



First United Methodist Church

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

April 12, 2010

The Visitor

Volume 52, Issue 7

Kathi's Keynote

Happy Easter!

All the major holidays of the Church year—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost—are multiple-week observances. We're meant to drink them in slowly, to savor them, so that we can absorb their full meaning. So we'll be basking in the good news of Easter for several weeks to come.

It was a glorious Easter. So many people worked to make it feel that way—from extra setting up for the *Deep Well* service, to decorating the sanctuary, cooking, singing or ushering in one of our special Holy Week services, supporting our children through their rehearsals for *Wake Up, Jerusalem!*... Find someone you don't usually talk with, and ask them how they were involved in Easter this week. And then don't forget to thank them—no matter what they did, every person in this community of faith contributed in some way to the spirit of joy and fullness that we all experienced.

I hope *gratitude* to one another, and to God, is one of the ways this community is recognizable to everyone who walks through the church's doors. There are other descriptions I hope for as well: generosity, hospitality, honesty, kindness. How are these characteristics demonstrated in the ways we work together, talk to one another, carry on all the worship and teaching and business of the church?

These are the things we'll be thinking about for the next few weeks and months, as we work together on articulating a *Rule of Life* that we will all hope to live by in this community of faith. This will be

something that we use when we talk about behavioral issues with children and youth, so it's important that we agree that it will be applicable to all of us, regardless of our age, so that we can speak with authenticity when we teach it to the church's children.

What would you like to see included in this *Rule of Life* for First Church? Send me your thoughts, by e-mail (Kathi@firstumcsac.org), by note dropped in the office or the offering plate, by mail, or by phone (916-446-5025). I'll collect them all, and then when we gather for a whole church day-long retreat on **May 29** (note that the date has changed from May 1), we'll shape our thoughts into something manageable.

* * * * *

I'd also like to hear your thoughts if you attended one of the six *Deep Well* services on Friday evenings during Lent, or if you talked with anyone who did. This was intended to be a pilot project that would give us an idea of whether a second worship service, of a very different style and at a different time from our Sunday morning service, is an important and needed addition to what the church offers. If you didn't have a chance to get to any of the services, you can get a little bit of feel for the service by visiting its website at www.deepwellfridays.com.

Attendance at the services was 50-75 each week, which was remarkably successful for a new service. To continue will require that we raise some funds for additional staffing, to supplement the foundation grant that we have already applied for and that we will hear a response to in May.

Please let me hear your thoughts—again, by any form!—within the next few weeks. You're also welcome to send me questions, if any aspect of this service's intent or planning is not clear to you.

In this season of renewed life, let's also make this a season of talking honestly with one another about the things that are important to us. I'm very glad to be in ministry right alongside of you, and to be in our ongoing conversation.

Love and blessings,

Kathi

Inside this issue of *The Visitor*:

Kathi's Keynote.....	1
Serving the Homeless with Ease and Grace.....	2
Twenty-first Families.....	3
Hats On for Tea.....	3
Before <i>The Visitor</i> : part two.....	4
Family Camping Scheduled!.....	5

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

A Workshop: “Serving the Homeless with Ease and Grace”

Do you feel awkward, scared, or unsure around homeless persons? Do you wish you knew what to say or how to respond more appropriately? Do you wonder what makes them tick? Are you involved in serving the homeless through the work of our church but wish you knew more? If so, come to this mini-workshop after worship on Sunday, May 16, 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM, presented by Linda Kelly-Baker, Pastor for Urban Ministries and director of Side-by-Side, a listening ministry with the homeless. A light lunch will be served.

We will explore our fears, what baggage we carry, our concerns, and simple ways we can make a big difference. We will also learn more about our homeless neighbors, and how to be a more hospitable church. All are welcome. Ushers, greeters, office volunteers, and Family Promise, Community Breakfast, and Faith and Homeless Families volunteers are encouraged to attend. To reserve your spot, call the church office at (916) 446-5025, or e-mail Pastor Linda at revlinda@listeningministry.org.

A longer workshop on Companioning the Homeless will be offered in June, time and place to be determined.

Disaster ministry provides home, answer to prayer

SLIDELL, La. (UMNS)—Nearly five years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, the Louisiana United Methodist Disaster Response Ministry is still building homes for survivors. In late March, the ministry led 21 teams from 12 states and three foreign countries in finishing a new home for Linda Meyer, framing three other homes and working on 19 other projects. For Meyer, the dedication of her home was an answer to prayer and a joyous milestone on a journey that has been marked by tragedy and loss.

