



The Newsletter of First Christian Church Stockton



The TOWER

Volume 154
September 2004

Serving greater Stockton, Manteca, Lathrop, French Camp, and Tracy metro areas and the residents of Weston Ranch since 1993.
Serving the city of Stockton since 1851.

Our Mission is to be a servant church, presenting the Good News of Christ to all through our thoughts, words or deeds. We will fulfill that mission by:

- Being unified in Christ*
- Pursuing deep spirituality*
- Fostering true community*
- Cherishing unity and diversity*
- and Working for justice*



Roundup Celebration Sunday September 19

Standing in Solidarity for the glory of Jesus Christ

10:30 AM - Worship Service

Western Potluck following

- A Church Homecoming – celebrating 153 years
- A Friendship Day – welcoming our friends and neighbors
- A Perfect Attendance Commitment – uniting all members
- A Day of Opportunity – for new church membership and rededication
- “Campfire” and gospel music

**Special Activities For the Kids (and Adults!)
“Pie Eating” and More**

Come dressed in a western flare and unite with us on this special day!

For more information contact the church office at (209) 982-1212.

Worship Information

Sunday, September 5th—

Worship Leader..... TBA
 Elders Kathy Wilson, L. Wayne Bennett
 Serving Deacons Odis Goodwin, TBA
 Candle Lighter Katy Krider
 Bible Carrier Abby Krider

Sunday, September 12th—

Worship Leader..... TBA
 Elders Ginger Jacobs, Stan Jacobs
 Serving Deacons TBA, TBA
 Candle Lighter Patrick Pigford
 Bible Carrier Haleigh Lopez

Sunday, September 19th—

Worship Leader..... Esther Caldwell
 Elders Samantha Bingaman, John Wilson
 Serving Deacons Odis Goodwin, Dan Ferriera
 Candle Lighter Katy Krider
 Bible Carrier Abby Krider

Sunday, September 26th—

Worship Leader..... Ginger Jacobs
 Elders Gayle Thornton, L. Wayne Bennett
 Serving Deacons TBA, TBA
 Candle Lighter Patrick Pigford
 Bible Carrier Haleigh Lopez



We welcome two additional congregations who now use our facilities at First Christian Church:

Bread of Life Pentecostal Worship Center

Sundays at 2 PM
 Contact Pastor Hemmingway at (209) 234-6762

Iglesia de Dios Neopentecostes

(Spanish speaking services)
 Sundays at 7 AM
 Tuesdays at 7 PM
 Contact Pastor Ortiz at (209) 465-3114 or Daniel Lozoya at (209) 234-2628.



Bookmobile Schedule

For September the scheduled times are Tuesday the 7th and 21st from 3:30–5:10 PM at **Ishi Goto St. and EWS Woods Blvd.**

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ & United Church of Christ)
 1234 William Moss Blvd. Stockton, CA 95206

Church & School Office ♦ (209) 982-1212
 Church Office fax phone ♦ (209) 982-1232
 The Tower (published monthly)
 First Christian Church Web Site ♦
<http://home.pacbell.net/fcc1234>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Children's Center Hours: 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Vaughn F. Beckman, Acting Pastor
Pastor's Cell Phone ♦ 518-7295
Email Address ♦ MaluhiaGuy@aol.com
 Dr. Karl Irvin, Jr., Minister Emeritus
 Rev. Ronald Frazier, Minister Emeritus
 Tara Richmond, Financial Administrator
Email Address ♦ fcc1234@pacbell.net
 Mike Wilson, Moderator
 Tyler Malotte, Chapman Student

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY CENTER STAFF

Patricia Anaya, Director
 Julie Jackson, Assistant Director
 Lidia Chaves, Cook
 Teaching Staff: Jerry Preciado, Maria Rodriguez, Khue Xiong, Aida Ambriz, Teresita Castro, Mina Halimi, Gayle Grant, Lenise Haney, Nicole Heater, Debra Mariano, Sajia Salehi, Amanda Hart, Samantha Lang



Festival of Unity: Water for Life

September 19, 1-4 p.m.

Waterfront Plaza (501/509 W. Weber Ave.)

On Sunday, September 19, Stockton Metro Ministry is sponsoring its third community-wide Festival of Faiths featuring multiple opportunities to learn about the religious and cultural aspects of our All-American City.

