



The Messenger

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"A Few Full Pews Short"

Most of us appreciate a joke. One of my sources is the collection entitled "Pretty Good Joke Book" published by the Prairie Home Companion people (most notably, Garrison Keillor). One of the sections is called "Insults" (I know, I know, pastors aren't supposed to be into insults...).

However, here are a few of the insults that made me laugh...

"The wheel is spinning, but the hamster's asleep."

"She's so dense, light bends around her."

"Where other people have a brain, he's got resonance."

"All booster. No payload."

"I like you, but I don't want to see you working with subatomic particles."

Then there are the "a few short" insults like *"I'd say he's about one Fruit Loop shy of a full box."* I've remembered lots of those over the years, like, *"He's a few downs short of a circus."* or *"She's a few peas short of a casserole."* or *"He's a few fries short of a Happy Meal."*

And did you hear this one? *"Those Methodists are a few full pews short of a church!"*

Well, Reverend, that's not exactly funny. Now you've gone to meddling...

But it's the truth, isn't it? We could be much closer to a church than we are and a few more full pews around the Sanctuary would make a lot of difference, wouldn't it?

I recently invited members to begin using the front doors on Colorado Boulevard to enter church on Sunday morning. (Yes, I know. That means walking around to the

front of the church to enter!) And on August 19th, I began standing at the front door on Colorado at the end of the service to greet you after the service. What's the point? Why, to let the people of Pasadena know that our church is open for business.

And if some of them should stumble in, I think it'd be a good idea if we worked at the "full

house" business a bit. Like...Hey, all of you who sit in the far right and far left of the Sanctuary, would you mind terribly if we roped those sections off and had you sit just one section nearer to the middle?"

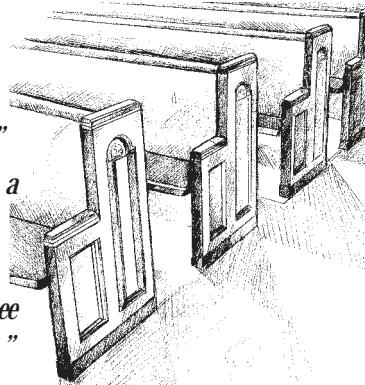
And... "Hey, all of you who sit in the balcony, do you think you could do the same thing? Cozy up a little?"

But the biggest change in behavior I have in mind is to actually get all of you members and friends of First United Methodist here on a more regular basis. Which brings to mind Rally Day, September 9th. Since that's the official first day of the fall season at church, the "back to church Sunday," so to speak, why not plan to be with us to help pad the pews?

And if we're going to be serious about it, it means calling that friend whom you haven't seen in a while... Or that brother-in-law who used to go to church here... Or the neighbors across the street who just moved in and you don't really even know if they're Christians or not... Why not invite them?

Yeah, I know. It requires intentionality, that stuff Jesus talks about all the time.

Well, I guess it's up to us, isn't it? No kidding.



Dr. Frank Trotter

Surpassing Our Goal of Sixty Backpacks

by Pam Burns



I would like to thank everyone who helped us surpass our goal of sixty filled backpacks for the Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker (ACAC) back-to-school project. This is the fifth year that our congregation has supported the project, but this year we increased our goal to sixty backpacks in honor of Bishop Swenson's 60th birthday. Through your generosity, we were able to provide over 80 filled backpacks to our local Department of Children and Family Services' ACAC program.

I wish I could personally thank each of you who contributed backpacks, school supplies and financial assistance, but unfortunately I do not have names to go with all of the gifts.

A special "thank you" goes to the Vacation Bible School participants and the Youth Summer Musical cast members and staff for choosing this as their mission project. Your thoughtfulness helps our local outreach ministry of serving children in the Pasadena area.

Each of the twenty-six children on our caseworker's client list received a backpack filled specifically for his or her grade level. The additional backpacks and supplies were shared with caseworkers who are not sponsored through the ACAC program. Any left over items will be used as needed throughout the school year.

Thank you again for supporting the ACAC program. This program would not be possible without your help.

Together in Faith- Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities Coming This Fall

The Adult Ministries committee is pleased to offer a variety of learning opportunities for all through short and long-term classes. Each small group will provide the opportunity to connect with others, building deeper relationships in the church, our relationship with God and our own spiritual growth.

This fall you will have the opportunity to grow Together in Faith through:

- **Two Sunday morning Adult Sunday School classes:**

SpiritSeekers: A new class Sunday; 9:07 am with Andy Goebel and Dan Gara

Pastors Forum with Dr. Frank Trotter Sunday; 8:50 am

- **Jesus and the Gospels-** Mondays 7:00-9:15 pm. A 30-week study examining the way each Gospel writer presents the teachings of Jesus and the events of his life – with Kevin Lussier and Marlene Farrell.
- **Christian Believer-** Monday 7:00-9:15 pm. An integrated 30-week study of the Bible and classical teachings of the Christian faith – with Andy Goebel and John Evans.

