

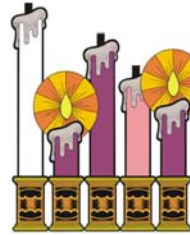
New Creation Advent Christmas Calendar of Events

**First
Sunday
of
Advent**



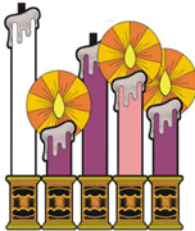
November 30
Decorate the church with banners and Advent wreath

**Second
Sunday
of
Advent**



December 7
Decorate the tree and church
(After Service)

**Third
Sunday
of
Advent**



December 14
Youth Pageant during service.

**Fourth
Sunday
of
Advent**



December 21
Advent Video and Special Music at Worship
Christmas Potluck at noon

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM Family Casual at Next Gen
9:00 PM Family Candle Light Service at New Creation

The graphic features the text 'Joy to the world' in a large, stylized, blue font with white stars. Above the 'J' is a four-pointed star with a white center. Below the text is a silhouette of a town with houses and a church. The background is a dark blue gradient.

Wassailing and Caroling

Christmas Day
10:45 Am

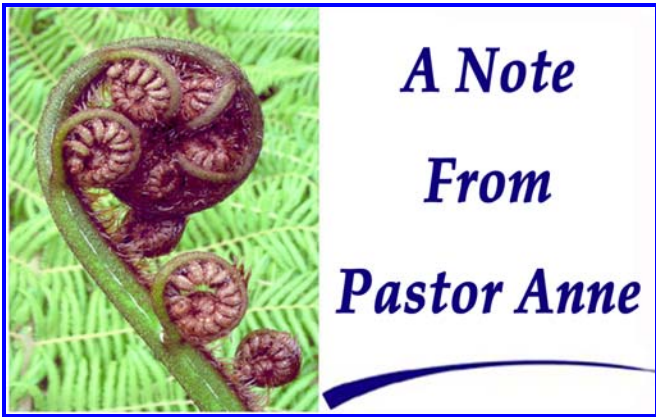
We will meet at the church.



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
7275 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose, CA 95139
408-972-9200

December 2008

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Editor: papa_rick@comcast.net



**A Note
From
Pastor Anne**

Be Not Afraid...

The angel of the Lord must be a terrifying presence. In both Matthew and Luke, as well as many other Scriptural encounters with the divine, the angel of the Lord needs to call out: "Be not afraid" whenever he or she appears – like to Zechariah, or to Joseph or Mary, or the shepherds." Be not afraid! Have you ever felt or seen or heard an angel of the Lord? Fear and trembling come to my mind as accurate descriptors of how I have felt in the presence of God.

Anxiety, fear, and terror might be accurate descriptors of how many of us are feeling in this season of shortening days and shortening jobs; shortening of light and shortening of the Dow Jones; shortening of time before Emmanuel arrives and shortening of benefits, of retirement, of health care, of education, of security, of control over our lives. In the presence of terror and terrorists, our fear is consuming. "Terror is a pall of fear that spreads over ideals and determination... Terror drives people to cower in tight, safe places." (Albert R Johnson on the new opera, "Doctor Atomic", as quoted by Herb Anderson in his paper "Living with and Through Fear")



Hope and change may be words on our lips in this post-election season, but fear, anxiety, and even terror are in our guts – that is our innermost parts at this season before Emmanuel.

"Be not afraid" is the clarion call of the angels at midnight to shepherds, and auto workers, to a 14-year-old virgin named Mary and to a young new president. Be not afraid is the clarion call to the darkness and challenges in all of our lives. Herb Anderson observes: "For many of us, 'be not afraid' seems like an unrealistic word of assurance that avoids the fears of this time. Living with fear takes courage; living with anxiety requires a willingness to keep company with many emotions; living with terror deepens our need to trust one another [as] the future of God [breaks through]."

(Herb Anderson, "Living With and Through Fear")

In the face of such fear, anxiety, and uncertainty, my hearts longs for comfort – as in comfort food and comfort songs and poems. As I write this I hear in my heart: "Be not afraid, I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest."

Ann Weems brings this word of comfort to our Advent:

GOD

God is the Question with whom we contend throughout our lives.

