

# CROSSROADS

## What is ACTS?



ACADEMY OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING AND STUDY  
Christian Church in Northern California - Nevada

ACTS is ...

... a program which will offer a series of practical and spiritual courses, classes and retreats, in a variety of settings, delivered around the region and online. It's designed for both beginners and for people who are already leaders in their congregation who want to lead even better. The courses will be taught by both clergy and laypeople experienced in their fields.

ACTS is...

... equipping  
engaging  
learning  
enlightening  
introducing  
answering  
conversing

deepening  
broadening  
encouraging  
interpreting  
enabling  
inviting

ACTS is...

"It's an opportunity to answer questions about your personal direction, your mission."

"It's a series of classes designed to help you grow broader and deeper in your faith and leadership."

"It's helping the priesthood of all believers truly become the priesthood of all believers."

"It's an opportunity to gain tools to develop the gifts and graces of individual ministry."

"It's how do we apply the fundamentals (the Bible, the basics) to today's mission. How do we move into the new mission without leaving aside the traditions, but instead building on them?"

The first course offering, Disciples History: Foundations of Faith will begin this Fall in six different locations around the region. It will be offered at FCC Palo Alto, FCC Selma, FCC Concord, Fruitridge CC Sacramento, FCC Chico, FCC Ukiah, Online and in Korean at FCC Oakland. The courses are designed for high school and above and will have a low cost of \$75 plus books. The tentative course offerings for 2009-2010 are: DOC History, Foundations of Faith (Fall 2009), Spiritual Practices (Winter 2009), Administry, Administrative Ministry (Spring 2010) and Conflict Transformation (optional: Summer 2010). The first course, which is offered here in Concord will be taught by Russ Peterman and will begin September 2 from 7pm—9pm in the Library. If you would like to register for the course, please go to the regional website at [www.ccncn.org/acts.htm](http://www.ccncn.org/acts.htm) and print the registration form. There will also be registration forms in the office.



Compass

## The Questions We are Courageous Enough to Ask

By The Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman, Senior Minister

Have you ever had one of those experiences where you struggle with a question for a really, really long time – just really wrestle it to the ground – and about the time you come to a reasonable answer it seems the question itself has changed?

I'm coming to see that as the very heart of what it means to be a person of faith. Being willing to wrestle with the questions of faith, understanding that in the questions themselves, we discover grace and the presence of God.

Scott Colglazier says "to have faith is not so much about collecting answers as it is discovering the spiritual courage. Maybe people of faith should be defined not by *WHAT* they know, but by *WHOM* they know! Not by the answers we can give but by the questions we are courageous enough to ask."

I recently stumbled upon an article entitled "Blank Stares," written by a professor of preaching in Tennessee by the name of William Brosend. In it he gives voice to the fear of every person who has ever stood in a pulpit, that what we will say on Sunday morning will not be met with a warm reception, but with blank stares. He suggests, in a way, that the problem with preaching these days is that most of the time, preachers are seeking to give answers to questions that no one else is asking.

One of my biggest fears is that, as your pastor, I spend several hours a week preparing a sermon, wrestling with questions that I'm the only one asking.

So here is what I'm asking you to do. I want you to share with me the faith questions and struggles that keep you up at night. At 3:00 AM when it's just you and God, what are you asking? What are you trying to wrestle to the ground? Or perhaps most importantly, what questions are you searching for the courage to ask?

I would love it if you would send me an email ([russ@concordfcc.net](mailto:russ@concordfcc.net)), write me a note, or, better yet, let me buy you a cup of coffee and give you the time and space to give voice to those questions. My sense is that it would do us both some good. It would certainly help me be a better, more effective preacher; and I believe it would do you some good to give voice to those questions that are living inside of you.

We are, at heart, what I like to call a journey church, not an answer church. Answer churches, in my estimation, are giving .25-cent answers to \$100 questions; lock-box answers that allow people to skip over the ambiguity of the experience of life.

But journey churches, in my opinion, are more honest and are able to say simply – I don't have all the answers, but what I have to offer is the promise that we will walk together through all of your question marks until the dawn comes and God makes all things new again.

