



November 2016 Chalice PrevUUs Calendar

Newsletter of the Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Escondido, California
2324 Miller Avenue, Escondido, CA 92029 Phone: 760-737-0393
Website: ChaliceUUCongregation.org

Edited
for
Public

**Celebration of the life of
Morgana Mlodoch
Saturday, Nov. 19 at 2 pm**
July 3, 1952 to September 26, 2016.



She was born in Chicago, the oldest of 10 siblings. Per family request, donations in her memory may be made to the North County LGBTQ Center or to Chalice UUC. A quote from Morgana's Protocol to Reduce Stress. "1) Upon getting up in the morning, take a moment to give thanks for the day. Each day is a gift."

Artists and Crafters of all Ages Wanted!!!

On Sunday, November 13th, from 9:30 AM to 2 PM, Chalice will be hosting an Arts and Crafts Fair! This is your chance to earn some money and donate to Chalice at the same time! We are looking for all types of arts and crafts -- Fiber Art, Pottery, Jewelry, Homemade Cards, Photography, Needle-work, Paintings, Paper Crafts, and much more.

Lena Wellman is the contact person, and she will be available between services so you can reserve a table or ask questions. Or, you can contact her @ [not for public] if you are interested in selling your work. The deadline for submitting an application is Nov 6!

Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00



Turn your clocks back an hour Nov 6

November 6

Rev. Sharon Wylie

"Growing Pains"

After four months of sabbatical, Rev. Sharon returns to the pulpit just in time for election day on Tuesday! This morning she will share her thoughts on the presidential election and the deep political divisions in our country.

November 13

Rev. Sharon Wylie

"Don't Look Away"

As we process the outcomes of Tuesday's election, we may be tempted to ignore conflict and disagreement in the hopes of putting ugliness behind us. But spiritual work calls us to stay present to what pains us...and others. This is the third in our ten-part sermon series on Compassionate Living, inspired by Karen Armstrong's book Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life.

November 20

Rev. Sharon Wylie

"Chalice Soup and Founders Day"

Multigenerational Service

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on and to share our communal abundance, with special appreciation for our founding members. Canned goods for the Interfaith Community Services Food Pantry will be collected during the service, so please bring LOTS! Please bring vegetarian soup ingredients for our communal soup.

November 27

Rev. Elizabeth Bukey

"So What?"

We work at Chalice to be a spiritual community founded in theological diversity, rather than shared beliefs. We are proud to be a community that cares for each other and feels like home for many. Why does it matter? What does Chalice have to offer that is uniquely important?

Auction Party with Available "tickets"

Come Play With Us Sweet Treat Card Bingo!!

Join us for Sweet Treat Card Bingo on November 12 at 3 pm in the chapel. This is an auction event but we still have room for you. The cost is \$10 plus we request that you bring \$2 in dimes with you for prize money. Treats and refreshments will be provided.

Please call Margaret Spear at [not for public] before November 6.





Social Justice - Dates

Sign Up To Volunteer for Thanksgiving Meals

Wednesday, November 23 and/or Thursday, November 24

Interfaith Community Services

550 W. Washington Ave, Escondido

On the day before and day of Thanksgiving, our long-time partner Interfaith Community Services serves meals at their Escondido headquarters to individuals experiencing homelessness. We will send two teams from Chalice: One group on Wednesday from 11:30-2:00 and one on Thursday from 11:30-2:00. Children aged 10 and over are welcome with a parent or guardian. RSVP to Elizabeth: revelizabethbukey@gmail.com



Immigrant Justice Visioning Retreat

Immigrant Justice:

Thank you to the folks who came to our visioning retreat on Saturday, October 15. We discussed a LOT of ideas for how to shape our congregation's work for immigrant justice in the coming year. Two takeaway ideas were for the immigrant justice team to have an ongoing presence at social hour on Sundays, and for us to focus more energy on advocacy (communicating with elected officials to try to change immigration policies). Please continue to let us know the questions and ideas you have.

— Rev. Elizabeth Bukey, Marilyn Alberts, Dennis Brown, and Jennifer Gusman



Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team, in consultation with Rev. Sharon, provides support for those in the congregation in need. This can take the form of cards, flowers, meals, temporary transport, and personal visits. We also visit members who cannot attend services.

