



# The Parishscope

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor

## JOY TO OUR WORLD

(Glenna Seely)



I was busy readying for Christmas that December 20, 1956. My mood was reflecting on the Holy Season. A child's birth, a time of hope, joy, celebration. The phone ringing broke into my thoughts. When I answered, I heard a delighted voice say, "Your daughter has been born. Would you like to meet her tomorrow? She was born on Thanksgiving Day. The baby so matched your family that we went ahead on our list to you."

The words were hard to believe. My heart began to dance with excitement and anticipation as tears filled my eyes. When I hung up the phone, my mind began to race – our child wasn't supposed to come until June. We have no clothes – there is no crib! David, my husband, must be told he is to become a Father overnight. An adopted Father at Christmas – not unlike Joseph – and a startled one, too. What a wonderful time for a baby. Christmas!

That night we traveled many miles bringing home the needed gifts for our new little one. On one large store window was written, "Joy to the World." At that sight, our daughter was named Lisa Joy. Our hearts wanted to shut to all – "Joy to the world, our child is born!"

The five years of waiting had been long and at last God had gifted us with this child – born to be ours. Thank you. Praise God was our prayer that December night as we busily prepared for her homecoming. What an indescribable feeling – having my daughter placed in my arms and bringing home our beautiful first born the next day. Lisa Joy, adored by all and adding such joy to our world.

Many blessed Christmas days have now come and gone, but she remains our greatest Christmas gift remembered, and when we sing "Joy to the World" we rejoice for two births that touched our lives at the Holy Season.....

## BUDGET SPECTRUM – JANUARY 18

Here is your opportunity to discuss the 2009 budget, and give us your input.

## ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 25

Please plan on attending worship, to be followed immediately by the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be electing moderators and board members, as well as approving the budget for 2009. Your support, thoughts and ideas are important. Please come!

## MEET REV. ALFRED E. WILLAMS, JR –

### OUR INTERIM MINISTER

Charlie Fender



He is our Christmas gift from God. And a new Years Gift, too. The Church Council voted to call him early December. (He was enroute to Massachusetts) He served as interim at Ladera UCC. Woodside, and has had nothing but raves from all the Committee's contacts. He is due to be introduced to the Council on January 13 and preach January 18. Let's be sure to give him a rousing welcome.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Ruth Robinson



New Year is here! Resolve to come to the Women's Group on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 6:30pm.

Usual pot luck followed by a program led by Edie Rodman: "Can We Talk?"

Edie tells us that she presented this program some time back at the Pleasant Hill Congregational Church and it was so well received that the one-hour original program turned into a multiple-hour event. Non-threatening, open communication in a safe and warm environment. Your ACC sisters would love to see each of you.



**SPIRIT AND THE ARTS:  
THEATER, DANCE, SONG,  
AND STORY FOR YOUTH 7-  
14**

Embracing World Community  
Traditions and Learning  
Universal World Community  
Values

**Sunday Mornings - 10-11 AM**

The third year of weekly education, arts, fun, song, ritual, and community for young people ages 3-14 from 10-11 on Sunday mornings.

**Monday Evenings - 6:15-7:30 PM**

The third year of weekly interfaith education, fun, community, and ritual continues for young people ages 7-14 from 6:15-7:30 on Monday evenings at Arlington Community Church. In October, we celebrated Native American Spirituality and the Arts. We attended the Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration in Berkeley as at their Community Pow Wow. In November and December, we turned our celebrations toward Latin American Spirituality and the Arts. We attended the Piedmont Dia de los Muertos Fiesta and Lady of Guadalupe Procession. We worked with Arlington Community Church's Mission Board to accomplish two community projects in December -- choosing animals for Heifer International and building a gift box for the holidays. We concluded the semester with a multicultural potluck and celebration of Native American and Latin American stories and dances and rituals for the whole community. In January and February, we will turn our celebrations to African American Spirituality and the Arts. We will also celebrate European American Spirituality and the Arts and Pacific Asian Spirituality and the Arts in March, April, and May. Activities include music, song, dance, art, drama, and stories of community from many of our Spirit traditions. We learn community rituals and practices and stories from world religions and cultures. Through the arts, we will celebrate and remember shared spirit and wisdom, as we learn together. We attend community events in our extended civic community celebrations. Families and community join with us for special intergenerational celebration potlucks of our learnings. Please join us. This young people's program is offered free as a community service of Arlington Community Church.

