



# The Messenger

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## Call to Pray: A Vigil

What is God calling us to do and to be as a congregation in this time and place?

Under the auspices of the Church Council, a plan is now being developed to answer the above question. Discerning the call of God will provide foundation and direction for the ministries of this congregation; strategies and plans will be an outgrowth of this recognition of call.

The first activity in this discernment process is a prayer vigil. On Sunday, March 4, Kevin Lussier initiated the prayer vigil and many responded. When we think of a vigil, we often imagine people gathering together for a period of time to watch and wait, and in this instance, to pray.

There are other ways to conceive of a vigil. Several suggested ways of keeping the vigil include:

- People may pray wherever they are for an hour—any hour during this season of discernment.
- People may pray at the same time each day (for example: 12 noon, at arising, or before retiring.)
- People may come to the Chapel at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday to join in prayer for the congregation.
- People may agree to pray on a specific day, particularly during Holy Week.
- People may attend the Taize prayer service on Tuesday of Holy Week.
- People may decide to walk the labyrinth in prayer on one of the days

during Holy Week. (The labyrinth will be available in Fellowship Hall each day between Palm Sunday and Easter, except Wednesday when a Seder is planned.)

There are other possible programs for prayer. The important element in each is that we enter into conversation with God, ready to listen and to speak.

And how should we pray? Find a quiet place, light a candle to remain mindful that God's Spirit is present, place a flower (and note its change), focus on an important and meaningful object (for example: a cross, picture, or Bible.) Resolve to listen more than speak. Take a walk, fast, use *The Sanctuary* (the devotional booklet for Lent), read an inspirational book, come to the chapel, wonder, imagine, envision. Do whatever is necessary to stimulate conversation with God.

Those who will commit themselves to joining in this prayer vigil—however it might be individually expressed—are invited to inscribe their names on one (or more) of the posters around the church. These posters are entitled: Committed to Prayer: Seeking God's Call. The prayer vigil may be joined at any time.

The plan for discernment expects that we will be able to hear the call of God sufficiently so that a mission statement and a series of strategies will be developed in time for Rally Sunday in the fall. And all of this will begin with prayer.

# Giving Through the Connection

## The Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)

Men and women of every age respond to God's call to ordained ministry and the church supports them in fulfilling this invitation. The Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) is our denomination's way of assisting persons to fully answer that divine call. Through the programs of our 13 national seminaries, leaders are educated to proclaim God's word in a world that desperately needs that message. One of these training and educating institutions is nearby Claremont School of Theology, now led by Dr. Jerry Campbell.

Why give to the MEF? Because of our generosity, potential elders and deacons are recruited, educated, and nurtured. Existing pastors hone skills through continuing education opportunities. The fund is vital to maintaining the United Methodist Church's commitment to

theological education; our gifts assure that our clergy are committed to the highest standards and prepared to lead our denomination into a positive, promising future.

"My motivation is to make a difference and be a light in this dark world," said Derek Jacobs, a student at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, a seminary associated with Southern Methodist University (SMU) "Seminary is very expensive—it takes money, funds, support—and the MEF has provided that to me."

Since 1968 MEF giving throughout connection has helped thousands of men and women become pastoral leaders in the United Methodist Church. Our fair share of this denominational commitment is \$7,487 in 2007. Because we are blessed, we can be blessing.

## After the Valentines

For the last several years, our library has been blessed by your wonderful support of its Valentine's fund-raiser. By the time this reaches you, the library's Books & Tapes budget will have been completely underwritten by your donations. We are very grateful for your "valentines", and the patrons who will borrow these books, can be aware of your gifts and the persons you honored.

We have needed more story time books that could be sung rather than just read to groups of preschool children. Well, in this group of new books we have: a **Pop Up Book about America the Beautiful; ABC Sing-Along** (with CD); **Rock A Bye Baby** (with CD); **I Love You A Bushel and a Peck; and Baa Baa Black Sheep** (with many new verses).

avail themselves of books like ***This Is the Lunch that Jesus Served***, (a parody of *This is the House that Jack Built*). Several Bible stories: ***The Fiery Furnace; The Coat of Many Colors; Paul's Call; The Blind Man by the Road*** can supplement Sunday School lessons. For comparison to our traditional Noah's Ark, try ***The Great Canoe***, which reminds us that other cultures and traditions have in their indigenous folklore, similar "ark stories".

