

The Advocate

The Hush of Christmas

Do you find yourself forced into Christmas cheer or do you embrace the season with the same tenderness that you embrace a baby? I'm deliberately choosing to slow down the "Christmas Rush" and take my time this season. All my Christmas cards won't be sent nor every gift bought I would like to buy; the apartment won't have its halls decked with boughs of holly or any other seasonal greenery. I'm going to turn the "Christmas Rush" into the "Christmas Hush" this year.

And the Church is crucial for this transformation. The Church reminds us that Christmas is about Jesus, and as sweet as is

Santa Claus or as sentimental as is "White Christmas" they are not Christmas.

The Church reminds us that Christmas is both the anniversary of a baby's birth and the promise of a future filled with justice that brings peace. These reminders are easily drowned out by the voices of commerce eager to hijack Christmas for their mercenary purposes. As a good Southern friend of mine would say to those voices, "Hush, now."

Hush. Quiet. Solitude.... Peace.

This time of anticipating the infant Jesus is a time to anticipate the justice which is the foundation of

all peace. Justice is when power is shared with the powerless, when decisions are open to those who are affected, when respect is given to all people simply because God loves them.

Jingle Bells are fun and, if we had snow on our streets, dashing through it might be a real kick. But I'm going to remember the "hush" of Christmas, the quiet of Mary after Jesus' birth, the solitude of Joseph watching over them, the peace which is offered to all humanity.

This is the Christmas I'm remembering, and celebrating, this year.

James A. Bowser

Advent angels and Christmas Eve

The season of Advent is celebrated each Sunday by readings giving voice to the four angels who appear in the Christmas story. Along with the readings we light a candle in the

Advent wreath

We first heard from the angel who spoke to Zechariah and Elizabeth about the birth of John the Baptist.

The second Sunday is

the angel who appeared to Mary. The third is the angel who talked to Joseph and the fourth Sunday is the angel who spoke to the shepherds.

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Special points of interest:

- Christmas Eve service 9 P.M.
- Supper Club December 20
- Christmas Caroling December 19
- Poinsettias begin December 12
- Peace on Earth Bazaar December 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

A Tribute to Dennis Saylor

After a long struggle with heart problems, Dennis Saylor, a former interim pastor, passed away at the end of October. He was a very unusual person and talented in many areas.

He was an ordained minister, teacher, counselor, lecturer, author (five books), world traveler, and hospital chaplain. At the time of his death, he was serving at his church (Faith Presbyterian) as a pastoral associate for visitation.

Memorial services were held at

Faith Presbyterian and there was also a memorial service held at Sharp Memorial Hospital where he was a chaplain for many years and where our own Dr. Hal Forney learned to know him and recommended him for our pulpit when needed many years ago.

His pastor and one son eulogized him in a wonderful way – as a loving, gentle, humble, humorous Christian soul who was loved by all who were privileged to have been touched by his exemplary life. He leaves his won-

derful wife of fifty-one years, Helen, two sons, twin granddaughters and a loving mother-in-law.

After the beautiful memorial service the one hundred and fifty attendees were invited to a light luncheon in the social hall put on by their deacons. Twenty-five persons from our congregation attended the beautiful service of hope and joy which so reflected the life of Dennis Saylor.

Laura Miller

Advent festivities continued

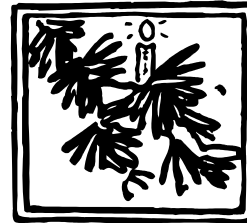
(Continued from page 1)

Handel's "Messiah" will be performed on Sunday, December 5 at 7:00 P.M. in Brown Chapel of the Point Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive, San Diego.

A two hundred member choir, with orchestra, will present Handel's work and the concert is free!

Cynthia Colbert and Betty Judy-Hylton are in the choir.

The Christmas Eve Service will begin at 9:00 P.M. and promises to be a warm and wonderful service. Communion will be celebrated, traditional hymns will be sung, and the service will close with the



Christmas Eve.

lighting of individual candles while *Silent Night* is sung. This service is a blessing to all who attend so you may wish to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you this

One Christmas card to the whole church and a gift for others

You are invited to bring, or send, a single Christmas card to wish your brothers and sisters here at First Church of the Brethren of San Diego a "Happy Holiday Season."

