



# The Messenger

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

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## “Thank you, Bob Rhodes”

from Dr. Frank Trotter

We are in one of the times of transition that come to every family – a time of saying “Good bye” as well as “Hello.”

In this case, it is extending our love and prayers to Bob Rhodes and his family, Beth and Cameron, as they move to the next step of their journey. As you know, Bob has been with us since October of 2006 serving in several capacities primarily as a pastoral assistant and as the director of youth ministries. He has also been very involved with our computer tech support in the office and has brought his skills to bear as we have evaluated and updated our equipment.

As the “go to person” for youth ministries, he has been here on Sunday mornings, afternoons, and evenings reaching out to our young people in grades 7 – 12. He has helped teach Confirmation Class this year, filled in on occasion as a Sunday School teacher, and been the main point of contact for the UMYF meetings. Bob also had a great deal of enjoyment in being one of the adult counselors for the 2006 Choir Tour to New England. In his capacity as pastoral assistant, he has made hospital visits, counseled families and individuals, assisted in worship, and preached on several occasions.

Many of you know that Bob feels called to the Christian ministry which require both

an undergraduate degree and a Master of Divinity degree from seminary. Bob has made the decision to spend more intentional time to complete these requirements. You might imagine the challenges that he faces in balancing all of these responsibilities – in addition to being a husband and father.

Bob’s last Sunday with us will be on January 27, 2008 when he will be the morning preacher. Following the service, we hope you will join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

In addition to this time of saying “Good bye” to the Rhodes Family, we also say “Hello” to David Sooter who has been hired as a part time youth coordinator through the end of June. David works full time as a Marriage & Family Therapist Intern but has worked part-time in recent years as a youth director and college pastor. When Rev. David Richardson served here as senior minister, David (Sooter) chose David (Richardson) as his mentor. David will be introduced to us on Sunday, January 13, 2008. Because of a prior commitment to participate in a medical mission trip to Mexico from January 13-22, he will begin his intentional time with us following his return.

In every way, we extend our very best wishes to Bob, Beth and Cameron, and to David as God speaks and acts through them in our midst on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Your Giving is Greatly Appreciated

*“This church surpassed all expectations in opening their hearts and finances this past season and they need to know how much their efforts are appreciated.” –Elaine Enzlinger*

Christmas decorations are safely tucked away for another year; cookies and candies have all been eaten and shopping for those special gifts for loved ones are just a nice memory. I stand in awe of the love and compassion the congregation at First Church exhibited during the Advent season. In reaching deeply into hearts and pockets, you truly conveyed the meaning of Christmas to those not only in our hometown but around the world as well.

The children of the Sunday School Classes filled 25 stockings for ACAC in addition to 25 gifts being purchased by members of the congregation for that same wonderful agency. The Christmas offering realized \$6,511.00 that was evenly

distributed to Union Station at Raymond and to Pasadena Aids Service Center. The World Markets brought in \$2,910.00 of which half will go to benefit African Missions. The Alternative Christmas Giving generated \$3,307.00, that was distributed to missions ranging from our own Social Service Bus Pass Program to Zimbabwe – Project Tario (HIV/AIDS care/support in Africa) and the many more in between. Lastly the Pathfinder’s raised \$218.00 for a family in need by selling casseroles.

All monies have been distributed and the work goes on in supporting the many missions we chose for this season.

I speak for the entire Missions Peace and Justice committee when I give you all a heart felt thank you for your generosity and for the caring you all demonstrated during this past advent season. YOU ARE SIMPLY “THE BEST”!

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## Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebrated on January 21st

**Remember! Celebrate! Act!  
A Day On, Not A Day Off!!**

Martin Luther King Jr., born on January 15, 1929, will be remembered this year on January 21st. Given the rancor rampant in today’s world, it’s fitting to recall King’s words: “Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.”



Newsletter, Newsletter, Published in: January 2008

# Refugees Crowd into South African Church

By Linda Bloom\*

*The following article reflects the ways in which the church responds in mission around the world. This opportunity is being offered at the suggestion of Senior Minister, Dr. Frank Trotter.*

NEW YORK (UMNS) - Twelve hundred refugees sleep each night at Central Methodist Mission in Johannesburg, South Africa.

That number is up from 900 during the first few months of 2007. Another 500 to 800 refugees can be found in the street immediately outside the building, according to Bishop Paul Verryn who leads the staff there.



Refugees store their belongings in a room in the six-story downtown church. A UMNS file photo by Emily Fisher.