We have 3 new ***Chicken Soup*** books: ***...for the Teenage Soul II; ...for the College Soul;*** and ***...for the Single's Soul***. For weeknight Bible and Disciple study classes, we have a new reference book, a large fold out book, ***A Timeschart of Biblical History***.

Thank you again for supporting FUMC Library.

## Table of Contents

Call to Pray: A Vigil  
*page one*

Giving Through the  
Connection  
After the Valentines  
*page two*

Friendship Day  
Adventure  
Hilltoppers  
UMM  
*page three*

Finding God at Camp  
Sky Meadows  
Try Tithing  
*page four*

New Members  
Stuffed Animal  
Collection  
Super Service Saturday  
*page five*

Music at FUMC  
Free Lunch & Theater  
*page six*

Calendar of Events  
*page seven*

Worship Schedule  
*page eight*

# Our Friendship Days Adventure

Long Beach and the Aquarium of the Pacific was our destination Thursday, February 22nd. Though rain threatened, 45 Friendship



Days participants enjoyed learning more about the Pacific Ocean and its inhabitants. A few enjoyed the beautiful Lorikeet birds..several adventurers 'petted' the sharks and sting rays...everyone admired the life-size replica of a Blue Whale and her calf suspended from the ceiling in the Great Hall. A self-guided tour allowed time for exploring the fascinating life of our blue Pacific. What a delicious lunch we had at "Bubba Gump's"!

With our Guest Tour Director, Martee Dorn-Nott, we saw and learned about unusual sights of downtown Long Beach, including the

Oil Islands which are named for four Astronauts.

Our last stop was at the shore-side park where we enjoyed the sea breeze and admired a new statue dedicated to all seamen.

Then as we began our homeward trip, the rains came but we were safe in the big bus with our excellent driver, Henderson.



Friendship Days is open to adults who enjoy going places, seeing things and making new friends. Remember: no driving, no parking, good food and plenty of friendly fellowship!

Be sure your names are on the mailing list! Questions? Call Joyce Dorn, Coordinator at (626) 357-2112.

## Hilltoppers

We will meet on Monday, March 19, 2007 in the Church Lounge at 1:30 pm. Our Program will be the 2007 selection "Simply Loving – a Call to Prayer and Self Denial." In place of our usual offerings, envelopes will be available for our donations to the fund which

provides pensions and healthcare for retired deaconesses and missionaries for whom the Women's Division is responsible. This will help us attain our 5-star giving status to UMW. All are welcome.

## United Methodist Men

The Tuesday, March 27th dinner meeting will feature Mark Davis, Caltech Professor of Chemical Engineering and cancer research leader.

Professor Davis' work in the synthesis of zeolites and molecular sieves and gene therapy, all in the name of cancer research, is cutting edge. At Caltech, Mark holds the Warren and Katharine Schlinger Chair in Chemical Engineering. He has

appeared as a distinguished lecturer at numerous universities, including Yale, MIT, Texas, Purdue, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Please join us Tuesday, March 27th, to hear Mark's most important message, and to enjoy dinner and fellowship! Please notify the church office with your RSVP!

**IMPORTANT  
CHURCH COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**Regarding the  
Children's Play  
Garden**

**March 25th at  
11:30 a.m. in the  
Church Lounge**

**ALL INVITED!**

# Finding God at Camp Sky Meadows

Over President's Day Weekend, twenty-plus youth, four counselors, and a "junior camper" traveled up to Camp Sky Meadows for a weekend retreat with a theme of "Finding God in the World."



Our journey began Saturday morning as we boarded a school bus here at the church and braved the un-insulated fridity driving up into the mountains of Big Bear. We arrived to a pristine model of beauty, finding ourselves quieted by God's creation.

Mike (our Camp manager, in case you haven't already met him) offered what I'm told is his characteristic good cooking, as well as his generous spirit and good nature. We enjoyed hikes up to the heliport and to Chapel in the Sky, scripture and meditation, crafts, hot chocolate by the fire, and a generous amount of fellowship

and fun.

We came to understand that God's creation is a wonderful way to renew our connection with grace and love, and that even the temptations of the world pale in comparison to opportunities for service, forgiveness, and friends. We explored the idea that Jesus' ministry was and is profoundly different from the prophets of the Old Testament. He was and is the difference, and we can carry his ideas with us whether we're in the mountains or in the city.

As we woke on our last day to return to "the real world," we were again reminded of God's creativity as we found that snow blanketed



the camp! Only a few snowballs later, we were on our way home. We were refreshed and re-energized. We are ready to find the difference in every place we search.

