



# The Messenger

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## Sanctuaries of Safety

by Rev. Debbie Gara

In April 1996, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church. The resolution acknowledged that churches have not always been safe places for children and reminded us all of God's call to create communities of faith where children can grow free of abuse.

Additionally, insurers are requiring congregations to adopt proactive policies to prevent child abuse as a condition of coverage. In response, FUMC has created the following Sanctuaries of Safety policy to ensure that our church campus is a holy place of safety and sanctuary and a loving community of faith in which children can enjoy the freedom, joy and fullness, that God has bestowed upon us. We believe these measures are reasonable and prudent. They ensure protection of our children by appointing qualified employees and volunteers to educate and care for our children and youth.

### Sanctuaries of Safety Policy Statement

FUMC's purpose for establishing the Sanctuaries of Safety Policy and Procedures is to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to the safety and spiritual growth of children and youth.

• FUMC categorically opposes any form of child abuse. Further, we proactively engage in efforts to protect children and youth in our care and assures that FUMC and its activities are places of safety and nurture.

• Children are gifts from God to the entire Christian community. Therefore, when a child suffers, the entire community suffers. When Jesus invited the children to "come to me," (Matt. 19:14), He was indicating that the most vulnerable should be protected.

• Child abuse is both a violation of Christian hospitality and illegal. The State of California has definitions of child abuse that are applicable to every venue of church activity.

Our Sanctuaries of Safety Policy was adopted in 2006. It is important

that we are all aware of the commitment of FUMC in this area. The policy requires an application and background check (Criminal and Sex Offender search) for all paid and volunteer adults working with minors. We utilize the services of an agency recommended by our Conference. Additionally, we will continue to explore measures to insure that children are never alone on the church campus. These are two important aspects of Sanctuaries of Safety. The Board of Trustees is at work on some structural changes included in the policy. All the required background

Excerpt from the FUMC Sanctuaries of Safety Policy:

*"With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal"*

UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL

*Sanctuaries of Safety, continued on page 4*

# Work Camp at Sky Meadows

by The Camp Committee

Great memories of Camp Sky Meadows continue to unfold. Many have recently enjoyed Youth Camp and Family Camp just before and during Labor Day Weekend. We now have the opportunity to get the camp ready for the winter. Work Camp is a great time to enjoy working with friends toward a common goal. The skill levels needed range from painting, cleaning, plumbing, repairing window screens, splitting firewood (we have our own log splitter), plug bird holes in the sides of



buildings, cut weeds and basic carpentry. There are enough tasks to keep us busy for the weekend.

In return for your effort to maintain the Camp, food and lodging are provided. We need your help to maintain and winterize the camp for our future enjoyment. Work Camp will be October 12th to October 14th.

Please call the Church Office at 796-0157 to make your reservations.

We look forward to working with you at Camp Sky Meadows.



## From the Pulpit: Dr. Frank Trotter

Several people have asked Dr. Trotter for this information from a previous sermon. Here is the quote from "Return to Sender", preached Sunday, September 9, 2007.

"Stephen R. Covey, the author of *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, quotes Mahatma Gandhi's well-known re-imagining of the seven deadly sins. Instead of the classic list of lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride (all of which are still pretty good descriptions of sinful behavior), Gandhi's list of "Seven Deadly Sins" for contemporary society includes: (1) Politics without principle; (2) Wealth without work; (3) Commerce without morality; (4) Pleasure without conscience; (5) Education without character; (6) Science without humanity; and (7) Worship without sacrifice."

## UMW Hilltoppers Present Pam Marx

Come to Hilltoppers October 15th at 1:30 pm in the Church Lounge and hear our own church member, Pam Marx. Pam works with children and seniors, donates much of her time to many different areas in our church and still finds time to do mission work in Mississippi. All women are welcome.

## Pathfinders' Halloween Bash



Join the Pathfinders for their annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. It will be at the home of Dan and Debbie Gara. Costumes are optional; clothes are mandatory; food for the potluck dinner is mandatory; eating is optional; pumpkin carving is optional; having a good time is mandatory Please RSVP to Cynthia Quan (626) 285-9354 or [cquan\\_sgusd@hotmail.com](mailto:cquan_sgusd@hotmail.com)

