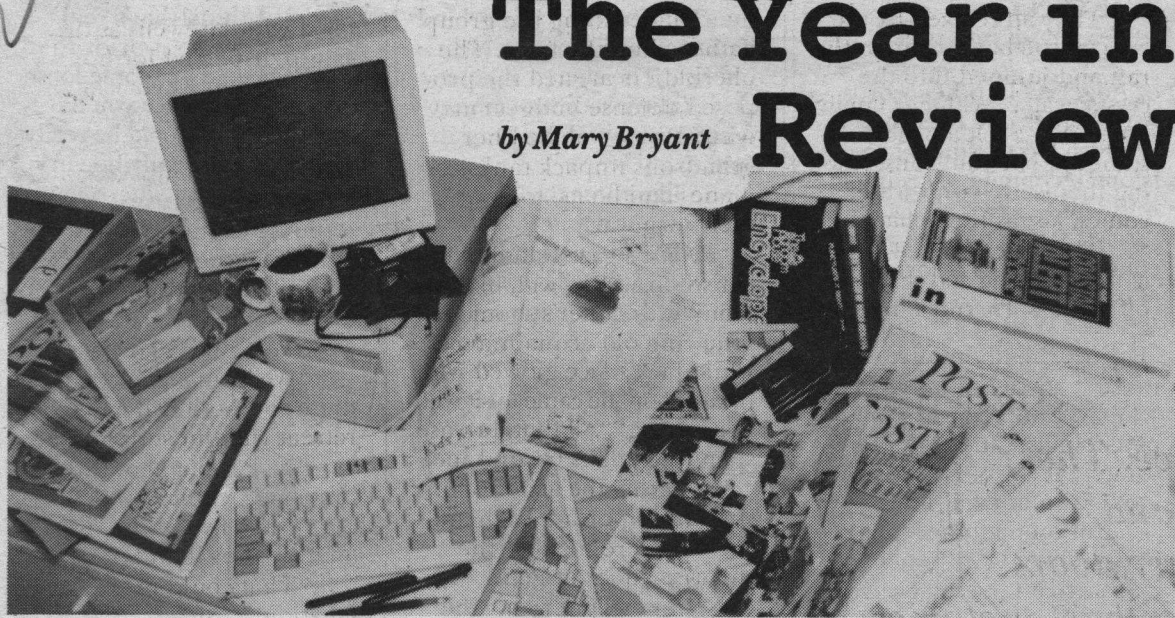


# The Year in Review

by Mary Bryant



**A** year is nearly a way to measure the passing of time—no more, no less. What makes a year memorable, however, is the events, people and changes that take place in it.

While it is common for newspapers to offer an end-of-the-year recap, *The Post* has put together a unique look at the issues that shaped life in the Mid-County area during 1990. Instead of a collection of personal memories and opinions, this review is a compilation of news stories which were originally examined at greater length by *The Post*.

The stories report on a variety of issues, but beyond the individual reports is another fact: The Mid-County area is growing and changing

While futurists project that the next decade will be full of monumental events as the world collectively prepares for the end of a millennium, it is equally clear that 1990 is a benchmark for our years ahead.

In short, by looking back on the previous year, we may also be looking ahead to the future.

**JANUARY**

**Trouble on the**

**Esplanade...** A report by Carolyn Swift looked at the controversy over entertainment hours at the Village's restaurant and at the history of California coast's longest-surviving family resort.

While the debate had originally centered between local residents and bar owners, the city council and police became involved in order to reach a settlement.

Swift reported, "In response to a city council direction, Capitola Police Chief Don Brauton released a report a week ago (1989) that details Esplanade activity for the

month of December... The majority (of offenses) are related to the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the various establishments that line the seaward side of the thoroughfare..."

Incidents had lead to police closing down the street to traffic "because of a fight at The Edgewater and the resulting case of assault with a deadly weapon, in addition to the presence of 'hostile' patrons on the Esplanade."

