

January 2010

Trinity Presbyterian
Church, Santa Cruz

Steeple Talk



January Prayers

Recently, upon a friend's recommendation, I picked up a book entitled, *New and Selected Poems* by Mary Oliver. In her poem, *First Happenings* Oliver writes:

A morning-glory morning with its usual glory, dawns particularly startling with citrons and mauves, petunias in the garden flashing their tender signals of gratitude. The sunflowers creak in their grass-colored dresses. Cosmos, the four o'clocks, the sweet alyssum nod to the roses who so very politely nod back.

Consider wearing such a satisfying body! Consider being, with your entire self, such a quiet prayer!

These wintry January mornings I particularly appreciate the word-pictures Oliver creates of the beauty and glory of God's creation – and her reminder of our part in it!

January is often a month we look forward to the year ahead, considering what it might hold, maybe making some plans for the days and months ahead. It is a time of hope and anticipation as we consider what might be, mindful of God at work in us and in our community.

This January may we consider ourselves *quiet prayers* as we look to what God may do through us in 2010.

In Faith,
Evie

Special Sundays Coming Up

Save the date for these special January events in our life together.

January 10: Potluck Luncheon and report from Paul Seever and Darrell and Sue Yeane on their travels to the Middle East last summer. (see article on page 3)

January 24: Annual Congregational Meeting to elect church officers for the coming year.

January 31: Special worship service and luncheon during which we will hear from Trinity's El Salvador mission trip delegation.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>From the Pastor</i> | 1 |
| <i>Committee News</i> | 2 |
| <i>Church News</i> | 3 |
| <i>Trinity Church Endowment</i> | 4 |
| <i>2010 Budget Summary</i> | 5 |
| <i>Calendar</i> | 6 |
| <i>El Salvador</i> | 7 |
| <i>Sunday Saints</i> | 8 |

Meetings:

Administration Committee, January 7, 4:30 pm, Library

Mission Committee, January 7, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room

Fellowship, January 12, 6:30 pm, Fireside Room

Deacons, January 14, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room

Outreach/Evangelism, January 17, after church

Session, January 21, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room

Spiritual Enrichment Committee, TBA

Dates to Remember:

Sweet Pea, January 9, 9:00 am—2:00 pm, Youth Room

Book Club, January 25, 7:00 pm at Joanne Clever's home



Trinity Committee News

Stewardship

WOW!!

Thanks to all of you who have made the 2010 Stewardship Campaign a success. If you have not made a pledge, we ask that you do so before the end of this year.



We have received 34 pledges totaling \$126,000. Last year we had 38 totaling \$106,000. This is a \$20,000 increase with fewer pledges. We are grateful to all who pledged. That is a whopping 18.86% increase!!! We all “done good.”

More importantly this says that we believe in the ongoing ministry of Trinity and are excited about supporting mission and outreach programs.

The Stewardship Committee

Fellowship

Kudos to the committee (Thelma Dalman, Sheena Adams, Jane Beach, Karen Wichelmann, Ann Collins, Mary Ann Hobbs, and Betty Gangware), plus extra help from Dolly Bass and Sally Walters, for the Sunday lunch after that wonderful Cantata. We also helped in the planning of the route for the carolers later that day. Coming up on January 10, there will be a potluck after church while the Yeaneys and Paul Seever tell us about their visit to the Middle East. Plan to bring a favorite dish to share. Also coming up is the play “Scrooge” and at last count, there were 75 Trinity members and friends planning to see it. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

Attention Committee Chairpersons

The annual committee reports for the annual congregational meeting are due by January 10. Please get your reports in as soon as possible.

Year to Date Finance Report

January through November 2009

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Total Income | \$141,295.66 |
| Total Expense | 139,147.92 |
| Net Income | 2,147.74 |



Session

The December 10 meeting of the Session was opened with prayer by the moderator, Evie Macway. Emily Duffus shared an Advent devotion.

Evie reported, following the November meeting of the San Jose Presbytery, that the presbytery per capita assessment for 2010 will be \$27.58/ church member. The Session approved communion dates for the 2010 calendar year.

