

# Foothills'

# VIEW



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*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. —John 1:1-5*

## Join us for the holidays



### Hear Christmas music and pageantry...

'ARCH, the ANGEL,' Children's Musical, on December 4, at 3:00 p.m.

'Lead Me Back to Bethlehem,' Chancel Choir's Christmas concert  
with orchestra on December 17 at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

### Enjoy food, crafts and more...

*Family Christmas Celebration* on December 4 at 4:00 p.m. in King Hall  
(after 'ARCH, the ANGEL') Dinner by Chick fil A and angel crafts.

*Christmas Gala, the Winemaker's Dinner* on December 4, 6:00 p.m.,  
at Terra American Bistro **EVENT SOLD OUT**

### Learn at our Advent Class...

'Seeing the Word: Birth of Christ' by Donald Jackson

Tuesdays, December 6 & 13, 6:30 p.m., Disciple Room

### Advent Sermon Series

"We're Expecting!... Are You?"

"Expecting Hope" November 27, 2011 Rev. John Farley

"Expecting Peace" December 4, 2011 Rev. Christian DeMent

"Expecting Joy" December 11, 2011 Rev. John Farley

"Expecting Love" December 18, 2011 Rev. John Farley

### Give to others with Carols

*Christmas Caroling* to our homebound members, Monday, December 19,



*From  
the pastor's  
perspective...*



*Rev. John Farley*

### **Foothills Church Staff**

Rev. John Farley  
Lead Pastor

Rev. Christian DeMent  
Associate Pastor

Theresa Erb  
Family Ministries

Anthony Aranico  
Youth and Young Adults

Jeanette Ham  
Welcome and Pastoral Care

Carol Paton  
Director of Music

Glenn Ward  
Organist, Accompanist

Jack Erb  
Contemporary Music

Tim Robertson  
Media and Music

Linda Cree  
Bell Choir

Ruth Phillips  
Preschool Director

Sheri Etter  
Development, Administration

Steven Topham  
Website and Marketing

Carrie Dubert  
Ministry Support

Mary Lou Standiford  
Ministry Support

## *We are expecting... are you?*

by John Farley, lead pastor

I have an announcement to make...ever notice how those words get your heart going? Announcements mean something new is coming, a change in the future may happen; great or small, life is going to be different for those involved. There is a certain excitement and anticipatory energy that draws us into a state of expectation when a change is coming. What greater change is there for us than the announcement of new life in the birth of a child?

Imagine Mary's reaction when she received this announcement from the angel, Gabriel; "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High." Luke 1:30-32a. That must have gotten her heart going for sure! Can you imagine the sense of expectation she must have felt just knowing she was to

have a child and, even more, that this child would change not only her life, but the life of everyone? That is living in expectation of new life and new hope beyond anything anyone had ever known!

Are you living in expectation? Are you living in this story of unlimited hope for the future or are you living with dread thinking of how costly and stressful the Christmas season can be? More tenderly, are you finding it more difficult living with joyful expectation because of the reality that in this time of celebrating life, your life is not what you want it to be right now?

I don't mean to be hard; but you have a choice. We all have a choice. The celebration of Christ's birth reminds us that we are living in God's story of promise and hope. Whatever your life is right now, God is sending some new life into it in the very near future. If you believe in this, if you live

[Continued on page 4: 'Expecting'](#)

## *Delight in the decoration of the season*

by Susan Naslund, VIEW reporter

This year I am not going to complain about the premature arrival of Christmas decorations in retail stores, although they did appear earlier than ever this fall, didn't they? My neighbor never even managed to take down the strings of lights that bedecked his eaves last winter. I gave up hope many months ago of ever seeing those sagging strands removed from my sight.



And so, I have been quietly meditating these past twelve months on those unlit bulbs across my street. I have been thinking about the reasons we delight in all of the ornamentation of the holiday. I have been pondering why we carefully display candy canes, wreaths, angels, and manger scenes. It all boils

down to this: there is much joy in remembering the stories of Christmas, whether they are about the coming to earth of Jesus, or about the celebratory customs of our families.

When we see the decorations, we remember. We remember special meals. We remember the sweet reunions of family. Most importantly, we remember the Messiah's birth.