Residents of the district believed this supported their claims. Bar and restaurant owners had other ideas.

The Blakes, owners of the Edgewater, said that a climate of "harassment and intimidation" have pushed them to to put both of their businesses (The Edgewater and Deer Park Tavern in Aptos) up for sale.

Then vice-mayor Stephanie Harlan said, "The residents and businesses managed to coexist until about five years ago. Then, once Margaritaville opened, the scene started to escalate. It's gotten worse every year since Capitola was discovered as a place to party."

Author and historian Carolyn Swift backdropped the present dilemma with the past. She noted that "He (Frederick Hihn, the Village's

original founder) designed his vacation spot as one accessible by mass transit, never dreaming it would one day be jammed with cars."

Swift noted that the current situation is similar to one in 1958 when the Capitola City government created a Morals and Charities Committee. The 1958 council warned that a business called Coffee Caberet (the current site of Margaritaville) was drawing "undesirable elements" to the city.

The 1958 Council called for a solution that created a downtown curfew, "to control and regulate hours for dancing and entertainment..." In 1990, the present-day council members decided to limit the hours of entertainment at bars and restaurants.

**Mountain Residents Want To Rebuild...** One of the first debates facing the county Board of Supervisors was mountain residents wanting to rebuild homes damaged by the 1989 earthquake. Debate continued over safety and permit processing which has been driven to court by residents angered by delays.

**Seascape Resort...** The county began finalizing plans for local developers Holcomb Corporation of Aptos to build

*continued on page 7*

## YEAR IN REVIEW

*continued from page 5*

a resort and convention center on the cliffs above Seascope Beach. Scheduled for completion in summer of 1991, the center will include a hotel, a conference center, 280 vacation condominiums, a nine-acre park, three swimming pools and public parking for access to the beach.

**Robley Levy Celebrates 10 Years In Office...** First district supervisor Robley Levy noted her 10 year anniversary as a county supervisor describing the job as "intense, challenging (and) satisfying."

"It's very intense...your always on someone else's agenda...In the 80's the position of the people of Santa Cruz County was consolidated on the issues of growth and development. It has been sustained very strongly since then."

**County Sues Capitola Over Traffic Concerns...** Lead by county supervisor Jan Beautz, the county sued Capitola to recind the permit approved for a new commercial project on Clares St. across from the Capitola Mall. The city withdrew the permit and expanded the scope of the once-complete Environmental Impact Report.

## FEBRUARY

**Rent Control Goes to Court...** In a battle over the legality of rent control, mobile home park owners have threatend to take Capitola to court claiming that they were unable to get fair market rents for their property.

The park owners say that when a mobile home owner sells his home, it is at a fair market price and includes the price-controlled space rental. Thus, while home owners are able to profit from escalating home values, the park owners are unable to get a similar current market price.

The park owners cite a Santa Barbara decision overturning that city's rent control ordinance and say that if necessary, they will take Capitola to court. City attorney Richard Manning proposed a change to the city's law suggesting decontrol of those mobile homes changing ownership believing it to be "the least expensive way to resolve this issue."

In November of 1989, the City Council voted four to one defeating Manning's proposal. Mayor Jerry Clark stated, "The City Attorney was taking an ultra-conser-

vative approach towards a situation which he felt was questionable about its defensibility. We said we would much rather support the residents and if necessary take it to court."

If the issue does go to court, Meg Miranda, Regional Director of the Western Mobilehome Association believes the park owners to have a strong case. "What the [Santa Barbara] case said and what we are saying is that when you have rent control and you restrict the amount of rent someone pays but you allow the renters to sell their mobilehomes at market price, you're giving an unfair advantage to the home owners...You're controlling one part and artificially inflating the other part of the mobilehome housing costs."

**Capitola to Invite a Navy Ship...** Capitola's city council decided to invite a Navy ship to visit on July 4, 1990, for the second consecutive year. However Capitola was to have competition from the city of Santa Cruz which also tendered an invitation.

