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#### *San Jose Staff-*

*Dana Bainbridge, Minister*  
*Linda Lappin, Office*  
*Mary Raby, Moderato*

We are an  
Open & Affirming

# *The San Jose Disciple*

## **Bold Move!**

### **FCCSJ Moves Toward ReLaunch on Easter Sunday**

**“Launch”** – *To start on a course; to initiate; to burst out or plunge boldly or directly into action*

Sometimes things just need to be tweaked a little. But when tweaking just isn't enough--bold and daring moves are needed. FCCSJ members are continuing to make bold moves with a ReLaunch of congregational life on Easter Sunday. What a powerful expression of resurrection!

What is a ReLaunch? It's setting new direction, creating new structures in response to the needs around you. After Jacob wrestled with the angel of God he crossed a creek and gave himself a new name. The crossing meant he entered a new phase of his life. It wasn't just an overnight thing for him. But he came to a point when he was ready to welcome change. FCCSJ will be the same and yet... ReLaunch says we are making a significant break with the past, bringing with us what is our essence and embracing new ways to recreate ourselves.

So what's new? We are launching out directly into action by embracing the following priorities:

- **Core Spiritual Practices** – FCCSJ has always expressed the Kingdom of God here and now in the way we live so *Core Practices* are the heart and soul of the ReLaunch. As a congregation, we are living into a commitment to practice Loving Speech and Deep Listening as a core congregational practice. For more about this, see the Core Practices article in this newsletter.
- **Transformative Ministries with the Homeless and the Downtown Community** - We are exploring ways to expand our meal programs and to do so in a way that not only feeds those in need, but also brings the community together so that people of all backgrounds can share their lives around the table. Disciples of Christ have always had communion at the center of their lives and this is a way we can extend the meaning of The Table out into the world (see Shelter News article)..
- **A Worship Renaissance** - We are redesigning our worship space artistically and symbolically. Our music is broadening to include a variety of styles so that all generations can sing openly and freely as an uplifting worship experience.

Many people are working hard to create outreach materials and communications to get the word out about new opportunities at FCCSJ. There are little resurrections every day. We're looking to celebrate a significant one on Easter Sunday. Plan to join us on April 12 to see the transformation!

With love and gratitude- *Dana*

## Church Family News

**Barbara Harriman** was in the hospital with a bout of pneumonia.

Former parking lot attendant and friend of FCC, **Suzanna Beauchon** and her son John, age 7, need our prayers as she works to bring John back home.

**Pastor Dana** asks for prayers for her friend Pat Miner, in Omaha, NE.

**Catalina Soltero** has asked for prayers for her sister who lives in South Carolina, and also prayers for her friend Lavon who has had a stroke.

**Sabrina Villareal** is thankful that she is able to attend FCC once again. She has been absent due to health reasons. Sabrina also gives thanks and asks for prayers for her friend Garrett and his family.

**Anna Martin** asks for prayers for her family. She and Donald are taking classes to regain custody of their two small children. She is grateful for the many agencies that are trying to help.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for CHAM member and former FCC board member, **Muliaga Togotogo** (Togo) who underwent back surgery.

**Linda Braswell** asks for our prayer support for her daughter Heather who may have a management position with Sears in Hawaii.

**Victor Aught** asks for prayers for his son-in-law.

**Ivy Hietala** is struggling with some health issues at home. Cards or calls would be appreciated.

**Roland Tan** was hospitalized for a short time, and has been moved to a skilled nursing facility.

### *Our Christian sympathy is extended to these families:*

The family of **John E. Lindley**. Viki Lindley's father passed away in November in Louisiana. Cards may be sent to Viki at 4000 McHugh Road #108, Zachary, LA 70791.

The family of **Josie Caravayo** whose father passed away in December.

**Art Moniz** upon the death of his wife, Virginia, in Corning, CA.

**Dolores Kimsey**, former minister of Christian education at FCC. Her husband, Jim, passed away in December in Hillsboro, OR.

### *Birthdays (and other celebrations)*

**Jim Thompson and Sandy Hietala** celebrated their good friend Angelica Irvin's 17th birthday at their home.

Congratulations to **Ralph Hietala** – 87 on January 26!

Charlie Craig celebrates with his son who turned 47!

**Roger Chow** celebrated his birthday in Bangkok.

**Mabel Bergesen** celebrated her 100th on December 3 in Gardnerville, NV.

**Virginia Parks** passed the 3rd part of her engineering exams; one more to go!

Former pastor Rev. **Dick Miller** was with us in worship on January 18.

### *Travels*

**Roger Chow** has returned safely from a tour of China and a visit with his son, Vernon, who is teaching near the family's native province.

