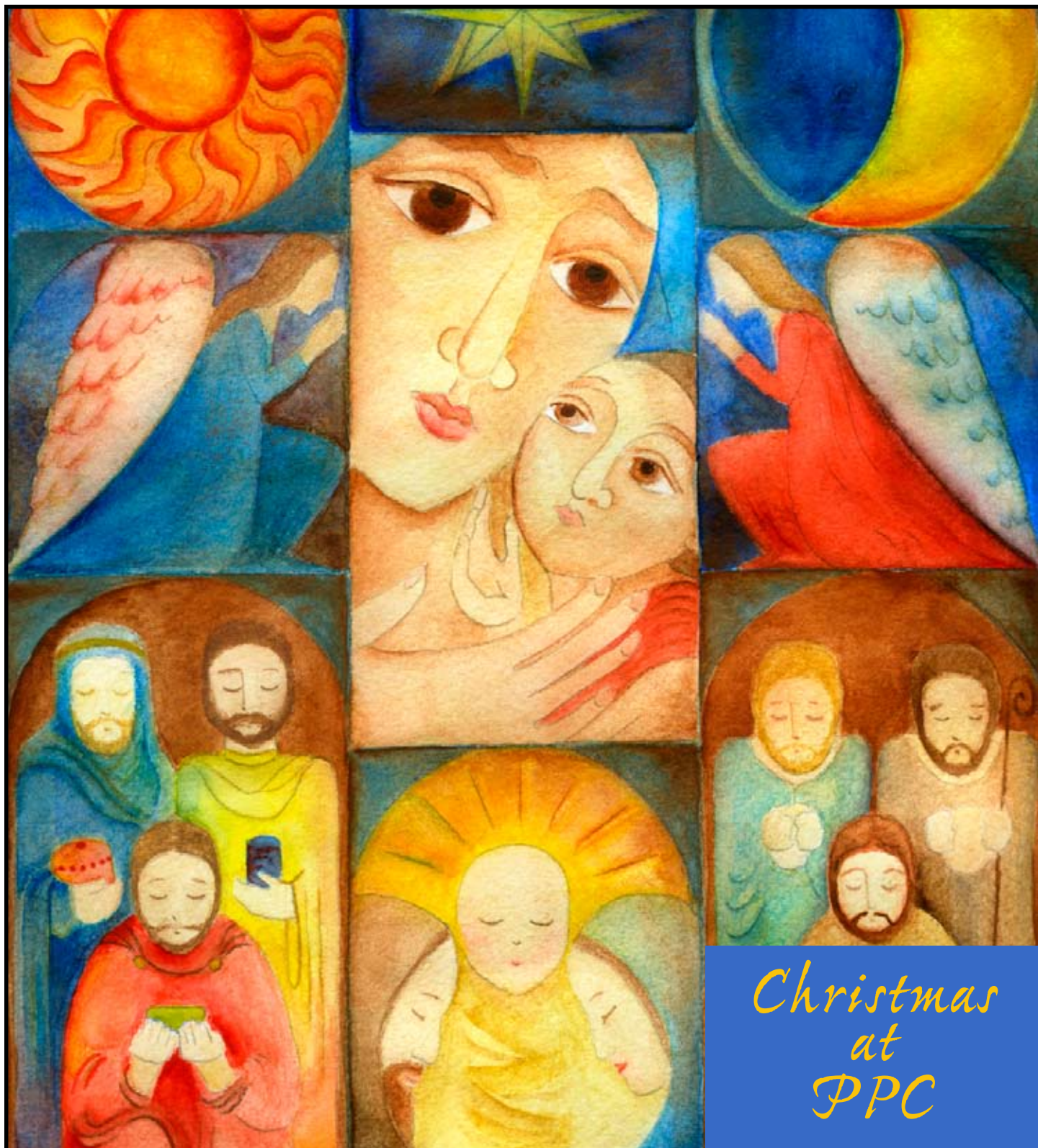


# The PASADENA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CLARION



Volume 71 Issue 4

December Issue 2011



## Pasadena Presbyterian Church

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Pasadena, CA 91101

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### General E-Mail:

general.mailbox@ppc.net

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### Office Hours :

