



The Messenger

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Reaching Out!

One of the things that has struck me already about the congregation here at First Church is the very warm way in which you have reached to me in many ways. There have been e-mails, phone calls, visits, and even a bouquet of flowers placed on my desk this morning.

A congregation is known by how well it reaches out. When new visitors come, it's easier to sit in accustomed pews than to go and sit with someone who looks new. Of course, sometimes we're embarrassed to discover that the person who looks new has been a member for twenty years. But then again, a conversation that starts out of embarrassment can lead to new conversations and adventures and, often, to friendship. I hope that we do the very best job we can in reaching out to the visitors who come to our sanctuary on Sunday morning looking for a church home. I don't care who you are — you play a part in how well we reach out.

When we reach out to communities in need, there are others watching there, too, even if we don't know it. Those who go on a mission trip to Mexico or the Gulf Coast are making a witness and there are always those who see us in new places, stretching our faith, as well as those who see us when we don't stretch out toward those in need.

One of the ways to practice reaching out

on a daily basis is to get up, turn on your computer, and search for several links that lead you to charitable web sites. Once there, all you have to do is to click a button to trigger a contribution to that cause from one of the web site's sponsors. If you care about working to alleviate global hunger, you can go the Hunger Site (www.thehungersite.com).



Christ calls us to reach out

By clicking a button in the middle of the page, you enable sponsors to make a direct contribution of food to those in need. There are also other charities that are associated with this site: the Animal Rescue Site (www.theanimalrescuesite.com), the Breast Cancer Site (thebreastcancersite.com), the Literacy Site (www.theliteracysite.com), and, one of my favorites, the Rainforest Site for those of us who want to help protect and preserve the environment (therainforestsitesite.com). When you click this button, 11.5 square feet of rain forest are purchased by sponsors to be set aside as rain forests forever. The great thing about these associated charities is that you can go there daily and make a free donation.

OK, let's ratchet it up a bit. One of the charitable organizations in the world is sponsored by the United Methodist Church, our own denomination. It is called UMCOR (or United Methodist Committee on Relief). When you visit the UMCOR site at (www.umcor.org), you will be presented

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Pasadena Methodist Foundation

A Little of the History

From time to time, members of the congregation may read or hear about the Pasadena Methodist Foundation. They see the name but have little information about the organization or the vital role it plays in the life of the church. This is the first in a series of three articles that will appear in *The Messenger* to enhance our congregation's understanding of the Foundation's role in the life of our church, in the lives of the members of our congregation and the community at large.

In 1939, a small group of church members, led by Robert E. Dawson, met to discuss the idea of organizing an independent foundation that could handle, in trust, money that donors gave to support the church and its work. As a result of these initial meetings, a foundation that came to be known as the Pasadena Methodist Foundation was formed with the mission of providing "...aid and support of the work and program of the Methodist denomination." The Foundation's specific objectives were to offer "...aid to the old and indigent, assistance to youth in meeting of its educational needs, and general aid and assistance in all educational, religious and church activities of the Methodist denomination."

Initially, Foundation donors earmarked their donations for specific purposes. Income from one of the first donations managed by the trustees went toward pension payments for a minister and his spouse as specified by the donor. For the first twenty years of the Foundation's life, most of the income from a second trust was earmarked for certain college tuition scholarships.

In 1946, Mrs. Amy Crellin died, leaving the Foundation with new trust money for FUMC's Christian education ministry program, and not

tied to the educational needs of a selected group of students. This gift was the beginning of the Foundation's new direction for years to come. Other major gifts followed, including the Maxwell gifts designated for the church music ministry and organ.

Today, as a result of the generosity of donors throughout the last half of the 20th century, the Foundation plays a crucial role in the day-to-day operation of the church and the lives of its members. Annual grants made by the Foundation are made primarily from trust income so as not to reduce trust principal. Among other grants and scholarships made, the Foundation provided about \$384,000 or nearly 30% of the church's 2007 annual operating budget.

The Pasadena Methodist Foundation – Supporting the Summer Youth Musical Ministry



With the successful conclusion of the summer youth musical, the Pasadena Methodist Foundation

once again provided support to this valuable experience for church and community youth, and outreach to the greater community. The Foundation's annual support helps ensure that our talented young cast gets the support it needs through skilled directors, technical and construction supplies and safe staging and equipment.

