

# The PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CLARION



Volume 69 Issue 4

December Issue 2009



## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

### ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A great way to provide meaningful holiday gifts and support numerous worthy causes locally and around the world.

### CRAFTS AND CAROLS

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a church-wide Christmas Event! We're going to do things a little differently this year. Instead of our annual Advent Event, we'll come together for food, Christmas carols, and seasonal crafts.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

### CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

All choirs and a brass ensemble will participate in the 63rd renewal of this PPC holiday tradition. As usual, there will be plenty of audience caroling, as well. **FREE ADMISSION** — invite your friends.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

### LESSONS AND CAROLS

English-language worship in the sanctuary features this traditional telling of the Advent and Christmas story using a blend of scripture and music.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service

Music by the Kirk Choir and Van Etten Handbell Choir. Dr. Mark Smutny preaches.

## Pasadena Presbyterian Church

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Pasadena, CA 91101

**Phone:** 626-793-2191 **Fax:** 626-584-6544

### General E-Mail:

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### Office Hours :

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Closed for Lunch Hour Noon - 1 pm

### Staff:

Mark K. Smutny, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Luis Madrigal

*Parish Associate for Latino/a Ministries*

Hyun Sung

*Associate Pastor for Korean Ministries*

Art French, *Visitation Minister, Affiliate*

Timothy Howard, *Director of Music & Organist*

Carol Kaufman, *Operations Manager &*

*Administrative Assistant to Rev. Smutny*

Diane Hubka, *Finance Administrator*

Carol Peterson, *Bookkeeper*

Christine Cox, *Administrative Assistant*

Anita Protich, *Clarion-Headline News Editor/*

*Administrative Assistant*

Adrian Estabrook, *Handbell Choir Director &*

*Co-Director of Rainbow Choir*

Sharon Duenas, *Co-Director of Rainbow Choir*

Vena Luthey, *Carol Choir Director*

Margie Madrigal

*Children's Outreach Coordinator*

Tai Woan Kim, *Korean Ministries Assistant*

### Personal Interest Missionaries:

**Japan:** Ann & Bill Moore

**Thailand:** Rob Collins & Esther Wakeman

**Spain/Portugal:** Bryce & Phyllis Little

The **Clarion**, PPC's newsletter, is published monthly and can be accessed from PPC's website at [www.ppc.net](http://www.ppc.net). For members who do not have internet access please call the church office and ask for your Clarion to be mailed to you. A yearly donation of \$15 is asked of non-members.

**Submit all newsletter articles no later than the 15th of the prior month to:**

**E-mail:** Anita.Protich@PPC.net

**Mail:** Clarion Editor

585 E. Colorado Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91101

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DR. MARK K. SMUTNY

Dear Friends,

Advent can be puzzling to many Christians, even disconcerting. The appointed biblical stories we read right up to Christmas have nothing to do with angels and shepherds, wise men and innkeepers, an expectant mother pondering wonderful things in her heart and a baby cooing in a warm, steaming stable. Instead we hear stories of the decimated nation Israel in captivity longing for a Savior, John the Baptist demanding repentance of sins, and Mary pondering, yes, but pondering a world turned upside down where "the hungry are filled with good things" and "the rich are sent away empty." Nothing could be farther from a nostalgic holiday to be delivered by packages wrapped in pretty paper accompanied by taped background music. How different it is to long for a new reality if you are a crushed people singing "O come O come Immanuel and ransom captive Israel" than it is to sing "Jingle Bell Rock" and long for a forty-two inch LCD T.V.

I confess I am an admixture of three traditions when it comes to preparing for Christmas. The first is family getting together decorating our house, wrapping presents and planning to eat a feast slightly less fattening than Thanksgiving. This year for the first time in twenty-eight years that tradition will be suspended since Barbara will be in Ohio. I will rendezvous with her, our sons and daughter-in-law at my parents' house in Idaho on the evening of December 25<sup>th</sup>. All three generations together will be wonderful.

The second tradition is gathering at church and singing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" and all the other carols because that's what we do as church people. The third, and this is the most important one, is to get in touch with the longing somewhere in that place where hope has died, in the heartache of shattered dreams, in the furrow of the soul where sin and sorrow take hold, to look for a baby to be born. Every year, sometime during Advent this third tradition gets to me and all those other Christmas' meanings pale in comparison.

I long for his birth when a parishioner learns his cancer has spread, when her bills pile up, when the war just goes on. I long for the baby's birth as an eternal protest against a world built on violence, against a world that traffics in humans as commodities, against a world where maimed soldiers are too often forgotten by a country who says with words that it honors them.

