



Mural at John the Baptist Church at the Jordan River

Photo by David Bjorgen

Newsletter

Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal/Lutheran Mission

www.shepherdbythesea.org

Gualala, California

December, 2011 – January, 2012

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

ADVENT

Advent is the time of contemplative, joyful anticipation of the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child. We look with a smile on a newborn, wondering at the miracle of new birth, and thinking of all that the child will become and achieve. Advent is a time of preparation, a time of imagining our growth into a life with Christ as shepherd and guide.

The Diocese of Haiti is the most populous diocese in the Episcopal Church. Haiti was devastated by an earthquake nearly two years ago and is slowly rebuilding. Traditionally, the Episcopal Church has provided many of the social services that the impoverished and sometimes corrupt government could not provide.

The Dean of The Theological Seminary in Haiti, The Very Rev. Oge Beauvoir, writes, “Haiti has been a land of Advent. The people of Haiti have been waiting to see that *adventus* – the coming of Jesus to their part of the world – with words and deeds for a long period of time. Every year, the Advent Season brings more hope to the Haitian people. It seems to get them closer to the accomplishment of their dream. But as the years pass, one can easily feel the despair that is invading the great majority of the Haitian nation. Therefore, there is a need for a renewed and sound leadership that can envision, plan, implement, and empower the People of God to be agents of transformation.”

Haitian seminarians have prepared an Advent Devotional, meditations for each day of Advent. The devo-

tional booklet is available on the Shepherd by the Sea website, www.shepherdbythesea.org.

MESSIAH SING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Celebrate the holiday with the second annual community *Messiah Sing*, sponsored by Shepherd by the Sea. There will be *Messiah Sing* performances at Mary, Star of the Sea, on Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 PM and on Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 PM. There will also be a performance at St. Paul's Church, Point Arena, on Friday, December 9, at 7:00 PM.

Join our very own Community Messiah Chorus, with members of the Make a Joyful Noise Choir, as they sing selections from George Frederic Handel's 1742 masterpiece.

Messiah, written for chorus, soloists and orchestra has been in demand by audiences around the world since its premiere over 250 years ago. Washington National Cathedral calls *Messiah*, "The Essential Christmas Music Experience."

It has become a high-spirited, holiday tradition the world over for professional and community organizations to host an annual *Messiah Sing* where members of the audience sing along with the performers in the chorus.

Audience members are welcome to 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!

Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal/Lutheran Mission, along with Mary, Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church and St. Paul's United Methodist Church, established this event last year to joyously celebrate the coming Christmas season and to raise funds for community outreach programs. Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested).

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us at one, or even all, of the performances. For details or further information please visit www.shepherdbythesea.org.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, CHRISTMAS EVE

Shepherd by the Sea is responsible this year for producing the annual, community-wide, ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols, held at Gualala Arts Center on Saturday, 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, with Joan Jordan's assistance, is planning and organizing the Festival. Readers of the Lessons will come from the member churches of the lo-

cal ministerial alliance. Members of the 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.

CHRISTMAS!

This year, Christmas falls on a Sunday. Shepherd by the Sea will hold its Christmas Day service at the usual time – 9:00 AM at Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The Rev. Jamie Knutsen will be the Preacher and Celebrant. Come and celebrate the birth of Christ!

CATHEDRALS: WASHINGTON, SACRAMENTO, PORT-AU-PRINCE

Including some personal comments by Jim Jordan

As a teen-ager, one of the high points was singing in the choir for my high school baccalaureates – in the choir stalls of Washington National Cathedral. That cathedral sits on the highest spot in Washington, DC. It is a visible symbol of God's presence in a city where God's presence seems often forgotten. A former member of Shepherd by the Sea, Lou Perez, spends a month or more each year as a docent for the cathedral, introducing thousands of people from all over the country, all over the world, to the great spiritual edifice.

The significance of cathedrals as places for connection with God was brought home last month at Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento. The cathedral was filled by members of the diocese and the community for a Memorial for a beloved priest, the Rev. Marcia Engblom. The cathedral was the place for God amongst the people of Northern California, a holy place enlivened by everyday holy people gathered in God's presence to celebrate the life of a holy priest.

