



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

A Veteran Friendly Congregation

***Bishop Beisner congratulates St. Clement's
for 50 years***

In a hand-written letter dated September 13, 2011, our Bishop, the Right Reverend Barry Beisner expressed his appreciation for the ministry of St. Clement's in Rancho Cordova over the past 50 years.

“Dear Friends in Christ:

Grace and peace to you. I am writing to you from Quito, Ecuador, where the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church is about to convene. Shortly before my departure, I learned of your 50th anniversary celebration. I hope that it was a very joyous occasion. You have much to celebrate.

Yesterday I visited a church which was founded in 1535; and, of course, there are Old World churches to be visited which are far older still. Even so, as one prominent historian recently reminded us, as human history goes, Christianity is still a relatively young religion, adapting to different contexts, and changing as it carries out its mission and grows over time. Fifty years may not seem like much in terms of all those preceding centuries, but it is sufficiently long to have engaged in that larger process of adaptation and change in important ways, and to have made a profound difference in the lives of many people, as it goes about its mission.

Fifty years is also a very significant time in the life of a diocese which is itself just a century old. St. Clement's has contributed much to the life of this diocese, and as its bishop I am grateful to you and thank God for you.

I pray God's blessing upon you as you continue the work of God's mission in your particular context. May the next 50 years be years of even more effective witness and service, and may they be richly blessed.

Yours in Christ,

+ Barry”

The Anchor

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January 2012 Diocese of Northern California

Happy New Year!

Our Christmas celebrations have begun at last! Or, perhaps, as you read this, they are over. The twelve days of Christmas of song and tradition would be exhausting if we continued the feasting and gifting that long.

Fortunately, once the social activities subside, the essential part of Christmas may come into clearer focus. Where was Jesus born in us this year? How did we transmit the light of God in a dark and wintry world this year? Who did we make sure was *not* left to shiver out of the circle of warmth that greeting cards so capably depict? How did we shelter something precious and vulnerable?

Long after the lights and decorations are stowed away for another year these are the questions that remain. It is laudable to perform charitable deeds at Christmastime, although in some ways such acts tend to offset the excesses we bestow on those who already have enough.

May the true light that shines in the darkness bless your days in the coming year.

With hope and joy,

Pastor Christine +

Warm Things for St. John's Shelter

All those red bags stuffed with mittens, socks, scarves and other warm things are reaching St. John's Shelter for Women and Children immediately after Christmas. In addition, a whole box of new children's jackets and warm blankets (courtesy of Donna Menser's Coldwell Banker office) were delivered Thursday before Christmas so they could be sized and wrapped for Christmas gifting. Thank you to all who took time to purchase and bring your items. They are much appreciated!

Lunch Bunch January 5

Our first Lunch Bunch of the new year is Thursday, January 5, the day before the Epiphany. The plan is that Victoria McKinney will serve soul food! Anyone who reminisces about tasty meals from the South, and everyone else, will enjoy these dishes.

I want to thank those who have stepped forward to continue our monthly fellowship lunches. May we all be blessed with good food, good health and great friendship in 2012.

Pastor Christine 2

Bible Readings

for the month

Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

Our Sunday service readings will be different on Jan. 8 and 15 because we will observe Epiphany on Jan. 8

January 1

Holy Name of Jesus

Numbers 6: 22-27

PSALM: 8

Galatians 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 15-21

January 8

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

PSALM: 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3; 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

January 15

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 1:1-15

PSALM: 29

Acts 19: 1-7

Mark 1: 4-11

January 22

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

PSALM: 62; 6-14

1 Corinthians 7; 29-31

Mark 1: 14-20

January 29

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

PSALM: 111

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Mark 1: 21-28

Contacts

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Treasurer 362-8053

Sharon Burke-Polana 481-0225

Randy Grimwood 458-8196

Irv White 361-1226

At a Glance

January 1 Normal service times 8 and 10 am
January 5 Lunch Bunch – 12 noon
January 6 Epiphany Pot Luck – 6pm
January 8 Youth Sunday - 10 am
Vestry – 1 pm
January 9-15 Pastor Christine on Continuing Education
January 14 Daughters of the King – 10 am
January 15 The Rev. Art Lillicrop preaching and presiding, 8 and 10
Anchor Deadline
January 17 Deadline for reports to Annual Report
January 29 Annual Meeting – 10 am OR 4 pm
Thrift Shop open every Saturday 9 am to 1 pm
Lectionary Bible Study every Tuesday 7 pm in the Parish Hall and Friday 10:30 am at Saralu Methven's home