## Table of Contents

Sanctuaries of Safety  
From Rev. Debbie Gara  
page one

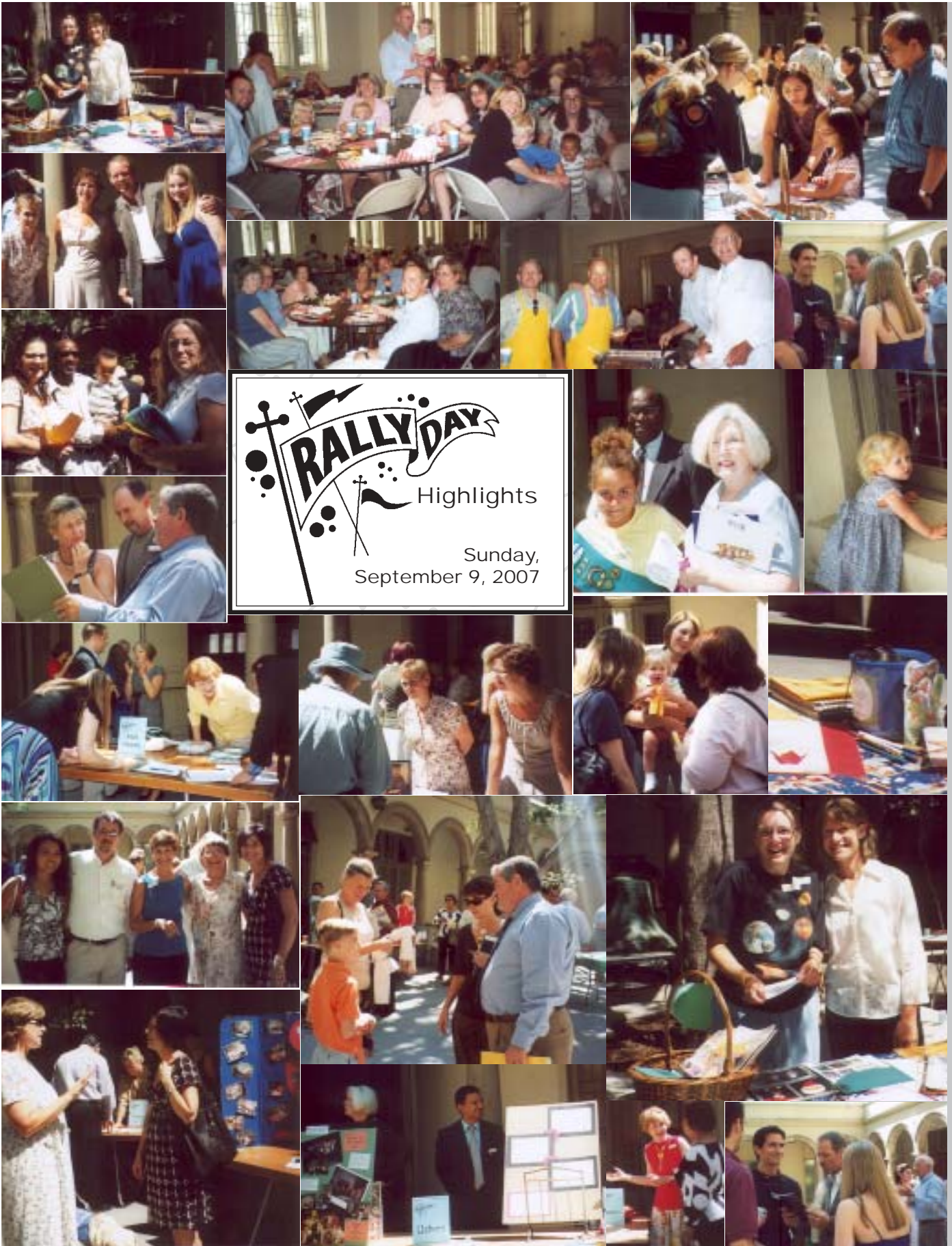
Work Camp At Sky Meadows  
page two

Rally Day Highlights  
page three

"Together in Faith" Series Classes  
page four

Light from the Catacombs  
page five

Mississippi Rebuilding Project  
page five



**RALLY DAY**  
Highlights  
Sunday,  
September 9, 2007

# "Together in Faith" – Adult Spiritual Growth Series



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.

"Jesus in the Gospels," and "Christian Believer" classes have already begun. Remaining classes in the "Together in Faith" series are open and available for sign-up.

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

***SpiritSeekers:*** This Sunday, are you ready to join the other 20 people who have experienced and returned to SPIRITSEEKERS?... The new class. Sundays; 9:07 am until worship time; upstairs Adult Lounge, coffee and morning snacks. Currently we are experiencing and discussing the spirit-provoking DVD's of Nooma. (Note: If stair climbing is a challenge, the elevator near the middle-west entrance is now available for use.) Facilitated by Andy Goebel, Dan Gara and all who are present.

