**CCNC-N Annual Gathering**

“We Come Together at the Table” is the theme for the 163rd Annual Gathering of the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada, a gathering set for Friday and Saturday, April 28-29 at First Christian Church in Concord.

The Gathering will include a message by Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, founder and senior pastor of City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland. Dr. Flunder started the City of Refuge UCC congregation with 15 members in 1991, and has grown to be a church with a profound ministry in inter-city San Francisco and Oakland but reaching across the country and into Mexico, three countries in Africa and most recently into Asia. She is a published author and was the keynote speaker for the White House observance of the 26th Anniversary of World AIDS Day.

Also preaching will be Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean Carl Patton Professor of Preaching at Pacific School of Religion. A good many of our pastors around our northern California region learned the art of preaching from Dr. Turner. She too is the author of several books including The God We Seek, Old Testament Words: Reflections on Preaching, and The Storyteller’s Companion to the Bible: Prophets.

Our regional minister, Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, will also address the gathering during the “Worshipping and Working Together” session on Saturday morning.

Delegates and interested persons from our seventy churches around the region will gather for two days of worship, learning, inspiration, challenge and fellowship. There will also be a pre-event beginning at noon on Friday.

We are allowed two voting delegates to the Annual Gathering…and neither of our two elected delegates are able to attend the April 28-29 Gathering, so if you would like to attend as a delegate, please speak with Larry. (The church pays the registration for our church’s delegates.) Though we are allowed only two delegates, anyone else who would like to attend is welcome.

Cost is $135 for the weekend ($60 for youth) and $105 for Saturday only. Youth can attend for $60 ($30 for Saturday only). Child registration is $20 ($10 for Saturday only). Registration forms can be printed off the regional website or done online at ccncn.org. Registration forms are also available in the church office.

Youth will stay overnight at FCC, Concord. Please speak to Larry if you have any questions.

Here is the schedule for the 2017 CCNC-N Annual Gathering:

Friday, April 27th:

12-2:30 p.m.—Pre-session—facilitated book discussion of Dr. William Barber’s book The Third Reconstruction. The book can be secured at Amazon.com. Lunch will be served--$15.

3 p.m.—Registration at First Christian Church in Concord

5-6 p.m.—Dinner at FCC Concord

6:15 p.m.—Gathering and Singing and Announcements in the Sanctuary

7:00 p.m.—Worship featuring Bishop Yvette Flunder

9-10:30 p.m.—Fellowship at Crowne Plaza Suites

Saturday, April 29th:

8 a.m.—Breakfast at First Christian Church, Concord

9 a.m.—Gathering, Singing, and Announcements in Sanctuary

9:30 a.m.—Worshiping and Working Together featuring a message from Dr. LaTaunya Bynum

12 noon—Lunch

1-2 p.m.—A Circle of Inquiry facilitated by the regional Justice Commission

2:15 p.m.—Workshop Sessions

3:45 p.m.—Gathering and Singing and Closing Worship with Dr. Mary Donovan Turner

**Mission Trip 2017**

The annual mission trip sponsored by the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada is scheduled for Holy Week, April 10-14. This year’s mission trip is once again to the Lake County area to assist residents in the process of rebuilding following the devastating fires from the past two years. Participants can sign up for the whole week…and stay in the Middletown area for the whole week, or can sign up for a day or two. Cost for the whole week is only $250 and cost for each day is $50. The cost pays for meals and housing. Our church also has money in our mission trip fund to help pay the way for any persons who are interested. Sharon Armus, Becky Gordon, Sue Tarleton or Larry Love can give you more details. Larry has registration forms at the church office. Registration and payment must be in the regional office by April 1st.

**Pastor’s Class**

Each year we offer children, youth and adults the opportunity to be baptized during the Easter season either on Easter Sunday or on one of the Sundays following Easter. In preparation for baptism, Pastor Larry is offering a baptism preparation class which will meet from 12 noon to 1 p.m. after Sunday worship. The class is also open to persons who have been baptized in another congregation but who would like to join this church. The class will touch on the basic meaning of baptism, what it means to be a baptized person, what it means to be a follower of Jesus, what the church is all about, and a brief review of the history of our congregation and of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you would like to join the class, please call Larry Love at 662-9356.

