



## News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112

July 2016

Rev. Dana Bainbridge, Pastor

<http://www.fccsj.org>

### From the Pastor

Our spiritual tradition teaches that the most important idea to put into practice is to “love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.” There’s a lot packed into that one sentence.

As we continue to talk about being rooted in this Place we get the chance to consider what it means to “love our neighbor.” In a world in which we are more likely to get info about what is going on with our friends and family through Facebook feeds, it seems almost weird to get out and walk the hood and learn what’s going on that way.

In our neighborhood it might seem pretty challenging to get to know your neighbors. Why? Because we have what they call a “high density” neighborhood. Heck, we have a high density church! Right in our building our neighbors are – *Nueva Generacion in Cristo Church*, Samoan Seventh Day Adventist Church, 12 steppers, Recovery Café SJ residents, members and staff.

I’d love to hear your ideas about being a good neighbor to those who share our building.

And we can start to wonder, who are those people who live in the apartments across the street? Who is the couple whose house you can almost touch if you reach out the window? And with City Hall, the MLK Library and SJSU – it’s a bit overwhelming to think about our neighborhood.

It doesn’t have to be a big project, just stepping out of our usual circles of relationship and meeting even one person who belongs to the other communities in our building.

In the book “The New Parish” they call this “presencing”. Faithful presence in a Place involves, walking, noticing, practicing gratitude (e.g. -for those who take care of the streets), demonstrating kindness, etc.

In the weeks to come we will be meeting some neighbors, learning about the public art and spaces, and some of the history of this Place we call our spiritual home.

*Take care - Dana*

### Upcoming Events:

**August 2 – Neighborhood Night Out, 6 p.m. Until Sundown** – The Horace Mann Neighborhood Association, that we are part of, is hosting a Neighborhood Celebration at **San Jose Day Nursery Courtyard, 38 N. 7th Street**. Lee’s Sandwiches and drinks provided. Please bring a side, salad or dessert to share.

**August 3-6 – NAPAD Biennial Convocation** – This gathering of the North American Pacific Asian Disciples of Christ is happening right up the road at Raynor Park Christian Church in Sunnyvale. More info and registration at [www.napad.net](http://www.napad.net)

**Sunday, August 7, 10 a.m. - PLEASE NOTE THE TIME - Service Sunday - All Church Work Day.** Our transition team is planning a declutter and prep day to get us ready for our move into the sanctuary. The good news is that we have help AGAIN from our missional partners at Los Gatos UMC. Wear your work clothes, bring buckets, rags, garden tools, etc.

**Sunday, August 21, Guest Speakers Rev. Nicole LaMarche**, Pastor of Silicon Valley Progressive Church, will speak about her learnings through starting a progressive church in San Jose.

**Sunday, September 4, 11:30 a.m.** Barbara Goldstein, Director of Public Art for the City of San Jose will speak at FCC about the ways public art brings together and lifts up communities, and will do a special presentation on the art on our street - how it came to be and the vision behind it. We will have a short worship service from 10:45 to 11:15 then break for refreshments followed by Barbara’s talk and Q&A.

**Sunday, September 18, 2-6 p.m.**  
**Disciples Seminary Foundation Student Retreat hosted at FCC.**

**September 23-25 Women’s Annual Fall Retreat (Disciples and UCC)**  
“Understanding Our Stories” at Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley, go to [ccncn.org](http://ccncn.org) for more info and to register.

# News from First Christian Church of San Jose

## From the Board

At our June 22nd board meeting we updated the maintenance "to do" list, including items such as updating the kitchen off the church office, putting the heaters in the residential rooms on a separate electrical circuit, and digging out the remainder of items stored in the church basement.

We authorized expenditures for a new church computer and router (\$600) and exterior lighting (\$7500).

Discussion around transitioning to the sanctuary included a possible new schedule with a starting time of 10 am. followed by fellowship time and an education and community building hour.

At the July 19th meeting, we approved a proposal to add 3 hours per week to Andre's schedule, so that he can perform duties as the Facility and Parking Lot Manager. His duties will be expanded to include receiving all requests for repairs and maintenance of our building, he then will work with Bob Stienstra, property elder, to prioritize the requests and make arrangements for completion.

We approved a request from the Silicon Valley Progressive Church under the leadership of Rev. Nicole LaMarch to use our building on Sunday evenings from 5:30 -7:30. The approval is for a two-month trial period, after which all parties concerned will evaluate the arrangement and make a decision about further use.

(Silicon Valley Progressive Church is a UCC new church start in existence for 2- 3 years. They have worshipped in a variety of locations and are looking to settle in one location.)

## Financial report

*Lorraine Glick, FCC treasurer*

Income through June 30: \$15,134.70  
Expenses through June 30: 15,013.28  
Net income/loss: +\$121.42

### Year to date:

Income: \$90,313.74  
Expenses: \$85,860.66  
Net Income/loss: +\$4,453.08

We are operating in the black, which is good, but our tithing is below budgeted amount by -\$1771.80. Envelopes for offerings are available on the table by our entry door.

## Board changes

At the congregational meeting on June 26, **Linda Lappin** was approved as Vice-moderator, and **Walter Hudson** added worship responsibilities to his duties as Fellowship elder.



Linda has been a member of our congregation since 2004. Before becoming one of us, she had vowed to never join another church. But after serving as church secretary, working with treasurer Mary Grace Humphries, and becoming a tenant/caregiver for Ivan Jacobs, she decided this was a community for her! Her current job is lecturer in the English department at SJSU. She has had interesting jobs as a technical writer, assembly line worker, and telephone operator. At FCC Linda will continue to serve as our co-poet-laureate. Thanks, Linda!

