



# The Messenger

Volume 77 | Issue 15 | September 14, 2007

The Messenger is published by the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, California

## Church Staff

Dr. Frank Trotter  
*senior pastor*

Debbie Gara  
*associate pastor*

Bob Rhodes  
*director of youth*

Stephen Gothold  
*director of music ministries*

Timothy Sun  
*business manager*

Leslie Garriott  
*director of fumc preschool*

Jennie Beard  
*assistant director of fumc preschool*

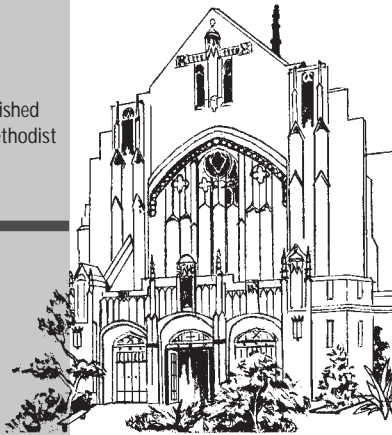
Ruth MacPherson  
*librarian*

Livingstone Zan  
*ministry of welcoming & sexton*

Michael Lindsey  
*camp manager*

Ae Kyong Kim  
*church organist*

**First United Methodist Church**  
500 E. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena CA 91101  
Tel: 626.796.0157  
Fax: 626.568.1615  
[www.fumcpasadena.org](http://www.fumcpasadena.org)  
FUMC Preschool  
626.568.9502



## More Thoughts on the Front Door

I came across a poem by American poet Francis Ponge (1899-1988) the other day. It's entitled *The Delights of the Door* and has keep my imagi-

nation going on the possibilities of those big, beautiful wooden doors on the front of our church facing Colorado Boulevard.

“Kings don't touch doors.

They don't know this joy: to push affectionately or fiercely before us one of those huge panels we know so well, then to turn back in order to replace it – holding a door in our arms.

The pleasure of grabbing one of those tall barriers to a room abdominally, by its porcelain knot; of this swift fighting, body-to-body, when, the

forward motion for an instant halted, the eye opens and the whole body adjusts to its new surroundings.

But the body still keeps one friendly hand on the door, holding it open, then decisively pushes the door away, closing itself in – which the click of the powerful but well-oiled spring pleasantly confirms.”

Most of the time our front door at church is already open when we get here. But there's a symbolic journey hinted at in the poem when we push it open anyway in hearts and minds. We aren't royalty so we've got to touch it ourselves – push at it, feel it begin to move as our muscle pulls it out of stillness.

Why imagine a door and its opening? Because there is a “new surrounding” in church, fresh and vital each time we enter waiting for us. It's one of the places the Holy Spirit lives. And touching the Spirit's door is our part of how we regularly claim the name of the owner, Jesus Christ.

### FRONT DOOR WITNESS

We invite you to witness to the community by entering the Sanctuary through the front doors.



# Labor Day Arts and Crafts Camp



1. Rev. Frank and friends leading worship 2. Tying a prayer quilt at worship 3. Weaving a potholder  
4. Creations out of nature 5. The Camp Worship Band 6. Barbecuing dinner in the pouring rain

## Table of Contents

More Thoughts on  
The Front Door  
From Dr. Trotter  
*page one*

Highlights of  
Labor Day Camp  
*page two*

Dimacali Family  
Shares Camp  
Experience  
*page three*

"Together in Faith"  
Series Classes  
*page four*

Lay Speaking  
Ministries  
*page five*

Memorial Elevator  
*page six*

Rain or shine, our Sky Meadows Camp experiences always prove to be a wonderful time of fellowship and creativity at our magnificent mountain top retreat. Our experience this year was met with several exciting thunderstorms and pouring rain which meant that crafts were mostly inside and some quick scampering for a canopy saved our chicken on the outdoor BBQ for dinner!

Over 60 families of all ages participated. We enjoyed making luminarias from copper sheets, pouring candles, painting little wooden houses, and weaving potholders to name a few. The sky did clear for some pool time and wonderful hikes though the spontaneity of mountain storms meant one hiking group returned drenched,

with laughter and joy all the way.

We enjoyed a moving worship service with communion and a prayer quilt, and multiple instruments and talent formed a camp band. Campfire, s'mores and crazy skits blessed our evening time.

As always, the greatest gift of all was the time and space to join in fellowship together as young and older, creating and expanding the bonds of relationship as a church family and extended church friends. This was a first family camp experience for several who attended.

Many thanks to Doug and Susan Rogers who organized and facilitated the wonderful crafts, and Leslie Garriott, camp cook, for wonderful meals and kitchen coordination.