The Diocese of Haiti, the most populous diocese of the Episcopal Church, had its symbol of God's presence, too: Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince.

Termed the *Soul of the Nation* for Haiti and the *Epicenter of Ministry* for the diocese, the cathedral was not only a spiritual home of great beauty, but a practical facility for education and outreach, for feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Holy Trinity Professional School and the Cathedral's primary and secondary schools, located on the grounds, raised up future leaders in an environment of cultural and spiritual grace.

Even though the cathedral and its associated buildings were reduced to rubble by the earthquake, the diocese is using the cathedral grounds to serve the homeless and needy of Haiti.



Holy Trinity Cathedral before the Earthquake

Many of the services we expect from the government—healthcare, education, culture—are provided in Haiti by The Episcopal Church. Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Church in Haiti to provide short-term employment, provisional homes, and sanitation systems in addition to other community-focused recovery programs. Agencies and NGOs are doing much to help.

But it is up to the 109 other dioceses in the Episcopal Church to help the Church in Haiti rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral. Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin and the people of Haiti have asked for our help so that the cathedral can again be a beacon of hope in a land where strength of faith is inversely proportional to economic development.

Out of the destruction of the entire Cathedral Complex, new life already has begun to rise, full of possibilities. The Haitian government has granted the diocese a plot of land that will almost double its presence in downtown Port-au-Prince.

The new Cathedral will serve as an anchor to the expanded Episcopal presence, offering worship space for 1,000, housing diocesan offices and a rectory, and incorporating the former cathedral ruins as an historic memorial garden.

The Diocese of Haiti has conducted initial strategic planning, and engineers are already at work in Haiti instructing masons in earthquake-safe methods that are no more costly than the masonry that failed.

The 2010 Diocese of Northern California Convention committed to raising \$100,000 for the rebuilding effort, joining other dioceses in a coordinated campaign. As the walls of a new cathedral rise, so too will the hearts and fortunes of those who have depended on Holy Trinity for spiritual succor, for education, and for income. We have the chance to resurrect the spirit of a nation.

The campaign is a brick-by-brick building project. \$10 buys a brick. To begin, all the Church in Haiti needs is a brick or two, or ten, or a thousand. Our diocese will soon provide the opportunity for you to buy bricks.

ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 22

The Annual Meeting is Shepherd by the Sea's most important meeting. It is the meeting of all our members where the most important decisions for the year are made. Held each January, this year's Annual Meeting will be held at Gualala Arts Center after the service on Sunday, January 22.

Among the important decisions are the elections of new members of the Mission Committee and of the Treasurer.

While the congregation as a whole, at the Annual Meeting or Special Meetings, makes the major policy decisions for the Mission, the Mission Committee 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 plays 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.

Several members of the Mission Committee are leaving it this year. If you would like to take on this important leadership role, please speak with one of the current members.

Norman Wohlken has served as the Mission's Treasurer since the Mission's formation in 2006. 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. This year is an appropriate year for someone to step forward to take on this ministry. If you think you may be that someone, please talk with Norm or Linda Kennedy.

COMING EVENTS

Davis Lutheran Choir – February 12

Each year, the Davis Lutheran Choir comes to The Sea Ranch for a musical retreat, and each year they bring a service to Shepherd by the Sea. In 2012, they will be with us on February 12.

Congregational Leadership Conferences

The Congregational Leadership Conferences are held each February and March, shortly after new Vestries and Mission Committees are formed to give congregational leaders useful information and tools.

Open to all clergy, vestry members (new and continuing), treasurers and any other congregational leaders interested in this opportunity to discover, share, and learn innovative best practices used by other congregations in

the Deanery. The Conferences also provide an opportunity to network with peers in nearby congregations.

The 2012 Conferences are scheduled for:

- Southwestern Region - 2/11 at St. Luke's, Calistoga
- Northern Region - 2/18 at All Saints', Redding
- Southeastern Region - 2/25 at Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento
- Northwestern Region - 3/3 at St. Alban's, Arcata

Bishop's Conference, April 27-28

This year's Bishop's Conference will be held Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28 at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento.

