



# The Messenger

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## Glad I'm Here!

Dear Members and Friends of FUMC,

It is a real joy to be among you as your new senior minister. When Bishop Mary Ann Swenson called me from a Cabinet meeting that was being held in Hawaii on Thursday, February 15, inviting me to come to FUMC, I was filled with wonder at her graciousness and no small amount of anxiety over moving to a state and culture about which I knew very little. But when I met with your Staff-Parish Relations Committee on Wednesday, February 28, I came away with the glimmerings of what might be possible in mutual ministry in this place in Christ's name. As each day has passed since then, those glimmerings have been maturing into genuine excitement which can be a little unsettling in and of itself!

You have already made me feel most welcome and I thank you for that. Several of you even e-mailed me before I arrived — and you get a special “thanks”! (That's the first time in my ministry that's happened.) I want to thank

the members of SPRC as well as Rev. Debbie Gara and Pastor Bob Rhodes for providing me with helpful pointers and encouragement. And I want to offer my heartfelt appreciation to Rev. Richard Garner who not only has offered impeccable hospitality to me as his successor but also presented me with a beautiful stole which was used in my first worship service last Sunday. Thank you, Rich!

I have been sent to be among you to practice how we offer our very best to the loving God who called each of us into being. We are sent to each other, in a way, to journey together, to build upon all that has gone before by our foremothers and forefathers, and to find new paths and new ways of making Christ's presence known here. So be it. Let's get on with it. In Christ's name.

Dr. Frank Trotter

## Ben Clairday of Troop 27 Completes His Eagle Project

Have you seen the area behind the church on Green and Oakland? Benjamin Clairday, with the help of 19 Scouts and adults, recently completed his Eagle Project — relandscaping the area. Collectively, the boys spent over 100 hours repairing sprinklers and replanting the area with flowers and decorative shrubs. Benjamin will be caring for the area through the summer to make sure all is well with the plants.



# SUMMER FUN AT FUMC

## Monday Night at the Movies!

Presented by FUMC Adult Education

July 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge

Pizza and salad, popcorn and dessert!  
Youth and adults stay for a showing and discussion  
of the wonderful movie, "Finding Neverland."  
Children will be supervised in the Youth Lounge upstairs  
with a kid-friendly movie all their own and special activities!

Please call the church office to let us know you are coming  
so that we may order enough food. Childcare for the very  
youngest will be available if requested.



### Table of Contents

From Dr. Trotter  
page one

Summer Fun  
page two

Annual Conference  
page three

Nature Playground  
page four

Vacation Bible School  
page five

60 Backpacks  
page six

Goodbye  
page seven

Worship Schedule  
page eight

page two



Labor Day Arts & Craft  
**FAMILY CAMP**

### Save the Date... September 1-3, 2007 at Camp Sky Meadows

Plans are underway for our annual family camp during Labor Day weekend. Crafts will be available for all ages. Watch for brochures in August, but mark your calendars now!

### Be Part of the Summer Choir

Through the month of July, we invite your participation in the Summer Choir. The choir sings less demanding music, and there is NO Wednesday night rehearsal. Just arrive at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary for a rehearsal immediately preceding worship. EVERYONE is welcome! Don't read music? That's OK. We have plenty of seasoned leadership to guide you through the anthems each week. Don't know if you're a tenor or an alto? That's OK. We'll help you with that, too! Nervous? Please don't be! The members of the choir are very welcoming and no one will yell at you, stare at you or judge you. All that is necessary is the love of singing. We'll help you get through the rest! No need



to sign up or call...JUST SHOW UP!  
Join our fun, fellowship and participate in worship through music...it will lift your soul!

# 2007 CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 20-24, REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA

### To Be the Cup Overflowing... with Peace

This was the theme of the **2007 California-Pacific Annual Conference**. This was the first annual conference that I have ever attended as a lay member. Growing up in the church as a preacher's kid, I "went" to many of the annual conferences. But as kids, we were playing outside and being the best little angels we knew how to be with the other kids of pastors. So I went to the Cal-Pac conference with a great sense of interest and many questions.

