

The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor

FELICITATIONS



Maybe it's because the geese passing over me last week at Point Isabel were especially raucous, or maybe it's because I was remembering a delicious Christmas goose of many years ago, or maybe

it was that the collection of poetry at my bedside table fell open to display Mary Oliver's poem "Wild Geese":

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert,
repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your
body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you
mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the
rain

are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean
blue air,

are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and
exciting –

over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Whatever it is, or was, geese have been on my mind lately. They seem to emblemize Advent – that period of transition, longing, waiting, and crying out for something that lies just over the horizon of our imaginations. Advent is the ending of the old year and the beginning of the new, and we acknowledge both the yearning for home and the anxieties of the journey

– harsh and exciting like the call of geese. We are being called to a new relationship with God and with each other, and we are being asked to announce our new place in the family of things. The journey is not comfortable, and it's not supposed to be, but it's the only way to find our way home.

We can take comfort in the fact that the same geese who fly high in the clean blue air willingly share their expertise in the ways of pilgrimage. Watch the geese flying south for the winter and notice their customary "V" patterns. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the one immediately following. This means that the flying range of the flock is about 70% percent greater than each bird flying independently.

Watch long enough and you'll see how the geese fall off and take a break when they are weary, and how all of the birds take turns in the lead, where the work is hardest. And listen also for their incessant honking, which is how geese in the rear provide encouragement to the leaders. "We love you," and "Hang in there" they honk.

But my favorite fact about geese is this: whenever one is wounded or sick and falls out of formation, two other geese always fall out with the first. They stay with the sick one until he is either able to fly or until he is dead. Then they launch out on their own or join another formation until they can catch up with their own group.

It seems to me that these geese offer us key lessons for the journey we call life, for they share the work, they encourage their leaders, they support each other in adversity, and they insist that no goose is left to manage the challenge of the voyage alone.

Advent reminds us of the longing for the Christ of peace to be born again within each of us. It's a journey for us as individuals, for us as a country, and for us as a congregation. It's a crossing that is long and dangerous, and our success may well depend upon our ability to master the lessons of the wild geese.



Advent

Exciting things are being planned for Advent, thanks to the creative brilliance of Michael and Shanti and the expertise of the Deacons and various other ACC decorating geniuses. Without giving away too much, I will let you know that we will continue the overall theme of peace that we began in September and also honor the ongoing ACC custom of the four different colors. So, if you are so inclined, you might want to consider sporting the following colors for morning worship:

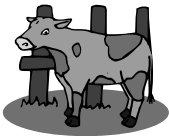
December 3	Green	December 10	Blue
December 17	Red	December 24	Purple

But, remember, the most important thing is just to show up prepared to worship God!



Advent Devotion Opportunities

The national office invites us to sign the pledge for “All the People” and also to celebrate and share the Christmas spirit with “Daily Devotions” online videos. Go to <http://ga3.org/ucc2/stillspeakingpledge1.html> to take the pledge (and vote for your favorite stillspeaking ad). Go to: http://ga3.org/campaign/daily_devotions to sign up for daily devotions for Advent.



Heifer Project

Concha Delgado

Imagine a gift that keeps on giving. Since ACC is a strong supporter of the Heifer International Project, many folks at ACC are already giving this gift. It's the Heifer International Project gift. Our guest speaker, Isaak Egge, from the Heifer International Regional Office in Sacramento (October 22) reminded us that hundreds of empowered communities around the world are ending hunger and passing on the gift, when they receive assistance from the Heifer Project.

As we near the holidays, gift-giving is on our minds. Many of us will be contributing to "ending world hunger" buying a share of a heifer, bees, yak, llama, or other animals as a Christmas present for loved ones. At our ACC Christmas bazaar, the Board for Social Justice and the Knitting Ministry will combine efforts in a booth and send proceeds toward a Heifer Project "knitting basket". Come by our booth and keep passing on the gift.



December Activities

- December 2 11:00 am - 2: 30 pm
“A Season of Light” Holiday Boutique and Luncheon with Aesop's Fables of Peace, Children's Choir, and Handbells
- December 3 10:00 am
Advent Celebration: Stand Up for Peace
- December 8 8:00 pm
Bach B-Minor Mass (Bella Musica with Arlene Sagan)
- December 10 10:00 am
Advent Celebration: Grow Up for Peace
- December 17 10:00 am
Advent Celebration: Speak Up for Peace
- December 24 10:00 am
Advent Celebration: Leap Up and Dance for Peace
- December 24 3:00 pm
Christmas Eve Pageant for All Ages: A Peace Unlike Any the World Has Ever Known

Arts Education Ministry

Winter Tuesday Nights

Acting and Voice Classes

Instructor: Michael Mansfield

Dec 5, 12, 19, Jan 9, 16, 23, 30 - 7:30-9 PM

All levels of experience welcome.

