



## Meet Our Newest Members

On Thanksgiving Sunday, three new friends were welcomed into membership in Kensington Community Church! Here they are:

### **Teresa Higgins**

Teresa has added her operatic soprano voice to the choir, to the delight of all.

Originally from England, Teresa has retired from the two businesses that she ran with her late husband, event planning and a flower shop.

Her sons have now taken over the businesses – one is a florist, the other plans events – but Teresa herself continues as busy as ever with her volunteer work and other responsibilities.

Her special passion is, of course, music. Teresa's KCC sponsor is fellow choir member Flo Clark.



### **Jan LeVan**

Jan, who is also retired, moved to San Diego just last summer to live with her niece Tennie (see below). An energetic and cheerful soul who loves to “try a lot of different things,” Jan is particularly fond of bridge and other card games, reading, crocheting, and home-making.

She also loves theater, exercising as her health allows, and “just being with friends,” old and new. Jan's KCC sponsor is Betty Generoli.



### **Tennie Wiggins**

Another new member who loves to sing (take note, John Hansen-Tarbox!) is Tennie Wiggins, Jan LeVan's niece.

An accountant by training and by profession, Tennie is also skilled at public speaking and training. She enjoys games of all sorts.

Both Jan and Tennie attended this past fall's study of Scott Bader-Saye's book *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear*, and are looking forward to future book studies and adult education events.

Tennie's KCC sponsor is Cathy Stephenson.

Please welcome these newest members to KCC! ♦



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## Pastor's Ponderings

I've been thinking about the subject of disagreement a lot lately. Disagreement in our society, disagreement in our community, and, yes, even disagreement in our church.

The fact that we have just concluded a vigorous and extended series of political campaigns is, of course, one reason. These campaigns have been marked by profound disagreements. But they were also marked by something else.

Over the past decades, we became so accustomed to the narrow vision of partisan politics that we almost lost sight of a wider vision in which people from different perspectives and political persuasions can work together. Many pundits have said that President-Elect Obama's call to that wider vision was one of the reasons he was elected. A great number of people in this country appear ready for a new direction.

But we're mighty rusty. We're much more accustomed to reacting than reflecting. We're much more familiar with trying to destroy the other side rather than trying to seek common ground. No matter what our political stripe, we're so used to flailing against the other side, aiming to beat it into submission, that we've forgotten what it's like to actually listen and discuss in a civilized manner.

The fact that, as a society, we have become confused about the difference between personal opinion and social justice hasn't helped.

I remember teaching medical ethics to college students back in the early 1990s, and finding that one of the most common reasons students gave to support their position on a contentious issue was the strength of their opinion. Okay, I would say, but why? Why did they think the way they did?

I often had difficulty trying to persuade students that the level of their passion was irrelevant, that what mattered was their reasoning process. With some, my plea met only blank stares. They didn't get it.

I think that this problem is even more pervasive today. We have opinions and we hurl our opinions

back and forth at each other, but we have great difficulty engaging in a mutually respectful conversation about the underlying Why.

This is particularly a problem when we confuse preference with principle, opinion with justice. Opinion is whimsical. It can be based on knowledge, but it doesn't have to be. Opinion can be as ignorant as it is enlightened; as unjust as it is just. With justice, however, the standard is different. Justice requires equal, fair treatment. Opinion doesn't matter; fairness does.

So too with principle. Preference can be whimsical, idiosyncratic, nostalgic. Principle cannot; principle says that what matters is not what any given individual may prefer, but rather what is right.

When we clarify the distinction between preference and principle, between opinion and justice, then we can truly talk about what is just and what is right. We can talk about the underlying whys. These conversations are important – far more important than hurling individual preferences and opinions back and forth at each other.

Whether the subject of disagreement is a matter of national or state or local or even church practice or policy, let us adhere to that standard. Let us offer each other the dignity and respect of meaningful conversation – not speaking about each other, but talking with each other; not lobbing opinions lobbed back and forth, but inquiring into the whys and the wherefores; not seeing who can out-shout whom, but offering each other actual reasons – and then listening to the others' reasons in return.