Both of these classes will begin with an introductory meeting on September 10, 2007 and will continue through May 2008 with holiday breaks.

Materials fee- \$45 suggested (checks to

Together in Faith, continued on page 3

Table of Contents

A Few Full Pews Short
From Dr. Trotter
page one

Surpassing Our Goal of 60 Backpacks
page two

"Together in Faith" Spiritual Growth Series
page two

Pasadena District Worship Service
page three

Survey of Favorite UMC Hymns
page four

Library News
page five

Pasadena District Worship

The Pasadena District will hold a service of worship celebrating new beginnings in the district. On behalf of the Superintendent Committee, the Rev. N. Adiel A. DePano, District Superintendent, invites clergy and the faith communities of which they are a part to gather with him and his family for a Service of Worship Celebrating New Beginnings in the Pasadena District on Sunday, September 16th, 3 P.M. here at First United Methodist Church of Pasadena. We will celebrate the new beginnings of a new District Superintendent as well as fellow servants who are beginning new ministries. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

UMW Hilltoppers Host Meet & Greet

We have an exciting year planned and we start by meeting and greeting our new Senior Pastor, Dr. Frank Trotter, on September 17th at 1:30 P.M. in the Church Lounge. All women are invited. Any questions, call Irene Atkinson (626) 795-2393.

Questers Announce Next Meeting

The Questers fellowship gathering will be on Saturday, September 15th at 6:00 P.M. at the Zaiser's, 591 Busch Place, Pasadena. Bring your own meat to BBQ and your own place setting. Our calling committee will call for appetizer, salad or dessert.

Together in Faith, continued from page 3

FUMC; note adult class materials) Confidential scholarship assistance is available- see Debbie Gara.

- Inquirer's classes- for all persons contemplating membership at FUMC Pasadena, Sundays October 7 and 14, 11:30- 2:30; lead by Pastors, including lunch.
- A short-term Bible probing study with Frank Trotter- time and details TBA

Thank You!

I am told that I nearly died during the first weeks of April. I have no memory of that time when I was on life-support because I was in a medically induced coma. What I do know is there was a wonderful outpouring of love, concern, cards and prayers that helped sustain Rex and the rest of our family during that difficult time. I have become more aware of these ongoing acts of grace since I have been home and finally able to go through more than 350 cards and letters Rex had saved for me, to read all of Mike's, our son, "blog" and the responses. I am deeply touched by the abundance of love for me and my family.

The prayer quilt from Pasadena First UMC was there when I began to "wake up" in the hospital and has been with me constantly ever since. I feel your love through its warmth.

I am gradually improving and have two therapists twice a week. They give me a real workout each time and leave me with sore but strengthening muscles. I am depending less on my walker and making better time going up and down stairs and even starting to help Rex in the kitchen! I plan to be "me" again as soon as possible.

Love to you all,

Jenell Britt (mother of Debbie Gara)

-
- A short-term provoking book study with Bob Rhodes- time and details TBA

Sign ups for Jesus in the Gospels and Christian Believer are underway, all other class registration will begin on Rally Day, September 9 and thereafter prior to class beginning.

Child care will be offered for all classes as needed, please indicate this need with sign up.

Call the church office for more details.



Volunteers Needed

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 fundraiser.

If you like to sew, we may have printed fabric items for completion.

Contact
Wendy Kendall
(626) 798-3327
if you can help.

Survey of Favorite and Least Favorite Hymns of United Methodists

You are invited to participate in an online survey by telling the General Board of Discipleship your ten favorite hymns. You may choose any ten selections in any combination from The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and/or The Faith We Sing (2000). The survey consists of the alphabetical listing of both books' contents and a check box for each title. You simply click on your ten selections. You may find it helpful to think about your selections prior to actually completing the survey, perhaps even by browsing through the hymnal and making a list. After selecting up to ten of your favorites, you will then be asked to select up to ten selections of your LEAST favorite hymns and songs, or titles that you wish had not been included. Once again, you may select up to ten titles from either or both books in combination. The survey will not



allow you to select more than ten titles. After choosing your selections, you will be asked to respond to five demographic questions that will help us in analyzing the survey. Your participation and responses are confidential and anonymous. You will not be asked for your name or

identifying personal information. This information will be used to help us plan for future resources in congregational singing and in identifying changes and trends in musical style. We are grateful for your participation and ask you to encourage your friends, your children, your congregation, Sunday School classes, students, professors, pastors, choir members, church staff, — any United Methodist — to participate. It is our hope to have as wide a participation as possible. To take the survey, go to www.gbod.org/favoritehymns.html.