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Closed for Lunch Hour Noon - 1 pm

### Staff:

Mark K. Smutny, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Hyun Sung

*Associate Pastor for Korean Ministries*

Art French, *Visitation Minister, Affiliate*

Tai Woan Kim, *Korean Ministries Assistant*

Jonathan Jong Il Lee, *Korean Ministries  
Assistant*

Timothy Howard, *Director of Music &  
Organist*

Carol Kaufman, *Operations Manager &  
Assistant to Rev. Smutny*

Renée Roederer, *Director of Young Adult  
Ministries*

Christine Cox, *Director of English/Latino  
Children & Youth Ministries/Admn Assistant*

Diane Hubka, *Finance Administrator*

Carol Peterson, *Bookkeeper*

Adrian Estabrook, *Handbell Choir Director &  
Director of Rainbow Choir*

Vena Luthey, *Carol Choir Director*

### Personal Interest Missionaries:

**Japan:** Ann & Bill Moore

**Thailand:** Rob Collins & Esther Wakeman

The **Clarion**, PPC's newsletter, is published monthly and can be accessed from PPC's website at [www.ppc.net](http://www.ppc.net). For members who do not have internet access please call the church office and ask for your Clarion to be mailed to you. A yearly donation of \$15 is asked of non-members.

**Submit all newsletter articles no later than the 15th of the prior month to:**

**E-mail:** Anita.Protich@PPC.net

**Mail:** Clarion Editor

585 E. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

# A message from Dr. Mark Smutny

Dear Friends,

Holding my precious new granddaughter Kylie in my arms, having her track my eyes and smile is the most perfect Christmas gift imaginable. I melt. In my arms, this precious bundle of new life renews for me the miracle of the Christmas story. God became flesh in a newborn baby. God pushed through the birth canal of our lives and became one of us. Through sweat and tears, blood and cries of joy, the God of love became one of us as a child, as a human, as a Savior. This is what true love is. Love smiled and became one of us.

Holding my precious Kylie in my arms, I imagine that for her life will be largely good. Her parents are good, compassionate and intelligent people who will love her through thick and thin. They will teach her the balance between freedom and responsibility. She will always know that she is loved.

The message we have to carry to this promising but troubled world will always endure. God became one of us in Jesus to show us that God is love. Every child and every person deserves to be gifted by that message. May you have a blessed Christmas!

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Mark Smutny

# Adult Education

## Sundays at 11:20 a.m.

### Responding to 9/11

Last sessions on Dec. 4 & 11

**Dec. 4** - Others' Use of Religious Symbols. What sense do you make of the terrorists' use of religious symbols? Do you know of Christians who seem violent in their judgment of others?

**Dec. 11** - Hope. What step might we now resolve to take to recover hope, to begin to repair the damage to the spirit of so many individuals and communities since 9/11?

### Bible Basics – The Stories of Advent and Christmas

#### Continuing through December

Each of the four Gospels tell the stories of Advent and Christmas in quite different ways. We'll explore the differences and also find out what Buck Denver and his DVD friends have to say about "The Story of Christmas." Led by Elder Robert Thomas.

### Can Islam and Christianity Coexist in Today's World?

#### Beginning January 8

A subject that was not even on the radar before 2000 is absolutely unavoidable today. Recent history has shaken established patterns and given rise to questions about the role of America, and of the Church itself, in the world.

- \* What is the impact of 9/11?
- \* What are the implications of the "Arab Spring"?
- \* What does *Jihad* mean to Muslims? How do Christians understand it?
- \* Is Christian mission to Islam possible today?
- \* What are the barriers to Christian-Muslim understanding?
- \* Are there bridges to relationships between Christians and Muslims?

