



News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112
June 2017

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

Visions and Dreams

Pastor Dana

The story of Pentecost in the book of Acts is a story of spiritual awakening. It is described as a time when the Spirit is “poured out on all flesh.” It seems that spiritual awakening isn’t something you can make happen. But it usually comes to those who want it and are open to unexpected ways in which that might happen.

This Sunday is Pentecost and on that day we will begin a season of sharing worship with our friends of Silicon Valley Progressive Church. Why are we doing this? Especially at a time when people feel a lot better about how things are going at FCC.

Let’s rule out a couple of things. We didn’t go seek this out. We aren’t desperate.

For me, there’s only one good reason to do this... or anything, as a church. For the spiritual well-being of our community. Big Us.... and little us.

Because of our labor of love with Recovery Café SJ and because we have not had the funds to hire an office and building manager, I have not had the bandwidth to offer the kind of additional gatherings and offerings that would provide for more ways to support each other in our spiritual awakening. It is a real joy to me to have a colleague like Nicole who is ready and eager to join in this. Not having to plan the worship every week will allow each of us time to plan other offerings that might help people with their spiritual practice.

In Buddhism, there’s a saying that’s often used before or after offering a teaching or a time of meditation.... “may it benefit all sentient beings.” We don’t do our spiritual practice or convene our spiritual community so much for self-improvement as for global well-being. Wow.

I’m always amazed when great Buddhist teachers tell people not to become Buddhist if they already have a root spiritual tradition. They generously welcome others to use the teaching in any way it might benefit them.

I find many people in the course of my days that are spiritually seeking. But they just don’t know where to go and are not convinced that a church is a safe place to seek anymore.

Our idea to offer our place as an urban spiritual sanctuary is a single step in a direction to meet a real need. Where the next steps will take us... only God knows.

I am not dissatisfied with FCC and want different people to come so I’ll like it better. I like small and intimate. I have grown to deeply love quirky. It has been my prayer that many people will benefit from the spiritual teachings that have helped me so much. How we offer ourselves to one another... and to others who don’t have such a place is the question at hand. It is my prayer that our “culture” won’t change in ways that exclude those we’ve been so dedicated to include – single people, unaccompanied marrieds, people who’ve made big mistakes in the past, people not all here at the moment, people with suitcases. Believe me, there are a lot more of us out there. We may be where they want to land or we may be a Way station for a season. I don’t know where this is going, if anywhere, but I pray that this conversation will benefit all sentient beings.

Worship Leader Workshop on Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m.

We are gathering together experienced and new worship leaders for a time of reflecting together on the role. Our time together will be to learn about changes in worship this summer and to have experienced worship leaders share their own practice of leading and how they prepare for it. Those from FCC or SVPFC who have led worship, or would like to learn more about it, are invited to join in this session on June 11.

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Welcome Felecia Mulvany, our New FCC Office and Building Manager

The FCC Office and Building Manager position has been created to help with worship materials, flyers, member records and denominational reports. She will receive and process building use requests and receive maintenance requests and respond in a timely manner. Our building is more heavily used than ever and having someone to coordinate all that goes on here is a gift!

Felecia Mulvany has been described by one of her friends as “the most organized person I know! That and her gentle spirit make her a winning combination for FCC. Here’s some info she’s shared to introduce herself:

Felecia was Ordained in 1998 and received her Doctor of Divinity Degree in February 2008. She previously worked for a church as Associate Dean of the Seminary and was elected to the Board of Trustees as Trustee, Secretary, and Vice President. She has a strong background in accounting and organizational skills.

Felecia has been very active in the community, volunteering in many ways. She is the founder of the ABC (Asset Building Champion) program which operates through Project Cornerstone, a YMCA initiative.

Felecia acquired a \$5000 School Garden Grant and designed and created a large vegetable and wildlife habitat garden at a local elementary school and organized with parents, Boy Scouts, and Our City Forest to make the garden a reality. Between the ABC Program and the garden she has trained and organized over 400 parent volunteers and 40 teachers.

Felecia was raised Christian and affirms the Divine in all its manifestations on earth. She honors all paths and embraces the wisdom of all the Sacred Texts across the globe. She feels through dialog, education, and community sharing, humanity can find a way to live peacefully together in tolerance and diversity.

Felecia currently lives with her husband and two sons (ages 16 and 20) in the Willow Glen neigh-

borhood of San Jose. She loves working with others to build a brighter future and being out in nature.

“I had been thinking about getting a part time job to help with my son’s college tuition when I received an email with a job posting from your church. I don’t want a job that doesn’t feed my soul and I love all the ways First Christian Church is supporting the community. I believe this position will fill both my intellectual and spiritual needs. I feel this connection has been divinely guided and I look forward to being a part of what is blossoming here.”

She began at FCC on May 30 and her hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Her email is office@fccsj.org. Give her a big FCC welcome!



Felecia Mulvany

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Annual Meeting is June 18

On Sunday June 18 after worship, FCC members will convene at 11:30 am for our annual meeting. We will appreciate leaders in the church for their service, and elect Board members for new terms. Everyone has a voice and vote as a member of FCC so your presence is especially appreciated to honor and elect our leaders.

From the Board

Your FCC board of elders meets monthly. Our agenda involves reports from most of the elders and pastor.

