



REACHING OUT

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers:

It's here! IT'S HERE!!! What's here you ask? ADVENT!!! So why all the shouting and excitement? Well Advent means we get specially blessed time to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. Isn't that a bit old fashioned for today's modern times and technology you say? Not at all because Advent reminds us to slow down and reflect on the precious new life coming into the world on Christmas Day and how that tiny newborn changed everything and continues to cause change within us even after more than 2,000 years.

Speaking of change, the recent elections in our country will bring a multitude of changes. COPA's article talks about changes in our local community and what they are doing to facilitate them. If you want

Angel Tree

Certainly one of the main features of this season is gift-giving! It's a joy to give and to receive. Sometimes, however, this holiday gift-giving can seem more of an obligation than freely-given love and appreciation. This can be challenging!

We might ask, "What's it all about? Why do we give gifts at Christmas?" One way to answer this is to remember that it is Jesus' birthday that we celebrate. We love to give people gifts on their birthdays, to express how

to get involved now's the time.

Hospice's article discusses changes in our lives from the death of a loved one this past year and offers us hope and a solid action plan to help us get through the holidays. See for yourself the wonderful services they provide as you read their write up.

Advent is a season for reflecting and preparing. Many of us dear readers will reflect on Christmas's past, especially when we were children filled with wonder and excitement of what was contained in the packages under our Christmas tree.

We have the opportunity of making those treasured moments in our past a reality for children who wouldn't receive a present if it wasn't for our very own Angel

much we appreciate the gift of their lives. Since Christmas is Jesus' birthday, shouldn't we do the same for him? What does Jesus want for his birthday?

Now the purpose of the Angel Tree becomes clear. Jesus tells us that whatever we do for others, we do for him, and he especially wants us to care for his humanity as it suffers in all humans who suffer. When we do this, we are truly giving him what he wants for Christmas, and every day of the year. It was for this purpose



Tree decorated with the hopes and dreams of kids who are in need this Christmas. Re-live your favorite childhood Christmas by becoming a Resurrection Angel and make a child's wish come true by making it a reality. See you can make good changes happen.

May the peace of Christ disturb you profoundly this Holiday Season.

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that he was born into our world, to show us the way to love and peace in our world.

This year we are providing gifts to more than 400 people in Santa Cruz County. They are:

- * Very-low income families
- * Children in foster care
- * Women and Children at the Monarch Women's shelter
- * Very low income children at the Fairgrounds Child Development Center

Please wrap your gift, attach

Angel Tree Continued

the angel securely to the outside of the package and bring the gift to the Angel Tree (or office) by **Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 am.**

Our youth group will be sorting the gifts at 11:30 am that day, so we need them by then!

Our gifts given to the

people on our Angel Tree are gifts given to Jesus for his birthday. As you give your gift this year, may you be given a profound sense of Jesus' gratitude for your love.

Over the years we have provided gifts to

over 8,400 people. "We" of course, is all of you who so lovingly adopt these individuals and return such beautifully wrapped packages, obvious expressions of your compassion and unconditional love.

It is our prayer that these gifts will be "sacraments" of God's love, and that those who receive them will know that God is real, that God is love, and that Jesus Christ is God.

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Hospice of Santa Cruz: *You're Not Alone During the Holidays*

Holidays are a time of celebration with family and dear friends. But when we have lost someone special, our world loses its celebratory qualities. Holidays may only magnify the loss. Endings and new beginnings can also be challenging, especially as we start a new year, without a loved one.

Hospice of Santa Cruz County Cruz County offers caring grief support during the holiday season. We invite you to come and share with others to discover ways for navigating the holidays without your special person.

Support through the Winter Holidays. Friday 12/23 from Noon – 1:30

Support as the Year Closes and a New Year Begins. Friday 12/20 from noon- 1:30

These holiday groups are available in both Wat-

sonville and Scotts Valley we invite you to call us at (831) 430-3000 for details. We continue to offer individual support throughout the year as well. For those in grief, here are a few things to consider this holiday season:

- **Accept** that you have limitations this year. This is not wrong. It just is.
- **Look carefully** at your priorities and determine what is truly meaningful for you.
- **Let others support you** through the holidays.
- **Give yourself permission** to let go of the "shoulds" and "have tos."
- **Be honest and clear.** Tell people what you DO want to do for the holidays and what



you DON'T want to do. **Offering Support** Supporting a friend or a

member of your community who is grieving can also be challenging.

Often, we don't know what to say or do to help them at this tender time. We offer these suggestions to guide you:

- **Be supportive** of the way the person chooses to handle the holidays. Some may wish to follow traditions; others may choose to do something new. It's okay to do things differently.
- **Offer to help with decorating** or holiday baking. Both tasks can be overwhelming for someone who is grieving.
- **Offer to help with holiday shopping.** Share catalogs or online shopping sites.

- **Invite them to join you** or your family for church services or at a holiday meal.

