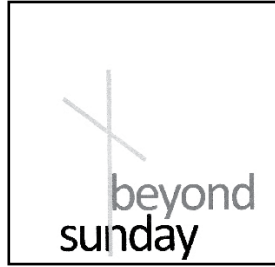


Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
P.O. Box 222811 Carmel, CA 93922



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A Newsletter for the Community
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Contact Information:

Write: P.O. Box 222811
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Visit: 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.
Call: 831-624-8595
Fax: 831-624-8927
Website: ccmp.org

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Dates to Remember

Wed. Jan. 19
Women's Assoc.
Installation Luncheon
Noon
at Rancho Canada

Friday, Feb. 3
Art Classes resume

beyond
sunday

January 2012

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Welcome

Our Mission

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. We are a non-denominational Christian church, 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.

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 faith 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 independent, non-denominational and democratic.
- We joyfully support our mission with time, talent and treasure.

Please Keep In Your Prayers

Prayer is a powerful tool during times of special need and joy. You are invited to pray for the following people.

- Sallie Conn
- Elaine Coon
- Laurie Jackson
- Margaret Lenck
- Kimmie Jo Winslow

Next Newsletter Deadline: January 22

Inside

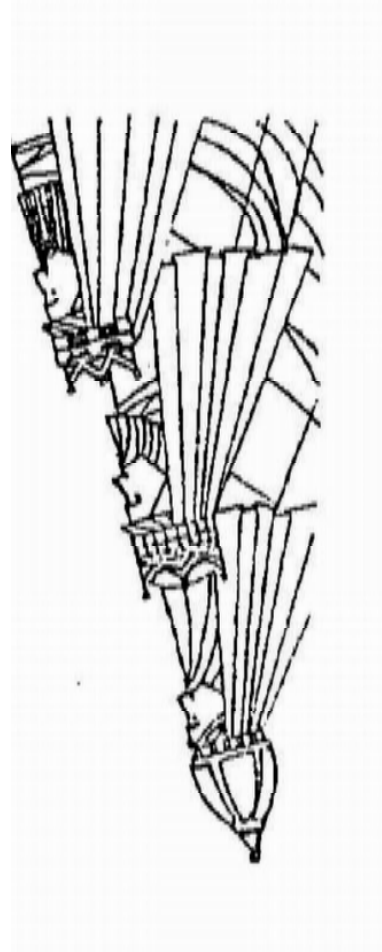
Minister Pg. 2

Birthdays Pg. 3

Art Classes Pg. 4

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THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

*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.*

[Howard Thurman]

Dear Friends,

Elizabeth Wrightman

I'd like to share the following with you. It's called "A Parable for Teachers." But let's not define "teacher" too narrowly. Parents and grandparents are teachers too. We are blessed to have GODLY PLAY at our church, which is a great example of the third approach described here.

I took a little child's hand in mine. She and I were to walk together for a while. I was to lead her to the Father. It was a task that overcame me, so awful was the responsibility. And so I talked to the little child only of the Father. I painted the sternness of His face, were the child to displease Him. I spoke of the child's goodness as something that would appease the Father's wrath. We walked under tall trees. I said the Father had power to send them crashing down, struck by His thunderbolts. We walked in sunshine. I told her of the greatness of the Father, who made the burning, blazing sun. And one twilight we met the Father. The child hid behind me. She was afraid. She would not look at the Father's face. She would not take the Father's hand. I was between the child and the Father. I wondered. I had been so conscientious, so serious.

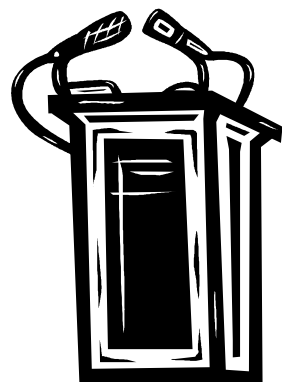
I took a little child's hand in mine. I was to lead him to the Father. I felt burdened with the multiplicity of things I had to teach him. We did not ramble. We hastened on from spot to spot. At one moment we compared the leaves of the different trees. In the next, we were examining a bird's nest. While the child was questioning me about it, I hurried him away to chase a butterfly. If he chanced to fall asleep, I wakened him, lest he should miss something I wanted him to see. We spoke of the Father – oh yes – often and rapidly! I poured into his ears all the stories he ought to know, but we were often interrupted by the blowing wind – of which we must speak – by the sea of stars – which we must study – and by the cascading brook – which we had to trace to its source. And then, in the twilight, we met the Father. The child merely glanced at him, and then his gaze wandered in a dozen directions. The Father stretched out his hand. The child was not interested enough to take it. Again, I was between the child and the Father. I wondered; I had taught him so many, many things.