The annual Bishop's Conference is designed to present programs, resources, and tools to help congregations with their mission and ministries. The theme of this year's Conference is *Renewing the Church*. It is being produced by the diocesan Congregational Vitalization Committee.

Workshops and worship for every size and type of congregation will engage the mind, spirit and heart with a hope-filled vision for renewal.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Thomas Brackett, the Episcopal Church's missionary for church planting, ministry redevelopment, and fresh expressions of church. The Rev. Thomas Brackett has been passionate about lively communities of faith for twenty-seven years of ordained life, and shares his insights and experience through his blog, "Church Planting Central," found online at <http://plantingcentral.typepad.com/>.

A second major speaker will be The Rev. Canon Neal O. Michell, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Dallas, and author of two bestselling books, *How to Hit the Ground Running* and *Beyond Business as Usual*.

Coupled with the program of workshops, these speakers will provide stimulus, information, and tools the Mission can use.

There will be additional details available later in 2012 at www.norcalepiscopal.org/bishopsconference

101st DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Linda Kennedy and Joan and Jim Jordan attended Diocesan Convention, November 11 and 12 in Redding. Convention started Friday evening with a Eucharist at a full-to-overflowing All Saints Church. It continued with business sessions Saturday morning at the Redding Convention Center. Because of the careful preparations at the Deanery Convocations, the business was completed by 2:00 PM.

Convention's business included election of members of diocesan governing boards. It also included consideration of several resolutions. Several were procedural,

cleaning up language in governing documents. Four were substantive.



Convention at Work Photo by Linda Kennedy

The Belfry and the Episcopal Service Corps

Two resolutions were offered in support of the Belfry, the Lutheran/Episcopal ministry associated with University of California, Davis. One resolution will enable the Belfry and the Diocese to host members of the Episcopal Service Corps, a group of young people who work on service projects

Since 1955, The Belfry has provided campus ministry to the UC Davis community, first as a Lutheran ministry, and then in the late 1980's as a joint ministry with the Episcopal Church. Over the last decade or more, funding for this ministry has continued to decline, with a 10% cut from the ELCA in 2011, and a much larger cut predicted for 2012 – one that will likely make it impossible to continue the campus ministry on a full time basis. While this is a tragic development given the recent growth of the ministry to the students of UC Davis, The Belfry Staff and Board are committed to continuing to follow God's call to provide ministry to and with young adults.

Meanwhile, Episcopal Service Corps programs have grown and flourished across the United States. Targeted toward recent college graduates aged 21-30, these programs give volunteers a chance to spend a year in spiritual and vocational discernment while serving the community. Participation in these programs is highly competitive and draws from a national diverse pool of candidates.

The program envisioned at the Belfry, "LEVN" (Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network), will be decidedly ecumenical in nature, as is the ministry of The Belfry. LEVN volunteers will work with both Episcopal and Lutheran entities (congregations and affiliated agencies), as well as in other non-profit organizations. This will entail a shift in the nature and character of the ministry

of The Belfry, but is one that will be beneficial to all involved.

The second resolution authorized the Diocese's participation in a joint commission with the committee for campus ministry of the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod to create sustained fundraising for all Episcopal/ELCA campus ministries within the Synod.

The Sierra Pacific Synod includes, roughly, the area of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northern California, California (the Bay Area), El Camino Real (the Central Coast), and San Joaquin (the Central Valley), and the northern portion of the Diocese of Nevada. The Belfry is not the only joint campus ministry in this area, and other Episcopal dioceses are joining in the joint fundraising commission.

Traditionally, campus ministries have served to provide students and faculty with places for spiritual grounding and fellowship. They have been important in the formation of active church leaders. They have also been the places where many clergy have discovered their vocations.

