



First Congregational Church of Berkeley • United Church of Christ • Berkeley, California

December 13, 2009 • Vol. 65 • No. 46

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/ JAZZ/GOSPEL SUNDAY

10:00

Worship, Adam Blons, Minister of Community Life, preaching; Peter Meredith, Music Director

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18

Musical Highlights:

- ♦ "A Child is Born" — A solo vocal arrangement of this jazz classic
- ♦ "La Luz de Cristo" — A lively Spanish-language song: "This is the light of Christ."

11:00

Fellowship Hour, Large Assembly

11:30

Jazz/Gospel Bible Reflections, led by Shelly Dieterle and Rita Brock, Small Assembly (see article on page 3)

www.fccb.org

- Find out more about the "[Garage Door Nativity](#)" premiere
- See the video "[A Connecting Light](#)" that was viewed during the 135th Birthday celebration
- Download the "[Gifts for the World](#)" catalog [here](#)
- Read about the [Christmas Eve Services](#) at FCCB

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Spread the Word About the Garage Door Nativity

Help us spread the word! The **Garage Door Nativity** is about to happen! Performances are at 7:30 pm on **Friday–Sunday, December 18–20** in the Sanctuary. Share the postcards and posters with your friends!

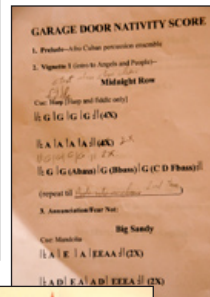
The cast and crew are having a great time pulling all the many pieces of the production together and are now having several rehearsals each week. Tickets can be purchased during Second Hour this Sunday and reservations can be made by calling the church at 510/848-3696.

We are so grateful to several church members who have become "backers" for the show, providing funds for production costs. If you would like to support the show financially, you can donate online or speak with Adam, Patty or Phil.

If you are not available for any of the performances, you are invited to attend a special preview on **Sunday, December 13** at 7:30 pm.



Photos by Robin Kempster. See more rehearsal photos by Robin at www.fccb.org.



Christmas Eve Services

Whether you enjoy experiencing the retelling of the Christmas story with carols interwoven at the **5 pm Family Service** or prefer the awe-inspiring **10 pm Candlelight Service**, **Christmas Eve** is very special at FCCB.

Keep on Shining!

Due to your amazing generosity, our pledges for 2010 so far tally **\$525,000**. We are **73%** of the way to having what we need for the new year, waiting for about 73 more pledges. Gracious thanks to everyone who has pledged. If you haven't yet pledged, might you pledge now, giving as generously as you are able, so that we may plan our staffing and programs for the coming year?

Remember the light that sustains you at FCCB, and the light you shine in the world. Can you consider your pledge to FCCB as an exchange of light that you receive and what you give back to the world? Shine your light! Place your pledge in the church offering plate or send it to **Ken Iha**.

Upcoming "Second Hours"

DECEMBER 20

Christmas Pops Organ Recital with Larry Marietta and friends: Dorothy Streutker, flute; Terry Jackson, clarinet; and John Walko, duo-organist



Prayers for **Alice Rodriguez, Jim Barker** and **Lisa Coronado-Morse**.

Congratulations to proud parents **Rebecca Bryson** and **Jack Landy**, and proud sister **Lyla**, on the birth of **Madelyn Rose Landy**, on Wednesday, November 18.



Immigration Reform Postcard Signing Campaign

During the next two coffee hours, on **Sunday, December 13** and **20**, the **FCCB Immigration Ministry Team** will have postcards to sign urging California Senators and Congresspeople to show their support for enacting immigration reform. Immigration reform is expected to emerge as a major issue early next year. The holiday season, with its spirit of compassion, is a good time to ask for support for a humane approach to the complex issue of immigration.

BOCA 10th Year Anniversary

Come help Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA) celebrate their 10th Anniversary. The festivities will include an awards banquet and fundraiser. **Thursday, Dec. 10, 7-9 pm** at **St. John Presbyterian Church Ballroom, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley**. Tickets are \$35. For more information: 510/665-5821.

Lenten Writers Needed

Have you enjoyed the **Lenten Booklet** in the past? If you'd like to contribute to our **2010 Lenten Devotional**, please contact **Louise Halsey** at lhalsey@fccb.org, or 510/848.3969, x11. The theme for 2010 is "An Altar in the World." Your contribution will be due in January.

THE CARILLON

Margaret Copeland, *Editor*
Phil Porter, *Minister of Art & Communication*
Weekly deadline: 9 am Friday
Email submissions to: mcopeland@fccb.org
or fax to 510/848-8207

All submissions are subject to editing.

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United Church of Christ
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510/848-3696

The View from Here

Patricia de Jong
Senior Minister



We've become more interested in the Bible lately. Geoffrey Gaskins, our Minister in Training, has been leading a group every Wednesday evening throughout the fall and it has been meaningful and powerful for those who attend. I've also received requests to publish the lectionary text for the coming week in the Carillon so that folks can read the text before coming to worship on Sunday mornings. This year we are reading the texts for Year C, the third and final year in the lectionary cycle. For me, it is powerful to imagine that congregations all over the globe are reading and grappling with the same texts as we are on Sunday mornings. It unites us and, at the same time, we know that we are as varied as the hundreds of versions of the ancient Biblical texts.