Ultimately, both offers were declined in light of reduced defense spending and impending trouble in the Middle East.

**Aptos Village Plan Unveiled...** Envisioning a unified village theme of street trees, antique street lamps, pedestrian parks and a variety of architectural designs, partners Rob Marani, Steve Mills and Ted Crocker discussed their development plans.

The area of 5.7 acres lies behind the Bay View Hotel and is designed to incorporate the affordable housing units required for another development proposed by the developers for Rio Highlands (near Deer Park Center).

Marani noted, "I think it is important that people who live in Aptos and work in Aptos take control of Aptos Village... one of our personal goals is to try and win an award as a neat, creative, affordable housing project."

Almost a year later, the partnership is just now proposing to submit plans to the county this month.

**Student Dropout...** Soquel and Aptos high schools reported a student dropout rate of less than five percent, in comparison to the 30 percent national average. Small alternative schools help keep the overall rate low, as the principal of one such school, Ark Alternative School said,

"Whatever it takes to keep students interested... our main goal is to keep them involved."

## Building too Big?...

Capitola residents presented the city council with a petition asking for a reassessment of the current zoning law. One resident, Nick Gardner, called the current situation "sloppy, unplanned growth." At a public hearing in March, 1990, council members pledged to work with planning commissioners to establish better requirements and limit approval of variances.

## MARCH

**Five Race for Three Capitola Council Seats...** *The Post* interviewed the five candidates for four-year terms on the council. Ron Graves, Bob Bucher, Jerry Clarke, Michael Vicquerie and Brad Neily each talked about their different ideas on land use, traffic, business, each other and more. In April, voters returned incumbents Graves, Bucher and Clarke to office.

**Alternative Proposal for Porter-Sesnon Project...** NEWBACK (New Brighton Beach Action Coalition) proposed taht the state should once again look at

*continued on page 14*

## YEAR IN REVIEW

*continued from page 7*

purchasing the Porter-Session property and suggested a "vision" for public use. The NEWBACK plan for the 66-acre property is a environmental discovery area which would include a weather station and interdisciplinary studies, combining fine arts, economics, natural science and more.

**Capitola Home Rent Control Challenged at the Polls...** Capitola's mobile home rent control ordinance, having already been attacked in court by park owners, was again in jeopardy with an initiative that would repeal the existing law and replace it with one favoring the landlords. Measure A, as it was called on the ballot, was soundly defeated in April by voters, with 90 percent of the votes cast against the proposal.

**New Jewish Center in Aptos...** *The Post* reported on the January 1990 opening of Temple Beth El near Cabrillo College. The synagogue moved to Mid-County from its previous west-side location and continued traditional holiday services and classes in Jewish history. The new community center in-

its previous west-side location and continued traditional holiday services and classes in Jewish history. The new community center included a pre-school and Trumbinkeh Drama Company.

**Dominican Purchases AMI Community Hospital...** In a surprise agreement, Catholic-run Dominican Hospital of Santa Cruz purchased AMI Community Hospital Facility in early March.

Controversy centered around the potential changes brought on by the sale and the Federal Trade Commission ultimately was requested by county supervisors to review the potential outcome of this merger for limits to competition within the Santa Cruz market. Prior to facing a federal injunction, Dominican succeeded in completing consolidation efforts. However, on-going litigation calls into question whether the sale contract will be upheld.

### APRIL

**City to City Campaign Pays Off...** A coalition of business associations, with support from the city of Capitola, raised and donated nearly \$20,000 for local non-profit business and com-

munity based organizations to help speed in recovery from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

**Auto Plaza Planned for Live Oak...** Santa Cruz auto dealers had been searching for sometime for a new central location when they happened upon the Live Oak area.

Breaking a previous development agreement with Scotts Valley, the five dealers embraced the Mid-County area and available redevelopment agency funds.

Having failed with their first proposal to build on the site of the Drive-In Theater and Flea Market, they found themselves welcome on the Frontage Road lands.

