



The Messenger

Volume 78 | Issue 6 | March 14, 2008

The Messenger is published by the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, California

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Holy Week Features “Walking the Labyrinth”

About the Labyrinth

What was originally a part of many medieval cathedrals, the Labyrinth is being rediscovered by people around the world. The Labyrinth is a tool for reflection, centering, and prayer that is helping persons rediscover the power of the “meditative walk.” Persons walking the labyrinth experience the winding pattern as a metaphor for life and the journey of faith. A worldwide Labyrinth project was instituted in 1991 through Grace Episcopal Cathedral, San Francisco. Our Labryrinth has been registered with this project.

The Labyrinth you will walk is a scaled down replica of the Labryrinth inlaid in the floor of the Cathedral at Chartres, France. During the Middle Ages, pilgrims who could not go to Jerusalem would use these Labyrinths as a way to “make their pilgrimage.” Our Labyrinth measures 35’ x 35’ and includes a path when walked both directions which is approximately 1/3 of a mile. The Labyrinth was created by members and clergy of the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena working from formulas and designs provided by Grace Cathedral.

There is no “right” or “wrong” way to use the Labyrinth. Some prefer to be with a group, some solo. Some like music while walking the path – others silence. Some come seeking

clarity and solutions as they walk and meditate. Others bring no agenda and instead are open to the mysterious workings of God’s Holy Spirit. Some walk, some run, some dance – all approaches are proper when undergirded by a willingness to let the tool of the Labyrinth be an aid to the human spirit and the journey we call life.

Suggestions for Walking the Labyrinth

Pause at the entry to allow yourself to be conscious of the act of stepping into the labyrinth. Allow about a minute, or several turns on the path to lapse in between you and the person in front of you. You may wish to say a prayer, claiming this as “sacred space” for yourself and fellow travelers.

Follow your pace – allow your body to determine the pace. If your pace is rapid and the person in front of you is moving more slowly, feel free to move around this person. This is easiest to do by turning earlier. If you are moving slowly, you can step into the purple at the turns to allow others to pass. You may choose to pause at various moments as well as spend time sitting in the middle of the Labyrinth. Again, trust your instincts.

The narrow path is a two-way street. If you are going in and another person is going out, you will meet on the path. If you want

“Walking the Labyrinth” continued on page 7



When Presence is a Present

by J.P. Harris
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

One of the definitions for Stewardship identifies the individual components of time, talent, presence and gifts. Of these, presence is often not thought of as being all that important, but nothing could be further from the truth. Your weekly presence at Sunday worship is one of the most important things you can do to be a good steward of our church. Although solitary prayer and meditation is also very important, corporate worship benefits not only the individual attending, but all of those who share the pews. We need each other, in ways spoken and unspoken, to accomplish the work of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Edna Laird, a member of our church since 1955, shared her thoughts on the importance of church attendance and I thought you would find them interesting:

“Why I Go to Church” by Edna Laird

My answer to this question goes back to the early depression days...a small town...a large family and limited choices. ‘Sunday’ and ‘Church’ were accepted and respected synonyms.

On Sunday morning, I put on my best dress (I had only one), polished my shoes and eagerly walked to my church to meet my friends and teacher. My church had no stained-glass windows and only a small organ but it was special, as my teacher said, because it was God’s House! I liked that!

From that time onward...some eighty years plus...I’ve looked upon my church as God’s House...a place where I feel at home...a place of beauty and wonder...a

place of enlightenment and challenge...a place to meditate and pray and a place to meet caring friends and clergy who are there for me during happy times and times when comfort is sorely needed.

Yes! In my dictionary, ‘Sunday’ and ‘Church’ will always be synonymous and very special.

•••

I could not agree more! Attending church every Sunday is the most important thing you do all week. Praising and worshipping the Lord is what we are meant to do. Your presence is a present, a gift to God in recognition of all the wonderful things He has done for you. So as you can see, there are many types of gifts/presents and the most important is your presence, every Sunday at church.

Thank you for all you are doing to lift up the message

of Jesus Christ through your selfless donations of time, talent and treasure here at First Church, Pasadena! It is clear that many of you have come to the understanding that giving is an act of worship and a dynamically worshipping community we have become. Please remember, a promise made to the Lord needs to be a promise kept. He keeps the faith with you so you need to return the favor. Make your pledge or tithe the first thing you take care of each month. When you make your contribution the first fruits of your labors, you honor the Lord. You will be amazed how there will always be enough to cover your needs when you make it a habit to honor the Lord first. In fact, you will probably soon learn that you can do even more as the Lord always provides!

