

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
P O BOX 579

SEBASTOPOL CA 95473

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From the Pastor

A pastor shares this story: "A man in my congregation had dangerous open-heart surgery. He was told by his doctor that he had no more than a 50-50 chance of surviving the operation, but he chose to go forward with the surgery. And he did survive. When I visited him afterwards, I said, 'You did survive after all! Isn't that wonderful!'

"He answered, 'No preacher, I didn't just survive. I did more than survive. I was born again. I'm not the same person I have been for the past 50 years. It's like God reached into my life and, through this illness, made me somebody better than I ever was before. I've been given a second chance and I'm going to be different...better than before."

Concludes this preacher, "Once again, God in Christ had made an advent into a life and, just by showing up, just by intruding into time, had transformed time."

Advent...the four Sundays before the great celebration of Christmas. How can we already be so close to Advent? It seems like I just put away our large, inflatable Halloween pumpkin! (doesn't every family have one?) Advent...a season of preparation, of getting ready. But for what? The man who survived that dangerous heart surgery could tell us. We are getting ready for nothing less than a divine intrusion - God reaching into our time and into our lives, disrupting and transforming us, our time becoming God's time.

How odd that we tend to think of the story of Jesus' birth as something that happened long ago in the distant past. For the fact of the matter is that the then and there of his birth has intruded into our here and now. Because of that birth, something is afoot that is way beyond our conceptions of what can and can't be. God with us; God in our time; no where to hide. Jesus is now more of our present and future than of our past. We had best be ready!

Gene

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



Join Grief Counselors Harry & Susanna Simms in the Fireside Room on Thursday evenings at 7PM as they facilitate a support group dealing with the pain of grief. Losing a loved one, whether it be a recent loss, or from years past, can be difficult to process. Please call Harry or Susanna at 829-7769 if you have any questions. The group meets each Thursday at 7PM in the Fireside Room. There is no charge and the group is open to all.

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY MORNING CLASS CONTINUES

Please join us Sundays at 9:15 in the Fireside Room for coffee and to discuss the scripture chosen for the sermon. We will begin the discussion with a brief insight into the pastor's view of the passage and pose questions for the group. We will read the passage, discuss it, and then listen to the Sunday sermon with a little more insight and hear what the pastor has to say. You don't need to be a Bible scholar, just have the desire to delve into the Bible, one scripture at a time.

Baked Goods for Sunday Coffee Hour

We need to stock up with goodies to share during our Coffee Hour! If you have cookies, cake or some kind of treat we can serve after church, please bring it by the church wrapped for the freezer and we can save it for next Sunday. Thanks!



Minister of Music, Brian Plaughter requests that you take a few moments and jot down the titles of your favorite hymns to help with future worship planning. Please leave this in the collection plate or in the church office.

Your Name: _____

Favorite Hymns: _____

Sermons & Scripture

December 2013



ADVENT SERMON THEME: WHAT TIME IS IT?

December 1 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT TIME IS IT? TIME TO WAKE UP!

Christ is closer than you think, says Paul. Time to open your eyes, get up and live like he is already here!

Romans 13:11-14; Communion Rev. Nelson
Advent Event following Worship

December 8 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT TIME IS IT? TIME TO HOPE!

Just when I have convinced myself that nothing will ever change, nothing new under the sun, along come Paul insisting that change is already taking place. Can't you see it?

Romans 15:4-13 Rev. Nelson

December 15 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT TIME IS IT? TIME TO WAIT

Waiting is not something we tend to do well. And yet, the season of Advent suggests that is precisely what we need to learn to do. But how shall we wait?

James 5:7-10 Rev. Nelson

December 22 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WHAT TIME IS IT? TIME TO RECEIVE

We are so busy right now – so little time, so much to do. But can we stop and just receive the great blessing – the priceless gift - of this season?

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 Rev. Nelson

December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

6 PM – Family Service 8:30 PM – Classic Service
 11 PM – Acoustic Service

December 29 Rev. .Kristen DelMonte will preach this Sunday. It is the Sunday after Christmas – bring the kids in their pajamas and come enjoy a special Christmas story.

Alternative Gifts

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE



Mission & Outreach will have the Alternative Gift Catalogs available in the entryway and in the church office.