**Capitola Bans Summer Rentals in Residential Areas...** Just as Capitola was preparing to revive itself as a mecca for visitors, city council members, responding to complaints from neighborhood residents, banned the short-term rental of homes.

Affecting only areas zoned for single-family dwellings, the debate raged on for months. Compromise, with some still angered by the action was eventually reached with restrictions that allowed limited rental programs at

properties bordering certain areas near the Capitola Village.

**Soquel Village Plan Receives Substantial Funding...** The County Board Of Supervisors approved nearly \$1,500,000 in capital improvements for Soquel's downtown area, including roadway improvements, construction of a pedestrian bridge and new sidewalks. The work is scheduled to be completed by 1992.

**Soquel Village Plan Unveiled...** Backdropped against new funding for street and sidewalk options, county planners unveiled an ambitious long-range plan for flood management, area revitalization, parking and historic preservation.

The plan also proposed parks for floodway areas. Soquel Chamber president Paul Brennan said, "We're wasting the creek, let's use it."

**City's First Woman Mayor to serve in Capitola...** Capitola council member Stephanie Harlan was appointed to serve a two-year term as mayor on April 12, 1990 by the unanimous vote of her fellow elected officials.

Harlan is the first woman to serve as mayor in the 41 year history of the city.

## MAY

**Capitola's Plan for New Water Main Under Pressure...** A joint project by the Soquel Creek Water District and the City of Capitola was scheduled to begin in early summer. The work included replacement of almost fifty service lines supplying the heart of the Village and nearby neighborhoods with service.

Concerns over the poor water pressure from existing lines created urgency for construction, which necessitated tearing up some streets.

Local merchants, having only learned of the project just before the first bulldozers were scheduled to arrive, were furious over plans to disrupt summer traffic. Council members Ron Graves, Michael Routh and Jerry Clarke ultimately supported their position which resulted in thousands of dollars in delay costs.

City Manager Steve Burrell vowed to better inform business owners in advance of future public construction work. The project is just now getting under way.

**Fire Districts File Suit Against the County...** Central and Aptos-La Selva Fire Districts filed suit

*continued on page 21*

## YEAR IN REVIEW

*continued from page 14*

against the county board of Santa Cruz over \$396,000 in state funding they believed were due their districts.

The two districts reported they had not received their fair share of tax dollars that had been collected from property tax in

nounced that they had selected Carolyn McKennan as superintendent, effective July 1, 1990.

McKennan replaced Dick Patterson, who retired after 31 years of service. She moved to Soquel from San Luis Obispo where she had worked as assistant superintendent of the school district.



their areas.

While county supervisors ultimately have spending discretion, an out-of-court settlement was reached that allowed for a phase-in of additional funding.

**Rispin Project Holds Public Meetings...** Efforts to restore and open a publically accessible center at the Capitola city-owned Rispin mansion got underway with a series of public meetings.

The sessions, open to the public, allowed community members to become involved with planning for the development of the 11-acre property, along with an additional nearby parcel of 5 acres.

**More Neighborhood Meetings...** A series of public meetings were held between Capitola officials and neighborhood groups representing different areas in the city in order to get information from residents about their concerns.

**New Soquel School District Superintendent Named...** The board of Trustees of the Soquel Elementary School District an-

### New Park for Capitola...

Plans for a new 5-acre park, just east of Capitola's elementary school on Monterey Avenue, were beginning to be initialized when neighbors complained of the design of the project. A compromise was finally reached after many public hearings and a separate agreement was made with the school district to use their lands for construction of one of the two playing fields.

The park had originally been planned to open in fall, however the final date was set back as debate continued for several months on its design.

**Timber Plan Brings Landslide Opposition...** A plan for selective timber harvesting on Soquel hillsides fueled controversy over the wisdom of removing watershed from an area that had previously flooded during heavy winter rain.

The issue also renewed tensions surrounding state legislation that had removed decisions on harvest proposals from the county to state government level.

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One big happy family.