The Session heard reports from the committees of the Session. Highlights included:

- The Nominating Committee has almost completed its slate of nominees of officers to be presented at the January congregational meeting. They expressed appreciation for all who have considered this calling for the coming year.
- The Stewardship Committee reported that pledging is up by about 18% over last year. More good news!
- The Session heard a report that the transition at the preschool is going well and the new director has begun work. She has begun her licensing process and hopes to be fully licensed and take full responsibility for the school, under the new name of Santa Cruz Preschool, February 1, 2010.
- Session members noticed that there was \$4200 in unspent mission money in the 2009 budget in the areas of ‘Living Waters’ and ‘New Mission’. The Session acted to retain this money to cover anticipated costs associated with closing the Trinity Learning Center preschool.
- The 2010 church budget was presented and approved following discussion. The budget will be printed and made available to the congregation in early January with opportunity for discussion at the congregational meeting on January 24. For more details on the budget see the article on page 5. Thanks was expressed to the finance committee for putting together the 2010 budget.

Juanita Stock has volunteered to be Trinity’s contact person with the presbytery to assist in implementing the ‘Safe Church Practices’ training program required of all churches in the presbytery in 2010. We will hear more about this in the coming months.

The Session meeting was closed with prayer.

Luncheon & Report on Middle East Travels

Sunday, January 10 following worship we will have a special potluck luncheon during which we will hear a report from Paul Seever and Darrell and Sue Yeane on their travels to Israel and Palestine last summer. The three traveled there in August as part of a Congressional Accompaniment Project fact-finding tour. They and eight others accompanied Congresswoman Eshoo's Senior Field Staff foreign policy Aide. During travel throughout Israel and the Palestinian West Bank Occupied Territory, they met with many groups of Palestinians and Israelis, including many Christians to learn about their lives and the possibilities for a just peace. They will show a brief power point video of the situation, tell their own stories and respond to your questions and concerns about this critical part of the world. Everyone is welcome to the luncheon and this personal update.

Did you know . . .

That we once had a master carpenter as a member of this church? He was one who lovingly adopted the care of Trinity's sanctuary, and its people, from the early days of the 1940's. However, it wasn't until the 1980's that he brought us two special gifts. First, Denny made the Celtic cross that gleams from behind the pulpit. Second, this widower brought us a new member whom he introduced in church as Peggy. "Oh—I forgot to tell you her last name. It's Minier. We got married last week."



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. We will have books for sale at coffee hour every Sunday.



Books are \$2.00 for hardback and \$1.00 for paperback. Plan to browse through our books during coffee time and support the book sales. Proceeds go into the Youth Fund.

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

February - *"The Believers"* by Zoe Heller

Trinity Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

3 Janet Eschen-Pipes

5 Karen Wichelmann

17 Emily Duffus

18 Betty Gangware

20 Reed Duffus, Carina Bunch

21 Bookie Nichols

30 Wayne Norton

January Anniversaries

12 John & Alisa Sutherland

24 Bob & Barbara Scott



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

Boutique and Bake Sale 2009

Thanks to each one of you who helped make the Boutique and Bake Sale 2009 as success.

To date we have taken in \$2250. \$2000 will be earmarked for refinishing the cabinets in the kitchen and the remaining \$225 will go to the Mission Committee for dispersal. A huge thank you to all who created, set up, took down, sold items, manned the food, donated goodies. . . . (apologies if we inadvertently left your name off!) Mary Ann Hobbs, Karen Wichelmann, Gwen, Charlie and Jesse May, Sally and Jim Walters, Kate Miller, Emily and Lee Duffus, Barbara Scott, Bookie Nichols, Joanne Clever, Peggy Minier, Jennie Edwards, Mary Gilliland, Ann Collins, Mary Blanchard, Vera Hope, Carolyn Moyer, Linda Wichelmann, Jane DeVette, Dolly Bass, Kathleen Eschen-Pipe, Amy Walters, Vickie Christie, and Larissa Gibson.

Mark your calendars, the 3rd Annual Boutique and Bake Sale will be Saturday, December 4!

Work will begin on items for this boutique in February. The group will gather on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. In the meantime, be looking for creative holiday items we could create. Give your suggestions to Mary Ann Hobbs or one of her elves.

Church Membership Exploration Class

Evie is planning to lead a church Membership Exploration Class early in 2010. If you are interested in learning more about Trinity Presbyterian Church or are considering joining the church and would like to be a part of this class, please speak to Evie or contact her by email at trinitypastor@sbcglobal.net or phone (831) 423-8995.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Endowment

The Session of the church is pleased to announce that an endowment fund has been established for Trinity Presbyterian Church. The Administration Committee, under the leadership of Emily Duffus, received a request from one of our members to establish an Endowment. Research was done, Session approval received and as of early December the paperwork was submitted to The New Covenant Funds of the Presbyterian Foundation for processing.

The usual questions regarding an endowment are: (1) What is an Endowment; (2) Why do we need one; (3) How does it work; and (4) How can I participate if I'm interested.