Of course, that baby, Immanuel, has already been born and is with us, fully grown, fully human and fully divine. I do want to know the fullness of Christmas joy and peace, love and hope. Get me there through the longing of Advent in the unlikely places where we long for new birth and Christmas will really mean something.

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Mark Smutny

**ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS  
SUNDAYS AT 11:20 A.M.**

**DECEMBER 13, 20 AND 27**

**KALEIDOSCOPE BIBLE STUDY**

Come together as a fellowship of people to read Scripture, share insights, experiences, hopes, and prayers as Bible passages inspire you. By doing so, we can become a stronger community of people who pray together, help each other with our problems, and reach out to serve others. No familiarity with the Bible is required. Newcomers are especially welcome. Facilitated by Mark Smutny.

**REJOICE! REFLECTIONS ON  
CHRISTMAS HYMNS**

Some of our favorite carols and hymns are some of the most evocative parts of the season for many of us. They refocus our spirits and remind us of the mystery and promise of God's incarnation. We will spend time in reflection, conversation and simple enjoyment of some of our most beloved hymns.

- Facilitated by Rita Lossett on November 29, and December 20.

- Special guests Paul and Gloria Kilian on December 13! Both have been music educators. Paul also has been a conductor and Gloria a choral leader.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Receipts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions, recognizing the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times, and to Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges, providing scholarships and basic operating costs.

Each of these grants is an expression of Presbyterians' faithful witness to and sharing of the love of Christ for all people. **Give a generous gift to the Christmas Joy Offering on December 20.**



**C**hristmas joy is in my heart

**1ST SUNDAY BRUNCH  
Sunday, December 6, 2009**



PPC's TOTALITY will be the chefs for this brunch immediately after the English and Spanish language worship. This is our "table fellowship" meal to be held on the first Sunday each month. Everyone is encouraged to join in the food and fellowship. There is no cost for the lunch but donations are very welcome! The menu is Chili and cornbread.

**ADVENT APPEAL**

Each year during Advent the children and youth of our church conduct an Advent Appeal. In years past, the funds raised have gone to Project Angel, Southern Louisiana Presbytery for hurricane relief, and our own Young Children's Space renovation to name a few. This year funds raised will go towards purchasing animals from Heifer International. Heifer International's philosophy is based on long-term sustainable economic development to end hunger around the world. \$20 can buy a flock of chicks; \$60, a trio of rabbits; \$150, a llama; and \$500, a heifer. This year children and youth will be asked to donate their own funds to help this cause. Envelopes will be available in their Christian Education classrooms in which to place their contributions. Additional donations can be made during the Christmas Eve family service and by sending checks to PPC with Advent Appeal written in the memo line. Check out Heifer International's website at <http://www.heifer.org> for more information.



**JOIN THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY!**

**Advent Small Groups**

**Sunday Nights: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20**

Does the rush of buying gifts, putting up lights and attending end of year parties have anything to do with the good news of Jesus' birth and life among us? If even asking this question gives you pause, join in a hopeful, joyful alternative: one of the Advent Conspiracy groups that will be set up. We will meet each four weeks of Advent to explore an alternative, Christian celebration of Advent/Christmas. Over Sunday nights using the book "Advent Conspiracy" we will consider how we might *Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All*. Facilitated by Gene Terpstra and others.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6  
11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

A Christmas Misfit Looking for an  
Alternative Universe  
by Karen Lee



One Christmas season many years ago I was with some of my co-workers as they discussed what they want to get from their secret Santa during the office gift exchange. I mentioned that I would like my secret Santa to make a donation in my honor to a charity since I was content with what I had in my life. They looked at me aghast and said that I could donate to charity during the rest of the year. A Christmas gift exchange is when I should expect to receive something nice meant especially for me. I was glad that I was not their secret Santa because I would have given them a lump of coal. At another office where I worked, people gleefully took up the challenge of invoking people's envy and gluttony by packaging useless or silly items into tantalizing gifts for our white elephant gift exchange.

Last year I tried to get out of my office gift exchange, but the organizer pleaded with me to participate in order to make an even number. I agreed to do it, but I gave her a copy of the Alternative Gift Market shopping list and said that my secret Santa was welcome to make a donation with the money meant for my gift. On gift exchange day, my secret Santa handed me the shopping list and a check. He chose a project that is helping people in Haiti reintroduce a native pig species for economic and environmental sustainability. That act by my secret Santa reassured me that people do remember that gift giving is an act of grace by a donor because the recipient probably cannot return a gift of comparable value to the donor. Christmas is when we try to emulate God's grace to us by giving to others because of the incomparable gift of love, peace, and hope he gave the world. If your office decides to do a gift exchange this year, propose to have an alternative gift option. During bad and good economic times, having the alternative option can help people reflect on what it means to give and to receive.

