



Dear Church Family,

We find these words in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." We are in transition between summer and autumn here in the Central Valley. In this part of the world summer gives way reluctantly. Those of us who delight in the winter season are rejoicing.

There is a change of seasons underway in the life of the church, too. The change is not just in the coming of Advent and Christmas. The life of the church just now is more like spring and Easter; new life is springing up all over the place. Amazing things are happening. We have had 22 new members so far this year. 14 have joined since I returned from my vacation in August.

We are hosting a new church start. Pastor Yolanda Márquez-Lúcar is here to launch this new Spanish speaking church. She is also here to be the Youth Minister for United Christian Church. Several years ago, this church started praying that God would send children, youth and their families to us. God has done that. The recent youth event had 12 youth in attendance. Sunday October 10 we had 90 people in church, of those, 27 were children and youth.

We continue to have visitors nearly every Sunday. Not all of these visitors return but enough do that the church is new every week. If you haven't been here for a month, you might not recognize us when you return. God is certainly doing a great work in this place.

Every season has its blessings and its challenges. As we waited and prayed through the winter season, we were a little afraid that spring might not come. Now it has. We have to find ways to tend the growth that has come. To this end, we will be doing church "business" a little differently. I proposed organizing the Ministry Council differently this coming year. We will have the same number of members with the same names but they will function differently.

We will consider Congregational Life, Missions, Evangelism, Worship, Christian Education, and Building & Grounds as part of a Planning Committee that would be responsible for the program of the church. They wouldn't have to form their own committees but work together. They could appoint individuals/groups/teams to cover ongoing needs: bread grams, worship leaders, coffee hour oversight, etc. Then, together the Planning Committee could program events to be spread over the course of the year. They could put together one event teams/committees rather like we already do for Block Party, Trunk or Treat, Lenten Soup Suppers.

The Executive committee: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer would meet regularly with the pastoral staff. Ministry Council meetings could be quarterly with the Program subcommittee meeting only as needed. More business could be conducted on line and if something needed discussion and a vote, the exec could meet with the program sub group. Our leadership would begin to look like Gary's description of this church--a block wide and a mile deep.

Once elections are over and the new Ministry Council is in place we can begin to work out the details but we are off on an adventure. We are convinced that God is leading the way so we are willing to trust that God will give us direction as we need it. Keep praying for your leaders. Ask God where you are needed. Be a part of the wonderful thing God is doing in this place.

Blessings,

Pastor Natalie

Birthdays & Anniversaries in November

2	Breeanne Morris
2	Charlene Nichols
6	Ana Rivera*
7	Dora Born
9	Angel Alvarez
9	Keeshun Washington*
11	Sharon Hughes*
15	Victoria DeBenedetti*
24	Victor Verduzco
24	Isaak Samuel
25	Anne James
28	Hannah James

**The Christian Church Disciples of Christ,
Northern California-Nevada**

And

**The United Christian Church Disciples of
Christ**

Extends this invitation
to the celebration of Installation of

The Reverend Yolanda Márquez-Lúcar

As

Regional Hispanic Director

*New Church Planter of the
Primera Iglesia Cristiana Discípulos de Cristo de Fresno*

Youth Minister for the United Christian Church.

Saturday, November 13th, 2010 at 4:00 PM

United Christian Church

1038 W. Shields Ave, Fresno, CA 93705

To help us prepare for the occasion,
Please RSVP at 559/ 227-2050 or 559/ 903-1257
disciplesfresno@sbcglobal.net



Special Events in November

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday November 7, after worship. We will be setting up for our meal immediately after worship. We will conduct our business from our tables. The pot luck will begin as soon as the business is concluded. PLEASE, STAY AND ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE DECISION MAKING. Also, stay and enjoy food and fellowship.

Installation and Reception for Pastor Yolanda

We are hosting an installation for Pastor Yolanda on Saturday November 13. The worship service will begin at 4pm and will be followed by a light meal. Contact Tina if you can help.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The annual Interfaith Alliance Thanksgiving service will be held on a different day this year. The service will be held Sunday November 21 at 7pm. Temple Beth Israel is hosting this service.

Advent Decorations

The annual "hanging of the greens" work group will meet on a Tuesday night this year. Instead of the regular Worship Committee meeting, we will gather at the church at **6:30 Tuesday November 23.**

Yolanda's Installation

We will be having a Sandwich-Salad Potluck following the service.

Our church is in charge of supplying the salads (sandwiches and dessert are being supplied by other groups).

We are also going to need help setting up and decorating the room the night before – Friday night at 5:30 pm.

As always we will need folks to stay to clean up and reset the room for Sunday Services. Any questions, just contact Tina at 227-7852 (no phone calls after 8 pm please).

