

## from the associate pastor

Dear Friends,

A few days ago, I was watching the final show of Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now" from their Fire House studio. At the conclusion of the program, Amy Goodman shared her sadness at leaving the studio because as she said, "It has been hearth and home for eight years." I was struck by the odd image of a hearth in a modern radio and television studio, but I suppose that 'hearth' remains a ubiquitous term for the place we call home. The hearth calls to mind the warmth, provision, and shelter of the places we call home—even when that home might be a modern television and radio studio. I think the image was even more relevant for me because as we enter the Advent season, our theme will focus on the hospitality of hearth and home as captured in the Advent hymn "People, Look East," with the words from the first verse, "Trim the hearth and set the table."

This theme will be expanded further with our use of the imagery in Las Posadas, meaning "the inns" or "the shelters." You may know that Las Posadas is one of the high points of the Advent festivities in Mexico and other countries. Beginning on December 16, neighborhoods will select a home to host images or statues of Joseph and Mary each night through December 24. The procession will come to the door at two other houses in the neighborhood where they will be turned away until they come to the host family. As the procession moves from house to house, they sing songs. The songs tell about

*Continued on Page 11*



## *Christmas Eve*

*6:00 PM*

*Family Christmas Eve Service  
and  
Pageant*

*10:00 PM*

*Seasonal Music*

*10:30 PM*

*Candlelight Service  
"Trim the Hearth and  
Set the Table:  
Room for Christ"*

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

*Luke 2:1-20*

*The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt,  
preaching*

## Update on the 2009 Mission Study Team— We Are Almost There

As mentioned in previous articles, the mission study is the first step in the process of calling a new Associate Pastor. The purpose of the mission study is to help assess who we are today as a congregation, and where we may need to change and evolve in response to God's call. Our work as a team began in earnest in June of this year, and we now are within reach of a date to deliver our final recommendation to Session on December 22. During these past six months we have reviewed our history, studied our demographic trends, assessed our strengths and weaknesses as a congregation, analyzed our financial resources, and listened to your ideas and suggestions.

We rely heavily on input from the congregation in forming a recommendation to Session as to the steps needed to bring us closer to the vision we have for our church in the next three to five years. To date, we've conducted 26 personal interviews, received close to 50 written questionnaires, and held a spirited workshop on October 11 with 40-plus participants. We thank all of you who have thoughtfully contributed to this process.

While we are still formulating our recommendations, the following "themes" have clearly emerged in terms of the things this congregation wants to invest in for the future:

- Continue our focused ministry for children, youth, and families as a service to this growing segment of our community;
- Create more involvement between our church and the local community; we want our Marin neighbors to know who we are and what we do;
- Organize more local hands-on service projects that give more of our members an opportunity to participate in our commitment to mission;
- Strengthen the connections among church members through more opportunities to study, work, socialize, and serve in small groups.

Please direct any final thoughts and ideas to your Mission Study Team members—Carl Basore, Martha Olsen Joyce, Marci Duys, Wendell Butler, and Phyllis Schlobohm. Kevin Buchanan participates in our meetings and facilitates our process and decision-making.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we listen and attend to God's call in this important work.

- Martha Olsen Joyce

## Session News October 27 Meeting

You may have read in last month's *KP* about Lloyd and Sherry Halverson and the Katrina team's work on their new house in Gulfport. They have no furnishings for that house and little money to buy them. Carl Basore and the Church and Society Committee asked Session to approve funds from the Katrina Fund to help the Halverson's furnish their new house. Session unanimously approved \$2,000 for that purpose.

Session also approved the Communication Team's request for \$2,500 to get the new website up and running. It is expected to be up and available by December, even if some pages are still under construction.

Those of you who knew Sarah Shetlar as she grew up in this church might be interested to know that she has transferred her membership to the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas.

On November 15, Session met in a special meeting to welcome eight new members to our congregation. You will find their bios and addresses elsewhere in this issue.

- Diane Fairchild



## Sing for Joy! December 13

On December 13, for our Sunday morning worship, the choir will present "A Rutter Christmas," featuring original music by beloved composer John Rutter. Harpist Bertina Mitchell will accompany our choir, soloists, and community singers, along with oboe, clarinet, flute, and a string quintet of players from the Marin Youth Orchestra. The opening movement of Rutter's *Magnificat* will be the centerpiece, with many of Rutter's beautiful Christmas anthems sprinkled throughout the service. These anthems include "Candlelight Carol," "Nativity Carol," "Wildwood Carol," "Love Came Down at Christmas," "Shepherd's Pipe Carol," and "Christmas Lullaby."

