

Connecting
Us with God and
one another

February 1, 2013

Senior Pastor:

Michael Stein (ext 30)

Office Manager:

Kirsten Bayne (ext 21)

Custodians:

Max & Marcia Peters

Music Ministers:

Troy Schuh, Pianist

Karen Lee, Organist

Gina Schuh-Turner,

Choir Director

Nursery Coordinator:

Tammy Swartz (ext 24)

Wedding Coordinator:

Kathy Vaughn

Youth Minister:

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

Licensed Ministers:

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

Dennis Miller

LifeCare Email:

fcclifecare@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Services:

9:00 Worship Service

10:30 Sunday School for all ages

If you have information for our

Link, please e-mail that
information to:

kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

By the 15th of each month.



***Sweets for
the Sweet***



**Spaghetti Lunch
and Auction
Sunday, February 10**

Everyone is invited to stay following worship for the *Sweets for the Sweet* lunch and auction on Sunday, February 10th. The lunch is free, but a free will offering and auction of sweets will be accepted for the benefit of youth ministries.

The Diaconate is host for this fellowship event, and Deacons are asked to sign up to bring ingredients and help in preparation. The entire congregation is invited to contribute "sweets" for the auction - especially homemade items from your favorite recipes. Please drop donated items off in the kitchen before worship that day.

This event raised over \$800 last year to help fund youth ministries - let's top that this year! For details or questions please contact Diaconate Chair Linda Imel at 909-816-9000.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH WORSHIP?

This was the question raised a few weeks ago in response to some confusing moments in the



service. The answer, according to another who overheard the question, was to quote our Regional Minister Jose Morales in his sermon to us on Epiphany: “we’re in the wilderness!”

I think the answer was meant to be humorous, but it’s also somewhat truthful.

Until recently, the congregation regularly conducted two services on Sunday morning with two different styles of worship. Due to budgetary cuts and staff changes, the services were merged with intent to also accommodate the different styles. It’s fair to say hardly anyone believes this has yet been accomplished.

Worship is at the center of our practice of faith, and so it is important that we seek to do it well; the service should offer us the opportunity to celebrate our love of God and each other, as well as inspire us to continue the work of Christ in our world. Ultimately, we hope that each of us feels in communal worship the real presence of the Living God among us.

To make this happen, two interests are at work; we seek simultaneously to make the service both meaningful in content and smooth in execution. Ideally these values work together, but sometimes they are in conflict. A congregation comes together with widely varying experiences, understanding, and beliefs – as well as differences in attention span and styles of processing information. What is deeply meaningful to one is boring and repetitive to another. Some appreciate an organized service that is predictable and easy to follow, while others feel too much organization makes worship a shallow performance, lacking in the inspiration of the Spirit.

In the short term, our focus is to tighten up the service we currently have – making it flow more smoothly and making it more welcoming to those who have not worshipped with us before. We’re trying to keep the time to somewhere between 60-75 minutes without making it feel rushed. At the same time, we’re trying to do a better job of

explaining what each element of the service means and why it is important. Again, these are sometimes conflicting interests.

Some of the steps along the way include:

- Moving announcements to the bulletin and the projection screen before the service starts.
- Facilitating the “God Sightings” and prayer concerns to be shared from the pews, rather than asking those sharing to come to the Chancel.
- Seeking to tie the Offering more closely with the ministries of the church, emphasizing and encouraging what it is that our giving accomplishes for the building of the God’s reign.
- Refocusing the service of the Lord’s Supper so that the congregation is preparing through singing to receive communion at the same time the Elders and Diaconate are preparing to serve.
- Refocusing the Invitation to emphasize both newfound and continuing discipleship as well as the call to go into the world and serve.

Along the way we’ve had some missteps and obstacles; a new minister, technology changes and upgrades, miscommunication, and “tweaking” experimentation. We appreciate the patience of worshippers as these things get ironed out – as well as CONSTRUCTIVE suggestions and input.