If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral support, please contact Rev. Sharon Wylie at RevSharonWylie@gmail.com or (619) 871-9959 or Nancy Hurt, Lay Chaplain Convener, at [not for public]

Chalice Web Site: ChaliceUUCongregation.org

Address: 2324 Miller Ave Escondido, CA 92029 **Phone:** 760-737-0393

PrevUUs is published monthly by the Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation. It is distributed in two parts via email to members. The unabridged newsletter is posted on the Members Only section of the website. An edited version (without congregant contact information) is posted on the public section of the website. Paper copies are available at Chalice. Deadline is the 24th of the month, every month. Submit articles to: ChaliceUUCNewsletter@gmail.com

With gratitude to our Proofreaders: Peggy Kiefer, Andi Stout



Music Ministry

Sunday Worship Music November Highlights

- Nov 6:** The choir will sing **Flying Free** by Don Besig. Susan Spoto will be featured on flute. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- Nov 13:** **A guest** will be our worship musician.
- Nov 20:** The choir will sing **Banquet Fugue** by John Rutter. Spirit of Chalice will sing **Only A Couple of Fishes** by Elizabeth Alexander. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- Nov 27:** **Steve Withers** will be our worship musician.



Calendar of Upcoming Music Department Events

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	November 16
Winter Music Service	December 11
Randi Driscoll's Jingle Ball	December 11
Keyboard Kaleidoscope 5	March 4



Keyboard Kaleidoscope Auction Event!

The Keyboard Kaleidoscope Auction Event Concert has been rescheduled! Look for this amazing musical event coming Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 7 pm. For all who purchased tickets for the original event, you have a ticket for this one already! Additional tickets will be available at the door.

Sunday Morning Childcare for Chancel Choir Members!

The Music Program is happy to announce that childcare will now be provided from 8:15-8:45 am on those Sundays when Chancel Choir is singing. If you have ever wanted to join the choir but didn't have a plan for your children during Sunday morning rehearsals, we've got you covered now! The Chancel Choir generally sings on two Sundays per month from September through June.

Gloria Angelo Arts Education Scholarship Fund

The Chalice Music Program is pleased to announce the availability of visual and performing arts scholarships through the Gloria Angelo Arts Education Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund was established by Paula Gonzales in memory of her mother, Gloria Angelo, in 2007. Over the years many scholarships have been granted leaving the fund nearly depleted. Thanks to a recent, generous donation from Daniel Gordon in memory of his parents, Edith and Barry Gordon, these scholarships are again available for lessons, workshops, summer camps, and other educational opportunities in the arts. Drama, dance, music, voice, painting, and drawing are among the arts that would be supported by this fund. For more information and applications, email *[not for public]*



Weekly and Monthly Community Pages - You are welcome here too:

Yoga Class meets at 7 pm **each Tuesday evening** in the Chapel. These are friendly classes, with gentle teachers and appreciative students. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. A \$5 donation is suggested, but not required. **No yoga on Tuesday, November 8.**



Cracker Barrel is a group of liberal thinkers; they are friendly, supportive men who meet each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast, and discussion at 9:30, at Marie Callender's in Escondido. New friends are welcome. Contact Marty Schwartz at *[not for public]*

This is open to all men of Chalice. If you are looking to meet life long friends with a sense of humor, Cracker Barrel may be exactly what you are looking for.



Zen Meditation - Chalice Friend, Dr. Al Zolnyas, offers instruction and Meditation practice on Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30 am and on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This group welcomes both seasoned meditators and those new to the practice. Meet in the cottage.

Women's Meditation & Buddhist Study Group meets every Thursday

This group focuses on mutual support and the practical implementation of Buddhism in order to enrich our daily lives. Our format is to check in, read aloud from our selected book, discuss what we have just read, and then meditate for 30 minutes. Our readings about Buddhist practice and philosophy are written by contemporary writers and Buddhist teachers and are chosen by group consensus. We meet in the chapel from 10:30 am until 12:00 every Thursday. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Carol Bagguley *[not for public]*.

October Circle Suppers

You are invited to Circle Supper on **Saturday Nov. 19** at 6pm.

Circle Suppers are monthly dinners in a pot-luck format with usually eight people at a host's home. Dinners are held on the third Saturday of the month. The number of dinners each month depends on how many people participate that month. This is a great way to get to know each other better and further our sense of community.

Newcomers are welcome.

If interested in attending please contact Dani Comer by **Wed., Nov. 9** or if you have any questions. *[not for public]*.



