



NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

Dan Fowler, Pastor
 Martha Lopez, Commissioned Lay Pastor
 Sid Long, Newsletter
 Roger Thornburn, Webmaster

PASTOR'S COLUMN

We are living in very interesting and difficult times these days. I confess, it is hard for me to figure out how best to serve as your pastor after the recent presidential election. We have been through a lot together as a congregation; we have suffered some tragic losses over my 14 years here; we have weathered some difficult financial storms; we have dealt with losses of members over doctrine and scriptural interpretation. And yet, through all of these struggles, in time we have picked ourselves up and moved on together as a congregation, trusting in God's hope and love. Despite theological and political differences, we have worked through those differences and found unity in God's Spirit.

I hope and pray that, in time, we will find our way again, and come together as a congregation and as a country. Something feels different for me this time, and I am not alone. Pastor Ken Evers-Hood from *Presbyterian Outlook* writes, "But we aren't feeling that way (together) right now. This election has fragmented us into shattered pieces, all experiencing something different. Some of the people I serve feel like this is just an election. They wish everyone would just get over it. One of these folks articulated that this is the equivalent of your sports team losing. Sometimes you win; sometimes you lose; but you always move on. They don't want to hear anything more about this and feel like politics don't really belong in church anyway. Yet, another segment of my community is feeling absolutely devastated, wrecked and frightened. They would say this is nothing like a team losing in sports. When a sports team loses, no one is worried about human rights being endangered or increasing violence stemming from hatred. No, for them right now, words that leap to hope too quickly ring hollow. And then, I believe there's at least one other element of the community I serve who really don't know what to think, but do wish that I would downplay current events and just lift up a hopeful message: less cross and more resurrection."

For now, I will focus on trying to be with all of you, no matter how you feel, and leading you to the light of the manger, and of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. For now, we will stumble through, perhaps in some darkness together, all the while looking for the light of the star. Until that time when the Spirit brings us back together, may we try to hold onto the fact that all of us, no matter how we voted, no matter how we feel are sisters and brothers in Christ.

In Christ,

Mission statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, California

"As Christians, we warmly embrace our congregation and community, believing that all people are the children of God, and that God's house is for all people.

As a church, we are an anchor in life's storms, offering safe haven through God, His Son Jesus and the Holy spirit, who give us hope, grace, healing, peace and endless love."

Adopted October, 2012



The annual **Presbyterian Women's Christmas Bazaar** will be on **Saturday, December 4**. Shopping at our wonderful shops begins at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon. There are lots of great items that you can purchase for Christmas gifts or just to enjoy yourself. Check out Colleen's shop with wonderful handmade items; Nancy's food booth with yummy food selections; Charletta's Christmas Shoppe with handmade ornaments and decorations; Ginabelle's Garden Shop (manned by Christine) with fresh swags & wreaths and plants; the Sanderson's raffle table and a great lunch at noon. And there will be a door prize as well. Lunch will be served at noon and will be \$7.00. Come and

support PW as this is part of our fundraising for our various projects and support of local, national and worldwide charities. This is a great opportunity to buy Christmas gifts, items to trim your tree, get scrumptious food items and enjoy fellowship at lunch. See you there!

PW CHRISTMAS TEA

Our annual Christmas Tea will be held on **Thursday, December 15** at the home of Colleen Cleary. There will be fun entertainment, wonderful sandwiches, yummy cookies & tea. Colleen always has beautiful tables set for our enjoyment. There's laughter, sharing and getting to know each other. Time: 1:30 p.m. - car pool at the church at 1:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Come and join us for a great afternoon!



THANKS FOR THE MUSIC

The November 13th fund raiser for the music program was a big success!

Thanks to those who contributed items to sell. Colleen Cleary provided the pie-ready apples. Marsha Robinson, Nancy Mantel, and Colleen canned applesauce. Sylvia Burns made pumpkin bread. Claudelle brought homemade jam.

Thanks also to all who you who purchased the goodies so we can purchase music.

We still have some frozen, sliced apples for pies, apple crisp or other yummy apple desserts. Just \$5 per bag. See Claudelle or phone at 964-5667.

GUEST PREACHER- Sunday, December 4. Please come hear Rev. Cheryl Finch preach, while pastor Dan is away performing a wedding. Cheryl has been involved in ministry for several years, most recently serving as an interim minister for a church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was on staff with Dan at his last call in Sacramento.



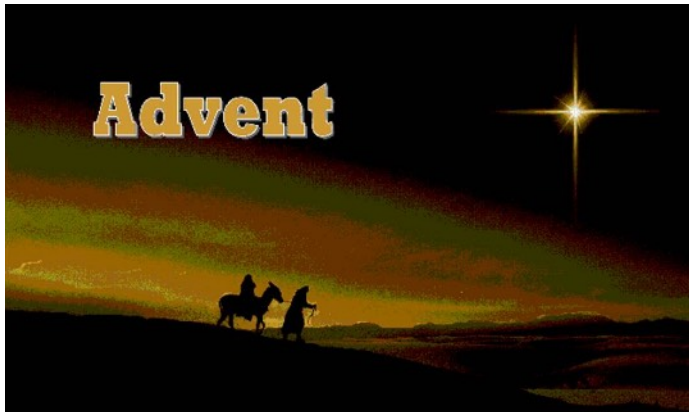
COMBINED FORT BRAGG-MENDOCINO WORSHIP!- Sunday, December 11- We will be worshipping with Mendocino Presbyterian church AT Mendocino. There will be no worship in Fort Bragg on that Sunday. Carpool at 9:15 to worship there at 10:00 a.m.

