

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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SEBASTOPOL CA 95473
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From the Pastor



In the film, *St. Vincent*, a class in a Roman Catholic grade school is given the assignment to write about an everyday saint – someone in their lives who embodies the qualities of sainthood. The young boy, Oliver, decides to write about one of the unlikeliest candidates for sainthood anyone could possibly imagine...his neighbor, Vincent. Vincent – an unpleasant, crabby, foul-mouthed drunk who gambles and cheats and steals and seems to do all he can to drive people away. And he is quite successful at that. It seems his only true friend is his cat, Felix. But Oliver, who manages to open Vincent's tightly sealed heart just a bit, knows there is more. He learns that Vincent is married. His wife is in an expensive care facility, suffering from increasing dementia. Vincent tenderly visits her every day. He is hopelessly behind in the payments. Oliver also learns that Vincent was a true hero in Vietnam, saving the lives of a number of his fellow soldiers. And he suspects that Vincent is even beginning to care about him... at least a little. And so, at the class assembly, he introduces everyone to St. Vincent. Who knew that even one such as Vincent could be a saint?

And who knew that the Messiah, God's Chosen, would come from an out-of-the-way, dusty, dead-end forgotten place like Bethlehem? Who knew God would choose to come among us as a child born in poverty and obscurity – so common, so ordinary, such an unlikely choice? How strange of God to choose such common people and places as instruments of God's in-breaking Kingdom. I think of the words of a hymn by Brian Wren:

*Good is the flesh that the Word has become
good is the birthing, the milk in the breast,
good is the feeding, caressing and rest,
good is the body for knowing the world,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.*

Not a bad description of Advent and Christmas. For one of the central claims we make in this season is that God trusted flesh and blood to bring divine love to earth. Seemingly, God takes great pleasure in our flesh; God sees a world filled with everyday saints. Everyone has gifts; everyone has received God's grace. In God's Kingdom there are no nobodies. Each and every body matters.

It is tempting in this season to convince ourselves that we wait for a God who will deliver us from our often frustrating and maddening humanity. Then, much to our surprise, God comes among us as God always has... as one of us; embracing our humanity, our history, our wonder and our weakness, inviting us to become part of the promise... each one an everyday saint

Gene



MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach will meet on a special day and time as we gather the wrapped packages under the tree, and all the items decorating the tree to deliver to those in need. We will meet at 10 AM on December 22 to load packages for delivery.

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
- ❖ Sample size shampoo & soap

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.

New Life for Your Old Eyeglasses

Those old eyeglasses in your junk drawer are a great gift to someone in Mexico or South America through the **Lions In Sight** collection program. Just put the glasses in the collection box in the church entry and they will be processed and eventually reach an eye glass clinic to help someone improve their vision. Old hearing aids are also in demand.



Here is an opportunity to re-use and recycle at the same time as helping someone in need. If you have any questions about the eyeglass collection program, please ask Jerry Coleman.

December 2014 Sermons & Scripture

Advent Sermon Theme: The Prophet Isaiah:
Opening the Heavens – Opening Our Hearts

December 7 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OPENING OUR HEARTS... WITH PROMISE

The prophet dreams of that day when God's glory will be revealed and all will see it. Dare we buy into such an audacious hope?

Isaiah 40:1-11

Rev. Nelson

Children's Advent Spiral in Faith Chapel

December 14 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OPENING OUR HEARTS... WITH JOY

The prophet speaks of God bringing joy, not happiness but joy. What might such joy look like?

Isaiah 9:2-7

Rev. Nelson

December 21 THE FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OPENING OUR HEARTS... WITH PEACE

The prophet speaks of beating swords into plowshares and of the dawning of peace. But that glorious promise continues to seem so far away.

Isaiah 2:1-4

Rev. Nelson

December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6 PM – Family Service

8:30 PM – Classic Service

11 PM – Acoustic Service

December 28

NOW WHAT?

The decorations are down, gifts all opened (and some returned!) and the world returns to "normal". But just maybe... angels continue to sing.

John 1:1-5

Rev. Nelson

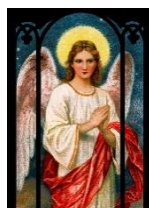


GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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.

