

December 2011

Steeple Talk

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Santa Cruz



Advent Waiting – Christmas Joy

*Our God is the One who comes to us
in a burning bush,
in an angel's song,
in a newborn child.*

*Our God is the One who cannot be found
locked in the church,
not even in the sanctuary.*

*Our God will be where God will be
with no constraints,
no predictability.*

*Our God lives where our God lives,
and destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop
the living.*

*Our God will be born where God will be born,
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.*

*When God is ready
God will come
even to a godforsaken place
like a stable in Bethlehem.*

*Watch...
for you know not when
God comes.*

*Watch, that you might be found
whenever
wherever
God comes.*



As we await the coming of God the Advent season, may we wait together with longing and with joy. Advent and Christmas Blessing, Evie

Poem entitled, *The Coming of God*, by Ann Weems, from her book of poems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Committee/Board News	2
Church News	3
Advent Activities	4
Wednesday Advent Gatherings	5
Calendar	6
The Non-Prophet Corner	7
Sunday Saints	8

Meetings:

Administration Committee, TBA

Deacons, TBA

Fellowship Committee, No Meeting in December

Mission Committee, No meeting in December

Outreach Committee Meeting, No Meeting in December

Session, December 8, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Spiritual Enrichment Committee, No Meeting in December

Dates to Remember:

Trinity Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale, December 3, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Greening of the Sanctuary, December 4, 12:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling, December 11, 3:45 p.m., meet at the church

Jesus' Birthday Party, December 17, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Celebrating Christmas with Music, December 18, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Advent Gatherings, 6:00 p.m. on:

November 30, at the home of Bob & Barbara Scott

December 7, at the home of Joanne Clever

December 14, at the home of Russ & Mary Ann Hobbs

December 21, at the home of Lee & Emily Duffus

Trinity Board/Committee

November Session Meeting

The Session met on November 10, 2011, in the Fireside Room at 5:30 p.m. Moderator, Evie Macway, opened the meeting with prayer. Juanita and Evie will attend the next Presbytery meeting which will take place on November 19 in San José.

Various committee reports were received. Upon the Mission Committee's recommendation, the session voted to provide \$1000 to support "Team Immanuel House" - a Refugee Transition House that the San José Presbytery is planning on purchasing. The committee also reported it agreed to give \$150.25 collected for the PC(USA) Peacemaking Offering to the Tolerance Program at Branciforte Junior High School.

The Spiritual Enrichment committee recommended and the Session approved giving \$100 out of the Bob Hope Lecture Series revenue to sponsor the Progressive Christian Forum's event, "Jesus, Poverty, and Empire" which will take place at the First Congregational Church on March 9-10, 2012.

Plans for Advent activities at Trinity are well underway. Two new events are planned this year: an Advent Wreath making party on Sunday, November 27, and a Jesus' Birthday Party on December 17.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is planning a soup lunch for the first Sunday in Advent, November 27th. At the same time, there will be tables set up where you may make your own Advent wreaths. Then on Saturday, December 17th, the children from Vacation Bible Camp are invited to a birthday party for Jesus. Members of the committee will provide a light lunch including a birthday cake. There will be no Fellowship meeting in December, so the next meeting will be January 11.



Attention Committee Chairpersons

The committee reports for the annual congregational meeting are due by January 8, 2012. 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.

Christmas Joy Offering

Like the shepherds, we are stunned to hear the news that God's love has come among us as one of us, accompanying us, and working to transform us. As we open our hearts to that love, we find it will not be contained but yearns to be shared with others. One of the ways Presbyterians have traditionally responded to the news of this gift is by sharing our own gifts through the Christmas Joy Offering.

The Offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, helping students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. As we celebrate the good news of great joy that the angel announces—God's love in human form is now among us—may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love.



