

## HIGHLIGHTS

### MISSIONS/LAITY SUNDAY

Sunday, October 21

*October 21 will be Missions/Laity Sunday in which our lay persons will share how they reach out and live their faith in their daily lives. The Gulf Coast Work Team V will be Commissioned and this will also mark the beginning of our 2008 Stewardship Campaign. This special Sunday involves everyone. We hope you will be there.*

### OCTOBER BOOK STUDY

Sunday, October 28 @ 12 noon

*The Sky is Crying: Race, Class, and Natural Disaster by Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, ed. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Bethany UMC in New Orleans, our partner congregation, this collection of articles will challenge us to consider the ways in which racial/ethnic minorities and the poor bear the brunt of natural disaster. As our Gulf Coast Work Team is working and worshipping in New Orleans, we will be studying and discussing some of the tough underlying issues. We won't all agree, but we will no doubt have a lively and stimulating discussion. The book is available now in the church library.*

### HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 28 @ 12:30 pm

*There is still time to sign up to join the FUMC team for Hunger Walk 2007! Please see Russ Whittenburg during coffee hour on Sunday to sign up OR do so at [www.westsidefoodbankca.org](http://www.westsidefoodbankca.org). Walkers of all ages are welcome. There will be activities for all. The walk begins at 12:30 pm at Santa Monica High School. All proceeds benefit the Westside Food Bank.*

### CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 11 @ 12:30 pm

*Church Charge Conference 2007 will be held on Sunday, November 11, in Simkins Hall. Our District Superintendent Grant Hagiya will convene the Conference at 12:30 pm. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate. Committee and Council Chairs please note: Conference Reports are due to Linda Burch in the church office by **October 22**. Committee and Council members planning to have lunch, please RSVP to Linda by November 7.*

## THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

by Nancy Perov



What a glorious day we had for our first annual Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 6! We estimated 100 people and 75 pets participated in this special event, with many people bringing their pets' photos to be blessed. Patricia and Brad officiated, with Phil Wong's corn snake ending up in Patricia's line (was that by chance or by design? hmmm...). The Beemans win the prize for the most pets (4).

I am grateful to have had Lynn Stokes and Cindy McQuade on the committee. They were instrumental in obtaining donations, finding organizations willing to participate, posting flyers and talking to everyone walking down the street with a dog! Thanks to Vons, Pavilions and Ralphs for donating gift cards for refreshments; to Smart & Final for the 3 cases of bottled water; to the Family Place Pantry for food donations; to Petco for the pet food and treats; and to Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library for the donation of animal-themed books.

We also enjoyed and appreciated the participation of Guide Dogs of America (with guide dog in training Nisha); Paws to Read (which encourages reading by having kids read out loud to dogs); the Santa Monica Police Department (with police dog Nero); the Skirball Cultural Center (with information on the Noah's Ark exhibit); and the Sierra Club (with a video about the Canada Goose Project).

Thanks to Adam Guerrero who set up the sound and played guitar and who is always willing to help; to Ann Wagner for the reading list of SM Public Library books about companion animals; to day-of-the-event volunteers Charleen Smith, Charlene Earnest, Barbara Hackett, Gloria Lee, Karen Hopkins and Shirley Gholson; to Allan Walker for the photography; to members of the community and congregation who brought pet supplies to donate to a local shelter; and to staff members Dennis Davidson and Javier Espinosa who set up all of the tables, canopies, chairs, and anything else we asked of them.

Gather your pets next year for the second annual Blessing of the Animals to be held again in October 2008!



To celebrate the 200th day of health following his kidney transplant, our own Mark Oh asked if he could share his story with his congregation. I readily agreed, as he and June are models of faith, true believers and evangelists. Many of you know their story, or know parts of it. But I am sure that we all will be inspired by hearing it as Mark recently recounted it to me.



For the six years prior to March 31st of this year, Mark Oh was in and out of the Emergency Room 82 times. Just a year ago, he was in CCU for 31 days with acute pneumonia. This is how dire his situation was as he awaited a kidney transplant. He was receiving treatment and on dialysis, but his condition continued to worsen. On the last of those hospital visits prior to the transplants, he was in a coma for three days. When he came out of it, his three primary doctors all agreed that he had only 24 hours to live. Mark sat with his children, Ben, David and Diana, and made out his last will and testament.

But Mark survived and grew strong enough to go onto the transplant list. And in the early morning of March 31st, the call came and the transplant was complete by the end of the day. Sitting with June in the hospital that day, I learned that they had come to the U.S. from Korea on March 30th, 1980, adding to the miracle of the day. Now, six months after the transplant, Mark's doctor examined him and pronounced: "You are almost normal. Congratulations!" For this, Mark credits God, the sacrifice of his precious wife, June, who supported the family through the years of his illness, and the prayer of our congregation.

Mark describes his life now as Beethoven's "tenth" symphony, "the Symphony of Life!" His life has been in four parts, he says, the first was "Fate," the second "Cry Out," the third "Miracle," and now the fourth "Joy!" "My life was almost at the end, but at the last moment, God touched my life."

