



The Messenger

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The Messenger is published by the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, California

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Scenes of Christmas 2007

Nativity Tableau



Pictured: Katie Dickerson, Victoria Dickerson, Tommy Elrod, Justin Elrod, Erica Ehrlich, Sean Ehrlich, Bryan In, Jacob Johnston, Laura Lussier, Max Rahn

Moravian Star



Angelic Voices



Questers Sponsor Luncheon Honoring Virgil Bryant



A catered luncheon honoring Virgil Bryant is planned for Sunday, January 13, 2008, in Fellowship Hall.

Following the worship service, coffee will be served in front of the church and the Chapel will be open to permit viewing of the newly installed commemorative plaques.

We invite all church members to join us **AFTERWARDS** in honoring this member of our Questers group who worked so many tireless hours seismically retrofitting almost all of the church buildings. When the City of Pasadena said it had to be done, he went to work and worked literally years to make it happen; planning, engineering, financing, overseeing construction, inspections, and consulting with City Hall.

He has moved from the area this past year, and we want him to know how much he is missed, and how much we appreciate all he has done.

You may make your reservation by mailing your \$15.00 check to the Church Office, attention Tim Sun. Seating will be limited so please act promptly.

Another Opportunity to Give: Sharing a Meal

from Debbie Gara

Sometime back I issued an invitation for you to be included on a list of persons willing to deliver meals to a family in a time of need. Several people came forward and others have asked to be included as a result of being the recipient of a meal when they were experiencing a time of crisis or stress. Meals have been delivered one or more times to families following a death, surgery, birth, or traumatic event.

I want to remind you of this ministry and give new opportunity for others to be included on this list. (If you are not sure that you are on

the list or need to be removed for awhile, let me know that also!) Perhaps you are in a life place that allows it at this time or you were not aware of this periodic ministry of FUMC. Meals may or may not be home-cooked, and are delivered at a time coordinated with that family or person. You are contacted by me or the office and if you are available, arrangements are made with the recipient.

Please let me know if you are available for this nurturing ministry and I will place you on the list to contact on a rotating basis when the need is present.



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Advent Workshop Thank You

There's nothing like the work of the hands to prepare the heart. We offer a big thank you to everyone who made Advent Workshop such a wonderful event! You helped by answering our call to coordinate crafts, help at tables, bring cookies, and greens or seed-pods, making music, and by greeting people as they arrived as well as offering to fill in on the day of the workshop in all the ways needed.

The joy and fellowship that you created for our church was a gift of the very best kind.

Leslie and Anne

What Happened to 2007?

by J. P. Harris
FUMC Stewardship Chairperson

As we look back on the year just concluded, for many of us it was a blur. There were many changes at First Church. A renewed sense of moving forward motivated many to greatly increase their "return on investment" to God and we finished the year fiscally strong and spiritually renewed.

As 2008 unfolds in front of us, the Holy Spirit continues to work through all of us, each in their own way. Consecration Sunday invited us to discover what God is calling us to do and the opportunities are endless. The work of the church, the mission of our congregation, is the driving force behind our continuing commitment to stewardship in all of its forms, not just financial.

Stewardship is a many faceted concept. Being good stewards means taking care of what we have been given and entrusted to our care. Ever mindful of the full potential of stewardship, we need to expand our vision. Along with protecting that which we have been given, investing in the future is of equal importance. Spreading God's Word through outreach is one of the best investments we can make. During our Consecration Sunday preparation, we discovered a number of church members who lack transportation to attend church regularly. We need to reach out and assist our sisters and brothers in need

of a little help to keep the family vibrant and alive.

Investment connotes growth, but that growth must be sustainable, thereby providing a basis for even more growth. A form of sustainable investment is looking for opportunities within our church, our community and our world to conserve the precious resources the Lord has provided for our collective use. Investing in technologies that hold the potential for long term savings and benefits are examples of being good stewards of the gifts we have been given. During 2008, First Church will be exploring the many ways we can better recycle, re-use and conserve to further God's mission.

