



# The Messenger

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## 2009 Lenten Series: Exploring Reconciliation by Andy Goebel

In January 2008, the Church Council approved the formation of the Reconciling Committee to continue the discussion of the issue of Homosexuality and the United Methodist Church.

The Committee focuses on how the church can be intentional with its welcoming of all because we believe each individual is of sacred worth. Therefore, we pledge ourselves to engage in the sacred hospitality and responsibility Christ taught. As part of being more intentional, the Reconciling Committee proposed to the Church Council on December 14, 2008, a Lenten series focused on reconciliation and what it means in reference to homosexuality. The Church Council approved the Lenten series the same day.

The Lenten series is a continuation of the discussion on homosexuality that started with Rev. Lily Villamin and continued with Rev. Richard Garner and Rev. Debbie Gara.

The purpose of the series is to discuss whom we seek to intentionally welcome and be open to. We agreed that, because the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community is the ONLY group now excluded from the full life of the church by our Book of Discipline, this is the group on which we should focus.

There will be two (2) informational sessions lasting approximately 20 minutes immediately following the church services on Sunday, February 8th and Sunday, February 15th. The informational sessions will be held in the church sanctuary.

Here is a brief outline of the Lenten series and its speakers. All times are 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with the exception of Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, which will take place following the church service.

### February 24<sup>th</sup> *Defining Reconciliation in the UMC*

Speakers: Dan Gara, Treasurer, Cal-Pac Annual Conference  
Rev. Bob Davis, Pasadena Superintendent, Retired  
Rev. Rosemary Davis, Retired

### March 3<sup>rd</sup> *We are of Two Minds: Biblical Teachings – a traditional interpretation*

Speaker: H. Newton Maloney, Ph.D. Graduate School of Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary

### March 10<sup>th</sup> *We are of Two Minds: Biblical Teachings – an inclusive interpretation*

Speaker: Rev. Frank Wulf, United University Church

### March 17<sup>th</sup> *Living in a Reconciling Church*

Speaker: Rev. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Claremont UMC

### March 22<sup>nd</sup> *Morning Worship*

Preacher: Bishop Jack Tuell, Cal-Pac Annual Conference, Retired  
*Personal Story of Transformation*

Speaker: Bishop Jack Tuell, Cal-Pac Annual Conference, Retired

### March 24<sup>th</sup> *Where do we go from here?*

Speakers: Andy Goebel, Dr. Frank Trotter, Rev. Debbie Gara, Rev. Allison Mark

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The position of a full-time Camp Manager for Pasadena Methodist Foundation's Camp Sky Meadows will be available March 1, 2009. Knowledge of carpentry skills and ability to work with the public are important. Qualified persons may receive a job description and application by contacting First United Methodist Church, Pasadena, at (626) 796-0157. A part-time cook is also needed.

## Opportunities to Serve



### Sanctuary Light Board Crew

Making interesting use of sanctuary lighting capabilities is an Arts Committee priority. With bad lights replaced, we look toward the next step of developing lighting cues and training a group of people interested in working the light board. Contact Pam Marx at [pamelamarx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pamelamarx@sbcglobal.net) or (323) 255-3853 if you are interested.

### Reception Committee



The church is seeking to form a Reception Committee in order that we might be able to offer gracious hospitality in a variety of settings. If this area of ministry interests you, please contact Diane in the Church Office.

## New Baritone Soloist for the Chancel Choir

We are very happy to announce that Scott Lehmkuhl has been engaged as our new baritone soloist/section leader. Scott is a graduate of UCLA, accomplished as a singer and conductor, a member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and a resident of Pasadena. We are very excited to welcome him to our circle of music-making at First Church.

## Women's Retreat News

October 16-18, 2009

Aldersgate Retreat Center

Open to all women grade 9<sup>th</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup>

Theme: *Building Bridges between*

*Generations of Women; Friendships throughout our Lives*

Twenty women gathered to imagine a relaxing and restful weekend getaway that would allow for new friendships to emerge and deeper relationships to be nurtured.

To achieve this, the ladies imagined a dynamic experience with a loose and flexible structure to include a range of fun activities, bonding opportunities, and topical program and worship that would be accessible and entertaining for all ages, abilities, moods and interests including hiking, exploring, yoga and crafting.

Let your imagination run wild and send us your ideas! A planning committee is being formed---The Imagination Team---of which all ladies are invited to be a part. We will meet in mid-February (date TBD) to continue the planning for this exciting event.

