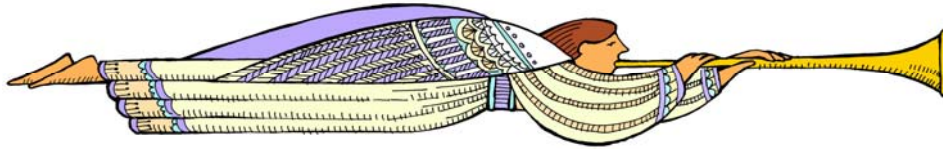


December 2010

# Steeple Talk



It is hard for me to believe that this is my third Advent/Christmas season with you here at Trinity. The rhythms of Advent at Trinity are becoming my rhythms for this time of year and I look forward to sharing this season together once again.

The Holiday Boutique.

The beauty of the sanctuary during the Advent season.

Wednesday evening fellowship and study.

Christmas caroling.

Our collections for the Adopt-A-Family families.

The Advent Cantata.

Candlelight worship of Christmas Eve.

And the stories of Christmases past we share and hold tenderly for one another.

This time of year is rich with both memory and expectation. Our hearts and minds are as busy as our hands and our feet these days as we move once more through the Advent/Christmas days. I think that is why I am especially grateful this time of year that we share this season.

As you move through your Advent/Christmas season this year may the memories and the hopes you carry bless your days, and may we discover once again the joy and the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us....* (John 1:14)

Advent and Christmas Blessings,

Evie

Trinity Presbyterian  
Church, Santa Cruz



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### Meetings:

**Administration Committee**, December 2, 4:00 pm, Library

**Mission Committee**, December 2, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room

**Deacons**, No Meeting in December

**Spiritual Enrichment Committee**, No Meeting in December

**Fellowship Committee**, No Meeting in December

**Session**, December 16, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room

### Dates to Remember:

**Advent Gatherings**, Wednesday Evenings, see insert

**Trinity Holiday Boutique**, December 4, 9:00 am—2:00 pm, Fireside Room and Youth Room

**Greening the Sanctuary**, December 5, 12:00 pm

**Sweet Pea**, December 11, 9:00 am—4:00 pm, Youth Room

**Christmas Caroling**, December 12, 3:45 pm, meet at the church

**Cantata Worship Service**, December 19, 10:30 am, Sanctuary

**Christmas Eve Service**, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary

**Book Club**, No meeting in December



## Trinity Committee News

### Session

The November meeting of the session was opened with prayer by Evie. During the devotion time Session members had the pleasure of receiving and welcoming new church member, Kenn Clark. Kenn is coming by letter of transfer from the First Presbyterian Church in Asheboro, NC. The Session also called a special meeting to receive three other members in December. All will be publicly received during worship on December 12.

The Session heard that the presbytery has requested changing the date that Trinity will host the presbytery meeting in 2011. Trinity will now be hosting the June 4 meeting of the presbytery. Look for more details soon on how to help Trinity welcome the San Jose Presbytery in June!

The Session committee reports included:

**Personnel:** The committee interviewed Sarah Macway for the position of Interim Youth Leader for the period of December 2010 to August 2011 or until a youth leader is hired. The Session moved, seconded and passed a motion to hire Ms. Macway. She will begin her duties December 5.

**Administration:** The committee reported that the preschool is moving ahead with plans to extend their care to include 18 month old to kindergarten age children. They would share the space that the church currently uses for nursery on Sunday mornings.

A subcommittee of the Adm. Committee will meet this month to finalize the proposed budget that will then be submitted to the Session for approval at the December meeting.

**Spiritual Enrichment:** Details were shared for the plans underway for many special Advent worship and educational opportunities. See articles in this newsletter for details. The Spiritual Enrichment committee is also the possibility for having an ongoing Sunday morning adult Sunday School.

**Stewardship:** Frank submitted a report on the total amount of pledges received to date—\$118,082.60, or 88% of our goal.

The Session set the date of the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, January 23, 2011 following worship. Though Juanita Stock will

*Continued next column*

not be serving as an active elder next year she has offered to continue on as clerk of the Session. Session members accepted her generous offer and elected her to serve as the clerk for 2011. Bob Scott and Emily Duffus were elected as church treasurers for 2011.

