



Fr. Gillett and Betty Bechtel Cut Their Cake, Nov. 18

Newsletter

Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal/Lutheran Mission

www.shepherdbythesea.org

Gualala, California

December, 2012 – January, 2013

“As baptized Christians, we reach out to the community through worship, prayer, study, and ministry.”

THANK YOU, FR. GILLETT AND BETTY BECHTEL

The weekend of November 17 and 18 was a time of celebration, tinged with sadness. Fr. Gillett and Betty left The Sea Ranch on November 24 to take up residence in Yucaipa, in San Bernadino County, close to children and grandchildren. For more than twenty years they lived in a house close to the ocean that was designed especially for them, their lifestyle, and even their furniture. While

this move is right for Betty and Gillett, it leaves an aching hole in the Shepherd by the Sea congregation. The Bechtels' new address is 36176 Golden Gate Drive, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

On Saturday, November 17, Lynda O'Brien hosted a good-bye gathering (thank you, Lynda!). We celebrated the more than twenty years during which Gillett and Betty have been important leaders and members of our congregation and of our community. Nearly 50 of us

were able to show our love and appreciation at the potluck lunch.

At the Sunday service on the 18th, Fr. Gillett joined the Rev. Jamie Knutsen at the altar to give our congregation God's blessing one last time before flying south. In turn, the congregation, led by Fr. Knutsen, gathered around Gillett and Betty to give them our blessings.



Photo by Lamar van Gunten

Gathering to send Gillett and Betty with our Blessings.

Following the service, there was an extended coffee hour, accompanied by a scrumptious cake, and more conversation.



Photo by Martha Wohlken

Fr. Gillett with Fr. Jamie Knutsen

There is much to remember because Betty and Gillett were part of our community for so many years. There was the marvelous partnership of Fr. Gillett and Fr. Peter Farmer. Coming to the coast at about the same time, the two "retired" priests led the parochial mission, in Gualala, of St. Michael's and All Angels, Ft. Bragg. They oversaw the transition to a Diocesan mission and then sustained and grew St. Innocent of Alaska Episcopal Mission.



Fr. Gillett and Fr. Peter Farmer

As St. Innocent of Alaska and Gualala Lutheran Mission started worshipping and working together as the Common Mission, Fr. Gillett contributed in many ways. At a time when it looked impossible, or at least very difficult, for the separate missions to build a single congregation, Fr. Gillett made a crucial suggestion: that we develop a Common Liturgy, eliminating the confusion resulting from using liturgies from several Episcopal and Lutheran sources. He helped the team that developed the basic liturgy that we have used in our services since 2004. The liturgy, drawn from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*, proved to be a comfortable unifying element in the congregations' common life.

Gillett was an active member of the community's ministerial association, serving as treasurer for the Coast Crisis Line and the programs to provide assistance to those, especially visitors, in financial emergencies.



Photo by Martha Wohlken

Fr. Gillett with Fr. Bala of St. Aloysius Parish

Fr. Gillett also participated in the community's many ecumenical activities: the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols, Administration of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday services, and Thanksgiving services. In addition, in recent years he has concelebrated with Pastor Walter Pieper at Easter services.



Pastor Walter Pieper and The Rev. Gillett Bechtel – Easter 2008

Gillett is a gentle and kind person, always with a heart-warming smile and a twinkle. He delights in milestones, on the occasion of his 90th birthday saying, "the older we get the prouder we are to mention our age." Ordained

first as a Methodist minister, he became an Episcopal priest – on All Saints Sunday, he celebrated the 59th anniversary of his first celebration of the Eucharist.



Fr. Gillett Blowing Out Candles on his Birthday Cake, Easter 2008

Betty Bechtel has been Gillett's partner in ministry for about 65 years, for the last 20 as a strong, supportive, and kind presence in our congregation.

In our community, Betty is best known for using her professional librarian skills as a volunteer for the Coast Community Library in Pt. Arena.

