



**February
2009 Calendar**

1	9:15 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Souper Bowl at Piggs'
2	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
3	6:30 pm	New Beginnings Mtg.
4	7:00 pm	Choir
5		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
6		Council Reports Due <i>Pastor's day off</i>
7	8:00 am Noon 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Women's Love Luncheon Worship
8	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
9	7:15 pm	Lincoln Day: School Closed Bible Study at Sumpter's
10	6:30 pm	NO CWF Feb. home mtg. Council Mtg. at Moffetts'
11	7:00 pm	Choir
12	7-8:00 pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i> 1 Enoch study (led by Pastor Natalie) at Temple Beth Israel
13	6:00 - 8:30 pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i> Meal & Annual So. San Joaquin Mtg. in Selma
14	6:00 pm	Worship
15	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship & Special Offering
16	7:15 pm	Presidents' Day: No School Bible Study at Sumpter's
17	6:30 pm	Elders' Mtg. at Edens'
18	7:00 pm	Newsletter articles due Choir
19		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
20		<i>Pastor's day off</i> Interfaith Scholar Weekend
21	6:00 pm	Interfaith Scholar Weekend Worship
22	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship & Special Offering
23	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
24	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
25	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday/Lent begins Worship Choir
26		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
27		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
28	6:00 pm	Worship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Wanda McCloud
- 6 Carl Robinson
- 8 Everett Johnston
- 11 Jan Moffett*
- 11 Carroll Cotten*(ordination)
- 12 Beverley Lewis*
- 12 Brockman David Morris
- 12 Barbara Schrader
- 14 Randy Duran, Jr.
- 14 Allen Prowell*
- 17 Kirsten Morris*
- 17 Jennifer Hallier
- 19 Herman* & Mildred* Farnum (A)
- 20 Hazel Calderwood*
- 24 Amber Bui
- 24 Bill Hallier



Address Corrections & Changes

Calvin Leeds; (731) 410-1421
Magnolia Cove 22
 3131 N. Highland Avenue, Jackson, TN 38305

Frances Pena; 761-6495
3998 E. Saginaw Way, #201, Fresno, CA 93726

Dao Thao
2578 So. Fine Avenue, Fresno, CA 93725

Dennis & Amber Bui
2743 N. Lofty Elm St., Houston, TX 77038



Save the Date

Lenten Soup Suppers start on Monday, March 2, at 6:00 pm. More information to come.

The newsletter is now on line. If you would like to stop receiving our printed copy, please email the church office at disciplesfresno@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

Missions

Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

We're going on a treasure hunt! We won't be digging holes around the church searching for buried gold, though. Instead, we're searching for God's treasure.

Scripture provides the map. For God, we are treasure: "You are children of the Lord your God. . . . It is you the Lord has chosen . . . to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). Although those words were spoken long ago to people in another part of the world, Galatians 3:26 assures us that we are included, too: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight" goes the children's song, voicing the truth that God treasures all people, throughout the world.

One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. We tend God's treasure here in our congregation with the love and care we show each other through special meals, visiting the sick and shut-in, teaching Christian discipleship, and praying for each other. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in Week of Compassion.

Life can be tough at times. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Persistent hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through Week of Compassion, we gently, persistently, and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure — our money, our time, our energy — decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives.

We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure. And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life.

Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing that new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize that God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

First Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up . . . the treasure of a good foundation for the future." Our treasure is doing God's will, loving God, and loving God's treasured people, so we all "may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19b). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion.

Pastor Natalie
Mary-Ann Edens, Missions Co-Chair
Tina McCallister-Boothe, Missions Co-Chair

The offering will be taken on February 15 and 22, or whenever your heart is moved to give.

Thank You

On behalf of the Missions Committee, I would like to express my gratitude once again to the members of United Christian Church in Fresno. Your generosity both financially, and with your time, during this Christmas Season made it possible for us to share the love of Christ with so many families in need. Even though we are a small church, because of all of you we can do great things in God's name.

Mary-Ann Edens, Co-Chair, Missions Committee



CWF/ Women's Ministries

The **WOMEN'S LOVE LUNCHEON** will be on Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Noon, at the church. This is for all women of the church. It will be a salad potluck. Rita Cooley (Jan Moffett's sister) will share insights she and Linda Tucker, from Hanford, gained last November when participating in the regional Women's Action Web, which enabled them to see first hand how church women are and can become involved in meeting the needs of people in their local communities.

There will be **no CWF group meeting in February** because of the Love Luncheon.

CONGRATULATIONS to Marilyn Prowell on being installed as President of our local Church Women United at its annual meeting at the Saints Community Church of God in Christ on January 24.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN!!!!

