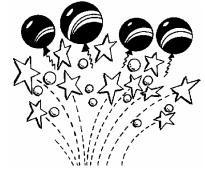




## January 2009 Calendar



1		<b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Church office closed</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
2		<b>Church office closed</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
3	6:00 pm	Worship
4	9:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Ephipany</b> Sunday School Worship
5	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
6	6:30 pm	New Beginnings Mtg.
7	1:30 pm 7:00 pm	Congregation Life Meeting at Moffets' Choir
8		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
9		<b>Council reports due</b> <i>Pastor's day off</i>
10	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Worship
11	9:15 am 10:30 am 4:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Martin Luther King Regionwide Worship at Arden CC
12	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
13	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	CFW Mtg. at D. Sumpter's Council Mtg. at Moffets'
14	7:00 pm	Choir
15		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
16		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
17	6:00 pm	Worship
18	9:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Newsletter articles due</b> Sunday School Worship
19	7:15 pm	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> Bible Study at Sumpter's
20	6:30 pm	Elders' Mtg. at church
21	7:00 pm	Choir
22		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
23		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
24	6:00 pm	Worship
25	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
26	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
27	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
28	7:00 pm	Choir
29		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
30		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
	8:00 am	Taizé Prayer Weekend
31	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Taizé Prayer Weekend Worship

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Aretha Hurt\*
- 2 Lori Ingram\*
- 3 Mildred Farnum\*
- 5 Calvin Leeds
- 5 David\* & Esther\* Morris (A)
- 6 Nina Hardcastle
- 7 Chan Born
- 10 Mike Edens\*
- 11 Lan Bui
- 11 Virginia (Ginny) & Will Bergeron (A)
- 15 Joel Edmonds\*
- 17 Herman Farnum\*
- 19 Karen Kay Baker\*
- 19 Cleo Hastings\*
- 24 Elvera Ahlenslager\*
- 25 Carlos Rosales\*
- 27 Ardith Whelan\*
- 30 Dan Moore
- 31 Gary\* & Pam\* Pigg (A)

### Address Corrections & Changes

Geni Dowdy, home phone is (559) 271-9111.  
 Joy Johnson, P.O. Box 443, Fresno, CA 93709.  
 Dao Thao, 2578 S. Fine Ave., Fresno, CA 93725  
 Christopher Anderson: (559) 776-5655;  
 3328 N. Marks, #107, Fresno, CA 93722.  
 Frances Pena: (559) 761-6495.

We have a Baptism planned for new  
 member: Christopher Anderson  
 on  
 Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
 January 11, 2008

### Save the Date

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

# Missions

## Food Pantry

*Bring food on Sunday, January 4.  
Make checks to the church, marked  
"for food pantry".*

## Thank You

To all of you who helped make Christmas merrier for children and families of the church and neighborhood, THANK YOU! You are a blessing.

- We supplied gifts of toys and clothes for 19 children.
- We provided gifts to 7 adults.
- Through Blong Xiong's office we supplied another 8 children with gifts.
- We were able to supply food to several families.
- We were able to offer gifts for the FIRM Christmas party.
- We collected several boxes and bags of warm gloves, hats, scarves and sweaters for the Rescue Mission.
- We helped make this Christmas less difficult for many people and spread the love of Christ liberally.

Thank you for your help in bringing joy to someone this season. Jesus said it was more joyful to give than receive and that has been especially true this Christmas.

## CCNC-N'S Martin Luther King Regionwide Worship Service

On January 11, 2009, at 4:00 pm, you are invited to the Arden Christian Church to be a part of the Martin Luther King Worship Service. (See posted flier for details.)



## CWF/ Women's Ministries

The next CWF group meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 1:30 pm, at the home of Dorothy Sumpter.

WOMEN'S LOVE LUNCHEON will be on Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Noon, at the church. Mark your calendars and watch for more details to come. (This is for all women of the church.)



## Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 10, 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](mailto:garypigg@yahoo.com), or one of the other men from the fellowship group.

## Sermons on the Web

There is now an archive of Pastor Natalie's sermons, in audio, on our website. Go to [disciplesfresno.org](http://disciplesfresno.org) then click on sermons. The list is short, but we will add to it as the sermons are available.

# Christian Education

## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

### SEEN WHAT'S NEW FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS?

Lots of new things and classes going on at church. There are several new classes starting. With the new year approaching, there will be even more to do. Come join us! Watch your newsletter for the different things happening in our church. **There'll be a test and you don't want to miss out!!**

*Geni Dowdy, Christian Education Chair*



## Council Gleanings

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

1. Council approved 3% **salary increase** for Mona White, Music Minister.
2. Council approved the **housing allowance** for Pastor Natalie and Mona.
3. The following change was made to the **Memorial Fund** policy: Accounts containing less than \$250 be consolidated into undesignated funds as outlined in the Memorial Fund policy.
4. Council approved **Christmas bonuses** for church staff: Mona, Janet, Dao and MaLee.
5. Council approved that the Lenten Study and **Soup Suppers** be held on Monday evenings starting March 2, 2009

*Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Month End: November 30, 2008*

General Funds	\$333,677
Designated Other	3,565
Memorial & Honor Funds	5,640
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>1,905</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$344,787

### Monthly Offerings (*includes 12% for Missions*)

Total November 2008	\$10,188
Total November 2007	<u>5,268</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 4,920

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

To November 30, 2008	\$79,949
To November 30, 2007	<u>72,082</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 7,867

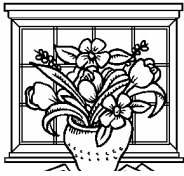
Final Receipts Bill Bliss Request \$16,063.22

### Income & Expense Jan .1-Nov. 30, 2008

Receipts	\$114,975
Expenses	<u>\$127,999</u>
Net Decrease to 11/30/08	(\$ 13,024)

## "SOUPER" BOWL PARTY

Watch the bulletin for information and details.



