



# First United Methodist Church

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

June 28, 2010

## The Visitor

Volume 52, Issue 12

### Reports from Annual Conference 2010

By Eileen Riesinger, Diane Smith and Phil Dunzweiler

#### Radiate – Initiate – Co-Create

That’s exactly what clergy and lay members did in observing and carrying out the 162nd California-Nevada Annual Conference Session. *Radiating Joy* set the tone for worship. Bishop Brown’s State of the Conference address at the initial plenary session was lively. He began by pointing out that the annual conference is the basic unit of The United Methodist Church, whereas the local church exists for disciple-making. “We need community to help us love, mourn and to critique us.”

Plenary sessions included the closing of three churches. Bishop Brown led us through this difficult discussion with sensitivity and compassion. Emotions ran high on this issue, as expected. The Bishop listened carefully, paid special attention to the “wounded” and brought the matter to successful closure.

The Book of Memoirs service was lovely. Twelve clergy and fifteen spouses were remembered for service. The Ordination Service on Saturday included a clergy official from a sister denomination; nine new pastors were ordained and celebrated.

We United Methodists were everywhere, whether it was the Pride Parade, Immigration Rally or playing “Slam Dunk Malaria” with the youth. Five thousand dollars was the amount raised. —Eileen Riesinger

The attendees at annual conference were several

times each day rewarded by the leadership of Marcia McFee. The worship services were inspiring, creative and moving—both physically and emotionally. She got us singing, dancing, praying, clapping and rejoicing as we worshipped God and celebrated Jesus. We learned new songs and interacted with the people seated around us. Her contributions were and are truly inspirational. She and the instrumentalists that she recruited are tireless in their contributions to our worship experiences.

Her team was very well received and she was hired to lead us next year. Her materials and sources will be available on her web site. We’ll announce the location soon. —Diane Smith

At this year’s Annual Conference Session, the guest speaker was Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference, United Methodist Church. He is in his early fifties, a husband and father and by his own admission an introvert. In his spare time, he is a dynamic speaker and author.

His messages to us came from his new book, titled *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*. Those practices are Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. They, of course, form the skeleton of who we are.

His descriptors *Radical, Passionate, Intentional, Risk-taking* and *Extravagant* are there to give us the idea that these are alive and should be evolving as we live. I encourage you to buy this book from Cokesbury, read it, think about it, and live it.

—Phil Dunzweiler

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...and MUCH more, inside & at [www.firstumcsac.org](http://www.firstumcsac.org)

#### Mission Education Events

It’s not too late to register for one of the United Methodist Women-sponsored Mission Education Events. There are two weekend sessions, July 23-25 in Reno and August 6-8 at UOP in Stockton. Two one-day events will provide a “Reader’s Digest” version of the studies: August 28 in Millbrae and September 18 in Merced. Our unit reimburses most of the expense for attendees. For more information, call Orene Dunzweiler at (916) 421-8205.

## CAT's Pause

The longest day of the year now is past. We move ever so slowly through the, so far, mild spring and summer in Sacramento to shorter and shorter days. We'll plan for fall; we'll exult in *Staging A Miracle* in August; we'll perhaps finally get to those New Year's resolutions that have been "back-burnered" for months. And it will all be over in a twinkling, won't it?

Let's not be too concerned with the passage of time as we attempt to grab some rest and relaxation. Let's remember instead that it is a gift, so that we can think and serve and grow and reinvest our lives, learn something new, and expand our friendships. Let's remember to comfort those for whom time seems not to be a friend. Let's allow ourselves to be surprised by the depth of a kind word from an unexpected source.

Above all, let's be thankful that in the great variety of experiences called "life," God calls us to see the new in the familiar, and to savor the meaning of what we find there. Let's love as though we may not get the chance again. Let's serve as though that's the way life is supposed to be lived.

Blessings for the summer ahead. God is there already and eagerly awaiting our arrival.