God is the One standing there in the closing of doors and the opening of windows.

God is the Surprising Voice that calls in the jaggedness of life.

God is the Hand that keeps the world from snuffing out the stars.

God is the Poem that begins and ends in a circle.

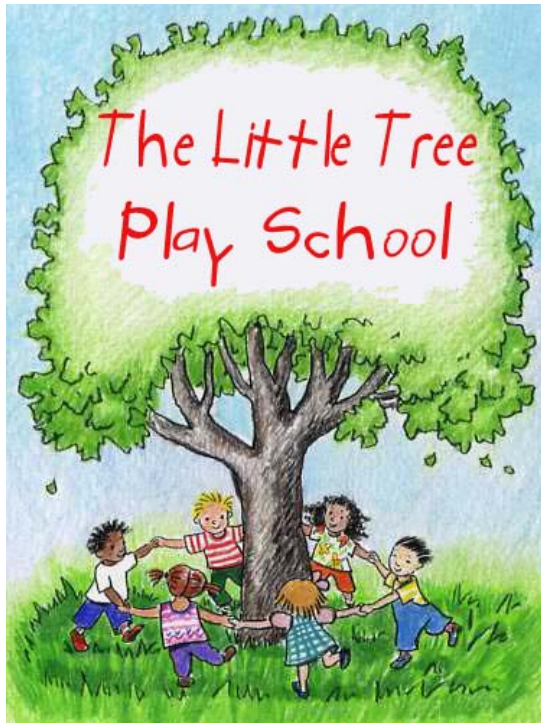
God is the Circle that neither begins or ends.

(Searching for Shalom, Ann Weems)

Be not afraid!



News In The Community



—Deb Townley, Director/Teacher of The Little Tree Play School

The Little Tree Playschool is expecting a call from licensing in the next two weeks in order to set an appointment for a visit. Once we have had our visit from licensing and a fire inspection, I believe we will have an official start date! Our analyst from licensing will provide us with the information we need about the building and the environment that will aid us in moving forward on the last of the details to be completed before we begin. It will be really important that the classroom be kept tidy and free of extra furniture or storage items in preparation for our licensing visit and also so that the space is looking it's best while prospective families come to see our space. Thank you for all your prayers during the home stretch!

BIG Thank You!



To Karen and Jim Apland, Jim Carlson, Linda Doering, Bill Seelig, Frank Ronco, Jonathan Sahoo, and Steve who worked on the Habitat home.



To Ted and Kathy Hemmig, Bob Busby who painted and installed the New Creation sign logo on the Santa Teresa side of the building.



To Ted Hemmig for rebuilding the old white cabinet in the Narthex. It was overheard that one of church family said that they would like have the cabinet in their kitchen.



To all who brought food and helped clean, cook, bought gifts, and set up for Oktoberfest and the Thanksgiving potluck at Rawls Place.



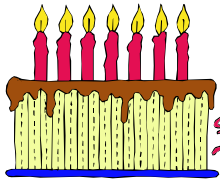
To all the residents of Rawls Place who participated.



To everyone involved with the choir for making church services and rehearsals uplifting and fun. From Linda Doering! She especially would like to thank Glenda for all her time planning and directing; Marilyn, Colby and Jay for playing; and Becky, Kathy, Frank, Joan & Gwen for singing. And also for Linda.

May Your New Year Be Blessed With Peace and Love!

CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays this Month

Karen Apland ----1
Jim Carlson-----2
Kathy Hemmig---2
Peter Ohlon-----6
Joan Ronco-----7

