


GOLDEN GATE TO PEBBLE BEACH ANNUAL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2005

This year our annual geographical area meeting will be held at **Chalice Christian Church** in **San Carlos** at **4:00 pm**. This event will take place after the geographical area minister's pulpit exchange in the morning. Pastor Reuben will be preaching at another Christian Church in our area and we will welcome another minister as our guest this Sunday morning.



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.



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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(Disciples of Christ)
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BELL TOWER

January, 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 cruising at a comfortable height of 34,000 feet above sea level. It's not too busy; to my surprise the flight to Houston was better than expected. However, dealing with the high season rush was an entirely different matter. The airport terminal was packed and the security line was unusually long. With less than 20 minutes to board the plane, the family and I were still standing in front of the security check point. Once at the security point, we were asked to place all our belongings, including our shoes, in a plastic container. Well, the most annoying and ill-timing thing happened. I simply could not untie my sneakers! Realizing that we were running seriously late, I yanked my sneakers off and placed them in the basket. You can imagine how I managed to move to our designated gate to put them on. The entire episode was utterly chaotic. Once on the plane, everything seemed calm, under control, and serene. The flight went smoothly as we headed toward our destination.

It's a strange experience to feel that being in the airport with my feet on the ground I had no control over my surroundings yet flying thousands of feet over sea level seemed so reassuring. Isn't this what happens to us in our daily living?

Many of us have come up with New Year's resolutions for this coming 2006. Some of

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OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our adopted family's Christmas. Ana and Marcos Fernandez, Marcos Jr. and Aldo were most appreciative of their gifts, food (including a turkey), grocery store gift certificate and a check for \$60.00 to purchase other necessary items. The Fernandez Family came to our Worship Service and enjoyed the bilingual service. I saw them two days after they received their gifts and they were still overwhelmed with the generosity of First Christian Church members. They said they would come back to church.



LORRAINE MATHIESEN, CHAIR

JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 1 -- *New Year's Day*
Pastor Reuben is on vacation
Pastor Moran will be our guest minister
- January 6 -- *Epiphany*
- January 8 -- Commissioning and Installation of 2006 Leaders
- January 14 -- Mid Winter Youth Retreat, Mount Hermon
- January 15 -- Golden Gate to Pebble Beach Geographical Area
Ministers' pulpit exchange
-- 4:00 pm – Geographical Area Meeting at Chalice
Christian Church in San Carlos
- January 18 -- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 22 -- Laity Week begins

BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2006

This is a regularly scheduled board meeting immediately following the worship service. We will discuss the 2006 calendar of events, church finances, and several items for general church maintenance. Board members are required to attend; all church members are welcome to attend.



these resolutions are realistic and doable; others are year-long challenges. Of course, there are still others who, for some strange reason, dwell in the world of wishful thinking. Whichever your case may be, always remember that even if your feet are firmly on the ground of reason, God, who in many instances reveals Himself in an unsuspected manor, reminds us that He can turn our lives around to great purpose and meaning to our ministry. I pray that this New Year will be one of enlightenment, commitment, and fellowship. I believe our community, our society, and our world for that matter, will benefit from God's love when we let go of our insecurities and follow in the empowering grace of Christ.

In Christ, *Reuben*

MID WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

For Disciples and United Church of Christ Youth in grades 6-8

"GOD'S WORLD WIDE WEB"



January 14-16, 2006
Mt. Hermon Christian Camp in Felton, CA

Cost is \$90 after December 14th
Adult youth sponsors are encouraged to apply as well.

FEB CAMP

For Disciples of Christ youth and friends in grades 9-12

"GET THE SCOOP ON GOD"

February 18-20, 2006
Mt. Hermon Christian Camp in Felton, CA

Registration deadline is January 25th, 2006
Cost is \$115 for youth and \$65 for adults.

Adult sponsors are encouraged to register as well.

