



The Messenger

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Church Staff

Richard C. Garner
senior pastor

Debbie Gara
associate pastor

Bob Rhodes
assistant pastor

Stephen Gothold
director of music ministries

Timothy Sun
business manager

Leslie Garriott
director of fumc preschool

Jennie Beard
assistant director of fumc preschool

Ruth MacPherson
librarian

Livingstone Zan
ministry of welcoming & sexton

Michael Lindsey
camp manager

Ae Kyong Kim
church organist

First United
Methodist Church
500 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena CA 91101
Tel: 626.796.0157
Fax: 626.568.1615
www.fumcpasadena.org
FUMC Preschool
626.568.9502

What Forms Your Life?

Formation is important to the life we are able to lead. Jeremiah heard that even as he was being formed in the womb, God already knew him. Scientists declare the importance of the prebirth experience and how it creates patterns within us; mothers who abuse alcohol and drugs during pregnancy become quite aware of the influence of each, not only at birth as the child struggles for life, already afflicted by addiction or brain damage, but throughout the years of adult existence.

Formative experiences continue throughout all of life. Baptism intends that we recognize how God has created and is re-creating in each of us. Much of ministry offers experiences designed to stimulate spiritual formation in all, both as individuals and as communities of people. Choices influence how we are formed; whether they be choices of others or our own.

As we mature, we realize that it is our choices that are most often instrumental in our physical, mental, social, and spiritual formation. Diet and exercise plans, curiosity and study and reflection, intentional interactions with others, and spiritual disciplines determine much of who we are and what we are able to do.

This year, Lent offers an opportunity to examine the cruciform life. How can we be formed by the words and acts of Christ? Does his wilderness experience offer us insights into the temptations we face? Does his washing of feet invite us into an unexpected servant event? How does his dying inform our living?

There are some cultures that receive this invitation to be like Christ quite literally as the days of Lent unfold with experiences, usually of painful nature, patterned most after crucifixion. This will not be the case for us, although we will be invited into a number of opportunities for sacrificial servanthood. Prayer, study, sharing of bread and wine, footwashing,

giving for the poor and disheartened, and healing will be but part of the disciplines available during the forty days of Lent, for those who choose to be formed by them. These are invitations to the cruciform life.

Lent begins this year on *Wednesday, February 21,*

with a *Service of Repentance and Reconciliation* to be held in the chapel beginning at *7:30 p.m.* During this hour, we will be challenged to choose a new journey for Lent, reminded that God's grace is always available to us. There will be ashes and bread and wine. Enough to get us started.



Our Fair Share for Ministry and Mission

Apportionments

From its inception, the Methodist movement did more than simply preach and evangelize—important as those tasks are. John Wesley’s Societies ministered to the poor and the hungry. They set up loan shops and took in homeless persons. Later, Wesley was instrumental in opposing slavery in England. Methodism may have been born at Oxford University, but it was lived out on city streets and across the countryside.



As the Methodist movement evolved into a denomination, Wesley recognized the need to formalize giving. He encouraged Methodists to pool their resources and to work toward a common mission. The first record of apportionments dates back to 1876 when Bishop Simpson wrote: “Apportionment is the assignment to conferences, districts or pastoral charges [meaning local congregations] of their equitable division of the amount which should be raised for various church [projects].”

Our present-day worldwide denomination includes more than 10 million members throughout almost 42,000 local churches. These numbers may imply we could do so much more because of our personal and financial resources. Wesley’s way challenges us to

turn our blessings into food, drink, clothing, healthcare, and assistance for those who need our help. When we give, we become the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of our loving God. And this giving continues the heritage of Methodism. As one author notes: “Stewardship isn’t just an opportunity to enter into God’s service, but an opportunity for God to enter into you.” This, of course, is the essence of the Christian life.

Our gifts support seven vital funds:

- o World Service Fund
- o Africa University Fund
- o Black College Fund
- o Episcopal Fund
- o General Administration Fund
- o Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- o Ministerial Education Fund

In subsequent editions of *The Messenger*, the ministries of each of these funds will be explored. Meanwhile, all are invited to pick up a newsprint report of our support for mission and ministry throughout the world and here in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Copies of this report are to be found in brochure racks and on welcoming tables throughout the campus. Learn about how we live and serve with millions of others.

