



The Messenger

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FUMC Welcomes Rev. Frank Trotter, Jr.!

On Sunday March 4th, it was announced that Bishop Mary Ann Swenson has selected Rev. Dr. Frank Trotter, Jr. to be our new Senior Minister effective July 1, 2007. It is the Bishop's prerogative to make these changes and each minister serves a one year term and must be reappointed annually.

Rev. Trotter comes to us from the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. where he has served as Senior Minister since 2002. He has been Senior Minister at three previous churches in the Baltimore - Washington Conference since 1976. He brings great experience in preaching, pastoral care, theology and the arts, and stewardship. He has been an effective fundraiser for his previous churches. Rev. Trotter has participated frequently at the Conference level in positions such as Judicial



Council, Conference Delegate, Board of Ordained Ministry and Board of Pensions. He received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Trotter's father was an Ordained Elder in the UMC as was his grandfather. He has other Trotter relatives that have served as ministers in the California-Nevada Conference. He is also an accomplished pianist and organist.

We look forward to having him with us in July. You can read his recent sermons at his current church's website, nationalchurch.org.

Prior to Rev. Trotter's arrival, we will be celebrating the ministry of Diane and Rich Garner at FUMC on Sunday, June 3rd after the service. Please stay tuned for more details.

Preparing for Easter: April 8, 2007

Preparation is vital to being able to receive and enjoy the wealth of any experience or event. Those who prepare fully are more open to the richness of all that unfolds before them.

Easter is one of these event-experiences, to a Christian, the greatest of all that is undertaken or imagined. Though it begins with an empty tomb, the dialogue: "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed." centers us on God's gift of resurrection.

How do we prepare to receive this gift?

Reading through the final chapters of Luke (chapters 22 through 24) will create a biblical context for our experience. Praying will open up a conversation with God that will include the Easter dialogue.

Holy Week—the week between Palm Sunday and Easter—offers a number of activities and services that will also help us prepare. On Wednesday, we can take part in a seder as Jesus

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Preparing for Easter, *continued from page 1*

did as he came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Walking the labyrinth in Fellowship Hall can focus our attention on letting go of all that prevents us from taking up God's resurrection. Several services during the week will invite us to be healed, to pray, to wash feet, to gather around the Table to receive bread and wine, to hear the Chancel Choir's offering of Durufle's Requiem, and to take part in the telling of the Passion of Christ. There will even be an opportunity to share a hot cross bun on Saturday as we watch and

wait, the buns being made available to all who attend the Friday evening service.

Decide how you will prepare using the opportunities of Holy Week to move through the ordinary to the sacred. Your preparation will enhance your Easter "alleluias."

And then, just as the women did on Easter, gather others to this resurrection event by inviting them to join you in worship on Easter Sunday. Resurrection is not a secret to be kept but a joy to be shared.

A New Short-Term Disciple Class is Offered

We can never read and study the Bible too much. The books of the Bible provide an inexhaustible opportunity to join in the conversation between God and those who wish to be God's people. The words of the book may not change over the years, although new translations may contain updated words, but the conversation differs due to the dynamic experience.

All are invited—no matter what level of familiarity with scriptures one might have—to join with others in encountering God's truths revealed in the Book of Genesis. It is filled with poetry and myth, stories of great faith and fear, incidents

of deception, cruelty, forgiveness, and reconciliation, all shot through with grace. Many have explored the chapters of Genesis in childhood; it may be time to take a new, more mature and maturing look at all that this first book of the Bible offers.

The study will begin on Thursday evening, April 12th in the Library and conclude in mid-June. So that we will have sufficient books for all, please sign up in Fellowship Hall following worship services or through the church office, in person, over e-mail, or by telephone.

Genesis may provide a new beginning for faith.

All-Church Parking Lot Sale

No, we're not selling the parking lot. But we are opening the parking lot to the community to survey and purchase all that will be displayed there (and possibly in Great Hall) on Saturday, June 16th.

Rae Meyer has graciously consented to lead this event—although she would be very grateful for the willingness of others to join her in organizing the sale. Great Hall will be available

beginning Monday, June 11th, to receive all that you would wish to contribute to the sale.

Until that Monday, please set aside household items that can be shared with the homes of others. Beyond serving those needing such things, this is an opportunity to do a little (or a lot) spring cleaning.

We are blessed, let us bless others.