The theme, "To Be the Cup Overflowing...with Peace," was supported by a wonderful Bible study lead each day by Dr. Bruce Birch, Dean and Woodrow W. and Mildred B. Miller Professor of Biblical Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Dr. Birch focused on the importance of Shalom and the many meanings of the word. We studied the message from Micah 6:1-8 for the foundation

of Shalom and the covenant it creates with God; Jeremiah 29:4-11 for the challenges of Shalom as we search for hope in the midst of challenges; and Ephesians 2:13-17 for restoration of Shalom we find in Jesus Christ.

I found a great peace at the conference. I am inspired and invigorated by the work of our conference and our Church. I feel challenged to do more and be more. But most importantly, I feel surrounded by those of like mind who, by working together toward a common goal, can do anything.

It is that same feeling that I want to bring to First United Methodist Church of Pasadena. Together we can do anything if we put our minds to it and have a shared vision of Shalom. So please take a moment to read the passages from the Bible about Shalom and find the inspiration to be that cup of overflowing peace.

*Andy Goebel*

### APPOINTMENTS OF INTEREST

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson circulated announcement of the following pastoral appointments for this coming conference year:

Reverend Dr. Frank E. Trotter, Jr. – First UMC, Pasadena

Reverend Mrs. Debbie Gara – First UMC, Pasadena

Reverend Mr. N. Adiel A. DePano – Superintendent, Pasadena District

Reverend Mr. Thomas C. Hill, III – Conference Staff for Peace and Justice Ministries

Reverend Ms. Lily Villamin – Superintendent, Long Beach District

Reverend Mr. John Woodall – Westwood UMC

Reverend Mrs. Paige Eaves – Crescenta Valley UMC, Montrose

Reverend Mrs. Kirsten Oh Russell – Appointed to School

Reverend Mrs. Holly Reinhart-Marean (and Tom) – Christ-By-the-Sea, Newport Beach

Reverend Mrs. Yvonne Williams Boyd – Altadena UMC

Reverend Mr. Rob Calderhead – La Canada UMC

Reverend Mr. James Stevenson - Scott UMC, Pasadena

The office may be contacted for news of other appointments.

Mr. Bob Rhodes will continue as a Local Hire pastor at First UMC, Pasadena

### Who amongst us attended Annual Conference?

Wanda Gae Stefansson, Joe Henry, Marlene Farrell, Donna & Kris Youngstrom were lay members from FUMC. Joan & Lee Bothast, Andy Goebel, Diane Garner, Pam Allen and Bob Rhodes were lay members in other capacities. All clergy currently connected with our church attended including Rich Garner, Debbie Gara, Kirsten Oh Russell and Frank Trotter.

# HOW DO WE SERVE OUR CHILDREN?

WITH...



## An update on the FUMC Nature Playgarden

It is now time to update you on our exciting project to transform part of our parking lot into a beautiful, professionally designed space where children can learn, play and interact with nature. The Nature Playgarden will be a blessing to the preschool as well as our larger church community.

As you know, this past March this project was officially approved through an all-church conference. Preparations are in process for the pursuing of grant funding from foundations committed to improving early childhood education. We have received commitments from several within our church family to assist with labor and other in-kind contributions. With the continued success of our preschool finances each month and the award of a grant or receipt of other sizable contributions, we hope to begin Phase One of the project in the near future.

We also want you to be aware of how you might assist in making this dream a reality. Among a number of opportunities for participation, one idea is to help facilitate connections with corporate sources of funding within our community. Corporations and other businesses often have giving programs for projects that benefit the community, but these programs are not always widely publicized. Some of you may work for such businesses or know executives or

others involved in making corporate giving decisions. You can help us realize the Nature Playgarden by providing leads or making contacts that could result in contributions, large and small, to this exciting project.

The work we are doing to locate foundation funding involves a formal process of submitting applications and competing with other organizations that are seeking funding for worthy projects. Corporate giving is often a more personal process of gaining access to the decision makers and demonstrating to them the benefits of giving to projects and programs that will benefit the community in which they operate and where their employees and customers live.

The playgarden team is prepared to follow up with professional materials and presentations to corporate decision makers. We need you to give prayerful consideration to what and who you may know that can move us in this direction. Please contact Leslie Garriott, Preschool Director, or Debbie Gara if you can assist in this matter or have other suggestions.

