

December 2017  
First Congregational Church of  
San Rafael

# The TIE



## TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



The last three weeks have been a delightful whirlwind of introductions and discoveries. What a joy it has been getting to know some of you! What a joy it has been worshipping with you! I am so delighted to be here. I am looking forward to learning more and more about each one of you.

As you may know, I am a bi-vocational minister. That is a fancy word for saying I have another half-time job. I teach reading and spelling to students who struggle in those areas.

So the **schedule** we have worked out is this:

I am usually in San Rafael on Wednesdays from about 10:30 AM until about 2:30 PM. Then, I am back again on Sunday mornings for worship, meetings and/or visits. If you

wish to meet with me, just call, text, or email me and I will be happy to set up an appointment. If there is an emergency or pastoral concern, I want to hear from you.

Here is my contact information:

**email:** [sallytrain@comcast.net](mailto:sallytrain@comcast.net)

I tend to check my emails in the morning and may not get back to them until the next morning. So be patient. I will reply.

**phone:** 925-216-9706

If I am with a student, I will not pick up, but please leave a message. I will call you back as soon as I can.

Since arriving, I have been struck by how warm and welcoming everyone is. I feel like I have been wrapped in a big bear hug. I have also been struck with how much the folks here love their church and one another. It is clear this church nurtures people's hearts and souls. It is clear the Spirit is here - guiding, lifting, sustaining, and filling people with joy. It is clear that members truly care about each other and about their own spiritual growth. The dedication to ministry is impressive. It makes it a joy to be here among you.

As we move into the season of Advent and Christmas, I hope you recognize one of the greatest gifts you have been given: this church and your companions on the spiritual journey. You are indeed blessed.



## SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 21

Our congregation's **annual meeting** will be the third Sunday of next month, January 21st. The meeting will be immediately after church and be followed by our classic potluck.



## POINSETTIAS

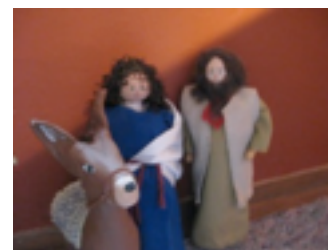


Fill the sanctuary during Christmas with brilliant color in honor or memory of a loved one. You may purchase a poinsettia by filling out the order form and a check for \$10.00 (made out to FCCSR). Order forms will be available in the December Sunday bulletins or in the church office.

## HOLIDAY SEASON FUN

### La Posada: December 10 - 25

You have the opportunity to participate in our annual tradition of inviting Mary, Joseph and Joshua (the donkey) to share your home, "to welcome them into the "inn". The beautiful paper mache family were made by our beloved previous members, Millie and Julianne.



Families will have the opportunity to welcome Mary, Joseph and Joshua the Donkey to come home to your "Inn" (La Posada) for a week of joining you in your lives and Advent preparations. They will join us for the Children's Time on December 10th and accompany us to Sunday School and to your home following the service if you wish to welcome them.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

*Please remember the following members of our church family in prayer. Pray for their welfare and growth in faith and discipleship.*



### November 26 - December 2

Anne Dannecker

### December 3-9

Bob De Haan and Nancy Sangster-De Haan

### December 10 - 16

Jackie Dema

### December 17 - 23

T.J. and Saba Dempsey, Samuel, Jakob, and Benjamin

### December 24 - 30

Mary Lou Doodokyan

### December 31 - January 6

Julie Dowling

# COME and



# Worship

with us!



**December 3**    **Isaiah 64:1-12, Mark 13:24-37, I Cor. 1:3-9**

## **A Time to Hope**

Where is God when we are experiencing desolation and how do we live in the in-between times, waiting for an answer to our prayers?

