

HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES

Sundays, July 15, 22 & 29 @ 11:20 am
The Social Concerns Council has scheduled a social issues seminar series for this summer, and invites all who are interested to attend and participate. July 15 = "A Christian Approach to Anger Management" with Ken Rasmussen, PsyD. July 22 = "Human Trafficking" with Bekah Cooke, Salvation Army. July 29 = "Denial of Genocide and Atrocity" with Philip "Flip" Cuddy. Each seminar will take place in the Fireside Room after worship at 11:20 am. All are invited! For more details visit the church website.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Sunday, July 15 @ 11:30 am, SH
In the spirit of Christmas the UMW will be taking a collection for Sojourn, one of the programs of OPCC. Guest Speaker Catalina Rodas of OPCC will talk about the program. A presentation on Lifeline will also be given. Bring a potluck dish to share or \$5 for lunch. The program and lunch will begin in Simkins Hall at 11:30 am. Christmas will be in the air with holiday decor. Come beat the heat of summer. All are invited! No reservation is needed.

WESLEY WALKERS - RELAY FOR LIFE

Saturday, July 28
The Wesley Walkers, FUMC's Relay for Life Team, is still looking for walkers and donations for the event happening on Saturday, July 28, through Sunday morning, July 29, at John Adams Middle School. The reason behind Relay for Life is to raise funds for cancer research and treatment. You may support any of the individual walkers or contribute to the entire team. Either way, you'll be helping us to reach our overall goal. To do this, visit our online Wesley Walkers page which you may link to via the church website. For more information contact the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Don't Miss out!
Vacation Bible School - "Lift Off: Reaching New Heights with God" will take place on August 6 - 10. More information can be found on the church website and in the church office.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007 by Rachel Eaton



photo by David Bremer

I had a wonderful experience attending this year's Cal-Pac Annual Conference as a voting Lay Member from FUMC. Representing FUMC this year in addition to me were our three pastors Rev. Patricia Farris, Rev. Brad Beeman and Rev. Larry Young (now retired) and our lay members Bee Campbell, Mary Crawford, Joy Detmer, Jack Fry, Steve Harbison and Christine Stumpf. The theme for our five days of Holy Conferencing was "To Be the Cup Overflowing with Peace."

At our first worship service Bishop Mary Ann Swenson encouraged, motivated and inspired us to serve others in our own zipcodes. The next morning we began our Bible Studies with Bruce Birch who challenged us over the next three sessions to find Shalom (peace or wholeness) in scripture, in our daily lives, in history and in the world around us. We purchased copies of Birch's presentations so that others in the congregation might experience and utilize his teachings as well. The DVDs will be available in the church library.

After Bible Study we moved into what has been named "Wesley Circles." In this attempt to have the Conference "remember why we're here" we got to meet new people and discuss how we might take our purpose back to our congregations and into the world. We talked about how we can become peacemakers as we reflected on the Bible Studies.

Our Plenaries soon began and we got down to business with recognitions and reports from multiple organizations and Conference committees. We also began the voting process to choose laity and clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. And of course we had resolutions and petitions and initiatives to consider and vote on. If you're interested in the items that were passed this year, and/or in who was elected to General and Jurisdictional Conferences (our own Patricia Farris will represent Cal-Pac clergy!), chat with any of those who attended and we'll be happy to share with you.

Highlights from my Conference experience included the Memorial and Communion Service with a sermon by Rev. Phil Lawson and, of course, the Ordination service with Bishop Robert Hoshibata in which our own Brad Beeman was received into the order as Full Elder. It was also fun to celebrate our Bishop's 60th birthday throughout the event.

The Conference was a fantastic experience that I hope to repeat for many years to come. Thank you for allowing me to represent you.



The Methodist movement has its origins on a college campus. Brothers John and Charles Wesley were both students at Christ Church, Oxford, when they began organizing fellow students into small groups for spiritual growth and accountability, never dreaming that their work would grow into a major renewal movement in the Anglican Church and eventually become a whole new denomination of the Christian family.

