

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
P.O. Box 222811 Carmel, CA 93922



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Newsletter for the Community
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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831-624-3060 (Shop)

(Howard Thurman)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

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Carmel, CA 93923

**Upcoming Dates
For Your Calendar**

Women's
Association
Installation
Luncheon
Thurs. Jan. 19
Noon
Rancho Canada

January 2017

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Independent and United Church of Christ

Inside

Welcome

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. We are both independent and United Church of Christ, as governed by the members. Openness, independent thinking and inclusivity are critical for our journey together. We encourage individual spiritual exploration and do not require adherence to a creed or a single view of what it means to be a Christian or to follow Christ. We journey by heart and our goal is to love God and all that God loves.

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In our worship and activities beyond Sunday, we invite you to experience the transforming power of God and walk daily with Jesus as you live out your spiritual journey. Welcome to the journey!

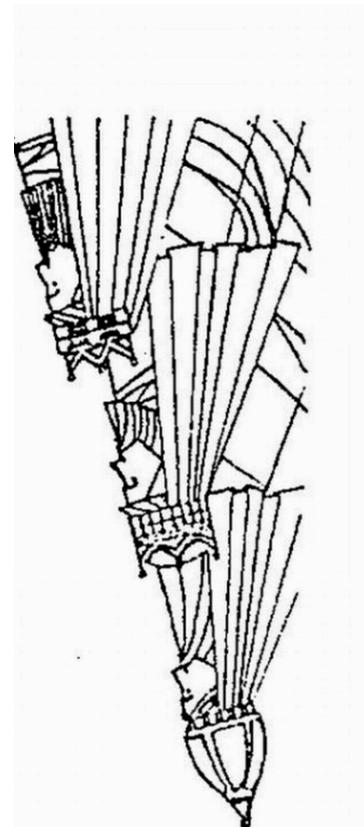
Our Mission

The Mission of The Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula is to welcome independent-minded people of all ages, build a diverse Christian community, and nurture one another to love God, neighbor and self.

Our mission is grounded on ten core values:

- God loves all people.
- We welcome all people, wherever they are on their life journey.
- Worship is the life breath of our community.
- We are the heart and hands of Christ serving others.
- We grow spiritually in Christ.
- We provide creative, open, lifelong Christian education.
- We are stewards sustaining all of God's creation.
- We promote understanding and cooperation among people of all faiths.
- We are a vital democracy and value independent thinking and dialogue..
- We joyfully support our mission with time, talent and treasure.

Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, January 22



From Our Minister

January 2017

Dear Friends,

We continue our chronological exploration of St. Paul's letters, from the earliest to the latest, in order to get an overview of how his theology developed and matured. Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:28.

Speaking authoritatively in 4:15, Paul maintains that the dead will in no way be at a disadvantage when Jesus returns. This is so because when Christ appears the dead will be raised first (4:16); then, together with the living, they will meet Christ (4:17). This is a message of great hope because it emphasizes the reunion of all believers with their Lord.

But what about the details: the "word of command," the "sound of the archangel's voice," and "God's trumpet" (this is actually a threefold parallelism – three slightly different ways of saying the same thing); what about the clouds, and our meeting Christ "in the air?"

We need to remember that in this passage Paul was writing in apocalyptic style – the typically Jewish way of communicating about the "last things" – using visionary imagery and detail which were not intended to be taken literally.

Words could not capture the reality of what an apocalypse was attempting to describe.

Thus, while the overall event (in this case the Second Coming of Jesus) being narrated was believed to be historical (as contrasted to mythological), the specific details (like the clouds and the meeting "in the air" mentioned above) were seen as hints, or clues, pointing to a much "bigger" reality; a reality so "big," in fact, that words could not contain it – thus the need for images.

The picture we get from the details mentioned here is that at a solemn signal from the Father (the "word of command," "archangel's voice," and "trumpet") Jesus will return. Like Roman citizens rushing out of their city to greet their Emperor at the first word of his sighting, Christians will be caught up in a joyous homecoming, a glorious reunion with their Lord.

