



Whatever things are

Of Good Report

think on these things

Vol. 57, No. 22

November 21, 2008

Barbara Strader

Editor

Hanging of the Greens

On **Saturday, December 6**, come to the Tamalpais Hall to share in the annual Hanging of the Greens. In just a few short hours, we will transform the church both inside and out with greens, bright ornaments, ribbons, bells, stars, and hangings to delight the eye and lift our spirits in anticipation of Christmas. Helpers are needed to hang wreaths, decorate the fireplace mantle and the narthex tree, put up lights, and hang garlands. We will **begin at 1:00 p.m.** Come as early as you can; we hope to complete our work by 4 o'clock.

Please wear work gloves and bring pliers and wire cutters—if you have a pair. All hands are welcome. Cookies and warm cider will be served to keep the creative juices flowing all afternoon.

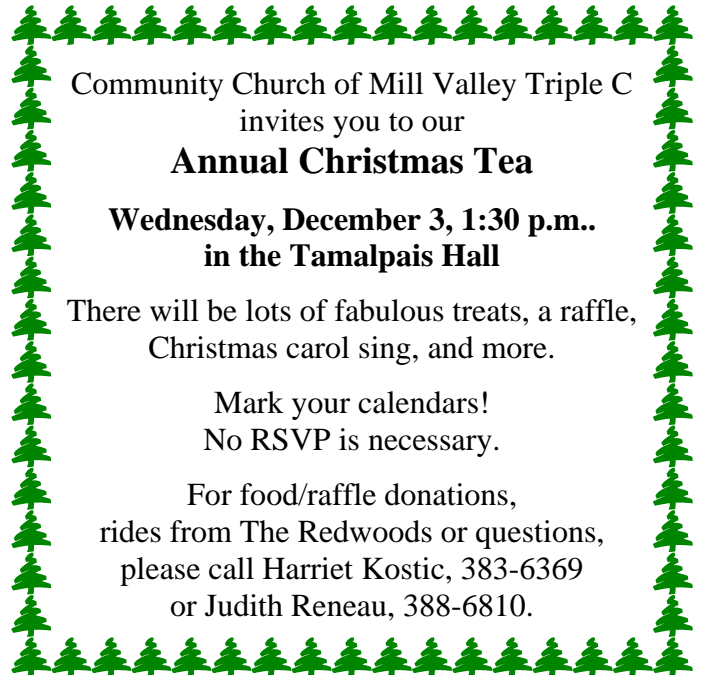
Giving Tree

On the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, a tree decorated with empty envelopes will appear in Tamalpais Hall. Gradually the envelopes will be replaced with ornaments and by Christmas Eve we hope the Giving Tree will be covered with ornaments and all the envelopes will be filled with checks or cash to help the peasant children in the Philippines and in Masaka, Uganda attend school.

Your gifts to the Giving Tree will help pay for school supplies for children's whose families cannot afford to purchase the paper, pens, and other school supplies required for them to attend school. Each year since 2006 our gifts for the children in the Philippines have helped the families of landless peasants, small farmers, farm workers, and subsistence fisherfolk send their children to

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Triple C Christmas Tea



Community Church of Mill Valley Triple C
invites you to our
Annual Christmas Tea

**Wednesday, December 3, 1:30 p.m..
in the Tamalpais Hall**

There will be lots of fabulous treats, a raffle,
Christmas carol sing, and more.

Mark your calendars!
No RSVP is necessary.

For food/raffle donations,
rides from The Redwoods or questions,
please call Harriet Kostic, 383-6369
or Judith Reneau, 388-6810.

Christmas Flowers

Help us brighten Tamalpais Hall and the Sanctuary for Christmas with a small donation for Christmas flowers. If you would like to help, just write your check to the Community Church with a note: "Christmas flowers." The deadline for donations is **Sunday, December 14.**

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MOC Met on Nov. 9

On Sunday afternoon, November 9, thirty-five representatives from three MOC member organizations—Congregation Kol Shofar, Seniors for Peace, and Community Church of Mill Valley—met at The Redwoods Auditorium. The regional meeting was an opportunity for southern Marin MOC members to get acquainted and share their concerns. An additional goal was to allow other southern Marin congregations a chance to experience MOC in action, and perhaps decide to join MOC, or at least explore membership. Due to scheduling conflicts, only one non-MOC church sent a representative to this meeting, but other congregations have expressed strong interest in MOC.

