



The Messenger

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Prepare for Both Comings

by Dr. Frank Trotter

There are six liturgical seasons in the Christian Year. Can you name them all (closing your eyes and not reading any further)?

The first is Advent – which began Sunday, December 2nd and always includes the four Sundays prior to Christmas

Day. The other

five in order are

Christmastide,

Epiphany, Lent,

Eastertide, and

Pentecost. Each

season has a color.

Can you attach it to the

proper season? (The

liturgical colors in no particular order are red, white, green, purple, and gold.)

Advent begins by talking about the Second Coming of the Risen Christ at the end of time (also known as “the Day of the Lord”), and then moves to talking about the First Coming of the birth of God’s son at Bethlehem. And the season calls us to “prepare” (that’s what the word “advent” means) for both Comings. One cannot prepare for the coming of a child born in a manger without also preparing and praying for the Risen Christ to come with all of the glory of heaven’s angels at his back.

How does one prepare for both Comings? The traditional answer is many-textured: by watching, waiting, studying the scriptures, praying, fasting, doing works of justice and mercy, and participating in one’s own journey of penitence. Paul Tillich, the

great 20th century theologian, said, “Our

time is a time of waiting; waiting is its

special destiny. And every

time is a time of waiting,

waiting for the

breaking in of

eternity. All time

runs forward. All

time, both history and

in personal life, is

expectation. Time

itself is waiting,

waiting not for another time, but for that which is eternal.”

There is celestial magnificence at both ends of this season of anticipation and preparation. My prayer for and invitation to each of you is that you will be with your church family each of these important Sundays as we hear again the ancient words that remind us of beginnings and endings, Alphas and Omegas, God at the first and God at the last. In all things, we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. For the whole of creation is in wait.”

Christ
IS Coming!

Missions Corner: Gifts of Hope and New Life for Around the World

The Christmas Market provides us the opportunity to both remember those we love and to reach out around the world with love and hope.

Through the purchase of shares of the projects on the shopping list, we join in partnership with highly reputable non-profit agencies that empower and enable needy persons to help themselves. Many of the listed projects are either affiliated with the United Methodist Church, are supported by the church, or have special significance to local missions. All are available for your participation:

GIFTS FOR PASADENA AREA AGENCIES

Young and Healthy: Health insurance is a luxury that many cannot afford. A concerned group of area health care professionals provides free treatment to those in need. Your gifts can provide x-rays, blood tests, crutches, medication and other valuable services.

Friends in Deed: Friends in Deed continue to provide food, shelter and clothing to individuals and families in the Pasadena area. Your gifts help put food on many tables that might otherwise go without.

Pasadena AIDS Service Center: The statistics surrounding this disease are grim: it affects everyone. The Pasadena AIDS Service Center continues to provide support for those who face the daily challenge of living with AIDS.

Ecumenical Council Bad Weather Shelter: Your donations help provide dinner and a warm dry place to sleep for the homeless during the cold and wet winter weather.

San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity: Habitat works in partnership with people everywhere to build simple, decent houses with families in need. Your donation will be used to build homes in San Gabriel Valley.

First United Methodist Social Services Ministry: Each week persons in need seek help from the Social Services Ministry of our church. We provide food, bus passes and referrals to other agencies. The center is staffed by volunteers who give freely of their time.

Union Station: This non-profit organization's mission is to provide the homeless and poor with the means to transform their lives. Your donations help provide a variety of services including traditional housing, showers, legal assistance, meals, etc.

GIFTS FOR FUMC

Children's Playgarden: Give the gift that will give continuously. Your gift of \$25 will enable children to explore the wonders of nature in an environment that God and you created.

GIFTS FOR THE U.S.A. & BEYOND

Latin America • Mexico Give Ye Them to Eat
Our church is familiar with the mission work of our Covenant Missionaries, Terry and Muriel Henderson, in Tlancualpican, Mexico. The work of this organization combats hunger and poverty through an integrated development program that teaches health care, family planning, nutrition and agriculture. Donations will go directly to the program.

