



# First United Methodist Church

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

August 9, 2010

## The Visitor

Volume 52, Issue 15

### Crafty Women at Work

Preparations are underway for the 2010 UMW Bazaar. Join your friends and Circle sisters Saturday mornings at 9:00 at the church to help create lovely and useful items to raise funds for mission giving. There is work for you, whatever your talents. Many tasks are simple to do, much appreciated, and a lot more fun if done with a group of friends. No special skills required – can you cut with scissors? Draw a line with a ruler? Pin fabric pieces together? Come on down! Questions? Call Harriet Kallemeyn at (916) 646-4280, or Phyllis Helsel at (916) 428-2114.

### Visit the Holy Land with UMW

United Methodist Women starts its fall meetings on Saturday, September 11, with a 10:45 meeting, 11:45 pot luck lunch, and 12:15 program.

Come on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land! Marian (Eastburn) Ferrante will lead us with slides, stories, and Bible verses “in the footsteps of Jesus.” Reading about Jesus in the Bible develops our faith, yet to be there brings it even more to life in the heart. Sing as the angels; sail the Sea of Galilee; be anointed as was His stone. This spiritual journey is not to be missed.

All women, young and old, are welcome.



### We Are Staging A Miracle and You Are Invited!

The production of *CREATE!* is upon us! Five weeks have flown by and we are ready to share our work and learning with you. The cast has prepared, practiced and rehearsed music, dance, and



voice. The off-stage crew has made costumes, designed and painted the backdrop, and prepared an art show to showcase their clay works and photography.

All of this is done because over 25 gifted and talented practicing artists in music, dance, theater and visual media have come together with the Staging A Miracle children, youth and adults for five action-packed weeks. Surrounding them are over 75 folks we call *CREATE!* supporters, offering a range of gifts, talents and commitment that lift the program and its participants to places of creativity and learning. Strangers that came together not knowing what to expect have supported one another in ways that cannot be planned for. Miracles abound.

And YOU, the faith community that hosts SAM, can be part of the miracle as the preparation becomes the performance!

Please come to one of three performances:

- Second Saturday, August 14, at 6:00, 7:00, or 8:00 PM.
- Sunday, August 15, the performance will be re-  
prised during the worship service

Following the worship service, the cast of SAM and their families will attend a recognition event in the sanctuary. You are invited to be part of that celebration.

Immediately after the recognition event, SAM cast members, families, and volunteers will be having their cast party.

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## CAT's Pause

This week saw jubilation and disappointment in California over the recent ruling striking down the constitutionality of Proposition 8. One of the interesting comments made in the opinion was that “moral disapproval alone is an improper basis on which to deny rights to gay men and lesbians.” I heartily concur even though my own moral reservation had to do with Proposition 8 itself; that’s why I voted against it.

There is in our society of the consent of the governed an understanding of equal status among the people – all of them. To deny that equality undermines the very basis of our social contract. I respect anyone’s considered opinion about the institutions that make up all social and economic systems. Some people have deep beliefs about how those institutions are operated, whether it be marriage, government, or whatever. But if that deep belief takes away equal status from some and grants extra privilege to others, the society itself is destroyed. American government design, enshrined in the several writings of the founders (including the Constitution), assumes and often emphasizes equal status of the governed, the people of this great country. Let’s not ever remove that equality, especially at the ballot box.

Jesus spoke often not only about justice issues but the generous treatment of justice issues. Again, the apostle Paul wrote about all people being on an equal basis in the eyes of God (neither slave nor free, male nor female, etc.). Christian history has not always followed these ideals; it’s time that we do, I believe. They are a good gift we can give to our fellow citizens of these united states.

\* \* \* \* \*

On a lighter note (pun intended): We’re changing the light bulbs in the chancel area soon. Look for a brighter vision surrounding the choir. Soon, we will no longer see as though in a mirror dimly (“he’s quoting Paul *again*?”), but face to face, many of them smiling, I hope.

Blessings,



## About Our Folks

♥ **Phyllis Helsel** is recovering from hand surgery on August 5 and from a recent fall. ♥ We celebrate with **Gwen and Phil Rubio**, and big brother **Gregory**, who have welcomed new baby **Victoria** into their family. (Victoria is already a month old; we regret that this announcement did not appear closer to the time of her arrival.) ♥ **Dick Baxter**’s son-in-law will have brain surgery later this month. The nine-hour procedure has a high rate of success. Our prayers go with him and his family. ♥

## Chancel Choir/Summer Choir to Sing in August

The Chancel Choir returned from its annual summer break in August by singing in the worship services of August 8, and continues August 22 and 29. For these three services the choir invites any member of the congregation who is interested in doing so, to join them in singing as the “Summer Choir.”

The Summer Choir will meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 each Sunday morning before worship to rehearse the morning anthem and to prepare for the worship service. The selected anthems are upbeat, inspirational, fun to sing and will add so much to each service.

