

The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor

FELICITATIONS



In going through old files, I came across a poem which, I believe, captures the extraordinary message of Christmas with great simplicity. At its essence, the birth of Jesus was so incredibly,

unbelievably, ordinary – a rather sad tale in the scheme of things. An unwed teenage mother took a boring ride on a small donkey accompanied by a devout man who planned to marry her even though he knew that the child in her belly was not his. End of story.

And yet, and yet – the event was so mind boggling that the world was forever changed. Even our understanding of time was set on its heels; the appplecart of things known was overturned for the rest of time. While you consider its message, you might want to think also about how the reality of god-turned-human may have upset the appplecart of your knowledge.

BC : AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic
Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect.
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

-- U.A. Fanthorpe

Part of our post-modern thinking is to discount the power that each one of us has to do good. (Typically, we readily accept the power of individual *evil*, but discount the power of individual *good*.)

But we Christians know better. We know that one person *can* change the world for the better. The premier example is Jesus, but he isn't alone. Think of Martin Luther, Mahatma Gandhi, Desmond Tutu, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Think of the special people in your life – your grandparents, a neighbor, a teacher, a special friend. Some are well-known, most are not. When people show us how to live a life where faith trumps fear, they are teaching us how to bear witness to the love of God. It is both ordinary *and* extraordinary.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

We hope that you will join us regularly for worship this season, and tell your friends and neighbors also. We are basically following the same structure as last year (which people seemed to really enjoy) while accentuating the “kindness” and “blue” themes. Using the set and symbols from *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, we will be “visited” by Isaiah of Peace, John of Hope, Mary of Joy, and Joseph of Love.

Our sanctuary will be transformed with symbols of peace and possibility, and worship will feature wonderful music and poetry. In addition to the messages from our night visitors, we will hear unusual and very moving versions of the Psalms by Nan Merrill and poems from Ted Loder.

The basic structure for Advent is:

(Continued on page 2)

- Gathering Time (with our opening psalm proclamation and welcoming of our “visitors” and Advent lanterns)
- Sharing Our Joys and Concerns (prayer and children’s message)
- Sharing the Word (scriptures and message)
- Sharing in New Life (communion and offering)
- Taking God’s Love into the World (blessing and dismissal)

Each of these sections will be punctuated with the beautiful hymns of Advent. And – a word to the wise – you might want to plan on arriving a few minutes early, since the opening proclamation for the psalmist and the arrival of the night visitor happens right at 10:00.

I think you will be surprised and delighted by how the Advent and Christmas stories still cause the heart to quicken and the soul to soar.



WORSHIP STYLES WHO ARE YOU? WHO ARE WE?

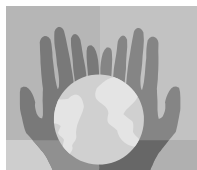
In the workshop by Marcia McFee that some of us attended last week, we learned about creating worship that is “M-M [meaningful and memorable] good.” This means that worship will be interactive, interesting, intergenerational, and inspirational. The trick, of course, is that each of us is inspired in different ways and by different things. In fact, we learned that there are four worship “types”, each of which likes a different style and music type:

“Thrusters” who like action and energy and decisiveness

1. “Shapers” who like stability, clarity, and repetition
2. “Swingers” who like variety, creativity, and interactivity
3. “Hangers” who like quiet and are willing to go with the flow

Each of these “primal patterns” offer gifts for worship – and each one, when done to excess, can cause problems. Typically, a church gets into ruts where it emphasizes one type over the others. The best worship is that which has elements to satisfy each of the four types.

Do you know which “type” you are? What about your friends at ACC? If you would like to learn more, come join our worship planning group or speak to Felicity, Jeff, Shanti, Elena, John Grosvenor, or Margaret Kornfeld. If there is interest, we can have a spectrum on the insights we gained at the workshop.



SPIRIT AND THE ARTS!

Michael Mansfield

Embracing World Traditions and Learning Universal Values - a weekly program of interfaith

worship, education, fun, and community for young people (ages 7-14) from 6:00-7:30 on Thursday evenings continues December 6,13, & 20 exploring Christian Spirit and the Arts.

A parallel adult study group meets on Thursday evenings at the same time and will continue reading “The Faith Club.”

December:	Christian Spirit and the Arts
January:	Islamic Spirit and the Arts
February:	Hindu Spirit and the Arts
March:	Confucian/Taoist Spirit and the Arts
April:	Buddhist Spirit and the Arts
May:	African/Indigenous Spirit and the Arts

Contact Michael at jeangarcon@aol.com for youth.
Contact Felicity at acc.felicity@sbcglobal.net for adults.



MINI CONCERTS

Shanti Moorjani

December 7: The complete *Messiah* by G. F. Handel

December 21: A short opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian Carlo Menotti.

All concerts will be at 7:30 pm \$15. at the door.

