

# ***THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER***



## **Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer & Faith Sharing**

**Small Group Sign-ups Begin January 17th, 2010  
Six Week Study Begins the Week of February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

Unbinding Your Heart offers all of us at First Christian Church of Torrance an opportunity to share our faith with one another. To some, this is second nature, while to others this can be very challenging. Either way, there is much we can learn and share with one another!

Unbinding Your Heart has designed prayer times where we will be encouraged to pray in whatever way that is comfortable for each of us. The small group meeting settings are intended to put us at ease with one another, our faith and with God.

In order to make this experience even more fun, we are offering you the opportunity to participate in Unbinding Your Heart within one of the groups you may already be a part of. We will also be creating special Unbinding Your Heart groups just for this six-week study.

See us at our sign-up booth at either of the morning services starting January 17th and we will take a look at groups and times that will work best for you and your schedule.

Blessings in Christ!

**Don & Sue Zukas**  
**E-vent Coordinators**  
**(310)618-8375**  
**[donald.zukas@gmail.com](mailto:donald.zukas@gmail.com)**

## **Loch Leven Weekend Retreat**

The focus for this year's retreat will be *prayer* and you are invited to be a part of this great weekend. Come join Pastor Steve and Pastor Ted as they lead us in activities and worship experiences that will be appropriate for all ages, from the young to the old. There will also be plenty of time for relaxation, singing, walking, crafts, S'mores around the campfire and maybe even a trip to the snow.

What: Weekend retreat for the entire church family

Where: Loch Leven Camp and Conference Center located in the San Bernardino Mountains

When: Friday evening January 29-Sunday morning January 31

Cost: \$112 for adults staying in Cole (semi-private), \$93 for adults staying in Ross Hoos, \$69 for ages 4-12, free for children 3 and younger

**Final balance is due to Samantha by Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.** Financial assistance is available. See Samantha Lubrani to reserve your spot. Also see Samantha to reserve a semi-private room in Cole as these are limited and only available on a first come, first served basis.

## ***Disciples Women's Ministry***



### ***Women's Sunday***

"I asked... God Answered... I am Changed" is the theme for Women's Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The women are leading all facets of the worship service from the message, to serving and everything in between. A run through is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, 2010. Please continue to pray for a successful and meaningful service

### ***Friendship Dinner***

Mark your calendars! The Friendship Dinner will be February 6<sup>th</sup>. More information coming soon!

### ***Disciples Women's Luncheons***

Please join us Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at noon for our January Luncheon, hosted by the Faith Group. Our guest speaker will be Kaci Davis/Ida Somero.

Our program and service for January is Dream Center, a downtown Los Angeles non-profit outreach program dedicated to helping inner-cities through hope. "The vision of the Dream Center is to see thousands of hurting people come to know a new life through the efforts of our staff, volunteers, and recently rehabilitated individuals whose lives have been dramatically changed."

Save-the-date – February 28<sup>th</sup> is our February Luncheon. Our program will be Building Bridges Between Muslims and Non-Muslims. More information to follow.

\*\*\*\*\*MARCH LUNCHEON CHANGE. The originally scheduled March Luncheon has been changed from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup> and will be the Spring Tea. Chery Carew will be the hostess. \*\*\*\*\*

### ***Women's Quadrennial Assembly Fundraisers***

Fundraisers are in the works to help send some of our women to the Quadrennial Assembly in Greensboro, N.C. late June.

Coming soon! Look for a table in Sippel Hall filled with used books. Prices for these books will be under \$1.00 and found near the table along with additional information about the Quadrennial Assembly.

More information and additional fundraising events will be happening over the next few months. Stay tuned...

All of the team of folks that run and work on the sound and video systems in our church would like to give thanks to and recognize several people who recently made donations of money and time to help us upgrade our computer equipment.

We would like to thank:

**Jun Pagdilao** and Family for donating \$1,000.00 to get our upgrade project moving.

**Jim Whobrey** who donated his time to build us a new super duper computer for our sanctuary. He also used contacts from his business to get us very very good prices on new hardware and software components.

**Jimmy Koontz** who spent most of the day last Saturday installing and configuring the upgrades for the Sanctuary and two other office computers along with all the time he spends helping keep our computer systems going week after week.

**John Beecher** who has done most of the behind the scenes wiring for our computer, video and audio control systems.

The time and resources the above mentioned folks donated is greatly appreciated by all of us.