Thank you again for your fantastic support of our church during last year's Consecration Sunday. Your generosity will propel us onto even greater achievements in 2008. Please be mindful of your pledge for 2008 and timely in its provision. Giving is an act of worship and a demonstration of your love for our Lord, Jesus Christ. The joy that comes from regularly giving the first fruits back to God will sustain and strengthen you throughout the year. Our future looks bright here at First Church, but we must constantly be asking ourselves, "Is there more I should do; is there another step I can take?" God will give you the answer if you prayerfully ask and listen for His response.



Children's Camp

January
19 & 20, 2008

(Saturday morning -
Sunday afternoon)

Theme:

"I Am a Child of God"

*Celebrating the wonder
of our creation
in the beauty of the
mountains!*

Children will be encouraged to celebrate their unique selves as children of God through age-appropriate sessions along with some good 'ol fun camp traditions, activities, and campfire songs!

Leadership:

Rev. Debbie Gara
and Children's
Ministry Counselors

The Messenger Issue Dates for 2008

The Messenger issue dates and deadlines have been announced for 2008. If you are a regular contributor or interested in contributing articles this year, please email Jewell (jmaddox@fumcpasadena.org) or call the Church Office for a copy of the schedule.



Light from the Catacombs

by Pat Mann, FUMC Archivist

Messages from Above

Winter Youth
Potluck
Sunday,
January 6th

All 7th through 12th graders and their parents are welcome to participate in the Winter Youth Potluck, Sunday, January 6th, 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

(Choir practice starts at 5:15 p.m.)

Come together in fellowship to learn about the many activities planned for our youth this spring season. Bring your calendars as you will be asked to sign up to work on various committees.

We'll discuss cabaret, winter camp, mission projects, choir tour, and forming a new praise band.

Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert (enough for 8 people) to share: by last name:

- A - G Main Dish
- H - M Side Dish
- N - Z Dessert



Our latch hook banners were completed and first used during Advent, 1979. They were made by the loving hands of the needle-point group, a division of the Women's Activity Council (plus one husband).

- Angel Christine Lane
- Noel..... Margo Johnstone
- Bells Barbara & Eugene Riggs
- Shepherds Audrey Binkley
- Manager Audrey Binkley
- Peace Audrey Binkley
- Wise Men Norma Bird
- Candles Barbara & Eugene Riggs



New Adult Ministry Opportunity: "Turn a New Page" with Dr. Frank Trotter

Dr. Trotter, who was a literature major, will offer you a chance to read and talk about provocative books. Beginning on Sunday, January 20th, in the Church Lounge, he will meet you on the third Sunday of each month after church at 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch provided by Adult Ministries. Then the group will "turn a new page" by sharing thoughts and feelings about the book they've read over the previous month.

He would like to invite you to be a part of the selection process to determine the books to be read. So bring your ideas on January 20th. However, "truth in

advertising" requires him to admit that he will make the final selections (both fiction and non-fiction).

Sign-ups for this class will begin Sunday, January 6th during coffee hour following worship. Childcare will be provided as needed.

Looking ahead...

A **Lenten study** will be offered on Thursday evenings February 7th- March 13th with Dr. Frank Trotter and Rev. Debbie Gara. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and communion will be offered in the Chapel at 6:45 p.m. Sign-ups will begin Sunday, January 20th. Childcare will be provided as needed.

Pasadena District "How-To" Workshop: "Sharing God's Gift – Plant a Seed in the United Methodist Garden"

Saturday, February 2, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., at Covina United Methodist Church, lay persons from throughout the Pasadena District will convene for the 2008 "How-To" Workshop. This year's theme, "Sharing God's Gifts – Plant a Seed in the United Methodist Garden." All church officers, committee members, clergy and anyone interested in the work of these committees and work areas are urged to attend.

