



# The Sea Star

Communication from Community Church, Congregational

## Perspectives

Dear Friends:

Do you, also, enjoy new beginnings, such as the beginning of a new year? I believe God has especially wired us to appreciate the possibilities of fresh starts, of “resets” and renewal. (Maybe this capacity to be energized by new beginnings corresponds to our capacity to appreciate the grace and the mercies of God which are new every morning—in fact available every moment).

I was again reminded of new beginnings when one of you just recently directed me to a website of historical trivia: anniversaries to be noted in 2012. A few of these especially caught my imagination. For examples:

- in 1972, 40 years ago, NASA launched the Pioneer 10 space probe. (Do you remember the gold plaque sent “out there” with a line drawing capturing what us humanoids look like, and a map showing where planet earth is in the solar system and the Milky Way Galaxy?? This was the first vehicle to fly beyond Jupiter, and the one to deliver this gold plaque announcing our presence to any prospective finders “out there”.

- in 1992, Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returned to earth as the citizen of a different country from the one which sent him into space. During the ten months he spent on the Mir space station, the Soviet Union which blasted him up had dissolved and he returned as a citizen of Russia.

- in 2002, citizens of Switzerland voted to end two centuries of remaining officially neutral: they joined the United Nations.

As we enter into the new year, it’s natural for us to turn to God and look ahead together. It helps us to know where the Holy Spirit may be wanting to lead us if we note where we’ve come from and where we are today.

In some ways we are always exploring our environment, always probing the neighborhood. (We are introduced to new people all the time; we need to make decisions shaping our future all the time). There are times when each of us sometimes feels alone and uncertain as to how we are meant to fit into God’s larger world. Each of us knows what it is to feel tentative as we confront new possibilities. But we also know what it is to rest in the certainty that the God of the universe is in control, that the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we go, and that we have nothing to fear as long as we are obeying as best we can.

In some ways we are continually renegotiating our own citizenship. We live on planet earth, and most of us in Orange County. We know Fashion Island and Fletcher-Jones and Edwards Cinema. This is the world which immediately influences us. Yet we struggle never to be defined by this world and its often petty priorities. We strive to stand apart from the mindlessness of the moment and to stand with the Prince of Peace. You and I struggle to keep offering our highest allegiance not to the drift of pursuing whatever I think pleases me or secures my comfort, but to His ways of costly “faith and love and discipline—until [we] become a blessing to others”.

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### Sunday Worship

8am weekly communion

10am Sunday School  
and monthly communion

611 Heliotrope, Corona del Mar  
communitychurch@cdmucc.org



You and I, this covenant community called and sustained by the Spirit, enjoy a faithful heritage which has brought us safely to the brink of 2012 and which helps us to move ahead together with confidence. From the earliest generation our ancestors put allegiance to Christ above “getting along” with the culture. Remaining neutral has never been a good option.

Last week I revisited the story of the martyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (today Izmir, Turkey). He was a kindly and effective shepherd over his flock. The Roman authorities who knew him didn’t want to have to persecute him. But he continued proclaiming the gospel that Jesus is Lord—which meant that Caesar was not—and he kept encouraging his churches to live as Christians no matter the cost. About 160 AD they hauled him in. They pleaded with Polycarp: “Old man, just burn the incense to Caesar and renounce Jesus. You can whisper it if you like. Just go along on this.”

And Polycarp replied to them, “For 86 years have I served my Lord Jesus, and He has always been faithful to me. How can I now blaspheme my King and Savior? Bring on what you will.” They brought on the flames.

Thank God we are not asked to sacrifice our lives. For us, serving our Lord may be a matter of telling others, when it seems a risk, how important God has become in our lives. It may be a question of making a commitment to a small group when we have been avoiding it. It may be a question of re-scrutinizing the movies or TV shows we watch: what are we supporting? It may be a commitment to “practice the presence of God” by intentionally visualizing Jesus right next to us in the midst of our worries and doubts. It may mean generosity to Open Arms or Impact Ministries or to others in new ways.