### Fellowship

On October 31st the Fellowship Committee provided a luncheon to accompany the Youth Group's Halloween activities. There was a great turn-out, making for a very successful fund-raiser. Coming up next, on December 19th, Fellowship will provide Christmas cookies and coffee following the Cantata, sung during the worship service. See you all there!

### Deacons

Deacons have been working on ways to reach out into the community. Look for Second Harvest Food Barrels and a box for jacket/coat donations in the narthex. Deacons will also help with grocery gift cards for Adopt-a-Family families.

### Attention Committee Chairpersons

The committee reports for the annual congregational meeting are due by January 11. It's not too early to start thinking about what might be included in your report. Please get your reports to the office as soon after the new year as possible. Thank you for your help.



### Thank You

Thanks goes to Russ Hobbs and his work team for the new clean, shiny finish on the Fellowship Hall floor. It looks great. Russ, Scott Whitley, Rob McClure, and Karen Wichelmann spent a Saturday last month cleaning and refinishing the floor for our holiday season. It looks great.

#### Year to Date Finance Report

January through October 2010

Total Income \$162,306.82

Total Expense 162,230.08

Net Income 560.13



## Wednesday Night Advent Studies

We will once again have our Wednesday evening Advent dinner and study sessions this December. The theme this year will be *Night Visions: Waiting Together for Christmas*.



See the newsletter insert for details on times and locations. These Wednesday evening gatherings are a nice time of reflection and fellowship in the midst of the often busy Advent/Christmas season.

## Trinity Choir Advent Cantata

The talented Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir will lead worship on Sunday December 19 as they share an Advent Cantata with the church community. The cantata, arranged by Joseph Ribeiro and Evie Macway is entitled *To Us A Child Is Born* and will be a combination of musical pieces and spoken word. It will be a part of our regular Sunday morning worship on the 19th. We look forward to this special Advent service.

## Advent Sermon Series

In addition to our traditional Advent candle lighting and singing of Advent hymns our Sunday morning worship will include a sermon series preached by Evie Macway. The series is titled *Hope, Peace, Courage: Waiting with Isaiah*. The texts for each Sunday are:

November 28 Hope: Waiting on Tiptoe

Isaiah 2:1-5

December 5 Peace: An Advent Dream?

Isaiah 11:1-9

December 12 Courage: Living Advent 'Fear Not'

Isaiah 35:1-10

The fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, we will be blessed in worship with the cantata, *Unto Us a Child is Born* shared with us by Joseph Ribeiro and our choir.

We look forward to our Advent worship services.

## Interim Youth Director

The Session is pleased to announce the hiring of Sarah Macway as Trinity's interim Youth Director, effective December 1, 2010. Sarah graduated from Stanford in June with a degree in biology and is currently pursuing her masters in education. She is student teaching in biology and general science and will be looking for her own classroom in the fall. Because of her commitment to the teaching profession, Sarah will be interim until August 2011.

Sarah comes to us with a solid background in youth programs, first as a youth in her church's program in Kentucky. Later she served as a children's ministry intern at Union Presbyterian Church in Los Altos, where she assisted in planning and preparing for day camp, as well as leading activities and small groups. She has also lead elementary Sunday school classes.

Sarah will be meeting with the youth in early December to plan activities and events. She is committed to planning and leading a summer mission experience. Sarah also is part of Trinity's delegation to El Salvador.

Please join the Personnel Committee and Session in welcoming Sarah to the Trinity staff.

## Trinity Book Club

The Book Club continues its gatherings on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 o'clock at Joanne Clever's home and new faces are always welcome. Call the church office 423-8995 for more information.



We will continue to have our coffee hour book sales, but we are making a small change. Jim Walters has built us a lovely moveable cart and we will have the books at coffee hour every Sunday. Books are \$2.00 for hardback and \$1.00 for paperback. So, please plan to browse through our books during coffee time and support the book sales. Proceeds go into the Youth Fund.