Winter Thursday Nights

Acting and Voice Classes for Young People (10-16)

Instructor: Michael Mansfield

Dec 7, 14, 21, Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 - 5:30-7 PM

No previous experience necessary.

Winter Thursday Nights at ACC

Ballroom Instruction and Circle Dances for Peace

Instructor: Michael Mansfield

Dec 7, 14, 21, Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 - 7:30 – 9 PM

No previous experience necessary.



Moderator's Musings:

November Council Meeting Highlights

Jim Cottle

New programs being considered which might draw neighbors include earthquake preparedness classes as well as infant CPR. Enthusiasm was voiced for additional movies like the successful "An Inconvenient Truth" showing. Church members are encouraged to continue creating and initiating programs for growth.

Michael is combining two of his acting classes. He is encouraged by the turnout for adult dancing classes, which are great exercise and quite fun, and he welcomes new dancers. Arts presentation programs are being planned for Advent and other occasions. A need to sustain publicity activities within the community exists and Felicity discussed the need for someone to assume this role. Are you interested?

Our new pews were expected to arrive by Christmas but that no longer appears likely given manufacturing problems. Additional significant contributions for pews were recently received gratefully. If recent information is correct, we need less than \$5,000 to complete this capital campaign. If you have not stepped forward for Sanctuary Renewal we encourage you to make a Christmas gift to ACC for "New Pews".

Phyl has indicated a desire to withdraw from her long-standing roles as Treasurer and Office Manager of ACC. An era is coming to an end. Phyl's decades-long gift of untold hours of service and commitment has helped keep our church financially and operationally sound. We will miss her greatly and hope she will continue to offer us her wisdom, historical perspective and guidance. Thank you Phyl !!!!

Randy has indicated a willingness to assume some of the Treasurer's duties when they return from the Northwest at the end of December. The Nominating Committee is looking for someone to take on the role of Business Manager. Those interested can check with Phyl and Christy to access the specific aspects of this job. Interested?

Ruth, head of the Nominating Committee, recommended a new "Co-Moderator" approach beginning this January that Council approved. It was also approved to combine Christian Commitment with Christian Ed.

Because of recent confusion in the financial statements, Boards were encouraged to restrain their spending for the remainder of '06. OCWM giving will also be delayed until clarity is achieved. Board budgets

for next year will preliminarily call for flat spending with inflation adjustments for salaries.

Advent plans are progressing nicely. There will be only two services this Christmas: at 10am and 3pm on the 24th. The Stewardship Campaign is in full swing and members are encouraged to dig deep. The "Change for Change" giving program successfully raised \$250 for the Heifer Project and \$250 for loans to local and family programs in underdeveloped countries through Church World Service. Trustees will use the next \$500 for landscaping. Further bids will be received to seal the cracks in a KNS room and to ensure compliance with asbestos standards.

Christmas Puppies



Kyrie is expecting, and her puppies will arrive just in time for Christmas. If you have an old blanket that you are willing to donate for her "laying in," she would be most grateful. (Puppies can be very messy.) Also, we expect that she will be willing to show off her brood after the first of the year, so plan on coming round for a visit.



First \$500 Goal Met For Change For Change!!

Jill Bryans

The Board of Missions & Social Justice was the recipient of the first \$500 collected in our "Change for Change" program. The Board decided to send half of that amount to Heifer International to purchase a **water buffalo** and the remaining half to Church World Service to provide **micro-credit loans** that enable women to start their own business. Once the loan is repaid, it becomes part of a revolving loan fund for other women.

Members of the congregation and friends will have the opportunity to purchase gifts from **Heifer International and Church World Service** at the upcoming **Church bazaar on December 2**. Stop by our table and check out the possibilities for alternative giving!!

Work Wanted

Ian McCormac, cell phone (510) 776-5617 is looking for work doing odd jobs...painting, moving, and maintenance. Check with Felicity for details.



North Richmond Neighborhood House Christmas

Jill Bryans

The Board of Missions & Social
Justice is once again asking the

congregation to sponsor families and seniors for Christmas gifts and food through Neighborhood House. This organization is a primary community resource providing help and support for low income families in North Richmond. They identify families and individuals who would not be able to participate in Christmas gift giving, except for the assistance from West County churches.

