

The TIE

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR... REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU



It was somewhere around this time of year as 1986 turned into 1987 when two of my seminary friends and I drove up from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond to a Trappist Monastery in the Appalachian Mountains near Berryville, Virginia. We arrived on the 29th or 30th of December and would leave on January 2. It was a retreat of a lifetime.

I don't think any of us had a camera with us, but the memories of that extended weekend, remain seared into my memory. I remember Brother James who was a nationally known expert on the Civil War. I found it odd that a person dedicated to the monastic life would be an expert on the Civil War. As it turns out Brother James' unique avocation found him. As he would take his meditative walks through the mountains where Virginia meets the eastern most arm of West Virginia, Brother James would find musket balls, cannon balls, knives, bayonets, and various military

insignias designating troop or rank. Brother James became curious about the artifacts he was finding on his walks and would become an expert.

Another memory I have is eating in the refectory with the Brothers. Some meals were had in silence while others were noisy celebrations of the day. The Brother in charge of preparing the meals was on the grumbly side one day as the provisions he was expecting hadn't arrived and the pantry was getting low. I vaguely remember something about having cabbage, but not enough. "Oh well," he said, "I'll make it work." Make it work, he did. Every meal was perfect in a "less is more" simple kind of way.

As part of the retreat my two friends and I were expected to attend worship for the various Daily Offices scheduled throughout the day at the chapel. We asked if there was Communion and if so, could we participate? The Brothers asked us one question. "Do you believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist?" The answer, of course was "yes." We weren't asked if we believe in "transubstantiation." We were asked about the Real Presence. As Calvinists, the only answer was, yes. In the mystery of this grace-filled meal Christ is somehow present.

The Daily offices are those times during the whole day when the community gathers for prayer.

The daily prayers begin with Matins at 3 in the morning. Then comes Lauds at 6 am, Prime was at 7:30 am, followed by Terce at 9 am. The Noonday Prayer is called Sext (Noon is the sixth hour of the day beginning with Sunrise). Nones is at

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3 pm, Vespers at 4:30 or 5 when the Monks had their evening meal before dark. The day finished with Compline at 7, just in time for bed.

I missed one Matins and one Lauds. My spirit, filled with good intentions, was totally willing, but my body said, "Absolutely not today." The chanting of the Monks was uplifting and mesmerizing, allowing body, mind, and spirit to be touched by the Sacred Other. In the singing and the chanting, I wondered if God was brought low to me, or if it was me who was lifted to a sacred otherness? Perhaps both.



When I add up all my memories, I remember there being a sense of timelessness to that weekend as 1986 turned into 1987. As our friends and colleagues back at the seminary were celebrating the New Year with beer and soda and pizza and holiday noise makers, there was none of that at the Monastery in Berryville, Virginia. There was a timeless rhythm that focused and centered on Jesus Christ and the gathered community at worship, prayer, and a life together.

I'll see you as we gather for the season of Epiphany as the revealing of Jesus Christ continues.

Peace, *Pastor Barbara*



SAVE THE DATE: FEB. 5 AT 11 AM

Our congregation's **annual meeting** will be the FIRST Sunday of February, the 5th. The meeting will be immediately after worship.

Don't miss this important meeting. It is the time when we briefly reflect on the past year, vote on the 2022 church budget, elect officers and members of boards and committees, and plan for the upcoming year.

Our meeting will be followed by a terrific potluck luncheon. Don't miss it!



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



January 1 - 7
Helen MacLam

January 8 - 14
Ekhard Mahl

January 15 - 21
Michael Meehan and Jamie Cline,
Taylor, Jacob, Michal, and Tristan Cline-Meehan

January 22 - 28
Alan Miller

January 29 - February 4
Ray and Jean O'Leary



Come and **Worship** **with us!**



***We will be worshipping at 10 AM inside the sanctuary.
The service will also be available streaming on YouTube (see next page).***

Below are the scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for September. The first set of readings from the Old Testament and Psalms is called semi-continuous. These readings loosely follow each other for several weeks. The second set of Old Testament and Psalm readings is called complimentary (paired). In this set of readings, the connection to the Epistle and Gospel is a more obvious.

January 1

Isaiah 63:7-9 and
 or
Hebrews 2:10-18 and

First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 148
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9 and
 or
Acts 10:34-43 and

First Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 29
Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-76 and
 or
1 Corinthians 1:1-9 and

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 40:1-11
John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4 and
 or
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 and

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8 and
 or
1 Corinthians 1:18-21 and

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 15
Matthew 5:1-12



ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY

We are also providing our Sunday worship service streaming on YouTube at 10 a.m. You can use either your computer, your cell phone, or your tablet. See below.

