



First United Methodist Church

At this time, in this place, let us be the hands and heart of Jesus Christ for the world.

March 8, 2010

The Visitor

Volume 52, Issue 5

**Immerse Yourself in
Holy Week and Easter**
*the most significant week of the year for
the people called Christians*

Sunday, March 28, 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday Worship

We begin with the joy of the Palm Sunday Procession,
and end in the startling acknowledgement that Passion Week begins

Thursday, April 1

Dinner 6:00 PM, Worship 6:45 PM in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday Worship – remembering Jesus’ last supper with his disciples

**Friday, April 2, Noon, in the Sanctuary
Traditional Good Friday Worship**

Friday, April 2, 6:00 PM, *Deep Well* worship

The last of our Lenten *Deep Well* services
Experience *Good Friday Worship* in a new and meaningful way

Saturday, April 3, 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Stations of the Poor – follow Jesus’ footsteps among the people he came to care for *

Easter Sunday, April 4

Traditional Easter Worship – 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Brass Ensemble, the Easter story told especially for children
The *Hallelujah* Chorus – everyone invited to sing with the Choir

*Requires advance sign-up, in the Terrace Room after worship or by e-mail to info@firstumcsac.org.

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...and **MORE**, inside & at www.firstumcsac.org

Don't Forget to **SPRING** Forward!



Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend (at 2:00 AM Sunday, March 14), so before you go to bed Saturday night, don't forget to set your clocks **ahead one hour.**

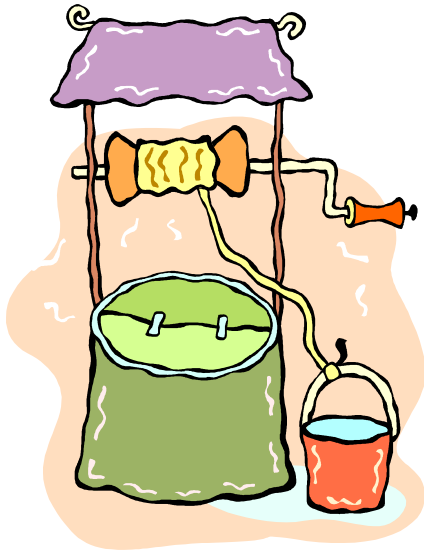
Deep Well

Worship in the Chapel at 6 pm on Fridays

A Lenten journey of renewal for everyone running on empty

www.deepwellfridays.com

Children welcome



About Our Folks

♥ Our prayers and sympathy are with **Stacy Buxton** and family, following the death of Stacy's uncle. ♥ Our prayers and sympathy are with **Pat Coleman** and her family, following the death of Pat's husband **Cliff**. ♥ Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Don Irwin** following his death. A memorial service will be held for Don on Saturday, March 27, at 1:00 PM. ♥ We continue to hold in our prayers **Ardys and Guy Heilman**, **Nell and Phil Alford**, and **Molly Schaechtele**. ♥ We hold in our prayers: **Betty Johnson**, who is in the hospital; **Dick Baxter**, who will be moving soon; and **Else Meyer**, who has moved. ♥

Family Promise Time Again!



It is time to welcome our Family Promise families again. We are excited to be hosting them during this wonderful season of renewal. Many volunteer opportunities are available for anyone wishing to be involved with this program that helps homeless families on their way to self-sufficiency. They will be arriving on April 4 (Easter) and staying through April 10.

We will have the volunteer signup board in the Terrace Room after worship beginning February 21. Jeannette and Brian Hite will be available to help you sign up or answer any questions you may have about the program. You may also contact us by phone or e-mail at (916) 470-9586 or hitejs@yahoo.com. Peace and blessings to you all!

