



Volume 57, Number 8

August, 2008

United Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Saturday Schedule

Worship 6:00 PM

Elder-on-Call August 2008

Gary Pigg

Pastor

Rev. Natalie Chamberlain
Music Minister, Mona White

Ministry Council

Eddie Lou Kester, Chair
Gary Pigg, Vice-Chair
Earlene Hodgson, Secretary
Geni Dowdy, Christian Ed
Mary Ann Edens, Missions
Mike Edens, Bldgs & Grounds
Gloria Hallier, Evangelism
Natalie Hodgson, CWF &
Worship
Jan Moffett, Congregat'l Life
Pam Pigg, Elders' Chair
Jane Sumpter, Fin. Resources

Elders

Pam Pigg, Chair
Mary Ann Edens
Mike Edens
Eddie Lou Kester
Hugh Moffett
Gary Pigg
Jane Sumpter

Elders Emeritus

Pat Bartholomew
Cleo Hastings
Randy Jordahl
Phyllis Reed

Dear Church Family,

Greetings! I pray you are well and surviving our summer.

It has been a year since my father passed away. I have been thinking about him a lot lately, especially as I have provided pastoral care for the family of one who was dying. I am not so much grieving my father as I am simply missing him.

My father's picture is on my desk. It makes me smile to remember the day on his 80th birthday when it was taken. My nephew, my father's youngest grandson, was riding his bicycle and teasing grandpa about not being able to ride. My father got on the bicycle and rode it. When he got back to the house, he posed for the picture I see everyday. Laughter and children are very much a part of how I remember him. My father didn't laugh often but he seemed to be able to make other people laugh easily.

We are all blessed, and maybe cursed, with parts of ourselves that come from our fathers. I would say I am more blessed than cursed. Every time I preach, I am grateful for my father good memory. As his Parkinson's progressed he would say, "I've got a good memory, it's just short." I have that memory and so far, it is usually not short.

I have also inherited from my father an ability, or maybe desire, to know the people around me. My father never knew a stranger. He could always find something about which to talk to anybody. I discovered that going into town with my father to get parts was a long job because any stop he made included conversation with everyone in the place.

I miss my father but I am eternally grateful for the pieces of him that are as close as my own self.

I hope you have those kinds of memories of loved ones in your history to cheer you along life's rocky way.

God's blessings to all of you.



Pastor Natalie



Honored Member

Geni Dowdy was born on August 18, in Windsor, Missouri. Her father worked for Eli Lilly Company and also farmed. He taught her basic mechanics that included plumbing and electrical repair. She does her own car tune-ups and oil changes and recently did a brake job on her car. Her mother was a homemaker. She has two brothers. After living in Missouri, she moved to Nebraska and then to Fresno.

She attended Tenaya Junior High and graduated from Bullard High. Then she joined the Army and was stationed in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. From there she went to Georgia to advanced infantry training and learned to repair communications equipment. After the military, she married. She has two children, Melissa and Shawn, and three grandchildren, Richard, Andrew and Emily, who attend church with her.

Geni graduated from Fresno City College with a degree in accounting and then attended the nursing program becoming a Licensed Vocational Nurse. She trained with Nancy Hinds. She later obtained her real estate license. In 1990 she moved to Oregon and worked for the State of Oregon Senior Services. In 2001, she returned to Fresno and has since been employed in home health care.

She enjoys camping, fishing, sewing, crocheting, needlework, working jig-saw puzzles and genealogy. She has traveled to 39 of the United States and also to Mexico. She is a past president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles; she is a member of the Women of the Moose and the Elk's Lodge. She has served in public relations for radio.

She has become acquainted with several movie stars and singers over the years. Her daughter, Melissa, was in Girl Scouts with actor Mike Connors' daughter. Geni met him and his family. She has worked on Alan Autry's political campaign. Her aunt and uncle were caretakers of the property of actor Joel McCrea in Santa Maria. Her aunt dated the country singer Faron Young. As a child, she met singers Kitty Wells, Patsy Cline and Brenda Lee. She also met actor Jack Carter.

Geni joined our church in 1969 and was baptized in 1970 by the Rev. Jim Bartholomew. Her son, Shawn, was the first person to be baptized in the baptistry on the front lawn by the Rev. Dan Bryant. She has served as a servant,

children's teacher and adult Sunday school teacher. She now serves as chair of the Christian Education Committee. She is in charge of our Wednesday Fun Nights benefiting our youth and helped them get ready for camp. Please say hello to Genie the next chance you get.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



JOYS & CONCERNS

Reed family: Phyllis passed away July 22; prayers for family.

Yvonne Hix: Regain strength.

Tina P.'s mother: Surgery successful; pray for healing.

Gloria Hallier: Surgery; pray for quick recovery.

Ardith Whelan: Severe asthma.

Cleo Hastings: Death of son.

Hazel Calderwood: Pray for strength.

Roxie Calderwood: Ongoing health issues.

Geni Dowdy: Prayers for healing and strength.

