

CROSSROADS

Holy Week at First Christian Church

Maundy Thursday, March 20

7:00 pm service. Join us for a *tenebrae* service comprised of the hymns of Taize. The word *tenebrae* is derived from the Latin word meaning darkness or shadows. With the opening hymn the sanctuary is filled with light. Throughout the service of worship, we hear the story from the time of the last Supper, to the Garden, the Trial, the Crucifixion, and the Burial.

This is often times one of the most powerful, moving services of the entire year.

Good Friday, March 21

Sanctuary open from Noon until 8:00 pm

Come for prayer and meditation and leave behind the 'stuff' you have decided should not travel with you to Easter. Place a symbol of what you are leaving behind on the chancel.

Easter, March 23

9:00 am—Worship Service with music by *The Way* and a brass quartet.

10:00 am—Easter Egg Hunt. The Fellowship Team will be serving light refreshments in the Narthex.

11:00 am—Worship Service with music by *The Way* and a brass quartet.

To donate a lily for Easter Sunday, please send \$15 to the church office by Wednesday, March 19 for each lily you wish to dedicate.

Please provide the person's name who is being remembered or honored and who the donation is given by.

They will be displayed on the Sanctuary on Easter Day. Following the service you are free to take them with you.





Compass

What's So Good about Good Friday?

by The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

When I was in college and things got a little crazy, mixed up and strange, a friend of mine used to tell me, "Irony can be so ironic!" That quirky phrase stays with me today. And now, when things in my life don't quite add up, when things get a bit crazed and don't appear to be as they seem, I think back to what Perry would

always say, "Irony can be so ironic."

One of the most ironic titles that we use in the church is Good Friday. I never understood why we would refer to the day that the Messiah was denied by his friends, humiliated in front of his followers, and then crucified on a cross as *Good!* The question begs to be asked: What is so good about Good Friday?

In a small book entitled *Meditations: On the Monk Who Dwells in Daily Life*, Thomas Moore tells the story of a pilgrim on the road who comes across a group of monks working on a stone building. The pilgrim stops and begins a conversation with the abbot who is watching the monks work. "It is good to see a monastery going up," says the man.

"They are tearing it down," says the abbot.

"Whatever for?" asks the traveler in utter disbelief.

"So we can see the sun rise at dawn," replies the abbot.

The irony of Good Friday smacks us right in the face when we consider tearing down a monastery in order to have a clear view of endless sunrises. As people of the resurrection it is easy to skip over the pain and suffering of Good Friday. But without enduring the cross and the crucifixion, we cannot truly understand the ultimate beauty of the Easter sunrise.

Frederick Buechner, one of the most prolific theologians of our time, points out that other religions and faith traditions lift up as their symbols the beauty and light of a six-pointed star, a crescent moon, and a lotus. But the symbol of Christianity, a faith that boasts of love and kindness, is a cross, an instrument of death. What could be more ironic?

But Buechner goes on to point out that the cross suggests, at the very least, hope. The hope of a people longing to see the dawn of a new day. A new day that brings with it opportunities for resurrection and reconciliation. A new day that brings with it the hope that pain, struggle and death is not the end of the story but rather just the beginning.

This Good Friday I invite you to come to the sanctuary and leave behind a physical emblem of what God is calling you to leave behind this Lenten season. And when we enter the sanctuary on Easter morning, the sun will have risen, all our 'junk' will be gone. And it will be a new day indeed!

May your life be filled with eternal Easter sunrises!

With a Grateful Heart

There are times when the words "thank you" don't quite convey the level of gratitude one is feeling. This is one of those times. I am so incredibly appreciative of all those who pitched in to help with the deductible to replace my stolen laptop. This has been a very stressful time, but the generosity of this congregation has been such a blessing and has helped ease the stress and anxiety.

As always, I am humbled by your compassion and care.

With deep, deep appreciation,
Russ Peterman

Wine and Dine Group

Interested in joining a group that meets at restaurants for good food and fellowship? Call the church office (925-685-7503) and let Emrys know.