POTLUCK DINNER

Women's Book Discussion

On Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:15 pm the Chalice Women's Book Group will meet in the Common Room to discuss Kate Braestrup's **Here If You Need Me: a True Story**, a funny, frank, and deeply moving story recounts Kate's journey from grief to faith to Happiness. After her husband's accidental death, Kate decided to pursue what had been her husband's dream and became a Unitarian minister. And soon she found an unusual calling: serving as chaplain for search-and-rescue missions in the Maine woods, giving comfort to people whose loved ones are missing and to the wardens who sometimes have to deal with dreadful outcomes. Whether with parents whose six-year-old daughter has vanished into the woods or with wardens as they search for a snowmobiler trapped under the ice, Braestrup provides solace, understanding, and spiritual guidance when they're needed most. Dani Comer will lead the discussion.

December's Book: **Where Did You Go, Bernadette** by Maria Semple

We meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7:15 PM in the Common Room. Please come and join us for a stimulating and fun evening, discussing the book and all the other topics, ideas and experiences that we share at our meetings. Newcomers are welcome, please contact: Dani Comer *[not for public]*



Weekly and Monthly Community Pages Continued:

Fiber Artists

The Fiber Arts Group which meets the third Wednesday of each month will meet November 16 at 1 PM in the Common Room at Chalice. This group is open to all crafters of any type. Do you: knit, sew, crochet, quilt, weave, make cards? The list is endless. Please bring your hand work to the meetings and join with like-minded individuals for encouragement and wonderful conversation. Contact Dianne Decker-Houser at *[not for public]* with any questions.



Chalice Dine-Out

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month, at a new place each month. We will not be meeting in November because it is the day before Thanksgiving. Please RSVP to Cindy Carter at *[not for public]*.

Singles and couples, all are welcome for conversation, catching up and getting acquainted. This is an open group that enjoys breaking bread together.

Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch meets on the third Friday of each month. We will meet on Friday, November 18 at **Encanto** in Escondido, formerly the Intertwined Bistro & Wine Bar. The menu is the same, we are told, which you can check at www.encantofinecuisine.com. We meet at 11:30 AM. The address is 113 E. Grand Avenue. It is located east of Broadway, between Broadway and Kalmia Streets.

Please RSVP to Carol Simpson at *[not for public]*



Chalice Readers

On December 2nd at 7 pm at Chalice we will discuss **The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown**. This robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936

You've got questions? Email them to John Drewe at *[not for public]*.

Readers' Theater

Our November meeting will be held on Monday, November 28th at 6:45 p.m. in the common room. **Newcomers and listeners are always welcome at our gatherings.** This month we'll be reading aloud the comedy of manners, **The Women**, by Claire Boothe Luce. The plot involves the efforts of a group of women to play their respective roles in an artificial society that consists of vain show, comedy, tragedy, hope and disappointment. This brilliant play has assumed the status of a modern classic. Aside from the novelty of its involving a large cast of women, it is an immensely entertaining panorama of our modern metropolitan world from the feminine viewpoint. [Though there are no male characters in it, men are invited as readers — we never see gender as a barrier to our fun!]



Please contact Deb Coon *[not for public]* in advance, so that we'll know to expect you.

Hike or Talk with the Men's Group

Some members of the Chalice Men's Support Group have started doing a monthly hike which is usually around five miles and in the moderately difficult range. The hikes are on the third Friday morning of each month. You don't need to be a member of the Men's group to participate in the hiking.

The Men's Group has some schedule changes. November meetings will be Wednesday, Nov. 9 and Monday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 pm at Chalice. In December the group will meet on the second Wednesday - Dec. 14 only. Please contact Phil Comer at *[not for public]* to find out more about this supportive, fun, and caring group of men..



