



First United Methodist Church

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

April 26, 2010

The Visitor

Volume 52, Issue 8

SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING — Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 PM

All are invited—members and non-members of Church Council alike—to come and discuss a proposal for change in the structure of administrative committees and church decision-making.

Kathi's Keynote

Last week I attended, with a whole group of folks from this church, a dinner to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Family Promise, the non-profit organization that offers shelter, education and other services to families committed to transitioning out of short-term homelessness. There were 500 people at that dinner—most of them from churches that, like ours, have committed their money, their buildings, and their time to welcoming Family Promise participants to come and stay with them for a week every few months. I was so proud to be part of a congregation that is a partner in this life-changing work.

It is not pastors who make that kind of work happen; it's lay people. People who step up and say, "I can do that," or "I can be part of this team," or maybe even, "I can lead that group." These kinds of leaders—people who feel confident enough of their own gifts and—maybe more importantly—the *need* for their gifts—make the difference between a church that is passive and a church that is active and alive.

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

We are graced to have a number of those leaders among us. It's why you see people busy and happy on Sunday mornings, why you see new people who want to be a part of this community, why we are able to make a difference in this community. But there are more people among us with gifts just waiting to be needed. And there are more needs just waiting for someone to step up and say, "I think God is nudging me to work on that."

The church should be organized in a way that helps every person make the connection between those needs and their own gifts. It should be a community where you can find other people who are feeling that same nudge from God that you are. It should be a place where you are encouraged and supported to do the learning, the growing, the *leading* that God calls every one of us to do.

A group of leaders in this church has been working with me for a few months to think about whether the way we make decisions and work in committees is meeting the current needs of the congregation. We have talked about the need to do some things differently—particularly

- how to equip, support and encourage more people into leadership;
- how to be sure that every administrative decision we make is aligned with our mission of making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;
- how to do our administrative work in a way that leaves plenty of time for people to do the things we want every person to be involved in around the church: worship, growth in their own faith, community, and service.

We have a proposal for some reorganization of our committee structure, which we believe will allow us to do all of our work more effectively. In June, we will need to vote as a congregation on whether to adopt it, or something like it. And we'd like your input in the meantime. **Whether you are a member or not, you are invited to a special Church Council meeting on Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 PM, to**

(Continued on page 2)

About Our Folks

♥ Please hold in your prayers **Ardys Heilman** and **Phil Alford**. ♥

(Continued from page 1)

discuss the proposed changes.

If you cannot attend that meeting, but would like to see the proposal and/or comment on it, please talk with Pastor Kathi (916-446-5025 or Kathi@firstumcsac.org), or Amy Price (Lay Leader), Bob Peck (Church Council Chair), or Diane Smith (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair), or leave a note in the church office for any of these people. Please know that your thoughts are welcome and will be heard.

Every good organization needs to look from time to time at the way it works, and to think about whether some changes are needed. It doesn't mean that things are broken; it just means that we're paying attention to what is needed now. That's the spirit in which I hope you will join us in thinking about our future together.

At this time, in this place, let us be the hands and

Kathi

Important dates to put on your calendar

May 11 – 7:00 PM – Special Church Council meeting

May 16 – 12:00-1:30 PM – *Tools for Radical Hospitality*. A workshop led by Pastor for Urban Ministries Linda Kelly-Baker

May 29 – 9:30 AM-3:00 PM – *All-Church Retreat – “Hopes for Our Children”*

June 6 – Noon – Missions Faire

Did you miss it?

If you missed “Wake Up, Jerusalem!”—or if you enjoyed it so much you'd like to see it again—you can view it online, from the church's Website (with thanks to videographer Gary Varney and Webmaster Lisa Evans). Go to www.firstumcsac.org/sermons to access the video from the Sermons list, or directly to www.firstumcsac.org/wake-up-jerusalem-video.

In Memoriam

May 8, 2:00 PM.

A celebration of the life of our former Parish Nurse, Ann Holland. Everyone welcome.

Easter Season Worship: *Choose Life*

This series of sermons is based on the book *Leading Causes of Life*, by Gary Gunderson and Larry Pray. The main idea of the book is that so much of our effort during our lifetimes is to avoid death, that we can forget that mere survival is not the goal. What we seek is *life*. From the book: “*We want our lives to be about life. We want to be with people who are working on life and build connections that help us help each other do that. . . . We want to hear songs and Scripture that hold up powerful meanings against the silly and distracted clutter of our public discourse. We want to talk plain language about the life among us, so that we can laugh, cry, and pray at the right time.*”

This is a season of saying “yes” to life, instead of focusing on what isn't working. Each week, the liturgist/speaker will tell her or his own story of finding life in the midst of circumstances that might have seemed full of despair—and even death.

