

The Country Christian



Sierra Christian Church

Representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville and surrounding areas

February 2012

Farewell Celebration for Bill & Nancy Garrett

Sunday, February 19th

10:30 am *Worship, with Regional Minister,
Ben Bohren and special music
guest Michael Morton*

Noon *Pot Luck Fellowship Meal and
Farewell Celebration*

1:30 pm *Concert by Michael Morton,
flutist*



*Michael Morton,
acoustic jazz flutist*

*A day for celebrating the past and
looking forward to the future.*

Additional details will come soon.

Journeys with the Pastor

It seems like the time really flies these days. It seems like we just finished taking down the Christmas decorations and then we found ourselves in Epiphany. Now it's almost time to enter into the season of Lent.

I don't know about you, but the season of Lent has often challenged me to live outside of my comfort zone. In the back of my mind (and sometimes out loud), I'm still humming some of the Christmas carols. The bright lights and cheerful moods brought about during Christmas lingers in my mind. I'm not ready to move too far away from that feeling. Even Epiphany offers the visit to the manger and the celebration of recognizing that Christ is among us...Emmanuel!

And then comes Lent, with its often challenging call to travel deeper into our relationship with Christ and find out where we are in this journey. In some ways, such a challenge seems too soon for me to get my head and heart involved in what can often be deep work.

But then something else happens as I think and prepare for Lent. I remember the times when I have prepared for a test. Hard work, but a true feeling of satisfaction. I remember the times when I have prepared for a trip. A lot of details, but a good experience of having a sense of knowing where I was going, how I would get there, and what I might see when I arrive. I remember the times when I have prepared for a project. A lot of checking and double checking to see if my assumptions were correct and the project would be successful. And then the project unfolds and I realize that all the preparation work was not only necessary but also a time of learning – about the project but also about me.

In other words, yes, preparation takes work but it also has great rewards.

The season of Lent is also about preparation...our preparation for the glory of Easter. It's about our journey to go deeper into our thoughts and feelings about who we are in light of our relationship with Christ. It's about what we will experience when we get to the destination and sing, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

I am guessing this Lenten season won't quite be the same like the last few years. In fact, I'm not sure what it will be like. But, I have the confidence that the journey will offer the same invitation to look inside of ourselves and to see what it means to celebrate Easter, the risen Christ.

So, pack your bags and bring your lunch because the journey is about to begin. But then, maybe it's just a continuation of the journey of life...just another leg of the trip. Let each one of us have a great journey!

Worship in February

Sunday, February 5

Worship Leader: Judy Bever

Elder: Jean Weathers

Sunday, February 12

Worship Leader: Diane Wilson

Elder: Cliff Cole

Sunday, February 19

Worship Leader: Nancy Garrett

Elder: Donna Sapp

Sunday, February 26

Worship Leader: Karen Steinke

Elder: Suzanne Awalt

We come together this morning to remind
one another,
To rest for a moment on the forming edge
of our lives,
To resist the headlong tumble into the next
moment,
Until we claim for ourselves awareness and
gratitude,
Taking the time to look into one another's
faces,
And see their communion: the reflection of
our own eyes.
This house of laughter and silence,
memory and hope,
is hallowed by our presence together.
Kathleen McTigue

Week of Compassion

For many, this past year has been financially challenging. At the same time, our sisters and brothers are struggling in the developing world and in parts of North America where disaster has struck or poverty exists. We are in this together. We share a planet and many of the same dreams – dreams as simple as finding a job or providing our family with enough to eat and a roof over their heads. Yet so many do not have even the basic necessities of life.

Yet *there is enough* to go around. God created a world of abundance, with enough resources to feed and sustain the entire world. Our task is to share that good news of *enough* by sharing what we have.

For 68 years, Week of Compassion has been making a difference by funding relief and development all over the world. Your gift ensures that people in need will get what they need, and moves us one step closer to making sure everyone has the chance to live.

This year's Week of Compassion Special Offering will be received February 26 and March 4. Our giving fills the world with joy!

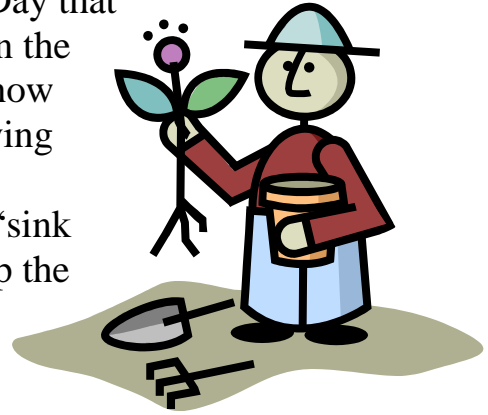


All-Church “Let’s Gather Outdoors For Some Fun” Day aka Work Day

Saturday, February 4

Yep, there’s some left over projects from Miracle Day that we need to finish. Plus, it’s that time of the year when the weeds are full of energy and just can’t wait to show how fast they can grow. Some of the projects include moving the pile of sand from the parking lot, working on the pathways (if we get a roller), filling the garden road “sink hole” perhaps with the drain rocks on hand, spruce up the church inside and out, and whatever else we can find to do.

