



First Christian Church Newsletter San Jose, CA

October 20

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**PACT ACTION
GETS THINGS
MOVING FOR
THOSE WHO NEED
TRANSPORTATION
FCCSJ and
Downtown
Churches put faith
in action**



Monika Kessling addresses

Dear Friend,



On World Communion Sunday one of our newest friends at FCCSJ, Kelly Almon, served us bread right out of the oven for communion. You could smell the sweet aroma of this labor of love during the service. Believe it or not, even better than that was the story she shared about what was behind her fantastic bread-baking abilities - a story of real communion. It all

started her sophomore year in college. Here's her story as she tells it...

My love of communion doesn't come from the ritual instituted within the confines of a church, but it was in a type of communion that I first felt true Christian community. My sophomore year I met a group of friends who graciously included me in their circle. We all went about our lives, having lots of study parties, crying sessions, and generally being stressed out over achievers (of course). The importance of rest became apparent to us all when I began to bake bread as a method of relieving my own stress. The bread acted like a magnet - pulling us all away from whatever we were doing, whatever we were studying or working on. We would then share this bread together. Six to eight young women, sitting on someone's dorm room floor, usually around midnight, nearly always in our pajamas, breaking bread. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever experienced. I felt a greater sense of community and God's presence there than I had in any church. Sometimes we would talk about anything and everything and sometimes we would just sit there in silence, tearing pieces of bread off the loaf we all circled around, dipping it in olive oil and balsamic vinegar. We could all feel the power of that

public officials about the need for affordable transportation

People Acting in Community Together.

Those who have nice cars and those who can't afford a bus pass. Those who are Presbyterians, Disciples of Christ, Baptists and Episcopal. Those who are public leaders and ordinary citizens who often feel powerless. People Acting in Community Together. On Sunday, September 25 we understood in a new way what the acronym PACT really looks like in the flesh.

When the convictions of faith communities to be good news for the poor and the principles of community organizing are joined, you can get some things done. Our action set in motion the work of our public officials to explore ways to address the need for low income people in Santa Clara county to have affordable transportation.



Public officials heard testimony about the numbers of people without wheels

Many people, like Monika, can't afford the \$70 it costs for a monthly transit pass. While seniors and the disabled pay only \$25, there is no discount for those who live in poverty. We hope that will change soon as a result of this action.

Stay tuned as we work with

sacred time. It was, and is, the only way I know how to practice Christianity, to be a Christian: through community with others.

Kelly's story speaks to our longing to really share life together. At FCCSJ we are making some changes in which we hope to do just that. For over 15 years we have had some amazing volunteer groups partner with us to serve over 650 meals a week for homeless and low income people. As of October 31 that program will end. It feels like the end of an era of generous service. Many people have devoted an extraordinary amount of time, money and love to do this. But we need to make the change to focus our efforts on opening the Recovery Cafe by the Fall of 2012.

A new era is beginning - an era of cooking meals to eat with people. Until the Recovery Cafe opens, we want to use this time to build community with our new residents who share our building. So beginning the second Tuesday of November at 6:00 p.m. we will have a weekly Community Meal. It will be an opportunity for all of us social justice over-achievers to sit down for some slow food and conversation with our closest neighbors - our Downtown Streets Team residents and the DST San Jose workteam, staff and guests. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends. We will invite neighbors and guests from City Hall. It should be a lovely evening to share life.

I agree with Kelly - *"it is the only way I know how to practice Christianity, through community with others."*

Blessings - Dana

Dana Bainbridge
Minister

Coming this Month...

October Calendar

Weekly Events:

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Adult Education

Singing Our Lives - We are writing and singing contemporary psalms and looking at how music opens up and expresses our experiences of God and one another

Tuesdays 2 p.m. Spiritual Support Group

A group which meets weekly to support one another's

our public officials who have now made commitments to address this issue.

And if you ever felt that you didn't know what PACT means or does - we hope you have a better idea after last Sunday's "pacted" house at First Presbyterian Church.

FCC Staff:

Dana Bainbridge, Minister

Linda Lappin,
Office Manager

Coco Hanna,
Facility Manager

Monika Kessling,
Parking Manager

Visit Our Website:
www.fccsj.org

Join Our Mailing List!

Links to our ministry partners:

Disciples of Christ :
www.disciples.org
Disciples of Northern CA:
www.ccncn.org
Practicing Our Faith Resources:
www.practicingourfaith.org

spiritual growth through engagement of FCC's core practices and other spiritual exercises

Tuesdays, Weds, Fridays 4 p.m.

Evening Meal for Outdoor Citizens . Volunteers and companions are always needed to join us for our evening meal.