Come hear the glorious music and be touched by the Christmas spirit!

- Martha Wall



A special thank you to those who have checked their libraries at home and found some volumes they could part with and donate to the church library, either for the collection or for our ongoing sale. We appreciate

your gifts, and encourage others to look around also.

Thanks, too, to Dick Schlobohm for the wonderful photographs he has supplied for the library windows. The latest one of Mary and Roger Hedin was taken at Roger's recent 90th birthday party.

New additions are appearing on a regular basis on the "Buck a Book" sale cart, so keep checking for interesting titles and some real bargains, including trade fiction and non-fiction, as well as spiritual material.

And please get in touch with Nan Harle (456-4008) if you have suggestions for books to buy with our "Buck a Book" money. We need to know of classic or new titles that you think would be welcome additions to our collection. There is also a sign-up poster leaning against the window in the library for you to write down titles and/or authors, so do whichever is easiest for you... call Nan or add to the poster; we need your input.

## Alternative Christmas Sunday, December 6 & 13

As members of this congregation, we seek ways to deal with the causes as well as the effects of poverty, disability, social injustice, or oppression—taking action to uphold the dignity and humanity of those who are marginalized or defenseless.

This Advent season you will again have the choice to buy Alternative Christmas gifts that help the needy and promote social justice. After church on Sunday December 6 and 13 in Duncan Hall you can support the Bare Roots project, the Keep Hope Alive project, Freedom from Hunger, the Integrated Ministry for Ethnic Minorities, and other mission related activities by donating money to them, either in your name or the name of others dear to you, as an Alternative Christmas gift.

## Adult Education in December

All classes are at 11:30, following worship in the Fireside Room.

- December 6: Twelve Step Programs  
Led by Juliet and Ash Wood
- December 13: Katrina Report  
Led by Carl Basore

## Christmas Luncheon

Come and ring in the season  
with the  
Older Adults Team

December 5  
11:30 am Fireside Room

Bring a food donation for the Marin  
Food Bank

Reserve your spot by calling  
Martha Spears, 459-0267



## Fall Mission Thank Offering Brunch

Many thanks to all who attended our Presbyterian Women's Fall Mission Brunch on November 14 in the Fireside Room. After a delicious brunch of homemade pastries, fruit and cheeses, brought and served by women from our Monday night Supper Group, we celebrated our national PW's Thank Offering, which goes each year to lift up the lives of women and children throughout the world. Twenty-seven projects were selected this year out of 69 requests. Last year's offering of \$684,900 went to 14 projects in the United States and 13 projects internationally. The generous offering this year was \$432. We are grateful to all!

Our guest speaker, Dr. Beth Liebert, recently installed Dean of SFTS, described the many changes that are occurring at the Seminary and their plans for future adjustments and changes and re-evaluations. The Seminary's commitment to educating future pastors remains strong, and they are eager to continue to partner with churches, including our own, to carry out that mission.

- Betty Stott

# Shelter Program for The Homeless

The Session has agreed that our congregation will participate in the rotating shelter program for the homeless this year by hosting 30 men each Thursday and Friday night from the first of December to the end of March, excepting the two Friday nights that Duncan Hall has previously scheduled activities. The men will arrive by bus at 6:00 PM and will leave at 6:00 AM, also by bus. We will provide and share a meal with them, and they will sleep on the floor of Duncan Hall. They will arrive with a sleeping bag, a mat and a blanket, which they will take with them when they leave. Those requesting this service will be screened and approved by caseworkers at Ritter Center and can arrive only by provided transportation. Walk-ins and drive-ins will not be allowed. No guest will be allowed to leave Duncan Hall during their stay, and there will be hired staff present at all times.

A team of volunteers will prepare the food, serve, greet guests, sit and share the meal, and assist in cleanup. Volunteers will also be present in the morning until 7:00 to assist their leaving and to clean up. At the time of this writing, we are in contact with the Seminary and with St. Anselm in Ross about the possibility of their participating with us.