An Endowment is a "Rainy Day Fund" where the principal is never spent. Only the interest can be used for needs of the church not covered by annual giving. The way it will work here at Trinity is that there are four separate accounts into which funds can be deposited: (1) The General Endowment Fund; (2) The Designated Endowment Fund; (3) The Capital Facilities Fund; and (4) The Programs, Mission and Benevolence Fund. Each of these accounts is for a different purpose, but in general they fall into the categories of mission and programs of the church.

Participation in the endowment can be in the form of outright gifts like cash, securities, real estate, insurance policies or other valuable items, or ways to benefit the church later such as a request in a will, Charitable Gift Annuity, Charitable Remainder Trust etc.

For now the important thing to remember is that Trinity has an endowment. We will hear more information about the endowment in January and February and on February 21 we will have Skip Herbert, Development Officer for the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation with us to give a presentation on estate planning following worship.—Trinity Endowment Committee: Lee Duffus, Gary Edwards and Russ Hobbs, Chairperson



An Epiphany Tea

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose invite all women in the Presbytery to An Epiphany Tea: "Beyond Boundaries . . . Into the Light", a winter gathering . Sunday, January 10, 2010—2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at The Stone Church of Willow Glen, 1937 Lincoln Avenue at Clark Way, San Jose. Reservations by January 4 to Claudia Hamm at (408) 356-6665 or email jnchamm@gmail.com

Things That Make Us Happy. . .



- To share in the beautiful Advent Cantata, Peace, shared by the choir and members of the congregation last month. Thank you to Joseph, the choir and six members of the congregation who shared their reflections as part of the cantata. The cantata was in our Advent season this year at Trinity.
- To enjoy the Holiday Boutique and hear what a success it was!
- To hear that we had 9 hearty carolers go Christmas caroling at the homes of several of our members. Our numbers were small but our sound was beautiful! Thank you to Dolly Bass for providing yummy treats at the conclusion of our travels.
- Edith Hehr will have her wish for an overnight trip to Hearst Castle granted, thanks to the Twilight Wish Jewel Cultural Arts Program. Edith, 87, teaches classes at Sunshine Villa where she lives. She previously taught Spanish and German at both the high school and community college level in New York. Her wish is to be able to make the overnight trip to Hearst Castle to see it decked out for the holidays.
- To hear Darrell Yeane and Joanne Clever sing an impromptu, rousing rendition of "Shoo Fly Pie" at the last Advent dinner. The singing was inspired by Betty Gangware's delicious Apple Pan Dowdy. All present enjoyed both the song and the desert.
- To see how beautiful the sanctuary looked this Christmas season. Thank you to Ellen Bauerle for arranging the poinsettias and for coordinating the greening of the church.
- To enjoy the fellowship and study shared at our Advent dinners this season. Thanks to all who hosted and brought food for our meals.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 21 in the Fireside Room. We will begin a study on the Gospel of Luke. All are invited. The class meets from 1:00—2:30 pm.

January 2010

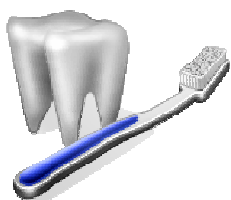
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 2 |
| 3 Worship 10:30 am | 4 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 5 Boy Scout Parents 7:30—8:30 pm YR Boy Scouts 7:30 pm, FH AA, 5:00 pm, FH | 6 | 7 AA 7:00—9:00 pm, YR Administration 4:30 pm, Library Mission, 5:30 pm, Fireside | 8 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 9 Sweet Pea 9:00 am— 2:00 pm, Youth Room |
| 10 Worship 10:30 am Potluck Luncheon and Middle East Report | 11 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 12 Fellowship Meeting 6:30 pm Fireside Room Boy Scouts 7:30 pm, FH AA, 5:00 pm, FH | 13 | 14 AA 7:00—9:00 pm, YR Deacons, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room | 15 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 16 |
| 17 Worship 10:30 am Outreach Meeting | 18 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 19 Boy Scouts 7:30 pm, FH AA, 5:00 pm, FH | 20 S.C. Neuropathy 1:00 YR or FS | 21 AA 7:00—9:00 pm, YR Session, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm, FH | 22 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 23 |
| 24 Worship 10:30 am Congregational Meeting | 25 Office Closed Book Club 7:00 pm at Joanne Clever's Home AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 26 Boy Scouts 7:30 pm, FH AA, 5:00 pm, FH | 27 Ombudsman 12:00—2:30 pm, FS | 28 AA 7:00—9:00 pm, YR | 29 Office Closed AA 7:30—9:00 pm Youth Room | 30 |
| 31 Worship 10:30 am Luncheon | | | | | YR=Youth Room FH=Fellowship Hall FS=Fireside Room | |