ADVENT CHAPEL COMMUNION

On the three Tuesday mornings of Advent, December 2, 9, and 16, 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.



Alternative Gifts

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

Mission & Outreach has the Alternative Gift Catalogs available in the church 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.

Memorial Poinsettias

On December 14 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 8th.

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.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 8th.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING!



You have two opportunities to join the choir for Christmas Caroling – the first night of caroling will be Thursday, November 11 to sing for Tom Larssen and friends at the Primrose Assisted Living Center, 2080 Guerneville Road in Santa Rosa. Meet at Primrose at 6:25 PM.

More Caroling! On Sunday, December 21 you are invited to join the choir for caroling right here in our neighborhood. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.



ALL WOMEN of the church, their family and friends are invited to the Winter Women's Retreat which begins Friday evening, January 16, 2015 and ends Sunday morning following worship. It will be at Angela Center, 535 Angela Drive, Santa Rosa and Rev. Jean Boal will be our facilitator.

Sign up Now!!

JANUARY 16-JANUARY 18, 2015

Registration forms available in the church office or one line: <http://www.uccseb.org/ForWomen.php> and in this newsletter.

Women's Retreat Gift Certificates Available

Need a Christmas gift for a special woman in your life? Give the gift of Women's Retreat! Send \$220 to Jane Huneke, 8026 Macaw Court, Rohnert Park, 94928, by December 15th and the recipient will receive a gift card and a registration form in the mail prior to Christmas. Include with your check the following: Name and address of recipient, how the card is to be signed (e.g., With Love, from Your Family), your full name, and a phone number where you can be reached. Indicate if you want it to be a surprise, give us your address, and we will mail it directly to you.



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

Cool Christmas Classics and Frosty Fun!



A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
YOUTH PROGRAMS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 ★ 4PM

Sebastopol Community Church, UCC

This fun, kid-friendly concert has become a holiday favorite with snow in the chancel, Rudolph glow sticks, and lots more! Join Lizann, Darryl, The Children's Choir and friends for all the fun, plus your chance to throw 'snow balls' in church!

No admission charge, a free will offering will be collected to benefit the Community Church Youth Programs.



BAKED GOODS FOR 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!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We're trying something new on Communion Sundays for our children! They will begin worship in the Sanctuary with their families and then at the middle hymn, children ages 3 and up will be invited to join Rachel in Faith

Chapel for a Chapel Circle. The children will return to worship in the Sanctuary during the Doxology to partake in Communion with their families. Children under age 3 may go the Nursery in Room 4 with Diana Wilson.

We hope you will also join us on Christmas Eve at 6 PM for our special Family Christmas Eve Service. Our Children's Choir will sing, there will be a Christmas Pageant, carols and a candlelight procession to the courtyard. A very festive event for all ages!

Children Ages 3-4 (Room #5)

November 30	<i>Communion Sunday</i>	Rachel Knuth
Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion		
December 7	<i>Advent II</i>	Kathy Bell
December 14	<i>Advent III</i>	Kathy Bell
December 21	<i>Advent IV</i>	Kathy Bell
December 28	<i>No Sunday School</i>	

Children Grades K-2 (Room #6)

November 30	<i>Communion Sunday</i>	Rachel Knuth
Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion		
December 7	<i>Avent II</i>	Jamie Malone
December 14	<i>Advent III</i>	Jamie Malone
December 21	<i>Advent IV</i>	Jamie Malone
December 28	<i>No Sunday School</i>	

Children Grades 3-5 (Media Room)

November 30	<i>Communion Sunday</i>	Rachel Knuth
Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion		
December 7	<i>Light</i>	Mary McMillon
December 14	<i>Joy</i>	Mary McMillon
December 21	<i>Love</i>	Mary McMillon
December 28	<i>No Sunday School</i>	

SILENT WALKING MEDITATION

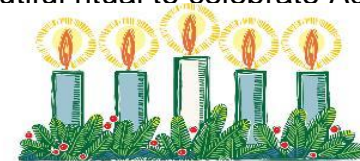
ADVENT SPIRAL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

December 7 Time 5:30-6:15

Faith Chapel

You are invited to join Rachel and Lydia as we begin a new Advent tradition here at the Community Church - a silent walking meditation for children and youth ages 5 and up. Younger siblings and parents welcome also to meet in Faith

Chapel at 5:30 PM on December 7. Come ready for a quiet, reverent and beautiful ritual to celebrate Advent.