Honored Members

Gilbert Vélez was born on September 2, 1980, in Trenton, New Jersey. He has a twin brother, Robert. His father was a manager of a porcelain company. He has another brother, Jimmy, who lives in Puerto Rico. When the twins were three months old, Pastor Yolanda became their primary caregiver. She cared for them until they were four years old. At this time, she moved to New York because of her job. Gilbert and Robert remained in Trenton until they were 14 years old when their father moved them to Puerto Rico. During this time, they had no contact with Pastor Yolanda even though she tried to find them. They did not see her again until 2006 when they had a most glorious reunion.

Meanwhile, Gilbert lived in Puerto Rico until 1996 when he moved back to Trenton where he finished school. He later went back to Puerto Rico where he worked for the Social Security Administration and attended college. He recently found out that in the area of his old neighborhood there has been a film crew filming a sequel to the movie, *The Fast and Furious*.

The next time he came to the U.S. he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he worked for a collections agency and in sales. When the agency closed and as he was packing up his office, his brother Robert called from his home in North Carolina and said, "Guess who I just talked to?" As the twins were used to reading one another's minds, Gilbert blurted out, "Yolanda!" Gilbert guessed right! It was Pastor Yolanda! She had finally found one of them after trying for so many years! Within a few months, they were reunited. Gilbert moved to Los Angeles and began working for Pastor Yolanda's husband, Miguel in the painting business. When Pastor Yolanda accepted the job with our regional office to start the Hispanic church and become our youth pastor, Gilbert moved with her and now he is assisting her.

His interests include music, playing the guitar, singing and reading. He has met the well known salsa singers, Jerry Rivera and Victor

Manuelle. Once at a music festival, Gilbert was called up on stage to sing and play his guitar.

Yolanda took Gilbert and Robert to the Disciples church when she cared for them. He remembers the setting for the communion service and the way the seats were arranged even though he was only four years old. He was baptized later in Puerto Rico. He joined our church a few weeks ago. He attends one of our Bible studies. He says he really feels his calling is ministering with his music and working with the youth. He enjoys their unlimited joy, energy and their attitude that anything is possible. He says he is the one who is receiving the blessings.

Please say hello to Gilbert and welcome him.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



WORLD COMMUNITY DAY 2010
BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY
Sponsored by
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED



Friday,
November 5
9:30 am

Registration:
10:00 am
Celebration
Lunch \$7.00

Location:
Free AME Church
806 Collins Ave. at
Inyo
Fresno, CA 93706

Please, make your reservations on or *before* **November 1** by calling Fannie @ 559 455-3805 or Birdie @ 251-3159.

Missions



The education we choose reflects who we want to become. More and more, students who want to make a difference in the world are choosing Disciples higher educational institutions.

At the 21 theological institutions, universities, and colleges related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), students discover vast opportunities to educate the heart, the mind, and the soul.

Student and campus ministry programs provide more than worship and Bible study – they welcome students to the campus community, where they find life-long friends. Students also create and join in opportunities that make them better leaders and stakeholders in the church, in the workplace, and in the community.

Courses go beyond textbooks and inspire students to think about how they can change the world.

Professors, instructors, and mentors focus on the student's academic progress and ethical development.

Students find life-changing opportunities to serve neighbors near campus, communities in other parts of the country, or across international borders.

For students answering God's call to ministry, Disciples theological institutions challenge imaginations and sharpen the skills needed to lead and minister with congregations in the 21st Century.

Your support of Disciples higher educational institutions through the Thanksgiving Special Offering makes a difference in the lives of the more than 26,000 students who chose a Disciples education.

CROP Hunger Walk



This annual event was a success again this year. United Christian Church had eleven walkers who raised a total of over \$500. This year we walked without Sally Salt being physically present with us but we walked in her memory and with her spirit.



Pastor Natalie, and crop walkers (l to r): Gary Pigg, Debbie McCarty, Keesun Washington, Jamall Hicks, Taylor Bennett, Marilyn Prowell, Jamila Hicks, Keshun Washington and Amanda Bennett

Young Adult news from Indianapolis

Financial Notes: September 2010

General Funds	\$243,186
Designated Other	4,791
Memorial & Honor Funds	7,427
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>2,339</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$257,743
Monthly Offerings (<i>includes 12% for Missions</i>)	
Total Sept. 2010	\$ 5,683
Total Sept. 2009	<u>5,843</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 160)
Year-to-Date Offerings (<i>includes 12% for Missions</i>)	
To Sept. 30 2010	\$ 58,567
To Sept. 30 2009	<u>57,624</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 943
Income & Expense Jan .1-Sept. 30, 2010	
Receipts	\$ 72,151
Expenses	<u>105,329</u>
9/30/2010	(\$ 33,178)

Young Adults Group

A new study group has formed. It is for young adults, post high school to whatever. This group will be meeting once a month. The next meeting is set for Sunday November 14 at 12:15. We will meet in the Sunday school room. Lunch will be provided. If you need child care, let us know.

