



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Blue Christmas,**
December 7
- **Parents' Day Out,**
December 10
- **Christmas Eve Services**
December 24 at 4 & 9 p.m.

Inside:

Deacons.....	2
Men's Retreat.....	2
Grove Groups.....	3
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	3
Children's Ministry.....	4
Youth News.....	5
Music Notes.....	6
Bookends.....	6
Recipe Share.....	7
Poinsettias.....	7
Mission Minute.....	8
Financial Report.....	9
Growing FootPrints.....	9
Bulletin Board.....	10
PCLG at-a-Glance.....	11
Christmas Eve Services.....	12

*From the Pastor,
Rev. David G.
Watermulder*

Hark!



I wonder if you are familiar with the words to this song: "Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King!'"

Have you ever sung that before? Of course you have! "Hark! the Herald" is one of the best-loved Christmas songs in the world. One hymnologist (yes, that's a word), named John Julian even ranked this song as one of the "top four greatest Christmas carols" of all time! It was written around the year 1739 by Charles Wesley and has been a popular Christmas song ever since.

Here at PCLG, we will be singing this carol at our early (4 p.m.) Christmas Eve service and also at our Christmas Sunday morning service (10 a.m.).

What is interesting about this song if you read the words in the hymnal carefully, is you will see that this isn't just a Christmas carol. This song is really a good summation of our Christian faith. From the incarnation and Jesus' birth, it also tells about forgiveness of sins, the Trinity and the ultimate

triumph of Jesus Christ and the eternal life that he brings.

So, while we sing this great Christmas carol together, we are also really putting the words of our faith into song. Even before we know what it all means, we already know how to

sing along.

One scholar who has studied John and Charles Wesley and their hymns has said, "these hymns were composed in order that men and women might sing their way not only into experience but also into knowledge... and the ignorant might be led into truth by the gentle hand of melody and rhyme."

I love that idea. How we sing our way into the faith. That's the way it works with our children and those who grow up in the church. And that's my hope this year for you in this Advent and Christmas time ahead. That week by week in worship, as we sing and explore the great themes of this season, that you will gain insight into your own faith as well.

(continued on page 2)

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(continued from page 1)

I look forward to singing with you on Christmas Eve at 4pm (family service with pageant), or 9pm (candlelight and communion service). And also on Christmas Day itself, which this year is on a Sunday! I'll be there at 10am, wearing my pajamas, and ready to sing some Christmas carols. Because in singing these songs, we really grow in our faith together.

God bless you!

Pastor Dave



Men of the church, you are invited to attend a retreat this February at Westminster Woods with guest speaker Pastor Dave!

The retreat runs from Friday to Sunday and costs \$170 per person to attend. Scholarships are available if needed.

More information and a registration form can be found online at www.westminsterwoods.org/adult-programs/

Please contact Deacon Dave Rader (david@raderfamily.org) to express interest. If you go on the retreat, Dave will help coordinate ride-sharing, making sure our folks room together, etc.

Need a Deacon? Got a Deacon?

Did you know that as a member of this church you are assigned a Deacon? What is a Deacon? He or she is an ordained member of PCLG who may offer support, prayer and a variety of resources during both difficult and joyful times. If you're not a member yet, don't worry, we're here for you too. If want to know who your Deacon is or need a Deacon, please contact, Christa Sinclair at christa_sinclair@me.com, Mazy Ahiers at, aimee9292@yahoo.com or Kristy Cole in the church office at 408-356-6156.

Grove Group Update:

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who reached out to join a Grove Group. We have an amazing sign-up list and we are working hard to place everyone within an appropriate group. We currently have over 100 people in 9 separate Grove Groups, and we are working to have enough groups for everyone by the end of the year.

This fall, we have been studying Moses and learning about his calling from God as we consider our own calling and life with God. The lessons are developed by Pastor Dave, and are meant to be shared and discussed within the smaller grove group. The feedback has been wonderful and we are looking forward to expanding this ministry.

If you are interested in joining, please reach out to me, Elder Dave, at dheacock74@gmail.com, 408-354-7103 or PCLG office.



