



# The Proclaimer

*Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ*

*witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8*

**FOREST HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**FEBRUARY 2010**

## **Pastoral Ponderings**

It hardly seems possible that Lent will begin in a few short weeks. Didn't we just celebrate Christmas and Epiphany? How fast time flies - especially when I (maybe you too!) so easily get caught up in the busyness of my life! Do you ever yearn for a slower pace? More time for reflection and prayer, time to be and not just to do? I do, and I was blessed this last week to spend a couple of days with 29 other people who do too! We attended our Region's class/retreat on Making Room for the Holy. What a blessing. We were led by Dr. Joe Driscoll, a professor at Pacific School of Religion and a Disciples' pastor. Joe is a deeply spiritual and learned man with a passion for sharing the deep reservoir of spiritual practices that have enlivened the faith of followers of Christ throughout the ages, practices like *lectio divina* (holy or divine reading) and a daily examen of our lives in God, silence and solitude, journaling and creating and committing to a Rule of Life - a structure and a rhythm for our spiritual lives. We spent time learning, practicing, sharing our insights and challenges, beginning our own Rule and laughing, much laughing. (I am always amazed and gladdened by the fact that being spiritual and having a sense of humor seem to go hand in hand!) We also spent Saturday night observing the Great Silence; we did not speak from 9:00 pm until breakfast the next morning. Imagine navigating new friends and roommates with no talking. It was a challenge for many but also a rich and illuminating time that opened up new space for God's presence.

During this coming season of Lent, I would like to invite each of you to renew your commitment to the spiritual practices that deepen your faith, enliven your spirit and make room for the Holy in your life. If you'd like a companion to walk with you and encourage you along this path let me, or your elders, know. We are here for you. We also invite and encourage you to join us for intentional times of gathering in community to practice together: Worship every Sunday; Adult Education at 9:30 am in the Meeting Room and Prayer with Elders before worship every Sunday; Spiritual Practices every first Wednesday at 6:00; Women's Spirituality Group every 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 (any interest in starting a men's group?); Ash Wednesday Taize Worship February 3 at 6:00.

In the parable of the Great Banquet (read it in Luke 14:15-23), many were invited to dine at a great feast but declined because of their "busy schedules." Do we too miss out on the spiritual

food of God's kingdom because we are just too busy, or too lazy or too full of ourselves, to show up at God's banquet? Our God is inviting us each and every moment of our lives to feast at God's table, to enter more fully into God's kingdom and into a deeper relationship with the Holy as we walk in the way of Jesus. "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"~Luke 14: 15b This Lent, ask yourself honestly and with renewed faithfulness: How do I respond to God's invitation to be in relationship with the Holy? Do I show up and offer myself to God's reshaping or do I busy myself with other things? Do I commit myself to the very practices that shaped the life and ministry of Jesus or do I spend my time letting the "world" and the life around shape me? Do I open myself to God's transforming Spirit or do I run and hide? This Lent let takes the time and make the space for the Holy to enter more fully into our lives and into our community of faith. Blessings, *Susan*

## **A NOTE FROM THE BOARD**

The Board voted to paint the Pre-School, inside and out, and it will soon be completed. Come and take look at the bright colors and new decor. We are also moving forward on the sanctuary floor and hope to have a brand new look by Easter. Work continues on our new Bylaws and the guidelines and procedures that will accompany them. Many thanks to the committee: Sheryl Butler, Karen Hanson, Lou Taylor, Alan Snakenberg, Barbara Huckins, Cynthia Taylor and Pastor Susan. The new budget is also in the works - just a tad behind - and will be presented to the congregation for your approval.

We were thrilled to have eight members of Forest Hill attended the Regional ACTS class "Spiritual Practices: Making Room for the Holy." Ask Karen, Gertrude, Henry, Barbara Huckins, Lou, Cynthia, Bruce or Susan about it - they'd be happy to share their experience with you.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **TRUE COMMUNITY**

#### **Hospitality**

***Remember to wear your Name Tags!***

**Potluck on Sunday, February 7**

**Fat Sunday JAZZ Worship & Breakfast, February 14**

### **DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

#### **Christian Formation**

Our adult education class, facilitated by Lou Taylor, continues to meet faithfully at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Join us for the lively conversation and spiritual friendship that this gathering of seekers experiences every Sunday.

This month our Spiritual Practices group will explore journaling with Henry Mulak. We will meet Wednesday the 4th at 6:00 for a potluck meal and spiritual practice. Everyone is invited.

Our Women's Spirituality group is starting a new study: *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. We meet every month and would love to invite any woman who is seeking fellowship and

companions to join us as we gather to share a meal and spiritual conversation every first Wednesday at 6:00 around the kitchen table.

## **Worship**

Special "**Fat Sunday**" **JAZZ Worship** with breakfast to follow.  
Invite your friends and neighbors to this wonderful celebration!

Lent Begins on **Ash Wednesday**, February 17th.  
Join us at 6:00 for a simple meal  
followed by a **Taize Worship** with the imposition of ashes.

## **Choir**

We continue to meet each week at 7:30 and would love to have you join us as we make a joyful noise to our God.