April 18: “Choose Life”

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Liturgist/Speaker – Nora Benavides

Baptisms

Nancy Metzger on organ

April 25: “Hope: Not Just Wishful Thinking”

Ephesians 1:18-19

Liturgist/Speaker – Molly Schaechtele

Special Music – Debra Thompson

May 2: “Come Walk with Me: The Healing Power in Connection”

John 11:38-44 (Jesus raises Lazarus)

Liturgist/Speaker – Victor Loguntsov

Communion

May 9: “Blessing: Generations of Love”

Genesis 12:1-3 (the call of Abraham)

Mother's Day

May 16: “The Life-Leaning Bottom Line”

Luke 4:17-19

Liturgist/Speaker – Richard Pervorse

Baptism

Twenty-first Families

Children's Ministries in May and June

9:15 AM Enrichment

- Baby and Toddler Care (through age 3) in downstairs nursery.
- Arts Adventurers (age 3 through kindergarten) in Room 202B.
- Weekly programs for grades 1-8 include music, visual arts, games-games-games, and *Heroes and Legends* series. Room 201.

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 for age 4 through kindergarten in Room 204 and grades 1-4 in Room 205.
- Middle School Listening for Legacy in May and Heifer Project in June. Room 214.

Looking Ahead

- Missions Faire — June 6
- Family Camping Weekend — June 25-27
- Middle School Sierra Service Project — Last week of June
- Teacher Appreciation and Promotion Sunday — June 27
- Staging A Miracle — July 13-August 14, performances August 14 and 15 (in worship)

Summer 9:15 Enrichment will be held in July and

will take a Sabbath break in August through Labor Day. The program will be *Heroes and Legends of the Bible* DVD series and will be held in Room 205.

Our summer Sunday School program is in the planning stages and will be announced soon. Exciting, interactive, and fun ways to continue our learning and faith development this summer!

—Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries

You Are Invited! Mark your calendar to attend the May 29 All-Church Retreat.

"Spiritual journeys are undertaken in community and require the energy and attentiveness from those who participate in them. Faith is significant for childhood because it is the place where spiritual journeys begin and healthy lives are nurtured and sustained."

—*Real Kids, Real Faith* by Karen Marie Yust

Please plan on attending the all-church retreat scheduled for Saturday, May 29, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The focus of the day will be what all of us hope for the children and youth of this faith community. Childcare for infants and toddlers and activities for elementary-aged children will be provided. Middle school and high school youth are invited to be part of the program for the day. Lunch will be provided for everyone.

Please mark your calendar to be a part of this important day in the life of this church. More information will be coming to you. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Cook at (916) 446-5025 X106.

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.

UMW Gathering, May 6

United Methodist Women will gather for its monthly general meeting and fellowship on Thursday, May 6.

Executive Committee	9:45 AM
Business Meeting	10:45 AM
Lunch	11:45 AM
Program	12:15 PM

Our speaker will be Carolyn Negrete. Her topic will be "Health Care for All."

The Open Circle will cook. Circle 2 will set and decorate. Circle 4 will serve and clean up.

All women of the church are welcome. Call Nancy Rae (916-428-3377) if you plan to attend.



May 2010

Sundays at FUMC 9:15-11:30 AM Infant/toddler care 9:15-10:15 AM Arts Enrichment for children; Bible Study, <i>Wired Word</i> , Fearless Parenting for adults 10:30 AM Worship; Sunday school for children and youth 11:30 AM Fellowship 12:00-2:00 PM Youth Group in the Loft						1 7 AM Prayer Walk 9 AM Men's Club breakfast
2 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 6 PM Imani worship	3 7 PM Not Finished Yet	4 7 PM Disciple	5 7 PM Imani Bible study 7 PM NA	6 9:45-1:00 UMW meetings 5:30 PM SAM Leadership Team 7:15 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	7	8 Second Saturday 7 AM Prayer Walk 2 PM Memorial Gathering for Ann Holland
9 Mother's Day See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 8:45 AM Missions Committee 12 PM Youth hotdog lunch 6 PM Imani worship	10	11 7 PM Special Church Council meeting 7 PM Disciple	12 7 PM ACIM 7 PM Imani Bible study 7 PM NA	13 5:30 PM SAM Leadership Team 7:15 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	14	15 7 AM Prayer Walk 1 PM Hats On for Tea
16 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 9:30 AM Youth Car Wash 12:00-1:30 <i>Tools for Radical Hospitality</i> 6 PM Imani worship	17 5:30 PM Finance Committee 7 PM Not Finished Yet	18 6 PM Board of Trustees 7 PM Disciple	19 7 PM Imani Bible study 7 PM NA	20 9:45 AM UMW3 12:30 PM UMW2 5:30 PM SAM Leadership Team 7:15 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	21 8 PM Samantics recital	22 7 AM Prayer Walk 9 AM Scrapbook Fellowship 10 AM Piano recital 10 AM Imani makes bag lunches 8 PM Sac'to Master Singers concert
23 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 8 AM Community Breakfast 3 PM Sac'to Master Singers concert 6 PM Imani worship	24	25 7 PM Disciple	26 7 PM ACIM 7 PM Imani Bible study 7 PM NA	27 5:30 PM SAM Leadership Team 7:15 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal	28	29 7 AM Prayer Walk 9:30-3:00 All-Church Retreat: <i>Hopes for Our Children</i>
30 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 8 AM Community Breakfast 6 PM Imani worship	31 Memorial Day Church office closed					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> ACIM = A Course in Miracles group Disciple = Disciple Bible Study Imani = Imani Community Church NA = Narcotics Anonymous/12-Step Program SAM = Staging A Miracle UMW(#) = United Methodist Women (Circle) </div>						