I took a little child's hand to lead her to the Father. My heart was full of gratitude for the privilege. We walked slowly. I suited my steps to the short steps of the child. We spoke of the things the child noticed. Sometimes it was one of the Father's birds. We watched it build its nest. We saw the eggs that were laid. We wondered later at the care it gave its young. Sometimes we picked the Father's flowers. We stroked their soft petals and loved their bright colors. Often we told stories of the Father. I told them to the child and the child told them again to me. We told them, the child and I, over and over again. Sometimes we stopped to read, leaning against one of the Father's trees, and letting His air cool our brows, and not speaking. And then, in the twilight, we met the Father. The child's eyes shone. She looked lovingly, trustingly, eagerly, up into the Father's face. She put her hand into the Father's hand. I was, for the moment, forgotten. I was content.

God Bless,

Pastor Paul

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES



On January 29th, Pastor Paul Wrightman will begin a series of twelve sermons on the Spirituality of the Twelve Steps.

Using insights from the world's major faith traditions, he will explore the Twelve Steps as the vital spiritual path of our time, a path which is relevant to everyone who seeks healing and wholeness.

If you know anyone in any of the twelve step programs, please invite them to check out this series with you.

Synopsis and Scripture Reading Suggestions: three week January Sermon Series on the Book of Job

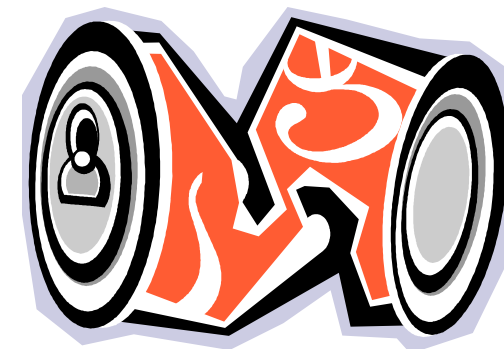
The Book of Job in the Old Testament is 42 chapters long; initially one of the darkest, most dramatic and most disturbing works in all of great world literature. Briefly the author sets up a plot for us in which Satan tells God that Job, a 'good man', only loves God and is so faithful because God has protected him all his life: given him health, wealth and status and favored his family life and friendships. God, much to our dismay takes the bait and gives Satan permission to 'test' Job on this assumption, leading to catastrophic loss on Job's part. In page after page of brilliant imagery Job continues to protest that he really is a good and innocent man. He confronts God with the injustice of permitting all these calamities. Job laments at great length, ignoring the advice of three friends and his wife. He speaks for all of us in his plea of the "why?" question. Why do 'good people' suffer and that it also seems that often the wicked (as Job calls them) do not!? Finally God, in his stunning speech known to many cultures for 2,500 years, answers Job "out of the whirlwind" (Ch. 38:1). In any Bible translation you wish, feel free to read:

For week I, (Jan. 8) Job, chapters 1-11.
For week II, (Jan. 15) Job, chapters 12-37
And for week III, (Jan. 22) chapters 38-42.

To Those Who Have Completed Estimates Of Giving

A big THANK YOU to all those who have made Estimates of Giving for 2012. Your daring-to-be-somewhat-specific has made it possible for us to come up with a better-than-guesstimated budget for the coming year. Thanks to your generosity we are able to offer 2% raises to all our staff this year – small, to be sure, but highly symbolic of the firmer financial footing that our church is now experiencing. We were also able to earmark some funds for Pastor Paul's retirement. THANK YOU for getting us off to such a good start in 2012.

Cans For Careers



Our fund raiser to assist homeless men in finding employment is in full swing for "I Help" men. You can leave your rinsed and crushed cans in the marked containers located in the area outside our front entrance. Our thanks to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District for donating the containers and to their Public Education & Recycling Manager Jeff Lindenthal for his support of our program.

