

HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP RENEWAL

We will soon begin work on our Worship Renewal Grant. If you have a heart for worship and an interest in worship leadership and renewal, please email one of us with your interest or write us a note on the back of your attendance card. Find out more by visiting the church website. —Patricia, Larry and Brad

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 1 - 5, 9 am - 12 noon

This year's VBS is themed "Ranch House Kids: Adventure of the Open Door" based on the Bible verse Matthew 7:7. At the Circle G Ranch - where God is at the center and the love never ends - children will develop a deeper relationship with God while they share in adventures on the ranch. Our VBS staff is a loving and capable group of volunteers, whose aim is to bring your child to a greater understanding of what it means to be a Christian. To sign up for Vacation Bible School or to find out more, contact the church office.

FUMC DODGER NIGHT

Tuesday, August 23

"Take me out to the ball game..." The time has come for this year's FUMC Dodger Night! The Los Angeles Dodgers will be playing the Colorado Rockies and the game begins at 7:10 pm. Tickets are being sold during coffee hour on Sunday mornings for \$17. The Finance Committee is sponsoring this event which is a fundraiser to benefit FUMC's general operating budget. Come out and enjoy the game with your fellow church members and friends. "... buy me some peanuts and crackerjacks..."



ASP 2005 by Kaitlyn Morar

After months of hard work, the ASP team finally completed the work part of our 2005 mission trip. Our assigned projects were only partly completed when we finished our work week, which lasted from July 4 through July 8. The group from our church was split into two teams. One team, nicknamed the Superwoman team, was lead by UMYF counselors

Dan Stirling and Emily Miller and included Peter Defenderfer, Leah Guerrero, Grant Olsson, Monica Pires and me. The other team, nicknamed the X-men, was led by Charleen Smith and Ron Theile and included Matthew Edwards, Holly Hoskinson, Kerry Madison, BJ Trammell and Christina Worley. The two teams worked Monday through Friday from 9 to 4, even through 2 days of pouring rain, which makes work a lot harder, especially outdoor work! The two teams did two different types of work.

The Superwoman team finished a porch, built a railing from scratch (meaning it wasn't prefabricated) and built a set of stairs leading to the porch. The X-men team, did various work on the kitchen and bathroom, such as sheet rock and installing a toilet. During the work days we also got to know the families we were helping.

After each long day, the teams would return to the center and do chores to maintain the center, eat dinner, and then meet for evening gathering. Evening gathering consisted of singing and fellowship which further bonded the ASP members, as well as helped us break the ice and get to know the other church team, which was from Pennsylvania. The rest of the night would consist of games and our own group's devotions, in which we would praise each other and send prayers for our friends back home.

As I previously wrote, we have completed the first part of our mission, which was to bond with our families, each other and of course

repair some homes, but the other part is to implement what we learned in Appalachia into our daily lives. ASP taught us a lot and changed all of our lives in many, many ways, and it will be a joy to see the impact that ASP has had on us.



(top: Monica Pires, Kaitlyn Morar, Leah Guerrero; middle: Superwoman team project; bottom: X-men team)

Having now found herself at the top of the huge boulder, she clung to the rock with all she had, hoping beyond hope that she wouldn't begin to slide or ultimately fall. Then she began to shake, then whimper. She was in trouble. The first word out of her mouth was, "Daddy..." By that time I was looking for an appropriate way up to her. Steve, another dad, was scaling the face. And Kevin, another dad, stood ready at the base to do whatever it took to get her down safely. Steve got there first and assured her that she was safe. I climbed up to a secure position just below Steve. Steve handed her to me. She clung like I've never had her cling before...and she began to cry knowing with profound relief that she was now safe. Steve worked his way over to me and climbed down what was left of the fifteen-foot rock, stretching as far as he could. Kevin stood ready at the bottom to take her from Steve. I assured her that we would not let her fall and then handed her to Steve, who handed her to Kevin, who then handed her to Dorothy. Again, she cried. Then she smiled and said, "It's pretty neat having so many daddies." She had gotten into a situation she couldn't get out of without help and help was there when it was needed. She was safe.

It happened while we were at Yosemite last week. Cora's statement was a profound reminder of what the church can be. Steve, Kevin and I probably do not share the same views on many things. We may disagree on politics, on music and on issues of faith. Yet when one of our children was in trouble, together we rallied and did what was needed to save her. Later I talked with Cora about it all. We even talked about Jesus' story of the lost sheep. She again talked of how lucky to have so many that loved her that much. I thought about all of you and First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica.

As I begin my second year with you I recognize the diversity that is our church. We bring varied understandings of faith, different experiences, even differing opinions of life, family, worship, faith and even politics. There is, however, that one thing that holds us together, one thing on which we must cling. We are, each of us, disciples of Jesus Christ – varied in our views and varied in our experiences but disciples nonetheless. Christ is at our center. When need arises, our differences disappear and our focus becomes the need centered in our faith. UMCOR, Tsunami relief, ASP and Prayer Quilts are but a few examples. This next year we will focus more intentionally on worship and the needs that exist both within and outside of this church. My hope and prayer is that we will do it with the same kind of intentionality, the same kind of love, the same kind of passion as we have with other needs. I praise God for the loving care by which you have welcomed us and look forward with great anticipation on what may be next. We are a community of love and we feel incredibly blessed to be a part of you. I look forward to the future as we search together for God's call in Christ to this community. Cora, Ben, Laura, Dorothy and I certainly feel as though we have many sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles, grandfathers and grandmothers, all under the direction of the loving parent we call God. *God is our rock and our salvation.*



Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathies to Linda Burch and her family in the death of her father, George Holt, who passed away in early July. He was a long-time police officer in Santa Monica.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Joyce and David Landsverk on the birth of their grandson William Robert Xin Pang on July 11. The proud parents are Jennifer and Dune Pang.