Listening to Legacies

First Church is preparing to capture parishioners' legacies through an intergenerational project. School-aged youth will be interviewing older adults who share their stories. The Older Adult Ministry and Children's Ministries have decided to begin this activity on Sunday, May 16, 2010. The interviews will be archived in the Heritage Room.

It seems best to do the interviews during Sunday worship because both seniors and youth are available then. The interviews will be videotaped. Following the initial startup, the project team will begin recording legacies of homebound members as well. We would also like to interview our Veterans of military service.

Capturing members' legacies will be a treasure for generations to come. This intergenerational activity will build bridges and enhance ties between First United Methodist Church's youth and seniors immediately. The stories about church members, lifelong, longtime and new, those who served in the armed forces, and those who have contributed their time and talents, will be treasured in the present and many years into the future.

Currently the youth are preparing for this important role. They are learning interview techniques and choosing the questions to be asked. While they are preparing, we need senior adults to volunteer to be interviewed for this valuable project. You will receive the questions in advance and select a convenient date for your interview.

Thank you and many blessings for your support. If you would like to participate in this valuable project, please contact me as soon as possible.

—Patricia Weedon, Parish Nurse
Older Adult Ministry Leader/Advocate
(916) 444-6931 or (916) 446-5025, X105
patricia@firstumcsac.org

Missions Get Local

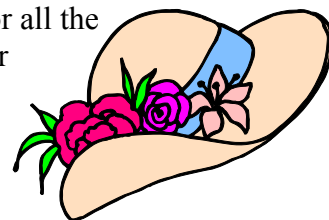
UMNS—Global mission is about to become more local. Officials at the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries are signaling a "cultural shift" in how the denomination does mission. Instead of acting as an implementer of mission for the denomination, the agency must be "a resource to those individuals, churches, conferences and institutions already in mission," West Ohio Bishop Bruce Ough, the board's president, told its directors during the April 12-14 spring meeting.

Hats On for Tea



Several years ago, it was commonplace for ladies to don a beautiful hat, put on their gloves and go to tea. This behavior is not so popular anymore, but we are offering ladies of all ages an opportunity to relive this elegant experience. On Saturday, May 15, you are invited to come to the Terrace Room at 2:00 for tea (or coffee or punch) and edible tidbits. All are asked to wear a hat, and you may come at 1:00 to assemble a decorative topper with your personal flair. We do need artificial flowers, feathers and beads to help with this task. Just drop them off in the church office marked "UMW."

Invitations are being passed out on Sunday mornings. Please fill out the response card and drop it in the basket in the J Street lobby. We need a rough estimate of how many people are coming. Childcare for boys and babies will be provided and they will be fed, too! This event is sponsored by the United Methodist Women for all the ladies of our church and their guests. It's an opportunity to enjoy an outing with a relative or friend just for fun and fellowship.



Faithful Living in Fateful Times: Economy, Sacred Work and Community Saturday, May 8, 9:30 AM—3 PM

How is your faith weathering the storms of our current economic climate? Where do biblical, congregational, and community resources meet to offer hope to families in crisis?

Join Lynn Rhodes, professor emerita of field education at Pacific School of Religion and author of *Mending Severed Connections: Theological Education for Communal Transformation*, along with companion congregational and community seekers in a lively exploration of such questions and more.

Location: Sacramento Japanese UMC, 6929 Franklin Blvd, Sacramento. Preregistration is \$25 (\$20 for students), including lunch. Group discounts are available for five or more from the same congregation. Contact Ann Jefferson at (510) 849-8284 or ajefferson@psr.edu to register.

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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:

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

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