

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER



Dignity Duffels Help Out Kids in Need

Do you ever remember being a child and going to school without brushing your teeth for days? Did you wonder if others at school would notice that you were not able to take a bath all week?

Few of us have ever had to experience this. However, some of the neediest children in the South Bay experience this every day and they could use our help to address some of their most basic needs in life.

As part of our last project with Love INC, we were able to deliver 200 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Department of Child and Family Services here in Torrance.

We are now focused on a new effort to provide 100 “Dignity Duffels” to children who lack items most of us deem basic to our everyday life. Basic hygiene supplies will be lovingly placed into individual child sized duffels to be distributed by Love INC to those most in need.

How can you help? Please donate any of the following items on, or before March 24, 2010.

- Light weight cotton Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Bars of Soap
- Band-Aids
- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Mini First Aid Kits
- Facial Tissues
- Moistened Towelette Packs



Our church’s children will be packing the “Dignity Duffels” with your donated items as part of our Easter Eggcitement celebration on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Thank you for your support and please know that you are making a tremendous difference in the lives of our local children in need.

Disciples Women's Ministry



Monthly Luncheons

As a reminder the luncheon schedule has been changed as follows. There is no March luncheon. April 18th will be our Spring Tea hosted by Chery Carew. The May luncheon is tentatively scheduled for May 23rd.

Fundraisers for Quadrennial

We are still selling books on the tables in the Fellowship Hall to help raise money for the 6 women who will be attending the Quadrennial Assembly in North Carolina in June. If you would like more information about the event, please visit www.quadrennial.org. We will keep you updated as we continue to raise funds.

Save the date

Pray and Play

(formerly known as The Spring Event)

The "Pray and Play" team of our regional women are traveling around the region using the new Day Magazine as a springboard for introducing new ways of prayer, how to understand our lives as changed when our prayers are answered, and how do we watch for answered and answering prayers.



Saturday April 24, 2010
9am to 12 noon
South Bay Christian Church
128 North Broadway Avenue
Redondo Beach 90277



See Chery Carew for more details (310) 650-0950, or go to www.pswdw.com

Family Night

Plans for Family Night are under way - more details will follow in the next newsletter.

New Hope

The New Hope circle will start their Unbinding the Heart group on Thursday, March 4th. Sue Zukas, Michele Woods, and Elba Woods will be our leaders for the study. We will complete the study on Thursday, April 8th.

Have a good month from Disciple Women's group.

Week of Compassion: Our Emergency Relief Ministry



Week of Compassion, the emergency relief ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is working closely with other agencies in coordinating its response to the crisis in Haiti. Through them, we help supply basic needs now, but also work to meet the long-term recovery needs well after world attention has moved on.

Gifts can be made through our church by writing a check to First Christian Church with a memo to Week of Compassion. If you wish to further specify that your gift go to a particular need, you may write in Haiti, Katrina, or any place for which you feel compassion.

Dear Friends;

It was so nice to worship with you on January 24, 2010. Your services were lovely and I was honored to be present. God's Spirit is apparent within your community. You are creating a wonderful environment for people to come and serve.

Disciples Seminary Foundation serves God through the formation and support of emerging theological students and your support of Disciples Mission Fund truly makes a difference.

Thank you for your ministry and your partnership with DSF!

Peace,

Rev. John Rodenberg
Director of Development



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.

Sunshine to the Soul.....



A young woman was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamt that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?" "You shall know tonight", he said. That evening, the husband came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it. She found a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Holy Week Observances:

- March 28: **Palm Sunday** Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am
“Easter Eggcitement” Children’s Program at Noon
- April 1: **Maundy Thursday** Foot washing, 6:00 pm
Dinner & Last Supper Worship, 6:30 pm
- April 2: **Good Friday** Prayer Vigil, 6:00 am—6:00 pm
Good Friday Prayer Service, 6:00 pm
- April 4: **Easter Sunday** Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am
Special musical offerings from choir at 10:30
Pancake Breakfast in between services
-

Directory Update

Our 2010 Church Directory is in its final stage of organization and layout. With only a few more photographs to take and decisions to make, we should be able to mail it to the printer in March. Olan Mills will then send a proof for our approval. All of us will be asked to make certain that the information we want is included, complete and correct. It is important to have everyone assist in this final process as it takes 6 weeks to print the finished Directory after the approved proof is returned to Olan Mills. The Membership Committee appreciated the help of all who worked on this phase of the process: John and Anne Beecher, Ruth Singleton, Janet Wysong, and Steve Fietz. A very special thank you to Jimmy and Sakura Koontz for their computer and photographic expertise and to Camelia Olloque for typing and editing the continually changing roster section.