**December 10**

10 AM Worship, Sunday School, and Child Care

**December 17**

10 AM Worship, Sunday School, and Child Care

**December 24**    **10 AM Children's Christmas Pageant**

Please join us for our annual Pageant starring children of the church. You won't want to miss this fun and festive jaunt through the story of Christmas. The mostly original production will be presented by the young people of our church (with a little help from the congregation) complete with favorite carols. See **the next page** of this issue of The TIE.

**December 24**

## **Christmas Eve Services**



**7 PM** — A family service of the Christmas story through scripture readings and carols.

**11 PM** — A contemplative service of anticipation with candle lighting, Communion and music.

**December 31**

10 AM Worship, Sunday School, and Child Care

## **NEWS ABOUT KIDS**



**EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM - Church School and Child Care**

**WEDNESDAYS: 4-5 PM - After School Tutoring in the Oak Room**

**BY ORDER OF THE EMPEROR**

## **A SUMMONS TO APPEAR**

*to Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, and fellow colluders at FCC San Rafael*

WHEREAS, you have promulgated reports about an unusual rabble rouser  
who loves ALL;

WHEREAS, these reports challenge the Roman way of life, peace, and order;

WHEREAS, the assertions have caused consternation in the provinces;

WHEREAS, you testify about the earliest events surrounding this man;

WHEREAS, these reports obviously constitute FAKE NEWS  
and COLLUSION with the enemies of the empire;

You ARE SUMMONED  
by the Special Prosecutor.

You must present yourself at **10 AM, SUNDAY, December 24th**,  
You may bring notes and your fellow colluders may read and demonstrate  
parts of your testimony.

ALL HAIL Caesar!



**The Christmas Pageant Play-Reading  
with carols will be Sunday morning,  
December 24th**



## THE INTERIM PROCESS HERE ARE THE NEXT STEPS:

- ☒ We appoint an Interim Search Committee to locate and recommend an interim pastor
- ☒ We hire an Interim Pastor - **Rev. Sally Train began November 8.**
- ☐ We appoint a Search Committee -  
**The Moderator and Church Council hope to complete this task before Christmas**
- ☐ We create our Church Profile, a description of our church to be read by potential pastors
- ☐ The Search Committee will consider all potential candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will select possible candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will interview these candidates
- ☐ One candidate will be recommended to the congregation
- ☐ The congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidate
- ☐ We will vote on the recommended candidate
- ☐ We will join in worship to install our new pastor

## PILGRIM PARK NEWS

The Community Center is ready for Christmas, inside and out. Visit the center during the week to admire the lights, inside and out, the Christmas tree, the Poinsettias, etc. Coffee is generally available. Most days you will see food from Extra Food and from the Food Bank. So, come on down and get into the Christmas spirit.

Margie and Nancy are unusually busy with more vacancies than usual. Fortunately, the vacant apartments are mostly those that have been renovated.

So, once a tenant is identified, they can move in quickly. The renovation of one apartment to be fully compliant with ADA regulations continues.

Staff and directors and their spouses will celebrate Christmas and hold a combined board meeting and dinner on December 14.

Anna Chun, Nancy Smith, Margie Rollman and Francisco Galindo (Pilgrim Park's management and staff) wish all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Bob De Haan





## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### DINNERS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN RESUME DECEMBER 4 (THE R.E.S.T. PROGRAM)

Sponsored by the Board of Mission, members of our congregation will be participating again with the REST program, which feeds and shelters homeless women at the County Wellness Center in San Rafael. This is the same place that has been used in the past. We'll be preparing to serve and share Monday night meals once each month. The dates are **Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9.**

We can use your help with table set up, food dishes (we can also pick up any dish/item you make/donate prior to 5:30, if needed), food serving, and clean up. Any donation of food, help or time you can offer is appreciated.

If you can help be part of our REST FCCSR Meal Makers, **please contact Sher Ripley at 415-577-6104 or [sher.ripley@gmail.com](mailto:sher.ripley@gmail.com) with dates you are available to help** and in what way (set up, main dish, salad or side dish, desert, or goodie bags etc.). If you have a certain dish you would like to make please include that info in your message. Jackie Dema can also answer any questions and help pick up any donations.

