

# Hilltalk

January 2010

News & Inspiration  
for Members & Friends

## Shaping Our Time by Faith

*Ann Small, Director of Spiritual Formation*

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate Epiphany Sunday, a special day that commemorates the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus. Matthew's gospel specifically notes that the Magi (or wise men) bestowed gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh on the infant King. Importantly, these gifts had a spiritual meaning: gold as a symbol of His kingship on earth, frankincense (incense) a symbol of His priesthood, and myrrh (an embalming oil) a symbol of His death.

However, the Magi's visit had an impact that went beyond generous gift giving. **Theirs was also an internal journey.** First, they trusted their instincts by following a guiding star that would lead them to worship a poor, Jewish infant. They then trusted a dream to avoid Herod, despite his kingly (and threatening) request for more information on this magical birth.

Given the Magi's somewhat unusual (crazy?) choices based on questionable evidence (stars? dreams?), we might ask ourselves: **How do I faithfully follow – or not**

**follow - God's directives? Do I believe that God's hand is constantly present, even in dire circumstances? Am I willing to surrender to God mysteriously working in my life and this world?**

The liturgical season following Epiphany is referred to as "the first season of Ordinary Time." It will begin with the Baptism of the Lord on January 10<sup>th</sup>, marking the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and will last through Ash Wednesday. "Ordinary" in this context, however, is hardly average or boring! "Ordinary Time" is that part of the liturgical year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas.

During these next few months we will experience the unfolding drama of the Christ child becoming prophet, healer, teacher, and Savior. Through Scripture, He will be walking among us. He will be calling us. He will be healing us.

**Like the Magi, will we believe and embrace Him? Will we witness to His life and message still alive in this world through us – and in us?**

St. Andrew's  
by-the-Sea

A United Methodist Community of Faith ~ [www.sabts.org](http://www.sabts.org)



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- A full listing of staff, including email addresses, may be found on our website at [www.sabts.org](http://www.sabts.org)
- Deadline for next Hilltalk is **noon on January 17, 2010**. Please submit articles via email attachment whenever possible. All submissions subject to editing.

# Pastor Paula's Peace

## *I'm too busy to breathe*

In 2002, six months after 9/11, a little book was published. Perhaps you've heard of it. It's called the Prayer of Jabez and it was on the New York Times bestseller list for many weeks. Now, I can think of nothing better than to know that a book about a biblical prayer was on the New York Times bestseller list.

Unfortunately, the much-touted spiritual rush following 9/11 came and went in a matter of weeks. Pollsters tell us that for about two and a half weeks, the American public's church-going habits skyrocketed, prayer breakfasts abounded, talk of God exploded and, by the first of October, it was all over.

Human nature is just wonderful! We run up against catastrophe (or something that feels like it), we stumble into trouble (often as not of our own making), we lose something or we feel lost and we run to God.

Good for us, I say! This is exactly how it is supposed to be.

We live in a time of spiritual hunger. However, most people do not expect to find spiritual food in churches; so, while church-going is at an all time low in the history of this country, spirituality is as popular as ever.

There is so much brokenness. We waged a war on poverty.

Poverty won. We waged a war on gas. Gas won. We waged a war on drugs. Drugs won. Now, we're waging a war on terrorism . . .

We long for someone—something—to make our lives work, to make our lives works of art, painted by the hand of the Master.

Ah, but what time it takes! Prayer takes time, and I wake up with a list of things to do a mile long. I need an extra hour just for worrying!

So our prayer life becomes a running commentary aimed at God consisting of little more than "Bless me, make me lucky, make me rich, protect me with your hand from all that ugly stuff that happens to everybody else. Or, at least, help me find parking."

In a time of economic insecurity, it's easy to see why this prayer would become so popular.

"I want stuff so my life will be easier and I don't want any problems or trials or tribulations." Hey, who doesn't pray that prayer? I don't need to be taught to say that prayer. That prayer comes naturally to me!

We know there's more to be had. We could be more, have a deeper life. It's just so hard to do. Well, it's easier if you don't try to do it alone.

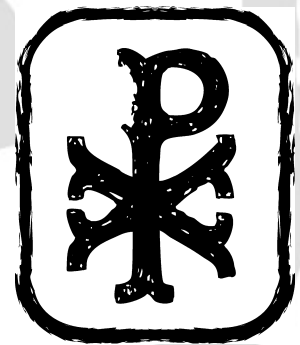
Everything worth doing is impossible to do alone. This is a great truth of Christian community. The things we are given to do, to bless our world, are impossible to do alone.

Look at the Lord's Prayer: "give us this day", "lead us" away from temptation, "deliver us" from the evil of our day. It's "us." We all win or lose together. We all rise or fall together. This is counter-intuitive. It doesn't seem right until you actually start to live that way and see the results in your own life.

Join us as we pray each month for this church and our impact on a hurting community. We meet at 7:00 p.m. the 3rd Thursday of each month and are led by our Youth Director, Andrew Haslett. We're already seeing wonderful results.

I'll see you there.

*Pastor Paula*



*The ChiRho is an ancient monogram of Christ.*

## Vacation Bible School

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Adventure ahoy!! Mark ‘yer calendars for July 26-30, 2010 for a week of *High Seas Adventure* for our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year! We’ll set sail for God’s Word. And we’ll discover how His word is true, comforting, surprising, life-changing and for everyone! It’ll be great week of expedition together that you don’t want to miss!



## POLO & KPG

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Parents of Little Ones (POLO) and Kids, Parents & God (KPG) will take January off as the regular meeting time falls on January 1, 2010!

They will both resume on Friday, February 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. for dinner together. If you’re interested in helping plan our February dinner together (we’re thinking Murder Mystery dinner!), contact Emily (emily@sabts.org) and let her know your thoughts on the Butler in the Conservatory.

## Ministry Opportunity: VBS Co-Director

Do you enjoy seeing and hearing children sing their praises to God in catchy VBS tunes? Are you a detail-oriented person who gets a charge out of helping keep things in order? Maybe you just enjoy working with our Children’s Director, Emily Bredthauer, on a project? Emily is looking for a Co-Director to help with our growing VBS in Summer 2010! She will provide all the training you need for this volunteer position, and as an added benefit, you can add this to your resume with the title, “Expedition Expert”.

## Mommy & Me—Spring Semester

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Beginning on February 18 2010, St. Andrew’s will have it’s second semester of Andrew’s Mommy & Me. Designed as a parent-child program for children ages 18-30 months (as of February 1), this program will run for 10 weeks (with a break for Easter).

This program is a hands-on, exploratory program for parents and children. Parents and children will move together between a few learning centers each morning, have circle time together and enjoy a simple

## Love as a Way of Life

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Pastor Lucy will lead a six week study using Gary Chapman’s book, Love As a Way of Life: Seven Keys to Transforming Every Aspect of Your Life, on Wednesdays, starting January 13 through February 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

This study looks at the ways in which individuals, couples and families can authentically practice the attitude of Christian love in their lives. There will be ample opportunity to reflect, discuss and apply these practices as we grow in faith together.

Childcare is available upon request. Please contact Pastor Lucy at 492-2537 or by e-mail at [revolucy@sabts.org](mailto:revolucy@sabts.org) for more information or to sign up.

## Missions News

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### **From Mission & Outreach:**

One of the orphans in Gorodnya will have a new pen-pal: Jan Poth's granddaughter, Kimberly. Kimberly is donating \$10 each month that she earns by doing her chores to the Chernigov ministry.

### **Shoes for Gorodnya**

**orphanage:** Do your closets have gently used/no longer needed sports shoes? Now that soccer season is over, are there shoes ready to pass along? They can use children and adult sizes.

Please drop your donations off at the office, in a bag labeled "M&O". We will send a box off to them in January.

### **Message from Chernigov, Ukraine on December 5, 2009:**

"Dear Diane & St. Andrew's Church: We are very grateful for your prayerful support. It is very important for our young team. The flu quarantine has ended and we have recently renewed our work with children in the (Gorodnya) orphanage. Diane asked about needs for our

program. At this time God sends all necessary things for our church and our work. One problem we do have at our orphanage is footwear for children. It wears out very quickly. Good quality sports shoes are something that we can always use. If you have a desire to send shoes, we will be glad. We will definitely find a girl from Gorodnya who will become a pen-friend with American girl. Blessings to you. Bogdan"

## Success at the Alternative Gift Market

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The Silent Auction and Alternative Gift Market was a huge success. Many thanks to everyone who donated items or services to be auctioned, to all of those that helped us pull it off and, of course, thank you to everyone who came to shop. Many families around the world will feel the impact of your generous contributions of time and money. In total we raised **\$5,452.75!** Here is some of how that money will be used:

### *Heifer International*

\$525 will be sent to Heifer International to help purchase one buffalo, a goat, a goose, three pigs, 16 flocks of chicks and four bee hives. Heifer is a global organization committed to helping third-world families move toward self-reliance.

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

### *Welcome Inn*

\$372 was given to Welcome Inn and will provide 150 hot, healthy meals to local homeless people. [www.sabts.org](http://www.sabts.org)

### *Family Assistance Ministries & Gilchrist House*

\$840 was donated to Family Assistance Ministries and the Gilchrist House to aid them in providing temporary assistance to more than 600 south county families and individuals. The Gilchrist House provides temporary shelter, counseling and life skills training for up to twelve months for homeless women and their children.

[www.family-assistance.org](http://www.family-assistance.org)

### *Ndebele Art Project*

\$1,075 was made in product sales for the Ndebele Art

Project. The sale profits are used to provide clean water, health care and education to the Ndebele artists and their families in Zimbabwe.

[www.napafrika.org](http://www.napafrika.org)

### *Constant Christian Presence*

\$2,640.75 was made in donations, product sales, and from the silent auction to help support the Constant Christian Presence program at the Gorodnya orphanage in Chernigov, Ukraine as well as other Mission & Outreach ongoing global and local concerns.

[www.sabts.org](http://www.sabts.org)

Again, thank you to all who made this event an enormous success!

# Coaching Team Report

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*Dave Mauerman, Asst. Lay Leader*

The congregational coaching team's two meetings complete with lively discussions and prayer. The focus of these meetings has been to discern the strategy and the direction in which to make our first steps. The first half of our meetings are composed of members brainstorming and the second half involves bouncing those ideas and thoughts off of our congregational coach, David Bridgman. Our coach is involved to highlight and develop skills among us rather than tell us what to do.

Did you know that St. Andrew's has 200-300 guests coming through our doors each year? What is their experience from the time they drive onto our campus to the time they

drive off? What determines whether they will return?

The area of focus we have decided on for the first year of our partnership is Worship and the Worship Experience. This area can sometimes be highly charged and gets right at the heart of the church. We are taking a deliberative approach and are asking big picture questions such as: what is it that we, as a church, offer people? Who are we? Who might we be uniquely qualified to reach? Who do we want to reach – what is it that they need/want? How do we most effectively reach the people who want what we have to offer?

You can expect to be called upon for input on some of these questions via a congregational survey that will be coming your way soon. Your participation in

these initial steps is key.

This strategy involves frank, transparent self-evaluation so we know where we are starting. It also involves information gathering – regarding other worship experiences that are in our community, as well as getting a stronger handle on the composition of our community and relevant demographics.

There are a lot of things that will be identified and that will generate excitement, but we do plan to maintain a deliberative approach. We will commit to focus on the most important and effective 1-2 things we can do instead of tackling it all right away. We look forward to keeping you informed of our findings and action plans!

## St. Andrew's Library News

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Have you noticed changes in our church library? Are you wondering what is happening?

The Living Library Committee is developing a long-range plan that will make the library more user-friendly and updated. New areas are being developed....a Children's Corner, Teen Section, Research Area and several others. Beautiful, meaningful books for young children are now on the shelves. You can check out one for your family to enjoy together.

Recently, Pastor Paula suggested bringing your own Bible to church, an inexpensive one that you could write in. Soft-cover Bibles are now available in the library. And, they have a picture of a pier on the cover! Please leave a donation in the basket by the Bibles. Also, this Bible would be a good gift at holiday time.

During 2010, more changes will be made in the library. Please support this process.

Look for more information in the coming issues of the Hilltalk and in the bulletin.

The Library Committee

Connie Elliott

Jeanne Findlay

Sally Lee Howd

Carla Thommen

Carol Evans, Chairperson



## Women's Retreat—Sign Up Now!

A community-wide women's retreat, "**Naming Our God,**" hosted by St. Andrew's by-the-Sea, is planned for **Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 from 9:30 am until 4 pm.** Peaceful and historic **Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside,** California will provide an inspiring retreat setting. The cost for this day-long retreat, including a full lunch, is \$35.

Noted author and spiritual director, Rev. Carolyn Bohler, will facilitate this exciting opportunity to deepen your relationship with God. Carolyn has written several books, including ***Opening to God: Guided Imagery Meditations on Scripture; Prayer on Wings: A Search for Authentic Prayer;*** and most recently ***God the What?: What Our Metaphors for God Reveal About Our Beliefs in God.***

Contact Ann Small at [spiritform@sabts.org](mailto:spiritform@sabts.org) or 949-369-5893 to reserve a spot for yourself, friend, or family member! Also, contact Ann for childcare and available scholarships.

**Sign-up Deadline: January 8<sup>th</sup>!**

# Ministry Openings

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Where is the Lord calling you to be in ministry at St. Andrew's?

## Sound and Light Technician

Do you enjoy a great worship service? Think the quality of our sound and lighting makes a big difference in making an OK worship service a great one? Interested in learning how our sound and light systems work? Willing to give one Sunday a month (or one month a year) to serving Christ by serving His people in this way? If this sounds like the ministry for you, email Dave Petty, Tech Supervisor at [davidmpetty@gmail.com](mailto:davidmpetty@gmail.com). All training will be provided for this volunteer position.

## Video Technician

Do you enjoy the way media can enhance worship and really connect to our hearts? Do you find yourself thinking about beautiful, moving images that would enhance our worship service? Like to get creative with Powerpoint? Interested in learning how our media technology helps our worship? Willing to give one Sunday a month (or one month a year) to serving Christ's people by helping our worship service be the best it can be? If this sounds like the ministry for you, email Dave Petty at [davidmpetty@gmail.com](mailto:davidmpetty@gmail.com). All training will be provided for this volunteer position.

## Sunday School Superintendent

Do you have a heart for the spiritual education of children? Do you enjoy the sound of the children laughing and talking their way to Sunday school? Maybe you like helping people find the resources they need to be creative? Maybe you secretly love behind-the-scenes administration that makes all go smoothly? If this ministry interests you, email Emily Bredthauer at [emily@sabts.org](mailto:emily@sabts.org). All training will be provided by Emily Bredthauer for this volunteer position and as a bonus, you'll get to work closely with her in this position!

# Super Seniors News

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The December Super Senior meeting and luncheon was a 'stand-out' among so many other wonderful gatherings in 2009.

Music plays such an important part in the life of St. Andrew's and anyone close at hand at our December gathering could hear it loud and clear when our own gifted Jan Brookes, Pastor Paula, Bev Sandelman, Shirla Hardy and Jan Bolt filled the room with the gorgeous sounds of the season. They were accompanied by Nancy Rohr, our very own

music maestro. Thank you each and every one who was there to enjoy and special thanks to the holiday music St. Andrew's team.

On January 13th we will gather again and share our resolutions and wishes for the New Year, and also play a little Bible Trivia. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. Contact Judy Ferguson (949-498-0654) or Judi Vote (949-366-0151) for information or to RSVP.

# Prayer Corner

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Our thoughts and prayers are with Harry and the family of Barbara Larson who passed away on December 22, 2009 at home. A service is being planned.

Please continue to be in prayer for:

Arliss & Betty Berenger  
Bob & Ruth Creighton  
Tina & Alyssa Dolegowski  
Jeanette Hill  
Fred Muster  
Dorothy Osborne  
Art Stafford  
Bruce & Patty Walden  
Peyton Woll

# St. Andrew's by-the-Sea United Methodist Church Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY	EVERY MONDAY	EVERY TUESDAY	EVERY WEDNESDAY	EVERY THURSDAY	EVERY FRIDAY	EVERY SATURDAY
8:45 am Seekers, RIO Center 9 am Band-led Worship 10:30 am Choir-led Worship 10:30 am Youth Sunday School, YC 6-8 pm Refuge-Youth, YC		9 am Andrew's Kids, CC 9:30 am Holy Rollers 1:30 pm Women's AA Mtg 6:30 pm Boy Scouts, YC 7:00 pm Light Reigns Band, Sanctuary	7:30 am Fishermen at Carrow's Restaurant 9:30 am Mom to Mom, CC	9:30 am Mommy & Me, CC 9:30 am Holy Rollers 5:45 pm Bell Choir, CR 7:00 p.m. Choir, S	<b>Office Closed</b> 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Lib.	9:30 am Holy Rollers

## January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>Key for Rooms</u> CC: Children's Center CR: Choir Room FH: Fellowship Hall						
FL: Fireside Lounge Lib: Library S: Sanctuary		SPO: Senior Pastor's Ofc. SS1: Sunday School #1 YC: Youth Center			<b>1 New Year's Day—Office Closed</b>	2
<b>3</b> 12:00 pm Focus Team, SPO	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Welcome, Lib. 7:00 pm Trustees, FL 7:30 pm SPRC, SS1	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 12:00 pm Meet the Pastors, SPO	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Worship Logistics, CR 7:30 pm Foundation, SS1	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Missions & Outreach, FL	<b>13</b> 10:30 am Super Seniors Luncheon, FH 12:30 pm Senior's Bd, SS1 7:00 pm Love Languages, SS1	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Stewardship 9:30 am Sarah Circle	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast, FH 6:00 pm Supper Club potluck
<b>17</b> 12:00 pm Hilltalk Deadline	<b>18-MLK Jr. Holiday</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 pm Caregiver's Group, offsite 7:30 pm Invitation Ministry, SPO	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Joint Council, FL	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Hannah Circle 7:00 pm Love Languages, SS1 7:00pm New Beginnings 1, CR	<b>21</b> 12:00 pm Welcome Inn, FL 7:00 pm Prayer Warriors, FL	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30am—4pm Women's Retreat, offsite
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm Beyond Words, offsite 7:30 pm Planning & Assessment, FL	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm SCMFO, SS1 7:30 pm Leadership Development, FL	<b>27</b> 10:00am Monthly Hilltalk Mailing, Lib 7:00pm Love Languages, SS1 7:00pm New Beginnings 1, CR	<b>28</b> 10:00 pm Visitation Group, L	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						



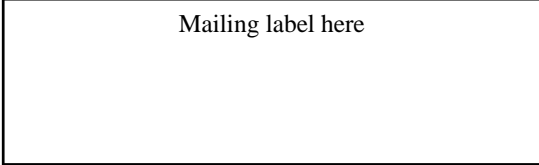
# St. Andrew's by-the-Sea

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## St. Andrew's by-the-Sea Core Principles

### As fully-committed followers of Jesus Christ:

*We have been **transformed** by our encounter with the living God in Jesus Christ.*

*We practice **spiritual disciplines**, such as prayer, meditation, scripture reading, attending worship, receiving the sacraments, and fasting, which cultivate our daily conscious contact with God.*

*We seek to **learn** more about God through continual study.*

*We practice **sacrifice** through tithing and selfless giving of ourselves.*

*We actively work for **justice and mercy** in the world.*

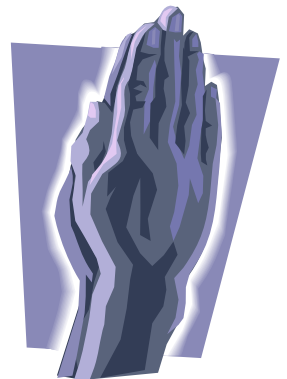
*We seek **unity** through working and living in harmony with our community of faith.*

*We walk our spiritual journey with **honesty and authenticity**.*

*We live our lives **humbly** knowing the gifts we have received come from God.*

## January Sermon Series

Using Stormy Omartian's best-selling series, The Power of a Praying Parent, Pastor Paula will help parents grow closer to Christ in their own lives as they practice faithful prayer disciplines at every stage of the parent-child relationship.



January 10—Grounded for Life:

How to Talk so your Teenager will Listen

January 17—Babies & Young Ones: It's Never too soon to stop using the Children as Weapons

January 24—Adulthood: Perfecting the Art of "Oh?"

January 31—What about Me: Why Your Personal Spiritual Growth Matters Most