**CRAFTS & CAROLS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**



The traditional Advent Event is taking on a new form this year. Combining with the wildly successful Sunday luncheons, this year advent crafts will be a truly intergenerational and cross-ministry event. Scheduled from 11

am to 1pm, participants can eat, craft, and sing in any combination throughout the event.



**DECEMBER 12 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Few things say "Christmas" to us more than music. For more than half a century PPC has brought to our church family and the community a special holiday music offering. This year, the 63rd Candlelight and Carols program will be held Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

All of the church choirs will be singing, along with brass ensemble. The featured work will be "And Peace on Earth," a new Christmas cantata by English composer Bob Chilcott using texts that range from the 15th century to the present. Elizabeth Tatum, who has joined with the Kirk Choir before in gospel brunch programs, will be the soloist.

As usual, the evening will also feature several carols for every to sing, along with other familiar and not-so-well-known selections.

This FREE CONCERT (an offering will be taken) is a great way for you to invite your friends or others who may never have come to PPC. Be a part of this annual special holiday celebration!

**LET US GO A-CAROLING!  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Every year our church members with limited mobility enjoy carolers from the church coming to serenade with holiday music and greetings. So come! Join the 2009 carolers on **Saturday, Dec. 19 at 5:00 p.m. in South Hall** for soup and bread before going out to carol. We will need drivers to transport the carolers as well.





# KOREAN MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## PPC'S KOREAN MINISTRY WELCOMES THE REVEREND PETER KIM



PPC Korean Ministry invited The Reverend Peter Kim, Associate Vice President of San Francisco Theological Seminary, to preach at the Korean Service on November 8. Two hundred and fifty Korean service worshipers were deeply touched by his moving sermon. PPC has been enjoying our mission partnership with SFTS for quite a few years. PPC Korean Ministry will continue to develop this partnership faithfully.



## THANKSGIVING DAY PICNIC FOR SINGLES GROUP

Every Thanksgiving day PPC's Korean Ministry throws a singles picnic at Garfield Park in South Pasadena. Last year 35 singles participated and enjoyed lunch and fellowship at the park.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF ROSE PARADE TICKETS ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Not sure what to get for your in-laws for Christmas? Maybe there's a better choice than getting that new-fangled power saw for Dad. Let us suggest giving a gift of tickets to the annual Pasadena Rose Parade!

There are several ways to get your order form. You can go to PPC's website and follow the links to print your form. Or, you can call the PPC Rose Parade hotline at (626) 793-2191, ext. 353 and leave your mailing address or e-mail address and we can get a form out to you. You can also purchase tickets on the patio (watch for an announcement in the bulletin).

**\$45 for PPC members**

**\$65 for non-members**

**\$45 for clergy and active-duty military personnel**

Programs will be available on the patio and the day of the parade for purchase. Parking will be available in the Union Street lot; \$20 per car, \$50 per RV. Parking proceeds help underwrite the summer youth mission trip.

Volunteers get a free ticket and a lovely scarf. Call Laura Monteros at (626) 794-3217 if you are interested in volunteering either the day of the parade or the day before for food preparation. PPC's own Karen Lee is handling the food arrangements.



### BE A ROSE PARADE VOLUNTEER

Volunteering may be its own reward, but for our wonderful Rose Parade volunteers, we provide a free ticket and a lovely scarf as well. We currently need folks to usher, do breakfast prep, and help with clean-up after breakfast is over. Call Laura Monteros or the church office if you are interested in volunteering the morning of the parade. Thank you!!

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. LUIS MADRIGAL, PARISH ASSOCIATE FOR LATINA/O MINISTRIES

It's that time of the year again. It's "Happy Birthday, Jesus" time. Many have wondered if the event has been canceled or postponed, or what? In December of 2007 we had some 900+ fill the Sanctuary for all the festivities. Carlitos and Chango were there. Santa Claus made an appearance. Even El Mariachi Alegre sang Los Posadas as the Holy Family, Shepherds and Angels processed in. Of course, we had over 40+ volunteer elves to help make it happen. So what happened? What's up with the HBJ celebration?

Well, we got to thinking that it would be great if we could continue HBJ and make it possible to combine it with our Sunday morning Worship Service. Well, that's what has happened to HBJ. Last year, 2008, we celebrated it on the Sunday before Christmas. Some 130 kids and their families came to worship and received countless toys. This year we've asked the mothers that attend our Thursday Food Ministry, "God Loves You," to please come and register their kids for Christmas on Sunday mornings. It has worked just great! Attendance at Hogar Cristiano worship has been consistently 90+ in November.