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Friendship Days is Going to Town!

Come along on Thursday, April 12th - We're GOING TO TOWN on a guided tour of interesting, new, old, weird, historic, unusual, funny, beautiful sites in Los Angeles! John Daugherty, our guide, promises to share with us the diversity and variety of the city. Lunch will be at the fascinating San Antonio Winery. Enjoy the city without the driving or parking! Join us for a fun day of fellowship with friends!

Call now to register! The cost is \$57.00

per person and includes the tour, transportation and luncheon.

Tour forms are in the church office. For information, call Joyce Dorn, (626)357-2112.

Save the Date! Thursday, June 7th will be our exciting next trip.



Pathfinders

The Pathfinders will be getting together at Pat Zeider's father's house in Pasadena on Saturday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner and book discussion of Bo Caldwell's novel, *The*

Distant Land of My Father. For more information or to RSVP for our April event, please call the Zeiders at (626) 794-1750.

Aldersgate Forum News: Pride and Passion

By H. Reid

Preschoolers are to enjoy their own unique Wonderland.

The guest speaker at our monthly luncheon meeting on March 9th was a familiar and popular figure hereabouts; namely Leslie Garriott, the hardworking director of FUMC Preschool.

Leslie presented a thorough and fully researched talk on the proposed Playgarden project, to occupy the present parking lot at the northwest corner of the main parking area, which is presently used for staff, handicapped personnel and as supplemental parking for church members and visitors.

With an "assist" from the ebullient Marilynne Kennedy, Leslie "guided" Aldersgate members through the interwoven landscape/ar

chitectural elements comprising the play areas, enclosures and garden areas. To this end a scale schematic design showing perspective views and floor plans, provided by an established landscape architectural firm, was displayed.

The enthusiasm and passion exhibited by Leslie Garriott for this ambitious project was palpable; an all-church meeting, featuring a "powerpoint presentation" and proposal resulted in a vote recommending the Playgarden.

Dr. Jerry Campbell, President of the Claremont School of Theology, will be the speaker at the next meeting on Friday, April 13th. Other guests at the 12:30 p.m. potluck luncheon in the Church Lounge will be members of the Polaris fellowship of Holliston United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited.

UMW Evening Circle

will meet on April 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. A program will be given by Julie Sansom and Willa Dalrymple sharing their experiences at the School of Missions last July. At the meeting, we will determine which India-Pakistan project we wish for our offering.

For reservations, please contact the church office at (626) 796-0157 or Marilynne Kennedy at (626) 796-9556. Hope to see you there.



Details from Debbie

A new opportunity to provide healing for AIDS in Africa

In September, 2005, I was honored to travel to Zimbabwe with a team of United Methodist Deacons to work with Africa University in the beginning stages of a new AIDS Ministry Project. Africa University is a United Methodist institution funded largely by UM apportionments.

I shared pictures and stories from that

trip with many, in the weeks after my return.

This project, called Tariro, (Shona for "HOPE") has now taken form with the approval of Africa University and is in need of funding.

I will be traveling to Florida in April for the UM National Convocation of Deacons where, among other things, we will be bringing pledge dollars to fund phase 1 of Project Tariro.

Helping HIV-AIDS Patients & Families to Live Positively In Zimbabwe

The mission of AIDS Project Tariro is to offer a holistic program to assist Zimbabweans to live positively with HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Project Tariro will be administered by Africa University in partnership with the Old Mutare Mission Hospital of the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. It will be supported by Friends of AIDS Project Tariro in the US with Volunteers in Ministry teams to help establish and renovate facilities for the respite center.

AIDS Project Tariro will offer respite and homebased care as well as support for persons infected by HIV/AIDS and shunned by their families.

AIDS Project Tariro is needed because... Zimbabwe has one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates of infection in the world. Although the rate of infection for 15-49 year olds has been reduced from 24.6% to 21.2% since the year 2000, the number of AIDS related deaths continues to rage at a rate of about 4,000 per week. It is estimated that over 2.2 million persons of the 11 million remaining in Zimbabwe are considered infected with HIV/AIDS. The average life expectancy has dramatically dropped to only 34 years. The Zimbabwe government reports that only 12,000 of those infected are currently receiving

antiretroviral treatment drugs.

