

## FCCF Calendar

### Sermon Seminar Study

Every Sunday 8:30 a.m.-Fireside Room

### Chick Flicks

Every 1st Sunday 2:00 p.m.-Hoyts' home

### Spiritual Services in Minturn Chapel

Taize Worship Every 1st Monday 7:30 p.m.

### Another Voice Bible Study

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.-Fireside Room

### Youth Group

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

### Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Every Wednesday 7:00 p.m.-Sanctuary

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### Annual Reports Due!

### Thursday, January 5

7:00 p.m. Another Voice-Fireside Room

### Friday, January 6

1:30 p.m. Memorial Service for Marian Morris-Sanctuary

### Sunday, January 8

11:30 a.m. All-Ministries Budget Roundtable-Parlor

### Wednesday, January 11

5:45 p.m. Sacred Pursuits (Jan. 11,18, 25)-Parlor

### Thursday, January 12

4:30 p.m. MOR Meeting-Parlor

### Friday, January 13

6:00 p.m. Taize Prayer Weekend (January 13-14)

### Saturday, January 14

8:00 a.m. Taize Prayer Weekend

### Sunday, January 15

11:30 a.m. Budget Hearing-Parlor

### Tuesday, January 17

6:00 p.m. Council-Parlor

### Wednesday, January 18

5:45 p.m. Sacred Pursuits-Parlor

### Thursday, January 19

7:00 p.m. Another Voice Bible Study-Fireside Room

### Sunday, January 22

11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting & Luncheon-FH

## First Congregational Church Staff

Minister	The Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent
Visitation Assistant	The Rev. Walter Banks
Administrator	Amelia De Castro
Music Director, Organist	Scott Horton
Coordinator of Youth Ministries	Tucker Russell
Van Driver, Nursery	Mary Westrick
Nursery Assistant	Laurie Comely
Custodian	Pete Espinoza
Caretaker	Pat Morales

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**Accountant:** Penny Leas Peterson

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Catherine Cooper

**INTERIM NCNC MINISTER:** Rev. Philip Hart

**ASSOC. CONF. MINISTER:** Rev. Marty Williams

**MODERATOR:** Paula Roberts 978-8844

**VICE MODERATOR:** Alan Fry 259-1936

### Church Address:

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704

**Church Phone:** 559-227-8489

**Fax:** 559-227-8490

**Church Office Email:** office@bigredchurch.org

**Rev. Norman Broadbent's Email:**

minister@bigredchurch.org

**Home Phone:** 559-275-5057

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday, January 12, 4 p.m.

**Will be mailed on Wednesday, January 18, 2012**

*Please express your intentions to contribute as soon as possible to the church office for layout purposes.*

### NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

Call Mary at 233-6076

## Sunday Worship

10 a.m. Service

January 8

*Angels Watching Over Me*

Matthew 2 (selected verses)

January 15

*The Crackpot in the Desert*

Mark 1:4-11

January 22

**Annual Meeting Sunday**

*Christian Enough?*

Mark 1:14-20

*Child Care is provided in Room 1  
for ages 4 and under during the worship hour.*

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*January 4, 2012 Issue, Volume 13, No. 1*

## Pastor's Posting

Have you had moments when the proverbial light goes on and your answer appears? Many people call this type of experience an "epiphany." January 4, 2012, is- in the Christian calendar- the feast of Epiphany. This important liturgical feast is celebrated by Christians around the globe as we commemorate the revelation of God in the person of Christ.

On January 4, many Christian families in other parts of the world will sit down to a delicious Epiphany tradition, the "Galette des Rois" or more commonly called, "kings cake." In a kings' cake a small trinket is hidden. Whoever finds the trinket is made king (or queen) for the day. Finding the trinket symbolizes receiving a revelation just as the three kings received the revelation of Jesus, the Christ.

What we celebrate as Epiphany in the Western Christian tradition is observed in Eastern Orthodox churches the way we do Christmas- the birth of Christ, the exchange of gifts, the coming of the Light of the World into human-kind.

It would be nice if all answers and revelations were as easy as eating a delicious piece of cake. However, most answers come to us after we have searched, waited and prayed. Matter of fact, some answers come to us after countless attempts of running up the wrong hill! Sometimes our searches take us to new places. At other times what we discover is completely different than what we thought we would find. The words of T.S. Eliot from

**The Grapevine** is a bi-weekly publication of the First Congregational Church of Fresno, UCC.

Articles and announcements are due the Thursday before publication. The items should be typed and left at the reception desk in the church office or (preferably) emailed to [office@bigredchurch.org](mailto:office@bigredchurch.org). Please include your name and phone number.

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## Church Family News

### Prayers

Prayers of healing Suzi Popovich, Art Hill, Mary Jane Munson and all with health concerns.