Membership Committee

Adult Sunday Class

We have extended our discussion of Dr. David Matson’s classes on “Do We Have a Soul?” at least through March 6. Whatever the topic, discussion is always thoughtful, respectful and full of varied points of view—all are welcome!

Vacation Bible School

The date has been set for VBS this summer so **mark your calendars for July 26-30**. Please see Jill Foster if you are interested in being part of the leadership team for this event. We are looking for workshop leaders, classroom shepherds and helpers and anyone willing to help plan this great week.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Marion Casey had surgery on February 18 to remove a brain tumor. She has gone from the hospital to rehab, and may be getting radiation therapy in early March.

Mabel Crossman is back from the hospital after suffering a minor stroke.

Bonnie Reniff is home and recovering from knee-replacement surgery.

Karen Jackson is recovering from February 25 knee surgery.

Charlotte Sandberg will have hiatal hernia surgery on March 3.

Angie Ahumada asks for prayers for her cousin Erin, who is having what they hope is a benign polyp removed; and for her Uncle Bob, who is in the late stages of Alzheimer's.

John and Diana Sencerbox are back from Chicago, where their daughter, Kristy Nevolo, is making what looks to be a full recovery from Gillain Barre Syndrome, a viral paralysis.

Frank Mitchell's friend Shari Rubin is doing well after kidney transplant surgery.

Marilyn Roehl has three brothers in need of continued prayer: Jim is recovering well from a stroke; his twin, Joe, is recovering from surgery for an abdominal aneurysm; and Don continues to respond well to chemotherapy.

Janet Wysong asks for prayer on behalf of Eleanor O'Neil, the five year-old daughter of a friend—she is receiving chemotherapy for what is usually a very treatable form of cancer.


Chuck Bruley requests prayer for his friend, Burt Mann, as he recovers from surgery to remove a kidney.

Gerri Stoodley is entering a new treatment plan prescribed by her doctors at UCLA.

With Sympathy in Loss

Rod Norris died February 19, at age 94, while on a jazz cruise. He will be much missed, but he was participating in what he loved most, and many of his fellow passengers heard him say so on a regular basis. Rod is survived by a niece in San Diego, and many, many friends. At this writing, arrangements for services were not finalized.

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am				
	1	2	3	
	Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Fireside) (Parsonage)	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Choir Room)	Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside) 7:00 (Room 4)	Unbinding 7:00 (F
7	8	9	10	
CYF 9:30 Unbinding Your Heart Youth Adventure/ Chi Rho 12:00 7:00 (Fireside)	Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Fireside) (Parsonage) Newsletter	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Choir Room)	Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside) Prayer Shawl 2:00 Young Adults 7:00	Unbinding 7:00 (F
14	15	16	17	
CYF 9:30 Unbinding Your Heart Youth Adventure/ Chi Rho 12:00 7:00 (Fireside)	Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Fireside) (Parsonage)	Love 9:30 Faith 1:30 Prayer Ministry 5:45 Prayer Shawl 7:00	Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside) Prayer Shawl 2:00 7:00 (Room 4)	Unbinding 7:00 (F
21	22	23	24	
CYF 9:30 Unbinding Your Heart Youth Adventure/ Chi Rho 12:00 His Hands 12:00 7:00 Study (Fireside)	Newsletter Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Fireside) (Parsonage)	Prayer Ministry 5:45 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Unbinding Your Heart (Elders) 7:00	Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside) Prayer Shawl 2:00 Unbinding Your Heart (Young Adults) 7:00	Unbinding (New H
28	29	30	31	
CYF 9:30 Unbinding Your Heart Youth Adventure/ Chi Rho 12:00 Feed The Hungry Sunday 7:00 Study (Fireside)	Unbinding Your Heart 7:00 (Fireside) (Parsonage) Page 6	Unbinding Your Heart (Elders) 7:00	Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside) Unbinding Your Heart (Young Adults) 7:00	