Our Congregationalist forebears have modeled for us many of the habits of spirit which we try to keep, and which help to keep us, today. It was the powerful rulers in England from the 17th Century—from the king and archbishop and judges on down—who hounded and imprisoned (and occasionally worse) believers who respectfully disagreed

with those fiat declaring that everyone had to believe the approved theology, and everyone had to pray in the approved pre-printed prayers of the day, and everyone had to gather in approved church buildings to worship.

To this day we have been wary when anyone has tried to dictate to us what we must or must not believe. To this day we respect the fact that God is patient with each of us; that each of us has been drawn by the Spirit forward out of our own unique life experience; that God expects each of us to accept responsibility for the ways in which we understand our theology and live out our faith. Because we strive to submit to our Lord Jesus in obedience, we enjoy a great freedom in the many details of our faith.

Our relative freedoms from being told how and what to believe, and from being told how much or little we must do for the church, place a responsibility upon each of us. We respond with our covenant commitment to serve our church in ways which allow us to continue to live out our God-assignments. We also respond with our commitment to ongoing prayer, and to those other spiritual disciplines we freely accept in order to allow the Spirit to grow us in our faithfulness. We may then respond as we believe God is directing us rather than as some human being or institution is telling us we should.

One of our first highlights of 2012 is the opportunity to take part in “Prayer 101”, a weekend retreat designed to help us to be more effective in communicating with God. (Feb 10-12 at Pilgrim Pines Retreat Center). You are welcome whether you might be ready for a tune-up, as I am, or whether this might be your first Prayer Retreat. (If you have needs which the church might help you address in order to free you to attend, please call me or Doreen Davis Fuhr (949 300 1246).

As we welcome the new year, the practices and disciplines we enter into in 2012 will go a long way toward determining how we allow God to use us, individually and as Christ’s Church, to shape the future. There is great power and fulfillment in stepping out in faith; in aligning our lives with what God is already doing. You never know: maybe

# Church Council

November meeting summary

2012 will be the year to which people in the future will look back with special gratitude: "That was the year that God caused so many good things to happen through Community Church..." I expect that 2012 will be the year in which so many of you again find ways to share your faith and love so that they overflow and become a blessing to others.

In any case: God is in control. Jesus is Lord. He has always been faithful to us, and will always be.

God bless you, Chip

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As per the bylaws, our Financial Secretary, Greg Brown and Treasurer, Jamie Christiano report:

"Through the week ending December 18, 2011, our total year-to-date pledge income is \$362,987 which is 92 % of budget".

Thank you for your continued support of Community Church, Congregational!

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Leslie Baker	January 2
Archie Hefner	January 3
Wendy Schiff	January 7
Olivia Decero	January 8
Kimberly Decero	January 10
Denise O'Neill	January 12
Drew Wetherholt	January 14
Garnett Riley	January 17
Terry Shea	January 19
Henry Wilde	January 19
Madison Decero	January 29
Alan Guenther	January 31

## Happy Birthday!

Are we missing your birthday? Please call the church office so that we may include you next year!

### General Discussion

1. For the Church's 'Vocatio' project, Laura MacKinnon reports that her team has interviewed about 65 people.
2. Nominating Committee, consisting of Leslie Kazarian, Diane Stellar, Trisha Smith, Bill Wyrick, and Don Ronaldson, was approved.

### Board Committee Reports

Moderator - 2012 Planning Session will be February 4.

Deacons - About half of our members have turned in 2012 covenants. Dec. 3 is New Member dinner. Dec. 24 consists of a 4pm Family Service and a 7pm Candlelight Service. Dec. 25 10am Service only.

Christian Education - Fall Faith Family Fun Night a success. Two girls' study groups began; there is now interest in forming a boys' study group. Classroom use three mornings/week for home schooled K-4 students is under consideration.