The Alternative Gifts International is a collection of gifts to donate products or services to a specific cause. When you make a purchase from the Alternative Gifts catalog, you receive a gift card to present, explaining about the alternative gift you have purchased in their name. Through your Alternative Gifts purchase you can honor your gift recipient by giving someone in desperate need a flock of chickens, eye surgery, a month of care for an orphan or clean water in their name. Choose from a multitude of other wonderful and helpful gifts that will be truly appreciated. Pick up a catalog and let your imagination go!

This Christmas, give the gift of hope – a gift that can change a life! Shop from home and save gas - give from the Church World Service Best Gifts Catalogue.

ADVENT CHAPEL COMMUNION

On the three Thursday mornings of Advent, December 5, 12, and 19, Rev. Nelson will be leading a simple Advent Communion Service in the chapel at 8:00 AM. These will be reflective services as we focus on the spiritual meaning of the season. All are welcome.



CALLING ALL ANGELS . . .



. . . Shepherds, Wisemen, Marys and Josephs! All children are invited to join our Christmas Pageant. Come to the Children's Choir rehearsals Dec. 1, 15 & 22 at 9:30 AM to practice the Pageant songs. On Sunday, December 22 we will rehearse the Christmas Eve Pageant after church until 1:30 PM. Children ages 5-12 are invited to join us. The Christmas Pageant will be performed at the 6 PM Family Christmas Eve service on December 24. Questions? Please contact Kristen – 823-2484.

Memorial Poinsettias

On December 15 we will grace the church chancel with beautiful Memorial Poinsettias in 6" foil wrapped pots. Please fill out the form below and bring it to the church office or leave in the collection plate with your check. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia plant with checks made payable to the Community Church.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 10th.

Given in Memory of _____

- or -

Given in Honor of _____

Given by _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____
poinsettia plants. (\$10 each)

_____ I will take my plant home.

_____ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry

Our Preschool-Second grade classes will be using the **Godly Play** curriculum this church year. This is a wonderful curriculum that invites children to become aware of the Holy in our daily lives through creative story-telling of the Bible stories. Our children will be grouped together in three classes; ages 3-5 in Room 5, ages 6-7 in Room 6, ages 8-11 in Room 4. Each class will have teachers and helpers. Below is the December schedule:

Children Ages 3-5 (Room #5)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
December 1	1 st Sunday of Advent	Deidra Warner
December 8	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Deidra Warner
December 15	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Deidra Warner
December 22	4 th Sunday of Advent	Deidra Warner
December 29	No Sunday School – kids in church	

Children Ages 6-7 (Room #6)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
December 1	1 st Sunday of Advent	Jamie Malone or Debbie McCallum
December 8	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Jamie Malone or Debbie McCallum
December 15	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Jamie Malone or Debbie McCallum
December 22	4 th Sunday of Advent	Jamie Malone or Debbie McCallum
December 29	No Sunday School – kids in church	

Children Ages 8-11 (Room #4)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
December 1	1 st Sunday of Advent	Suzanne Gordon
December 8	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Suzanne Gordon
December 15	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Mary McMillon
December 22	4 th Sunday of Advent	Suzanne Gordon
December 29	No Sunday School – kids in church	

MUSIC GROUPS FOR CHRISTMAS



Choirs are gearing up for Christmas and this is the perfect time for you to join in the fun. Check with our choir directors for rehearsal times and dates. For the Chancel Choir, contact Brian Plaughter at 869-9120; for the Handbell Choir contact Karna or Linda Roa at 823-8378; for the Children's Choir (ages 5-12) call Sara Margulis. And don't forget about the ukuleles – contact Vicki Reno at 827-3668.

A NOTE FROM GENE

I know that as you read this, most of you have already made your financial commitment to the church for 2014. And thank you for that! But I just wanted to say a brief word about the ministry and outreach we share. Often there are significant moments that most of you don't see. On the weekend of Nov. 16th and 17th, there were two memorial services at our church – one in the chapel and one in the sanctuary. Both were for people with no affiliation with our church and the vast majority of people who attended had no affiliation with our church. The service in the chapel was small, about 30 people, but the one in sanctuary on Sunday was huge with about 250 people. Each was followed by a reception at church.