The congregations who provided this service last year have had remarkable experiences, some even transforming, and have given glowing accounts of the effects on their congregations.

The rotating shelter provided by religious congregations began last year when, in December, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in downtown San Rafael opened its doors to the street community. While up to 50 individuals found safe shelter and rest each night, after several days, the County realized more was needed when Marin General Hospital treated several homeless people for hypothermia. As a result representatives from the County came together with other concerned organizations to find a way to open a larger shelter. That night, the Exhibit Hall at the Marin Center opened its doors and vans shuttled from St. Vincent's dining room on B Street. One night nearly 80 guests arrived. On January 2, the San Rafael National Guard armory officially became a "winter shelter," but the contract kept it open only until February 15, 2009. To continue safe shelter through the winter from February 16 through March 31, a "Mobile Shelter" was organized when a dozen religious congregations across Marin opened their doors to those living outside. Supporting congregations provided food, money and other operational support to keep the operation going.

Although there is a strong effort, primarily by the Marin Organizing Committee, to find and fund a permanent winter shelter, when it became clear that it would not be possible by this winter, efforts began to bring a rotating shelter program into being again. In September, a meeting was called by the Marin Interfaith Council and congregations serving last year, and with funding assured by the Marin Community Foundation, organizing this year's program began.

Our Session discussed and agreed to participate in the program by offering shelter on Thursday and Friday nights, but we were informed by the San Anselmo town manager that we would need permission from the Town Council to participate in this program. When we went to the Council meeting November 10, we found that all Council members were positive and supportive of our desires. They promptly arranged for an emergency conditional use permit to be written and presented to them at their next meeting. It will then go to the Planning Commission for their required process, but the Council voted for non-enforcement during that process. That means we can start right away and join the 15 other Marin congregations hosting the homeless. Among them are Christ Presbyterian, Terra Linda; First United Methodist, San Rafael; Christ Lutheran, Fairfax; Congregation Rodef Sholom; and St. Rita's Catholic, Fairfax. St. John's Episcopal, Ross, will host the men's shelter Tuesday night at our church. For more information on the shelter program, go to <http://marinshelter.wordpress.com>.

We are early in our planning as this is being written, but it is clear that we need lots of volunteers. Each night that we host, we need five people to cook and serve and six to help set up, greet, share the meal and help clean up. We need two people to help with final clean up at 6:00 AM each morning. Anyone who is interested in helping can call Royce Truex at 461-0949, or email [truex@pacbell.net](mailto:truex@pacbell.net)

## Meet Our New Members Welcomed into fellowship November 15



### Florence Ahlers

Florence Ahlers has been involved in the Presbyterian Church all her life. Florence was a Sunday School teacher and a deacon at her churches in New Jersey. After her husband's death, Florence moved to San Francisco. There she joined Calvary Presbyterian Church where she became a deacon and performed volunteer service in the chaplains' office at Presbyterian

Hospital. Florence has three children, five grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren, with number nine on the way. Florence's passions include travel, art and art history. She attended Art School in Paris, and upon moving to San Francisco she became a docent at the DeYoung Museum and the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Her love of travel has taken her around the world many times, and she continued traveling into her eighties



### Diana Browne

Diana is a native San Franciscan, born in the city and raised in both San Francisco and Grass Valley. She attended Lowell High School as a freshman, excelling in her studies as well as in the game of tennis. When she received her letter for tennis, she was pleased to have a sweater similar to the one Carol Channing had. (Carol was one of the cheerleaders at Lowell High.)

During World War II, Diana was married to a paratrooper. She had three children, including twins, during her marriage to her first husband. She returned to college, and in 1958 received a Master's Degree in Social Welfare from U.C. Berkeley. She worked as a Social Worker at U.C. Medical School in San Francisco, where she met and married Dr. James Browne in 1963. During their 43 years of marriage, they adopted two children.

Diana, and her husband Jim, previously attended servic-

es here at First Presbyterian Church San Anselmo, although they did not become members at that time. They decided to move to the Sacramento area to be closer to their many children, their 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Jim, died from a fall in December, 2006, so Diana decided to return to Marin County. She lives at The Tamalpais, and continues to enjoy her interests in writing and painting.



### Eun Joo Choi

Eun Joo was born in Seoul, South Korea. She grew up there, met her husband, and they have two grown children. Their son, 28 years old, is in the military in Seoul and their daughter, 27, is working as a graphic designer in Switzerland.