We are grateful for the expressions of support and will continue to share our progress. Please feel free to talk further about the Nature Playgarden with Leslie Garriott, Debbie Gara, or Marilynne Kennedy, FUMC Preschool Board Chair.



# HOW DO WE SERVE OUR CHILDREN?

AND...



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights with God July 9 through July 13, 2007 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. daily

Registration will continue through July 6th in the church office. Cost is \$30 per child; \$75 maximum per family. We want every child to attend; scholarship assistance is available upon request.

This year our Mission Focus will be with local programs that help Pasadena area children in need. ACAC (Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker) provides needed school supplies in backpacks. We will be filling backpacks with a different school item each day.

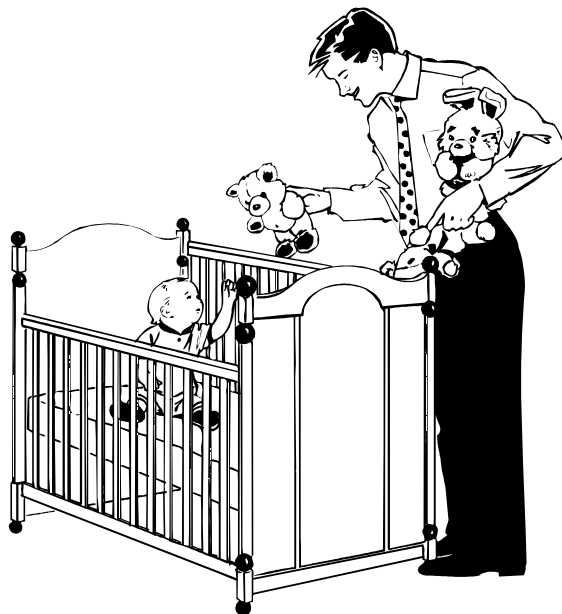
We will also fill our offering basket with monetary donations for a mission project that helps children in need.

Note: We also need backpacks to fill! Many of the foster children served through ACAC are teens who need Jansport and other strong backpacks costing between \$20-30 each. If you bring a new backpack before July 9th, please take it to the church office for Rev. Debbie Gara.

AND...

...an opportunity

FUMC Children's Ministries is committed to safe and loving child care for our youngest. In addition to a rotation of youth and adult volunteers, we seek to ensure weekly consistent care through a paid child care staff person each Sunday morning in the nursery and preschool rooms. **We are currently seeking to fill this position.** Hours are 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each Sunday at an hourly rate of \$12.50. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Rev. Debbie Gara at [dgara@fumcpasadena.org](mailto:dgara@fumcpasadena.org) or at (626) 796-0157. Interested persons will receive an application for background check screening through our Sanctuaries of Safety program.



### Pasadena District Camps 2007

Junior High Camp for  
entering 7th - 9th  
graders

at Camp Colby,  
Sunday, July 22 -  
Saturday, July 28.

\$260.00 per camper  
Rev. David Palmer and  
Demoree Deocales,  
Dean & Registrar.

Senior High Camp for  
entering 9th -  
graduating seniors

at Camp Wrightwood,  
Sunday, July 29 -  
Saturday, August 4.

\$260.00 per camper  
Rev. Greg Pittman and  
Sarah Miller,  
Dean & Registrar.

District Camp  
Registrar:

Nancy Person  
(323) 257-7132 or  
[campregistrar@adelphia.net](mailto:campregistrar@adelphia.net)



# 60 ACAC Backpacks in Honor of Bishop Swenson

The school year may have just ended for many students in the area, but it is time to start collecting back-to-school supplies and backpacks for the Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker (ACAC) program. This year FUMC has committed to providing 60 filled backpacks to the ACAC Back to School Program in honor of Bishop Mary Ann Swenson's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are just one of many churches throughout the conference honoring the Bishop with outreach projects using 60 as the theme.

Vacation Bible School will again be filling backpacks for our ACAC caseworker's clients as part of their mission project. However, we need all of the congregation's participation in meeting the goal of 60 filled backpacks. Please help the church honor Bishop Swenson by donating whatever you are able to give to this outreach project. The backpack sizes and the school supplies needed to fill them are listed in this article.