“We need each other, in ways spoken and unspoken, to accomplish the work of our Lord...”

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The Faith We Sing (or ought to!)

by Stephen Gothold
sgothold@fumcpasadena.org

The pastors, musicians, Worship Committee and many others are in agreement that our church needs the denominational hymnal supplement called *The Faith We Sing*.

Published in 2000, TFWS is in use by United Methodist congregations (and others) all over the country.

We have sung several selections from it, usually as a special insert in the bulletin.

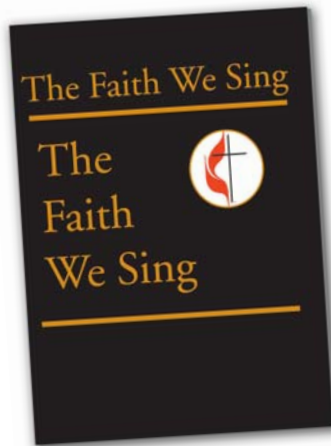
I have been asked to head up a campaign to raise funds to buy copies for our pews. Including the choir, we will need about 400 copies. With tax and shipping, they cost about \$15 each. Beginning after Easter and continuing several weeks, we will have a table at Coffee Hour, and provide the opportunity for YOU to purchase one or more copies for use at church. Each copy will have a book plate, and you may designate persons in whose memory or honor the gift is given.

We are hopeful that some will choose to buy **several**, or **many**, or a **whole bunch** of these attractive and useful volumes.

The Faith We Sing includes a variety of valuable aids for worship:

New Hymns, traditional in format, but with newer musical language;

Contemporary Choruses, songs written



in a more “popular” style - also known as “praise and worship” music;

Old Favorites and Historic Classics, gospel tunes and hymns of significance which have stood the test of time;

Songs from Taizé, the mantra-like worship songs from the worship community of Taizé, France, and developed under the leadership of Jacques Berthier;

Songs from the Iona Community, songs collected or newly composed for the worship community of Iona in Scotland. John Bell is the leading musician in this tradition.

Service Music - Shorter pieces with specific liturgical functions - benedictions, calls to worship, responses, communion, etc.

Global or Ethnic Music - songs from other countries, cultures or traditions, especially from Africa, China, Korea, etc.

We all look forward to expanding our congregational participation with this addition to our liturgical resources. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about this project, or would like more information. We will have copies available at the Coffee Hour tables for perusal.

“Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature.”

— John Wesley, 1761

New Videos – VCR, CD, & DVD in the Library

from Ruth MacPherson

The Library thanks those who generously underwrote the costs for forty fine new books and videos for 2008. Your support brought in \$550 which funds our library programs for this year.

We'd love to list every book and video, but cannot do so in the space allowed. Videos appropriate for this season are on display – for group leaders searching for program ideas;

youth and their parents searching for answers to questions arising from adolescence issues; and for Adult Education leaders searching for material to supplement curriculum.

On Sundays, please detour by the library on your way to Sunday school or Fellowship Hour. Keep track of seasonal displays of our collection for new reading ideas. Something special is here for you.



Annual Palm Sunday Picnic March 16th

1:00 p.m.

at

Tournament Park
on the Caltech
Campus!

Sponsored by FUMC
Pasadena Youth
Group

Bring your own
picnic lunch, blanket
or chair. Beverages
will be provided.

Kids, remember to
bring your Easter
baskets to collect
eggs during the
Easter Egg Hunt!

Welcome New Members

by Rev. Debbie Gara

Photos by H Reid

We joyfully welcome these new members into the fellowship of FUMC. Joining on February 17th and 24th... **Jeff and Allison Ash** live in Pasadena. Jeff joins by affirmation of faith. He is a performer and writer of comedy by profession, a musician (bass guitar) and enjoys sports. Allison

transfers from Fremont UMC in Michigan. She is a student at Fuller Theological Seminary, a runner, plays guitar and piano and loves her dogs!



(L) Hozue Miyasaka, Priscilla Baca

Priscilla Baca lives in Pasadena and is the daughter of Mardy and Helen Olivas, and the aunt of Steve and Asha Olivas. She transfers from El Mesias UMC in Pacoima, loves music and playing the piano to relax.