These are among the issues that will be addressed in an adult education class at PPC in January. Dr. Dudley Woodberry of Fuller Seminary, a lifelong missionary and scholar on Islam, will be here for three Sunday classes on January 8, 15, and 22. More details to come.

# Christmas Events

## Saturday, December 3

### Carols, Cookies and Cocoa

Please join us as we kick off this season of Advent from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This will be a wonderful time for friends and families to get together and sing Christmas carols, make a snowman and an ornament or two while we enjoy cookies and cocoa.

## Sunday, December 4

### Alternative Gift Market

A great way to provide meaningful holiday gifts and support numerous worthy causes locally and around the world.

## Saturday, December 10

### Candlelight and Carols

See page 4 for details

## Sunday, December 18

### Lessons and Carols

English-language worship in the sanctuary features this traditional telling of the Advent and Christmas story using a blend of scripture and music.

## Happy Birthday Jesus

Our annual celebration for children of the community will be held at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. **"Elves" are needed on Friday, Dec. 17, beginning at 11:00 a.m. to help wrap toys for the children.** Sign up after worship or call the church office if you can help.

## Saturday, December 24

### Christmas Eve

**4:00 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve Worship**

**9:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service**

Music by the Kirk Choir and Van Etten Handbell Choir. Dr. Mark Smutny preaches.

## Sunday, December 25

### Christmas Day Worship

10 a.m. - Sunday worship will feature plenty of congregational Christmas caroling.

## Candlelight and Carols

### Saturday, December 10

### 7:30 p.m.

The 66th edition of this Pasadena tradition will include music by the Kirk Choir, Pasadena Singers, Rainbow Choir, Carol Choir, Van Etten Handbell Choir, an instrumental ensemble and the Sanctuary organ. The Kirk Choir's featured work will be "Veni Emmanuel" by local composer Elizabeth Sellers, and there will be plenty of audience caroling, as well. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS to this free concert that has been a Pasadena tradition for more than half a century.

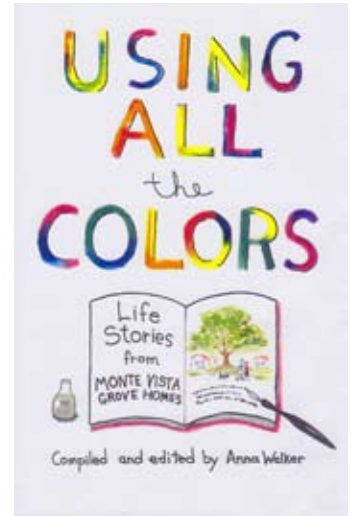
## Pasadena Singers

### Performing on December 5

The Pasadena Singers, an auditioned group drawn from the Kirk Choir and outside, will be the featured ensemble at a Holiday program for the American Guild of Organists on Dec. 5 in Pasadena's Neighborhood Church. The ensemble will sing sacred and secular Christmas music from across the centuries and around the world for this special program that will be attended by organists from throughout Southern California.

## Using All the Colors: A Journey across Nine Decades and Six Continents

The PPC congregation is fortunate to have the presence of so many retired church workers who live at Monte Vista Grove Homes in Pasadena and Westminster Gardens in Duarte. Several of the folks from the Grove participate in a weekly writers' group, which began as a memoirs class and has turned into quite a literary adventure.



Using All the Colors is a vibrant collection of stories and recollections from more than two dozen authors who have shared their experiences with the group, and now the world. The title calls to mind a box of crayons. An artist may limit herself to a handful of crayons, or dump out the whole box in all its splendor and use all the colors.

Told with rare humility and grace, the stories are historical, philosophical, humorous, personal, and at times theological, but never preachy. They resonate with the joys and fears we all have as human beings, offering a hand in friendship to the reader.

