



# The Messenger

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## Home Groups, A New Beginning at FUMC

by John Evans

“Home is where the heart is” – so says a Celtic hymn, and it’s that sentiment that is driving First United Methodist Church’s new project to establish a series of home groups over the next few months.

What is a home group? At its simplest, it is a meeting that encompasses prayer, some kind of study or discussion...and a social time for sharing and getting to know each other better. Home groups offer a very relaxed way for people to grow together spiritually and will be familiar to many church-goers.

FUMC, of course, doesn’t have home groups - but now that is about to change.

What makes a home group different from the many excellent classes and study groups already running successfully under the umbrella of First United Methodist Church? Well, the first difference is that most – but not all – existing meetings are held at church. Home groups by their very nature are always held at someone’s home, and that offers a very different atmosphere. But just as important is the fact that home groups decide for themselves what they want to study or debate; how they spend their time; even issues like how often they meet and where and when.

They are also fairly small – no more than

12 or 15 members. If demand exceeds our initial capacity, it will be a rewarding problem for us to solve.

All this adds up to a formula which has proved attractive to church-goers across the United States – and, indeed, the world. We aim to make these groups both fulfilling and fun.

We are going to start with two groups which will commence on Wednesday, May 7th and Thursday, May 15th. Both will meet

every other week, one hosted by

Elaine Enzminger and the other by John Evans who is also coordinating the launch of these groups under the guidance of Associate Minister, Debbie Gara. Hopefully, a third group will start in the summer and from there – who knows? Importantly, the new groups blend closely with our new core values – ‘believing, belonging and becoming.’ It could be a mission written exactly for the new groups.

If you are interested in knowing more, contact John Evans (626) 510-6222 or [john.evans777@btinternet.com](mailto:john.evans777@btinternet.com) or get involved when we have a sign-up during fellowship after church in April. If home is where your heart is, you will almost certainly enjoy this new initiative.



*New Opportunity for Christian Formation*

“Why I Am a Christian”

based on the Book “A Generous Orthodoxy” by Brian McLaren

*Details on page 6*

# Another Successful Heifer Project Drive Wraps Up

from Pamela Marx

Even as the youth are finishing the house visits of new and improved Bessie and Bossy, the Sunday School children give their thanks to all for terrific Heifer Project support. The always innovative and successful Questers' Palm Sunday sale successfully closed four weeks of coffee hour sales. The first through sixth grade classes brought in a combined total of \$1,200+, selling sundaes, baked goods, tiles, cards, sit-n-totes, and other creative crafts over the preceding weeks. Mission moments by the Sunday School classes were presented in worship.

A new event this year was the youth/drama skit and lunch for which the youth wrote an original Heifer Project skit, the event supervised by Jaymie Morris. Families gathered in the Youth Lounge for hot dogs, a bit of theater and treats. Over \$250 was raised.

Additional thanks go to Pasadena Methodist Foundation, Aldersgate, the Library and other groups for past and continuing support. Thank you for helping the Sunday School send living animals to help fight hunger around the world.

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## Quilt Ministry Blesses Recipients

*From Gerry Foster*

Dear Members of the Quilt Ministry and all members of FUMC,

My father has become attached to his lovely prayer quilt. Even in the ICU, when he was barely aware of his surroundings, he would reach for the quilt to give him warmth.

As he has improved and in the rehab unit, the quilt helps to define him as an individual and also makes the hospital environment seem more home-like.

My mother, Rob and I thank each of you for the prayers you tied into the quilt and for your ongoing support.



*From Cherry Walther*

Dear Prayers and Squares and First United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt. I do so appreciate the hands that made it and the prayers that were said for me over it. I am so appreciative of my wonderful church family. I will enjoy this quilt for the rest of my days!