Chalice UU Congregation ** November 2016 ** Services, Meetings, Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm Executive Board 7 pm Yoga	2 9 am Cracker Barrel 7pm Sharing Our Journeys	3 8:30 am Zen Meditation 10 am Coord Team 6:30 pm Women's Study 7:30 pm Hand Chimes 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9 am UUA Regional Staff Development Turn your clocks back to Standard Time
6 - Social Justice Sunday 9 & 11 am Worship Service: Rev. Sharon Wylie "Growing Pains" 9 am Children's RE 10:15 am Spirit of Chalice 11:30 am Coming of Age 3:30 pm Zen Meditation	7	8 - Election Day 2 pm Caregiver Support 7 pm Board of Trustees - POSTPONED to Nov. 9 7 pm Yoga - CANCELLED	9 9 am Cracker Barrel 6:30 pm Family Ministries Tm 6:30 pm Men's Support Gp 7 pm Bruno Groening 7pm Board of Trustees	10 8:30 am Zen Meditation 10:30 am Women's Study 6:30 pm Hand Chimes 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 12 pm Calix Group	12 8:30 am Focus Group Facilitator Training 3 pm Auction Event
13 9 & 11 am Worship Service: Rev. Sharon Wylie "Don't Look Away" 9 am Children's RE 10 am Arts & Crafts Fair 10:15 am Spirit of Chalice 3:30 pm Zen Meditation	14 6:30 pm Men's Support Group	15 7 pm Strategic Planning 7 pm Yoga 7:15pm Women's Book Club	16 9 am Cracker Barrel 1 pm Fiber Arts 7pm Sharing Our Journeys	17 8:30 am Zen Meditation 10 am Coord Team 10:30 am Women's Study 6:30 pm Hand Chimes 7 pm Lay Chaplains 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 ? am Men's Support Group Hike see pg 5	19 10 am Worship Associates 2 pm Celebration of Life for Morgana Mlodoch 6 pm Circle Suppers
20 9 & 11 am Worship Service: Rev. Sharon Wylie "Chalice Soup/Founders Day" Multigenerational Service 10:15 am Spirit of Chalice 1 pm Music Committee 3:30 pm Zen Meditation 4 pm Cabaret DVD Viewing	21	22 2 pm Caregiver Support 7 pm Yoga	23 9 am Cracker Barrel 6:30 pm Family Ministries Team 9 pm Newsletter Deadline	24 - Thanksgiving	25 7pm Chalice Readers	26
27 9 & 11 am Worship Service: Rev. Elizabeth Bukey "So What?" 9 am Children's RE 10:15 am Spirit of Chalice 12 pm Decorate Chapel - Holiday 3:30 pm Zen Meditation	28 6:45 pm Readers' Theater	29 7 pm Yoga	30 9 am Cracker Barrel 7 pm Bruno Groening	The Chalice Calendar is updated frequently. For the most accurate information, please go on-line to ChaliceUUCongregation.org and click under the "Stay In Touch" tab there is a drop down menu with a button for the Calendar. Anyone can access that calendar, you do not need to have a member password.		



November 2016 Chalice PrevUUs Magazine

Newsletter of the Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Escondido, California
2324 Miller Avenue, Escondido, CA 92029 Phone: 760-737-0393

Chalice Board President's Message

October was an exceptionally busy month at Chalice. Cabaret occupied the first ten days of the month for about 50 of us, not just those you saw on the stage but the many participants behind the scenes. The Social Justice team had three big events during the month: Pride at the Beach, an Immigrant Justice Retreat, and the last of their well-attended film series on immigration issues. Our phenomenal Coordinating Team met regularly to manage the day-to-day running of our church, while our talented staff ran Family Ministries, directed the Music Program, maintained the books and paid the bills, answered the phones, solved problems, took the minutes at meetings, and wrote your weekly and monthly newsletters. As with every month, we met for Sunday worship, Worship Team, Calix groups, Circle Suppers, auction events, Board meetings, Pastoral Care, rehearsals for our adult and children's choirs and handchimes, book clubs and Readers' Theater, yoga, meditation groups, newcomer groups, and support groups. And those are just the things on our calendar! Other groups include Building and Grounds, Music committee, Renovation committee, and Pathways team, which prepares the congregation to welcome visitors and accompanies seekers along the many paths to belonging.

November will bring all those regular events, plus a staff development workshop, a crafts fair, a celebration

of Rev. Sharon's return from sabbatical, and a celebration of life for Morgana. Inaugural meetings of new groups include a Focus Group training and a Strategic Planning Committee, both working in different ways to help Chalice plan for its future as a vibrant, growing congregation.

You have many things tugging for your time and attention. But consider this: just as our diverse talents, interests and life experiences make this a warm and fascinating community, they also make the work of this congregation very personally rewarding. Volunteering is not just altruistic – working together is incredibly satisfying when you get to work with these interesting and thoughtful people. Don't let the sheer variety of possibilities dissuade you. Talk to Rev. Elizabeth, Rev. Sharon, or any Board or committee member about your interests and availability, and we will help you find something that fits. And don't hesitate: life is short and there is important work to be done and fun to be had among friends. This is a wonderful community; let it serve you by getting involved.

