



First United Methodist Church

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

November 2011

The Visitor

Volume 53, Issue 11

PASTOR DON'S DABBLINGS

Greetings in the name of Christ!

At the end of September, I was delighted to join five of our folks to attend the Leadership Conference held at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. This United Methodist Church, pastored by the Rev. Adam Hamilton, is considered one of the cutting edge congregations in the nation, with a membership exceeding 15,000 people. But unlike other mega-church conferences I have been to, this one did not have the purpose of growing a small or medium size church into a mega church, but rather the conference focused on vitality - how to be effective as we share in our ministry of Christ Alive. What does a vital 100 member congregation look like, or a 200, or 500 member congregation - and how can each take steps toward greater vitality?

Karla Lundin, Kris Errecart, Terry Haug, Bob and Pat Peck, and I were “washed” in strategies to help our own church grow and thrive. The event was filled with powerful workshops and plenary sessions, as well as traditional and contemporary worship styles in the United Methodist tradition. The Church of the Resurrection employs twenty-first century technology to carry out its ministries and this proved to be most inviting and interesting. The six of us spread out into workshops on leadership, evangelism, worship, mission, children and youth

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ministries, small group development and several others. We returned with ideas that our church may wish to put into action in the coming years. While each of us took away key points, here are some that stood out for me:

Know where we are - take a good, honest look at where the congregation is today, look for places to build and places that need transformation.

Have a compelling purpose - this can be a challenge for a church 160 years old, but if we have a purpose that seeks the realm of God, we'll be moving toward the future vitality of the congregation.

Build on our core values - each congregation has core values that are often unspoken and so become unrealized. Discerning these and living them out is critical to vitality.

Reach out, reach out, reach out - churches need to have an inward focus to take care of facilities and care for members. Yet churches also need to make vitality a reality in reaching out to those who may be seeking a relationship with Christ, a spiritual life, even if they may not know it yet.

Provide an atmosphere of continued spiritual development and growth for all.

Next year, send more people to this conference - it really is life-giving!

I have asked the six of us who attended to form a “Resurrection Team,” where we will try to form our experience into a whole and share this with you in the coming year. We are truly excited about the possibilities and hope you will be engaged in the vitality-reality we are searching for and hoping to bring about.

With loving zeal,

Pastor Don

Worship Celebrations: Looking Forward

Nov 6 21st Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Communion - All Saints Sunday

See What You Have!

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Matthew 25.1-13

Spiritual gifts can be a mighty confusing topic. Nevertheless, exploring how spiritual gifts might stimulate our self-understanding can be helpful in placing ourselves in the larger picture of serving in Christ's name.

Plan to bring a picture or a memento of a saint in your life, someone who helped you become the person you are, someone with whom you shared great love.

Nov 13 22nd Sunday after Pentecost - Commitment Sunday

Do What Matters to God!

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

Of course things matter to God! But what things exactly? If I am going to attempt to do something for God, what should it be? Do I just figure this out on my own or does someone tell me?

Following worship, plan to attend our Annual Church Conference and Luncheon.

Nov 20 Last Sunday after Pentecost - Thanksgiving Sunday

Gratitude and Sod

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1.15-23

It's amazing really. One can purchase grass in the form of sod and place it on hard packed ground to create an instant, beautiful lawn. Gratitude, when planted on our hardened hearts, can help create a beautiful life! While it doesn't happen instantly, gratitude's soul-adjustment helps our hearts to receive and express God's vitality.

Nov 27 1st Sunday of Advent

The Advent journey begins this Sunday. Watch for details!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...

Hebrews 12.1

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6th. On this day when we remember the saints in our lives, you are invited to bring a picture or memento of your loved one to place on the Memory Tables at the front of the sanctuary. In addition, we will remember and honor our members and friends who have died in the past year. Join us as we share in the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and who continue to help guide us through this life.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Annual Church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 13th, following worship. The Rev. Ernest Kan will preside as we celebrate our ministry together. We'll reflect on the past year in story and pictures, as well as look forward to the year ahead. Ministry and administrative teams will share their ministries with us and we will elect church leaders for 2012, review the membership rolls, and set the pastor's compensation package.