**MCP:** How many members are there in your congregation?

**KM:** About 250 members. **MCP:** Have you heard of the church growth movement?

**KM:** Church growth is based on several premises, one of which is that churches can grow very large given a homogeneous population. I have a certain ambivalence about that.

I don't want a congregation where everybody looks alike, sounds alike and dresses alike. I really would like to have a group of people that's very diverse... To me Christianity is cross-cultural.

When Jesus came on the scene, the reason he got crucified is because he didn't say the things people wanted to hear. He said a lot of the things people needed to hear, but didn't want to. My question is: How does the Christian faith still get communicated in that way in our culture?

**MCP:** Your church is a Lutharn church. What does it offer that's different from other churches?

**KM:** Our preaching is scripturally based. Being reformed Catholics, Lutherans emphasize the sacrament a lot more than other Protestant groups... We're definitely a mainline church, and I think Lutherans are mainline without a lot of apology. You can be baptized in any Christian church and we accept people in the membership... In that way I think we probably are one of the most tolerant groups.

**MCP:** What about gay people and minorities in your church?

**KM:** We try and address the issue of everybody being family and everybody being welcome... Living ethnically in this culture is not an easy thing to do, so I think we would have something to say to the gay people, as well as the straight people, about what it means to be a Christian in this culture—what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Everyone is really welcome, and everyone is really called into the same kind of tension of what it really means to like that way.

**MCP:** How do you instill ethics in children when there's so much to compete against?

**KM:** The key issue is that kids are taught faith. If they really believe there's a God who created them and who loves them, then they've got a center that helps them deal with what ever might come their way. I tend to be more "pro" stimulating faith in young people than "anti" all the stuff that's out there.

I think it's very popular to

preach against things, rather than preach for something.

Jesus says, "Be in the world and not of it," and I find that incredibly difficult. The Christian church has traditionally done just the opposite. We've escaped the reality of the society in which we live, or we've denied our faith. We go one way or the other.

I think the call is to somehow be true again, and yet at the same time look at the world that's out there... One of the things about living in Aptos is it's a fairly affluent community and it's easy not to live in solidarity with people who are poor or who grew up in a minority background. So I think there things have to be brought into the church and discussed...

**"I don't want a congregation where everybody looks alike, sounds alike and dresses alike... To me Christianity is cross-cultural."**

We need to make a clear statement that that's part of the world in which we live. We need to wrestle with this. We're one of the Interfaith Shelter churches.

Every Friday night we have the homeless fed and housed here, and we involve our kinds in that and they see that that's reality. That shapes the way they pray and that shapes the way they think.

**MCP:** There's a book called *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Would you agree with that assessment?

**KM:** No... For me there's some basic things there that are very helpful, but I would call that pop-theology. We've made God safe and palatable... If somebody wrote a book about the Christian faith and told the truth, would it be a best seller? Probably not. It's not as easy as 1-2-3. There are too many things about which there are not right answers...

People love to reduce things down to a one-sentence answer, but life does not work that way. It's incredibly complex. I think we need to begin

acting and thinking like adults, and that's tough. People want to believe it's that simple but, not, it takes more than kindergarten to get along in life—that's the reality.

**MCP:** What about pop-psychology? Everybody's looking for an answer to their problems.

**KM:** I think there's a good and a bad side to that. All the 12-step programs that are out there have really had a tremendous impact, and that's nothing but good in my estimation. But the spin-off of that is all the books and the jargon and the people that are involved in all these things—some of which is helpful, but some of which is dangerous...

A little knowledge makes all these people experts. There's a hunger for health; there's a hunger for wholeness... but all of these things have at their core a spirituality—a call for a sense of a higher power.

**MCP:** What about alternative spirituality? In Santa Cruz County there are a lot of people involved in New Age thinking, mysticism and astrology—does any of that have a place in a Christian lifestyle?

**KM:** I think people are looking for something... people are coming back to church, but I also think there's a broad section of our society that will look anywhere but church... I lived with the Hopi Indians, and they would almost laugh at the white people who came looking at their religion to find the truth...