~~ Kathy Zapata



Update on Renovations

As reported earlier, in order to avoid major costs resulting from Escondido imposing additional requirements on our plan for Phase 1 of our building program, we have withdrawn the Phase 3 element, the office complex and sanctuary, from the CUP (Conditional Use Permit) application.

Currently Pete Bussett is revising the CUP application to reflect this change. The civil engineer is working on plans for the bio-retention system to comply with regulations imposed since we submitted our original CUP in November of last year. We are awaiting a proposal from TRC, the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) consultant we had retained, to change the EIR to reflect the change in our plan. We anticipate submitting the new CUP in December. Using the same span times we applied previously this will result in building occupancy in mid-2018.

You can see a summary of the significant milestones and the detail schedule on the Member's area of our web site. It is titled "October 22nd Status Presentation to Council of Chairs". A copy is also posted on the bulletin board. Two other documents on

the web site may be of interest for you. "June 10th, 2012 Congregational Meeting Presentation" is the meeting at which the committee asked the congregation to proceed to develop and execute a three phase program for building and to initiate a capital funds drive to finance it. "April 28th, 2013 Presentation of Schematic Design" reflects the schematic design for our facility which was developed in conjunction with the chairs of all major committees.

The recommendations from both the 2012 and 2013 meetings were approved by over 90% of the congregation. The April 2013 presentation reflects what is still our master plan even though the office area and sanctuary are not included in the current CUP application.

Please contact Bob Nelson, *[not for public]* if you have additional questions.



Sabbatical Minister's Message



Hearing a crying baby gets my attention. It gives me a visceral feeling of “oh no!” and a compulsion to do something about it: to bounce it up and down, to find its parent, to do something to answer its cry.

Compassion is related to that feeling. It has to do with feelings of empathy—emotions that almost seem physical— *and* the desire to do something.

The Christian story of the Good Samaritan has some powerful things to say about compassion. I know it's an over-told story, but there's more there than you may have learned in some conservative Sunday School. The story is a parable, a teaching story *told by* Jesus within the greater “story” of the Bible text called “Luke.” It's worth approaching it as we might approach another literary text, by poking into its specifics: asking *why* was it told in this particular way.

In the text, Jesus tells the story to clarify what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself,” a central teaching of Judaism. Instead of answering directly when asked “who is my neighbor,” Jesus tells a story of a man mugged on the street, who is helped not by the people his audience would expect to be good, but only by a person from an enemy religious group, the Samaritans.

The text says that “a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.” That word for “pity” is also translated as “compassion.” Many, many scholars have pointed out that the word in Biblical Greek, *splanchnizomai*, is a very visceral, embodied word. It literally comes from the words meaning “guts” or “viscera.” You could render that phrase, “When he saw the injured man, he felt like his own insides hurt.” It refers to that feeling of seeing someone else's suffering and feeling your own heart twinge, your stomach twist. “Suffering with.”

It's also immediately followed by action: the man is moved with compassion and immediately goes to the man and bandaged his wounds. This word is used three times in the text called “Luke,” and in all three cases the feeling of compassion is immediately followed by action: by healing, by care, and by reconciliation. To cultivate compassion is to cultivate empathy *and* the desire to help: to be a neighbor.

To cultivate compassion, we need more than just education and reason. Karen Armstrong reminds us that human impulses toward selfishness and violence come from deep down, in our lizard brain. Because human selfishness is so deep in the brain, overturning those impulses requires working on a non-rational level. It means also working on the level of myth, of symbol, of spiritual practice.

We need stories.

It's one thing to know that your religion teaches you to “Love God with all your heart and soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.” It's another to know what that looks like in practice. That's why the book of Luke has Jesus answering the religious expert with a story. That's why I retold that story to you. Our world needs stories that teach us what compassion looks like in practice. Stories that tug on our heartstrings and our guts.

Stories that show us goodness and compassion employed by the religious other—by the customary villain, by the Samaritan. Stories like this cry out and call us back to our common humanity, and the affirmation of human life and human flourishing.

What stories call out to you?

Rev. Elizabeth Bukey

Note: this column is adapted from Rev. Elizabeth's September 11 sermon, “Finding Compassion.”

Rev. Elizabeth Bukey,
Minister of Congregational Life
RevElizabethBukey@gmail.com
Office phone: 760.737.0393
Cell phone: 206.499.3673



Family Ministry

What's Happening in Sunday RE

The middle school kids opened their regular R.E. classes using a curriculum called "You the Creator." In the opening segment, participants were given a variety of random objects and asked to create something.