*Celebrating the Month
of Their Baptism*



Sally Pierce — Dustin Dimas



Doug and Christie Morse on the 19th

 Habitat for Humanity®

ReStore

HABITAT PROJECT

—Karen Apland

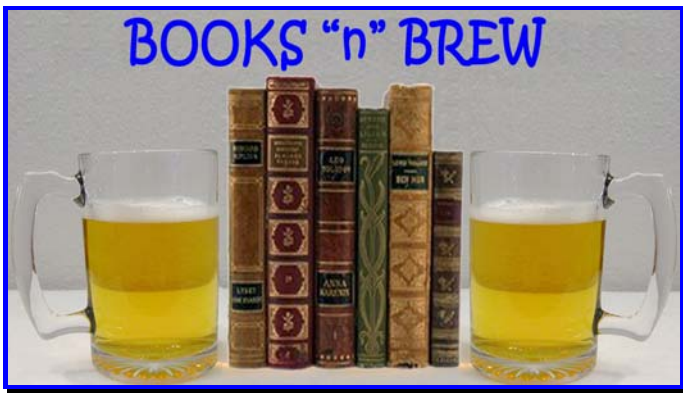
On Saturday, November 15, 8 people representing New Creation Church worked on a Habitat house in Santa Clara. Coffee and donuts were waiting for us when we arrived at 8 am. After a brief history of Habitat and a short description of the housing project we were working on, the foreman told us what jobs needed to be done and we scattered to different parts of the work site. Karen Apland, Jonathan Sahoo, and his friend Steven grabbed paint brushes and rollers and painted a bathroom and bedroom. Jim Carlson, Jim Apland, Linda Doering, Bill Seelig, and Frank Ronco worked in the kitchen installing cabinets. It was unseasonably hot and it wasn't long before we were all sweating in our long pants, long sleeves, and work boots. It also wasn't long before the painters had paint on their faces, hair, and clothes! In the small kitchen, the cabinet-installers had some tricky figuring to do at times making sure doors would open and appliances could be installed between cabinets. After lunch, a couple more hours was all that was needed to finish the cabinet work and the painting.

A very special part of the day for me was when the man who was going to be living in the house with his family – and who was working that day – told me how “fantastic” the house looked and how grateful he was for all the help. I believe we all left with a sense of accomplishment and feeling good that we could, in a small way, help a family realize their dream of a new home.

(See pictures on page 8)



There will be no Men's Poker Fellowship in December.



There will be no Books “n” Brew meeting in December. The book selected of the January meeting is *A Salty Piece of Land* by Jimmy Buffett.

Synopsis from Book Page:

A Salty Piece of Land, Jimmy Buffett brings back the character of Tully Mars, first introduced in Tales from Margaritaville. Tully is on the run from trumped-up charges back in Wyoming and makes his way to Punta Margarita in the Caribbean. He lands work as a fly-fishing guide, makes friends with a Mayan shaman, and then meets Cleopatra Highbourne, a 101-year old captain of her own schooner. She convinces Tully to help her restore a lighthouse on a salty piece of land in the Bahamas called Cayo Loco. It's an adventure that will include drunken sailors, treasure hunters, spring break coeds, and a couple ghosts. A Salty Piece of Land is a vintage Jimmy Buffett tour through his sun-baked version of the Caribbean life. BookPage says, "Buffett's newest offering is both breathtakingly beautiful and wildly bizarre, laugh-out-loud funny and heartbreaking, irreverent and profound -- easily his best work of fiction yet."



—Jay Everson

Our first movie night was perceived as a big hit. The adults watched *The Visitation* while the kids watched *Kung Fu Panda*. There was a great turnout and plenty of popcorn for all. Early reports indicated that the kids enjoyed their movie a lot more than the adults enjoyed theirs.

Despite only a few people liking *The Visitation*, the movie provided exactly what we needed to kick off our first discussion. Everyone had something to contribute. It was a lot of fun.

The consensus from the group was that we should continue with the monthly movie nights, skipping December. It was also agreed that the movie titles would not be announced in advance.

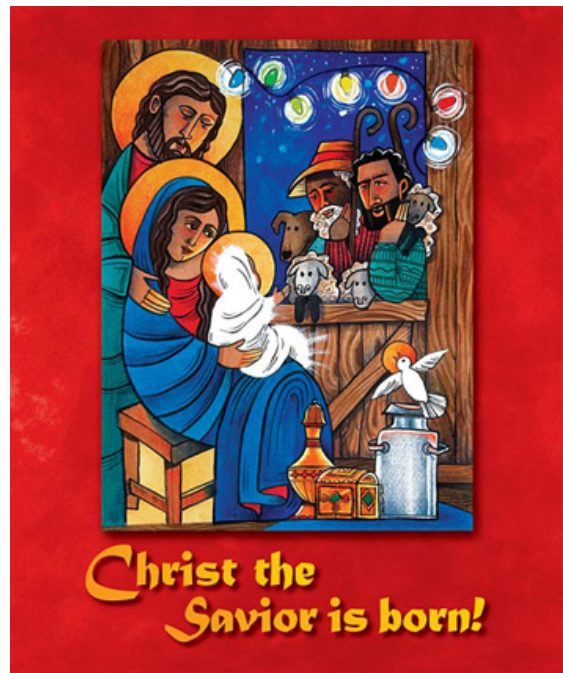
Look for the next newsletter for more details on the next movie night.