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
4	5	6
Unbinding Your Heart (Fireside)		Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside)
11	12	13
Unbinding Your Heart (Fireside)		Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside)
18	19	20
Unbinding Your Heart (Fireside)		Men's Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Unbinding Your Heart 10:00 (Fireside)
25	26	27
Unbinding Your Heart (Men) 7:00		Unbinding Your Heart (Men) 10:00



March Birthdays

- Mary Ibe (1)
- Linda Gilmore (2)
- Dottie Taggart (3)
- Hilda Coleman (4)
- Gail Grove (5)
- Gene Jackson (5)
- Virginia Gober (6)
- Wally Sandberg (6)
- Kurt Nelson (9)
- Ruth Morrison (10)
- Terry Linehan (15)
- Marion Casey (16)
- Lois Sherwood (17)
- Haley Noble (20)
- Emma Hernandez (22)
- Katie Redderson (22)
- Orlando Martinez (24)
- Charlene Bowring (26)
- Kristin Karlin (28)
- Ziggy Wilk (28)
- Lois Sherwood (29)
- Ruth Perry (29)
- Helen Reed (29)
- Glenn Singleton (30)
- Kel Henderson (30)
- Mandy Fontaine (30)
- Lilian Asomugha (31)



ANNIVERSARIES

- Raymond & Donna Stent (18)
- John & Anne Beecher (20)

Education Notes & News

Baptism Class

Baptism Class is starting soon! Current plans include having three Saturday afternoon classes starting March 13th. 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. All ages are welcome however. Pastor Steve is developing the class schedule. Please see Pastor Steve if you are interested or would like more information.

Palm Sunday

We have some special mini workshops planned for Palm Sunday and you won't want to miss attending Sunday School on March 28th. Join us at 9:30 in the Sunday School rooms where we will be making (and eating) Empty Tomb Buns, making an Easter wreath and then all are invited to be part of our traditional Palm Sunday procession during service time.

Easter Eggcitement

Easter Eggcitement will be a Cross-Committee Collaboration this year! The Quadrennial women will be offering lunch as a fundraiser for their trip. We will have the opportunity to participate in an outreach project sponsored by the Outreach Committee. I even heard that the Easter bunny might be passing through and dropping off some eggs for our kids. All this will be happening right after second service on Palm Sunday and everyone is welcome.

Easter Pancake Breakfast

Our CYF group will be hosting an Easter breakfast on Easter morning. Come join them for a delicious **Pancake Breakfast Bar** at only \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

“Spring Fling” Retreat for 9th-12th graders

CYF members are encouraged to attend this year's Spring Fling at Loch Leven. It is a leadership training and spiritual retreat for youth on the weekend of April 9-11. If you liked Feb-Camp, you'll love Spring Fling! See Jimmy for more information. Scholarships available.

Bible Explorers

All children ages PreK through 6th grade are invited to Bible Explorers at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. March will focus on the story of Jesus' resurrection. See schedule next page.

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

During the Lenten season Pastor Ted is leading our high schoolers in doing their own version of “Unbinding the Heart” during their Sunday School time. It's not too late to join them! See Pastor Ted for more information.

BIBLE EXPLORER SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS	WORKSHOP	ROOM	TEACHER
The Prodigal Son				
2/28	PRE K-1	Games	4	KARA
2/28	2-5	Photography	3	KELLY
The Resurrection-He Lives!				
3/7	PRE K-1	Drama	3	PEGGY & LARRY
3/7	2-5	Art	2	JANIE FIETZ
3/14	PRE K-1	Art	2	JANIE FIETZ
3/14	2-5	Games	4	KARA
3/21	PRE K-1	Games	4	KARA
3/21	2-5	Drama	3	PEGGY & LARRY
3/28	Palm Sunday Activities	Empty Tomb Buns	4	SHIRLEY
		Easter Wreath Art	2	KARA
4/4	EASTER SUNDAY-NO CLASSES			

Loch Leven Retreat Rescheduled

“Filled With the Fullness of God” is the theme for this year’s retreat. It is based on Ephesians 3:16-19 and those who attend will be exploring and experiencing prayer in a variety of ways. This weekend for all ages has been rescheduled for May 21-23. Please talk to Samantha Lubrani to reconfirm that you will be attending. If you weren’t able to attend in January, but are available for this weekend talk to Samantha as well.