While we are saying goodbye to Gillett and Betty, we're glad one Bechtel, Sue, will continue as Ranger at Gualala Point Regional County Park, so we will have the inside scoop on the Bechtels of Southern California.



*Photo by Martha Wohlken
Sue and Betty Bechtel*

Sue had her own piece of the celebration cake.



*Photo by Martha Wohlken
Sue Bechtel – Still with Us!*

AWAKE IN ADVENT: WAIT, WATCH, WONDER – WITH THE REV. JAMIE KNUSEN

Advent is a short season of four Sundays at the beginning of the Church year. This year the Church's "Happy New Year" will be Sunday, December 2. The season anticipates, in awe, wonder, and contemplation, the Incarnation of God as the baby Jesus.

This year, in response to the Vision Retreat's priority of increased spiritual education, Shepherd by the Sea will host a series of three Wednesday evening conversations with the Rev. Jamie Knutsen. The sessions will be on December 5, December 12, and December 19, at 7:00 PM at Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Jamie writes:

In Advent we recognize our human life as an experience of waiting. We identify Israel's longing for a Messiah and with the longing of all of humanity for shalom, for God's peace and justice. Moving toward and into Advent, we hear Jesus warning us not to be distracted by social and natural upheavals, urging us to keep awake, to watch... for what? What is it that has taken flesh in Jesus? And what is it that we are waiting for? In response to similar questions, theologian James Alison has said, "The person who says 'God' is describing the question, not answering it." With help from Alison, we will explore the wonder of what God is doing, of what the coming Jesus has made possible for us... as we wait, and watch, and wonder.

ADVENT

Advent, a time for active waiting, active watching, and active wondering. In his Advent letter, Bishop Beisner writes, "I pray that Advent will be a joyful time for us all as well as a busy one—even for those of us who, by reason of difficulty or loss, find this to be a painful time. I especially pray that we will all be helped to maintain our

spiritual balance, and to keep our priorities straight amidst the many demands of these days. I pray that we will live this season in the light of the Seasons that the Church understands it to be.

“Advent. Christmas. The Spirit’s relentless, surprising, challenging countdown to God’s intervention in our world and in our lives. May our busyness mainly be about making straight the way of His coming. May we be found ready. May we know that deep and abiding peace which the Prince of Peace comes to give, and minister that peace to all we meet. May we all together greet Him with joyful hearts.”

Arizona’s Bishop Smith recommends a two-minute video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S02KOlw7dIA&feature=youtu.be> for succinctly stating the meaning of Advent.

MESSIAH COMMUNITY SING-ALONG, Dec. 7 and 8

HALLELUJAH!

Shepherd by the Sea is offering the Third Annual Community *Messiah* Sing this Advent. There will be two performances: Friday, December 7, at 7 pm at St. Paul’s Community United Methodist Church in Pt. Arena and Saturday, December 8, at 4 pm at Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church.



The 2012 Messiah Sing Choir

Join the 2012 *Messiah* Sing Choir, with members of Shepherd by the Sea, Mary, Star of the Sea, St. Paul’s, and Gualala Baptist churches, as they sing selections from George Frederic Handel’s 1742 masterpiece.

Messiah, with its texts from the Old Testament anticipating the coming of Christ, has become an Advent tradition around the world. Professional and community organizations host annual *Messiah* Sings where members of the audience sing along with the performers in the chorus.

Audience members should bring their own copy of *Messiah* with them. Copies of *Messiah* can be purchased at Four-Eyed Frog Bookstore in downtown Gualala.

This event is for everyone! Audience members are not required to sing along! Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us at one, or both, of the performances. For further information see www.shepherdbythesea.org.

The *Messiah* Sing is an outreach event in every sense of the word. The choir, soloists, and instrumentalists are made up entirely of members of the Redwood Coast community and friends. All donations (\$10 or more suggested) go to community outreach.

