



The Messenger

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The Church of Today

by Bob Rhodes

The first time I heard the phrase “The Church of Today” was during a Youth event led by The Reverend Kimball Coburn, self-titled Servant Evangelist for the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Kimball is a motivating speaker, a talented musician, and a good friend. At the time, Kimball was telling a group of high school youth that they are no longer (nor were they ever) the church of tomorrow, but the Church of Today. As it turns out, this is a truth that some have been speaking about far longer than I thought; and still we forget.

What is “The Church of Today?” What does it look like? How does it sound? What are the people like? Is it the same or different from what we do here at First United Methodist Church? Is it the same as it was yesterday? Will it be the same tomorrow?

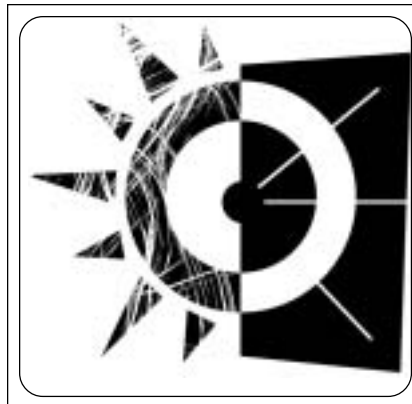
I’m not sure there’s an answer to all of these questions that would ring true for everyone. Well, maybe those last two. Is it the same as it was yesterday? Will it be the same tomorrow? I would offer that the answer to both is no. One of the wonderful and beautiful things about the United Methodist Church, one of the things that called me to this denomination, one of the things that called me to Pasadena is the living and breathing nature that we find

here. It is important to recognize, however, that being in the midst of change is frightening and it’s a lot of work!

Along similar lines, The Reverend Gary Keene wrote an article in the October, 2007 edition of *Circuit West* in reference to four “Strategic Initiatives” approved at our last Annual Conference. ‘Conflict is likely’ because of the changes that the Initiatives will cause... It is necessary for leadership to ‘live in the tension’ between present and future, reality and hope, expectation and cynicism.”

So what changes do we see coming as we continue to work toward the Church of Today? Although acknowledging that change can be frightening, let us also recognize that change can carry with it an immediate sense of success. Consider for a moment some of the subtle changes in our style of worship these past few months, and we see that change can fill us with ideas of the future, with hope, and with expectation. Our Vision & Discernment committee is taking just this approach in visioning for our future here at First United Methodist Church.

How do we envision our Church of Today? What are some of the challenges we may face, and how can we overcome our challenges? How can we continue to live out our message of “Open Hearts, Open



The Church of Today, *continued on page 7*

Spotlight On: Care For Our Youngest

by Rev. Debbie Gara

One of the most important and crucial aspects of any congregation is the assurance of safe and loving care for the youngest. Infants and preschool-age children first experience God through the love, care, and nurture they receive from the adults who care for them. Parents of young children can not engage fully in classes and worship if they are not assured of such an environment for their children.

I want to share how we go about this priority at FUMC and acknowledge the loving and dedicated care team.

Each Sunday morning, during Sunday School hour through worship, we employ Margaret Stewart, Susan Simunyola and youth Elsa Peron to insure that there is consistent coverage in the infant and preschool rooms. Additionally, Peggy Hendricks and regular youth assistants, Nicole Lussier and Katie Dickerson, serve the church by volunteering in this area. It is essential that we are able to offer one-on-one care and comfort to young children in a new or less consistent environment away from home so that they are then able to build the trust necessary to participate in play and other activities.

As children are ready, developmentally appropriate Bible stories and craft activities are shared using our United Methodist toddler and

preschool curriculum. You will often see one of these teachers with a young child on their lap during the time in worship that children are present. We recognize the importance of early exposure to the worship experience. A video feed is also present in our nursery so that those caregivers in this area can experience and feel a part of worship.

