



Rose Clippings

Reaching Out With Nurturing Love to All of God's People

VOLUME 52, No. 11

DECEMBER 2014—JANUARY 2015



Shepherds Field Nativity by Munir Alawi

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Our Advent sermon series is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 “God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ’s coming.” Sermon theme: “Wonders in the Waiting” Our Worship services will be highlighted with special Advent decor, a nativity display, choir music and bells. Mission programs that need volunteers such as the Giving Tree Project and the Alternative Gifts Market all happen the first weeks in December.

For more information call the church office at: 707-542-4272 or visit www.churchoftheroses.org

Sundays Worship 10 am

*Advent Bible Study Sundays 8:15 – 9:15 am,
Wed. Dec. 17, Voena Children’s Choir at 5 pm
Sun. Dec. 21, Christmas Cantata “City of Light”
at 10 am worship and in concert at 2 pm
Sun. Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service 7 pm,
with Christmas passages and carols service
accompanied by a Celtic Harpist. Family friendly service.
Children welcome at all services. Child care provided.*

JANUARY PREVIEW: Famous Guest Preacher Rev. Dr John Philip Newell, Congregational Meeting , New Bible Study Class, 13 week GriefShare Seminar, Officer Retreat, MHS Crabfeed...See inside .

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Holidays with the Holy Spirit

Our Advent sermon series is based upon: 1st Corinthians 1:3–9
“God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ’s coming.”

The sermon titles are all about: **“Wonders in the Waiting”**
 with a focus on what we receive while we are waiting:

November 30th - Week one: **Strength**

December 7th - Week two: **Patience**

December 14th - Week three: **Trust**

December 21st - Week four: The Christmas Cantata: **City of Light**
 Christmas Eve – **The Waiting is Complete!**

The Christmas Cantata includes a monologue entitled, “The Light Shines!” An excerpt reads: “Not only did God become flesh and dwell among us 2000 years ago, but even as we were acting out the story, it was incarnation time again. The Word was dwelling in us – in me.”

That awareness of “the Word dwelling in us” is a gift from the Holy Spirit. I hope this holiday season you will take a moment and realize that the divine love of God is dwelling in you. From Thanksgiving to Advent to Christmas to New Year’s we have just about 35 days to absorb the glory, the wonder and the blessings of this Holiday Season! It can be a wonderful time where we learn even more about strength, patience, trust, and love while we wait in hope for the Christ child to be born for us again.

After New Year’s day the winter holidays are not complete. According to our church calendar we still have Epiphany to celebrate on January 4th as we recall the visiting Magi who honored the Christ child.

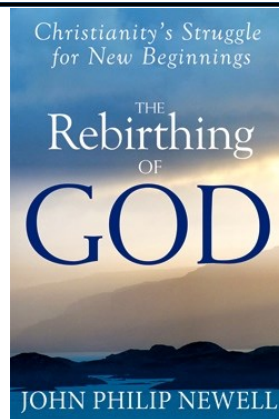
So be ready for a Spirit-filled holiday season of special worship services and events for: Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, the New Year, and Epiphany! All of these Sundays will be worth taking time to celebrate. There is so much to be thankful for in our lives! We are grateful you are here at the Church of the Roses to celebrate with us!

A friend of mine has a wonderful New Year tradition. She opens a jar on New Year’s day and places one small piece of paper with a few words explaining what she was grateful for that day. She tries to remember to do this everyday before bed. Then at the end of the year, on New Year’s eve she celebrates the year by pulling each paper out and recalling all her “gratitudes” from the past year. That is a way to celebrate the “Holidays with the Holy Spirit.”

– With gratitude and thankfulness for the big and the small things in life.

Pastor Cindy





Worship with John Philip Newell

World Renown Celtic Theologian and author will be preaching here at the Presbyterian Church of the Roses on Sunday, January 18th, at 10 am.

The Reverend Dr John Philip Newell, author of *The Rebirthing of God, Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings* is also a poet, peacemaker, and scholar who lives in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2011 he received the Contemplative Voices Award from the Shalem Institute in Washington DC. Formerly Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, John Philip is the co-founder of Heartbeat: A Journey Towards Earth's Wellbeing. Newell is an ordained Church of Scotland minister with a passion for peace among the great wisdom traditions of humanity. His PhD is from the University of Edinburgh and he is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality, having authored over 15 books, including *Listening for the Heartbeat of God, Praying with the Earth, and A New Harmony: the Spirit, the Earth, & the Human Soul*.