In 1987 her family moved to Edinburgh, Scotland where her husband studied theology. They

lived in Scotland until the spring of 1992, when they moved to Basel, Switzerland to continue their studies. It was here that Eun Joo began to take classes in theology, enriching her interest sparked by the discussions she and her husband shared. They returned to Seoul in the fall of 2001 where her husband is a pastor of a small church.

Theology has played a central role and interest in Eun Joo's life, so in 2008, she came to SFTS to continue her studies. She realizes that the classes, the discussions and the readings can become life changing experiences, and is ready to follow God's call to wherever God has a place for her to serve. She has been coming to this church for a couple of months and finds that she feels at home. She welcomes conversation and every opportunity to learn more about the people and culture of this country. Eun Joo says that she is very happy to be worshipping with us here in this church.



**Sharon Jackson**

Sharon Jackson is a native Californian, born in Modesto. She was raised in the East Bay, and moved to Marin thirty years ago. She formerly lived in Mill Valley, but recently moved to Tiburon. Sharon is the mother of four adult children, grandmother of five and great grandmother of two.

Sharon has been very active in civic life in Marin. She has served on the Commission on Women, on the board of nonprofit Artisans Gallery, and on the County Mental Health Board. In addition, she was an organizer and Chair of the statewide California Board of Local Mental Health Boards. In 2004 she was elected to the Marin Health Care District Board and reelected for a second term in 2008.

Professionally, Sharon has served as adjunct faculty for USF and Dominican Universities, teaching graduate students in health care and public administration. Among her many interests are local and national politics. In her free time, Sharon enjoys reading mysteries or singing. She has already joined the choir. She appreciates the friendliness, warmth and acceptance that she has felt in our midst.



**Faith McClellan**

Faith is a first year Master of Divinity student at SFTS and new to California and Marin County. This is the first time she has ever been to California and she is enjoying every bit of it. She was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, although she only has two brothers who still live there. For the past three years she has lived in El Paso, Texas.

A graduate of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, Faith received her degree in English Literature and Creative Writing. These studies will serve her well in her current academic pursuits. She believes that she is called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and that SFTS is preparing her academically and spiritually to accept this call. She chose to study at SFTS because of its cultural diversity, its emphasis on spiritual formation, and its academic excellence.

Faith is deeply interested in theology and Christian spirituality and is always looking for new ways to connect with God and people. One of the things that drew her to this congregation is the preaching of the word and the mission outreach.



**Lizellen La Follette, Peter Horn, and Lucy**

Lizellen grew up in San Francisco, and attended Branson School when it was still an all-girls school. After graduating from Branson, she attended Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She went to medical school at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio where she met Peter, her husband. Their family, including their two daughters, Eloise and Lucy, moved to San Anselmo in 1992. Eloise graduated from high school and is currently spending part of her gap year at Oxford, England, while Lucy is a Junior at Branson.

Lizellen is an OB/GYN physician and has a solo practice in Greenbrae. When she has time, and that is a rare commodity, she loves exercising and keeping fit. She welcomes the warmth of the church community which gives her a chance to recharge after her busy days of taking care of

people. It helps her remember why we are all here.

Peter grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and then moved back to Cleveland. It was there that he met his wife, Lizellen. They were married in 1989 and shortly thereafter had their two girls, Eloise and Lucy.

In 1992 they moved to Marin where Lizellen started her career in private practice. Peter's career has been in the insurance industry, and specifically, in the last 15 years, in health care finance. He is currently working at Health Net.

In his free time Peter enjoys being outdoors, exercising and playing sports, as well as spending time with family and friends.



### Christine Francisco

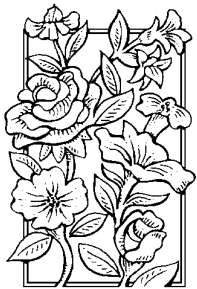
Christine has attended FPCSA since 2001, when she entered San Francisco Theological Seminary. She graduated from SFTS in 2005 with an Mdiv, having completed all the requirements of the PCUSA for ordination to ministry of Word & Sacrament. She is still a member of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley where she is under care,

so she comes to us as an affiliate member. During her years at FPCBerkeley, she was active in the Mother's Council, Stephen Ministry, and Celebrate Recovery (a Christian 12-Step program).