Activities include:

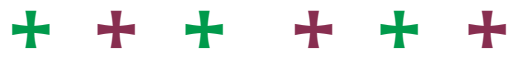
- Cultural/faith demonstrations every half-hour beginning at 1:30
- Panels of faith representatives dialoguing on the significance of water in religious practices and teachings
- A series of speakers relating fascinating facts and predictable expectations about water issues on local, state and global levels
- Water games and demonstrations for children and youth in keeping with the theme of good water stewardship
- Individual faith tables

Attendees are encouraged to bring finger foods to share at a community refreshment table. Beverages and paper goods will be provided.

For more information contact the Metro Office at 465-4611.

Our Church Calendar

- Monday, September 6th
CDC/FCC Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- Sunday, September 12th—
 Gideon Support Sunday
- Monday, September 13th—
 5:00 PM, *Tower* Submissions Deadline
 (for October issue)
 7:00 PM, Board Meeting
- Sunday, September 19th—
 10:30 AM, **Round Up Sunday Celebration**
 (potluck following service)
- Wednesday, September 22nd—
Tower Mailing
- Sunday, September 26th—
 (Pastor Vaughn’s last Sunday. He will begin
 in San Jose on October 1)



PowerPoint Helper Needed
 during Sunday morning service. This
 opportunity of service will provide
 blessings to many. For more
 information contact the church
 office at 982-1212.



September Birthdays

- 4 Tylor Dundee-Sheats
- 7 Adolfo Garcia
- 8 Vaughn Beckman
- 9 Steve Shepard
- 15 Darice Wilson
- 20 Nancy Bernardino



September Anniversaries

- 9 Dick & Gayle Thornton



What Kind of Church?

by Victor M. Parachin, Lincolnshire, Illinois
(Taken from The Disciple)

The church will be what we make it!

It will be a *friendly church* only if
 we are friendly, open and inclusive.

It will be a *growing church* only if
 we are growing people who seize
 opportunities for regular worship,
 study and witness.

It will be an *accepting church* only if
 we are accepting of others and
 tolerant of differing viewpoints.

It will be an *ecumenical church* only if
 we are truly ecumenical and respect
 other’s religious preferences.

It will be a *model church* only if
 we are model people working together
 with one heart, one mind one love.

It will be a *praying church* only if
 we are praying people, individually
 and corporately.

It will be a *giving church* only if
 we are giving people who share generously
 of our time, talents and assets.

It will be a *spiritual church* only if
 we allow the spirit of Christ to work
 in and through our lives.

Big Valley Renaissance Meeting

(Northern CA Transgender Chapter)


Saturday, September 11, 7 to 9 PM

Workshop: “How to put on Makeup in 15 minutes or less!”
 and “Learn to Dance!”

Contact Sarah or Silia at (209) 915-4599.

**SOW
RECONCILIATION.
REAP
JUSTICE.**

Mark 4:1-20



Your gifts to the Reconciliation Mission offering help Disciples eliminate the root causes of racism in your region and all over North America. Give generously to sow reconciliation.

www.reconciliationmission.org Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Offerings will be collected Sunday, September 26 and October 3.

Reconciliation Special Offering - September 26 and October 1

Dear Members and Friends of First Christian Church: This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court ground breaking decision known as Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. It provided that “separate but equal” was indeed “separate and unequal.” Forty years ago the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Rights Act which prohibited discrimination based upon race, religion, or sex in all institutions receiving federal funds. As a result the United States is a different and better nation.

For the past 37 years, your Reconciliation Mission has been working on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to ensure that the spirit of these watershed decisions is never lost. Your gifts to **Reconciliation Mission** help Disciples contribute to the progress that we have made against systematic racism, individual prejudice, and bigotry. Thank you for enabling this vital ministry and for your commitment to the eradication of all forms of systematic oppression, especially racism.

I wish I could say our work is complete! Clearly our task remains. Thank you for being part of a faith community committed to working for reconciliation and hope for all persons.

Give generously to the **Reconciliation Mission** offering. Sow Reconciliation. Reap Justice.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Vaughn Beckman



*Best Wishes to
Pastor Vaughn Beckman
who leaves us at the end of September.
Pastor Vaughn has been called
to be Senior Minister
at the First Christian Church,
San Jose.*



CDC NEWS

What a wonderful month I have had here at the center. Sometimes I feel that I may be working on commission, or the CDC should have revolving doors in the office. “OH” better yet, if we could have those recorded wands that visitors get when they visit certain museum/ attractions; all visitors would have to do is press the button and it tells them about the place that they’re visiting. I need one for each of the classrooms, this way when I have a prospective parent I hand one over and let the recorder do all the talking. “Ok” maybe seven wands is not in our budget, but can we check into having a recorded box in each room, that way parents can walk up to the box and listen to the recording each teacher made about themselves and the classroom they are visiting. I know what your thinking—then what would I be needed for, well you can’t blame a girl for trying.