*Blessed is the season
which engages the
whole world in
a conspiracy of love!*

Year to Date Finance Report

January through October	
Total Income	\$186,609.16
Total Expense	182,273.29
Net Income	4,335.87



Save Our Shores Winter Coastal Clean-Up

As Trinity Mission Committee liaison for Save Our Shores Volunteer Needs, I am listing the Coastal Clean-Up days for this winter for those who may be able to help. Efforts to eliminate plastic bags and monthly clean-up efforts have already shown benefits. To volunteer, wear gloves, bring a recyclable bag (some will be provided) and arrive during designated hours to help for as little or much time as you have available. Santa Cruz 3rd Saturday monthly Beach Cleanups:

December 17th, 10AM-Noon @ Twin Lakes State Beach, January 21st, 10AM-Noon, Seacliff State Beach, February 18, 10AM-Noon, Seabright State Beach. Saturday January 28th 10AM-Noon is Winter Soquel Creek Cleanup & Saturday February 25th 10AM-Noon San Lorenzo River Cleanup at Highway One, End of Felker Street off Ocean St Extension.

For more information contact Andrew Hoeksema:
andrew@saveourshores.org

George Bunch

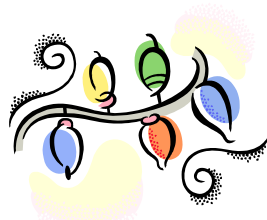
Third Annual Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale

The annual Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale is just around the corner, so mark your calendars: Saturday, December 3, from 9 am to 2 pm.

This year the event will be held in the Fellowship Hall so we will have more room to spread out. We are planning theme areas: gardening, ornaments, wreaths and swags, table decorations and runners, pillowcases, baked goods including dried soup mixes, olive oils, and vinegars, and our popular cookie walk. Please start your baking. Cookies are needed as well as other tasty treats. Talk to Joanne Clever or Mary Ann Hobbs if you have questions.



The main creators have been Mary Ann, Gwen, Emily, Kate, Sally, Karen, Pat, and Nancy. So don't miss this event.



Things That Make Us Happy



- To hear that Tom and Karen Wichelmann and Mark and Beth Hooley welcome new grandbabies into the family. April Sophia was born to Beth's daughter, Nadia, in Argentina on October 24. Bryson was born to Karen's son Scott, in Salt Lake City on November 5.
- To hear that LeAnn had a wonderful trip to Japan with her son.
- To hear about the connections made during the Trinity Opportunity Fair at the end of October.
- To see the lovely quilts made by members and friends of Trinity displayed in the office
- To learn that Gary Edwards has just had his first book published—"The Kingdom of Mine" - beautifully illustrated by Masako Dunn.
- To hear that Patti Maraldo has a new addition to her family, grandson Nico, born on Nov. 7.

Book Club

The Book Club, which meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Joanne Clever's home, will take the month of December off. Look for information about the new reading list in upcoming newsletters.

Greening of the Sanctuary

Please join us as we decorate the sanctuary for the holidays on December 4 at 12 noon, following worship and coffee hour.



Trinity Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays	December Anniversaries
2 Timothy Powers	20 Tom & Karen Wichelmann
5 Annalea Collins Sarah Macway	
12 Tom Wichelmann	
24 Elizabeth Bunch	
31 Juanita Stock	



If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed please email trinitysc@sbcglobal.net or call 423-8995.

The sun peeked over the hills seeing if it was time. Then slowly it stretched its rays and pulled itself over the hill.



Brilliant, warm sun greeted the day. And the fog that had shrouded the river valley began to move. Warmed by the sun its layers began to dissipate, slowly revealing the valley. Ah, dawn after the rain. Fresh, sparkling clean and all smiles.

- Emily Duffus, a view of Santa Cruz from UCSC campus

Caroling with the Choir

Please join the choir to carol to our shut-ins and others this season. We'll meet at the church at 3:45 p.m., on Sunday, December 11th. We need your voice and you!

Jesus' Birthday Party

All children and grandchildren of the church are invited to come to a birthday party for Jesus! The party will take place at the church on Saturday, December 17 from 10:30-12:30. It will be a time of games, crafts, story, lunch and birthday cake. If you know of some one you would like to receive a personal invitation please provide their contact information to LeAnn in the church office. The Spiritual Enrichment committee will be sending out invitations in early December.