MVCC sent a delegation of eight. Pam Shortridge and Linda Xiques helped plan the meeting and played key roles in its implementation. Others who attended included: Madeline Armstrong, Jack Bartlett, Betsy Bikle, Sue Blanchard, Jamie Clever and Linda Clever.

Pam Shortridge and Dr. Mark Swoiskin of Congregation Kol Shofar got the meeting off to a lively start with their introduction, institutional roll call, and crisp, clear explanation of the focus of the meeting. Sharing stories—one’s own story or a story about family or friends—is central to MOC’s goal of solving community problems. Julia Kiely Reich of Congregation Kol Shofar told a moving story related to homelessness. Linda Xiques fol-

lowed with a story that illustrated a mental health need. Julia and Linda bolstered their stories with relevant data about the work MOC research teams have done on these issues. Anna Eng, the exuberant Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) organizer assigned to work with southern Marin organizations, followed with lively examples of what it means to be “engaged citizens.”

To illustrate the importance of personal stories, we were divided into four groups of 8-10, and asked “to tell a story about the pressures that you, or the people you know and love, are living with.” Very touching stories emerged and common problems were repeated. After thirty-five minutes of sharing stories, each of the four groups presented summaries of common themes outlined in the stories. MOC uses this process to define community problems and create task forces to research the issues. Having knowledge about all aspects of an issue is crucial when MOC approaches public officials to ask for action to resolve or alleviate a problem.

Announcing upcoming MOC activities, leaders urged a strong presence at the Mental Health Advisory Board Hearing on November 17. Seniors for Peace suggested getting a bus so that representatives from the three southern Marin MOC institutions could attend together. On Wednesday, December 10, there will be a Public Action to dramatize the need for a homeless shelter during the winter months. Details of this event will be announced later.

— Jack Bartlett, Linda Xiques, Betsy Bikle

The Community Church of Mill Valley

United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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Pastor: Pam Shortridge
Minister Emeritus: Jack Bartlett
Parish Associate of Mission: Dora Ford
Minister in Covenant: Jacquie Hoffman
Seminarian In-Care: Arn Lou Mutia
Seminarian In-Care: James Christie
Director of Music: Esther Archer
Executive Editor: Barbara Strader
Facility Operations Manager: Aaron Young

Sunday Morning:

9:00 a.m. “The Unexpected Word” Class, Foster Room
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
Nursery Care for Infants & Toddlers, Nursery Program for Children in Preschool through Third Grade, Children gather in the Chapel
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Tamalpais Hall

Of Good Report is published on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Deadline for submissions is the previous Monday at noon.

Christmas at Cornell

Christmas is coming soon. Some men and women at the halfway house look forward to spending time with family. Others dread yet another year when no one seems to care. Two years ago one of our residents jumped in front of a train, leaving a little girl to grow up without the daddy she might some day have gotten to know.

Many of our residents are in need of extra support this year. Jobs are scarce. People are scared. It is sometimes hard to believe anyone cares. When people demonstrate love it, becomes possible to believe in God's love and extravagant welcome. You can help.

Beginning November 30, a *Sock Box* next to the Christmas tree in the Tamalpais Room will be waiting to be filled with new socks for "Santa" to deliver to halfway house residents who will not wake up at home on Christmas morning. We anticipate needing socks for about 100 men and 20 women. Sport socks are especially popular but all kinds are enjoyed.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco will partner with us again this year. Their assistance last year meant that every person in the building was able to wake up to a Christmas Gift. For some it was the first Christmas gift in a long time.

Individually wrapped candies are welcome additions to the Christmas packages as are small hygiene items such as tooth paste, safety razors, lotions, etc.

Thank you for your continued love and support of staff as well as residents here at the Cornell Residential Re-Entry Center. You mean more to us than you can know.

Love,

- *Dora Ford*

PS Watch future announcements for opportunities to provision the Cornell Cookie Elf, sometimes known as Chaplain Dora.

