive comments on the 2008 resources. This week's vicious weather that brought a swarm of deadly tornadoes to the South and more flooding to northern Indiana certainly serves as a reminder of why our offerings are so important to the church's disaster and development ministry fund. Indeed, a quick look at where WOC dollars are working in the world since the beginning of a new year – only a little more than a month old - underscores that.

Consider that, through Week of Compassion, Disciples in 2008 are responding to severe winter weather in El Salvador, China and Afghanistan; flood relief and recovery in Mexico, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, India and the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Java; assistance to uprooted and displaced persons in Uganda, Somalia, Afghanistan, Syria, Jordan and Iraq; critical medical needs in the Dominican Republic; a cyclone in Bangladesh; and staggering humanitarian needs from violence and strife in Kenya and Darfur.

Closer to home, WOC is responding to flood relief and recovery in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Texas; severe

winter weather in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Michigan; wildfires in California and Texas; hurricane recovery and rebuilding in Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas; tornado recovery in Kansas and Florida; and now we've just received the first of what will probably be several appeals in response to this week's severe weather.

A.D.

On a couple of occasions in recent WOC Updates, we reported on a recent report from Oxfam, the large and highly respected UK charity, that the number of weather-related disasters in the world had quadrupled between 1984 and 2005. In the ensuing two years hence and the first five weeks of 2008, there's nothing to suggest that the tide has been reversed!

Giving to Week of Compassion is important. Sharing resources in response to the world's many and staggering needs is part of our faith. People in great need are not forgotten. Our church partners on the frontlines are encouraged. Lives are changed – no less than our own. Thank you.

Envelopes will be available in our church on February 17 and February 24. Please give generously to this important mission of the church.



## World Day of Prayer

March 7, 2008

### God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding

**Place:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette (925-283-3722)

**Time:** 9:30 AM—Registration and "Coffee"

10:00 AM—Program, including special speaker, Mary Ann McCoy, with audio-visual presentation, "Children of Grace".

Mary Ann McCoy is a member of Danville Community Presbyterian Church, and Founder and Executive Director of a ministry in Uganda, East Africa, for orphaned children affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Childcare:** If needed, please call Evelyn Ternstrom, (925-279-4301) by Friday, February 29, 2008

For other questions you may call Evelyn or our Church Women United Representative, Linda Smith (925-689-3987).

## Lent Bible Study

On Monday, February 11 at 12:00 noon, in the church office, the Diving Deeper Group started their weekly Lenten Devotional series called "Life at the Crossroads."

We are using the booklet issued by our own Regional Office. Contributors include:

Ellie McDougal, Sarah Partney, Erin Moore, Robert Shively, Marty Williams, Tina Heck and Edgar Peck.

We are being challenged to consider our Lenten experience realizing that as we journey through life, there are crucial junctures at which we must make important decisions.

All are welcome. If you cannot manage to make the group meeting, copies of the devotional are available in the church office for private study and reflection.

Next week only, in view of Presidents' Day the group will meet on Tuesday, February 19 at 11:30 am.

## Thank you

Dear Coz:

The Christian Women's Fellowship wishes to thank you for the generous gift of your piano, organ, and clavichord CD, to be sold as a fundraiser for our outreach projects. It was quite a personal expense on your behalf and your giving us your proceeds was more than we expected.

Thank you for helping us to raise close to \$700. Between luncheons, doll houses and many other money raisers, yours was by far the largest to be gained.

On behalf of the FCC and CWF our gratitude and love for you goes beyond appreciation. May the good Lord bless you and keep you with us a long while.

Dee Laird, CWF

## JYF HAPPENINGS

We have some fun and exciting events coming up in the next few months so, mark these dates on your calendar.

**March 3/2/08**

Bowling @ Paddock Bowl

Bring \$5.50 (food & bowling shoes)

**April 4/19/08**

Earth Day celebration @ John Muir House

Bring \$2.00

## JYF update

The JYF (and a few friends) had a wonderful experience at our February meeting. We went to the Willow Pass Healthcare Center and distributed Valentine's Day cards to the residents.

The children really enjoyed getting to hand out their beautiful hand made cards. They went into patient's rooms and their dining hall, handing cards to everyone (including some of the nurses).

We're off to Paddock Bowl for our next adventure in March...BOWLING!

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!

### Inner-Change at the Crossroads

#### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 16-18- Feb. Camp

Feb 17- Inner-Change Youth  
Group (at LCC 6-7:30PM)

Feb 24- Inner-Change

Youth Group

March 2- Inner-Change

Youth Group



#### Feb 17th Youth Group!!

Even though some High School-aged youth and myself will be at Feb Camp, Kat Townes (Minister in Training and Youth Minister at Lafayette Christian Church) will still be facilitating Youth Group!! She would like everyone to meet her at LCC from 6:00-7:30 in order to utilize LCC's amazing facilities!! Come for the laughter, games, fun and fellowship!!!

#### Feb Camp Reminder!

Registration for Feb. Camp is still open! You can find the forms at <http://ccncn.org/> or I have some in my office! Cindy Ryness and myself are Directing the weekend, and RYC has been exceptionally busy planning the event. So...bring your open hearts, minds, eyes, and ears to experience the presence of God today and explore where God is leading.

#### Dates To Remember:

Crab Feed-April 5

Chi-Rho Camp-June 29-July 5

CYF Camp-July 6-12

Junior Camp-July 13-19



**CROSSROADS**

**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
Director of Youth Ministry:	Claire Richardson	claire@concordfcc.net
Office Manager:	Emrys Lloyd-Roberts:	emrys@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Childcare Co-ordinator:	Antoinette Bulatao	
Custodian:	Daniel Blanton	
Website:	www.concordfcc.net	

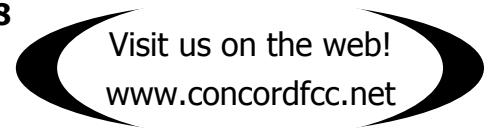
*Contact Information:*

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](mailto:info@concordfcc.net)

**Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, February 25, 2008  
11:00 a.m.**



*Weekly Calendar*

**Sunday, February 17, 2008**

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary  
 10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages  
 11:00 am—Worship / Sanctuary  
 6:00 pm—Church Bowling Group / Paddock Bowl

**Monday, February 18**

Church Office closed for Presidents Day

**Tuesday, February 19**

11:30 am—Diving Deeper Group / Church Office

**Thursday, February 21**

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office  
 7:00 pm—Administrative Council and Finance Meeting /  
 Library

**FebCamp February 16—February 18**

**Sunday, February 24, 2008**

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary  
 10:00 am—Sunday School for all ages  
 11:00 am—Worship / Sanctuary  
 3:00 pm—Contra Costa Geographical Area Meeting / FCC  
 Vallejo  
 6:00 pm—Youth Group / Youth Building  
 6:00 pm—Church Bowling League/ Paddock Bowl

**Monday, February 25**

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group  
 2:00 pm — Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, February 27**

7:00 pm—Pastoral Relations / Senior Minister's Office

**Thursday, February 28**

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

**Saturday, March 1**

10:00 am—CWF Quarterly Brunch / Library