



*St. Clement's Episcopal Church*  
*2376 Zinfandel Drive*  
*Rancho Cordova, CA 95670*

*A Veteran Friendly Congregation*

# The Anchor

Published By St. Clement's Episcopal Church

December 2011 Diocese of Northern California

## *Measuring a life*

On November 27 we mark the first Sunday of Advent, and the beginning of a new year in the life of the Church. In Advent we await the coming of new life, in the form of our Lord Jesus. We believe that God took human form in Jesus of Nazareth, a helpless newborn, and grew among us to teach us how to live into the abundance of God's blessings. Although Jesus was put to death by those who feared his influence, the impact of this one man and the Way of living he demonstrated now spans the globe.

Advent is the season of *anticipation*. As we await the One whose life changed all of ours, I am reminded of how many lives influence us along our journeys. Chance encounters can redirect our attention. But much more life changing are friendships or associations that last years and just become part of us, our identity. I think of that song that Frank Sinatra made so famous, "I've got you under my skin." There are special people who have "gotten" under our skin, and we are thankful.

This year I am especially mindful of the lives of a couple of humans in whom I could see God at work. The Rev. Marcia Engblom, who died Oct. 28, was a priest in our diocese who touched so many people and ministries that it's hard to enumerate them. She was the pastor of our neighbor church, St. Francis, Fair Oaks. Not all of you knew her, but I guarantee that she will be sorely missed throughout our diocese, and by me.

Then, a week later, we lost our beloved sister, Diane Rubenstein, whom everyone at St. Clement's knew. In fact, she was so central to both our ministry and our outreach at St. Clement's that we are having a hard time figuring out how many shoes we need to try to fill.

Two lives lived in very active faith. Two lives flushed with the spirit of God. Two lives that made a very big difference to all they encountered. Each of them was passionate about her faith, and

would have been eagerly entering this first season of the Church year.

In Advent, we anticipate one particular life, Jesus. His being human makes our being human more tolerable. As we await the celebration of God's incarnation in Jesus, we are not idle. Anticipation means getting ready, and then acting. We don't just sit around waiting for Christmas, we actively prepare for it by sending out greeting cards, buying gifts for loved ones getting out our Christmas decorations, buying a tree (I relish the choosing!) and decking it out, and planning for our Christmas hospitality. This time of waiting is actually really busy!

Let's make sure we prepare for Jesus, too. Jesus is God's gift to us, but we need to make a place for him at the inn of our hearts. How do we do that? I love the collects for the four Sundays in Advent. If I reprint them every year, it's just because I can't improve upon them as useful guidance. Here they are in shortened form, with my emphases..

Advent I: *Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light*, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal....

Advent II: *Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation; Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins*, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer...

Advent III: *Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us...*

Advent IV: *Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself...*

These classic Advent prayers composed for the beginning of community worship form a concise primer for Advent preparation.

The first step is decision. I choose to ignore – cast away – all those negative ideas that people want to dump on me. I'm not going to let such ideas find any rest in me, and I can tell those who want me to accept them that I will refer these negative feelings/thoughts to God. Not being a receptacle for negative energy is a powerful choice. It means that you can be a resource for positive energy.

# Bible Readings

for the month

Revised Common Lectionary

Year A

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

**2 Peter 3:8-15a**

Mark 1:1-8

## Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

**Canticle 15**

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

## Christmas Eve Family Service

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:(1-7)8-20

## Christmas Day Service

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)