If you would like to help with logistical details, please talk with Linda Kennedy.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS – CHRISTMAS EVE, 5:00 PM

Again this year, Shepherd by the Sea is responsible for producing the annual, community-wide, ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols, held at Gualala Arts Center on Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve, at 5:00 PM at Gualala Arts Center. This is the Redwood Coast’s most well attended annual church event.

Marji Van Gunten is planning and organizing the Festival. Readers of the Lessons will come from the member churches of the local ministerial alliance. Members of the Shepherd by the Sea congregation are asked to help with set-up, ushering, and clean-up.

The donations taken at the end of the Festival will provide funds for the Coast Crisis Line that provides help, usually in the form of vouchers for gas, overnight lodging, or food, to meet emergency needs. Giving at the Festival provides most of the annual budget for the Crisis Line.

The “New” Chasuble – A Mystery

Each of the Christian seasons, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and so forth, is characterized by a color. Advent is characterized by purple or blue, Lent by purple. Typically the presider at the Eucharist wears an outer garment, a chasuble, of the color for the season. Shepherd by the Sea has had chasubles available for our supply clergy in all the seasons’ colors, except for Advent and Lent. Now, we have a purple chasuble – and a mystery. As Joan Jordan writes,

One Sunday morning, at the door of Mary, Star of the Sea, Kathy Anderson found a white shopping bag with the following words printed on it, “This Vestment showed up at Pay and Take. Please take care of it.” She showed it to me and asked what we should do. We took the chasuble out of the bag and examined it. It definitely needed to be cleaned and maybe more than that. I told her I would take it and see what, if anything, could be done to make it useable.

The bag sat in the closet for several months. From time to time I would ask one of our supply priests from the Santa Rosa area about a good cleaner, someone who knows about liturgical vestments. Bishop George Hunt recommended one in Windsor where I took it. On closer examination at the cleaners we found several places that needed some mending which she could do.

A week later I went to retrieve the chasuble, praying that it would once again be beautiful. And it is! And now Shepherd by the Sea has a purple chasuble for the seasons of Advent and Lent. Thank you to the person who left it at Pay and Take.

Oh, to know the story of where it came from, where it has been, and who celebrated the Eucharist wearing it.

OUTREACH

Gualala Food Bank

The Gualala Food Bank serves families in need in Gualala and at The Sea Ranch. Food comes from the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa and the Fort Bragg food distribution center. Surf and Gualala supermarkets provide produce and other commodities at no or reduced cost. Individuals have been especially generous this year – one providing forty turkeys for Thanksgiving and another forty for Christmas, a Surf Super manager providing about \$900 worth of food. With our tough economic conditions and the resultant numbers of people in economic distress, these, and your, donations are needed and welcome.

Please talk with Linda Kennedy if you would like to volunteer to bring foodstuffs from Santa Rosa or to distribute food.

There always is a need for volunteers on distribution days. Set-up for food distributions begins at the Gualala Baptist Church about 9:30 with food collection from the supermarkets. Distribution is 11:00 – 12:30. Clean-up ends by 1:00. The next distribution will be on Friday, December 7. The pre-Christmas distribution will be on Friday, December 21. The January distributions will be on Fridays, the 11th and the 25th.

South Coast Seniors

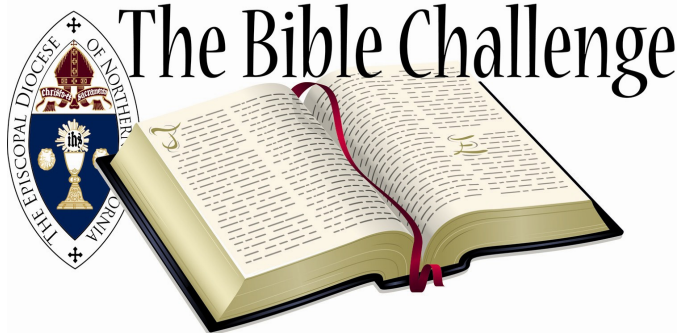
South Coast Seniors, Inc., the parent of the community's Senior Center, provides senior lunches in Pt. Arena and Gualala, the local Meals on Wheels services, the Point Arena Food Bank, and other services for seniors.