Contact Michael at [jeangarcon@aol.com](mailto:jeangarcon@aol.com) with questions. or for further information, contact the church office at (510) 526-9146.

**African American Spirituality and the Arts**

January 12 -- Gathering

**January 19 -- Martin L. King Day -- No Gathering**

January 26 -- Gathering

February 2 - Gathering

February 9 - Gathering

**February 16 - President's Holiday -- No Gathering**

**February 23 -- Mid-Winter Break -- No Gathering**



**FOOD PANTRY**

Jill Bryans

On Friday December 19, I made another delivery of food to the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry. There were already many people waiting in line to get food and they had another hour to wait as the center opened at noon and it was 11:00am. I asked one of the volunteers if donations such as ours really made much of a difference. He assured me that the donations they received from individuals and local congregations made a big difference in their ability to provide food to the needy, and the need is even greater during these hard economic times.

I started thinking that if 10 people gave 10 cans of food that would be 100 cans, and if 10 congregations had 10 people who gave 10 cans of food, that would be 1000 cans. And then I started thinking about the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Do you think we might be able to create another miracle here in Richmond?

**KENSINGTON CARMELITES**

Linda Jones



: As most of you know, our dear Carmelite Sisters left the Kensington Monastery on Monday, December 15th to live at another monastery in San Francisco. However, that does not mean that we cannot still communicate with them. If you wish to send cards or prayer requests to them, you may write to them at:

Kensington Sisters; Carmelite Monastery  
721 Parker Avenue; San Francisco, CA. 94118



**FROM HERB DIMOCK**

I was delighted to receive the Parishscope this morning, and to see that you had printed the press release of PSR telling about my "Award." I look forward to meeting some "old friends" from Arlington.

One important extra note: I received news from PSR that they have changed the beginning time from 5:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28th.

### ACC Calendar - January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 10:00 AM Deacon's Breakfast	5 7:45 PM Bell Choir	6 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys)	7 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 5:45 PM Children Choir 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	8 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 6:30 PM Women's Potluck & Program(SH) 7:00 PM Faith Book Club	9	10
11 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Knitting Ministry	12 6:15 PM Spirit & the Arts 7:45 PM Bell Choir	13 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 10:30 AM Duplic. Bridge 7:30 PM Church Council(FR)	14 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 5:45 PM Children Choir 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	15 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 5:00 PM Souper Dinner 6:30 PM Men's Dinner 7:00 PM Faith Book Club	16	17
18 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Budget Spectrum	19 Martin Luther King Day 7:45 PM Bell Choir	20 SOUPER CENTER 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys)	21 PARISHSCOPE 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 5:45 PM Children Choir 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	22 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 7:00 PM Faith Book Club	23 6:00 PM Bridge Potluck & Play(SH)	24
25 8:45 AM Adult Study(CE) 8:45 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship and Annual Meeting	26 6:15 PM Spirit & the Arts 7:45 PM Bell Choir	27 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Kelleys) 6:30 PM All Church Dinner & Boards	28 5:00 PM *Yoga (SH) 5:45 PM Children Choir 7:30 PM *Folk Dancing 7:30 PM Choir Rehearse	29 9:00 AM Senior Center (SH) 7:00 PM Faith Book Club	30	31

# Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ  
 52 Arlington Avenue  
 Kensington, CA 94707

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## The Parishscope

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<b>SUNDAY, January 4</b>	<b>SUNDAY, January 11</b>	<b>SUNDAY, January 18</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, January 25</b>
8:45am - Adult Study 11:00am – Worship  Deacon's Breakfast	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am - Worship  Michael Mansfeld Preaching	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship  Rev. Alfred Williams, Jr. Preaching  2009 Budget Spectrum	8:45am - Adult Study 10:00am – Worship  Rev. Alfred Williams, Jr. Preaching  ANNUAL MEETING

\*\*\*THE NEXT DEADLINE IS JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE\*\*\*

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

<b>SPECIAL EVENTS</b>		
<b>Thursday, January 8</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Women's Potluck &amp; Program</b>
<b>Thursday, January 15</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Men's Dinner &amp; Program</b>
<b>Thursday, January 15</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>Souper Center Dinner</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 20</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Souper Center</b>
<b>Sunday, January 18</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>2009 Budget Spectrum</b>
<b>Friday, January 23</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Bridge Potluck &amp; Play</b>
<b>Sunday, January 25</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, January 29</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Souper Center</b>