



First United Methodist Church

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

June 14, 2010

The Visitor

Volume 52, Issue 11

As I Leave the Staff . . .

It has been a joy to be your Pastor for Urban Ministries the past three years. I thank you for your love and support. I especially want to thank Bill Faught for the gift of his wife’s memorial money to fund my presence with you, and to the anonymous donor who also generously provided for the other half of the funds. Wow! These are gifts I can never repay.

Even though I will not be on the staff of First UMC as of June 30, you will still see me. FUMC will be my charge conference and my regular worshipping community. There is also a possibility that FUMC and Side-By-Side Ministries (which I founded almost 10 years ago) will become even more closely connected. To start, on June 26 we are co-sponsoring a companioning training event. I hope you will come. (See page 5 for details.) It is to Side-By-Side as my full-time work that I am most fully called. Side-By-Side is self-funded, which means that I must not only pay attention to the program itself, to the homeless individuals with whom I meet, and to the volunteers who work with Side-By-Side, but also to the work of the steering committee on issues of fundraising and organizational structure. I am happy to say that the steering committee currently consists of several folks from FUMC: Leslyn Syren, Tanis Toland, Tara Thronson (on maternity leave), and Buzz Heinrich. These wonderful folks and others actively work with me to keep the Side-By-Side ministry financially sound and growing. Please ask any of them more about Side-By-Side if you have ques-

tions. You can also talk to Pat Edwards, who serves as a volunteer listening companion.

The ministry of Side-By-Side is spiritually grounded in the love and care of God. We serve the homeless community, reminding them, simply by our listening presence, that they are beloved children of our Creator. Thank you, FUMC, for opening your doors and hearts to those who struggle on our city streets and those who live on the edge. You are truly living out the ministry of Jesus who came to bring good news to the poor.

If you’d like more information about Side-by-Side, please ask or go to our website: www.SideBySideWithTheHomeless.org.

See you in church,

Linda Kelly-Baker
Pastor for Urban Ministries
Side-By-Side office phone: (916) 443-4362
Email: revlinda@listeningministry.org

With Gratitude

With blessings and gratitude, we say goodbye at the end of this month to Linda Kelly-Baker and Kevin Manz as staff members.

Linda will devote her full time to Side-By-Side Ministries with the Homeless. Linda’s three years with us as Pastor for Urban Ministries has given us a great opportunity to build relationships and ministry with our homeless neighbors. We hope to continue and expand those ministries in the future, as we look for ways that FUMC can be even more fully a partner in the good work that Side-By-Side does at Loaves & Fishes.

Kevin has given us many gifts in the 2 ½ years that he has been Organist and Director of Music Ministries. All of us will continue to benefit from the organ restoration that Kevin designed and directed, and we wish him well as he moves into new directions.

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Kathi's Keynote

On Sunday, June 6, I announced in my sermon that I'll be taking a two-month *spiritual renewal* leave this summer, beginning June 21. If you missed that sermon, I'd encourage you to read it online (www.firstumcsac.org/sermons) so that you know a little more about why this time away is important for me. But in case you don't get to that, here is a piece of it that I want you to have:

I'm fortunate to be surrounded by people who pay attention to me. Several of them, including our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, our District Superintendent, and my colleagues on the church staff are giving me the opportunity to take a leave of absence from everything for a few months, so that I can learn to take care of myself, and so that maybe I can learn what I have not yet taken in deeply enough: that it really is OK to be dependent on others; and that the truth of my life is about the way God just loves me, rather than the ways I have been good enough or strong enough to earn that love.

Henri Nouwen has written about the Wounded Healer. He says that all healing work begins from the healer's acknowledgement of his or her own need for healing. I've noticed before, and been grateful, that God seems perfectly able to use wounded and flawed people to do the work of bringing God's kingdom to earth. But what I am just beginning to realize is what I think Paul was talking about in his letter to the Corinthians: that maybe God can only use wounded healers to do that work; that maybe people who are most conscious of their own dependence and need for help are the only ones who can fully understand what it is God can do.

