

Church News

Community Church's family celebration a big hit

NICCI SHIPSTEAD
Clayton Pioneer

Clayton Community Church held its annual Christmas Banquet at Centre Concord with two fully packed halls of about 400 people. The program included a free ham dinner and dessert, a hilarious drama entitled "Christmas Rewind" and a stunning light show by 16-year-old Jeffrey Holmes.

Pastor Shawn Robinson reminded those gathered to focus on the joy and hope in the birth of God's son – rather than getting caught up in cultural and corporate expectations of big spending, packaged gifts and marketing glitz.

Directed and narrated by Marianne Roberts, "The Christmas Rewind" is a modern-day rendition of the centuries old Nativity story. In this account, Mary (Mandi Hall) chats on her cell about King Herod's recent appearance on MTV's "Cribs" when the Angel



Zechariah (Ben Botello) is struck dumb (with a bit of duct tape) for his disbelief when the angel tells him that his wife Elizabeth (Susan Fossan) will bear a child in her old age.

(Brad Brigleib) appears. In humble subservience, she accepts the miraculous birth bestowed upon her and with deflated enthusiasm "looks forward" to informing her boyfriend Joseph (John Shipstead) of the incredible event to come. The 21st cen-

tury Angel laments that "nobody believes the Angel anymore" and resorts to modern techniques such as the Clapper and THX surround sound to proclaim his righteous message.

Joseph and Mary find the

new millennium does not offer a break, as they have no reservations at either the Ritz-Carlton or Magical 8 Motel. They accept HBO-less accommodations out back of a very humble hotel offering "shower curtains in every room." The surf-savvy shepherds are informed of the miraculous birth of the Savior and, although unsure what "swaddling cloths" might be, travel to Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus wrapped as a gift in the manger and proclaim, "God is with us."

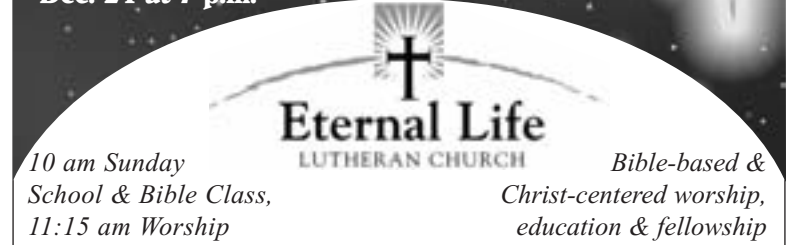
Jeffrey, a Clayton resident, debuted his holiday light show synchronized to Christmas music. He noted that he and two helpers were busy setting up equipment right up to the start of the show, but Jeffrey hopes to streamline the procedure with practice.

"It was probably the best dinner yet," said Mary O'Neill. "The kids all seemed to really enjoy the light show."

Join us this Christmas

for a traditional message in a non-traditional setting

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,
Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.



10 am Sunday
School & Bible Class,
11:15 am Worship

5554 Clayton Rd., Concord (in the Farm Bureau building)
(925) 524-0295 www.EternalLifeLutheranChurch.org
William Kant, Pastor Member of WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Club News



Photo courtesy Mary Spryer
JoAnn Caspar, left, Janet Easton and Peggy Arundell celebrate at the Clayton Historical Society's annual meeting.

CLAYTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As co-chairmen of the Clayton Historical Society's annual Gardens Tour, JoAnn Caspar and Peggy Arundell were given the Special Recognition Award at the society's annual meeting at Oddfellows Hall. This award is bestowed annually to individuals or groups whose support, contributions and exemplary service have been vital to the mission of the organization.

With Peggy and JoAnn at

the helm for the last 10 years, the Gardens Tour has netted more than \$80,000 to benefit the museum on Main Street. They announced that the 2008 Gardens Tour will be April 26-27.

At the same meeting, an election of officers and directors was held, with John Rubiales as the chairman of the nominating committee. The two new directors are Charmetta Mann and Jeff Crady. The officers remain the same. Janet Easton is president, Carmen

Frank is first vice president, Barbara Allen is second vice president, and Barbara Fogerson and Sheila Driscoll share secretarial duties.

The Clayton Historical Society Museum, at 6101 Main St., welcomes volunteers for positions as docents or greeters. Open hours are 2-4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays. The museum is also open for special events downtown and for groups by appointment.

For more information, visit claytonhistory.org.

Group mentors teens through music

ANDRÉ GENSBURGER
Clayton Pioneer

With an unusual, yet effective plan, Guitars Not Guns offers troubled youth the opportunity to focus their energy and stay out of trouble by attending guitar tutorial workshops for eight weeks and earning the right to own their own guitar upon graduation.

Ray and Louise Nelson founded GNG in San Jose in 1992. The local chapter is run by vice president Randall Davis, a member of the band Ambrosia in its early, pre-success days. He left the group to attend law school. Teamed with fellow Rotarian Frank Darling, he outlined the program to the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary

at the Dec. 6 meeting.

The program raises money to buy guitars and recruit tutors to teach the eight-week class. Gibson Guitars donates 50 guitars each year, as well as offering an unlimited quantity at cost. All the guitars are purchased new.

"There are 150,000 foster children in California," Davis said, "and there are 2,000 in Contra Costa County alone. These kids move homes five to six times before finishing school."

GNG offers stability and a sense of self-worth to the kids by teaching them to tackle problems, as well as feeling a sense of accomplishment at meeting their goals.

"Lots of kids have messed-

up home lives," Davis said. "Mothers with multiple kids, fathers in jail and foster parents who, even though they care, are not always good parents."

"The foster system turns them out at age 18, ready or not," Darling explained. "Only 10 percent of them are ready. The source of many homeless comes from the foster system."

Both men believe that learning to channel their attention on playing guitar relieves some of the built-up aggression that leads to shootings and other crimes.

Many celebrity musicians, such as the Pat Travers Band and George Lynch, have volunteered to tutor the kids in the program.

"That's when you see a dif-



Randall Davis, Vice President, Guitars Not Guns.

ferent side to these kids," Davis noted. "Beneath the tough exterior lies a kid."

Guitars Not Guns has provided more than 200 guitars in the past two years. For additional information, visit www.guitarsnotguns.com.



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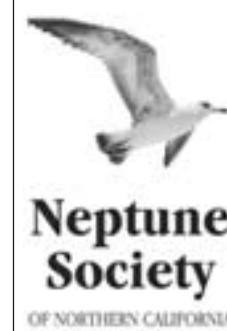
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CLAYTON

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www.saintjohnsparish.org

Sunday, Dec. 23 Worship at 8 and 10 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 24 Worship at 5 p.m.
Children's Christmas Eve service

Monday Dec. 24 Worship at 10 p.m.
Celebration of Christ's Nativity



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2007 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses - Monday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Children's Choir
5:30 p.m.
9:00 p.m.
12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses - Tuesday, December 25

8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:00 noon (Spanish)

St. Bonaventure Catholic Community

5562 Clayton Road, Concord

(925) 672-5800

Roberta Claire



Photography

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