



News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112
April 2016

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

Journey Inward, Outward and Forward

Many of you know I have a deep admiration for the Church of the Savior – small clusters of churches rooted in the Adams Morgan neighborhood in Washington, DC. I spent some of a sabbatical there in 2005 and it changed my life. One writer described them so clearly this way:

A young military chaplain returned from WWII with a vision for a church that would be radically different from the other churches of the day. It would be ecumenical, focused on Jesus, and profoundly high in commitment. It would take the depth of a person's inward life and the call to sacrificial activism with equal seriousness. It would make spiritual disciplines and solidarity with the poor normative. It would help people discover their gifts and calling. It would be socially aware and politically active. It would start its own in-house seminary modeled after the underground seminary started by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It would require its members to be trained in theology and Christian formation – as if the very life of the world depended on it. It would require people to leave behind their privatized individualism and move with increasing depth into loving, authentic community. And it would be located in the heart of Washington, DC.

Our journey in recent years has been strongly outward focused. The birth of the Recovery Café SJ sprung from a sense of call, a season of prayer, discernment and conversation among us that we move toward more transformative ways to be present to our neighborhood. In the meantime, we have struggled to make room for our own shared learning, prayer, and community-building time together.

We are approaching our 150th anniversary which we will celebrate about 18 months from now. As we move forward toward that day it's my hope that we use this time to see how we can deepen our roots in our spiritual practices and in our neighborhood. So if you have thoughts about how we can deepen our life together in this journey inward, outward and forward – please share them.

*Enjoying the journey with you –
Dana*



The 162nd CCNC-N Annual Gathering!

Arden Christian Church in Sacramento will host the annual meeting on April 8-9, 2016. The Annual Gathering team has been hard at work planning theme, worship, special guest speakers, and of course the food! Our theme for the 2016 Gathering will be "NEXT". As in, what's next? How do we vision mission for a church that continues to move forward into a world that is rapidly changing and creating new opportunities for growth and mission?

We will ponder these questions through the wisdom of our featured speakers **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon** and **Rev. Bruce Barkhauer**. In a special Friday pre-session, we will vision together with the help of the Mission Council, created following our General Assembly in 2015 that called our churches to put Mission First. We will worship together and remember what was, embrace what is, and look forward to what will be.

Registration is available on-line at our region's website: www.cncn.org

Check out the website where you will find useful information and dates, and on a regular basis very enjoyable writings by Rev. Jon McCauley Smith, former pastor at FCC Palo Alto, and now pastor at the Christian Church of Vacaville, CA.

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FCC Happenings



Nuray Sonmez is one of several speakers as FCC welcomed guests from the Pacifica Institute to our worship service. The Pacifica Institute is Muslim non-profit committed to community education fostering collaboration between faith communities.



We send Liz Throne with our blessings to her new home in Granite Bay. Liz is moving to be closer to her grandkids. Liz was ordained at FCC in 2013.



Charlotte Jackson and Virginia Parks are pictured here at the Spring Renewal Day for Disciples and UCC women at First Congregational Church in San Jose. Charlotte was a keynote speaker and spoke passionately about her trip to the Congo and what we can learn from them about how to “do” church. She and Virginia celebrated the occasion by wearing their favorite African designs!

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 2, 2 p.m. FCCSJ Social Hall

Book release of *The Social Arsonist* by Gabriel Thompson. The author will be speaking and reading from his book. Proud parents, Jim Thompson and Sandra Hietala, will be there, along with proud Grandfather, Ralph Hietala. All profits from Gabriel’s books will benefit Recovery Café SJ.

Friday and Saturday, April 8-9

CCNC-N Annual Gathering of our Regional Church at Arden Christian Church in Sacramento. Guest speaker Michael Kinnamon will speak on “NEXT”

Saturday, May 7

Mini Miracle Day at First Christian Church Oakland and Oakland Peace Center

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It Takes a Village to keep FCC going. . .

by Lorraine Glick

We are a congregation of about 20 active members. Often it is said, how much the church is able to do considering its size.

From time to time I think we should stop to thank people who keep us going in ways we sometimes don't think about.

Every Sunday morning, Charlie Craig and Stanley Reclusado set up the chairs, sound system, and communion for our worship service.

We all enjoy good conversation around coffee time. For a number of years, a few people have carried on the task of providing refreshments each Sunday. Gerry Tyndall, forever, did the 1st Sunday of each month. Now that she has moved to Felton, Walter Hudson is carrying on for her. The 2nd Sunday of the month is provided by Linda Lappin, Lorraine Glick covers the 3rd Sunday, and Sandy Hietala covers the 4th Sunday. For months that have 5 Sundays, Marianne Gallagher brings treats.

So, how can we all help with these chores? Would you like to volunteer to cover a Sunday on occasion to give the a regular a break, or would you want to be a substitute for an occasional Sunday ?

We have a good group of regulars who help put the chairs, etc. away after Sunday worship. We can help those "muscle men" by clearing the chairs of hymnals, papers, and personal belongings so the chairs can be collected easily.