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

**Inquirer's classes** for anyone considering membership at FUMC Pasadena or in need of more information about membership, here is an opportunity to connect with the Pastors and

all that we are about at FUMC. Sundays October 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm led by Pastors, includes lunch.

Short-term Bible-probing study includes: **"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 4<sup>th</sup>-November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**The Gospel According to The Simpsons with Bob Rhodes. -Thursdays, October 4<sup>th</sup>-November 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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## **Sanctuaries of Safety, *continued from front page***

screening has been completed and will continue as new persons come forward to serve in programs with children and youth under 18.

I want to acknowledge the work of Beth Rhodes, who has served as short-term administrator these past months to ensure compliance. Beverly O'Connell is the Chair of Sanctuaries of Safety, and I serve as Pastor Designee. However, let us remember that we are all responsible for the safety of our children.

As a church community we can celebrate the work completed and the work to which we are committed, while at the same time acknowledge with sorrow the necessity of these measures. Let us move forward in all the ways that we can, to prevent the naivete and ignorance that has resulted in harmful abuse to children through the ages.

You are invited to discuss these policies and seek more information about FUMC measures to provide Sanctuaries of Safety.



FRONT  
DOOR  
WITNESS



We invite you to witness to the community by entering the sanctuary through the front doors for worship.



# Light from the Catacombs

by Pat Mann, FUMC Archivist



## Christian Education circa 1924

The 1924 photo shows our young scholars entering their new church with 104 rooms. Why so many rooms? Because we wanted Christian Education for everyone.

In 1924, many homes were multi-generational with several children. They all came together each to their own class.

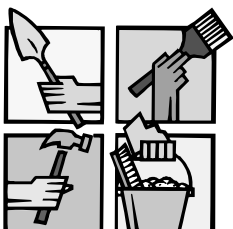
The Methodist Church began with a strong emphasis on education. Let us follow their example.

## Of Note:

### SHEPHERDS: A Ministry of Evangelism & Hospitality

A small committed group of people gather several times a year to organize the distribution of gifts at holidays, visit and check in on persons from our church community who are not able to leave their place of residence. We are seeking new persons to assist in this important Ministry. Contact Debbie Gara.

## Mississippi Rebuilding Mission: April 12-19, 2008



Last year's Pasadena Mission to Mississippi trip was a great success! Our 18 people from 5 different churches worked hard on six

different home projects in Waveland, Mississippi without any major injuries or mishaps. But more significantly, as a team they 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>. We are particularly interested in team members who have skills with carpentry, plumbing, electrical, roofing, dry walling, etc. "Skilled" does not mean professional. "Handyperson" skills are often adequate. If you have people from your church that would be interested in being part of this team or if you have any questions, please contact Rev. David Palmer at 818-243-2105 or david@glendalemethodist.org for information and application materials.

## Bible Quiz



In Bible times, the shepherds probably spent more time with their sheep than with their families. They had to take their sheep from one feeding ground to another. They had to make sure the flock had sufficient water. And they had to protect them from wild animals at night. When an animal was hurt, the shepherd rubbed a liquid on the injury. What was it?

- A. water   B. honey   C. a salt solution   D. olive oil

The answer is in Psalm 23:5.

Answer: D

## Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations for September: SOCKS

Bishop Swenson  
will preach at  
our 10:00 am  
Morning  
Worship Service  
Sunday,  
March 9, 2008

# See you in Church Sunday!



I go to Church...

Not because a sermon is preached, though it can be helpful;

Not because good music is provided, though I obtain much benefit from the musical part of the service;

Not because other people go, though following the crowd is all right when the crowd is going the right way;

Not because I have the habit, though I consider the custom of church attendance valuable;

Not because I am afraid God will punish me if I am absent, though neglect of church attendance brings moral and spiritual poverty;

Not because at church I wear my best clothes, though, like most people, I enjoy being well-dressed;

Not because there I am in the best society, though the company of Christian people is very attractive to me;

Not because I agree with all the religious ideas and lifestyles of everyone who goes. I don't; it's impossible.

I go because Jesus went even when he could not agree with the scribes and Pharisees, nor the congregation.

I go because God is my Creator and friend, the source of all that is worthwhile in my life and in my world.

*-First United Methodist Church, Upland, California*



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