Our monetary support has been augmented by grants from Episcopal Community Services, our hosting each year one or two of the monthly Spaghetti Dinner fundraisers, and the volunteer efforts of individual Mission members.

CHRISTMAS!

The Festival of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve serves as the Christmas service for many of us staying on the coast. However, later Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services are offered in Lutheran and Episcopal churches in Ft. Bragg, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, and along the 101 corridor.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY – JANUARY 6



An Invitation from Bishop Beisner

Welcome! Please join me in taking The Bible Challenge beginning on Epiphany 2013, our official kick-off. Please bring your Bibles to be blessed in church that day. Our reading schedule will commence on Day 2, which is Monday, January 7, 2013.

The Diocesan website (www.norcalepiscopal.org) will support The Bible Challenge, complete with daily readings and meditations. The daily readings will be posted one week at a time, Monday through Saturday (Sundays we listen to the Bible in church). Short meditations on each day's passages for the week will also be posted. These meditations are a gold mine in themselves, as they were composed by theologians, bishops and Bible scholars from around the world.

I encourage congregations to plan now to support The Bible Challenge with local activities. I also ask that all individuals who intend to take The Bible Challenge 'subscribe' to an e-mail list, so that we can notify you of periodic supports. Please subscribe by e-mailing to us your name, mailing address, and the name of your church to biblechallenge@norcalepiscopal.org or by mailing the form provided to the Diocesan office.

This is an exciting venture as the Body of Christ in Northern California. I personally look forward to reading each day, knowing that a cloud of witnesses is reading the same scriptures along with me.

Grace and peace to you,

Recommended References

- **2013 Reading Schedule**
The reading schedule is in a handout available from an usher or on the Diocesan website.
- **Center for Biblical Studies Website**
The Center for Biblical Studies is the "home" of The Bible Challenge. Its website is <http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/>

- **Oxford Annotated New Revised Standard Bible**
This is the “gold standard” for Bibles because of the extensive annotations. However, any Bible, in any translation, may be used.
- **The Bible Challenge: Read the Bible in a Year**
Edited by The Rev. Marek Zabriskie, this is the compilation of meditations that can help guide us through the year. It is available from bookstores and on Kindles and Nooks. Bishop Beisner is one of the contributors.

The Diocese will provide supporting materials to those who sign up for the Bible Challenge, either by sending e-mail to biblechallenge@norcalepiscopal.org or by clipping the form below and sending it to the Diocesan office.

THE BIBLE CHALLENGE AGREEMENT

___ YES! I will take The Bible Challenge with the Bishop, and look forward to receiving support from the Bishop through email, the website, and in other ways.

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

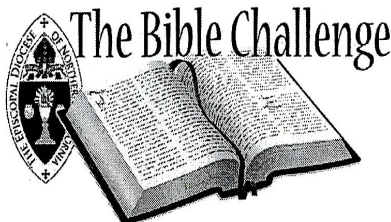
Mailing address: _____

Church that I attend: _____

Email: _____

Send to:

The Bible Challenge, Episcopal Diocese of Northern California,
350 University Avenue, Suite 280
Sacramento, CA 95825



Blessing Our Bibles

Bring your Bible to the Epiphany Sunday service, January 6. Fr. Harry Allagree will lead the blessing of the Bibles, whether in a print edition or downloaded electronically to a Kindle, Nook, or other tablet.

SHEPHERD BY THE SEA ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 13

The Annual Meeting is Shepherd by the Sea’s most important meeting. This is the meeting of all our members where there can be a review of the past year and of goals for the future. It is the meeting where the most important decisions for the year are made. Held each January, this year’s Annual Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, January 13.

