

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



♥ Unbinding Your Heart E-vent ♥

**An All Church Book Study
February 21 through April 3rd
Sign-ups End Soon!**

“Unbinding Your Heart” is on its way! Groups are being created. They’re filling up quickly, so see us at the booth on Sundays in Sippel Hall.

Small Study Groups

Proposed Times*

Christian Youth Fellowship

Sundays ♥ 9:30AM

Chi-Ro

Sundays ♥ 12PM

Evening Study Group

Sundays ♥ 7PM

Amazing Grays

Mondays ♥ 1PM

Evening Study Group

Mondays ♥ 7PM

Elders

Tuesdays ♥ 7PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesdays ♥ 10AM

Evening Study Group

Wednesday ♥ 7PM

Young Adults

Wednesdays ♥ 7PM

New Hope Group

Thursday ♥ 7PM

Christian Men’s Fellowship

Saturdays ♥ 8:30AM

Please email Don or Sue Zukas at donald.zukas@gmail.com or suzuki@socal.rr.com or call (310) 618-8375 with questions or to enroll..

* Times and groups may change slightly as we get closer to kick-off.

Disciples Women's Ministry



The annual Friendship dinner will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 6:00 p.m. in Sippel Hall. This event is for adults only. The theme of the dinner will be "Water From Another Time" and Tom from Loch Leven will do the program. Tickets went on sale Sunday, January 17th and will cost \$10 each. Free childcare will be provided.

Books continue to be offered for sale in Sippel Hall as a fundraiser for Quadrennial. Look for other fundraisers to come as we are trying to help everyone come if they can.

Calendar changes for DWF luncheons

- March luncheon will be moved from March 28 to April 18, 2010. The hostess will be Chery Carew and the program will be spring tea.
- May luncheon will be moved from May 30 (memorial weekend) to May 23rd.

Thank you to all the wonderful women who made Women's Sunday a success. A special thanks to Gail Grove who coordinated the service and made it all come together. Thank you to Jill Foster and Susie Noble, who provided the message for the service.

Upcoming events in the spring include Family night which is tentatively set for sometime in May. Watch the newsletter for more details about this fun event. Judy Rickabaugh will be coordinating the program.

Two Prayer Shawl Meetings Every Week

Our Tuesday Night Prayer Shawl group has decided to meet every week. The group meets in the Fireside Room at 7:00 pm (thanks to the elders for flexibility!) We also have a Wednesday group that meets there every week at 2:00 pm.

Beacon Light Mission



Officials at Beacon Light Mission in Wilmington hope to break ground this summer on a new shelter for homeless women, and are working to raise funds for the project. City and county approval is expected in the next few months for the 6,500-square foot facility, which will provide 20 beds for women. The facility "Doors of Hope Women's Shelter" will be constructed next to the men's facility on Broad Avenue. The facility will provide food and temporary housing supported solely through donations from about two dozen churches in the South Bay. Visit their website www.doorsofhopewomensshelter.org or call 562-716-9981 to help make a donation or buy their cookbook for \$10.00.

We want to thank and acknowledge recent gifts to the Endowment Fund:

- A residual from a gift annuity established by Dolores Koontz at the Christian Church Foundation
- A gift from Jean Steenson in memory of Ruth Hadlow
- A gift from Jim and Shirley Crawford in memory of John and Cynthia Cox, Shirley's parents and members from the late 1930's.

2009's fund performance improved against the losses of 2008.

We hope you will remember our Endowment Fund in your estate planning and/or as a way to honor and recognize a birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc., for someone special. Simply indicate that you wish the gift to go to the Endowment Fund.

Informational brochures are available in the narthex and pews. A link on the Church's website also has information about the Fund.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the directors listed below.

Betsy Galyardt Jerry Jonas Andrea Whobrey Gene Wiehe Doris Wilson

Worship Audio for iPod

Did you know that you can set up iTunes to get the latest sermon audio for you automatically? It's easy! Go to www.fcctorrance.org/media and click on "Subscribe" in the media player. After clicking, a page will load with lots of options for how to get the audio with iTunes or another program. Click on the program of your choice (iTunes most likely) and the feed will be added. DONE!

Following Haitian Earthquake



Disciples and their partner agencies have started emergency relief efforts for the people of Haiti in response to widespread devastation caused by a powerful earthquake that struck the country this last week.

Week of Compassion, the emergency relief ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has authorized funds to be sent through the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries to its partners in the area. Week of Compassion is working closely with Church World Service and other relief agencies in coordinating its response.

