



## News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112  
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Rev. Dana Bainbridge, Pastor  
<http://www.fccsj.org>

### Urban Sanctuary Discernment and Ongoing Conversations

By Dana Bainbridge

Urban Sanctuary is the name for the “experiment” we are doing in living a shared life with FCCSJ and Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community. On June 21 we gathered around tables in the yard at the home of Lorraine and Bill Glick. Bob Stienstra was at the helm of the grill and everyone brought food to share. 25 people came and both congregations were well-represented. After eating together Rev. Nicole and Pastor Dana shared how we see this process evolving.

- We will share life together in worship, meetings and shared activities from June until the end of November
- We will have opportunities for conversations / discernment along the way
- **In November** we will have a full day joint retreat to pray and share what we have experienced so far
- **At that time we anticipate we will be faced with one of 3 options:**
  - **WE DECIDE TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE NEXT PHASE.** This means we will begin the next steps of exploring what that would look like, not only in terms of fellowship, but structure. This may or may not mean we ultimately go forward. It means we move into the next phase.
  - **WE DECIDE NOT TO GO FORWARD TOGETHER.** We make a plan to bless each other in going our separate ways
  - **WE DECIDE WE NEED MORE TIME.** We identify issues that need more attention, and continue in the way we have. We set a new date to review our decision.

We committed to have a conversation on that night to begin our discernment around a question with three parts:

What are the **opportunities** you see in sharing life together as congregations? What are the **challenges**? And where are you sensing / hearing a **call of God** in this?

Everyone was invited to have their sharing be, not so much about personal preferences (e.g. – in worship details) but about what they saw as possibilities, challenges, and call.

We began with prayer, using a “set aside” prayer given to us by Sandy Hietala from the 12 step movement:

*Dear God please help me to set aside everything I think I know about [people, place or thing] so I may have an open mind and a new experience. Please help me to see the truth about [people, place or thing]. AMEN."*

We also allowed Thomas Merton’s prayer to be part of that, which acknowledges that we have no idea where we are going. We laughed at relief to be in such good company.

People paired up and almost every pair had someone from each congregation. Then we “harvested” the things shared and collected those things in writing. The “harvest” will be brought to our next gathering and will shape further conversation and discernment.

Watch the schedule, for as soon as Rev. Nicole returns we will be scheduling our next opportunity for dialogue. But you don’t have to wait for a “scheduled” talk. We can be talking, asking questions, exploring, praying all throughout these days.

Thanks to Lorraine for hosting such a beautiful event. It seemed as though everyone left having a sense that deep listening had truly happened that night. Whatever the outcome, that in itself is such a gift, a grace we received from each other and the Spirit among us.

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## Construction and Housing Update

*Dana Bainbridge*

Many of you saw the pictures I sent of the old electrical panel, from 1938, ready to go out, and the shiny new one ready to go in. What a gift to have our electrical system updated in so many ways! This week they also installed the ginormous hood that will go over the stove and convection oven in the kitchen. Doug, Lisa and Dana met with the Dishwasher rep and are picking out dishes for the Café and figuring out all that's involved in washing them. Some of the drywall is in and most of the framing is done, so soon the things that really start to make things look different will be going in. At this point we're hearing that construction should be completed the first week in November.

In the meantime, Recovery Café SJ made a request to the county to have the transitional recovery housing program be a self-referral process.



*Resident Manager,  
Andre Ellison*

The contract isn't completed yet, so there aren't any residents currently in our housing area, but we expect some in the next month or so. Stay tuned!

## Inspiring Disciples Leaders and News from General Assembly

There are three highlights I want to share with you from my time this summer at the Disciples General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana. We are living in a time in which we are faced with the hard truth of the racism that continues to plague our country. It was heartening at GA to be in a place in which white leaders were not a dominant force in the leadership of the Assembly. It was a

different kind of assembly, because there were different leaders! We elected Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord Owens as our General Minister and President for the next six years. She had been serving as Dean of Students at Chicago Divinity School and Pastor of Downey Ave Christian Church, also in Chicago. She is passionate about social justice, but equally committed to time for contemplation and self-care.



*Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord Owens*

It came time for the assembly to vote on the nominee. All the speaking time had been taken up at the microphones prior to the call for the vote. But we could see onscreen standing next in line at the microphone the presence of our most articulate



*Rev. Dr. William Barber II*

and passionate prophet in the Disciples. Patiently waiting there in his hot pink clergy shirt was William Barber, the man who, on this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of it, is committed to finish Dr. Martin Luther King's Poor Peoples' Campaign. Time was up for speaking, but the crowd began to chant "Barber, Barber,

Barber!" The Moderator made some kind of procedural exception, to thunderous applause and cheering. Rev. Dr. Barber II came to the microphone and said something like this.... (not a quote) "We live in the time of Pharaoh... under an oppressive leader who would lead us back into a kind of slavery. In those times, God delivered the people through two women. Two midwives, who are clearly named – Shiphrah and Puah. With great courage they dedicated themselves to their people. God has given us two midwives to lead us through these perilous times. Their names are Sharon and Terri!" (referring to our outgoing GMP, Sharon Watkins, and incoming GMP).

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Such a beautiful acknowledgement from a man, whom we have come to know, not only speaks the truth of injustice, but equally powerfully and generously, speaks the truth of affirmation.

The third thing I'd like to highlight about my time at GA has recent developments to go with it. The National Benevolent Association (NBA) is a Disciples General Ministry that focuses on building and supporting social and human service agencies related to the church. Ayanna Johnson Watkins,



*Ayanna Johnson Watkins,  
NBA INCUBATE staff*

pictured here, leads the new INCUBATE initiative of NBA. INCUBATE provides support during the startup years to nonprofits being birthed by Disciples churches. Ayanna had visited FCC and Recovery Café SJ over a year ago and invited me to come share the innovative partnership of our two organizations in a workshop at the Assembly.

On coming home Ayanna set up a call with Ken Goldstein, RCSJ Executive Director, and me. She walked us through what would be involved in being an NBA supported INCUBATE Affiliate Organization. She was inviting RCSJ to be that and to benefit from the support NBA would give us in the formative years. That support involves grant funding, support for staff training, consultation services, and more. What they ask is for us to share with other Disciples affiliates our learnings at assemblies and other gatherings, which we are already doing. The RCSJ Board will vote at its next meeting on being an NBA affiliate organization, but this does look to be an honor and a way for us to receive the nurture and support of our General Church in a crucial year for RCSJ and FCC. Stay tuned for more.....

*Dana*

### From the Board

At our June meeting we discussed the financial state of our Northern California-Nevada region of the Disciples. Contributions to CCNC-N come from a percentage of offerings given by the different churches. Our offerings for the region have decreased from 2014 (\$3300) to \$1618 Y-T-D in 2017.

Transitional Housing program at our church has been suspended until RCSJ finds new funding, and a program that is more stable. This can affect the church budget.

Two new groups will be convened: the 150th church anniversary (2018) and the Sanctuary beautification.

FCC is looking to find some Bibles with print big enough to read. If you have a lead, see Charlie Craig.

At our July meeting, we welcomed two new board members, Sara Bruce and Mike Andrade!

Facilities report: Bob Stienstra has purchased a radical Dyson fan for the office, and has installed a new air conditioner in the upstairs offices.

Graffiti scratched on the pews has been a constant problem. Suggest Felecia bring it up at the Building Users meeting.

Thanks to Bob for coming out early one Sunday morning to get up on the roof and paint out the graffiti left by taggers.

Pastor's report included a first draft of a new contract for her services to RCSJ. Her new focus will be on fundraising, and working with individual donors.

Construction in the social hall has been slow. The new completion date goal is November 6. Mistakes in the sets of building plans created an omission in electrical construction, costing an additional \$40,000. This amount then had to be renegotiated with the city building offices.

Approval was given to a new policy for our church employees that meets government guidelines. One hour of sick leave can be earned for each 30 hours of employment, an employee working 12 hours/week, will earn 24 hours of vacation time annually, and 4 annual holidays are paid: New



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Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

For fall, we will enjoy "Spirituality and the Arts" series.

**Calling and Caring report:** Ralph Hietala enjoys visitors at Villa Fontana 5555 Prospect Road, San Jose. Gerry Tyndall celebrated her 90th birthday with guests including Linda L., Dana, Sara, Lorraine, Jim, Sandy, and Charlie from FCC.