(Hand-written for her by her daughter, Susan)

## Youth Ministry Mission Trip to Mexico Set

Ten FUMC high school youth, and their counselors are packing tents and sleeping bags, and brushing up on their Spanish for an invaluable mission experience in a village in Mexico, April 24-27, 2008. The Amor mission trip is a short-term mission opportunity based on serving a local community in Mexico while creating cross-cultural understanding through direct exposure to Mexican culture and seeing first hand conditions of poverty in a developing nation. Through this mission project, in conjunction with Amor Ministries on the Baja Peninsula, the youth will help construct Amor houses. The structures are of a simple design, typically 11'x 22', two-room homes with a slab floor, stucco-finished exterior, two windows and a door. They are built according to the standards of the community so that a group without skilled labor or power tools can still complete the project. Vaya con Dios Sean Altice, Megan Calantas, Anthony Capp, Justin Elrod, Erica Ehrlich, Tara Garriott, Jane Middleman, Andreas Montes, Jen Pino, Emily Verniere, and counselors, Luis Montes and Gerry Poulin.

# Library Scavenger Hunt, April 1-27, 2008

by Ruth MacPherson  
Church Librarian



Come children!  
Come youth! Come  
adults! You can  
scavenge answers to  
these April questions

by visiting our church library web page and our three church library centers. After results are tabulated, one dozen of \*Ms. Ruth's homemade cookies will be awarded to the child, youth or adult having the most points – a minimum of 15 points per child; 20 points per youth; and 25 per adult. There'll be a free cookie for anyone else who turns in questions and answers for this scavenger hunt.

You can use this copy of The Messenger, or obtain a copy of these questions from the library. Check FUMC Library displays, the vertical file, references and books throughout April to answer the questions. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the last Sunday of April, submit to the library your copy of these questions and answers.

## Scavenge correct answers for these questions:

1. Easter Monday is also known as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ around the world. (4)
2. Who said, "April hath put a spirit of youth in everything," and also has a birthday in April? (1)
3. Who wrote a poem about this famous April date? (2)
4. Who else besides Perry discovered the North Pole? (1)
5. The Nightingale, retold by Pinkney, was originally written by \_\_\_\_\_, born April 2, 1805. (2) [Extra Credit: Check book out and read. (2)]
6. *One Fine Day* by Van Steinyk is about \_\_\_\_\_, born in April. (2)

7. Why is PASSOVER after EASTER this year? (1)
8. What two days are about caring for the Earth? (2) [Extra credit of (1) if you participated in planting a tree.]
9. Holocaust Remembrance Day or Yom Hashoah is April 29<sup>th</sup>. [Extra credit for the following books checked out and read about the original and present day holocausts.]
  - *Terrible Things* by Bunting (2)
  - *A Traitor Among Us* by Van Steenwyk (2)
  - *They Poured Fire Upon Us from the Sky* by Deng (5)
  - *Leap into Darkness* by Bretholz
  - Or any other child, youth or adult FUMC title about the Holocaust)
10. What U.S. President, known as principal author of The Declaration of Independence, was born in April? \_\_\_\_\_? (2)
11. When was the Library of Congress founded? (1) [Extra Credit below]
  - What happened to the first Library of Congress? (1)
  - Whose personal library of books was purchased for the second Library of Congress? (1)
  - The present day Library of Congress was the first United States government building to be built and furnished on time and within budget? How were they able to accomplish this? (2)
  - Where are the three copies of the Gutenberg Bible? (3) [Extra credit: 1 point for each of the copies you've seen.]

\* *Chocolate chip cookies, bars, or "Betty's Brownies"*  
– *I'm open to suggestions... Ruth MacPherson*

In the next issue  
of  
The Messenger,  
scenes from  
the Palm Sunday  
Picnic  
March 16<sup>th</sup>  
Here's a  
sampling of photos  
to come...



# Celebration for Union Station April 5th

Life is like...



**“Life is like  
an onion:  
you peel it  
off one layer  
at a time,  
and  
sometimes  
you  
weep.”**

*Carl Sandburg*

A classical concert benefiting homeless adults and families at Union Station Foundation will be held Saturday, April 5, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert features renowned clarinetist Gary Boyer and the Occidental-Caltech Symphony, under the direction of Allen Robert Gross.

Gary Boyer is principal clarinetist of multiple world class symphonies. His work has been featured on numerous motion picture soundtracks and albums and he has worked with renown composers such as Danny Elfman and James Horner.

The Occidental-Caltech Symphony attracts a loyal and enthusiastic following.

