



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

**Cheryl Finch**, Interim Pastor  
Sid Long, Newsletter  
Roger Thornburn, Webmaster  
Gary Champlin, Website Guru

The Christmas Bazaar will be **Saturday, DECEMBER 1st.**  
11:00 a.m. SHOPPING  
Luncheon at 12 noon  
(Seating will be limited to 50)



Join us midweek during Advent for a light supper, conversation, prayer and a special project each week.

Each week we will be working on a project to bring hope, light, love, joy and peace to different folks in our community. These gatherings are geared to be intergeneration so everyone please come! Need a ride? Let Pastor Cheryl know and we'll arrange one.

There are some items we could use for our weekly projects if you can help with some of them, please bring them to the church and place them in the designated bins.

**Dec 5<sup>th</sup>** – We will be making cards for shut-ins and congregation members who live far away.

\*Needed: Old Christmas cards we can cut up and up-cycle.

**Dec 12<sup>th</sup>** – We will make First Responder Care Packages, for our firefighters, police and EMTs who often have to work long difficult shifts during the holidays. In it will be things they can have handy on the job – esp on holiday night shifts when everything is closed.

\*Needed: . Chapstick/lip balm

Hand sanitizer

Sunscreen

Small/Fun Size candy

Mints

Hand warmers

Emergen-c/Halls Vitamin C drops

Snacks (Protein bars, trail mix, jerky, granola bars, etc) **\*\*no peanuts\*\***

Individual packets of pain reliever (Advil, Tylenol)

Small bottled water or sports drink

**Dec 19<sup>th</sup>** – We will make “no-sew” blankets a small bit of comfort for folks in hospital waiting rooms, children who are seriously ill or traumatized or otherwise in need.

\*Needed: 1 and ½ yard pieces of fleece. Also if you have a Rotary Cutter we could borrow for the night.



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA**

The annual women's Christmas Tea will be on **Thursday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m.** Colleen Cleary is graciously opening her home to us again for this wonderful event. Carpool at the church at 12:30 p.m. Also, please indicate if you will drive and also if you will be going from home. Colleen has been planning a program which is always a lot of fun.

I have put a new sign up sheet on the bulletin board with everyone on it who has already signed up. The sheet is a little different - Instead of phone numbers please indicate if you are coming from home or will drive. So far we only have one person signed up to drive - will need more as you will see. I also made up separate places to sign up for sandwiches and cookies - the sandwich one is full, but will need to know what kind you are bringing so there aren't any duplicates. Still need 4 people to bring cookies. Thanks for signing up so quickly. Still have room for 6 more people at Colleen's table!

There are no meetings of the Presbyterian Fellowship in the month of December. The women will be busy with the Christmas Bazaar on December 1 and the Christmas Tea on December 13. If the men would like to get together this month we'll be happy to see what they plan to do.



**SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR ADVENT**

One of my granddaughters has suggested to friends and family to do a different Advent Calendar. She has suggested to family and friends to do this - first get a box or basket and each day of Advent put in the basket an item that could be used by someone less fortunate than us. Then donate the basket to an organization or person. I am going to do this and see what I've gathered in the days of Advent and see if where I might donate it. Might be the Senior Center, the Food bank or Hospitality House. I'm sure all of you will be able to come up with something yourselves Merry Christmas and God Bless. **Lori**



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7 pm**

Come for an evening of carols and candlelight as we welcome the Christ child into our midst once more.

**GUEST "PAW" PIT Sunday December 31st**

We are excited to welcome two very special friends from the Presbytery to the pulpit, Rev. Linda Powers and Beta will be our guests while Pastor Cheryl is away. Rev. Powers and Beta just finished a call working with homeless folks in the Napa area and are looking forward to new ministry at the Juvenile detention center in 2019.