Freedom: 12-Step Spirituality for Everyone Who Struggles — sermon series concludes March 21

March 14

Step 11: *Seeking God—Consciously, Intentionally, Faithfully*
Luke 11:5-12

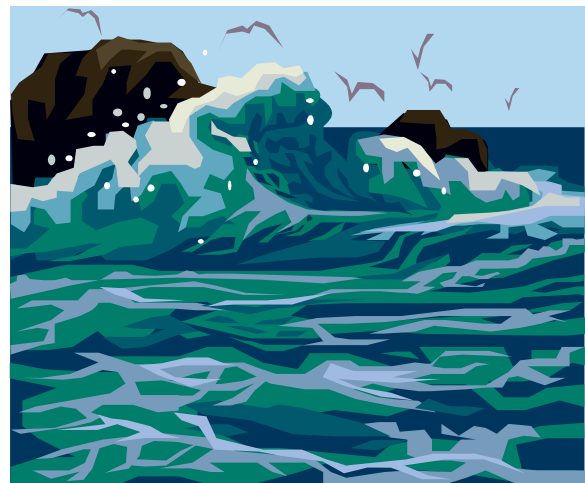
March 21

Step 12: *How Do You Describe Freedom?*
John 8:31-32

March 28 — Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday

Craft Workshop

UMW will hold a workshop on Saturday, March 20, 9:00-noon, to make craft items for sale during the Easter season. Proceeds will support UMW's mission work.



Twenty-first Families

There are so many things happening around the church this Lenten season!

The Friday evening *Deep Well* service has a time for children to experience their own deep well through the stories of Jesus and water, music and rhythm, and learning of the 23rd Psalm.

Sunday mornings are packed with art and theater, Godly Play, mission and service.

We are in full practice for our spring theatrical production, "Wake Up, Jerusalem!" which will be performed during worship on Sunday, April 11.

** A reminder to children and youth who are not able to be in the play:* There is no alternative program during Lent at 9:15 on Sundays. We are only doing play practice. Please stay with your parents during that time, as there is no supervision for you upstairs. *

Sunday mornings during Lent

9:15 AM

- Babies and toddlers care in downstairs nursery
- Art Adventurers for preschoolers and kindergarteners in Room 202B
- Spring Production with Michael Peters rehearsal in Room 201. No programs will be held for children not in the production.

10:30 AM

- Care for babies and toddlers through age 2 in downstairs nursery.
- Godly Players ages 2-4 in Room 202A.
- Continued rehearsals for Spring Production in Room 201.

- Sunday School for preschool-K in Room 204, Grades 1-4 in Room 205 and Middle School in Room 214.

Palm Sunday and Easter

Children and youth are invited to gather in the narthex on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 10:20 am, to be part of the procession and the carrying and waving of palms into the sanctuary at the beginning of the worship service.

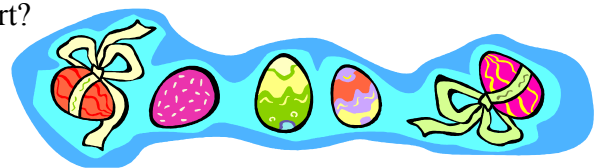
There will be no Sunday School for children and middle school youth on Palm Sunday.

On Easter, April 4, there will be no 9:15 Enrichment programs. Children and middle school youth will remain in worship for the entire Easter service with their families. This also enables our Sunday School teachers to experience the Easter service with their families.

Easter Egg Hunt

For many years there has been an Easter Egg Hunt for children in the courtyard directly after worship. If you are interested in stuffing and hiding eggs for the children this year, please contact Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries, at (916) 446-5025 ext.106. She can give you eggs and will help with gathering egg stuffers, but this needs to be done by March 20.

If no one comes forward to lead, there will be no egg hunt this year. Are you an Easter Bunny at heart?



Middle School Youth Group Penny Drive

Got pennies? The Middle School Youth Group is continuing to raise funds for our first ever middle school Sierra Service Project team – and every cent counts! We'll have jars in the Terrace Room after worship on Sundays from March 14 through April 4 to collect any coins you would like to donate – from pennies to silver dollars and everything in between! Let your change make a change! And thank you for supporting the Middle School Youth Group.



Before *The Visitor*

By Joan Haug-West, Chair, Heritage Committee

The first issue of *The Visitor* was published on February 4, 1954, but the distinction of being our church's first newsletter goes to *The Tower*, published from 1932 through 1937, on a weekly schedule except for the months of June, July and August. During the Depression and the slow economic recovery afterward, financing the printing and mailing of *The Tower* wasn't easy, but running paid advertisements and collecting a subscription fee of fifty cents per year covered most of the costs.

