

the **Visitor...**

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

Fifth Sunday a time to lift up stewardship, mission

The entire month of October will feature a theme of exploring the history of mission in our congregation and how that relates to our stewardship of giving. We will also look at Disciples heritage - did you know that we celebrate Heritage Sunday in October? - as well as Disciples identity: what does it mean to be a Disciple?

The month will culminate in another one of our popular Fifth Sunday celebrations, which this time will be followed by a potluck lunch. And of course, another of our special offerings to support the work of the Disciples Mission Fund, which we have been unable to fund in our regular budget. Hope you can make it!

your spare luggage can help a child in need

A few months ago, I wrote that we would be collecting suitcases and duffel bags to give to a foster care agency that sometimes has to take children out of their homes on a moment's notice, taking of their belongings only what they are able to carry with them. And we did have some cases donated, including a number which came in to our yard sale earlier this summer. Thanks to those of you who contributed. But now, I want to renew that plea. Do you have a bag that you no longer need which you could donate? During October, our congregation is lifting up its history of mission as part of our stewardship focus. Donating your unneeded suitcases is one way of doing mission work, and I hope you will be able to play a part.

the choir is back

The choir has begun meeting again. So that means the usual suspects should mark Wednesday nights on their calendar. But it also means that anyone who has ever considered being part of the choir now has the chance to join up. Our choir is strong and talented beyond its small numbers; but that's not to say more voices wouldn't be great! So talk to Ted if you would be interested.

sacred site walk returns to FCC

On Tuesday, October 10th and Wednesday October 11th, approximately 30 people will be staying overnight in the Fellowship Hall. They are participants who will be walking in the second annual sacred site peace walk sponsored by IPOC (Indian People Organizing for Change) and the Vallejo Intertribal Council. Walkers will walk 10 miles a day, beginning this year at Solano College. On Wednesday, they will meet at the sacred site at Glen Cove for a commemoration. From Vallejo, they will walk to various sacred Indian sites throughout Northern California to pray and raise awareness about the need for protection and preservation of these sites.

Outreach is planning a potluck for Wednesday evening to feed the walkers. If you are able to provide a dish, please call Helen.

holiday faire plans under way

With December only two months away, and the date for this year's Global Holiday Faire set, it's time for us all to start thinking about this one of a kind event and how we can help this year. The Faire will be held the first Saturday in December - December 2nd - from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Believe it or not, this will be the 9th edition of the Global Holiday Faire, which we work with friends at other churches to plan and implement. Most of you have attended some (or all!) of the previous eight installments, so you know what the day is all about: doing your Christmas shopping in a way that benefits worthy causes. Our tag line has become "One stop shopping, double your holiday giving." That's because the variety of items available at the Faire is truly remarkable and you can actually do all of your shopping there; and because by purchasing gifts at the Faire, you are really giving two gifts: the gift you give to a friend or family member, and also the gift of assistance given to someone in need through the nonprofit organizations that participate.

The ways you can help us prepare for the Faire are numerous: come up with some craft ideas which you can make and donate to our craft table; if you are still not in the habit of taking your own bags to the grocery store, then be sure to ask them to bag your groceries in paper bags, which we will need plenty of; think about where you can take fliers to advertise the Faire; volunteer to help us make signs and posters; pick out some nice items which are new or like new to go on the "regifting" table; tell us if you have a friend at another church that might be interested in being part of the Faire planning, or who might like to come and volunteer that day; and be sure to mark that date on your calendar!

And know that we are always looking for ways to make the Faire more fun, more memorable, and more successful. New ideas are welcome! Here's one: make up invitations and send them to your neighbors, coworkers, or friends. Or set a lunch date with your friends for that day, and instead of meeting at a restaurant, tell them you know of the perfect place to go - the 9th Annual Global Holiday Faire!