Sunday Morning Bible Study



9 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Our Sunday morning Bible Study is using The Wired Word curriculum which uses a current news story to focus our attention on a Biblical principle or lesson. We do not know what the topic for our next lesson is until Thursday; so we know the topic will be something that has been in the news in the last week.

Here are the stories and topics we have studied this fall:

9/18 - A Canadian Protestant Minister who has declared herself an atheist. *What is the minimum one*

needs to believe in order to be a Christian; how do we handle doubt?

9/25 - Colin Kaepernick protests the National Anthem. *Taking an unpopular position when doing so might be a matter of faithfulness to God*

10/2 - Pressure to publish incentivizes bad science. *How we determine what should be authoritative in our lives*

10/9 - Shimon Peres dies without achieving the peace he desired. *How we react when something we long for is denied us*

10/16 - Nobel Prize given to 2 economists who wrote about the nature of contracts. *What is the Biblical contract or covenant and how does it apply to us today*

If this sort of study appeals to you, come and join us in the Fireside room on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

For more information, or to receive the lesson by email, contact Mary Jane Humphrey, maryjhumphrey@comcast.net.



Children's Ministry

God's Place December 2016:

IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER all of our children in God's Place (Preschool – 5th grade) will be learning the Good News of our dear Savior's birth. This is a joyous time in our classrooms. Lessons will be filled with music, precious crafts for the little ones, and preparing for our Christmas Eve Pageant. I am looking forward to each Sunday this month and what lies ahead in the New Year! May the blessings of Christ be on you and your family this holiday season!

Important Dates to Remember

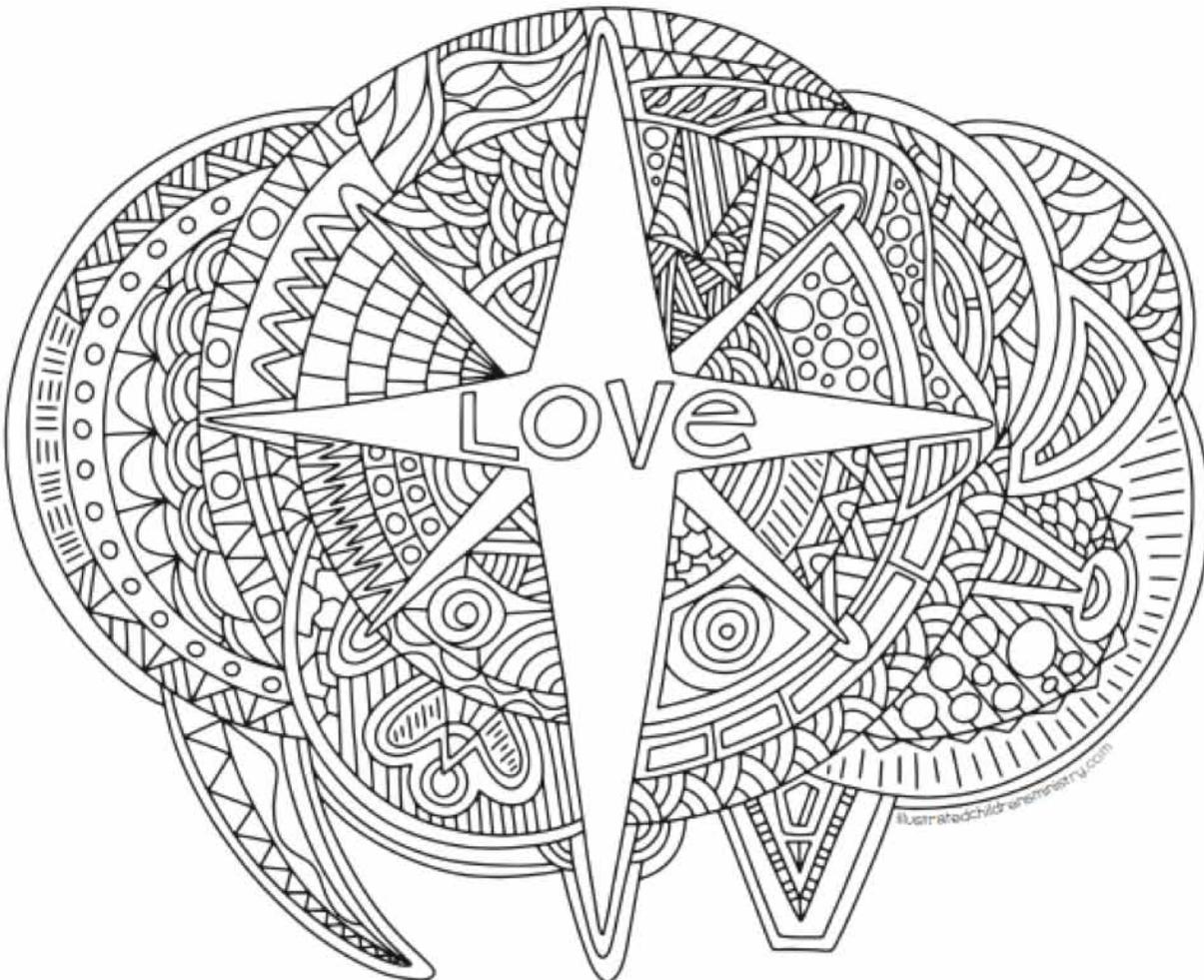
December 10: Parents Day Out, 10am-1pm. Please RSVP to Lauren Froman.