Saturday, March 21, from 10:00 brunch through 5:00 dinner, promises to be a very special time for women of our congregation, and guests. It's our own women's retreat, in a most beautiful setting – the all glass conservatory in the garden courtyard of San Joaquin Suites Hotel. The day promises a time of spiritual refreshment and nurture, great fun and entertainment, and delicious food. We are privileged and blessed to have, as our guest speaker, Knar Guekguezian – beloved of those who know and have worked with her and have been one of the 100+ in her weekly Bible Study, or heard her speak elsewhere, including twice from our own church pulpit. The cost? Early registration is \$25, with a payment plan available. Check the registration table on Sunday.

Food Pantry: Bring food on Sunday, February 1. Make checks to the church, marked "for food pantry".



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 7, for breakfast and fellowship, followed by helping with some small chores around the church. This invitation is for the young, as well the other than young men of the church. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am.

All men and boys are invited to attend. If you need a ride, please contact Gary at 438-7040, or garypigg@yahoo.com., or one of the other men from the fellowship group.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Some members may have been given church documents in the past for safe keeping. We are asking that anyone who has any church documents (Deeds, title searches, architectural plan, etc.) to please turn them in to the church office. The originals will be kept in a secure file, and copies will be made to be held by a church member. Thanks for your help.

Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair



JOYS & CONCERNS

Bob Lewis: Health issues.
Breeanne Morris: Upcoming tests.
Jasmine Roesing: Safe pregnancy; healthy baby.
Beckysue Duran: Move details.
Melba Jordahl: Full recovery.
Barbara Edens: Chemotherapy.
Yvonne Hix: Regain strength.
Cleo Hastings: Hip and knee pain.
Hazel Calderwood: Pray for strength.
Roxie Calderwood: Ongoing health issues.
Diana Aznavoorian: Health issues.
Mona White: Successful physical therapy.
Laurene Sandell: Ongoing health concerns.

“SOUPER” BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Everyone is welcome! If you need a ride, let us know and we will be sure you are picked up. It's your chance to bring a non-church friend. Please RSVP if you are bringing a friend. Bring a dish, for four, which you like.

Place: Gary & Pam Pigg's home: 6164 North Prospect Avenue (West on Bullard, past Marks, right on Tamara, right on Mesa, left on Prospect, second house on the right); phone: 435-2335.

Schedule of Events:

2:00 pm: Guests begin to arrive and appetizers are set up.

- Potluck requiring cooking begins

Games Available:

- Chicken Tracks
- The Farming Game
- Cribbage
- Bridge (in the Parlor, no smoking please)
- Bring your own games too

Activities:

- Super-Bowl Pool squares will be for sale. All proceeds go to a Disciples charity.
- Prizes will be awarded at the end of each Quarter.
- There will be an art room set up for those wanting to “cut & paste”.
- Tour the Internet in the “office”.
- There is a guest room for anyone who would like a quiet spot to rest.

3:00 pm Super Bowl begins

5:00 pm (Half-Time) Prayer for the meal.

Continue enjoying good company and the games.

7:00 pm (Approx. ending)

MLKing Celebration was Memorable!

...“Inspiring and moving and a reminder that I have more to do”
...“The sharing by individuals about hope through the civil rights struggles from 1936 to 2009 was so touching.”
...“So glad that I did not miss this!”
These are just a few of the comments concerning our 2nd Annual MLK Celebration, held last Sunday at Arden CC, Sacramento. From Kansas to Dos Palos to Mississippi to “hip hop,” stories came to life. **Sandra Bryant**, executive director of All Peoples Christian Center in LA, brought us a dynamic, captivating and empowering sermon. Her story of her first night in graduate school in Tennessee had everyone on the edge of their seats! **The 2nd Annual MLK Award was presented to Carl and Esther Robinson** for their tireless work for civil rights that span some 7 decades. The offering for the MLK Scholarship was over \$700. Anyone wishing to support this fund is welcome to send a check to CCNC-N, memo-MLK Scholarship to the regional office. Thanks to Arden CC for hosting this event—a wonderful reception followed.

Council Gleanings

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

1. The Council approved that Eddie Lou become a Servant for a one year term.
2. Pastor Natalie and Eddie Lou were selected as delegates to the Regional Annual Meeting in April, with Pam Pigg as the alternate.
3. The General Assembly will be in Indianapolis July 29 to August 12, 2009. The Council agreed with Pastor Natalie and voted that it was not necessary for her to go this year.
4. The Council approved the use of the sanctuary, on January 22, for an Interfaith Alliance Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East. It will be from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and everyone is invited.
5. The Council approved that \$2.00 per recorded member be given to the yearly per capita regional offering.