Epiphany Party Planned

Save this date! The fellowship task force is planning a return of the Epiphany potluck party! This popular event was cancelled last year due to the worst storm of the winter. But we are hoping for better weather and lots of fun this time. The party, which celebrates the visit of the three magi to the baby Jesus, will be held on the evening of Saturday, January 10, 2009 in Tamalpais Hall. Plans are still in the works, but traditionally we enjoy a potluck meal, games, and the crowning of a king or queen for the evening. So mark your calendars now and check your next OGR for further details. Suggestions or questions – call Claudia Lowder (415) 381-9768.

In Memoriam

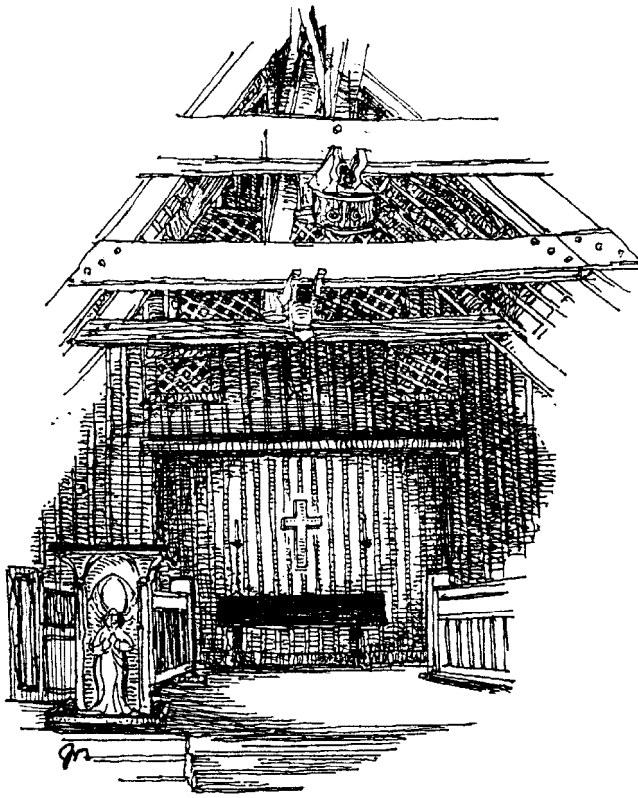
Don duPertuis

4/26/1919—11/9/2009

Food Bank Donations

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE - The Marin Community Food Bank packs approximately 3500 food boxes for distribution to needy families during Thanksgiving, Chanukah and Christmas each year. In these particularly challenging times, even more will be needed. The Community Church will begin receiving your food donations **this Sunday, November 23 through December 20** when we will deliver the food to the Food Bank..

Top food items needed: Canned Meats: Tuna, Chicken, Ham, and Salmon, Canned Chili, Pork & Beans, Soups, and Stews, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti, and Canned Spaghetti Sauce, Cereal and Dry Milk, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Rice and Dry Beans, Canned Vegetables and Fruits, Canned Juices, Please do not donate expired foods or food in glass containers.



“Giving Tree” from page 1...

school.

We learned of their extreme hardships through the peace and justice work of Arn Mutia, who remains in care of our church and is currently serving the Filipino community in Newport News, VA. Through the witness of Keneth Kiyija you have heard how children in Masaka who have lost their parents due to AIDS are often unable to attend school because their extended families cannot or will not pay their expenses. Through Arn and Keneth these children have come to be part of our church’s extended family.

To participate just select an envelope from the tree and enclose a check or cash for any amount, then place the envelope in the box provided. (You may mail a donation to Community Church at 8 Olive St. Note “Giving Tree” on your check.) If someone on your Christmas gift list “has everything,” perhaps he or she would be delighted to know that a gift given in their name benefited a young student in Uganda or the Philippines. What could be a more perfect gift than offering a child a chance to

“Starfish” Recollections

Over the last few months we have all been touched in some way by the "starfish" experience that has become Keneth Kiyija. The task force has decided that it is important we collect all the stories and experiences that have been shared throughout this time. Not only as a record of an amazing process but also to be able to share with others, who have not had the pleasure of being involved.

We are hoping to compile a written record of the ways in which Keneth has touched our lives, made us smile and in certain cases, changed our views and perspectives on life, friendship and the world we live in.