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Walter came to FCC in 2005 when he attended the lay services presided over by Bob Tyndall and Chris Cahill. (Remember those days?)

Before Walter became a member of Disciples of Christ at FCC, Walter was an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian denomination. He came to the Bay Area for a job with an ecumenical group called M2, serving as a re-entry coordinator for former prison inmates. He has worked as a hospital chaplain in New York City, a pastor for the Hoopa Indian Reservation in California, and more recently as a tech writer. In addition to serving on the board, and preaching on occasion at FCC, he serves as our representative to the political action group, PACT. Thank you, Walter, for all your contributions to FCC.

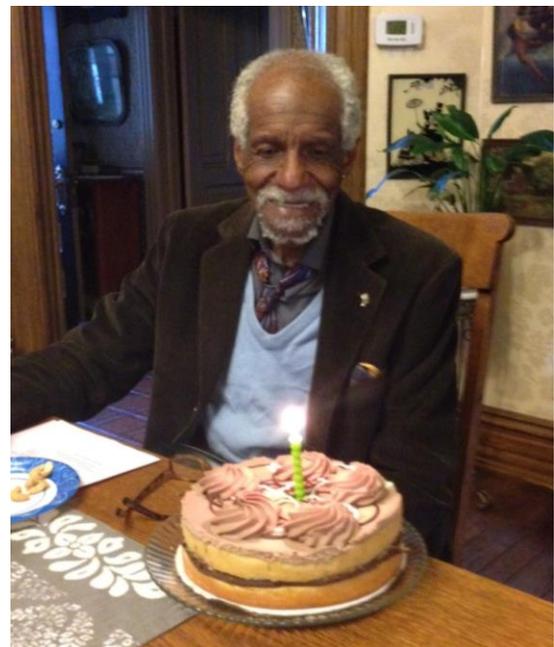
### FCC Community News

Summer is a time to visit home towns and family. **Charlotte Jackson** will be away from us for a couple of months when she flies to Kansas City and visits friends and family in points north to Ohio. **Jim Thompson and Sandy Hietala** will be flying to Minneapolis, visiting her brother and enjoying Minnesota's summer scenes. **Brad Wick** visited his family in Minnesota over the July 4th week. **Lorraine Glick** is off for a week in August visiting family in Montana and checking out all the antique stores on Bill's list. **Pastor Dana** drove to southern California for a weekend visit with daughter Hannah (and ended up with sermon material after an unexpected stop on I-5!)

Have you ever thought about how much the school year calendar affects us? Traffic increases, stores

promote back to school wear, back packs, etc. Teachers and students start panicking when the calendar turns over to August, or that first flyer promoting school supply sales arrives in the mail.

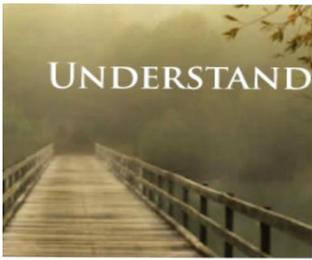
For some of us, it's back to work in August. **Linda Lappin** returns to SJSU where she will be teaching a pilot program for the English department that stretches introductory composition (English 1A) out for two semesters, thus giving students more time to develop the skills needed for college and career. They still take other English courses later, but this makes those courses less stressful because the students will have a more secure foundation. Linda recently earned a Masters in TESOL, so this coursework will give her a place to practice what she learned. Teaching, like doctoring, is a practice--who knew?! **Brad Wick** will be coaching the men's and women's cross country teams this fall at San Jose State. The athletes report date is August 22. **Linda Braswell** will teach two sections of Special Day Class for 3-5 year olds. At this age, they are usually identified as speech delay, a genetic syndrome, medically fragile, or "other health impaired". They are later identified as learning disabled, ADD etc. Some of them get enough help in this class that they are able to move into regular education. **Lorraine Glick** will return to teaching High School Equivalency classes (formerly GED) for Santa Clara Adult Education.



*Charlie Recently Celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

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UNDERSTANDING OUR STORIES

## Women's Annual Fall Retreat (Disciple & UCC)

Sept. 23-25, 2016

Mission Springs Conference Center  
Scotts Valley, CA

Keynote Addresses by Rev. Diane Weible

NCNC UCC Conference Minister.

Come and tell your story.  
Listen to the stories of your sisters.  
Write a new ending!

Registration information is available at  
[www.ccncn.org](http://www.ccncn.org) Early registration is recommended!  
Email Rev. Katy Valentine with questions at  
[katy@ccncn.org](mailto:katy@ccncn.org) , or call (925) 556-9900.

## Poet's Corner

The changes are coming so fast even knowing  
which door to open is changing.  
My fix is thus a poem:

I am so white  
I must get a tan  
Then I will fit  
Wherever I am.

– *Ralph Hietala*

## In My absence

Perhaps this would have happened anyway  
But in my absence;  
When I chose to let go of responsibility,  
When I turned on the TV,  
opened the fridge, curled up in bed,  
Or tied off my arm.

A king has taken my lover  
As his soldier,  
My children for his minimum wage sweat  
shops  
My home for the richer fellow  
My food for the even fatter

As I slept  
Another war broke out  
The cost of housing blasted through the strato-  
sphere  
Food lines lengthened  
My career went overseas  
Schools, libraries, and hospitals were closed

And when I awoke  
I was in another man's country

– *Linda Lappin*