Eddie Lou Kester, Chair, Ministry Council

South San Joaquin Geographical Area Meeting

Love in Action
South San Joaquin Geographic Area Meeting
Friday, February 13, 2009
At Selma First Christian Church
Gather and register: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:30 Cost: \$5.00
Closing by 8:30

Come and meet Amy Gopp, the new director for Week of Compassion (WOC). WOC is about sharing resources and changing lives. Amy is not new to WOC; she has just accepted new responsibilities. This will be our first opportunity to meet her in this capacity.

The meeting was changed from Sunday so we could have Amy with us.

Please, come. We'll carpool to Selma.

Make your reservation with Marilyn Prowell, at church, by phone or email.

New Beginnings Committee

The New Beginnings committee is continuing work exploring whether or not we can build a fellowship hall next to the sanctuary. While we have the bequest from Bill Bliss, it will probably not cover the entire cost and a fund drive will be necessary.

There are many complications involving the zoning and hidden costs and fees. We are currently examining the costs and price range of everything we would have to do to make this project a reality which will allow us to make a decision as to whether or not we can actually build the hall.

The committee is proceeding in a very deliberate manner so that we do not get involved in something we can not finish. Your prayers for our work are appreciated.

Financial Update (Revised)

Month End: December 31, 2008

General Funds	\$331,405
Designated Other	3,505
Memorial & Honor Funds	5,116
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>2,111</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$342,137

Monthly Offerings *(includes 12% for Missions)*

Total December 2008	\$ 6,841
Total December 2007	<u>10,597</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 3,756)

Year-to-Date Offerings *(includes 12% for Missions)*

To December 31, 2008	\$86,790
To December 31, 2007	<u>82,679</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 4,111

Final Receipts Bill Bliss Request \$16,063.22

Income & Expense Jan .1-Dec. 31, 2008

Receipts	\$122,585
Expenses	<u>\$138,896</u>
Net Decrease to 12/31/08	(\$ 16,311)

Interfaith Scholar Weekend Imagining Good and Evil: The Bible Debates Three Different Models

We look forward to an exceptional opportunity: Interfaith Scholar Weekend, February 20-22, 2009. Our speaker will be Dr. Carol Newsom who is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University.

Dr. Newsom will speak four times over the course of the weekend. There are flyers on the back table and a poster on the bulletin board that give details. It is not often that we have the opportunity to have a world class scholar available to us. Each of her sessions will provide opportunities to learn but also to ask questions of her.

The first session is on Friday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno (2111 E. Nees). Dr. Newsom's lecture will be followed by a light dessert and informal social time. This session is **free**.

On Saturday, February 21, the event will continue at Temple Beth Israel (6622 N. Maroa) in Fresno. We will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by Torah commentary. The Saturday part of the series requires registration, and costs \$40.00.

On Sunday, February 22, Dr. Newsom will speak during the worship services at Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis (1726 Pollasky Ave.) at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

There will be a four-week study series leading up to the Scholar Weekend. On the four Thursdays (Jan 29, Feb 5, 12, & 19) preceding the event, there will be a one-hour study on one of the books Dr. Newsom will use in her lectures. The studies will be held at Temple Beth Israel, from 7-8 pm.

Pastor Natalie will be leading the February 12 session on 1 Enoch, a book found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

For more information see Pastor Natalie.

Praying in Unity Taizé Prayer Weekend

Taizé Prayer Weekend 2009, an ecumenical Christian prayer event entitled "Becoming one in God's hands," will be held January 30-31, 2009 at University Presbyterian Church in Fresno (1776 E. Roberts, corner of Cedar and Roberts between Bullard and Barstow). It starts Friday evening at 6:00 pm with registration, coffee, and "Returning to the Center" led by Rev Chris Erdman. A Taizé worship service begins at 8 pm.

Saturday starts with a gathering at 8:00 am and includes three Taizé prayer services—morning, midday, and afternoon. There will be two general sessions and the opportunity to choose two workshop sessions during the day. The morning general session, led by Rev David Schlicher, is "Unity in Prayer." The afternoon general session is "Praying as God Made Us" led by Rev Natalie Chamberlain. The workshop sessions involve various prayer experiences including the African Method of Praying the Bible, Dances of Universal Peace, Earth Prayers, Praying Psalm 104, Sabbath-Keeping as Spiritual Process, as well as the art room and walking the labyrinth.

Registration is \$25 (includes lunch) per person, if received before Jan 23; and \$30 after.

A limited number of scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Nelson, elizn@csufresno.edu, or 431-2630.