In addition to the consistent coverage in these areas, our Sunday School Superintendents greet families as they arrive and are present and aware during these hours on Sunday morning assisting as needs arise. Roberta McKean Cowdin has served this role well the past months and will continue as upper division superintendent. Jami

Carrera and Jean Stewart are incoming lower division superintendents.

We must always be alert to new needs that ensure the quality of care for our children. A new protocol will soon be developed for efficient notification of parents in classes and worship when emergencies arise.

We also offer child care when needed for all church-related events.

As a Sanctuaries of Safety church, all who work with our children must pass a background screening.

We are grateful for the dedicated team who care for the children of FUMC in this important area of ministry.



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Youth Choir Christmas Greens!



The Youth Choir will be selling Christmas Greens from October 8th through October 28th. All money raised will go towards their 2008 Choir trip to Northern California/Oregon. The Youth will also sell greens during Coffee Hour on October 14th, 21st, & 28th. Please support our youth and enjoy beautiful greens this holiday season! For any questions, contact Sue Tkocz @ (626) 449-6464.

Award-Winning Madrigal Singers at FUMC October 13th



Fresh from an unprecedented 2nd time win at the prestigious European Grand Prix, the world renown Philippine Madrigal Singers showcase their winning form Saturday, October 13th!

This is a rare opportunity for Los Angeles audiences to witness the distinct sound and artistry that made this premiere choir of the Philippines emerge as the champion of champions in what is considered the choral Olympics of the world.

Come and see the first and only choir to win twice in The European Grand Prix for Choral Singing! Tickets are going fast! The Concert starts at 7:30pm at the FUMC. For TICKETS call: (818) 445-8771, (818) 322-5018, (310) 409-9181, (818) 321-8928.

Evening Circle Hosts International Discussion and Dinner on October 23rd

Join us for an informative and interesting evening with Dr. Philip S. Kamara-Kay, President and Executive Director of Alpha Kamara International Educational Foundation, Inc., as he shares with us his vision for quality education in Sierra Leone, West Africa.



Dr. Kamara-Kay is a member of our church family, and professor of International/Intercultural Studies at Glendale Community College.

We will start with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Donation of \$7.00 is requested for dinner. Women of all ages are invited, and babysitting is provided upon request. Please RSVP to the church office (626) 796-0157.

The Church of Today, *continued from front page*

Minds, Open Doors?" Ask yourself where you personally may find the biggest opportunity to stretch and grow your perceptions. Was it during a recent sermon where Dr. Trotter suggested an opportunity to open our facility more fully to those who are homeless or disenfranchised?

Occidental College in nearby Eagle Rock is hosting a conference for lesbian, gay,

bisexual, transgender, and queer (LBGTQ) young persons entitled "Models of Pride" on October 6th. In a difficult world, how do we minister to and support these persons? Are we challenged by this idea of ministry?

Let us consider that to be the Church of Today we must no longer seek to be served but to serve. Who is it that we are called to serve, how might we best serve, and when do we serve? Let us start Today!



Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations for October:

October has two Os in it. People come to Social Services needing items with two Os like shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Can you help us collect these in October?

Emergency L.I.F.E. Line

(Lifesaving Information for Emergencies) packets are now available through the Methodist Hospital Foundation/Women's Leadership Council.

The large red plastic envelope contains health and medical information forms to be filled out by the owner and placed in a visible area of the refrigerator. In the event of an emergency, the first responders (fire, police, EMS) will be able to readily locate this essential information, alerted by the magnet (included) placed on the refrigerator door.

Other items included in the packet are insurance cards, a wallet card, an advanced health care directive or power of attorney for health care, religious preference/cultural practice information, advanced or other desired arrangements, medication list, etc.

The kits, for which a \$5.00 donation is suggested, may be obtained from the Methodist Hospital of Arcadia, or ordered through Mary Jane Bell, FUMC Methodist Hospital Women's Auxiliary representative, (626) 284-2961, or contact the Church Office.



In the next issue of The Messenger:

"Special Library Gifts"

Ruth MacPherson will share an extensive list of new titles donated to the Church Library this year. Next time you're at church, come by the Library. There's lots happening between the pages in Room 106!