Thanks

Thank you for sharing your beautiful church with us. What a wonderful way to end our mission trip! Michael was very helpful. UMW was so kind to leave snacks for us. Charleen went above and beyond! Blessings, St. Mark's Youth (Tucson, AZ)

Quilt Thanks

I thank you with all my heart for the beautiful Prayer Quilt. I feel so secure as if I have the arms of the Lord Jesus wrapped around me. The quilt is my security blanket and I carry it with me from room to room. May God continue to richly bless each of you and your work and I shall always have you in my prayers. I know your quilts bring much comfort, joy and peace to each person who has one. - Jean R. Snyder

I wish to express my deepest appreciation to you and all the members of the quilting ministry for their prayers and magnificent workmanship on the gorgeous quilt I received. The pattern is lovely and the side with the cross is especially meaningful to me as it is sewn on a field of violets which were my Mom's favorite flower!! This coincidence sent a chill through me - it was as if she was reaching out to comfort me too! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. - Mary Petersen

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



July 31

9:45 am Hymn Singing
 10 am Worship
 11:15 am Wrestling With Angels, FR
 11:30 am Spiritual Formation Group, Rm 303

August 1-5

9 am Vacation Bible School
(Visit the church website or contact the office for more information.)

August 7

9:45 am Hymn Singing
 10 am Worship - Holy Communion

August 12

7:10 pm Cal-Pac Conference UMC
 Dodger Night, Dodger Stadium

August 14

9:45 am Hymn Singing
 10 am Worship
 11 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR

August 19

7 pm *Peter Pan*

Peter Pan will be performed by the Summer Adventures! and Teen Adventures! children and youth in Simkins Hall. This is an annual events and all are invited!

August 21

9 am Parents and Babies, Rm 203

Visit the church website for a monthly calendar of events.



UBH - AN AMAZING LEAP OF FAITH REWARDED

I am frequently asked how much Upward Bound House cost in total and what portion of that cost came from the church. As many of you know, it was a complex financing, but after digging through all of the twists and turns, the bottom line answer is \$16.7 million. That total may be further divided as follows:

• Family Place	\$ 3.9 million
• Senior Villa	\$ 9.3
• Church Garage	<u>\$ 3.5</u>
Total Cost	\$16.7

The funding sources were as follows:

• Federal Government	\$ 7.3 million
• City of Santa Monica	\$ 2.8
• Foundations/Corporations	\$ 1.0
• Other govt. agencies	\$ 0.7
• Community members	<u>\$ 0.3 (364 contributors)</u>
Non-FUMC sources	\$12.1
• 99-year lease to Family Place	\$ 0.7 (appraised value)
• 55-year sale to Senior Villa	<u>\$ 2.0 (appraised value)</u>
Land Contributions	\$ 2.7
• FUMC Member Major Gifts	\$ 0.8 (20 contributors)
• FUMC Trustees	\$ 0.7 (from the Cecil Gale bequest)
• FUMC Member Gifts	\$ 0.3 (221 contributors)
• FUMC Foundation	<u>\$ 0.1</u>
FUMC Cash Contributions	\$ 1.9
Total sources	\$ 16.7

The net contribution from the church can be looked at in two ways. One is our net cash contribution from members and the church — \$1.9 million – versus the \$3.5 million value of the garage we received to replace our surface parking lots. In this view, the church was paid \$1.6 million (the difference between those two figures) for making available the land to build Family Place and Senior Villa while still retaining parking for itself, albeit in another form. Alternatively, if you say the land was worth \$2.7 million, not \$1.6 million, then the church contributed \$1.1 million towards the project after paying for the garage. Whichever way you choose to look at it, the results have been amazing so far – 450 children in 250 homeless families saved from the streets and the provision of comfortable housing for 100 impoverished seniors. Think how many more will be served in the decades ahead!

I've skipped over the technical details of the intervening steps to get to this reconciliation. For those of you who would like more detail, please call me at (310) 395-7798 or catch me at church, and I'd be happy to go over the figures with you. —Russ Whittenburg



PERCENTAGE RAISED

Albertsons and Sav-on have raised the amount of funds they return to our organization to 4%! So, when you use your Preferred Savings Card (if it is linked to the Community Partners program) you will be raising even more money for FUMC's Youth Ministries! Find out more by visiting the "Financial Support" section of the News page on the church website.

Come, Holy Spirit. Renew the whole creation. Come, Holy Spirit. Renew us.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 am - Congregational Hymn Singing

10:00 am - Worship

July 31, 2005

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

SERMON "Wrestling with Loaves and Fishes"

Rev. Brad Beeman

SCRIPTURE Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21

August 7, 2005

Holy Communion

HOMILY "Junk Food Jesus - Not!"

Rev. Larry Young

SCRIPTURE I Peter 2:1-10; John 6:48-58



UMCOR APPEAL FOR ZIMBABWE

The current "clean-up" campaign of the Zimbabwean government has made refugees of thousands of the poorest people of that country. In response, UMCOR has established an emergency fund to provide food, shelter and emergency supplies to those in need. Donations to the fund can be sent to the church with the notation "Zimbabwe."

STEWARDSHIP

We give thanks for the stewardship of the Eskridge family as they continue to enhance the quality of worship with beautiful floral displays. We also extend a special thanks to them for donating carnations each Sunday to recognize our visitors and birthday celebrants.

2005 PASTORAL VACATION AND STUDY LEAVE

With SPRC approval FUMC's pastors will be taking the following days off:

Brad Beeman (vacation) = July 5 - 17

Patricia Farris (vacation) = July 19 - August 8

(study leave) = August 9 - 14

Larry Young (vacation) = August 15 - 29

There will be two pastors available at all times through the summer.



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