

MIRACLE PAINTING

If you've been in church lately, you've noticed the fresh new paint job on the outside of our building. A big **THANK YOU** goes to **Holy Trinity Church** for this enormous contribution to our church. Your notes, cards, or letters to the members of Holy Trinity expressing your thanks for their ministry would be appreciated.



CHURCH POTLUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005



Please join us for a fabulous feast with **Holy Trinity Church**. This is an excellent time to let the Spanish congregation know how much we appreciate their presence in our spiritual lives and the life they bring to our church building. Bring your favorite dish to share and prepare to enjoy yourself.



CHURCH HISTORIAN WANTED

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

We have some beautiful wooden, hand-made history books that are in dire need of being updated and kept current. We need an historian to record and share our rich church life not only for our future but to celebrate these experiences with our area and regional churches. We have many people willing to donate photos, newspaper articles, etc. Now if we only had someone to put it all together. Please see Pastor Reuben if you are interested in this important ministry.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

15 Madison Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 724-4517 • FAX (831) 724-5285



BELL TOWER

December, 2005

MISSION STATEMENT

We, at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Watsonville, as part of the Church Universal, are committed to Spreading God's abounding Love, Proclaiming Jesus Christ's Message through the Truth of the Gospel by Word and Deed, and Spiritually Growing and Sharing the Gift of the Holy Spirit through Involvement and Interaction with the Diverse Community in which we live. In Faith, Unity; In Opinions, Liberty; In all Things, Love.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ☞ **Outreach Special Board Meeting**
See Page 2
- ☞ **New Address December Schedule**
See Page 3
- ☞ **Miracle Painting Church Potluck Historian Wanted**
See Page 4

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

BY DR. REUBEN NEGRON

It is the season when the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus, the living Christ. This celebration focuses on four significant themes: hope, peace, joy and love. Each of these expressions celebrates and adequately conveys the liberating and empowering ministry of Jesus. During Advent, Christians prepare to receive the chosen babe who would bring hope to a desperate and a tumultuous world order, peace to a society decimated and dehumanized by armed conflicts, joy to people who have lost all meaning of life, and love to those who have been stripped of their dignity and lost all sense of being. Yes, Advent has a powerful message to be celebrated among the faithful, but most important of all, it has uplifting words, to be shared with the world; God has come to visit the people of the earth with riches to help us to appreciate our fears and failures, hunger and thirst from an entirely different perspective – a positive perspective.

Advent is a positive and healing message of a profound experience that addresses the basic needs of the aching being or soul. We often wonder why it is so difficult to get our lives to meet the demands of life. Perhaps we have bypassed the Advent experience. With all the hustle and bustle of the season, we rush by Advent without having the opportunity to discover its true meaning and enjoy its interesting

(Continued on Page 3)

OUTREACH

ADOPTED FAMILY

Thank you to everyone who brought Thanksgiving food for our adopted family. It was greatly appreciated.

This year our adopted family has an immense need. It is a family of 4 – 22 year old mother, 21 year old father, 3 year old son, and 1 year old son. When Pastor Reuben and I delivered the Thanksgiving food, we noticed the family did not have **ANY** furniture including beds, kitchen table, chairs, or sofa. Although the family is only asking for basic needs, we are trying to find some furniture for them. So far, Hugh & Joan Hill have given them a kitchen table, 2 folding chairs and an air mattress. Due to the baby's asthma, they are unable to accept any furniture that has been around pets; please keep this in mind when considering donating an item.



Their wish list includes warm clothes for each one, socks and shoes for the boys, bedding, towels, *Tigger* and *Spiderman* toys. Please check the list on the hall bulletin board for items that have been purchased. The gifts must be wrapped and ready to go by December 18th as we will be delivering the gifts and food after fellowship on the 18th.

Imagine your life without a bed or a favorite chair. This family really needs our help.

LORRAINE MATHIESEN, CHAIR

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005

On Sunday, December 11, immediately following the worship service, we will have a **short** special Board Meeting to discuss replacing the windows in the gym. Board members are required to attend; all church members are welcome to attend.



results. With each passing year, we have become more concerned with the commercial aspect of the season than with the essence of this wonderful occasion. Unfortunately, in our quest to make the occasion a perfect event, we have stripped Advent of its message of hope, peace, joy, and love, and substituted it with activities that only feed our fantasy which, in many cases, bring a bitter sweet experience. It is so unfortunate that in many homes Advent has become a financial problem, a depressing experience, a saddening moment, a hurtful event. In truth, Advent was meant to be enjoyed. It is an opportunity to discover God's empowering presence through hope, peace, joy and love, and witness His divine gifts as they unfold and guide our lives through the dilemmas and hardships of life.

Advent is a season of waiting and vigil; it's a time to expect God's gifts to take hold of our lives. How willing are we to calm down a bit and seek his gifts?

In Christ, *Reuben*



NEW ADDRESS



Jean Lewis
2063 Fressee Drive
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503
(970) 242-8153



DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- December 4 – *Peace Sunday*
Potluck with Holy Trinity Church
- December 11 – *Joy Sunday*
- December 18 – *Love Sunday*
Deliver gifts and food to our Adopted Family
- December 25 – *Christmas Sunday*
Pastor Reuben is on vacation
Pastor Ruth Ann Moran will be our guest minister
- January 1 – *New Year's Day*
Pastor Reuben is on vacation
Pastor Ruth Ann Moran will be our guest minister