Tell Friends They Can Tune In

Many of us don’t know for sure how the work of our valiant video crew is used. Our FUMC morning worship services continue to be carried on the Pasadena cable television access channel, Channel 3. Services can be viewed Saturday evenings at 6:00 p.m. The Pasadena

Methodist Foundation is currently providing the financial support for this valuable video ministry. Spread the word so that our services can be shared with those who cannot attend service on Sunday morning and with friends in the community who might seek to visit us in worship.

Table of Contents

What Forms Your Life?
page one

Ministry & Mission
Tune In
page two

A New Name!
Prayer Quilt Ministry
Princess Day
Friendship Days
page three

Valentines to the
Library
Adult Hike-In Camping
Retreat
Altar Flowers
page four

Sunday School
Spotlight
Remembering
Roy Miller
page five

Tried Tithing?
Thanks for the
generosity of all
page six

Calendar of Events
page seven

Worship Schedule
page eight

A New Name!

The Crocheters/Knitters have chosen “**The Yarn Ministry**” as our new name to more closely identify our activities, begun in June 2001. Since that time we have crocheted or knitted 690 baby blankets for the Pasadena Pre-natal Center in northwest Pasadena. We meet the second

Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month in the church lounge. If you already work with yarn, want to refresh your skills, or desire to learn a new skill, we welcome you to join us in **The Yarn Ministry**.

The Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is growing. And we are urgently seeking people who would enjoy working with the ministry either at home or on

the 3rd Saturday of each month in the church lounge. Please contact Willa Dalrymple at willadalrymple@sbcglobal.net.

Feel Like a Princess Day

Ladies, do you have gently used prom dresses, bridesmaid dresses, or other special occasion dresses that are taking up valuable closet space? Clean out those closets and make a teenage girl feel pretty by donating your items to the ACAC “Feel like a Princess Day”.

“Feel like a Princess Day” is sponsored by the Department of Children and Family Services and provides young girls in the program with a day for them to feel special. The girls have the opportunity to “shop” through the donated items and select a dress (or dresses) along with the right accessories for their dress-up occasion. Your donations make it possible for these

young ladies to attend functions such as school proms.

We need dresses of all sizes but especially larger sizes. We will also be accepting donations of gently-used shoes and accessories that will help complete their outfits.

If you are ready to clean out your closets and would like to donate any of these items to the “Feel like a Princess Day”, please give your donations to either Pam Marx or Pam Burns. The deadline for collecting items is March 21st.

Thank you for your support of all the ACAC programs.

Friendship Days

9:00 a.m. Thursday morning, February 22, 2007, will find us on our way to see the wonderful treasures of the Pacific. \$57 per person includes the admission, lunch and lots of fun!! See over 1000 species of animals as we visit the three major permanent galleries - Southern California and Baja, Northern Pacific, and Tropical Pacific. A beautiful film in the Honda theater will orient

us to the many features in the Aquarium. Visit the Shark Lagoon, the Lorikeet Forest and many other exciting spots. Later enjoy a special ‘Guided Tour’ of some unusual spots in Long Beach led by a ‘special guest’ !!

Register early! Brochures are available in the Church Office. .



“Your Aging Eyes”

Tuesday, February 27
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Arcadia Community
Center, 365 Campus
Drive, Arcadia
Andrew Phillips, M.D.,
Ophthalmologist

Valentines to the Library

By Ruth MacPherson

It's that time again for giving and receiving valentines – loving tokens to honor the loved ones in our lives. Again the library committee brings you an opportunity to do so in a unique way. Valentines to the Library works like this. During these February Sundays, there will be a Library Valentines table of books in Fellowship Hall. When you sponsor one of these books, a bookplate is prepared to honor or memorialize special person(s) in your life. This bookplate is placed in the book, but we send a valentine card to your loved one, or to the family of the person memorialized.

The library is grateful to all of you in the last several years who have given us your “valentines”, helping us to fund our 10 BOOKS



CLUB for children and youth as well as special library events. Sponsoring or underwriting the costs of these books to FUMC Library strengthens our library budget, thus helping us to fund special reading programs for our church's children, and acquiring additional books and equipment. The monies we receive will be sent to the church's financial office where you will be credited for church giving. The books you sponsor will continue to honor your loved ones in years to come, whenever their special bookplates are read by new patrons who borrow these books from the library.