LITTLE LAMBS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-

Thursday, December 15, 6:00 p.m. Please come support the children and families of the preschool as they sing songs of the Christmas season and perform a couple of poems as well. Cookie and milk social after!



First Pres **To HOST EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER-Dec. 18-Jan 1** Our church will be hosting homeless men during the Christmas break, depending upon the weather. This shelter is staffed by Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, and run from 7:00 p.m to 7:00 a.m. in the church social hall.



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Please join us for mid Week Advent services on Wednesday nights from 7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

beginning

November 30th. Candlelight, singing, quiet, scripture verse and prayer.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The worship service on **December 18th** will be a special one – our annual Christmas Cantata,

“Candles and Carols”, will be performed by the Chancel Choir, directed by Pastor Dan Fowler, and accompanied by our flute player, Joei Enget. Claudelle Zack and Sid Long will narrate.

The considerable talents of Pamela Martin and Mark Hayes have created an intimate experience, which celebrates the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, culminating in the birth of Christ, by observing the tradition of lighting the Advent candles. As each candle is lit and each narration spoken, beautiful settings of familiar carols will be sung.

Advent is a holy season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ. It is also a journey from darkness to light. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelled in a land of darkness, upon them has light shined” (Isaiah 9:2)

The following week, the **Christmas Eve service** (Saturday the 24th at 7 p.m.) will offer the beautiful “Fall on Your Knees”, also sung by our Chancel Choir. Composer Pepper Choplin has woven original music and lyrics around the beloved carol "O Holy Night" to create a striking and memorable Christmas Eve anthem. Lush choral writing builds throughout the piece to a glorious peak before ending in soft reflection.

We’re inspired and excited by this music, and hope you will love it, too!

Sylvia Burns

CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight SERVICE- Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. Please note the time change!

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP- Sunday, December 25- All Family worship service. We will celebrate Jesus' birthday with a cake during fellowship hour and have activity kits for children and youth, as there will be no Sunday school taught that day.



Your Deacons at Work:

Deacons are busy with activities that we feel reflect these words in the front of our handbook: *It is the duty of Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick to the friendless and any who may be in distress.*

- 1) Visit shut ins and those in the hospital, send cards to shut ins and out of town members and friends of the church.
- 2) Coordinate the collecting of food for the Food Bank.
- 3) Prepare food for receptions after church memorials. In many cases prepare food for families who are grieving.
- 4) Lead church's meal preparation for the homeless at Hospitality House. This happens the fourth Sunday each month.
- 5) Give a rose to families who have a new baby.
- 6) Support a family, single mom and two children at Project Sanctuary. We have bought school clothes for the children, remembered their birthdays, and payed for activities at the Starr Center.
- 7) Prepare communion to be served the first Sunday of each month.
- 8) Fund an "emergency gasoline fund" for the Pastor to help someone who is stranded here on the coast.
- 9) Give corsages and boutonniere to individuals who become members of the congregation.
- 10) Prepare and give bean soup mix to new visitors.
- 11) Put together a Christmas Holiday gift bag for residents at Hospitality House. We try to make these bags as personalized as possible, for example, speciality items for men and women, toys and clothes for children, hand knit hats and scarfs.

We appreciate the support this congregation gives to the programs of the Deacons. Please share with any deacon a particular need of someone in the congregation so we can reach out to those in need.

Thank you, Paula Fowler, Cathy Hollenback, Pat Long, Jacque Moore, Marsha Robinson, Crystal Sanderson, and Printha Worthen.

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PAST SERVICES ONLINE

Did you miss a Sunday at church? Sermons and special music are both available to access online at www.fortbraggpresbyterian.org

HOSPITAL CLOTHING CLOSET

Nan Halstead wants us to know that the Clothes Closet, which serves to clothe homeless patients and anyone in need, is in dire need of warm clothing, preferable sizes in medium, large, and extra large for both men and women. Sweatshirts, warm tops with zippers, sweat pants with elastic waists, socks are all suggested. You can drop off any donations at the hospital's front desk.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 JEN ESTES
- 4 TOM EVANS
- 8 BEV KELLY
- 13 ANN BULLARD
- 17 PAT APPLGATE
- 25 LES MANN
- SUE ANNE MATTIUZZO

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 CHARLETTA & TOM EVANS - 1954
- MARSHA & JIM JEFFRIES - 1971
- 27 MARCIA & JARED WILLIAMS - 1969

Happy Anniversary