Continued prayers for Lois Vackar, Lora Lee Kizer, Mary Ellen Graham, Trudy Laudig, Trish Shepard.

### Memorial Service for Marian Morris

The family of Marian Morris invite the congregation to share with them in a celebration of Marian's life and faith on Friday, **January 6** at 1:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

### January Birthday

Happy birthday to those who celebrated or will be celebrating their special day this month!

January 2 Marilyn Fogal  
5 Deanna Householder  
9 David Klingensmith  
10 Trudy Laudig, Bitsy Wagman  
16 Louise Roberts  
17 Barbara Zimmerman, Wanda Lentell  
20 Patrick Mosley  
22 Bruce Morris  
25 Harold Householder  
26 Jenny Rempel, Eleanor Roberson  
27 Olivia Krenz  
29 Laurie Comely  
31 Mary Jane Barbian, Sam Mills

### Printed Sermon Copies

There are printed copies of Rev. Dr. Broadbent's sermons made available in the church office. Additional copies can be provided on request.

### Ministries'/Council Roundtable

It is urgently requested that all members of each Ministry meet with members of the Church Council this Sunday, **January 8**, at 11:30 am for a vital conversation regarding meeting the shortfall in the 2012 budget. As current pledge commitments have been received, we are needing to meet a \$25,000 gap in the proposed 2012 budget. The Ministry of Resources and Council request all ministries be fully present so that complete clarity and transparency will be part of difficult recommendations that will be presented at the January 15 Congregational Budget Hearing, and voted upon at the January 22 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.



### Sacred Pursuits Resumes on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Rev. Sophia DeWitt will lead a three part Sacred Pursuits series to lead off the new year. Starting January 11, "Christ In Art" will explore the many variations of Christ as depicted through numerous cultural expressions and time periods. The DVD-prompted discussions will delve into the varying theological interpretations of artists, as well as to view various media in which Christ in art has been expressed. The sessions will be held in the Parlor, and participants are invited to bring a brown bag dinner.

### Another Voice Bible Study

A reminder that Another Voice Bible study meets the first and third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. This Bible study is oriented toward interpretive understandings of justice, reconciliation, and reading scripture through the lens of persons of the LGBT community. Tucker Russell is the facilitator.

### Pastor's Posting Continues...

"Little Giddings" has a much more poetic way of speaking the Epiphany insight: "And the end of our journey shall be to arrive where we began...and to know it for the first time."

Happy New Year, and happy epiphanies for 2012!

Pastor Norman

### Budget Hearing January 15

On Sunday, **January 15**, following worship, there will be an open hearing for the entire congregation on the 2012 budget. This will be a hearing (without vote) on what is to be presented to the congregation for final adoption at its Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

### Annual Meeting and Luncheon

On Sunday, **January 22**, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be convened following morning worship. A luncheon will be provided, for which advance reservations are requested in order to accurately plan on the amount of food to prepare. At the annual meeting the congregation will approve reports of the Ministries and Staff, adopt a budget for 2012, elect and install new officers and Ministry chairpersons.

### Galloway Evensong

At 4 pm on Sunday, **January 29**, Scott Horton will present the annual Galloway Memorial Evensong. This annual event is a unique worship experience highlighting organ works, hymns, scripture and prayer. A free will offering will be received. This will be the last major organ event- other than worship- prior to the organ going silent following worship on February 26 for the next month. The first phase of our organ restoration will take place during all of Lent.



## More News...



### Sunday Morning Sermon Seminar

Each Sunday morning the preaching text from scripture is explored in-depth prior to the worship. This affords participants a broader and more focused understanding of how the text will be approached in the prompting offered by Pastor Norman, or other occasional preachers. The seminar meets at 8:30 am in the Fireside Room.

### Taize Prayer Weekend

Taizé Prayer Weekend 2012, an ecumenical Christian prayer event will be held **January 13-14**, 2012 at our church. It starts Friday evening at 6 p.m. with registration, coffee, and "How College Students Experience Spirituality" led by Tim Neufeld, Associate Professor at Fresno Pacific University. A Taizé worship service begins at 8 p.m. in our church sanctuary. (This Friday evening worship is open to the public.) Registration is \$25 for both days if received before Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and \$30 after that. For details, contact Elizabeth Nelson--[elizn@csufresno.edu](mailto:elizn@csufresno.edu)--431-2630. For registration or additional information go to <http://www.earthprayers.us/taizeprayerweekend.htm>.

**Registrations are now available in the church office.**

### Annual Cold Weather Gear

The Ministry of Community Outreach is once again sponsoring the collection of cold weather supplies for Poverello House and Naomi's House.



Please donate your extra blankets and other cold weather gear and sleeping bags. You may bring them and place in the red bin inside Fellowship Hall.