

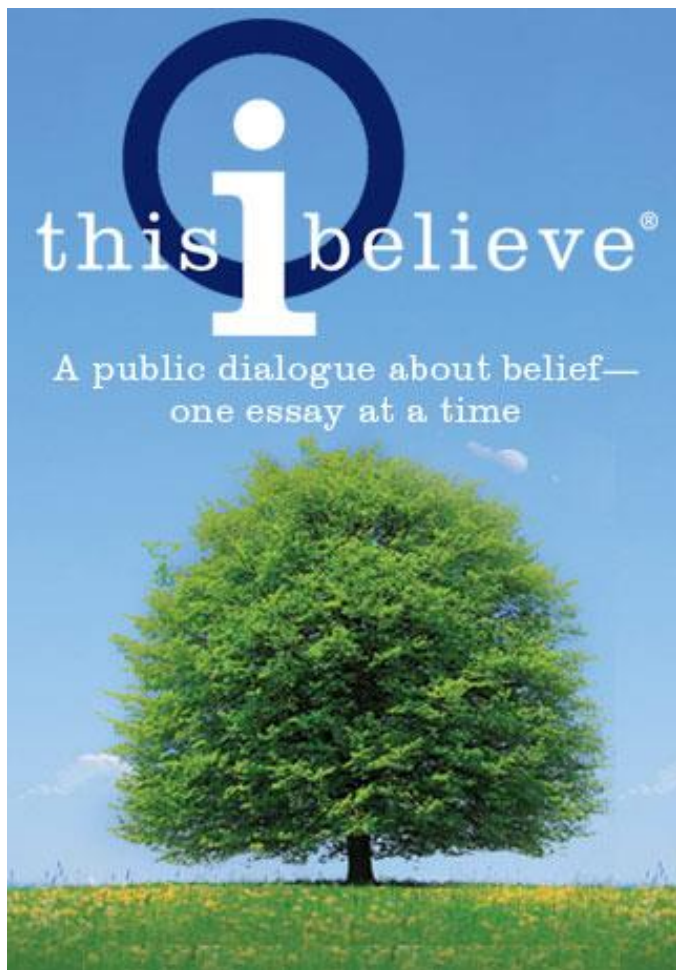


News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112
September 2015

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

From the Pastor



I love that I have the chance to quote Conan O'Brien, late night talk show host, in my column. It's not a funny quote so you're tempted to wonder if he really said it – *"The beauty is that through disappointment you can gain clarity, and with clarity comes conviction and true originality."*

In a worship series throughout October and November we have the opportunity to get clearer in ourselves about what matters most to us. We will be touching base with a series that ran on NPR called "This I Believe." Segments ran in which listeners wrote in and shared their most deeply held beliefs.

Here's a glimpse into a few of them:

I believe.....

- Everyone deserves flowers on their grave.
- That questions are more important than answers.
- Everyone deserves to hear their name spoken to them every day.
- In my neighbors.
- There is no God.
- In the God who embraced me.
- In truth and the pursuit of truth
- In my Mom
- In politics
- It's good karma to be cool to the pizza dude.
- In always going to the funeral

What follows are the stories, the reasons underneath this is deeply held belief. That is where the power of the belief lies. In the story behind it.

As people of faith this is what we should be good at. Clarity about what matters most. Knowing where we stand.

I invite you to come to the 9:30 Adult Forum hour where we will listen to some of the podcasts and pick out some essays we like best. We will take a little sharing and writing time to uncover our own personal credo.

I'm excited to hear from you!

With love and gratitude - Dana

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Worship in October and November:

“This I Believe” Series

October 11: Convictions: Beliefs that Stick

October 18: Here I Stand: Beliefs We Take Risks For

October 25: Regional Ministry: What Matters Most: **Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Regional Minister**, preaching

November 1: Serve Sunday – Worshipful Work Day with Los Gatos UMC visiting us

November 8: Fights Worth Having

November 15: Credo Collage

November 22: What Matters Most About Race: **Sandhya Jha, preaching** – Sandhya is an anti-racism trainer and facilitator for Reconciliation Ministries of the Disciples of Christ

Dr. LaTaunya Bynum

On Sunday, October 25, we will welcome Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, the regional minister for our region, CCNC-N (Christian Churches of Northern California - Nevada).

Dr. Bynum (Toni) was introduced to our region last August at an assembly of 400 members meeting at the First Christian Church of Concord.

Toni is a graduate of Chapman College in Orange, CA, and Claremont School of Theology. Prior to returning to California, Toni served congregations in Ohio and Nebraska, worked for the general staff of DOC in Indianapolis, and served as associate regional pastor for Christian Churches of Ohio.

Last September FCC members were invited to meet Toni at a gathering with our sister congregation, United Disciples Fellowship. Toni has been a presence at many Disciples events since that time, and now we welcome her officially to FCC, San Jose!