All are invited to attend. A special musical presentation is planned. If you are able, please plan to bring a salad to share.

Let's celebrate the joy of being in Christ's ministry together!

SERVING FROM THE HEART RETREAT

Pastor Don will lead a one day retreat here at First UMC entitled *Serving from the Heart, Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service* on Saturday, November 12, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Together we will explore our gifts and talents, discover our spiritual type, and understand our personality type in a restful, refreshing environment. Many people ask themselves, "What purpose do I have in life, in my faith journey?" This retreat is meant to help discern just that in ways that are spiritually enriching and life giving.

There is a requested donation of \$10 to defray costs of materials. Lunch will be provided. All are invited to take part, even seasoned leaders. Delightful surprises may await you as we share this special journey together. If you plan to attend, please let the church office know at 446.5025 or contact Pastor Don at revdolee@gmail.com.

New Music Director

SPRC is excited to announce the upcoming arrival of our new music director. Please

welcome Joseph Silmaro who will join us in worship on Oct. 30th. Joseph is a talented pianist and conductor. Joseph has been accompanying on the organ a choir in Fremont and currently will continue to accompany a local high school. Joseph and his wife live in Davis and look forward to joining us.



Seasons of Our Lives: Leaning Into the In-Between Times
A Retreat of Spiritual Renewal for All Women
Hosted by First United Methodist Church Sacramento

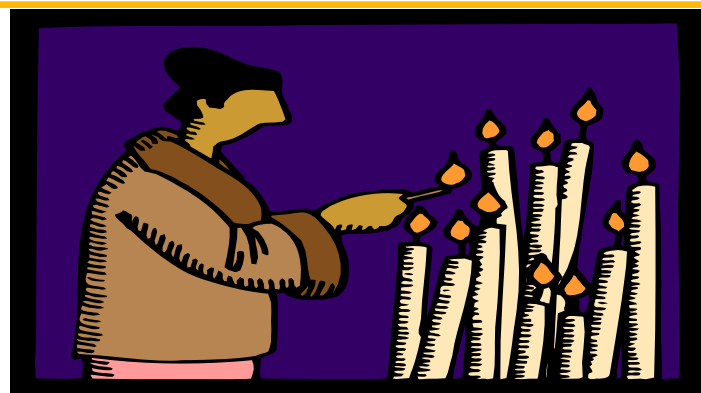


When: Friday February 3, 5:15 PM (includes dinner) - Sunday February 5, 2012 thru lunch
Where: Mercy Center, Auburn, CA

What: Led by Ruth Reynolds who is a practicing Spiritual Director and facilitator of over 60 spiritual retreats for women. This retreat will provide sacred space and activities for each participant to reflect and explore their individual spiritual journey while learning and sharing with other women what it means to be united within communities of faith. The retreat format will be inclusive for women of different faith traditions and practices and those of different ages and places in life. The cost is \$210 for the weekend, including meals and accommodations. Thanks to the MOMS group, there are partial scholarships available for those who may need some financial assistance. Call Kris Errecart at (916) 224-1812 for more information and to make arrangements.

How: Space is limited to 22 women and participation requires attendance for the entire 3 day retreat. You are encouraged to reserve your space soon as possible by calling Cathy Cook at (916) 396-9659. Your initial deposit of \$25 is due on or before Sunday, November 6, 2011. The deposit should be made out to FUMC, with women's retreat in the memo box. Give the check to Cathy or Kris or place it in Kris's box in the church office.

For more information: Call Kris at (916) 224-1812 or Cathy at (916) 396-9659.