Verryn, who visited the New York headquarters of the United Methodist Committee on Relief on Jan. 3, noted that most of the refugees are from Zimbabwe.

To date, UMCOR has provided \$75,000 to assist Central Methodist Mission in its work with the refugees which includes providing shelter, food, clothing, child care, counseling and employment assistance. UMCOR also has helped support infrastructure costs for the building to allow the work to continue.

“There are all sorts of amazing partnerships beginning in the building,” Verryn told the UMCOR staff. “But it’s getting worse in that ... the number of

refugees coming through has not abated. In fact, just before Christmas, there was another surge of people coming through.”

The steady stream of refugees is a result of economic instability and the political climate



Bishop Paul Verryn heads the Johannesburg church that is a major provider of social services in the city. A UMNS photo by Michelle Scott.

in Zimbabwe. Because the South African government has not recognized Zimbabweans as official refugees, those who try to apply for political asylum face many bureaucratic hurdles.

One positive development is a clinic opened recently in the church’s old bookshop by Doctors Without Borders. The clinic, available to the public, serves 40 to 50 people a day. In addition, a home-based care service provides assistance for sensitive cases such as patients with HIV or tuberculosis.

Through the “Ray of Hope” project, the mission has managed to provide temporary and safe accommodations for homeless asylum seekers, refugees and displaced people; offer one substantial meal each day for temporary residents; and provide food and supplies for infants whose mothers have no financial support.

Also housed within the six-story church are a preschool and extended child care, a small legal aid clinic and literacy, numeracy and English language programs. Additional activities range

Refugees Crowd Church *continued on page 5*

## Pasadena District How-To Workshop “Sharing God’s Gift— Plant a Seed in the United Methodist Garden”

Saturday  
February 2,  
2008

8:30am -2:30pm

Covina UMC

437 W. San

Bernardino Rd

Covina, CA 91404

Deadline for  
\$10 pre-registration  
(includes lunch)  
Thursday,  
January 24,  
2008

Walk-in, day of  
workshop fee  
\$15  
(includes lunch)

Registration forms  
in the Church  
Office



## Youth Cabaret Coming in February

Don't miss  
Youth Cabaret  
coming February 1st  
and 2nd, 2008. Please  
join us for a splendid  
evening of  
entertainment. Enjoy a  
fine dinner and your  
favorite Broadway  
tunes performed by our  
own FUMC Youth.  
Tickets are \$20 and  
will be on sale during  
fellowship hour Sunday,  
January 20th,  
and 27th.

## Meet FUMC's New Member Serita Hutton



We welcome new  
member Serita Hutton  
who transfers from  
Gulfport United  
Methodist Church in  
Mississippi. Serita is an  
IT consultant and  
recently moved here  
from New York. She  
has two young adult  
children, Scarlett and  
Michael Woods Jr.  
Serita loves to cook,  
travel, and visit family.  
Welcome to FUMC,  
Serita!

Photo by H Reid

**WANTED**

**GRANT RESEARCHERS  
&  
FUNDRAISING/EVENT  
PLANNERS**

**to assist in bringing the  
Children's Play Garden  
into reality.**

Interested persons should contact  
Leslie Garriott at (626) 568-9502.

**-REWARD-**

The knowledge that you have helped bring this gift  
to our children to enrich their lives through play

## Lift Up Your Eyes and Your Feet Unto the Hills of the Historic and Beautiful Front Country of the San Gabriel Mountains

The Pasadena District Camping Committee invites  
you to an  
Adult Hike-In Camping Retreat  
at Sturtevant's Camp

**Saturday, April 5 & Sunday, April 6, 2008**

Sturtevant's Camp is one of the eight camps owned and operated by our Cal-Pac Conference. This camp is unique because it is accessible only by hiking along mountain trails. The camp is equipped with dining hall, wonderful kitchen, recreation hall, cabins and outdoor chapel, as well as the oldest Ranger cabin in California still located on its original site. Spring flowers, birds and waterfalls should be in abundance.

We will hike in on Saturday morning from Chantry Flats and back out on Sunday afternoon. Meals will be provided while we are there. Accommodations will be in the camp cabins. We hike 5 miles up hill to get to camp and reverse our steps on the way out. You will carry your [minimal] overnight gear on your back. Food will be donkey-ed in.

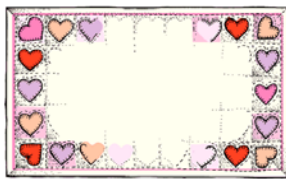
Our staff includes long time hikers and backpackers in our local mountains.