We always look forward to the camping experiences throughout the year at Sky Meadows, and look forward to many more in the future!

# The Dimacali Family Shares Camp Experience

As the saying goes: “There is a first time for everything” ...right? I want to tell you about our first experience going to Camp Sky Meadows for the Family Arts & Crafts Camp this past Labor Day Weekend.



home in Arcadia. As we made our way through the many twists and turns on Route 38, storm clouds began to gather above us as we were “entertained” by lightning strikes and rumbles of thunder in the distance - sights and

sounds that are now rare to most southern Californians. We knew right away that we were heading to “greener and cooler pastures!”

Being an experienced outdoorsman and having a tremendous love for the outdoors, this was the perfect opportunity to ask my wife, Kellie, if she wanted to sign up for camp. I had to try and convince her that it was not the sort of camping that I am accustomed to, where your lodging is merely a sleeping bag situated under the stars (in a tent, if you are lucky), your food are MRE’s (“Meals-Ready-to-Eat”), and most notably, your “facilities” are a quiet place that you bring along a shovel and some toilet paper...you put together the rest! No surprise now why she never wanted to go camping with me! Kellie is a “city girl” at heart so a hair dryer is still necessary (even though it was only used to get the coals going on the grill), and a dress that I had to talk her out of bringing along.

Rev. Frank was the first to give a welcome and helped us with our bags. After getting settled in, we walked into the recreation lodge and were greeted by some familiar church members, and right away, we were happy to know there were also other families with little ones too. Not sure how many of you have little ones now, but you know this trip can very well be labeled as “babysitting in the mountains” - nothing changes, except for the scenery...WRONG! Right away, Bella and Tyler interacted with the other kids at camp, setting our minds at ease knowing we didn’t have to be at their beck and call and to make sure they didn’t get into anything.

In my own polite way, I was having her “rough it” for the weekend! On the other hand, our two young children, Isabella (6 years) and Tyler (3 years) did not take much convincing, as with any other kids you may know. Both of them were as eager and excited as they had already experienced hiking in the mountains before with Daddy...they couldn’t wait to go to the mountains again!

With small children, chasing your kids around Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour while trying to have adult conversations is virtually impossible, which is why we usually are in our car and out of the parking lot by the time the first cup of coffee is poured after Sunday service! No surprise why we didn’t know a lot of fellow church members before Labor Day!

On the drive up, we began to feel the immediate relief at the base of the mountains; a stark contrast from the 100+ degree weather we were dealing with back

This past weekend was the perfect opportunity to finally meet other church members, some for the very first time. It was nice to finally feel “connected” to the church community. There were MANY memorable moments that I can talk about, such as the

**The Dimacali Family, continued on Page 7**



Sunday School  
**Big Red  
Barrel**  
Donations  
for  
September:



**Socks**

Big Red Barrel  
donations are  
given to our  
church Social  
Service Ministry  
to support its  
work with  
local homeless  
and low-income  
persons.

Thank You!



# "Together in Faith" – Adult Spiritual Growth Series

## Save the Dates

April 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>,  
2008

for

## Mississippi Mission Rebuilding

Last year's Pasadena Mission to Mississippi trip was a great success! The team felt that they were participants with God in the work of rebuilding the hearts and homes of people in Waveland, Mississippi. Don't let this year's opportunity to serve pass you by. We have reserved space for 25 people to go from April 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being part of this team or have any questions, please contact Rev. David Palmer at (818) 243-2105 or email [david@glendalemethodist.org](mailto:david@glendalemethodist.org) for information and application materials.



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, 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. The first weeks we will experience and discuss the creative DVDs of Nooma. Coffee and refreshments Upstairs Adult Lounge.

*Pastor's Forum* with Dr. Frank Trotter Sunday; 8:50 am in the Church Lounge.

### Jesus in 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 classes will begin with an introductory meeting on September 10, 2007, and will continue through May 2008 with holiday breaks.

Materials fee- \$45 suggested. Confidential

scholarship assistance available- see Debbie Gara.

**Inquirer's classes** for all persons contemplating membership at FUMC Pasadena, Sundays October 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am- 2:30 pm lead by Pastors, including lunch.

Short-term Bible probing study with Frank Trotter features:

**"Back to Church 101" with Dr. Frank Trotter. -Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm.** Join Dr. Trotter in a conversation on how to "reconnect" to your faith and your church after being away for a while (the summer, a few months, or years...). The conversation will be gently guided around six subjects: (1) Why are we here? [Pasadena UMC History] (2) Reading the Old Testament; (3) Reading the New Testament; (4) Prayer and Meditation; (5) Hot topics, and (6) Be Thou My Vision.