I will look forward to hearing from you as together we seek the courage to live the questions, discovering the presence of God within them.

Grace and peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ".

*August Birthdays*

Hughes	Deborah	1-Aug
DeBella	Al	6-Aug
Peterman	Jake	6-Aug
Peterman	Ella	6-Aug
Carlisle-Scott	Brooke	10-Aug
Carlisle	Diana	10-Aug
Nadeau	Tammy	10-Aug
DeGiobbi	Kathleen	11-Aug
Landberg	Katie	11-Aug
Graves	Roy, Sr.	13-Aug
West	Ashley	16-Aug
Ulibarri	Ashley	17-Aug
Bauer	Mark	18-Aug
Huff	Cheryl	19-Aug
Tarvin	Edith	20-Aug
Orescanin	Don	25-Aug
Runyon	Bob	27-Aug
Hile	Greg	27-Aug



*August Anniversaries*

NADEAU	Gordon & Tammy	1-Aug
MITCHELL/CHEUNG	Greg & Cho Nai	3-Aug
SAGE	Diana & Brad	7-Aug
MORGAN	Lisa & Todd	7-Aug
LANDBERG	Gary & Lori	18-Aug
ROSE	Angie & Kevin	27-Aug

*Serving in Worship...*

**July 26, 2009**

**The Secret Message of Jesus:**

The Truth that Could Change Everything

(based upon the book by Brian McLaren)

"Secret Agents"

Matthew 21: 43-46

**10:00 AM**

**Greeters:** Terri Gross & Lois Mackey

**Scripture Reader:** Katie Benson

**Elders:** Tim Rose & Al DeBella

**Diaconate:** Dee Laird [captain], Collier Laird, Zak Gay, Pat Watson, Judi Carlisle, Mike Cluster, Ken Rishell, Pat Rishell & Scott Bisbee

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

**August 2, 2009**

**The Secret Message of Jesus:**

The Truth that Could Change Everything

(based upon the book by Brian McLaren)

"The Open Secret"

Mark 1: 14-15

**10:00 AM**

**Greeters:** Mary & Michelle Watts

**Scripture Reader:** Rick Marr

**Elders:** Lynne Hile & Kathleen DeGiobbi

**Diaconate:** Gloria Mattson [captain] Tom Kilpatrick, Ryan Morgan, Wendy Collins, Brooklynn Jeffreys-Steele, Joyce Parlin, Mary Watts, Michelle Watts & Cecelia Ambach

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

**Summer Greeter Schedule**

August 2	Mary & Michelle Watts	August 30	The Rose Family
August 9	Pat & Ken Rishell	September 6	Janet & Marty Appel
August 16	Linda Smith & Ruth Langley	September 13	Pat Twigg & Annabelle Decker
August 23	The Maltester Family		



# Miracle Day 2009

## October 3 at the

### Community of the Great Commission

So, what is *Miracle Day* you ask? Miracle Day is like...

- an Amish barn-raising...** but it's the Disciples version where hundreds of Disciples descend on a Disciples church building to complete major projects to repair, rebuild, renovate, remodel, and re-new that church building.
- Habitat for Humanity...**except that the work is all done in one day and could include things like building a playground, painting the entire outside of the church building or rooms inside, remodeling bathrooms, tearing out walls, putting in new windows, totally new landscaping, etc.
- a local mission trip...**but it's for all ages and skill levels. At the end of the day, you'll feel like you have been helped more than those you helped!
- a Disciples revival...**you will feel the Spirit of God flowing through the event; you'll sense a recommitment to Jesus Christ, and you will bond with Disciples from across the Region in a way as never before.

#### **Miracle Day has three major goals:**

- Physical work** that renews a church property
- Community work** that bonds all the volunteers in common mission
- Spiritual work** where lives and faith are touched because volunteers have a new belief that God is still doing miracles in today's world!!

If you have ever attended CGC as a camper, counselor, visitor, we encourage you to participate. The campground is celebrating it's 50th birthday and has changed over those 50 years. It is exciting to see what has become of the campground with a new dining hall and the upgrading of some of the cabins. Come on October 3rd and help give CGC a "spiffy" clean up! Help make this miracle come true!