In the years since, we Methodists have continued to highly value reason and learning. In the US alone, we still support our thirteen schools of theology, one medical college, ninety-two four-year colleges and universities, eight two-year colleges and nine preparatory schools. We have requirements about the education of our clergy. And we require our clergy to spend two weeks in Continuing Education each year.

This year, I will return to the place of our birth at Christ Church, Oxford, to deliver a paper at the Twelfth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies. Taking its theme from a Charles Wesley hymn, in the year of celebrating the 300th anniversary of his birth, the Institute, which meets only every seven years, is called "TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE, OUR CALLING TO FULFILL" and will explore considerations at the intersection of ecclesiology, mission, and vocation. Faculty from Methodist seminaries in the US and Britain, with some others from around the world, as well as several pastors and bishops, will gather to share papers and discussion.

I am honored and privileged to have had my paper chosen for inclusion. I have been examining ways in which traditional "marks of Methodism"—including our emphasis on learning, our holding together of knowledge and vital piety, our commitment to ecumenical work, and our emphasis on personal and social transformation—can serve to equip us to be bridge-builders and ambassadors for understanding and reconciliation in the pluralistic, multi-faith world in which we live. I am especially looking forward to British and global perspectives in light of heightened tensions in our world.

You may learn more about the Oxford Institute and read many of the papers to be presented by following the link from our church webpage at www.santamonicaumc.org. Look in the right hand column.

Please keep David and me in your prayers as we travel and learn, as well as all of us who gather to explore ways "TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE, OUR CALLING TO FULFILL." May our work serve to strengthen not only the larger church, but our ministry and mission right here in Santa Monica as well.

Patricia Jarvis

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Congratulations

We congratulate our new Parish Associate Paul Deveaux and his wife Michelle who were married just three months ago.

Congratulations to Chuck Kearsley and his crew (including Dennis Payne) for building the SM College Grad Night Ship! Way to go, guys!

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to Kim Defenderfer whose father died recently.

We remember our member Constantine "Connie" Hassakis who died on June 28. A Memorial Service will be held for him on August 4 at 1:30 pm in Gates Chapel followed by a reception in the Fireside Room.

We also remember our former member Ian Sutherland who died on June 25. A service was held for him at Rolling Hills UMC in Torrance.

Parish Thank You

Thanks to Rev. Farris, Marilyn Hedges, Marie Rourke and the congregation for the lovely flowers that were sent to me on my 100th birthday. Also, thanks to Rev. Don Shelby who sent me beautiful flowers and sang "Happy Birthday" over the phone to me from his home in Los Osos. It was a wonderful day and I will cherish it in my memories as long as I live. -Marjorie Farrar

Good Job

FUMC delivered a total of 84 sewing kits for UMCOR to this year's Annual Conference at the University of Redlands which included 23 kits from the UMW Work Party and 22 kits from Hope Circle. Carol Solverson and friends also donated 6 layette kits for UMCOR. Way to go, FUMC!

Baptisms

We celebrate with Leigh and Dan Coté and big sister Lainey in the baptism of Beau Lucien Coté on July 1; and with Robert and Nova Foster and big brother Alden in the baptism of Fox Alexander Foster on July 8.



July 15

8:45 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
"Lost Christianities" with Shirley
Gholson

9 am Youth GCWT, Rm 301A

10 am Worship

11 am Coffee Hour, SH alcove

11:15 am Fellowship & Events, Rm 203

11:20 am Social Concerns Summer
Social Issues Seminar Series, FR

"A Christian Approach to Anger
Management" with Ken Rasmussen

11:30 am UMW "Christmas in July" with
guest speaker Catalina Rodas, SH

11:45 am Spiritual Formation, Rm 303

July 17

7 pm Finance Committee, CR

7:30 pm Lay Leadership, Rm 203

July 18

6:30 pm Methodist Foundation
Investment Committee, FR

7 pm SPRC, CR

July 19

6 pm UCLA 50+ Health Seminar, FR

7:30 pm Summer Sing-Along, SH
Gloria by Rutter and *Gloria* by Vivaldi
with Donna M. DiGrazia