— *Thanks!*

Time to Walk So Others Can Live

From Walter H.

Join us on Sunday, April 24th for South Bay's annual CROP Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Service! We start at Hoover Middle School at 1pm.

To kickstart our walk the Hoover Jazz Band will boost our spirits during registration and as we begin our one, two or five mile walks.

If you can't join us for the walk, sponsor somebody from FCC or someone you know from another congregation.

Since 1969, CROP Hunger Walks have raised over \$1.2 million as a faith-based community response to ending world hunger. The South Bay CROP Hunger Walk is one of 1,000+ across the nation, symbolizing the walk many around the world must make for basic resources such as food, water, shelter and protection.

The money raised supports work in emergency response, as well as longer-term solutions like enhancing food security and providing sustainable safe water supplies. In addition, 25 percent of funds raised stay in our local community to bolster our response to hunger.

For more information, contact Walter Hudson 408-286-2091.

"Love Your Neighbor – and Your Alien – As Yourself"

Come Hear Dr. Richard E. Friedman speak on the biblical dimensions of justice and hospitality on **Sunday April 10th** at First Congregational Church. A timely theme for this year!

Dr. Friedman is a renowned Old Testament scholar and author of nine books, the most memorable being *Who Wrote the Bible?* He is Davis Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Georgia and Professor Emeritus at UC San Diego.

First Congregational Church is sponsoring so there is no admission charge and while there is ample parking, please arrive early for the 4pm lecture. There will be a reception following and much discussion to be enjoyed. First Congregational is at 1980 Hamilton Avenue (at Leigh).

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From the Board

The board of elders of FCC meets once a month. At February's meeting we discussed:

- The agreement between FCC, Recovery Café San Jose and the City of San Jose that will provide for, via a Community Development Block Grant, the remodeling of the social hall and kitchen to accommodate the continued operation of RCSJ.
- Special day offerings for the Disciples of Christ Mission Fund, and which ones would be supported by FCC San Jose. The decision was to provide information and envelopes for all of them, with special attention paid to the Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas special offerings.
- Plans to update the church directory
- Plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of First Christian Church of San Jose in 2017.
- The need to increase our parking lot attendant's hours an additional hour when needed.

At the March board meeting:

- We again discussed the latest changes to the Community Development Block Grant documents including a Promissory Note to be signed by RCSJ as recipient of the grant and lessee, and a Lien on the Deed of Trust to FCC, San Jose, for \$1.25 million, as landlord.
- Virginia gave an update on the CROP walk which will be held on April 24, 2016, starting at Hoover Middle School.
- We heard a property report from Bob Stienstra, property elder, detailing work that has been done.
 1. The new windows ready for installation in the pastor's office and upstairs hallway have been prepared, primed, and painted with multiple coats, by Bob.
 2. A broken toilet seat has been replaced
 3. Fire alarm trouble shooting with Andre seems to indicate the problem lies with the new phone line that was installed by AT&T in the downstairs office of RCSJ. Dana will follow up with AT&T.

4. FCC will work with RCSJ to update our emergency exit plan in case of fire or earthquake.
5. Lights needing replacement in the Fellowship Hall, and Residence Hall have been taken care of.
6. The Wolf range in the kitchen has been repaired so that all burners and the oven racks and oven are in working condition once more. (Cost: \$431).

The next meeting for the board of elders is TUESDAY, April 12, 6:30 in the church office. All are invited to be a guest at the board meeting.

Financial report

February Income: \$14,593 Expense: \$14,704
Net loss: - \$111

YTD Income: \$31,590 Expense \$27,517
Net income: \$4,073



For Easter Sunday the alter was decked out in beautiful and fragrant flowers brought in by several members of the congregation.

Poet's Corner

Spring doesn't wait

When the weather is warm
And the ground is moist
The plum tree throws everything
Into bloom

It doesn't wait for a date on the calendar
Or a signal from a more knowledgeable source
The bare limbs sprout nubs
And make a spring for themselves

When an opportunity arrives
I can act, even in winter
Even without credentials
Even as unqualified as I am

When my heart will burst
Unless I act, then I must...
Because I cannot wait for the stones
To speak for me

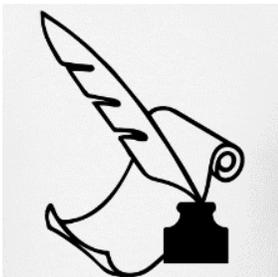
— *Linda Lappin*

Let It Rip!

Do not apologize all the time.
It drives me nuts...Let what you have to say
ring a huge bell.

Do not say you are sorry all the time
when it's just a rhetorical tic...
Let your mind flow unimpeded to your mouth.

Do not take back what you say
even before you get it out of your mouth...
Let it rip! And let your words bound
around the room doing what they need to do.



— *Jim Thompson*

"Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda

Shared by Ralph

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.
For once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fisherman in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

— from *Extravagaria* (translated by Alastair Reid, pp. 27-29, 1974)