Born in New Jersey, raised in the Roman Catholic church, Christine is the oldest of 8 children. Her 4 brothers and 3 sisters and their families all still live "back East." She moved to the Bay Area in 1978, from New York, and in 1987, she married Bond, who is active with the Youth Committee of our church. For the past 3 years she has worked with seniors with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Currently she is Resident Program Coordinator at Alma Via of San Rafael in the Memory Care unit.

Bond and Christine have two children: Joe, a student at COM Indian Valley campus, and Gracie, a junior at Sir Francis Drake High School. Both Joe and Gracie have been confirmed here in our church and participated actively in the youth programs.

Christine received her BFA in Fashion Art from the Pratt Institute in New York. She loves working with color, pattern, texture and design. Her artistic talents include jewelry making, scrap-booking, knitting, and painting. In addition, attending 12-step meetings, remaining clean and sober, and working with others in the process of recovery is one of her top priorities. "Miracles happen," says Christine gratefully, and she is living proof.



### The Flower Guild

Flowers are an integral part of our Sunday worship service. Their beauty impacts our visual sense and complements the music and spoken word. Each week, one member of the Flower Guild (Jo Gross, Erika Hagopian, Inger Hewitt, Maureen Kalbus) buys and arranges the flowers. After the service, each arranges

the flowers in vases so that they may be taken to members of the congregation who are sick and unable to come to church. The colorful creations are appreciated by those at

church and at home.

Individuals in the congregation give a donation to have the flowers bought in memory of someone— in thanksgiving, in appreciation, but we need more to contribute to the Flower Guild's fund. If you would like to donate for the flowers one Sunday, please fill in a Flower Request Form, put it and a check in an envelope, and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Forms and envelopes are in a basket in the Narthex. Maureen Kalbus will contact you to confirm and discuss preferences in flowers and colors. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated by many.

### KP Classifieds

*KP Classifieds are offered as a way to support community Those in need of work, services or housing, or who have work, services or housing to offer, are welcome to contribute to this column. First Presbyterian Church does not endorse or warrant these listings but offers them as a community service.*

**Non-judgmental debt counseling** with sliding scale payment option. Contact Judith Hanks at nelsonhank@aol.com or 415.999.2780 (c).

**Desperately Seeking ... Electric Recliner/Lift Chair.** "Sittability Issues" are holding me back! If you have a working Lift Chair/Recliner that runs smoothly to donate or for cheap ... please call Joy @ 459-1266.

**Editing/Writing Coach for H.S. and Beyond!** Semi-retired College Administrator and experienced professional writer/reporter for hire to help with preparation of academic compositions at all levels. Experienced with most forms of written word, including grants, cover letters, applications, speeches, etc. For free phone or email consultation, call or write Joy: @ 459-1266 or joysnyder@sbcglobal.net

**Dorothy Crockett** would like to expand her potential positions:

In addition to my availability for **house and pet sitting** I am seeking a position in which I can serve in a ministering capacity as a **chaplain**. My experience for this position includes chaplain for women and children experiencing domestic violence; ministering to patients in all areas of a 300+bed hospital; oncology coordinator for Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD.

Likewise, I am open to an avenue in which I can use my **writing** experience. I was the public information officer for the City of Santee, San Diego County; did public relations for Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council; was a feature writer for *The Daily Californian*, a San Diego paper.

Contact Dorothy at 619.238.3904 or crockettdorothy@yahoo.com or 1380 Juliet Court, Livermore, CA 94550.

## Worship in December



### December 2

#### The Service for Wholeness and Healing

Wednesday, 7:00 PM, the Sanctuary  
Prayer, Taizé Music, Iona Liturgy

### December 6

#### 2nd Sunday of Advent

##### Communion

“Trim the Hearth and Set the Table: Prepare the Way”

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-6

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

### December 13

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent

##### Choir Concert

“Trim the Hearth and Set the Table: Sing for Joy!”