A number of you have asked, as you've watched me seem not-at-my-best for a while, what you can do to help. I have really appreciated those offers, and I especially value the compassion that I know they come with. Here's what I need from you most. I need you to help me remember that the church is not about its pastor; it's about the people in it. Remind me, with your faithfulness and commitment while I'm gone, what I know about this place but forget from time to time: that it's God who has the greatest hopes for First United Methodist Church, and that our work is simply to say "yes" when a door opens or a need becomes clear. That all of us do that together. You will have a pastor while I am gone; Carl Thomas has graciously, kindly, generously

agreed to take my place so that I can have this time away. We will have a new team of lay leaders whose terms will begin on July 1, and I have great confidence in them. But you are the church, as you always have been.

I have no doubt that the church will do wonderful things this summer, while I am gone. *Staging A Miracle* is getting ready to begin again, and already has more than 40 children and their families signed up to take part in all the music and arts resources, and hospitality, this church has to offer. If you've never helped with this program before, don't miss your chance to be part of the miracle that will happen again this year.

I look forward to being back—stronger and filled up again—on September 1. Have a wonderful summer.

With love, with blessings, with thanks,

Kathi

Staging A Miracle 2010: CREATE!

Planning for *Staging A Miracle* 2010 is in full swing. The title of this year's production is CREATE! The Leadership Team has been meeting regularly to shape the program that is filled with families from Women's Empowerment, Family Promise, and FUMC.



The special ways we can offer our own brand of hospitality are evident in the success of *Staging A Miracle*. Over the course of the five-week program, over 100 volunteers lend their hands and hearts to making a memorable experience for each and every participant.

Will you be part of FUMC's welcoming hospitality this summer? You are invited to sign up for one day, for one week, or for the whole program! You can do this by putting your name on the *Staging A Miracle* signup board in the Terrace Room, by call-

Continued on page 7: Staging A Miracle 2010

Twenty-first Families

Important Events Coming Up — Mark Your Calendar:

- Week of June 21 — Middle School Sierra Service Project
- Weekend of June 24-27 — Family Campout
- July 13 - August 15 — *Staging A Miracle*

June and July

9:15 AM — Arts Enrichment for babies through grade 8.

10:30 AM — Sunday School for babies through grade 8.

August and September 5

9:15 AM — Care for babies and toddlers only. Arts Enrichment will not be held.

10:30 AM — Sunday School for babies through grade 8.

—Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries

About Our Folks

♥ Our prayers and sympathy are with **Guy Heilman, Lisa Heilman-Cozzalio**, and all the family and friends of **Ardys Heilman**. Ardys passed away June 9. A memorial service will be held Monday, June 14, at First UMC. ♥ Our prayers and sympathy are with the Panzer and TeSelle families following the death of **Elizabeth Panzer TeSelle** last month. Elizabeth is survived by her brother **Robert Panzer, Jr.**, her husband and children, and eight grandchildren. A memorial service was held June 12 in Groveland. ♥ **Betty Lunardi** and family are very proud of their new graduates: **Lisa Lunardi** has graduated from National University with a Master's Degree in Education Administration, and **Sergio Ivan Lunardi Canchola** has graduated from El Camino High School. Congratulations, Lisa and Sergio! ♥ Congratulations to **Jacob Ingle** and **Lucas Ingle** on their recent graduations. Jacob graduated from Casa Roble High School and has been accepted into Sacramento State University's Mechanical Engineering degree program. Lucas graduated from 8th grade at Louis Pasteur Middle School. Grandma **Mel Ingle** and Aunt **Karel Goard** are mighty proud! ♥ **Chris Sidener** has graduated from Navy boot camp, where he "had a blast," and now will head to Florida for six weeks of additional training. After that he will be back in Sacramento to visit with family and friends before receiving his first orders. Way to go, sailor! First Church is proud of you. ♥ **Clyde and Brenda Kidd** write, "We would like to thank all of our friends at First Church for your cards, calls, flowers and plants, donations, thoughts and prayers upon the passing of Clyde's sister, Chris, on May 3 after a valiant five-year battle with ovarian cancer. A memorial service was held in Las Vegas on May 15 with over 200 family and friends in attendance. Chris loved singing in the choir and attending services as well as special musical events at FUMC. She made many friends here and truly appreciated those friendships. Again thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. A special thanks to Larry and Lynn George for their amazing support and presence. God bless!" ♥ **Larry Dowell** is recovering from surgery. ♥ Congratulations to **Bob and Pat Peck's** daughter **Diane Peck** and **Matthew Rodda** on their marriage! Best wishes for a long and wonderful life together. ♥