From Mourning to Joy GriefShare Seminar Program

If it is hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, friend or job, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel.

This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

"Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering."

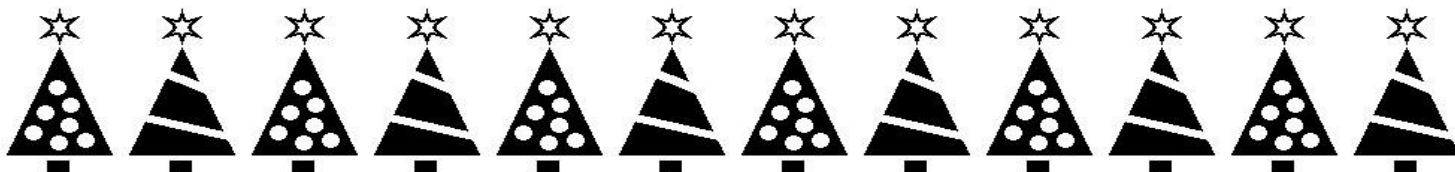
In January, join Pastor Cindy, Kay Webb and I for a 13 session seminar. We will meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. *Brian Smith*



Pictured above: **The Sonoma State Jazz Band** presented a wonderful free concert for us in early November

Pictured right: **Kirk Williams** enjoyed his Holy Baptism as he was received as one of our new members in October.





A Church of the Roses Tradition

Christmas is the season of giving. Each year the Deacons organize the Christmas Food Basket and Giving Tree programs to help needy people in our community.

This year 70 families will receive a large basket of food along with gifts for their children. Food will be purchased with funds from the Deacons' treasury that you have so generously donated to throughout the year. **The Deacons need your help! There are many ways you can participate in this important program:**

Church members may volunteer to purchase gifts for children by taking ornaments from the Giving Tree in Bowen Hall. Each gift should cost no more than \$15.00

Please have your gifts/cash into the church office by Dec. 9.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Thursday, December 11 – Help to organize the gifts

Friday, December 12 – Divide food into baskets

Saturday, December 13 – Deliver food and gifts to the families

This is a wonderful event showing our caring Christian commitment! Please help us make it a success again this year! If you wish to help, please talk to a Deacon at the Giving Tree table after services, or call Diane or Randy Pierce at (707) 953-8187.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of this cause. ~ The Deacons

Transform our empty spaces
O Christmas God.
Fill the empty manglers of the world
with food.
Empty the cardboard boxes,
refuge of the lonely and despairing.
Bring warmth and light and shelter
to all who watch and wait this night.

In bar and bare hillside,
in barrio and back room,
in crowded flat and empty home
may we feel your presence
at our shoulder and in our hearts.

Kate McIlhagga



These Santa Rosa Junior College students of video and website design visited our church in November to videotape interviews and some of the worship service. These video clips will be part of our new website. Thank you!



Prayer Requests: *Please include in your prayers*

Those mourning the loss of a friend or family member

- Please pray for the family of Reverend “Rit” Anderson who passed away last Sunday evening, November 16th. Memorial service plans are pending.
- Please pray for the family of Jack Page who passed away on Sept. 22nd.
- Please pray for the family of Pat Ward who passed away Oct. 1st.
- Please pray for the family of Frank Metzger who passed away Sept. 21st.
- Please pray for the family of Paul Bowles who passed away on Sept. 13th.

Please pray for those facing health issues

Robert McNutt,
Ted Crouch
Delores Dewhurst
Judy Bello
Albert Reil
Alan Reil
David Downard
Pamela Sage
John Baker

Those serving in our military

Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, US Navy Jason Imbimbo, Coast Guard Lt. Ian Alloway Culver, Lt. Col. David Trowbridge, U.S. Army, Fort Lewis, WA. David continues to serve in the Army as Chief of Cardiology at Madigan Hospital.

A Special Thanksgiving Note to our Faithful Pledgers from Pastor Cindy

2 Corinthians 9:11-12 states: “You will be blessed in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

Those who have pledged this year are giving so much hope to our beloved Church of the Roses! Many pledges are already in and recorded. We have so much to be thankful for and your dedication and faithfulness to God through this church is inspiring. Thank you so very much for pledging and for providing a shiny future for our church! When people doubt their faith in Christ, sometimes it is due to not knowing any hopeful generous people who call themselves “Christian.” But YOU represent God’s love to people through your generosity that can now be used to expand our church’s ministries. Thanks be to God for you and your pledge of commitment so the Church of the Roses can joyfully bloom once again!