Your Sound and Video Team  
"Working to Help You See and Hear God's Word"



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## Church Directory Update

The Membership Committee plus Steve met with Olan Mills representative to discuss the organization and completion of our Church Directory. Pictorial pages for the staff, worship, education, outreach and fellowship will be included along with the formal portraits and church roster (contact information from the Survey Sheets filled out during appointment sessions.) Sakura and Jimmy Koontz are "shooting" those unable to attend the photo sessions as well as the groups/programs/activities depicting our church family life. They are also involved with page design.

Many thank-you's to those who helped with reminder calls about portrait appointments: Gail Grove, Lorraine Colston, Judy Rickabaugh, Pat Sebaugh, Janet Wy-song and Ruth Singleton; and to those who hosted and assisted during the 3 photo session days: Carole Jones, Anne Beecher, Hilda Coleman and Judy Rickabaugh.

Their willingness to help when asked was and is sincerely appreciated.

## Angels Go Out from Our Church

Thanks to all those whose generosity helped First Christians Church send Christmas angels out to bless our less fortunate neighbors. Our 2009 Angel Tree contributed over 100 gifts to needy families in our area, through the ministries of Love INC, All Peoples Christian Center, and a special “blankets for the homeless” program initiated by Bobbie Hubbard’s kindergarten teacher.

Special appreciation goes to those who put in extra time and effort to make this all happen. Dottie Taggart gave so much time to help with general organization and support. We had a wonderful “wrapping crew”: Susan Babcock, Carole Jones, June Perkins, Eileen Powell, Lee & Pat Sebaugh, Dottie Taggart, and Sydney Thornton. Jimmy Koontz, Rich Koontz, and Eli Rogers delivered gifts to our Love INC families—with some phoned-in translation help from Samantha Lubrani! And thanks to Chery Carew and Bobbie for connecting us to Ms. Wills and her compassionate idea.

All reports indicate that we have truly made a difference for people whose Christmas would have been far more difficult without your generous outreach! Thank you so much.

Janie Fietz, Outreach Chair



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### ***CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS & CONCERNS***

Kelly Rogers’s sister Shaun Knudsen has finished a long regimen of chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. She will be going in for evaluation in the next couple weeks.

Marilyn Roehl’s brother, Don Roehl, is beginning chemotherapy and radiation to treat a recurrence of cancer.

Wally Sandberg’s brother-in-law Ron Walls continues treatment for extensive and inoperable brain cancer.

Karen Jackson’s brother-in-law Nick Fiamengo in the hospital after colon cancer surgery; Karen also asks for prayers on behalf of Nick’s wife, her sister Myrna, and for their mother who is 88 and not doing well.

Anne Beecher’s brother is doing well after surgery on December 9 to remove a tumor that was pressuring in inner ear and brain.

Hilda Coleman asks for prayer on behalf of her friend, Bonnie Matthews, who in undergoing tests to see if a recently discovered tumor is cancerous.

Others in our prayers as they continue to battle cancer: Dana Morgan, Manuel Escobar, Judy Mowry, Dean Noble, Mike DeSarro’s father-in-law.

## ***CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS & CONCERNS***



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

It has been good to see former members Mike, Toshiko & Maiko Morotani, who are visiting from Japan for a few weeks.

Happy 100th Birthday to Themis DeGroff: Her new address is 510 E. Cedar Houston, MN 55943.

Doris Wilson is home from the hospital, and was in worship.

Paul Hextall escaped injury in an accident that totaled the vehicle he was in.

Paul Crossman is home from the hospital and receiving dialysis three times a week—he says he's feeling much better.

Camelia Olloque's father-in-law, Manuel Olloque, Sr., is home and getting stronger after surgery. Her father, Joe Mendoza, is responding very well to treatment.

Gerri Stoodley is home from the hospital, but doctors have yet to discover the cause of her breathing difficulty.

Jack Rogers's sister, Arly Jahn, has been in the hospital with fluid on her lungs.

Larry Campbell's uncle Jim is having difficulty with his lungs.

Carol Wilk's mother, Sammie Baker, is recovering well from surgery to fuse vertebrae in her neck. Ziggy Wilk recently broke his ankle, and will be in a cast for a few weeks.