February-March Youth Calendar

Sunday, February 28

12:00 Youth Adventure/Chi Rho-“Unbinding Your Heart”-Bring a sack lunch
12:00 CYF

Sunday, March 7

12:00 Youth Adventure/Chi Rho-“Unbinding Your Heart”-Bring a sack lunch
12:00 CYF

Sunday, March 14

12:00 Youth Adventure/Chi Rho-“Unbinding Your Heart”-Bring a sack lunch
12:00 CYF

Sunday, March 21

12:00 Youth Adventure/Chi Rho-“Unbinding Your Heart”-Bring a sack lunch
12:00 CYF

Upcoming Sermons

February 28, 2010 – “Go Deep” (*1 Kings 19:11-13; Luke 5:1-10*)

Our *Unbinding Your Heart* worship series continues by asking us to consider the difference prayer makes in our lives. What would it mean to listen to the “still, small voice” in our daily living? What might happen if we made the choices that led us into deeper relationship with God?

March 7, 2010 – “Spring Up, O Well” (*John 4:5-29*)

We say “actions speak louder than words”—and it’s true—but words can speak pretty loudly. Most of us can remember a conversation that changed our lives. Our third *Unbinding Your Heart* sermon looks at the longest exchange attributed to Jesus, and the power he conveyed.

March 14, 2010 – “Gets Us Where We Live” (*John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:7-19*)

Christian community is where we first practice the love of God with one another—and are then empowered to be more loving in the world. *Unbinding Your Heart* message number four looks at how important—and how challenging!—this basic principle can be.

March 21, 2010 – “Mi Casa Es...” (*Genesis 18:1-5; Mark 2:1-12*)

Hospitality is a core virtue for biblical culture—in a desert culture, welcoming the stranger could be a life or death issue. Our fifth *Unbinding Your Heart* message asks us to explore our own mission of hospitality. It can be a life or death issue even yet!

March 28, 2010 – “Unbinding Your Heart” (*John 15:12-17; 1 John 3:16*)

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem—and remember that the shadow of the cross hangs over the parade. As *Unbinding Your Heart* draws to a close, we will consider what our faith unbinds us *from*—and what God wants to unbind us *for*.

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!

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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study will reconvene on April 7 following our *Unbinding Your Heart* series.

Footnotes

“He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.” (Psalm 23:2-3, KJV)

The rains have come, and now there is a marsh in Madrona Marsh. I’ve shifted my morning walk a little, so as to go all the way around it, clockwise—the mechanical moan of traffic in my left ear; songbirds and frogs and phantom splashes in my right.

The water is a mirror where duplicate trees and reeds reach up and reflect down; where mallard and teal glide with a small majesty, then suddenly go duck-butt up to do their job.

The marsh is a messy beauty too—patches of tangled roots and muck, and that still-water smell, like of the sloughs of my youth. It is a place where the decaying brown-black sludge produces new shoots, green with grace and promise. There is waste here, too—a crumple of soggy cardboard at the shallow edge, or a plastic bag like a ghost in the thicket.

The spiritual life is like a marsh, sometimes. A pretty plane of glass where the good stuff grows below, and we must tip our dignity to dunk down and get it. A healing pool where even yet our waste and regret collect on still-water surfaces, and wait to be redeemed. It is a musky mush where rotting roots feed the ever-renewing blades of spring.

And so our Lenten prayers breathe in the tangy incense of life and death and life; we duck deeper into the cringing tangles of guilt and yearning need; we listen for the bird-songs and chirps of redemption and eternity.

Shalom, Steve

Home phone: 310-212-5950

email: steefeets@hotmail.com



Baptism Class Starts in March

Children fourth-grade and up who are interested in being baptized are invited to bring their parents to a brief, after-worship gathering on March 7. Our plan is to have three classes on Saturday afternoons, March 13, 20 and 27—but we want to coordinate schedules.

Youth and adults with questions about baptism are also invited to this class. You may also contact Pastor Steve at any time.

Next Newsletter articles need to be at the church office by March 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)
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

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