El Salvador Thanksgiving Mission Experience

Thanksgiving week in El Salvador was a blessing for 8 Trinity Presbyterians along with 16 others from St Stephens (Santa Cruz), Good Shepherd (Salinas), & Advent (Gilroy) Lutheran Churches. We shared traditional beans, rice, corn tortillas, papusas, & various vegetables & fruits at many different homes that week with our Salvadorian Scholarship Prayer children's families along with fellowship & hearing stories of their struggles through almost 20 years of civil war. We gave thanks for their hospitality as they gave thanks for our donations, caring & sharing. They were especially thankful that their new Leftist government is beginning to provide medical care, senior services, education & nutritional assistance to the poor instead of harsh military rule with constant fighting between government troops against the guerillas & local peasant sympathizers. Many had lost family, homes, & possessions during the fighting & just returned after the peace accords in 1992 to the 18 villages that provide the 500 students at the Guillermo Ungo school & medical clinic that we support.

Polishing 125 kids teeth with dental fluoride, providing medical care & medical supplies, vacation bible school, scholarships & gift bags for the children along with crafts fair, music, & games gave us additional bonding & sharing time with the families most of whom walked the 1-5 miles into Guillermo Ungo for the celebrations. The children were happy, friendly, & generally healthy with almost no obesity, little malnutrition, but plenty of dental cavities with no local dental care.

We look forward to continuing communication, school & University scholarships, & support for the medical clinic through various fund raising activities throughout the year. Maybe others from Trinity would like to visit El Salvador next year. Come hear more about the mission trip at Sunday January 31 service & luncheon slide show after Church.



A letter from Bernie and Farsijana Risakotta-Adeney in Indonesia—Dec. 1. 2009

Dear Family, Friends and Colleagues,

“Next week I will begin wearing my red tie”, Bernie said cheerfully. The red, black, green and gold, hand-woven tie from the Moluccan “Spice Islands” was a gift from Farsijana’s cousin who was killed by a military truck during the civil war in Ambon. He visited us in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, just a few weeks before his death. Colors tell a story. In America, red and green are the colors of Christmas. They are exuberant colors of joy and celebration when Christians await the birth of the Christ. White is the color of snow, of purity, innocence and peace. “I’m dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know ...” White is the color of angels and doves. In Islam too, white is the color of purity and peace. Before praying, Muslim women put on white robes, symbolizing that they are cleansed before bowing to the Lord of the universe. In Indonesia, red and white are the colors of the flag: red for bravery in defending the nation, white for purity of spirit. But when Christians and Muslims go to war with each other, red is the color of blood, while white symbolizes the purity of death to the heretic. Red is the color of Isaac, while white is the color of Ishmael.

We arrived in the United States last July for six months of sharing our stories about what is going on between Muslims and Christians in Indonesia. To our many old friends, whom we didn’t visit, please forgive us. Our schedule was filled with up with speaking events, mostly in Midwestern places with new friends we’d never met. As we shared our experiences of working for reconciliation, healing, justice and peace, we heard many stories of how Americans are struggling for these same things. . .The colors of Christmas have new meaning for us. The red is for people we know who are bleeding in the struggle for justice. Green represents friends that experience new life in the dead of winter. White is the light of peace between our families and friends of all colors, religions, and cultures. We return to Indonesia on January 4. Thank you to all our dear friends, new and old, who made this visit around the United States a trip we will never forget.

Salam, Farsijana & Bernie Adeney- Risakotta

(This article has been edited for space. Please see the PCUSA website for the full article.)

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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



January Communion Servers

Elders—*Betty Gangware and Wayne Norton*

Deacons—*Dolly Bass and Pete Halper*

| | Greeter | Coffee | Usher |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| January 3 | Bookie Nichols | Sally Walters | Russ & Mary Ann Hobbs |
| January 10 | Scott Whitley | Bookie Nichols | Sheena Adams & Bookie Nichols |
| January 17 | Ann Collins | Elizabeth Bunch | David Gomez |
| January 24 | Sunshine & Reed Duffus | Bookie Nichols | Harry & Mary Blanchard |
| January 31 | Dolly Bass | Dolly Bass | |

February Communion Servers

Elders—*Emily Duffus*

Deacons—*To Be Announced*