No, this year I am not going to grumble about the premature arrival of Christmas decorations. Those ornaments are not what keep me ever mindful of the Spirit in my life, but if just one person who sees a twinkling light this holiday season pauses to remember the gift of our Savior, then who am I to complain?

## One of my favorite Christmas Traditions

by Steve Hable, lay leader

I know there are lots of Christmas traditions. Some of our traditions remind us of families, some traditions are musical, and some are an observance of the holiday shopping season. One of the traditions at Foothills that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas is the Advent Wreath. Every year, the Advent Wreath is placed in the front of the sanctuary and, each Sunday prior to Christmas, a candle is lit and a special prayer is read. But what is the meaning behind this tradition?

The wreath is generally an ever-green garland. The wreath represents eternity. On the wreath are four candles, three that are purple and one that is pink. In the center of the wreath is a large white candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, a purple candle is lit. The meaning of the first candle varies by denomination, but is usually referred to as the "Prophecy Candle" or the candle of expectation. This signifies the coming birth of our Lord; that the proph-

ecy of our Savior's birth is about to be fulfilled.

Another purple candle is lit on the second Sunday in Advent. This candle signifies the hope we receive through the love Christ has to offer us. The Methodist tradition refers to it as the "Candle of Hope." The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle" or the candle of joy. It reminds me of the joy the shepherds had when finding our Savior in the manger. The last purple candle lit on the fourth Sunday before Christmas is referred to as the "Angel's Candle." This candle represents peace.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, we light the large white "Christ Candle" which signifies that the light of Christ has arrived in the world. At Foothills, we have had the opportunity to make our own Advent wreath. Whether you make your own wreath or buy one already made, I hope you observe this tradition of the season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

## 'You have to listen'

by Linda Miller, VIEW reporter



*Tish Weamer*

Tish Weamer has always felt close to God even though she grew up in a very formal church that did not have a youth group. "I always felt a connection to God," she said. "It was like osmosis."

Tish, who says only people who don't know her call her Patricia, has been married to Ray for 25 years and they are the parents of Mary, who was part of our confirmation class last year. The Weamers came to Foothills when Mary was enrolled in the preschool. Tish said they loved Rev. John Farley's sermons and came back a few more times; then they began to make friends at church and became part of the community.

"Then they ask you to volunteer," Tish laughed. They were hooked on Foot-

hills. That was about 11 years ago. Since then Tish has worked on a church auction and taught Sunday school and VBS. Currently she is the Wedding and Bereavement Coordinator. She loves her job and would like to do more of it for other United Methodist Churches in our area.

When she helps at a memorial service, Tish said, "I'm there to help those who are left behind and are grieving. I feel like the last thing they need to worry about is the logistics."

Since joining Foothills, Tish said her spiritual life has grown. She prays often and at random times. "When I pray, I almost don't need words," she said. "Sharing with God can be an emotion."

Sometimes when she prays, she asks for guidance. Then she laughed, "What you think you are asking for may not be the right thing in the long run." She was quiet for a minute and then said, "You have to listen for the answer."



As  
I see it...



*Steve Hable*

## Foothills' VIEW

The Foothills' VIEW is published monthly by Foothills United Methodist Church. The due date for articles is the second Monday of the month. You may submit an article on events, fellowship groups, or persons related to the mission of Foothills. Email your article and picture (.jpeg) to the editor.

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LOOK  
at THIS!

*Nurturing  
communities*



*Mary Lou Standiford*

### December Calendar

- 12/4 'ARCH, the ANGEL' Children's  
Choir Concert  
Family Advent Event  
Christmas Gala
- 12/6 Seeing the Word: Birth of Christ  
Starting Point II
- 12/7 Sarah/Ruth Circle  
Yoga (Wed.)  
Children's Choirs (Weds.)  
Kid's Exploration (Weds.)  
4th, 5th Fellowship (Weds.)  
Jesus in the Gospels (Weds.)
- 12/8 La Vida Real  
EarthCare (EO Thurs.)
- 12/9 Friday Friends
- 12/10 Wil-Mat
- 12/11 Roots&Shoots
- 12/12 Women at the Well
- 12/13 Staff Christmas Party  
Storefront
- 12/14 Foothills Folks
- 12/15 Tender Loving Care Team
- 12/17 La Roca  
*'Lead Me Back to Bethlehem'*  
Chancel Choir Concert
- 12/19 Christmas Tree Project  
Christmas Caroling