Christian Mission - Rev. Okabe will preach on Nov 27. Open Arms ornaments/gifts for up to 65 students planned.

Communications - New Worship bulletin cover planned for Jan. New website almost finished.

Music - 'Messiah' Sing-Along to be Dec. 18.

Personnel - 31 emails sent out in response to members' concerns, outlining the pastor's professional development preaching efforts. The 18 responses reflected overwhelmingly positive feedback on tone and direction of church, and pastor's willingness to grow professionally.

Endowment Fund - Difficult coordination concluded. \$4,000 received.

### Staff Reports

Interim Youth Ministry Team Leader - Attended a workshop with pastor which confirmed what was taught at a prior conference (attended by Kathy Kipp and Shelli Black). Bob O'Neill and Pam Brown took teens Laser tagging. The Esther small group wants to continue. The Moms' group also going well. The 'Growing Up Together' group did not want to end. Pie making attended by 21 moms and daughters. Dads have expressed interest in father/son group. Confirmation process starting.

Pastor of Senior Ministries - A large group attended the Monthly Women's Breakfast at Coco's.

Senior Pastor - Chip passed out a compilation of Board and Committee planning reports, which revealed common themes: the desire for more adults willing to serve, members' enthusiasm, and financial resources. Common Board and Committee hopes for 2012 include more individuals to step forward to serve. Chip explained, and distributed, his 'Vision for 2012'.

The complete November minutes are available in the church office. Barbara Ranney (edited by Susan Bubb)

# Teen Ministry

Want Better Grades? Go to Church!

Growing up, I always heard my mom (who was an excellent teacher) say that she could always tell who the children in her class were that went to Sunday School. She said they were nicer children, did their work better, and just possessed a special quality and confidence. That was one of the many good reasons she gave (sometimes even to her own children) why her children went to church each Sunday. This has always stuck with me. Now I trust my mom and have no doubt that she knew what she was talking about but I got to wondering the other day if anyone else had noticed, and if so, were there any studies out there on the subject that had been done?

I dug and did a little bit of research and lo and behold I found a study based on data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health to examine the relationship between religion and academics in nearly 10,000 students. This study found that Church attendance truly helped kids to improve academically. The findings held true even after controlling for obvious influences like a student's relationship with parents. Furthermore, improving academic performance seems to flow more from "doing" church than from merely believing. That is, the church's social life influences youth more than doctrine does. Beyond faith and schoolwork, studies show that church involvement improves the physical, social, and emotional health of students.

"What you have in the role of the religious community is a selected group of people who share values and are committed to the success of the child... Somebody always has his hand on your back." Says Glen Elder Jr., a researcher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Elder and others believe the church strengthens a child's ability to resolve to overcome difficulty. Stronger character translates into better grades.

"Academics is about discipline," says Regnerus, a professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "So is attending church. The act of going every week is about rising every Sunday and doing a routine thing."

Regnerus and Elder are not the only researchers to find a link between church and academic excellence. More than 600 studies identified by the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society have also shown religion's positive effect on physical, mental, and social health.

A fascinating study using the same data set as Regnerus and Elder, Robert Crosnoe of the University of Texas identified 500 same-sex twin pairs and studied their emotional health. Interestingly, he discovered that a more religious or churchgoing twin demonstrates less emotional distress.

In today's culture when we are finding our students stressed out to the max and parents feeling the pressure as well, it is reassuring to know there is "a hope and a future". Research has shown that when a community of faith comes alongside a supportive school, students have twice the opportunity for success... but you already know that... and so did my mom.

Love you, Kathy



# Pies, Cookies, Caroling and Mrs. Claus



Many of our youngsters, aided by Kathy Kipp, Jane Shehane, Linda Calkins, Karin Lombardo, Dora Pember, and many other parents and friends (with an assist by Pastor Chip) were busy baking this past month. The children presented many of our senior members goodies while Christmas Caroling in Corona del Mar.