Interfaith Outreach of Carmel

The Interfaith Outreach of Carmel has been selected again to be a non-profit supported by the Monterey Co Gives! program. IOC had a tremendous year raising money in 2011 and made \$50,000 in grants in its first year.

Their benefit shop "Joining Hands" is located at 26358 Carmel Rancho Lane, in Carmel. All proceeds from the shop go to address housing needs in Monterey County. Give your support by dropping by to purchase, donate or volunteer. Shop hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Wednesdays they are open until 6 p.m. Fridays till 7 p.m. and Sundays 12-4! To find out more about donating or volunteering, please contact the shop at 831-293-8140 or the shop manager at mspa83@aol.com.

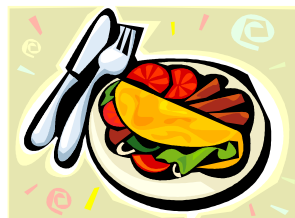


Women's Association Installation Luncheon Thursday, January 19, 2012 11:30 a. m,

Rancho Canada Golf Club

Choose between Cobb Salad OR Sand Dabs

Tickets available from Pam Klaumann at \$19.00



Church Women United



All women of our church are invited to a meeting of Church Women United on Friday, January 6, at Hays CME Church, located at 625 Elm Street, in Seaside. They will start with a coffee social at 9:30 followed by a program regarding Human Rights called "Embracing Our Oneness."

If you have any questions, please talk to Kathy Warthan, our CWU representative.

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets quarterly (or more frequently, as needed) and serves as an intermediary between the congregation and the pastor. The members of the committee are: Peggy Kuck (chair), Joanne Anderson, Jane Heider, Tami Sojka, Lisa Sargisson, and Kathy Warthan. This is the same group that had served on the Pastoral Search Committee when Paul joined us. Members and friends are encouraged to share any relevant praises or concerns with a committee member so they can be addressed with Paul at a meeting.

Women's Workshop and Prayers and Projects

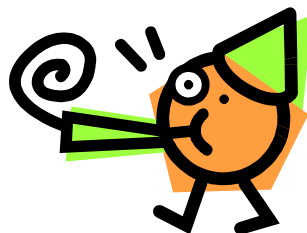
Pam Klaumann

I personally invite you to join the Wednesday Workshop every week from 9:30-11:30 am.

We will gather for prayer, then create projects together. I promise to make this morning worth your time. Come enjoy the fellowship, as we plan our year of Woman's Association fund raising. Your involvement is vital to our success.

We will continue making prayer shawls, gather items for our Rummage Sale and make new creations for our fall Harvest Fair.

An evening gathering once a month will also be available. Phone Pam at 624-8759 for questions.

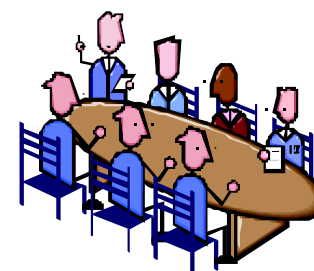


HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Women's Association

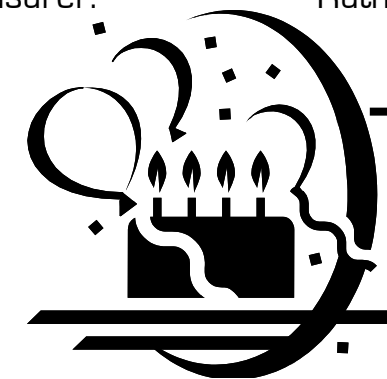
OFFICERS 2012

President:	Kathy Warthan	372-7510
1st Vice Pres:	Janice Griffin	601-1462
2nd Vice Pres:	Lisa Sargisson	624-3920
3rd Vice Pres:	Pam Klaumann	624-8759
Secretary:	Jane Heider-Samuels	626-8417
Treasurer:	Ruth Elmgren	620-1272



Birthdays in January

3rd	Ruth Elmgren	24th	Janet Coyne
11th	Kellin Chaffin	25th	Al Blackstone
12th	Marilyn Hyde	17th	Marcella Stull
"	Larry Hayes	30th	Ada Morton