Ours is not the only age when Christians engage in idle speculation about the date of this event. Less than a generation after the death and resurrection of Christ, Paul was already having to remind Christians not to waste their time trying to second-guess God on this matter (5:1).

What really matters is fidelity to the fundamental values of faith, love, and hope. By abiding in these values the Christian will be well prepared for the return of Christ, whenever he comes.

To bring this matter to a close, Paul challenges the Thessalonians to a proper respect for authority (5:12-13a), and challenges them to internalize in attitude and embody in action a host of Christian values (5:13b-22). Living in this way, the Christian community at Thessalonica will become all that God calls it to become.

Paul ends by re-presenting his thought about holiness equaling wholeness in the form of a prophetic blessing (5:23-24), asking for their prayers, requesting that his letter be read to the entire church and, finally, giving his friends a formal benediction.

A wish for peace, goodwill, and happiness throughout the New Year,



From The Board of Governors

Purposes of the January 15, 2017, Membership Meeting

A new Board of Governors of the church must be elected, to serve for one year. The following slate is presented:

President:	George Brehmer
Vice president:	Dee MacDonald
Secretary:	Jane Heider
Treasurer:	Richard Howell
Fellowship:	Liz Tarozzi
Membership:	Bonnie Bragg
Member-at-large:	Sylvia Zack
Missions:	Dolores Joblon
Property Steward:	Peter Sewald
Public Relations:	Mary Parsons
Worship:	Jo Ann Holbrook
Religious Education:	no nominee

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor of the meeting. Secretary's note: Dodie Scardina, as president of the Women's Association, will automatically be on the Board.

In addition, the following position needs to be filled on January 15:

Foundation Trust Fund. One trustee shall be nominated and elected, to replace Clint Henry, through 2018. The other Trustees are Ruth Elmgren (2017-2019) and Joanne Anderson (2015-2017). Secretary's note: the newly-elected President and Treasurer of the Board of Governors will automatically be on the FTF.

From Chuck Scardina

Defining ourselves –“You know how I am,” “She’s dumb,”
Insures a wall around us, cemented by the dullness of those words.

Come out, meine liebe. Come out from behind those definitions!

Let’s go to where giant whales leap, soaring into the air
In all their magnificence,
As if wanting to touch a star with their fins! Celebrating Life!

See, the moth lays eight tiny white eggs in two columns on a leaf, and
then simply flies away. Celebrating Life!

The cerulean oceans, curving the rim of the earth,
Exhibit a calm, lake-like placidity, and then,
Against the rages of the wind, roar, over and over again.
And for a moment in time,
The sheer immensity of those sounds, those callings,
Reveals the Wonder of their Being! Celebrating Life!

Oh, the Junkos are sharpening their tiny beaks on a rotted tree limb.
Celebrating Life!

Look! The sun just before it sets, is painting the clouds in sublime
hues – salmon pinks, burnt umbers, violet-greys,
And it seems, in infinite pathways of the purest orange and gold
Ever seem, ever painted! Celebrating Life!

Ah, you are out! Can I indeed, teach an old dog new tricks? Come, Liebe.
Let’s celebrate!

Dodie Scardina, October 2014



Givingtree Benefit Shop

Hours: Wednesday- Saturday 12-4

Donations welcomed during shop hours.
Open Sundays after church for an hour.

Volunteers welcome!