## Advent at Foothills– the vision of giving

By Mary Lou Standiford, editor

A devotion I recently read gave me a vision of Christmas:

*"Holy Night"*

"It was 6:00 p.m. and snow was falling outside when Philip knocked on the door. He told me that all he needed was \$11.60 for a hotel room that night to take a shower. After feeding him a bowl of hot soup and slipping a \$20 bill into his hand, we served the King's Cake to see who would be our three kings leading the procession to the Christmas tree in the candlelit sanctuary. Philip found a bean in his cupcake, making him King! Philip led the way until we reached the manger under the tree. We told the story of that first Christmas and closed with singing all our favorite Christmas carols one more time. And, there sat King Philip, the one seeking shelter, singing *Silent Night, Holy Night*. Someone said later, "I think Jesus visited us tonight." Indeed it was a *Holy Night*.

*Dear King Jesus, help us to see you in the faces of our brothers and sisters in need."*

Libbie Reinking, Oakville, Missouri

Advent here at Foothills has a simi-

lar vision of Christmas. I see many people reaching out to others in the collection of food and gifts for those less fortunate than themselves at La Roca and in our Common Ground projects; in the Christmas tree project of our youth (see article on page 6); and in Foundry's Christmas campaign of 'Whose birthday is it anyway?' which offers several novel ways to celebrate Christmas that care for creation and glorify God (see article on page 5).

Where do Methodists get their inspiration for these visions? Let's look at John Wesley's under-

standing of grace. He often spoke of our being on a journey of prevenient grace, justification, and sanctification – all the work of the Spirit within us. Prevenient grace is the act of God seeking us and empowering us to respond to God's invitation to know him. Justification is our realization that through the work of Christ, God's grace reconciles us to God, pardons our sin, and restores us to a healthy relationship with God. Sanctification is realizing that God continues to pour out love to all of us, and as we respond to God's love, we are transformed into whom God intends us to be.

Let this Christmas time be a special time of reaching out to others and being transformed!



### Continued from page 2: 'Expecting'

out this truth faithfully, you begin to live in expectation not dread. Living in expectation gets your heart going again. It puts you on a positive path; it gets you willing and ready for the blessings of life God is sending. That is a good way to live!

I have an announcement to make... "We're expecting." Yes, this year at Foothills, we're expecting wonderful con-

certs and family Christmas events. We're expecting generous sharing with the families of Common Ground and El Nido and so many other ministries. But, mostly, we're expecting lives to be touched by the good news of the birth of the Christ child and to be transformed by the community of faith here that receives this good news. This is the season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

We're expecting... are you?

## Foundry challenges others to Rethink Christmas

By Valerie Sachs, ministry assistant

Joyeux Noel... Feliz Navidad... Frohe Weihnachten... Sung Tan Chuk Ha. Whether in French, Spanish, German or Korean, there's joy in wishing one another Merry Christmas.

The international celebration that is Christmas inspires a frenzy of baking, decorating and gift-giving that is unlike any other global phenomenon. Studies showed that in 2010, the average American family spent \$1,000 on Christmas gifts. And, in the U.S., Christmas sales can account for as much as three-quarters of retail stores' annual profits.

Concerned yet? Do you ever wonder if the chaotic spiral of consumption and earnings can be slowed down without diminishing the joy of the holiday?

This year, Foundry United Methodist Church adds its voice to others in the international faith community who are inviting followers to "Rethink Christmas." Foundry's "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?" campaign is an effort to return the focus of Christmas to the true guest of honor – the Christ child.

Rev. Christian DeMent explained, "If Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth; and if all of humanity is invited to that party, then the next logical question is, 'What does Jesus want for his birthday?' There's nothing wrong with wanting to share Christmas gifts with family and friends, but shouldn't Jesus' birthday gift be the first priority – in our budgets and our schedules?"

While it might seem hard to imagine an appropriate gift for the Son of God, it is spelled out clearly in the Bible. Simply put, we are instructed to care for God's creation. The Bible contains more than 300 verses on the poor, social justice, and environmental stewardship. In the Book of John, Jesus clearly tells Peter, "If you love me, feed my sheep." Proverbs states, "He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the

LORD." The Old and New Testaments are full of references to God's creation of the earth and humanity's responsibility to protect its natural resources.

