

### Calvary Presbyterian: Interfaith Leader

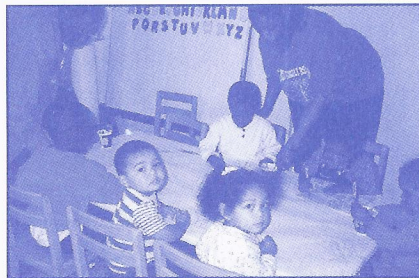
by Rev. Alan Jones, Chair

Never before has the work of the interfaith movement been more significant than it is now, at the dawn of 2002. Religious differences are seen as the basis for war, oppression and violence in the world. All major religious traditions stand firmly opposed to dealing with conflict in this way. Working together as an interfaith community we can build peace and justice based upon mutual respect and understanding. I have never liked the word "tolerance." Instead I look for a world of mutual affirmation and celebration. The congregation of Calvary Presbyterian has been in the vanguard of interfaith activity in San Francisco. Each year, instead of the \$100 requested, the congregation provides \$1,000 from its regular budget to support the work of the Interfaith Council. Volunteers from the congregation have offered and provided administrative support for the council's work. Calvary's pastor, **Rev. Laird Stuart** is past president of the Council. He continues to play an active role in the council, in spite of having other responsibilities

running a large congregation and providing leadership for the national church. I celebrate the witness of Calvary Presbyterian and invite other congregations and communities to make a deliberate commitment of money and time to building interfaith collaboration.

These are dangerous and violent days. Working together with shared spiritual values we are building peace, compassion and justice for all in our community.

### Child Care Program



The Child Care Program is getting organized to be able to deliver back packs with school supplies to the children starting public school in the child care centers we are working with. We will be distributing the back packs to your congregations in March to be filled with paper, crayons, pencils, and other supplies and collected from you in April. A mailer will be sent to get the details from your congregation the end of January to help you plan and prepare. We hope many congregations will participate as the need for these children is great.

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# NEWS

## from the Chaplaincy Program



Thanks to a grant from the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the Chaplaincy program will be enhanced in 2002 by a more structured mentoring aftercare program than has been possible before. The object of the program is to reduce recidivism. Using a formula of spiritual; discovery, growth and exploration coupled with traditional and non-traditional methods of social rehabilitation and religious aftercare, the mentoring program will work with young people following their release from the Youth Guidance Center. After training, mentors will be matched with youngsters who are referred for monitoring services by the Probation Department or have requested such services.

Mentors will be recruited from local congregations and religious organizations and must make a six-month commitment, which is renewable, to the program with a minimum of one contact per child per week.

Interested in serving as a mentor? Call the **Rev. Toni Dunbar**, 415-753-7502 or send an e-mail to: [t\\_dunbar@pacbell.net](mailto:t_dunbar@pacbell.net).

Rev. Dunbar has also been responding to requests from youngsters at Youth Guidance Center asking for copies of the Bible and the Koran as well as other sacred texts. If you have copies you can donate, please call the SFIC office, 415/474-1321.

December was a busy month for the chaplaincy. At the request of Juvenile Hall personnel, Rev. Dunbar organized a Service of Healing. Participants included representatives of different faiths, **Chief Probation Officer Jesse Williams** and members of the Juvenile Hall staff. Also in December Rev. Toni Dunbar was ordained in the United Church of Christ. **Rev. Alan Jones**, SFIC Chair and other board members participated.



# What are the

# BURNING ISSUES

# of 2002?

## WHAT INTERESTS YOU, YOUR CONGREGANTS, YOUR COLLEAGUES?

Part of our mission statement urges us to celebrate our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions. Do you want to learn more about other faiths? Compare understandings about forgiveness, prayer and grace?

The San Francisco Interfaith Council is sponsoring a series of forums in 2002 in response on issues of concern to YOU.

What format should these forums take? A speaker, a panel, small group discussions?

Let us know by returning the form below.

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Forum Topics:** \_\_\_\_\_

Forum Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Panel: \_\_\_\_\_

Small Group Discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

Whatever is Appropriate: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax form to SFIC: 401 Baker Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
Fax: 415/409-2126  
E-mail: Sfinterfaith@hotmail.com

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You can stuff anywhere from 20 to 100. We will find places for them. Thank you so much. Questions? Call **Mary Culp**, Child Care Program Chair, 415/337-1722.

## Are you an SFIC supporter?

It's 2002 and time to help fund your San Francisco Interfaith Council. We ask congregations and individuals to make a financial contribution commensurate with their financial ability.

Can your congregation be a Sponsoring Congregation? A gift of \$1000 will put you in that category and go a long way to helping our financial stability.

You can become a Supporting Congregation at the \$500 level, again a wonderful support for the Council.

Please consider a minimum gift of \$100. All contributions are welcomed and valued. Make checks payable to: **SFIC, 401 Baker Street San Francisco, CA 94117.**

## Funding for Tutoring Programs

Is your congregation interested in providing after-school tutoring? If so, please let the SF Interfaith Council office know by calling 415/474-1321.

The new Education Act just passed by the Congress and signed by the President provides funding for such programs by religious congregations. The San Francisco Interfaith Council is

in contact with the United States Department of Education for details on the program.

We know that Third Baptist Church, Congregation Emanu-El and Jones Methodist Church, among others, already have such tutoring programs. The Council is prepared to work with interested congregations in helping to secure Federal funding when appropriate.

## ■ End-of-Life Care

The San Francisco Bay Area Network for End-of-Life Care is presenting a series of events and lectures in 2002 for all Interfaith Clergy on "Being With and Caring for the Dying" from the perspective of the clergy. The first half-day event will be held on February 7, 2002 at the San Francisco Medical Society at 1409 Sutter St. in San Francisco. It will present end-of-life issues including: *What to Expect in the Dying Hours, Pain Management, Resources for the Dying, How to get People to Talk about Dying, The Peculiar Burdens of Caregivers, Suffering and Healing at the End-of-Life, How to Talk with Families when a Loved one is Dying*, and more. For more info call 877-4 EOL NET or **Jeanne Krafft** @415/453-4563.



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## For Information, call:

**Affordable Housing**

Rev. Roger Ridgway . . . . . 731-9333

**Child Care Task Force**

Mary Culp . . . . . 337-1722

**Mayor's Prayer Breakfast**

Charleen Maghzi . . . . . 474-1321

**SpiritLife Program at Juvenile Hall**

Rev. Toni Dunbar . . . . . 753-7557

**Winter Shelter & Food Program**

Rita R. Semel . . . . . 673-2190

“ **Let your love flow outward  
through the universe,  
To its height, its depth,  
its broad extent,  
A limitless love, without hatred  
or enmity.  
Then as you stand or walk,  
Sit or lie down,  
As long as you are awake,  
Strive for this with a  
one-pointed mind;  
Your life will bring heaven to earth.** ”

Sutta Nipata Buddhist Prayer