Among the important decisions are the elections of new members of the Mission Committee, the Treasurer, and Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

While the congregation as a whole, at the Annual Meeting or Special Meetings, makes the major policy decisions, it is the Mission Committee that makes the operational decisions for the Mission during the year and may initiate policy decisions to be confirmed at Annual Meeting.

As the Mission looks to its future in God’s service to the community, members of the Mission Committee play important leadership roles. Mission Committee members are elected for three year terms. After three years, they must step down from the Mission Committee for at least one year. The Mission Committee nominally meets monthly or as often as needed.

Linda Kennedy is finishing her third year, so in January we will need to elect one new member. If you would like to take on this important leadership role, please speak with one of the current Mission Committee members.

Dan Chang served as the Mission’s Treasurer this year, succeeding Norm Wohlken. The Treasurer is elected by Annual Meeting for a one year term. Although Treasurers are frequently elected for many successive terms, Episcopal Church polity ensures that the members of the congregation make an intentional reelection of the Treasurer.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention participate in setting the policies of the Diocese. Each congregation is allocated a number of lay Delegates based on its size. Shepherd by the Sea has been allocated three Delegates, about 1% of the laity of Diocesan Convention. The 2013 Diocesan Convention will be held November 7-9. As preparation for Diocesan Convention, those elected as Delegates should plan on attending the Spring and Fall Convocations of the Russian River Deanery.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

As the Church year begins and the calendar year ends, it's appropriate to consider our stewardship of the gifts with which God has blessed us.

In Advent, the Church year lies before us. We know that the life of Christ and of the Church will unfold in front of us. We know that we owe God gratitude for our very lives and for the abundance given to us. We know that we, as individuals and as God's community, are called to worship God and to love one another, helping to heal the sick, clothe the naked, and feed the hungry.

There are spiritual reasons for remembering that these truly are God's gifts and for sharing them. Sharing the gifts we have been given, for the glory of God and for a beloved Creation is a healthy Christian response.

In December, the calendar year is drawing to a close. The end of the calendar year means that to be tax deductible for 2012, pledges and donations to Shepherd by the Sea must be received by Sunday, December 30. If you plan to give stock, please talk with Dan Chang to ensure that the proper and timely procedures are used.

And mindful of the Gospel from Mark, chapter 12, we heard on November 11:

⁴² "A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny." ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury." ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Poor are the most charitable

Those in the lowest U.S. income group give the largest percentage of their incomes to charity. Figures for 2007:

Income groups	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Highest	All
Average income*	\$10,531	\$27,674	\$46,213	\$73,460	\$158,888	\$63,091
Income group limit	\$19,301	\$36,070	\$57,944	\$91,297	N.A.	N.A.
Giving as percent of income	4.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%

*Pretax
© 2009 MCT
Source: McClatchy analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data
Graphic: Judy Treible

HAZEL STITT (1923-2012)

Hazel Stitt died on November 4 at age 89 following a two year period of declining health. Hazel was an active member of St. Innocent of Alaska and Shepherd by the Sea and St Innocent of Alaska for about 20 years. She was a faithful member of the Altar Guild and a familiar presence in the front rows of church. We have missed her during her illness and now will continue to miss her.

A native of Texarkanna, Texas, Hazel and her husband, Burt, were married in 1945. They lived in several northern California communities before building their home at The Sea Ranch in 1982. They lived here permanently since then.

Hazel was a talented watercolorist, a longtime exhibitor in Gualala Arts' Art in the Redwoods shows, and one of the first artists to exhibit at the Sea Ranch Lodge.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF EL SALVADOR

The Sierra Pacific Synod has relationships with three "Companion Synods," analogous with the Diocese's "Companion Diocese" relationship with the Diocese of Honduras. The Sierra Pacific Synod's Bishop Mark Holmerud recently visited the Synod's companion, the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. He writes:

I'm writing this at about 35,000 feet as I return from nearly a week visiting one of our three Companion Synods - the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, at the invitation of Bp. Medardo Gomez. It has been a challenging, rewarding, beautiful and exhausting week.