Project Tariro ("Hope" in the Shona language)
Helping HIV/AIDS patients and families to live positively in Zimbabwe is the goal of this holistic program. Tariro is a newly approved project with United Methodist Africa University and the General Board of Higher Education of the UMC.

Heifer Project

Your gift will help to purchase animals or tree seedlings for families around the world enabling them to become self-reliant. Heifer Project also provides training to ensure that plants and animals stay healthy and productive.

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The Glorious Music of Christmas!

by Stephen S. Gothold

There are many special opportunities to partake of glorious Christmas music over the next few weeks. Please plan to be a part of the wonders of the season, and bring a friend!

December 16 at 10:00am

In Morning Worship

Children's Christmas Pageant

With a script created by Pam Marx, the Children's Music Program will present its annual pageant, this year featuring music of Afro-America. The costumed and staged performance will be the principal part of the worship service.

December 16 at 4:00pm

GLORIA!

Public concert of Christmas music in our Sanctuary

The Chancel Choir will combine with Chorale Bel Canto and Symphony Orchestra to present a 90 minute program of Christmas music on a grand scale! Nearly 100 voices and an orchestra of 55 will perform traditional carols (some of them sing-along!), Gustav Holst's *Christmas Day*, and Franz Biebel's enchanting *Ave Maria*. The keystone of the concert is Francis Poulenc's witty,

quirky and beautiful *Gloria*, featuring our own Lisa Wall-Urgero as soprano soloist. You will not want to miss this musical treat!!

There is no admission charge; a freewill offering will be taken. Suggested donation is \$20.

December 23 at 10:00am

In Morning Worship

The Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Soloists, accompanied by string orchestra and harp, will perform Camille Saint-Saens' charming *Christmas Oratorio*. Ever since it was first composed, this piece has won favor all over the world.

December 24 at 11:00pm

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols in our Sanctuary

Drawing from the great English tradition, the Chancel Choir will provide musical leadership for a retelling of the prophecy and birth of Jesus Christ, interspersed with congregational carols and choral anthems, this year supported by a brass ensemble. The service will close with the traditional candlelight singing of Silent Night.

We cordially invite your attendance, participation and support in all of these wonderful presentations by our Music Ministry.



Christmas
with Chorale Bel Canto Concert 2007

Francis Poulenc: *Gloria*
And traditional songs and carols of the Christmas Season

Chorale Bel Canto and
Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church at Pasadena
Lisa Wall-Urgero, Soprano
Debrah Gattuso, Contralto

Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2121 Lili Ln. Los Angeles, CA 90040
Tickets: \$25 / Advance \$20 / At the Door \$25
18700 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 100
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Phone: 310-206-1111
www.stmarkslutheran.org

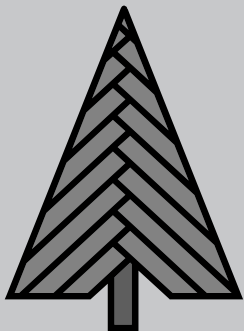
SAVE THE DATE

February 2, 2008
8:30 am to 3:00pm
District
"How-To" Workshops
Sharing God's Gift – Plant a Seed in the United Methodist Garden!

Special Keynote Speaker
Rev. N. Adiel A. DePano

Put on your calendar
and tell your pastor

Entheos Christmas Party



Please join us for our annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15th at 6:30PM

at the home of Steve and Melanie Summers. In addition to our White Elephant gift exchange, we ask that you also bring a canned or boxed food item for Social Services. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert! For more information and to RSVP, please call the Summers at (626) 798-7088.



Light from the Catacombs

by Pat Mann, FUMC Archivist

Christmas Through the Years at FUMC

"...And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:7



Christmas Pageant "The Holy Night" 1948



"The Nativity" in 1985 outside on Colorado Boulevard by the church entrance. "Holy Family," the LoMonacos: Mark & Kathy; little shepherd girl, Rachael; angel, Rebecca; Wisemen: Greg & George Mann, K.C. Putnam



"Holy Family" in 1994. The Sharp Family: Thom, Sue, Ian and baby Iris Sharp.



