



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

PRAYER MEETINGS, SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND WORSHIP SERVICES

- 3** 9:40 – 10:20 Sunday School in the Primary Room
Money Is Power – Mark 10:17-31, Luke 19:1-10
- 10:30 – 10:50 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:00 – 12:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
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- 10** 9:40 – 10:20 Sunday School in the Primary Room
Christians, Governing Authorities, and Context – Romans 13:1-10
- 10:30 – 10:50 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:00 – 12:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
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- 17** 9:40 – 10:20 Sunday School in the Primary Room
Christians, Governing Authorities and Obedience – Revelation 13:1-18
- 10:30 – 10:50 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:00 – 12:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
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- 24** 9:40 – 10:20 Sunday School in the Primary Room
Christians, Governing Authorities, and Conflict – 1 Peter 2:13-17, Mark 12:13-17, Acts 5:17-42
- 10:30 – 10:50 Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:00 – 12:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

- 3** Celebrate Members' September Birthdays & Anniversaries
9 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Annual Rummage Sale
10 Stewardship Sunday Potluck
14-15 1st Women's Retreat at Mission Springs, Scotts Valley
16-17 2nd Women's Retreat at Mission Springs, Scotts Valley
24 Reconciliation Week Begins
29-Oct. 1 Men's Retreat at Saint Francis Retreat, San Juan Bautista

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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BELL TOWER

September, 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

Vacation is a wonderful experience when it's well organized and time is wisely spent during this period of relaxation. It can be a time to discover the "hidden" and immediate beauty that surrounds us and that, in most cases, we tend to ignore. But it is also a perfect opportunity to invest time to heal and rediscover ourselves. Hence, vacation is a means that can be effectively used to re-create (experience a new creation) at many levels: physical, emotional, and spiritual.

I understand that vacations are meant to recreate, refresh, renew, and uplift one's spirit. I can witness to this. My family enjoyed a two week vacation. We did not go far to enjoy the local commodities that our area has to offer. Let's begin by saying that the weather couldn't have been any better. There was no need to travel away from the area. Watching the late night shows and getting up late in the morning in our own apartment was relaxing. Visiting the malls in the Central Coast turned out to be "a money saver." Taking the kids to the Boardwalk after strolling through the historic streets of Santa Cruz and eating calzone at the pizzeria was something we hadn't done for a long time. The Santa Cruz trip wasn't only fun but it was also a learning experience. The Pacific Grove coastline is always a tranquil sight; it was soothing, watching fellow tourists pacing back and forth looking for that special

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Albertson's Community Partners

It's that time of year again when many of us are baking and cooking, not only for ourselves but for others. We bake for gifts and parties and having a jolly good time. All this leads us to the grocery store to spend money – so please remember to use your Albertson's Community Partners card.

Each time you purchase items from Albertson's and present your Community Partners card, Albertson's will send a portion of their profits to our church. If you need a Community Partners card, please contact Cynthia or Pamela Mathiesen. Making money has never been so easy!



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 you are donating. An acknowledgment list will be prepared listing donors's names and the names of the memorialized and honored people.



souvenir is always fun. Of course, we went to the movies; what's a vacation without watching a good movie with the family. Sorry, no popcorn, it ruins the appetite for a great meal. We checked out the Market in Salinas; they had all sorts of vegetables; Magali decided to purchase a 5 pound squash for our project. Yes, we had a project in mind. We have been cherishing the idea of preparing "pasteles" for quite some time; our vacation was perfect to engage in such a project. Pasteles is a Puerto Rican dish which is very difficult to prepare and it's time consuming. A lot of ingredients go into it and there is much grinding to do. But once they are completely cooked and ready to serve... well do I really need to get into details? We indulged. Reading a good book was also in the agenda. I enjoyed reading, "The Ethical Mind," I thought Michael S. Gazzaniga presents an astonishing debate over the development of the human brain and its function as a complex organ where ethical decisions are continuously made and revised according to the moral demands of the 21st century.

Vacation can be a relaxing and positive experience, but it can also be a stressful and tiring nightmare. Nowadays, with the lack of security in our airports and aircrafts and with the rise of the energy costs, planning for a great vacation getaway is becoming more and more of a "Twilight Zone" experience. I think someone took the romance out of flying. Unfortunately, we are living in trying times. Because of this, some folks are reacquainting themselves with their own families and rediscovering home towns they have failed to appreciate or have taken for granted through the years.

The same principle applies to our spiritual experience. Why look for spiritual solace in foreign sources when we can rest in the promises of Christ. He is so close to us. The prospect of experiencing spiritual rest relying on spending, spending, and spending is virtually dim. Undoubtedly, inner peace, a change of venue, getting away from the daily routine is necessary, but the answers to our restlessness and boredom are much closer than what we can imagine.

In shared ministry,
Reuben