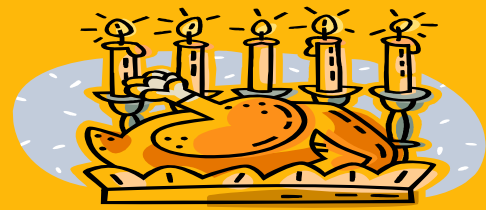


SEARCHING FOR SAFEGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

Each winter, our church hosts homeless guests in our facility for overnight stays. During the cold, wet months, this is a life-saving mission in which many faith communities participate. This year we are told that there will be no homeless shelters in Sacramento, making Safeground more important than ever.

Costa Mantis, a filmmaker and formerly homeless individual, has produced a compelling film series called Searching for Safeground. This film series will continue on November 12th, at 5 pm. Each segment is 40 minutes long and will be followed by a Question/Response time with the filmmaker. The film will be screened in our Chapel and many local faith communities and Safeground supporters will be in attendance. This is a free event, although a suggested donation of \$5 is requested which will be donated to Safeground after expenses. In addition, you can purchase DVD's of Mr. Mantis' film at the

November 2011



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

ACIM = A Course in Miracles

group

Imani = Imani Community Church

NA = Narcotics Anonymous/12-Step Program

NFYW = Not Finished Yet

Women's group

SGMC = Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus

UMW = United Methodist Women

1

2

6:30 p.m. A New Kind of Christianity
7:00 p.m. NA-12 Steps
7:00 p.m. Imani Bible Study

3

8:30 am Staff Meeting
10:00 a.m. UMW Holiday Bazaar
7:00 p.m. "Staging A Miracle" Board Mtg
7:00 p.m. Sac. Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

4

9:00 a.m. UMW Holiday Bazaar Continues
10:00 a.m. Gospel of Matthew

5

9:00 a.m. Scrapbooking Fellowship

6

See Sundays at FUMC
10:30 Worship Service—
12:00 noon UMW Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon
12:00 noon Reconciling Ministries

7

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Parents
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

8

9

6:30 p.m. A New Kind of Christianity
7:00 p.m. NA-12 Steps
7:00 p.m. Imani

10

5:30 p.m. "Not Finished Yet – Women's Group"
7:00 p.m. Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal

11

10:00 a.m. Gospel of Matthew
3:00 Forever Young Cooking

12 **Second Saturday in Midtown**

9:00 a.m. Forever Young Cooking Project
12:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Retreat

13

See Sundays at FUMC
8:30 a.m. Missions Committee
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 noon Commitment Sunday Celebration, Church Conference and Luncheon
3:00 p.m. Imani Special Activities Meetings

14

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

15

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees

16

7:00 p.m. 12 Steps-NA
7:00 p.m. Imani Bible Study

17

8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
9:45 a.m. UMW Circle 3
12:30 p.m. UMW Circle 2
7:00 p.m. Sac Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Chan-

18

10:00 a.m. "The Gospel of Matthew"
5:00 pm SA-BEEL Meeting

19

9:00 a.m. End of Life Mysteries

20

See Sundays at FUMC
8:30 a.m. Community Breakfast
12 noon Adult Ministries Team
12 noon Tackling Tough Issues
5:30 p.m. Imani Meditation

21

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

22

6:00 p.m. Leadership Team Mtg
7:00 p.m. Sac Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

23

7:00 p.m. 12 Steps-NA
7:00 p.m. Imani Bible Study

24

Thanksgiving

25

Office Closed

26

27

See Sundays at FUMC
8:30 a.m. Community Breakfast
3:00 p.m. Imani Special Activities/Meetings
5:30 p.m. Imani Meditation
6:00 p.m. Imani Community Church Service

28

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

29

30

6:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study Begins
7:00 p.m. 12 Steps-NA
7:00 p.m. Imani Bible Study

Sundays at FUMC

9:15 AM Wired Word Study
9:15-11:30 AM Infant/toddler care, Children's Enrichment programs, Adult Education
10:30 AM Worship; Sunday school programs for children and youth; Infant/toddler care
11:30 AM Fellowship ; 12:00-2:00 PM Youth Group