- Thanks to Bob Stienstra for organizing the hike at the Pinnacles, and getting everyone there in one vehicle. Bob is multi-talented as he is our property elder and replaced the non-functioning water heater in the small office kitchen. Thanks, Bob!
- Charlie Craig is our Personnel Elder, and worked with Dana to interview candidates to replace Desiree. (Desiree made the decision to sell her home and move back to Vermont with family.) Lorraine and Charlie met with Andre to check on issues with the parking lot.
- Walter Hudson is our worship elder and has coordinated the worship calendar from April through June.
- Lorraine is our treasurer and presented a monthly report on our financial status (see separate article.)
- Dana each month presents a Pastor's Report.
- Linda Braswell is our secretary and provides the minutes for each meeting.
- Linda Lappin and Virginia Parks are the vice moderator and moderator and set the agenda for each meeting. Thanks to Linda for hosting the meetings, rotating with Lorraine.

Property Issues

Living with an old church building (1938) is a lot like living in an old house: there is always something that needs repairing or replacing, if only the money were available.

We made the decision that replacing the flooring in the back halls, storeroom and former communion kitchen was a priority. That flooring will be replaced with vinyl plank at a cost of \$3700. Installation begins on June 5.

We are also looking at the areas of the sanctuary floor that were once covered with carpet, but before we do that, we want to look at our sanctuary as a room. Does it need painting? (yes) Should we use color? (yes) What about the chancel area? Can we find a more effective way to use that space?

Check out the pews. Yes, they have been marred with graffiti, and the coverings are dirty and need to go. What's the best way to fix them?

The back wall across the parking lot has been a priority, but we can't seem to find a contractor willing to take on the job.

How should we pay for these updates? Should we run a capital improvements campaign? Can we ask individuals in all our congregations to work together to accomplish these tasks?

Many decisions to be made!

Treasurer's Report:

Going into this year, we knew it was going to be a financial challenge. We get 1/3 of our funding from the groups using our church. Here's where we have faced our challenges. RCSJ will be out of the building for approximately 6 months, which is an approximate loss of \$9000. The residential program in the upstairs rooms will be ending June 30. That's a loss of \$2500 a month. Pastor Dana was on sabbatical for the first three months of the year. During that time FCC was responsible for her full salary. We added the administrative position. So, considering all that, here's where we were beginning May 1:

- YTD income: \$55,150.24
- YTD expenses: \$63,172.96
- Net loss: -\$8,022.72
- Checkbook balance: \$42,583.10

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Upcoming Events & Fellowship

Sunday, June 4: Bring a dish to share as we work together with SVPFC on our first joint potluck during our time after worship.

Saturday, June 10, 3-6 pm: Join in celebrating **Gerry Tyndall's 90th birthday** at the home of Merlin and Chris Thomas in Capitola, 154 Magellan St. RSVP to Jollygag7@gmail.com. Bring a dish to share if you'd like.

Sunday, June 18: "extended" refreshments during our congregational meeting to elect new officers and conduct church business.

Wednesday, June 21, 6:30 pm: A time to get to know members of both FCC and SVPFC at a potluck at Lorraine's, 1352 Newport Ave. SJ 95125. Main dish will be provided, sign up to bring something to share.

On May 7 we held a celebration for our musician of the past two years, Anna Brown. Anna and her family were headed for Samoa to be with her grandfather. She will be back to finish her last semester at SJSU. We wish her well!

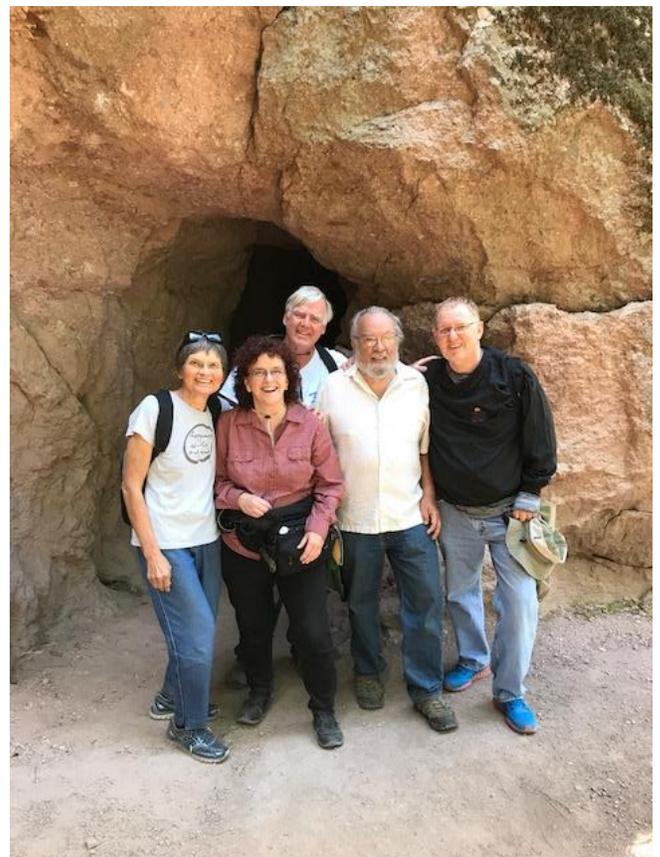


Hiking at Pinnacles

Bob finally got a group organized for a hike at Pinnacles National Park. It turned out to be a perfect day with temperatures in the upper 60s. Many wildflowers were still in bloom, such as the stunning Mariposa Lilly.



Mariposa Lilly



Bob (back), Sandy, Sara, Walter, and Jim