



NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

Cheryl Finch, Interim Pastor
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**OUR SANCTUARY ON NOVEMBER 26th, 2017
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR
34th Sunday in Ordinary Time**



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, beginning at **11:a.m.** is the annual fabulous PW Christmas Bazaar. A lunch will be at noon - cost \$7.00. There will be a food booth, Christmas Shoppe, beautiful handwork, a plant table with swags, raffle and other enticing items. The lunch is limited to 50 people, so get your ticket at the door early. It's a time to mingle with friends and meet new folks as well. This fundraiser helps support PW donations and activities. Be there or be square!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: We are adorning the sanctuary with poinsettias on December 10. If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out an order form and put it long with your check (please write poinsettia on the memo line) in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office on December 1. You may take your plant home with you to enjoy following the Christmas Eve Service.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IS FOR ALL AGES

Midweek Advent Gatherings - We will gather the first 3 Wednesdays in December (6, 13, 20) at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper, carols, story and a project for all ages to enjoy, so bring your kids or grandkids with you! This fun filled evening is brought to you by the Deacons, Christian Education, and Worship Committees. We hope everyone will make it a point to take a break in the midst of the Christmas rush to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ Child!

We seem to have been very busy lately. In November we gathered at Moderator Marsha Robinson's house for a yummy soup supper and we put together twenty four gift bags for residents at Hospitality House. Eleven men and eleven women received a hand knitted cap and scarf, toiletries and warm socks. Two children also received appropriate gifts.....each gift was accompanied with warm wishes from Fort Bragg Presbyterian Deacons. Printha and Marsha personally delivered these gift bags to Hospitality House after worship the Sunday before Thanksgiving.



In December, your hosts for a soup supper to accompany Advent Activities will be the Deacons. See you at 6:00 p.m. on December 6, 13, and 19!

Deacons sponsor a family at Project Sanctuary. "Our Family" is headed by a single working mom, a boy turning 14 this month and a younger girl with a birthday in the spring. We remember each birthday. For Christmas, we are giving each person a gift card for clothes plus some fun stuff like a gift card at Cowlicks and maybe a movie pass.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the work of your deacons. **Pat Long**

The annual PW Christmas Tea will be on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th** at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Colleen Cleary, 3180 Johnson Lane. Carpool at the church at 12:30 p.m. as parking is limited. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Colleen has a beautiful home and the tables are always gorgeous. There will be entertainment as well. Please be sure to sign up so Colleen can plan on seating arrangements. It's a fun time and a great way to celebrate the Christmas season.



LITTLE LAMBS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Everyone is invited to join Little Lambs Preschool for their Christmas Program on Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year! This means two chances to come and worship. We will meet at the usual Sunday morning hour, 10:00 a.m. as well as at 7:00 p.m. for a Candlelight Service. They will be two very different services, so you won't want to miss either.

The congregation voted on November 12 to change the bylaws of the church to have a 9 member session instead of the current ten church elders. Elected to serve for the next three years were **Elder 2020:** Leo Lanigan, Larry Robinson, and Ian Sanderson (2nd term) **Deacons 2020:** Marsha Robinson (2nd term) and Printha Worthen (2nd term) And to fill an **unexpired 1 yr term in the class of 2018:** Cindi Hood.



A big WELCOME to Sheri Smith and Nancy & Bob Jorgensen who have joined our congregation Sheri came from letter of transfer from Peace Lutheran church in Grass Valley, CA. The Jorgensen's transferred from Teays Valley Presbyterian church, Scott Depot, West Virginia.



ACCOLADES to Steve Worthen for several things. He got a window washer in to wash all the lower windows and paid for half the cost. Then he has taken his new kitchen manager position to heart. Our pantry is all cleaned out and products that were not out of date have all been put back alphabetically. Today he tackled the cupboards around the coffee cupboard. Lots of things that were broken have been tossed. Things are looking very spiffy! A job we all talked about but kept putting it on the back burner. He is gettin R done!

MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS! from Sylvia Burns, Music Director



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

The church’s Thanksgiving dinner is a great way to start the Christmas season for me and many others—so many people sharing in a blessed way the wonderful food and feeling of community! This year, Steve Worthen sang “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas”, to give a hint of the coming time, and attendees joined in the chorus.

Christmas at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg is about lots of music—singing and playing—starting with the Advent Service on December 3rd, the Hanging of the Greens. We will be singing, as a congregation, the hymn “We Light the Light of Hope”, to start the season—and we’ll sing one verse of it each of the five Sundays in December.

The Mid-week Advent Wednesday evening events, December 6th, 13th, and 20th, will be a simple supper, story, and singing, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. All are invited!

On December 14th, at 6:00 p.m., please come and see the Little Lambs Preschool Christmas program (cookies afterwards!!)—this is too precious to miss. The children will sing some Christmas music, and there will be a story. It is short and irresistible!

The church choir, led by our expert Choir Director Lori Cole, is rehearsing intensely these days, getting ready for December singing—the choir will start on the 3rd of December, singing “Christmas Communion” by Susan Naylor Callaway and John A. Ray. On the 10th of December, we’ll do “A Time for Advent”, by Stewart Harris. On the 17th, we’ll have our cantata, “Bethlehem Joy”, by Steve Pethel. There will be lots of music on Christmas Eve day—for two different services (so come to both!!) the morning at the usual 10:00 a.m. and the Christmas Evening Candlelight service at 7:00 p.m. If it is not raining, the congregation will process out with our lit candles, singing “Silent Night”—so come dressed warmly.

Have a blessed musical Christmas season!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 JEN ESTES
- 6 HOLLY LANIGAN
- 8 BEV KELLY
- 13 ANNE BULLARD
- 17 PAT APPLGATE
- 25 LES MANN
- SUEANNE MATTIUZZO

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 MARSHA & JIM JEFFRIES - 1971
- 27 MARCIA & JARED WILLIAMS - 1969



Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas: Erika & Christopher Island, Printha Worthen, Marsha Jeffries, Marcia Williams and Sid Long. Photos by Cheryl Finch



Not pictured:
Cheryl Finch
Jim Jeffries
Steve Worthen
Dan & Chance Platt