We’ll start at 9:00 am. Please come!



Search and Call Committees

The Board has approved the creation of two Search and Call Committees for the tasks of finding the pastor of our congregation. The first committee will be working on finding an interim minister. The Elders have accepted the responsibility for this search and have already been meeting. A spokesperson for this group will be named who will provide updates to the congregation. The second committee will work on finding the permanent minister. Judy Bever has agreed to chair this committee.

During this time, your gift of prayer and support for these committees will be very important.

Lenten Labyrinth Walk

On the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, a Labyrinth Walk will be offered. It will be an informal time to gather and walk the labyrinth path, as we begin the Lenten Journey of introspection, reunification with the Divine, and refocusing our attention to personal call, intention, and ministry – “from our doorstep to the ends of the earth.” It will take about an hour, at most. Contact Diane Wilson for additional information.



The Budget Box

Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12 July 1 – January 31 (seven months)			
General Offering		Special Day Offerings	
Budgeted Amount	\$52,163.46	Outreach Goals for Year	\$6,050.00
<i>Per week (avg.)</i>	\$1,682.69	Actual Giving YTD	\$2,140.78
Amount Given	\$49,277.25	Difference	(\$3,909.22)
<i>Per week (avg.)</i>	\$1,589.59	Special Funds Giving	\$8,142.91
Difference	(\$93.10)	Memorials to Endowment	\$1,135.00
Accumulated Difference	(\$2,886.21)	Total of All Giving	\$60,695.94

Last June at our congregational meeting we adopted a budget which called for a General Offering of \$7,291.67 per month, or an average of \$1,682.69 per week. This report shows that during January we increased our deficit in giving to the General Fund by \$1,000. In that budget we also anticipated the expenses the General Offering would cover. The result is that our Treasurer is having difficulty finding the funds to pay our budgeted expenses.

The challenge is for all of us to do some extra giving to the General Offering so that our Treasurer can pay our legitimately budgeted expenses. Also, we are expecting some additional unbudgeted expenses in connection with our Pastoral Search and Call procedures. It will take all of us, working together to meet this challenge. **We can do it!** Can we count on **you**? Submitted by Boyd Hughes

CCNC-N Annual Meeting **158th Annual Meeting April 20-22, 2012** **Sofitel Hotel in Redwood City**

Tell It!

***Cultivating Disciples of Christ to be dynamic “evangels,”
sharing the good news of God’s transforming love.***

New location...same wonderful community!

New lodging...same genuine fellowship!

New meeting spaces...same incredible worship and workshops!

New attendees...same Christian love abounds!

Go to www.ccncn.org for additional registration information and registration.

The Country Christian is a monthly publication of Sierra Christian Church. For more information about the church or to contact us, please call 916-624-8733 or 916-899-8752. Or visit our website at www.sierrachristian.com.

WHO We Are

We are a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a member of the Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada. Our Vision is:

*To Welcome and Nurture all people
as We Become more Faithful Together
in a Loving Relationship with God.*

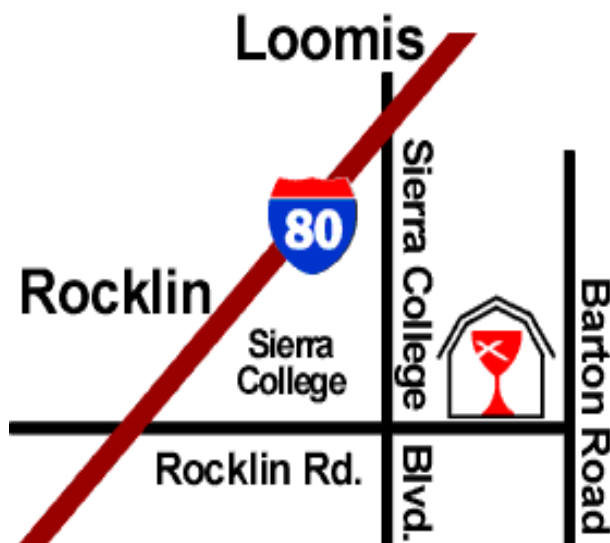
WHERE We Are

5645 Rocklin Rd, in Loomis.

DIRECTIONS: Exit I-80 at Rocklin Road and go east past Sierra College. The church is on the left, about ½ mile past Sierra College Blvd. We are on top of a hill. Look for the beautiful red barn overlooking the wonders of God’s nature!

Our Church Staff

Ministers.....Our Congregation
Senior Pastor.....Rev. Bill Garrett
pastorbill@sierracc.net
Organist/Pianist.....Jean Weathers
Editor.....Jim Watkins
jim.watkins@comcast.net



Come, Worship with Us

Our Worship begins at 10:30 on Sunday morning and we invite you to come join with us as we experience the fullness of God’s presence in word, sacrament, song and prayer. Each Sunday we share this time together to be informed and inspired to know, love and serve God in meaningful ways. We also invite you to enjoy our fellowship time, with warm hospitality and refreshments, immediately following our worship. Please know that you are greatly welcomed!