Restructuring the Diocese

The third substantive resolution dealt with the proposal to restructure the governance of the diocese. Presented on behalf of the Diocesan Structure Committee by Jim Jordan, the resolution was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

The goal of the restructuring is to start the journey of shifting the diocese's focus and resources toward empowering and enabling the mission and ministries of the congregations. It is a response to an enhanced sense of individual and congregational responsibility for mission and ministry, economic restraints, demographic changes, decreased participation in traditionally organized churches, and more usable tools for electronic communication. It is meant to accommodate new forms of churches – lay-led congregations, “emerging” churches formed where people gather, home churches, and churches that do not own property.

The resolution passed by Convention took two important steps along the journey:

1. Creation of three new deaneries. The West Deanery, including Shepherd by the Sea and congregations in Ft. Bragg, Willits, Ukiah, Lakeport, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, Kenwood, Sonoma, Monte Rio, Sebastopol, and Petaluma. Several of these congregations are non-traditional, the size of Shepherd by the Sea; others are traditional parishes.

The expectation is that deaneries will facilitate sharing of resources among their congregations, possibly adopting joint programs to meet regional mission

needs. Deaneries will communicate to the Diocese the resource needs of their congregations.

2. Creation of a Board of Trustees. The existing Board of Directors and the Diocesan Council will be dissolved in December 2012, with the Board of Trustees assuming the legal responsibilities of the Board of Directors. The Trustees, chaired by Bishop Beisner, will include seven members elected by the deaneries, three appointed by the Bishop, and five elected by Diocesan Convention. The Trustees will be responsible for policy decisions and budget approvals; the Office of the Bishop will be responsible for Diocesan level operations, and the Deaneries and congregations for regional and local activities.

Restructuring The Episcopal Church

Bishop Beisner, in his Convention Address spoke of the efforts to restructure The Episcopal Church. A subsequent resolution asked that General Convention, meeting in Indianapolis in July 2012, address the need for restructuring prior to the 2015 General Convention.

ELCA, EPISCOPAL COOPERATION AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY ON HIV/AIDS

From the ELCA News Service

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson of the ELCA and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori of the Episcopal Church said World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 is "an opportunity for us to remember the 30 million lives that have been lost to the deadly pandemic."

In their first joint letter about the international observance, the presiding bishops said, "The struggle against HIV and AIDS is our own struggle as churches and, as the pandemic continues into its fourth decade, the urgency in our work is born out of the intimacy with which we know it."

"Together we are part of a global family of 150 million Anglicans and Lutherans, most living in developing countries for whom the virus is an ever-present daily reality," they wrote.

The ELCA and the Episcopal Church have been full communion partners since *Call to Common Mission* was adopted 1999. The relationship allows both churches to keep their autonomy and structures yet work together in mission, witness and the interchangeability of members and clergy.

Most recently, the denominations began sharing a staff position responsible for federal legislative and policy advocacy on international issues in Washington, D.C., as part of a commitment to deepen cooperative ministries. According to the Rev. Andrew Genszler, ELCA director for advocacy in Washington, D.C., working together in this way is "all the more credible."

"I am really pleased with the opportunity to work more closely with our Episcopal counterparts," Genszler said. "We know that the shape of effective faith-based advocacy has changed from resting on principle to the marshaling and representation of global relationships, ministries and commitments in the public square to speak for policy change. The witness of both church bodies in this way will be all the more credible for their combined representation."

In their letter, Hanson and Schori highlighted programs that illustrate how the denominations address HIV and AIDS and "the systems of poverty it permeates."

"Episcopalians and Lutherans are invested in prevention, treatment, care and support, and alleviating stigma for all living with HIV and AIDS," they wrote, adding that the global community has made significant progress in working to end the pandemic.

Together Lutherans and Episcopalians continue to serve as key leaders in helping to stop the "shaming of people living with HIV" and providing care and support for those coping with the disease. Hanson and Schori said members must increase these kinds of efforts and work toward the goal of an "AIDS-free generation" recently set by the U.S. government.

"Unfortunately, today we face the danger that our dream of an AIDS-free generation will remain just that -- a dream. U.S. funding for these life-saving global health programs continues to be targeted for disproportionate cuts," they wrote.