The class meets in the Church lounge beginning October 4th-November 8th.

### The Gospel According to The Simpsons with Bob Rhodes. -Thursdays, October 4th-November 8th, 7:00-8:30 pm.

Using the best-selling book, *The Gospel According to The Simpsons: The Spiritual Life of the World's Most Animated Family*, this study for youth and adults embarks on an exploration of the religious themes prevalent in the popular animated comedy series. Topics include prayer, morality, God, pluralism, the institutional church, hell and the devil, and the Bible. Classes meet in Youth Lounge.

## Methodist Hospital Women's Auxiliary Meeting

The fall meeting of the Methodist Hospital Women's Auxiliary will be Monday, September 24th at 10:30 am in the Auditorium.

Dr. Richard Cain, former D.S., and one time president of Claremont School of Theology, will be the speaker. Dr. Cain will speak from the patient's viewpoint following his serious heart surgery.

Luncheon will follow, with paid reservations

(\$8.00) due Monday, September 17th. Tours of the hospital will be conducted. Those parking in Lot A (the main lot) will be transported by shuttle to the Auditorium. Lot D (the south lot) will also be available.

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Office at Methodist Hospital, or FUMC Auxiliary representative, Mary Jane Bell, (626) 284-2961.

# Lay Speaking Ministries

What is the Task of Lay Speakers?

A Lay Speaker is a professing member of a local church or charge who is ready and desirous to serve the Church and who is well-informed on and committed to, the Scriptures and the doctrine, heritage, organization and life of the United Methodist Church. A Lay Speaker has received specific training to develop skills in witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communication, church and community leadership, and care-giving ministries. An applicant must be active in the local church.

“Lay Speakers serve the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) in any way their witness inspires deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship, including the interpretation of the Scriptures, doctrine, organization and ministries of the Church.” (2004 Book of Discipline)

Lay Speakers are committed people! They spend time preparing for speaking ministry and serving others. While lay speaking programs focus on service through pulpit supply, leading Bible study and interpreting church programs; many Lay Speakers are discovering additional ways to grow and serve.

Lay Speakers are either LOCAL or CERTIFIED depending on the calling to serve in just the local congregation or to serve beyond the local church in the wider community of the Pasadena District.

All Lay Speakers Must:

- 1) Receive approval of their pastor and Charge Conference/Church Board/Church Council.
- 2) Attend the Basic Lay Speakers



Course, once, and a refresher course at least once every three years; and if certified, attend an advanced class at least once every three years. These courses will provide a source of comfort and confidence for service.

## How Do Lay Speakers Serve?

*Caring* Lay Speakers witness to their faith by responding to the needs of others with care-giving, love and service.

*Leading* Lay Speakers are expanding their leadership roles in the church and community through organizing new study groups or helping to lead special subject forums on a variety of challenging topics.

*Speaking* Both the Bible and Christian experience point to the importance of speaking the faith, and proclaiming God's transforming love for a broken world. Lay Speakers are speaking as witnesses and inviting others to partake in Christian discipleship.

The cost is \$30 per course, or \$50 per couple. We encourage you to give Lay Speaking Ministry classes a try!

## FALL LAY SPEAKING MINISTRY SCHOOL

October 6 & 20 • 1 PM to 6 PM

Covina UMC

437 W. San Bernardino Rd.

Covina, CA 91723

### BASIC CLASS

Instructors:

Jo Ann Williams & Skip Keating

### ADVANCED CLASS

“Caring Ministries”

Instructor: Dr. Wayne Walters

Get applications from church office.

## Bible Quiz



“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability” (Acts 2:1-4, NRSV).

When is Pentecost?

- A. Seventh Sunday after Easter
- B. Seventh Sunday after the Ascension
- C. 40 days after Easter
- D. 40 days after the Ascension

Answer: A

# The Chesley and Kathleen Osborn Memorial Elevator Installed

by Eldon Osborn

The elevator is complete and running and on August 5th there was a dedication service in the Chapel lead by the Rev. George Mann.

The elevator goes from the foyer at the parking lot to the second and third floor of the building over Fellowship Hall.

My folks created a trust for my sister Kathleen because she was severely handicapped with Cerebral Palsy. The trust had grown to be much more than she would need in her lifetime. I was named trustee of the trust and was also serving as project manager for the retrofit of Fellowship Hall, when we had to take the elevator out of the contract because of lack of funding. I talked to Kathleen about establishing a memorial to the folks and we came up with the idea of an elevator that would help everyone to get around. She liked the idea and made a pledge

of a Memorial Elevator to the church trustees.