Following registration and coffee hour, the day begins with a worship service. An exciting array of workshops are offered and are divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The workshops include:

- A. "Trustees as Stewards of Our Assets,"
- B. "Finance Workshop"
- C. "Working Smarter - Getting Strong Leadership - aka Nominations"
- D. "Small Group Ministries"
- E. "Youth: ADHD, Worship, and Other Problems"
- F. "Growing Your Church"
- G. "You Are Invited to the Table"

H. "What Is that Building? - Making your Church Visible"

I. "UMW...A New Focus, the Next Generation"

J. "Integrating Staff and Congregational Interests to Focus on the Mission of the Church"

K. "Church Leadership: It's a Team Sport"

L. "Managing Your Church's Finances as Treasurer"

M. "Rethinking/Refreshing Music in Worship"

N. "United Methodist Men"

O. "What's New in Your Sunday School?"

P. "Getting Along with People You Know and Don't Know Yet"

Q. "Cal-Pac's New Websites for Local Churches"

Pre-registration fee: \$10 (includes lunch).

At-the-door registration: \$15 (includes lunch).

Childcare available upon registration request.

Deadline: Thursday, January 24, 2008.

For a more detailed list of classes, presenters and/or brochure with registration form, please contact the Church Office.



Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations for January

January is cold outside and in some places it snows. We will collect something this month that might remind us of snow. It is foamy, smells good and helps people shave.

We will collect
**shaving cream
& lotion.**





A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:
enough happiness to keep us sweet;
enough trials to keep us strong;
enough hope to keep us lively;
enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
enough failure to keep us humble;
enough success to keep us eager;
enough friends to give us comfort;
enough wealth to meet our needs;
enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
enough faith to overcome despair;
and enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.

Why Go To Church?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this, they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Aldersgate Forum Meets

Aldersgate Forum will meet Friday, January 11th at 12:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Luncheon will be catered. Team captains will call for reservations.



Altar Flowers for 2008

Dates are available for donating altar flowers for Sunday morning worship throughout 2008. If you would like to adorn our Sanctuary with flowers in honor, in memory or in celebration of a person or event, please contact the Church Office to make those arrangements.

Unclaimed Church Directories

The following persons have 2006 church pictorial directories in the Church Office. These are the last of the directories as the rest have all been distributed. Please call or stop by the Church Office to claim your directory, or let us know if we can pass it along to someone else.

Dr. France & Julie Adamson

Michael & Lisa Bononi

Pam Burns

Lois Calhoun

Luci DeLeon

Cornelia Dirksen

Donna Edgin

Scott Ferguson

Roxane Follett

MaryBeth Haag

Don Hanselman

Helen Ichinose

Bob Johnson

Dr. Mike & Lily Keesey

Norman & Jane Lambert

Ronnie Macadaeg

Don & Lori Meaders

Andrew & Kathy Midgley

Luther Nash

Daniel Niemann

Carolyn Parish

Charlene Reichert & Tom Prince

Al & Christine Rodriquez

Douglas & Susan Rogers

Reda Rountree & Daniel Gill

Warren & Argie Taylor

Michael & Deborah Underwood

Heinz & Rosemarie Zaiser

Dr. Richard & Anne Zeiss

Christmas Gifts & Stockings for ACAC Program: Thank You!

from Pam Burns

Thank you to everyone who contributed Christmas gifts and stockings to the children on our Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker's client list. Your response to the ACAC Program once again expressed the warmth and generosity of our congregation.

I would also like to thank the Children's Sunday School for sponsoring the stockings again this year. It is always fun to see decorated stockings filled with special treats for each child. I would like to thank Anne Johnston for again making the stockings and to Pam Marx for making sure each one was filled.

Your kindness truly makes a difference in the lives of children who are served by the Pasadena Department of Children and Family Services. Deidre, our "adopted" caseworker, wants the congregation to know how excited and appreciative each child is when she delivers the gifts and stockings.

Thank you for opening your hearts and for again supporting the ACAC program.

The Story of Sarah Revealed at Hilltoppers Meeting

The Hilltoppers unit of United Methodist Women will meet January 14th. The change of date is because the church is closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

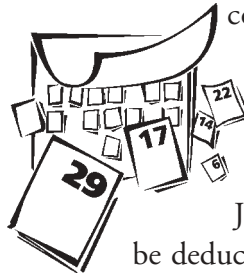
Our program will feature Ellen Peterson telling us the story of "SARAH," one of the new stained glass windows in our Chapel.

