



Stewardship Campaign A Resounding Success

Thanks to all who chose to participate in the life of the church by making a pledge for 2008!

This year's stewardship campaign has seen 77 families, individuals, and partnerships make the commitment to pledge, including 15 who had never pledged before. Of those who were repeat pledgers, over 50% increased their pledge from previous years. And total pledges now amount to over \$17,000 more than last year's total.

Special thanks go to the hardworking and dedicated members of the Stewardship Committee. Led by Chair Rich Wayman, this group – Bob Apgar the younger, Joel Baumbaugh, Beth Guepin, Lee Howeth, and Fredric Radick – were tireless in their efforts.

But none of it would have been of avail without the generosity of all who chose to pledge, and so to ensure a thriving new year at KCC. Thank you! ♦

Partnership Churches Plan Joint Activities

The "Partnership Churches" are the seven churches of the United Church of Christ in the San Diego area. These diverse congregations share common approaches to faith, and so share worship and fellowship together as well.

Pulpit Exchange

Sunday, January 20, marks the annual Martin Luther King Day Partnership pulpit exchange, when the pastors of these churches rotate around to share their experiences with others.

Here, our own Rev. Mike Stone will preach during the 8:30 a.m. service, while Rev. Kurt Fuller of University City UCC will preach at 10:00. In the meantime, our senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Bruce Larson, will travel to Christian Fellowship UCC to preach there. Please welcome Rev. Fuller to KCC!

Partnership Potluck

Also on January 20, at 5:00 p.m., people from all the Partnership churches will gather at Christian Fellowship UCC, 1601 Kelton Road, for a potluck supper followed by a fun and lively program. If you need a ride, please contact Mike (619-284-1187 or mike@kcc.sdcoxmail.com).

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, February 6, the annual Partnership Ash Wednesday service rotates to University City UCC, 2877 Governor Drive, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Again, if you need a ride please contact Mike.

Please take advantage of all these opportunities for fellowship and worship together! ♦

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Pastor's Ponderings

In the worship services on January 6, we celebrated Epiphany, the day we mark the revealing of Jesus as the Light of the world. But Epiphany is more than just one day; it's a five-week season.

One week longer than Advent and two weeks shorter than Lent, Epiphany provides a time to celebrate and reflect upon Jesus as the Light of the world. Drawing from this rich metaphor, Epiphany has lots of energy and action – the Magi discerning the signs, Jesus being baptized and affirmed by the Spirit, Jesus calling disciples, disciples encountering Jesus, and Jesus being transfigured.

Epiphany is an “up” season. The Magi look “up” to the heavens to discern the meaning of the star. Upon being baptized, just as Jesus came “up” from the water, the heavens (“up there”) opened. And then comes the greatest of all the “up” experiences – the transfiguration, when Jesus goes “up” to a high mountain and is transfigured. (See Matthew 17.)

Epiphany couldn't come at a better time. Most of us are tired from all the hoopla of the holiday season just passed. Some may identify their experience as a “post-holiday season depression.” The lazy days of summer seem endlessly far away. Plus, the days are short at this time of year, and the sunshine is not as warm. Even in San Diego, we experience days of dank grey wet. Everything seems to conspire against us feeling “up.”

Not that feeling “up” is the Christian ideal. Christian faith is not intended only as a means to personal happiness. God is not some cosmic bell-hop, anxious to fulfill our every desire. That's not what Christianity is all about.

If not, then how do we experience the “up” spirit of Epiphany? Basically, by letting go.

During this season, virtually all the stories in the Revised Common Lectionary (the scripture readings used for our worship services) involve experiences that come to individuals from outside themselves. A star leads the Magi. The Spirit descends upon Jesus at his baptism. Jesus calls Peter and Andrew by the

sea. And the Spirit shouts from heaven at Jesus' transfiguration.

Like most of us, I try to be fairly self-sufficient, and I like to think that I can figure out everything that I need for my own well-being. I'm an American! And the ideal of self-sufficiency is a deeply ingrained part of American culture.

But complete self-sufficiency won't do it. I can't really figure out everything I need, and I can't imagine what my own future will hold. Though Socrates rightly taught, “Know thyself,” that's not enough. Ultimately, none of us can completely understand, let alone supply, our deepest spiritual needs. That's why we need help from outside ourselves.

Epiphany invites us into paradox. By letting go of our assumptions of how we think we *should* experience God, we can open ourselves to actually experience God.

...God seeks us in every situation...

