

ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

The Dove Campaign is underway. Every year, a Dove Tree is placed in the lobby at St. John's Retirement Village to remember loved ones. The tree will shine in the lobby with happy memories throughout the holiday season. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the tree was unveiled in the lobby and doves were placed on the tree from donations made prior to that date. Wine and hors d'oeuvres were served at the event.

Our annual state survey of Stollwood was conducted the second week of December. We did very well on the survey. Two very minor things had to be corrected which was done immediately.

Our worker comp rate has gone down considerably. The new rate will be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The staff Holiday Party was held Friday night, December 8th, at Cracchiolo's Banquet Room. The staff really had a great time. Holiday Parties for the residents took place the first couple weeks in December.

Marilyn Mitchell, Board President



— JANUARY, 2018 —

*Thank you, Pastor Bill.*

*We appreciate your help with Pulpit Supply.*

*We admire your dedication to caring for those who need home visits.*

*We are grateful for your calm wisdom.*

*We are blessed that you are here.*

**St. John's**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
432 Cleveland Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
[www.stjohnswoodland.net](http://www.stjohnswoodland.net)

**Annual Meeting  
January 28th**



## St. John's

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
432 Cleveland Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
www.stjohnswoodland.net

Phone: (530) 662-5921

Fax: (530) 662-1621

Email:

info@stjohnswoodland.net

### Office Hours

Mon.- Thurs. 9:30- 1:30



### Pastoral Thoughts for the New Year

*"And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the Magi departed to their own country by another route." [Matt. 2:12]*

When were we last warned in a dream? I don't mean just nudged or startled ... I mean WARNED with the urgency that one literally changes direction. Now that's a warning!!!

So it is, the Magi took the long way around Jerusalem, avoiding any downtown appearance along with Herod's eyes and ears [which could be anywhere] ... and headed East.

An authentic Christmas for St. John's may also require a rigorous change of plans and assumptions. If the magic of candles enduring dimness, the drama of Christmas Eve struck their target, you may not return by the same route following.

We will be on the brink of a new year... just getting started with a search process, another year older, with a budget everyone knows is 'soft' and imprecise, with far more questions than answers about future leadership.

How shall we cope with empty pews and friends moving elsewhere?

The past cannot be altered. The future is open, and possible. We can approach it by answering:

- Who shall we become?
- What priorities are first?
- Which programs should be expanded, cancelled, originated?
- How should clergy be selected?
- Have we enough money and inspired laity to do what we must?

Such are the road signs punctuating the route by which we leave what has been, and find a new route to an old place called 'being the church'.

The Search Committee is the spot where 'the rubber hits the road'. They will wrestle on our behalf with many questions. Occasionally they should report their thinking, and ask if everyone concurs. Here is the opportunity to share thoughts and dreams and concerns for the future of St. John's UCC.

Now, rather than label all this the price of progress, or institutional chatter, or organization development .... Think of it as the way of the Wise ....

Who have kneeled in the presence of mystery

Glimpsed the Holy,

Watched the fussing of busy innkeepers and the meandering of foolish shepherds...

And who pay attention to their dreams NOT to go back by the way they came.

It matters less whether the next 10 years are better than the last, only that they, too, be faithful ones! May it be a wonderful Merry Christmas and a most Blessed New Year!

Pastor Bill

### Consistory & Committee News:

*Consistory: 6pm, Tues. 1/9, with individual boards to meet beforehand as scheduled internally.*

#### **ELDERS**

- **For emergency pastoral care**, contact point person Carolyn Reiff at (530) 400-1654.
- **Collection boxes for 4th and Hope** will remain in the narthex year-round. Toiletries and hygiene items are requested.
- **Volunteers are needed for visiting church members and others.** Carolyn Reiff is acting as point person if you would like to participate, or if you know of someone who would like visitors. A new program is being developed and will be announced soon.
- **By-laws change** The By-laws Committee recommended to the Consistory, and they approved the change: The membership of the Board of Elders will consist of 4 to 6 members, consistent with other changes made last year. This will be ratified at our Annual Congregational Meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

- In August, we purchased school supplies for 30 shoe boxes which we give to 4<sup>th</sup> & Hope families at Christmas. Other items for the shoe boxes were purchased in December. Some of our members helped pack and wrap the shoe boxes on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your contributions toward this project.
- We collected funds to purchase over 300 packets of gravy for the Christmas Baskets which were distributed on December 14<sup>th</sup> to families.

#### **ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> we officially started the Toddler Option for ages 18 – 36 months. In December we enrolled two additional toddlers with one teacher. We are utilizing the second infant/toddler teacher in the preschool while we have staff off for maternity leave. The waiting list is out until June – August 2018 for the preschool. In the spring we will be enrolling 6 additional toddlers.