For additional information, to share your ideas or to sign up for the Imagination Team (planning committee) please email Debbie Gara at ([dgara@fumcpasadena.org](mailto:dgara@fumcpasadena.org)), Allison Mark at ([amark@fumcpasadena.org](mailto:amark@fumcpasadena.org)), or Janelle Hodson at ([janellehodson@hallmarkchannel.com](mailto:janellehodson@hallmarkchannel.com)) or call (626) 796-0157.



...Cabaret!

Save the dates: March 6th and 7th  
Theme: The Wonderful World of Disney

## Where There's a Need

by Elaine Enzminger

A group of women from All Saints Episcopal Church formed a committee several years ago to determine how best to serve the needs of the homeless in Pasadena. Out of those meetings, it was determined that single women were the least served segment of the homeless population and proceeded to make history by creating a space called "The Women's Room."

The UMW Evening Circle visited the Friends in Deed House on January 27<sup>th</sup> for an informal dinner, tour of the facility but most importantly, shared in an open discussion in and centered on The Women's Room that was created to provide a warm and safe haven for women who literally live on the streets, live out of cars, or have homes but are lonely. For 4 hours every Monday and Thursday, they know they have a place that is theirs. We heard wonderful stories of women sharing resources that help each other's needs. We heard of a volunteer who worked many hours in The Women's Room until her move to Florida where she has recreated that same atmosphere

for homeless women in her new town. We heard about a homeless woman who is now in her own home but provides a space there for homeless ladies to come for food, sleep on a bed or just for companionship as she learned it at The Women's Room.

The Women's Room is a sanctuary where they are accepted and loved for who they are with no one to judge or direct them. They come to play bingo; they come to take showers and wash their clothing; they come to watch movies, on occasion they come for a massage provided by students of a nearby massage school. As I write this, a computer is being installed for their use. They mostly come for companionship and acceptance knowing they will be treated with respect and dignity.

For Rosemarie Zaiser, Phyllis Underwood, Marlene Farrell, Mary Jane Bell, Nancy Bumb and Elaine Enzminger, it was hard to leave Pat O'Reilly and Jackie Knowles who gave us such a great evening to remember.

## ECPAC - Local Homeless Services

by Pam Marx

The Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches, known as ECPAC, runs Friends in Deed, the Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter and a new program for homeless women, The Women's Room. Over the years, FUMC and its members have supported ECPAC in any number of ways: providing monetary support, taking canned food to its pantry and working at the Bad Weather Shelter. Never is the need greater than now.

As might be expected, there has been a dramatic increase in the need for ECPAC services:

Bad Weather Shelter use is up over 20 percent. As an example, for the seven-day

period from January 21 to January 27, 868 individuals used the shelter in 2008 while 1,103 used the shelter this year.

Friends in Deed food pantry saw a continuing increase in clients in 2008. In January 2008, 315 clients used the pantry monthly. By December, that number had climbed to 775, more than double.

The success of The Women's Room program for homeless women is demonstrated by the growth of the program which is now at capacity serving 21 women.

For more information about ECPAC, go to [www.ecpac.net](http://www.ecpac.net) or ask Woody Hain or Pam Marx how you or your group can help. Thank you.

**HELPING THE**



**HOMELESS**

## UMW Hilltoppers

\*Note change of date\*

Our meeting is February 9th at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Come and hear Rosalie Niemann tell of her experiences in her mission work with the Hendersons in Mexico. All women are invited to attend. Call Irene Atkinson (626) 795-2393 for more information.



## Aldersgate Fellowship

...will meet Friday, February 13th, in the Church Lounge. Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. will be followed by an interesting program presented by Tom Bowman about the Theatre Arts program at FUMC.

# Hidden Treasure

by Ann Higginbotham

In the 1970's, my parents, Hanson and Gregory Higginbotham, gave a painting to the church. They did this so that the congregation as a whole could enjoy the painting rather than just the Higginbotham family. Since that time, the painting has been up in the Aldersgate Room on the second floor, in the northeast corner of the church. When I recently went to take a look at the painting, it was clearly a little worse for wear, having been subjected to too much light and too much heat. So I suggested to Frank Trotter that we either sell the painting to help us with our budget shortfall, or find a more appropriate place for the painting. To help make the decision about which course to pursue, we needed more information.