Mrs. Claus made her annual visit to the Women's Breakfast. Unfortunately, Barbara Sawyer once again missed the event.

# Musical Notes

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that 2012 is a fine one for you and your families, and, of course, for our church family. This past year certainly was an eventful one, though not all of those events were ones we'd choose to experience on a regular basis. Yet they all contributed to who we are as a church.

Regarding one of those 'events', the big conversation about musical content and style at Community Church, that process will continue to evolve. There is a clear appreciation of good music here, whatever the style we offer. Many of you spoke to me, pleading for no change at all. That viewpoint will have to be balanced with the forceful argument from some who do want more contemporary style. Stay tuned (literally and figuratively).

It was such a pleasure to present Handel's Messiah on December 18th to a packed sanctuary. I was so proud of our choir and soloists for their exceptional singing of that great (and difficult) work. Proud also of the many who sang beautifully in the audience, responding to our 'sing-along' offer. Chip's sermon on the morning of the 18th was a masterpiece in its own right. He set the stage for that afternoon with his virtual history lesson on George Frideric Handel and how 'Messiah' came into being, and eloquently shared his own personal experience with the work. Thank you, pastor.

All of us involved with music here continue to appreciate this church for its support, personally and financially. Performances like our 'Messiah' on December 18th don't come cheaply. The church's music budget and the Music Committee equally underwrote the event. Happily, the free-will offering taken at the concert returned a third of the day's monetary outlay (most of which went to the fine instrumental ensemble), and that offering was returned in equal parts to the two accounts. Thanks to all who contributed. Finally, thanks to our Publicity Committee for their beautiful poster, flyers, and articles promoting the concert. That really helped fill the sanctuary.

So, here we go into another year together. With several wonderful new members, our church is poised for great things. I do hope you'll all continue to provide feedback on our worship experience, musically and otherwise.

God bless, Rodger



# Endowment

The Endowment Fund was placed into action on August 19, 2011 after about a year and a half of work to develop a plan, put together a committee, do the necessary legal work (mostly courtesy of Dan Winton), obtain Council and Congregational approvals and establish an investment account with United Church Funds, a 102 year old branch of the UCC. Jamie Christiano segregated various sums of an endowment nature which had accumulated over the years in amounts totalling \$60,978.00. To this we added contributions up to August in the amount of an additional \$25,600.00 for a total initial deposit into the United Church Fund's Moderate Balanced Investment Account of \$86,378.00.

Since the markets have been very unstable recently, we feel fortunate that we have earned almost \$3,000.00 on our investment during the 3+ months since it was established. The Endowment Committee is aware as a result of our recent questionnaire to the congregation, that several individuals have made provision for the church in their wills. Others have made the church the beneficiary of their IRA's, 5 or more members have provided for the church with life insurance and there have also been Gift Annuities purchased with the church as their beneficiaries; more on in a forthcoming article early next year.

For those who love the church and want to see it strong in the future, this is a means of providing for that future just as we make provisions for our family's future. These are only a few of the ways that you can participate should you choose to. When we begin to receive income in 4 more years as provided by the by-law establishing the fund, we are confident that this will help us to undertake new activities not provided for in our current budget. Should you have questions concerning endowment opportunities, please contact Bob Underwood, Ken Petersen, or Ted Gregory at any time. *Bob Underwood*

## Second Sunday Barbecue Fellowship

November 13th was a warm, clear, perfect day for our monthly Second Sunday Barbecue Fellowship. About 90 burgers, with all the trimmings, were served after the 10am service. Included in this month's menu was tomato soup provided by Vicki Ronaldson.

Thank you to everyone who made our Barbecue Fellowship a success in 2011.