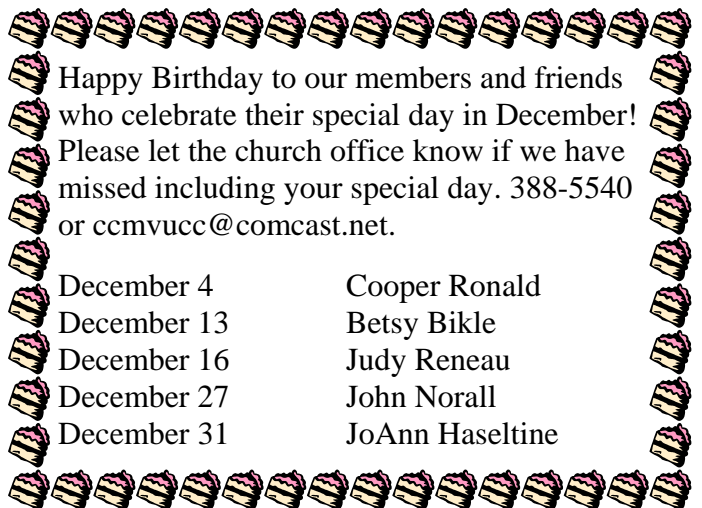
We would love to hear all your stories, thoughts, shared moments, photos, or any of the ways in which you feel you were moved by being part of this great experience.

Please submit to camillaburraston@gmail.com. For anyone who would prefer to tell the story verbally you can also call me on my cell 415/307-5117

There are many people who met Keneth who may not receive this newsletter. Please feel free to forward this on or to send me contact info and I will get in touch with them directly.

Thank you very much.
- Camilla

December Birthdays





Holiday Calendar

Community Church of Mill Valley U.C.C.

Thanksgiving Service

10 a.m., Sunday, November 23

Food Drive for Marin Food Bank

Sunday, November 23 through Sunday, December 21

Giving Tree Donations

For School Supplies for Children of the Philippines & Masaka, Uganda

Sock Gifts for Dora's Ministry

Sunday, November 30 through Sunday, December 21

Triple C Christmas Tea

Wednesday, December 3, 1:30 p.m.

Greening of the Church

Saturday, December 6, 1:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling at The Redwoods

Friday, December 19, 7 p.m.

Cookies & Gift Wrap for Dora's Ministry

Sunday, December 21, 11:15 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24

Children Build the Christmas Crèche at 5:30 p.m.

Ungreening of the Church

Tea & Goodies

Saturday, January 3, 1 p.m.

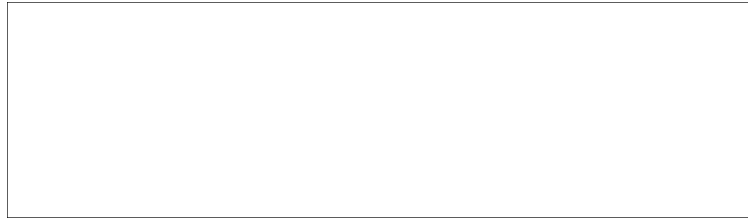
Twelfth Night/Epiphany Party

Saturday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.

The Community Church of Mill Valley
United Church of Christ
8 Olive Street
Mill Valley, CA 94941

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Return Service Requested



Upcoming Church Events

Sunday, Nov. 23

- | | |
|------------|---|
| | Thanksgiving Service |
| | Holiday Food Drive Begins |
| 8:30 a.m. | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| 9:00 a.m. | Unexpected Word Discussion Class, Foster Room |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | Child care in the Nursery |
| 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour, Tamalpais Hall. All are welcome. |
| 2:00 p.m. | Memorial Service for Don DuPertuis |

Next Week

Tue. Nov. 25 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors, Chapel

Coming

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| Sun. | Nov. 30 | First Sunday of Advent |
| | | Giving Tree in Tamalpais Hall for gifts for school supplies for children in Uganda and the Philippines |
| | | Sock Box for gifts for the residents of the Halfway House (Dora's ministry) |
| Mon., | Dec. 3 | Vacation Day for Barbara Strader |
| Tue. | Dec. 2 7:30 p.m. | Christian Life Team Meeting, Foster Room |
| Wed. | Dec. 3 11:45 a.m. | Men's Lunch, Moylan's in Novato |
| | 1:30 p.m. | Triple C Christmas Tea , Tamalpais Hall |