## **PASSION FOR JUSTICE**

## **Outreach**

We are thrilled to report that because of your generosity and faithfulness \$1506 has been sent thus far for Haiti disaster relief. We also have completed 38 Hygiene Kits for church World Service distribution in Haiti. Offerings may still be given, just make sure you designate that it is for Week of Compassion. Thank you.

## **Stewardship**

The needs of our congregation and the wider community are magnified during these challenging economic times. We are each invited to respond with faithfulness and generosity, trusting in our God of abundance, as we offer back to God the gifts and resources of our lives. The words of a favorite hymn come to mind: "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia! Alleluia!*"

## **"An Emerging Jesus for an Emerging Christianity"**



Join us for an exciting lecture (with a time of questions and answers and a reception to follow) from Professor Marcus Borg, internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar. The author of 16 books, including *The Heart of Christianity*, *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* and *The First Christians*, Marcus Borg will challenge and inspire us with his vision, his passion and his faith.

**Where:** First Congregational Church of San Jose  
**Who:** Everyone is invited. Carpooling available

**When:** Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.  
**How Much:** Free!



Happy Birthday



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

John Shelton	2/1
Bessye T. Herd	2/14
Hazel Fuller	2/18
Tae Kim	2/19
Erin Parsley	2/20
Dolores Ramos	2/20
Joseph Asaro	2/20

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Betty Ann Brooks	2/7
------------------	-----

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER**



Pearl Thomas, biopsy on February 9th  
 Barbara Duckett, back surgery on February 10th  
 Family of Virginia Cridindon Clemons, sister of Alberta Siverand, who died on Monday, January 25th  
 Family & friends of James Quinn, who died on Saturday, January 23rd  
 Russ, son of Sheryl Butler's friend who learned that his liver cancer has returned and has also spread to his lungs  
 Denise Cleary, who has a healthy baby boy on Dec. 23rd  
 Margie Mott, doing well  
 Dominick Mott, 7-yr old with leukemia, still having treatments  
 Charlene Virgino, mother of Nancy Jenkins, hospitalized on Jan. 18th, breathing problems  
 Salvadore Hawley  
 Allen Steinmetz, Harvey March's brother-in-law, at home now;  
 Mildred Council, transferred to a Skilled Nursing Facility  
 Ellen Hinkle  
 Toni, Rev. Susan's sister's sister-in-law, liver cancer  
 Nancy Zolan, surgery on Dec. 4th in her continuing battle with bone cancer  
 Joyce Schavez, Nancy Moore's aunt, who is in hospice care for her cancer  
 Bob Bark, friend of Forest Hill from New York, arterial disease  
 Sally, Ellen's friend, lung cancer  
 Jack Hirsch, Ellen's friend, leukemia  
 Salvadore's co-worker's sister, permanently blind  
 Mother of Susie Morris, Ellen's friend, lung cancer

Christine, Pearl Thomas' friend, breast cancer  
Ramsay, Pearl Thomas' friend, heart problem  
Blondell, sister of Lou Taylor who has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer  
Joan, Barbara Huckins' friend, cancer  
Dolor Disbarro, Vangie's friend, breast cancer  
Ethelyn, mother of Chenetta Jackson, friend of Lillian Dixon  
Mamie Nubin, Hazel Fuller's sister  
Eric Peterson, Karen's nephew, multiple congenital health issues  
Chester Hurdle, Bonnie Hawley's uncle  
Joanne, Karen Hanson's friend  
Susie Morris and husband Mickey, Lou's Gehrig's disease  
Marilyn March, wife of Harvey March's cousin  
Fred Trapkin, Ellen's friend, health concerns  
Chris Kolb, Nick Kolivas' friend, health concerns  
Dennis Aguilar, Cynthia Taylor's co-worker, lost his home  
Valerie Thompson, a foster parent and a foster child Kelly Molloy, peace Crystal McCormick,  
Cynthia Taylor's friend, emotional issues  
Teri Gauvin, Cynthia Taylor's friend, breast cancer  
Angel Henderson, depression/high blood pressure  
Sharon Yoho, Cynthia Taylor's friend, health concerns

For all the people who were victims and affected by a strong earthquake in Haiti

End of war in Iraq and Afghanistan; Peace in the Middle East and the safe return of all troops

Church in our Region to hold in prayer this week, for vitality, spiritual and numerical growth, commitment to serving their neighborhood and openness to the Mighty Spirit of God calling them into Ministry: Sierra Christian Church, Loomis; Greater Sacramento Area; Pastor: William E. Garrett

#### Continuing Concerns

Andrew Allagree; Joe Bluford; Betty Ann Brooks; Mildred Burrell; Clifton Cole; Gary Council; Hazel Fuller; John Hampel; Nancy Jenkins; Billy Minton; Bill Pike; Gloria Quinn; Linda Rice; David Rowland; Lavon Stalling; Elaine Steinmetz; Juli Brooks-Tarry

### **Contact Information:**

**Rev. Susan Parsley**  
Forest Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
250 Laguna Honda Boulevard  
San Francisco, CA 94116  
Phone: 415-566-1414; Fax: 415-664-7729  
Email: [fhcc@mac.com](mailto:fhcc@mac.com)  
Website: [foresthilchristianchurch.org](http://foresthilchristianchurch.org)