The Tower contained articles about all sorts of church activities and announcements of coming meetings and other events. Columns such as "Our Young People," "Bats from the Belfry," "Random Ramblings," and "The Pastor's Corner" appeared regularly. Looking over our (unfortunately incomplete) collection of *The Tower*, you might note many articles about concerts given by the church choir and organist, as well as concerts given by groups from outside the church.

The number and variety of church activities during this period can be seen in this excerpt from Pastor Newton E. Moats' column in *The Tower* for May 27, 1934:

A Seven-Day Week Church

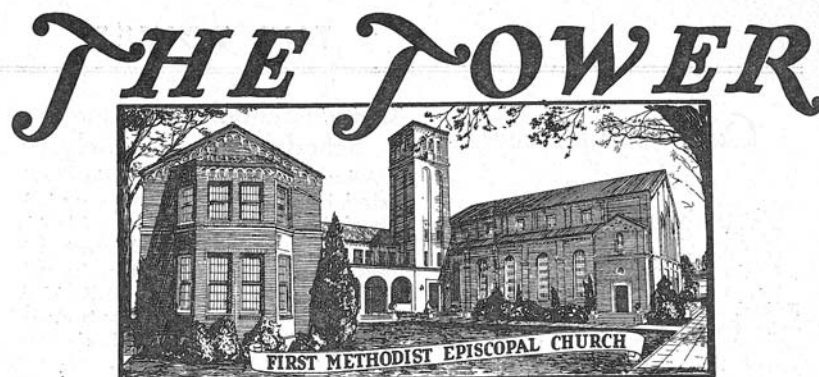
There is something going on at First Church every day of the week. The calendar is usually crowded with activities and there are many regular programs not included in the printed announcements. Sixteen hundred and sixty people enter our church each week. Often the figure reaches three thousand. Multiply this by fifty-two weeks and it will give you some estimate of the total number of contacts made by our church within the period of one year. These activities include worship services, community programs, educational classes, boys' and girls' clubs, social gatherings, young people's meetings, dramatic classes, missionary meetings, seven or eight women's organizations that use the church, the Men's Brotherhood, an Armenian church, and a Filipino fellowship.

"The Pastor's Corner" could be a kind of pulpit from which the preacher might com-

ment forcefully on current events. Here's an example, quoted from Dr. A. Raymond Grant's column in *The Tower* for April 9, 1937:

I . . . am glad the *Sacramento Bee* called to our attention the remarks of a certain clergyman, made at the funeral services for scores of victims in a recent explosion in a Texas city. After the nation was horrified beyond description by the terrible tragedy which snuffed out the lives of over four hundred and fifty children, a minister stated in public that "once more we bow before the hand of Almighty God." Poor God! Think of what men in every generation have laid at his door! However as one followed the investigation he was convinced that God had little, if anything to do with the deaths of hundreds therein trapped. It would appear more fitting to blame GREED than GOD. What were the lives of growing children if a "cheaper fuel" could be obtained, even though certain measures remained unauthorized by those who should have known what was going on in the educational affairs of that city? **Honest and vital religion** is [divorcing] and must continue to divorce itself from the shallow thinking revealed in the above statement. No longer can pious religious leaders blame God for the death of a tiny tot when honesty compels us to admit that more often it was the unsanitary conditions in which many children are forced to live. Let us be done with this mockery and immature philosophizing.

Compare the drawing in the masthead for *The Tower* with the one in the masthead for *The Visitor*. How many differences can you find? One final note: there was one other period, from 1945 to 1949, when First Church published a newsletter other than *The Visitor*. More about that in a future issue.



Easter Brings Spring Flowers

We will decorate our sanctuary with lilies and other spring flowers for Easter. To reserve your plant(s), send or drop off this form and \$10 per plant to the church office by March 29. After the worship service on Easter, you may take your plant home if you wish.