Follow up after the holidays to check in. **A Time of Remembrance**

Our Tree of Lights, in front of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County in Aptos, will remain lit during the entire month of December to serve as a reminder of the lights of our lives whom we have loved and lost. Each dazzling light is a reflection of their important place in your heart. Please call us at (831) 430-3000 or visit us online at hospicesantacruz.org to learn more about the support we can provide to you this holiday season and throughout the year. For additional information contact: Shirley Sapena ssapena@hospicesantacruz.org

COPA: Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action

Immigration

The harsh rhetoric towards immigrants, Muslims, women, and others frightened and angered many people around the country, even around the world. Here in the Monterey Bay region, COPA has heard the same concerns expressed by many members of our COPA institutions. Since the election many members have reached out to COPA, afraid and suspicious, especially of the Department of Justice and local law enforcement and their relationship with our immigrant communities, Muslims and People of Color. Since the election, the “Trevor Project” a suicide prevention hotline for the LGBTQ community has had so many calls they had to bring in extra counselors.

In 1940 the Smith Act was enacted, which simply stated, all non-citizens must register with the Government. In 1954 the INS launched “Operation Wetback” this was done in part as a way to deter Latinos from organizing farm workers. There is precedence in

our country for this fear of the other many times unwarranted.

On Monday in Salinas, COPA joined with Doug Keegan, Santa Cruz County Immigration Project, Paulina Moreno, DACA Coordinator with the Community Action Board to announce that we will be holding forums and workshops to answer any questions and give advice on their individual status and their rights. We will be gathering in all our COPA institutions to organize and create a dialogue with local law enforcement that will keep everyone safe. As I listen to a young girl describe her fear not knowing when she returns home from school whether her parents or other siblings will be there because of their status, I can’t imagine what she is going through, but listening to her story I feel compassion for her and anger at the circumstances.

COPA teaches us that anger is good and natural, but it is what we do with our anger that matters. We can use our anger in a good

constructive manner or be destructive. If we choose the latter we have failed. Positive anger propels us to move forward and work to right any wrong.

Jesus reiterates the Old Testament command to love and care for the stranger, a criterion by which we shall be judged: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me” (Mt. 25:35) The Apostle Paul asserts the absolute equality of all people before God: “There is neither Jew nor Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28). In Christ, the human race is one before God, equal in dignity and rights.

Healthcare for all

As I wrote in my last update for COPA, we have organized for health care needs for all ages. In 2015 COPA, in Monterey County, organized and won support for a \$500,000 pilot program that provides free prescriptions, labs and radiology services for the uninsured. We wanted to expand this

program. COPA’s Monterey institutions pushed the Board of Supervisors to act. Our next step involves a special study session with the Supervisors to discuss a more comprehensive solution. We are hoping that the county will create something similar to what’s offered in counties such as, Los Angeles, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, or others. At this session the “action” will be the formation of a workgroup that will include COPA, members of the Board, the Health Dept., and other key stakeholders, whose first task will be to visit one of these other programs and begin working on a proposal. Our Healthcare team has been working very hard on this project, and if this interests you please contact me.

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Resurrection Catholic Community Outreach Ministries

Outreach Ministry/ Organization	Contact	Outreach Ministry/ Organization	Contact
Angel Tree	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750	Parish Assistance Ministry (PAM)	Jan Finney jer63jan@sbcglobal.net 831-684-2879
Association of Faith Communities Homeless Outreach	Pat Lorenzo pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068	Prime Timers	Doris Duncanson djamassa@sbcglobal.net 831-662-8605 Sue Bruemmer sbruemmer@sbcglobal.net 831-688-4985
Community Table	Joe Lucia tardy7345@yahoo.com 831-251-4502	Prison Ministry	Valerie Roach vmd@cruzio.com 831-274-1150
COPA	Mary Litel-Walsh mlitelwalsh@comcast.net 831-662-3376	Ruby's Outreach	Margaret "Ruby" Caylor riteaidruby@yahoo.com 831-662-3585
Dominican Wellness Mobile Clinic	Sr. Michaela Siplak, OP Michaela.siplak@dignityhealth.org 831-457-7168	Socks for People in Need/SPIN	Pat Lorenzo pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068
Food Pantry	Pat & Bill Warmerdam 831-688-5762 Rody Hilbert, darhilb@got.net, 831-688-2270 Maggie Cross, rmbcross@cruzio.com	Jesus, Mary & Joseph Home	Kathy Manus kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Gabriel Project	Virginia Kaufman ginnypk@comcast.net 831-247-5461	St. Francis Catholic Kitchen	Kathy Manus kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Get on the Bus	Renetta Parry pandas205@msn.com 831-662-3067	Senior Resource Ministry	Ellen Minahan McGibben emcgibben@att.net 831-688-4300 ext. 17
Homebound Ministry	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750	Homeless Shelter Ministry Showers for the Homeless	Pat Lorenzo pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068
Hospice	Shirley Sapena ssapena@hospicesantacruz.org 831-430-3078	Thanksgiving Boxes	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Jail Ministry	Bill Littell blittelljr@aol.com 831-688-8599	Tithing Ministry	Kathy Manus kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Knights of Columbus	Larry Gonzales larrydgonzales@aol.com 831-722-3159	Tutoring Ministry	Hugh Voris hugo6184@gmail.com 831-688-7288
Manna Ministries	Kathy Manus, 831-688-0129 kathrynmanus@gmail.com Mike Howley, 831-688-8273 mikehowley1941@yahoo.com	Wings	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Mantles of Caring	Susan Punches suepunches@aol.com 831-661-0732	Women's Guild	Betty Elder bncelder@comcast.net 831-708-2570
Nursing Home Ministries	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750	For a more detailed description of the ministries go to www.resurrection-aptos.org,	Click on Resource Center and look for the Outreach Ministries Contact List under Outreach. As of 9/20/16