

FCCB THE CARILLON



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

December 25, 2011 • Vol. 67 • No. 47

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

John 1

No 9 am Service

11:00

Worship, Andrew Greenhaw, Meredith Jackson & Ken Iha, preaching; Amar Khalsa, musician, *Sanctuary*

12:00

Fellowship, *Sm. Assembly*

NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY

John 1

No 9 am Service

11:00

Worship, Patricia de Jong and Phil Porter, preaching; Amar Khalsa, musician, *Sanctuary*

12:00

Fellowship, *Sm. Assembly*

www.fccb.org

- [View an invitation to First Church's Christmas Eve Services](#)
- [Listen to the Children's Choir sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain"](#)
- [Listen to the Flute Choir play "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"](#)
- [Listen to Songs of the Soul & Joyful Sound sing "Star of Bethlehem"](#)

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Christmas Eve Services

Join us in our beautiful Sanctuary for a Family Service at 5 pm and a Candlelight Celebration at 10 pm.

Our child-friendly, all-ages **Christmas Eve Family Service** at **5 pm** in the **Sanctuary** will feature stories and singing, sights and



sounds, and opportunities to relive the excitement of events leading to the birth of Jesus. Who will get to play the Holy Family this year? The service will last 35-40 minutes.

The Amazing Family

Orchestra

(a lively once-a-year "pick-up" ensemble of members and friends) will also play holiday favorites!

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at **10 pm** in the **Sanctuary** is both beautiful and moving (it will also be webcast). We will continue to find "Places for Grace" in the powerful stories surrounding Jesus' birth, through moving stories, powerful preaching, inspiring music and the mystery of candlelight. Special music for **organ and brass** will begin at **9:30 pm**.



Christmas and New Year's Worship

There will be just one service at **11 am** on **Christmas Day (Sanctuary)** and **New Year's Day (Large Assembly)**.

Christmas Eve Schedule

4-4:30 pm Family Orchestra rehearsal

4:50 pm Family Orchestra Prelude begins

5 pm Family Christmas Service

8:30-9 pm Chancel Choir, Organ & Brass rehearsal

9:30 pm Organ & Brass Prelude begins

10 pm Christmas Eve Service

11 pm Christmas Cookie Reception

Carillon Holiday Schedule

The Carillon will not be published on **Sunday, Jan. 1**.

Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed **Mon., Dec. 26, Fri., Dec. 30** and **Mon., Jan. 2**.

Worship Schedule

January 1 — New Year's Day

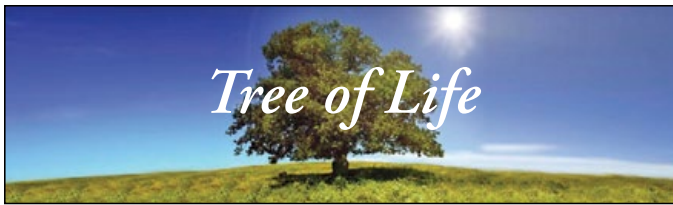
9 am: No service

11 am: **Patricia de Jong**, *Lg. Assembly*

January 8

9 am: **Julie Stokstad**

11 am: **Patricia de Jong**, *Sanctuary*



Continued prayers for **Ken Crebbin, Phyllis Phelps** and **Ella Sponseller**.

Continued prayers for **Linda Crebbin-Coates** and family as Linda continues to heal. Cards are greatly appreciated and may be sent to her at home.

Holiday Pastoral Care

Pat de Jong, Shelly Dieterle and **Charlotte Russell** will be available for pastoral care during Christmas and New Year's.

Congregation Approves Plymouth House Plans

On Sunday, December 18, the congregation approved moving forward in principle with the renovation and renting of Plymouth House, the part of our church building that is north of the Sanctuary. The vote authorized the selection of a tenant and negotiation of a lease, the formation of a Capital Projects Committee to oversee the project and to allow the church to incur costs for project predevelopment, including architectural drawings, permits and related expenses, and to borrow the necessary funds from the Berkeley Pilgrimage Foundation.

This vote came after months of planning and deliberation by several groups within the church and two informational meetings to which the congregation was invited.

On **Sunday, January 8**, an informational meeting will be held (along with a presentation of the 2012 budget) to present a tenant and the terms of a mortgage. On **Sunday, January 22**, a congregational meeting will be held to approve entering into a mortgage. This meeting will also include a vote of the 2012 budget. Both of those congregational meetings will take place during the Learning Hour at **10 am** in the **Large Assembly**.

THE CARILLON

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

All submissions are subject to editing.

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The View from Here

Scott Sporte
Moderator



Christmas is just a few days away, and after weeks of preparation and anticipation, we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth and all that it symbolizes for the world and for us as a community of faith. We all lead busy lives, moving from one responsibility to another, with little time to pause or reflect. I have tried to take this year's Advent theme to heart, making room for grace in my life and being thankful for the moments of grace that come. Sunday's church service was one such opportunity, when we sent Sam on his way to new beginnings in his life while singing a beautiful interpretation of "Amazing Grace."

Later on Sunday we made an important decision to move ahead with renovation of Plymouth House. This renovation will make the building more useful for a single tenant, while also making improvements that will benefit us, including renewal of the Hall of Entrance, new, more efficient heating, and modern restroom facilities. The decision we made, with a hearty and enthusiastic vote, prepares us and positions us to move boldly into a new future at the corner of Dana and Durant. This is just the first step in a months-long process, and one that is taken appropriately at this time of birth and renewal.

I wish you all a healthy and happy Christmas and a new year full of optimism and grace.