Ann & Dale Pearson, Charlotte & Grant

Al and Mary Lou Elie live in Castaic and transfer their membership from First UMC, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mary Lou is an R.N., Al loves sports, and they both especially love spending time with their five grandchildren, and music.

Hozue Miyasaka lives in South Pasadena and transfers from Seventh-Day Adventist LA Central Japanese, San Gabriel. She is married to Hiromasa and they have three children Hajime, 14; Ryo, 10, and Yuki, 4. She enjoys music, movies and crafts, and rapidly perfecting her English with the help of her children!

Ann and Dale Pearson live in San Gabriel with their two children, Charlotte, 3 and Grant, 18 months. Ann comes to us from St. Matthews Catholic Church in Long Beach. She enjoys scrapbooking, embroidery, and throwing parties! Dale joins by affirmation of faith and attended San Gabriel UMC as a child. He enjoys building things, cooking, gardening with Grant and Charlotte.

Janelle Hodson lives in Pasadena and transfers from Glendora UMC where her dad currently serves as Senior Pastor. She is an account executive with the Hallmark channel,

enjoys sewing, baking, movies, and hanging out with her boyfriend, Eric.



(L) Mary Lou & Al Elie; Allison & Jeff Ash

Eric Krug lives in Pasadena and transfers from The Church of the Good Shepherd, Arcadia.

He works in artist relations/marketing, and enjoys reading, cooking, running,



(L-R) Janelle Hodson, Eric Krug, Heather Petty, Rick Schlee

music and girlfriend Janelle.

Heather Petty transfers from St. Andrews by the Sea UMC in San Clemente. She is a high school music teacher and has already found her way to our Chancel Choir and other music involvement. She has a boa named Bolo, loves all kinds of music, and "Dance Dance Revolution."

Rick Schlee joins by affirmation of faith and was raised in the UMC in Randelia, Iowa. He enjoys walking, reading, and is a sports nut. He is an International Scholar Advisor with the University of Iowa.

A common theme expressed in sharing with this wonderful group in our time together in class and fellowship was the desire to experience a sense of belonging and to be grounded in a serving and giving community. As we all seek to grow in our faith, experience a deeper sense of belonging with one another and our church community, to give and to serve, we are so grateful for the presence and commitment of new persons in our midst to join in the journey of faith and FUMC Pasadena. Welcome!



HOLY WEEK

For a listing of Holy Week Worship Opportunities, please visit our church website at fumcpasadena.org or contact the Church Office.

Mozart Requiem to be Sung for Maundy Thursday

by Stephen Gothold

The Chancel Choir is hard at work preparing Mozart's beloved *Requiem* for our Maundy Thursday Communion Service Thursday, March 20th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The commissioning, composition and completion of the *Requiem* is shrouded in mystery and legend, and there are many things we will never know about the circumstances surrounding the creation of this masterpiece.

This much we do know: the work was commissioned anonymously and the commission delivered by a mysterious "dark" visitor... later we learn that the messenger was an agent of a certain Count Walsegg who was in the habit of commissioning works by Vienna composers and presenting the works in his home, passing them off as his own compositions. Since his wife had just died, he wanted a *Requiem* to be written in her honor.

Mozart was busy at work on his last opera "*The Magic Flute*," and kept putting off the work on the *Requiem*. Upon completing and performing the opera, he returned to the

Requiem, but became very ill, and at the age of 36 he died.

Constanze, Mozart's young wife, was desperate for money, and began to search for someone to complete the piece so that she could recover the rest of the commission. After a great deal of effort, she settled on Mozart's student, Franz Xavier Süssmayr, to complete the piece. She gave him Mozart's completed score pages plus a pile of *Skizze* (sketches) of ideas which he had planned to incorporate into the piece. Unfortunately, these sketches did not survive, and it is now impossible to state with certainty how much of the work is Mozart's, and how much Süssmayr actually contributed.

The sections which Mozart completed were sung at his funeral, and the work has been performed thousands of times annually around the world since that time.

Please join us on Maundy Thursday as Mozart's *Requiem* is incorporated into our Lenten communion liturgy.

Mission Opportunity in Central Mexico

from Rosalie Niemann

Dear Church Friends,

Recently in *The Messenger*, we read an email from Terry and Muriel Henderson, our missionaries to central Mexico. Their assignment is jointly run by the US United Methodist Church and the Mexican Methodist Church.

In 1977, the Hendersons founded their program called *Give Ye Them to Eat*, based on Matthew 14:15. GYTTE ["jitty"] seeks to empower limited resource families in rural Mexico for successful living within their own rural settings.