**SHERWOOD OAKS WORSHIP Sunday, December 31st**

Join us for worship at Sherwood Oaks Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. We'll share some songs and New Years Eve cheer as we worship with our friends at Sherwood Oaks. Meet in the dining room at 3:15 pm for 3:30pm worship.



from the DEACON'S CORNER by Pat Long

Hospitality House received 24 gift bags for residents the Sunday before Christmas, thanks to your deacons. We assembled the bags at Pat Long's on November sixteenth. Each gift bag (decorated by Pastor Cheryl's mom) contained hand knit caps and scarfs, socks, hand sanitizer and a \$10 gift certificate.

We continue to support "our" Project Sanctuary Family with prayers and with Christmas gifts. The teenage boy is turning 14 in early December and will be remembered with a gift certificate and and personalized note from the Deacons of the F.B. Presbyterian Church.

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Thanks to the generosity of this congregation we are continuing to fill Care Bags to hand out personally to someone on the street who needs some food and a prayer. Looks for these Care Bags during the social time after worship on Sunday.



Crystal Newman's new address it is 29667 Sherwood Rd

**SPECIAL FRIENDS JANUARY GATHERING Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup>**

All our *Special Friends* children, youth and adults, are invited for a trip to the Skunk Train Museum. We will carpool from the church to the museum and finish up our time together with a visit to Cowlicks! Mark your calendar now, a sign-up sheet will go up mid-December.

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Over 120 coastal community folks volunteered throughout the week of Thanksgiving to set up, decorate, prepare, cook, deliver, serve, and clean up for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at the First Presbyterian Church. Printha Worthen, a coordinator of the event, expresses thanks to all who contributed by donations and energy. "Despite the rain storm on Thanksgiving Day, this week of hard work, laughter, and good energy was well worth the effort: over 700 meals were served via meal delivery and table service, and with the spirit of thankfulness, all celebrated Family, Friends, and Community."

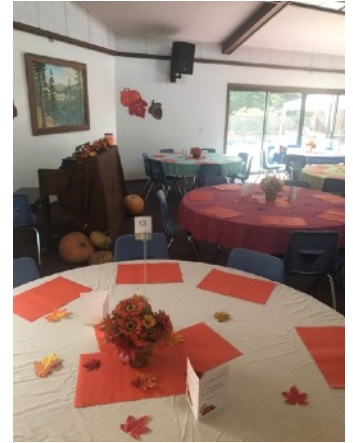
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER COORDINATING TEAM



left to right: Ellen Persa: ordering/solicit donors/TDay coffee and beverage service  
**Eve Nighswonger**: volunteer coordinator/ TDay Volunteer Reception/ TDay Customer Service  
**Steve Worthen**: safe food kitchen manager/ TDay dining room manager and host  
**Printha Worthen**: committee point person/ event logistics/ Meal Delivery coordinator  
Queenie: Chef of Queenie's Roadhouse Cafe in Elk/ menu planner/ our esteemed Chef  
Scott Shepley: food procurement & ordering/ kitchen logistics/ Assistant Chef  
**Gary Champlin**: volunteer coordinator/ TDay Volunteer Reception/ TDay Customer Service  
Not shown: **Pastor Cheryl**, who gave us encouragement and support throughout our months of planning.



MORE DINNER PICTURES from Pastor Cheryl



A POEM CELEBRATING THE 3 *VERY ACTIVE* MARSHAS/MARCIAS IN OUR CHURCH—THE MRS. JEFFRIES, ROBINSON AND WILLIAMS written by Marcia Williams)

### MARSHA, MARSHA, MARCIA

Marsha, Marsha, Marcia  
Yes, there are three  
Two spell their names correctly  
The rest is elementary.

Marsha, Marsha, Marcia  
Don't you mess with them  
Cause they'll defend their spelling  
They find it so compelling!

Marsha, Marsha, Marsha  
Sitting in a tree  
Drinking a cup of tea  
And eating green peas.

Marsha, Marsha, Marsha  
Looking for fleas  
Laughing with glee  
And picking up debris.