First Church Annual Meeting

On **Sunday, February 5**, the church will gather together for our **Annual Meeting**. We will have one service at **10 am** in the **Sanctuary**, followed by **lunch and a program** in the **Large Assembly**. On this day we honor those who have served in the previous year and elect new officers and ministry members.

A tasty meal will be served by Winthrop, the high school youth group, and contributions at the event will help fund their work camp trip in the summer. We are looking forward to special guests and entertainment!

Taking Down of the Greens

On **Sunday, January 8** after the **11 am** service, come be a part of taking down the Christmas decorations in the **Sanctuary** and **Hall of Entrance**. Your help would be much appreciated!

Alameda County Food Bank Activity

FCCB members are encouraged to save **Saturday, January 7** for an all-church activity at the **Alameda County Community Food Bank**, where we will be screening, sorting, boxing and shelving nutritious food items including fresh produce so it can be distributed to local low-income people who are suffering the most during these economic times.

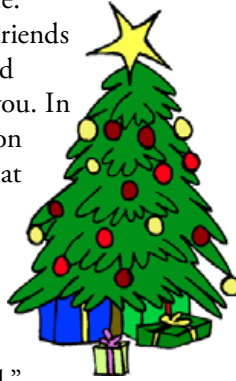
We'll gather at the Food Bank at **9 am** and work until **11:30 am**. Children must be over 12 years old and all must wear shoes that cover toes. The Food Bank is located at 7900 Edgewater Drive, between Roland Way and Oakport in Oakland.

The Food Bank serves 49,000 needy families each year and has been a long-time recipient of food donations from FCCB members on numerous occasions.

This activity is being organized by the **Deckers** and is open to all FCCB members.

Christmas Offering

In this season of Advent, suddenly everything seems to remind you of the grace that fills your life. Family bursts forth. Friends support you. A beloved community upholds you. In keeping with the season you frequently find that in turn you want to offer grace to others. You strive for an open heart, embrace the common good, and sing "Joy to the World."



The **FCCB Christmas Offering** is another way to share grace.

We get many seasonal appeals, some of which, like ours, also are rooted in the teachings of Jesus and reflect the Christian heritage. But the FCCB Christmas offering is unique in that all donations this year will go to groups based close to home — **The Berkeley Food Pantry, the Suitcase Clinic, and YEAH!** In giving to them, you are not only supporting philanthropic work here in our own community, but you are seconding the efforts of the many FCCB members who have chosen to volunteer with them as board members or in other capacities.

Look for your Christmas offering letter in the mail. It will include an envelope for your contribution.

In peace,

Frederica Bunge, Terry Jackson, Robin Kempster, Nick Kukulian, Cynthia Lloyd, John Stormer, Jean Sturges, Karen Summers, and Carolyn Thiessen, members of the **Outreach, Mission and Service Ministry**

Save the Date for the Women's Voices Retreat

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 10-11, 2012

Led by Rev. Julie Stokstad

Ralston White Retreat Center,
Mill Valley

Did You Know...?

... that "**Las Posadas for Immigration Reform**," a vigil in solidarity with immigrants detained in the West County Detention Center and all immigrants who fear deportation, will take place at **5:30 pm** on **Wednesday, December 21** at West County Detention Center, 5555 Giant Highway, Richmond? *Posadas* is a Latin American tradition that honors the experience of homelessness and migration and calls all people of faith to a response of radical welcome. Call **Francisco** at 510/893-7106 x 302 for more information.

Congregational Meetings Called

Mark your calendars for the following congregational meetings:

Jan. 8 Presentation of the 2012 Budget and final details of Plymouth House Plan (no votes to be taken)

Jan. 22 Vote on 2012 Budget and approval of financial details for the Plymouth House Plan, including taking on a mortgage.

Coming Up!

Congregational Meeting: Budget Presentation & Plymouth House Plans

Sun, Jan 8, 10 am, Large Assembly

Congregational Meeting: 2012 Budget & Plymouth House

Sun, Jan 22, 10 am, Large Assembly

Annual Meeting

Sun, Feb 5, 11 am (after 10 am service), Large Assembly

More news at www.fccb.org

THE CARILLON

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Bits and Pieces

Sunday Salon 2012

Mark your calendars for **Sunday Salon** dates in 2012: **January 8, February 19, March 18, April 15 and May 27.** Come and enjoy the arts in the **Loper Chapel at 1 pm.** For information, contact **Holly Coates-Bash** or **Robin Kempster.**

Weekly Calendar

Sunday December 25

WORSHIP

11 am, Sanctuary

FELLOWSHIP

12 pm, Small Assembly

Monday 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday 28

THE CELLAR THRIFT SHOP
Closed

BIBLE STUDY

7 pm, Small Assembly

Friday 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday January 1

WORSHIP

11 am, Sanctuary

FELLOWSHIP

12 pm, Small Assembly

Monday 2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

6 pm, Loper Chapel

Tuesday 3

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE

7:30 pm, Durant House Main

Wednesday 4

THE CELLAR THRIFT SHOP

10 am-4 pm, Cellar Thrift Shop

DIVERSITY MINISTRY TEAM

6:30 pm, Sunburst Room

BIBLE STUDY

7 pm, Small Assembly

TAIZÉ SERVICE

7 pm, Loper Chapel

MEN'S GROUP

7:30 pm, Library

Thursday 5

CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE

7 pm, Sanctuary

Friday 6

FRIDAY GROUP

10 am, Durant House Main



The First Church Staff Christmas Pick-A-Party included great music (thank you, Larry and John!), delicious food and drink, fun crafts, festive "12 Days of Christmas" sing-a-long and an impromptu performance by the First Church Staff Players! Thank you everyone for coming!