I officiated at both, but a number of our folks were involved with the services and behind the scenes: Keith Blackstone, Karin Seder, Gail Thomas, Darryl Fenley, Andy DelMonte, Joanne Matson, Janet Minton and Norma Watson. They all went the second mile to reach out to these families and the families were deeply appreciative. I doubt if either of those services will bring us new church members, but they were an important ministry. We provided a safe space where people could come and share memories, stories, grief, laughter, tears and yes, faith. People felt welcomed and cared for, and again, were immensely grateful. Having this place to come together made a huge difference. I just told folks that that is what we do around here.

Just one of the many forms of ministry and outreach which you support; one of the many ways you make a difference in Sebastopol and West County. Thanks.



MISSION & OUTREACH

The Mission & Outreach Board is once again sponsoring the Christmas Tree as well as the Shoebox Ministry – with a slight change: the shoeboxes will be filled for men only (women and children are covered by a great many other services while the need to help homeless men remains strong).

Shoeboxes will be available for you to pick up on December 1 following worship. The shoeboxes can be filled with necessities for a homeless man (see list below). The box should be wrapped in Christmas paper and placed under the Christmas tree in the narthex. On December 16th members of the Mission & Outreach Board will deliver the gifts to the Homeless Services Center in Santa Rosa.

Our Shoebox Ministry gifts can be an important part in the life of a homeless man. Please fill your shoebox generously using “regular” size products (not “sample” sizes). It is important to stick to the list and include all the items as these gifts are opened in a group setting

SHOEBOX MINISTRY FOR MEN

Toothpaste	Toothbrush	Pocket comb
Deodorant	Washcloth	Shampoo/conditioner
2 granola bars	Hand towel	Package of tissues
Disposable razors		Large bar of soap
1 Pair of warm socks		Pen and notepad
Shaving cream		Box of band aides

Our tree will be decorated with “Socks & Underwear Tree.” There is always a tremendous need for men’s, women’s and children’s socks and new packaged underwear in all sizes. Socks, packages of underwear, hats and gloves can be brought in to decorate the Christmas tree that will be placed in the narthex on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. All the items collected will be delivered on December 16 by members of the Mission & Outreach Board to help those in need.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer for committees and boards at The Community Church. Please give prayerful consideration as to where you would like to serve in the year 2014.

- ✂ **Adult Education Committee**: Plans classes, workshops, Bible studies for adults
- ✂ **Memorial & Endowment**: Manages funds given as endowments and memorials; plans educational events for the congregation and community.
- ✂ **Mission & Outreach**: Concerned with meeting human needs in the local community, the nation and the world; presents educational programs and projects.
- ✂ **Nominating Committee**: Responsible for obtaining persons to serve the church on boards and committees.
- ✂ **Personnel Committee**: Establishes and maintains personnel policies; meets with church staff; addresses personnel issues.
- ✂ **Board of Trustees**: Responsible for care and custody of the property and financial affairs of the church.
- ✂ **Youth Committee**: Support group for the youth groups and their advisors. Responsible for finding and training youth leaders
- ✂ **Ushering & Hospitality**: Help coordinate Sunday morning volunteers and act as church liaison during memorial services.

✂ - - - - -

Please consider me for the following Board or Committee:

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Please complete and return to the church office. Thank you.

Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU

- ❖ Thank you to Joanne Matson and Janet Minton for organizing the recent memorial receptions held here at the church. Greatly appreciated!
- ❖ Thank you to Tom Dilley for helping Keith clear the gutters of leaves before the first rain.
- ❖ Thank you to our volunteer yard clean-up crew that worked for several hours on November 2: Organizer Barbara Whitson and helpers Keith Blackstone, Donna Tappan, Garth Watson, Bob Holland, Jeff Pearce, Stewart Mitchell, Nancy Lee, Tom Larssen, Sonja Larssen, Lisa Dawson, Eva Norton, Gerri Doody and Gloria Given. Job well done!
- ❖ Thank you to Norma Taddeucci for collating the November newsletter for mailing.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on December 4 in the Fireside Room at 10 AM to examine the scripture in John 7:53-8:11 with a discussion on The Women Not to be Stoned. On December 11 the group will meet and study Luke 18:1-8, including a discussion on the Widow and the Judge. Women's Bible Study will take a short break through the rest of December and meet again in the New Year on January 15, 2014.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Sebastopol Sunrise Rotary is Collecting Warm Winter Coats and New Toys for a Christmas Dinner in our Memorial Hall on December 25 to help those in need. If you can contribute new or nearly new warm clothing and new toys for Santa to hand out on Christmas Day, please see Gail Thomas or call her at 758-0295.