The cards will be displayed on a specially marked bulletin board



for Christmas cards in the sanctuary.

In this way we can save the cost of cards and postage,

plus save the use of fuels in their production and delivery, and the

energy to recycle them.

It is hoped that the money you save on cards will be donated to a worthy cause, we recommend for your consideration our outreach ministries.

Stewardship Dinner

What is in the book?
What can you do with Grandma's
Iye soap? Who are God's Guys?
Do you really know the dietary
laws? What are the Joyful Singers
so joyful about?
Pharaoh Pharaoh Oh Baby Yeah
Yeah Yeah???

What was it like when we were
building this church?
Where is Brethren Park?
What happened to the beautiful
cake that Jackie Merrow made for
the Kick Off Dinner for the Build-
ing Fund? OH MY!!!!!!s
George Walker Scott spoke at our
dinner and gave us each work

gloves with money in them and
told us to put our money to work.
By the way, he let us keep the
money but asked for the gloves
back as they were harder to come
by.

If you attended the Stewardship
Dinner on November 14th you
know the answers to these and
many more questions. If you did-
n't, you missed a delicious Lasa-
gna dinner prepared and served by
The Rick Pearson Family and a
great Talent/no talent show organ-
ized by Cynthia Colbert.

One of the highlights of the eve-
ning was the viewing of some

films that were taken by Avery
Merrow during the time we were
building the Church. We saw old
friends and ourselves, looking
very young I must say, and many
memories of that time were
shared.

For the coming Church Year we
are asked to pledge at least one
percent more that we have been
giving this year for the support of
the Church and it's programs.
Please consider this with your
family. Just 1% more. How about
it?

Audrey Shaw

Pastoral Search update

The Committee members are:
Cheryl Old (Chair), Aleta Stern
(Church Liaison), Jason Stern, Pat
Perry, and Pearl Hartz.

The Committee has sent the
church profile to Bryan Boyer,
District Executive. The next step
will be to receive pastoral profiles

from the District and review them
for potential matches with our
congregation. The process is very
time consuming. It may take more
time than one would think to re-
ceive profiles to review. Please be
assured that the Committee you
have chosen is working diligently
on finding a new pastor, but also

keep in mind that the process will
take time and may not happen as
quickly as one might think.

Please look to the monthly Advo-
cate for updates on how the search
is going and please keep the Com-
mittee, the Church, and the entire
search process in your prayers.

Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 19

It's Christmas Caroling time
again!

Warm up those vocal cords, and
get ready to spread the joy and
cheer of Jesus' birth to brothers
and sisters who will surely appre-
ciate the Christmas cheer! On
Sunday, Dec. 19, we'll eat lunch

at the Church then set forth
to one or more convalescent
homes in the area, and one
or more shut-ins' home(s).

Everyone's voice is wel-
come and encouraged, the
more the merrier—join on
in!



Please check with Linda
Williams (619) 583-8454 or
call the Church Office (619)
262-1988 for more details.

The Church Organization

CHURCH ORGANIZATION July 2004 to July 2005

CHURCH BOARD

Chairperson: Byron King: 2006
(2nd term)

Nurture Commission

Chair: Mary Aeschbacher 2007
(2nd term)

Co-Chair: Sylvia Nielsen 2006
(2 term)

Margie Himes 2007 (1st term)
Jacques Shadley 2005 (1st term)

Stewards Commission

Chair: John Mortimer 2005 (1st
term)

Co-Chair: Audrey Shaw 2007
(2nd term)

Rick Pearson 2005 (1st term)
Alvin Stern 2005 (2nd term)

Witness Commission

Chair: Sally Kurzdorfer 2006
(1st term))

Ellis Rose 2006 (2nd term)

John Davis 2007 (2nd term)

Margi Secor 2007 (1st term)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Byron King

Nurture Chair: Mary Aeschbacher

Stewards Chair: John Mortimer

Witness Chair: Sally Kurzdorfer

Ex-officio without vote:

Eldon Eller, Moderator

Jim Bowser, Interim Pastor

Cynthia Colbert, Church Clerk

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Term ending December 2004

Laura Miller, Jean McGary, Lois
Shadley

CHURCH CLERK

Cynthia Colbert 2006 (1st term)

MODERATOR

Eldon Eller, December 2004
(3rd term plus)

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

DELEGATES

Sally Kurzdorfer 2004 & 2005

One selected in June, 2005

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DELEGATE

One selected in December, 2004

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

(Nurture sub-committee)

Jim Bowser (Interim Pastor)

Cynthia Colbert (Choir Director)

Lee Albert (Organist)

Margie Himes (Nurture Com-
mission liaison)

BOARD APPROVED:

Altar Chairperson: Carmen Boaz

Camp La Verne Representative:

Roberta Mortimer

Decade to Overcome Violence

Representative: Linda Williams

Emerging Issues Representative:

Open

Financial Secretary: Ardyth
Stern

Historian: Open

Librarian: Open

Memorial Fund Treasurer:

Byron King

MESSENGER Representatives:

Ken & Mary Aeschbacher

Peace Resource Center Repre-

sentative: Gordon Jacobsen

Treasurer: Roberta Mortimer

Church Women United Annual Celebration in January

The Annual Celebration by
Church Women United will
be at the Logan Temple
AME, 302 South 32nd
Street, Friday, January 14,
2005.

Registration is at 9:30 A.
M., the meeting starts at 10:00



A.M. followed by lunch at 12:00
P.M. for a fee of \$5.00.

Dr. Marion Taylor will be
the keynote speaker and
installation of the new
Church Women United
Board Officers for the
year 2005 will follow.

For lunch reservations please
call Anna Lee Harshbarger at
(619) 287-8468 by Tuesday,
January 11, 2005.

Church Women United is a
women's Christian organization
dedicated to diversity in the
church and society.

Summary of Church Board Decisions

Church Board Meeting
November 4, 2004
Albaugh Room, 6:00 p.m.

1) Members of the Executive Committee and the Treasurer met with Nadine Boyce on Wednesday, October 27. She made several recommendations to improve fiscal controls in an effort to minimize the church's liability risk and protect the church's ability to maintain liability insurance. The Executive Committee will be considering implementation of the following recommendations:

·All donations and offerings to the church should remain in a safe at the church until they can be taken directly to the bank to deposit. Volunteers should not be asked to

take deposits home.

·Two people should count the offerings, with a third person observing.

·Bank statements and checkbooks for all accounts held in the name of the church must be stored in a locked file cabinet in the church office, rather than being kept at individual's homes.

·All bank accounts should be moved to a single branch office. Adjust all statement dates to the last day of the month.

2) The board approved a budget of \$118,146 for 2005 to be sent to the congregation for ratification at the Congregational Business Meeting.

3) There will be review of the copyright licensing fee by the pas-

tor and music director to determine if it is needed.

3) The Stewards Commission requested an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the MIR Fund to make repairs to church property and/or the parsonage. It was moved and seconded and passed with no objection.

4) The board authorized Byron King to pay attorney Helmut Golz an amount not to exceed \$100 from unallocated cash reserves for preparation and filing of the Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for the First Church of the Brethren of San Diego.

Jeff and Susie Glass move their membership

After worship on November 14, Board Chair Byron King announced that Jeff and Susie Glass were transferring their membership from First Church of the Brethren of San Diego to a different Brethren congregation. Jeff and Susie have been a part of our church since 1991. Jeff served as pastor of the church from 1991 to 1997. Jeff resigned as the pastor when he accepted a position as a member of the Area 5 Congregational Life Team for the General Board.

Jeff and Susie continued to live in the San Diego area. The denomination's ethics policy for pastors requires that a pastor and spouse withdraw their membership from the congregation. Because Jeff and Susie chose to remain in the San

Diego area there were no other Brethren congregations for them to attend. With the agreement of Pastor Mitchell, Jeff and Susie continued their membership in the church. However, their level of participation in the congregation has always been limited by the fact that Jeff was once our pastor.