And, in matters of bedrock justice and principle, let us put aside opinion and preference. Let us hold each other to the standards of justice and of principle, the standards articulated by the God whom we worship and in whose name we seek to act.

Grace and peace,  
Bruce ♦



## Copley Y Thanks

So many people participated so generously in the Copley Y festivities, which brought such joy to about 1200 City Heights children and their families!

Fervent thanks to Susan Cristison, Leslie Wells, and Kris Winter, who spent so much time and energy organizing it all! And special thanks to all these many other generous helpers and contributors:

Barbara and Brock Allen and SDSU students

Douglas and Judy Atwater

Kathy Breedlove

Marian Brewster

Alicia Chaffee

Duke, Liam, Marg, and Patrick Clark

Jodi Cleesattle

Allison and Michaela Clegg

Lee and MC Cook

Damon and Susan Curtin-Schamu

Carolyn and Steve Davis

Bill and Susan Ehlers

Lynn Ford

Powell Harrison and Amy Merryman

Mary Annah Hengst

Mark Hoops

K-VIII Circle Group

Bruce Larson

AJ, Debbie, John, and Katie Loomis

Carla Mathison

Bonnie and Brendan McCarthy

Cindi, Laura, and Mick McClain

Edith Mason

Millie Medigovich

Joe and Mallie Odle

Marilyn Ongley

Bob and Mary Parkinson

Janet Richardson

Jorge and Katie Salgado

Cathy and Dude Stephenson

Kurt Stoney

Jackie Trischman

Mary Vik

Jim and Penny Ward

Dick and Joan Wayman

Tom Wheeler

Jim and June Winters

Zoa Winter

Mildred York

Sharon Young

If we missed your name, please let us know so we can thank you. To all who participated, thanks! ♦

## MLK Day Events

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day will be marked by the annual Partnership Church pulpit exchange, with KCC's worship led by Rev. Amelia Walker of Christian Fellowship UCC, while Bruce will be preaching at Mission Hills UCC. Then, people from all the partnership churches will join together for a 5:30 p.m. potluck dinner at Mission Hills, 4070 Jackdaw Street. To carpool, call the church at 619-284-1129. ♦

## Congregational Meeting Feb. 8

The annual meeting of the congregation to discuss the budget is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, at 11:15 a.m. in Lander Hall. Please bring finger food to share. ♦

## Winter Youth Events

Check out [http://www.scncucc.org/youth\\_young\\_adults](http://www.scncucc.org/youth_young_adults) for information about the Junior High JANboree (January 16-19) and the Senior High FEB Camp (February 13-16) at Pilgrim Pines.

Scholarships are available; see Cindi McClain (619-582-0909 or [mcclainck@cox.net](mailto:mcclainck@cox.net)) for information. ♦

## Holiday Thanks

What an Advent and Christmas it was! Including the visit from St. Nicholas, with special thanks to Patrick Trempe-Thomas, magisterial in his splendid robes; to John Hansen-Tarbox, costumier extraordinaire; and to Bonnie Campbell-Davis and Sharon Davis, who added the special touch of St. Nicholas cookies.

Then there was the heroism of a stalwart crew led by Jim and Penny Ward and Steve and Carolyn Davis, who decked the sanctuary with lovely greens on December 20, after the carpet finished drying out and all the wet plaster was removed following a nasty break in the sprinkler system.

Those who wanted quieter moments relished Pastor Bruce Larson's Hush in the Rush. And the Blue Christmas service, which was led by Rev. Alexis Solomon on short notice when Bruce was felled by a flu bug, brought comfort to the grieving.

