



The Messenger

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The Lenten Journey

from Dr. Frank Trotter

The journey of Lent that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Week and Easter Sunday is easily the most important season in the Christian year. It consists of a period of 40 days that parallels the same number of days that Jesus spent in the desert facing a series of crucial temptations. Rev. George Mann, our Minister Emeritus, will be our preacher on the First Sunday of Lent, February 10th. If you want to prepare for his message, read the lesson for that day in advance: Matthew 4:1-11.

For the Christian, Lent is a time of self-examination and assessment, a time of taking stock, and a time of practicing the spiritual disciplines (e.g., studying the scripture, fasting, self-denial, almsgiving and tithing, and praying). It is a time of allowing all that separates us from God and our neighbor to fall away, a time of being in touch with God's truth and our own, a time of growing in faith, of trusting in God from a deeper level of our being.

I would like to encourage each of you to pray during this holy season for our church and our church family, and for those in need, and finally, for ourselves. As you pray for yourself, you might choose the

simple words of the *Jesus Prayer* – “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, be merciful to me a sinner. Amen.”

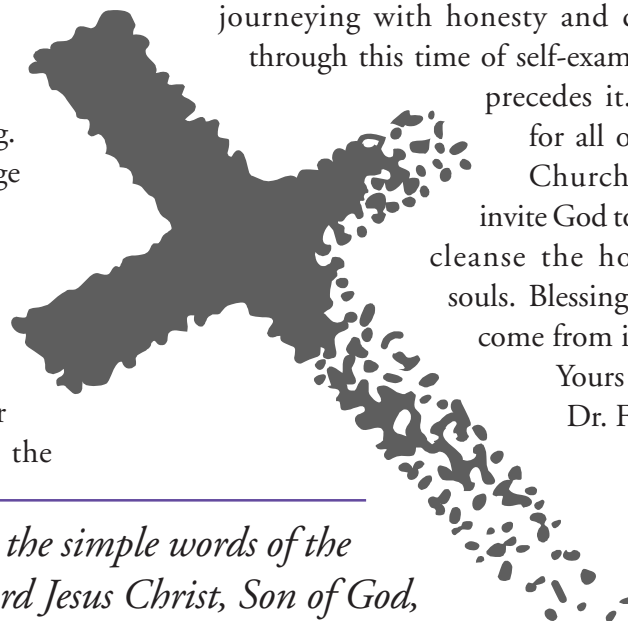
Or you might turn to a prayer by St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430): “O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow; enlarge it that you may enter in. It is ruinous, O repair it! It displeases your sight. I confess it, I know. But who shall cleanse it, to whom shall I cry but to you? Cleanse me from my secret faults, O Lord, and spare your servant from strange sins. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Lent concludes with Holy Week – beginning with Palm Sunday (March 16th) and concluding with Easter Sunday (March 23rd). That week will be marked with special services on Holy Thursday (March 20th) and Good Friday (March 21st). While there will be a great time of celebration by the time we get to Easter, the Christian cannot fully appreciate it without journeying with honesty and deliberation through this time of self-examination that

precedes it. My prayer for all of us at First Church is that we invite God to enlarge and cleanse the house of our souls. Blessings will surely come from it.

Yours in Christ,
Dr. Frank Trotter

*“As you pray...choose the simple words of the
Jesus Prayer – “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
be merciful to me a sinner. Amen.”*



FUMC Architecture History

by Ann Scheid
Architecture Historian

Completed in 1924, Pasadena's Methodist Church was designed by Thomas P. Barber, architect of the Hollywood United Methodist Church and the First Methodist Church of Santa Barbara. Barber used reinforced concrete, a material that allowed great plasticity of form, while providing greater strength than masonry. The previous stone church, designed in 1901 by John C. Austin (architect of St. Paul's Catholic Church, 1937), was dismantled stone by stone, and rebuilt further east on Colorado as Holliston Avenue Methodist Church.

Designed in the English Perpendicular Gothic style, the church façade, set back from the busy street, enclosed a welcome green space embraced by the chapel wing on the west and the office wing on the east. Prominent buttresses protrude from the exterior walls; large bronze and glass lanterns are affixed to the façade. Above the carved oak entry doors are panels of cast stone in floral and quatrefoil designs. The narrow vestibule features a series of circular bronze chandeliers with simulated candles and bench seats set into the thick walls.