John 1:1-14

## Contacts

### Office Manager

Len Honeycutt 635-5282

### Music Minister

Carole Maxson 209- 795-5768

### Sexton

Randy Grimwood 458-8196

### Altar Guild

Debbi Honeycutt 806-2319

### Anchor Editor

Harry Shippy 631-0640  
e-mail shippyharry@yahoo.com

### Crop Walk

Diane Rubenstein 635-7706

### Daughters of the King

Debbi Honeycutt 362-5170

### Lay Ministry Coordinator

Bobbie Keill 852-6837

### Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Len Honeycutt 362-5170

### Parish Nurse

Helen Sheppard 635-1987

### P.I.E./Lectionary Bible Study

Betty Chapman 363-4435

### Prayer Tree

Mickey Boughton 635-8324

### Sunday School

Muriel Murray 967-5981

Sharon Burke-Polana 481-0225

### Ushers

Randy Grimwood 458-8196

### Coffee Hour Hospitality

Deidra White 361-1226

### Kitchen Supplies

Sherry Stults 638-2284

## 2011 Vestry

Muriel Murray, Sr. Warden 967-5981  
Betty Chapman,  
Peoples Warden 363-4435  
Laurel Sunderman, Clerk 488-9701  
Diane Rubenstein,  
Treasurer (until 11/12/11) 635-7706  
Wendy Jones 476-4526  
Harry Shippy 631-0640  
Sharon Burke-Polana 481-0225  
Randy Grimwood 458-8196  
Irv White 361-1226

## At a Glance

Saturdays Thrift Store open 9-1

Dec 1 Lunch Bunch 12:00noon

Dec 4 Stewardship Sunday  
One service 9:00am

Dec 15 Anchor Deadline

Dec 18 Madrigal dinner

Dec 24 Christmas Eve  
5:00pm Family service  
10:00pm Candelite service

Dec 25 Christmas Day  
One Service 9:00am

Jan 1 Rite I 8:00am  
Rite II 10:00am

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 6 Emilito Smith

December 15 Helen Sheppard

December 26 Michael Menser

Jessica Menser

Erika Menser

December 29 Betty Chapman

## Clergy and Lay Eucharist Visits

Please call the church office(635-5282) or send an e-mail to the church (st.clements@hotmail.com) if you would like communion brought to you or a family member.

**The Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor, Rector**

**Harry Shippy, Editor**

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Please email your news and photographs to st.clements@hotmail.com or shippyharry@yahoo.com Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Articles are subject to editing.

Continued from page 2

Negative thoughts reflect the power of darkness; positive thoughts transmit the power of light.

The second step is to remember that we are not the first to realize that our world is very imperfect. Prophets from ancient times have told us the importance of living in covenant with God, but humankind has consistently ignored them. Now would be a good time to stop.

The third step asks us to look inside at what might be hindering us in fully welcoming new life. This step also asks us to look at our relationship with our holy creator. Are we consciously limiting God's influence and grace?

The fourth step, on the fourth Sunday of Advent, pushes us to really welcome Jesus into our own hearts, psyches, and daily lives. Jesus, prized as a living, giving way of life is much more than a structure for ourselves – a "mansion prepared for himself." Jesus inspires us to provide "mansions" for others, because there is no better way to welcome Jesus into our lives than to help others welcome him into their lives.

Advent, and then Christmas, are such exciting, promising times. Let us look for and welcome the new ideas seeping under the metaphorical door-sills of our lives. I can feel it. Can you? Jesus is at work among us, and we are stirring.

With God's blessings for Advent and Christmas,

Pastor Christine +

Tuesday Evening Bible Study meets at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.  
Friday morning Bible Study meets at 10:30 am at Saralu Methven's home..

# Stewardship Sunday, December 4th

## Celebrating our Golden Anniversary by "Passing It On"

Please remember that Sunday, December 4th is Consecration Sunday, the final Sunday of our Stewardship campaign. We will have a single combined service at 9:00 a.m. during which we will bring our 2012 pledge envelopes forward to the altar where they will be blessed.

Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service we will enjoy a delicious brunch in our Parish Hall. The brunch will be followed by the annual performance of "*Its OK to Laugh in Church*" directed by Len Honeycutt. Please save the date. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have not sent in your R.S.V.P. for the brunch, please do so as soon as possible or phone the church office and let them know how many in your family will be attending. We need to plan on the right amount of food. Thank you.