### FAMILY TO FAMILY GIFT COLLECTION - DEC. 3



The Board of Mission will be collecting the Christmas gifts for two small families in our county that members of our congregation have provided. This important project is organized by Ritter Center in San Rafael. Ritter Center interviews needy families throughout the county and finds out what special wishes the children and adults have for the holiday. Then they provide us with that information for two small families, so that we can provide items they really

long for. On Sunday, December 3, we will collect all those gifts after worship, and members of the Board of Mission will deliver them to Ritter Center for distribution to the families.

### DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

You can leave your contributions for the Food Bank in the narthex. Peanut butter, tuna, canned soup, pasta, rice, and other staples are always needed.



## HOLIDAY CONCERTS CONCERTS CONCERTS

This advent season is filled with musical opportunities that include several of our church family as performers. And in addition, the music itself is excellent!



### Candlelight Choral Concert

**Marin Symphony Chamber Chorus**

Saturday Dec. 2 at 7:30 PM

Sunday Dec. 3 at 4 PM

Mission San Rafael

\$32

Concert includes:

Lucinda Ray, Charles Little, and Jim Turner

### College of Marin College Chorus and Chamber Singers

Tuesday, December 12 at 7:30 PM

James Dunn Theatre: College of Marin  
Kentfield Campus

Donation

concert includes:

Jeff Paul and Charles Little



### Holiday Pops Concert

**Marin Symphony  
and Marin Symphony Chorus**

Tuesday Dec. 12 at 7:30 PM

Marin Civic Center

\$20 - \$70

concert includes:

Bob De Haan, Jim Turner, and  
Lucinda Ray

## STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

Have you turned in your "Rhythm of Abundance" pledge form yet? We had a good response on Stewardship Sunday in November, but we still have a ways to go. Don't be left out of helping the great things happening at FCCSR! You can drop it in the offering plate, put it in David's Trustees Box in the office, or mail it to the church at 8 North San Pedro, San Rafael 94903.