AIDS Project Tariro is needed because... Zimbabwe, which is experiencing its worst economic crisis and severe food shortages since independence, has lost over half of its health professionals through outmigration. Over 80 percent of adults are unemployed and live under the poverty line of US \$1.00 income per day. Inflation rates have risen to over 2,000 percent. After many years of an initial denial, the Zimbabwe government now acknowledges the seriousness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but lacks resources to respond.

AIDS Project Tariro is needed because... Although both private and government groups are providing education and some assistance to AIDS orphans, little attention, if any, has been given to assisting adult persons living with HIV/AIDS. These adults can learn how to live positively with hope and support and receive resources to confront death-inducing stigmatization and shunning. Their families and community can be helped to accept them.

I invite you to contribute to Project Tariro if you feel called to share in this way. Checks may be made to FUMC Pasadena, noting "Project Tariro."

Library to Support Heifer Project

By Ruth MacPherson

There are at least \$50 available for the Heifer Project using a revised READ to FEED program. \$1.00 will be donated for every FUMC Library book checked out and returned with an age-appropriate book report or review of it. Any one of you - adult or child - can read and report. Not only will you enjoy reading one of our books, your review or report of the book will be shared on our library bulletin board, and \$1.00 each goes to the Heifer Project. We need these by Easter Sunday.

See the Library – Adult, Preschool, Junior, or Teens, for age-appropriate books to check out, and for the appropriate book report or review form you will need. When the book is returned, have the review/report inside it. Age appropriate forms will also be given to Sunday school teachers for their students.

- In the case of children as young as age 2 to 6 who “read” by pictures and listening, “parent”

observations, with a child’s story-picture, etc. can be recorded as the report.

- For children ages 7 to 12, a summarizing sentence, “This book was about _____” plus a story-picture and any comments the student wishes to add, will be enough.

- For adults, college students, high school and middle school people, we’d like a short summary and a statement of your response to the message of the book – why it did or didn’t appeal to you. I hope some of you feel like making your own “illustrations” ie. diagram, map, sketch, etc. to include with your review/report, even if you are an adult or a youth.

Surely there are at least 50 of you who will help get this money to the Heifer Project. In fact, there may be more \$ available if others offer additional funds for this project. Join us in this opportunity.

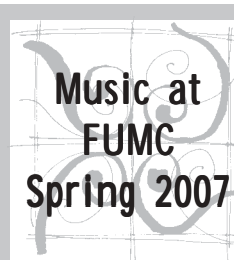
Preschool Press

By Leslie Garriott

We are so happy to have the opportunity to serve by creating a beautiful play garden space for the children of our church. We are very grateful to everyone for their questions and support though the process of approval. It will be a wonderful way for our church to reach out to the community though the powerful miracles of God in the natural world. Please consider how you might be a part of this exciting project both in construction and the daily work of maintaining our garden space. We will be blessed with everyone’s talents and gifts that are shared with the children of our church. If you know of any foundations or granting organizations that fund

in this area please feel free to share that information with the Preschool board or Leslie Garriott. Fundraising has officially begun and this weekend we will be starting with the Family Street Fair. The parents are sharing their time and talents to help create a great day of community outreach. We will include pictures of the wonderful day in our next *Messenger* article.

Thank you all again, for your support of the children of our church. We will look forward to your presence and participation in the workings of the Children’s Garden in the near future.



Sunday, April 15th
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

Special Session of the Church Conference

A Church Conference was held on March 25, 2007 for the sole purpose of receiving



and acting upon a recommendation from the Preschool Board regarding the establishment of a play garden. Presiding Elder for the Conference was Rev. Robert Calderhead, Pastor of La Canada United Methodist Church.

Preschool Board Chair, Marilynne Kennedy, read an abbreviated version of the recommendation,

which is written in full below as presented orally and in written form for all present before the vote.

Rev. Debbie Gara introduced Eric Nelson, Playground Consultant, Ronnie Siegel, Landscape Architect, and mentioned the absent Grant Writing Consultant, Ed Young.

Eric Nelson made a PowerPoint presentation.

Leslie Garriott, Preschool Director, explained the design of the play garden. Marilynne Kennedy clarified the financial responsibilities and planning.

The meeting was opened to extended and diverse comments, questions and discussion. Marilynne Kennedy read the full text of the Preschool recommendation prior to the vote:

The First United Methodist Church of Pasadena recognizes that an essential part of the mission and ministry of our church in this place and time is to children and their families. It is

essential for the future of our church and for our future growth in both ministry and in numbers that we continue to provide ministry in ways that meet the emerging needs of today's children and families.