Gifts for emergency relief can be made through our church by writing a check to First Christian Church with a memo to Week of Compassion. To read a Week of Compassion update, go to: www.weekofcompassion.org

A big "Thank You" to the Prayer Shawl ministry for the lovely card and all of your comments. It made my day. Especially the comment Janie Fietz made on my "personal male nurse". Janie, I do agree with you that he is a sweetheart but he is also darn cute too!

I have an appointment with UCLA on Feb. 2 and hopefully they can find a diagnosis that Torrance Memorial or Mayo Clinic couldn't find with my lung tissue.

Thanks again for the card. It gave me a lift.

Gerri Stoodley



Hi everyone,

Thank you so much for all the prayers and calls. My leg is healing slowly but surely. I hope to be home by next weekend. My phone number is listed wrong in the Women's Directory. My current (cell) number is (310) 561-4372, or you can reach me by email at Maureen.estolas@gmail.com.

Take care and God Bless!

Maureen Estolas



Jobs Workshop on February 15

First Christian Church is beginning a Jobs Ministry to help those who are in employment transition—either needing work, or considering moving to a new job.

We will host the first of what could be a number of workshops on February 15, at 7:00 pm. Help will be offered with:

resume writing
giving a better job interview
networking with others
dealing with the stress of unemployment

Our facilitator is Frank Mitchell, a former corporate officer in Human Resources.

Prayer Meeting – Each Tuesday at 5:45 pm



Under the guidance of our Prayer Team Coordinator, Elba Woods, our Tuesday night meeting is undergirding the Unbinding Your Heart series with prayer, in addition to our regular intercessions for one another and others. All are welcome.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Mary Matson's father, Ed Gherna, has been having difficulty with undiagnosed cause for breathing difficulties. He has been in the hospital after a recent fall.

Betty Donley has been in the hospital for treatment of diverticulitis, and is gaining strength.

Alice Postlewaite is at home under hospice care, and suffering from a very aggressive cancer.

Kelly Rogers's sister Shaun Knudsen was expecting evaluation results after her long regimen of chemotherapy for ovarian cancer.

Doreen Jackson's long-time friend Pat Patterson's cancer has spread to the spine and bone. Doreen reports that her sister, Lois Stead, is in remission.

Manuel Escobar, an in-law of **Shirley Woodman**, is facing an uphill battle in his long struggle with cancer.

Bill Wysong's brother-in-law suffered a stroke during cancer surgery—he is out of danger for the moment.

Dorie Hernandez's boss, Linnea, is having a biopsy after being cancer-free for 10 years.

Others in our prayers as they continue to battle cancer: Don Roehl, Dana Morgan, Michele Wood's stepmother Judy Mowry, Karen Jackson's brother-in-law Nick Fiamengo, Wally Sandberg's brother-in-law Ron Walls, Dean Noble, Mike DeSarro's father-in-law.

Gerri Stoodley will be going to UCLA to see if doctors there can diagnose the source of her breathing difficulties.

Lynne Redderson's father, "Red," has been having difficulty breathing.

Jack Rogers's sister, Arly Jahn, has been transferred to a different hospital, but is still fighting infection.

Karen Jackson will be having knee surgery on February 25th.

Al Lubrani is recovering well from surgery—though a little slower than last time.

Maureen Estolas is in cast and on crutches after surgery for a broken leg suffered in a fall.



Mandy Shouse's father, Thom Shouse, has come through a number of mini-strokes. Mandy attends our Tuesday evening Prayer Shawl group.


Danielle Woods is home from Ecuador after a two-week mission trip sponsored by Loyola Marymount University, where she is a student.

With Sympathy in Loss

After a long struggle with a recurrence of breast cancer, **Julie Chavez** succumbed in early January. Her children, Brittany, Megan, Taylor and Cameron Chavez are in our prayers, as are Julie's mother and stepfather, Valerie & Tom, and for her extended family, including sister-in-law, Anna Rogers.

FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am				
	1	2	3	
	Amazing Gray's 1:00 Membership 7:00 Trustees 7:00	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Prayer Shawl 7:00	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 2:00 Education 7:00	New 7
7	8	9	10	
Youth Adventure 12:00 CYF 12:00 His Hands 12:00 Nominating Committee 12:00 Unbinding Your Heart Leader Training	Newsletter	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Disciple Women 7:00 Prayer Shawl 7:00	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 2:00 Cabinet Meeting 7:00	Choir 7
14	15	16	17	
	Presidents Day Church Office Closed Jobs Ministry 7:00	Love 9:30 Faith 1:30 Prayer Ministry 5:45 Elders 7:00 Prayer Shawl 7:00	Ash Wednesday 7:30 -8:30 a.m. 7:00 Worship Service Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 2:00	Choir 7
21	22	23	24	
CYF 12:00 Youth Adventure 12:00	Newsletter Unbinding Your Heart 7:00	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Unbinding Your Heart (Elders) 7:00	Prayer Shawl 2:00 Unbinding Your Heart (Young Adults) 7:00	Choir 7 Unbinding (New H
28				
Feed The Hungry Sunday Women's Luncheon 12:00	Page 6			

