

# VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

## VALENTINES DAY — FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

This year, we will once again send valentines to the veterans home in Yountville. Wilma Lembke, one of our former members lives there. Send your homemade or purchased valentines to:

Valentine for a Veteran  
 Veteran's Home  
 P. O. Box 1200  
 Yountville, CA 94599-1200



## YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

CCNC-N 2006

Year of

*Transformation*

CCNC-N has committed itself to a three-year process helping congregations seek the challenging and life-shifting direction offered by God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Through resources provided by the region, congregations can journey together as we can grow in Christ and share great news with people whose lives will be transformed by God in our midst and by the Christ who proclaims, "Behold! I make all things new!"

## CHURCH HISTORIAN WANTED

We have some beautiful wooden, hand-made history books that are in dire need of being updated and kept current. We need an historian to record and share our rich church life not only for our future but to celebrate these experiences with our area and regional churches. We have many people willing to donate photos, newspaper articles, etc. Now... if we only had someone to put it all together. Please see Pastor Reuben if you are interested in this important ministry.



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 15 Madison Street, Watsonville, CA 95076  
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# BELL TOWER

February, 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

I'm sure you have noticed that throughout the past weeks the sermons, in a way, have been addressing the subject of transformation. This isn't something that is coming out of the blue sky. This year our denomination and our region will focus on this important topic. It is about time we begin considering issues that pertain to the life of our congregations and our denomination for that matter.

Having said this you may be asking yourself, what is meant by transformation. Is it in the Bible? Who addresses this point in the New Testament and why? Well, I believe these are legitimate questions which we do not want to overlook.

Yes, it is very likely that at this point you may be asking, what is the big deal? Well, one thing we can count on, considering our mindset as Disciples, is I believe there will be more discussion than implementation and more questions than answers on the issue of transformation. And that is fine and necessary. After all it is a Disciples' practice for every individual to interpret the Scripture in the light of all sciences and in the faith of Christian tradition. Perhaps, the answers on transformation will pose a challenge and its implementation more so. Wherever we may go with this, one thing is certain, we are in dire need of knowing what it means

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# SUMMER CAMP

It isn't too early to start thinking about Youth Summer Camp at the Community of the Great Commission.



July 9 – 15	Chi Rho Camp (Grades 7-9)
July 16 – 22	CYF I Camp (Grades 9-10)
July 23 – 29	CYF II Camp (Grades 11-12)
July 30 – August 5	Junior Camp (Grades 4-6)



## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- 5 Super Bowl Sunday – Celebrate February birthdays
- 12 Friendship Sunday – Valentine's Day  
**SOUP POTLUCK LUNCH**
- 18-20 Senior High Youth Camp
- 19 Week of Compassion begins
- 20 Presidents Day Holiday
- 26 Week of Compassion ends  
**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE LUNCH TODAY**
- 28 Shrove Tuesday



## NEW MEMBER

On Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> Bill Jensen was baptized during our worship service. Bill is a long time resident of Watsonville and has attended several of our church services in the past.

William (Bill) Jensen  
19 Via Del Sol  
Watsonville, CA 95076



### PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

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and what purpose it serves in our individual lives. We also need the wisdom to implement this living experience in the life of our local congregations and in the different ministries of our denomination.

Every pastor was given a pamphlet to read on the issue of transformation. (You will receive a copy.) There are a couple of questions on the subject for you to consider. I would like to present one, "Are you wondering if the Transformation is Biblical?" Here is the answer, "Hundreds of passages focus on the call, imperative, and empowerment of God to enable transformation, from the story of Saul/Paul's conversion to Christianity (a story of personal transformation) to the story of Ezekiel of the valley of the dry bones! Remember, we worship a God who proclaimed, "Look, I am making all things new!" [Rev. 21:5]. Here are just a few passages that remind us that God longs for our continual transformation into a thriving, devoted, and passionate body of believers proclaiming God's goodness to the world: Gen. 32:22-32, Romans 12:1-12, Acts 2:17-28, Phil. 3:18-21, John 5:2-15, Ephesians 3:14-21.

If there is one experience that we can all benefit from it would be a genuine transformation. I'm not just talking about a cosmetic make over. I'm referring to an in-depth life change. An outside change may be good, but an inside transformation experience is better or should I say necessary. Transformation here is nothing short of experiencing a radical change that rearranges our lives. This experience engages our attitude, way of life, and mindset. The power behind transformation breaks down the structure that maintains our false understanding and living of life. God's calling to live and serve requires total surrender to this transformed life. To live and serve as Jesus did requires from us to experience transformation; otherwise the gospel can never be fully accomplished.

This important topic will be discussed with pastors and lay leaders at Santa Nella. If you want to know more about this topic you are invited to join us at Regional Transformation Summit which will take place on February 24-25 under the name, "And Still We Rise."

In shared ministry,

*Reuben*