December - No meeting

January - "*In the Company of Liars*"  
by Karen Maitland

February - "*The Believers*" by Zoe Heller

## Things That Make Us Happy. . .

- To enjoy the Halloween party put on by the Fellowship Committee and the youth of the church. Fun was had by all and over \$400 was donated for the youth mission trip!
- To hear that the Deacons Coat Drive has collected more than 30 jackets so far. Keep them coming!
- To see the beautiful quilt in the office created by Diana Deane, to be donated to the Rebele Family Shelter.
- To hear that Sarah Macway will be the interim youth director beginning December 5. See the article on page 3.
- To see the new finish on the Fellowship Hall floor!



## Holiday Boutique

The 2010 Holiday Boutique is Saturday December 4 from 9 am—2 pm. The Boutique will have a bake sale, coffee/tea room as well. Mark your calendars and plan to bring a friend to the Boutique and Bake sale!



## Bake Sale

Along with the Boutique Sale we will be selling baked goodies and other small edible home-made things (jams, jellies, roasted nuts, toffee) - anything that comes out of kitchens!!! The Bake Sale will take place in the Fireside Room with coffee and tea for sale, too.

Please bring your goodies wrapped/packaged for sale to the Fireside Room. You may bring them on Friday or early Saturday.

## Christmas Poinsettias

As Christmas approaches we would once again like to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias. If you would like to memorialize or honor a loved one, or simply send a Christmas greeting to the church family with a poinsettia, please complete the order form (or call the church office with your order) attach a check or cash for \$10 per plant, and return by December 7. Place in the offering plate or leave in the church office.

## Christmas With The Chorale

The Santa Cruz Chorale & Friends

- \*Sunday, December 12, 2010, 4:00 pm  
Holy Cross Church, 170 High Street, Santa Cruz
- \*Saturday, December 18, 2010, 6:00 pm  
Our Lady help of Christians  
2401 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville
- \*Sunday, December 19, 2010, 4:00 pm  
Holy Cross Church  
170 High Street, Santa Cruz

The Chorale's Christmas concert will open with joyous motets from the Renaissance, followed by more meditative music from various periods praising the Mother Mary. Composers will include Orlando Gibbons, Jacob Hanl, Samuel Scheidt and Christopher Tye. The central composition of the program is a Santa Cruz first performance— Dietrich Buxtehude's charming "Das Neugebohrne Kindelein" ("The newborn child"), composed for choir, organ and string quartet. The second half of the concert will feature Christmas songs and lullabies from the Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Holland, Latvia, Russia and Venezuela, as well as traditional American carols.

## Got Pizza?

Woodstock's Pizza is again donating a portion of their proceeds to Santa Cruz al Salvador on December 6th, for every order placed using the special SCA\$ fundraising coupon. Coupons will be made available at church, once the current delegation returns from El Salvador.



Where:

Woodstock's Pizza

710 Front St.

Santa Cruz, California 95060

(831) 427-4444

When:

December 6th, 2010 between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

## How We Can Help

Trinity has a number of ways we can help those in need. Some of them are listed below, both local and international.

### Homeless Center

The Homeless Center provides showers, sleeping quarters, meals and laundry facilities for the homeless. They are in need of the following items:

Toiletries (such as soap, lotion, dental hygiene articles, shampoo, etc.) laundry detergent, socks, flip-flops. There is a basket in the Narthex for these donations.

### Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, international ministry with Christian roots. It provides home ownership opportunities to low-income families. These homes are built by volunteers and the family who is going to occupy the home. There is a nominal down payment and the mortgages are interest free. Trinity provides lunches for the volunteer workers on the 4th Tuesday of each month. If you can help in providing lunches on one of these days please contact Kate Miller or a member of the Mission Committee.

### Pennies for Peace

This is part of Greg Mortenson's program to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Most of these schools are built in rural areas where there are no schools. The program is known as Building Peace One School at a Time. The money raised is used to purchase building materials (the villagers build the schools themselves), teachers pay, school supplies and equipment, scholarships for the children and for higher education. There is a Pennies for Peace jar in the Narthex. Put your spare change in this jar when you come to church on Sundays and help to educate children and promote peace at the same time.