Blessing of the Wreaths

ALL CHURCH ADVENT EVENT & LUNCHEON!

NOVEMBER 30

Join us for a spectacular Advent Event on November 30 right after church. Bring your Thanksgiving dessert to share in Memorial Hall for an all church luncheon extravaganza – turkey soup & cornbread as well as a vegetarian offering, plus your desserts.

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. And if you have greenery to contribute, we need that too!

If you're interested in being involved, please contact Rachel Knuth: 823-8124 or RachelKnuth@uccseb.org. We will also need four volunteers to help with lunch – two for preparations and two for clean-up.

Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU

☺Thank you to Mary McMillon, Sophie Sherman and Katie Baumgras for providing food for our 2nd Saturday Lunch. ☺ A huge thank you ☺ to all who helped with our Revival Meeting! ☺ Thank you to Lizann Bassham for her inspired preaching. ☺ Thank you to Keith Blackstone, Darryl Fenley, Hosanna Bauer, Paula Matzinger and Dave Peterson for the beautiful music. ☺ Thank you to Denelle and Gary Tognozzi for putting up their fantastic "tent". ☺ Thank you Gail Thomas and Barbara Wilson for the lovely floral arrangements in Memorial Hall and ☺ thank you to Joanne Feige for the bales of hay. ☺ Thank you Stuart Mitchell for taking photos of this special event. ☺ Thank you to John Simmons, Rachel Knuth, Brian Plaugher, Gene Nelson and Lizann Bassham for the special prayers for and ☺ thanks to Keith Blackstone and his crew for set up and clean up. ☺ Thank you to Chris Jenkins for planning this wonderful event! And the biggest thank you ☺ to all of YOU – thank you for joining us! ☺

Special Thank Yous

The Women's Fellowship Crafts & Bake Sale on Sunday, November 2 was a phenomenal success! We wish to thank everyone who participated, either as a client or a provider of the items which were offered. The Women's Fellowship members are proud of this sale as the proceeds collected are used for our continued outreach projects. Most importantly of course, is our commitment to the church itself, with our continued support of our church pledge and purchase of various items for the wider use of the church and church members. Thank you!

My heartfelt thanks for all the prayers and cards – it has meant so very much for me. I hope to be home after Thanksgiving.

Barbara Walton

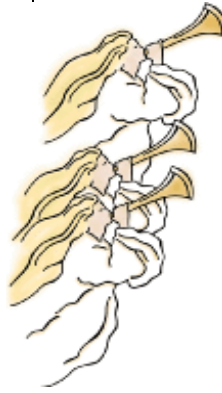
(Barbara's mailing address: P.O. Box 228, Sebastopol, CA 95473)

Words are inadequate to express our gratitude for your support at Burt's passing. Your cards, phone calls, prayers, and presence have buoyed us up. We have truly been blessed by a host of angels—you. Thank you! *The Bishops*

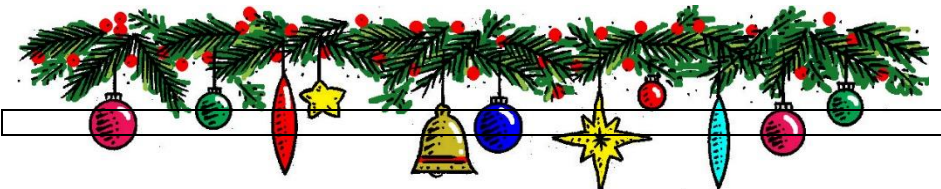
Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU

Service of Remembrance

DECEMBER 9



On the Second Tuesday of Advent, December 9th, at 7:00 PM in Faith Chapel, we will share in a special Service of Remembrance. For many of us, the joy and busyness of the holiday season is also marked with the memory of loved ones no longer with us. This quiet service of candlelight and reflection is the opportunity to pause for a moment and light a candle in memory of those who have meant so much to us. You are invited to bring a photograph or other remembrance to share.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Sebastopol Sunrise Rotary is collecting warm winter coats and new toys to hand out during a festive 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.