Foundry's "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?" effort, comes with a challenge – determine what your family spends on Christmas presents and devote an equal amount of money to gifts that might be on Jesus' Birthday Wishlist – gifts that serve others. There are many needs in this hurting world and myriad places where donations of time and money are desperately needed.

If you know of a family in need or a community organization that is struggling to survive, that's a great place to start. If you need other ideas, Foundry UMC is offering some specific suggestions on their website – two organizations that serve Foundry's home community in South Bay and others that touch lives nationally and internationally. ([foundryotayranch.org](http://foundryotayranch.org))

"We talk a lot about caring for others, especially at Christmas time," said Pastor Christian. "But this kind of sacrificial giving is a departure for many of us. Then again, sacrificial giving is a perfect description of what God did by sending Jesus to Earth. This is one way we can reflect God's radical generosity towards us."

### Local Organizations for you to Help

The Chula Vista Public Library Foundation ([cvplfoundation.org](http://cvplfoundation.org))

South Bay Community Services ([southbaycommunityservices.org](http://southbaycommunityservices.org))

### National Organizations for you to Help

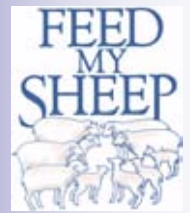
Stomp Out Bullying ([stompoutbullying.org](http://stompoutbullying.org))

Feeding America ([feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org))

Surfrider Foundation ([surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org))

### International Organizations for you to Help

Imagine No Malaria ([imagineenomalaria.org](http://imagineenomalaria.org))



*Look to  
serve others...*



*Rev. Christian De-*

### Foundry Opportunities

Faith on Tap

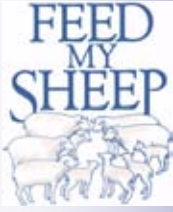
Out-and-About  
Walking Group

Conversations  
of Faith

Small Group



*Valerie Sachs*



*Look to  
serve others...*



*Terry and Muriel Henderson are Methodist Missionaries who are supported by Foot-hills UMC. In 1977, they founded GYTTE as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church of Mexico.*



*Anthony Aranico*

#### **Opportunities for Youth**

FUMY

Sunday Small Groups

Confirmation

Work Teams

4th, 5th Fellowship

Sound Faith

Young Adults

## *GYTTE program changes lives*

**A Mission Story from Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) - Terry and Muriel Henderson, missionaries**

San Pedro Yodoyuxi is a dusty village in the state of Oaxaca where fewer than one hundred families live. One room adobe homes with palm thatch roofs can be seen on the eroded hills that make up the landscape of that community. Two women from San Pedro came to GYTTE's "Tree of Life" Center for a training course. As a direct result of their participation, Vicenta and Esther changed the lives of the families in their village and set in motion a conscience-raising community spirit!

The government was insisting that the village raise the funds to put in a sewer line that would drain into a nearby canyon. Located in that same canyon was the only clean water source for the village. Although previously indifferent to this idea, these two women now understood the ramifications of such a decision being made by those outside the village. And Vicenta and Esther were now aware of the other alternatives for sanitation.

First they each built a dry composting toilet for their own family. This toilet system uses no water, creates no waste and pro-

vides a resource for the future. Next they convinced the local village authority that the dry composting toilet was a real possibility for every village family. He believed in the project and supported their plan. Together they convinced the county authorities of the validity of the project and the government distributed separator toilets to any family that would build their own dry composting unit.



In the short period of one year, 48 families built their own units and put them into use. Later more families decided to adopt this technology. The village water source was saved from contamination and it continues to supply the people and animals of

San Pedro with this precious liquid. The possibility of open sewage becoming a source of disease is no longer a threat. Eventually the families will have a vital resource, fertilizer, to put on their crops.

Training events and other development opportunities offered by the GYTTE program make stories like that of San Pedro Yodoyuxi a reality! Lives are changed and villages are transformed!

## *Recycling Christmas: sharing the love*

**by Anthony Aranico, youth ministries**

Are you looking to redecorate this Christmas? Are you thinking about getting new ornaments and lights? If you are, consider recycling your old decorations by giving them to the Foot-hills Youth Group.