Greeter Schedule



March 16	Sue and Meg Sumner-Moore
March 23	The Hood Family
April 6	Scott and Michael Bisbee
April 13	Donna Darden and Patti Halter
April 20	Judi, Diana and Clay Carlisle
April 27	The Graves Family

JYF HAPPENINGS

We continue our fun and exciting events. Mark the next JYF date on your calendar.

April 4/19/08

Earth Day celebration @ John Muir House
Bring \$2.00

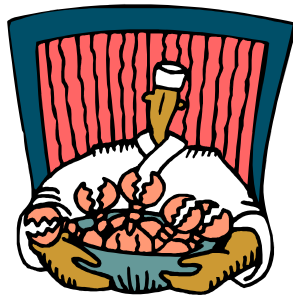
Mexico Mission Crab Feed

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.



Bags for Share

The Share Pantry needs bags to use when handing out food to their clients. They will make use of any shopping bags—plastic or paper. There is a box in the Narthex, next to the door to the Library for bags. Please remember this important outreach ministry when dealing with your shopping bags.

Serving in Worship...

**March 16, 2008—Palm Sunday
Lenten Sermon Series**

Leaving Egypt

“Leaving Greed for Abundance”

Luke 19: 1-10

9:00 AM

Elder: Rick Marr

Deacons: Todd & Lisa Morgan

11:00 AM

Greeters: Sue and Meg Sumner-Moore

Scripture Reader: Meg Sumner-Moore

Table Elder: Ellie McDougal

Offertory Elder: Kathleen DeGiobbi

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

March 23, 2008—Easter Sunday

“Locked in a Room with Open Doors”

John 20: 1-18

9:00 AM

Elder: Kelsey Gross

Deacon: Terri Gross

11:00 AM

Greeters: The Hood Family

Scripture Reader: Kristin Rose

Table Elder: Wendy Collins

Offertory Elder: Diana Carlisle

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

Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition

The City of Concord's Human Relations Commission held their Annual Awards & Recognition meeting Monday, March 3, 2008, at which time the Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition was given a Humanitarian Award for their contributions to the community.

Some of the churches who form part of the Coalition are: St. John Vianny Catholic Church Walnut Creek; St. Paul's Episcopal Church Walnut Creek; St. Frances of Assisi Catholic Church Concord; Christ the King Catholic Church, Pleasant Hill; Hope Community Center, Pleasant Hill; Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church; First Christian Church, Concord; and St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Walnut Creek.

The Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition, a non-profit organization of churches founded in 1992, works with the social services agencies in Contra Costa County to provide food, shelter, clothing, towels, kitchen kits. . .to the needy throughout Contra Costa County. Volunteers secure and deliver furniture, household goods, infant items and food boxes for those families referred by agencies in Contra Costa County. An estimated 8,000 volunteer hours were spent assisting families of Concord in 2007. Projects included cooking and serving 11,400 meals at the North Concord Shelter, participating in the Winter Nights Family Emergency Shelter Program, helping 37 working families with their 4th Week Food Program and assisting approximately 600 people in the Monument Corridor with food each month through the St. Vincent de Paul program at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Concord. Volunteers also provided 46 boxes of infant clothing for clients in Concord and furniture for 115 families referred by local agencies.

The Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition was nominated by Franklin Burroughs of Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

First Christian Church of Concord has been represented on the Board of Directors almost since the beginning. We began serving meals at the Shelter in 1992 the 4th Saturday of every month. For a year, we managed to serve twice a month, and finally settled in to a continuing service of six meals a year. During 2007, through the efforts of the ladies of the CWF Circles, Pat Twigg's sorority, and some individuals, FCC contributed 57 of the 4th Week Food Boxes; we provided towel sets, baby clothes, we served meals at the Shelter six times, and we opened our Fellowship Hall to the Winter Nights families.

Project Green - God Save the Earth

Some choose to give up worldly harm for Lent.