"Holy Family" in 2001. The Rahn Family: Mikala, Max and Baby Madeline



FUMC Preschool Christmas Pageant 1993

Adult Sunday School Opportunities

On Sunday, November 25th, fifty-five gathered for a special expanded session of the SpiritSeekers.

We were blessed with a touching, riveting talk from Gunther Katz, Holocaust survivor and speaker from the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. Gunther is a child survivor of the de Gurs Concentration Camp. He was smuggled to Switzerland in 1943 by an organization in France dedicated to saving Jewish children. Despite losing his parents in Auschwitz along with 35 other relatives, Gunther was able to share through



his story the hope and faith that sustained him and all the people he is thankful for in his life. His miracle story deeply touched each of us.

SpiritSeekers Sunday School meets at 9:07am each Sunday morning in the Adult Lounge on the second floor.

The Forum Sunday School class resumed December 2nd with Rev. George Mann in the Church Lounge.

Come for coffee, refreshments and stimulating spiritual discussion with others before worship . All are invited!

The Mouse and the Ogre



Disney/DreamWorks Couple Provide a Magical Brew for Animation Movies at the Aldersgate Monthly Luncheon

One hastens to assure our Messenger readers that the above heading does not, in any way, shape or form, have reference to our November guest speakers. Although Doug and Susan Rogers are, without a doubt, on nodding terms with “Mickey Mouse” and the indomitable “Shrek.”

As promised, our members are the recipients of a unique tour-de-force of the complexities, vagaries and frustrations of the animated movie business.

The Rogers proved to be a charismatic duo in providing a fascinating glimpse of the highly specialized world they inhabit and contribute

so capably to. Their credentials, which they rarely alluded to, with becoming modesty, in the course of their well-received talk, are remarkable in the extreme.

Douglas is the esteemed Art Director for the Academy Award winning blockbuster “*Shrek*” and is currently Production Designer for Disney’s sixth film for DreamWorks. He has received recognition for his many achievements from the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and the International Animated Film Society among others. Susan is currently Associate Producer for DreamWorks’ “*Monsters vs Aliens*,” the company’s first animated film to be produced in stereophonic 3D. Some of her projects include “*The Legend of Bagger Vance*,” “*The Mexican*,” “*A.I.*,” “*Minority Report*,” “*Shark Tale*,” and “*Kung Fu Panda*,” the latter to be released in June, 2008.

Mission Corner, continued from page 2

Bishop’s Initiative Special Funding Request: African Student Scholarship Fund: This fund established at Claremont School of Theology, provides necessary support to The Rev. Eunice Musa, who upon completion of her doctoral degree in June 2008, will return to Nigeria to serve as pastoral counselor to those who have been victimized by domestic violence and abuse.



Sunday School Big Red Barrel Donations

December

This month the wind blows and the rains may come. If you are out in the weather, your skin and lips will most likely get chapped. What helps keep our skin and lips smooth?

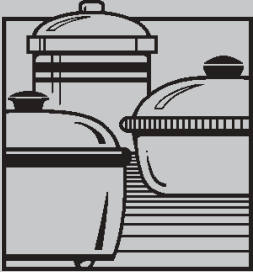
We will collect moisturizing cream & chapstick.

Children's Ministry

Important Dates and Times in the Advent Season

Pathfinders

Casserole
Sale



December 9th

after church
to benefit
our adopted
family.