### *JOYS & CONCERNS*

Melba Jordahl: Ongoing health issues.  
Barbara Edens: Chemotherapy.  
Yvonne Hix: Regain strength.  
Cleo Hastings: Hip and knee pain.  
Hazel Calderwood: Pray for strength.  
Roxie Calderwood: Ongoing health issues.  
John Graham: Comfort to all in his passing.  
Emily Grace: Pray for her and her family during her continuing health difficulties.  
Diana Aznavoorian: Health issues.  
Debbie Flores & family: Prayers for good family relations.  
Mona White: Quick healing after accident.  
Thomas Lewis: Successful drug treatment program.  
Laurene Sandell: Ongoing health concerns.

### **South San Joaquin Geographical Area Meeting**

The new year means an opportunity to meet with our friends from the other Disciples congregations in the area. This year the annual area meeting will be Friday, February 13. Yes! Friday! We normally meet on a Sunday, but meeting Friday means that **Amy Gopp**, the new director of Week of Compassion, will be able to be with us.

Mark your calendar now!

**Date: Friday, February 13, 2009**  
**Place: Selma First Christian Church**  
**Time: Registration 6:00 pm**  
**Meal: 6:30 pm; cost: \$5.00 per person**  
**End Time: 8:30pm**  
**Offering for: Week of Compassion**

Plan now to be part of this exciting event.

### *Honored Member*

**Chris Anderson** was born on October 9, 1963, in Phoenix, Arizona. His mother is a Native American of the Pima Indian tribe. At age 14, the family moved to Fresno where his father had been transferred with the Bank of America. His mother recently retired from the administrative office of Saint Agnes Holy Cross Center for Women. He has four sisters and two brothers. He also has many nieces and nephews.

As a child, Chris enjoyed playing sports, reading and especially math. Later on, he became interested in physics. His mother was his teacher's aide when he was in the first grade. He says he really enjoyed having his mother in his classroom.

After high school, he went to work in construction. He later worked in the warehouse for the GAP and then for Autoline Industries. In 2005, he suffered a stroke and spent several months in rehabilitation. He now enjoys reading, art appreciation and all kinds of music. He is an avid sports fan and likes to follow baseball and all Arizona sports. He says he is interested in resuming his education classes.

He has traveled to Santa Cruz to see the seals, visit the boardwalk and go swimming in the ocean. He has visited his aunts in Northern California and relatives in Arizona. He really liked visiting Mexico where his father played soccer.

His brother works for the Arizona Governor's office on the Pima Indian Reservation and is a personal friend of the actor, Adam Beach.

He attended a Disciples church as a child and remembers seeing his mother baptized. He came to our church through an invitation from Mona White and her work at the Ted C. Wills Center. He takes Hand-Ride every Sunday to come to church. He joined our church a few weeks ago and will be baptized soon. He says he really enjoys the

friendliness and fellowship here. Please greet Chris with a warm welcome.

*Submitted by Dorothy Shuck*

## Interfaith Scholar Weekend February 20-22, 2009 Dr. Carol Newsom

We look forward to an exceptional opportunity: Interfaith Scholar Weekend in February 2009. Our speaker will be Dr. Carol Newsom, and the topic for the weekend will be "Imagining Good and Evil: The Bible Debates Three Different Models."

On Friday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, Dr. Newsom will speak about "Good Is Stronger than Evil: The Claim of the Wisdom Tradition." The Islamic Cultural Center is at 2111 E. Nees in Fresno, between Maple and Chestnut. A light dessert and informal social time will follow Dr. Newsom's talk.

On Saturday, February 21, the event will continue at Temple Beth Israel in Fresno. We will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by Torah commentary. The topic of Dr. Newsom's first lecture that morning will be "Or Is Evil as Strong as Good? The Dualistic Vision of the Apocalyptic Tradition." The subject of her second lecture will be "Or Is the Problem a Flaw in the Nature of Human Being Itself? Genesis 2-3 and Its Legacy." After lunch there will be time for questions and discussion with Dr. Newsom. Temple Beth Israel is at 6622 N. Maroa, south of Herndon.

On Sunday, February 22, the worship services at Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis will be at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.. The topic of Dr. Newsom's sermon in each service will be "Job's Questions, Our Questions, and God's Answer: Is It Enough?" That church is at 1726 Pollasky Avenue in Clovis, north of Shaw.

Preregistration for the Saturday lectures will be \$40; walk-in registration on the weekend will be \$45; and registration for students will be \$10. The registration fee will also include the continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Admission to the Friday evening lecture and the Sunday morning service will be free.

Dr. Carol A. Newsom is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University.

For further information, please call 435-2690.

## 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](mailto:elizn@csufresno.edu), or 431-2630.



A  
Prayer  
for the  
Year  
Ahead