If you think you MIGHT be interested or maybe you have some more questions, e-mail Camp Dean, Pam Allen [pam.allen.pasdist@earthlink.net](mailto:pam.allen.pasdist@earthlink.net) or call (626) 355-2359, so we may send you more information.

## Evening Circle Shares Quilts' Fantastic Journey

Evening Circle this month is an event for all to share.

If you've ever tied a knot and whispered a special prayer for anyone in our glorious sanctuary



on a Sunday morning, you won't want to miss Evening Circle on Tuesday, January 22nd.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM for a suggested fee of \$7:00 if you are able. Should you not be able to attend the dinner portion, you are more than welcome to come hear our guest speaker at 7:00 PM.

Our speaker for the evening is Don Beld who will take us on his fantastic journey of

faith with stories of his quilt ministries. He has two programs one of which is ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS and the other being HOME OF THE BRAVE

which highlights stories of quilts provided to those who have lost loved ones in the war of terror.

He will bring with him some quilts for us to see as well as hearing the stories he will be sharing. Please RSVP to the church office EARLY and indicate whether you will need to have child care provided. Space for this event will fill quickly.

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**Refugees Crowd Church** *continued from page 3*  
from a chess club to gospel choir, and worship services are held each night.

"The first rule of the building is you have to be involved in education," Verryn said. "You either teach or you study ... or you do both."

Just about every inch of floor space is used for sleeping each night, including the stairs. The project ensures clean facilities for temporary residents and access to clean water for drinking and washing.

A number of the refugees are professionals, and Verryn is finding ways to both assist them and harness their skills. For example, 140 to 200 teachers live at the mission at any one time, and the staff is both circulating their names nationally for possible jobs and working with the proper agency to have their qualifications to teach in South Africa evaluated.

Verryn said he hopes the church can employ some of the teachers to teach math and science in an after-school program or even by starting a new school.

Last year's strike by teachers in Zimbabwe meant "the teaching profession as a whole became suspect" in political terms, according to Verryn, and many teachers simply do not

earn enough there to support their families.

But he's distressed over the large number of teachers leaving the country. "They are amongst the best teachers in Africa," he said. "Zimbabwe, until recently, has had the highest rate of literacy in Africa."

Central Methodist Mission has been "exceptionally blessed" by people from the community who bring in food and clothing for the refugees. Verryn also has been pleased by the improved attitude of local police, who often will bring refugees to the church.

While the current numbers are staggering, the mission is the same that it's always been. "For more than 20 years, the church has had a reasonably open policy toward homeless people," he noted.

Donations to the Ray of Hope project can be made through UMCOR Advance No. 199456, Zimbabwe Emergency, and dropped in local church collection plates or mailed directly to UMCOR at P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068. Credit-card donations can be made online at <http://secure.gb-gm-umc.org/donations/advance/donate.cfm?code=982540&id=3019059> or by calling (800) 554-8583.

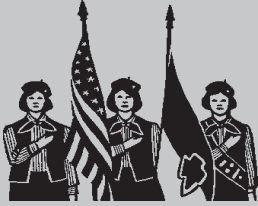
*\*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.*



### 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.**



## Girl Scout Troop 529 Dates Set:

Jan. 6 ..... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300

Feb. 3 ..... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300

Feb. 17 ... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300

Mar. 2 .... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300

Mar 9 .... 10:00am  
Girl Scout Sunday  
@ FUMC Pasadena-  
wear your uniform  
to church!; we will  
be greeters before  
the service

Apr 6 ..... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300  
Spring Award  
Ceremony

Apr 20 .... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300

May 4 ..... 11:30am  
rooms 200 & 300

June 1 .... 11:30  
rooms 200 & 300

# A New Year!



In 2007, the stewardship of this congregation has proved to be phenomenal. Last year, members took the opportunity to search in their hearts and pocketbooks, to feel God's love and calling to give from their first fruits. There are still some members who have not taken the opportunity to experience that same wonderful feeling of joy when you make the decision to give of your resources. If you are one of those persons, the new year presents an opening, a conduit, if you will, to make that commitment.

In today's world, there are ecological, economic and geopolitical implications to God's call to be stewards of all that God has created. What we do through our congregation is in the context of the divine reign over all creation. This is what Jesus described as the kingdom of God.

from J. P. Harris  
FUMC Stewardship Chairperson

Personal and corporate Christian stewardship includes taking care of the creation as well as using and sharing talents and resources. Many of the members of this church take the time to conserve energy and recycle in their own homes. If this is something you haven't really thought about, it might be a good time to do so. Think about changing out those incandescent light bulbs throughout your house for energy saving light bulbs. If you are looking to purchase a new car, think about a smaller, high mileage vehicle or even a hybrid car. Recycle bottles, cans, cardboard, and all kinds of paper. Use less water. Replace that old refrigerator or washer and dryer with energy efficient ones. Invest in a couple of reusable shopping bags and take them with you when you go to the grocery store. Take your own cup into Starbucks when you go in for your morning latte.