**John Lindley** was brave enough to spend the Christmas season with daughter Jennifer and family in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Pastor Dana** and daughter Hannah's good friend Michael visited from Omaha, NE.

Pastor Dana and Hannah were able to spend precious time with her step-father (grandfather) in Iowa at Christmas time.

A joy for **Hannah Brink** – her second parent, Nancy, has relocated to Orange, CA where she will serve as director of church relations for Chapman University. No more trips to Omaha for Hannah – hurray! After Hannah celebrated her 13th birthday in January, she traveled with Christa MacAuliffe School, to Washington, D.C. for the presidential inauguration.

**Roberta Diephouse** is rejoicing with news her niece, Shanti, and family will be returning from Uganda this summer to Sacramento. Our prayers are with Roberta as she makes a big decision whether to relocate to Sacramento, or to stay in San Jose.

Our good friend **Charles McGee** has relocated to Georgia. Being so close to Washington, D.C, he made sure he was there with other Disciples of Christ to support our denomination's president, Dr. Sharon Watkins who gave the sermon at the president's prayer service the day following the inauguration.

## *Two Poems from Longtime Members*

### *The Church In The Shadow Of The City Hall*

By Ralph

This church has no steeple  
It has an attendance of few people  
No one is denied  
A good seat inside  
No dress code is required  
Kindness is admired  
Please come as you are  
From near or afar  
Bus or by car  
The front church door  
Will be on Sunday's ajar

*Written during the Lakers and San Antonio game  
The Lakers lost by one point in the last few seconds*

### *A Pine I'd Be*

By Ivey

If I were destined to be a tree,  
I know what I would want to be.  
A giant pine, straight and tall  
On a mountain top, I'd have my roots,  
There, I'd feel the wind, rain and snow.  
And view the world down below,  
See the sun and moon pass by  
And marvel at the nightly sky.  
Yes, I know what I'd want to be.  
If I were destined to be a tree.

## *From the Moderator*

It has been awhile since, so I want to catch everyone up on some things that have been going on here at the church.

We have added another weekly meeting, Overeaters Anonymous – 90 Day Format AA Big Book and AA12x12 Study, on Monday evenings, 7pm in room 7, off the parking lot. It's a 1 hour meeting and open to all. They bring in about \$100 per month to our general fund.

I am pursuing the possibility of having a noon time concert series in the sanctuary. I am excited to announce that Dr. Emily Lu, our current church accompanist, has agreed to participate. It will be free with donations going to the artists. I will be starting negotiations with the Mu Phi Epsilon collegiate music fraternity to hold recitals in the sanctuary as well. The Concert Hall in the music building is booked solid, so we might be hosting some student recitals.

We are still receiving wonderful support from the homeless community. Mike Sowl is the one who is keeping our new landscaping free of weeds. He spent last Sunday completing the job, for now. He does this without any compensation. It's just his way of saying thank you. Ramon, the man who did such a super job painting room 7, is now available to help get Mary Dean Miller Hall in shape. Also many of the men who receive breakfast at our church are helping with the clean up afterwards for a small payment that is supplied by Saratoga Federated Church which serves breakfasts at our church on Thursdays and Fridays.

Also, Jose, from the El Shaddai Church has installed a new toilet in the men's restroom in the narthex. Ron Hinchley did the shopping and delivered the toilet. The installation can cost a great deal; so we are again blessed by our association with these generous people from El Shaddai.

We have so many angels around us. Antioch Baptist wants you to know that they are praying for us as we go through this period of rapid transformation. Please pray for us all as we have to make sometimes difficult, but important decisions in order to serve God's Kingdom in down town San Jose.

*Mary Raby, Moderator*

## Core Practices

### Teaching a Christian Way of Life

By Dana

*"I think we're created deep and simple, and society nurtures shallow and complicated."*

*-Mr. Rogers*

In 2008 First Christian Church, San Jose, articulated a vision of themselves as a "church in recovery from and resistance to the dominant culture." It is a bold and courageous vision. As we are living into it, we have been asking ourselves. How do you do recovery? What are our "steps" as a Christian community committed to bring the kingdom of God, a vision different from the dominant culture, to the here and now. One of the things that has grown out of that conversation is seeing we could build our life together around particular practices that we intentionally choose to take up that will help shape the way of life we envision.

Our core practices grow out of our persistent desire to allow the life of God to live in us. They are our humble attempts to describe what we have come to understand is a truly Christian way of life. Core practices inevitably have both personal and systemic applications. They are intrinsically about both "my" life and "our" life.