Some larger questions remain to be considered, led by our full Worship Team and including the entire congregation. Some of these questions include whether we should begin another service with a different style of worship; how best to include children without alienating them; how to schedule worship times to accommodate modern lifestyles and also our own activities and ministries, among others.

May our worship and our service continue to honor God and bring us closer together.

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

Rachel's Remarks

When we make a mistake...

With contemporary technology, we are receiving and processing more messages than ever before. They tell us we need to have a nice home, maintain a young appearance, establish a successful career, and explore a hobby to live a full life. They tell youth they need to have high test scores, good grades, a well rounded portfolio of extracurricular involvement with sports, music, art, church, community service, etc., and a "mature young adult" appearance, etc. in order to prepare themselves for the aforementioned full life. So what happens when so many of us are unable to achieve greatness in all of these areas? Are we doomed to mediocrity?

In the context of a culture that drives us to look our best, do our best, and be our best at all times, it can be really upsetting to make mistakes and reveal our imperfections to others. We may miss a meeting because we locked our keys in the car, or use the wrong words to express ourselves when caught in an emotional moment, or forget a loved one's birthday, or take out our anger on someone (or something) undeserving of our blame. How we respond when we make mistakes, and when we witness (or take the brunt of) the mistakes of others, speaks loudly of our character. Let's not forget that God sees past our outward appearance, and instead sees right into our hearts! (For a reminder, read up on David's selection as king in 1 Samuel 16.)

As I sit here stranded at home, with my keys locked in my car, frantically typing to avoid missing the Link deadline, the smell of last night's slightly burned dinner still lingering in the air, and my knee sticking through the hole I accidentally tore in my favorite pajama pants, I am humbled to remember that God sees past my mistakes and embraces me with unconditional love. As long as I dedicate my life and shape my actions as best I can to furthering God's kingdom on earth, my life will be full and worthwhile. As long as I look for the beauty inside my heart and the hearts of all others, and always seek to forgive, I will know peace and enjoy fulfilling relationships. When we do our best to be a supportive and loving community that celebrates our individual strengths while also forgiving our imperfections, we know what it is to be a united body of Christ, and we raise our youth to know love.

I pray a grateful prayer with the words of a beloved camp song (based on James 4:10): "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

Last but not least... I give my sincere thanks to all who so generously gave to the staff Christmas gift, as well as the youth and families who blessed us with additional gifts. Thank you for warming our hearts (and our home)! **Thank you also** to those who gave to the Jan. 13 birthday brunch offering and to the congregational life team for their support of the youth – we raised \$478 to help send our youth to Midwinter Retreat!

Weekly Youth Meetings

for youth in grades 6 – 12

Sundays: Rush Hour

Our Youth class meets in the NW corner youth room after Sunday morning worship

Wednesdays: Xone 77

Youth Groups in Minnerly Hall, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Worship, faith development, fellowship, fun, and food!

Upcoming Youth Events

Sweets for the Sweet

February 10

Youth will be helping with this spaghetti luncheon and dessert auction, sponsored by the Diaconate, with proceeds going toward youth camps and mission trips.

CRMR Midwinter Retreat

February 15-18

Welcoming youth in grades 6-12, this retreat is a 3 night weekend of fellowship, faith development, and spiritual renewal with youth from around the region at LaForet. This year's keynoter will be Rev. Amanda Henderson, and the theme will be "Encountering Difference", exploring our responses when we encounter those who differ from us. It will be a GREAT retreat! Please pray for our participants and leaders.

Want more info?

Email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org if you'd like to join the youth e-news list, and/or "like" us on Facebook! – just search for "Xone 77 Youth" to find our page.

FCC Youth Ministry Mission Statement

Our Youth Ministry exists to **EXPOSE** teenagers to God's love, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians and help them **GROW** in their faith, challenging them to **SEEK** God's presence and to **SERVE** others for Christ.



Special Thanks

I wish to give an extra special *Thank You* to Dennis and Sharon Swartz for their willingness to step in and help Max during my surgery and recovery. They have been so very helpful in lightening the load Max had to carry while I've been out. Also to Betty Briggs for tending the plants during my absence. Thank you; they look beautiful. We are very grateful for all the help we have received and appreciate each and every one of you. God Bless you all.