Anyone who has considered joining our choir is urged to come and experience the enjoyment of singing with us and being part of the choir for these “Summer Choir” Sundays.

If you would like more information on the Summer Choir please call the church office at 446-5025 and leave a message for me.

Regular Thursday evening rehearsals for the Chancel Choir will resume August 26, from 7:15 to 9:00 PM, in the Terrace Room.

Come join us...all are welcome.

—Clyde Kidd, Chancel Choir Director



## Twenty-first Families

During August, we are observing a Quiet Time and will not have 9:15 Enrichment classes or Nursery/Toddler Care.

### For families during worship

**August 15:** All children and families are invited to remain in worship in our courtyard to see the performance of Staging A Miracle.

**August 22, 29:** *Exploring the Bible* for age 4 through grade 8 in Room 201.

**September 5:** Children will remain in worship with their families.

**September 12:** Regular Schedule Resumes

**9:15 Fly Into Fall.** All children and youth, babies through high school, AND their parents are invited to Room 201 to find out about the fall classes and activities.

**10:30** Nursery and toddler care, Godly Players, and programs for children and youth begin. The children and youth begin in worship with families and then are excused to their classes after the Children's Message. They must be picked up from their classrooms by an adult at 11:45.

—Cathy Cook, Director of Children's Ministries,  
(916) 446-5025 X106, children@firstumcsac.org

## Cannin' and Jammin'

Fruit tree loaded? Berries coming on strong? Tomatoes running wild? If you have more than you can use, the women of UMW will turn your surplus into fabulous jam, jelly and preserves to sell at the UMW Bazaar.



UMW is also collecting jars to fill with jelly, jam and other goodies for the UMW Bazaar. Check your cupboards and bring in that sack of jars that's been in the garage a while – jelly jars especially welcome. Jars can be brought to the church office. If you have questions or need help carrying, call Harriet Kallemeyn at (916) 646-4280.

## Instrumental Music for August 22 and 29

As Sunday, August 22 will be an “organ only” Sunday, I’ve chosen the three following selections:

The prelude is *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* by Edward Broughton. This composition is based on the tune *Primrose* by Lucius Chapin (658 in our hymnal). This piece consists of six variations, each of which is treated with a different harmonic and melodic style. The piece concludes with a “Sweet Adeline” ending.

During the offering I’ll be playing *Andante Semplice* by Edvard Hagerup Grieg (1843-1907).

At the conclusion of the service I’ll be playing *Festivity* by Cyril Jenkins, copyright 1925. The original copy of this piece, now brittle with age, is a priceless treasure because it contains rehearsal notes in Elizabeth Monk’s handwriting.

It must be a slow season for musicians because my daughter Cris Hancock was able to pull together a brass quintet for Sunday, August 29. Some of these musicians hail from faraway places like Davis and Elk Grove to share their talent with us.

The quintet consists of **Cris Hancock**, cornet; **Phil Dunzweiler**, trumpet; **Ralph Buell**, French horn; **Kenny Orr**, trombone; and **Bob Rucker**, tuba. I’ll be playing the piano.

The three selections for this service are *The Power of the Cross* arranged by Mark Hayes, *There Is a Balm in Gilead* arranged by Lloyd Larson, and *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* arranged by Michael Lawrence.

Happy listening,

Tom

## ANGELS ON CALL

Want to be an angel? Faithful service opportunity for all. Earn your angel wings! Keep watching. . . More information will follow.



## **Update on *Hopes for Our Children and Youth***

The good planning continues!

On Sunday, August 1, a follow-up meeting was held to review the information and suggestions gathered at our *Hopes for Our Children and Youth* conference held in late May. The information reviewed included the goals, dreams and ideas that reflected the group's wishes and ideas in two categories:

1. Age/Grade Level Milestones
2. Expectations for what we wish for an 18-year-old who is going out into the world.

Presently, through email communication, this group is offering ideas and suggestions to one another and to Cathy Cook about how best to design and implement a program that reflects the ideas while utilizing resources already in place such as Godly Play, an expanded art program, and others. Anyone is invited to be part of this ongoing email conversation by letting Cathy Cook know and your name will be added to the list. Email [children@firstumcsac.org](mailto:children@firstumcsac.org).

On Sunday, August 22, the Leadership Team has asked for a presentation about the results of the conference and the subsequent planning and development for fall. Please mark your calendar to be at that meeting at 12:30 PM to find out more about developments in Children's and Youth Ministries.

Another place where you can find out more will be at the first All-Church Information Luncheon, Sunday, September 12. This after-worship event will enable the entire congregation to find out more about programs and ways we can all work together to make them the richest and deepest they can be. Children's and Youth Ministries will be present that day to share information.

For more information, or to get involved in planning and development of this important ministry of our church, please contact Cathy Cook at 446-5025 ext.106 or [children@firstumcsac.org](mailto:children@firstumcsac.org).