Mark delights in sharing how he has asked each of his doctors: "Do you believe in God? Are you going to church?" He told one: "I respect your knowledge and skill, but not your attitude. Please go to church every Sunday—but if you do not have time, please accept God and Jesus Christ."

"Now I am alive!" Mark says. And he wants to remind us all that God makes miracles for us every day—living, breathing, reading, being with family, going to church. Nothing is routine, he insists—it's all about God making miracles for us all the time.

Find Mark and talk with him. Hear his story for yourself. Find out how you can be an organ donor. And give thanks to God unceasingly for all the miracles of every single day.

*Patricia Jarvis*

## OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

### Birthdays

*A huge happy birthday to Marjorie Orth who turned 101 on September 20, Ruth Anderson who turned 93 on October 12, Cornell Harrell who turned 91 on October 18, and Terry Schwab who turned 93 on October 19! We celebrate and wish you many happy returns!*

### Thank You

*I am overwhelmed by the prayers, cards and visits I've received from friends and members of the congregation, since my knee surgery. It has meant so much to me and to my healing. I feel the prayers every day. I am doing well and hope to be back among you soon. With all my love, Joy Detmer*

### Celebration of Our Dear Friend

*On Saturday, February 23, from 4 - 7 pm the Los Angeles District will be throwing a celebration at FUMC in honor of Grant Hagiya and his dedicated and visionary leadership as District Superintendent. For more than seven years Grant has worked tirelessly to make the LA District one of the best in the Cal-Pac Conference. He has identified and implemented innovative programs to strengthen the District's churches, encouraged clergy/laity partnerships, mentored young clergy and served as a valued colleague to those within and outside the UMC. To demonstrate the District's appreciation to Grant, they're planning a fun festive celebration, and they need your help. They're looking for liturgical/praise dancers, choirs/soloists/groups, pianists, photographers/ videographers, and comedy/musical/dramatic performers. If you would like to participate in any of these ways, contact the church office. Mark your calendars for this special event.*

### Condolences

*We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Grace Miller who died on June 28. She was living in Minnesota near her family.*



### **October 21 - Missions/Laity Sunday**

9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101  
9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee Hour, CY ("Boo-tique"  
Costume donations for Esperanza)  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hour, CY  
11:45 am Fellowship & Events,  
Rm 203  
11:45 am Spiritual Formation, Rm 303  
12 noon Advance Directive Lecture  
sponsored by Health Ministry, FR  
12 - 3 pm Preschool Sunday at  
Dutton's Brentwood Bookstore. 20%  
of your purchases will be donated  
back to our Preschool when you  
place your receipt in the FUMC  
Preschool box! Contact the Pre-  
school office for more information.

### **October 22**

6:30 pm Mother's Fellowship, FR

### **October 23**

7 pm Church Council, FR

### **October 24**

7 pm Gulf Coast Work Project, CR

### **October 28 - Bethany UMC 50th Anniversary/Baptism**

9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101  
9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee Hour, CY  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hour, CY  
12 noon Rev. Farris Book Study &  
Potluck, FR, *The Sky is Crying: Race,  
Class and Natural Disaster* by  
Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, ed.  
12:30 pm Hunger Walk, SaMoHi

### **October 31**

9:15 Preschool Halloween Parade

### **November 4 - All Saint's Sunday**

9 am - 12 noon Cokesbury Book  
Sale, FR, Come stock up on great  
reading for 2008 - including up-  
coming Rev. Farris Book Study  
selections!

## **UBH UPDATE**

Upward Bound House and FUMC welcome Angie Gargano who has joined UBH as the new Food Pantry Coordinator. Angie has a tremendous background in the restaurant and food management industry and is excited to help build on the wonderful program Elka Gilmore has established over the last several months. Elka accepted the position of Social Services and Volunteer Manager with UBH but will be remaining active in the management of the food pantry as well.

The next Garage Sale will be on Saturday, October 27, from 8 am - 1 pm in the Family Place parking garage on 12th Street. All are invited and please feel free to spread the word! If you have items to donate, would like to volunteer or want more information, please contact Elka at (310) 458-7779, x204.

Speaking of volunteers, UBH has many opportunities for those interested in volunteer service! People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. The areas of need include: Kids Night, Homework Club/Tutors, Monthly Birthday Parties, Food Pantry, Garage Sale, Adopt-An-Apartment, Administration, Holiday Party Coordinators, Geek Squad, and Ideas for New Programs. This entire list with more details and information about each area is available on the church website (eSentinel edition), or by calling Elka at UBH.

## **GOD BLESS NEW ORLEANS & BETHANY**

Gulf Coast Work Team V returns to New Orleans on October 27 to continue the rebuilding effort. After two years of mucking out water-logged homes, the rebuilding job began in earnest this past spring. Carpentry and sheet rock will be the likely work assignments. Team V will also take part in the 50th Anniversary Celebration with Bethany UMC. The team is returning with a restored altar Bible, a beautifully designed and sewn "throne pillow" for the Bible to rest upon, and a Lexan-topped lectern in which the Bible will be displayed. Thanks to all who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make this special gift possible.