"Through our shared witness in Washington, our churches are working to ensure that our government allocates the highest funding levels possible to address HIV and AIDS, including full funding for the President's Global Health Initiative. The voice of every Episcopalian and every ELCA member is vital to this work," wrote Hanson and Schori, encouraging members to join both churches' advocacy efforts.

At the conclusion of their letter, the presiding bishops expressed their hope to "cross from 30 years of death and loss to a future of abundant life for all."

The full text of their letter is at <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Presiding-Bishop/Messages-and-Statements/112911.aspx>

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We beseech you so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled, that they may enact such laws as shall please you, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

-- For Congress, p. 821, Book of Common Prayer

THE BISHOP OF JERUSALEM'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to His People on Earth!

And so we begin our Christmas celebration, with the glorious news of the birth of a baby and the hope that this holds for the world.

In all things we are told to give 'thanks to God' and in all we do 'give the Glory to God'. With this in mind we look back upon a year filled with thanksgiving and look forward to the wonder and splendor that God has in store for us.

I am thankful for the productive Annual Majma (Annual Convention) that was held in Amman, Jordan this past November. Our theme for this Majma was 'Serving to the Glory of God'. We focused on our institutions and the work we do to the Glory of God and in the service of our communities. Our schools, healthcare institutions and churches glorify God through the educating and teaching of our future generations, the caring for the sick and the needy, the elderly and the marginalized. We give glory to God through the example of our Christian principles and moral values, which are rooted in our faith. We look forward to working together to build future programs and projects that will benefit all people, both physically and spiritually. In Christ we are called to alleviate the suffering of our people, our friends and neighbours without regard to race, religion, gender or politics.

The hope of the church is in Christ Jesus. Through Him we are working toward a stronger unity, greater love, and deeper faithfulness in our mission and ministry among all Christians and non-Christians. And so, just as Jesus embraces the world, so too does our community embrace the world. Living in the land of the Holy One, we open wide our doors to welcome the world into our midst. Our churches regularly greet the pilgrims who come to visit, see and learn of the work Jesus continues to do through us. As they come to Bethlehem to kneel at the foot of the manger, so too do we gaze upon the Christ child, small, vulnerable and innocent.

In this land of so many passionate commitments and conflicts, we celebrate again Jesus' ministry of reconciliation. It is through the courage and strength of the Holy Spirit that we can continue to serve to the Glory of God.

It is with great honour and profound humility that I minister among you as your Bishop here. All I do is in the service and Glory to God. I pray that as you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, this Christmastide, be full of the joy and deep peace that comes in knowing that

you are dearly loved by our God who so loved the world that He gave us his only Son.

Merry Christmas.

Bishop Suheil Dawani
Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

GUALALA FOOD BANK

The Gualala Food Bank has served over 100 families this year. Food supplies come from the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa and the Fort Bragg Food Bank distribution center. Gualala Supermarket and Surf Super generously provide fresh produce at no or reduced cost.

December, with the Christmas holidays, is a busy month for the Food Bank. Help is always welcome for bringing foodstuffs from the Redwood Empire Food Bank warehouse in Santa Rosa and for distributing the food at Gualala Baptist Church. Please talk with Linda Kennedy or Peter Mohr if you would like to help.

Set-up for food distributions begins at the Gualala Baptist Church about 9:00 with food collection from the supermarkets. Distribution is 11:00 – 12:30. Clean-up ends by 1:00. Next distributions will be on Fridays, December 9 and 23 (the holiday distribution) and January 13 and 27.

South Coast Seniors

South Coast Seniors is recruiting new Board members. Two members of Shepherd by the Sea, Norm Wohlken and Paul Batchelder, have left the Board this year. Norm served as President during a time when the Senior Center operations became more professional. Paul served for three years as the organizer/coordinator for the monthly fund-raising Spaghetti Dinners. Paul's efforts brought the dinners to the Gualala Community Center and a new level of creativity and attendance.

Because of Norm's, Paul's, and the rest of the Board's efforts, the Senior Center is healthy. But like all organizations providing needed social services, it is underfunded. New Board members will help make decisions on the future of the Senior Center and the Meals on Wheels, outreach, transportation, and Point Arena Food Bank programs. Since the majority of the Senior Center's budget comes from community fundraising, that will be an important part of the Board's work.