## **Leadership Team Set for the 22nd**

Mike McDoniels announced the agenda for the August meeting. Lunch is at noon in Room 201 followed by the meeting at 12:30. The youth are providing hotdog lunches that day and we'll take advantage of the offering. Included so far in our time together is Fall Budget Building and campaign plans, a new education model for Sunday School, and update on previous items and time for each member of the team to talk about their respective roles in this new structure. Join us. Also, mark your calendars now for the luncheon in the Terrace Room on September 12.

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

The Rev. Bill Shillady, a United Methodist pastor, helped officiate at the July 31 wedding of Chelsea Clinton and Marc Mezvinsky in Rhinebeck, N.Y. A rabbi also took part in the interfaith ceremony. Like her mother, Chelsea Clinton, 30, is a United Methodist.

The 2010 Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly in Berlin brought together some 350 young leaders from around the world and created unity through the sharing of cultures. The youth and young adult participants from more than two dozen countries also approved legislation that will be presented to the 2012 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body.

United Methodists are making plans to assist those displaced by the worst floodwaters to hit Pakistan in 80 years. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is coordinating with four partners — Church World Service, Muslim Aid, Global Medic and the Church of Pakistan — to support relief efforts.

Tony Campolo, a Christian author and speaker, headlined a public celebration on August 1 in Nashville, Tenn., that raised \$6,500 for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the denomination's relief agency. The event was part of the 2010 School of Congregational Development, a United Methodist training institute for starting and strengthening churches. UMCOR plans to use the funds for its Haiti earthquake recovery work and relief efforts after May floods in Tennessee. Campolo commended The United Methodist Church for in-

*(Continued on page 5)*

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volving Haitians in every aspect of the rebuilding process. The benefit also included performances by the choir of Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church in Nashville and Sheltered Reality, a youth drum corps from the 61st Avenue United Methodist Church.

More than 5,500 Boy Scouts and their adult leaders attended United Methodist worship at the National Jamboree, held at Fort A.P. Hill near Bowling Green, Va. It was part of a strong United Methodist presence at the event, which celebrated the centennial of Boy Scouts of America. Larry Coppock, the national director of Scouting ministries for the Commission on United Methodist Men, reported that during the Jamboree about 5,200 commemorative New Testaments and 10,000 Nothing But Nets patches were distributed. The worship service offering totaled more than \$12,000. Along with the money collected at the Nothing But Nets display, the scouting event raised more than \$17,000 to the church's anti-malaria partnership.

The United Methodist Board of Church and Society is encouraging local churches to observe National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September by hosting a special worship service or other educational event to highlight the realities of addiction, the benefits of treatment and the possibility of recovery. More information, including a planning toolkit, is available at [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov) or by calling (800) 662-HELP.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, the church's relief agency, is helping Grace Children's Hospital build a rehabilitation infrastructure that will provide both immediate care and the foundation for a long-term program to meet the rehabilitation needs of adults and children, including earthquake survivors, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and surrounding areas. The agency also will assist the hospital as it develops a professional force of rehabilitation specialists trained in physical and occupational therapies. Donations can be made at [secure.gbmg-umc.org/donations/umcor/](http://secure.gbmg-umc.org/donations/umcor/).

A retreat is scheduled for United Methodists exploring the possibility of full-time professional ministry. The 2010 Ministry Discernment & Formation Retreat is planned for September 9-11 at the Scarritt-Bennett Conference and Retreat Center in Nashville,

Tenn. The United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry as well as the Board of Global Ministries are sponsoring the event for those who are discerning a call to be an ordained deacon, elder, local pastor, chaplain, deaconess or home missionary. Registration costs \$100. More information is available at [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org).

United Methodist congregations are among the more than 1,500 churches across the United States that have committed to participate in "Back to Church Sunday" on September 12. Churches agree to send out invitations and hold special services to welcome back people who once attended church — but have not recently. Outreach Inc., a California-based church marketing company that supports the initiative, found last year's participating churches increased their weekend attendance on average by 19 percent. Resources for planning "Back to Church Sunday" are available at [www.backtochurch.com](http://www.backtochurch.com).

Sixty-five years after the first nuclear weapons were dropped on Japan, "nuclear bombs still threaten humanity and deny a lasting peace," said the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, top executive of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Government and society must find "new resolve to protect the sanctity of life," he said. The WCC and its member churches, including The United Methodist Church, are promoting the ratification of a new arms control agreement between the United States and Russia and reform of NATO's nuclear policy. The bombs fell on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

### **"God's Call" Camp Explores Ministry**

GRANTHAM, Pa. (UMNS) - The direction of Mindi Ferguson's life was changed at a United Methodist Church

camp when she was 14. One week at camp with counselors who cared gave Ferguson—now 21—the time



and encouragement she needed to explore her call into ordained ministry. This summer as a God's Call camp counselor, she is hoping to give that same experience to other youngsters.

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***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:**

- **August 27 (including September calendar)**
- **September 17 (including October calendar)**
- **October 1**
- **October 15 (including November calendar)**
- **November 5**
- **November 19 (including December calendar)**

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