Bill Wysong asks prayer for his brother, Bob, who is going through a divorce, and for his brother-in-law, Tom Jendrysik in Florida, who is having prostate cancer surgery on January 19.

Julie Chavez is day to day as she nears the end of her battle with cancer. She sends thanks for all the prayers of support, and the many meals providing for her family.


### **With Sympathy in Loss**

Ellen McCune's husband Dick passed away at the end of the year – she sends appreciation for the many expressions of comfort in her loss.

After a long struggle with Alzheimer's, Anne Beecher's dear friend Sarah Gimber succumbed in mid-December. Anne was able to go to Arizona for services.

Paul Riley, who just recently joined our church, lost his mother in December. Paul has moved to live with relatives in Ojai – he goes with our thoughts and prayers.

# January 2010 (Revised)

January 2010 (Revised)				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b> 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am				
3	4	5	6	
Youth Adventure	Amazing Gray's 1:00 Membership 7:00 Trustees 7:00  Newsletter	Prayer Ministry 5:45	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 2:00  Education 7:00	New Year 7:00
10	11	12	13	
Women's Sunday	Worship Committee Meeting 12:00	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Disciple Women 7:30	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 2:00  Cabinet Meeting 7:00	Choir Practice 7:00
17	18	19	20	
Relay for Life Kick-off Fundraiser Sundaes/Sunday 12:00 Youth Adventure 12:00 CYF 12:00	Martin Luther King Church Office Closed	Love 9:30 Faith 1:30 Prayer Ministry 5:45 Elders 7:00	Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 2:00	Choir Practice 7:00
24	25	26	27	
Feed The Hungry Sunday Women's Luncheon 12:00 CYF 12:00 Congregational Mtg.	Newsletter	Prayer Ministry 5:45  Prayer Shawl 7:00	Bible Study 10:00 Prayer Shawl 2:00	Choir Practice 7:00
31				
Loch Leven Retreat				

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 App New Year's Day Church Office Closed	1
		2
7	8	9
14	15	16
21	22	23
28	29	30



**January Birthdays**

- Charlotte Sandberg 2
- Pat Sebaugh 6
- Raymond Stent 6
- Melvin Adams 7
- Casey Hubbard 7
- Dan Carmona 8
- Bill Rimmey 10
- Russell Lear 13
- Jenny Rogers 14
- David Matson 15
- Brian Thompson 15
- Maureen Estolas 16
- Suzanne Nelson 17
- Eli Rogers 17
- Nancy Cutshall 18
- Lynne Redderson 18
- Lori Jonas 21
- Ronnette Bell 22
- Don Zukas 23
- Katy Zukas 24
- Andrea Carmona 24
- Janet Wysong 24
- Priscilla Crawford 25
- Kim Rogers 26
- Natalie Wright 27
- Ester Adams 28
- Dolly Barnbeck 28
- Fernande Stewart 30
- Dimitri Monson (30)
- Lee Sebaugh 31

**Men's Breakfast  
8:30 a.m.**

Loch Leven Family Retreat



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- David & Mary Matson 26

## **Education Notes & News**

### **Thank You!**



The Education Committee would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Children's Christmas program and the Christmas Party that evening. Thanks to everyone who donated their time, talent or resources to making these events happen.

### **Upcoming Winter Youth Camps**

The region is offering camps for both our Chi Rho and CYF age groups.

**Junior High JANboree** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) Jan 15-18, 2010 at Loch Leven

For more information on JANboree go to:

<http://www.box.net/shared/u1e17j7qbu>

**Feb Camp** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) February 12-15, 2010 at Pilgrim Pines

For more information on Feb Camp go to

[http://www.scncucc.org/youth\\_young\\_adults/febcamp.htm](http://www.scncucc.org/youth_young_adults/febcamp.htm)

### **Bible Explorers**

We are starting off the new year with the Parable of the Sower. All children ages Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Bible Explorers at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. See schedule below.

Speaking of the Bible Explorer schedule, it has been set for next year and sign-ups for leading workshops are going on right now. Contact Jill if you are interested in teaching a 2 week workshop or are interested in finding out more about how to be a part of this ministry.

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

High schoolers will be 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".