Some of us read the Advent texts out loud with each other this past Sunday. We read the Gospel lessons in Luke from *The Message*, Eugene Peterson's modern interpretation of the Bible. We explored the sound, texture and drama of the texts as we read out loud and listened to each other give voice to the familiar stories of Advent. All the characters appeared — John the Baptist, Elizabeth, Gabriel, Mary, Joseph and King Herod — becoming more alive to us as we read the stories aloud with each other. The stories of the coming of Jesus took on new meaning through the simple exercise of reading the texts out loud.

We can delve into the poetry and stories of our faith in all sorts of ways: through Bible study, personal study and oral interpretation. This year we will be able to discover the story in one more way with the **Garage Door Nativity**. Conceived and directed by member Patty Contaxis and brought to life by Adam Blons, Phil Porter and a total of 30 FCCBers, the **Garage Door Nativity** is a Christmas story told through the dramatic imagination of dozens of storytellers who have taken the story to heart once again. The words and events are deeply embedded in us, full of grace and truth. We have only to discover, uncover and reveal them in community with each other. Even before the play opens, we know how the story goes, but we come anyway with eager longing to hear it again and to witness the Biblical text come to life among us.

January Jazz/Gospel Service Bible Reflections

Help the worship planning team and preacher for the January 10 worship begin grappling with the lectionary scripture for that Sunday. We will gather in the **Small Assembly** after worship this week, **Sunday, December 13**, for an hour of reflection. We will approach the text in the *hevrutah* method where we read aloud, meditate and engage in group conversation to garner everyone's wisdom and questions. **Shelly Dieterle** and **Rita Brock** will lead the session.

Christmas Poinsettias

You may honor a loved one and contribute to FCCB's flower fund by ordering a Christmas Poinsettia, which will beautify the Sanctuary during our Christmas services. A list of those honored will be included in the Christmas Sunday Order of Worship (December 20). To place your order, contact **Louise Halsey** in the church office at 510/848-3696 before **December 17**, or fill out the red order form in this Sunday's order of worship. Suggested donation is \$25 for each poinsettia.



"Start Where You Are" Is Back!

"Start Where You Are" offers instruction in basic Buddhist teachings and practices, with an emphasis on how meditation can be used by people of faith. This 5-session series will include lectures and meditation practice, including guided meditations, with time for questions.

The classes will be held at FCCB, **Mondays, Jan. 11, 18, and 25, Feb. 1, and 8, 7:30–9:30 pm.** The class will be taught by **Barbara McHugh** and **Bill Coffin**. Participants are asked commit to attending all classes. Pre-registration is required. To reserve space email Bill Coffin. Please include your name, phone number, and email address. The class is offered on a donation basis.

Economy Blues?

Have you lost your job? Are you worried about your current job? Have you needed to let employees go? In response to the continuing national economic crisis there will be a gathering in the **Small Assembly on Sunday, December 13 at 8:30 am.** Meet with your pastors for a light bagel breakfast and a time of sharing, prayer, and planning next steps.

Did You Know...?

... that FCCB member **Dina Rasor** wrote a special investigative report titled "War Fraud Whistleblowers Under Wraps" on truthout.org? You can read it here: www.truthout.org/1130094.

... that **FCCB Photo Directories** will arrive in February or March?

... that **Marijke Fakasiieiki** is serving as pulpit supply, leading worship at **San Lorenzo Community Church (UCC)** at 945 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo, CA for the month of December?

... that you can download the Harvest Soup recipe, which was served at the 135th Birthday lunch? Go to www.fccb.org/#soup

"Gifts for the World" Catalog

Stressed out over holiday gift shopping? Get some relief for yourself and joy for your loved one by choosing an alternative gift from the "Gifts for the World" catalog, such as a gift of a bag of food to a family in Berkeley or meals for children in Haiti. The catalog is available at the "Gifts for the World" table during coffee hour, in the church office and also can be downloaded from www.fccb.org/#giftsworld



The Cellar Thrift Shop — 3rd Quarter 2009

The following is the Cellar's recommendation to the **Church Council** for the third quarter profits.

Profits for the third quarter of 2009:	\$7734.10
10% to Operating Budget	773.41
50% to Ministry of Outreach	3,867.06
40% to Thrift Shop Special Projects	3,093.65
Funds returned from previous projects	137.00
Total monies available for special projects allocation:	\$3,230.65
1. New dish towels for main kitchen. Requested by Diane Brenum for Kitchen Comm.	100.00
2. Funding for "Community Sundays" from 9/09–12/09 to pay for food, signs, etc. Requested by Adam Blons.	200.00
3. Scholarship funds for Friday Group Retreat. Requested by Liz Ratcliffe	250.00
4. Scholarship funds for Women's Voices Retreat. Requested by Holly Coates-Bash	200.00
5. Funds for the 135th Birthday Lunch on 11/23/09. Requested by Pat de Jong for the 135th Committee	1,000.00
6. New signage for cloister area directing visitors downstairs to the Cellar Thrift Shop. Requested by the Cellar Committee	200.00
7. New carpet for Durant House common areas. Requested by Becky Wright for the Interfaith Counseling Center	1,280.65

Thanks to the members of the Cellar Committee: Barbara Addicott, Imogene Crebbin, Jean Huston, Mary Loar, Jonell Lucas, Mitsie McKenna, Jerri Ricca and Ruth Young.

