



News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112
January 2017

Rev. Dana Bainbridge, Pastor
<http://www.fccsj.org>

From the Pastor:

- I'LL BE BACK!

On Christmas morning I shared words of encouragement and challenge from “Hopi Elders Speak”. This piece that contains both blessings and challenges has such a powerful, relevant message for our time. But there is one phrase I want to share with you that jumps off the page and speaks to our time:

“Do not look outside yourself for the leader”

As our congregation makes room for the leadership of others, and as our country changes leadership, we reflect about the nature of leading and following. What a timely topic for our January worship theme.

Many people do not want to lead. They want to hang back and let others take the risk and responsibility of leadership. While this may feel like a safe position personally, it is rough on the community when people are afraid to step into their strengths and take initiative. The community suffers for lack of gifts coming forth.

I hope you will contemplate that phrase and explore your inner leader! Leadership isn't being in charge so much as taking initiative. If you feel an action should be taken – a voice should be heard – what are you waiting for?

Certainly you know I'm speaking about much more than FCC. I'm speaking about our marriages, our neighborhoods, our jobs – and well..... there's the country.

Thanks again for giving me this sabbatical. Starting December 26 I'm officially away and will return on Monday, March 27. I'm looking forward to the next chapter of our life together when I return.

With love and gratitude - *Dana*

Welcome Desiree McCrorey to the FCCSJ Team



When we wrote the job description for “Facility Maintenance and Office Support” we knew it was a long shot. Was there really someone out there who could do both office admin work and light building maintenance? We were looking for a handy person with tech and organizational skills – for a whopping 12 hours a week.

Desiree McCrorey turned out to be just the right person for the job. She has a tech background, and has consulted with start-ups about how the user experiences new technology. She has a passion for fixing and restoring old things and has taught herself how to do all kinds of work, including restoring much of her old home. Her ability to look at something and figure out how to fix it is remarkable.

Desiree will check phone messages, print the bulletin, receive requests for building use, create and manage the building schedule, receive work order requests by all our tenants and assist the rest of our building team in responding to those requests in a way that keeps our building safe and functioning well for all who use it. She's at the church Wed-Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Desiree is easy-going, so stop in some time to meet her and welcome her to the team! We appreciate all of our staff – Desiree, Andre Ellison (parking and building security), Enrique Lopez (cleaning) and Danna Bergstrom (bookkeeper) who so successfully do their jobs for FCC.

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Sabbatical Speakers and Themes

Both the Board and Pastor worked together to provide some themes to the three months. Here's a list of themes and the speakers who will be gracing our community each Sunday:

JANUARY THEME: LEADING AND FOLLOWING

- Jan 8* *Jim Thompson*
- Jan 15* *Mark Gonnerman*
- Jan 22* *Mark Gonnerman*
- Jan 29* *Walter Hudson*

FEBRUARY THEME: VULNERABILITY

- Feb 5* *Cindy McCalmont*
- Feb 12* *Nicole LaMarche*
- Feb 19* *LaTaunya Bynum*
- Feb 26* *Cindy McCalmont*

MARCH THEME: THE CUP OF OUR LIFE – LENTEN STUDY

- March 5* *Leslie Taylor*
- March 12* *Nicole LaMarche*
- March 19* *Bob Steinstra*
- March 26* *Congregation's Choice!*

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Bible Study: Join us for a group study of the Gospel According to Luke beginning January 8th at 9AM at FCC.

Community Dialog: Join faith communities, law enforcement, and elected officials for dialogue with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's offices. Thursday Jan 12th 6:30PM to 9PM) at Bible Way Christian Center, 2090 Old Oakland Road in San Jose.

Contact Walter Hudson wlhudson49@gmail.com for more info on either of the above events.

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Aside from names of our own, whom you know well, here's a little about the other speakers:

Mark Gonnerman (who recently spoke at FCC on the legacy and spirituality of Bob Dylan) will be returning and sharing from his own wealth of knowledge and experience on lessons learned about leading and following in the Civil Rights movement. With the need for a renewed commitment in our country to address the enormous racial tensions that the election has uncovered, Mark's messages on Jan 15 and 22 will be a timely message for this year's MLK remembrance.

Rev. Cindy McCalmont is an ordained United Methodist minister who now serves as the director for Faith Community Relations and Peer Leader Development at NAMI – the National Institute for Mental Illness. Cindy does amazing work and has partnered with Recovery Café to help us use peer mentors from NAMI to support RCSJ members. It is from that perspective that Cindy will speak to our theme in February on vulnerability.

Rev. Nicole LaMarche – a well-known friend to FCC as pastor of Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community, Nicole will be with us to speak during both February and March.

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum – our very own regional minister will be back with us on Feb. 19 and will connect us to the larger region, but will also speak on the theme of vulnerability, something I imagine a regional minister knows a bit about!

Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor is Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and has spent much of her ministry working with college students and serving congregations in a variety of roles. Her enthusiasm is contagious and we are fortunate to have her as a partner in our regional ministry.