*"CAT's Pause" uses Carl's initials coupled with the other spelling of the second word to signal a moment of reflection.*

### About Our Folks

♥ **E.G. "Pom" Pomeroy** is at Eskaton Greenhaven recovering from a recent fall. ♥ Our prayers and sympathy are with **Johnny Morales** and family following the death of Johnny's sister. ♥



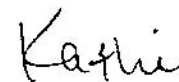
## Kathi's Keynote

As I leave for two months of renewal and formation leave, I have just two more thoughts I want to be sure I leave you with. One is my deep gratitude to Carl Thomas for stepping in as pastor while I am gone. I have great confidence in him, and know that he will serve you, and First Church, well in my absence.

The second thing is also about gratitude—for the radical hospitality that this church showed during our United Methodist Annual Conference that happened June 15-19 at the Convention Center. Someone from every group that met here made a point of finding me at the conference to tell me what gracious kindness and helpfulness they experienced through the many breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks and meetings that they had at the church. It made me proud again (I feel that often!) to be the pastor of this church. Thank you especially to the staff—Dianne, Johnny, Richard and Johnny, Jr.—and all the volunteers, guided by Roberta Smith and the MOMS group, for the many hours of generous and self-giving work that made it such a good experience for so many people.

Thank you again for making this leave possible for me. I am praying for your renewal too, this summer, as I settle into mine.

Love and blessings,



### Where in the World is United Methodist Women?

Everywhere! If you look at the posters now hanging in the Terrace Room, you will see where in the world mission projects supported by the Women's Division are located. Our local unit of United Methodist Women pledges \$5,000 a year to this worldwide effort. These posters were done several years ago by Frances Burt. They were discovered about a year-and-a-half ago during a reorganization of "stuff" in the UMW storage room. It was decided to frame and display them to help spread the word of women's work in mission. We are trying to determine when the posters were designed and for what event, so if you recognize them and can help to date them, please contact Orene Dunzweiler at (916) 421-8205 or [knrmack@aol.com](mailto:knrmack@aol.com).

## Twenty-first Families



This Sunday begins our summer Sunday morning schedule that will run through the Labor Day weekend. Arts Enrichment and Sunday School will be offered but in different ways, requiring fewer volunteers and giving the opportunity for volun-

teers and staff to reenergize over the summer months. (August 1 through Labor Day, there will be no Arts Enrichment.) Staff will also be taking this time to plan for the fall programs, using the information generated from our May children's summit, *Hopes for Our Children*.

There are still many opportunities to be in ministry with children this summer on Sunday mornings and during *Staging A Miracle*. Check your calendar and let me know when you can be with the children.

- At 9:15, two persons are needed each week to show the DVD series *Heroes and Legends* to children in preschool through 8th grade, in Room 205.
- At 10:30, four persons are needed each week to monitor and share in the activity centers set up in Room 201 for preschool through 8th grade. This year our program is developed around the faith messages in books and games.
- Babies and toddlers, usually in the nursery and in Godly Players, will be cared for by our staff in the downstairs nursery.
- *Staging A Miracle* still needs volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday nights to be in the classes and workshops with the children as they learn from our practicing artists. Please check out the signup board in the Terrace Room.

Know that your presence and commitment to children is needed this summer. Often 25 or more children are with us on Sunday mornings during worship!

Please call Children's Ministries at 446-5025 ext.106, or email [children@firstumcsac.org](mailto:children@firstumcsac.org). Your hands and heart are the most important gifts we can give our children this summer.

—Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries

## Staging A Miracle 2010

There is remarkable and exciting work being done in preparation for *Staging A Miracle* (SAM) this year. The script for this year's production entitled *CREATE!* is ready. Our di-



rector has gathered his artistic team and is planning the workshops and classes. Our off-stage artistic director is creating a dynamic program to complement the on-stage production including clay, photography, costume making, and painting. Adults will be engaged in drumming and jewelry making. To our delight, the **Gymagery** gymnastics program, the **Sacramento Public Library**, and **Musikgarten** will return to teach our preschoolers and kindergartners in a parent-participation program. FUMC staff, each and every member, is preparing in some way, gathering materials and doing the background work to ensure we are ready. Our men's club is designing and creating storage space for all of these things. Our maintenance staff is readying the building. Volunteers are raising funds, arranging transportation, gathering shirts and shoes for costumes, planning schedules, and so much more!