First I went to John Moran Auctioneers for their assessment. Howard Underwood nicely volunteered his van, because my car did not have a wide enough opening through which to get the 6' x 4' painting. First we met with Jeff Moran who said the painting was very well done and that it was a copy by an artist named Pater of a Lorenzo Lotto painting. Then he did an internet search using art world websites and bingo, he found it right away.

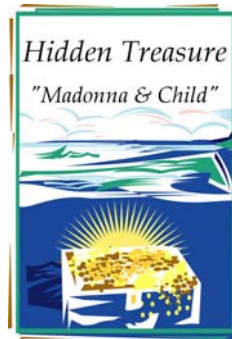
The painting is entitled *Madonna and Child with St. Catherine and St. Thomas*, originally painted around 1528-30 by Lorenzo Lotto, a 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian Renaissance painter. It is now part of the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. This copy was probably done around 1900. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only copy in existence. Lotto was an itinerant painter who worked in several towns and villages near Venice, because Titian monopolized the attention of potential commissions in Venice. During his lifetime (1480-1556/7), Lotto was a well-respected painter and very popular in Northern Italy. After his death, he gradually

became neglected and then almost forgotten. This is because most of his work was in lesser known churches or in provincial museums. But in 1895, he was "resurrected" by an art historian, and since then, many monographs and exhibitions have been dedicated to him, one in Venice in 1953, and more recently in our own National Gallery of Art where an exhibition entitled *Lorenzo Lotto: Rediscovered Master of the Renaissance* ran in 1997-98. Most of the world's great museums have a Lotto work in their collection as does Queen Elizabeth II.

I then conducted an online correspondence with the museum in Austria which houses the original. When the painting is hung, I will add the description which was written for the National Gallery of Art showing and the one written by the Viennese museum, both of which will probe more deeply into the artistic details which distinguish Lotto from all other Italian Renaissance paintings.

The next task was to get it cleaned and restored to repair the damage done to it by its environment for the last 30 years. John Moran Auctioneers came and got the painting and sent it to a company in Santa Barbara which specializes in restoring paintings. It was cleaned and a small tear in the canvas was repaired. In several places, where the paint had cracked or peeled due to the temperature fluctuations, "inpainting" was done. As a result, the painting is much cleaner and crisper and many previously unseen details (at least to me) jumped out.

The Trustees, staff and my brother, Steve and my sister, Sallie, have decided to place the painting in the hallway between the Chapel and the Sanctuary where it will not get any direct sunlight and reside in much cooler, more stable temperatures. I hope you will visit it often as that is what Mother and Daddy had in mind when they gave it to the church.



# Invitation to Membership at FUMC Pasadena

*New Member Inquirer's Class: Sunday, March 1 at 11:30 am following worship.*

We will gather at designated tables for our class at the Friends and Family lunch in the Fellowship Hall and continue together in our Church Lounge until 2:30 p.m. This session is an opportunity to become better acquainted with the United Methodist Church and is not necessarily a commitment to join. You will have opportunity to learn and discuss the meaning of membership and the history of

our church and denomination as well as the many opportunities to worship, connect and serve at FUMC. The pastors and leaders from various areas in the life of FUMC will be present. Child care will be provided; please let us know of your needs. Sign up during Coffee Hour beginning February 15th or through the Church Office. Contact Rev. Debbie Gara for more information.



Sunday School  
**Big Red  
Barrel  
Donations  
for  
February  
SOCKS**

## VALENTINES for the LIBRARY

by Ruth MacPherson

Save the Sundays of February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Library's annual fundraiser, "Valentines for the Library." Look for us in Fellowship Hall, during Coffee Hour, on these last two Sundays of February.

Again, you have an opportunity to honor or memorialize special persons in your lives with library valentine cards. These "valentines" will be delivered to your friends or their families, and will tell about the library books you dedicate in their names.

This year there will also be:

- A used book sale (books to buy and take with you)
- A bake sale

The money we raise supplements our library budget which funds more books, library supplies, equipment, and library program, i.e. free book prizes for our youth and children who are in our *Ten Books Club*.



## Dr. Trotter's Book Club

The Book Club will read *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin (the Pulitzer Prize winning account of Lincoln's presidency). It will be discussed in April to give everyone plenty of time to read it.



On February 15th, we will be discussing *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

## Questers

Questers will meet on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for its regular potluck dinner. Dr. Veranda will speak on "Presidents and Their Wives."

If anyone, single or married (and we have missed contacting you), would like to join us, please contact Donna or Dick Overton at (626) 793-2646 for more information. We would be happy to welcome you into the fellowship of Questers.