Mission • Work • Renewal

#### **Here's what you need to know:**

1. The date is **October 3, 2009**. Put it on your calendar!
2. A Miracle Day Committee is already working on initial preparations. Your congregation will receive much more information in coming months.
3. Congregations will be asked to support Miracle Day through fundraising, sending volunteers, and praying for Miracle Day efforts.

Dear Friends,

During my week at Urban Plunge, there were many exciting things I learned and I became so aware of our local community needs. One



that really hit home with me was a place called People's Grocery. It is a program that helps many needy families receive home grown fruits and vegetables for their table. I wanted to share this information with all of you and also try to set a date (hopefully September) for us as a congregation to volunteer some time on a Sunday afternoon after church to work at their farm in Sunol to support this wonderful organization that is helping so many families receive nutritional food. Listed below is some information about them, what they provide and how any one of us can be a supporter/sponsor to help the families in West Oakland. You can also check out their website at [www.peoplesgrocery.org](http://www.peoplesgrocery.org)

"People's Grocery is a community-based organization in West Oakland that develops creative solutions to the health problems in our community that stem from a lack of access to and knowledge about healthy, fresh foods. Our mission is to build a local food system that improves the health and economy of the West Oakland community.

We want to change the way the food system works. We believe everyone should have access to healthy food, regardless of income. We call this "food justice" - the belief that healthy food is a human right. The food system is failing to provide low-income people with the healthy foods they need to thrive. It is also failing to create good jobs and support local food businesses in urban communities. So People's Grocery works toward creating a food system that centralize the needs of the urban poor and develop programs and enterprises that produce and distribute fresh foods, provide nutrition education, promote urban agriculture and create local jobs".

Another way to get involved is to sponsor a family and pay for them to receive a box of fruits and vegetables every week. The basic costs are show below and a phone # to call if you have any questions.

Grub Box Payments must be received by the Friday before in order to reserve a box for the following Tuesday. Please contact Diana at (510) 652-7607 if you have any questions.

Sponsor Grub Box: Each sponsor box costs \$24. Minimum order is 4 boxes for \$96. Maximum is 6 months (24 boxes) for \$576.

Or you can just make a donation!!!

Please call me anytime as well if you have any questions. Cell 925-989-4386 Look for more info soon about our volunteer outing in September!!

Much Love & Hope,  
Denise Schneider

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MISSION!

At the Urban Plunge Mission Sunday, we spoke about an organization called Urban Releaf. The organization's main focus is to plant trees in West Oakland. Residents of West Oakland have a life expectancy that is 15 years less than those that live in other parts of Oakland because of air quality, water quality and other factors. Trees improve air and water quality as well as providing shade and beauty to the area. To date, they have planted over 8500 trees. Urban Releaf also has a program to teach youth in Oakland about tree planting and maintenance projects. On August 22, Urban Releaf is trying to gather 1000 volunteers in Oakland to plant trees. At the end of our Urban Plunge week, Russ challenged us to continue the mission work we started. This is an opportunity to help out a community in need in our own backyard. We are organizing a group from here in Concord to volunteer on that day from 10am — 2pm. If you are interested, please contact Andie in the church office at 685-7503 or by email at [andie@concordfcc.net](mailto:andie@concordfcc.net). Also, on August 9, at one of our Super Summer Sunday Series, Kemba Shakur, who is the founder of Urban Releaf, will be here to share with us about the program. You can also visit their website at [www.urbanreleaf.org](http://www.urbanreleaf.org) for more information.



## SUPER SUMMER SUNDAY SERIES

Plan to come Sunday evening, July 26, for our GREEN SSSS.... Enjoy a delicious dinner, then join in the activities centered around what we can do to keep our planet green. For those who choose ... wear a hat made completely out of articles found at your home/recyclable items...there will be prizes!!!! Email Lisa Morgan ([morlisa@aol.com](mailto:morlisa@aol.com)) and let her know that you will be attending, so she can plan plenty of food. Come and join us for a fun evening with your church family. Bring a friend!!!!