Also, if you would like to volunteer your time on Christmas Day or help with preparations, please contact Gail at 758-0295.



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Christmas Eve Services

Our evening Christmas Eve services are always special, with three different, distinctive and very beautiful worship services.

6:00 pm Family Service.

A candlelight service for all ages will feature our Children's Choir and a Christmas Pageant. We will enjoy a joyous celebration that will include the singing of familiar Christmas Carols and concludes with a candlelight recessional to the courtyard. Nursery care will be available for this service only.

8:30 pm A Classic Service.

A more "traditional" service, featuring our Chancel and Handbell Choirs. We will also sing familiar carols, hear the Christmas Story and conclude with a candlelight recessional.

11:00 pm Acoustic Christmas Service.

Music for this service will be provided by our Folk Acoustic group and Handbell Quartet. We will sing familiar carols with a different sound and conclude our celebration of the Christ's nativity with our traditional candlelight recessional to the courtyard.



Death

Former church member Stella Cussins Urton died on November 11 at her home in Pennsylvania. Stella had moved earlier this year to be near her daughter. If you would like to send the family a card, her daughter Janice Rose lives at: 361 Hickory Rd, Carlisle, PA 17015.

Births

Sydney Renee Jenkins was born on October 26, 2013 to first time parents Charlie and Emily Jenkins of Hiddenbrooke, near Fairfield. Sydney arrived a bit early and spent some time in the NICU, but she is now home and doing well. She weighed 4 lbs 14 oz and measured 18" long. Sydney is the first grandchild of Jim and Chris Jenkins.



Congratulations and blessings!

December Birthdays!



2	Jean Polley	19	Jack Dunlap
3	Christopher Petersilge		Patty Raney
4	George Drennon	20	Dick Zimmer
	Linda Good		Anya Meyskens Paull
6	Victoria Nelson	21	Lorilei DeSantis
7	Alvin Hukins		Maddy Foster
	Pamela Downie	24	Suzanne Albin
	Emma Steyn		Bruce Matson
9	Nathaniel Felton	25	Morgan Fryer
10	Ginny Embry	26	Hunter McLeod
11	Jim Jenkins	27	Paula Matzinger
	Bruce Bragonier		Dylan Lamm
	Amelia Cassells	28	Mat Keller
12	Rowena Kennedy		Luke Purcell
	David Peterson		Josie Malone
13	Elizabeth Thomas	29	Jenna Evans
14	Kaelen Bright		Brayden Farnham
	Marquesa Weigel	30	Joanna Caldwell
15	Colby Mayster-Buman	31	Conner Halleck
18	Lange Look		

Happy Birthday!

Email Address Change

Carole Hudlow has a new email address:
Hudlow3@gmail.com

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will not hold any meetings in December – we will see you again next year!

SO SO SO

The Women's Fellowship Crafts & Bake Sale on Sunday, November 3 was a phenomenal success! We wish to thank everyone who participated, either as a client or a provider of the items which were offered. We owe a special thank you to Helen Sokolis, who with her knowledge and leadership provided the expertise needed to make the sale so outstanding! We also wish to thank Ed Wilson and Tom Dilley for their help in the set-up and dismantling, and Garth Watson for all the fresh produce, and David Benefiel for all the special honey.

The Women's Fellowship members are proud of this activity as the proceeds are used so wisely. Most importantly of course, is our commitment to the church itself. Then at various times we commit to such endeavors as Manna Home, the Anthill Foundation, Hospice of Sonoma County, Habitat for Humanity, the Sebastopol Senior Center, Council on Aging, the Living Room, Interchurch Food Pantry, and many other worthy activities. We extend our best wishes to all involved and thank everyone for their unselfish commitment to such good works! Many thanks!

Women's Fellowship
Ways & Means Committee

SCHOOLS OF HOPE



**Help a child
learn to read!**

Volunteer today for Schools of Hope! Volunteer as a one-to-one Schools of Hope literacy tutor and make a difference in a child's life in as little as one hour a week. Learn more or register for an upcoming orientation on January 8 or on another day of your choice, at www.unitedwaywinecountry.org/sohsonoma. You may also contact Erica Dolcini at the Volunteer Center for more information about volunteering with Schools of Hope at 707.573.3399 x121 or edolcini@volunteernow.org.



MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach meets on the third Monday of the month, and will meet next on Monday, December 16, at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. Details for our Shoebox Ministry and Sock & Underwear Tree are posted elsewhere in this newsletter.

SATURDAY TABLE

On the second Saturday of each month, Mission & Outreach serves lunch in Memorial Hall to our local homeless population. In addition to offering a hot meal, we also offer showers. If you would like to contribute to this effort, there are several ways to help:

- ❖ Cash and check can be made out to the Community Church and designated for the homeless lunch
- ❖ Thick tube socks, sweat shirts, jackets, etc.
- ❖ Men's walking/athletic shoes or boots
- ❖ Tarps, rain ponchos, back packs
- ❖ Disposable razors and shaving cream

These items do not have to be new, but they must be usable and clean. Look for the collection bin in the church entry to drop off your donations. Monetary donations should be left in the church office. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249 or the church office at 823-2484.

SOCK & UNDERWEAR TREE

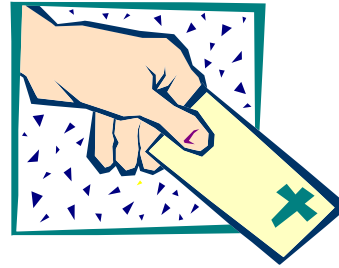
The church entry features the *Sock & Underwear Tree* where you are invited to bring warm socks, hats, gloves and packages of underwear to decorate the tree!

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Shoeboxes are available for you to fill (see the specific list in each box) and wrap for the Homeless Services Center.

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

Alternative Gifts catalogs are available for you to honor your gift recipient by giving someone in desperate need a flock of chickens, eye surgery, clean water or any number of helpful gifts that will be truly appreciated. Pick up a catalog and let your imagination go!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The month of October proved to be a disappointing one financially. Operating expenses remained well under projections but still exceeded receipts by almost \$12,000, leaving us with a 10 month deficit of \$10,917. Pledge income was down, leaving us \$19,000 behind our ten month projections. Plate income remained strong, however. In November and December, hopefully we can all "catch-up" on our church financial support.

Please submit all check requests and year-end receipts by December 17 for payment in 2013. Thank you.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

At its meeting after worship on October 20th, the congregation elected the following persons to an associate minister pastoral search committee:

Jane Huneke	Lucas Trevino	Lori Babcock
Joyce Cox	Kay Warren	Karna Dawson
John Henel	Stuart Mitchell	Jamie Malone
Rachel Knuth	Kathy Bell	Dan Rasmus
Pamela Downie		Norma Watson

Joyce Cox and Jane Huneke will co-chair the committee. It is currently working on two tasks: preparing a congregational profile – basically a detailed look at our congregation that can be shared with candidates for the position; and a job description for the associate position. Please hold the committee in your prayers as it begins this important task.

Merry Christmas!

Dreams of Justice.....A Retreat for All Women

January 17—19, 2014

Dinner Friday thru Brunch Sunday Morning

Angela Center in Santa Rosa

Do you dream of justice? Do you fear justice? Are you justified? Come explore justice and injustice. Come celebrate, come learn, come share, come explore, come rest, come dream with your sisters.

ALL women (ages 18-110) of the church, their **FRIENDS, FAMILY**, and **ACQUAINTANCES** are welcome. **Scholarships** are available for **anyone** (you don't have to be part of the church family).

Charlotte (Gerboth) Asher is the facilitator...a child of our church, she remembers dreaming in a pew in the old church downtown. The Sebastopol UCC gave her a strong sense of justice, sometimes to the dismay of her parents! A UCC pastor for 31 years, the Church School Coordinator at Santa Rosa First Congregational Church, a teacher for 25 years—currently teaching students with special needs at juvenile hall. Charlotte recently legally married her love of 14 years, Maryellen Grayson.

You may come for the entire weekend or, you may come for Saturday only. The time at retreat is yours to do as you wish. Nothing is mandatory! To give you an idea of how time is spent, the Saturday schedule is as follows:

8:00 am <i>Breakfast</i>	2:30 <i>Break</i>
9:00 Session	3:30 <i>Free Time</i> —games, walk, read, meditate, nap...
10:30 <i>Break</i>	5:45 <i>Dinner</i>
10:45 Session	7:30 Session
Noon <i>Lunch</i>	9:00 <i>Hang-out time: chatting, games</i>
1:30 pm Session	

The weekend **FE**E of **\$190** per person includes 5 meals, the facilitator and facility. This is a subsidized amount as actual cost for the weekend is **\$240** per person.

