



## News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112  
December 2016

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

### From the Pastor

Last Sunday we scrambled to adjust to change as we moved back into our sanctuary for worship. Getting set up in a new place to make the coffee was the biggest crisis. Those who can't imagine a morning without coffee persisted, and we made it through!

With the renovations coming to our Social Hall sometime in the next few months, we decided that the first Sunday of Advent was a good time to make the move. The worship team had decided on a theme of hope and anticipation. Many people stayed for the Adult Forum that followed and as Linda led us in the conversation about our own experiences and understandings of hope, it was clear we have so much wisdom and commitment to the inner life of the Spirit in our community. The sharing was thoughtful, poignant, funny, real.

During the week someone from the worship team texted me and said, "let's change the theme to WAITING, instead of hope." We wondered if hope was too elusive and a bit escapist.

As I sat for a quiet few minutes around the text I said – let's forge ahead. We can debate the words – and rightly we should. But what we're doing is grappling to describe our experience and when in the movement of our inner life we find we connect most powerfully with a Spirit that is most authentically true to us – and not false or denying of the truth or reality of our existence.

I think there's more to be explored about hope and our orientation to the future. It's not a need to know. But it is about an outlook, a disposition that effects how we live in the present.

We are blessed to be part of a community that scratches beneath the surface. That goes on retreats, takes workshops, reads books, is continually learning about the spiritual life.

So whatever room we gather in, I'm grateful it is with you. As long as I have that and a decent cup of coffee it is enough!

*With love and gratitude – Dana*

### Sabbatical Speakers

The list of speakers for the sabbatical season is coming together with a few to be nailed down, but lots of good people gracing our doors. Here are a few highlights and the themes:

**January theme: Leading and Following**

**February theme: vulnerability**

**March Theme: Lenten study of Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Our Life***

**Here's a sampling of some of the speakers:**

**Mark Gonnerman** 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.

**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 Alliance 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.

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

**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!

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## December & Holiday Opportunities

**Sunday, Dec. 11 – Worship:** Pastor Dana and Rev. Nicole will engage in a dialogue about NEXT – musings about the future of the church.

**Sunday, Dec. 18 – fellowship potluck** after worship at the church. Bring your favorite Christmas brunch dish to share. We are inviting the SV Progressive folks to join us.

## Holiday Worship schedule:

**Saturday, December 24, 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service** – hosted by US! - and Silicon Valley Progressive Church. We will be joined by St. Paul UMC, First UMC, and Grace Baptist. Join us for a beautiful service of music and candles.

**Sunday, Dec. 25** – We will have an intimate gathering with a simple drama and Pastor Dana's heartfelt wishes for FCC during her sabbatical, which begins December 26

**Sunday, Jan. 1** – For New Year's Day FCCSJ will join **St. Paul's UMC** at their place! **405 S. 10th Street!** Their service begins at 10:30 a.m. and they have a special NY's reflection and communion planned for that day!



## From the Board

At the October board meeting, plans were finalized for Pastor Dana's sabbatical. A worship coordinator for each month will be in charge of the guest speakers, getting the bulletin printed, selecting music, and insuring that the speakers are paid in a timely manner.

Discussion of a "paperless liturgy" included what technology would be needed – cables, Powerpoint on the office computer, a laptop and projector.

The second half payment, \$3189, for the outdoor lighting was authorized. Sheets Enterprises (they also installed the new windows on the second level in January) was the contractor.

A request from Hannah Brinks for scholarship assistance in the amount not to exceed \$700/semester for the 2016-2017 school year was approved. Hannah, daughter of Pastor Dana, attends Orange Coast Community College in southern California. (Monies come from the scholarship fund.)

The November board meeting gave a first look to the 2017 budget. The budget will be finalized at the December meeting, and will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, January 22.

**Next board meeting**, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:45 at Lorraine's. All are welcome to attend.

**Sunday, Jan. 22 – Congregational Meeting** to discuss and approve a budget for 2017, followed by a potluck lunch in the social hall, 11:00.

## Budget Update

Oct. 31 financial reports show:

### Income:

Tithing \$3737

Other income: \$12,115 ( Includes building use, parking lot, and reimbursement for contracted services of Pastor Dana)

Total Income:\$15,952

Expenses: \$15,418

Net Income/Loss: +\$534

### Year to date:

Income: \$158,025

Expenses: \$136,843

**Net Income/Loss: +\$21,182**

– *Lorraine Glick, FCC treasurer*

# News from First Christian Church of San Jose

## Back in the Saddle (Sanctuary) Again!

*By Lorraine Glick*



Nov. 27 was the first Sunday for our worship services to be held in the sanctuary again, and at a new time, 10:00. This move was made to allow the imminent reconstruction of the social hall and kitchen to proceed.

If you remember, the move from the sanctuary to the social hall was made about 5 or 6 years ago, to see if we could find a space that better fit our membership and worship style. We painted the interior, fixed the windows, redecorated, and added new upholstered chairs to replace the metal folding chairs.

For long time members, the move to the sanctuary was a return to a familiar setting, and for more recent members it was new. As we all settled in to a new favorite spot, old kinks arose, like the sun shining in through the upper windows, blinding us until the sun moved on. (I guess that's why the windows used to have baffles covering them.) Then there were new adjustments as we set up for fellowship time and the adult forum that follows at 11:30. Where's the coffee pot?

Walter Hudson, our worship elder, will gladly take your questions and suggestions regarding the move. Our sanctuary is a beautiful space with a lot of history, and I think as we move forward we can once again call it home.

## Facilities Request Forms

*From Virginia Parks*

See something that needs to be fixed around the church? See an ignored corner that needs some attention, cleaning, or tender, loving care? Fill out a Facilities Request Form in the lobby off the parking lot. Then slip it in Andre's folder there. He'll review, prioritize, estimate costs and pass it on to our Janitor, or Property Elder, or someone who helps around the building to get it done.

The board has recently approved a job description and budget to hire another part-time Church employee to assist with property and administrative tasks. We hope to have this person on board before Dana leaves for her sabbatical.

## Come Experience the Hospitality of God!

You are invited to join a group study of the Gospel According to Luke at First Christian beginning on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. Each week we will explore a chapter of Luke with leadership changing each month. Be sure to read the lesson before class so we can be ready to open it up for lively discussion. We close with prayer at 9:50 to be ready for worship.

Contact Walter Hudson [wlhudson49@gmail.com](mailto:wlhudson49@gmail.com) for more info.

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### Closing the Gap Chorus to Perform



### Human Rights Day with Keith Hiatt

*From Shirley Kinoshita*

Silicon Valley United Nations Association and Pacifica Institute are offering a free public event on Human Rights, Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7 pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 20920 McClellan Rd. (near DeAnza College). Ken Hiatt, new Vice President of Human Rights at Benetech will speak on the Challenges and Promises of Human Rights and Technology. Benetech is a leader in providing reading tools for disabled as well as tool for human rights advocates to keep a database of incidents on a global database. This event is free and open to the public.



### Celebrate Year of the Rooster 2017

*From Shirley Kinoshita*

Help us ring in The Year of the Rooster!

**Saturday, Jan. 21 2017** at St. Jude's Episcopal Church, 20929 McClellan Road, Cupertino. 5:00 – 7:30PM

I'll be doing a Chinese Brush Painting of a Rooster with attendees having a chance to try doing it too. Chinese New Year potluck program, hosted by US-China Peoples Friendship Assoc. South Bay.

Please RSVP by January 20 to Bet Messmer [wasidtmessmer@comcast.com](mailto:wasidtmessmer@comcast.com)