In Christian Love,
Marcia P.

Dear FCC friends and family,
Words cannot express our deep appreciation for all the love and care received during Marcia's surgery and recovery. The wonderful meals provided were delicious and very much appreciated. The prayers, cards, calls and words of encouragement given by so many have truly helped with healing and recovery. Thank you Pastor Michael and Dennis M. for your prayers and being with me prior to the surgery; the angels were certainly with me that morning and I felt the love of God surrounding me the entire time in the hospital.

A heartfelt thank you to the entire congregation for the wonderful staff Christmas gift. We feel very blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church.

Blessings to all for a very Happy New Year,
Max & Marcia Peters

Dear First Christian Church; it has been my great pleasure to have been able to serve our awesome God along with all of you this past year. I am so ever grateful for the generous Christmas gift that you have blessed our family with. I look forward to serving our Church along with our God in the coming year!.

Peace and Blessing for the New Year!
Tammy Swartz

The 2013 FCC Personnel Committee would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the staff of our church for all of their excellent work and dedication during 2012. We recognize that the last six months have been filled with challenges as our church faces the difficulty of transitioning to a new minister along with other issues faced by our church. Through all of this the current staff has performed well beyond expectations. This group of people has unselfishly provided for the congregation in so many ways that it deserves a very sincere – Thank You!

The Personnel Committee

Dear church family and friends,
First I want to thank the carolers for coming and singing for (me) us at the Sterling House at the Orchards on Dec. 8. Also a big thanks to Mary and Rachel Circles for the goodie bag. It's so nice to be remembered at Christmas time.

Happy New Year to all.

Marge Mullins

P.S. Thanks to Tracy and Dennis for all your services here each month at the home.

Dear First Christian,
A very grateful 'Thank You' to all the members who have visited and brought me bread and cup. Also for the goodie care package. It was especially nice to have on hand to share with others who stopped to say 'Hello' and Holiday greetings. I don't bake anymore.

Again, Thank you to all.

Blessings to each for the new year,
Millee Bovee

First Christian Church,
Words are inadequate to express our sincere thanks. Appreciate all the prayers, cards, calls and all the tasty food. Also for the use of wheelchair, shower and bathroom stools. Larry and I feel blessed that God put you all in our lives.

Much love,
Larry and Bev Payne

OWLS Outing

The OWLS will be doing lunch at local restaurant on Friday February 8, 2013. We have not yet determined a location. We will post a sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the kitchen with more details before February 1. Please contact Bonnie R. or Ann M. if you have suggestions or questions. All are welcome.

Car For Sale

A 1986 Dodge Aries K SE has been donated to the church. The car has approximately 91,000 miles. The brakes need repair and perhaps a new battery. The body and interior are in very good condition. If you or anyone you may know are interested, we will be selling the vehicle as is. We suggest \$1000.00 or best offer. Please contact trustees.

Security Help

The trustees need your assistance. We are having a few security issues. If you or anyone you know use the building after normal business hours, please be sure that all lights are off and doors and windows are secured. Also, if you are in the vicinity of the church and notice anything unusual please alert trustees or a board member.

Navajo Work Camp

19 years and

It was 19 years ago that we took our first work crew into the Navajo Reservation. We have worked on more than 160 homes. This year Work Camp will be held in Tse' Daa' Kaan (Hog Back) Chapter, New Mexico. The dates for the camp are September 18-22. We need all kinds of skilled and non-skilled people to go. If you have been saying that someday you would like to do this, make it this year.

For more information call Joyce Walker 667-5653 or John Shaw 493-0572.