Christmas Poinsettias

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



Wednesday Night Advent Studies

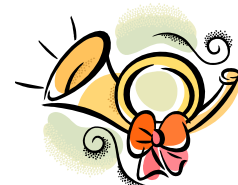
The theme for our Wednesday evening Advent studies this year will be *From Longing to Receiving*. As we wait once again for the coming of Christ into our world at Christmas, as individuals and as a church, the Advent season provides us an opportunity to practice waiting and to explore some of the ways our faith may grow as we wait. On the Wednesday evenings of Advent we will wait together as we share a meal and time of study and discussion.

The topics for the evenings come from materials written by Old Testament scholar, Dr. Patricia Tull. The dates and topics are as follows:

- November 30 *Longing for God's Saving Help*
- December 7 *Anticipating God's Presence Among Us*
- December 14 *Recognizing God's Work among Us*
- December 21 *Receiving God's New Gift to Us*

Celebrating Christmas with Music

The talented Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir will provide much of our worship leadership on Sunday, December 18, as we celebrate Christmas with Music in our church and with the community. The theme of the cantata is *"Receiving God's New Gift to Us"*. Invite your family and friends to this joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in music and song.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of San Jose invite all the Women in the Presbytery to
An Epiphany Tea
"Come . . . And Follow the Star"
Sunday, January 9, 2011
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
The Stone Church of Willow Glen
1937 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose
A Winter Gathering
Begin the New Year with food for body and soul. Featuring a candlelit experience of worship in the style of the Taizé Community in chanted song, prayer and meditation, and in scripture and seasonal readings. RSVP by January 31, 2011, to Claudia Hamm at jnchamm@gmail.com

Wednesday Advent Gatherings 2011

“From Longing to Receiving”

Once again we will gather on Wednesday evenings this Advent season in the homes of members of our congregation for a light supper and informal study. The theme this year is “From Longing to Receiving.” We will follow a curriculum written by Old Testament scholar, Dr. Patricia Tull as we explore together how our scriptural ancestors experienced their yearning for God’s restorative presence, and how in turn we wait and yearn for God’s coming once again. The topics will be:

Week One: November 30 Longing for God’s Saving Help

“Rare is the person of faith who has not wondered where God is hiding. It is often in the times when God seems distant that we recall how much we have relied on God’s reassuring presence before, how much we long for communion with God now. It is through that longing itself that our commitments are made and renewed and our faith is formed.” Focus texts: *Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37*

Leader: Charlie May

Hosts: Barbara and Bob Scott

Week Two: December 7 Anticipating God’s Presence among Us

“Envisioning what we hope for, and expecting to see it sooner or later, perhaps over the next rise, or perhaps the one after it, anticipating that God’s word does indeed stand forever, leads us along a path toward a future of greater confidence, no matter what the circumstances we must traverse to get there.” Focus texts: *Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8*

Leaders: Paul Seever and Darrell Yeane Host: Joanne Clever

Week Three: December 14 Recognizing God’s Work among Us

“To recognize God’s work in the world is not just to see what God does – though it begins there – but to discern how God calls us to do likewise.” Focus texts: *Isaiah 61:1-11, John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Leader: Wayne Norton

Hosts: Mary Ann and Russ Hobbs

Week Four: December 21 Receiving God’s New Gift to Us

“It is difficult to move from day to day without a plan. We do have plans. Yet God reserves the right to redirect them.” Focus texts: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:26-38*

Leaders: Beth Hooley and Evie Macway

Hosts: Emily and Lee Duffus

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 12 Step 7:00—8:30 pm, Library	<i>2</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Sanctuary	<i>3</i> Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
<i>4</i> Worship Service, 2nd Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am Greening of the Sanctuary, 12:00 p.m. AA, 8-9 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>5</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>6</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>7</i> Wednesday Advent Gathering, 6:00 p.m., at Joanne Clever's	<i>8</i> Session Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room 12 Step 7:00—8:30 pm, Library	<i>9</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>10</i> Sweet Pea, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Youth Room
<i>11</i> Worship Service, 3rd Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am Christmas Caroling, 3:45 pm AA, 8-9 pm, FH	<i>12</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>13</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>14</i> Wednesday Advent Gathering, 6:00 p.m., at Russ & Mary Ann Hobbs' home	<i>15</i> 12 Step 7:00—8:30 pm, Library Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., FH	<i>16</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>17</i> Jesus' Birthday Party, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
<i>18</i> Worship Service, 4th Sunday of Advent; Celebrating with Music, 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>19</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>20</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>21</i> Wednesday Advent Gathering, 6:00 p.m., at Lee & Emily Duffus'	<i>22</i> 12 Step 7:00—8:30 pm, Library	<i>23</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Fellowship Hall	<i>24</i> Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
<i>25</i> Worship, Christmas Day, 10:30 am AA, 8-9 pm, FH	<i>26</i> Office Closed AA, 7:30-9:00 pm Youth Room	<i>27</i> AA 5:00 pm, FH Boy Scouts, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall	<i>28</i> Ombudsman, 12 noon —2:30 pm, Fireside Room	<i>29</i> 12 Step 7:00—8:30 pm, Library	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>