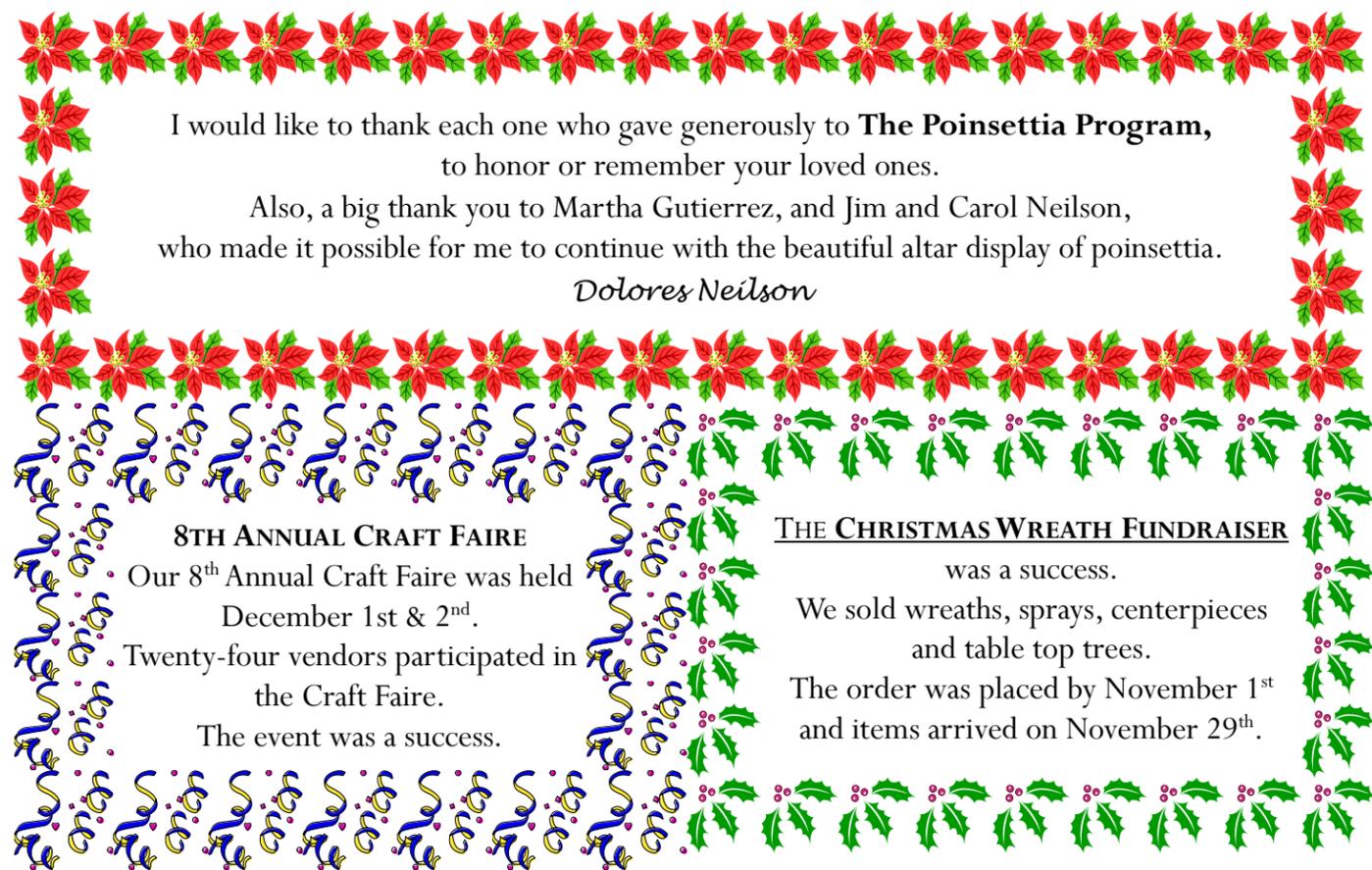
This month we sent an appeal letter to church members, prior and current preschool families and grandparents. Our goal is to build a 15-day cash reserve of \$20,000 that will provide a cushion for future operations and put us in a position to face any challenges that may lie ahead. Since the church is so dependent on the preschool for their budget, it is important that we develop a reserve. Our preschool contributes over \$35,000 a year to the church budget. So far, we have raised \$8,100 towards our goal.

Our Annual Christmas Program was held on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the sanctuary followed by a short reception in the social hall to see Santa and have refreshments.

We had a special day of hot chocolate with marshmallows on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The children wore their pajamas and watched the film "The Polar Express".

The preschool is closed December 25<sup>th</sup> thru January 1<sup>st</sup> for our holiday break.

Marilyn Mitchell, Bookkeeper/Treasurer



I would like to thank each one who gave generously to **The Poinsettia Program**, to honor or remember your loved ones.