The dramatic and unusual sanctuary combines the Akron style of auditorium seating typical of American Methodism with a rare American example of English Gothic fan vaulting in the ceiling, executed in poured

concrete. The Akron style developed out of the camp meeting revivals of the mid-nineteenth century; its semi-circular form and raked floor focus attention on the preacher, who is almost surrounded by the congregation. Also central to Methodism is music; organ and choir are at center stage above and behind the pulpit. Barber adapted the complex fan vaulting developed in England (notable example is King's College Chapel, Cambridge, c 1500) to this curved space by using the basic form of a traditional crossing or transept into which he inserted the vaults, the curved balcony and pews.

Stained glass windows by Roy C. Baillie Studios of Los Angeles depict the life of Christ: the annunciation and nativity in the large east window, the resurrection in the west window and the ascension in the north window. Smaller windows east and west below the balcony portray scenes from Jesus' youth and his ministry.

The recently restored chapel to the right of the main entrance is worth a visit. Removal of the party wall of an adjacent commercial building necessitated reinforcing the west wall of the chapel, but also provided the opportunity to insert new stained glass windows. The chapel features a hammer-beam ceiling, also derived from English Perpendicular Gothic prototypes.



Table of Contents

The Lenten Journey
from Dr. Frank
Trotter
page one

FUMC Architecture
History
page two

The Results Are
Final!
page three

Dinner and
Communion a Part
of 2008 Lenten
Study
page four

Got Values?
page five

Pasadena Methodist
Foundation
page six

Thank You to Social
Service Volunteers
page six

Notes from Senior
Pastor
page seven

page two



S A V E T H E D A T E

Vacation Bible School 2008: July 14 – 18, 2008

Theme: "Beach Party: Surfin' Through the Scriptures"

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

—1John 3:18

The Results Are Final!

from J.P. Harris
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

The final results from the 2007 Stewardship Campaign have been tabulated by Tim Sun and they are outstanding! Our financial position is far stronger than this time one year ago due to you, the family of First Church. Our total pledge units have risen to 202 and this is truly a blessing as it represents a 33% increase over this same time last year! But pledge units only tell part of the story.

This time last year, total pledges units were 154 for a commitment of \$408,326. Responding to the need, by the end of April, pledges had increased to 177 and giving had increased to \$487,208, an incredible response to your church's outreach. But that was not the end. Your generous giving continued throughout the year culminating in the largest December in church history. Over \$100,000 was given in recognition of what God has

given to us. The year 2007 ended with your church being \$60,000 in the black and setting the stage for great things to come.

The 2007 Consecration Sunday Stewardship Campaign placed our church on a firm foundation for 2008 and demonstrated the potential of this church for the greatness that God is calling us to achieve in the future. The 202 pledge units I mentioned earlier will generate \$577,224 in pledged monies toward the mission of First Church through 2008.

The year 2008 will be a year of new growth and service to God through service to our community of faith because you have answered the call. A broad spectrum of opportunities to serve, worship, and learn are being planned for 2008 due to your sacrificial giving and vision for the future. Please be

The Results Are Final continued on page 5

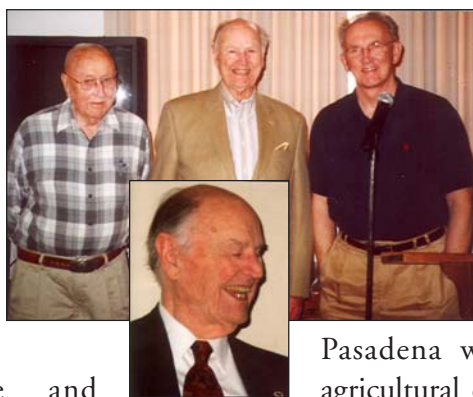
ALDRSGATE FORUM NEWS from the January 11, 2008 Luncheon Meeting

In Days of Yore - Personal Memories of the City of Pasadena with Larry Ransom

Photos and story by H Reid

At extremely short notice, and via the good offices of Chairman Ed Sales, our popular member of sixty-plus years, stalwart Larry Ransom, provided members with a wide-ranging, intimate and meticulously researched portrait of the Crown City with all its metaphysical hills and valleys and nuances. Appropriately, Larry supplemented his memories with a veritable cornucopia of interesting and occasionally surprising facts regarding the peerless city nestled in the valley below the San Gabriel mountain range.

Space, unfortunately, prevents a complete



listing of significant locations and dates, but an attempt has been made to select an appropriate cross-section of sorts: **1873:** Beginnings of the Indiana Colony spearheaded by Daniel Berry and Dr. Thomas Elliott and his wife.