## Try Tithing?

In a few more weeks, those who will accept the challenge to tithe will begin one month of more carefully considering the many blessings we enjoy. In April, we will begin a month of tithing—giving the first gift of ten percent out of all that we are given.

Consider ten percent. Often ten percent signals a reorientation in life. If we gain ten percent more in weight or suddenly lose the same amount, we probably need to make some changes. If our salaries were increased ten percent (particularly after taxes,) our spending habits

might be altered. If we were to lose ten percent of our houses, we would be forced to consolidate; if we were to gain ten percent, we could stretch out further. When the stock market falls ten percent, it is considered a collapse by some. If the stock market gains ten percent, it often suggests a strengthening economy and anxiety is lessened.

Ten percent helps us pay attention to how we offer our gifts. And out of this offering comes blessing. Try tithing.



Sunday, March 11th

# Welcome New Members

On February 11, 2007, we welcomed and celebrated the commitment of membership at FUMC Pasadena with these persons:

- **John Evans** (Associate Member\*) John and his wife Jane (who joined in October 2006) moved from England to Pasadena in June, 2006. They have been active members of the Methodist Church in the U.K. John is a PR Consultant who enjoys flying, railroad history and painting. John says that the spiritual development and fellowship provided by the church give purpose to his life.



- **Matthew Vega** (Associate Member\*) Matthew lives in South San Gabriel and names himself an activist, musician, and singer. He seeks the friends and fellowship of this church



community and comes to us from All Saints Episcopal.

- **Louisa Villamin Pangilinan** transfers from Walnut UMC, CA and recently moved to Pasadena. She is an executive assistant. Her hobbies include home decorating, music, family and sports. She especially loves the enrichment that comes from meeting many diverse people in the church. Louisa is the niece of Rev. Lily Villamin, who served FUMC for a number of years!



*\* Associate membership indicates a commitment to this United Methodist Church while maintaining full membership at a congregation to which one intends to return. It is designed for persons who commit themselves to a local congregation because of job assignment or education. Associate indicates one holds membership at a church other than United Methodist.*

## Stuffed Animal Service Collection

Whether or not you attend the spring drama event after church on March 25th, the Theater Arts Committee service project for this event is the collection of gently-used stuffed animals that will be sent to a hospital for use with sick children.

The hospital has the facilities to clean donations and give them to children as comfort toys. There will be collection bins on the day of the event only.

## Super Service Saturday

Some folks want to participate in the March 24th Big Day of Service, but have small children or physical limitations that make it difficult to go out into the community. Don't worry. There is work for you to do even if you can only make it into the church for breakfast and what follows. There will be stations in

Fellowship Hall where you can prepare dental hygiene kits for children at Mothers' Club here in Pasadena, cards to make for Meals on Wheels and perhaps other service activities that you can do while sitting. Please join us from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need you.

Big Red Barrel  
Collection Item  
for March is  
RAZORS.

# Music at FUMC 2007

## The Taste of Culture

March 18th  
at 3:00 p.m.

Temple City First United  
Methodist Church.  
For more information  
contact Rev. Mike  
DeGuzman at  
(626) 286-8002

**Thursday, April 5, 2007**  
**7:30 pm in the Sanctuary**  
Maundy Thursday Communion Service  
Maurice Duruflé: *Requiem*  
**Chancel Choir**  
**Ae Kyong Kim, organist**  
**Freewill offering**

**Sunday, April 15, 2007**  
**1:00 pm in the Sanctuary**  
David & Junko Garrett,  
Cello & Piano Recital  
**The Garretts return for the third time to share their fabulous music-making with us.**  
**Bring a friend!**  
**Freewill offering**

**Sunday, May 6, 2007**  
**1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**  
Annual Handbell Concert  
**Children, Youth and Adult Bell Choirs**  
**Featured in their Annual Tintinabulation.**  
**Freewill offering**

**Sunday, May 13, 2007**  
**10:00 am in Worship**  
Mother's Day Musical  
**Presented by the children of the church.**  
**Freewill offering**

**Sunday, June 3, 2007**  
**11:45 am in Fellowship Hall**  
Chancel Choir Showcase  
**Offered as part of Friends and Family Luncheon**  
**Food, fellowship, and music on the lighter side.**  
**Freewill offering**

**Sunday, June 17, 2007**  
**10:00 am in Worship**  
Choir Appreciation Sunday  
**A festival service featuring all the musical ensembles of the church.**  
**Freewill offering**

**Sunday, July 1, 2007**  
**6:30 pm in the Sanctuary**  
"Sounds of the Risen Son"  
**Youth Choir Home Tour Concert**  
**Just home from their tour of New England, the Youth Choir will share their music and tales of their adventure with us.**  
**Followed by an Ice Cream Social.**  
**Freewill offering**

For more information please call the church office at (626) 796-0157 or visit our website at [www.fumcpasadena.org](http://www.fumcpasadena.org).