Here, Addison shows off his creation—note the umbrella "eyes" that can open when it is surprised.



In this picture, Hannah presents a Pine Comb.

Fire Safety Training

Our 4th/5th grade class and our Middle School class meet each Sunday morning in the upstairs offices. So the first day of classes this fall, they were trained in what to do in case of a fire. Their training included practice in deploying the fire ladder.



Middle School Class

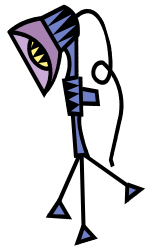


4th & 5th Grade Class



Fire Escape Ladder Deployed

Volunteer Spotlight on Cabaret Producers & Directors



NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON THE CABARET PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS

Coordinating Team would like to thank and recognize the producers and directors of Chalice Cabaret for their leadership of another successful Cabaret production on Oct 6 – 9, 2016.

Producers: Deb Coon, Callie Leef, Andi Stout

Directors/Choreographers: Katie Carlstrom, Deb Coon,

Tina Leef, Cheryl O'Gwynn, Sarah Shapard

Additional Choreography by Amy Throckmorton

WHAT INSPIRED THIS TEAM TO GET STARTED?

Chalice Cabaret started in 2005, initially as a brainstorm of Music Director Tim McKnight, along with then-teens Lauren Schulz and Tina Leef, who were both very active in musical theater. Tim then talked to the Music Committee about the idea of singing some Broadway songs as a fundraiser for the music department, which at that time had very little budget for purchasing sheet music. The chair and members of the music committee agreed, and were heavily involved in creating the production in the first year. However, we rapidly realized there was a need for a broader base of help and greater organization as Cabaret succeeded beyond our wildest dreams and more people wanted to be involved both onstage and off.



WHAT WAS MOST HELPFUL TO YOU IN DOING THIS WORK?

Absolutely the teamwork and the readiness of people to help when called upon! We evolved from year to year, and seemed to face new and different challenges each time. But the constant through it all was the hard work and passion of the people who came together to make it all happen – leadership, cast, and crew alike.

Also crucial has been the need to be flexible and change things that didn't work. For example, for a brief while in its middle years, Cabaret started to get too big and too complex – we had 5 long shows in a row, and fairly fancy costumes and sets and choreography. We quickly learned that it was too exhausting on everyone involved, so we made a conscious choice to scale back and simplify as much as possible. We've learned that we can still put on a great show without trying to outdo ourselves each year!

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE WORK YOU DID?

The single most rewarding thing – and I think most Cabaret participants would agree with this – has been the feeling of working together with your church community (from kids through grandparents!) to create this magical

event called theater. The “magic” is how the whole thing can seem so stressful and so impossible when you're first learning the songs and choreography. Even a few days before it everyone's wondering whether THIS is going to be the first year that we bomb – and then in the 11th hour (with a whole lot of effort and heart and sweat and tears) it all comes together and we've created a show together. To hear everyone bring their songs to life, to see the kids – and adults -- grow in confidence and ability, is a very special thing to be part of.

My second favorite thing is the intentional shift we've made in the last couple of years to have a unifying theme or message for the show. We've become passionate about having social justice causes that we raise funds for. In 2013 we raised \$2000 for Mental Health Services, Inc. programs for at-risk youth, and this year we raised over \$2300 for the North County LGBTQ Resource Center. We had already chosen the Center as our beneficiary, but when Morgana Mlodoch passed away shortly before the show, it gave a whole new meaning to our donation, and we were so happy to be able to donate the gift in her memory and honor. We also raise funds for Chalice, but the added charitable donation is now an important part of who we are.

Finally -- though I know he'd try to deny this -- Cabaret really couldn't happen without the strong leadership provided by Tim McKnight over the years. He pours so much of his own artistic vision into the whole and each of its component parts – the rest of us are a supporting structure, but he's at the core, and it's a joy to see his creative energies in action.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR OTHER CHALICE CONGREGANTS WHO WANT TO ORGANIZE AN EVENT?

Start small and stay flexible! We started with the idea of one performance (that turned into two after selling out immediately), with the chancel simply moved into a corner of the chapel, with some black cloth with stars on the wall as our backdrop. We really never imagined that the event would be so successful or become a continuing tradition. It was the right idea at the right time, and enough crazy, creative, hard-working people who wanted to keep it going and help it to evolve.

Also, don't forget to have fun!

WHAT NEXT?

Rest and recuperate!