The organizational health of South Coast Seniors has made it possible to attract grants. South Coast Seniors has purchased a new vehicle – a 2012 Ford Fiesta – to deliver Meals on Wheels. Funds for the purchase came from a \$20,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation.

If you are interested in being a Board member, please call Judy 882-2137.

SUPPLY CLERGY

Pastor Jason Niemi – December 4, January 29

Pastor Jason Niemi returns to Shepherd by the Sea, having served here once before. Most recently he was Associate Pastor at a Bay Area Lutheran Church. He has a young family – wife Kristina and young son Koen. (Note as of December 3, both Kristina and Koen are sick, so Pastor Niemi may not be with us on December 4.)

The Rev. James Knutsen – December 11, Christmas



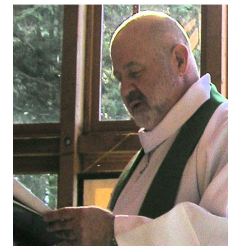
The Rev. James (Jaime) Knutsen is a frequent visitor. He was resident this Fall at Bishop's Ranch, leading daily Morning and Evening Prayer. He has served at St Michael and All Angels, Ft. Bragg, and at Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rose. He is a retreat leader and spiritual advisor.

Pastor John Moren – December 18

Pastor John Moren is a retired Lutheran pastor. This will be Pastor Moren's second visit to Shepherd by the Sea, having been here last May.

Pastor Greg Huth – January 1

Pastor Greg Huth is an ELCA pastor who has taken a leave from call to work on a book about Greek influences on the New Testament. He is in residence at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.



The Rev. Harry Allagree – Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 5



The Rev. Harry Allagree is a frequent visitor to Shepherd by the Sea. For 11 years, Rev. Allagree was Regional Missioner to Holy Trinity, Ukiah, St. John's, Lakeport, and St. Francis, Willets. He is a retreat leader who has been the Chaplain to the Retired Clergy & Spouses for the Diocese.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who are ill and those who are recovering from illness or surgery, **Nancy Bickford**, **Beva Farmer**, **Sara Wohlken Foer** (recovering for kidney transplant surgery – she and the donor are reported as doing well), **Kristina and Koen Niemi**, **Liz Rugaber**, and **Hazel Stitt**, for their families, and for their caregivers.

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

Please 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 peace in the Sudan, Palestine, Israel, Libya, Syria, and the rest of North Africa and the Middle East.

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

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 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, Mary Eidenberger, or Betty Bechtel. Prayer requests also can be made using the Shepherd by the Sea website, www.shepherdbythesea.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

12/4	Advent 2: Pastor Jason Niemi
12/8	Messiah, <i>Shepherd by the Sea</i> , 7:00 PM
12/9	Food Bank, <i>Gualala Baptist Church</i> , 9:00-12:45
12/9	Messiah, <i>St. Paul's Church, Pt. Arena</i> , 7:00 PM
12/10	Messiah, <i>Shepherd by the Sea</i> , 2:00 PM
12/11	Advent 3: The Rev. James Knutsen
12/18	Advent 4: Pastor John Moren
12/23	Food Bank, <i>Gualala Baptist Church</i> , 9:00-12:45
12/24	Festival of Lessons and Carols, <i>Gualala Arts Center</i> , 5:00 – 6:00 PM
12/25	CHRISTMAS:: The Rev. James Knutsen
1/1	Christmas 2: Pastor Greg Huth
1/8	Epiphany 1: The Rev. Harry Allagree
1/13	Food Bank, <i>Gualala Baptist Church</i> , 9:00-12:45
1/15	Epiphany 2
1/22	Epiphany 3: The Rev. Harry Allagree
1/27	Food Bank, <i>Gualala Baptist Church</i> , 9:00-12:45
1/29	Epiphany 4: Pastor Jason Niemi
2/5	Epiphany 5: The Rev. Harry Allagree
2/10	Food Bank, <i>Gualala Baptist Church</i> , 9:00-12:45
2/12	Epiphany 6: Davis Lutheran Choir

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