Christmas Pageant: *A Spiritual Christmas*

Sunday, December 16

during 10:00 am morning worship

(Cherub, Alleluia & Cantate Choirs, PreK to 6th) This year's children's pageant, *A Spiritual Christmas*, will be presented during the 10 am service on Sunday, December 16. All children PreK-6th are invited and encouraged to be a part of this production by attending Children's Choir following the Children's Time in worship and the following rehearsal:

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 9 at 9:00 am in Great Hall

Pageant Day Sunday, December 16 at 8:30 am

ALL CHILDREN DRESS IN ALL BLACK. Children and parents will be served breakfast at 8:30 am courtesy of some of our parents. Note: Parents are encouraged to bring donuts and sliced fruit for the post-pageant snack.

Sunday, December 23: (regular schedule)

Sunday School at 9:00 am

Choir after Children in Worship.

Christmas Eve services: 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm

The Christmas story and carols; all children will receive a Christmas book.

Sunday, December 30:

NO Sunday School or Choir Rehearsal.

Families worship together. Children's worship activity packets will be available at the sanctuary doors.

Child Care

Loving childcare is provided each Sunday from 9:00 am through worship for infants through preschool.

— SAVE THE DATE —

Children's Camp
January 19-20, 2008

(Saturday morning - Sunday afternoon)

Theme: "I am a Child of God"

Celebrating the wonder of our creation
in the beauty of the mountains!

Children will be encouraged to celebrate their unique selves as children of God through age-appropriate sessions along with some good 'ol fun camp traditions, activities, and campfire songs!

Leadership: Rev. Debbie Gara and Children's
Ministry Counselors

Watch for registration brochure
in the mail soon!

Thank You!

To all FUMC Ministers, Friends and Family,

Blessings to each of you. We are very grateful for the warm greetings received during "Wayne Brubaker Sunday." The standing ovation was overwhelming. The delicious Thanksgiving dinner was very special to us.

Our children, Eric and Nancy, and Susan and I will never forget the special honor and day you planned.

"This is (was) the day the LORD hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

WE DID!! Thank you, thank you very much.

Wayne and Susan Brubaker

Highlights of Consecration Sunday

Photos by J.P. Harris and H Reid



FUMC CALENDAR of EVENTS:



07	7:00pm	Christmas Caroling	Chapel
08	5:00pm	Youth Babysitting	PFUMC Classrooms
10	7:30pm	Charge Conference	Church Lounge
11	9:30am	Yarn Ministry	Church Lounge
12	10:00am	Foundation Office (10am-6pm)	Foundation Office
	7:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Oxford
14	6:00pm	Aldersgate Party	Church Lounge
16	8:30am	Pancake Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
		Children's Ministry	
	11:15am	Christmas Market/ACAC Gifts	Fellowship Hall
	11:45am	Girl Scout Troop 529 Meeting	Rms 200/300
	4:00pm	Christmas Concert- "Gloria"	Sanctuary
	4:00pm	Confirmation Class	Jr. Hi. Lounge
17	12:00pm	UMW Hilltoppers	Church Lounge
18	7:00pm	Stewardship Committee	Church Lounge
19	10:00am	Foundation Office (10am-6pm)	Foundation Office

Weekly & Ongoing FUMC Events

SUNDAYS	
9:00am	Sunday School for all ages
10:00am	Sunday Morning Worship
11:30am	Youth Handbell Choir
5:15pm	Youth Choir Choir Room
6:45pm	UMYF Dinner & Program Fellowship Hall
TUESDAYS	
10:00am	Social Services Great Hall
7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop Scout Room
7:30pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal Bell Room
7:30pm	AA Meetings Adult Lounge
WEDNESDAYS	
7:00pm	Young People's AA Meeting Adult Lounge
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

FUMC Prayer List

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

We lift up to God these prayers...

for healing:

- Peter Beam
- Gabe Brown
- Wayne Brubaker
- Everett Dodge
- Curt Elrod
- George Griffith
- Peggy Hendricks
- Kyong Hong
- Holly Dale Howard
- Manick Samuel
- Doris Schatra
- Norm Schmidt
- Argie Taylor



for strength & comfort:

- Phil Carlson
- Barbara Gorton
- Lorene Ozsvath



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