For more than thirty years, the Occidental-Caltech Symphony has brought together extraordinarily gifted musicians from Occidental College, the California Institute of Technology, and the Pasadena community. Allen Robert Gross also serves as the conductor and music director of the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets for the evening are \$50, and are available by calling the Union Station Foundation at (626) 240-4557 or online at [www.unionstationfoundation.org](http://www.unionstationfoundation.org). Sponsorship opportunities include a private

reception with the orchestra and soloist following the performance.

Honorary co-chairs of the event are Bill Bogaard, Mayor of the City of Pasadena, Jean-Lou Chameau, Ph.D., President of the California Institute of Technology, and Robert Skotheim, Ph.D., President of Occidental College. The event is chaired by Betsey Tyler and Karen Gross.

Proceeds from the concert will support Union Station Foundation, the San Gabriel Valley's most comprehensive social service agency assisting homeless individuals and families. Donors have the opportunity to underwrite tickets for Union Station Foundation clients to attend the concert.

Union Station assists more than 2,000 men, women and children each year with shelter, meals and supportive services including case management, benefits advocacy, health services, recovery support, specialized family services, life skills classes, career development and housing resources. Learn more at [www.unionstationfoundation.org](http://www.unionstationfoundation.org).

For information about sponsoring the benefit, or about the artists and program, call Lauren Arant at Union Station Foundation (626) 240-4557.



## News Alert from Methodist Hospital: Hearing Loss after 50+

Hearing loss is one of the most common conditions affecting older adults. One in three people age 60 and over and half of those older than 85 have hearing loss. Hearing problems can make it hard to understand and follow a doctor's advice, to respond to warnings, and to hear doorbells and alarms. They can also make it hard to enjoy talking with friends and

family. All of this can be frustrating and even dangerous.

Dr. Lucy Shih will lead a discussion of the latest treatment options currently available at a hearing loss seminar, Tuesday, April 22nd from 1:30 p.m to 2:30 p.m, at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive in Arcadia.

## Genesis\* Fellowship Group Off to a Great Start!

\*A Genesis experience is a time or a circumstance of something coming into being...a new thing!

The Genesis Fellowship group is a fellowship group for adults approximately 40 years of age and under who are either couples or singles with kids or no kids.

We had a wonderful kick off event on March 15th at Debbie and Dan Gara's home with sixteen people in attendance. A number of others have expressed interest in being a

part of the fellowship and have committed to host future events.

Our next gathering of Genesis will be at Frank Trotter's home on **Saturday, April 19, 2008** at 7:00 p.m.. We will have dinner together and continue to organize and plan our next activities.

If this speaks to your life situation, you are invited! Please contact Debbie Gara through the Church Office and we will make sure you are on the list.

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### Confirmation Retreat at Camp Sky Meadows April 26-27, 2008

As a part of the Confirmation experience, thirteen eighth grade youth will travel to Camp Sky Meadows April 26th and 27th for spiritual enrichment sessions led by Dr. Frank Trotter. The sessions will help confirmands deepen their relationship with God and each other and explore ways in which their faith is strengthened.

This is a final gathering activity for the 2008 Confirmation Class before Confirmation Sunday, May 4, 2008.

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### SpiritSeekers Adult Sunday School: Breakfast with Rob Bell April 20th

Come to church early on April 20th and enjoy breakfast together as we experience the Rob Bell DVD "Everything is Spiritual."

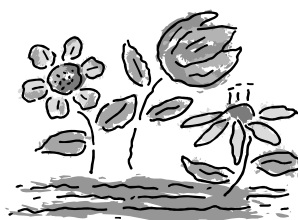
Rob is the creator of the Nooma DVDs that this class has been enjoying on Sunday mornings for several months. "Everything is Spiritual" is a powerful experience, just over an hour in length. Don't miss it! Everyone is invited!

SpiritSeekers meet every Sunday at 9:07 a.m in the upstairs Adult Lounge. Facilitators are Andy Goebel and Dan Gara.

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## Spend a Friendship Day at Descanso Gardens March 28th

Lilacs, camellias, daffodils, tulips and much more will welcome you! FRIENDSHIP DAYS invites you to enjoy a beautiful day at Descanso Gardens on Friday, March 28, 2008. Expert docents will offer exciting information about the gardens and their history, the plants and flowers. Then you will tour the entire gardens via the motorized tram with professional narration...no *walking for you*. A delightful luncheon will be served and you will have time to explore and visit the excellent gift shop.