*Staging A Miracle* is successful because of the hospitality that this community of faith offers the participants. YOU and every member of this congregation are invited to be part of SAM again this summer, from July 13 through August 15. Check out last year's *Staging A Miracle* video by the *Sacramento Bee* at [www.firstumcsac.org/miracle](http://www.firstumcsac.org/miracle), then be part of the new miracle that will happen here at FUMC this summer. Contact the church or sign up on the board in the Terrace Room:

- Be a *CREATE!* rehearsal supporter. This is a place where you can really be present in care and support of the participants. A *CREATE!* rehearsal supporter is in the workshops (singing, dancing, acting, staging, clay, photography, costumes) alongside the artist/teacher and another supporter. Sign up for one hour or two hours on a night, or better yet, be part of the entire five weeks!

(Continued on page 7)

# July 2010

<p><b>Sundays at FUMC</b>            9:15-11:30 AM Infant/toddler care            9:15-10:15 AM “Heroes &amp; Legends”; classes for adults            10:30 AM Worship; Sunday school for children and youth            11:30 AM Fellowship            12:00-2:00 PM Youth Group</p>		<p>ACIM = <i>A Course in Miracles</i> group            Imani = Imani Community Church            NA = Narcotics Anonymous/12-Step Program            SAM = Staging A Miracle            SGMC = Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus            SPRC = Staff-Parish Relations Committee</p>		1 5:30 PM SAM leadership mtg 7 PM SGMC	2	3 7 AM Prayer Walk
<p>Family Promise guests in residence June 27 through July 4</p>						
<p>4 Independence Day See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 6 PM Imani worship</p>	<p>5 Church office closed</p>	<p>6 6 PM SAM volunteer orientation</p>	<p>7 7 PM NA</p>	<p>8 6 PM SAM volunteer orientation</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Second Saturday 7 AM Prayer Walk</p>
<p>11 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 8:45 AM Missions Committee mtg 11:45 AM SPRC 12 PM Youth hotdog lunch sale 6 PM Imani worship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 SAM begins: 5 PM dinner 6:15 PM programs/rehearsals</p>	<p>14 7 PM ACIM 7 PM NA</p>	<p>15 SAM: 5 PM dinner 6:15 PM programs/rehearsals</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7 AM Prayer Walk 10 AM Imani makes bag lunches</p>
<p>18 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 8 AM Community Breakfast 9 AM Youth car wash 12 PM Youth Council 2:30 PM Concert for Cal.Council of the Blind 6 PM Imani worship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 SAM: 5 PM dinner 6:15 PM programs/rehearsals 6 PM Board of Trustees</p>	<p>21 7 PM Leadership Team meeting 7 PM NA</p>	<p>22 SAM: 5 PM dinner 6:15 PM programs/rehearsals</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7 AM Prayer Walk</p>
<p>25 See <i>Sundays at FUMC</i> 8 AM Community Breakfast 6 PM Imani worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 SAM: 5 PM dinner 6:15 PM programs/rehearsals</p>	<p>28 7 PM ACIM 7 PM NA</p>	<p>29 SAM: 5 PM dinner 6:15 PM programs/rehearsals</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7 AM Prayer Walk</p>

## Instrumental Music for July 4 and July 11

On Sunday, July 4, my daughter Cris Hancock will be playing several pieces for cornet and accompaniment. The selections are flavored by a sprinkle of patriotism.

The prelude will be an arrangement of *Battle Hymn of the Republic* by Roger Wilson. This version originated as an organ solo, however it moved me to score it for solo cornet.

The offertory is *Intonation and Reflection on Beach Spring*. Beach Spring was first published in *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844. This melody has been printed in our hymnal on pages 581 and 605. Our arrangement by Anne Krentz was published in 1999.

The postlude is *America the Beautiful* as arranged by Don Marsh. This version, published in 2002, is slightly jazzy.

On Sunday, July 11, you will hear three pieces by French composer and organist Theodore Dubois.

The prelude is *Larghetto in F Minor*. This lush piece includes a solemn motif and a gorgeous melody, ending in a major key.

The offertory is *Cantilène Religieuse*. This quiet piece is described as being sweet and melodic.

The postlude is *Grand Chorus*. This majestic piece is good for walking (or running). You may want to make it to the front steps of the church before I reach the conclusion.