Its five components include: (1) Community Development, (2) Community and Family Health, (3) Agricultural and Livestock Development, (4) Church and Faith Development, and (5) the AWARE Program—Alternative Work/study And Reality Experience.

The Hendersons have invited us to join them for an AWARE experience from August 9, 2008 to August 17, 2008. This is a nine day visit to their Tree of Life Training Center in central Mexico where we will spend five days doing some work to improve the center. We also visit local villages to become familiar with the outreach of the GYTTE program. We have time in the extended week to be tourists, too, with shopping and sight-seeing. No knowledge of Spanish is needed although it is helpful.

If you are interested in joining me in this extraordinary opportunity for missions and your own faith enrichment, please see me at church or call me at (818) 790-7868 or at niemann007@sbcglobal.net.



Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations for March

March has five letters. Homeless people need something that has five letters in it. It can be used on your face or legs. "Razor" has five letters.

We will collect
razors.

Easter Sunday Mission Offering

by Pam Burns

Vacation Bible School 2008:

“Beach Party: Surfin’ Through the Scriptures”



— Coming —
July 14 – 18,
2008

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

—1 John 3:18

Watch for details.

The special offering on Easter Sunday, March 23rd, will help support mission ministries in Mexico, the Philippines and Los Angeles. This year’s gifts will go to Terry and Muriel Henderson, Rev. Dr. Afrie Songco-Joye and Lydia Templeton (Children, Youth and Family Collaborative).



Terry and Muriel Henderson have been our California-Pacific Conference Covenant Partners for many years and have developed a working relationship with our congregation. Our commitment helps support them in their ministry in South Central Mexico where they work with the people of rural Mexico equipping them with tools and skills to help themselves and their families, and to serve their church and community. Programs include community development, agricultural and livestock development, church and faith growth and community health programs.

Reverend Dr. Afrie Songco-Joye serves in the Philippines where she teaches at the Union Theological Seminary and oversees the study and preparation of pastors. Her work makes it possible for men and women who are called by God to ready themselves to serve the United Methodist congregations in this island nation.

Afrie also teaches lay leaders and clergy in the Theological Education by Extension program. In addition to teaching, she coordinates studies with the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology and students in the Master and Doctor of Theology program.

Lydia Templeton, a missionary and attorney, directs the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC), which works with at risk children and youth in foster care in the Los Angeles area. The goal of CYFC is to help youth transition successfully to independent living when they emancipate from the foster care system at age 18. Ongoing programs encourage and empower foster care youth by providing role models, training, and encouragement through a variety of services. CYFC also partners with local organizations, including the United Methodist Church, to provide community support for these youth.

Jesus called us to love our neighbors as he has loved us. The special offering on Easter Sunday supports the work of these individuals and organizations making it possible for them to continue to answer this call. Thank you for your gifts.

Blood Drive Continues

Our recent history of giving the gift of life to our community by donating blood reflects the following:

- April 13, 2001 29 units
- March 2, 2002 32 units
- April 18, 2003 26 units
- April 9, 2004 19 units

Did you know that for every unit of blood donated you may be saving the lives of 3 people?

The age restrictions are 17 to 106 and up, however, 16 year olds may be eligible with parental consent. There are some restrictions concerning medications, recent travel outside

of the USA and recent surgeries, etc. To find out if you are eligible, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-843-2949 ext. 7066.



Once you’ve established your eligibility, you can contact Elaine Enzminger at (626) 755-0801 or erenzminger@yahoo.com to sign up OR you can sign up on the Red Cross web site at www.redcross.org under the FUMC sign up roster.

As a community of faith, let’s try to top all previous years donations and make this a year of “healthy” service for our community at large.

Annual Super Saturday is March 29th



Save the date! March 29, 2008 has been set aside as a day to give our community an infusion of service from the heart.

All members young and old are invited to participate in our church's Third Annual SUPER SATURDAY. Plan to meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:00 a.m. for a bite to eat and a touch of fellowship before heading off to any number of work projects.

We have schools that need cleaning (exterior grounds), filing at a learning center, casseroles to prepare for the homeless (in the church kitchen), brown bag lunches to deliver to the homeless, cards to make for a local Head Start (perfect for the youngest church family member) and whatever else you may want to do in the spirit of service to the community.

If you cannot attend this valuable event, but would like to participate in some way, you are welcome to put together a health care kit for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) that will be collected at our annual conference for later distribution.