What is this saying about us that people will march off to Hopi-land to ask questions about God that they wouldn't consider going to the church right down the street and asking the same questions?

**MCP:** Could it be the right path for some people?

**KM:** I believe the Christian message is that Jesus Christ is the only revealed means of salvation. When Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father but by me," He means that there is no other means revealed.

Now is that to say that those who are not Christians are not saved? I'd say no. I would not go that far; the scriptures don't teach that. But they also teach, on the other hand, that this is God's self-revelation; Jesus Christ is it. That's what we're called to proclaim, rather than making a lot of critiques of other groups.

I want to tell people how they can have a relationship with God; I'm not going to

*continued on page 22*

## YEAR IN REVIEW

*continued from page 21***Race for County School Superintendent Heats Up...**

A race between Diane Siri, James Baker and Richard Bristow for the county's top education position heated up as the June elections drew near.

Baker, the former superintendent of the Pajaro Valley School District, was favored early on, but lost his bid to Siri, the then-assistant superintendent of schools.

## JUNE

**Decade of the Environment...** Voters approved Measure C on the county's ballot making the 1990's the "Decade of the Environment."

Issues addressed in the initiative included off-shore oil drilling, global warming, forest protection and restoration, greenbelt protection, recycling, hazardous materials, endangered species, business development and future growth.

**Aptos Village Rebuilding...** Businesses precariously perched on the edge of a cliff since the 1989 earthquake were allowed to begin repair and construction work.

Jim Broadwell said of the effort to get back to work: "I've been putting as much pressure as I could on the county to make sure this moved along because it's real important for this community. This is the heart of Aptos and all of Aptos takes its tenor from this area."

**Funds Still in Short Supply for Human Care Agencies...** Non-profit agencies concerned with child care, health care, women, seniors and disabled people banded together to resist the economic constraints of local government funding in the wake of the 1989 earthquake.

Unified as the Human Care Alliance, the agency directors worked hard throughout the year to keep pace with growing needs and sinking funding.

As one example, the city of Capitola nearly doubled its funding of service groups to just over \$168,000.

**Cabrillo College Begins Search for New President...** Robert Agrella talked with *The Post* about school budgets, increasing enrollments, revitalization projects and the diversity of students prior to leaving for his new job as president of Santa Rosa Junior College.

While candidates to fill the vacancy are still being considered, a former college president took the reins for

the 1990 school year.

**Capitola Planning to Clean-Up Lagoon...**

Capitola's planning staff, along with council members, reviewed a water management plan prepared for the city's creek and lagoon areas.

The work, instigated by concerns of residents and state officials, included measures to protect the wildlife population of the creek, replant indigenous vegetation and provide for solutions to the area's problem of overpopulation by ducks.

Unlike methods used in the 1950's, when bulldozers were used to clean up the creek, the new plan calls for manually removing surface algae mats. Winter storms would then be allowed to naturally breach the sandbar that collects creek water in the summertime to form a lagoon.

**Storm Drain Improvements...** The county approved storm drain improvements on 34th, 35th and 37th Avenues at an estimated cost of \$734,500 and on 17th Ave. for an estimated cost of \$572,910.

**On the Way to The Boardwalk...** Signs procured with state grant money by the Santa Cruz County Convention and Visitors Council created an uproar from local business owners.

The signs, which were hung from light standards along a detour route from Highway 1 to The Boardwalk, were produced by out-of-county businesses at a cost of \$50,000.

In addition to comments about the wording on the banners including such snappy phrases as "Hey you in the Firebird, stop that," local merchants were worried by what they saw as a contradiction in terms.

Howard Sheer, of the local advertising agency Hut-ton and Sheer, said, "Why is this agency that professes to bring money to the county taking money out instead?"

**Community Plan for Live Oak...** After a series of five community meetings attended by over 200 people from Live Oak, a draft plan was introduced for the area.