Saturday only fees include a day-use fee, a portion of the facilitator fee, and meal(s): Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner=\$80 Breakfast & Lunch=\$60
Lunch & Dinner = \$70 Lunch = \$50.

Fees are non-refundable after January 5th.

Scholarship funds are available for **ANYONE** (you don't have to be part of the church family) who wishes to attend. Fundraisers are held and donations made for this specific purpose so, please, do not stay home due to financial considerations. We want every woman to have the chance to experience a retreat. Scholarship information is kept confidential. Contact Nancy Shimetz (nshimetz@gmail.com) Text or voice to 707.695.7845) Look for Retreat Registration in this newsletter!

Women's Retreat REGISTRATION

Dreams of Justice.....A Retreat for All Women Jan. 17—19, 2014

☐ I will be attending **Sat. only:** (please circle meal selection) 3 meals=\$80
Breakfast & Lunch=\$60 Lunch & Dinner=\$70 Lunch only=\$50

☐ Enclosed is the registration fee of \$_____ for Saturday only

☐ Enclosed is \$_____ for the entire weekend plus \$_____ for the scholarship fund

☐ Enclosed is a deposit of \$_____ (no less than \$50, please). The balance to be paid **no later than January 5th.**

Name _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Any special needs: _____

Parking is limited – please contact carpool coordinator Joyce Cox: 829-0750 or B-J-Cox@att.net. ☐ I need a ride ☐ I can drive & take _____ passengers

☐ I have a ride arranged with _____

Lodging: ☐ I **must** have a single room ☐ I **prefer** a single room

☐ Preferred roommate _____

☐ I have no problem sharing with _____

For those who wish to help, the Women's Retreat Committee is always happy to accept donations of any amount above the fee to add to the scholarship fund.

Questions? Please contact a member of the committee

Nancy Shimetz	nshimetz@gmail.com	695.7845
Gail Thomas	pooohcornerfarm@comcast.net	758.0295
Emily Davis	emilydca@earthlink.com	823.5998
Lisa Dawson	lisadawson@sonic.net	829.0771
Joyce Cox	b-j-cox@att.net	829.0750
Rosemary Manchester	r_manchester@comcast.net	823-3477

**Return this form with your payment to: Nancy Shimetz,
7469 Fir Crest Ave, Sebastopol, CA 95472
OR, drop in the collection plate, OR, leave in the
church office.**

WOMEN'S RETREAT FUNDRAISER CHRISTMAS WREATHS



This holiday season enjoy fresh greens from California lovingly crafted into wreaths at Pooh Corner Farm.

Wreaths are a luxurious mix of fragrant native greens, made with or without California Bay, Redwood and other traditional materials, decorated with pine cones and a bright red bow. Standard wreaths are approximately 22-24" wide and sell for \$20 each, or purchase 5 or more for a discounted price of \$18 each.

Wreaths can be purchased and picked up on December 8 and 15 and all proceeds will benefit the Women's Retreat scholarship fund. Please fill out your order form below, include your check (made out to the Community Church) and place in the collection plate or deliver to the church office.

WREATH ORDER FORM

Please order for me _____ wreaths that I will pick up after church on December 8 or 15 (please circle)

Enclosed please find my payment of \$_____ (for the total amount of the order – wreaths are \$20 each or purchase 5 or more for \$18 each.)

Checks are made out to the Community Church of Sebastopol with a notation in the memo line: Wreaths. Order forms with payment can be left in the collection plate or in the church office by December 10.

Name _____

Phone _____

Questions? Contact Lisa Dawson at (707) 953-9545
All proceeds to benefit the Community Church of Sebastopol
Women's Retreat Scholarship Fund

Between Women

intergenerational Gathering

Saturday, December 14, 2013

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 8:40 AM DISCUSSION 9-11 AM

Between Women celebrates 14 years!

Join us for our next meeting on Saturday, December 14, in Faith Chapel for a special holiday gathering and hear the "connections" guest speaker. Bring your favorite holiday food to share!

Between Women meets the second Saturday of every month from 8:40 to 11:00 AM. We meet in the Chapel and Media Room for prayer, meditation and discussion.