Financial Report

—Shannon Hanson, Financial Secretary

General and Loose Plate Giving For October

Date	Giving	Attendance
10-5	\$2,581.00	45
10-12	\$1,307.00	51
10-19	\$733.00	48
10-26	\$2,249.00	46
	Total	Average
	\$6,870	48



Merry Christmas



By Jay Everson

We are progressing with our Natural Church Development (NCD) efforts. Congregational participation on the teams has been low, but we are progressing none the less.

Worship & Bible Study Team

The Worship and Bible Study Team partnered with the NCLC Music Strategy Team to do a short congregational survey. From that survey the team learned that a large percentage of the congregation would be interested in attending an alternative Praise style service once a month. With this knowledge, they are reaching out to these people to try to identify what such a service would look like. Once that has been determined, a proposal will be presented to the Leadership Team.

They also learned, through the survey, that there are several people who are not currently involved in one of the bible study groups who are interested in a bible study that meets every two weeks or once a month. The team is working on ideas for that as well.

Sharing Team

The Sharing Team is working on ideas on how to educate, or assist, people in seeing God's work in their lives. They are putting together a small questionnaire and will be interviewing people with the intention of putting together something like a guidebook or an instructional video. They are also investigating more opportunities for people to share with each other how they see God at work.

Outreach Team

Sadly, this team did not get any volunteers, but Karen is working with the various people leading outreach efforts. They are investigating ways to get more new people involved. Already, through Men's Poker, Habitat for Humanity, and the Scrapbookers we have already gotten 5 new people involved. Just a reminder our goal is 6.

Preschool Team

The Preschool Team has not received a lot of attraction yet. Sandy Hanson has joined the core NCD

Church Health team and will be working as a liaison with the boards of directors to try to flush out some ideas for increasing enrollment. Since we still have not received our permit, there has been little progress.



Leadership Team News

NOVEMBER 16, 2008

—Karen Apland, Congregational Secretary

- ❖ As a prelude to discussing changes to our constitution, we reviewed our mission statement
- ❖ We identified changes to our constitution, by-laws, and continuing resolutions. Constitutional changes will be presented to the congregation and voted upon at the congregational meeting in January.
- ❖ NCD Update: congregational participation is still fairly low. Congregational preferences in music and worship are being analyzed. Ways in which people see God working in their lives are being elicited and compiled. Outreach activities for Christmas and spring are being planned. The preschool team is inactive at this time, awaiting the visit from the Licensing Board.
- ❖ The Music Strategy Team has accomplished its short term goals of creating a stable music program, involving musicians and singers lead by Glenda. Long-term goal of hiring a music coordinator is being pursued.
- ❖ Becky Everson is going to call a Preschool Board meeting to work on school advertising and promotion.
- ❖ Pastor Anne reported on our upcoming calendar of events, Christmas services, our record of contributions through the Synod, and fundraisers.

NEW CREATION WEAR

By Jay Everson

Just in time for shopping for the Holidays. Order your New Creation Wear now and, in the process, help NCLC raise some extra money. You can order NCLC Logo wear, *Fear Not!* wear and cool Youth Swag that includes designs/messages that were inspired by some of the NCLC youths.



There are tons of products available, with more to come. Currently there are shirts, caps, tote bags mugs, calendars, caps, hoodies, pillows, note cards, mouse pads, and probably a thing or two that I have forgotten about.



The best part is that for every item purchased, NCLC gets a cut. Current purchases are going towards our music program and outreach efforts. So go to <http://newcreationchurch-sj.org/wears>, check out the wears, and stock up. Once you've done that, make a note to go back later. We are working on more

designs and designing more products. Also wear and/or display your Wears proudly and let the world now about New Creation.