On Sunday, October 28, as Bethany UMC celebrates their 50th anniversary, another special gift will also be used in worship. Our own Rev. Dorothy Bimber Worley has given a cross to the Bethany congregation that she used in her ministry which was a gift from Mary Burnett in 1989 in memory of Mary's mother Agnes Swartz. Rev. Worley offered the cross to Rev. Hadley Edwards as a symbol representing the link between Bethany UMC and their namesake Bethany Lee Worley (daughter of Jennifer and Charley Worley) who will be baptized in church on Sunday, October 28. What a special time it is for our Gulf Coast Partnership!

## **SIMKINS HALL UPDATE**

Painting is set to be done October 19; lighting by October 24; and the floor will be installed by the end of October. The projector screen has been installed and the storage room has been completed. Stay tuned!

## **FALL BACK - NOVEMBER 3**

Don't forget to set you clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night, November 3! Daylight Saving Time ends, which means one extra hour of sleep... or one extra hour to stay up... or one extra hour to enjoy the next morning. However you look at it, although we don't mind if you're EARLY to church on Sunday morning, we just want you to be correctly oriented.

## **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: THE YEAR OF THE ARK**

Celebrate with us on Friday night, November 16 (Premiere Night) from 5 to 8 pm and/or on Saturday, November 17 from 9 am to 1 pm in Simkins Hall. This annual UMW tradition of craftwork, gifts, delicious treats AND fundraising for missions is a wonderful event at which to do your Christmas shopping. At no other Boutique will your money be put to greater use in our community and around the globe. Tickets for Premiere Night are \$5 and are on sale now from any of our United Methodist Women. Entry is free on Saturday. Mark your calendar; you won't want to miss this one!

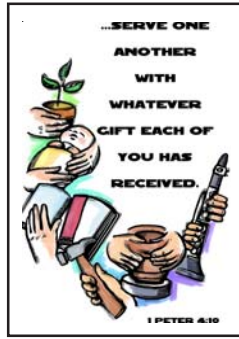
Ask not what your church can do for you but what you can do for your church.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP - 9:00 am & 10:30 am

### October 21 - Missions/Laity Sunday

Commissioning of the GCWT V  
Speakers: *Ellen Polamero (9 am only),  
Leslie & Anson Nordby, Jim Krause,  
Gale Williams (10:30 am only)*

Stewardship Campaign Begins 10/21



### October 28 - Holy Baptism

Bethany UMC's 50th Anniversary  
2008 Stewardship Campaign  
Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10 *Rev. Patricia Farris*

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS IS ON ITS WAY

Alternative Christmas is a program sponsored by the Missions Council in which you may support mission programs in our community and abroad. The Alternative Christmas Fair will begin on Sunday, December 2.

**Iware District, Nigeria:** For the past three years FUMC has been engaged in a partnership with the Iware District of the United Methodist Church in northeastern Nigeria. This past year has been one of great change in the Iware District. These changes include a new bishop in Nigeria as well as a new District Superintendent in Iware. Also new is the foundation of a school building that was made possible through our ongoing partnership. During this time of transition, communication with our partners has been difficult. In the coming months we expect a renewed relationship and more opportunities to partner with our fellow United Methodists in Nigeria through financial, moral, and spiritual support.

**OPCC:** Established in 1963, OPCC (formerly Ocean Park Community Center) is a community-supported organization in which staff, volunteers, and clients work to overcome poverty, abuse, neglect, and discrimination. OPCC is the parent organization for a variety of projects that strive toward these goals. The Access Center helps homeless persons meet basic needs and offers a point of entry into the homeless services system; Campion provides quality mental health care to children, teens, and adults; Daybreak meets the immediate and long-term needs of mentally ill homeless women; K-9 Connection partners shelter dogs with at-risk youth who train the dogs in basic obedience enabling the dogs to become adoptable; Night Light provides emergency services, support, and resources to runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth; Safe Haven temporarily houses and serves chronically homeless persons with the goal of placement in permanent housing; SWASHLOCK gives homeless persons access to restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, and lockers to store belongings while looking for work and stable housing; Sojourn offers shelter, counseling, and legal services to battered women and their children; Turning Point shelters homeless men and women and provides job counseling, money management, and independent living skills.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
SENTINEL (USPS572-500) is  
published biweekly by First  
United Methodist Church,  
1008 - 11th St., Santa Monica,  
CA 90403. Periodicals  
postage paid at Santa  
Monica, CA. POSTMASTER:  
Send address change to First  
United Methodist Sentinel  
1008 - 11th St., Santa Monica,  
CA 90403-4199

**PERIODICALS  
(USPS 572-500)**

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**DELIVER BY  
OCT 19/20**