Pasadena was a "peaceful, prosperous agricultural community with citrus groves, vineyards, palm trees and native oaks." **1874:** Investors chose their land lot from what is now Mission Street in South Pasadena and from the Arroyo Seco east to Fair Oaks Avenue. **1886:** First Methodist Church, Colorado and Marengo built. 1923: New First United Methodist Church, Oakland and Colorado built. **1888:** The Valley Hunt Club was formed with Charles F. Holden as a prime mover.

Pastor's Party for Visitors Scheduled for Tuesday, February 26th

In coordination with the Evangelism & Hospitality Committee, Dr. Trotter will be sponsoring a monthly fellowship dinner at his home for visitors to our congregation who may be considering church membership. Thirteen attended the first one on January 30th. The next one will be held on Tuesday, February 26th. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Church Office at (626) 796-0157.

Bishop Swenson's Preaching Engagement Postponed



Due to an unexpected surgery, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson's March 9th preaching engagement here at FUMC has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

Speaking in her place will be the Rev. Gary M. Keene, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Los Angeles Area of the United Methodist Church.

Our prayers are with Bishop Swenson for God's blessed healing and a speedy recovery.

We welcome Rev. Keene and look forward to you being a part of this special morning worship experience on March 9th at 10:00 a.m.



The 2008 Lenten study series, "Behold the Lamb of God," is being led by Dr. Frank Trotter and Rev. Debbie Gara and is based on the Revised Common Lectionary. This study reminds us that approaching Easter through the season of Lent is more like ascending the Himalayas than going for a pleasant walk in the park. Participants are invited to explore together the foundations of our faith through reflection and prayer. We will pass through the garden of paradise in Genesis, the garden of decision, Gethsemane, and enter the garden of Christ's resurrection, Easter Day.

The series is scheduled from February 14th through March 13th. If you missed the first session, you may still join the class. Books

and registration are available through the Church Office.

The Adult Ministries Committee provides dinner before each session and encourages you to enjoy a time of fellowship around the table with friends and family. Please come for dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings through March 13th at 6:00 p.m. A donation will be taken to off-set the cost of food as you are able and child care will be provided as requested. Communion will be served in the Chapel at 6:45 p.m. immediately before study begins. All are invited for communion whether participating in the class or not. Invite a friend!

Note: We are seeking groups or persons who would be willing to prepare these meals. You will be reimbursed. Please speak with Rev. Debbie Gara.

Speaker Expresses Thanks

The following note was received from Gunther Katz who came to speak to the Forum and SpiritSeekers Adult Sunday School classes in the fall. The Museum of Tolerance Speakers' Series does not charge, but suggests an offering for their services. – Rev. Debbie Gara

I would like to thank the members of your congregation for the very generous donation which you sent to the Museum of Tolerance in my honor.

It was a great pleasure to speak to your group and tell them some of my experiences during the Holocaust.

Your donation will help to continue the programs making our students and other American groups aware of the terrible things that the Nazis perpetrated. The Museum is also involved in bringing the current tragic events which endanger innocent people in Africa to the attention of those who visit its exhibits.

Please express my gratitude to your membership.

Sincerely, Gunther Katz

UMMen To Feature Boy Scout Troop 27 at the February 26th Dinner Meeting!

Did you know that FUMC has actively sponsored Boy Scouting since 1928? Boy Scout Troop 27 has been preparing young men for successful adult lives for over seventy years!

Come be a part of this special fellowship on Tuesday, February 26th. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by a wonderful program put on by Troop 27, led by Scoutmaster, Freddy Ortiz. A Court of Honor will take place recognizing Troop 27 scouts for all badges and rankings earned.

Troop 27 scouts, their parents, and troop leaders are guests of United Methodist Men. Enthusiastically invited to attend, also, are all friends of scouting which very much includes former Troop 27 scouts! Dinner cost is just \$7; please make your RSVP soon with the Church Office at (626) 796-0157.

United Methodist Men is the longtime sponsoring body for Troop 27.

Got Values?

from Wanda Gae Stefansson

It has been quiet in the church lately about this whole visioning and discernment process. Perhaps you are wondering if anything is happening. It has been a creative quiet. The Visioning Committee has been exploring, sharing, revising and forming our Core Values.

We have discovered that visioning has little to do with the eyes, and everything to do with the heart. A heart is a sensitive, vulnerable organ that speaks to us when we feel safe and secure. Then we can share our convictions and hear others' messages with depth and gentleness. So it has taken time.

We began last Spring with a prayer vigil. Next came the dramatic all-day retreat in June. From the dynamism of that idea-mill came four concepts. The committee wanted to remain true to those expressions of the greater church.

May we present to you the Core Values of First United Methodist Church:

Dynamic Worship, Inviting Community, Spiritual Discipleship, Witness and Service

The Core Values express who we are. The Core Values affirm how we want to remain. The Core Values direct what we want to become deeply and fully. They are to permeate our lives in committees and fellowship groups, classes and small groups, individual and corporate activities, our learning and our

outreach. On February 24, 2008, the Core Values were ratified by the Church Council. We will be introducing them to you in a variety of ways in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for further elaboration.

Got Values? Do we ever.

May we present to you the Core Values of First United Methodist Church:

Core Values of FUMC

- ✓ Dynamic Worship
- ✓ Inviting Community
- ✓ Spiritual Discipleship
- ✓ Witness and Service

The Results Are Final *continued from page 3*

mindful that a promise made should be a promise kept, particularly if you made this promise to God! Regular, percentage giving is the key to our church's fiscal health so be purposeful in your worship of God by being faithful to your pledge.

The challenges that lay ahead for us are daunting. Much remains to be done. But because of your responsiveness to the call, First Church remains strong and committed to our Christian mission, here and around the world. Thank you for putting First Church first in your heart for 2008. The church is a rock, and you have provided the fiscal strength to acquire the material on which we shall build into the future.

Thank You! from Virgil Bryant

Dear Frank, members and friends of First United Methodist Church,

It was with great surprise and humility when I was approached about coming to Pasadena for a luncheon in my honor. Sunday, January 13th, was a special day – attending the Forum Bible Study, the church service, the luncheon and the program.

My years at First Church have been so rewarding and being on committees where I could be of help. I appreciate the honor given me and thank each and every one of you. It is my prayer that each member and friend will continue to do their part to keep First Church a strong witness for the Lord at 500 East Colorado.

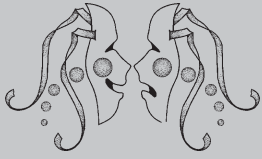
Sincerely yours, Virgil C. Bryant



Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations for February

February has four syllables. We will collect something that has four syllables. Our social service clients need this to open cans of food when they are hungry.

We will collect personal, manual can openers and peanut butter and pop-top tuna.



Drama Anyone?

If you are interested in participating in the spring plays, contact Denise Campbell or Pam Marx. Rehearsals begin soon. Join the fun.

A Big Thank You to Social Service Volunteers

from Brenda Carrigan

I owe such a debt of gratitude to Evelyn McGee, Barbara Percey, Rosemarie Zaiser, Ed Sales, Sharon Mayo, and Sharon Stacey for their faithful service on their respective Tuesdays.

Without them our ministry could not continue.

Susan Brubaker has been invaluable in helping me keep the pantry stocked and lending moral support, and Sallie Higginbotham spent an exhausting day sorting clothing to help get our clothes cupboards usable. We had so many donations of "cold weather garments" it was almost overwhelming. Delightfully so, I might add, making it possible to offer the gift of warmth in our first really rainy season in several years.

To quote a cliché, "Many hands make light work," and these generous hands have indeed lightened the load of Social Services.

We average fifty bus passes each month and fifty+ bags of food packed with canned

goods that can be consumed either hot or cold. protein-rich foods such as Vienna sausages, corned beef, beef stew, tuna fish, cup of noodles, pasta and beef, peanut butter, and fruit cups.



There is a basket of "travel samples" of toiletries such as shampoo and conditioner and lotion that our clients may help themselves to. We have supplies of toothbrushes and toothpaste available through the continued

efforts of Pam Marx and the Sunday School students as well as various other "monthly" offerings from the kids, such as shaving cream and razors, socks, chapstick, can openers, bar soap and deodorant.

God has truly blessed us to make it possible to help so many in our community.

United Methodist Women and ECPAC have given monetary gifts. Thank you for continuing to support Social Services. Praise be to God!



Light from the Catacombs

from Pat Mann, FUMC Archivist

Lent...Heifer Project...FUMC Sharing



The Heifer Project is an annual FUMC mission project held during the Lenten season. Photos circa 1994 and 1998.

Prayer Quilt Ministry Is A Blessing to Recipients

From Pete and Jan Alexakis

To the Quilt Ministry,

Words cannot begin to express our gratitude for making Pete such a wonderful prayer quilt. We have known Margaret Sarmast for years. She is someone very special to know! God bless you all for touching our lives in such a beautiful way. I just know all your thoughts and prayers are helping Pete get through this terrible illness. – and keeping him quite cozy and warm too!

God bless you all. You are a true example of God's work.

•••

From Marjorie Tavis

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” – James 1:2-4

Dear Church Family,



Thank you so much for all of the time, effort, and prayers you spent on the beautiful quilt you made for me. I am completely overwhelmed by the love and support I have received from

people all over the U.S. for my current situation. I know that God has the perfect plan for my life. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

•••

From Carolyn Lussier

Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for the lovely “Prayer Quilt.” When I rest in the afternoon and evening, it covers me.

My recovery is going well. I now walk without a walker or cane, however a little slower than usual.

My thanks to each of you for your thoughts and prayers. God bless.

Notes from the Senior Pastor:

Dr. Frank Trotter

Sean Altice Receives Eagle



We extend our congratulations to Sean Altice, a member of Boy Scout Troop 27, on being awarded the rank of Eagle at a Court of Honor held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, January 26th. Sean is very active in our church family. In addition to being the president of the UMYF, he is an acolyte, sings in the Youth Choir, and volunteers for our Audio-Video Ministry. His parents are Kara Altice-Montes and Luis Montes, Co-Chairs of our Church Council, and his brothers are Andreas Montes and Taylor Altice. Congratulations, Sean!

•••

Boy Scout & Girl Scout Sundays

The United Methodist Church is always pleased to recognize scouting as one of the important ministries of the church. This year we recognized **Boy Scout Sunday** on Sunday, February 10th, and will recognize **Girl Scout Sunday** on Sunday, March 9th. First Church has a long history of being a sponsor of scouting and we look forward to having our scouts and their leaders with us in church on these important days.

•••

“Turn a New Page with Dr. Trotter”

Our new reading club will meet on Sunday, February 17th (the third Sunday of the month), following the morning service. We will be discussing *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson (winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction). A light lunch will be provided.

Because the third Sunday falls on Palm Sunday in March, we have decided not to meet that month.

However, when we meet on Sunday, April 20, we will discuss *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco.



Methodist Hospital's Healthy Heart Fair February 23rd

There will be free screenings, physician speakers, educational information, prizes and fun. The festivities will be held in the classroom area of the Hospital. Call Methodist Hospital at (626) 898-8788 for times and further information.

FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:



16-18	Youth Winter Camp	Sky Meadows
16	9:30am Prayer Quilt Ministry	Church Lounge
17	11:30am Turn Another Page Book Study	Church Lounge
	7:30pm Movie Night w/ Questers	Church Lounge
18	7:00pm Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
19	7:00pm Stewardship Committee	Church Lounge
	7:30pm Finance Committee	Oxford
20	4:00pm Committee on Lay Leadership	Conference Room
	6:30am Staff-Parish Relations Comm	Church Lounge
21	6:00pm Dinner before Lenten Series	Fellowship Hall
	6:45pm Communion before Lenten Series	Chapel
	7:00pm Lenten Series	Church Lounge
24	11:45am Church Council Meeting	Church Lounge
	4:00pm Confirmation Class	Jr. High Lounge
25	7:00pm Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
26	6:30pm UMM Dinner Meeting	Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm New Visitor Dinner	Trotter Home
27	7:00pm Mission, Peace & Justice Comm	Church Lounge
28	6:00pm Dinner before Lenten Series	Fellowship Hall
	6:45pm Communion before Lenten Series	Church Lounge
	7:00pm Lenten Series	Church Lounge
29	7:00pm Youth Pasadena Blues Club	Great Hall

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:

- Lura Brown
- Wayne Brubaker
- Stephen Bumb
- José Casillas
- Patrice Daniels
- Curt Elrod
- George Griffith
- Pat Hall
- Peggy Hendricks
- Holly Dale Howard
- Sylvia Jacoby
- Evelyn MacDougall
- Jeff Morrison
- Lyz Rhodes
- Norm Schmidt
- Argie Taylor
- Ladd Thomas
- Cherry Walther
- Rev. Al Waterson
- Rachel Youngstrom



for strength & comfort:

- Ken Beam
- The Elrod Family
- Don Hanselman
- Ae Kyong Kim



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