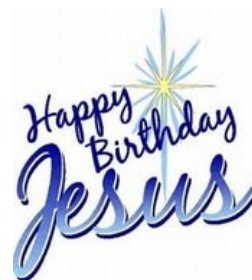
This year Happy Birthday, Jesus Sunday Worship will feature several new components. A drama will be performed by the youth of the church. Thanks to the leadership of Dexter Amend and Amy Oakes, the drama will be a modern adaptation of the old Christmas story. Of course, Santa will pay a visit, along with a Mariachi. Come join the fun.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 10:00 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

### ELVES WANTED

Need many smiling, loving, caring gift-wrapping elves to wrap toys on **Friday, Dec. 18, at 9:30 a.m.**

Please sign up after worship on Dec. 6 and 13, or call the church at (626) 793-2191 X270. Must be willing to wear a Santa Claus cap!



# December Calendar

## Tuesday - 1

Joint Finance

## Wednesday - 2

Bibles & Bagels  
Trustees

## Friday - 4

Friday Prayer Group

## Saturday - 5

Green & Greener  
TOTALITY

## Sunday - 6

First Sunday Brunch  
Advent Crafts  
Alternative Gift Market

## Monday - 7

Adult Ed

## Tuesday - 8

Session

## Friday - 11

Second Friday Fellowship

## Saturday - 12

Candlelight & Carols

## Monday - 14

Women's Bible Study

## Wednesday - 16

Bible & Bagels  
Joint Finance

## Thursday - 24

CHRISTMAS EVE  
Family Worship 4:00 pm  
Candlelight & Communion  
9:00 pm

## Friday - 25

CHRISTMAS  
Campus Closed

## Monday - 28

Women's Bible Study

## Thursday - 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

## Ongoing Activities

### Sunday

English-language Worship	10:00 am
Spanish-Language Worship	
Church School for Youth to Adults	11:20 am
Latino Ministries Brunch	11:20 am
Rainbow Choir and Carol Choir	
Korean-language Worship	12:30 pm
Korean Ministry Meal	1:30 pm
Korean Ministry Trinity Choir	2:00 pm

### Monday

Daily Prayer	5:30 am
Men's Bible Study	7:00 pm

### Tuesday

Daily Prayer	5:30 am
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### Wednesday

Daily Prayer	5:30 am
Music at Noon	12:10 pm
Korean Bible Study	8:00 pm

### Thursday

Daily Prayer	5:30 am
Food Distribution	11:00 pm
Handbell Choir	6:15 pm
Kirk Choir	7:30 pm

### Friday

Daily Prayer	5:30 am
Friday Prayer	9:00 am
Korean Young Adult Fellowship	6:30 pm
Korean Singles	7:00 pm
Korean Praise Service	7:00 pm

### Saturday

Daily Prayer	5:30 am
Korean Leadership Team	6:00 am
J-Tune Praise Band	2:00 pm

### SELF-HELP GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Daily 6 am ; Sundays 6 pm; Thurs. 7 pm
Overeaters Anonymous	Mon. - Fri., Noon Saturdays 8:30 am
Sexual Recovery Anonymous	Monday & Friday 7 pm
Debtors Anonymous	Fridays 7:30 pm

**FREE CONCERTS**  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10 PM**

**December 2**  
Joe Lo Piccolo Duo

**December 9**  
Midori, violinist


**December 16**  
Anita Protich, soprano  
David Troy Francis, pianist

**December 23**  
Philip Allen Smith, organist

**December 30**  
Isamu Nakashio, guitarist

Lunch is available following  
the concert for a \$6 donation.

MUSIC AT NOON



Pasadena Presbyterian Church  
585 E. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

*Forwarding Service Requested*



*Sacred Space for the City*

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Each year, volunteers bring our sanctuary to life with greenery and poinsettias. Through its generosity, the congregation makes this tribute to the birth of Christ possible. The holidays are a time to remember loved ones and celebrate special occasions. You can help beautify the sanctuary during the Christmas season and remember your loved ones. In addition, after Christmas, the potted poinsettias are delivered to homebound and hospitalized members and friends.

None of the cost of the Christmas tree, flowers and garlands come from the PPC budget. It is all paid for by special contributions each December. Please contribute as you are able, that the joyful significance of the season may be reflected visually in our Sacred Space. Make your check payable to PPC and designate it for "Christmas Flowers". Requests made by Monday, December 14 will be acknowledged in the December 20 and 24 bulletins. Be sure to include the number of plants you wish to purchase and the name of the person(s) to be honored. Please include the following information. Thank you.



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebrations of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_