Clergy and Lay Eucharist Visits

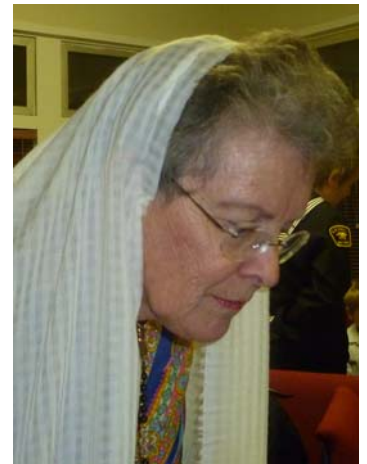
Please call the church office(635-5282) or send an e-mail to the church (st.clements@hotmail.com) if you would like communion brought to you or a family member.

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

The Rev. Christine Leigh-Taylor, Rector Harry Shippy, Editor The Anchor

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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.



Boar's Head Madrigal Dinner - A Revel Shared!

What pomp! What circumstance! What feasting! What joy! Our 2nd Boar's Head Madrigal Dinner was a wonderful opportunity to welcome the Christmas season with music, amusement, nativity play, outstanding food, good humor, more music and... Well, we could go on and on.

Many people – more than last year – enjoyed the festivities. We had lots of children, who got up close to follow the Nativity Play enacted by puppets.

The event is the product of many individuals and one group: the St. Clement's Choir, who take on all the acting and musician roles, as well as decorating the church. Music Minister Carole Maxson has been the mastermind of our Madrigal offerings as a joyful way to invite us into the wonder of the Christmas incarnation. Guido Polana has taken up the task of stage designer, and now playwright for the entertainment portion. Debbi Honeycutt coordinated our excellent menus with the caterer, represented by none other than Melissa Honeycutt. The food was excellent.

This year we were served by over a dozen charming, uniformed members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, whose presence was arranged by Jim Wash. Mr. Curtis Gant is their commander, and he did a great job of coordinating the 11-17 year old young men and women.

For those who enjoyed the event, thank you for coming and participating. For those who missed it, we hope to see you next year.

What is The Epiphany?

The word “epiphany” has come into our language to mean a sudden insight or revelation. In fact, that is *very close* to what it means to the Christian Church. The wise visitors from the “East” (which means beyond Israel) who followed a star to find the infant Jesus may have been astrologers. They probably were not kings, even though Christian lore has given them names. Their purpose in the Gospel of Matthew – the only place they appear in the New Testament – is to witness to the revelation of God’s presence to the *whole* world – not just the world of Jewish people. The message was that God’s presence in human form was not just for the benefit of the “chosen” people of Israel but for all people. Thus, Epiphany is a celebration of God breaking out of the Hebrew Scriptures and culture to become known to everyone.

It is tempting to try to confine God to one religion. God is not ‘owned.’ by one faith, as opposed to another. This is the principal message of the visit of the strangers from non-Jewish lands. They witnessed the birth of this new “king” with more reverence than the infant’s own kinsmen. They paid “homage” – or respect – to what they believed to be the human sign of an important presence on earth.

We thank God for the tradition of the three “kings” – whatever they were. They represent the invitation and the relevance of the Christian faith to all the world. They didn’t change their own faiths – as far as we know – but they showed great reverence to Jesus as the sign of a resurgence of the Jewish faith. As he grew into his role as healer and teacher, Jesus saw his life’s work as reinvigorating the Jewish covenant with God.