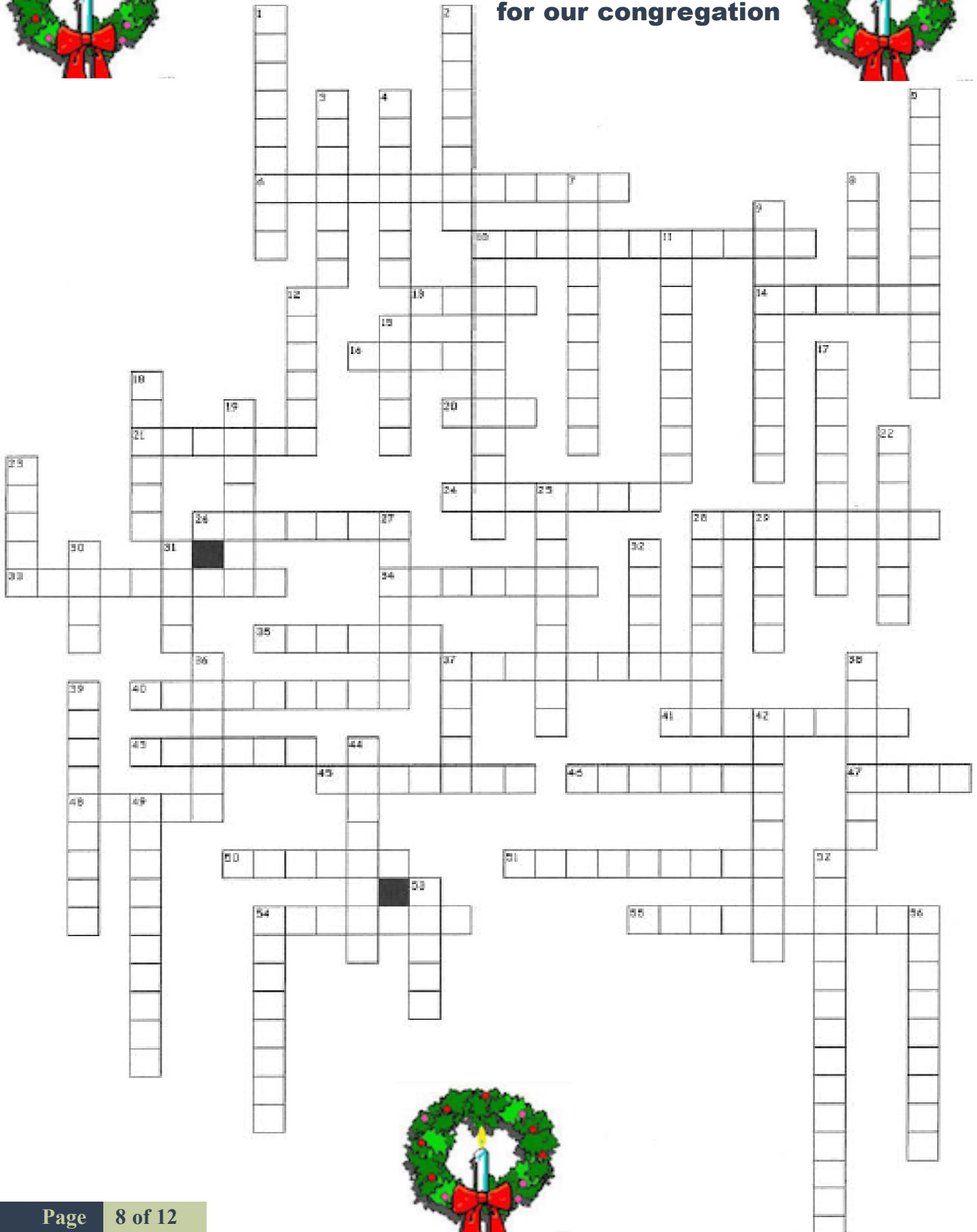
## KEEPING THE CHURCH LOOKIN' GOOD...

In November we had a Spiff-Up-the-Church Day with 10 helpers from the Ministerios de Dios Latinoamericanos and a team from FCC. Walls were scrubbed, windows cleaned, bushes pruned, pews polished, cushions vacuumed, brass polished, courtyard gum power washed, and the kitchen spiffed, all in one Saturday morning. Those who helped have said they don't like being singled out, but special thanks to all who helped the church sparkle.



# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

created by Michael Meehan  
for our congregation







## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE CLUES

created by Michael Meehan  
for our congregation



### ACROSS

6. The second gift given by the wise men.
10. House made of cookie and decorated with candy.
13. Given to those on the naughty list, or the industry politicians promised to bring jobs back in.
14. Silver strips you hang from a Christmas tree to enhance the lights.
16. King of Judea during the birth of Jesus
20. \_\_\_\_ to the world
21. What the reindeer pull.
24. No matter where you are on life's journey, you are \_\_\_\_ here.
26. Gloves without individual fingers
28. Saint \_\_\_\_ (another name for Santa)
33. Hung by the chimney with care
34. The most famous reindeer of all
35. Dairy based holiday beverage that often is spiked
37. The plant you kiss under
40. On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a \_\_\_\_ in a pear tree.
41. \_\_\_\_ Roasting on an Open Fire.
43. Island of \_\_\_\_ toys, where you would find a spotted elephant and a choo choo with square wheels.
45. Santa checks his list twice to see who is \_\_\_\_ or Nice.
46. Santa's last name, Kris \_\_\_\_
47. Jesus' mother
48. Pastor \_\_\_\_, what the interim minister prefers to be called.
50. There was no room at the inn, so Jesus was born in a \_\_\_\_
51. Red and White Holiday Treat that represents a shepherd's staff
54. Angel who announced the coming of Jesus. Often associated with a trumpet.
55. Chair of Board of Trustees, and aspiring playwright (two words)

### DOWN

1. "It's a \_\_\_\_ life" Traditional holiday movie.
2. Traditional decoration you put on a Christmas Tree.
3. "\_\_\_\_ on 34th Street"
4. Left with milk for Santa
5. Reluctant Chair of the Board of Ministry, and star of local plumbing commercials
7. The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of \_\_\_\_ danced in their heads.
8. Whose birthday we celebrate on December 25 every year.