Our assumptions about our own wants, our assumptions about our own needs are often more of an obstacle than a help in our experience of God. So, by letting go, we are freed to perceive God

when – not if, but when – God comes to us in astonishing and unexpected ways.

God doesn't just show up on demand, in the moments that we set aside for God. Rather, in the words of Thomas Merton, “We must learn to realize that God seeks us in every situation, and seeks our good.”

So don't relegate God to a little time slot on a crowded calendar. Let the surprises happen! Let the unexpected unfold! Let God's voice speak to you, as it did to Jesus, saying: “You are my beloved child.” God seeks us in every situation. This is Epiphany.

Grace and peace,
Bruce ♦

Breakfasts

Men's Breakfast

At 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 2, the men of KCC will enjoy home-cooked food and great fellowship. Be sure to come! Please let Mike Stone (mike@kcc.sdcoxmail.com or 619-284-1129) know that you are coming, so there will be plenty of food.

Monthly All-Church Breakfast

On Sunday, February 3, at 9:15 a.m., join the festivities between the services, as people from the 8:30 service and people from the 10:00 a.m. service mingle and munch and make merry. Please come – it won't be the same without you! ♦

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

If everyone who worked to make the Copley Y Christmas party such a success were thanked by name and in detail, the *Chimes* would have to add a couple of pages to this issue!

The preparation started long before, with the purchase and collection of items for stockings and items for gifts. Then the stockings – 1,500 of them! – had to be stuffed. And the gifts had to be wrapped. And the raffle items had to be solicited, and donated, and the raffle organized. And corporate sponsors had to be approached and persuaded (and thanked! Please recognize the generosity of Chili's of Mission Gorge Road, Souplantation, Starbucks, and Von's). Of course, everything needed money, which people donated most generously.

Then came the day before the big event, with all the hard work of set-up. And then the event itself! Followed by the even harder work of clean-up!

Of all the organizations participating, KCC had by far the biggest and most enthusiastic turn-out, including lots of old-timers and lots who had never done it before.

KCC can be justly proud of its energetic contribution to this community mainstay. And from more than a thousand children: thanks for helping make their Christmas bright! ♦

Lectionary Readings

Members of the church have asked that the *Chimes* publish the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary which Bruce will use as the backbone of each Sunday's service. So here they are. Bruce will pick several from this list each Sunday.

- January 20: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- January 27: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
- February 3: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
- February 10: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- February 17: Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9 ♦

KCC On The Web

Check out the new KCC web site! Vastly expanded, updated, and improved, it now features scads of wonderful photos, a comprehensive and up-to-date calendar, an archive of recent sermons, descriptions of many church activities, short biographies of church staff, and much more.

Stop in at www.kensingtonucc.com and see for yourself! Maybe you'll start using these online tools.

Thanks to Mike for all his efforts in putting together this new public face of the church. Most younger people looking for a church start with the internet; now KCC can show them who we really are! ♦

What Do You Think?

It's been eight months since I was asked to take on a reconstruction-in-process of the *Chimes*, and I'd very much like to know: What do you think? What do you like about the *Chimes*? What do you dislike? What does the *Chimes* do that you wish it wouldn't? What do you wish it were doing that it doesn't? What parts do you particularly enjoy, or always read?

Please let me know. Send me a note via the church or by email (klarson26@cox.net). I'd like to hear from you!

Katherine Larson
Chimes Editor ♦

Missions Moment

\$1000 of the funds received through KCC's gala benefit have been allocated through the Missions Committee to the Copley Family YMCA. Here is a brief description of the Copley Y's role in our community.

The Copley Family YMCA has been serving mid-city San Diego since 1944. Located on Landis Street in City Heights, it serves one of the most diverse low-income neighborhoods in San Diego, with over 36 different languages spoken and a median household income of just \$25,000.

The Copley Y's mission is to improve the quality of human life and to help all people realized their fullest potential as children of God through the development of spirit, mind, and body. Programs include an onsite preschool program, onsite and offsite child care both before and after school, day camps and summer camps, a literacy program, adult and youth sports, aquatics programming, computer skills, programs for youth at risk, and health and fitness programming for all ages.

In an effort to be available to all, the Copley Y provides financial assistance for almost all of its programs, so that youth and families can access quality programs and gather together at a safe, family-oriented community center.