Many more details will be following in the next issues of the Visitor, and in worship. Be sure to speak with Helen or Vince if you have questions or suggestions.

outreach spotlight: Religious Witness with Homeless People

Religious Witness with Homeless People is an organization in San Francisco that helps the homeless in a variety of ways. It is an interfaith group, led by Sr. Bernie Galvan and other religious leaders; it is primarily an advocacy group. The organization describes its mission in this way:

“(1) to act with and on behalf of poor and homeless people in protection of their basic civil and human rights, and to influence the creation of just and compassionate public policies that directly or indirectly touch their daily lives; and (2) to address the basic causes of homelessness at the city, state and national levels, especially in the area of truly affordable housing with supportive services.”

If this sounds like a group you would like to learn more about, then visit their web site: www.religiouswitnesshome.org. And if you already think this sounds like a mission you would like to support, you can make tax-deductible contributions to “Religious Witness/ Agape” and send them to P.O. Box 420486, San Francisco, CA 94142-0480.

touch the earth lightly tip

So far, many of our tips have focused on reducing energy use and garbage production. This month we shift focus to water conservation and a very simple way that you can reduce the amount of water that you use: Take shorter showers! It seems simple but there are some facts that you should know. The average shower head uses 2.2 gallons of water per minute, with the average shower lasting 8.2 minutes. That is 18.4 gallons of water per shower.

Our first challenge to you is to time your showers for a week and see how long your average shower is compared to the national average. Then ask yourself, can you take shorter showers? If you are way over the 8.2 minute average, ask yourself why. Do you let the hot water hit your sore muscles for several minutes while not washing? It feels good but can waste water. Do you wash your face in the shower? It takes less water to wash your face at the sink than in the shower. Do you let your mind wander and not focus on washing? Try to stay focused and only use your time in the shower for cleaning.

Our second challenge to you is to try to cut out a minute per shower over the next month. If that succeeds, try another minute the next month. By the end of the year, try to cut out three minutes from your average shower. Just one minute less saves 2.2 gallons of water a day. Even if you are on the low end of the average number of showers a week (4), that is close to 9 gallons a week, or 468 gallons a year! If you take more showers a week, especially if you take a shower every day, think about how much water you can save by cutting out one minute a day (800 gallons), or two minutes a day (1600 gallons). Plus, you will be using less energy for your hot water heater. What a difference a minute makes!

For more tips on saving water, visit www.h2ouse.org and take their virtual home tour.

transformation is a go!

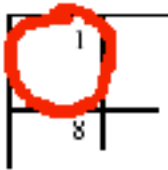
The congregation has voted to sign the 3 year transformation covenant, following the elders' and Admin council's decisions to do the same. What an exciting time in the life of our congregation! What is God calling us to do and be?

news & notes

Whether or not you were there to hear it, you might want to visit our web site and read Judith's sermon about the 5th anniversary of 9/11 - www.vallejochristian.com!

Don't forget that we recycle inkjet and toner cartridges - bring them from home, work, friends, wherever. Let's keep them out of landfills, and earn a few extra dollars for FCC while we're at it!

The September Peace Prayer service was educational as well as prayerful. We heard from Angela Taylor about her trip to China and the monumental changes underway in that country. We explored Taoist spirituality; pondered whether any of China's religious traditions - Taoism, Confucianism, or Buddhism - will survive in the face of that country's modern capitalist-communism; and we each selected a segment of Chinese society to pray for. We also collected \$20 to send to the Jesuit Office of International Ministries for its Shanghai Cathedral Project. Join us for next month's service!



mark your calendars

September

- Sat. 30 - Global Holiday Faire meeting. 9 a.m. in the parlor

October

- Sun 1 - World Communion Sunday.
- Mon. 2 - Peace Prayer Service. 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Sun 8 - Program Council. After worship.
- Tue. 10 - Admin Council. 5 p.m. at Carl's (tentative).
- Sun. 29 - Fifth Sunday Celebration! Potluck luncheon after worship.