Please consider signing up for a family or a group of individuals within a family this year. They will be identified by age and gender on a list which will be posted in the social hall. To sponsor a family or individuals, print your name on the lines for the ones you wish to support. You may sign up for food only or food and gifts. The gifts should be gift-wrapped and clearly marked with the family number, age, and sex of the recipient. The food items will provide the family's Christmas dinner. The Board will be sending a monetary gift to provide the turkeys. Gift ideas and a list of recommended foodstuffs will be available in the sign-up area.

Wrapped gifts and food should be brought to the church on Sunday, December 17 and delivered to the Rincon Rd. entrance by Clyde's apartment after worship. *It is extremely helpful to pack multiple family gifts together in one or two boxes, clearly marked with the family number.* Neighborhood House will pick up the gifts after 1 pm on December 17 for delivery to the families.



Church Library

Martha Colburn

Many years ago, the church Library was housed in what is now known as the Fireside Room. At some point, the library vanished, and the room was redecorated and renamed. Now, Felicity has established a spirituality library, made up of books donated by church members. Unfortunately, that library is currently housed upstairs. There are several good reasons for moving this collection back downstairs to the Fireside Room:

1. Attracts the Casual Browser: How many of us after church think, "Hmm, I think I'll walk up a flight of stairs and see if there is something I might like to read in the church library." But if the books were right there in front of us on our way out of the sanctuary, we might stop and take a look. This would increase circulation of library materials.
2. Attractive to Prospective Members: Similarly, having the collection housed downstairs would increase the attractiveness of the church to prospective members. They might see a book they're interested in, stop to browse, and come back the following week.
3. Accessible to All: There are those who find it difficult, or who no longer can, climb stairs, but who would still be interested in reading books or tapes in the spirituality library. Having the collection housed downstairs would make it accessible to all church members.

With a little furniture shuffling, it would be possible to move the library back into the Library / Fireside Room. It could still be the multi-purpose room that it is today. I hope that the church will consider this option.



Among all the things I'm grateful for:

Are the loving and caring Roy and I have received from all of you at Arlington Church. Dan, (Laurie,), Jan, Bob (Sue,) also, are ever so thankful for the prayerful backing you've provided Roy and me. Your thoughtful cards and expressed concerns will never be forgotten. We'll let you know when Roy makes his next step to a sub-acute rehab facility.

Marge Spencer

Christmas Caroling

Dessert Potluck

Saturday, December 16 at 6:00

Details to follow

Concert Reminder

Bella Musica will perform the Bach, B minor Mass, conducted by Arlene Sagan, at our last Mini Concert for the Fall season on Friday, December 8 at 8:00pm. Admission is \$12.00.



Myers Briggs Type Indicator

Shirlee Bromley

The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) was first employed by Isabelle Briggs Myers in 1943 as a tool for allocating military personnel into appropriate jobs. In the early twentieth century the Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung, attempted to describe the human personality using four functional preferences: 1) sensing 2) intuition 3) thinking and 4) feeling. The first two, sensing (S) and intuition (N) are perceiving (P) functions and characterize the way by which a person takes in information. Sensors (S) use their five senses to absorb information and in essence “tape record” or “photograph” what is seen or heard. The same applies to the other three senses. Intuitors (N) take in information more randomly and immediately attempt to link it to a broader mental image than what is actually perceived. The other two functions, thinking (T) and feeling (F) are judging (J) functions and are used to make decisions as to how to respond to what is perceived. Thinkers (T) make decisions based on logic and fairness. Feelers (F) make decisions based on their personal values and the effect that their decisions may have on other persons. All four functions can have an extraverted (E) or introverted (I) attitude, thus doubling the number of personality functions to eight. Isabelle Briggs Myers and her mother, Katharine Cook Briggs expanded on the basic Jungian functions to develop the sixteen personality types in the MBTI as used today. Judgers (J) use a judging function (T or F) to deal with the outer world; they tend to be more agenda and goal oriented. Perceivers (P) use a perceiving function (P) to deal with the outer world; they tend to live more spontaneously and adapt to change more easily. These eight preferences are combined into a four letter code which denotes the Myers Briggs personality type. For example, an ESTJ would be one whose preferences are extraversion, sensing, thinking and judging. An INFP would be one whose preferences are introversion, intuition, feeling, and perceiving.