[Foundation trust income derives from both designated and undesignated trust gifts. Grants are made consistent with these limitations. Undesignated bequests provide the Foundation with flexibility in meeting church and community needs as they arise.]

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40th Anniversary Annual Church & Synagogue Libraries Conference 2007

by Ruth McPherson

W. C. Fields once said, "I'd rather be in Philadelphia." However, I was happy to be there, at the recent 40th Anniversary Annual Church & Synagogue Libraries Conference of 2007 held in the Philadelphia and Valley Forge area. What a great privilege to attend any of the Church and Synagogue Libraries (CSLA) annual conferences, but especially so this year!

This 2007 conference began with an inspiring Interfaith Service on Sunday morning; the hymns and homily affirming that our church library mission is our calling. We had luncheon speakers, two of which were most inspiring. Most of you recognize Tony Campolo. Another speaker, Dr. Larry Day, a counselor, related how his feelings of failure haunted him throughout childhood, adolescence and adulthood. He eventually found self esteem and success but by a different path than for most of us. In his book, "Self Esteem: by God's Design," he credits several books that opened his way to self-value and eventual success as a counselor.

There were five series of workshops offered. I was interested in creating newsletters; how to automate the library; basic book care and repair; and creating book clubs. In between workshops, lunches and dinners, there was an exhibit hall where books, computer programs, and library supplies were sold by different companies. The

most fun was the silent auction. I was able to outbid on three books at a good price. At Meet the Authors, I bought five author-signed books and one signed by an illustrator. Most of these you will meet at our Valentine fundraiser.

We had wonderful dinner entertainment – an acappella ensemble, and a musical family playing dulcimer, fiddle and other string instrumental folk music. I brought back two CDs of Women of the Bible, portrayed by actress/speaker Anita Gutschick, along with twelve other books/tapes for children, youth and adults. My name was drawn for a prize – two 18 inch hand puppets for Story Times. One is a princess and the other is a Bible character.

The highlight of this conference was the Awards Dinner where one of my friends received a national award. From my CSLA-LACA chapter, Elaine Amromin of Temple Beth David in Temple City, received the Pat Tabler Award for the renewal of her synagogue library. Both her rabbi and I were there to cheer her on. You can read more about this in our Congregational Libraries Today in the library.

I'm grateful that I could attend this conference. It was a time of spiritual renewal and inspiration. Returning with fresh vision, I feel blessed, affirmed and thrilled to serve our congregation and God in our library.



Pathfinders' Annual Cook-off September 8, 2007

Check your cook-books, recipe boxes, Food Network programs and get your winning dishes ready for our annual Pathfinders' Cook-off. The categories are salads; main dishes; desserts. The event will be at Elaine Enzminger's son's home in Altadena on Saturday, September 8, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Elaine at (626) 755-0801 or erenzminger@yahoo.com. See you there.

Vacation Bible School Lifts Off and Soars!



The theme for our Vacation Bible School was Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights With God. Over 100 children and staff did this well in many ways from July 9th through 13th.

Here are some highlights of the week of VBS:

- Energized singing and drama bits in our opening time in the Chapel.
- Mounds of backpacks and school supplies delivered each day for our mission of helping area school children in need.
- Incredible science experiments, crafts, recreation and music in our centers after class time.
- Doing this all with our FUMC Preschool kids and teachers.
- Healthy snacks for kids; yummy diet busters for staff in the lounge.
- Water play Thursday in the Cloister with Dr. Frank Trotter and Rev. Debbie Gara drenched with buckets.
- The laughter and joy that all of the above and so much more invited in all through the week.
- A nurse on staff who used one band-aid all week.

- Praying and learning Bible lessons together reaffirming that this is all about God who calls us to follow, trust, listen, repent and serve.

So we're trying to do that better, because we are God's children; we are the church. And we thank God for VBS! Yah!