“There were no false promises. No ‘We can't help you because we're leaving town.’ The Methodists have been helping people from the very beginning (of the storm),” said Meyer.

To learn more, visit www.umc.org.

About Our Folks

♥ We celebrate the arrival of **Elias Julien Thronson**, born April 1 to **Eric and Tara Thronson**. ♥ We were blessed to celebrate on April 11 the baptisms of **Alexander Jay Glesge** and his father **Joseph Glesge**. ♥ Our prayers are with **Duane Hansen**, who was in the hospital and is now home. ♥ Our prayers are with **Othea Martin**, father of **Betty Johnson**, as he is in hospice care. ♥ The memorial gathering for **Ann Holland** will be on May 8 at 2:00 PM. ♥ Congratulations to the whole cast of *Wake Up, Jerusalem!* on a fantastic performance on April 11. ♥ Congratulations to **Stephen Helsel** on placing second in his age group at the Resurrection Run 5K on April 3. ♥ Our prayers and best wishes go with **Christopher Sidener** as he leaves April 13 to begin his Navy service. ♥

Date Change

The all-church retreat to focus on our hopes for the church's children and youth has been changed from **May 1 to May 29, 10 AM to 3 PM**. Please put the new date on your calendar and plan to be there! More details coming soon.



Linda Meyer stands on the steps of her new home with Louisiana United Methodist Disaster Response volunteer Glenn Hawthorne. The trailer in the background has been her home since 2006. A UMNS photo by Betty Backstrom.

Twenty-first Families

Dear Children, Youth, and Families,

Starting April 18, Sunday mornings will be back to our regular schedule with Arts Enrichment at 9:15 and Sunday School at 10:30. This week, Middle School Youth will be serving at the Community Breakfast. Care for babies and toddlers will be provided at both hours in the downstairs nursery.

9:15 AM Enrichment

- Baby and Toddler Care (through age 3) in downstairs nursery.
- Arts Adventurers (age 3 through kindergarten) in Room 202B
- Arts Enrichment (grades 1-8) in Room 201. On April 18 there will be music and bells practice for baptisms during worship. Instructor Luana Hernandez.
- Middle School Youth serving at Community Breakfast.

10:30 AM Sunday School

- Baby and Toddler Care (through age 2) in downstairs nursery.
- Godly Players (ages 2-4) in Room 202A.
- Godly Play (age 4 through kindergarten) in Room 204.
- Godly Play (grades 1-4) in Room 205.
- Middle School Youth in Room 214. Listening for Legacy program will begin.

Wake Up, Jerusalem! a Great Success

Every Friday night during Lent the cast members of *Wake Up, Jerusalem!* practiced and rehearsed from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. They dedicated every Sunday morning to the understanding



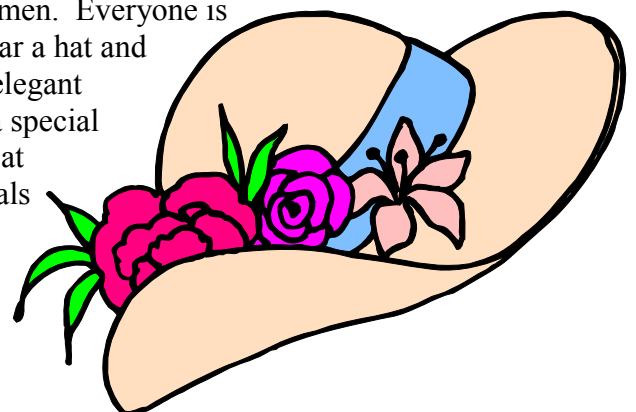
of a theater production that would bring the message of Easter to our congregation. Michael Peters, our director and member of FUMC, gave his time, talents, and vision so the children and youth could best bring the story and its meaning to all of us. We give thanks for Michael's presence and commitment to this faith community. To the parents and grandparents who responded to any need—supervision, making props, setting the stage, running lines, transportation, and filling bellies with healthy food—please accept our gratitude. Thank you to the people of First Church who stepped forward in support of our music, sound, videotape and publicity needs. It is a gift to be able to lead worship as the children are able to do each time they are given the opportunity to present a program such as *Wake Up, Jerusalem!* or *God's Greatest Hits* or *The People Who Knew Jesus*. To have the opportunity to share the stories—our stories—through these productions connects us all in rich and deep ways.

—Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries

Hats On for Tea



May 15th is the date, the Terrace Room is the place! Ladies of all ages are invited to attend this event sponsored by the United Methodist Women. Everyone is encouraged to wear a hat and arrive at 2:00 PM for an elegant tea. If you want to build a special chapeau for the occasion, arrive at 1:00 and design a topper using a myriad of materials supplied for this purpose. Bring a friend, daughter, granddaughter, aunt, cousin, sister, niece, mother, grandmother. . . . Childcare for boys and babies will be available. Mark your calendars now!



Before *The Visitor*, part two

By Joan Haug-West, Chair, Heritage Committee

You may remember reading in a recent *Visitor* article that our church's first newsletter, *The Tower*, was published from 1932 to 1937. Our second newsletter, *First Church News*, began publication in November 1945 and continued through 1949. During those five years *First Church News* was published weekly except during July and August, and a subscription cost fifty cents a year. This successor to *The Tower* included news about church events, columns by the pastor and others, inspirational items from many sources, news about the church's finances, and so on.

Pastor A. Raymond Grant often dealt with issues of world-wide importance in his column "The Pastor's Corner." Here's an excerpt from that column for November 29, 1945:

As a victor nation in a position of supreme power in the world, we face dangerous temptations, which the prophets would point out in vivid language. We are inclined to assume a superiority we do not genuinely possess. It will be easy to be self-righteous about forcing our ideas upon the world with the subtle waving of the 'big stick' of military power. Too easily will we be able to overlook our moral shortcomings and our national self-centeredness. Thoughtlessly we may forget that victory has brought us more responsibilities than privileges.

Sometimes the editors of *First Church News* quoted from well-known writers who had important things to say about issues of spiritual development and moral responsibility. Here's an example from the writings of E. Stanley Jones, found in the December 19, 1945, edition:

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Politics without Principle.
Wealth without Work.
Pleasure without Conscience.
Knowledge without Character.
Business without Morality.
Science without Humanity.
Worship without Sacrifice.

The devastating effects of the Second World War continued to be felt many months and even years after the fighting ceased. First Church members on many occasions were asked to help in relief efforts,

as shown in this article from February 20, 1946:

Will you join the church staff in assuming responsibility for some very needy individuals in Europe who are suffering from the ravages of war? We have told an International Agency that we would ship all food and clothing possible for the next few months.

One family we have taken has four members, Mr. and Mrs. W. van Wijk of Amsterdam, Holland, who have two sons, nine and six. The father was a metal worker and took part in underground work against the Nazis during the war. They wrote: "If only an American family could adopt us, it would be wonderful. Full of hope beats our heart." The family is without the most fundamental clothing. Food is needed too! Therefore bring clothes next Sunday or any time you come to the office. We will care for the postage. Food items include: Dried fruits, dried vegetables, dehydrated soups, bread mixes or soybean flour, chocolate, cocoa, powdered coffee, canned meat or fish, processed cheese, vitamins, jam or marmalade in tins, and soap, needles and thread for mending, razor blades, garden seeds. Come on, friends, let us make many hearts happy. We have also said we would send a package to Miss Inez Malm of Helsinki, Finland, whose age is 70 years and who lives in a home for aged ladies. Thanks for helping!

Because our own young people presented the play *Wake Up, Jerusalem!* last Sunday, you might be interested in a similar event publicized in *First Church News* 61 years ago, on March 31, 1949:

Should you visit First Church on almost any afternoon or evening you would discover first-hand evidence of the hard work that is being done in preparation for this year's Easter play, "Sir Tommy's Pilgrimage." Under the direction of Miss Quiring, pupils of the church school have been rehearsing for three weeks. Mothers of those who have a role in the play have met to discuss and arrange for costumes. Many of them have to be made and there has been a wonderfully fine response upon the part of extremely busy people. Carpenters are at work constructing the scenery and the entire plant is alive with activity.

All of which ought to persuade you that the least that any of our members can do is to ATTEND. The play will be presented in the sanctu-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