Church in the World:

Global Ministries has provided us with a year of missionaries that we can pray for each week. Each month I will give you the featured people that we can be

praying for. Feel free to visit the Global Ministries web page to find a Weekly Prayer. www.globalministries.org

January 6th Monica and Tom Liddle - East Timor

January 13th Lynnea and Thomas Morse – China

January 20th James deBoer-Argentina/ Paraguay

January 27th Katie Pickens-Haiti

February 3rd Susan Valiquette and Scott Couper-South Africa

February 10th Elena Huegel-China

February 17th Xuyen Dangers-Laos

February 24th Nico Tapaeko-Micronesia

CD copies of worships now available

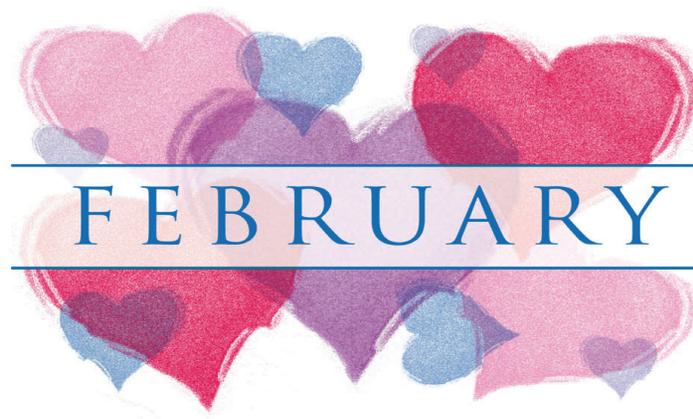
Due to technical difficulties were unable, for a few months, to reproduce CD's of the worship services. I know that some of you were receiving copies on a weekly basis. If you would like to receive copies on a weekly basis or if you would like to request a certain Sunday please call the church office and let Kirsten know.

February Birthdays

BOVEE, Mildred	1-Feb
COMBS, Jan	1-Feb
KAUFFMAN, Doris	1-Feb
SPRAGUE, Bob	1-Feb
SPENCER, Alana	2-Feb
ALTAMIRANO, Victor	4-Feb
HARRELL, Kathleen	4-Feb
DAYHUFF, Pat	9-Feb
HALL, Ann	9-Feb
LIESINGER, Frances	9-Feb
VAN METER, Debbra	12-Feb
MAGNUSON, Cherlene	14-Feb
UDLOCK, David	15-Feb
UDLOCK, Joshua	15-Feb
YOUNG, Kevyn	15-Feb
GAINES, Jean	16-Feb
HESNAULT-THALKEN, Zoey	16-Feb
DAVIS, Les	17-Feb
PERRY, Hollie	17-Feb
SPARKS, Elijah	20-Feb
TODD, Bob	20-Feb
MITCHELL, Shirley	21-Feb
PARIS, Doris	21-Feb
HAUGHEY, Daniel	22-Feb
KNAUS, Christina	23-Feb
WALKER, Ron	25-Feb

February Anniversaries

WOHLMAN, John & Barbara	8-Feb
STUART, John & Pat	15-Feb
PRATT, John & Wanda	21-Feb
BREINER, Dick & Geraldine	24-Feb



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:15a Men's reunion group	2
3 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday School <i>First Sunday Food— Canned Meat</i>	4 6p Women's reunion group	5 6:30p Grief Share	6 10:30a Trustees 12p Life Tree Café 6p Xone 77 6p Reach 7p Life Tree Café	7 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	8 7:15a Men's reunion group	9
10 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday School 11:30a Sweets for the Sweet	11 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	12 6:30p Grief Share	13 Ash Wednesday 12p Life Tree Café 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p Ash Wednesday Service	14 Valentine's Day 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	15 Link Deadline 7:15a Men's reunion group	16
17 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday School	18 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	19 6:30p Grief Share 7p Mary's Circle	20 12p Life Tree Café 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p Life Tree Café	21 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	22 7:15a Men's reunion group	23
24 9a Worship 10:30a Sunday School	25 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	26 6:30p Grief Share 7p Elders Meeting	27 12p Life Tree Café 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p Life Tree Café	28 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir		

First Christian Church
www.lovelanddisciples.org

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PERMIT NO. 22

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Last But Not Least

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a growing, welcoming, diverse community of faith that worships, shares, and expresses through our service the love of God.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to know, grow, and show the love of God.

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