Here are the people who made it possible:

Directors: Anne Dimmock and Debbie Gara
Staff:

Megan Garriott
Jean Stewart
Hanh Lee
A.J. Wolf
Jane Lambert
Elise Gabriel
Rosalie Niemann
Jim Doyel
Julie Cole
Jami Carrera
Susan Brubaker
Irene Atkinson
Donna Overton
Shirley Lohr
Crystal Powers
Chrissa Hayes
Merete Halverson
Carol Tavis
Dick Pederson

Jennie Beard
Tommy Elrod
Pam Marx
Julie Cole
Marlene Farrell
Donna Youngstrom
Tara Garriott
Megan Goldstein
Ruth MacPherson
Nick Vogt
Cindy Pearson
Sean Altice
Marcia Wallace
Cheron Beard
Veronica Caldera
Elizabeth Seow
Rosie Hernandez
Leslie Garriott



Great Job, FUMC Youth!
Musical Missions Connections

Hats off to the youth of First United Methodist for the tremendous job they've done in mission this summer.

Here's a recap of their accomplishments:

Bake Sales: The youth held two bake sales that netted more than \$250 which they used to purchase about 10 backpacks and supplies. There were also additional donations from individual young people.

Cloister Dinner: Peanut butter and tuna donations resulted in four full red barrels.

Picture Booth: Elsa and Wendy Peron created the picture booth during the cloister dinner and raised about \$160. Half of that money went to drama and the remainder was designated for the Social Services Ministry.

Congratulations, Youth! We are proud of you and the success of your summer of giving to mission. We look forward to your mission strategies for the Fall!



Words cannot express my feelings about your prayers surrounding me as I continue to recover from my fall. I thank you, I thank God, and I thank our wonderful Prayer and Square Quilters.

Catherine Wegener

Fall Intergenerational Drama Coming Soon



Rehearsals will begin in mid-September for this fall's mystery musical. Participants in this intergenerational endeavor are sophomores in high school to 90+ years. The performances will be November 1, 2 and 3. Rehearsals will likely be Monday and Thursday evenings. If you can't make both nights, consider coming for one and being in the chorus. It's great fun. Contact the church office at (626) 796-0157 or Denise Campbell or Pam Marx (just4shopping@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Dear Debbie Gara, Anne Dimmock, Vacation Bible School Students & Staff,



Thank you for collecting backpacks and back-to-school supplies during Vacation Bible School this year. Your generous donations will make it possible for children in the foster

care system to have the backpacks and supplies they need to start the school year. Thank you for showing the children in the ACAC program that even strangers care.

Each VBS participant needs to know how special your efforts are to those receiving your gifts.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Pam Burns

Youth Choir Tour

by Merete Halverson



Harvest Festival Returns

Harvest Festival, the youth-sponsored arts and crafts fair and lunch, will return this fall. The youth invite crafty people throughout the congregation to contribute to this choir and mission tour fund-raiser. If you like to sew, we may have printed fabric items for completion. Contact Wendy Peron for more info.

Choir Tour 2007 was filled with many wonderful things. As a senior, this was my last choir tour as a youth. Yes I am “technically” allowed to come back next year after my freshman year in college, but it is not the same. I have enjoyed my past 6 years in this youth choir and each tour has its special moments.

This past June we traveled to the New England area and had an adventurous tour, it included lots and I mean lots of walking and many different activities. I think that it was very well planned and had a variety of things to do. We started out by flying to Logan airport in Boston, MA. We landed on Saturday the 23rd, and it was a late night. We went to our hotel and had an adventure trying to get a late night snack. The Wendy’s that we went to closed early except for the drive-thru, so there in the Wendy’s drive-thru was the entire choir. We got back to our hotel and in the rooms,

at 12:30 or 1:00 a.m. At 1:30 a.m. the fire alarm went off and we all evacuated the building. There we were standing in the driveway of the hotel in our PJs and everyone is saying “what’s going on, is there a fire...” we were all clueless. My fellow youth and friends made this situation way better then it could have possibly been.

The next day was an early morning after a late night, I along with my 3 other roommates and the rest of the choir got about 3 hours of sleep. We had an early worship service and then two tours following. That night we had our first full concert and a good turnout in the audience. These people were so welcoming and friendly. They had a wonderful potluck ready for us and then the home stays that night were great too. We were spreading the word through our music and the way people reacted just made it even more fun to do.

The next day we were dropped off at the church and headed to another activity which included sailing without any wind. That night

Youth Choir Tour, continued on page 8

Adult Education Opportunities in the Fall:

Long and short term classes for Bible study and spiritual growth will again be offered this fall on weekday evenings.

If you have not yet participated in a spiritual study small group recently or perhaps at all in your life, it is time to give this gift to God, yourself and your faith journey. You will be blessed.