Musical Summer!

July will be a month full of great music in worship on Sunday mornings!

We are pleased to announce that Tom Orr will return as Organist for the summer, beginning June 27.

And as the Chancel Choir takes its regular summer break, we will be blessed with the gifts of these special musicians each Sunday:

July 4 – Daryl Effinger, folk guitarist

July 11 – Sacramento Tongan Choir

July 18 – Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus

July 25 – Precious Craft and Gospel Choir

August 1 – Janice Steele and Patrisha Gill

And be sure to put on your calendar now:

Staging A Miracle production – Saturday, August 13 during Second Saturday, and Sunday, August 14 in worship.

New Leaders Step Up

We are pleased to announce the election of new leaders who will begin their work on July 1, 2010:

LEADERSHIP TEAM

(All initial terms will be through December 2011.)

Chair: **Mike McDoniels**
Lay Leader: **Amy Price**
Treasurer: **Norm Helsel**
Missions: **Kris Errecart**
SPRC Representative: **Diane Smith**
Trustees Representative: To be selected
Communications: **Devin Lavelle**
Children and Youth: **Cathy Cook**
Worship: **Terry Haug**
Resources: **Eric Thronson**
Pastor: **Kathi McShane**
Church Administrator: **Dianne Smith**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2011

Pat Peck
Eugene Erlank
Brian Hite

Class of 2012

Linda Garthwaite
Erik Jefferson
Pat Coleman

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2010 (will continue to serve through December 2010)

Shannon Waelbrock
Joni Patche

Class of 2011

Diane Smith, Chair
Vince Wetzel
Roseanne Lopez

Class of 2012

Tara Thronson
Jim Johnson
Phil Dunzweiler
Julie Rodriguez

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

Pastor – **Kathi McShane**
Lay Leader – **Amy Price**

Class of 2011

Debra Hoffman
Olivia Askelson

Orene Dunzweiler

Gary Varney

Joan Haug-West

Robert Weedon

Susan Hogue

Paul Steenhausen

Luana Hernandez

We note with gratitude the end of Bob Peck's term as Chair of the Church Council. Bob has done a marvelous job of leading the Council through a number of important decisions in the last 2 ½ years. His quiet and grace-filled ways have opened the way for growth and new directions. Thank you, Bob!

It's Family Promise Time

It's time once again for FUMC to host the families from Family Promise. They will be visiting June 27-July 3. Please join us by volunteering to be part of this wonderful time at the church. We need volunteers to cook dinners, spend the night, plan activity time for the children, and more. If you have never had the pleasure of spending time with our guests, be assured it's a powerful gift to help them feel welcome and comfortable while they are working hard to change their lives and the lives of their children. If you would like to sign up, have any questions or would like to learn more about Family Promise, feel free to call or email Brian or Jeannette Hite: (916) 256-6821 or bhite71@yahoo.com.

Can You Help?

- **Got a spare car seat?** If you have a car seat to fit a 2½- to 3-year-old child and would like to donate it, this kindness would help one of our families.
- **Are you a techie?** We have three audio-visual carts that need to be organized into usage type, proper equipment, and cords on board.
- **Got time?** We are looking for a couple more office volunteers: one to work Tuesday mornings and one as a fill-in. Volunteers work 9:30 to 12:30. They answer the phone and the door, use office equipment, and prepare special projects. Some prior office experience is helpful. It's fun, there's fellowship with other volunteers, and the volunteered time provides much appreciated help to the office staff and benefits the whole church.