I must admit, having the center slow and quiet has been kind of nice for me and the other staff; more one on one with the students, more bonding time with the “new” students, not as frightening on the first day of preschool. On the other side of this, some of the staff watch like hawks when they see a “new” child come in to visit, wondering which class the child will be in. Believe it or not I’ve caught some of them “high-fiving” each other when they get a new student added to the attendance roster (they must think they get paid by the child rather than by the hour). It truly is all in good fun.

Well, I’m excited to see what September brings to the center. I know we will be getting ready for our annual Christmas brochure fund-raiser, and preparation will begin for our “Fall Festival.” Last but not least, possibly being at capacity by the end of the month, that would complete the month.

Keep us in your prayers—with God’s help anything is possible.

Lots of smiles,
Patricia Anaya
CDC Director



Ponderings of the Pastor

“Round Up” Celebration Sunday



There is nothing finer than a church community coming together; especially after a busy and hectic summer. Time keeps marching forth. Autumn will be upon us before we know it. In celebration of our faith community, we will be launching a special “Round Up” Celebration on **Sunday, September 19.**

This occasion will commemorate several things:

1. **A Church Homecoming** - celebrating our 153 years. We are calling forth all members and friends of the past to unite with us.
2. **A Friendship Day** - welcoming our friends and neighbors. Like we did so successfully at

Easter, let’s make a commitment to invite 5 people or couples. Write their names down, pray for them, find special ways to draw them in.

3. **A Perfect Attendance Commitment** - let’s go the extra mile in making sure “everyone” is in attendance that day.

4. **A Day of Opportunity** - if you are not a member, consider joining on this Sunday. Pray about becoming part of this loving and affirming church community.

Special activities will be provided for kids and adults alike, pie eating contest and more! Good ole camp fire and gospel music will ring throughout the morning. The worship service will begin at **10:30 AM** and will be followed by a **western style potluck.**

Come dressed in western attire and unite with *your* church on this special day!

Endings and New Beginnings

I wrote back in March that I had no doubt that God was calling me to step in and be your “acting” pastor during the past 6 months. It has been a delight and honor. We have gone through much transition and change during that time.

As you begin searching for a new pastor, I too have pondered my own future, and the call of God in my life.

After much prayer, contemplation and consideration, I have decided to accept the call to be **Senior Minister at the First Christian Church, San Jose.** This was no easy decision for me. I have come to admire and appreciate each and every one of you. Leaving will be hard.

However, God’s call cannot be so easily dismissed. Just like you, the San Jose church has gone through much this past year. I feel led to help direct them forward. It is especially meaningful to go back to the church where I was ordained just over 10 years ago.

I will not forget you. My prayers are ever with you. I pray God’s spirit will shine forth as you select your new pastor. That person will be blessed, indeed.

I leave you with several words of admonition:

1. **Believe in and commit yourself to your mission statement**—“being” and doing” the good news of Jesus Christ.
2. **Never stray from that commitment.**
3. **Be true community**—resolve to work as a “team”, not as “solo” Christians.
4. **Develop and celebrate your lay leadership.**

We will stay in touch. Being together in the same “small” region is a blessing. Keep me informed of your happenings, and I will do the same.

May God’s blessing flow forth upon this caring and loving community of believers!

Pastor Vaughn

(Pastor Vaughn’s last Sunday will be September 26th. He will begin in San Jose on October 1.)

A Letter of Thanksgiving . . .

Greater Stockton Emergency Food Bank

Dear First Christian Church:

I want to thank you for the wonderful work of your volunteers for our Saturday morning opening project.

As your volunteers heard while they were here, we operate with only a few paid staff and the help of hundreds of community volunteers. In the past year, we logged over 42,000 volunteer hours—so you can appreciate how important your work is to us.

So many thanks for the work and enthusiasm of your members!

Sincerely yours,

Tim Viall
Executive Director



*First Christian Church is
an open and affirming
congregation where
everyone is welcome.
We are a partnership
congregation representing
the Disciples of Christ and
the United Church of Christ.*

Sunday School | **Sunday Worship**
for all ages: 9:30 a.m. | **10:30 a.m.**

(child care provided)

982-1212

fcc1234@pacbell.net
home.pacbell.net/fcc1234

First Christian Church
1234 William Moss Blvd.
Stockton, CA 95206

Return Service Requested
Time-sensitive material mailed August 25, 2004

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Stockton, CA
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