Come, and our friendly Library Committee volunteers will help prepare your nameplates and valentines, write receipts and answer your questions. Happy Valentines Day!

Adult Hike-In Camping Retreat

Lift Up Your Eyes and Your Feet

Unto the Hills of the Historic and Beautiful
Front Country of the San Gabriel Mountains
Saturday, April 28 & Sunday, April 29, 2007

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

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) or call (626) 355-2359, so we may send you more information.

Sunday School Spotlight

1st and 2nd grade, Pam Marx, Teacher

Our first and second graders keep busy during the year learning about the Old and New Testament and basic parts of the Bible. We focus on the stories of Joseph and Moses, as well as Psalms, each fall. With Advent, we explore the story of Jesus's birth and His life, with special emphasis on the parables as the year proceeds.

Each Sunday we have free play during which time we make friends and enjoy fellowship time with each other, Bible storytime circle, and crafts. Our themes for the year are God's love for us and how we can share that love with others through mission and service and that God has a very special plan for each of us.

As to the service of our small hands, we try to share Bible stories and themes with our church family through bulletin boards we make and post in the education building and through a Thanksgiving children's sermon we give each November, as well as the all-Sunday School pageants in which we participate in December and on Mother's Day. We engage in the Heifer Project mission each Lent and do classroom and all-Sunday School mission projects through the year for local groups. We are busy learning

about offering and remembering to bring items for the Big Red Barrel that serves our social service office.

Pastor Debbie's note:

Pam Marx has been teaching Sunday School at FUMC Pasadena for over 20 years! Her influence in the Children's Program at FUMC, Children's Choirs, Drama, and Mission is far-reaching. One of those hard working, dedicated behind the scenes persons, Pam is often the first person here after custodians on Sunday morning. You will find her, busily unloading and readying her class and beyond, whether an assembly for children that she is coordinating, or a drama bit, big or small, that needs costuming

In her professional life Pam is an attorney for Mental Health Advocacy Services located in Los Angeles, a non-profit law firm providing legal assistance for those with disabilities, including special education, outreach and advocacy.

Pam is married to musician Mark Goldstein, often seen behind the piano, and is mother to Holly, a student at NYU, and Megan, in graduate work at USC. Both are active young adults in the music program. Megan directs our Hand Bell Choirs.

Remembering Those Members...

Who Have Entered the Church Triumphant:

We remember Roy Miller who died Sunday, January 28, 2007 and whose life was celebrated in our Sanctuary on Saturday, February 4, 2007.

We mourn, but not as those without hope, for we are people of the Resurrection.

Sign Up for 2007 Altar Flowers

You may sign up to provide flowers for Sunday worship by calling or stopping by the church office or by emailing Brandy Nasi at bnasi@fumcpasadena.org.

Cupcake for a Sweetheat?

Stop by the Sunday School children's table during coffee hour on Feb. 12th and buy one or two or six or seven Valentine cupcakes. Proceeds will go to the continuing efforts of St. Luke's Methodist in New Orleans as the members rebuild after Katrina. This project has been an ongoing Sunday School adoption.

Valentine Babysitting Feb. 10th

FUMC Youth will offer babysitting from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the preschool classrooms. Call the church office to indicate your interest in this service.

Tried Tithing?

Tithing is source of both conversation and consternation. As a spiritual discipline, it promises to cause growth in grace; as a financial matter, it threatens the fulfillment of every personal desire.

Biblical tithing is not just a number, although it is that—10%. The building of relationship—which is what tithing is intended to bring about—is more about perspective and action.

Consider tithing. This style of living

- offers the first of all that we are given to God who provides sufficiently for each day
- increases trust in God while decreasing fear in self
- connects gifts with need, blessing with burden, especially when it is we who are burdened with need
- opens our eyes to the richness of the world in which we live and to the hope that persists in people who share creation with us.
- grows generosity and magnifies grace
- celebrates prosperity, both

experienced and expected is the way of Christ.

What's required?