Betty Chapman

Chair, Stewardship Committee

## Blessings to Fr. Bill Adams

Our friend the Reverent Bill Adams has accepted the call to be Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity, Ukiah, CA. He has been serving there as a supply priest for the past year or so, and now the congregation wants to make the partnership permanent. Bill will continue his work as a respiratory therapist. He helped us out at St. Clement's for a couple of years after his 22 year pastorate at Trinity Sutter Creek. Did you know that he was raised up for the priesthood from St. Clement's, where he, wife Kathy and their children, including our own Laurel Sunderman, all worshipped?

The installation service is Dec. 10 at 1 pm. St. Clement's is sending a gift as a sign of our love and support. Address: 640 South Orchard Ave., Ukiah 95482.

## Christmas Gift Shopping? A few suggestions

We all have gift lists. Some people are easy to shop for, and others make us scratch our heads for something new and different *this* year. I give personal gifts to immediate family members, but for more distant relatives how about these ideas?

Episcopal Relief and Development ([www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)) works with local churches and community organizations in poverty-stricken areas throughout the world. When you give to ERD you know that your gift will be used as you intended; only 7% of their budget is devoted to administrative costs! You can spend ANY amount to make a difference, from a \$12 mosquito net to \$5,000 for a community well. We have a copy of their "Gifts for Life" catalogue in the office for those who don't use the internet. You can arrange for gift cards so that family members know that you donated in their name instead of buying them another trinket that they don't need. All donations are tax deductible.

On Sunday, December 11 we will be hosting a display of jewelry and other gift items from **African Team Ministries**, a ministry of Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches in America with bishops in East Africa to provide school tuition and refugee relief. We will have a table with items displayed, and you can buy on the honor system, taking the item you want and placing your check for the requested amount in a basket. At the very least, you will want to inspect the beautiful, hand-made products.

And then there's our Thrift Store, open every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. Looking for some new Christmas decorations or bling? The store keeps getting new merchandise, and there could be some gems in there.

St. Clement's and the Diocese of Northern California, and the institutions associated with the diocese, like Camp Noel Porter, are all fully-deductible donations. Why not make some of your Christmas gifts do

double duty this year, by donating to an important charity (the above is only a selective list) in the recipient's name. They can feel good that you remembered them with a gift that will make the world better.

## Announcing the Diane Rubenstein Memorial Fund

Our dear Diane kept a watchful eye over everything financial at St. Clement's. She made sure we lived within our means, and had cash in the bank to pay our bills. But she was also concerned with assuring that our facilities were both safe for all and functional.

As news of her untimely death circulated, several people spontaneously proposed a Diane Rubenstein Memorial Fund that could be used only for improvement projects or capital debt reduction – either of which would give her great pleasure. Anyone who wishes to make a donation to this fund should indicate the designation on the check. This fund will be restricted to special purposes, not operating expenses, that would honor Diane. Your ideas for how to use the fund are welcome. My idea is a kitchen remodel.

Pastor Christine

## Poinsettias for Christmas

We will be decorating the church with live poinsettia plants for Christmas. If you would like to donate one in appreciation or memory of a loved one, there are flower donation slips in the narthex. \$10 per plant.

Do you have a will?  
Have you remembered the Church in  
your will?

