



Fair Oaks/ Sacramento Center

Dear Members and Friends,

November 5, 2015

It seems that with the beginning of November the weather has shifted from summer like temperatures to more Autumn-appropriate coolness. We are definitely heading into winter, which simultaneously means approaching the end of the Christian Year and the beginning of the new one on the first Sunday of Advent. This is not a sudden event but year long process marked by the waxing and waning of the light. We can feel that we end the year in Stygian darkness, but begin the new Christian year in the womb-like, hope filled, holy darkness of Advent.

Before we arrive at Advent, however, we have a **Community Meeting on the 15th of November** where we will look at the immediate and future concerns of the congregation and hear a description and report from the North American Delegates Meeting that was just held in Toronto, to which Pauletta Wadsworth and Sadasat Khalsa Singh went.

We will celebrate **Martinmas** with children on Saturday, November 14 and have an **Advent Garden/Spiral** on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. On the second Sunday of Advent we will also have our Advent Fair and Bake Sale, which will also be available on the following Sundays of Advent. The **Oberufer Shepherds Play** is in rehearsal, all the players are in place, and we plan performances on Friday December 18th at 7:30 P.M. and on Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 P.M.

At Christmas the **Midnight Act of Consecration** will again be in the main Sanctuary and the following Christmas services will be in our chapel. So, "Midnight" in the main sanctuary, "Dawn" at 7 A.M. in our chapel and the third Christmas service, "Day" will be celebrated twice at 9 A.M. and at 10:30 A.M.

During the Holy Nights we will celebrate the Act of Consecration daily at 9 A.M., except **Sundays** and **New Year's Day**, when the service will be at 10:30 A.M. We will also be doing a **Christmas Study** and this year we will be looking at **the Twelve Apostles**. We will meet after the service at 10 A.M. in the community room, light the Christmas Tree, sing some carols and then turn to our study, aiming to finish by 11 A.M.

We are still likely looking at a deficit for the year, but because of the fundraising efforts in May and June, less of one than initially expected. However, we are still hoping for new pledges and donations to offset, and ideally, to erase that deficit.

Warm greetings,

Sanford Miller