The meeting will be held at 1:30 pm in the Church Lounge and all women are invited and welcome.

End of Year Contributions

In case you're wondering about your year end contributions, the general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered.

This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January of 2008 cannot be deducted in 2007 even if it is backdated to 2007. One exception – checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2007 are deductible in 2007 even though not received until 2008. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Tim Sun, Business Manager/Treasurer at tsun@fumcpasadena.org or (626) 796-0157. God bless your faithful giving and generosity.



Yarn Ministry: Faithful Knitters



We of the Yarn Ministry are still faithfully knitting and crocheting baby blankets as we meet each second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month in the Church Lounge from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Recently we delivered a load of forty blankets to the Pasadena Prenatal Clinic, the organization for which we make them. This delivery brings our total to approximately 724 blankets we have made since our beginning six years ago.

If you would like to be a part of our merry circle, feel free to join us. If you don't know how to knit or crochet and would like to learn, we would be more than happy to teach you. New members are always welcome. Also, if you would like to crochet or knit at home and deliver your blankets to the church that is also an option. Please contact Irmgard Frey for specifics on the blankets.

If you would like to participate, but not with your presence, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. One hundred percent of the donation is spent on yarn.



Young Adult Writers' Deadline January 31st

The FUMC Theatre Arts Committee is looking for 2-minute plays on a relationship-based theme to consider for a spring mini-play, staged-reading festival. Entries are due January 31st and can be turned into the Church Office or emailed in the body of the email to just4shopping@sbcglobal.net. Plays must be G- or PG-rated in content and tone. A limited number of entries will be chosen for reading.

FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:



4	7:30pm	University of Tennessee Choral Concert	Sanctuary
6	11:30am	Friends & Family Lunch	Fellowship Hall
	1:00pm	Celebration of Life for Peter Beam	Sanctuary
	6:45pm	Parent-Youth Potluck Meeting	Fellowship Hall
7	7:00pm	Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
8	7:00pm	Evangelism/Hospitality Comm.	Church Lounge
9	9:00am	Pasadena Homeless Prevention	Great Hall
	3:00pm	Disbursement Committee	Foundation Office
	4:00pm	Foundation Trustees Meet	Church Lounge
	6:00pm	Preschool Advisory Board	Church Lounge
12	9:30am	Prayer Quilt Ministry	Church Lounge
13	11:30am	Chapel Open House	Chapel
	12:00pm	Virgil Bryant Honor Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
	4:00pm	Confirmation Class	Jr. Hi. Lounge
14	1:30pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
15	7:00pm	Adult Ministry Committee	Church Lounge
15	6:30pm	Staff-Parish Relations Comm	Frank's Home
19	8:00am	Children's Winter Camp	Sky Meadows

Weekly & Ongoing FUMC Events

SUNDAYS	
9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship
11:30am	Youth Handbell Choir
5:15pm	Youth Choir Choir Room
6:45pm	UMYF Dinner & Program Fellowship Hall
TUESDAYS	
10:00am	Social Services Great Hall
7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop Scout Room
7:30pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal Bell Room
7:30pm	AA Meetings Adult Lounge
WEDNESDAYS	
7:00pm	Young People's AA Meeting Adult Lounge
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

FUMC Prayer List

Please remember persons on our prayer list in your regular prayers...

We lift up to God these prayers...

for healing:

Gabe Brown
Wayne Brubaker
José Casillas
Patrice Daniels
Everett Dodge
Curt Elrod



George Griffith
Pat Hall
Peggy Hendricks
Holly Dale Howard
Manick Samuel
Doris Schatra
Norm Schmidt
Argie Taylor
Ladd Thomas
Cherry Walther

for strength & comfort:

Barbara Gorton
Don Hanselman
Ae Kyong Kim
Lorene Ozsvath



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