The main issues discussed included traffic and road improvements, neighborhood preservation, lack of community facilities, need for a better urban design and better balance between affordable housing and available services. □

*Note: Part two of The Post's year-in-review will be published in the upcoming January 22, 1991 edition.*

## MURPHY

*continued from page 21*

announce to them that they're going to hell if they don't see things my way.

**MCP:** Why are people seeking?

**KM:** I think there's a real easy answer to that one. I think the whole materialistic, egocentric emphasis that we've seen in our culture in the last 15-20 years has come up bankrupt spiritually, morally and ethnically... And so people are saying, "Hey—there has got to be something more..."

Part of what we're seeing is an absolute pendulum swing from all the gross materialism. I think also the homeless who we see every day make their own prophetic statement: "Maybe I've got mine, but the world still isn't right." If it's not working for all the people, there's got to be another way.

of the things I emphasize and preach here is that I am the same as everybody else. My idea of being pastor is not that I am a holier person, and I'm here to remind everybody about themselves that way. That's true for all Christians; we're not more perfect, more holy, more ethical, more anything than anyone else...

When I'm preaching... I say this is stuff I'm struggling with... I remind them that most of my sermons I preach to myself.

**MCP:** How do you address the needs of teenagers? How do you reach them when so many other groups can't?

**KM:** I'm convinced that the reason I'm appealing is because I talk to teenagers like they're adults. And I'm real convinced that one of the problems of denial in our culture is that we act as if there are "teenage problems."

C.S. Lewis once said that he believed in democracy not because of the goodness of humankind, but because of the evil of humankind, and that democracy was one of the few things that seemed to be able to keep it under control.

I think there's a lot of truth to that... I think there ought to be just a tremendous amount of freedom—I'm almost a Libertarian at that point.

**MCP:** You're a great reader. Can you tell us about some of the writers who have influenced your thinking?

**KM:** By far the most influential has been C.S. Lewis, particularly the fictional works... I've always been curious about a fellow who could be such an apologist and an evangelist for the Christian faith... The other thing I read a lot of is Luther,



I think people need faith to come to terms with their selfishness... We need a change from the inside out for things to be different.

**MCP:** What is your family's role in your church?

**KM:** My wife, Debi, is involved in Bible study, she's involved in the women's group... She's always sung in the choir... they're all things she would be doing even if she weren't the pastor's wife...

That's just genuinely who she is... and I think that's true for my daughter, Jessica, as well. She really enjoys Sunday School—and I hope that lasts for a while... but [one time] she just looked at me and said, "It's hard being a pastor's daughter." I believe that. I'm sure it's true, and there will be many times when it's not fun.

**MCP:** Do you think you'll hold her to a higher standard than other kids?

**KM:** I don't know... one

Drugs and alcohol—is that a youth problem? I think not... it's easy to pretend adults don't have the problem by talking about it as if it were a kid problem.

Self image, self worth, am I loved? You name a question that people think is related to young people, and I say adults have the same exact struggles... They're also dealing with a time in their lives when they're trying to establish some independence...

There's less institutional influence and more peer influence... It's interesting that so many people are doing battle about television today in terms of its content, rather than asking the question about television itself.

**MCP:** What about censorship?

**KM:** The question will always be: If we're going to have any sort of censorship, who's going to make the call?

and it's a little surprising to me. I find myself doing battle about it a great deal and quoting Luther, and the feeling is, "That's very nice, that's Luther, but that's not what we are today." I'm definitely a Luther-an.

**MCP:** Do you have any New Year's resolutions?

**KM:** I try to avoid them at all costs... The whole resolution thing is antithetical to what I'm trying to look for in terms of my own faith. It's good to ask those kinds of questions all the time... and I'm enough of a pastor that I'm more clued into the church calendar than the reality of our other calendar...

The Advent season is the start of a new year for me. It's a whole different ordering of life that I find very meaningful... Our modern contemporary society has chosen a particular calendar and a way of looking at the world, but it isn't the only one. □