For our November and December meetings, we will be looking at chapters one and two of Luke.

Group leaders: Beckysue Duran at beckysueduran@yahoo.com, or 559-270-6942 and Pastor Natalie at 559-227-2050 or text at 559-352-5520 or ncchamberlain@yahoo.com.

"The Babel Table: from Tower to Table" is a program that will bring together 12-15 Disciples young adults to participate in a hands-on



mission and learning experience through a series of work trips to three different Disciples mission centers across the United States:

- West Side Ministry in New Orleans (December 15-19, 2010);
- Romero Centre in San Diego (March 10-13, 2011);
- Yakama Christian Mission in White Swan, Washington (June 9-12, 2011)

Participants will be selected to insure equal representation among ethnicities and gender balance. All expenses will be covered.

Applications are now being received with a November 15 deadline. For more detailed information and a copy of the application form, go to www.disciples.org/ccu/ or contact Robert Welsh, Council on Christian Unity at rwelsh@ccu.disciples.org.

Multiculturalism is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be received.

Ministry Council Snippets

Ministry Council met October 12th and the Nominating Committee presented its list of 2011 church leaders. It was approved for posting as required by the By-Laws.

An Amendment to the Church By-Laws was presented and approved. The Amendment to Article VI – Membership will provide for a Secondary Membership in our church by a Disciples member who desires to maintain a home membership. Only a Primary membership will be allowed to vote and count in church membership reporting.



Men's Breakfast

Men's Fellowship will meet on Saturday, November 6 at 8 am for a hearty breakfast and fellowship. We are planning to do some touch-up painting on the Andrews Office. We will also work on trimming our shrubs for the winter. All men and boys are invited to attend. You may bring a friend too. See you then.

Four men, Gary Pigg, Hugh Moffett, Keshun Washington and Gilbert Vélez, enjoyed the 2010 men's retreat. Presenter Dr. David Matson challenged the men to take their Bible study seriously.

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship
898-2070.

CWF/Women's Ministries

The CWF group's meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Earlene and Natalie Hodgson, 1127 E. Los Altos. All women are welcome.

The annual **Christmas Luncheon and Party** will be held Saturday at noon on December 4, at the church as a finger food potluck. There will be an inexpensive gift exchange. This year's secret sisters will be revealed and next year's selected. All women are encouraged to come and share in the fun and fellowship

Justin Holmes Was Baptized October 17, 2010!



Pastor Natalie and Justin Holmes



A SPECIAL Invitation

To all YOUTH

from 8 to 17 years old

to join us in SUNDAY

SCHOOL

every Sunday at

9:15AM



We are also inviting
all church members and friends

to come see

THE YOUTH IN ACTION

in our sanctuary

at

United Christian Church
Saturday, November 13th,
2010

at 4:00PM
















See you!

Pastor Yolanda

November 2010

* Every Friday morning custodial service is being done in the Church and the Church office.

† Deadline for Bulletin material is noon, each Wednesday.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday
	1 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's	2 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm New Beginnings Committee	3†  7 pm Choir	4  <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:00 am O.A.	5* <i>Pastor's day off</i>	6  8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am O.A. 10:30 am O.A. 4:30 pm Youth Rehearsal 7:00 pm A.A.
7 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service Annual Meeting and Potluck <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u>	8 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's	9 10:00 am O.A. 1:30 pm CWF @ the Hodgson's	10†  7 pm Choir	11  <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:00 am O.A.  Veterans Day OFFICE CLOSED	12* <i>Pastor's day off</i>	13 10:30 am O.A. 4:00 pm Installation of Pastor Yolanda 7:00 pm A.A.
14 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Young Adult Bible Study	15 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's.	16 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm Elders Meeting	17†  7 pm Choir Newsletter Articles Due	18  <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:00 am O.A.	19* <i>Pastor's day off</i> Primera Iglesia (PIC) 6:00 pm Spanish Service	20 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
21 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	22 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's.	23 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm Hanging of the Greens	24†  7 pm Choir	25 THANKSGIVING  OFFICE CLOSED	26* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	27 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
28 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service  † 1st Sunday of Advent	29 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's.	30 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm PPR Meeting at Pastor Natalie's home	1†  7 pm Choir	2  <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:00 am O.A.	3* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service <u>6 PM-Open House @ the Hallier's</u>	4 10:30 am O.A. 12:00 Women's Christmas Party 7:00 pm A.A.

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.