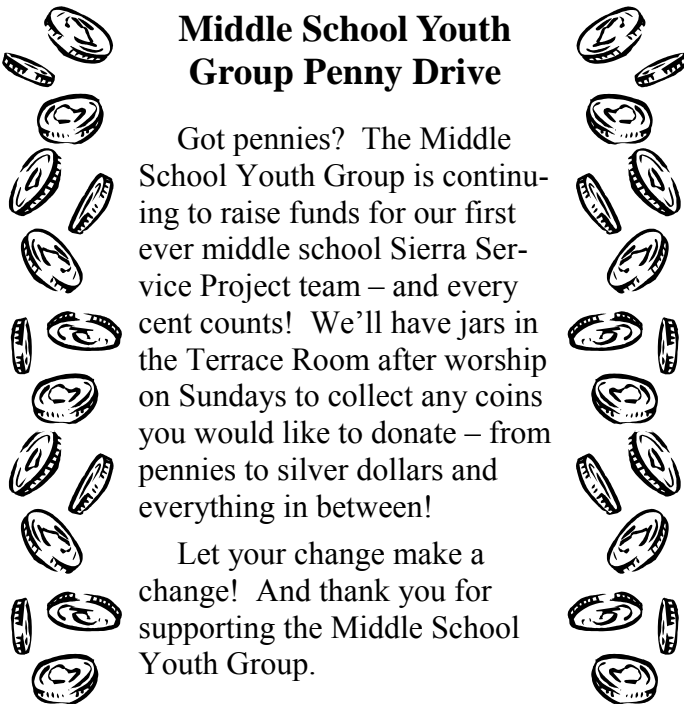
ary on Sunday evening, April 3rd at 8 o'clock.

1949 was a banner year for our church, which celebrated its centennial in October. One of the last issues of *First Church News* in our archives outlined the events planned for the celebration. The First Church Centennial Anniversary Banquet was held on Friday evening, October 21, in the Social Hall. The guest speaker was Dr. J. Richard Sneed of First Church, Los Angeles. (Dinner tickets were \$1.50 each.) Then on Sunday morning, October 23, the guest preacher was Bishop Donald H. Tippett. Special music was performed by the First Church Choir, under the direction of David Harms, and by organist Ethel Sleeper Brett.

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 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.



Youth STuff

Sunday, April 18

Car Wash Fundraiser during worship.
Youth Council Meeting after worship.

Sunday, April 25

Youth Group meeting.

Family Camping Scheduled!

This year's campout is set. This year we will be doing something different. We will be going early in the summer and to a lower elevation. (Early means better



chance of lake water near our camp!) We have reserved a group camp on Shasta Lake for four nights, starting June 24. We will be at Hirz Bay Group 1 campground, 30 miles north of Redding, and east of I-5. There's plenty of room, so invite your friends!

Please contact Gary & Phyllis Varney at (916) 371-5019 or gvarney@yahoo.com (or just talk to one of them in the coffee hour) for more information or to put your name on the list of participants.

National radio program to focus on hunger

ATLANTA (UMNS)— "Day 1," a national radio program formerly known as "The Protestant Hour," will begin a four-part series on "Faith and Global Hunger." Now airing on 200 stations and available online at <http://hunger.day1.org>, the program will celebrate 65 years of broadcasting with the series beginning June 13. Broadcasts will feature W. Hodding Carter III, assistant secretary of state for public affairs and State Department spokesman under President Jimmy Carter; the Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad, professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York; the Rev. David Beckmann, presi-

dent of Bread for the World; and Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry.

"Day1 is the voice of the mainline Protestant churches

(Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), The United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church), proclaiming a passionate faith for thinking people." (<http://day1.org>)



Volume 52, Issue 7 — April 12, 2010

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VISITOR

(USPS 091-790) Published twice monthly by First United Methodist Church, 2100 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-4797.

Periodicals postage paid at Sacramento, CA. **POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to **First United Methodist Church**, 2100 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-4797.

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:

- **April 23 (including May calendar)**
- **May 7**
- **May 21 (including June calendar)**
- **June 11**
- **June 25 (including July calendar)**
- **July 9**

First United Methodist Church

2100 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

(916) 446-5025 — fax (916) 446-3463

www.firstumcsac.org

Pastor Kathi McShane: 446-5025, extension 104;
kathi@firstumcsac.org; cell phone 397-4121

Pastor for Urban Ministries **Linda Kelly-Baker:**
revlinda@sbcglobal.net

Church Building and Office Administrator **Dianne Smith:** ext. 101; dianne@firstumcsac.org

Director of Children's Ministries **Cathy Cook:**
ext. 106; children@firstumcsac.org

Director of Youth Ministry **Aaron McClatchy:**
amclatchy42@comcast.net

Parish Nurse **Patricia Weedon:** ext. 105;
patricia@firstumcsac.org

Organist **Kevin Manz**

Choir Director **Clyde Kidd:** ext. 108;
clyde@firstumcsac.org

Webmaster **Lisa Evans:** webmaster@firstumcsac.org

Bookkeeper **Virginia Beebe:** ginny@firstumcsac.org