## March 25 Means Free Lunch & Free Theater

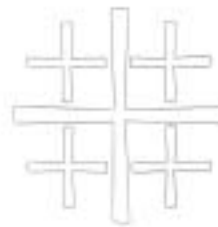
After coffee hour and Heifer sales on March 25, the Theater Arts Committee will be offering a free lunch for those who wish to stay and attend one of our two one-time-only spring drama performances. The first-come-first-served lunch will be a no-meat taco salad and roll, with a PB&J bar for kids who don't want salad. Since the costs of the lunch and presentations have been underwritten, all donations will go directly to the church.

Beginning during or right after lunch, there will be a performance that will feature the God Monologues by Denise Campbell and a short Easter-themed readers' theater presentation. At another site at the church, there will be a family-oriented presentation for our church families, girls scouts and friends will be presented by youth and friends. This family presentation will be a short readers' theater production of "The Selfish Giant" by Oscar Wilde.

## Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, 03.11</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>Sunday, 03.18</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>
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
	Communion during Lent		Communion during Lent
11:30 am	Children's Council Meeting	11:30 am	Mission, Peace & Justice Meeting
	Youth Handbell Choir		Youth Handbell Choir
4:30 pm	Youth Council Meeting	11:45 am	Girl Scout Troop 529
5:15 pm	Youth Choir	6:30 pm	Questers
6:45 pm	Youth Dinner and Program	5:15 pm	Youth Choir
		6:45 pm	Youth Dinner & Program
<b>Monday, 03.12</b>		<b>Monday, 03.19</b>	
10:00 am	UM Federal Credit Union	1:30 pm	Hilltoppers
7:00 pm	<i>Christian Believer</i>	7:00 pm	<i>Christian Believer</i>
<b>Tuesday, 03.13</b>		<b>Tuesday, 03.20</b>	
9:30 am	The Yarn Ministry		
10:00 am	Social Service Office Open	10:00 am	Social Service Office Open
7:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir	7:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir
	Boy Scout Troop 27 Meeting		Boy Scout Troop 27 Meeting
	Evangelism/Hospitality Meeting		Stewardship Committee Meeting
7:30 pm	AA Meeting	7:00 pm	AA Meeting
	Finance Committee Meeting	<b>Wednesday, 03.21</b>	
<b>Wednesday, 03.14</b>		10:00 am	Foundation Office Open
10:00 am	Foundation Office Open	6:00 pm	Lenten Dinner
6:00 pm	Lenten Dinner	6:45 pm	Worship Committee
6:45 pm	Communion during Lent	7:00 pm	<i>Companions in Christ</i>
7:00 pm	<i>Companions in Christ</i>		<i>Jesus-Parables of Life</i>
	<i>Jesus-Parables of Life</i>		<i>The Gospel According to H. Potter</i>
	<i>The Gospel According to H. Potter</i>		Young People's AA Meeting
	Young People's AA Meeting	7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>Thursday, 03.22</b>	
<b>Thursday, 03.15</b>		9:30 am	The Yarn Ministry
7:00 pm	<i>Jesus in the Gospels</i>	7:00 pm	<i>Jesus in the Gospels</i>
<b>Saturday, 03.17</b>		<b>Saturday, 03.24</b>	
9:30 am	Quilters	8:00 am	Super Saturday
2:00 pm	Art Class	2:00 pm	Art Class

# The Congregation in Worship



Sunday, 03.11.07  
Third Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 13:1-9  
Sermon: Living the Cruciform Life: Disaster  
Bob Rhodes, preaching

Sunday, 03.18.07  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Text: Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32  
Sermon: Living the Cruciform Life: Disappointment  
The Rev. Debbie Gara, preaching

The altar flowers on February 25th were given to the glory of God and in the loving memory of Ann Nash.

## ***Remembering Those Members Who Have Entered the Church Triumphant:***

We remember Mary Belle Sheppard who passed away February 26, 2007.

A memorial service as held on Monday, March 5th in the Chapel.

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



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