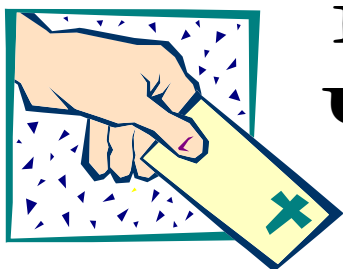


YEAR END CHECK REQUESTS

The last day to request a check for 2014 is December 16. Checks will be distributed on December 17. Check requests made after December 16 will not be available until after the first of the year.

CHURCH OFFICE ON VACATION!

Karin will be out of the office from December 25, returning on Monday, January 5. Our wonderful volunteers will check phone messages and email, but office hours will be sporadic and your patience is appreciated.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

October was not as strong a month financially as were the previous few months. Pledge income was down as was income from plate. However, our pledge income for the year still exceeds our projections. But overall, operating monthly expenses exceeded income by almost \$8000. This left us with a month-end operating deficit of \$3016. Hopefully November and December will be “catch up” months for our church financially. Thank you for your continued support.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

To receive the monthly newsletter online, visit <http://www.uccseb.org/Newsletters.php>. **Go Green** and sign up for the online newsletter. Save paper, save postage and save money!

December 10 ★ 4-8 PM ★ Open Enrollment Help

It's that time of the year again! Open Enrollment for Covered California and Medi-Cal is happening from now until February 15th, 2015. Navigating the application process and finding a health insurance plan that fits your needs can be difficult. West County Health Centers, a non-profit organization that provides quality, comprehensive, and accessible healthcare to Western Sonoma County, is hosting an Enrollment Event on December 10, 2014 from 4-8pm at the Community Church of Sebastopol. There will be Certified Enrollment Counselors who can assist you in selecting and applying for a health insurance plan through Covered California, as well as screen you for programs for which you might not know you are eligible. All assistance is free and confidential! Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Certified Enrollment Counselor Kelsey Britt at (707) 869-5977 ext. 3318.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Terry Beck (829-0314), Mary Coleman (861-9444) and Bob Holland (823-6899) are the Members-at-Large to the Church Council for this year. If you have any issues you would like brought to the Council's attention, one of our Members-at-Large will be able to help you.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet in December on Wednesday mornings, December 3rd and 10th in the Fireside Room from 10-11:30 AM. On December 3rd we will look at Mark 5:21-43 and the book by Barbara Brown Taylor: The Problem with Miracles. On December 10 we will look at Matthew 6:1-13 and our introduction to the Stud of Prayer. The group will take a break for the rest of December and resume meeting on January 7, 2015. Questions? Contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.



WOMEN'S
Bible Study



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children (age 6-11) will practice in the Choir Room at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings in December on December 7, 14 & 21. The Children's Choir will also sing at the Cool Christmas Concert on December 14 in the sanctuary at 4 PM and on Christmas Eve at the 6 PM service. Questions? Contact Sara at sara.margulis@gmail.com or by phone at 707-291-2741.



UKULELE GROUP MEETS ON FRIDAYS

The UkeStars will continue to meet on Fridays in the Fellowship Hall for their jam sessions and weekly practice from 10-11:30 AM. For information please call Vicki Reno at 827-3668 or email at vreno@comcast.net.





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 November 30 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 15th 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	Hand Sanitizer	Shampoo/conditioner
2 granola bars	Hand towel	Package of tissues
Disposable razors	Chapstick	Large bar of soap
Shaving cream	Washcloth	Pen and notepad
1 Pair of warm socks		Box of band aides

Our tree will be decorated with “Socks, Warm Hats & Underwear.” 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, November 30. All the items collected will be delivered to agencies serving the needy on December 15 by members of the Mission & Outreach Board.

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 2015.

- ✂ **Adult Education Committee**: Plans classes, workshops, Bible studies for adults
- ✂ **Board of Christian Education**: Responsible to guide and support Sunday Children’s Ministries. Also works on special events, such as the Advent Event.
- ✂ **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
- ✂ **Board of Deacons**: 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.

Fact: Sunday Mornings are Volunteer Intensive
Query: How Can You Share Your Time?