## BIBLE EXPLORER SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS	WORKSHOP	ROOM	TEACHER
<b>Parable of the Sower</b>				
1/3	PRE K-1	Media	4	CHERY
1/3	2-5	Cooking	Kitchen	JILL
1/10	PRE K-1	Cooking	Kitchen	JILL
1/10	2-5	Media	4	CHERY
1/17	PRE K-1	Drama	3	PEGGY
1/17	2-5	Art	2	DORIE
1/24	PRE K-1	Art	2	DORIE
1/24	2-5	Drama	3	DORIE
1/31	PRE K-1	5th Sunday Activity	TBD	TBD

### January Youth Calendar

Because we do not have a youth leader for our Chi Rho (6-8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month after second service.

#### **Sunday, January 10**

CYF will not meet today.

#### **Sunday, January 17**

12:00 Youth Adventure (grades 3-5) & Chi Rho Light lunch served.  
Youth will be making valentines for some of our shut-ins.

12:00 CYF (grades 9-12)

#### **Sunday, January 24**

12:00 CYF meet after church in Room 8

#### **Sunday, January 31**

No CYF meeting due to Loch Leven retreat

## *Upcoming Sermons*

### **January 10, 2010** – Women’s Sunday

The women of the church will lead all aspects of worship, including bringing the message.

### **January 17, 2010** – “Going to the Mat” (*Mark 2:1-12*)

Each of us has, at some point in life, been carried by the faith of others. Each of us, probably, is “carrying” someone else right now. We continue our brief series from Mark by considering how a story of faithful friends might stand as a way of living out our faith.

### **January 24, 2010** – “Rules Were Made to Be Blessings” (*Mark 2:23-28*)

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?

**January 31, 2010** – Our old friend Russell Brammer will bring the message while pastors Ted and Steve are at our all-church retreat.

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## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

### **January 24-After Each Service**

On Sunday, January 24, there will be brief congregational meetings after each worship service to vote on a referral from the Board concerning a revision to our current budget. Please check with Board Chair Doug Crawford if you have any questions.

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## **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!

In January, Chuck Aruta is continuing a discussion on the power of faith, Steve Fietz is looking at women leaders in the New Testament, and Barbara Myers will facilitate a discussion of the Shema, the Jewish confession of faith from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. In February, Dr. David Matson will take two Sundays to follow up on last fall’s presentation on the biblical meaning of “the soul.”

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My sincere thanks to the many church friends who are praying for me and who have sent notes and cards during my recent hospitalization . It gives me strength and courage to know that I have such a caring church family. The special rendition of Gloria! Glory! By the choir was also very much appreciated.

Doris Wilson



## Footnotes

On the cusp of this new year (some would say this new decade), are you looking back, or forward?

Part of me is looking back. My Ducks fumbled away the Rose Bowl. Haven't won in 93 years. Harvard, Columbia and a team of Marines from the Mare Island Shipyard have won Rose Bowls since then, but in four whole additional tries, not my Ducks. Alas.

But, I hope, most of me is looking ahead—not because I'm such a forward-thinking guy, but because I see so much excitement, potential, and love for God in our church. And so I am excited about the *Unbinding Your Heart* study that we're invited everyone to undertake in Lent—and I'm so pleased to have the enthusiastic leadership Don & Sue Zukas are giving to this project.

I'm excited because I see this (and so much else that we're doing) as a God-given opportunity to take the deep dedication we already have here, and the multiple spiritual gifts we already share here, and the tremendous desire for God that we already feel, and go even deeper, even broader, in our search to fulfill God's will for our lives.

Blessings on our New Year!

Shalom, Steve

Home phone: 310-212-5950

email: [steefeets@hotmail.com](mailto:steefeets@hotmail.com)



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### Wednesday Morning Bible Study



After a Christmas break, our Wednesday Morning Bible Study reconvened on January 6. We are still moving through the First Letter of John, a New Testament writing that struggles to hold things together after an early church split—and allowing time for some interesting discussion to arise. Bible Study meets in Sippel Hall, Wednesday mornings at 10:00.

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### Prayer Meeting – Each Tuesday at 5:45 pm



In that small break between the end of the day and the beginning of the night, we gather together to thank God, to lift up our yearnings, and to pray for the work of our church. All are welcome!

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*Next Newsletter articles need to be at the church office by January 25, 2010*

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

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### **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

(Disciples of Christ)  
2930 El Dorado Street  
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**

Chair - Doug Crawford  
Vice Chair - Don Zukas  
Treasurer- Bill Wysong  
Financial Secretary - Charlotte Sandberg  
Clerk- Angie Ahumada