Pictured are chefs Myrona Delaney, Polly Hodge, Nickie Hocking and Jim Whitson. Others serving were the always reliable Bill Wyrick, Kate Gregory, with assistance by Ted Gregory and Jeff Rekoon. *Paul Reynolds*



We thank our **Retreat and Thanksgiving Faith Team:** Kurt Barkemeyer, Myrona Delaney, Trish Fisher, Kate Gregory, Diane Hanlon, Bruce Hird, Susie Hird, Nicole Hocking, Karin Lombardo, Beverly Marron, Susan Monroe, Mildred Nilsson, Jeff Rekoon, Teri Rekoon, Paul Reynolds, Joan Smith, Jim Whitson, Suzanne Wyrick, Bill Wyrick, and a special thank you to Barbara Ranney and Polly Hodge, the team leaders.

# Called to Care

Called to Care is a church committee whose goal is to provide assistance as needed for our members. Examples of assistance given include: transportation to church and church events; visits to those who are home-bound or hospitalized following surgeries or illness; providing meal support for individuals and families recovering from surgeries. These are just examples of the most common types of care provided to our members, however care is not limited to these examples. We find that many individuals and small groups are doing these very same things as often they are aware of needs before they come to the attention of the committee.

We rely on members for letting us know where we might serve. Please contact us through the church office, where Susan Bubb, our chair, may be found or through Pastor Chip.

We would love to welcome new members who are interested in joining the committee as it would enable us to expand our service to those who have need. Occasional transportation to and from Sunday Worship service is a typical need. Again, please contact any of those currently serving on the committee including Chip, Harry Kipp, Marilyn Kopecky, Carol Petersen, Bob & Doris Underwood, Annie Woods, or Bill and Suzanne Wyrick if a gift of yours might align with Called to Care, or if you are in need. Thank you. *Bob Underwood*

## Christmas Walk

Once again, Community Church shared in the joy of the annual Christmas Holiday Walk in the village of Corona del Mar. Several members donned antlers and freely shared their enthusiasm for this glorious season with thousands of passers by. The weather was glorious, the music grand, and the holiday spirit was palpable. If you have not participated in the past, please put it on your calendar for next year. It's a holiday classic! Many thanks to Dan Winton, Pastor Chip and Trish Fisher, Bob and Doris Underwood, Tim Dupuie, Kathy Kipp, Dora Pember and son Kevin, Sandie Sekely, and Linda Calkins for lending their support and enthusiasm in contributing to our presence at this wonderful annual event. *Angela Cortright*



# Open House at the Manse

At the age of fourteen at which time I was emotionally disoriented as a consequence of my parents' recent divorce, my stepmother took me aside and quietly said: "Ted, home is where when you knock on the front door, someone inside comes and opens it and lets you in. This is your home now."

Like the home of my adolescent years, the manse occupied by Pastor Chip and his wife Trish Fisher is a place "... where when you knock on the front door, someone inside comes and opens it and lets you in." Home is not a place but a reference point for a spiritual connection, and in that sense we all enjoyed time in "our collective home" at the most recent Open House hosted by Pastor Chip and Trish Fisher. We were greeted by warm smiles, sometimes gentle hugs, supportive and caring conversations, and wonderful food.

Christmas is a time when we take time to savor time with family, friends, very young, not so young, and not so very young people who are all special in their own unique way to us. It is a time to catch our collective breath before the challenges of the next year begin.

To experience that all at the manse – our collective "Home" is very special. I hope everyone enjoyed that special and treasured time as I did. Thank you Pastor Chip and Trish and all who came! Merry Christmas! Ted Gregory



# Men's Fellowship on the Court

On the evening of December 2nd, a group of nine men from the Church converged on the tennis courts in Coastal Canyon Park, in Newport Coast, for a tennis tournament. The rain clouds parted for the evening and the amount of competition, and level of play, was very similar to what one would find on the courts in Flushing Meadows, NY...well not quite to that level, but everyone had a great time.

