



First Christian Church Newsletter San Jose, CA

September 20

In This Issue

The Poetry of Parking

General Assembly Live Online

July Calendar

FCC Annual Meeting Highlights

Joys and Concerns

**THE MOMENT
THAT COUNTS:
EVERY PERSON
NEEDED ON
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25
FOR PACT ACTION**



If you could buy 3 people a monthly bus pass or you could make bus passes affordable for thousands of people - which would you do?

Dear Friend,

With the recent downgrade of the financial reliability of the U.S. economy, you hear lots of people bemoaning the leadership problems in Washington D.C.

No one doubts the value of good leaders, nor the malaise we feel when we don't have them. Good leadership is inspiring, good management often brings nothing more than a yawn. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul talks about gifts people bring. Paul wrote that it was important to recognize the gift of "administration." No wonder since he wrote this at a time when the church was on a big organizational learning curve.

Ho Hum. I can feel your excitement to press forward and read this!

That's understandable, since good management often means working hard on what sometimes feels like uninspiring details - budgets, code, policies. You hardly notice good management when it happens because things just work well.

We've been working hard on a lot of things in recent months to help things continue to work well at FCC - our parking lot, the house rules for our residents, the way you reserve a room in the building and know it will be there for you, the way we protect our space to keep it safe and free from drug use, violence, and theft. These things don't just happen, especially when you have a building that is as open to the community as ours is. They are part of the way a community manages itself.

Our friend Killian Noe at Recovery Cafe calls the way you do this "holding the space." I love that. I also sometimes think of it as creating a ministry pipeline - that is, creating an environment in which the mission and vision of the community can flow through without being blocked. That is sometimes quite challenging to do - as we see in Washington right now.

The first option is the thoughtful response of individual compassionate people. The second is the thoughtful, compassionate response of people who are involved in community organizing.

Our PACT Local Organizing Committee has been working to solve a huge transportation problem in our community. And we are about to do it!

On Sunday, September 25 our PACT congregations will worship together. Then after worship we will meet with legislators to ask for a low income discount bus pass in our community. Many large cities have them - ours does not. This action will make public transportation affordable for thousands of people living in poverty in the county.

Here's the challenge for us: This is the public moment when we ask our leaders who have the influence to make this happen to support this effort. This is the moment in community organizing when we need "turnout!"

When it comes time for our "action" - that's the time we need everyone. So sign a commitment to be there card this Sunday. Ask questions. Get involved. Think of how many people can be helped by such a sweeping change. Grace Baptist gives out 3 bus passes a month. That's about to change. Charity becomes justice - and thousands are

Our region is offering a course for congregations called "Administry." It's a congregational self-study process where you meet together and login to materials to study together. I love the name, because it shows that these things are not "business" that the church has to do in order to do its ministry. They are part of the ministry itself. It's a course that includes a lot of practical information about things churches should have in place to keep themselves healthy, safe and flowing freely. I was part of a great team of people who created the class material. It is my hope that a handful of us will set aside some time this fall to reflect on this material together.

Granted, without a vision of life-giving programs and relationships all you may have is a pipeline that is clear, but empty. But on the other hand, there is nothing more frustrating than an amazing vision with a pipeline that is continually plugged up.

I'm grateful to all the Administers in our congregation who do a lot of work to keep our ministry pipeline clear. I know we barely notice when things go smoothly, but if you happen to - thank the person who is working hard toward that end. It is a real gift.

Blessings - Dana

Dana Bainbridge
Minister

Disciples of Christ Regional News

Women's Retreat at Mission Springs

"Dare to Dream" Sept. 16 - 18, Friday 7 p.m. to Sunday 1 p.m.
Mission Springs is a beautiful conference center in the redwoods near Santa Cruz.

Guest speaker for the retreat is Donna-Rose Heim, an area minister in the Kansas City region.

Registration materials are available at:
http://www.ccnkn.org/MS2011regBW_F.pdf

Miracle Day

"Miracle Day" is coming, October 8!
This year the region is planning Miracle Day work sessions for Fresno, Loomis, and Livermore. (FCC, San Jose) will be helping out at the United Christian Church in Livermore.

served. That's what community organizing is all about. And it's up to us to make it happen.

FCC Staff:

Dana Bainbridge, Minister

Linda Lappin,
Office Manager

Coco Hanna,
Facility Manager

Monika Kessler,
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

Ordination at FCC, Palo Alto Sept.18, 5 p.m.

We are invited to the ordination of Pastor John Wu of the Sinapi Seed Fellowship which meets at the Palo Alto First Christian Church. John has been under the pastoral care of Ben Bohren and other regional church staff for the past three years.

Coming this Month...

September Calendar

Weekly Events:

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Adult Education

Singing Our Lives - September 4-October 2 - A lively discussion of the role of music in worship. Music plays a powerful role in how we experience worship. Come and discuss ways to make our worship music soulful and heartfelt.

Tuesdays 2 p.m. Spiritual Support Group

A group which meets weekly to support one another's 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.