Here's just a sample of what's in store:

- In "Yikes, I'm a Seagoing Cowboy!" Bob Lodwick tells about a summer job between college terms
- Art French asks how he ended up on a red-eye to New York in "On Stage at Carnegie Hall"
- Jacquie Terpstra, whose mother was a regular Rosie the Riveter during WW II, recalls going to "A Rosie Reunion"
- "The Chinese Rugs" by Annabelle Dirks reveals the adventures of a well-traveled carpet
- Laura Monteros learns how important a few hours of time can be in "Coffee and Sympathy"
- "Lured of the Rings" reflects on the significance of rings in the life of Gene Terpstra
- Hedy Lodwick brings tears to your eyes with "Broken Wings and Lonely Hearts and Operator 373", the story of a telephone operator who went above and beyond to save a girl's life
- Carolyn French recounts the "Hurdles of Pregnancy and Children in Alaska," which includes a trip across the frozen tundra of Alaska in a dogsled.

*Continued on the opposite page*

**FREE CONCERTS**  
**WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10 PM**

**December 7**  
Elemental Harmony

**December 14**  
Tish Oney, jazz vocalist  
John Chiodini, guitar

**December 21**  
Philip Allen Smith, organist

**December 28**  
Coril Procknow, soprano  
Lizbeth Lucca, mezzo  
Steve Grabe, tenor

**Lunch is available following the concert for a \$6 donation.**

MUSIC AT NOON



## 2011 Christmas Joy Offering Sunday, December 18



In this season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God.

For over seventy years, Presbyterians have been responding to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

*(Using All the Colors continued)*

There are many, many more stories from 25 different authors. The collection is edited by the writing group's facilitator, Anna Walker.

The book will be available at the Alternative Gift Market and is currently online at CreateSpace (<http://bit.ly/UATC-CS>) and Amazon.com at (<http://amzn.to/UATC-Amazon>).

Proceeds benefit Monte Vista Grove Homes. The return is higher through CreateSpace, so if you don't mind setting up yet another online account, that is the preferable vendor.

## Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day

10 a.m. - Join in a special service to welcome the new year. REMEMBER THAT THE ROSE PARADE IS ON MONDAY THIS YEAR.

### ROSE PARADE MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012

Have you circled the date on your calendar yet? The Rose Parade rolls by PPC and you can view it from the grandstand and get a continental breakfast and indoor restrooms to boot!

There are several ways to get your order form. You can go to PPC's website and follow the links to print your form. Or, you can call the PPC Rose Parade hotline at (626) 793-2191, ext. 353 and leave your mailing address or e-mail address and we can get a form out to you. You can also purchase tickets on the patio soon (watch for an announcement in the bulletin).

**\$45 for PPC members**  
**\$65 for non-members**  
**\$45 for clergy and active-duty military personnel**

Parking will be available in the Union Street lot; \$20 per car, \$50 per RV. Call Laura Monteros or the church office if you are interested in volunteering either the day of the parade or the day before for food preparation.



## For the Record

### Membership

The following persons were received into membership November 13:

Charla Bolton  
Nancy Nicoll

Harry Nicoll  
Jennifer Stevenson

*Sacred Space for the City*



*Forwarding Service Requested*

Pasadena Presbyterian Church  
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## Christmas Memorial Flowers

The holidays are a time to remember loved ones and celebrate special occasions. This year, you can help beautify the sanctuary during the Christmas season by purchasing one or more poinsettia plants to be placed in the sanctuary. After Christmas, the potted flowers are delivered to homebound and hospitalized members and friends.

The suggested donation is \$20 or more.

Please complete the form and send it, with your check, made payable to PPC and designated Christmas Flowers, by **Monday, December 12, for inclusion in the December 18, 24 and 25 worship bulletins.**



I am donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas Memorial flowers.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Choose one of the following designations)

- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Celebrating \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the order form and payment to:  
Pasadena Presbyterian Church • 585 East Colorado Boulevard • Pasadena, CA 91101