The Non-Prophet Corner

Rev. Darrell W. Yeane—Parish Associate

The BOOK

The year 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible and many of us still have a KJV Bible on our shelf. In fact, the KJV Bible is the best selling book of all time with an estimated 5 billion copies produced. But apart from quotations from the KJB in classical and contemporary literature, few folks read that version today. It was replaced many years ago in the Trinity Church pew by the Revised Standard Version. And the folks who attend the Thursday Bible Study group at Trinity bring at least a half dozen or more different versions to the group study.

So what is the REAL Bible? And how did the Bible come into being in the first place?

The fact is that the Bible evolved over the course of many generations into its present “canon” or collection & order of accepted “books.” It is still evolving today in terms of its specific content & meaning by means of modern translations.

What we call the “Old Testament” scriptures were written and collected over a period of many years, beginning with scattered writings of oral traditions beginning about 1000 BCE. Other writing were added & some discarded up until about 100 CE when a group of rabbis meeting at Jamnia established criteria for determining the sacred character of books for the Jewish community. The Christian Canon was not completed until 367 CE and disputes continued until the Council of Trent (1545 -1563) after the Protestant Reformation when the somewhat different Roman Catholic and Protestant “Canons” were finalized..

The earliest languages of the Bible were Hebrew and Greek with some Aramaic tossed in. Consequently, translations were necessary. A Christian scholar named Jerome translated the Bible into Latin in the late 4th Century CE which was called the “Vulgate.” It became the official translation of the Roman Catholic Church. The English Douay version used today is based on the Latin Vulgate.

The first English translation came from the pen of John Wycliffe in 1382 using Jerome’s Latin Vulgate. William Tyndale produced an English translation from the original Greek in 1525 and Martin Luther translated the Bible into German about the same time. A rash of translations followed and finally in 1611 King James of England ordered a group of scholars to produce an “Authorized” version called the KJV.

Ironically, many 20th century translations such as the Revised Standard Version (1946 – 2000) and the Scholars Version of the New Testament (2000) are more accurate than earlier translations due to the discovery of ancient sources that were not available to earlier translators and historical and archeological studies that reveal more accurate meanings.

Tragically, just as we have come to understand the meaning of the biblical text better and can read it in contemporary language, it has become largely absent from our public education and even our home reading. Perhaps the 400th anniversary of the KJV might inspire a new interest in what has made this book so central to western civilization for nearly 2000 years.

Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Melrose Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Phone: 831-423-8995
Email: trinitysc@sbcglobal.net



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



Sign Up

If you have an abundance of flowers in your yard, or just like arranging flowers, consider signing up to provide an arrangement to enhance the Sunday worship experience. Look in the narthex for the sign-up poster.

	Greeter	Coffee	Usher	Flowers
Dec. 4	Betty Gangware	Betty Gangware	Scott Whitley	Juanita Stock
Dec. 11	Sally Walters	Reed Duffus	Sarah & Dave Macway	Carolyn Brothers
Dec. 18	Sue & Darrell Yeane	Bookie Nichols	David Gomez	Poinsettias
Dec. 25	Charlie & Gwen May	Charlie & Gwen May	The Blanchards or The Scotts	Poinsettias

December Communion Servers

Elders— Emily Duffus and Charlie May

Deacons—Karen Wichelmann and Gwen May

January Communion Servers

Elders— Frank Miller

Deacons—Pete Halper and Kate Miller