Items to be placed in a gallon sized plastic baggie are as follows: 1 wash cloth, 1 hand towel, 1 large sturdy comb (not pocket sized), 1 nail clipper (no toe nail clippers), 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz. and up), 1 toothbrush (single adult size in original wrapper), 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages, and a \$1.00 bill (toothpaste is being purchased in bulk by the conference). The health care kits can be brought to church on Sunday, March 30, 2008, and placed by the Red Barrel labeled "for UMCOR – Super Saturday."

Hilltoppers Provide "Learning For a Lifetime" March 17th

Hilltoppers will meet March 17th at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Our program will be Prayer & Self-Denial for 2008. The theme is "Learning for a Lifetime" and our offering will help fund the programs in mission institutions that reach out to women, children and youth in the United States and many other countries as well as provide educational opportunities. For further information, call Irene Atkinson at (626) 795-2393.

Dr. Stephen Gothold to Speak to United Methodist Men March 25th

FUMC's talented Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Stephen Gothold, will present the program for the March meeting of United Methodist Men, on Tuesday, March 25th, beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy Steve's wisdom and information; enjoy fellowship and a good meal! Be spiritually uplifted as well! Invite a friend. Please call the Church Office at (626) 796-0157 to RSVP.

"Walking the Labyrinth" continued from page 1

to keep an inward meditative state, simply do not make eye contact. If you meet someone you know, a touch of the hand or a hug may be an important acknowledgment of being on the path together. Follow your instincts.*

When you finish your walk, look once again toward the center. Many wish to bow their head as a sign of completion and acknowledgment of an encounter with God.

We respectfully ask that shoes be removed when walking the Labyrinth due to the fragile nature of the canvas.

*Permission granted to reprint portions of the "The Grace Cathedral Labyrinth" by the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress.

Bishop Swenson Rescheduled to Preach June 15th



...
We'll also celebrate
Father's Day
&
Choir
Appreciation
Sunday!

...
Mark your
calendars and
see you there!



FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:

14	12:30pm	Aldersgate Forum Luncheon	Church Lounge
15	9:30am	Prayer Quilt Ministry	Church Lounge
16	8:50am	Forum	Church Lounge
	9:07am	SpiritSeekers Adult Sun School	Adult Lounge
	10:00am	Palm Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
	11:45am	Girl Scout Troop 529	Rooms 200 & 300
	4:00pm	Confirmation Class	Jr. High Lounge
	6:30pm	Questers	Church Lounge
17	1:30pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	Labyrinth	Fellowship Hall
18	7:00pm	Finance Committee	Oxford
	7:00pm	Labyrinth	Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Stewardship Committee	Church Lounge
19	7:00pm	Labyrinth	Fellowship Hall
20	7:00pm	Labyrinth	Fellowship Hall
	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
21	7:00pm	Labyrinth	Fellowship Hall
	7:30pm	Service of Tenebrae	Chapel
23	8:50am	Forum	Church Lounge
	9:07am	SpiritSeekers Adult Sun School	Adult Lounge
	10:00am	Worship/Easter	Sanctuary
24	4:00pm	Committee on Lay Leadership	Conference Room
	7:00pm	Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
25	6:30pm	UMethodist Men Dinner Meeting	Fellowship Hall
26	7:00pm	Mission, Peace & Justice Comm	Church Lounge
27	9:30am	Yarn Ministry	Church Lounge
	7:00pm	New Visitor Dinner	Dr. Trotter's Home
28-29		Work Camp	Sky Meadows
29	8:00am	Super Saturday	Church Premises

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

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...

for healing

Charles Bohannon	Viola Mallory
Lura Brown	Bronnie McNabb
Wayne Brubaker	Jeff Morrison
Nancy Bumb	Rev. Mardy Olivas
Stephen Bumb	Helen Olivas
José Casillas	Lyz Rhodes
Patrice Daniels	Norm Schmidt
Curt Elrod	Mrs. C. Stanfield
Gary Gillett	Bishop Mary Ann
George Griffith	Swenson
Pat Hall	Argie Taylor
Peggy Hendricks	Ladd Thomas
Holly Dale Howard	Russ Walker
Sylvia Jacoby	Cherry Walther
Evelyn Mac Dougall	

for strength & comfort:

Jerry Masiello
Ken Beam
The Elrod Family
Don Hanselman
Ae Kyong Kim
Tom Wegener



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