A collection point will be set up starting the middle of July and continuing through the middle of August at the inside entrance to the Fellowship Hall. You can also contact Pam Burns on (818) 551-9006 or the church office if you have questions.



## Needed School Supplies:

Backpacks: medium for lower elementary; large and sturdy for upper elementary, middle school and high school  
#2 Pencils (boxes)  
Ballpoint Pens (red, blue and black)  
3-Ring Binders (2 – 3 inch)  
College-ruled Filler Paper for 3 ring binders (packages)  
Tabbed Dividers (individual packages)  
12" Rulers  
Pocket Folders (plastic folders that fit inside 3 ring binders & hold items like pencils)  
Yellow Highlighters  
Single-subject Spiral Notebooks  
Pink Eraser Wedge  
Box of 24 Crayons  
Glue Sticks  
Small Bottles of White Glue  
Blunt Scissors  
Composition Notebooks  
English Dictionary or English Thesaurus (pocket size)

Thank you for supporting this project. This is a way we can help within our community.

## *Dinners in the Cloister*

*...pre-play dinners before "Anything Goes!" Tickets will be on sale each Sunday through July 29 for the lovely patio dinners served in the cloister each night before this year's summer youth musical (play dates are August 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th). Dinner is \$10 per person, but the play is free. Dinner guests have priority seating for the play. Please join us.*

# A TIME OF CHANGE

## Thanks and Good Bye

Thanks to all for your grace (and sometimes courage) in joining with me in ministry over these past two years. My life has been gifted, enriched, and blessed by your willingness to be the church and to allow us to share that adventure with you. You will be warmly remembered over the years.

Thank you also for your generous gifts; we do not yet know how we will use it but however it is employed, it will be with thanksgiving for its offering.

As we say good-bye, we remember that we are together held in God's presence even as we are apart. The very word "good-bye" (so oddly spelled, although the final "e" is giving way to modernity) is a contraction of "God be with ye," an appropriate blessing whenever people part. The Pasadena

congregation will be in our prayers as we leave to join another.

As a United Methodist pastor in covenant with sisters and brothers who also serve in our annual conference, there is great interest in assuring new pastoral relationships will grow and flourish. Therefore, though you will remain in my thoughts and prayers, I will not contact you during the next year. You will be well served by your pastors, Dr. Frank Trotter, Debbie Gara, and Bob Rhodes; they are present to lead, to share the Word, and to provide pastoral care.

Again, thanks and good-bye.

*Diane, Rich, and Sarah Garner*

## Senior Pastor Conjures Up Cookery School as his "Last Hurrah"!

The June 8th luncheon meeting of Aldersgate Forum started with the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," followed by the installation of officers conducted by Pastor Rich Garner who was commended for his 100% attendance at our class meetings featuring guest speakers.

Proving once again his inventiveness and original thought processes, Pastor Rich assigned individual tasks to each of the newly installed officers. Their ultimate task was to produce an edible batch of brownies to be consumed by all in attendance as a bonus dessert. Our newly installed co-chairpersons, Ed Sales and Mary Jane Bell, dressed in chef hats and scarlet aprons, took up positions at the head of the mixing table to supervise.

The successful result was verily "cookie magic" under pressure!

De Ette Barner was commended for her—and co-chair, Don Zimmerman's—leadership these past two years. De Ette responded by expressing her sincere appreciation for the support received from all Aldersgate Class members.

Pastor Rich, with characteristic restraint, attempted to deflect the numerous expressions of gratitude. He will be missed for his perpetual energy, dedication to the highest of Christian principles, his innate modesty, and passion for his chosen profession in life.

*H.E.D. Reid*

# The Congregation in Worship

Sunday, 07.15.07

Text: Luke 10:25-37  
Title: "Subversive Questions"  
Frank E. Trotter, Jr., preaching

Sunday, 07.22.07

Text: Luke 10:38-42  
Sermon: "The Seductiveness of Co-dependency"  
Frank E. Trotter, Jr., preaching

Sunday, 07.29.07

Text: Luke 11:1-13  
Sermon: "Invitation to Intimacy"  
Frank E. Trotter, Jr., preaching



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