

CROSSROADS

FIRST ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY



Sunday, January 13, 2008, 4:00-5:30 PM at First Christian Church of Concord with Keynote preacher: Rev. Dr. William Lee, Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, VA (former Moderator of our denomination, and keynote preacher at the 2007 General Assembly in Ft. Worth). Reception following.

Help us make this the first regional MLK service a spirit-filled success! Experience the energy of a region-wide celebration of Dr. King's legacy. Find out who will receive the second annual Martin Luther King award! Robert Lemon was last year's recipient.

As we continue to live into our faith-based commitment to creating God's realm on earth, we pray that this region-wide gathering will help us be spiritually filled and energized for the task of reconciliation in our churches, our region, and the world!



Everywhere, Everywhere Christmas Today

Many thanks to the all-star cast who brought us a wonderful Christmas Program on Dec. 23. Telling the history of Christmas traditions from around the world that we celebrate and reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas were: Kristen Rose, Megan Hood, Ryan Hood, Mason Mitchell, Zak Gay, Angelina Nadeau, Peyton Hodges, Haley Barmore-Sharpe. Special thanks to Zak Gay, who stepped in for his brother at the last minute when Nik was ill. Thanks to the directors and producers: Carolyn Partney, the Sunday School teachers, Wendy Collins, Sarah Partney, Coz, Alexa McDougal, Zak Gay, Scott Sumner-Moore. And thanks to Kelsey Gross made a video of the program.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the budget for 2008 will be held on January 13, 2008 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Every member should have received his or her copy of the proposed budget by mail. If you have not received a copy, please contact Emrys at the church office and he will be happy to let you have a copy.

Please try to attend this important meeting. There will be an opportunity to learn how the budget was made and for each person to ask relevant questions. Absentee voting forms were also sent in the mail for those unable to attend.



Compass

Newness

by The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

It's a New Year--a fresh start, and both the politicians and the prophets are talking about changes and fresh opportunities.

So why does everything seem the same? Flip on the news – aren't we dealing with the same issues and struggles that we were

facing last year? Someone asked me after my recent birthday how it felt to be 40. Surprisingly, I told him, it felt a lot like 39!

I wonder if part of the reason that we experience so little in our lives that is truly new is that, invariably, for something to be born, something else must first die. For us to enter into a new way of being we have to first let go of the old. And, let's be honest, that can be painful. And we are very good at doing all that we can to avoid pain!

Several years ago Bill Bridges wrote a book called *Transitions*. In it he talks about the differences between change and transition. Change, he says, is situational and therefore external. Transition, on the other hand, is internal, emotional and comes as a result life changes. The main difference between a change and a transition is that change starts with a new beginning, whereas transition starts with an ending!

Bridges points us to the three stages of transition:

1. An ending
2. The neutral zone which is often filled with confusion and questioning
3. A new beginning

As I look at some of the biggest mistakes in my life I realize made them because I rushed from stage #1 to #3 without doing the important work required in stage #2! I rushed from the new ending to the new beginning and was in worse shape than in the first place! I was seeking to avoid that middle ground which is often filled with emptiness, pain, question marks and ambiguity.

Isn't it true that we cannot fully embrace the fullness of the new beginning that God has for us until we begin to embrace with honesty the significance of the ending that we experienced in the first place? And that can only happen in that important "empty time" in the middle. We want to avoid the pain of letting go--but failing to deal with the uncertainty is, perhaps, one of the great downfalls of western culture

Is there any circumstance in your life of which it could be said that this is a painful though perhaps necessary ending? Is there something that you need to let go in order that newness might come? And, is it possible that such an ending, and such a new

beginning, might be the work of God in your life?

As we move into 2008, dreaming about all the new things that we resolve to do, I would encourage you to spend some time praying that we might find the courage to let go of the old to make room for the newness that God is creating within us. I'll do the same.

With lots of hope,

Publicity for Events

The Contra Costa Times has a "Religious Events" column on Saturday of each week. This is a free service for local churches. The information should be mailed to: Religious Happenings, Contra Costa Times, P O Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA. 94596; or e-mail to kbennett@bayareanewsgroup.com, or faxed to 925 943-8362. The information should be sent at least two weeks prior to the event. Each Committee can help publicize our events. OR, you can e-mail Pat Rishell at krishell@astound.net with the **complete** information

JYF

The first JYF meeting of 2008 will be on Sunday, January 6, at 12:15 in the Church Library. Bring \$2.00 for lunch. After lunch there will be games plus a project—making Valentines to take to a nursing home in February.

Future meetings will be on the first Sunday of each month—mark your diaries!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!

Inner-Change at the Crossroads

Overnight!!

(Fri. January 11-Sat.
January 12)

Come join us for fellowship
and fun at

Lafayette Christian Church!!
From Jan. 11 at 8pm until the
12th at 10am, we will spend
some quality time together in
LCC's new and improved
Marion Hall!!

Kat and Claire will provide
snacks on the 11th and
breakfast on the 12th, along
with games, movies and
MORE!! come and see!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jan. 6- Inner-Change
Youth Group

Jan 11-12- Overnight
at LCC (8pm-10am)

Jan 13--NO Inner-
Change Youth Group



Feb Camp.

Feb Camp is coming fast. The theme this year is
Unwritten Chapters. So come join us for a week-
end of exploring who, what, when, where, why,
and how God will participate in your future.
There will be FOUR keynoters this year to bring
diverse answers...but mostly, we will be inspired
to ask more questions.

The cost is \$135 for youth, and \$110 for adults.

Forms and money are due *February 1, 2008*.

Registration can be found on-line at
nencucc.org/camping/.

OR you can look for registration forms at Inner-
Change Youth Group.

Serving in Worship...

January 6, 2008
"Home by Another Way"

Matthew 2: 1-12

9:00 AM

Elder: Janet Gay

Deacons: Todd and Lisa Morgan

11:00 AM

Greeters:

Scripture Reader: Kate Landberg

Table Elder: Ellie McDougal

Offertory Elder: Wendy Collins

Time for Children: Ellie McDougal

Diaconate: Collier Laird [captain] Scott
Bisbee, Patti Halter, Matt Hecker, Andie
Raymond, Mary Raymond

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

January 13, 2008

9:00 AM

Elder: Diane Maltester

Deacon: Terri Gross

11:00 AM

Greeters:

Scripture Reader: Kristin Rose

Table Elder: Wendy Collins

Offertory Elder: Diana Carlisle

Time for Children: Carolyn Partney

Diaconate: Hugh McNamar [captain] Bill
Bush, Kate Landberg, Lori Landberg,
Domonique Veasley

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

Missed Birthday

January 26 Judi Carlisle

Sorry Judi! —Editor.

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:

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CROSSROADS

Email submissions and subscriptions to: info@concordfcc.net

**Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, January 14, 2008
11:00 a.m.**

Visit us on the web!
www.concordfcc.net

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 6, 2008

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

Monday, January 7

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group/ Church Office
2:00 pm—Staff Meeting/ Senior Minister's Office

Tuesday, January 8

9:30 am—Mary Martha Circle / Library

Thursday, January 10

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office
7:00 pm—Finance Team / Library

Sunday, January 13, 2008

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

Monday, January 14

4:00 pm — Staff Meeting
7:00 pm—Inquirers Gathering / Senior Minister's Office
7:00 pm—Rachel Ruth Circle / Library

Tuesday, January 15

7:10 pm — Mexico Mission Conference call

Wednesday, January 16

7:00 pm — NOOMA—Russ Peterman's home

Thursday, January 17

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office

Saturday, January 19

Midwinter camp starts
RYC overnight