Adult Ministries Committee will seek to offer a range of opportunities for the new Christian seeking basic Bible knowledge, and the seasoned learner seeking to challenge their faith in ever deepening ways.

Watch for a new Sunday morning adult Sunday school class as well. Stay tuned, and watch for the “Together in Faith” Adult Ministries brochure in August.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Labor Day Arts and Crafts Family Camp

September 1-3; Camp Sky Meadows

Plans are underway for a fabulous family camp as is our tradition Labor Day weekend. Crafts will be available for all ages. Our craft designers this year are Doug and Susan Rogers and they are busy designing a wonderful array of creativity for all!

Dr Frank Trotter will join us and this will be an excellent opportunity to get to know him in a fun and informal setting.

Watch for brochures soon, but mark you calendars now! Registration will begin in August.



Refinished Church Doors

Our Church is blessed with beautiful wood doors for all the outside entries to the Sanctuary and Chapel. In addition to the five front Sanctuary doors there are 14 double doors and two single doors. Two years ago, Bob Clauson noted that the sun and weather had taken their toll on the finishes and that several errant sprinklers had actually rotted several inset panels in the parking lot double doors and the front doors to the Sanctuary.

As a retired carpenter, Bob felt that the doors should be repaired and refinished. He enlisted the help of three other retirees, Howard Underwood, Les Atkinson and Dick Overton, to take part in the project. Over the last year, the doors have been taken down one door at a time, stripped, repaired as needed, re-stained and varnished. The “Rixen” closing mechanisms on one of the front doors was removed and repaired during the process. Bob also re-lead one of the window panes on the Oakland side.

This is a beautiful example of how a large project can be accomplished with the aid of many hands, fellowship and one man’s desire to improve our place of worship.



Reaching Out, *continued from page 1*

with many opportunities of reaching out in Christ’s name to those in need. The site lists the crisis situations around the world that are in desperate need of our help. The only difference between this site and those listed earlier is that we have to really reach out by digging into our own pocket. We can’t click a button that enables another sponsor to make a contribution for you. We have to do it ourselves and the web site helps us do it quickly and efficiently. And, by the way,

100% of our contribution goes directly to the crisis that we choose. All administrative costs are paid for by the denomination and do not come out of your donation.

So as we enjoy our summer here at home, or travel to see family and friends, or visit exotic and beautiful locations, let’s reflect on how Christ calls us to reach out in so many ways — all for the purpose of helping build the Kingdom of God.

Think about it. Better yet, pray about it.

Dr. Frank Trotter

New Office Production Assistant

Meet our newest office assistant, Jewell Maddox. Jewell is a lifelong United Methodist whose home church is St. Paul’s UMC, Los Angeles. She will be helping to produce The Messenger, church bulletin and other print pieces as well as general office duties. Jewell will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Welcome, Jewell.

Youth Choir Tour, continued from page 6

was another wonderful home stay, and very friendly people. The next nights were very similar with joy and glowing faces after the concerts and the compliments people gave us. The one home stay that really stuck out to me was on Thursday night, at Plymouth United Methodist Church. Earlier that day we toured Plymouth Plantation and the Mayflower II. While on the Mayflower II, I hit my head and had a very mild concussion (I emphasize the mild). It was very hot and I did not feel good at all, but I decided to perform in the concert anyway. After the concert, I was still not feeling well, but the pastor's wife was so caring and thoughtful. One of the other roommates was having some breathing trouble and so we were kind of the sick ones together. The woman took the best care of us and she was always there if we needed anything. She cared for us as if she had known us for a long time. The rest of the tour was followed with many more great memories and very wonderful and caring home stays.

This Choir tour wasn't the most memorable out of all of mine but it was very memorable. God was very present throughout the entire tour. He helped to make sure that when the fire alarm went off we weren't in danger; when every night we stayed in different homes there were wonderful and caring people in each, and he was there when we were just hanging out together on the bus, keeping us close and helping us to remember to love one another the way we should. The Lord was the most present among many things on our tour. I felt that he was what made everything right, and he helped us through our concerts even when someone was sick or we messed up. We were still able to spread the word just as beautifully to those wonderful people who took us, strangers, into their homes. Choir Tour 2007 was a wonderful experience and I am very grateful I got to end my year with such wonderful people.



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