I am looking for some help with the opera. Help with getting performers dressed on the night of the performance and at the dress rehearsal (Dec. 16) 2 - 6:30pm. Help with props and stage related needs. Help with refreshments. Please call me, Shanti 843-7745 if you are interested.

Most of all, tell people about the show. It would be great to have full, supportive audience at this Christmas event.

SAVE THE DATE

The traditional **Deacons' Breakfast** will be held on Epiphany Sunday, January 6th. Please plan on joining us.





LOOKING AHEAD:

Shirlee Bromley

The Board of Missions is sponsoring a special event on January 13, 2008.

Cheri Lovre, a friend of Shirlee Bromley's, will be here on that Sunday so please mark your calendar. Cheri is the Director of Crisis Management Institute based in Salem, Oregon. Cheri has over 30 years of experience in the field of grief and trauma. Because of her range of experience, she has developed a philosophy and a specific approach toward the unique requirements of survivors of trauma. Her many experiences include working with "schools that fled" as the towers collapsed following the aftermath of 9/11 in New York City, working

with the traumatized population in Sri Lanka after the Tsunami, helping provide both staff development and group work with students who had to be relocated after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and providing support and training to both the Amish and surrounding communities following the massacre at Nickle Mines. Most recently Cheri assisted in the local area and with institutions, parents, students and the media after the horrific event at Virginia Tech.

We are very fortunate that Cheri can come and be with us. She will give the message at morning worship and speak at a forum afterwards. Please pass the word along and don't miss this opportunity. Once you meet and hear Cheri it will be very evident that she is called by God to this special ministry.



In response to many requests

CRISTIANA'S TIRAMISU

Submitted by Anna-Maria Hertzler

Serves 6

Recipe was in the West County Times in about 2000 and was billed as "Seven ingredients and no cooking is all that's required for Vescovi's tiramisu." The recipe can be easily doubled. It does use raw eggs, which carry the very slight risk of salmonella.

- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 cup very strong coffee
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 package ladyfingers (24 count)
- 8 ounces Mascarpone cheese
- 1 Tablespoons rum (or to taste)
- Cocoa powder for garnish

1. Beat yolks with the sugar until smooth, thick and pale yellow in color. Add the mascarpone and rum; mix well.
2. Whip whites until stiff peaks form. Whisk one-third of whites into cheese mixture, then gently fold in the remaining whites.
3. Dip ladyfingers into coffee and place them on the bottom of an 8"x8"x2" pan, using half of the ladyfingers. Pour half the cheese mixture on top of ladyfingers. Place another layer of ladyfingers on top of cheese mixture after dipping them in coffee. Top with the remaining cheese mixture.
4. Using a fine-mesh strainer, sprinkle cocoa all over the top. Refrigerate 24 hours.

Notes from the Kitchen of Anna-Maria:

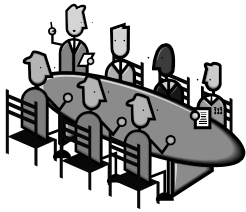
1. Eggs separate more easily if they are cold; but whites whip to more volume if they are at room temperature.
2. The last time I checked, ladyfingers are available at Andronico's (20 count – Boudoirs de Fete by Cantreau); Zarri's Delicatessen (1244 Solano Avenue, Albany; 525-5405); and Trader Joe's (24 count). [Someone at TJ's has declared ladyfingers to be a seasonal product, so they are available there only during the "winter". Zarri's has them year round.]
3. Mascarpone is available at Andronico's, Trader Joe's, or at Country Cheese [(2101 San Pablo Ave. near University Avenue, Berkeley; 841-0752) where you can also buy cheeses, pastas, nuts, spices, herbs, etc. in bulk; they have chocolate-coated blueberries to die for!]. The Italian mascarpone, Bel Gioioso, at TJ's and CC, is very good for this.
4. I use extra large eggs. One individual-size bottle of rum is enough for four times this recipe, if you use the recommended minimum of 1 Tbsp.
5. A glass, flat-bottomed bowl is good for this recipe.

[Lucky's has lady fingers (3 oz – 24 count) year round, check at the bakery section. – Ed.]



BRIDGE PLAYERS

Note that there is no Bridge Night in December. The next meeting will be January 25th.



ACC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Jim Cottle

Members Present: Jeff; Allan
E. ; Randy; Felicity; John G.;

Jill; Jim C.; Ken J.; Jim Y.; Ruth.

