

SPRING FESTIVAL of ARTS & CULINARY DELIGHTS

Saturday, April 1, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Please join us in the church social hall for tea, finger sandwiches, and desserts while you browse through our collection of gifts.



Original Creations by Local Artists
Oil and Watercolor Paintings
Stained Glass
Gourmet Baskets
Easter Gifts
Homemade Treats
Handmade Gifts



THANK YOU, CLAIRE!

Claire Vilhauer has accepted the volunteer position of Historian. She will be updating our beautiful wooden, hand-made history books allowing us to share our rich church life and celebrations not only for our future but with our area and regional churches. If you have photos, newspaper articles, etc. relating to our church you want to donate, please send them to Claire at the church office. Thank you, Claire, for accepting this important ministry.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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BELL TOWER

April, 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

We, at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Watsonville, as part of the Church Universal, are committed to Spreading God's abounding Love, Proclaiming Jesus Christ's Message through the Truth of the Gospel by Word and Deed, and Spiritually Growing and Sharing the Gift of the Holy Spirit through Involvement and Interaction with the Diverse Community in which we live. In Faith, Unity; In Opinions, Liberty; In all Things, Love.



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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DR. REUBEN NEGRON

As Ray Orosco and I walked in front of our church building we shared ideas as to where to place a cross that may be appreciated by ongoing traffic in both directions. We invested some of our morning time picturing a lighted cross on the side building. After brainstorming and planning out what could be done, we realized that there is a redwood tree inconveniently planted precisely in front on the side of the building. This posed a logistical problem, one that would defeat the entire purpose of the project. We are still scratching our heads. Of course, there are other options but our first plan was simply enticing not only because the cross would have looked better on the side of the building but it was easier to spot the church. This project will materialize eventually; it's just a matter of putting our heads and resources together and seeing it through.

Isn't it curious that we mentioned this project at our last Congregational Meeting and embraced it (out of the many other projects still pending) because we want our building to be identified as a Christian church? The cross, in the circle of the believers of Christ as in the world at large, is a symbol of the Christian faith. It doesn't matter where one places it or the extension of its width and length, the cross stands out with a powerful message based on the reality of life as Jesus lived and the

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



A new series of Adult Sunday School will begin on Sunday, April 2nd at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Please Note:
Worship Service will begin at
11:05 a.m. during April and May.**

April Sunday School – The Ministry

- 2 Worship Ministry
- 9 The Office of Elder Ministry
- 16 Deaconate Ministry
- 23 Church Administration
- 30 **No Sunday School – Asilomar Annual Meeting**



May Sunday School – 1 John – The Christian Life

- 7 1:5 – 2:28 Fellowship with the Father and the Son
- 14 2:29 – 4:6 The Christian Life
- 21 4:7 – 5:12 Integration of the Ethical and Christological
- 28 5:13 – 21 The Christological Test



APRIL SCHEDULE

- 1 Spring Festival of Arts & Culinary Delights
- 2 Celebrate Members' April birthdays
Church Board Meeting following Fellowship
- 9 Palm Sunday
- 13 Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m. service
bring finger food to share
- 14 Good Friday 12:00 p.m. service
- 15 Easter Sunday
- 23 Earth Stewardship Sunday
plant seeds for largest October pumpkin contest
- 28-30 Asilomar Annual Meeting

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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Church interpreted it.

Through thousands of years we have become very creative. To express our particular form of Christianity we have come up with all sorts of crosses. For instance: there is the Latin cross, the one we are used to seeing; the Tau or the St. Anthony's cross in the shape of a capital T; the Cross of Calvary in the shape of the Latin cross mounted on ascending steps; the Celt cross with its Caim (one of my favorites which I wear every Sunday); and how can we forget St. Andrew's cross, our denomination's logo. These are just to name a few for lack of space. But in truth, the cross of Christ was one on which he relinquished himself, opening the door for us all to explore the possibility of hope and engage in authentic life. It was on the cross that God revealed his face and touched our souls. The eternity of the cross and our reality as we know it meet on common ground to proclaim a new era of hope.

The message of the cross is one of deliverance, healing, forgiveness, and awareness. Here we have an interesting paradox. The cross originally symbolized death and hopelessness yet it's through the act upon the cross that God's compassion became the ultimate answer to our misery and lack of direction. The cross identifies people who are willing to embrace God's transforming project and are available to engage in his unfolding kingdom. And so, through the promise of resurrection, we are assured that the message on the cross is truly valid and undeniably relevant.

As we approach Holy Week let us do so embracing God's graces and sharing the Good News with friends and relatives. Invite them to come and celebrate God's goodness.

In shared ministry,

Reuben



Tau Cross



Cross of Calvary



Celt Cross



St. Andrew's Cross

