



BELL TOWER

January, 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

*God's Love has no bounds.
We, at First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) of Watsonville, as
a part of the Church Universal, are
committed to our Mission to be
representatives of that Love,
Proclaiming God's message by Word
and Deed and Growing and Sharing
Christ's Church through Involvement
and Interaction in the Diverse
Community in which we live.
IN FAITH, UNITY; IN OPINION,
LIBERTY; IN ALL THINGS, LOVE.*



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A PASTOR'S THOUGHTS . . .

Wow! Where did this year go? I honestly think this has been one of the fastest years I've ever had as a pastor in any church. I'm kind of wondering if this past year flew by so quickly because we accomplished so much, both by choice and by circumstances thrust upon us.

As we move forward into 2010 however, we as a church need to slow things down a bit. We need to focus in and take a closer look at how we're going to do and be church together. What will be our mission and vision? And how will we begin to live it out as a community? These are big questions, but they are also exciting questions, because it means we have a future. Now that is something to celebrate, the fact that we have a future, because this fact hasn't always been a fact. Wasn't it only a year ago that we weren't sure a future was actually possible for us?

But here we are at the beginning of a new year, and I don't know about you, but I'm excited to see how it will unfold. Personally I think it will truly be a happy new year. So let us begin there, but truly wishing each other and our church a very, very **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Shalom,

Yolanda





Raise the Roof

with your Overabundance



Every now and again, we all have a fruit tree, or a tomato vine, or a plant that produces more fruit, vegetables, or flowers than we can possibly use.

Bring your overabundance to church and offer it for sale on our Bounty Table.

Proceeds from the Bounty Table will go to our Roof Fund.



The Bounty Table is open every Sunday during Fellowship.



Penny by Penny we WILL raise

\$37,842.29
~~\$67,000~~ for the new roof.



Just 🙄 K how far we've come!



Coming Soon
February 7, 2010
Souper Bowl Sunday

Bring in cans of food or money. All donations will benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties.

For every \$1.00 donated, Second Harvest can purchase enough food for 5 meals. Do not miss out on the satisfaction of knowing YOU have contributed to feeding local families.

Remember – *Food is a necessity, not a luxury.*





MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Dorothy McDonnell

Dorothy's birth date is August 22nd. She loves going to the Elder Care facility in Santa Cruz 3 days a week, where she participates in a variety of activities. Dorothy especially likes playing Bingo, and has won several times. She has attended church off and on for most of her life, and she just loves her new church family! If anyone has an extra large print bible they are not using, it could find a good home with Dorothy, so don't hesitate to offer it.

Janice Call and her son, Osiris

Janice's birth date is April 17 and Osiris' birth date is May 25 (he is 10 years old). Janice and Osiris love spending time at the beach and, now, Osiris also loves spending time with Gladys in Sunday school class. Janice has 2 sons, 1 granddaughter, and 1 grandson, and pictures of everyone grace her living room. She also loves dogs. Janice is a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant and she does home care nursing for her aunt, Dorothy McDonnell. She is also currently looking for additional work and is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays between 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Our church is Janice and Osiris' first church experience and they absolutely love it!

Dorothy and Janice have been caring for each other for 22 years, and they share a common love for angels. You should see the beautiful one gracing the top of their Christmas tree!



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY



In western Christian tradition, **January 6** is celebrated as **Epiphany**. Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th. The day *before* Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas, and is sometimes called Twelfth Night, an occasion for feasting in some cultures. As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and thus were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ.





OPEN & AFFIRMING STUDY

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 17TH
AFTER WORSHIP

Our first meeting will begin with a potluck lunch after the worship service. Everyone is encouraged to come and participate and bring your favorite dish to share.

At this first meeting, you will learn:

- What does “Open and Affirming” mean
- Why are we doing this study
- How important is this study to our church
- How long will this study take

Your input is important; be a part of our church’s future.



AFGHANISTAN CARE PACKAGES

There are 27 men and 3 women in this unit. While everything is appreciated, the women’s items are especially needed.

During the month of January, we are collecting the following items:

**Hand Cream, such as Burt’s Bees,
Cornhuskers, and Neutrogena Norwegian Formula**



Please Note: No travel or hotel size containers. Our goal is to send one of each item to each member of the unit.