Unfortunately, Kathleen did not live to see the completion of the memorial. The trust was written so that upon her demise the trust would be terminated and distributed

to the beneficiaries. As trustee of the trust, I told all of the beneficiaries about the pledge and asked if each would honor Kathleen's pledge

from their portion of the distribution. They all agreed. I then started to get bids and found that costs had increased much more than I had anticipated. When I reported this to the church trustees, Virgil Bryant said he would approach the Pasadena Methodist Foundation. Roy Miller agreed that the Foundation would cover any shortfall. Between the Osborn Family and the Pasadena Methodist Foundation, the elevator is installed and operating with no expense to the Church.



"Perfect Weather for a Murder"

the intergenerational drama which runs November 1st, 2nd & 3rd rehearses each Monday and Thursday evening in Great Hall

## United Methodist Men Welcome Dr. Frank Trotter!



UMM's first dinner meeting of the 'new year,' will be held Tuesday, September 25th, featuring Dr. Frank Trotter, FUMC's Senior Pastor. Dr. Trotter's appointment in Pasadena began July 1. Previously, he was Senior Pastor at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, Washington D.C. Frank has also

served United Methodist Churches in the Maryland communities of Reisterstown, Ames, Pikesville, and Cumberland. Frank's graduate degrees, including his Doctorate in Ministry, were earned at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

The wonderful evening will begin with dinner promptly at 6:30 pm, followed by fellowship, program and devotions. Please call the church office soon at (625) 796-0157 to reserve your space.

# Library News

by Ruth McPherson

Our FUMC Library is here to support our church school classes and would like to do this more intentionally. At one time, the library was under the aegis of the "Commission on Education" whose meetings the librarian attended. In those days it was easier to feel a closer connection and to determine how the library could best serve in church education. In the last ten years, the reorganization of this part of our church makes us feel more separate and less in touch. We hope we are supplying the library support the church school needs from us.

I found a very unsettling article in a recent issue of a well-known family periodical about a family substituting "the church of nature" for Sunday School, simply because their children resented attending Sunday School. Supposedly, this family found "the church of nature" taught their children the wonder of God's world, and gave them a deep feeling of family peace and togetherness, as they went to a wilderness area nearby on Sundays instead

of to Sunday School. The article didn't elaborate as to whether or not Sunday School was given up entirely, but at best, there was only a casual, if any, coverage of Bible stories/teaching, or issues of life mission addressed directly. Another reason these parents gave for this spiritual lifestyle was that their lives were already too crowded with work, school, homework, music lessons and Scouts, and they needed to get closer to nature instead of Sunday School.

Sunday School in competition with "the church of nature" is a disturbing idea. Sunday School classes and interesting lessons I've seen in this church, address the whole child through moral teaching, use of crafts, drama and a music program. It's difficult to imagine children resenting that. If this does happen how can our library help make a difference? It seems that this is a time for "out of the box" thinking and planning.

Questions about this article unsettled my belief in this magazine's authority and its "seal of approval" for homemaking – endorsing an undemanding "church of nature" over Sunday School. Questions about what makes Sunday School special, without losing spiritual and moral identity, should shake us up as well.

---

## **The Dimacali Family, *continued from page 3***

comical skits performed by the members of the Youth Group our last night there, to grilling outdoors during a full-blown thunderstorm with Kendall and Gerry. I believe both of them now know the "three basic elements of creating fire", right?!

The Dimacali family gained A LOT this past weekend - developing new friendships with other families, spending quality time with our children, and most importantly - connecting with God through his many

creations in nature. What better way to have Sunday worship and family sing-alongs then in the forest among the trees, animals, and the stars?

To any family that has not yet had the opportunity to go to Camp Sky Meadows, I highly ENCOURAGE it as we definitely will be returning for future retreats and trips! Looking forward to the next camp!

God Bless,  
The Dimacali Family  
(Eric, Kellie, Isabella, & Tyler)

Bishop  
Swenson  
to Preach at  
FUMC



Mark your  
calendars

Bishop  
Mary Ann  
Swenson  
will preach at  
our church  
on  
Sunday,  
March 9th  
2008.

# See you in Church Sunday!



## Low pressure zone

Several studies reported in the magazine, Religion and Health, have shown that men who attend worship regularly have lower blood pressure than non-attendees. Of the 407 men examined, regular churchgoers had significantly lower blood pressure numbers.

Just one more good reason to attend church.  
See you in church Sunday!



**First United Methodist Church**  
500 East Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

**Non-Profit Organization**

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**

**Pasadena, CA**

**Permit No. 128**

First United  
Methodist Church  
500 E. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Tel: 626.796.0157  
Fax: 626.568.1615