From Lyn Rosen

*She is cold and uncomfortable on her way to Bethlehem to be counted for the census.
She knows from the pains the child she carries is ready to be born.*

Thinking back, she is remembering when an angel comes to her and says: “Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son. And you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and called the Son of the Most High” and her answer, “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your words.” As they approach Bethlehem, she knows she will give birth soon. Yet there is no room at the inn. And with no choice she delivers him in a stable. After carrying him for many months her love for this child inside her has grown in intensity. She hopes she can have him to herself for just a short time before giving him over to those he is sent to save. Too soon she knows he belongs to the ages, when shepherds and magi come to pay him homage. Too soon she knows when Jesus is blessed by Simeon and he says to her: “and you yourself a sword will pierce...he will live in danger”. Too soon she knows he will be a King when they have to flee to Egypt because Herod is going to search for her child and destroy him. When Herod finds out Jesus has escaped, he is so angry all boys two and under are killed:

*“A voice was heard in Ramah,
Sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
And she would not be consoled,
Since they were no more.”*

*Mothers lose children and finding sanctuary in Mary; they kneel down before her some-
times for hours lighting candles tears streaming without end.*

Mary looks down upon them with her serene gentleness and lets them realize, “Yes, I know.” She gives them solace this tender woman who suffered with dignity, devotion and sadness - the same experience - a tragedy beyond compare just like theirs.

Throughout the ages Mary has comforted, cared for, nurtured and loved these desolate pilgrims...forever one with half empty mothers who endure the ache, the anguish, the grief, the heart wrenching loneliness of losing their child.

The Women’s Association
Installation Luncheon
will be held at Noon
Thursday, January 19
at Rancho Canada.
Tickets are \$22 and available
from Pam Klaumann

OFFICERS 2017

President:	Dodie Scardina	Treasurer:	Ruth Elmgren
1st Vice Pres:	Janice Akin	Librarian:	Amy Krupski
2nd Vice Pres:	Millie Daniel	CWU Rep:	Kathy Warthan
Secretary:	Jane Heider		



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. All knitters are welcome! We meet in the Broaddus Room just off Woodhull Hall. Call Pam with questions at 624-8759.



Birthdays In January

3rd	Ruth Elmgren
7th	Michael Petrillo
11th	Kellin Chaffin
12th	Marilyn Hyde



12th	Larry Hayes
30th	Ada Morton
"	Kathy Warthan
"	Harriet Werner

I- Help Dinners

The I-Help Dinner for Homeless Men will be held on January 11th. (They occur on the second Wednesday of each month.) You can help by signing up to bring something for the meal. The men arrive about 5 p.m. and we eat at about 5:30. The sign up sheet is in Woodhull Hall. The Women's I-Help Dinner will be on January 17th (the third Tuesday of the month). Thanks to those who constantly support this fine outreach!

Church Women United



Church Women United meets on Friday, January 6, at 9:30 a.m. at Hays CME Church, 625 Elm Street, Seaside. This will be our "Human Rights Gathering." Monetary donations for the Monterey Food Bank will be collected. For more information please contact Kathy Warthan our CWU representative.

Property Steward

Peter Sewald

I was only going to say Happy Holidays or some such, but among jobs Larry Kuck did last month was to replace the lights in the breezeway to sanctuary. Strange that they all were out, but it was probably assumed (by any who might have noticed) that lights were on a timer. They are not. Switches are in hallway to Woodhull Hall. And speaking of lights, on 12/20, lights over the altar were left on. Choir held a special rehearsal that day.

Along the same lines, on December 18th, the rose garden door to the office and gate as well as the labyrinth gate were left open. That was date of BoG meeting. It is not the duty of Paul or me to wait for everyone to depart.; we are not parents closing up after our children. It is us, people; we assume someone else will lock up or turn off lights.

At the BofG meeting it was reported that the Giving Tree doors were left open. It is us, again. On at least one occasion, Carole reported to me that a volunteer from the shop had left her office and had gone back to work. Before Carole left for the day, on a whim she checked the Fellowship Hall door. Sure enough, locked door was not completely closed. Volunteer assumed the self-closing door would automatically lock. It doesn't.

It is pure luck that we have not been vandalized or robbed. Let's try to do better in the coming year. Hope your holidays were happy and safe and that you will be more diligent in the coming year. I have faith in the former but am losing it as to the latter.