"Light from the Catacombs"

Pat Mann, FUMC Archivist, will again share photos and interesting stories and tidbits from the archives of FUMC. Music is the focus, and you will not believe what the choir looked like in the late 1800s!

Weekly Worship Available Electronically



AUDIO &
VIDEO

You can now order DVDs, VHS tapes and CDs in the Church Office or at the fellowship hour following worship. We also have video and audio podcasts available on the church website www.fumcpasadena.org. Just click the "Sermons" link. Our weekly broadcasts continue on Pasadena Charter Media Channel 3 at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Time for the Pathfinders' Annual Halloween Bash



Join the Pathfinders for their annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 27, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. 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 at (626) 285-9354 or email cquan_sgusd@hotmail.com

Crafty People Wanted for Craft Sunday in October

You are invited to participate in Craft Sunday in October. Come by the church from 5:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and help make beautiful crafts for the Harvest Festival. Whether you're a crafty pro, or just want to spend fun evenings with friends, all are welcome. If you have crafts that you would like to donate for the festival, contact Wendy Kendall at (626) 798-3327.

2007 Rally Day Review

Story and photos by H Reid



The glorious weather on this special day was equalled only by the impressive array of exhibits representing our church groups and organizations. Each display was accompanied by the appropriate informational literature and pictorial elements. From prayer quilts and baby blankets to an eye-catching, colorful production from our award-winning library staff, there was something for everyone to enjoy. A helpful (and attractive) Chancel Choir contingent provided a welcome musical element to the afternoon. Our dedicated Theatre Arts Committee personnel presented a tabletop display of their activities plus so much more, each adding its unique contribution to our annual Rally Day.



It would be remiss if one failed to mention our stalwart United Methodist Men who prepared and served the bountiful luncheon to everyone in attendance; unsung heroes all!

Grateful thanks are extended to all who so willingly and capably participated in this most worthwhile of enterprises, and those church members and friends who supported their earnest efforts.

Everybody appeared to agree that Rally Day 2007 was one of the best ever!



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, and 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. Please contact Debbie Gara.

Social Services Need a Few Good Men

by Brenda Carrigan

Aldersgate Forum
Luncheon Meeting

Friday
October 12th



Special Guest

Peg Rahn

Travel & Food Writer/
Columnist
Pasadena Star News

12:30 p.m.
Church Lounge

For the last 3 years, I have been working with the Social Services Ministry at our church. For most of that time, it's been one of the most rewarding parts of my life at "First Church." I am Brenda Carrigan, and I was baptized in this church. My parents became members in the late 1940's, and I never even knew we had a Social Services Ministry until Ann Burke made a plea from the pulpit for volunteers. I volunteered, and subsequently became responsible for its day-to-day operations.

I am making a plea of my own now. I desperately need volunteers especially a couple of good men who would like to spend from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month.

Now for the nuts and bolts. We are about to enter into the colder part of our year, and once again I am asking you to go through your closets and see if there isn't a sweater or coat,

gently used, that you can part with so we can offer it to one of our clients. I can use "sport" shoes and socks, and any other cold weather type outer garments you are finished with. Please keep in mind I only have ADULT clients; I cannot use any children's clothing. Whatever you donate that I can't use, I have to dispose of, so please, ADULT outer wear and shoes only, we cannot use dress clothing. Jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, sweat pants are the types of things we need. Sleeping bags are especially wonderful, and I can use blankets.

I have seen an outpouring of love from all of you in the past when we've needed things for our Social Service clients, and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. This is truly an act of love on my part; this is where my heart is, and I cannot thank you enough for the support you've shown.



Harvest Festival is just around the corner!

It's time to celebrate the season with FUMC's annual Harvest Festival. There's something for everyone; shopping for quality crafts, delicious food, and fun & games for the kids. So save the dates, you won't want to miss the fun!

Saturday, November 3 rd	9:00a.m.-1:30p.m.
Sunday, November 4 th	8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.