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE CLUES continued



9. The guy who brings toys to the good boys and girls (two words), or "\_\_\_\_\_" is coming to town."
10. Over the river and through the woods, to \_\_\_\_\_'s house we go.
11. City where Jesus was born
12. Green Dr. Seuss character who stole Christmas from Whoville.
15. He had a broad face and a round little belly, that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Where Santa's workshop is located.
18. Jesus' earthly father.
19. "I saw mommy \_\_\_\_\_ Santa Claus."
22. Advent and Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ are constructed of evergreens to represent everlasting life brought through Jesus and the circular shape represents God, with no beginning and no end.
23. Santa's helpers
25. Joseph's profession
27. Ebenezer \_\_\_\_\_, known to say, "bah, Humbug."
28. Jesus of \_\_\_\_\_, refers to where he was from.
29. One of Santa's reindeer, and the hero of Valentine's Day
30. The first gift given by the wise men.
31. Singer of "White Christmas," or an alternative search engine to Google.
32. Church Moderator, whose cousin, Jack, is the personification of ice, snow and winter.
36. "\_\_\_\_\_ the snowman"
37. The third gift given by the wise men.
38. "The Little \_\_\_\_\_ Boy."
39. "Merry \_\_\_\_\_, and Happy New Year."
42. They were tending their flocks when the angel appeared to them and said, "Do not be afraid."
44. The road our church is on (two words)
49. Chair of the Board of Mission (two words)
52. First \_\_\_\_\_ Church of San Rafael
53. Jesus is known as the Prince of \_\_\_\_\_
54. Family in "Christmas Vacation" movie
56. Holiday cake made with chopped candied fruit. There is a theory that there is a finite number of them in existence, and they just get re-gifted.





## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 — Denise Walker  
3 — Jon Girard  
13 — Nancy Mahl  
22 — Andrea Farwell  
28 — Faune Towrey  
30 — Elizabeth Godbey  
30 — Gloria Wilcox

## GOLDEN GALS — DECEMBER 12

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, December 12, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**DECEMBER 19:** The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, December 19, at 7 PM.

## TIE DEADLINE for the JANUARY 2018 Issue - Tues., Dec. 26

The deadline for articles and news for the January 2018 issue of The TIE is Tuesday, December 26th. Please have all articles for the January issue at the church office by Sunday, December 24th. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Tuesday, the 26th.



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS





















### **Rev. Sally Train** – *Interim Pastor*

Wednesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Phone (925) 216-9706  
[sallytrain@comcast.net](mailto:sallytrain@comcast.net)

### **Gwendolyn Morgan** – *Office Manager*

Tuesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Wednesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Thursday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Office Phone: 415-479-2747  
[office@fccsanrafael.org](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)

# FCC Calendar DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  4 pm - 5 pm After School Tutoring	<b>30</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>December 1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>4</b>  5:30 pm - 7:30 pm BEST Dinner	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  4 pm - 5 pm After School Tutoring	<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  10 am Golden Gals' monthly meeting	<b>13</b>  4 pm - 5 pm After School Tutoring	<b>14</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  10 am Worship and CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 7 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b>  Christmas	<b>26</b>  5 pm IE Deadline for JANUARY issue	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

This calendar is also available on the church's website in interactive form. There you can click on any event to see more details. Check it out at [www.FccSanRafael.org](http://www.FccSanRafael.org).