_____ plant(s) given by _____

In honor / memory (circle one) of _____

“One Great Hour of Sharing” March 14

NEW YORK (UMNS) — Eight days after the January earthquake in Haiti, Melissa Crutchfield led a small team to the island to start assessing emergency needs for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The ability of her team to get to Haiti quickly was due in part to One Great Hour of Sharing, an annual churchwide offering for UMCOR taken on the fourth Sunday in Lent. This year’s offering is on March 14. To Crutchfield, who coordinates international emergency response for the relief agency, One Great Hour of Sharing “is the backbone of what makes everything possible.”

All gifts designated to specific UMCOR programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR’s basic administrative and operational expenses are covered by One Great Hour of Sharing. You may write checks to FUMC and write “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line.

Youth STuff

Sunday, March 21

Car Wash fundraiser during worship.
Youth Council meeting after worship.

March 27—April 4: Spring Break

Sunday, March 28

Youth help with Community Breakfast.
Youth Group meeting.

Sunday, April 4 — Easter

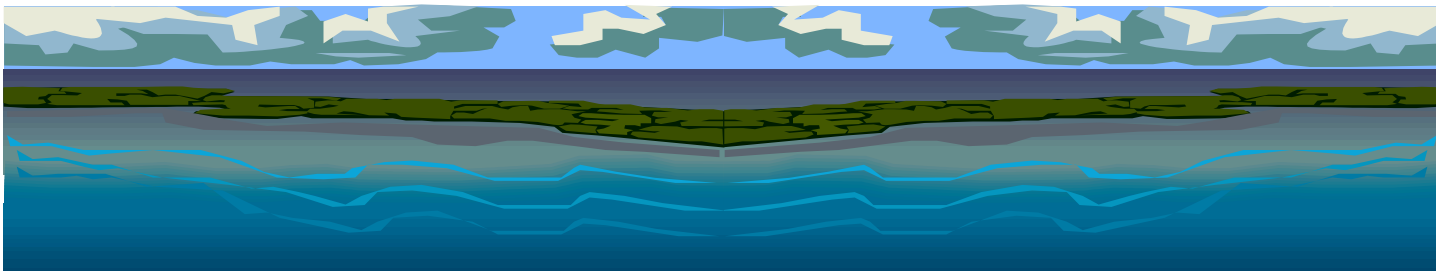
No Youth Group

Young adult scholarships available for Caring for Creation

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (UMNS) — Caring for Creation, set for April 8-11 at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, helps members of faith communities learn ways to care for the earth. Scholarships are currently available for ethnic young adults ages 18-35. Scholarship money will cover registration fee, housing and meals. For more information, contact Loy Lilley, 828-454-6750, llilley@lakejunaluska.com, or visit www.lakejunaluska.com.

NCC salutes women of faith in March

NEW YORK (UMNS) — Twenty women who have made an impact on faith are being saluted by the National Council of Churches as part of Women's History Month. The women will be featured daily at www.nccusa.org. Persons following the series may also name women who have made a special impact on their lives by contributing to the “Circles of Names” campaign to support women's ministries and gender justice programs in NCC member communities. More information on the campaign can be found at <http://circlesofnames.org/>.



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PERIODICALS

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY



***The Visitor* Deadline and Submission Info**

The Visitor is published twice monthly; a list of publication dates is available in the brochure racks or in the church office. **The deadline to submit items is the Friday before publication.** Items may be submitted by e-mail (preferred) or hard copy:

- **E-mail** to *Visitor* editor Cindy Haug-West (theVisitor@firstumcsac.org) **by 6:00 PM Friday**; please cc Dianne Smith in the church office (dianne@firstumcsac.org).
- Put **hard copy** items in Cindy's box in the church office **by 6:30 PM Thursday from September through June**, or personally hand them to Cindy by the end of the day on the Friday before publication.

Upcoming deadlines for *The Visitor* are:

- **March 19 (including April calendar)**
- **April 9**
- **April 23 (including May calendar)**
- **May 7**
- **May 21 (including June calendar)**
- **June 11**

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