Thank you very much

for remembering my grandson, David A. Dickens, on your prayer list for our service men and women. He is currently stationed at a base in New Haven, Mo. Also, my prayers are with the family and friends of those who have passed on.

Lois Drinnen

Choir & Concerts

We are entering one of my favorite seasons of the year! The music that accompanies this season reflects our joy for God's wonderful gift of light to the world! The Chancel Choir will be singing a wonderful cantata arranged by Tom Fettke called "The City of Light."

This cantata features as soloists several of our new members: **Deborah Baker, Ivett Ponce, Nancy Taylor** and our talented bass, **Bill Morgan. Rev. Alloway** will be the narrator. So put Dec 21st on your calendar and bring your family and friends to celebrate in song and word the birth of our Lord.

The hymnal project is going well with about 120 pledges as of this writing. We are well on the way to our goal. Please fill out a hymnal pledge form and place it in the offering plate. Your pledge may be "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a family member or friend. You may also order a personal copy if you would like a hymnal for your home.

The Roses Signature Concert Series has presented two fabulous concerts to date: *Cantiamo Sonoma* and the *SSU Jazz Orchestra*. We are so blessed to be surrounded by the wonderful musicians of Sonoma County! The next concerts will be:

Feb. 15 – Redwood Chordsmen

March 15 – Santa Rosa Children's Chorus

April 19 – Montgomery High School Bands

May 17 – Song of Sonoma

Please put these dates on your calendar and bring a friend! Yours in joyous service to our Lord, *Barbara McElroy*

Worship

Join us for Friday Noon Hour of Prayer, Advent, the Cantata, Christmas Eve and Epiphany services. It's that time of year! These events include multiple opportunities to contribute and participate in their set up and conduct.

Youth Activities

Hi there! I've gotten a few of the youth that attend Montgomery high school involved in volunteering for Land Paths and we intend on continuing volunteering to help our environment! As Christmas time comes around, our youth council is planning a holiday party for the MHS breakfast students and any other youth of the community that might want to come. Hoping that our community is having a lovely holiday season!

Rosebud Preschool

The Fall Festival was a lot of fun. Thirty seven children and thirty two adults spent time "fishing" for treats, having their faces painted and exploring the gak science lab. Thank you to the staff, girl scouts, and church members for helping with the event.

We have finished eating all the apples from our trees. Now we are enjoying the new colors of the leaves and watching them fall. We are finishing off our autumn curriculum including our paper bag turkey centerpieces. We will be moving on to our winter activities and all the joys of the Christmas season.

Deacons

We are in full Giving Tree mode, on task & busy with each step of our mission. There will be many opportunities to help with this project in the upcoming weeks. We also continue to provide financial assistance and food bags to those in our community who are in need.

*Easy Senior Exercise Every Monday
at 10 am in the Rose Room.*

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership/Fellowship

Membership committee is delivering poinsettias to our shut ins on December 7th. DeDe Keating has offered to buy them and we will have those who plan to deliver them pick them up in the library after the church service, Dec. 7th. We welcomed 4 new members to our congregation in November.



Christian Education

We welcome new members Jean Leuty, Brian Smith and Kim Seamans. We are glad for their expertise in working with children. On November 30, the Committee will be offering the 2014 PCUSA Advent Calendar for each family. It's called *Decluttering for Christmas*. We hope it will help you have a joyful and peaceful holiday time. Pastor Cindy and Emily Reeves will be doing a special Advent Bible Class on Sunday Mornings at 8:15 a.m. focusing on Advent Bible passages. Starting January 4, another new Bible Class begins called *Exploring the Lectionary*. We will study the PCUSA Lectionary passages for each date. No Book Club or Film Series in December but check out our "ads" for January in this Rose Clippings and watch for more Sunday morning Forums in 2015.

Finance and Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday was celebrated on November 16th with a wonderful response from the congregation followed by a delicious lunch. The finance committee finalized the edits on the financial policy manual and will present these updates for approval at the next session meeting. December's finance meeting will be focused on finalizing the budget for session approval on December 16th.

Church and World

Church and World Committee asks your prayers for our Chair Jonathan Steele and Rev. Ted Crouch, both of whom are recovering from surgery. We rejoice that Kathryn Culver will be joining our committee. We are grateful for the Kiwanis Club donation for the MHS Breakfast Program. We are busily making plans for the Alternative Christmas Celebration on December 7&14. There will also be Equal Exchange goodies that make fine gifts to purchase that day. December is also the time for the PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering which benefits retired church workers in need and racial/ethnic schools. Watch for bulletin inserts about that.