Chip Fisher was gracious enough not to destroy each of his opponents across the net (although he was very capable of it!) and he even missed a few shots that were probably in reach for him. After the tennis matches, we had a cooler of refreshments and a separate cooler full of ice for aching joints!

All in all, it was a fun time for all in attendance; we have discussed making this an annual or semi-annual event. *Bob O'Neill*



# Mission Mexico and Uganda

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Open Arms** ornament donations over the holidays. My van was filled with new clothing for the children at the daycare and we donated over \$1000 towards toys. The children were so happy and grateful. Open Arms now cares for 60 children and they have become the largest employer in the town of La Mision. They have 13 paid employees and 3 full time volunteers. A teen center will open at the end of January 2012 to provide a safe environment, not only for the children who are aging out of the daycare, but also for additional teenagers in the town. The new onsite medical clinic will open its doors in February and the newly planted church will begin services early this year as well. Please continue to pray for our faith partners and thank you for your ongoing generosity. If you would like to receive an Open Arms newsletter please let Dan Winton, Joe DiChiro or me know.



It is the hope of the mission committee that we will be able to contribute this year to Daniel Okabe's education at Vanguard next fall as he enters into his senior year. We are confident that this young man will use his education to further God's kingdom in Uganda as he continues to be a blessing to all of us.

On behalf of Joe DiChiro and myself, please know that it has been a true blessing for us to serve as co-chairs of the mission committee at Community Church. We look forward to serving under new, very capable leadership in 2012. *Mary Anderson*

# The Deacons' Dovecot

January marks the beginning of the new year, and the sixth of January is Epiphany, the twelfth day after Christmas which marks the beginning of a new life, the dawn of a new day with the celebration of the birth of baby Jesus, the Light of the World. The Oxford English Dictionary defines Epiphany as “the festival commemorating the manifestation of the Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi.” The Orthodox Church which broke off from the Roman Catholic Church calls this Epiphany “Little Christmas.” These three wise men, astrologers, followed the eastern star to find the baby laying in the manger in Bethlehem. Jesus was to become our Messiah, the new King, our savior and sovereign Lord. When we acknowledge Jesus the Christ as our savior, the Messiah, our King, we are seeing the Light. The word “epiphany” means a sudden recognition or insight; the light bulb goes off. We see the light.

Over five hundred years before the coming of the Light the prophet Isaiah predicted our new King.

“Arise, shine, Jerusalem for your light has come; and over you the glory of the Lord has dawned. Though darkness covers the earth and dark night the nations, on you the Lord shines and over you his glory will appear; nations will journey towards your light and kings to your radiance. Raise your eyes and look around: they are all assembling, flocking back to you; your sons are coming from afar, your daughters walking beside them... Camels in droves will cover the land, young camels from Midian and Ephah, all coming from Sheba laden with gold and frankincense, heralds of the Lord’s praise.”

*Isaiah 60:1-4, 6*

In the New Testament the Gospel of Matthew describes the event of the Epiphany with the astrologers from the east arriving in Jerusalem and being sent by King Herod to find the new born king of the Jews.

“After hearing what the king had to say they set out; there before them was the star they had seen rising and it went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at the sight of it and, entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother and bowed low in homage to him; they opened their treasure chests and presented gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then they returned to their own country by another route, for they had been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod.”

*Matthew 2:9-12*

As Christians we celebrate the coming of the Light, a new beginning. At Community Church Congregational we celebrate the new beginning in new members who have joined our faith family. The thirteen members who joined our faith family on Covenant Sunday were invited by the Deacons to a welcome dinner reception at the manse on December the third, 2011. Vicki Ronaldson served God again as church photographer. As each new member arrived Vicki took their photograph to help us get to know one another. We have the goal of updating the photo board in our narthex and publishing an updated photo directory of our faith family. So please be cooperative if Vicki asks to take your picture; it’s to help others and to grow our faith family. The dinner was delicious with Ruth Casteel’s special handmade empanadas fresh out of the

oven and Jane Shehane outdid herself with an Italian chicken entrée with a little kick served over orzo that she prepared perfectly even in the vast quantities needed to serve over two dozen. For dessert we had a flaming yule log, chocolate sponge cake roll filled with mocha ganache and covered with chocolate buttercream icing looking like the bark on a real log. The Yule log is an ancient tradition across many cultures of bringing in light during the cold winter days of long darkness and little light. A huge log, or whole tree was placed in the fireplace to bring light and warmth into the darkness and allowed to burn until the fire went out.