Every year when Christmas comes around, memories are brought back to houses lit with lights, tress with ornaments and decorations, and the feeling of love that these things can bring. Every year, the youth group brings Christmas trees to El Nido, a housing project

for victims and families of domestic violence. We bring trees, decorations, and presents to the families there and for that night, we are their family.



If you are thinking about throwing away perfectly good ornaments, don't! In December, the youth

will be out each Sunday collecting ornaments, lights, and other decorations. With the Christmas tree project, they'll have new life, new memories of love with new families! Recycle Christmas, share the love.

## Music Sunday celebrated 150 musicians



PHOTOS BY ADAM KLARER

*Alleluia Singers, Sounds of Joy and Chancel Choir along with Wesley Leonard playing trumpet, participated in the 8:30 a.m. hour of worship on Music Sunday, October 30. Witness and Sound Faith represented the music ministry at the*

*10:00 a.m. hour of worship that day. A total of 150 people were honored for their participation in the total music ministry of Foothills from the Fall of 2010-2011.*

## Holiday delights coming your way

by Carol Paton, music ministry

### “ARCH, the ANGEL”

**A Christmas Musical  
presented by  
*Alleluia Singers  
and Sounds of Joy***

Can you imagine what it would be like to . . .

Be an angel at Christmas time?

Know you are a guardian angel, but find out you are supposed to be a Christmas angel?

Think you are reporting to the Secret Service division, but discover that it's really the 'Sing and Shine' division?

In the story of *ARCH, the ANGEL*, the children's choirs will share the excitement of the Sing and Shine angels as they explain to Arch the real meaning of Christmas and why it is so very important to be 'bearers of the good news' to all of God's people. Come to hear this delightful musical on Sunday afternoon, December 4, at 3:00

### Harmony Ringers at San Diego Zoo Jungle Bells Holiday event!

Visit the front entrance to the San Diego Zoo on Saturday evening, December 10, and hear the Harmony Ringers play for the Zoo's Annual Holiday Jungle Bells Celebration. The Harmony Ringers will ring for 30 minutes at 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

### Chancel Choir Christmas Concert

#### “Lead Me Back to Bethlehem”

On Saturday, December 17, at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., the Chancel Choir and orchestra will present our Annual Christmas Concert. This year's music is written by Pepper Choplin and titled, “*Lead Me Back to Bethlehem*.” This brand new work, released in 2011, gently draws us into God's presence, as we are led back to the miracle of the Child's birth, the joy of the shepherds, the mystery of the star and the men who followed it. The composer uses familiar tunes not usually associated with Christmas to elicit new moods of hearing and understanding the story of old. Included in our concert will be several selections prepared by Glenn Ward at the organ and with the

LOOK  
at THIS!

*Nurturing  
communities*



Carol Paton

Hymnals given to  
choir members  
moving on



Sixth graders who have spent the majority of their elementary school years participating in the Children's Choir Program receive United Methodist Hymnals with their names imprinted on the front cover.

This year's recipients are:

Isabel Anyaji,  
Carolyn Bank,  
Grace Cercado

# Your Foothills' Staff

*Christian*



*Jeanette*



*John*



*Sheri*



*Ruth*



*Theresa*



*Carol*



*Carrie*



*Mary Lou*



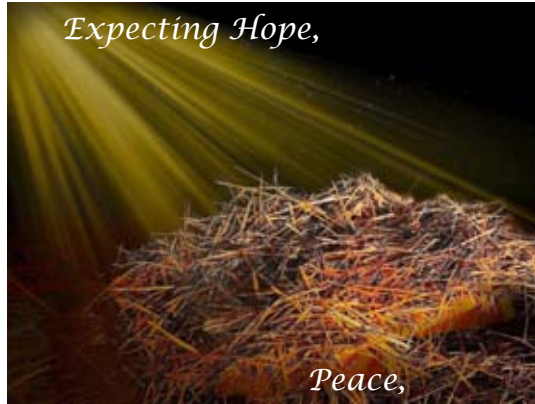
*Jack*



*Glenn*



*Valerie*



*Steven*



*Linda*



*Tim*



*Anthony*



*Jonny*



*Tish*



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