Thanks to all who help KCC assist this worthy cause! ♦

Kensington Community Concert

Winter Roses

This journey in words and music features the lyrical poems of Charlene Balridge, read by the poet herself as well as presented musically by mezzo-soprano Kathleen DeSpain O'Neil and pianist Liliane Choney, at a house concert at 5324 Canterbury Drive on Saturday, January 19, at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are available through Kensington Video, 4067 Adams Avenue; net proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Kensington-Normal Heights Library. ♦

Library News

Check out these recent additions to the Ruth Cole Memorial Library:

- Alan Alda's *Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself*
- Diane Mott Davidson's *Sweet Revenge*
- Trace Depree's *A State of Grace*
- John Grisham's *Playing for Pizza*
- John Grogan's *Bad Dogs Have More Fun* *
- Dorcas Sharp Hoover's *House Calls and Hitching Posts* *
- Beverly Lewis' *The Parting* *
- Debbie Macomber's *Knit Together* and *74 Seaside Avenue* and *Where Angels Go* *
- Robin Pilcher's *Starburst* *
- Nicholas Sparks' *The Choice* *

Shake off those winter blahs with a good book!

* Denotes large print

Annual Budget Meeting

Please plan to attend KCC's annual congregational meeting on January 27, to discuss the budget plus a proposal to make the Personnel Committee a standing committee of the church.

The meeting will be held after the 10:00 a.m. worship service, at about 11:15. While it is not expected to last long, it will be more fun if we bring finger foods to share as we meet and enjoy each other's company! ♦

KCC Preschool News

The KCC preschool is in full swing after a refreshing Christmas break. The 4-year-olds are just back from a rollicking trip to Sea World on January 14.

Next on the schedule is a Kindergarten Information Night for parents on January 23, including such topics as: is my child ready, what will be expected of my child, how to choose a school, what are my alternatives, and more.

Looking ahead, the staff will take February 11 to visit other schools, looking for fresh new ideas and networking with others in the field. ♦

Prayer List

Please remember these people in your prayers:

Dee Dee Barbeau
Cheri Choy
Noriko Cook
Marie Cooper
Irene and family
Kit Crane
Karen Friedman
Joyce Gilchrist
Bob Guerra
Ellen Hall
Zosimo Jadloc
Clint Keay
Don Martin
Charlene Moore
Nicolas Nelson
Joan Reilly
Celia Reyes and her daughter Alpha
Eleanor Slocomb
Millard Stanforth
the Thomas family
Dave Torrance



To get a name added to this list, please contact the church office (619-284-1129 or debbiewalloch@kcc.sdcoxmail.com) or the *Chimes* (619-501-1187 or klarson26@cox.net). Also, please let us know when it's time for the name to be removed from the list. ♦

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
27 Pauline Davis
29 Carey McCoy
30 Heather McCoy



If other birthdays should be listed, please let us know at 619-501-1187 or klarson26@cox.net. ♦

Correspondence

Dear Rev. Dr. Larson and everyone at KCC,

I had a wonderful visit with Mr. Pete Rapp and Mrs. Susan Meckstroth at their retirement homes in La Mesa this morning. They were very very happy to receive the Christmas cookies, and candies and the beautiful poinsettia plants. They wanted me to tell you thank you for your thoughtfulness and sending their best wishes.

May God continue to bless everyone.
Sincerely, Hahn Trinh and the children ♦

More Correspondence

To Kensington Community Church –

Thank you for your support of our mission in Guatemala. Every penny will go to directly support our medical mission. Last year, as this year, our team will evaluate close to 3,000 patients and 250 or more will receive critical surgery.

Thank you!
Asa Dan Morton, M.D.
for the HELPS Mission ♦

Senior Luncheon Feb. 14

KCC's senior citizens will feel love in their lives as they enjoy a Valentine-themed Senior Lunch at noon on Thursday, February 14.

The usual delicious food will be provided, and you can be sure that John Tarbox and the KCC choristers have a memorable program in store. All our seniors are welcome! ♦

Voting At KCC Feb. 5

On Tuesday, February 5, from 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., KCC will be host to voters in California's primary election. If you plan to use church facilities that day, please be prepared to accommodate this valuable public service. ♦

Help Furry Friends

Pet food donations are sought by AniMeals, which works with Meals-on-Wheels and other groups, providing pet food for the animal companions of elderly or disabled people throughout San Diego County. For many homebound people, a dog or a cat is more than a pet; it can provide friendship, joy, and a reason for living. To help Gayle Trempe “lend a helping paw,” please bring packaged pet food to the AniMeals box in Lander Hall. ♦

Thanks To These Donors To KCC’s Capital Campaign:

Abbott, Shannon	Eilers, Barbara and Bill	McKenney, Carl and Rebecca
Allen, Barbara and Brock	Elkins, Arlene	Medigovich, Milica
Anderson, Janie	Elkins, Julia	Morrison, Joann
Apgar, Bob and Vicki	Ely, Ilah Jo	Naismith, Sheila
Apgar, Helen and Robert	Frontis, Bill and Carol	Neal, Jay and Jayne
Arjona, Oscar	In Memory of Irv and Mary Frontis	Nelson, Marian
Bachman, Joann	Generoli, Betty	Nielsen, Margaret and Paul
Barber, Gail and George	Gentry, Alison and Scot	Odle, Joe and Mallie
Barnier, David	Greer, Marjorie	Parkinson, Bob and Mary
Barrett, Froman	Guepin, Beth and Tony	Patch, Beverly
Bast, Fred	Gutierrez, Abel and Mary	Payne, Patricia and Robert
Baumbaugh, Joel and Marsha Dodds	Hanford, Richard and Winnie	Perrigo, Robert and Wendy
Berger, George and Virginia	Harrison, Amy and Powell	Rhee, Kristine and Robert
Berkshire, Jeannette	Hartung, Barbara and James	Sapier, Jacques and Susanne
Billingsley, Henry	Hengst, Mary Annah and Nolan	Schroeder, Mary Ann and Paul
Bourda, Betty	Holloway, Betty	Short, Laura and Tim
Brammer, Joyce	In Memory of Betty Holloway	Slocomb, Eleanor
Brewster, Marian	Holloway, Richard	Stephenson, Cathy and Dude
Brimhall, Jennifer and Lee Howeth	Holloway, Stephen	Swann, Mary Jane
Brimhall, Jessie	Hosler, Kathy	Thomas, William
Broselle, Carl and Susie	Hughes, Ralph and Jerrie Stringer	Thompson, Margie and Steven
Broselle, Dennis and Judy	KCC’s Aerobics Group	Trischman, Jackie and Jay
Bryan, Russell	KCC’s Junior High Youth	In Memory of Amy Utz
Burgess, Margaret	KCC’s Preschool Parents	Vancott, Nancy
Ceriani, Martha	Auxiliary	Vavra, Kay
Christison, Susan	KCC’s Senior High Youth	Vik, Mary
Clark, Florence	KCC’s Young Adult Group – the “Oldtimers”	Vreeland, Helen
Cooper, Jerry and Lilian	Kelsen, Sylvia	Walker, Andrew
Craig, Betty	Kennedy, Betty	Walker, Elizabeth
Crane, Kit	Kieta, Gladys	Ward, Jim and Penny
Cross, Ellen	Lander, Bertha	Wayman, Dick and Joan
Curtin-Schamu, Susan and Damon Schamu	Larson, Bruce and Katherine	Wayman, Rich
Davis, Pauline	Loomis, Debbie and John	Wells, Leslie and Tom Wheeler
Davis, Carolyn and Stephen	Loop, Earline	Wender, Jacqueline and Paul
In Memory of Lilah DeVries	Lowe, Robert	Winn, Amy and Kevin
Diener, Mary	Marcoux, Alice	Winter, Zoa
DiMille’s Italian Restaurant	Mason, Ben and Edith	Young, Sharon
Downing, Margaret and Rex	McCarthy, Bonnie and Brendan	
Ehlers, Bill and Sue	McClain, Cindi and Mick	
	McClure, Lucretia	

The list keeps growing, but there’s still room for **your** name! ♦

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PULPIT EXCHANGE: REV. KURT FULLER PREACHES
PLACE: KCC
WHEN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 10:00 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP: PARTNERSHIP POTLUCK
PLACE: CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP UCC, 1601 KELTON ROAD
WHEN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 5:00 P.M.

MEETING: ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING
PLACE: KCC
WHEN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 11:15 A.M.

MEN: MEN'S BREAKFAST
PLACE: KCC KITCHEN AND CONFERENCE ROOM
WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 8:00 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP: ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST
PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL
WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 9:15 A.M.

GENEROSITY: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
PLACE: KCC
WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, AFTER BOTH SERVICES

WORSHIP: ASH WEDNESDAY
PLACE: UNIVERSITY CITY UCC, 2877 GOVERNOR DRIVE
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 6:30 P.M.

LEARNING: ACOLYTE TRAINING
PLACE: KCC
WHEN: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL