



The Messenger

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Children's Winter Camp - The Great Indoors

by Debbie Gara
Associate Pastor

Church Staff

Dr. Frank Trotter
senior pastor

Debbie Gara
associate pastor

Allison Mark
associate pastor

Stephen Gothold
director of music ministries

Ae-Kyong Kim
church organist

Timothy Sun
business manager

Diane Garner
office manager

Nathan Carter
production assistant

Ruth MacPherson
librarian

Livingstone Zan
minister of welcome & sexton

Marcus Chone
maintenance staff

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



Fifteen elementary children and several counselors were ready for a weekend in the snow for our Annual Sky Meadows Children's Camp at our retreat in the San Bernardino Mountains. But this year it was not to be, due to snowy conditions that made it unsafe to climb the mountain. With a slight shift of plans and direction, this initial disappointment turned into a great adventure as we discovered just how much we could do spending a day of activity and adventure at our own church. This Valentine's Day turned out to be a beautiful Saturday in February!

We had yummy meals and packed extra sack meals for delivery to Union Station after a lesson about local homelessness. We made lots of crafty Valentines and walked

to Regency Park-El Molino retirement facility, visited with the residents and made sure they each received a hand-made Valentine. We had a cozy book corner and fun DVDs. We set off balloon rockets in Great Hall and water bottle rockets in the front of the church after a "rocket science" lesson from Mark Cowdin. We even had a warm "snowball" fight with rolled up white socks. We had closing worship in the Chapel with a meaningful communion.

It was a wonderful day!

Many thanks to the giving spirit and flexible attitude of all who were committed to this event and made it a success: Mark Cowdin, Anne Dimmock, Jack Stewart, Doug Rogers, Dan Gara, Marlene Farrell and Leslie Garriott.

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Opportunities to Serve

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.

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 want to sing the *Requiem* but cannot join us every Sunday, we will devote the first hour or so of rehearsal (7:30 to 8:30 p.m.) during Lent 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!

Craft/Art Teachers Needed

Do you have a hobby and want to teach a class? Do you do photography, jewelry-making, scrapbooking or some other arty pursuit? We need teachers for a 4-week series of art classes on Thursday evenings - April 23rd, April 30th, May 7th and May 14th - from 7 to 8 or 8:30 p.m. as appropriate. Contact Pam Marx at pamelamarx@sbcglobal.net or (323) 255-3853. These classes will be for high school and up.

Sanctuary Light Board Crew

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

Cross Art Display Planned for March 29th



Do you have cross art, a cross, a crucifix, or cross jewelry that others might enjoy seeing? As a Lenten celebration, the Arts Committee is planning a coffee hour display of cross/crucifix art for Sunday, March 29th. If you have something you would like to share, contact Pam at pamelamarx@sbcglobal.net or (323) 255-3853. Plan to provide a 3x5 card explaining the origin of the piece.

Pathfinders Update

- On March 21, 2009, there will be POTLUCK and ONE CITY/ONE BOOK discussion at the home of Ed Sales, 191 S. Daisy Avenue, Pasadena. It's always a lively evening with great discussion. The book is *Lying Awake* by Mark Salzman. Phone in your RSVP and the dish you are bringing to Pat Zeider at (626) 794-1750. Look for further details by email.
- Mark your calendars for May 1-3 for our Pathfinders' Sky Meadows Spring Work Camp!

SUPER SATURDAY Coming on March 28th

Who: ALL church committees and social groups

What: Joining with others in some project or activity to help others. Do you see someone or something in our church, or something or someone in our community that could use a little extra help – help that you are comfortable doing? If so, you have a project.

When: Saturday, March 28, 2009

Why: To practice Jesus' example of serving others.

Please call Elaine Enzminger at (626) 755-0801 and share your idea or bring it to the "Super Saturday" table during Coffee Hour.

There will also be projects you can sign up for at the "Super Saturday" table. Persons of all ages can participate. There will be sit down activities at the church, but we also need to get out into the community.

THANK YOU for REACHING OUT to OTHERS!

Heifer Project Is Here

Starting March 15th, look for coffee hour sales by the Sunday School classes and the annual Questers' Palm Sunday plant and bake sale to support the annual Lenten mission, Heifer Project. Heifer Project sends live animals to people in need around the world. Pigs, sheep, chickens, bees and water buffalo are among the animals sent. They offer a food source that keeps on giving.

Also, on March 15th, the youth will sponsor the annual Heifer Project picnic skit lunch for Sunday School families. Buy a hot dog lunch and go to the picnic (room to be arranged). There will be skits, prizes and treats for all children who attend.

3/15 Grades 1-2 Bake and Craft Sale
3/15 Youth Skit Lunch for Families
3/22 Grades 3-4 Bake and Craft Sale
3/29 Grades 5-6 Bake and Craft Sale
4/5 Questers' Plant and Bake Sale

First Church's New Production Assistant



Beginning with this issue, our new production assistant, Nathan Carter, is taking over as the editor of *The Messenger*, which will undergo a significant redesign in coming weeks. He will also be responsible for most of the worship bulletins and many other church publications.

Nathan is a recent graduate from the University of Southern California where he earned a degree in English and studied – among other things – medieval anti-papist screeds, the National Film Board of Canada, the structure of a good story, attic Greek, obscure methods of stop-motion, and Middle English blackletter. He is grateful for the education and the perpetual access to the Oxford English Dictionary. Like every good English major, he is also working on his novel. Samples of his other work can be seen at nkarter.com and nkarter.com/blog. He is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Hilltoppers

Our regular meeting will be held in the Church Lounge on Monday, March 16th at 1:30p.m. Our program will be "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial."

All church women are invited to join us.

Call Shirley Lohr at (626) 796-7904 for more information.

Aldersgate Fellowship

Aldersgate Fellowship will meet Friday, March 13th at 12:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. A program will follow the potluck luncheon.

ACAC Feel Like a Princess and Prince Events

by Pam Burns

It is once again time for the annual "Feel Like a Princess Day," sponsored by the Pasadena Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and supported by area groups like FUMC. This event for teen girls who are foster care clients of DCFS has been held for several years to provide a day to make these girls feel special. At "Feel Like a Princess Day," girls are able to select



gently used or new dresses as well as accessories, all of which have been donated, for school proms. Volunteers help apply makeup and style hair to complete the picture. A program which includes all of the participants concludes the day's events.

This year DCFS is adding a new event, "Feel Like a Prince," to provide teen boys with special occasion clothing and make them feel important.

In order to make the events successful, we need your help. Donations of **gently** used prom dresses or other special occasion dresses or outfits in a variety of sizes, including larger sizes, are needed for the girls. Accessories to help complete the outfits are also welcomed. **Gently** used shirts in various sizes and ties are needed for the young men who will take part in "Feel Like a Prince Day."

If you have items that you would like to donate for either of these May events, please contact Pam Burns at (818) 551-9006. The deadline for donations is April 26, 2009.

Many of the teens cannot afford to buy outfits for their school proms so they truly appreciate your donations. Thank you for your support of the Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker programs.

Questers

Look forward to an afternoon at the Glendale Centre Theatre's production of "Here Lies Jeremy Troy," a comedy, Sunday, April 19th.

Time: 2:15 p.m.
(Show time 3:00 p.m.; no reserved seats)

Cost: \$16.50 per person

Reservations by check to Jim Abbott, ASAP, to take advantage of the group rate.

For further information, you may call Dick and Donna Overton at (626) 793-2646.

A New Home for Social Services

by Sharon Stacey
Social Services Coordinator

A bigger, better space to house and from which to distribute the food on Tuesdays of each month has long been on the wish list of Social Services volunteers. That wish has now been fulfilled! Smiles abound as the volunteers walk into the newly designated area within Great Hall. The locked, closeted space can accommodate all food donations and inventory in one location. Lately it seems you can't enter the Food Closet on Tuesday without finding at least one new donation of food or toiletries. **Sincerest thanks** to all those in the congregation who continue to remember the needy in our community even when no special

request to do so has been made. We are, understandably, seeing a spike in new sign-ups for weekly assistance so your continued, steady support is needed now as much as ever.

This update cannot conclude without expressing warmest thanks and deepest appreciation to **Brenda Carrigan** for her faithful and caring work overseeing our Social Services Ministry. Other obligations prevent her from continuing in that capacity, but her contributions to the efficient operation of the Food Closet have been heartfelt and deeply appreciated. Thanks and blessings to you, Brenda!

FUMC Congregational Giving Report

2009 Budgeted Annual Contributions	\$706,719
Anticipated Contributions as of <u>1/31/09</u>	\$ 58,893
Actual Contributions as of <u>1/31/09</u>	\$ 36,771
Actual Contribution Shortfall	(\$ 22,122)

FUMC encourages you to consider Direct Deposit and/or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) payment of your pledge commitment. Contact Tim Sun for FUMC's account and routing information.

Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts

by J.P. Harris
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

As I outlined in my last Messenger article, stewardship can be defined in many ways, and these definitions are all encompassing. The church has too often given stewardship the narrowest of definitions, namely, financial stewardship. In fact, many have come to believe that stewardship and finance are one in the same, and that is not true. Whether it is stewardship of the earth, our church buildings, or one another, taking care of God's creation is what stewardship is all about. It is not about fund raising.

We can all become better stewards of God's creation by identifying our own personal spiritual gift or gifts. We are not all called to do the same thing in our secular life so why should we think we all have the same calling in our religious life? Let's continue the exploration, and hopefully along the way, discover our own personal spiritual gifts.

In my last Messenger article, I provided a definition for the spiritual gift of administration. This may or may not have spoken to you. If it did, you know that you are a communicator--you make sure the "i"s are dotted, the "t"s are crossed, and you do not need to be the front person, but do your work best behind the scenes. Now let's explore apostleship. Again, and throughout this year, I draw upon the definitions provided in Dan R. Dick's book, *Revolutionizing Stewardship in the 21st Century: Lessons from Copernicus*.

Apostleship is "the gift of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to other cultures and foreign lands," he writes. "This is the missionary zeal that moves us from the familiar into uncharted territory to share the good news. Apostles embrace opportunities to learn foreign languages, visit other cultures and go where people are who have not heard the Christian message. The United States of America is fast becoming a mission field of many languages and cultures. It is no longer necessary to cross an ocean to enter the mission field. Even across generations, we may find that we need to "speak other languages" just to communicate. Our mission field might be no farther than our own backyard."

Are you an apostle? Is this your spiritual gift? There ARE many mission opportunities right here in Southern California. The fact is many Methodist conferences in other parts of the country consider an assignment to a church in the west to be a mission experience! Remember, the core purpose of the Christian church is to transform the world into the kingdom of God. That is the mission, and our world is rich with opportunity.

If you have not yet picked up a copy of Dan Dick's book, I encourage you to do so. There are copies available for you to check out from the church library.

In Memoriam

Lucille Whittier

passed into life eternal on February 9, 2009. As a youth and young adult, Lucille Anderson - as she was known then - was an active member here at First Church. She and her late husband, Bob Whittier, were married here in 1951 and moved to Arcadia in 1955. She and Bob still have good friends in our congregation. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Arcadia.

Agatha Acker

passed into life eternal on February 18, 2009. Aggie was the mother of Steph Burke's daughter, Jessica. A memorial service was held on March 1, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. in our Chapel.

Helen Creed

passed into life eternal on February 21, 2009. Helen was Veta Campbell's first friend when the Campbells moved to Pasadena, and they have long considered her family.

Preaching Schedule

March 8

Dr. Frank Trotter

March 15

Dr. Frank Trotter

March 22

Bishop Jack Tuell

March 29

Dr. Frank Trotter

April 5

(Palm Sunday)

Dr. Frank Trotter

April 12

(Easter Sunday)

Dr. Frank Trotter



March

FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS

06-07	6:30pm	Cabaret	Fellowship Hall
08	11:30am	Library Committee	Library
	11:30am	Worship Committee	Church Lounge
	4:30pm	Youth Council	Youth Lounge
09	11:00am	Grief Support Group	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	IT Committee	Fellowship Hall
	7:30pm	Theatre Arts Committee	Youth Lounge
10	9:30pm	Yarn Ministry	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Exploring Reconciliation	Church Lounge
11	11:00am	Invitation to the New Testament	Church Lounge
13	12:30am	Aldersgate Fellowship	Church Lounge
	3:00pm	Shadow Program	Youth Lounge
15	11:30am	"Turn a New Page" Book Club	Church Lounge
	11:30am	Children's Ministry	Adult Lounge
	11:30am	Heifer Project Skit and Lunch	Jr. High Lounge
	6:30pm	Questers	Church Lounge
16	11:00am	Grief Support Group	Church Lounge
	1:30pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
17	7:00pm	Exploring Reconciliation	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Stewardship Committee	Oxford Room
	11:00am	Invitation to the New Testament	Church Lounge
18	6:30pm	Staff-Parish Relations Committe	Church Lounge
19	5:00pm	Youth Confirmation	Jr. High Lounge
	7:00pm	Evangelism/Hospitality Committee	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Finance Committee	Oxford Room
	7:15pm	Home Group	Off-site
20	3:00pm	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...

Dan Bane	Niko Macias
Juliet Borys	Bronnie McNabb
Pat Bruce	Sylvia Moreno
Patrice Daniels	Judge Jim Nelson
David Doty	Lorene Ozsvath
Charles Wesley Fix	Kate Oyler
Loretta Hajinga	David Peterson
Lawrence Hansen	Laura Reister
Bob Hardaway	Al Rodriguez
Julia Ibarra	Rev. Manick Samuel
Valerie Kallik	Norm Schmidt
Dave Kennedy	Frances Smith
Stan Kieffer	Kathy Summers
Julie-Ann Kosakowski	Jan Wentz
Steve Long	Adam Westfield
Phil Lussier	Elizabeth Wittry
Evelyn MacDougall	

for comfort: The Burke Family, Jose Casillas, Casey Gonzales, Denise Jezak

for the just resolution of conflict:

for the people of Afghanistan, Congo, Darfur, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Pakistan, Sudan, Tibet, Zimbabwe, Israel and Gaza



First United Methodist Church
500 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101

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Tel: 626.796.0157
Fax: 626.568.1615
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