Silvia Tiznado will be working most weeks Friday-Saturday-Sunday, so may not be able to see us on Sunday mornings.

Visitors in worship have included Aimee Vanderhelm and Julia Franco, Diane Sherman, and Ed from Fresno.

Board member, Virginia Parks reviewed the invitation from outgoing General President of the Disciples, Sharon Watkins, on becoming a "Green Chalice" congregation. Our goal is to make 3 changes in our present practices. Share your ideas with Virginia.

Board member Walter Hudson presented plans for additional adult classes.

## Financial report:

June income: \$12,806.57  
June expenses: \$15,498.47  
Net income/loss: -\$2691.90

## Year-to-date report:

Income: \$81,939.61  
expenses: \$94,844.64  
Net income/loss: -\$12,905.03

## Checkbook balance:

January 2017 \$53,480  
June 2017 \$37,746.43.

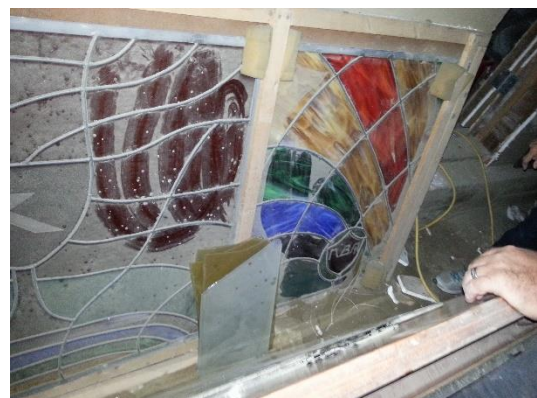
Next board meeting is 6:45, August 16th at Lorraine's house. Guests from FCC are invited to attend any board meeting.

## Stained Glass Window Mystery

by Lorraine Glick

Last April when construction started on the new home for Recovery Café, one of the contractors alerted us to a stained glass window that could be seen through the floorboards as it sat in the church basement.

Wanting to find out the story behind the window, I began e-mailing former members, who in turn e-mailed other former members. No one seemed to know anything about it, but it was interesting hearing from church friends of years past.



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This July a representative from an architectural glass firm came to FCC to assess what needed to be done to save our stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Linda Lappin and Virginia Parks were able to be here at that time also, so the three of us and the company rep headed down for the basement. At this time, there were no working lights in the basement due to the electrical work being done upstairs, but by the light of cell phones, we were able to get pictures of the window.

The window measures about 3.5' x 10' across. In the right hand corner can be seen the logo for NBA (National Benevolent Association) of the Disciples of Christ, which until the 90's operated convalescent homes across the United States. In San Jose, Bethany Convalescent Hospital was located at 180 North Jackson Street.

I had a recollection of Ivan Jacobs wanting to hang this window somewhere in the sanctuary, but couldn't find anyone who could validate it. His daughter, Leah Griffith in Los Angeles, knew nothing of the window. That led me to believe I should contact more recent members. Finally, Chris Cahill, former FCC member and board moderator, e-mailed me, that yes, she remembered Ivan wanting to hang the glass, she described it correctly as having a dove in the middle section, but the dimensions of the window didn't fit with the opening for the baptistery.

Knowing that it was a window from an NBA facility, I then contacted former members Dave and Pat Elliott, who passed on the pictures to Alan Cole. Alan was a chaplain at Bethany until it closed. He told me that the window hung in the activity room/chapel where elders from FCC would bring communion to friends living at Bethany. In 1995, the building was sold to new owners who felt the window didn't have a place any longer at Bethany. Ivan, being one of the elders who visited there often, saved the window and brought it to the church.

What's the future for the window? TBD! We may have a place for it with the sanctuary revitalization, or Dana has been in touch with NBA staff who may want to make use of the window. Hopefully soon we will at least be able to rescue the

window from the basement and clean it up for display somewhere in the church.



*Long-Time FCC Member Gerry Tyndall Celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in June*



*Gerry with her Daughters, Debbie and Merlin, and College Roommate, Pat Elliott*