Also, a big thank you to Martha Gutierrez, and Jim and Carol Neilson, who made it possible for me to continue with the beautiful altar display of poinsettia.

*Dolores Neilson*

**8TH ANNUAL CRAFT FAIRE**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Faire was held December 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Twenty-four vendors participated in the Craft Faire.

The event was a success.

**THE CHRISTMAS WREATH FUNDRAISER**

was a success.

We sold wreaths, sprays, centerpieces and table top trees.

The order was placed by November 1<sup>st</sup> and items arrived on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**The Christmas Fund**

We donated \$310.00 to our UCC's

**The Christmas Fund: for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund.**

Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards.

**REMEMBER— ST. VALENTINE'S DAY WILL BE HERE SOON!**

The Lifesavers sell **SEE'S CANDY** at our gift shop at **St. John's Retirement Village**.

We also sell greeting cards, stuffed animals, jewelry, hand-made items, puzzle/word find books, jam, honey, etc. In addition, we will have a lot of holiday items available for sale.

We are open 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If you need candy at the last minute you can call Marilyn Mitchell @ 908-1676.



The **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** to pay off the loan on our Cleveland House has been a great success.

We have raised \$21,400 since May.

The loan balance as of December 20<sup>th</sup> was about \$8,200.

We paid off the loan on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> by using General Fund ministerial salary savings.

I want to thank you all for your generous donations to make this a successful campaign.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Mitchell, Treasurer



**Stewardship Drive**

As of December 15<sup>th</sup>, we have received \$51,930 in pledges with an additional \$13,500 potential pledges from members who pledged last year. If you would like to continue to pledge what you pledged last year, you can still turn in a pledge card or contact me at 908-1676. Thank you for your ongoing support of our church ministry.

Marilyn Mitchell, Treasurer

*"Glorifying God by Demonstrating the Love of Christ according to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit."*

**PURPOSE**

To glorify God in thought, word, and deed.

**MISSION**

To demonstrate the love of Christ in our community by welcoming and befriending all people, encouraging spiritual growth, and trusting and sharing God's grace.

**VISION**

Guided by the Holy Spirit, To be a vibrant, diverse, and dynamic Christian community, known for our wide welcome, thoughtful faith, resilient hope, and extravagant love.

# January 2018

St. John's United Church of Christ Woodland, California

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder of the Month Carol Neilson	1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3  2pm Jr. Choir Practice  5:30pm Potluck and Adult Study	4  6:30pm Choir Practice	5	6 Hazel Peterson's Birthday
7	8	9  6-9:30pm Consistory	10 Virginia Plocher's Birthday  2pm Jr. Choir Practice  5:30pm Potluck and Adult Study	11  6:30pm Choir Practice	12  Movie Night 6:15	13
14	15 <i>MLK Holiday</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	16  5:30-7:30pm Adult Fellowship	17 Noon Altar Light Deadline  2pm Jr. Choir Practice  5:30pm Potluck and Adult Study	18  6:30pm Choir Practice	19	20
21	22	23	24  2pm Jr. Choir Practice  5:30pm Potluck and Adult Study	25  6:30pm Choir Practice	26  Movie Night 6:15	27
28  Annual Meeting after Coffee Hour	29	30	31  2pm Jr. Choir Practice  5:30pm Potluck and Adult Study	6:30pm Choir Practice		Super Bowl Eve

## Coming in February

- 1st Bodie Thorpe's Birthday
- 10th Bunco- 1:15 in the Social Hall
- 13th Boards and Consistory Meeting
- 14th Ash Wednesday- Lent Begins  
St. Valentine's Day  
Alan Gutierrez's Birthday  
Barbara Massa's Birthday
- 18th Youth Minister visit
- 19th Presidents Day Holiday
- 20th Deadline for March Altar Light  
Adult Fellowship
- 23rd Braeden Bourke's Birthday
- 25th Diane Krause's Birthday
- 25th Deadline for September Altar Light  
Adult Fellowship
- 26th Chuck Mitchell's Birthday

## Coming in March

- 4th Chuck and Marilyn Mitchell's Anniversary
- 5th Anna Germeshausen's Birthday  
Alyssa Bourke's Birthday
- 7th Kathy Rahn's Birthday
- 9th Heather Albin's Birthday
- 11th Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 12th Paula Castles' Birthday
- 13th Boards and Consistory Meetings
- 14th Deadline for April Altar Light
- 19th Mike Truitt's Birthday
- 20th Adult Fellowship
- 21st Seth Albin's Birthday
- 24th Jim and Carol Neilson's Anniversary  
Doug Castles' Birthday
- 25th Palm Sunday- Children's Musical  
Beginning of Holy Week
- 30th Good Friday

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
IN THE SANCTUARY  
10 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE CHAPEL  
1:15 P.M.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE SOCIAL HALL  
8:30 A.M.