There are many ways to be good stewards. In the coming year, there might even be an ecological change at Pasadena First United Methodist Church.

## United Methodist Men's Dinner Meeting, Tuesday, January 22

Join your friends for the United Methodist Men's first dinner meeting of the New Year, Tuesday, January 22nd.

It will be a wonderful evening of fellowship, camaraderie, devotions, music and program!

Paul Cogger, FUMC member and Director of Camping and Facility Management for the California-Pacific Conference, will offer new insight: "Church Camping: Our Past or Our Future?"

Again, Tuesday, January 22 is the night—it all begins at 6:30 pm promptly. Why not bring a guest? KINDLY MAKE YOUR RSVP WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (626) 796-0157.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



THE ANNUAL UMM BOY SCOUT NIGHT IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

# Nature Play Garden News

from Marilynne Kennedy



Many companies provide grants for programs that serve inner-city children—and approximately 8% of our students receive assistance either from our school scholarship program or from the government.

- Give us the name of your company foundation and the contact person and we will do the paperwork.
- Share information if you have ideas about foundations with money for either outdoor play areas or for inner-city preschool.
- An effective, experienced grant writer is needed—if you know a grant writer, please contact us.
- Looking for the perfect gift for someone that has everything—a gift to the Play Garden is a wonderful way to honor someone you love—and if the check is made out to FUMC, with Children's Nature Play Garden in the memo section, it could also be matched by many employers.

The big question—Has anything happened with the Children's Nature Play Garden?

- Our landscape architect has completed construction drawings.
- We are working with an experienced play-garden developer to give us firm cost figures for the first two phases—demolition and construction of the basic infrastructure and also the planting.
- We are working on submitting grants to secure funding to make this exciting project a reality.
- We are slowly moving forward in setting aside money from our budget—but your help will make a difference.

The next big question—How can we as individuals help to move this forward?

- Remember although EVERYONE will benefit, this is not an official FUMC project so maybe your employer can help.



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](mailto:just4shopping@sbcglobal.net). Plays must be G- or PG-rated in content and tone. A limited number of entries will be chosen for reading.

## In the Next Issue of The Messenger...



- **VALENTINES FOR THE LIBRARY:** Ruth MacPherson suggests the library be the object of your affection in 2008 and updates us on this annual fundraiser.
- **LIGHT FROM THE CATACOMBS** reflects pictures of Peter Beam's past proteges.

FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:

**January**

19-20	8:00am	Children's Winter Camp	Sky Meadows
20	11:45am	"Turn Another Page" Book Study with Dr. Trotter	Church Lounge
	11:45am	Girl Scout Troop 529	Rm 200 & 300
	6:30pm	Questers Meeting	Church Lounge
21	Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
22	10:00am	Social Services Ministry	Great Hall
	6:30pm	UM Men Dinner Meeting	Fellowship Hall
23	3:00pm	Methodist Foundation	Foundation Office
	7:00pm	Missions, Peace & Justice	Church Lounge
24	7:30pm	Church Council Meeting	Church Lounge
25	6:00pm	Boy Scout Rose Bowl District Dinner	Fellowship Hall
27	4:00pm	Confirmation Class	Jr. Hi. Lounge
28	7:00pm	Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
29	10:00am	Social Services Ministry	Great Hall
30	6:30pm	New Visitor Dinner at Senior Pastor's Home	Off site
<i>February</i>			
1 & 2	6:30pm	Youth Cabaret 2008	Fellowship Hall

**Weekly & Ongoing FUMC Events**

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	
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
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	
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
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	
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:*

Lura Brown  
Wayne Brubaker  
José Casillas  
Patrice Daniels



Curt Elrod  
George Griffith  
Pat Hall  
Peggy Hendricks  
Holly Dale Howard

Lyz Rhodes  
Norm Schmidt  
Argie Taylor  
Ladd Thomas  
Cherry Walther  
Rev. al Waterson

*for strength & comfort:*

Barbara Gorton  
Ken Beam  
The Elrod Family  
Don Hanselman  
Ae Kyong Kim  
Lorene Ozsvath



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