The Diaconate Board needs your assistance in filling sixteen positions every Sunday. (This does not include Sunday School.) Your gift of time will be a valuable contribution to the warm, welcoming climate of our church. Please consider this an opportunity to put your faith in action and serve the Lord and our Church.

Please complete the following form and drop it in the offering plate or in the church office. We'll add you to the calendar for the dates you have indicated.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL _____

I am able to help Sundays on:

Dec 7 ____ Dec 14 ____ Dec 21 ____ Dec 28 ____

Christmas Eve: 6 pm ____ 8:30 pm ____ 11 pm ____

On the Sundays indicated above, I could help:

____ be the head usher for a Sunday

____ usher

____ with new members and be a New Member Shepherd

____ greet at the front door ____ with Coffee Hour

____ be a Lay Reader ____ with Communion set up

____ call on shut-ins ____ drive people to church in my car

____ Acolyte (Children 7-14)

____ I can also help with memorial receptions on occasion

Youth News

December 2014

Sr. High School PF Grades 9-12

Middle School PF Grades 6-8

Advent



Series

December 7 – Youth Lounge – *Indigestion*

4 pm Middle School Hang Out ★ 4:30 - 5:30 pm Meeting

5:30-6:15 pm *Advent Spiral in Faith Chapel for all Youth*

6:15-6:45 pm **Mission Trip Info Meeting for Sr. High & Parents**

6:45-7 pm High School Hang Out ★ 7 - 8 PM Meeting

The Christmas story is hard to swallow... A virgin birth? Angels singing? Strangers bringing gifts? Sometimes it all leaves us feeling a little uneasy...

December 14 – Youth Lounge – *False Labor*

4 pm Middle School Hang Out ★ 4:30 - 6 pm Meeting

6 pm High School Hang Out ★ 6:30 - 8 pm Meeting

(Bring \$10 to contribute to the ShoeBox Ministry – we will walk to CVS and shop from our list to fill the boxes.)

Jesus was coming to be the savior - Jesus is still coming to be the savior - Wait, what??

December 21 – Youth Lounge – *Weird Cravings*

4 pm Middle School Hang Out ★ 4:30 - 6 pm Meeting

6 pm High School Hang Out ★ 6:30 - 8 pm Meeting

Party! Potluck Night! Bring a dish to share and plan for a fun time!

December 24 Christmas Eve Services

Hope to see you there – 6 pm, 8:30pm or 11pm

December



2	Jean Polley	18	Lange Look
3	Christopher Petersilge	19	Jack Dunlap
4	George Drennon		Patty Raney
	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	26	Hunter Melzod
	Georgia Grays	27	Paula Matzinger
10	Ginny Embry		Dylan Lamm
11	Jim Jenkins	28	Mat Keller
	Bruce Bragonier		Luke Purcell
	Amelia Cassells		Josie Malone
12	Rowena Kennedy	29	Jenna Evans
	David Peterson		Brayden Farnham
13	Elizabeth Thomas	30	Joanna Caldwell
14	Kazlen Bright		
	Marquessa Weigel		
15	Colby Magster-Buman		

Women's Fellowship

December 4 Meeting

Women's Fellowship will have a meeting in December! We are thrilled to be meeting for a Christmas Coffee and election of officers on Thursday morning, December 4 at 10:30 at the home of Marge Holland, 8489 Barnett Valley Road. We will meet at the church at 10 AM to carpool.

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. 7, 14 & 21 at 9:30 AM to practice the Pageant songs. On Sunday, December 21 we will rehearse the Christmas Eve Pageant after church until 1:30 PM. A light lunch will be provided. 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 Rachel Knuth at 823-2484 or RachelKnuth@uccseb.org.



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.

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.



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

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 7 and 14 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 7 or 14 (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 Nancy Shimetz at 823-4242
All proceeds to benefit the Community Church of Sebastopol
Women's Retreat Scholarship Fund

Between Women

intergenerational Gathering

Saturday, December 13, 2014

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 8:40 AM DISCUSSION 9-11 AM

Between Women celebrates 15 years!

Join us for our next meeting on Saturday, December 13, in Faith Chapel for a special holiday gathering. 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

Name Tags?