Please place the items in the USPS Air Mail boxes located at the Communion Table. **If you wish to donate money toward postage or items for someone else to purchase, please make arrangements with the Outreach Co-Chairs.** When making a purchase of items or postage, please turn in your receipt to the Financial Office to receive credit for In-Kind Donations.





ALL CHURCH RETREAT

JANUARY 9, 2010

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.



In January 2010 we begin the second phase of our Transitional Interim Process that seeks to discover who we are as a church and what God is calling us to be and do—what is the Mission and Vision of this church? And so we begin that discovery with an all-day retreat in which I will lead the congregation through a discernment process. To elaborate on the details of what that process looks like would actually truncate the process, because the point of the process is for everyone to come together with their combined remembrances, history, hopes for the future, and genuine desire to seek God's leading.

This is part of the congregation's contractual agreement with me as the Transitional Interim Pastor, and therefore **all members are expected to attend**, and all active participants in the church are invited and encouraged to participate. How serious everyone is about the future of the church will be revealed by how committed the congregation is to participating in this process. And the one thing I would remind everyone is that "this is your church and you hold the key to its future."

I look forward to seeing everyone at 9:00 AM on January 9th. And "yes", snacks and food will be provided.



UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS & NEWS



Young Adult Events

Includes anyone ages 18 to 33

Retreat at Community of the Great Commission

January 16 and 17, 2010

10:00 a.m. Saturday - 2:00 p.m. Sunday



Disciples WomenSpirit

In Partnership with UCC Women's Network



Winter Retreat

January 29 - 31, 2010
Mercy Center, Burlingame, CA



“Heartbeat of God: Making Whole Body and Soul”

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kimberly Elliot,
Ordained Presbyterian Pastor from San Mateo

Registration Deadline is December 21, 2009



Martin Luther King Celebration & Worship Service

January 10, 2010 ~ 4:00 pm
Raynor Park Christian Church, Sunnyvale

Featuring Cisa Payuyo, Speaker

Presentation of:

The first Martin Luther King Scholarship recipients
Martin Luther King Award





Youth Camp

- **January 16-17, 2010 Chi Rho'ers (grades 6-8) will have a rockin' great time @ Pacific Grove CC(DOC).** Festivities will start Saturday at 11am and continue 'til Sunday at 3pm. Get excited about a trip to the aquarium and lock-in games like Sardines! Cost will be \$50.
- **February 13-15, 2010 FEBCAMP for high schoolers (grades 9-12) at Tuolumne Trails.**

SUMMER CAMPS

June 10-13, 2010 Adult Camp
 June 27-July 3, 2010 Junior and Chi Rho camps
 July 4-11, 2010 CYF camp

A brand new camp for summer 2010: "Grandparents and Me"

Saturday, July 3 at 3:00 pm until Monday July 5 at 3:00 pm. More details to come in January. Heather Hennesey, Pastor at FCC Redding, will direct and Ellie McDougal, Regional Elder, FCC Concord Elder and master-story teller will be story-teller/keynoter.

Registration forms are available in the church office or online at www.ccncn.org.



REGIONAL POETRY CONTEST

Theme: "Faith in Poetry"

When: December 4, 2009 – January 31, 2010

Awards will be given in four age groups:

- Children (12 and under)
- Young Adults (18-30)
- Teens (13-17)
- Adults (30+)

Prizes include: Bookstore gift certificates, Amazon.com gift certificates, as well as a \$200.00 scholarship for the winning Young Adult to any Regional event of their choice.

Send your poem to:

Woodland Christian Church
 509 College Street
 Woodland, CA 95695

Participants will have the opportunity to choose from five topic categories. Go to www.ccncn.org for all the details.





JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

- 3 – Celebrate January Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 6 – Epiphany
- 9 – **All Church Retreat** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- 10 – Installation of Officers
- 17 – Open & Affirming Study after Worship



2010 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Moderator – *Pamela Mathiesen*
- Vice Moderator – *Tim Watkins*
- Secretary – *Carol Brace*
- Treasurer – *open position*
- Financial Secretary – *Margie Moss*
- Administration Chair – *Barbara Elton*
- Nurture Chair – *Cathy Garza*
- Outreach Co-Chairs – *Lorraine Mathiesen and Jackie Sweeney*
- Congregational Representative:
Jeanne Johann, Church Clerk



First Christian Church
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Rev. Yolanda Moreno, Pastor

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