Isaiah 12:2-6

### December 20

#### 4th Sunday of Advent

“Trim the Hearth and Set the Table: A Song to Transform the World”

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1: 39-55

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan, preaching

### December 24

#### Christmas Eve

(See Front Page)

### December 27

#### 1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Kaz Nakaoka, Seminary Intern, preaching

## Worship in January



### January 3

#### Epiphany Sunday

##### Communion

“A Glimpse of Glory”

John 1:10-18

Ephesians 1:3-14

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

### January 6

#### The Service for Wholeness and Healing

Wednesday, 7:00 PM, the Sanctuary

Prayer, Taizé Music, Iona Liturgy

### January 10

#### Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan, preaching

### January 17

#### 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Surprise Party”

Psalm 36:5-10

John 2:1-11

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

### January 24

#### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Mission Statement”

Luke 4:14-21

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

### January 31

#### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

##### Annual Congregational Meeting

“Ninety Percent Love”

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANSELMO</b>						
<b>6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> <i>Communion</i> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9-10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 11:00 Parents Mtg./DH 11:30 Adult Ed/FSR 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR	<b>7</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 6:00 Women's Supper Group/FSR 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>8</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 10:00 Writing Group/Library 12:00 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:25 Session Committees/Sanct.	<b>9</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 10:00 Kerygma Bible Study/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library 12:00 Nurture Com./Conf.Rm. 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm.206 3:30 Youth Gathering/DH 7:30 Mission Study/ConfRm	<b>10 Human Rights Day</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:30 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct. 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>11</b> 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 12:00 Lunch Bunch	<b>12</b> 6:00 <i>Parents night Out/DH</i>
<b>13 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 11:30 Adult Ed/FSR 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR	<b>14</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>15</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 12:00 Business Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 3:00 Personnel Com/FSR 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:00 Session/Rm206	<b>16</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 10:30 Transforming Loss/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library 1:30 Staff Christmas Party. Office closes at 1:00 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm206	<b>17</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 10:00 Horizon Bible Study/FSR 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:00 Nominating Com/Library 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:30 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct. 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>18</b> 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH	<b>19</b>
<b>20 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> <i>Carol Sing</i> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr. High Connection/YR	<b>21</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 7:00 Chancel Choir & Friends Carol Sing/Sanct. 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>22</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 12:00 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH	<b>23</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 10:00 Kerygma Bible Study/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 10:15 Windows/Library 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 6:00 Family Pageant 8:30 AA/Rm203 10:30 Candlelight Service	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:00-3:30 Shelter Meal Drop-off/DH 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Cents-Ability Offering</i> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary	<b>28</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203  <i>12/28-1/1—Church Office Closed</i>	<b>29</b> 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH	<b>30</b> 12:00 Women's AA	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 10:15 Windows/Library 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>DECEMBER 2009</b>	

Note: Calendar is subject to change. Please verify scheduled events with the Office Administrator.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Note: Calendar is subject to change. Please verify scheduled events with the office administrator.</p>						
<b>3</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR	<b>4</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>5</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 1:30 Play Reading Group/FSR 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:30 Deacon Mtg/Rm. 206	<b>6</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm206 3:30 Youth Gathering/DH 7:00 <b>Wholeness &amp; Healing Service</b> /Sanctuary 7:30 Mission Study/Conf.Rm.	<b>7</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter ShelterNight/DH 7:30 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct. 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>8</b> 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 12:00 Lunch Bunch 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR	<b>11</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>12</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 10:00 Writing Group/Library 12:00 Staff Mtg/Conf Rm 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:25 Session Committees/Sanct.	<b>13</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 10:00 Kerygma Bible Study/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library 12:00 Nurture Com./Conf.Rm. 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm.206 3:30 Youth Gathering/DH 7:30 Mission Study/ConfRm	<b>14</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter ShelterNight/DH 7:30 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct. 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>15</b> 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH  Deadline for <i>Kensington Press</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Hymn Sing</b> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR	<b>18 M. L. King, Jr. Day</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>19</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 12:00 Business Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 3:00 Personnel Com/FSR 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH	<b>20</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm206 3:30 Youth Gathering/DH 7:30 Mission Study/Conf.Rm.	<b>21</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 10:00 Horizon Bible Study/FSR 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:00 Nominating Com/Library 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:30 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct. 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>22</b> 9:00-3:30 Shelter Meal Drop-off/DH 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 1 2:00 Lunch Bunch	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR	<b>25</b> 11:30 Fitness Group/DH 3:00 Book Group/Library 6:00 Women's Supper Group 7:30 Narc. Anon/Rm 203	<b>26</b> 9:30 Qigong/Rm 206 12:00 Business Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship Planning/Conf Rm 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm 206 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:00 Session/R. 206	<b>27</b> 8:30 Career Transitions/FSR 10:00 Kerygma Bible Study/FSR 12:00 Women's AA/Library 2:00 M.Hughes tutoring/Rm.206 3:30 Youth Gathering/DH 7:30 Mission Study/ConfRm	<b>28</b> 9:30 Centering Prayer/Library 10:15 Windows/Library 2:00 M.Hughes Tutoring/Rm206 5:00 Nominating Com/Library 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH 7:30 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct. 8:30 AA/Rm 203	<b>29</b> 9:45 Church Mice/Conf.Rm. 5:30 Winter Shelter Night/DH  <b>1/29-1/31</b> <b>Women's Weekend/ Westminster Woods</b>	<b>30</b> 4:00 Chinese New Year Party/DH
<b>31 Congregational Meeting</b> <b>Cents-ability Offering</b> 9:00 Childcare/Nursery 9:00 Adult Study/Rm 203 9:10 Choir Rehearsal/Sanct 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 11:15 Congregational Meeting 5:45 Mid-High Connection/YR 7:00 Sr.High Connection/YR						

