



# SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Adult Sunday School has the summer off and will begin again on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Please Note: Worship Service will begin at 11:00 am in July.**



## AROUND THE REGION

**Pastor Reuben** will be in Kileen, Texas, from Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>. He is our region's representative to the National Hispanic convention.

At a special meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> at First Christian Church in Sacramento, the regional Search Committee will recommend **Ben Bohren** as our Regional Minister – President. Ben has been our Transitional Regional Minister - President for the last eighteen months.



## MEMORIAL WINDOWS

We have 106 windows in the Gymnasium/Social Hall and Kitchen that require replacement. Our goal is to replace all windows with plexiglass for safety and durability. To do so costs \$50 per window pane. We have established a Memorial Window Fund for this purpose. If you would like to honor someone who has made a significant contribution to your life or the life of the church, or if you would like to purchase a window pane in memory of someone special who has died, please forward your check to the church Attn: Financial Secretary, or place it in the Sunday offering. Be sure to write on your check the name of the person in whose honor or memory your are donating. An acknowledgment list will be prepared listing donors's names and the names of the memorialized and honored people.



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
15 Madison Street, Watsonville, CA 95076  
(831) 724-4517 • FAX (831) 724-5285



# BELL TOWER

July, 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.



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ☞ **Summer Youth Camp**
- ☞ **July Schedule**  
See Page 2
- ☞ **Summer Schedule**
- ☞ **Celebrations**
- ☞ **Window Fund**  
See Page 4

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DR. REUBEN NEGRON

Summer is here and everyone has taken notice. It has been unusually warm in the coastal area. As a matter of fact, as I write this article, folks in San Benito and the Southern Monterey County are feeling the sweltering effects of a triple digit temperature. By the way, did you feel a strong morning jolt a couple of weeks ago? Believe me, it wasn't the coffee. The weather has been acting a bit weird here and all over the country. Either we are getting too much rain or too much heat. We look to our east and we hear of twisters touching down all over the Midwest. We look south things and are not so pretty. Florida is going through such a drought that even the alligators are out and about searching for food and shelter. Scientists agree that all these climatological phenomena are caused by the green gases we so carelessly emit into the atmosphere.

Those who are versed in the subject of global warming have been warning the industrialized nations for years about the dire consequences of mismanaging the world's natural resources. The ecosystem around us is changing for the worse and it is warning us that we need to reassess our way of life. Our spiritual reality is no different. There are times in our lives when the world seems to turn upside down or inside out and that's when we experience that awful feeling of being out of control. There is nothing worse than to realize we have lost our grip of all we believe to be our reality. Losing control of our lives is nothing less as entering into a world of insanity in which true meaning and purpose of life becomes elusive. Consequently,

(Continued on Page 3)

# SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

July 9 – July 15	Chi-Rho	(entering grades 6, 7, & 8)
July 16 – July 22	CYF I	(entering grades 9 & 10)
July 23 – July 29	CYF II	(entering grades 11 & 12)
July 30 – August 5	Junior Camp	(entering grades 4 & 5)



Cost of camp at **Community of the Great Commission** this year is \$420 per youth; this includes a \$30 endowment gift (originally (\$450 per youth). Completed registration forms and a \$50 deposit are due at the time of registration. Registration forms are available online at [www.ccnccn.org](http://www.ccnccn.org).

Funds are available to help each camper pay for registration. How much money is available per camper, however, depends upon how many youth attend. **Full registration paid by the church is not guaranteed.** As soon as we know how many campers are going, our Financial Secretary will be able to determine the exact amount the church will be able to contribute per camper.

**The \$50 deposit to the Region is nonrefundable and nontransferable.**



## JULY SCHEDULE



- 2 Freedom and Democracy Sunday  
Celebrate Members' July birthdays
- 4 **Independence Day**
- 9 Board Meeting after Worship  
Service and Fellowship
- 12 9:00 am Men's Breakfast Meeting at Norma's
- 22 Noon – 6:00 Golden Gate to Pebble Beach  
Geographical Area Summer Social at Foothills  
Park, Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills

being void of meaning is simply to lack direction and objective in life. This is a serious symptom of a spiritual problem that can be addressed with spiritual tools.

In some traditions, prayer is considered a discipline. I prefer to see it as a tool – a spiritual tool. It is the means by which we come in close contact with God and, believe it or not, with ourselves. Prayer seems to soothe our anxieties when we are aware there is hope in a God who actually listens and guides. To embrace prayer as a devotional tool is to weather the uncertainties and shortcomings in our daily living. This is what I would consider to be in control. Prayer has a special effect on people who seek illumination or clarity in life. It is interesting that people who are given to prayer seem to be informed about God's purpose in their lives. They seem to know what direction to take in life and, in many cases, the purpose for their decisions. Prayer nurtures the bonds that connects us to God and to others. We feel part of something bigger than ourselves without losing ourselves. There is no doubt that when a person is given to prayer there is a change of attitude towards the world and him or herself.

Prayer is a wonderful tool that can bring about all sorts of positive changes. We are in need of new and positive experiences that can enrich the life of our church. It is for these wonderful reasons that our sanctuary will be open on Sundays for prayer and meditation beginning July 2 at 10:30 am. I have discovered that every time our church celebrates moments of prayer, we experience something wonderful. On the other hand, we would be foolish to believe that we will not be challenged down the road. When we pursue spiritual well being, we can expect a good challenge. But even if this is to be so, we are reminded of Paul's words, "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We need to pray for so much; the list is very long. We need things to change but it needs to start with us. We need to experience transformation if we are to be relevant in our mission and continue to proclaim and be the Good News.

In shared ministry,

*Reuben*