Because Jeff and Susie were unable to fully participate in the life of the church, it limited their growth in the Body of Christ through our congregation. After much deep thought and reflection, Jeff and Susie came to the conclusion that it would be healthier for themselves and our congregation if they moved their membership. Jeff and Susie expressed their deep appreciation to the congregation for

all its love and support over the past thirteen years, but they knew it was time to move on.

We value all the spiritual gifts that Jeff and Susie have provided the church since Jeff resigned as pastor. Jeff had an active role in the formation of the Praise Band and has encouraged the congregation to experiment with contemporary forms of worship. Susie served as the editor for the Advocate for over twelve years, helped with the coordination of youth service trips to Tijuana and served on the church board.

Our congregation thanks Jeff and Susie for all they have given. We wish them well as they continue their faith journey in a new congregation.

Brethren Christmas Eve on television; Call for poinsettias

The Christmas Eve service on CBS—during the time slot normally occupied by the David Letterman show—will be a service created this year by the Church of the Brethren.

Viewers are invited to enter into Christmas and to find the light of Christ through scripture, hymns, a sermon, and a variety of classic Christmas music and contemporary pieces performed by an array of musicians, including the 51-member choir of Juniata College, a Church of the Brethren-related four-



year college in Huntingdon, Pa. Christopher D. Bowman, pastor of Oakton (Va.) Church of the Brethren, will deliver the message.

Call for Poinsettias

We are asking for donations of poinsettias starting Sunday, December 12. Four-inch or six-inch pots are requested but any size is welcome for the holiday season. After the Christmas Eve service on Friday, Dec. 24, you are asked to take your plant home. Please remember to mark your name on the flower you bring. Let's make this the best one yet!



Peace on Earth Holiday Bazaar

The Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 11, 2004, from 10 AM to 2 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 4011 Ohio St. Items include: Greeting Cards, Calendars, Toys, Face Painting and other Children's Activities Imported Products, Jewelry, T-Shirts, Ornaments, Books and Handicrafts. Support local peace, social justice and environmental groups. For info, contact: Peace Resource Center, (619) 263-9301 or Project YANO, (760) 634-3604.

Church joys & concerns

Pattie Stern had an operation on her right leg and it is still in a cast. She thanks everyone for their prayers.

Rae Stern appreciates all the prayers for her health.

We rejoice with **Vickie Aeschbacher** and her joy upon recently visiting her parents.

Great food for all

On Monday, November 8, Nineteen supper clubbers partook of crabs, shrimp and king crab *and* bacon-cheese burgers at "Joe's Crab Shack." Thanks to Rosemary Wagner for arranging an exotic evening for this gala affair. John & Chris Davis are hosting the December supper club at Mimi's Cafe in Mission Valley on December 20th (Note the 3rd Monday).
John Harshbarger

Outstanding bills

Please submit any Commission approved bills for the year 2004 by Tuesday, January 4, 2005

December Birthdays

1	Cynthia Colbert
2	Alice Field
9	Carmen Boaz
23	Selma Kammerdiner
25	Pattie Stern
25	Hollie Stern
30	Charles Nulf

No December Anniversaries

Date	Attendance	Offering
11/7	43	\$1,975.00
11/14	38	\$3,109.44
11/21	42	\$863.00
11/28	27	\$3,038.61

Special Offering in November	
Tijuana Project in memory of Don Nulf	\$50.00
Friends Center	\$1,500.00
Evangelism Fund-Witness	\$52.00
Benevolence Church Women United	\$25.88
Benevolence Hillcrest Homes	\$50.87
Advent Benevolence	\$125.61



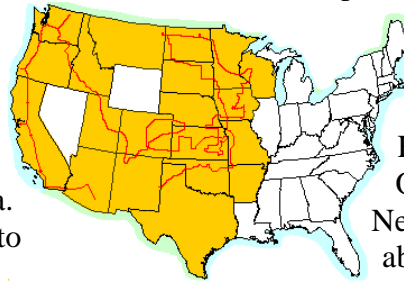
Scrip News — The Walk Across America

Due to the recent notices from SchoolPop, our Scrip supplier, that shipping fees are up and the discount rate is down, it was decided by the choir to discontinue our Scrip program. On Sunday, December 5, the last orders will be accepted for Scrip from any merchants on our current list and the Scrip should be available on December 12. No further orders will be taken, and our remaining inventory of Scrip will be sold. We currently have a limited inventory of Sears, Staples, Home Depot, and Mrs. Fields Scrip on

hand.