Standing for Vestry for 2012

Serving on the Vestry of a Parish is a sacred trust. It requires that one is a pledging congregant who attends regularly and who can participate fully in the decision-making for administrative and programmatic matters of the parish. Vestry meetings are held once a month at a time agreed upon by the current vestry. Attendance at all meetings is obligatory. Vestry members normally serve three-year terms, and may be re-elected after a one-year interval.

For 2012 we face an unusual situation, in that one Vestry member died (Diane Rubenstein), one has moved away (Laurel Sunderman), and one has resigned (Wendy Jones). Diane would have completed her term in January as does Betty Chapman. Senior Warden Muriel Murray, was serving two years of a departing member’s term, so she is eligible to serve one more year. Six wonderful individuals have agreed to stand for election for varying terms:

Muriel Murray	1 year
Randy Grimwood	1 year
Bobbie Keill	1 year
Ray Stults	3 years
Ken Dunham	3 years
Mike Chapman	3 years

Continuing members, each with two years remaining, are Sharon Burke-Polana, Harry Shippy and Irv White.

Nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting are always welcome. We do need nominations from the floor for our three delegates and one alternate to the Diocesan Convention in November 2012. These delegates are also expected to attend the Bishop’s Conference April 27-28, 2012.

Ministry Reports for the Annual Report of the Parish are due in the Office by January 17.

Epiphany Pot Luck

We celebrate The Epiphany on January 6 (see separate article on the meaning of The Epiphany). This year it falls on a Friday. Although we will observe Epiphany in our worship on Sunday, January 8, a few folks got together and thought it would be fun to have an informal pot-luck dinner. We'll also have some table games available, a movie for children, and an opportunity for those who attended the Life Planning Guide Workshop held on November 15 to work on our information-gathering. Here's the idea:

Let's gather at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. It would be great to have a couple of hot dishes and a couple of salads. I'm bringing a potato casserole. Dessert? Won't we all be trying to shed our extra Christmas pounds by then? But if a dessert shows up, I'm sure it won't be ignored! We'll have coffee and tea and juice for children. After dinner stay for fun or a "work session" on our guides, or go home. No worries, as I'm learning from the Aussies.

If you did not attend the Life Planning Guide Workshop – which was widely announced in early November - you might want to play catch up. The Guide is designed to present all sorts of information that each of us needs to consider BEFORE we leave this earth so that our families don't have to cope with a big mess AFTER we are gone. The information and suggestions are only worthwhile if we give them some quality attention. If you sign up by Jan. 3, I will have a copy of the 127 page guide made for you. The cost of copying is approximately \$10. I will offer a very brief introduction to the guide for those who are new to it. Otherwise, the time is intended as a progress session for those who already participated in the November workshop. People can work in groups or individually. Nothing is being sold or advocated!

A call to the church office to say you'll be coming would be appreciated, but is not

necessary. If you have something you'd like to bring, that would be helpful to know, as well.

Let's celebrate Epiphany together this year!

Pastor Christine+

P.S. Because it is winter and dark comes early, we would like to organize a Ride Committee for this potluck. If you need a ride, or if you can give a ride, please call the Church Office 635-5282.

Parish Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29

The Parish Annual Meeting is not just something we do because we had nothing else scheduled that day. It is required of our By-Laws as a non-profit organization under California State Law. It is when we elect parish officers (the Vestry) and approve the budget, and it must be attended by a majority of the "enrolled" members of the parish.

The Annual Meeting is a really pleasant gathering, but every year we have a hard time convincing people to attend. What can we do differently?

Usually, we have a single service at 9 a.m., and hold the Annual Meeting, with pot-luck brunch, immediately after. Do you like that schedule?

An alternative would be an afternoon meeting at 4:00 p.m. with a dinner pot-luck in the middle of the meeting. We have to declare the meeting open and open the voting for vestry members for an hour to be a legal gathering.

We'd like to hear your views on how to conduct the required Annual Meeting. We will have a questionnaire on January 8 to ask your preference (10 a.m. meeting or 4 p.m. meeting). Or you can send an e-mail to Pastor Christine at leighta@mcn.org.