- Meditation
- Minutes: Approved
- Agenda: Need for full disclosure and extensive communication with congregation at this time of lagging morale added as agenda item.
- Treasurer's Report: Randy discussed improvement in financial picture as a result of big increase in pledge receipts in month of October. Year-to-date, however, ACC is spending more than income, which is being offset by the transfer of last years surplus cash balance. After intense discussion on the policy of delaying payments to OCWM, Council decided to continue to closely control OCWM payments until the financial picture is clear. Jill noted that checks for various Missions projects need to be sent to recipients.
- Stewardship Survey: Ruth reviewed the results of last Sunday's (11-11) survey which showed 60%+ of members reflecting a sense of poor morale. Efforts will be made to determine the cause of this malaise, which was the top area needing further attention in the survey. The second and third areas needing further attention were the budget and study/discussion groups. Jeff emphasized the importance of responding to these and other complaints brought up at the lunch. Christian Ed will respond quickly to Martha's library project request.
- New Organizational Structure: Ruth offered as a discussion item a potential alteration in ACC's Board and organizational structure. The goal will be to mesh this new structure with the results of the "Participation" survey filled out over the summer as well as the "Stewardship" survey. Aligning ACC's organization with our mission, with the desires of the congregation as expressed in these surveys, and improved morale is the objective. Use of outside assistance from numerous sources was discussed.
- Felicity reviewed the "Tents of Hope", Mira Vista's up-coming New Orleans trip, the continuing problem of cigarette smoke in the sanctuary, a telephone tree to keep members informed, the success of the recent Bay

Association meeting at ACC, and the possibility of a retreat with Margaret.

- New Child Care/Sunday School Program: Allan highlighted the creation of a Sunday school program led by Shanti. There will be S.S. every Sunday and it will incorporate music with Shanti. Two teenage girls have been identified to provide child care for those toddlers/babies too young to participate with the Sunday School group. An agreement was reached to pay each young woman \$50 per month.
- Trustees: Focusing on 5-6 key projects including deck replacement, painting the kitchen, asbestos project downstairs, tree trimming, etc.
- Deacons: Greening of sanctuary will come to life soon, 12/1 is the scheduled date.
- Missions: North Richmond Neighborhood Christmas project w/ 18 families is getting underway. The Peace vigils continue. The ice cream social worked well.
- Jeff: Preparing an Advent Prayer Booklet. Preaches next on 11-25.
- Other: Creation of a "Memorial Garden" was discussed. The need for members to respond positively to the up-coming (11-25) nominating request day was highlighted. A desire for a professional, paid publicity employee was noted.



SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT THE SEAFARERS MINISTRY.

Saturday, December 1, From 10 To 12 Am.

Charlie Fender.

This is a fellowship breakfast that reminds us of our Scandinavian Seamans Mission heritage, started in 1946, by the Olsons in San Francisco with big help from Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Baptists and the Bay Cities Baptist Union. Those of you who have been before know how yummie Gloria Mead's pancakes are. Location is at the end of 7th Street, just past the Inner Harbour Park ,Oakland Harbour. Tickets are a bargain - \$5.00 each.

Carpooling starts at ACC at 9:30 - Fenders, Ligons, Yourds. Please tell us if you're coming so we will know ahead. This makes a wonderful start to the Christmas season. Post Script - On October 23 we packed 710 bags with 10 ditty bags each for seafarers Christmas at Sea - with 20 packers, including the Forbes and Fenders.

ACC Calendar - December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship	3 4:00 PM Children Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:30 PM Bell Choir	4 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	5 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	6 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts	7 6:00 PM Peace Vigil 7:30 PM Mini-Concert - The Messiah	8
9 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry	10 4:00 PM Children Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:00 PM Deacon's Meet 7:30 PM Bell Choir	11 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 7:30 PM Church Council(FR)	12 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts	13 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:30 PM Women's Potluck & Program(SH)	14 6:00 PM Peace Vigil	15
16 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship	17 4:00 PM Children Choir 4:30 PM Women's Fitness 7:30 PM Bell Choir	18 SOUPER CENTER 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	19 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	20 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:00 PM Faith Book Club 6:00 PM Youth Spirit & Arts	21 6:00 PM Peace Vigil 7:30 PM Mini-Concert - Amahl & Night Visitors	22
23 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Missions 6:00 PM Xmas Carolling	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Xmas Eve Pageant 10:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26 PARISHSCOPE 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	27 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH)	28	29
30 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship	31 New Year's Eve					

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SUNDAY, December 2	SUNDAY, December 9	SUNDAY, December 16	SUNDAY, December 23	MONDAY, December 24
8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Alexandra Childs & Felicity Wright Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship Felicity Wright Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Michael Mansfield Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship Felicity Wright Preaching	5:00pm – Xmas Pageant Service 10:00pm – Xmas Candlelight Service
SUNDAY, December 30	THE NEXT DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 26TH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JANUARY 2ND ISSUE [Send <i>Parishscope</i> email to: pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net]			
8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Taizé				

SPECIAL EVENTS		
Friday, December 7	7:30pm	Mini Concert – Messiah
Thursday, December 13	6:30pm	Women's Group
Tuesday, December 18	10:00am	Souper Center
Friday, December 21	7:30pm	Mini-Concert – Amahl & Night Visitors
Monday, December 24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Pageant
Monday, December 24	10:00pm	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service