We thank everyone who has supported the Church and choir through this program. —Ken Aeschbacher

Brethren Volunteer Service worker Don Vermilyea is still walking across America. His mission is to visit every



Church of the Brethren parish that will accept him. He spreads the message of the Brethren, “Continuing the work of Jesus, Simply, Peacefully, Together”.

Don has walked 12,208 miles and picked up \$806.87 along the roadside. He has been given \$1808.53 completely unsolicited.

His next stops are in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. Read more about Don’s walk on the bulletin board.

Deacons (dēk’ōns) *noun*: caregivers of the congregation

Chair: Mary Aeschbacher (619) 264-1160	2004	Laura Miller (619) 583-6979	2004	Lois Shadley (858) 277-7435	2005
Ken Aeschbacher (619) 264-1160	2004	Cheryl Old (619) 281-2201	2005	Aleta Stern (619) 640-3688	2006
Carmen Boaz (858) 272-5556	2006	Pat Perry (619) 216-8630	2005	Alvin Stern (619) 698-7778	2004
Betty Judy-Hylton (858) 566-0324	2006	Jack Shadley (858) 277-7435	2005	Ardyth Stern (619) 698-7778	2004

A Rockin’ Graduation

Christine Wills earned her Certified Nursing Assistant certificate on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2004. She received this honor in front of her family, and church friends Linda Williams, Mary Aeschbacher, and Pastor Jim.

A highlight of the ceremony was

a rockin’ presentation of “The Nurses’ Blues” with Christine and colleagues dressed to the hilt in zoot suit-type outfits. It was a joyous occasion for all.

On the following Friday Christine took the State



Christine Wills

of California qualifying exam and passed with flying colors.

Congratulations Christine!



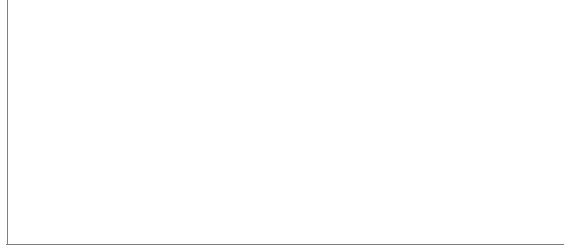
FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
OF SAN DIEGO

3850 Westgate Place
San Diego CA 92105-5113

Phone: (619) 262-1988

Fax: (619) 262-0558

Email: office@sdbrethrenchurch.org



"Continuing the work of Jesus..."

We're on the Web twice!
www.sdbrethrenchurch.org
www.sdpeacechurch.org

Great progress on the Friends Center

Significant progress has been made on the Friends Center project. Fifty people came to the June Peace Resource Center Work-A-Thon to do the planting on the slopes below the building pad.

We have been using donated steel rebar exclusively for reinforcing in the first section of foundation. Many thanks to the construction contractor at Miramar who donated the rebar.

In addition to the regular volunteers, Alvin, Hal and Ken, who are at the site every workday, there have been numbers of volunteers working this summer and fall: some from as far as

Fallbrook or as near as our own neighborhood. They have ranged in age from 14 to 84. They have come from Buddhist Peace Fellowship and Unitarian Universalist Church. Skilled tradesmen plumbers and electricians have donated their time too.

In August and September work focused on the forms for the first section of foundation and putting mulch over the slopes to control erosion during the expected rains. The rains came all at once in early October and filled the trenches turning firm soil to soft mud. Three weeks were needed to dig and dredge the mud and reset the concrete forms. The

first concrete pour was finally accomplished on November 11 to everyone's relief. The loads of mulch on the slopes did their job and there was very little soil erosion. The next step will be preparing for the concrete slab floor of the first section.

As of September 30, total funds paid out for the project: \$344,822. Balance on hand: \$134,697. Additional pledges: \$265,700.

A big "THANK YOU!" to all who have contributed their time, labor, money and materials to advance the cause of Peace and Justice in San Diego.

Ken Aeschbacher

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