First Church Choirs Welcoming New Members

by Steve Gothold



Ever think about singing in the Chancel Choir? Could it be time for you to join our fellowship and music making? We are excited about coming events, and urge your participation in the musical life of the church.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. We are preparing not only for regular Sunday morning anthems, but also for a Bach cantata for Reformation Sunday, and lots of wonderful Christmas music. YOU are cordially invited to join us!!!

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. What if I don't read music?** Many of our singers are not proficient readers, but the church provides professional section leaders who, through their leadership make it much easier for every singer to learn their parts.
- 2. What if I don't have a good voice?** Most of us are not blessed with beautiful voices, but one of the great things about choirs is that the total is greater than the sum of the parts. All that is needed is a song in your heart, and faith that with practice whatever gift you possess will grow.

Singing one's faith is such an enriching part of the Christian discipline!

- 3. What if I can't come to choir EVERY week?** Our choir is full of busy people, and everyone has occasional conflicts. What we ask is a commitment to let us know in advance of conflicts, and do the best you can to attend as regularly as possible.
- 4. Do I have to sing alone?** Do I have to audition? No! and No! You will never be put "on the spot" - we try to make every rehearsal a nourishing, fun and comfortable environment, and there is no audition or interview required.
- 5. What is the Six-Week Plan?** If you'd like to try the choir, I would ask that you make a commitment for six weeks. In that time you will become comfortable with your part, learn the routine, and really see what it's like to participate in the musical leadership of worship. I have found that when folks try choir for a week or two, it's just not enough to get to a comfort zone and level of confidence, and hence, it might not feel like fun....

Should you have questions about the choir, feel free to ask any choir member, or give me a call or an e-mail - we would LOVE to see you! Contact: Steve Gothold (562) 708-2348 or sgothold@fumcpasadena.org

One-Stop Entertainment - Shop, Lunch & a Show or Have an Evening Out

The FUMC intergenerational drama group offers 4 performances of this year's fall play, "Perfect Weather for a Murder." It is a mystery comedy with music for the whole family. Performances will be Thursday through Saturday, November 1-3 at 7:30 p.m. in Great Hall. Bring a friend. There will be a special matinee performance at 1:00

p.m. on November 3 so that people can shop at the youth-sponsored Harvest Festival, dine on tamales or other luncheon fare and watch the show—a perfect Saturday afternoon!

Those attending are encouraged to bring peanut butter and/or tuna fish, which will be donated to the church Social Service Ministry. So mark your calendars and don't miss the fun.



How is being a Christian like being a pumpkin?

God sees us, picks us out of the dirt, cleans us off, takes the yucky material out of us by forgiving us, puts a smile on our faces and places a shining light within us for others to see.

Jesus said:
"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:16, NRSV).

FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:

| October 

12-14	All day	Work Camp/Sky Meadows	Sky Meadows
12	12:30 pm	Aldersgate Forum Luncheon	Church Lounge
13	7:00pm	Philippine Madrigal Singers	Sanctuary
15	1:30pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Church Lounge
16	9:00am	Adult Handbell Rehearsal	Bell Room
17	7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
18	7:00pm	Back to Church 101	Adult Lounge
18	7:00pm	Gospel According/Simpsons	Youth Lounge
20	9:30am	Prayer Quilt Ministry	Church Lounge
21	6:30pm	Questers Meeting	Church Lounge
23	3:30pm	UMM Dinner Meeting	Main Kitchen
23	6:30pm	UMW Evening Circle Meeting	Church Lounge
25	9:30am	Crocheters	Church Lounge



FUMC Prayer List

Please remember persons on our prayer list in your regular prayers...



We lift up to God these prayers...

for healing Wayne Brubaker, Everett Dodge (convalescing after surgery), Howard Gorton, George Griffith, Peggy Hendricks, Holly Dale Howard, Dorothy Lewis

for comfort: Wendy Stiver, Tim Sun and family on the death of a friend, Amy Fan

See you in Church Sunday!



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