- Write your first check each week (or month or year) and the fill first the envelope directed to the work of God in the world; for a follower of Christ, the first consideration in giving is the church
- Calculate the tithe upon the whole income, before taxes and including expected and unexpected dividends and gifts. After adding all together, multiply by .1 for the tithe.
- Wonder how such a new lifestyle will affect you and those around you.
- Rejoice in accepting the challenge to tithe and prepare to increase the generous giving of substance and self.
- Ready yourself for an increase in blessing.

Our Stewardship Committee invites all to try tithing for the month of April. It will change your life. Look for further details in next editions of the Sunday bulletin and *The Messenger*.

Thanks for the Generosity of All

Though we were far behind in meeting our financial needs at the end of November – about \$45,000—we are glad to report that we ended the year with a deficit of just over \$7,000. Generous giving by many in the month of December made it possible for such good news to be experienced and shared.

Additionally, pledge support was offered

at the rate of over 96% indicating that overall, pledges were fulfilled. This is an increase over previous years and represents strong, intentional, disciplined giving.

Thanks to all who graciously give and thanks to be God who so fully provides. We are richly blessed.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 02.11		Sunday, 02.18	
8:30 am & 11:00 am	Adult and Jr. Libraries open	8:30 am & 11:00 am	Adult and Jr. Libraries open
8:50 am	Pastor's Forum	8:50 am	Pastor's Forum
9:00 am	Children's, Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's, Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School
10:00 am	Worship in the Sanctuary	10:00 am	Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 am	Coffee Hour	11:15 am	Coffee Hour
11:30 am	Youth Handbell Choir		Valentines to the Library
11:45 am	Church Council	11:30 am	Youth Handbell Choir
4:30 am	Youth Council		Mission, Peace & Justice Com.
5:15 pm	Youth Choir	5:15 pm	Youth Choir
6:45 pm	Youth Dinner and Program	6:45 pm	Youth Dinner & Program
Monday, 02.12		Monday, 02.19	President's Day (Church Closed)
1:30 pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Tuesday, 02.20	
7:00 pm	Christian Believer	10:00 am	Social Services Open
Tuesday, 02.13		7:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir
9:30 am	The Yarn Ministry (Crocheters)		Boy Scout Troop 27 Meeting
10:00 am	Social Services Open		Stewardship Committee
5:00 pm	Lay Leadership Committee	Wednesday, 02.21	Ash Wednesday
7:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir	10:00 am	Foundation Office Open
	Boy Scout Troop 27 Meeting	6:30 pm	FUMC Preschool Board
	Evangelism/Hospitality Comm.	7:00 pm	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>
7:30 pm	Finance Committee		Campanions in Christ
Wednesday, 02.14			Jesus-Parables of Life
10:00 am	Foundation Office Open		Youth Missions Council
7:00 pm	Campanions in Christ		Young People's AA Meeting
	Jesus-Parables of Life	7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
	Young People's AA Meeting	Thursday, 02.22	
7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	8:45 am	Friendship Days
Thursday, 02.15		9:30 am	The Yarn Ministry (Crocheters)
7:00 pm	Jesus in the Gospels	7:00 pm	Jesus in the Gospels
Friday, 02.16	No scheduled activities	Friday, 02.23	
Saturday, 02.17		11:00 am	FUMC Preschool "Fairytale Ball"
8:30 am	Youth to Sky Meadows	Saturday, 02.24	
9:30 am	Prayer Quilt Ministry	2:00 pm	Art Class
2:00 pm	Art Class		Memorial Service: Fletcher Scharer

The Congregation in Worship

Sunday, 02.11.07

Text: Luke 6: 17-26

Sermon: "Discipleship: How Will We Balance the Gospel?"

The Rev. Richard C. Garner, preaching

The altar flowers for this Sunday are provided by Beth and Bob Newton in loving memory of Joanna Olson Higginbothom and Frank T. Olson, parents of Beth Newton.

Sunday, 02.18.07

Text: Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: "Looking and Listening"

The Rev. Richard C. Garner, preaching

The altar flowers for this Sunday are provided by Nancy Bumb in loving memory of her parents Forrest and Myron Spaulding.



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500 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101

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First United
Methodist Church
500 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena CA 91101
Tel: 626.796.0157
Fax: 626.568.1615