July 21

9 am Prayer Quilt Ministry, Rm 300

July 22

8:45 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
"Lost Christianities" with Shirley
Gholson

9 am Youth GCWT, Rm 301A

10 am Worship

11 am Coffee Hour, SH

11:20 am Social Concerns Summer
Social Issues Seminar Series, FR

"Human Trafficking" with
Bekah Cooke, Salvation Army

July 23

1:30 pm UCLA 50+ Health Seminar, FR

July 25

6 pm UBH Board, UBH Comm Rm

July 26

7:30 pm Summer Sing-Along, SH
Mass in C minor by Mozart
with Jonathan Talberg

July 28

9 am Health Ministry Council Retreat

August 3

7:40 pm United Methodist Dodger Night!

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH?

Our Church Council, which is the FUMC group of church council and committee Chairs, is looking for an assistant. The person will take minutes at each meeting (usually held once a month), type them up and distribute them via email to the members of Church Council. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the church while volunteering your time AND learning about what's happening with the various groups in the church. If you would be interested in this position, please contact the church office.

"WHERE ARE WE ON THE SH RENOVATION PROJECT?"

As hopefully you've been able to notice by now, the permit for the work on Simkins Hall has been posted and work is underway (began July 9)! Stay tuned.

WORSHIP RENEWAL GRANT #2

We are proud and grateful to have received a second Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute for Worship. These grants, generously funded by the Lilly Endowment, are given each year for a wide variety of projects intended to renew and enliven the worship life of the Christian people. Our major grant of \$13,500 will enable us to expand upon our new Communion Server Ministry to extend worship with two additional life-stage groups in our congregation. Now, on any given Sunday, we have as many as forty people in each of two groups not present in worship with the gathered congregation—people at retirement age who are traveling to be with scattered family or to explore our country or the wider world, and families with children and youth involved in sports and scouting activities. The focus of our grant moves in two directions simultaneously—providing those two life stage groups with worship materials and alternatives such that their worship life is nourished AND connecting the gathered congregation to them through intentional prayer. We believe that this work is unique in the country and we are grateful to be developing resources that will benefit not only our congregation but the wider church as well. Please undergird us in prayer as we explore "One Community: Gathered and Scattered." If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact Patricia Farris, Brad Beeman, or Mary Garbesi and Cheryl Bartel (who represented FUMC at the Grant Directors gathering.) -*Patricia Farris*

SHARERINGERS AND FRIENDS TAKE NOTE

Our monthly evening meetings at member's homes will change to the first Friday of each month, effective immediately. August will be a "vacation" month with no Shareringer evening meetings. "First Friday of the month" meetings will resume in September and continue through July 2008. We planned our annual calendar at a fun BBQ potluck at Jim and Laura Farrand's on July 6. Contact the Farrands (310) 458-9122 if you are interested in the July 21 activity to the Getty Villa with the Shareringers.

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM? OR WOULD THAT BE HEARD?

We are missing 3 headsets for our listening-assistance devices which are used each Sunday. If you took one home by accident, please return it to one of the ushers or to the church office. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR for FAMILY PANTRY:

The Church and Community Committee is seeking an individual to recruit and coordinate volunteers for Family Pantry, the food bank operation at Family Place. The coordinator would work on a volunteer basis and would be in charge of recruiting and scheduling individuals and groups to work in the pantry throughout the week. Volunteers are needed for food pick-ups, sorting and distribution. If you are interested, please contact either Phyllis Johnson, 310-458-4123, tootiejo@roadrunner.com, or Mira Pak, 310-315-9744, mira.pak@csun.edu.