We are thankful for the legacy of those members of this church who in their wisdom have provided this facility from which to do ministry. We also understand that we are God's stewards of this legacy.

Therefore, on this 25th day of March, 2007, we of the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena All-Church Conference, approve proceeding with the development of the proposed Children's Play Garden. We authorize the Preschool Advisory Board, First United Methodist Church of Pasadena Children's Ministries, and First United Methodist Church of Pasadena Board of Trustees to work together to accomplish this project and we direct the Board of Trustees and the Preschool Advisory Board to negotiate and sign all permit applications, documents, contracts, and grant applications applicable to each body. It is agreed that this approval is contingent upon agreement with Cokesbury.

Tabulation of the ballots resulted in 76 Yes votes, 8 No votes. The recommendation was adopted.

This information is compiled from the minutes of the conference.

Handouts distributed at the conference with detailed information about the Playgarden and a compilation of the comments for the rationale of voting for and against the recommendation are available through the church office.

We are grateful to all who attended and participated in this important decision.

UMW Hilltoppers

will meet April 16th in the church lounge at 1:30 p.m. We will take a stroll through "The Butchart Gardens." Please come and join us.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 04.08	Easter Sunday	Sunday, 04.15	
8:30 am & 11:00 am	Adult and Jr. Libraries open	8:30 am & 11:00 am	Adult and Jr. Libraries open
10:00 am	Worship in the Sanctuary	8:50 am	Pastor's Forum
11:15 am	Coffee Hour	9:00 am	Children's, Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School
11:30 am	Youth Handbell Choir	10:00 am	Worship in the Sanctuary
12:30 pm	Church Conference Meeting	11:15 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, 04.09		11:30 am	Missions, Peace & Justice Meeting Church Council
7:00 pm	<i>Christian Believer</i>	11:45 am	Youth Handbell Choir Girl Scout Troop 529 Meeting
Tuesday, 04.10		1:00 pm	Recital: David and Junko Garrett
9:30 am	The Yarn Ministry	4:30 pm	Youth Council Meeting
10:00 am	Social Service Office Open	5:15 pm	Youth Choir
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 27 Meeting Evangelism Hospitality Meeting Worship Committee Meeting	6:30 pm	Questers
7:30 pm	Adult Handbell Choir Finance Committee Meeting AA Meeting	6:45 pm	Youth Dinner & Program
Wednesday, 04.11		Monday, 04.16	
10:00 am	Foundation Office Open	1:30 pm	Hilltoppers
7:00 pm	<i>Companions in Christ</i> Young People's AA Meeting	7:00 pm	<i>Christian Believer</i>
7:30 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Tuesday, 04.17	
Thursday, 04.12		10:00 am	Social Service Office Open
8:30 am	Friendship Days	7:00 pm	Adult Ministry Boy Scout Troop 27 Meeting
6:00 pm	FUMC Preschool: PTA	7:30 pm	Adult Handbell Choir AA Meeting
7:00 pm	<i>Jesus in the Gospels</i>	Wednesday, 04.18	
NEW!	<i>Disciple Bible Study: Genesis</i>	10:00 am	Foundation Office Open
Friday, 04.13		6:00 pm	Methodist Foundation Meeting
12:30 pm	Aldersgate Forum	6:30 pm	Preschool Board Meeting
Saturday, 04.14		7:00 pm	<i>Companions in Christ</i> Young People's AA Meeting
9:30 am	Quilters	7:30 pm	Youth Missions Council Meeting Adult Choir Rehearsal
		Thursday, 04.19	
		7:00 pm	<i>Jesus in the Gospels</i> <i>Disciple Bible Study: Genesis</i>
		Saturday, 04.21	
		7:00 pm	District UMYF Dance

The Congregation in Worship

Sunday, 04.8.07



Text: Luke 24:1-12
Sermon: From Terror to Amazement
Richard C. Garner, preaching

Easter flowers are given by Lee and Joan Bothast in celebration of the Risen Christ and for the blessing of their grandchildren.

Sunday, 04.15.07

Text: John 20:19-31
Sermon: Resurrection Living: See and Believe
Richard C. Garner, preaching



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