**Lenten Lunches 2017**

The schedule for the remaining Lenten Lunches sponsored by Woodland Ecumenical and Multi-Faith Ministries is as follows:

* Wednesday, March 29th, 12 noon at the Latter Day Saints church on Cottonwood (just south of Gibson Road).
* Wednesday, April 5th, 12 noon at St. John’s United Church of Christ.

But then during Holy Week the luncheon will be on Friday, April 14th at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and co-hosted by Greater Second Baptist Church. A Good Friday service will follow the lunch. Please join us for these Lenten worship times together.

**Lenten Study Series**

The Wednesday evening Lenten Study Series continues through Wednesday, April 12th. We begin with a potluck at 6 p.m., and then discuss and take some time to practice some spiritual discipline. We meet in Parker Hall and finish up by 8 p.m. Even if you have missed the first three sessions, you are welcome to join us. Each of the weeks is a different spiritual practice or conversation around the importance of a particular practice, so you don’t need to have been present for all of the previous gatherings to benefit from our evening together. All are welcome to join us for the remaining weeks of our study.

**Conversations on Immigration Issues**

There are two conversations on the subject of immigration coming up in the near future and members of our church are welcome to attend either.

The first of those two conversations is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th, 6 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Sponsored by St. Luke’s and Woodland Ecumenical and Multi-Faith Ministries, this gathering will begin with a potluck at 6 p.m. followed by the conversations on immigration. Among those sharing thoughts will be Dr. John Bringhurst, Stake President for the Latter Day Saints and Rev. Terri Hobart, pastor of St. Luke’s. All are welcome.

The second conversation is scheduled for the following evening, Wednesday, April 7th, 6-8 p.m., also at St. Luke’s in the church’s Great Hall. This will be a forum on immigration sponsored by State Senator Bill Dodds. All interested persons are invited.

**St. John’s United Church of Christ 125th**

**Anniversary Celebration**

April 29th and 30th will be the date for the celebration of 125 years of life and ministry for our sister church, St. John’s United Church of Christ. The schedule for their celebration is:

Saturday, April 29, 2017:

* 5 p.m.—reception in the sanctuary
* 6 p.m.—dinner in the Social Hall

Sunday, April 20, 2017:

* 10 a.m.—Celebratory Worship Service in the Sanctuary

All are welcome. For more information you may call the church at 662-5921.

**Round About Us**

**Larry and Nancy Love** and Nancy’s sister, **Cindy Ryness**, traveled to Portland, Oregon recently for a graveside service at the Willamette National Cemetery for Nancy and Cindy’s aunt. Though it was a very quick trip Larry got to visit with his brother David in Portland and his brother Mike in Creswell, Oregon. Nancy and Cindy got to be together for several hours with seven of their ten cousins on the Martin side of their family. It was good to touch base with so many relatives.

**Donna Aukes** enjoyed a visit from Harvey’s brother and sister-in-law, **Roger and Carol Aukes** from Buffalo Center, Iowa. Roger and Carol had driven all across the country for the visit.

**Marj Hanson** enjoyed a surprise visit from a grandson-in-law who was in Sacramento on business. He had time to stop in Woodland for dinner with Marj. He brought flowers and Marj shared them as decoration for the church on Sunday.

**Jack and Wanda Freeman** enjoyed a visit from Jack’s nephew, wife and two small children from Missouri. They had a great time together.

It’s good to have **Cathie Wicks** back from her three week visit with family in Iowa.

**Del Zeiger** and **Lon Springer** represented our church at a racial reconciliation workshop sponsored by WEMM on Saturday, March 11th.

**Larry Love,** his sister-in-law, **Cindy Ryness**, and nephew, **Robert Ryness** attended the NCAA first round games played at Golden 1 Arena in Sacramento on Friday, March 17th. They watched Larry’s Oregon Ducks defeat Iona 93-77 and then watched the University of Rhode Island defeat Creighton University. (On Sunday Larry’s Ducks barely snuck by a feisty Rhode Island team to advance to the Sweet Sixteen on the NCAA Tourament.)

(If you have news of your family or the church family that you would like included in the Oakleaflet, please contact Larry.)

**DOMINO’S**

**April 7, 2017 – 6:30 pm**

**“Easter Blessings”**

**100 Greenwood**

**Hostess: Karen Webber**

**Please bring a pot luck dish**

**to share and a gift ($5)**

**that goes with theme.**