Over the next couple of months we will be discerning the practices we are called to live. They may be generosity, peacemaking, healing, keeping Sabbath time, creativity, etc. We will extend an invitation to make a commitment to live the practices and to meet with a practice group to support one another in this commitment. The practice groups will have a workbook of spiritual exercises to support the practices. Many of these exercises are ancient ones that continue to have an astonishing relevance for our times. If you have questions about the practices, getting involved in a practice group or just want more information, talk to Pastor Dana, Walter Hudson or Sandra Hietala.

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### Roger's September Sojourn

Roger Chow had a great time on his trip in September 2008. He visited countries that he's wanted to see for years (Malaysia, The City State of Singapore, Thailand, Laos and especially Angkor Wat (Siem Reap), Cambodia. He was also able to spend 13 days with his son Vernon, who is teaching English to university students at Foshan Technical University—about 15 minutes away from the Zhou (Chow) ancestral village of Luzhou/Shunde in Guangdong Province.

Vernon still has second cousins living "at home." He is slowly learning Mandarin and a little Cantonese. Roger was also able visit Beijing where he sat in on meetings of the staff, advisors and other Board members of the AIDS Relief Fund for China (ARFC); he also attended a NGO (Non-governmental organizations) fair in Beijing. As his last stop, he spent two days and nights in Nanjing and visited the national memorial commemorating the events of December, 1937, where it is thought 300,000 residents died. Nanjing was also the home of our "regular church visitor," Mrs. Ann T. Sha.

Perhaps sometime in the next few weeks Roger might be able to arrange a slide show presentation of his trip during our coffee hour.

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### Fellowship Committee

Helping with coffee time after worship this month are:

- Feb. 8 Ron Hinchley
- Feb. 15 Gerry Tyndall
- Feb. 22 Sandy Hietala

## *Shelter Closing*

After much prayerful consideration, First Christian Church and CHAM Deliverance Ministry have decided to close down the family shelter that we have jointly operated on this site virtually continuously since 1997. The families currently remaining here will be given ample time to locate housing before the closure takes effect.

Together we have determined that continued operation of the shelter in 2009 is no longer the most effective use of our respective resources.

Both First Christian Church and CHAM will continue our deep commitment to serve and minister to the homeless and to advocate for justice for the poor. The existing food program at First Christian Church will continue and possibly expand in the near future. CHAM Deliverance Ministry is working to locate a facility to be able to offer transitional housing to people in need. CHAM is also investigating ways to step up its campaigns for housing, health care, and other basic human rights.

We are painfully aware that this decision comes at an extremely difficult time for Silicon Valley's poor. Other non-profits are also cutting back at the present time and shelter, especially for families with children, is hard to find. Thousands of homeless continue to sleep in tents and under bridges all across Santa Clara County, including children. The country's economic collapse can only make it worse.

We pray for our country. We call on government at every level, and those churches that have the resources, to step up to the challenge and make a difference in the days ahead. We are confident that God never gives us a trial too big for us to handle, if we remember to rely on him. We look forward to continuing to do our part. We commit to continue the battle, not only for replacement of those shelter beds we can no longer supply, but for an end to all homelessness and poverty in our community and in our nation.

## *Loving Speech and Deep Listening*

By Sandra Hietala

Being listened to in a non-judgmental, "Tell-Me-More" kind of way is a true gift of the spirit. It fills our "Emotional Tanks" and helps us deal with the challenges we face.

Loving Speech is the other side of the Deep Listening coin. Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh suggests, "the way you speak to others can offer them joy, happiness, self-confidence, hope, trust and enlightenment."

We propose that Deep Listening and Loving Speech be the cornerstone practice adopted by FCCSJ to guide us in our re-launch toward becoming "a church in recovery from and resistance to the Dominant Culture." We are living into this practice as a congregation. This is a powerful practice. Watch for the ways it begins to transform our life together.

## *Church Musician Emily Lu transitions to interim status*

**By Victor Aught III**

Emily Lu has been the sparkle in our music program for nearly two years. She has delighted us with special Sundays of Gershwin, Chopin and other masters who have enhanced our worship services. Emily has asked to transition to interim status and will continue to grace us with her gifts as we search for a Director of Music Ministries. We are planning a special Sunday on Palm Sunday, April 5, in which many of Emily's extraordinary musical gifts will be highlighted. You won't want to miss it! Please join us in expressing our gratitude for all that Emily has shared with us!

## *TWO REGIONAL MISSION TRIPS IN 2009*

Cost is \$750 for airfare, food, lodging and work materials.

Scholarships are available.

1. **Holy Week to New Orleans**, April 5-11 with orientation on April 4. This is our fourth year of Holy Week-Holy—Work, and our second year of staying at FCC Slidell.
2. **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**, April 26-May 2 with orientation on April 25. This will be major work rebuilding homes from the devastating floods of spring, 2008.



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