Take A Look!



Gigantic photo display of Youth Summer musical "Anything Goes" outside Great Hall. Thank you, Pat Mann, for this pictorial summary.

Auditions for Fall Drama Set for September 6th

Join us for the fall inter-generational play. It's a mystery play with music called "Perfect Weather for a Murder." The play has been scheduled for November 1st, 2nd and 3rd with rehearsals beginning in September on Monday and Thursday evenings. Come to Great Hall on September 6th at 7:30 P.M. for auditions, read-through and preliminary casting. We will get to work for a quick six weeks of rehearsal. There will be opportunities for those who want to be in the ensemble only with a lesser rehearsal commitment. Contact the church office for more information or Pam Marx, Megan Goldstein or Denise Campbell.

Recycle For Sight

This fall Girl Scout Troop 529 will give an official kick-off to a new and ongoing mission project. They will be collecting used prescription and non-prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses to be donated to the *Lions' Recycle for Sight* program. Troop 529 will send the glasses collected to a *Lions' Recycle for Sight* collection center where they will be prepared for delivery worldwide to those in need of improved eyesight.

Look for a collection can beginning on Rally Day, September 9th!



Library News

by Ruth MacPherson



Rally Day Returns! Kickoff time for our church's new programs! The Library Committee will be one of the groups featured on

Rally Day. Come by to meet our people, see our photos of library life at FUMC and explore our libraries for Preschool and Adults located south of the Cloister. The Junior Library for "children" (of all ages) is located on the second floor of the Sunday School wing. This is a great resource for children, parents and teachers.

New Library Center: You may not recognize our **TEEN's Library Center** (for T'weens, and Young Adults) found on the second floor elevator hallway outside the Lounges for middle and high school youth. We are truly grateful to **Sloan and Greg Mann** for their gift of new library shelves, and to **Dick Overton** and **Howard Underwood** for installing them

Ten Books Club: One special event of Rally Day will be the presentation of free books earned by our **10 Books Club** child and youth readers. Preschool children through youth who checkout and return ten different FUMC book, receive a free book for each set of ten they read or have read to them. The following children and youth will be

receiving books: **April Anderson; Russell and Susanne Carpenter; Gabriel Dickerson; James, Katie, and Victoria Dickerson; Jack and Polly Dimmock; Oliva and Rudy Dyson; Bryan and Wesley In; Elizabeth Clair, Mary Jane and Norman James Lambert; Shelby Lewis; Julia Marshall; Christian and Michael Ortiz; Annissa and Tillie Pederson; Jessica and Josh Perkins; Colleen and Fiona Stewart; Katie Turner and Elaine Wittry.** There are more 10 Books Club readers who will be eligible for a free book as soon as they complete their current set of ten.

Open Story Times: Of interest to those with preschool aged children visiting or not currently enrolled in a school, you and your child are welcome to share in **STORY TIMES** held for our FUMC Preschool's (weekday) classes. This is offered at 10 to 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the main library room. Stories for **Purple Dolphins** (Kindergarten) are on Tuesday morning, and for **Blue Whales** (around age 4) on Wednesday. Many of the books used come from a new collection being developed as a set of special Story Time books/materials for one-day checkout. They can be checked out for the day, but available for another story time the next day or as needed. If your class or group needs one of these, our library staff will help you find something special.



The Labor Day holiday as we know it grew out of the efforts of labor unions over a century ago. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, records indicate the holiday was first proposed in the late 19th century. Two men are credited with the original idea: Peter J. McGuire, a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, and Matthew Maguire, a machinist and secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York.

The purpose of the holiday was, in McGuire's words, to celebrate those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

Early legislation enacting Labor Day came from the states, led by New York and Oregon (which was the first to make the holiday official in 1887). In 1894, Congress passed the act which made the first Monday in September of each year a holiday.

Have a
safe & happy
Labor Day

Source: FactMonster



Sunday School
Big Red Barrel
Donations

for

September
SOCKS



It's Socks for September for the Sunday School
Big Red Barrel donation.



**First United
Methodist Church**

**Sunday
September 9, 2007**

Schedule of Events

8:30am	..... Continental Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
8:50am	..... Pastor's Forum	Church Lounge
9:00am	..... Sunday School (Children & Youth)	Education Wing
9:07am	..... SpiritSeekers Adult Sunday School ...	Adult Lounge
10:00am	..... Morning Worship/ Rally Day	Sanctuary
11:15am	..... Coffee Fellowshp	Cloister
11:15am	..... Volunteer Faire	Cloister
11:30am	..... UMM Rally Day Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
11:30am	..... Youth Handbell Choir	Bell Room
5:30pm "Sounds of the Risen Son" (Youth)	Choir Room
6:45pm Youth Dinner and Program	Fellowship Hall



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