## Questers

Questers will meet following the church service on Sunday, February 15th, for a tour of the San Antonio Winery and lunch. Lunch will be of your choice from the menu. Questers welcome everyone interested in joining them. We are a group 60+ year olds (59 ½ is okay), single and married, with a variety of interests and professions. Our meeting date is the third Sunday of each month at 6:30pm for a potluck dinner and program with special events on occasion. You may contact Donna and Dick Overton for further information at (626) 793-2646.

# New Assisted Listening System Coming March 1st

The Audio-Video Committee will be installing a new assisted listening system in the Sanctuary to replace our current system. The current system will remain active through the last Sunday in February, and the new system will be active beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you are currently using one of our listening devices, please contact one of the ushers on any Sunday prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> to indicate your need for a replacement receiver. We would appreciate it if you would request your receiver as soon as possible. We want to make sure that we have enough receivers available for those who need them when we



change the system over. The existing receivers are NOT compatible with the new updated equipment so you will need to have a new receiver for the March 1<sup>st</sup> service.

There will be a limited number of additional receivers available from the ushers on March 1<sup>st</sup> for those of you who are unable to indicate your need beforehand.

For any parishioners who have not previously used one but would like to start using them, please contact one of the ushers on Sunday morning or call Mike Underwood at (818) 846-1050 so that we can make arrangements to have one available for you.

## Closing the Books on 2008

Now that we have a complete picture of our giving for 2008, I want to report to everyone the extremely good news and thank everyone for their generosity. During 2008, our church faced some very severe challenges, but together and despite the difficult economic times, you rose to the occasion! By now, you should have receive a letter from our Business Administrator and Treasurer, Tim Sun, but I want to ensure everyone is aware so I will recap his message.

FUMC came in with a \$75K surplus (income over expenses) for 2008, despite some rather large expenses unanticipated at the beginning of 2008. The closing of the preschool and the cancellation by a long-time

leasee at Camp Sky Meadows put us in a \$167K deficit. Because of your response to Dr. Trotter, we were able to eliminate \$67K of that debt. With the additional \$75K in surplus, we ended 2008 with only a modest \$25K deficit. Although we still have a small deficit, it is exciting that we eliminated 85% of the debt. Given that our last two years have both realized increased giving, year to year, it is my fervent belief that 2009 should see us well on the way to having the financial ability to meet God's challenges for us. We have truly been blessed and I want to again thank you for your generosity and faith in the mission of this church. We will remain a vital part of this community thanks to you.

by J.P. Harris

Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

## Leading Worship 101 for Lay People

Do you read Scripture or lead the people in prayers on Sunday morning? Would you like to sharpen your skills for the way you communicate at the lectern?

*Leading Worship 101* will focus on basic worship leadership skills for lay persons

(liturgists or lay readers) who assist the pastor in Christian worship.

If you currently help lead worship in your congregation or would like to prepare for such leadership, this online course is for you. More information is available in the Church Office.

# Stewardship Message

by J.P. Harris  
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

The definition of stewardship is one of the most difficult things to nail down. It has devolved in the minds of many as raising the money needed to fulfill our budget. But we must break out of this thinking and come to a more Christ-centered definition, not a church-centered definition. The church is a means to an end, not the end itself.

God must be at the center of our stewardship definition. As Dan R. Dick outlines in his book, *Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, our primary task is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by transforming the world into the kingdom of God. Over the years, many of us have come to believe that stewardship was primarily about sustaining the church, keeping the coffers full so we could offer programs to keep the church vital. In reality, our sole reason to exist is to make disciples for Christ.

Dick goes on to outline the four processes we should follow to achieve our primary task. The first is to reach out and receive people into our fellowships. Second, to relate people to God through the gospel and the community of faith. Third, to strengthen and nurture people in their relationship to God and the Christian community and fourth, to send people out into the world to live as transformed and transforming believers in Christ who invite others to join the fellowship.



So, exactly how do we (you) do this? Through the use of our (your) spiritual gifts, all of these steps are accomplished. Over the course of this year, I will be providing a short definition and narrative of the many spiritual gifts that are possible for you to possess. Your job will be to identify which of these gifts you possess and determine how to put your gifts into action. The Apostle Paul describes twenty spiritual gifts in his letters to the Corinthians, Romans and Ephesians. The twenty are: administration, apostleship, compassion, discernment, evangelism, exhortation, faith, giving, healing, helping, interpretation of tongues, knowledge, leadership, miracle working, prophecy, service, shepherding, teaching, tongues and wisdom. Some of these spiritual gifts may be hard to grasp for those who do not possess them, but understanding will be readily apparent to those with the gift. As a congregation, we need to identify what our congregational gifts are so we may maximize our effectiveness in transforming the world into the kingdom of God.