If your name tag has come up missing, or you don't have a name tag, we'd like to get one for you! And if you already have your name tag, please make a habit of clipping it on to help all of us remember your name!

To get a new or replacement name tag, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate, leave it in the church office. Please print **C L E A R L Y** the first and last name you would like printed on your church name tag:

First Name _____

Last Name _____



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
125TH ANNIVERSARY - QUASQUICENTENNIAL 1889 – 2014

The Apple Pie Story

By Ellen Stillman

In 1972, the Community Church offered to help pay the camp fees for anyone who would like to attend our Family Camp at Camp Caz. So many people signed up that the money available was \$200 short of the amount required. It was suggested that if 100 Gravenstein apple pies were donated and sold for \$2 each, the problem of financing the camp would be solved. And so the Apple Pies Event at the Community Church of Sebastopol was born.



The first few sales were held at the church and all the pies were baked at individual homes. Then in 1974, several people thought it would be more efficient, and much more fun, to bake the pies in the church kitchen, thereby creating a mess in only one kitchen and oven instead of many. A pickup truck filled with apples was backed up to the kitchen door and several young people were drafted to do the peeling, while inside the kitchen volunteers rolled, trimmed, crimped crusts and baked pies. One hundred and ten pies were baked in the church kitchen that year.

Thereafter, a small group, always assisted by the young people peeling furiously to rock music in the parking lot, gathered to make pies together at the Community Church. By 1974, 155 pies were made in the church kitchen. The church oven could not keep up with the demand and some pies were transported home for baking. Another 275 pies were made in individual homes. Those who could not bake pies donated sugar, flour and shortening. That year we showed a profit of \$1,556.75.

In 1975, 275 pies were made at church and another 226 came from homes with a profit that year of \$1,755. The pie event was a hit, and there was no turning back!

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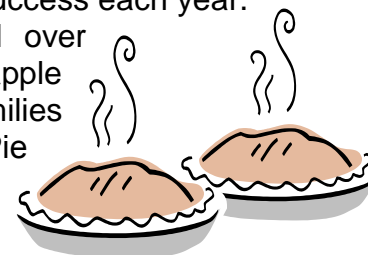
In 1979 the Gravenstein Apple Fair came to Ragle Park and the pie sales moved to the park and on to greater challenges. This was the first year we went to the cannery to buy our apples by the barrel, already cored and peeled. Some very efficient equipment was donated, some purchased, and with some very creative minds, devices were invented and constructed to streamline the pie making process to make it more productive. The Fair gave the Community Church exclusive rights to apple pie sales with the caveat that we must not run out of pies! So for several years the threat of losing our exclusive concession drove us to Herculean production efforts! In 1989 we baked 2,346 pies for a profit of \$8,415. However, there were 270 pies left over, which the Farm Trails agreed to purchase from us.

Since that time, the Gravenstein Apple Fair has allowed other vendors to sell apple pastries and pies, and we were no longer obligated to have pies available through the end of the fair.

Some very nice amenities have been added to our apple pies event – the hot dog BBQ lunch for all workers on Friday and Saturday, our new fair booth, wonderful new signs to advertise the sale, and sales from our Memorial Hall, which are clear profit as they do not have to be reported to Farm Trails. The production process has become more and more streamlined and efficient because of innovative ideas from talented members of our church community.

Hundreds of people of all generations have contributed countless hours to make the apple pie event a success each year.

Many friendships have been forged over pans of apple peels! Through our apple pies event, hundreds of youth and families have received an “Apple Pie Scholarships” to help offset fees for summer camp and our Family Camp at Camp Cazadero. Our Gravenstein Apple Pies continue as a significant outreach program for our church and wider community.



Women's Retreat Registration Form

January 16-17-18, 2105

Registration - I will attend as follows OR:

___ Gift Certificate for person listed below from _____

___ \$220 Full Retreat Fri-Sun with meals

___ \$80 Saturday Only includes meals

\$_____ = Total Registration Fee – Fees are not refundable after Dec. 31

___ Enclosed is the total registration fee

___ Enclosed is the total fee + to supplement the retreat fund \$_____

___ Enclosed is a deposit of \$_____ (no less than \$50)

NOTE: The remaining balance to be paid no later than Jan 9th.