We spent much of our time learning about the relationship between the Salvadoran people and the United States, because there are more than two-and-a-half million Salvadorans currently living and working in our country, many of whom live in California. We also learned:

- 70% of the people living in El Salvador receive money sent from family members working in the United States and from other sources outside of the country - \$3.4 billion yearly (the current annual budget of the entire government of El Salvador is \$4.5 billion).
- 300 people leave El Salvador every day to emigrate -- most to the United States, with some going to Mexico and other Central and South American countries.
- 50% of the people in El Salvador are un- or underemployed.
- A family of four living in El Salvador needs approximately \$600/month to survive. The average salary per person (for those who have jobs) is \$225/month.

The economic conditions in El Salvador are a part of what drives many people to attempt to provide for their families by emigrating, often without documentation and at great risk to their own lives, to the U.S. to seek work. Bp. Gomez has asked the synods and congregations of the ELCA which are already in relationship with the people of El Salvador to minister to these immigrants, and we signed an agreement to seek ways to do just that.

I am planning to ask the Justice and Advocacy Discipling Team and the Global Missions Awareness Team of our synod's ministry (chaired by Ruth Cruddas of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Santa Cruz, who was also present for our gathering and is still in El Salvador as I write this), to

prayerfully imagine how we can respond to the concerns and hopes of our Salvadoran sisters and brothers. I will also ask the many congregations of our synod which have "sister parish" relationships with congregations in El Salvador to join in this conversation. I pray we will together discover more opportunities to seek and see Christ in this and all of the work we have been blessed and called to offer together.

Peace,

Bp. Mark

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Lamar Van Gunten, Joan Jordan, and Jim Jordan were Shepherd by the Sea's delegates to the 102nd Annual Convention of the Diocese, held in Anderson, Nov. 9-10. The convention was an opportunity to learn the state of the Diocese, participate in the decisions that will shape the Diocese's futures, and see old friends.

Sustainability

Last year Bishop Beisner spoke about the need to develop new, sustainable models for ministry that would focus on our mission and help us to be a more faithful and effective church in a rapidly changing context.

At this Convention, there were examples of congregations that are thriving and others that could not sustain themselves. One thriving mission was accepted as a parish, St. Augustine of Canterbury, Rocklin. They have entered an exciting new era, with a renewed sense of mission leading to expanding life and activity, and to a new building. Other missions are moving toward parish status so there are opportunities for growth.

On the other hand, Convention was presented with the closure of a very small rural 57 year old church in Orland and with a 30 year old church in Rohnert Park that never gained traction in its community.

The Diocese is carefully planning to start a new congregation in the next two or three years. This congregation may not look like a traditional church, with land and buildings according to conventional arrangements. Social media may be built in a very intentional way into how this congregation lives its life and carries out its mission.

The New Clergy Pipeline

For a church to thrive, there must be strong clergy leadership. They may not lead as traditional pastors or rectors, but as a whole, the Diocese cannot achieve its mission without committed, energetic, and innovative clergy. The Diocese is blessed to have several new clergy to assist us in meeting that challenge. They come from all over the country and bring new ideas with them. The Diocese also has a remarkable group of people on the path to ordination, and a stream of persons open to dis-

cerning whether their call to ministry in this Church includes a call to ordination.

Rebuild our Church in Haiti

A year ago, the Diocese accepted a goal of raising \$100,000 in one year to help rebuild our Cathedral in Haiti—over and above the many contributions that had already been made through Episcopal Relief and Development to assist with the immediate needs of people there. The goal was exceeded. To date, more than \$117,000. has been raised, including \$515 from Shepherd by the Sea, and it's expected that when the books are closed, the total will be about \$125,000.