Board of Trustees News

The Board of Trustees has been busy facilitating much needed work in October. Alan Garthwaite continued his efforts removing all the ivy in the planting beds on 21st Street and on J Street near 21st Street. Alan found quite a few items in addition to the plants that were unsafe. He continued work to repair and rework the sprinklers in that area and prepare the beds for the Boy Scout workday. He also assisted in reworking some electrical problems and reconfiguring lights to provide extra security for the church. Finally, his efforts were directed toward the floor of the SMUD room that was rapidly deteriorating. **Thank you, Alan!**

Twenty Boy Scouts and parent leaders spent 5 hours each (that's 100 man hours!) working on projects to improve our facility on October 8. The flowerbeds were replanted, sprinklers repaired, the first floor exterior of the apartment building adjacent to the church was repainted and other areas were painted to rid the church of graffiti. **Thank you to Troop 1**, the oldest Boy Scout troop west of the Mississippi, a great program for young men that meets in our church.

Finally, last week both parking lots were repaired, repaved, and restriped. This project created a safer area to park as loose paving and tripping hazards in the lot were removed. Two handicapped parking spaces and a loading zone were created in the small parking lot adjacent to the church. You will notice that new to that lot are two "guest" parking spaces. These are designated in this way for visitors to the church on Sunday morning—a move in the direction of "radical hospitality" that we extend to visitors.



The Youth Garage Sale was successful. Thank you to all who donated, helped, and participated! Next event: Youth e-waste collection on Saturday, November 5 from 9 a.m. To 12 noon! Thanks, All!!!



Praying for Each Other

In Loving Memory
Ralph M. Pedersen
May 14, 1938 – October 14, 2011

We grieve, but not as those without hope.
1 Thessalonians 4.13

A memorial service celebrating Ralph's life will be held on Thursday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. A reception will follow in the Terrace Room.

Our United Methodist Connection

The Riverside United Methodist Church and their pastor, Rev. Ernest Kan.

Members of First United Methodist Church

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Hite and family | Audrey McMillon |
| Carin Martin | Houston Keehner |
| Mary McDaniel | Jim Corson |
| Adaïre Palm | Carl Thomas |
| Phyllis Varney | Susan Clark |
| Barbara Beoddy | Hawea Pedersen and family |
| | Joni Patche |

Members Living in Skilled Nursing Facilities

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Jackie Thompson | E.G. Pomeroy |
| Tilda Redway | Jesse Martin |
| Delight Trotter | Marie Steppan |
| Bonnie Churchill | Bill Faught |

Friends and Family

Tom Roehr's son, George
Nola Agha, daughter of Irene and Marvin Brown
Philip Wong, Jennifer Wong's brother
Vera Wright, Evelyn Wright's sister-in-law

Bazaar 101

Each year – and for many years – the United Methodist Women of this church have baked, sewed, crafted, and decorated all kinds of things to be sold at a bazaar to raise funds for mission. The members enjoy working together to create their wares, and judging by the traffic church members and others enjoy shopping for hand made goods and sharing inexpensive lunches and dinner during the event. But what's it all about?

UMW mission giving supports 98 National Mission Institutions in the US, and regional programs in over 100 countries, with a focus on women, children and youth. UMW provides education for mission, including spiritual growth, leadership training, and geographic studies. In addition, this church's unit of UMW contributes regularly to FUMC programs and local organizations that benefit women and children.

UMW funding is separate from that of the church. About 40% comes from Bazaar proceeds, just over 33% from members' pledges, 20% from meals prepared and served during Annual Conference, and 7% from miscellaneous sources, such as gifts and donations for service during receptions at the church.



Along with the hand-crafted work of our members, UMW is proud to offer beautiful items from SERRV, one of the oldest Fair Trade associations in the world.



Orene Dunzweiller will chair the Nominating Committee of Bridges District United Methodist Women. Roberta Smith will be a member of the committee. Orene is outgoing President, and Roberta outgoing Vice President of this church's unit of UMW.