River City Food Bank says “thank you”

Eileen Thomas, RCFB Director shares program accomplishments for 2011. River city Food Bank is the only food bank in the Sacramento area that is open every day.

- We will have served **47,000 people with 3-day supplies of emergency food.** In August we hit a record by serving 5,000 people - largely families - in one month.
- Our tally for the year includes serving an estimated 15,000 children and 5,000 seniors.
- We dramatically expanded our **BackSnack** program. We distributed 78,916 nutritious snacks to help kids maintain their energy for school and remain healthy. That’s 362 children who were each fueled by 218 snacks throughout the year.
- We supported the Sacramento Steps Forward nomadic shelter program with food to provide **32 emergency evening meals** at four downtown and Midtown churches and shelters.
- We assisted 1,421 people in applying for food stamps and continued to employ the only full-time **food stamp outreach** coordinator in Sacramento County. The Food Stamp Program (officially called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) generates \$9.20 in economic activity at area retailers for every \$5.00 in food stamp benefits in addition to supporting access to healthy foods for needy families.
- We provided 11 “Food For Fun” **nutritional classes** in conjunction with CARES.

And, of course, 2011 has been a year like no other because we had to replace the building that was lost to arson in 2010.

- We purchased a **new building** at 28th and R without incurring

debt. We’ve nearly finished making basic improvements to the building. Starting after the first of the year we will greet clients, distribute food and store food efficiently and well from our new location.

Lastly, 2011 was a great year for increasing the involvement of the community in River City Food Bank’s mission:

The Growing Circle program brought in 51,180 lbs. of fresh veggies and fruit. The new Giving Fresh table at the farmer’s market in Cesar Chavez park received 1,600 lbs. of fresh produce.

Pledge Update for 2012

As of December 20 we have received 36 pledges of financial support for the operation and ministry of St. Clement’s in 2012. Those amount to \$103,176. That is a very good start, but we are still approximately \$31,000 under what is needed to operate at the same level of staffing, utilities and expenses as 2011. At its January 8 meeting the Vestry will review the status of projected funding and decide if changes must be made. If you are wondering if a small pledge makes any difference, please know that every single pledge is important! Please consider making your support of St. Clement’s a personal priority.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 2	Dallas Bennett Jr. Donna Menser
January 11	Adam Sunderman
January 15	Sally Betts-Joynt
January 18	Kent Ransom
January 25	Greg Voetsch
January 28	Jon Hayward

JANUARY 2012

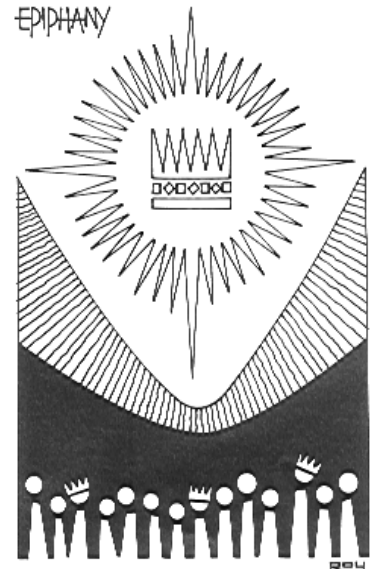
REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. RITE I HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 A.M. RITE II HOLY EUCHARIST

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE



The Anchor

St. Clement's Episcopal Church

2376 Zinfandel Drive

Rancho Cordova, CA. 95670

January 2012

First Class

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

RETURN POSTAGE GURANTEED



Youth Sunday – moves to Jan 8 this month ONLY

We continue our practice of having a Youth Sunday on the first Sunday of the month, EXCEPT in January 2012. Because the first Sunday is January 1, and we don't know how many youth (or adults) will be watching bowl games, we're going to have our Youth Sunday on January 8 at 10 a.m. We encourage youth to volunteer as readers, but in any event we will have a youth-oriented homily. We've noticed that adults may enjoy these more than kids, so come and see (and hear) the special message. If you would like to read, please leave a message at the church office (635-5282) and we will send you or your youth a reading.