Between Women is an inter-generational, faith-based group of women who gather to connect with other women. All women are welcomed to join us and experience a monthly "mini-retreat".

Come and be a part of a network, •supporting •educating, •expanding •connecting, individually along with a larger community of wise, wonderful women in a safe and compassionate environment.

- Stories • Support • Service • Compassion •
- Connection • Community • Education • Meditation •
- Laughter • Love • Food • Fun •

For more information, contact Marie Cotton at 393-7573



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 26th, immediately following worship, we will hold our 124th Annual Meeting in Memorial Hall. In addition to receiving our annual committee reports we will also adopt a new budget and elect officers for 2014.

All committee chairs need to turn in their annual report to the church office by January 16, 2014. Please call the church office – 823-2484 – if you have any questions or would like to see copies of previous reports to help you get started.

Youth News

December 2013

The Youth Lounge will be open 30 minutes before Youth Group officially starts to allow the youth to hang out and play together. The new time for the Jr. High Youth Group: 4-6 PM; the Sr. High Youth Group: 6-8 PM. So check out the new times, and get to Youth Group early - join Kristen in the Youth Lounge for snacks and a friendly, but competitive game on the Wii!

Jr. High

Remember Jr. High Youth Group (grades 6-8) starts at 4:30, but you can get to the Youth Lounge as early as 4 PM for some extra time

- December 1** Come to worship Sunday and the Advent Event. No evening meeting.
- December 8** Bring \$10 and meet in the Youth Lounge as we assemble & wrap our shoeboxes.
- December 15** Concert Fundraiser – meet at 4:30 pm to help with the concert.
- December 22** Christmas Party! We will decorate gingerbread houses and more!
- December 29** **No Meeting – see you next year!**

Sr. High

Remember Sr. High Youth Group (grades 9-12) starts at 6:30, but you can get to the Youth Lounge as early as 6 PM for some extra time

- December 1** Come to worship Sunday and the Advent Event. No evening meeting.
- December 8** **6 PM** Shopping for our Christmas Families Youth Leaders John and Corrine will take kids shopping.
- December 15** Concert Fundraiser – meet at 4:30 pm to help with the concert.
- December 22** Christmas Party! Bring a gift of \$5 or less for our gift exchange!
- December 29** No Meeting – see you next year!



Blessing of the Wreaths

ALL CHURCH ADVENT EVENT & LUNCHEON!

DECEMBER 1

Join us for a spectacular Advent Event on December 1 right after church. Bring your Thanksgiving dessert to share in Memorial Hall for an all church luncheon extravaganza - with a little bit of help from you, we will have a feast!

There will be beautiful materials to make your own Advent Wreath, a Blessing of the Wreaths, and a special candle lighting song you can learn and share with your family throughout Advent. This year there will be a variation of wreath styles you can choose from (along with our church's traditional style) and the main materials you'll need to get started. Please bring clippers for cutting greenery.

If you're interested in being involved, please contact Rachel Knuth: 823-8124 or mothersuperior6@gmail.com.



A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

2014 SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MISSION TRIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 ★ 5PM

Sebastopol Community Church, UCC

Bring your kids and grandkids for a late afternoon of fun!

The concert will last about an hour and have lots of fun and interactive songs for the kids as well as Christmas Classics performed by Lizann Bassham, Darryl Fenley, Brian Wetzell, Sonya Krautner and friends.

No admission charge, a free will offering will be collected. Holiday treats will be offered for sale before and after the concert to benefit the Sr. High Youth Mission Trip.



December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent ADVENT Event & Lunch 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Jr. & Sr. High Youth 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry	2 7:00 PM Search Committee Meeting	3	4 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Handbells	5 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	6 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Jr. High Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth	9	10 7:00 PM 125th Anniversary Planning Meeting	11 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Handbells	12 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	13 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	14 8:40 AM Between Women 11:30 AM Second Saturday Lunch
15 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:30 PM Jr. High Youth 4:30 PM Sr. High Youth 5:00 PM Family Christmas Concert	16 7:00 PM Mission & Outreach	17	18 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM Handbells	19 10:00 AM WF Board Meeting 10:30 AM WF Meeting 12:00 PM WF Luncheon 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	20 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	21
22 5th Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 12:00 PM Children's Choir Lunch & Pageant Practice 4:00 PM Jr. High Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 6:00 PM Family Service 8:30 PM Instrumental Service 11:00 PM Festival of Lights	25 Christmas Day 1:00 PM Rotary Christmas Dinner & Santa in Memorial Hall	26 7:00 PM Grief Group	27	28
29 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry	30	31	1	2 7:00 PM Grief Group	3 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	4

Prayer: God you revealed your love for us by coming into the world as a helpless child. May we respond to this great gift of love by making your love a reality in the world. Transform us through the giving and receiving of your grace and love. Amen.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing: "Glory to the new born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"*

**Christmas Eve or Christmas Day
THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Reader: God came to us because God wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles, but are moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas...we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent us his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost, but can always trust that we walk with us. Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let Christ be our companion.



Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Reader: Tonight we light the four candles of our Advent wreath and also the center candle, the CHRIST CANDLE, proclaiming that Jesus has come as The Light of the World.

Prayer: You have come, Lord Jesus, fulfilling your promise of peace and good will. May that Christmas message sink into our hearts that we might truly be a "Christmas people," not just this day, but every day. Amen.

Silent Night

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

A D V E N T

In the Christian church, Advent is the four-week season of preparation prior to the great festival of Christmas. It is sometimes referred to as a "little Lent" because as the world around us gets busier and more frantic in December, Advent invites us into a time of worship and reflection as we consider how we can best prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ.

One way many of us choose to mark this special season is through the weekly lighting of a candle in the Advent wreath. As the circle of light grows each week and we share the Advent devotions together, we are reminded that the coming of God to humankind and the coming of people to God is truly what Christmas is all about. This year our Advent reflections come from Henri Nouwen.

**ADVENT 2013
HOME ADVENT DEVOTIONS
The First Sunday of Advent
December 1
The Candle of Hope**



Reader: I keep expecting loud and impressive events to convince me and others of God's saving power. In a world that continues to shout, scream and overwhelm us with its claims and promises it is easy to be distracted. But in Advent, the small child of Bethlehem asks for my full attention. He invites us to look for small signs that God is present in our daily lives.

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-3

Reader: We light the first Advent candle, the candle of HOPE.

Prayer: We welcome you, small child of Bethlehem, whose coming we await with quiet attention. Shield us from the shouts, the screams, the empty promises of the season, and encourage us to turn our hopes to your coming. We know that the true hope of this season is hidden in the stable in Bethlehem. Amen.

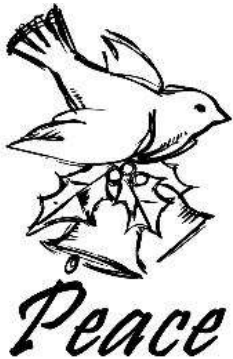
O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever lasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8

The Candle of Peace



Reader: Keep your eyes on the prince of peace, the one who doesn't cling to divine power...Keep your eyes on the one who touches the lame, the crippled and the blind; the one who speaks words of forgiveness and encouragement. Keep your eyes on him who becomes poor with the poor, weak with the weak. He is the source of all peace.

Scripture: Colossians 3: 12-15

Reader: Today we light two Advent candles, the candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE.

Prayer: O God, help us to make our way to Bethlehem, to the peace of the Christ Child. May his message of peace sink into our hearts and souls, giving us hopeful assurance of your unending care and concern for all of creation. Amen.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15

The Candle of Joy

Reader: We are joyful now because we know that Jesus is coming. Our expectation leads to joy and our joy to a desire to give to others. Real joy always wants to share. It

belongs to the nature of joy to communicate itself to others and to invite others to take part in the gifts we have received. Advent is a time of joyful waiting and joyful giving.

Scripture: John 15: 9-11

Reader: Today we light three Advent Candles – the candles of HOPE, PEACE AND JOY.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, enter our hearts even as you entered the world in the stable at Bethlehem. Touch us and open us to the joy you bring, that we may live gratefully, hopefully and joyfully as your disciples. Amen.

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22

The Candle of Love

Reader: Jesus' whole message is to say that you are God's beloved child. When you can hear that in your heart, not in your head, that you are truly God's beloved daughter, that you are truly God's beloved son, everything turns around. The mystery of this spiritual truth is that you were loved before you were born, and you will be loved after you die...Your dwelling in God's heart is a dwelling from eternity to eternity.

Scripture: Psalm 23

Reader: The day we have been waiting for is almost here. Today we light all four Advent Candles – the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE.

