

the **Visitor...**

. . . bringing into your home the news and ministries of
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Vallejo

let's gather for Easter breakfast

Once again we will be having our traditional breakfast on Easter morning in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will go to the regional men's ministry to help fund events such as Miracle Day and the mini-Miracle Day projects. Details about time, cost and menu will be available in church.

see you at Earth Day

For the second straight year, FCC will have a booth at the Vallejo Earth Day celebration sponsored by VALCORE. That's April 22nd at the downtown farmer's market at the corner of Georgia and Sacramento Streets from 9:00 to 1:00. At our booth, we will be encouraging people and organizations to buy earth-friendly products, like the plates, cups, and utensils we use at the Global Holiday Faire and at last year's Peace Fest that are made from such unconventional materials as wheat, sugar cane fiber, and corn. Of course, we will also be passing out information about our church. If you can help staff our booth, please let me know. Even if you can't help, make sure to drop by the Earth Day celebration and visit the many booths: learn about gardening, composting, recycling, and other issues to help us "touch the Earth lightly."

progressive discussion continues

Our first follow-up session to the progressive study told us that we needed to have another follow-up session! Members of all three groups met in March to share their thoughts on the materials and their impressions of the discussion groups. The talks were productive, and lead us into our next get-together: after worship on Sunday, April 9th (yes, that's Palm Sunday). Bring a lunch!

touch the earth lightly

In April we will begin a new "Touch the Earth Lightly" Outreach series, starting April 23rd (Earth Stewardship Sunday). This year, we want to highlight issues involving personal values, earth friendliness, and fair trade. Throughout the series, there will be special events after worship and time devoted during worship.

You've all heard of wine tasting and cheese tasting, but have you ever heard of vegan tasting? No, I don't mean we'll be tasting vegans! But we will be tasting a variety of foods that will be made from vegan and vegetarian recipes. Our congregation has been trying to be more sensitive to people - including some in our midst - whose eating styles differ from our own. And we think it is important that everyone be able to participate fully in the life of the church; that's the reason why we served vegan food at the Peace Fest, and why we offer vegan choices at the Global Holiday Faire each year. And most of us have friends or family who are at least vegetarians, if not vegans.

But for many of us, making vegan dishes is not easy because we don't have them in our cooking repertoire. So to begin our series, we will not only taste new foods - and see that vegan and vegetarian offerings can please our palettes - but we will also have the recipes to take home for your use. Trying new things should be fun! And we expect this event to be most enjoyable. After the "tasting," we'll sit down and share concrete ideas about how we can all touch the Earth more lightly. I'm sure each one of us has things we do to conserve energy and save resources which the rest of us can benefit from hearing.

In the other weeks of the series, there will be special treats for sale on the produce table, a soup and salad lunch on May 7th, a coffee hour and discussion on May 21st, and a final potluck on Pentecost. And along the way, we'll be hearing more about why people choose to change their eating and shopping habits to go easier on the Earth.

outreach spotlight

Mary Ewart, who attends our peace prayer service and whom many of you have met when she has attended our Sunday morning services, spoke at our February prayer service on the genocide in Darfur. Estimates range from 250,000 to 400,000 murdered and up to 2 million displaced in what has to be one of the most-ignored problems facing the world today. But there are those who are speaking out, including our own U.S. Congressman George Miller, who recently returned from a bipartisan trip to Darfur and who says, "During the past genocides of Armenia, the Holocaust, and Rwanda, the world community failed to speak up and act with diligence. Now we look back at the millions of lost or destroyed lives and ask how could this have happened? Today we have the opportunity to learn from history rather than to repeat it. If we act with diligence, we can subdue the catastrophe that is occurring in Darfur." To read Congressman Miller's full article, visit www.house.gov/georgemiller/sudan.html

There is something each one of us can do: if you visit the web sites for Save Darfur (www.savedarfur.org) or Million Voices for Darfur (millionvoicesfordarfur.org), you can fill out a postcard online to send to President Bush, asking him to support a stronger multi-national force to protect the civilians of Darfur. If you do not have

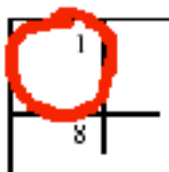
internet access, you can call the White House at (202) 456-1111 expressing your concern over the genocide, or send a letter to the President at The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500. Monetary support for Save Darfur can be sent to Save Darfur Coalition, PO Box 18176, Washington, D.C. 20036.

If you're interested in learning more, Congressman Miller is holding a town hall meeting in April in Contra Costa county on Darfur. Let me know if you are interested in attending. And I would like to thank Mary Ewart for first bringing this issue to our attention. Now that we know, we must act.

prayers for Kenya

Many of you have met Mike Schneiders from Holy Family parish at the faire the past two years, or possibly at one of the other events our congregation has sponsored to assist the Nairobi Street Kids Project. Mike came to speak at our March peace prayer service about his recent trip to Kenya and the work that is being done there to aid the abandoned children of Nairobi's slums achieve a better life. We prayed for the children of Kenya, and all children everywhere, since we know that the future of this world and all people in it depends in large part on the opportunities children have. At the service, there were nine of us in attendance and we collected \$47 for the Street Kids program. Can you believe that they have raised over \$32,000 in just about two years since the project began? FCC should be proud to have been a part of this great success.

We have more special guests lined up at our prayer services in the coming months to share about their experiences in other parts of the world in need of our prayers for peace. The April service will be Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.



mark your calendars

April

- Mon. 3 - Peace Prayer Service. 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Sun. 9 - Palm Sunday. Progressive Discussion follow-up. After worship. Bring a lunch!
- Sun. 16 - Easter. Breakfast before worship.
- Sun. 23 - Earth Stewardship Sunday. Vegan/vegetarian food tasting and discussion. After worship.
- 28-30 - Annual Meeting at Asilomar.
- Sun. 30 - Fifth Sunday Celebration "Led by the Spirit."