

MIRACLE DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005



Garfield Park Christian Church in Santa Cruz has a Miracle Day project set for Saturday, November 5, 2005. Our congregation is encouraged to help the members of Garfield Park Christian Church in re-roofing and painting the church buildings and working in the memorial rose garden. **We are in need of a licensed electrician and plumber.**

Please bring hammers, mops, brooms, buckets, gloves, garden tools, rags, paint brushes, etc. In addition, we will be providing salads for lunch. Contact **Nancy Orosco**, coordinator, for further information.

Agenda

- 7:30 – Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 – Important Opening Worship & Safety Directions
- 8:30 – Begin work (**No work begins until after worship**)
- 8:30 – 3:00 – WORK...WORK...WORK
- 3:00 – Clean Up
- 3:30 – Closing Worship

There is plenty of parking at the church: 111 Errett Circle, Santa Cruz.



CHURCH HISTORIAN WANTED

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

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.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

15 Madison Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 724-4517 • FAX (831) 724-5285

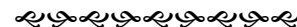


BELL TOWER

November, 2005

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:

- ☞ **Outreach**
See Page 2
- ☞ **Congregational Meeting**
See Page 2
- ☞ **Thanksgiving**
See Page 3
- ☞ **Miracle Day**
See Page 4
- ☞ **Church Historian**
See Page 4

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DR. REUBEN NEGRON

It seems that so much is happening around our country and the world that we simply cannot keep track of it all. Have you noticed? One mishap is not over when another disaster looms either here at home or somewhere around the globe. On one hand, we have man-made disasters and on the other we experience nature's course. Yes, events like the ones we have witnessed in the past five years are too overwhelming. Consider the bombing of the World Trade Center, the war in Afghanistan, the creation of Homeland Security and its policies as a deterrent against terrorism, the war in Iraq, global warming, the price of oil, the nuclear debate and concern in North Korea and Iran, the national debt, the tsunami in Asia, the devastation of the hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and now Wilma, the mounting cost of these disasters compromising the national economy, the earthquake in Pakistan, and the mudslides in Central America which has claimed countless lives. Believe me, these are just a few that we know about. There is a gamut of grim news which has not made it through the media. Needless to say, these unfortunate phenomena have made their way into our lives and forced us to create new policies which, in most cases, have affected and changed our lifestyles.

With all that is going on around the world, I often wonder how much of this can we

(Continued on Page 3)

OUTREACH

September 16 – 5 sets of towels (bath, hand and washcloth) were sent for Katrina survivors relocated to Houston Texas.

October 15 – Quiche, cinnamon bread, muffins, fresh fruit, juice, coffee and tea Brunch was provided to Veterans, their families and staff at the Palo Alto Veteran's Hospital. Thank you to Jeanette Griffen, Carol Brace, Pastor Reuben and Magali Negron, Nancy and Ray Orosco, Pamela, Cynthia and Lorraine Mathiesen for cooking the food. Thanks to all of you who donated money to make this worthwhile event happen. Food was served to young and older veterans in the head trauma center, blind unit and spinal cord injury section. One 79 year old Veteran from San Diego requested the recipes for his cook to make when he got back home.

At the October Board meeting the following church outreach was approved.

November 24 – Adopt and provide a Thanksgiving dinner for a small needy family.

December 25 – Provide a Christmas dinner with gifts for the adopted family.

Thank you to everyone who makes this important church function possible.

LORRAINE MATHIESEN, CHAIR



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005**

On Sunday, November 13, immediately following the worship service, we will have our Annual Fall Congregational Meeting. All church members are encouraged to attend. We will be electing new Board Officers and adopting next year's budget. This is the perfect time to bring up suggestions for the new year.



continue to take. Is there a lesson to be learned? Where are all these events taking us in the unfolding of our history? Do we hold the answers to many of our man-made problems?

From the beginning of time, humankind has witnessed countless disasters yet we have managed to survive the darkest hours. A simple glance at human history seems to show we have the resilience to move on and manage our mishaps. But a closer look at the lives of those who suffer the wrath of nature or the foolishness of humankind have revealed people's persistence in the belief that there is something or someone greater than their adverse circumstances. I believe an important ingredient is very much at work here and that is hope. Hope is a gift from God that sustains us in the worst of circumstances. Through time, we have learned hope sheds light where there is darkness; it sees opportunities where there is no prospect for advancement; it dares to believe when all seems lost; it declares victory over tyranny even when evil leaves its crippling mark.

Today, we can say that a great many people from all walks of life have lost so much. There is, however, one thing we can never lose and that is hope. Christ is the perfect epitome of that hope we need so much these days. In his suffering, we discover the meaning of life. He taught us that life comes and expresses itself in many ways. How prepared are we to face it? Life is not an illusion in which we can hide from its reality. Life can be simple or complicated; it can be easy or difficult, and it may be smooth or harsh. The fact of the matter is, how we face and interpret life is an important proposition we truly need to consider. As Christians, we live in the assurance that God is with us, guiding, empowering, and illuminating us through the good as well as the difficult circumstances. We must share the **Good News** to all who seek peace of mind and deliverance from evil.

In Christ, *Reuben*



THANKSGIVING DINNER **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2005**



We will be having our traditional potluck Thanksgiving Dinner this year beginning at 1:00 pm in the church's social hall. Please see **Carol Brace**, coordinator, if you are interested in joining this delicious event and sharing your favorite holiday dish.