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***Did you know.....that our church family pays a \$100 scholarship for each camper from our church family who attends camp.***

*....that we had a recent used book sale fund raiser and raised almost \$200 for the scholarship fund. Thank you for your support!!!*

*...that we will be hearing from our campers during our worship services this summer....you won't want to miss hearing about their experiences.*

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### Directory Updates

Please make the following changes to your directory:

Ken Shrum  
 PO Box 23702  
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
 925-864-4574  
[shrunk@gmail.com](mailto:shrunk@gmail.com)

Brooklynn Jeffreys-Steel  
 Email address [b.maristeele@yahoo.com](mailto:b.maristeele@yahoo.com)

## ***Report of the Elders***

Our new Ministry Team of Elders serving from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, met at the home of Diane Maltester for a potluck dinner and to gather for the first meeting of our new year.

New to the Ministry Team having never served before, Joan Payne, Meg Sumner-Moore, Greg Mitchell, Al DeBella. Returning to the Ministry Team after time off: Bob Cozlett, Judi Carlisle and Rick Marr. Returning to complete the Ministry Team: Diane Maltester, Kelsey Gross, Lynne Hile, Ellie McDougal, Carolyn Partney, Denise Schneider, Scott Sumner-Moore, Tim Rose and Kathleen DeGiobbi.

We have Elders serving at every scheduled service. We seek the assistance of the entire congregation. Please let us know when you see a family member is not in attendance. We make calls every Sunday to people who are unable to get to church. We want to reach everyone, but we need to hear from you.

Our goal this year is Communications. Communicate, communicate, communicate. Please place this list of names inside your directory and call one of us should you need prayers or assistance. We feel honored and blessed to serve as the Elders of First Christian Church. Serving our Pastor and you brings each of us many blessings.

Kathleen E. DeGiobbi,  
Chair of Elders

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## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Co-Chairs are Cho Nai Mitchell and Carolyn Partney.

We continue to feed 80 to 85 people at the Homeless Shelter in Concord and we have available dates for you to participate. The following dates are serving dates through the end of the year.

Saturday, July 25 – Lynne Hile Family and Friends

Saturday, Aug. 22— Mitchell/Cheung Family

Saturday, Sept. 26 –

Saturday, Oct. 24 – Lynne Hile and Family

Saturday, Nov. 28 –

Saturday, Dec. 26 – Kathleen DeGiobbi

If you wish to sign up and share your cooking talents with the Homeless, please contact Kathleen DeGiobbi at 849-5665.

Dates to calendar. We will be having a Ministry Faire on Kick-Off Sunday (Sept. 13), please plan to seek out our table for opportunities to serve our community.

This year we will be hosting Winter Nights the week of November 2-9.

Outreach will also be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive. A great opportunity to share our abundance with Share who provides assistance to families in the Concord Area.

Respectfully,

Kathleen DeGiobbi



**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:*

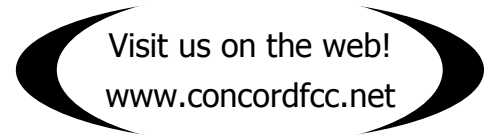
Senior Minister:	Rev. Dr. Russell Peterman:	russ@concordfcc.net
Office Administrator:	Andie Raymond	andie@concordfcc.net
Organist:	Robert Coslett	
Childcare Co-ordinator:	Antoinette Bulatao	
Website:	www.concordfcc.net	

*Contact Information:*

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am—2:30 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, August 5, 2009  
 12 noon.**



*Weekly calendar*

**Saturday, July 25, 2009**

3pm — Homeless Meal Preparation/Kitchen

**Sunday, July 26, 2009**

10am — Worship/Sanctuary  
 6pm — Super Summer Sunday Series/Fellowship Hall

**Monday, July 27, 2009**

7:30pm — Boy Scout meeting/Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, August 2, 2009**

10am — Worship/Sanctuary

**Monday, August 3, 2009**

Russ on vacation through August 9  
 7:30pm — Boy Scout meeting/Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, August 4, 2009**

6:30pm — ACT regional meeting/Library