<b>Lay Ministry Schedule December 2011</b>				
	SUNDAY December 4 2nd Sunday of Advent	SUNDAY December 11 3rd Sunday of Advent	SUNDAY December 18 4th Sunday of Advent	SUNDAY December 25 Christmas Day
Altar Guild	Debbi Honeycutt Len Honeycutt	Jennifer Yee Phyllis Rayburn	Diedra White Kara Magdaleno	Kathleen Gallagher Stephen Soulman
Ushers 8:00 a.m.	One Service 9:00am	Randy Grimwood	Randy Grimwood	Randy Grimwood
Ushers 10:00 a.m.	Randy Grimwood Pam Quarles	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Ray Stults Sherry Stults	Pam Quarles
Acolytes 8:00 a.m.		Jim Wash	Chris Wash	Harry Shippy
Acolytes 10:00 a.m.	Debbie Popp	Debbi Honeycutt	Kathleen Gallagher	Debbi Honeycutt
Lectors 8:00 a.m.		Chris Wash Pam quarles Bobbi Keill	Jim Wash Irv White Mike chapman	Ken Dunham Muriel Murray Len Honeycutt
Intercessors 8:00a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Saralú Methven	Ken Dunham Bill Murray	Harry Shippy Ray Stults	Chris Wash Kent Ransom
E.M. (Chalice) 8:00a.m.		Jim Wash	Chris Wash	Harry Shippy
E.M.(Chalice) 10:00 a.m.	Muriel Murray Harry Shippy	Bobbie Keill Debbi Honeycutt Phyllis Rayburn Mary Norsweather	Irv White Diedra White Jim & Chris Wash	Len Honeycutt Bobbie Keill Irene Grant Randy Grimwood
Coffee Hour 8:00 a.m.		Irv White Diedra White	Carrol Cartwright	
Coffee Hour 10:00a.m.	assigned hosts and hostesses	Muriel Murray Debbi Honeycutt	Stephen Soulman Sharon Burke-Polano	Len Honeycutt Muriel Murray
Counters	Sherry Stults Guido Polano			
PIE 8:00 & 10:00	Muriel Murray	Mickey Boughton	Betty Chapman	Debbi Honeycutt
	NOTE ONLY ONE SERVICE	NOTE ON DECEMBER 4	NOTE AND DECEMBER	NOTE 25

## *Madrigal Dinner*

*The 2011 Madrigal Dinner is in full rehearsal! New music, new skits and great food! This year we will entertain Sir Lancelot along with other Knights of the Round Table. There will be much frivolity as is appropriate from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and before. Don't miss this great event at St. Clement's Manor. It will begin at 6pm on Sunday evening, December 18. Tickets are on sale now, and when 100 are spoken for they're gone. The price is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Period dress is encouraged.*



# Christmas at St. Clement's

Saturday, December 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Family Service with  
Carols and Holy Communion

10 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
with Choir and Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25 9 am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Sunday, January 1, 2012 8 am Holy Name - Rite I  
10 am Holy Name - Rite II

December 2011

St. Clement's Episcopal Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Lunch Bunch 12noon	2 Bible Study 10:30am	3 Thrift Shop 9:00-1:00 NA:10:00am AA:7:00pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holy Eucharist 9:00am one service only AA:6:30pm	Rector's Day off	Bible study 7:00pm	AA:6:00pm		Bible Study 10:30am	Daughter's of The King:10:00 Thrift Shop 9:00-1:00 NA:10:00am AA:7:00pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Holy Eucharist 8:00-10:00 am AA:6:30pm	Rector's Day off	Bible study 7:00pm	AA:6:00pm	Anchor Deadline	Bible Study 10:30am	Thrift Shop 9:00-1:00 NA:10:00am AA:7:00pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Holy Eucharist 8:00-10:00 am Madrigal dinner AA:6:30pm	Rector's Day off	Bible study 7:00pm	AA:6:00pm		Bible Study 10:30am	Thrift Shop 9:00-1:00 NA:10:00am AA:7:00pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Holy Eucharist 9:00am one service only AA:6:30pm	Rector's Day off	Bible study 7:00pm	AA:6:00pm		Bible Study 10:30am	Thrift Shop 9:00-1:00 NA:10:00am AA:7:00pm

**DECEMBER 2011**

**REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:00 A.M. RITE I HOLY EUCHARIST**

**10:00 A.M. RITE II HOLY EUCHARIST**

*COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP*

*FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE*



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December 2011

First Class

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



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**Lunch Bunch is back on First Thursdays**

**Join us Dec. 1 at noon**

We are blessed with a new group of cooks for Lunch Bunch! In November, Pat and Harry Shippy treated us to a delicious meal of turkey and all the trimmings. Thank you!

In December, Victoria McKinney's daughter, Nina, has offered to cook. I heard meat loaf and mashed potatoes mentioned, but that could change. As always, a call to the office is appreciated so we know how many to serve. See you then!