Marcia, Marcia, Marcia  
Thinks 'she's' the queen bee  
Falls to her knees  
Looking for her keys.

Marsha, Marsha, Marcia  
Then there were three!!  
Please don't disagree--  
We're having a Jubilee!

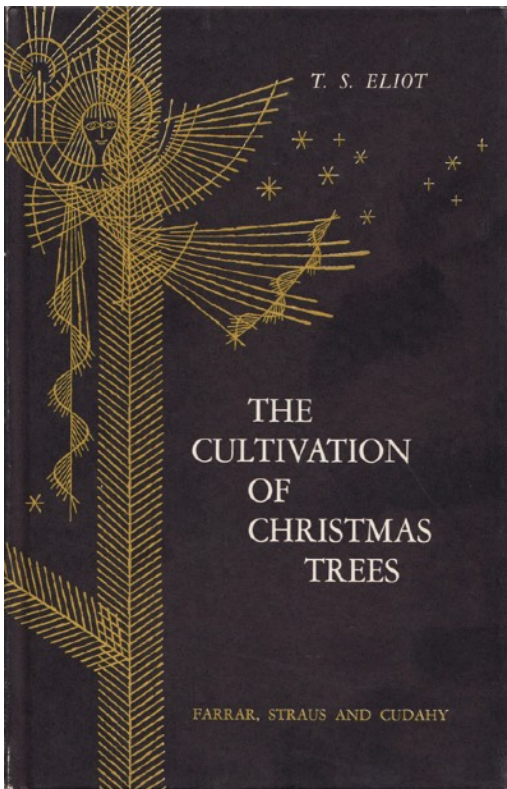


THE



*CULTIVATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES*

by T.S. Eliot, 1954



There are several attitudes towards Christmas,  
 Some of which we may disregard:  
 The social, the torpid, the patently commercial,  
 The rowdy (the pubs being open till midnight),  
 And the childish – which is not that of the child  
 For whom the candle is a star, and the gilded angel  
 Spreading its wings at the summit of the tree  
 Is not only a decoration, but an angel.  
 The child wonders at the Christmas Tree:  
 Let him continue in the spirit of wonder  
 At the Feast as an event not accepted as a pretext  
 So that the glittering rapture, the amazement  
 Of the first-remembered Christmas Tree,  
 So that the surprises, delight in new possessions  
 (Each one with its peculiar and exciting smell),  
 The expectation of the goose or turkey  
 And the expected awe on its appearance,  
 So the reverence and the gaiety  
 May not be forgotten in later experience,  
 In the bored habituation, the fatigue, the tedium,  
 The awareness of death, the consciousness of failure,  
 Or in the piety of the convert  
 Which may be tainted with self-conceit  
 Displeasing to God and disrespectful to the children  
 (And here I remember also with gratitude  
 St. Lucy, her carol, and her crown of fire):  
 So that before the end, the eightieth Christmas  
 (By “eightieth” meaning whichever is the last)  
 The accumulated memories of annual emotion  
 May be concentrated into a great joy  
 Which shall be also a great fear, as on the occasion  
 When fear came upon every soul:  
 Because the beginning shall remind us of the end  
 And the first coming of the second coming.

## IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

Saturday, December 1 — Bazaar 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 5 - Advent “Silent Night” activities. 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12 - Advent activities 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 13 - Christmas Tea 1:00 p.m.  
(No Presbyterian Fellowship Meeting)

Wednesday, December 19 - Session Meeting 4:00 p.m.  
Advent activities 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20 - No Presbyterian Fellowship Meeting

Monday, December 23 - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31 - Worship Service - “Guest Paws”  
Sherwood Oaks Worship 3:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 5 - “Special Friends” activity

Friday-Sunday, January 11-15 - Women’s Retreat - Westminster Woods

Friday-Sunday, February 15 -17 - Men’s Retreat - Westminster Woods

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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