Happy listening,

*Tom*

### 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.

### Carl Thomas begins sermon series

The series began on June 27 with the first of several questions from the Bible: "Where are you?" This one, along with all of the others in the seven-week group, focuses on a scripture passage that asks for more than a quick and easy answer. Whether it is God asking, or Jesus, an apostle or the writer of the biblical book itself, we are confronted with something to think about. We answer not as a point of information but after an examination of our life, its twists and turns, its tragedies and triumphs, and particularly how we are treating each other in relationships.

God is interested in that; that's why Moses received the law in Deuteronomy; that's why various prophets reminded the people of God's care for them and God's intention that we care for each other in like fashion. That's what's behind the teachings of Jesus and the sometimes hurried but thoughtful ministry of the apostle Paul.

**June 27** Genesis 3:8, 9  
*Where Are You?*

**July 4** Isaiah 6:8  
*Whom Shall I Send?*

**July 11** Psalm 19:12  
*But Who Can Detect Their Errors?*

**July 18** Luke 18:19  
*Why Do You Call Me Good?*

**July 25** Mark 10:35, 36  
*What Do You Want Me to Do for You?*

**August 1** Matthew 21:23  
*By What Authority Are You Doing These Things?*

**August 8** I Corinthians 12:29  
*Are All Apostles?*

## ***United Methodist News Service*** **Worldwide News in Brief**

A \$40,000 loan from Swiss United Methodists is helping a church-related university and mission station in the Democratic Republic of Congo in its urgent quest to renew its land title. Church officials discovered this spring that the title for the Mulungwishi mission station had not been renewed since 1959.

After 40 years of ministry in Zimbabwe, the Rev. Lovemore Nyanungo must rely on help from his children to make ends meet. The United Methodist Church's Central Conference Pension Initiative has reached its initial fundraising goal of \$20 million to help provide for retired pastors like Nyanungo and their surviving spouses. The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits will invest the money. The earnings will pay pensions for about 1,200 retired clergy and 1,300 surviving spouses in 62 annual conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Over the past decade, the U.S. government has stepped up its efforts to combat global networks that foster modern-day slavery through forced labor or commercial sex. But this year's recognition that the United States itself has "a serious problem with human trafficking" is important, say United Methodists. This is information that social action coordinators with United Methodist Women can use, said Susie Johnson, staff executive for public policy with the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

The School of Congregational Development will bring together speakers and workshop leaders to help United Methodist leaders develop disciple-making churches. The 2010 gathering, sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship, Path 1 and the General Board of Global Ministries, will be held July 29 to Aug. 2 at the Renaissance Hotel, Nashville Convention Center and area churches.

St. Paul School of Theology will hold a "Socially Responsible Investing Summit" on Oct. 18-19. The gathering will enable an exchange of ideas about The United Methodist Church's evolving understanding of socially responsible investing policy and practices. The summit also will evaluate implications from the more than 400 responses to the Socially Responsible Investment Task Force's recent survey.

After 12 years, Kathryn Johnson is leaving her position as the executive director of the Methodist Federation for Social Action to become the field manager

for the National Breast Cancer Coalition, effective June 28.

Recovery from Tropical Storm Agatha, which left a trail of destruction May 29 in Central America from Guatemala to Nicaragua, is expected to take at least a year. Guatemala was hardest hit, with 174 dead, 113 missing, 147 injured and more than 160,000 survivors evacuated and displaced from their homes. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is working with the ACT Alliance through a Central America partner, the Conference of Evangelical Churches of Guatemala, to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery.

The Foundation for Evangelism has recognized Swartz Creek United Methodist Church as the first-ever recipient of the Culture of the Call Church Award. This inaugural award honors a congregation of The United Methodist Church with a history of helping young people 35 or younger experience God's call to full-time Christian service. More than 25 people from the church have gone through lay-speaking training, and seven people have become clergy.

"Make Disciples of Jesus Christ to Transform the World" will be the theme for The United Methodist Church's 2012 General Conference, scheduled for April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Florida. The logo, which complements the theme, depicts a graphic image of the cross, representing the presence of Jesus Christ at the center of the church's mission. Circles extending from the cross express energy and movement into ministry in the world. A bright sun and blue water represents Tampa.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is supporting disaster response teams of the denomination's West Ohio Annual Conference as they mobilize to help survivors of a series of tornadoes that tore through Ohio June 5, killing six people and destroying more than 100 homes, at an estimated cost of more than \$100 million.