Companion Dioceses

As noted in Bishop Holmerud's letter, the Sierra Pacific Synod has four Companion Synod relationships. The Diocese has one, with the Diocese of Honduras, a diocese of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Beisner suggested that it is time for us to explore an additional companion diocese relationship that would strengthen ties to the Anglican Communion.

Office of the Bishop

The Office of the Bishop has several new people and is now comprised of:

- Nicole Baxley, Office Manager and News Editor
- Tamoya Brewster, Receptionist
- Lisa Bruno, Director of Finance and Administration
- Keri Lopez, Communications Director
- Thea Mangels, Executive Assistant
- The Rev. Britt Olson, Canon to the Ordinary
- The Rev. Kay Rohde, Ministry Development Coordinator
- Monica Romano, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Coordinator

The Office is about 20% smaller than it was five years ago, and staff changes have brought the Office into alignment with the three strategic priorities established in the visioning process: Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Communications, and Congregational Development.

Apportionment

The staff operations of the Diocese are funded by congregations according to a formula called "apportionment," set by Diocesan Convention. Every congregation is concerned that there be adequate resources available at the congregational level for local expressions of our common mission. One round of cuts in apportionment was the outcome of a diocese-wide, open process that invited ideas from the congregations, explored them, distilled them into a specific proposal, and presented that proposal in the form of a resolution to Convention 2009.

Another review may lead to additional changes at the 2013 Diocesan Convention. Again, an open process will

be used. The Spring Convocations of the Deaneries will give congregations the opportunity to hear proposed changes and their effects, and to share their ideas.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for Burt Stitt and all who mourn Hazel and for Naida Mauthe, Margie Binker, and all who mourn Snap.

Please pray for those who are ill, those facing surgery, and those who are recovering from illness or surgery, **Pat Bailey, Beva Farmer, Sara Wohlken Foer, Phil Graf, and Liz Rugaber**, for their families, and for their caregivers.

Please pray for those who travel, that their travels may have safe, satisfying, and joyful outcomes.

Pray for those who exercise ministries of leadership in our community that they may provide kind, compassionate, and sure leadership.

Please pray for those serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and for those whom they are serving.

Please pray for the church in Jerusalem, Middle East, and Africa. Especially pray for the church and the 400,000 refugees from terror in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pray for peace in Syria, Sudan, Palestine, Israel, Libya, and the rest of North Africa and the Middle East.

Please pray for those left in need by disasters: floods, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunami.

Please pray for those who are persecuted by the fearful and bigoted that they may be safe. Pray for the fearful and bigoted that they may be healed.

Please pray for the clients of the Food Bank and the Senior Center. Please pray for families, especially children, living in poverty. Please pray for the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, and the naked. Pray for those for whom the Millennium Development Goals promise life.

Prayer requests should be given to Lynda O'Brien or Mary Eidenberger. Prayer requests can be made at the Shepherd by the Sea website, www.shepherdbythesea.org.

COMING EVENTS

Ethics of Eating – January 24-27

It may seem obvious that food is essential to our lives and communities. But what we see on our plates is part of a complex process that involves a confluence of lives, communities and systems. The Ethics of Eating event will explore the U.S. food production and the global food distribution system as it relates to hunger, worker rights, and the environment. As people of faith, we approach the topic from a theological lens, while listening to those who are involved in this system for their livelihood.

ELCA World Hunger is inviting approximately 25 participants from various contexts in the western United States to attend the event and will underwrite the cost of par-

ticipation. Participants will commit to publicize the findings of the event. More information is available at <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102312378841-344/Ethics+of+Eating.pdf>.

Congregational Leadership Conference – March 2

Each winter, the Diocese stages four regional Congregational Leadership Conferences. These regional events are open to all clergy, vestry members (new and experienced), treasurers, and any other congregational leaders interested. There are opportunities to...**Discover, Share & Learn** innovative best practices used within the Diocese and by other congregations in our areas of ministry and our part of the Diocese. The Southwest Region Conference will be held on March 2, at a location TBA.