John Graham: Continued prayers for health.

Emily Grace: Pray for her and her family during her continuing health difficulties.

Diana Aznavoorian: Health issues.

Carlos Rosales: Pray for strength and healing; pray for family's needs.

Mona White: Extensive dental work.

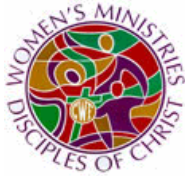
Beckysue & family: Blessings on home, & job search.

Breeanne Morris: Pending surgery.

Roeding School: Renewal and rest for staff, teachers, and students. School begins Monday, August 18, at 8:00 am.

New Address:

John Graham
530 W. Floradora, #201
Fresno, CA 93728



Summer Fun Nights Continue Into August!

Everyone is invited to come to the church for Summer Fun Nights every Wednesday thru August 20, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., with refreshments and fun for everyone!!

We are showing movies such as The Ransom of Little Red Chief, Pay It Forward, Second Chances, and many more entertaining and faith-value movies.

Bring family and friends, and join us on Wednesday evenings for fellowship and fun!

(A free-will offering will be taken at each event to help support our youth for camperships.)



If you have any questions, or want to sign up to help at these events, please contact Jan Moffett, 222-6462, or Geni Dowdy, 431-3205.

Presented by the Congregational Life and Christian Education Committees

CWF

No home meetings in August. The September meeting is at Laurene Sandell. *Natalie Hodgson, CWF President*

UCC Women

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 23, 3 - 9:00 pm.

Women Only!

*You are invited to a day of
R&R: Relaxation and Renewal*

Where: the home of Sharron Cotton
1412 E. Cornell, Fresno.

What: time of fellowship and fun, including Swimming, eating, games, etc.
(Sharron will BBQ; all others can bring a salad, dessert, or appetizer.)

Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details and signup.

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

The Regional Women's Fall Retreat at Mission Springs Conference Center has two identical sessions, September 11-12 and 13-14. The theme is "The Gospel At The Edge (Telling the Untold Stories)," with the Rev. Sandhya Jha as guest speaker. Information and registration forms are on the back table in the sanctuary. Registration deadline is August 28. First timers can receive a 10% discount. Those planning to go are asked to contact Natalie Hodgson, indicating which session attending, so we can coordinate lodging and transportation. (See attached registration form.)

CCNC-N CAMPERS

In July, our church sent Eddie Alvarez, Sierra Alvarez, Russell Chaney and Isaiah Boykin to our camp near Foresthill, CA. They had a wonderful time and wish to thank everyone in our church family for making it possible for them to go to camp this year.

This year has been a very blessed year for our youth, and on behalf of the Christian Education Committee, I, too, wish to thank everyone for their support and dedication to our youth!!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!

*Geni Dowdy, Chair
Christian Education*

Council Gleanings

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

New Beginnings: Council approved a \$5000 budget to pay fees for the purpose of completing the name change and Voluntary Parcel Merger and obtain a Conditional Use Permit so that we can build a fellowship hall.

Congregational Life: Permission given to pursue necessary information for a possible Farmers' Market on our church property.

Women's Retreat: The date of March 21, 2009 was reserved on the church calendar for a one-day Spring Retreat for the women of UCC. The retreat will be held at San Joaquin Suites Hotel.

Finance: Our offerings continue to be above last year but we continue to operate at a deficit.

Website Consultant: Our new website will be designed by www.12toes.com.

Eddie Lou Kester, Council Chair

New Beginnings Committee

The New Beginnings Committee is now meeting twice a month. In July we met with two architects to hear their ideas. We are also continuing to work on the legal matters of getting our three parcels of property combined into one. We know that the process takes time, but be assured that we are working and will have a plan for the Ministry Council to consider sometime this winter.



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, August 2, 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.

Items Needed

If anyone has an extra refrigerator, freezer and/or extra file cabinets they no longer want and would like to sell or give them away, Geni Dowdy is in need of these items. Please contact Geni at 431-3205.

Thank you. Geni Dowdy

Financial Update

Month End: June 30, 2008

General Funds	\$330,893
Designated	4,748
Memorial & Honor Funds	5,402
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>1,365</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$342,408

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total June 2008	\$8,005
Total June 2007	<u>6,420</u>
Above Prior Year	\$1,585

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

To June 31, 2008	\$ 44,627
To June 31, 2007	<u>41,586</u>
Above Prior Year	3,041

Income & Expense Jan .1-June 30, 2008

Receipts	\$57,070
Expenses	<u>\$73,112</u>
Net Decrease to 6/30/08	(\$16,042)

HYMN SING



All of us who enjoy singing our favorite hymns will look forward to the Hymn Sing planned for the worship service on Sunday, August 10. Be sure to give Mona White the list of your three favorite hymns no later than this Sunday!

Missions

The Reconciliation Offering

Where Does The Offering Go?