Artwork on Display

Our Pastoral Associate, the Rev. Elizabeth Wrightman, is being featured in a two-person show at the gallery/bookstore/gift shop of New Camaldoli Hermitage in Lucia, 22 miles south of Big Sur. The show began just before Christmas and will continue until early March. It includes four large paintings: Annunciation, Jesus' Farewell, Lilies of the Field, and A Tendency to Entertain Ghost Dogs; five medium-sized paintings: Burning Bush, Jonah & the Whale, Jesus' Dream, What Is It Like? (the Parable of the Yeast), and I Lift Up My Eyes unto the Hills; two fiber-arts pieces: Palm Sunday and Peace I Leave with You, and a drawing using colored pencil: Spectral Fox.

This venue is open seven days a week from 9 to 5, with a break for lunch.

Elizabeth is getting ready for a one-person show at the Gallery of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon, which will run from the middle of March through the middle of May.

2012 Board of Governors

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers for the 2012 Board of Governors which were duly elected by the membership at the Quarterly Meeting on Nov. 20.

President:	Richard Gray
Vice Pres.	Carolyn Gray
Secretary	Jane Heider
Treasurer	Patricia Henry
Fellowship	Liz Tarozzi
Membership	Mary Jane Hammerland
Member-at-Large	Debra Peterson
Property Steward	Bill Daniel
Religious Education	
Public Relations	Mary Parsons
Worship	JoAnn Holbrook
Women's Assn Pres	Kathy Warthan

Thank you to our Nominating Committee: Pam Klaumann, Larry Kuck, Carolyn Gray, Larry Hayes, Liz Tarozzi for their fine work!!

I -Help

The I Help dinner will be Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.. If you can contribute something for our meal, sign up in Woodhull Hall . A big thank you to those who faithfully support this program and to Dolores Joblon for her constant attention to this fine outreach!

Art Classes to Resume

Elizabeth Wrightman



After trying out several dates, I realize that January is not really available for me to begin the drawing and painting class again. but it will start on Friday, February 3, at 10 a.m. and run through Friday, March 9. Everyone welcome of any skill or background "level." No fees. Come once and you may find there are also a lot of materials and/or books floating around before you purchase anything... Please call or email me if you have questions. (elizabeth@wrightman.us)

From Your Treasurer

Patricia Henry

Year to Date Report

Through November	Operating Income	145,347
	Operating Expense	148,403
	Net Loss	3,056
Total Cash in Bank Accounts		17,375

Hope, Faith and Prayer from George Brehmer

Eleven days left as President of your Board of Governors – one thousand eighty-four gone. Thank you all for the opportunity. Thanks to all Department Heads and Officers for competent and affable service. Special thanks to Carole and our Members and Friends whose many contributions she integrates into the vibrant whole. Ultimate thanks for the hope, faith and prayer through Jesus that has put our Church family on a healthy path.

In 2009, following the loss of our Cedar Funding nest egg, we looked at ourselves as a church seeking New Beginnings. We boarded the New Beginnings Train. Our Pastoral Search Car, Service Car and Little Engine began rolling along. With hope, faith and prayer and prudent financial management, we were blessed to connect with Pastor Paul and Elizabeth. Sharing our values, Pastor Paul and Elizabeth agreed to board the New Beginnings Train and join us in rebirthing our Church.

Pastor Paul stepped into the pulpit in March, 2010 and has been Chief Engineer of our spiritual well being ever since. Elizabeth and Dana Reynolds joined him as volunteer Pastoral Associates bringing many uplifting services to our Members and Friends. The Board of Governors has been riding along in the Little Engine. Under the leadership of our incoming President, Richard Gray, we will continue to prudently pursue the well-being of our Church Family and the community.

As we reflect on the Christmas Season and look to the good fortune of challenge and opportunity, let us hope, have faith and pray for the continuing strengthening of our Church. Let's multiply our services to each other and to the community. Let's remember THE POWER of ONE! Each of us has the gift of "opportunity to matter" by staying on board and carrying out our roles as Friends, Members, Department Heads, Officers and Committee Members.

Thanks again and Merry Christmas.

George