Then came Christmas Eve! Ending with the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight, it was all a most wonderful time! ♦

## Prayer List

Please remember these people in your prayers:

David Adams  
Kathleen Andrews  
Robert Apgar (the elder)  
Utahna Atwell  
Nancy Brest  
Pamela Bridge  
Ron and Sue Franklin  
Karen Gibson  
Bob Guerra  
Lowell Hansen  
Kimberly Larsen  
Alden Malachowski  
Ray Mejia  
Eddie Noah  
Penny Novak  
Danelle Parker  
Emma Putt  
Joyce Sciascia  
Jim Toomey  
George and Pat Varnum  
The family and friends of Ivan "Red" Hegranes,  
Prisma Mejia, and the Yoon family.  
Those who are unemployed or experiencing  
financial hardship



To get a name added to this list, please contact the church office ([info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com) or 619-284-1129) or the *Chimes* ([klarson26@cox.net](mailto:klarson26@cox.net) or 619-501-1187). ♦

## Congratulations!

...to proud parents Christopher and Jeannette Pryor and proud grandparents Milt and Nancy Keller upon the birth, December 20, of Charles Alan Pryor! Everyone is healthy and happy and feeling deeply blessed. ♦

## All-Church Breakfast

Meet and greet old friends and new at the all-church breakfast, enjoyed between the services starting about 9:15, on Sunday, January 4. ♦

## Men's Breakfast

The men will take a January break, and meet again for breakfast on the first Saturday in February, the 7th, at their usual time of 8:00 a.m. ♦

## Thank You!

Santiago Salcido, a talented member of the Apostolic Church, has generously donated his talents to KCC in recent weeks – first refinishing the scarred old top of the communion table, and now refinishing the pulpit so that it gleams. Come take a look at his artistry for yourself. And, to Santiago, heartiest thanks for this generous donation! ♦

## Preschool News

The KCC Preschool is enjoying its well-deserved winter break after a busy December with crafts and caroling (thanks to John Loomis and Jim Ward for the hot chocolate and punch!) and, as a grand climax, Santa Claus (thanks to Pastor Bruce Larson!). Classes resume on January 5. ♦

## Religious Education

Applications have started arriving for the position of Director of Religious Education – good news! Now begins the process of reading, sorting and eventually interviewing, which will begin with the next meeting of the Religious Education Committee on Wednesday, January 7, at 6:00 p.m.

Alexis Solomon, Chair ♦

## Thanksgiving

Twenty people gathered around a festive table with two turkeys and countless other treats for a truly meaningful KCC thanksgiving. Special thanks to Beth Guepin, Joann Morrison, and Marilyn Ongley for their behind-the-scenes help! ♦

## January Birthdays

6 John Gutierrez  
7 Howard Wilson  
8 Douglas Atwater  
12 Betty Craig, Jennifer Negre  
16 Alex Lesniak  
20 Carlette Ottman  
22 Katie Trischman, Louis Wargo  
26 Joyce Fogg  
29 Carey McCoy  
30 Heather McCoy



If your name, or the name of someone you love, should be added to this list, please let Donna know at 619-284-1129 or [info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com](mailto:info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com). ♦

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDY: LECTONARY BIBLE STUDY

PLACE: KCC

WHEN: TUESDAYS AT NOON

PRAYER: KCC PRAYER GROUP

PLACE: KCC SANCTUARY

WHEN: THURSDAYS AT 2:30 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP: ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, AT 9:15 A.M.

MEETING: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PLACE: KCC CONFERENCE ROOM

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, AT 6:00 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP: POTLUCK DINNER

PLACE: MISSION HILLS UCC, 4070 JACKDAW STREET

WHEN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, AT 5:30 P.M.

DEADLINE: INFORMATION FOR NEXT CHIMES

PLACE: CHURCH OFFICE OR KLARSON26@COX.NET

WHEN: FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, AT END OF DAY

MEETING: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, AT 11:15 A.M.

FUN: BARN-THEMED DINNER AND LINE DANCING

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

SEE THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR  
AT WWW.KENSINGTONUCC.COM