Call Dianne in the office if you can help: 446-5025.



Do you wish you had more to offer someone who is suffering from homelessness or mental illness?

Join us for a Companionship Training workshop
“Where the Church Meets the Street”

Saturday, June 26
9:00 AM to Noon

First United Methodist Church
2100 J Street – Sacramento

Suggested Donation \$15.00

Who Should Attend?

- Volunteers
- Family Members
- Clergy
- Any interested people of faith

Who is the presenter?

Linda Kelly-Baker

- Founder of Side-By-Side Ministries, a listening ministry with the homeless.
- Pastor and spiritual director
- 10 years experience working with the homeless community.

What will we learn?

- To explore our natural sense of compassion and concern
- To appropriately support and respond to homeless and mentally ill people

How do we register?

- Email: info@firstumcsac.org
or: revlinda@sidebysidewiththehomeless.org
- Phone: Dianne Smith, Event Coordinator at (916) 446-5025

Registration deadline is Monday, June 21. Space is limited so please register in advance.

Presented by:



www.firstumcsac.org



www.SideBySideWithTheHomeless.org

California-Nevada Annual Conference News and Events: June 16-19 at the Sacramento Convention Center

Communion Art

Hello, Sacramento-area churches! Wednesday night worship at ACS, led by Marcia McFee and Bishop Schnase, will be a wonderful celebration of Holy Communion. As part of that worship service, we are asking local churches to bring food for the communion table, to act as liturgical art. The food can be anything at all that represents shared community, sacredness, or thanksgiving for God's bounty—fruits and vegetables, cooked items, breads, desserts, anything. (We won't have any refrigeration, so bring stuff that doesn't need it.) You might also like to bring communion ware, not to be used but rather to act as liturgical art. The table is a six-foot round one; if each church brings one or two items, we'll have plenty! Please bring everything to the Oasis table at the Conference Center by Wednesday after lunch, marked with your church name and "Wednesday worship." Thank you!

—Pastor Dawn Pidlypchak, Portola UMC

Worship Opportunities

Wednesday, June 16, 8:00 PM

Celebration of Communion, Bishop Robert Schnase preaching

Thursday, June 17, 4:00 PM

Journey of the Saints: Remembering those who have died

Saturday, June 19, 3:30 PM

Service of Ordination and Commissioning, Bishop Warner Brown preaching

Workshops

(\$15 advance registration required:
<http://cnumc.org/register>)

Thursday, June 17, 9:45 to 10:30 AM and 10:45-noon

Workshops with Bishop Robert Schnase (author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*) and Dr. Marcia McFee (designer of FUMC's *Deep Well* services)

Thursday, June 17, 8:00-9:30 PM

Presentation by Bishop Robert Schnase

From Eileen Riesinger, Lay Member to Annual Conference:

Methodist Federation for Social Action and Conference Board of Church and Society dinner

June 17 at 5:30 PM, Pyramid Alehouse on K St.

Featured speaker: Rev. Delle McCormick, executive director of BorderLinks, a bi-national organization addressing issues of immigration and social justice between Mexico and the U.S. (Deadline has passed, but call 510-235-2988 for information.)

Conference Committee on Reconciliation luncheon

June 19, 1:00-2:30 PM (after plenary session)

Featured speaker: Rev. Drew Phoenix, national spokesperson for transgender issues. Rev. Phoenix shot to fame in 2007 after the Judicial Council upheld a bishop's decision that Phoenix continued to remain eligible to serve after changing gender from female to male. (Deadline has passed; contact bothata@aol.com for information.)

Host Family Sought for Student

Youth For Understanding is seeking a host family for an exchange student from Ghana for the 2010-2011 school year. He is assigned to Northern California, but he does not have a host family yet. His name is Francis and he attends his Methodist church weekly at home. Although he is willing to go to any worship services no matter what religion, YFU is trying to find Francis a Methodist family to live with. If you are interested in hosting Francis, email Youth For Understanding's Deborah Powers at dpowe003@ucr.edu.