Register today to participate in this very personal Spring day at Descanso Gardens. Cost: \$68.00 per person (includes transportation, admission and luncheon.) Registration forms are available in the Church Office. Park in the church parking lot and meet the coach on Colorado Boulevard in front of the church. For further information and reservations, contact Joyce Dorn (626) 357-2112. Spaces still available. Hurry and call!



## Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations for April

April showers  
bring chapped lips.

What helps  
chapped lips?

We will collect  
chapstick &  
moisturizing  
cream.

## 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.

## New Opportunities for Christian Formation: “Why I Am a Christian”

Four sessions based on the book “A Generous Orthodoxy” by Brian McLaren will explore a landscape of faith that envisions a life focused on Jesus, driven by love, and defined by missional intent. Through interactive presentations and sharing, we will walk through traditions of faith bringing to the center a way of life that draws us closer to Christ and to each other. We will look beyond the “us/them” paradigm to the blessed and ancient paradox of “we.”

Classes are “stand alone” with no outside reading required.

*Session 1:* The Seven Jesuses I Have Known

*Session 2:* Jesus and God B

*Session 3:* Would Jesus Be a Christian?

*Session 4:* Jesus: Savior of What?

Classes will be held on Thursdays beginning April 3rd through April 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Paul Cogger will facilitate these sessions. Sign up after worship or in the Church Office.

## Annual Men’s Retreat to be Held April 26th-27th in the Palisades

All men of Pasadena FUMC are invited to attend our annual men’s retreat April 26th to 27th sponsored by the United Methodist Men.



Registration is limited to 40 persons so be sure to register early. For additional information and registration materials, contact Paul

The retreat is being held at Aldersgate Retreat and Cultural Center known for hospitality of historic proportions.

A bed and breakfast environment located in the heart of Pacific Palisades, your registration fee of \$120 covers five meals, Saturday lodging and all program materials.

Cogger, retreat coordinator, by email at paul.cogger@sbcglobal.net

You can learn more about Aldersgate Retreat and Cultural Center by going to [www.CalPacCamps.org](http://www.CalPacCamps.org) and selecting Aldersgate under the campsites tab.

## Mission Opportunity – Help Rebuild A Church This Summer

Dear friends,

You may not be aware, but the sad fact is that many churches are maliciously burned every year. Our California-Pacific Conference has built the tradition of selecting one of these churches to help rebuild each summer. Work team leaders select a church, usually in the south, that does not have the resources necessary to rebuild on its own.

This summer we have the opportunity to travel to North Carolina and work during the week of August 23rd to 30th. For more information, please contact Rev. Yvonne Boyd,

the pastor of Altadena United Methodist Church, at (626) 797-2065 or email at [pywb@verizon.net](mailto:pywb@verizon.net).

Church friends and members who have gone in the past include Richard and Sarah Garner, Pam Marx, Megan and Holly Goldstein, and Daniel and Rosalie Niemann.

The Women’s Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries has worked since 1997 on this issue through the National Coalition for Burned Churches ([www.ncfbc.org](http://www.ncfbc.org)).

Sincerely,  
Elaine Enziminger

## Friends & Family Lunches Need Volunteers

The Friends and Family lunches are a huge success. Two years ago, we had between 60 to 70 people staying for the lunches. Now we are reaching 140 every month. Feeding this many people is a lot of work. If there is anyone interested in giving their support with their time 30 minutes to 1 hour on the Saturday before or the Sunday of the lunch, we of the Evangelism and Hospitality Committee would appreciate it.

Saturday	8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Prep work
	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Prep work
Sunday	8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Set up & Prep
	11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Clean up

If you are interested in giving of your time and talents and enjoy having a good time making food for 140 people, sign up on Sunday, March 30th, in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.

## New Church Pictorial Directory



Come one! Come all! We are creating a brand new church directory and we NEED YOU! Members and friends are encouraged to schedule a portrait sitting as soon as possible. The portrait sitting is FREE and you are entitled to a FREE 8x10 photograph and FREE pictorial directory just for having your picture taken. Appointments will be taken through the end of March on Sundays after church. You may also make an appointment on-line by going to our church website [www.fumcpasadena.org](http://www.fumcpasadena.org) and following the Pictorial Directory link on the homepage.