Link to join all church Zoom meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEvWXF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

Meeting ID: ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

Call in number **1-669-900-6833**

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS NOW LIVE ON YOU TUBE

We broadcast live Sunday mornings on YouTube. Our channel address is:

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbqlXLjsBEmjdGuoOKnOykA>
- Then click on videos->live
- Subscribe and each week you will get a direct link.

We will also post a direct link each week in the What's Happening? email.

The whole service unedited will be available for a few days; then an edited version to include just the sermon will be posted.

If you are having trouble getting connected, email Knopf.david@gmail.com

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

Jan. 10: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, Jan. 10, at 12 noon.

Jan. 17: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on **Tuesday**, Jan. 17, at 7 PM.

Jan. 18: The Church Council meeting will be on **Tuesday**, Jan. 17, at 7 PM.



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 15

If you are chair of a Board or Committee, your annual report is due on January 15. Please email it to Amy in the church office by then:
office@fccsr.org

MODERATOR'S REPORT



As we put 2022 behind us, we prepare for the new year with open arms. A brief synopsis of 2022 starts with us having services back in church, with our Board of Trustees taking care of making sure that the air is purified (those who attend the service at the church have seen the air purifiers that are scattered throughout the church), and making sure fresh air is brought from the outside during the service.

Pastor Barbara and Music Director Gerry Grosz continue to do a marvelous job of bringing us spiritual lessons and music. For those of you who are not able to make it to the church in per-

son, David Knopf is live-streaming the service and has set up a YouTube presentation of the service.

The Board of Trustees has been diligently working on a budget for the new year, so I want to remind people that, if they have not already done so, to please submit your planned tithing to the Board of Trustees either by email or on the forms I provided for the 2023 (the forms can also be left in the church office or in the mailbox that's directly outside the office door). On January 18 the Church Council will finalize the budget that will be proposed to the congregation at the annual meeting which will be February 5, 2023.

Speaking of budget, we are ending 2022 with a slight surplus due to the diligent efforts of the Trustees. YEA!

It is that time where we select our nominees for the various boards and council for next year. If there is a specific position you would like to fill, please be proactive and bring it to my attention or to one of the council members' attention.



Clear your calendars for the annual meeting on February 5. The meeting will be followed by a pot luck lunch. We will have a live feed via zoom for those who cannot make it to the church.



May everyone have a blessed 2023 full of love and prosperity.

Louis Frost, Moderator

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE FOR OUR 2023 CHURCH BUDGET!



Still trying to decide about your New Year's resolutions for 2022? We need more pledges in order to meet our budget for the upcoming year. You can email Val Sherer to let her know the amount you want to pledge:
Valpub@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IN FOUR PARTS

Usually we think of the Christmas story as having the shepherds gather round while the magi kneel with their treasures. It sure seems crowded! Since Luke and Matthew tell very different stories as preludes to their gospels, we are presenting their accounts separately.

This year in December we first showed Luke's version, emphasizing Mary's devotion and social justice in her Magnificat. The second week we saw the angels announce Christ's coming, first for the lower classes such as shepherds, and we saw the shepherds' enthusiastic response.



In January (January 1 and January 8), we will show Matthew's version with Joseph's dream. On Epiphany we remember the Magi's visit, possibly as much as two years after the birth of Jesus. Matthew links his version to the slavery and liberation from Egypt, and Jesus as the new Moses who is more important than Caesar.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR RITTER CENTER FAMILY-TO-FAMILY GIFT CARD COLLECTION



We collected a total of 25 gift cards for needy families. The gift cards were for Target and Safeway stores, and they were distributed by Ritter Center to families in San Rafael.

Thanks so much for your generosity! Wow! That's a total of \$725 to brighten the holidays for others in our community.



REMEMBER THE MARIN FOOD BANK



Please keep helping us stock the pantry at the Marin Food Bank. Please continue to bring in non-perishable food items - peanut butter, canned goods, rice, cereal, canned meat. Please deposit them in our Food Bank barrel. Remember that people need food all year round!

Thank you for your generous support!

BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

PLEDGING

Thanks to all who pledged this year. In 2022 we received more than originally pledged so we will not have to start the year with a deficit.



Next year we anticipate a deficit. Utilities have increased substantially, we now have dedicated staff, and we continue to have significant building and landscaping costs.

We have raised the rent on our more substantial renters but still have a ways to go to deal with our budget if we are going to avoid using our reserves.

Treasurer Caryl Hodges and Pledge Secretary Val Sherer will present complete reports in the Annual Meeting on February 5th.

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Worship In December

The Advent season and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were filled with messages of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and retelling of the Birth of the Christ Child, God Incarnate.