Thursdays, 5 -6 p.m.

Community Yoga - a Recovery Cafe class for everyone - donation only.

October 9

Reconciliation Ministry Offering when congregations receive a special offering that is used to fund our church's mission priority "to become an pro-reconciling/anti-racist church" through experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across difference. The theme of this year's special offering is "Planting the Seeds of Hope."

	<i>In the Pulpit</i>	<i>Worship Leader</i>
October 2	What Communion Means to me	Sandy H
October 9	Pastor Dana	Jim T
October 16	Roger Chow	Bob S
October 23	Pastor Dana	Sandy H
October 30	Pastor Dana	Jim T

Looking ahead to scripture readings for the month:

October 2 Luke 14:15-24 *What Communion Means to me*

October 9 Luke 18:15-17 *Saints R Us: The Gift of a Childlike Spirit: Children's Stories and Songs*

October 16 selected by Roger Chow

October 23 Readings from *A Passion for Life: Fragments of the Face of God by Joan Chittister*

October 30 Galatians 6:10-18 *The Dark Saints*

After Sunday Worship: providing refreshments for coffee time

October 2 - Lorraine

October 9 - Sandy H.

October 16 - Gerry T.

October 23 - Susan M.

October 30 - Community Meal with Downtown Streets Team Residents - main dish provided - everyone bring a side dish

Scheduled Events

Saturday, October 8

all day - **Miracle Day** - *see article below for details*

Tuesday, October 11

6:00 p.m. **Executive Committee** - church office

Wednesday, October 12

11:30 a.m. **Calling and Caring Committee** meeting - church office "A working lunch" - brown bag it!

Tuesday, October 26

6:15 p.m. **Worship Team** - church office

Wednesday, October 27

6:00 p.m. **PACT LOC meeting @** First Presbyterian

Disciples of Christ Regional News

***2011 Mission Action Auction
"A Feast of Abundance" at
First Christian Church, Redding. 5:00 - 7:30
Tickets are \$15 each.***

Auction items for the silent auction are needed. If you can't attend, consider buying a ticket, or donating an item of at least \$25 value for the auction. (See auction form at www.ccncn.org) All funds raised go to support the ministries of our region and staff.

Men's Retreat at Andersen's Pea Soup and Best Western Inn, Santa Nella, October 14 - 16.

Theme: Work in America: Money and Mammon

Purpose: To provide practical help and spiritual understanding in regard to work, money, career and your own personal finances. This retreat will be well suited to

young men, even high school youth, and men new to the country. Fees range from \$195 for a private room, to \$75 for a shared room for 4. Scholarships are available.

Did you know? Pastor Dana's article written for FCC's September newsletter was used in the Sept. 22 e-newsletter from the regional office of CCNC-N. Sign up for the regular e-mails at info@ccncn.org

More Pictures of our PACT Action on September 25



Charlie makes PACT look good, while Sandy presents compelling research!



Dana facilitates the action while public officials respond to questions



John Lindley (front) and Bob Stienstra (back) hold signs showing cities where you can get a low income discount transit pass. Bill Quinn (left) cheers them on!

Community Joys and Concerns

Concerns:



Our prayers are with **Linda L.** as she continues her intensive chemotherapy treatments. Her second treatment on Sept. 23, left her feeling that the meds were better regulated this time to avoid some of the side effects.

Our prayers are with **Victor A.** and his father. Victor's mother died suddenly last year, and his father continues to struggle with related depression.

Marge B. had a fall at her assisted living facility, and suffered a broken bone in her arm. Our prayers are with her as she mends.

Emily L. - former musician with FCC is undergoing treatment for lymphoma

Joys:

October Birthdays: Happy Birthday to . . .

Ray Wasille October 2

Sandra Hietala October 4

Catalina Soltero October 29

(and a belated happy birthday to Roger Chow, Sept. 24)

Singing Our Lives: Conversations about Worship and Music

Adult Education

9:30 a.m. Sundays through October



Theologian Marcus Borg has called music a "thin place" - a place where the gap between the physical and spiritual is very thin. Music can move us and speak to us in ways the spoken word cannot. Through music we can have our spirits lifted, and our grief expressed. Through music we experience levity and beauty and often find our hard hearts

softened.

Join us for a time to explore finding our own voices through writing and discovering contemporary psalms. The last 3 weeks we will begin to look at how we might find "Our Songs" - a collection of songs that we love to sing together for the seasons of our lives.

October 2 and 9: The Psalms of the People - *writing and singing our own psalms*

October 16, 23 and 30 - *Our Songs: Conversations about a collection of FCC songs*