December 11: Cocoa & Cookies after worship. Families come to the kids corner to enjoy fellowship and get Christmas festiveness!

December 4, 11, 18: Christmas pageant practice during God's Place. After church practice may be required on 12/18.

December 24: Children will meet prior to 4pm Christmas Eve service for Pageant run through.

Use this coloring sheet from 'Illustrated Children's Ministry' to let your mind wander and relax during this busy season. Maybe your children will color it, or perhaps you can leave it out in a common area and whenever someone in the family feels like coloring...well, they sit down and color! Have fun!



Questions,
comments,
concerns,
need to connect?
Lauren Froman
pclgl Lauren@
gmail.com



Youth News



What a fun retreat season we've had at PCLG. There was a deacon's retreat, a session retreat, a women's retreat, a choir retreat, and probably one I didn't know about. The first weekend of November, 11 students and 4 adults from PCLG went to the Novemberbash retreat for Middle School students at Westminster Woods. We all had a good time playing weird games like "Hungry, hungry hippos," or being challenged by team-building elements. Forrest and Mallory,

two of our great volunteers, counseled in cabins filled with loud young people. Meanwhile, Steve and Carlo, church employees and rascals, enjoyed the quiet comforts of a yurt. We still owe Forrest and Mallory dinner.



High School

The high school students and youth staff head off to camp this first weekend of December for PCLG's 24th Love of God retreat (the last PCLG retreat of the season). Since 2002, students at PCLG have led their peers in weekend retreats demonstrating Christian community and God's love. Students teach, perform skits, play music, lead small groups, open up through intense conversation, dance, sing, laugh and annihilate one another in epic games of laser tag. We are proud to have Nolan Carlen, a junior at Leigh, and Lucas Kernan, a senior at Mitty, as our student co-leaders for L.O.G. #24. With 27 students and 9 adults, we're looking forward to a great time and always appreciate your prayers. For the seven students participating for the very first time, please pray that God's spirit speaks to them in a new and profound way through the efforts of their friends.

The next L.O.G. weekend will be in April 2017 and those currently in 8th grade will be invited to join the high school youth group at that time.



Bookends

PCLG's Book Club meets once a month, and new folks are always welcome!

Contact Sue Hansen for more information:

paigeturner007@hotmail.com.

December

Ella Minnow Pea
by Mark Dunn

January

The Lost Garden
by Helen Humphreys

February

Swans of 5th Ave
by Melanie Benjamin

March

The Secret Chord
by Geraldine Brooks

April

On the Move
by Oliver Sachs



Music Notes



From the Music Director

Advent and Christmas is always a rich season for music. The choir will be singing a movement of *The Magnificat*, by Francesco Durante (more about him later) accompanied by brass and Margaret Kvamme on organ, along with other wonderful pieces for Advent.

For the Christmas Eve late service, (9 p.m.) we will be singing music by John Rutter and the sweet melodious piece, *All Is Well* by Michael Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick along with an energetic arrangement by Mark Hayes of Christmas Carols. In addition to the choir and soloists, we will feature Bells, Brass, strings and winds.

For the Christmas Eve Early service, (4 p.m.) we will have our traditional pageant performed by our youngest members. The Worship band will be playing some of your favorite Christmas selections perfect for all ages.

A quick note about the Magnificat. Until a decade or so ago, this piece was erroneously attributed to Giovanni Pergolesi (1710-1736; pictured, right), a talented and prolific composer of Opera Buffa and sacred works who died quite young. Pergolesi was the student of Francesco Durante (1684-1755; pictured, below), a Neapolitan composer who studied with Scarlatti.



Besides Pergolesi, another opera composer of note, Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816) was a student of Du-

rante. Paisiello's *Barber of Seville* was a big hit in its day. The well known *Barber of Seville* by Rossini was written a few short years later and completely eclipsed Paisiello's version. Durante, known as a strict teacher who advocated composing by the rules, (a philosophy at odds with

Scarlatti's more free form and individualized pedagogy) was probably made famous more by his students than by his music. The first movement in the *Magnificat* however, is an excellent example of music that incorporates the Baroque style of Bach and Handel, but with stylistic tendencies that soon moved music towards the Classic styles of Haydn and Mozart.

Michael Taylor, director of music
michaeltaylor@comcast.net



Elder Carol Smith would like to share this tasty recipe.
You may remember the dish from last Spring's Supper
& Study series!

Spinach-Rice Casserole

Prep time	Cook time	Total time
40 mins	35 mins	1 hour 15 mins



Ingredients

- 4 cups cooked brown rice (a little less than 2 cups - cook for 30-35 minutes in a little more than 3 cups of water)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 8 oz cremini or white mushrooms, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 lbs. baby spinach, chopped
- 1 tsp kosher or sea salt
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup skim milk
- 1 cup grated cheddar or mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce (optional)
- ¼ tsp nutmeg (freshly grated, if possible)
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ cup sunflower seeds
- 2 tsp paprika

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9x13 baking dish or casserole with cooking spray and set aside.
2. Cook the rice and set aside.
3. Heat olive oil in a large stockpot over medium heat. Add onions and mushrooms and cook, stirring frequently, until onions are soft, about 7-8 minutes. Add garlic, spinach, and salt and cook until spinach is just wilting, about 2 minutes.
4. Let cool for a few minutes, then add rice, eggs, milk, cheese, parsley, soy sauce, nutmeg, and cayenne and stir to combine.
5. Spread evenly in baking dish. Top with sunflower seeds and paprika. Cover with tinfoil and bake for 25 minutes, then remove foil and bake uncovered for another 10 minutes.

Time to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

It's that time again! Orders for Christmas poinsettias are now being taken. Only \$9 each! You may even take your poinsettia home with you after either Christmas Eve service or the Christmas Day service*.

Please return this order form with your check to the church office by Thursday, December 8 so that your name and dedication may be printed in the bulletin. Checks payable to *Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

In honor of : _____

In memory of: _____

In celebration of: _____



**if you will not be at either Christmas Eve service or the Christmas Day service, please pick up your poinsettia after the Sunday worship service on December 18. Any left after the service on Sunday, December 25 will be given away.*



Mission Minute

*Need a Christmas gift for a family member who has everything?
Make a donation to one of these projects and receive a card to send.
Spread some love by being generous this holiday!*

Immanuel House – a transition house for refugees newly arrived in San Jose

Front Door Ministry – a program that provides bag lunches, toiletries and other necessities to folks living on the street

CIC Ministries Art and Spirit – a project that bring art and community to incarcerated men and women at Elmwood Jail

Heifer International – an organization that provides farm animals, seedlings or other products that could lead to economic self-sufficiency and a hopeful future for needy families around the globe

Cards will be available after worship on Dec. 4 and 11.

Looking ahead to January ...

In many communities, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 16, 2017) is a day of service. Honor this tradition by joining your PCLG friends in preparing a hot lunch and packing cold lunches for our friends at Front Door Ministry, located at First Presbyterian Church in San Jose.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

EXPERIENCING CHRIST'S LOVE, EXTENDING CHRIST'S HANDS SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



The First Presbyterian Church of San Jose would like to thank PCLG for our ongoing support of the Front Door Ministries!

If, as individuals, you would like to help more, we constantly need: more volunteers (monthly/ weekly/on-call), occasional or one-time (tax-deductible) cash to buy juice and protein, or food and toiletry donations.

For information, please see fpcsj.org/mission_frontdoor.html or contact their Mission Elder (and former member of PCLG) Martha Beattie at MCBeattie@jps.net.

Financial Report

Dear friends,

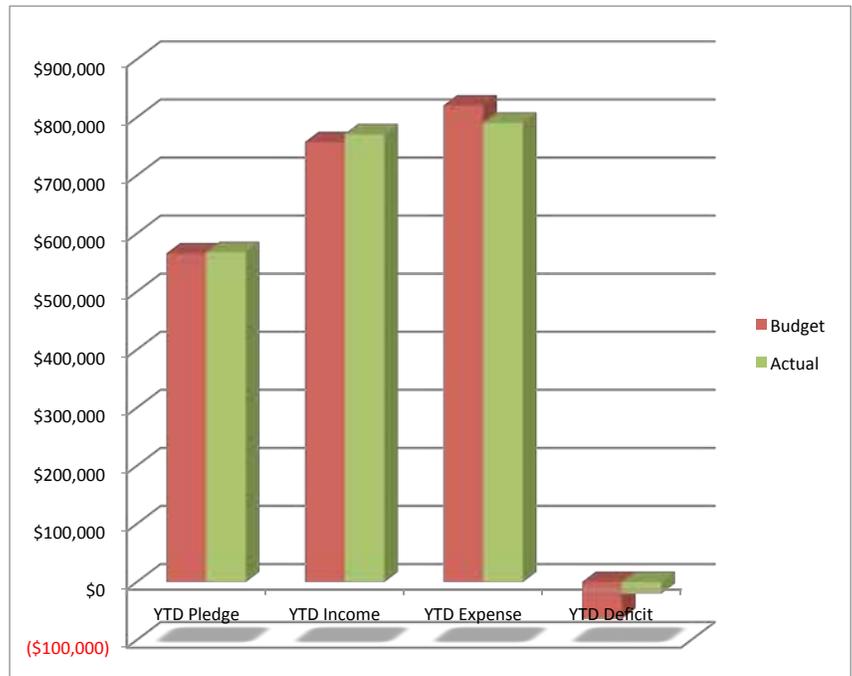
At the end of October, PCLG's overall income is at 102% and overall expenses are at 96% of budget. However, we have a deficit of \$19,742. That is because we know some people pay their pledges at the end of the year. As we approach year-end please check on your giving and get up-to-date, if possible. Remember, if you pay by credit card or stock sales, it takes a few days to clear, so please don't wait until the last minute to do it.

I will send out giving statements to all who have pledged in 2016 to help you with your year-end planning. If you wish to have a copy of your giving statement, please contact me. My email address is kristy.cole@pclg.org, and the office phone is 408-356-6156. I'm on extension 21.

As you know, we are now in our pledge season for 2017. Knowing what people are planning to give to our church next year helps us to plan our budget. All pledge and giving information is kept confidential. You may pledge and give online at www.pclg.org.

Many thanks for your generosity to PCLG.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas,
Kristy Cole, Church Administrator



News

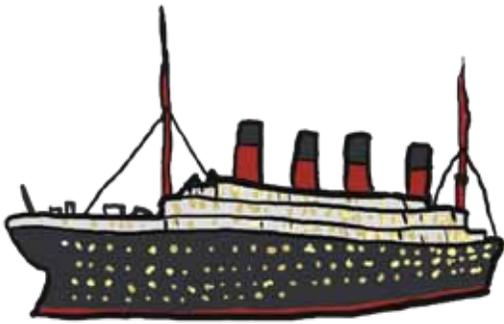
On Wednesday, December 21st our pre-kindergarten students will preform in a Christmas program! You are welcome to join us in the social hall at 12:30 for an entertaining experience with our very enthusiastic 4/5 year olds!