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
4	5	6
Hope 8:00		Friendship Dinner 6:00 p.m.
11	12	13
Practice 8:00		
18	19	20
Practice 8:00		Men's Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Civil War Program
25	26	27
Practice 8:00 Unbinding Your Heart (Hope) 7:00		Unbinding Your Heart (Men) 10:00



February Birthdays

- Sammi Wilk (3)
- Michael Gonzalez (6)
- Marie Wood (6)
- John Galyardt (7)
- Carole Colby (10)
- Brent Foster (10)
- Doreen Jackson (11)
- Jean Richards (12)
- Carol Rimmey (12)
- Ted Oden (13)
- Connie Gonzales (17)
- Barbara Myers (17)
- Shirley Johnson (20)
- Cheryl Crawford (22)
- Ruth Singleton (24)
- John Beecher (27)
- Jeff Wood (28)
- Bob Rogers (28)
- Bob Thomas (28)



ANNIVERSARIES

- Jeff & Michele Wood (12)
- Stan & Chery Carew (24)

Education Notes & News



Upcoming Youth Camps



Feb Camp (9th-12th grades)

February 12-15, 2010 at Pilgrim Pines

For more information on Feb Camp see Jimmy Koontz or go to
http://www.scncuu.org/youth_young_adults/febcamp.htm

Don't forget to make plans for attending **Summer Camp** at Loch Leven.



Mini Camp, 7/7-7/10 (entering 2nd-3rd grade)

Junior Camp, 7/18-7/24 (entering 4th-6th grade)

CYF I, 7/25-7/31 (entering 9th-10th grade)

CYF II, 8/1-8/7 (entering 11th-12 and '10 grads)

Chi Rho, 8/8-8/14 (entering 7th-8th grade)



Baptism Class



Plans are in the making for our Lenten Baptism Class. This class is open to anyone who would like to consider or prepare for baptism. Traditionally we invite all fourth graders to consider this process; however all ages are welcome. Pastor Steve is developing the class schedule. Please see Pastor Steve if you are interested or would like more information.

Bible Explorers

All children ages Pre K through 6th grade are invited to Bible Explorers at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We will end the month of January with a combined media event for all ages. February will focus on the story of The Prodigal Son. See schedule below.

Middle School students are invited to be shepherds for this program. See Jill if you are interested.

High schoolers are lucky enough to have Pastor Ted Oden to lead them for the months of January-March. Join Pastor Ted in Room 8 after first service on Sunday mornings for some "Messy Spirituality". During the Lenten season our high schoolers will be doing their own version of "Unbinding the Heart" during their Sunday School time. If you haven't been attending Sunday School this would be a good reason to start! See Pastor Ted for more information.

BIBLE EXPLORER SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS	WORKSHOP	ROOM	TEACHER
1/31	PRE K-1	5th Sunday Activity	TBD	DORIE
1/31	2-5			
The Prodigal Son				
2/7	PRE K-1	Cooking	Kitchen	ANNA
2/7	2-5	Storytelling	3	SHIRLEY
2/14	PRE K-1	Storytelling	3	SHIRLEY
2/14	2-5	Cooking	Kitchen	ANNA
2/21	PRE K-1	Photography	3	KELLY
2/21	2-5	Games	4	KARA
2/28	PRE K-1	Games	4	KARA
2/28	2-5	Photography	3	KELLY

January-February Youth Calendar

Because we do not have a youth leader for our Chi Rho (6-8th grade) kids at this time Shirley Woodman is inviting this age group to join in with the Youth Adventure kids. They will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month after second service.

Sunday, January 31

No CYF meeting due to Loch Leven retreat

Sunday, February 7

12:00 Youth Adventure

12:00 CYF

Sunday, February 14

No youth group meeting due to Feb Camp

Sunday, February 21

12:00 Youth Adventure

12:00 CYR



Upcoming Sermons

January 31, 2010 – “Fast, or Loose” (*Mark 2:18-22*)

How is our discipleship, our daily walk of faith, to be lived out? Is life in Christ a festive fellowship, full of joy and celebration? Is it a quiet, serious exploration of the depths of the soul? The answer: Yes.