If you can't wait to get started, I urge you obtain a copy of *Revolutionizing Christian Stewardship for the 21st Century* and enjoy learning the true meaning of stewardship.

## Calling All Singers!

We are happy to extend an invitation for interested singers to join the Chancel Choir as they prepare John Rutter's *Requiem* which will be sung with orchestra as part of the Holy Thursday Communion Service on April 9th in the Sanctuary.

For all you folks who cannot join us every Sunday, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will

devote the first hour or so (7:30 to 8:30 p.m.) to rehearsing the Rutter, then excuse those who will only sing that piece. Please join us! It is a wonderful work, and we could use your voices!



**Voices  
Needed**

## Camp Sky Meadows



Are you moving? Cleaning your garage? Downsizing your workshop or garage clutter? Donate any good useable building materials to Camp Sky Meadows. Examples of useable items include plywood, 2'x4' and 2'x6'; handtools and electrical tools; nails and screws; electrical supplies such as wire, connectors, duplex receptacles; plumbing supplies; paint supplies such as brushes and rollers. We will come to you to pick up your donations. Please contact Gerry Poulin either by cell at (323) 387-0342 or email at [gerrypoulin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gerrypoulin@sbcglobal.net)



# FEBRUARY

## FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS

06	3:00pm	Youth Shadow Program	Youth Lounge
08	11:30am	Worship Committee	Church Lounge
09	1:30pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Christian Believers	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	IT Committee	Fellowship Hall
10	9:30am	Yarn Ministry	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Evangelism & Hospitality Comm.	Church Lounge
11	11:00am	Invitation to the New Testament	Church Lounge
12	7:00pm	Generosity in Challenging Times	Church Lounge
13	12:30pm	Aldersgate Fellowship	Church Lounge
	3:00pm	Youth Shadow Program	Youth Lounge
14-15		Children's Winter Camp	Camp Sky Meadows
14-16		Youth Alive	Off-site
14	7:00pm	Entheos Valentine's Day Party	Off-site
15	11:00am	Valentines for the Library	Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	Questers	Off-site
	11:30am	Book Club w/ Dr. Trotter	Church Lounge
	11:45am	Girl Scout Troop 529	Rooms 200 & 300
16		Presidents Day	Church Office is closed
	11:15am	American Guild of Organists	Sanctuary
18	11:00am	Invitation to the New Testament	Church Lounge
	6:30pm	Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Church Lounge
19	5:00pm	Youth Confirmation	Jr. High Lounge
	7:00pm	Finance Committee	Oxford Room
	7:15pm	Home Group	Off-site
20	3:00pm	Youth Shadow Program	Youth Lounge
21	9:30am	Prayer Quilt Ministry	Church Lounge

## Weekly & Ongoing FUMC Events

### SUNDAYS

9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship
11:30am	Youth Handbell Choir
5:30pm	Youth Choir Choir Room
6:45pm	UMYF Dinner & Program Fellowship Hall

### TUESDAYS

10:00am	Social Services Great Hall
7:00pm	Boy Scout Tr. 27 Scout Room
7:30pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal Bell Room
7:30pm	AA Meeting Adult Lounge

### WEDNESDAYS

10:00am	Foundation Office open 'til 6:00pm
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...*

Pat Bruce	Judge Jim Nelson
Patrice Daniels	Susan Nelson
David Doty	Kate Oyler
Loretta Hajinga	Laura Reister
Lawrence Hansen	Rev. Manick Samuel
Bob Hardaway	Norm Schmidt
Julia Ibarra	Madeline Schneider
Dave Kennedy	Kathy Summers
Steve Long	Doug Watt
Phil Lussier	Jan Wentz
Evelyn MacDougall	Adam Westfield
Niko Macias	Elizabeth Wittry
Bronnie McNabb	

*for comfort:* Susan Brubaker and Family, Jose Casillas, Joe Langenderfer

*for the just resolution of conflict:* for the people of Afghanistan, Congo, Darfur, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, Tibet, Zimbabwe, Israel and Gaza



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**Non-Profit Organization**

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