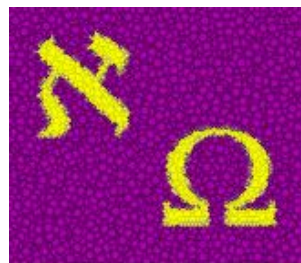


## The Meaning of "Advent"

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's in-breaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

<http://www.criovoice.org/cyadvent.html>



# December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Advent 6:00 pm, Hobbs' home	<i>2</i> Mission, 5:30 pm Admin. Meeting 4:00 pm Library	<i>3</i> Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>4</i> Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale 9:00 am -2:00 pm Fireside and Youth Rooms
<i>5</i> Worship 10:30 am "Greening of the Church" 12:00 pm	<i>6</i> Office Closed AA 7:30-9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>7</i> Boy Scouts 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall AA 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>8</i> Advent 6:00 pm, Duffus's home	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>11</i> Sweet Pea, 9:00 am—4:00 pm, Youth Room
<i>12</i> Worship 10:30 am Christmas Caroling 3:45 pm at church	<i>13</i> Office Closed AA 7:30-9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>14</i> Boy Scouts 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall AA 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>15</i> Advent 6:00 pm, Joanne Clever's home	<i>16</i> Session Meeting, 5:30 pm	<i>17</i> Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> Worship, Cantata "Unto Us A Child Is Born", 10:30 am	<i>20</i> Office Open AA 7:30-9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>21</i> AA 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall Newsletter Deadline	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Office Closed	<i>24</i> Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm Sanctuary	<i>25</i> Christmas Day
<i>26</i> Worship 10:30 am	<i>27</i> Office Closed AA 7:30-9:00 pm Fellowship Hall No Book Club meeting	<i>28</i> AA 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		
					YR=Youth Room FH=Fellowship Hall FS=Fireside Room	

# Trinity Birthdays and Anniversaries

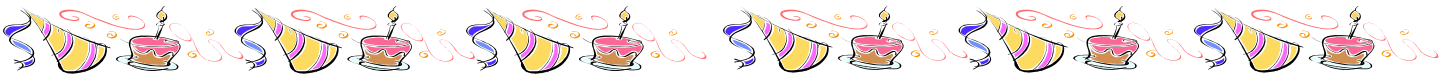
## December Birthdays

2 Timothy Powers  
5 Annalea Collins, Sarah Macway  
12 Tom Wichelmann  
24 Elizabeth Bunch  
31 Juanita Stock

## December Anniversaries

20 Tom and Karen Wichelmann

If you don't see your Birthday or Anniversary listed and would like it to be, please email the office at [trinitysc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trinitysc@sbcglobal.net) or call 423-8995 and let us know!



## What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women of the General Assembly Mission Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.



## History of the Christmas Joy Offering

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to an Advent offering. The Christmas Joy Offering dates back to the 1930s when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUSA) began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. It was first officially called the Joy Gift in 1949.

In the former United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA), a Christmas offering was first taken in 1960. Called the White Gift, its funds were used for general mission and world relief. In 1964 the name was changed to the Christmas Offering, and receipts provided support for health and welfare concerns related to children and continued until 1973, when the offering was used to assist former servants of the church who were living on inadequate pensions. In 1974 racial ethnic education was added, and in 1979 nursing home care assistance was also included. Funds were distributed evenly between the Board of Pensions and racial ethnic education.

In 1988 the PCUS and the UPCUSA offerings were joined into one offering, the Christmas Offering Joy Gift. It was agreed that neither the Board of Pensions nor the racial ethnic schools would suffer in the merger of the Joy Gift and the Christmas Offering. In 1989 the offering was renamed the Christmas Joy Offering, and in 1991 the 203rd General Assembly changed the distribution of funds to 50 percent to the Board of Pensions and 50 percent to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
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If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send us an email or give us a call. Thank you!

## Sunday Saints



### December Communion Servers

Elders—Ellen Bauerle and Wayne Norton  
Deacons—Pete Halper and Karen Wichelmann

	Greeter	Coffee	Usher
Dec. 5	Scott Whitley	Barbara Christie	Loren Edwards
Dec. 12	Sue Yeaney	Bookie Nichols	Russ and Mary Ann Hobbs
Dec. 19	Peggy Minier	Fellowship Committee	David Gomez
Dec. 26	Sally Walters	Sally Walters	The Blanchards or the Scotts

### January Communion Servers

Elders— Charlie May and Frank Miller  
Deacons—Joanne Clever