Don't wait too long; our pictorial directory won't be complete without YOU in it!

## "Heaven is Real" Reviewed at Hilltoppers Meeting April 21st

UMW Hilltoppers will meet April 21st at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Willa Dalrymple will be giving us a very stimulating book review on "Heaven is Real" by Don Piper. This is a riveting account of a car accident that gave the author 90 minutes in heaven and shows us how to embrace God's grace so we can find joy.

For further information, call Irene Atkinson (626) 795-2393.

## Sky Meadows Needs Workers



If you don't want to stay in town for Super Saturday, you can join the dedicated group of volunteers who will be sprucing up Camp Sky Meadows for the

summer camps that rent our facility. These paying camps help to keep our own camp operating in the black. This is a good chance to see the camp if you have never been there and have some great fellowship in return for a little work. If you know any group that would be interested in renting the camp for a week or a weekend, be sure to let Mike Lindsey know. His number at camp is (909) 866-2268. Sign up in Fellowship Hall after worship or e-mail Barbara Gorton at [h\\_bgorton456@sbcglobal.net](mailto:h_bgorton456@sbcglobal.net)

## CPK Fundraiser a Success

Thank you to all who participated in the California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser for the youth. We had a very successful day and raised over \$400.00.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Heifer Project and the balance will be used for the 2008 choir tour.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Mark Your  
Calendars!

Bishop  
Swenson  
Scheduled  
to Preach  
June 15th



...  
FUMC  
also  
celebrates  
Father's Day  
&  
Choir  
Appreciation  
Sunday!

...  
See you there!

# MARCH

## FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:

28-30	Work Camp	Sky Meadows
29	8:00am Super Saturday	Church Premises
30	8:50am Forum	Church Lounge
	9:07am SpiritSeekers Adult Sun School	Adult Lounge
	10:00am Sunday Morning Worship	Sanctuary
	11:45am Church Council Meeting	Church Lounge
	4:00pm Confirmation Class	Jr. High Lounge
31	7:00pm Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge

# APRIL

02	9:00am Pasadena Homeless Prevention	Great Hall
	6:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting	Church Lounge
	7:00pm Home Group Meeting	Off-site
03	2:00pm Lifetouch Photo Sitzings begin	Great Hall
	6:00pm Special Called Church Council	Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm Why I Am a Christian	Church Lounge
04	1:00pm Lifetouch Photo Sitzings begin	Great Hall
05	10:00am Lifetouch Photo Sitzings begin	Great Hall
06	8:50am Forum	Church Lounge
	9:07am SpiritSeekers Adult Sun School	Adult Lounge
	10:00am Morning Worship	Sanctuary
	11:45am Girl Scout Troop 529	Rooms 200/300
	1:00pm Chamber Music	Chapel
	4:00pm Confirmation Class	Church Lounge
07	7:00pm Christian Believer	Adult Lounge
	7:00pm Jesus in the Gospels	Church Lounge
08	9:30am Yarn Ministry	Church Lounge
	7:00pm Evangelism & Hospitality Comm	Church Lounge
10	7:00pm Why I Am a Christian	Church Lounge
11	12:30pm Aldersgate Forum	Church Lounge
	1:00pm Lifetouch Photo Sitzings begin	Great Hall

## Weekly & Ongoing FUMC Events

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	
9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship
11:30am	Youth Handbell Choir
5:15pm	Youth Choir
6:45pm	UMYF Dinner & Program Fellowship Hall
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	
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
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	
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*

Charles Bohannon	Bronnie McNabb
Wayne Brubaker	Jeff Morrison
Stephen Bumb	Norm Schmidt
Lem Carlos	Mrs. C. Stanfield
José Casillas	Theresa Stewart
Patrice Daniels	Bishop Mary Ann
Alfred Dimacali	Swenson
Lucille Estephanian	Ladd Thomas
Casey Gonzales	Russ Walker
George Griffith	Tom Wegener
Pat Hall	Diana Yam
Peggy Hendricks	Timothy Yim
Holly Dale Howard	
Sylvia Jacoby	
Evelyn Mac Dougall	
Jeff Masiello	



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