Sunday Worship:

	<i>In the Pulpit</i>	<i>Worship Leader</i>
Sept. 4	Elise Blazek	Sandra Hietala
Sept. 11	Dana Bainbridge	Jim Thompson
Sept. 18	Arthur Bao	Bob Stienstra
Sept. 25	Worship in partnership with First Presbyterian Church, 49 North 4th St. 10:30 A.M. NO SERVICES AT FCC.	

Looking ahead to scripture readings for the month:

- Sept. 4 Exodus 1:8 -14
- Sept. 11 Exodus 14:10-25
- Sept. 18 Exodus 1:15-22
- Sept. 25 selections from the book of Job

Scheduled Events

Tuesday, September 6 7:00 p.m.

Board of Elders Meeting

Wednesday, September 7 Noon

PACT LOC Planning Meeting @ First Presbyterian

Sunday, September 11 after worship

Group trip to TEch Museum to see exhibit *Techological Contributions of Muslims -admission free*

Wednesday, September 27 6:15 p.m.

Worship Team - church office

Miracle Day - 2011

Miracle Day is a day set aside by the Northern California - Nevada region of the Disciples of Christ every two years to help churches around the region perform building and maintenance tasks that would not be possible for churches to accomplish by themselves. In 2007, our own church was the beneficiary of Miracle Day. This year our church will be supporting the work of Miracle Day at **United**

Christian Church, Livermore.

There are two things we can do:

First is financial help. We have signed on as a Miracle Day Partner Church, which means we have committed to raising \$500. We made a great start with our potato bake on July 31. Our after worship lunch raised over \$230 towards our goal. Thanks to Virginia Parks for coordinating this lunch.

Individual donations are also welcome to support Miracle Day. Contributions may be placed in the weekly offering, or mailed to the church (FCC, 80 South 5th Street, San Jose, 95110)

All donations should be made as soon as possible to help Miracle Day churches do adequate planning.

Second we can volunteer on Saturday, October 8 to be at the Livermore church. Many types of skills are needed on that day - general labor, painting, construction, assistance with food and registration, etc. Please let Virginia know that you will be able to help. Car pooling will be set up for the volunteers.

Community Joys and Concerns

Concerns:



Linda L., our office secretary, resident poet and humorist, is home and back at work at SJSU. Her chemotherapy will be intensive, so any help we can give her will be appreciated.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of **Bob Tyndall**. A memorial service was held at the church on Aug. 21. Bob, along with his wife Gerry, served for many years as youth leader, and influenced many young people. Bob was a member of FCC for 51 years. Along with his wife Gerry, he is survived by two daughters, Merlin and Debbie, and two sons, Mike and Steve, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Keep **Marge B.** in your prayers as she struggles with the diseases of aging, and yearns to move back in time to her home in North Dakota.

Joys:

We're happy to have **Roger Chow** back in worship with us, after spending two months touring his homeland, and visiting son, **Vernon**.

We are happy to have these guests in our worship service including:

Kelly - a new resident to San Jose

Erica, Margie, Sylvia, along with little **Sebastian**

Marciano and Melissa - looking for a church home

Jeanne, a friend of Sandra and Jim

Carol and Tim, friends of Dana's visiting from Nebraska

Jan H., a neighbor of Lorraine's

September birthdays

Happy Birthday to **John Lindley** on Sept. 25. (If we don't have your birthday on the church list, please put it in the attendance booklets used on Sundays.)

Singing Our Lives: Conversations about Worship and Music

**When: Adult Education, 9:30 a.m. Sundays
September 4 through October 2**



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.

Singing songs out of the hymnal every week has some pros and some cons. It does connect us to our larger community - both ancient and contemporary. We have a sense of being part of something bigger, something historic. Yet at times there does seem to be a disconnect. Few people integrate the songs of worship into the rest of their lives because the music is simply not something they want to listen to or sing. How important is integration? Should we experience such a disconnect between our Saturday night music and our Sunday morning music?

There are no simple answers to these questions, but they make for great conversation and a chance to explore the music that makes our hearts sing. Come be part of the conversation. It looks something like this:

September 4: Our experience of music at FCC
September 11: **Singing Our Lives: The Music that Makes Our Hearts Sing** (*bring a list of your top songs to share - it may be 10 or 100*)
September 18: **The Psalms of the People** - *writing and singing our own psalms*
September 25 - *no Adult Ed; worship at First Presbyterian*
October 2 - *Our Songs: Conversations about an FCC Songbook*

FCC and Transitional Housing Residents Featured in Awesome Video about Downtown Streets Team

We have a full house in our Workforce Supportive Housing project. Take the time to get to know our residents, Daniel, Shannon, Kevin, Igor, Bobby, Cassina, James, Robert, and Nick. It's a great group of people.

You can learn more about what they're up to during working hours by clicking on the link to this video.

Nearly all of it was filmed onsite at FCC San Jose. It's a great story about our partner, Downtown Streets Team, and the EPA Grant they received to do a very innovative project in San Jose that will benefit the environment and the homeless. FCC is honored to be part of this project by providing housing to those in the program. Check it out at:

[DST San Jose You Tube Video](#)