After worship time on Oct. 25, we will have a chance to participate in conversation with Dr. Bynum and our members while we enjoy a potluck

lunch. Please plan to bring food to share! Drinks, paper goods, etc, will be provided.

From the Board

FCC’s board of elders meets monthly. Our board members are **Virginia Parks** (moderator), **Liz Throne** (vice-moderator), **Linda Braswell** (secretary), **Lorraine Glick** (treasurer), **Gerry Tyndall** (hospitality), **Bob Stienstra** (property), **Charlie Craig** (personnel), and **Linda Lappin** (worship). Each elder is responsible for a part of life at our church.

The last board meeting was Sept. 16. At that time we brainstormed ideas for property improvements, ranging from new windows in parts of the building, an outdoor sign for announcements, to fixing an on-going drainage problem in the basement.

We heard plans for worship including a “This I Believe” series featuring members of FCC.

Our financial report shows income from August at \$17,014, and expenses at \$12,997 for a plus amount of \$4,017. YTD income is at \$88,592, and expenses at \$100,646 for a negative amount of \$12,054. (See page 3 for the *Financial Report*.)

Sources of church income include tithes and offerings, building usage, and parking lot donations. Those using our building include Recovery Café San Jose, Samoan Seventh Day Adventists, and *Nuevo Generacion en Cristo*. The parking lot is used by two main groups, Catholic Charities and Westwood Properties.



On October 11 FCC hosted the registration table for the *Buddhist Global relief Walk to Feed the Hungry*. A portion of the donations went to Recovery Café.

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Closing the Gap Breakfast



RCSJ's "Closing the Gap" breakfast was held Friday, Sept. 25 at the Event Center on 4th Street. It was an inspiration to hear true life stories of addiction and recovery told by RCSJ member Roger Thomas and Keynote Speaker Suzanne St. John Crane. Our own musician Anna Brown led the "Closing the Gap" chorus.

Jim Thompson announced that morning that \$61,700 in challenge gifts had been given prior to the breakfast. So all donations for the breakfast would be doubled up to that amount. Wow! So far we have taken in \$43,106 for the breakfast which makes our total raised so far, with the match - **\$86,212!** The challenge gift donors are allowing to the end of the year for RCSJ to meet the match, so \$18,594 will be needed by the end of the year to meet the challenge. Let's work together to do it! "

Check the back page for a photo collage of some of the FCC members at the breakfast.

Special thanks to Lisa Willmes for sharing her photos!

Meet an Elder

Virginia Parks



My favorite activities are folk dancing, singing and praying with others and balancing my check book. I'm kinda a geek. I am passionate about bringing clean drinking water and proper sanitation to every corner of the world. My other cause is to

promote good mental health for kids in school and reduce the negative stigma of mental illness so that treating it is no different than treating a broken ankle.

I'm a civil engineer in my day job and enjoy managing building in the flood zone so that people don't have to die or get injured or suffer property damage in a flood.

I love being associated with FCC because of how open people are to the voice of God in our life together and what a rollercoaster ride it is to live among the poor and see the amazing ways people in this community come together to include them and know and love them.

Financial Report

Our September income report includes:

Congregational giving: \$3320

Other income (building use, parking lot, reimbursements): \$15,505.07

Expenses: \$13,415.29

Net income: + \$5428.32

January - September Report

Total income: \$111,561.26

Total expenses: \$118,091.54

Net income/loss: -\$6530.28

Poet's Corner

Factoids

Oh, Columbus, Columbus
What have you done
Looking for spices
And found non
Again, returned
With three ships
And a large crew
Still, found nothing new
With brute force and guns
Slavery begun
The battle was: thus,
Indians with arrows
And Columbus
With guns.

—Ralph Hietala

Things unknowable

Things unknowable
True north
Is moveable
Nuclear bombs
Are not practical
Electric cars
May be shockable
Truth told
Must be
Debatable

—Ralph Hietala

Struck Dumb

The same mouth I eat with
I say things that could make a person sick

The same mouth I pray with,
Blow out candles with,
And sing with.

When we were kids we pondered things like
this:
If we had to give up one of my senses, what
would it be?
Everyone chose something: hearing, touch
(never sight), taste
And when it was my turn I claimed muteness—
Because then I would never get in trouble!

And I almost never *intend* to hurt anyone
Though sometimes, when I am wounded, or
want attention
I might strike out—thereby doubling the pain
in the world.

On good days, I reserve the right to remain
silent.
I wait until the pond of my mind clears
Before doing or saying anything.
On those days, I cut the pain of the world in
half.

On really miraculous days
I can say something so kind
It actually cut a single helping of pain in half.
And on that day, I am struck dumb with
wonder.

—Linda Lappin

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At the Closing the Gap Breakfast