Sermon Series Available

The sermon series entitled "Freedom: 12-Step Spirituality for Everyone Who Struggles" was well received based on the number of requests received for sermon copies. The series presented by Pastor Kathi McShane with Rev. Linda Kelly-Baker began on Sunday, January 10 and concluded Sunday, March 14.

We are now offering a compilation of these very thoughtful sermons in a pamphlet that includes an introduction and conclusion written by Pastor Kathi and a selection of references from which one can engage in additional study.

The pamphlets are available in the J Street lobby and are there for the taking. Please take one for yourself or a friend.

Hopes for Our Children: Taking the Next Steps

The all-church retreat focusing on *Hopes for Our Children* was a glorious day of discussion and dreaming of what we wish for the children and youth of this faith community. We asked of ourselves and shared with each other what would a young adult who has been part of this congregation take with them as they venture out into the world at age 18? How will even the youngest of us experience worship, faith development, service and community life as part of this Christian family we call FUMC? What is our *Rule of Life* as we grow alongside one another as the hands and heart of Jesus Christ for the world?

The work of the retreat was a big step in continuing to deepen and expand OUR ministries with families, children and youth. Even on a holiday weekend, a significant number of people came together to give voice to this ministry on behalf of the entire invited faith community. This important work will continue with these next steps:

1. The results of the retreat will be sent to everyone, so check your mailbox! Would you please review, ask questions, give input?
2. A similar retreat will be held with children and youth focusing on what they need and want along their journey here and out in the world.
3. As a member of this Christian family would you be in prayer, think about and be in conversation with one another? Where is your place in our shared ministry with children and youth?
4. Look for coming short-term opportunities to share your gifts with children and youth and be a part of these opportunities. You are an important part of what it means to be in worship and growing spiritually, to work alongside one another in service and to live in support of and in community.

Both Aaron McClatchy, Director of Youth Ministries, and Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries, are always available to talk with you or answer questions about these church ministries. Aaron's email is ammclatchy@gmail.com. Cathy's email is children@firstumcsac.org. Or call the church and leave a message at (916) 446-5025.

Staging A Miracle 2010: Continued from page 2

ing Children's Ministries at 446-5025 ext.106, or emailing children@firstumcsac.org. Here are some of the details:

- Staging A Miracle will be held July 13 through August 15 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:00-8:00 PM), with performances on Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15.
- Volunteers are asked to attend one of two orientations to be held at 6 PM on Tuesday, July 6, and Thursday, July 8.

Volunteer opportunities abound for you and for others you may wish to ask to join us:

- **DINNERS:** Groups and families are invited to prepare and serve dinner for the participants and volunteers (around 125 people). Boy Scout Troop 1, Scrappy Chicks, and the Cook-Russell family have each signed up for a dinner so far. Groups are encouraged to cover the cost of food while paper products are provided.
- **CREATE! VOLUNTEER SUPPORTERS:** Each class or workshop for children and youth (grades 1-12) is taught by practicing artists. Two additional persons are needed to be in each room to provide positive reinforcement and also guidance to our budding cast members and young artists. This is where we of this faith community can share the special and important ways that we can learn and grow with one another, treating each other with support and love.
- **ROOM MONITORS:** Our Preschool-Kindergarten program has practicing artists from Gymagery, Musikgarten and the Sacramento Public Library. This parent participation program needs a greeter/room monitor that can help the artist and encourage the parents and children to have fun.
- **INFANT AND TODDLER CAREGIVERS:** Quality care of the youngest participants allows their parents to be in program with their older children. Two persons are needed each evening to care for two babies and two toddlers that are signed up.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Family Promise families need to be taken home each evening to the church of residence for that week. There are three families that need transportation, leaving FUMC at 8 PM on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and also on performance days, August 14 and 15.

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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:

- **June 25 (including July calendar)**
- **July 9**
- **July 23 (including August calendar)**
- **August 6**
- **August 27 (including September calendar)**
- **September 17 (including October calendar)**

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