In January we will begin our reservation and registration process for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are not on our waiting list then now is the time to submit a form (located on our website at growingfootprints.org). We accept children ages 2-5 and have both part time and full time options. As a small and popular program in the community our spaces fill quickly!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Cory Mullins, Growing FootPrints Director growingfootprints@yahoo.com.

On the Bulletin Board

Have a short note for the next issue of *The Spire*?
Submit your bulletin board items to
carlo@pclg.org



Travel Buddies: St. Lawrence Cruise And Fall Leaves

In 1990 Bill Buckman put together a PCLG trip with the Tour Operator, Manuela de Groot. Over the years there has been 15 trips. Now the trip are not just for PCLG members, but also friends of PCLG members.

The next trip is scheduled for late September 2017. It starts at Montreal, Canada, for two days. Then, boarding a cruise ship up the St. Lawrence for five days to port stops and tours in Quebec City, Sydney (Nova Scotia), Prince Edward Island, Halifax, Bar Harbor (Maine) and finally to Boston. Next we take a private bus for a couple of days to see the fall leaves in the Northeast. Trip returns to Boston for the flight back home.

If you want more information call Bob Lawler (408-264-4394), who is coordinating the trip.



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PCLG at-a-Glance

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Adult Education	9 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary	10 a.m.
"God's Place" Sunday School	10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Time	11 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.
Theology on Tap	1st Monday	8 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Friends, Food, Fellowship	2nd Saturday	6 p.m.
The Voyagers	3rd Saturday Fellowship & Service	
Buoys & Gulls	Various	Various
Mates	Various	Various
Senior Stretch & Movement	Wed/Fri	9:30 a.m.
Happy Paint	Thursday	10:00 a.m.
Bookends	Various	Various
CoveKnit Group	Wednesday	7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Home AM Groups	3rd Thursday	9:30 a.m.
PCLG AM ("WoW") Group	Thursday	10 a.m.
PCLG Noon Group	2nd Thursday	12 p.m.

COVENANT GROUPS

Baker/Attwood Covt.	Monday	10:00 a.m.
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MUSIC MINISTRIES

Los Cascabeles	Tuesday	6 p.m.
Chancel Brass	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Worship Band	Thursday	7 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Chancel Strings	Friday	7:30 p.m.
Joyful Voices	Sunday	11:30 a.m.
Youth Choir	Sunday	6:30 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Middle School SNiff	Sunday	5 p.m.
High School YG	Sunday	7:30 p.m.

*Don't forget—
Deadline for the
February SPIRE
is 2:00 p.m. Tuesday,
January 24.*



December Birthdays

1 Pat Jones	21 Amelia Acosta
3 Gail Myers	22 Dick Garland
4 Cameron Logie	Juliana Damore
6 Mary Jane Bender	Kathryn Damore
7 Heather Metz	Lucy Fainer
8 Mildred Smith	24 Shirley Byle
11 Bob Kennedy	John Caselli
12 Rafe Smith	Anthony Caselli
14 Ted Bancroft	Erin Heath
15 Gloria Baker	25 Bill Stranberg
Caroline Smith	26 Steve Fainer
16 Sue Thomas	27 Jennifer O'Brien
17 Natalie Finkle	28 Brian Jones
19 Mary Smith	29 Collette Lynner
20 Ben Lawler	30 Samuel Nagalingam
Olivia Koury	

Anniversaries

5 Paul & Stacey Booth
6 Craig & Sarah Parks
17 Albert & Natalie Cerussi
27 Jean & Bob Richey
Jay & Tanya Kruse
28 Willis & Joan Brown
Pam & Ted Bancroft



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www.pclg.org

The background of the lower half of the page is a dark, textured surface with numerous out-of-focus, glowing circular lights in shades of green, yellow, and white, resembling bokeh from Christmas lights.

Christmas

Eve Services

Saturday, December 24

4 p.m.

9 p.m.