

**Music Box**

— JANUARY 15, 2012 —

**Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano and organ**

Rainbow (1998) ..... William Wilde Zeitler (b. 1954)  
I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise (1922) ..... George Gershwin  
(1898-1937)

Everywhere I Search For You (1998) ..... William W. Zeitler

Climb Every Mountain/Stairway to Heaven  
..... Richard Rodgers(1902-1979)/Led Zeppelin

Since I came here I've climbed up and down the organ loft "Stairway to Heaven" a lot of times. An even number of times, to be sure, or else I'd still be up there. Seventeen years (!) have galloped away since my first Sunday at Church in the Forest. Some facts are easier to believe than others, and that one is way down the list. Consider the conjecture that I'm too young to have been here that long. ("Oooh, it makes me wonder...") It's more congenial than the so-called facts, and when something that's pleasant to believe conflicts with the truth, so much the worse for the truth.

So, I choose to believe I've only just begun this wonderful job. I feel much better now, having sorted that out. I just know I'm going to love it here!

Melinda Coffey Armstead  
Music Director



**Painless and Economical**

If you use the internet, why don't you have the weekly newsletter sent to you via email? It is fast, easy and saves the church money — here's what to do: Send an email to the office at [ctf@mbay.net](mailto:ctf@mbay.net) and ask Kay to put you in the list. You will receive it early every week!

**Church in the Forest**  
3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach  
P.O.Box 1027, Pebble Beach, CA 93953  
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# Church in the Forest

3152 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach  
P. O. Box 1027, Pebble Beach, CA 93953 • 831-624-1374  
email: citf@mbay.net • www.churchintheforest.org

Monday morning, January 9, 2012

Dear members and friends,

Recently I read an article written by Amy Frykholm on the subject of "Double Belonging." It reminded me of a story told by a minister colleague. A young man in his congregation had returned from working in the Peace Corps in Vietnam, and he made an appointment to see and talk with his pastor about his new understanding of his religious faith. He said, "Pastor, I think that I am a Buddhist." The Pastor gently raised the question of Christianity. "Oh," he said, "I'm still a Christian and find that I can be a Buddhist and a good Christian, in fact the two traditions seem to bring me closer to God and more in touch with Jesus Christ as the Son of God. I see a lot in Buddhism that feels like what a real Christian ought to be."

The young man continued to attend church and then one day revisited his pastor to tell him that he had fallen in love and that his fiancée also considered herself a Buddhist/Christian and they wondered if their pastor would marry them.

That was when he began to question his own understanding of what it meant to belong.


He found help and understanding from a retired Presbyterian minister, one Art Romig, who had served as a missionary in China and was captured during the Second World War spending time in a Japanese prison camp, and who then returned to China after the war to continue his work for the Presbyterian Church.

Art's advice? Go ahead and marry the couple and see what the Spirit can do. He did and apparently they are still following that same path of devotion to God through Jesus Christ and following the discipline of the Buddhist tradition.

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We are a church with many different viewpoints, in fact a veritable hodgepodge of doubters and seekers and finders and yet we gather together to worship. Isn't it wonderful that we can be open and accepting to all who enter these church doors!

See you in church,



William B. Rolland

**Announcement:** Our thanks to Joe and Jan Stine who, at the eleventh hour, jumped in to help with the *Burning of the Greens* last Sunday in that Ray Coleman was taken to hospital on Saturday. We will keep you posted.

## Calendar

### Sunday, January 15, 2012

**8:30 AM** Bible Study with Charles Anker. Topic: The Introduction to The Letter of 1 Peter: A lovely story

**9:15 AM** Music Prelude

**9:30 AM** Morning Prayer

**Passages** Proverbs 3:1-10; Psalm 25: 6; Luke 18: 9-17

**Lector** Francie Blinks

**Crucifer** Skip Lord

**Flowers** Vinz and Barbara Hake

**Cookies** Karla Cristi and Ursula Scott

**Altar Care** Carolyn Sanders and Leonora Branca

**Ushers** Ursula and Wylie Scott

**Sermon** the Rev. Dr. William B. Rolland

**Title** A matter of trust

**Sunday, January 29, 2012,** Congregational Meeting to approve the budget immediately following the service.

**Sunday, January 29, 2012, 2:00 pm,** Memorial Service for Barbara Nelson

*Melinda, from all your friends at Church in the Forest, thanks for the past seventeen years! We look forward to many, many more!*