By Daniel Stone / Newsweek March 17, 2008 Issue

For Lent, Laila Thompson usually gives up chocolate or other indulgent sweets. But after talking with her religious leader this year, she decided to slim down something different: her carbon footprint. "I realized that I'm doing a lot of things that are harming the world, and I feel obligated to take care of God's creation," says Thompson. So for the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, she's doing without plastic bags, wasted electricity and excess driving.

Her carbon diet brings with it the newest display of green thinking that connects environmental vigilance with religious salvation. English bishops Richard Chartres and James Jones joined with the Christian charity Tearfund to push cutting back on carbon emissions during Lent as the most effective way to protect communities already affected by climate changes. So far, the charity has received 300,000 requests for the list of suggested actions, which range from the creative ("Ask your city council for more recycling options") to the spiritual ("Reflect on ways to love our neighbors").

Other religious leaders have also touched on forms of environmental responsibility. Last spring, the pope called abuse of the environment "against God's will," and a year before, prominent evangelicals called on the U.S. government to step up its efforts to control greenhouse-gas emissions. Laila Thompson credits the infusion of spirituality as her reasoning. "Plus", she says, "this is way easier than giving up chocolate." Amen to that.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!

Inner-Change at the Crossroads

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 15-Hike in Muir
Woods with LCC!

March 16- Inner-Change
Youth Group

March 23- Happy Easter-
No Youth Group

March 30-Inner-Change
Youth Group



March 15 Muir Woods Hike COME JOIN THIS SATURDAY!!

Into the Wilderness - a Lenten journey

Come join us for a spiritual walk in the woods!
We will meet at the entrance of the Muir Woods
park at 1PM and will end by 3PM.

Carpools will meet at LCC at 11:45AM. Cost is
\$5 for adults and free for youth 15 and under.
Entrance is free with a National Parks Pass.
Please email Kat if you need a ride or are will-
ing to drive.

Please RSVP to Kat Townes at
alpineluz@gmail.com

Dates To Remember:

March 15- Hike in Muir Woods (grown-ups are invited too) 1-3PM

April 5-Crab Feed-Mexico Fundraiser

Sat., April 12 - Environmental Stewardship with parkesconservancy.org, 1PM at either
Lands End Stewardship or Presidio Native Plant Nursery

Sat - Sun., May 10-11 - End-of-the-year Youth RETREAT and CAMPING TRIP
on Mt. Diablo!!!



Summer Camp Dates!!!

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:

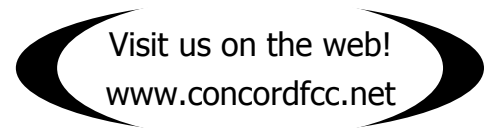
Senior Minister:	Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman:	russ@concordfcc.net
Director of Youth Ministry:	Claire Richardson	claire@concordfcc.net
Office Manager:	Emrys Lloyd-Roberts:	emrys@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Childcare Co-ordinator:	Antoinette Bulatao	
Custodian:	Daniel Blanton	
Website:	www.concordfcc.net	

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
**Submission deadline for next issue: Monday, March 24, 2008
 11:00 a.m.**



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 16, 2008—Palm Sunday

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, March 17

12:00 noon—Diving Deeper Group
 2:00 pm—Staff Meeting / Senior Minister’s Office
 7:00 pm—Finance Meeting / Library

Tuesday, March 18

11:30 am—Diving Deeper Group / Church Office

Thursday, March 20

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office
 7:00 pm—Maundy Thursday Service / Sanctuary

March 16 through March 22—Gulf Coast Mission

Sunday, March 23, 2008—Easter Sunday

9:00 am — Worship / Sanctuary
 10:00 am—Easter Reception / Narthex
 11:00 am—Worship / Sanctuary
 6:00 pm—Youth Group / Youth Building

Monday, March 24

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

Tuesday, March 26

7:00 pm—Mexico Mission Planning Committee

Wednesday, March 26

6:30 pm—Cub Pack / Fellowship Hall
 7:00 pm—Pastoral Relations / Senior Minister’s Office

Thursday, March 27

8:00 am—Spiritual Moment / Church Office