October marked a major change in UMW district boundaries, with seven districts were realigned to form four new districts. The former Delta District of UMW became part of the Bridges District, which includes the Bay Area and Sacramento.

International Holiday

◆ Bazaar ◆

Something for Everyone!

- ◆ Bake Sale, Jellies and Jams
- ◆ Unique Crafts and Kitchen Items
- ◆ Jewelry and Home Décor
- ◆ Delightful Hand-made Baby Items
- ◆ Fair Trade Crafts and food items



- ◆ Gift items from around the world

Thursday, November 3

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Lunch 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. - \$5

Dinner 6 p.m. -\$10

(Dinner reservations – 916-446-5025)

Friday, November 4

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lunch 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 6

11a.m. to 2 p.m. – Lunch at Noon



First United Methodist Church
2100 J Street, Sacramento 95816

Caring for Each Other



Many of you are aware that First Church has had three festive senior luncheons, hosted in member's homes. Now, we are planning the fourth. The previous luncheons were hosted by Gary and Phyllis Varney, Nancy Rae, and Tanis and Jim Toland. The guests are our eldest members who still enjoy getting together to share delicious food and social conversation.

The next luncheon will be on Thursday, November 17th and guests will enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal together at the home of Mike and Cathy Cook. A dedicated assembly of people work together to provide transportation and food. I am thankful for their continuing generosity of this event. It is a special way to honor our seniors, by getting to know them better, through sharing photographs and stories about their lives. This is one way First United Methodist Church members continue the "Unbroken Circle" within our friendly and service oriented congregation.

Recently, a small group met for the purpose of enlarging our team of visitors and it was successfully done. This group will be known as "Companions for the Journey." An important segway occurred when many of the new visitors wanted to participate in the next luncheon. Because so many things came together well, we are able to increase the size of this gathering. If you know an elderly senior who has or does attend First Church and may be interested in attending the luncheon please contact Patricia at (916) 446-5025 EXT 105. If there is a large increase in participation, we may have the next luncheon at the church.

Song of the Builders

On a summer morning
I sat down
on a hillside
to think about God –

a worthy pastime.
Near me, I saw
a single cricket;
it was moving the grains of the hillside
this way and that way.
How great was its energy,
how humble its effort.

Let us hope...

it will always be like this,
each of us going on
in our inexplicable ways
building the universe.

By, Mary Oliver

There are many people who serve to bring about the good things that happen at First Church. And many good things happen here. Some people serve so quietly we never even know about their service. Thank you, each of you, for being the hands and heart of Jesus Christ in the world.

Patricia
Faith Community Nurse



Notice From Your Editors:

I would like to remind everyone that when you miss the deadline for submissions to *The Visitor*, the domino effects have repercussions for many people. Please try to submit your articles in a timely fashion.

Also, all articles are published in the **Times Roman font at the 12 point size**. It would be *so very* helpful if you all could submit your work using this font and size. We so appreciate your cooperation! Thanks everyone!

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PERIODICALS

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY



***The Visitor* Deadline and Submission Info**

The Visitor is published monthly. Each issue includes the following month's calendar. **The deadline to submit items is the Wednesday before publication.** Items may be submitted by e-mail (best) or hard copy:

- **E-mail** to *The Visitor* editors **Connie Fanos** at cfanos@hotmail.com and **Lynette Fazio** at lynnfazio@comcast.net **by 5:00 PM Wednesday**. Be sure Dianne Smith (dianne@firstumcsac.org) in the church office receives a copy of your item via e-mail cc.
- **Hard copy** submissions may be delivered to the church office, or to the editors by prior arrangement. When delivering to the church office, plan enough lead time for staff to transmit items to the editors.

Upcoming deadlines for *The Visitor* are:

- **November 16**
- **December 14**

First United Methodist Church

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Maintenance/Grounds/Security: **Johnny Morales**;
Richard Pervorse