It is important to note that we use all of these functions in our daily life; the ones which we use more naturally are our preferences. Because of upbringing, cultural values, work assignment, education, etc. it is often difficult for an individual to know what his/her natural preference is. Guided self observation may be very helpful in such cases. Advocates of this system believe that one’s preferences are innate to an

individual in a similar way to hand dominance or sexual orientation.

The Enneagram

The Enneagram is derived from an ancient Sufi teaching which described nine personality types. The term Enneagram (nine points) was introduced into Western society by G. I. Gurdjieff and his student P. D. Ouspensky in 1949. It is described by a circle in which nine (9) points are inscribed. This circle can describe the entire individual with his/her three (3) centers of human intelligence. Along the top of the circle is the instinctual (belly) center with numbers 8, 9, and 1. Going clockwise, we enter the emotional (heart) center with points 2, 3, and 4. Proceeding further clockwise, we arrive in the mental (head) center with points 5, 6, and 7. Each of the nine (9) points represents a specific type of energy available to all of us.

Each point represents a personality type with its own set of characteristics. They are very briefly:

- Emotional (heart, image) types: 2) helper, altruist; 3) performer, motivator; 4) artist, tragic romantic.
- Mental (head) types: 5) observer, thinker; 6) loyalist, doubter, devil’s advocate; 7) adventurer, epicurean;
- Instinctual (body, belly) types: 8) boss, protector; 9) mediator, peacemaker: 1) perfectionist, reformer.



Our Thanks and Gratitude

Dear Arlington Friends:

Shirlee and I are so grateful to you for all your prayers, cards and loving support throughout Elizabeth’s long illness and recent death. We were deeply moved that many of you were able to attend her memorial service in Santa Rosa. Though our hearts are very sad, we are comforted by our community of faith which helps to lift our spirits from time to time and to give us courage for the days ahead. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With love and gratitude,
Ellen and Shirlee

Note:

The Christmas Boutique will replace the regular Women's Fellowship meeting for December.

ACC Calendar - December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 11:00 AM Xmas Boutique
3 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 2:00 Dorothy Lindow Memorial Service 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	4 7:00 PM Deacon's Meet 7:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys') 3:45 PM Children's Choir I 7:30 PM Acting-Voice for all	6 3:45 PM Children's Choir II 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	7 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 5:30 PM Acting-Young People 7:30 PM Ballroom & Circle Dance	8 8:00 PM Mini Concert - Bella Musica	9
10 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Knitting 11:30 AM Missions 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	11 7:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearse	12 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys') 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 3:45 PM Children's Choir I 7:30 PM Church Council(FR) 7:30 PM Acting-Voice for all	13 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:45 PM Children's Choir II 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	14 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 5:30 PM Acting-Young People 7:30 PM Ballroom & Circle Dance	15 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH)	16 6:00 PM Christmas Caroling – meet in sanctuary
17 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Meditation(FR)	18 7:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearse	19 SOUPER CENTER 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys') 3:45 PM Children's Choir I 7:30 PM Acting-Voice for all	20 PARISHSCOPE 3:45 PM Children's Choir II 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	21 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 5:30 PM Acting-Young People 7:30 PM Ballroom & Circle Dance	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Xmas Eve Pageant	25 Christmas Day	26 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys') 3:45 PM Children's Choir I 7:30 PM Acting-Voice for all	27 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 3:45 PM Children's Choir II 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	28 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 5:30 PM Acting-Young People 7:30 PM Ballroom & Circle Dance	29	30

Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ
52 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94707

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SUNDAY, December 3	SUNDAY, December 10	SUNDAY, December 17	SUNDAY, December 24	SUNDAY, December 31
8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship Stand Up for Peace 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Family Sunday Grow Up for Peace 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship Speak Up for Peace 6:00pm – Meditation & Healing	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Leap Up for Peace 3:00pm – Xmas Eve Pageant	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship Taizé Service

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 20TH FOR PUBLICATION IN THE DECEMBER 29TH ISSUE

[Send *Parishscope* email to: pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net]

SPECIAL EVENTS		
Friday, December 2	8:00pm	Mini Concert – Bella Musica
Saturday, December 3	11:00am	Christmas Boutique & Luncheon
Friday, December 15	6:00pm	Bridge potluck and play
Saturday, December 16	6:00pm	Christmas caroling and dessert potluck
Tuesday, December 19	10:00am	Souper Center
Sunday, December 24	3:00pm	Christmas Pageant