February 7, 2010 – “Rules Were Made to Be Blessings” (*Mark 2:23-3:6*)

Are we being ruled by our rules? Jesus regularly broke religious regulations, not just to cause trouble, but to help us understand the purpose of our faith and its practices. How might his example shape how we view our rules?

February 14, 2010 – “Are You Ready for This?” (*Mark 3:7-19*)

One of the puzzlements of the gospels, especially noticeable in Mark, is Jesus’s many requests to “not make him known.” Sometimes it seems we’ve been doing a pretty good job of following that commandment—but why would he say it? And what are we truly called to do and say?

February 21, 2010 – “So What’s the Difference?” (*Acts 9:1-19*)

Many Christians, most famously Paul, would say they have had “God-just-up-and-knocked-me-off-my-horse” experiences. But many of us haven’t—and yet we do have faith, deep faith. This first message in our *Unbinding Your Heart* series asks us all to consider the difference being a Christian makes in our lives—with or without blinding flashes of light.

Sermons on line

Miss a Sunday? You can access past sermons on our church website (www.fctorrance.org) Click on Worship Media, then on the title or date of the sermon. Let us know if you’re listening, and thank Jimmy Koontz for helping us to provide this service!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



There are commandments and teachings in the Bible that many, even most, Christians do not follow—we do not worship on the seventh day, but we do eat pork and shrimp. Most Disciples churches would never think of forbidding divorce and remarriage, and we not only “permit” women to lead, we celebrate their leadership.

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study is exploring the criteria we use to discern biblical authority, and the practices that sometimes diverge from the letter, but fulfill the Spirit. Our Bible Study meets in Sippel Hall, Wednesday mornings at 10:00.

Footnotes

Overheard after worship recently in the church office passageway, from one member to another: “I really, really appreciated your...your... testimony!”

Most of us can probably relate to that tiny bit of hesitation before the word “*testimony*.” For those of us who’ve been long-time Disciples, it’s different from what we’re used to—maybe something other good Christians do (*right before rolling in the aisle*) but not so much us. Alexander Campbell was notoriously uneasy with what he called “emotionalism,” and we are his legacy.

But, if we’ve been in worship the last few Sundays, we can also appreciate the real sentiment expressed above: it has been *powerful* to hear some of our folk share their faith-stories—their testimonies! Starting with Women’s Sunday, and continuing with those who’ve shared the impact of being in the *Unbinding the Gospel* series, we’ve heard honest, authentic witnesses (another one of *those* terms!) to the deep meaning that faith and prayer bring to real lives.

Now, we don’t expect most to feel comfortable offering testimony in worship—God bless those who have! And for the record, no one’s going to be asked to go door-to-door, or hand out tracts on Maple. But *Unbinding Your Heart*, our next step in the series, *does* encourage faith-sharing one to one, and in small groups. It encourages prayer, alone and together. It encourages the exploration of faith’s every-day meaning for us—not according to the dictates of what someone else says is the right way, but according to our own prayerful experiences.

And, I believe, it will yield deep, meaningful experiences among those who participate. If you’re unsure of making that six-week commitment to one of the small groups that are forming, well, don’t listen to *me*—of *course* I want you to participate! Listen to your sisters and brothers, and the stories—the testimonies!—*they* have to offer.

Shalom, Steve

Home phone: 310-212-5950

email: steefeets@hotmail.com

Adult Sunday Class

Our Sunday morning adult class continues its pattern of lively discussion with a number of thought-provoking topics and facilitators. All people and views are welcome—and often expressed! It’s also OK to come and just listen!

Dr. David Matson will take two Sundays of February to follow up on last fall’s presentation on the biblical meaning of “the soul.”

Next Newsletter articles need to be at the church office by February 8, 2010

The Christian Messenger
First Christian Church
2930 El Dorado Street
Torrance, CA 90503

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
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Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 328-2820 Fax 310 328-2929
E-mail - fctorr@pacbell.net
Web address - fctorrance.org

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. - Worship - Informal
9:30 a.m. - Church School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - Worship - Traditional
Children's Worship - Ages Pre-school through
2nd Grade
(During the Traditional Worship Service)

Nursery Provided

For birth through age 3 during Sunday School
and Contemporary & Traditional Service

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Staff

Steven Fietz, Senior Pastor
Ted Oden-Minister of Contemporary Worship
Administrative Assistant- Camelia Olloque
Choir Director - Ken Potter
Nursery Attendant - Kim Larson
Dorie Hernandez

Officers

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