"Mentoring Into Vocation: Touchstones for the Journey," updated to reflect changes made by the 2008 General Conference and with a new introduction, offers a comprehensive framework for guiding people into ordained or lay vocations. The book is written from the perspective of United Methodist polity and theology. The revised edition, available in August from the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, can be pre-ordered now from Cokesbury.

(Continued from page 3)

- Be a host in the Parent-Participation Preschool-Kindergarten program. Be alongside our artists, parents and young children as they learn through fun activities. Two hosts are needed each evening.
- Gather a team of family, friends, or an organization and cook a meal for our *Staging A Miracle* family! This means dinner for about 100 people, preparing, serving (and cleaning up afterward, too). Most groups do a potluck style meal and cover the costs, but there are limited funds for food purchase.
- Come on Tuesday nights and be a snack server at 6:30 to 7:30. Snacks are already purchased, and need two people to gather them and hand them out to the participants.
- Gather a team of friends and organize the Telegram project. The congregation purchases telegrams to write notes of encouragement for each child/youth in the performance. They are sold after worship, and then packaged with a bright bow and good wishes.
- Make a financial donation. Your money will be used to provide transportation for the families, buy shoes for each child that will then be used for their back-to-school shoes, purchase food and serving products for dinners and snacks for breaks during rehearsals, provide the needed materials and supplies for a quality parent-participation preschool-kindergarten program and the offstage clay, photography and costume program, as well as all of the things needed to put on the final production of *CREATE!* including building of a stage extension this year. The expenses for *Staging A Miracle* 2010 are projected to be \$19,000, all of which is generated through donations such as yours and grants written by members of the *SAM* Leadership team. Checks can be made out to FUMC with memo to *SAM* and placed in the offering plate or delivered to the office in person or by mail.

### ***The Visitor: Looking Ahead***

If you looked at the upcoming *Visitor* deadlines on the back page and said, “Hey! What’s the deal with September?”—here’s your answer. *The Visitor* will take a break for Labor Day and publish just one September issue, submission deadline September 17, including the October calendar.

**Musical Summer!**

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

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

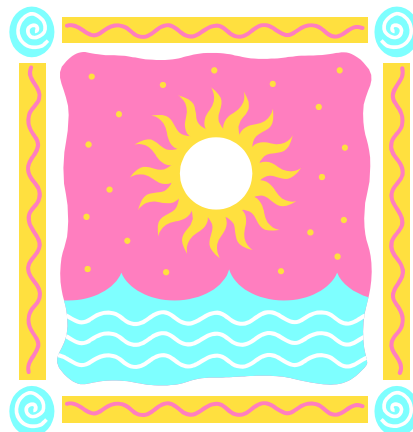
And as the Chancel Choir takes its regular summer break, we will be blessed with the gifts of these special musicians each Sunday:

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.

### **Breakfast Ministry Ends Court Battle**

*United Methodist News Service*—CrossRoads United Methodist Church has reached an agreement with the city of Phoenix that ends an upcoming federal court battle over the church’s Saturday pancake breakfast for the homeless. Prodigal’s Home ministry, which partners with the congregation on the feeding program, has decided to relocate its Saturday breakfasts within the next six months to the impoverished neighborhood north of the church, said the Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, the church’s pastor. The ministry, she said, also plans to expand its program to serve meals five or seven days a week.



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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 (best), fax, or hard copy:

- **E-mail** to *Visitor* editor Cindy Haug-West at theVisitor@firstumcsac.org, or **fax** to her at (916) 428-2645, **by 6:00 PM Friday**. Be sure Dianne Smith (dianne@firstumcsac.org) in the church office receives a copy of your item.
- **Hard copy** submissions may be delivered to the church office, or to Cindy by prior arrangement. When delivering to the church office, plan enough lead time for staff to fax items to Cindy.

**Upcoming deadlines for *The Visitor* are:**

- **July 9**
- **July 23 (including August calendar)**
- **August 6**
- **August 27 (including September calendar)**
- **September 17 (including October calendar)**
- **October 1**

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