Coming Up!

Deckers Christmas Party
Saturday, December 12

2030s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 12

Boomerangs Christmas Party
Saturday, December 12

Garage Door Nativity
Friday–Sunday, December 18–20

**"Start Where You Are"
Meditation Class**
Mondays, January 11–February 8

More news at www.fccb.org

THE CARILLON

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BERKELEY, CA

Bits and Pieces

Winter Farming

"It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones..." These are the opening words of Mary Oliver's poetic invitation to praying. May they also suggest new possibilities for supplying FCCB's weekly **Farmers Market** during this lean season, such as: decorations for holiday tables; herbs, dried or fresh flowers/weeds;

homemade cookies, breads, jams, relishes; winter veggies, lemons and other fruit.

FCCB's Farmers Market has been a permanent fixture on Sunday mornings during Fellowship Hour since its founding in 1977. **Ruth and Lewis Perry** and **Dan Apra** were the original enthusiastic and dedicated organizers of this outreach effort to provide funds for the **Berkeley Food Pantry**, which helps support an increasing number of needy families in our community. Whether you are a "farmer" or a consumer, your generous donations to the Farmers Market are always gratefully welcomed.

Questions? Call **Mitsie McKenna**, 510/444-5517.

Folk Art Nativity Display

On **Saturday (10 am–4 pm)** and **Sunday (noon–4 pm), December 12 & 13**, there will be a display of folk art Nativity scenes from around the world from a private collection (more than 250 sets from 80 countries) at **St. Clement's Episcopal Church**, 2837 Claremont Blvd. (off Ashby), in Berkeley. For further information: 510/843-2678.

SAVE THE DATE: New Members Class

The next **New Member's Class** will start **Sunday, February 21, 2010** with dinner in a member's home. There will be a class on **Saturday, Feb. 27**, and **Joining Sunday** will be **March 7**. For more information, please contact one of the ministers or **Kathy Helliesen**.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday December 13

THE CELLAR THRIFT SHOP

Open before and after worship

ECONOMIC CRISIS PRAYER GATHERING

8:30 am, Small Assembly

ART EXHIBIT: "PHILO MILLS WINDOW"

11:30 am, Sunburst Room

YES & WINTHROP CAROLING PARTY

11:30 am, Small Assembly

CAROL CHOIR

11:30 am, Sheepfold Room

JOYFUL SOUND

5:00 pm, Durant House Main

SONGS OF THE SOUL

6:00 pm, Durant House Main

GARAGE DOOR NATIVITY PREVIEW

7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Monday 14

STAFF LUNCHEON AND MEETING

11:30 am, Large Assembly

RESTORATIVE YOGA

3:45 pm, Durant House Main

Tuesday 15

BOOK GROUP

7:30 pm, Library

CHURCH COUNCIL

7:30 pm, Durant House Main

Wednesday 16

THE CELLAR THRIFT SHOP

10:00 am–4:00 pm, Cellar Thrift Shop

QI GONG

6:00 pm, Durant House Main

ADULT EDUCATION

6:00 pm, North Room

BIBLE STUDY

7:00 pm, Small Assembly

Thursday 17

GARAGE DOOR NATIVITY DRESS REHEARSAL

6:30 pm, Sanctuary

CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE

7:00 pm, Loper Chapel

Friday 18

FRIDAY GROUP

10:00 am, Durant House Main

BRIDGE GROUP

1:00 pm, Durant House Main

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

7:30 pm, Durant House Main

GARAGE DOOR NATIVITY PERFORMANCE

7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday 19

THE CELLAR THRIFT SHOP

10:00 am–2:00 pm, Cellar Thrift Shop

GARAGE DOOR NATIVITY PERFORMANCE

7:30 pm, Sanctuary

2030s Christmas Party

On **Saturday December 12** at **8 pm** the **2030's** group is having their annual Christmas party! It will be held at **Carrie Vermazen's**. Bring an appetizer or dessert or beverage to share. We will be playing 'White Elephant' so bring a funny gift UNDER \$5 (only if you want to play). Please bring a canned food donation for the Alameda County Food Bank. All are welcome.

Boomerangs Gathering

There will be a gathering of the Boomerangs on **Saturday, December 12** at **6 pm** at **Steve Spielman** and **Linda Sawyer's**. Reckless potluck and Christmas carol singing! Kids welcome. For more information, call Steve or Linda: 510/594-8513. All are welcome.

Deckers Christmas Party

The Deckers (singles/couples in their 60s) will hold their annual Christmas party and White Elephant gift exchange, on **Saturday, December 12** at **6:30 pm** at the home of **Bob** and **Kathy Helliesen**. Please join us for a fun-filled evening. Call Bob and Kathy to RSVP or for more information. All are welcome.