The church gave each new member a compact disc of Christmas music compliments of our church choir and we announced the upcoming Prayer 101 Retreat to be held the second weekend in February at Pilgrim Pines, our affiliated church camp. Attending Prayer 101 teaches us how to pray and is the foundation of our growing relationship with our Lord. I remember back in May, of 2002, when I attended my first Prayer 101 Retreat. Pastor Chip taught me how to listen for the voice of God amidst all the other voices inside my head. Prayer 101 was life changing for me and whether this will be your first Prayer 101, or you are ready for a refresher course, don’t pass up this opportunity to learn and grow in your relationship with God while growing closer to your faith family members. Our Monday evening Adult Bible Study group began as a Prayer 101 retreat group almost a decade ago and the disciple bonds that were formed then are still going strong.

Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center is 8 miles east of Yucaipa on the southern slopes of the San Bernardino mountains of Oak Glen in mile high apple farming country; this retreat location offers the great outdoors at an outstanding value. We each bring our own bedding, towels, and toiletries, and our own cup for the camp’s fresh well water. Dora Pember, one of our thirteen new members, has volunteered to use her administrative skills to organize this retreat. Dora will be at Pilgrim Pines by noon on Friday for anyone who is able to give another day to God, miss the Friday commuter traffic, and check in early. The Pines is holding our dinner until 7:30pm on Friday evening to allow for later arrivals. Opening session will begin at 8:00pm. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner Saturday, and breakfast Sunday are also included. The total cost for Prayer 101 retreat weekend including teaching, lodging, and the 5 meals is only \$159.00.

Is God inviting you in your personal pilgrimage to take some time out for your relationship with Him? Turn in your check as soon as possible to facilitate retreat planning. Make check out to Community Church with “Prayer 101- Pilgrim Pines” on the “Memo” line. Either hand your check to Dora or turn it into our church office with the final deadline of January 20th, 2012.

We are each on a pilgrimage headed for His Light just as the Wise Men followed His Star. We each make our own choices. We aim to follow in His footsteps aiming for the Light. In a hymn we sang this advent with lyrics written by our own Joanne Reynolds the last line posed this relevant question, “... what will we bring from Bethlehem?”

Buen Camino, Doreen Davis Fuhr, Head Deacon



# Stay Connected at Community Church

January 6	Epiphany
January 8	Choir Recognition
January 8	Informational Coffee in Parlor for new and prospective members; 11:40am
January 8	Teen Super 2ND Sunday
January 18 - 25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 30	Annual Meeting; Dinner 6:00pm/Meeting 7:00pm
February 4	Trustee/Council Planning Meeting; all day
February 4	Family Fun Night; 5:30pm
February 10-12	Prayer 101 Retreat at Pilgrim Pines Retreat Center
February 12	Teen Super 2ND Sunday
February 19	Ashes & Resurrection Faith Team Season of Service Begins
February 22	Ash Wednesday
February 26	First Sunday in Lent
March 2	World Day of Prayer
March 8 or 15	Confirmation Begins (12 or 13 weeks)
March 11	Teen Super 2ND Sunday
March 16-18	Men's Retreat at Glen Ivy Resort
April 5	Maundy Thursday
April 6	Good Friday
April 8	Easter
April 8	Easter Egg Hunt after 10am service
May 4-6	Women's Retreat at Glen Ivy Resort

## Community Church, Congregational

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