Personnel

We wish to acknowledge Pastor Cindy's first year anniversary as Head of Staff at Church of the Roses. She arrived at an extremely busy time in the life of the Church. For those in attendance, her Christmas Eve candlelight service was a truly joyous occasion. We wish all those in our immediate church and extended community family a Blessed Christmas and Hopeful New Year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Presbyterian
Women**
Tues. Dec. 16
Bible Study 10:30
Lesson 4

A Festive Luncheon at Noon **Christmas Music and Poems**

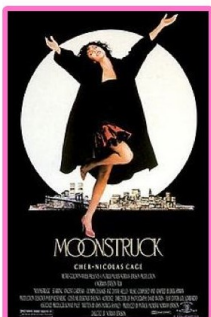


**Church of the
Roses \$3.50**
Calendar
2015-2016

Available in the office now. This 2 year calendar will keep a record of all your doings. Give one to a friend too. This calendar supports the work of Presbyterian Women.

Follow Pastor Cindy's Blog at
www.pastorcindysblog.blogspot.com

The Boys and Girls Club need afternoon snacks. Please bring to the office healthy snacks such as string cheese, cream cheese, bagels, peanut butter, jam, snack bars, fruit.



The Favorite Film Series
is back!
Thurs. Jan. 22 at 2:00
Moonstruck
A Romantic Comedy
you'll love!

Voyagers Christmas Party

Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday December 6
5:30 p.m.



Join us for a festive evening of good food and Christmas Music. Callers will contact you with your food assignment. To make your reservation send \$10 per person payable to: **Ellen Marks, 4768 Shade Tree Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.** Reservations are limited to the first 60 people. **Deadline is November 30, 2014.**

VOYAGERS January 18, 2015 is the date for our planning meeting for events and service projects for the coming year. We will meet in the Rose Room after church. Bring your ideas and your calendars. We'll share a light lunch while we plan.

RECYCLE HOLIDAY CARDS! Please bring us your holiday cards—front only—so we can recycle them to use for gift tags for the 2015 Giving Tree! Thank you, *The Deacons*

No Film Series
in November and
December due to
the holidays

Congregational Meeting
to Elect New Officers
Sunday December 7
immediately after worship



MAILCHIMP! If you haven't been receiving our weekly emails and would like to, please give the office your email.



The **Handicapables Group** invites all seniors in need of a meal, social interaction and entertainment to Bowen Hall on **December 20.** To RSVP contact Joanne Del Castillo at joannedelcastillo@comcast.net

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 10 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	2 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM PW Coord. Mtg 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - RC 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bul.	3 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 3:30 PM Voena Choir	4 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 12:00 PM Simply Friends 6 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	5 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 12 PM Hour of Prayer	6 5:30 PM Voyagers Holiday Potluck
7 Alternative Christmas Market 8:15 AM Advent Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting for Installation of Elders and Deacons 11:30 AM Youth Council Meeting 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano 6:30 PM Staff Holiday	8 Office Closed 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 10 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	9 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM PW Sewing 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - CL 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bul. 12:30 PM Personnel - Library 2:00 PM Worship Committee - Adult Ed 5:00 PM Finance Meeting 7 PM Deacon's Meeting	10 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 5:00 PM Nami Board Meeting	11 Food Bank Delivery? 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 10 AM Deacon's Gift Assembly 12:00 PM Church & World 12:00 PM Simply Friends 6 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	12 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 12 PM Hour of Prayer 2:00 PM Deacon's Food Basket Assembly	13 10:00 AM Giving Tree - Assemble Gift Bags
14 Alternative Christmas Market 8:15 AM Advent Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano	15 Office Closed 7 AM MHS Breakfast 10:00 AM Giving Tree - Delivery 10 AM Senior Exercise 4 PM Ramblin' Roses Annual Christmas Party 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM PW Evening Bible	16 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - CA 10:30 AM PW Bible Study & Luncheon 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bul. 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	17 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 3:30 PM Voena Choir 5:00 PM Voena Recital open to all 7:00 PM Christian Edu. Meeting	18 7:00 AM MHS Breakfast 12:00 PM Simply Friends 6 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	19 NO MHS Breakfast 12 PM Hour of Prayer 6:30 PM Choir Practice	20 9:30 AM Handicapped
21 8:15 AM Advent Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship - Cantata 11:30 AM Stephen Ministry 11:30 AM Youth Council Meeting 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano 2:00 PM Choir Cantata	22 NO MHS Breakfast Office Closed 10 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	23 NO MHS Breakfast 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - BM 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bul. 12:00 PM Church and World 7:00 PM Session Meeting	24 Christmas Eve NO MHS Breakfast	25 Christmas Day NO MHS Breakfast	26 NO MHS Breakfast	27
28 10:00 AM Worship 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano	29 NO MHS Breakfast Office Closed 10 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	30 NO MHS Breakfast 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - RC 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bul.	31 New Year's Eve NO MHS Breakfast			