JANUARY 2010

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANSELMO

## from the associate pastor

*Continued from Page 1*

Mary and Joseph asking for shelter and the “innkeepers” rejecting them. In one version by Justo L. Gonzalez who adapted the original words, Mary and Joseph are turned out because, “You look dirty and you smell...for your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent,” or “Can’t you see the place is full? You are bad for business.” When the couple is finally welcomed in, there is great rejoicing and feasting with Gonzalez’s version concluding, “Holy Jesus you are still with the poor and homeless; if we wish to do your will, we will bid them welcome. Holy Jesus do forgive, in this Christmas season, that the way in which we live, so beclouds our vision.”

The celebration of Las Posadas is a reminder that the celebration of Advent and the anticipation of the coming of the Christ, is, for us, a two-tiered anticipation. One tier, of course, is a remembrance of the poor peasant child, Jesus, whose parents had difficulty in finding a place to lay their newborn babe. The other tier is the anticipation of the coming of the Christ into our lives as the Lord of Love and Grace. We greet him when we open our doors and hearts to his presence in our lives. In the imagery of the final coming, the gospel writer of Matthew tells us that we will discover that we have already welcomed him when we feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, shelter the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and the prisoner (cf. Matthew 25:34-40).

As a community of faith, I am heartened that we have decided to welcome the stranger into our midst beginning in December. We will feed and house up to thirty men who have lost a place to call hearth and home for whatever reasons. We will welcome these guests even on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. What a wonderful living out of our calling from Christ that we, as a community, will welcome our guests into this community. I hope

that our act of welcoming as community will be mirrored in our acts of hospitality and welcome in our own homes and lives. Let us, indeed, “trim the hearth and set the table,” in this season of Advent and for the season of Christmas.

Shalom, Kevin

### Directory Changes

As you read these changes, please pick up a pen and make the additions and revisions in your directory.

AHLERS, \*Florence 924-8846  
5555 Paradise Dr #117  
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WESERVE.ORG

E-MAIL:

MAIL@TOGETHERWESERVE.ORG

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ADULT STUDY  
9:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY WORSHIP  
& SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00 A.M.  
(NURSERY CARE)

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The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*  
The Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan  
*Interim Associate Pastor for Children,  
Youth & Families*  
The Rev. Beverly Brewster  
*Parish Associate*  
Mary Wright Gillespie  
*Associate Pastor Emerita*  
Sally Johnson  
*Director of Music Emerita*  
J. Carolyn Johnston  
*Business Manager*  
Tom Lannert  
*Church Custodian*  
Kathleen McCalla  
*Office Administrator*  
John Parfitt  
*Organist*  
Martha Spears  
*Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries*  
Martha Wall  
*Director of Music*

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### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

The annual congregational meeting will follow worship on Sunday, January 31, in the sanctuary. At this upcoming meeting, we will be approving the budget and accepting the annual report, but we will not be electing officers. Session has voted to move election of officers to a special meeting on the first Sunday in May.

**Time Sensitive Material**

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