The Reconciliation offering is divided in two parts with one half going back to the region from which it was received and one half going to the whole church reconciliation mission administered by the Reconciliation Mission Commission made up of volunteers from around our church body.

The regions choose the method of distributing the funds that remain within their own area. These programs vary widely between regions. Contact your region for a current listing of projects funded in your area.

The Reconciliation Mission Commission allocates the vast majority of the funds it receives into supporting the anti-racism training in our general ministries, higher education institutions and regions. 100% of this offering is spent for the Reconciliation Ministry of the church.

Who Receives The Offering?

The funds are distributed throughout the region through grants for projects that foster healing and wholeness within the siblinghood of our region and the community at large!

Yakama Christian Mission

Our mission: to enhance the wellbeing of children and youth through advocacy and education.

David Bell to Join us for worship on August 24

Leader Development

In covenant with Disciples Home Missions we are working each and every day to develop leaders who will bring the church into a new day. Leader training, placement at home mission centers, and continuing relationship with these amazing young people are our core responsibilities.

YES (Youth Education Services)

With high school drop out rates at an astounding level and employment opportunities within the local community next to none, Youth Education Services is a program that stresses the importance of education while at the same time providing youth the opportunity to develop working skills that will potentially lead them into a field that will allow them to support their family above the poverty level.

SFP (Summer Fun Program)

For ten weeks of the summer, the Mission brings local youth on site and offers them a safe and nurturing environment in which to think, grow, and develop their self-worth.

ESL (English as a Second Language)

In a community that is nearly 50% Latino, English as a Second Language classes provide adults with the opportunity to learn English through speaking and writing.

Clothing Distribution

Our "Clothing Room" offers those in the community who are in need of clothes, health kits, and bedding a place to come, no questions asked, and take what they need. Donations from churches and individuals across the nation of clothing, blankets, sheets, towels, and winter coats allow us to meet these most basic human needs.

JustLiving

Bringing people together, allowing all to contribute from the resources of their lives, so others who struggle ... simply struggle less. Based on a volunteer format, The JustLiving Project uses your strengths to build affordable housing that families, some for the first time in their families history, to become homeowners.

Home ownership means that children who would otherwise be cold, in drafty buildings, with questionable plumbing, and dubious sanitation no longer participate in the struggle of staying healthy. Instead, they become children who can focus on school homework, playing, and being family. Home ownership on the Yakama reservation is very low. By allowing your resources to become working assets for others, new homes will be built and owned by people who otherwise may never have that opportunity.

For more information on ANY of these programs please visit our website:

www.yakamamission.org or contact us at:

log@yakamamission.org

Food Pantry: Bring food on Sunday, August 3. Make Checks to the church, marked "for food pantry".



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 2008 Calendar

1		Pastor Natalie will be out of the office, on vacation, thru August 11
2	8:00 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast No Saturday Worship in Aug.
3	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
4	7:15 pm	Bible Study
5	6:30 pm	New Beginnings Meeting
6	6-8:00 pm	Summer Fun Night
7		
8		Council reports due
9		<i>No Saturday Worship</i>
10	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
11	7:15 pm	Bible Study
12	6:30 pm	<i>Pastor back in office</i> Ministry Council at Church
13	6-8:00 pm	Summer Fun Night
14		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
15		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
16		<i>No Saturday Worship</i>
17	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
18	8:00 am 7:15 pm	Newsletter articles due <u>Roeding School starts</u> Bible Study at Sumpter's
19	6:30 pm	Elders' Mtg. at Piggs'
20	6-8:00 pm	Summer Fun Night
21		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
22		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
23		UCC women's event at Cotton home <i>No Saturday Worship</i>
24	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
25	7:15 pm	Bible Study
26	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
27	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
28		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
29		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
30		<i>No Saturday Worship</i>
31	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
1		Labor Day – Office closed

- 1 Norma Bautista*
- 1 Clyvene Deppe*
- 3 Mabel Schiller*
- 3 Pam Pigg*
- 5 Ryan Roesing
- 8 Shawn* & Chan Born (A)
- 9 Fred* & Aretha* Hurt (A)
- 10 Miyoshi Smith
- 11 David & Anne James (A)
- 13 Earlene Hodgson*
- 13 Paul Kulich*
- 14 Fred Hurt*
- 16 Julia Gutierrez
- 16 Loretta Williams*
- 18 Kathleen Bennett
- 18 Geni Dowdy*
- 18 Isaiah Boykin
- 20 Bob Lewis, Jr.*
- 20 Devin Hallier
- 23 Bearrrr Murray
- 24 Harold* & Clyvene* Deppe (A)
- 25 Randy Jordahl*
- 29 Shawn Born*
- 29 Gregg Keys*

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• *Welcome!* 

• *Cheyenne*

• *Born to*

• *Nathan & Chinasa Samuel*

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NEW SITE!

<http://uccdisciples.snapfish.com/snapfish>

UCC Disciples: Natalie's group room

This site has photographs Pastor Natalie has taken of Church events. You can view and/or buy photos here.