- Thank you to Pastor Barbara for worship leadership, planning and preaching.
- Thank you to Amy who keeps everything running smoothly.
- Thank you David for preparing the “pageant in four parts” and to the congregation members who took on roles to dramatize the scriptural Christmas Story (Annie, Caran, Julie, Lucinda, Kristi, Louis, James, Rebecca, Will).
- Thank you to the choir and Gerry for filling our worship with music and song and leading us in Carol hymns throughout Advent.
- Thank you again to David and Bob Spofford, our “Tech Team” for sound and recording.
- Thank you to Caran, Jackie, Caryl, Annie, David and Cathi for spiffing up and decorating the sanctuary.
- Thank you to Bob De Haan for the creation of our beautiful cross and providing the poinsettias that have graced it every year since then.
- Thank you to those who lit the Advent wreath candles (Jackie and Caran, Miki and Anice, James and Caryl, Annie and Robbie).
- Thank you to David for the star and the new banner and the exquisite playlist and our “fireplace” for our cozy midnight Christmas Eve meditation time.
- Thank you to all who welcomed the “Posada” Holy Family into your home.
- Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias in honor of loved ones.

Thank you to each one of you who joins together in worship in person or on Youtube and sends cards, calls, visits, provides refreshments, rides, housing, and hugs allowing God to speak to us and through us to one another with the message of Love that binds as the Church Family.

Worship In January

Jan. 1, New Year’s Day: The Rev. Kristi Denham returns to preach, and our scripture pageant of the Christmas Story will continue with Joseph’s visitation by the Angel.

Jan. 8, Epiphany: The final dramatized scripture of the Christmas Story will tell of Herod and the Magi.



Community

Our Posada Tradition continued from Christmas week to New Year with visitations to a number of households. It is delightful and moving to read the entries in the meditation journals from members who recorded their experiences in prose, poetry or children’s artwork, having invited the Holy Family into their homes.

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- **Refreshments:** Please sign up for setting up coffee and cookies for after worship. Our Community Time is invaluable as a time to connect informally after worship. Coffee and cookies are purchased or you can provide a simple treat. Caran, Jackie, or Cathi will be happy to instruct you in the simple coffee maker set up.



- **Do you hear The Call?** The Board of Ministry has an opening for a new Chairperson for 2023. Responsibilities include leading monthly meetings and attending the Church Council monthly meetings.

Poinsettias were given in honor and/or memory of:



- In memory of our Fuller and Knopf loved ones from the Fuller-Knopfs
- In honor of Rodger Rabold from Kristi Denham
- In honor of Allister, Sean, Amy and Justin Kaufman, and in memory of L.J. and Sue Cox, Teresa Tompkins, Edward and Miriam Hodges, David Hodges, Edward Hodges, Jr., and Barbara Hodges from Caryl Hodges
- ♥ • In memory of Hilary Spaulding and David Takeuchi from Megan Fuller
- In honor of the extended Dema family and in memory/celebration of Dorothy Trotter, the Nadell family and the Miller family from Jackie Dema
- In celebration of Love and First Congregational Church Jesus and Really Good Neighbors from Pastor Barbara
- In celebration of Peace and Love in memory of Dad and Mom from Caran Cuneo
- In honor of Kay Allerton (mother) and old friends from Sue Spofford
- In memory of Charlie Grant and John Campbell from the Campbell-Grant Clan
- In memory of Chris Siroky, Nancy Mahl, Jim Girard, Mary Moore from the Board of Ministry

Next Board of Ministry Team Meeting: Tues. Jan. 10 at noon, on Zoom

For reflection:

“Now The Work of Christmas Has Begun” by Dr. Howard Thurman

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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 — Oak Dowling
20 — Doug Shannon
20 — James True



TIE DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 2023 issue - Mon., Jan. 23

The deadline for articles and news for the February 2023 issue of The TIE is Monday, January 23rd. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, January 23rd.



Rev. Barbara Peronteau – Pastor

Tues., Wed., Thurs., 10 AM - 2 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

Cell Phone: 510-646-2372

Email: barbareau433@yahoo.com

Amy Powers – Office Manager

Monday 11 AM- 2 PM










Wednesday and Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

You can contact Amy by phone or email any time.

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

Email: office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 10 am  Worship: Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 am  Worship: Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	9	10 12 pm  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	11	12	13	14
15 10 am  Worship: Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11 am Annual Reports due at the church office	16 Martin Luther King Day	17 7 pm - 8 pm  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	18 7 pm - 8 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	19	20	21
22 10 am  Worship: Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	23 5 pm  TIE Deadline for FEBRUARY 2023 issue	24	25	26	27	28
29 10 am  Worship: Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	30	31	1	2 Grounding Day	3	4

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.