Name _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Any special needs: _____

Carpool: I am interested in carpooling: Yes No

Carpooling will be arranged by Joyce Cox b-j-cox@att.net 829.0750

Driving: I will be driving my car and have room for _____ more people.

Passenger: I already have a ride with _____

Lodging: Preferred roommate (s) _____

Checks are made payable to **The Community Church** with a notation in the memo line: Women's Retreat.

Please return this form with your deposit to:

Jane Huneke, 8026 Macaw Ct., Rohnert Park, CA 94928

OR, drop in the collection plate, OR, leave at the church office.

Women's Retreat Committee

Jane Huneke	jhuneke1@att.net	795-5451
Nancy Shimetz	nshimetz@gmail.com	823.4242
Gail Thomas	poohcornerfarm@comcast.net	829.2503
Marge Holland	hollandrobert@comcast.net	823.6899
Joyce Cox	b-j-cox@att.net	829-0750

A RETREAT FOR ALL WOMEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16-18, 2015 ANGELA CENTER IN SANTA ROSA

The weekend begins with Friday dinner and ends after worship on Sunday morning. There are a few openings for Saturday only – **sign up now!**

The time at retreat is yours to do as you wish. Nothing is mandatory! Sessions are no longer than 2 hours, with breaks and lots of interaction with others or alone time. Free time is just that, free. Free to hike, sleep, chat, and there are always table games with lots of fun and laughter.

FACILITATOR: Rev. Jean Boal and her husband Jeff were active members of our congregation for many years and have three adult children. In 2006, Jean graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity and continued there to get her certificate in Spiritual Direction. Jean was ordained at our church in May 2009 and currently serves as solo pastor for Trinity Congregational Church in Weaverville, California.

THEME: In the Place Just Right.... We will watch and discuss the movie "Having Our Say" as part of the program. To see more information and a tentative schedule, visit us online at <http://www.uccseb.org/ForWomen.php>.

We will be at **Angela Center**, Santa Rosa, off Old Redwood Highway near Cardinal Newman High School. There are 12 rooms with a single bed and 12 with two twin beds. Each room has a sink; bathrooms are down the hall.

The weekend **FEE** of **\$220** per person includes 5 meals, the facilitator and facility. This is a subsidized amount. The fee for Saturday only is \$80 and includes meals.


Fees are non-refundable after December 31st.

Want to buy a special **Christmas Gift** for someone? Gift certificates are available, simply indicate this on the registration form.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available for **ANYONE** (you don't have to be part of the church family) who wishes to attend. Due to rising facility costs, the retreat fund is falling a little short. Scholarships will be limited to a **maximum of \$170**. Payment of your portion can be made monthly so long as it is paid prior to the next retreat. Those who receive a scholarship will be asked to participate in one or more fundraising events. Scholarship information is kept confidential. Contact Nancy Shimetz nshimetz@gmail.com (823.4242 or 707.695.7845 text/voice).

Gift Certificates Available – What a lovely idea for someone special!

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 1st Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 11:45 AM Advent Event 4:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group	1	2 8:00 AM Advent Communion	3 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	4 10:30 AM Women's Fellowship Christmas Coffee 4:00 PM Budget Committee 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	5 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	6
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Middle School Music w/Dorothy 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 5:30 PM Children's Advent Spiral 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group	8	9 8:00 AM Advent Communion 7:00 PM Service of Remembrance	10 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Handbell Practice 4-8 PM Covered CA Enrollment	11 6:25 PM Caroling! 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	12 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	13 8:40 AM Between Women 11:30 AM Second Table-Homeless Lunch
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Middle School Music w/Dorothy 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Cool Christmas Concert 4:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group	15	16 8:00 AM Advent Communion	17 5:00 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	18 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	19 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent Caroling! Time TBA 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Middle School Music w/Dorothy 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 11:45 AM Children's Pageant Rehearsal 4:00 PM Middle School Youth Group 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group 6:15 PM Sr. High & Parents Mission Meeting	22 10:00 AM Mission & Outreach	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 6:00 PM Family Service 8:30 PM Instrumental Service 11:00 PM Acoustic Service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28 10:30 AM Sunday Worship	29	30	31	1 7:00 PM Grief Group	2 10:00 AM UkeStars practice	3