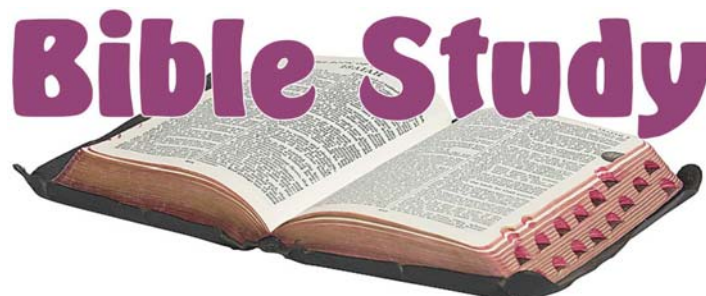
The New Creation Quilters gather on Fridays at 10:30 AM for several hours of creativeness and fellowship. Regulars would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested to drop by and join their "happy crew". Sewing skills are not required; just bring a lunch as part of the fellowship is a lunch break.



—Linda Doering

Scrapbooking will be "on holiday" in December and we plan to meet again Saturday January 3 starting at 6:45 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us scrapbooking, sorting photos or any other crafting projects.

Lkdoering@yahoo.com



New Creation is offering three Bible studies.

1. Jim Carlson leads a **Men's Bible Study** that meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. The men are studying the book of Acts. The meeting alternates between Rick Voss' and Jim's homes. The rotation for December is Dec 3 Jim's, Dec 10 Rick's, Dec 17 Jim's. **We will not meet Wednesday, December 24th and the 31st.**
2. Glenda Voss is leading a **Women's Bible Study** that meets Thursdays, at 11:00 AM at the church. The women are studying the book of Acts. If you would like join the women for fellowship and lunch after the study, please bring a brown bag lunch.

HABITAT PHOTOS (*Linda Doering, Jim Carlson, and Bill Parks submitted this months photos.*)



Above: Frank, Jim, and Linda



Frank and Bill Selig Bill is a friend of Jim Carlson who has been attending Books 'n' Brew

Below: Jonathan Sahoo



Jonathan and his friend Steve. There seems to be more paint on Steve than the walls.

Oktoberfest Photos



The sumptuous repast



Master Chef Ted cooking the brots



December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
	<i>1</i> 6:00 PM -9:00 PM AA	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study	<i>4</i> 11:00 AM Women's Bible Study	<i>5</i> 10:00 AM Folding & Fellowship 10:30 AM Quilters	<i>6</i> 1:30 PM -6:30 PM UCG																																																																																																																
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December Worship Assistants



Date	Pastor's Asst.	Commun. Asst.	Greeters /Ushers	Nursery	5th Grade Class	Jr/Sr High Class	Reader	Altar Guild
Dec 7	Matt Lawler	Joshua Lawler	Bob Busby & Sally Pierce	Kathy Hemmig	Karen Apland	In church	Eric Everson	Sandy Hanson
Dec 14	Roger Hanson	Kaylee Lawler	Sandy & Shannon Hanson	Debrianna Dimas	Linda Doering	Mimi Lawler		Sandy Hanson
Dec 21	Rick Voss	Roger Hanson	Ted Hemmig & Linda Tremoureux	Uyen Tu	Loretta Sahoo	Dustin Dimas		Sandy Hanson
Dec 24	Becky Everson	Charlotte Happel	Rick Voss & Olive Davis	Evening Service No Nursery or Sunday School			TBA	Sandy Hanson
Dec 28	Jim Carlson	Bob Busby	Bob Busby & Sally Pierce	Kathy Hemmig	Debrianna Dimas	in church	Jonathan Sahoo	Sandy Hanson

Mission Statement

To be recognized as a group of people committed to reconciliation, hope, and healing; through Jesus Christ; by inviting, nurturing, serving, and sending.

New Creation is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

"If I speak in the tongues of men and angels but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." —1 Corinthians 13.

We are all children of God and as such are all welcome in God's house. New Creation Church, committed to offering reconciling hope and healing, opens our doors and our hearts to all people, regardless of cultural background, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic or family status, gender or age. This welcome includes persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, their partners and families.



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