Davis Lutheran Choir, March 3

For many years, the Davis Lutheran Choir has come to the coast for a weekend retreat. On the Sunday of the retreat, they have offered their music as part of a service Davis Lutheran leads at Shepherd by the Sea. Davis Lutheran has penciled in the retreat for March 1-3. So pencil in the 3rd as the probable date for the service. And pencil in March 2nd for the traditional sunset potluck.

Bishop's Conference: Working Together for Justice, April 26-27

Each year, the Bishop's Conference focuses on an important aspect of ministry. The 2013 Conference, April 26 & 27, will be presented by the Diocese and Episcopal Community Services (ECS). The Keynote Speaker Rod Dugliss, PhD, Dean of the School for Deacons, and the Conference will highlight existing social, economic, and environmental justice ministries of the diocese. There will be a concurrent Youth Event, "Striving for Justice & Peace."

SUPPLY CLERGY

Pastor Walter Pieper – December 2

Pastor Pieper is senior in our corps of supply clergy. We welcome him and his wife, Janice, with open arms. We have appreciated his wisdom and guidance. His faith in our ecumenical incarnation of the Christian Church has been contagious.



The Rev. James Knutsen – December 9, 23



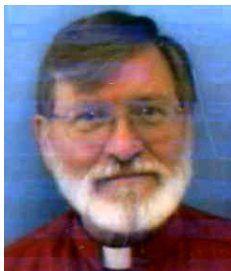
The Rev. James (Jaime) Knutsen, a frequent visitor, is a retreat leader and spiritual director now living in Santa Rosa. In December, he will lead a series of three Wednesday evening Conversations on Advent themes.

Pastor Newt Kerney – December 16

Pastor Kerney retired from Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Rohnert Park. He has served in several California parishes over the past 40 years. He has also served as a military chaplain. This will be Pastor Kerney's second visit; he was here several years ago when he was Dean of the Synod's Gateway Conference.

Pastor Peter Krey – December 30

Pastor Krey has served churches in Berlin, Coney Island, Philadelphia, Oakland, and other East Bay cities. He holds a Ph.D. in Early Modern History of Christianity from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. He is co-author of *Luther's Spirituality*.



Pastor John Moren – January 20



Retired Pastor John Moren and his wife, Joan, are from the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis, where he was the pastor for 22 years (1973-1995). Pastor Moren has visited Shepherd by the Sea several times.

The Rev. Harry Allagree – January 6 and 27



The Rev. Harry Allagree is a frequent visitor to Shepherd by the Sea. He retired after serving for 11 years. Rev. Allagree was Regional Missioner for churches in Ukiah, Lakeport, and Willits, and now lives in Cotati. He leads retreats and serves as supply.

EVENTS CALENDAR

12/2	Advent 1: Pastor Walter Pieper
12/7	<i>Food Bank, Gualala Baptist Church, 9:00-12:45</i>
12/9	Advent 2: The Rev. James Knutsen
12/16	Advent 3: Pastor Newt Kerney
12/21	<i>Food Bank, Gualala Baptist Church, 9:00-12:45</i>
12/23	Advent 4: The Rev. James Knutsen
12/24	<i>Christmas Eve: Festival of Lessons and Carols, Gualala Arts Center, 5:00 PM</i>
12/30	Christmas 1: Pastor Peter Krey
1/6	Epiphany: The Rev. Harry Allagree
1/11	<i>Food Bank, Gualala Baptist Church, 9:00-12:45</i>
1/13	Epiphany 2: <i>Annual Meeting, 10:45 AM</i>
1/20	Epiphany 3: Pastor John Moren
1/25	<i>Food Bank, Gualala Baptist Church, 9:00-12:45</i>
1/27	Epiphany 4: The Rev. Harry Allagree
2/3	Epiphany 5: Pastor Dick Smith

“As baptized Christians, we reach out to the community through worship, prayer, study, and ministry.”

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