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day NO MHS Breakfast	2 NO MHS Break-fast	3
4 8:15 AM Bible Study Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Youth Council Meeting 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano	5 Office Closed 10:00 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	6 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM PW Coordinating Mtg 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - RC 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bulletin 1:00 PM Membership/Fellowship Meeting in Adult Ed	7	8 12:00 PM Church & World 12:00 PM Simply Friends 6:00 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	9 12:00 PM Hour of Prayer	10
11 8:15 AM Bible Study Class 10:00 AM Worship: Officer Installation 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano	12 Office Closed 10:00 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	13 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - CL 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bulletin 12:30 PM Personnel 2:00 PM Worship Committee 7:00 PM Deacon's Mtg.	14 5:00 PM Nami Board Meeting	15 12:00 PM Simply Friends 3:30 PM Book Club 6:00 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	16 12:00 PM Hour of Prayer	17 Rose Clippings Deadline 9:30 AM Handicapped
18 8:15 AM Bible Study Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Voyagers Planning Meeting 11:30 AM Stephen Ministry 11:30 AM Youth Council Meeting 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano	19 Office Closed 10:00 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM PW Evening Bible	20 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - CA 10:30 AM PW Bible Study & Luncheon 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bulletin 5:00 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Boy Scouts	21 3:30 PM Voena Choir 7:00 PM Christian Edu. Meeting	22 12:00 PM Simply Friends 2:00 PM Favorite Film Series 3:00 PM Nominating Committee 6:00 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	23 12:00 PM Hour of Prayer	24 Officer Training/Retreat
25 8:15 AM Bible Study Class 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting 1:30 PM Centro Cristiano Hispano	26 Office Closed 10:00 AM Senior Exercise 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	27 8:30 AM Buildings & Grounds 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. - BM 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. Bulletin 12:00 PM Church and World 7:00 PM Session Meeting	28 3:30 PM Voena Choir	29 12:00 PM Simply Friends 6:00 PM Bellissimo Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice	30 12:00 PM Hour of Prayer	31 MHS Crabfeed at St.Eugene's

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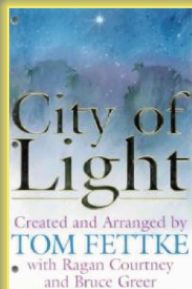
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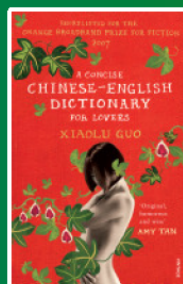
UPCOMING EVENTS...



A Christmas Cantata
Sunday Worship
December 21 10:00 a.m.

City of Light

The Church of the Roses Choir
Director: Barbara McElroy
Accompanist: Althea Wright

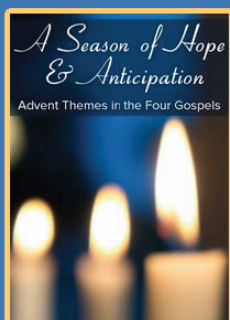


No Book Club in Dec.
Thurs. January 15
3:30 P.M

In the Library

A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers

By Xiaolu Guo, A beautiful story of
culture, growing, life and awareness of self.



Nov. 30 – Dec. 21

Keep Christ in Christmas!
An Advent Study of the
Four Gospels
4 Sundays 8:15-9:15 a.m.

A Season of Hope and Anticipation

Leaders: Pastor Cindy and
Emily Reeves



Starts January 4
see www.pcusa.org
for Lectionary

New Sunday Morning Bible Class
8:15 - 9:15 in the Adult Ed Room

Exploring the Lectionary

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EMAIL: OFFICE@CHURCHROSES.ORG OR LEAVE A COPY IN THE BOX IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.



Distributed to all members and friends

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