

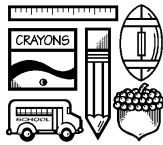
The Good News

*News, updates and encouragements for the church family
at First United Methodist Church, Ventura.*

A Stephen Minister congregation.

Vol. LXXXVIII, No. 17

August 25, 2010



September Is Education Month

There are a number of activities planned for September-October to kick off the new school year and highlight the quality Christian Education program that we have to offer. The theme is "Hats Off for Sunday School" and we hope to generate excitement for the new Sunday School year.

September 5: The first day of the fall quarter, we will begin our regular Sunday School program. Children will be promoted between classes as appropriate, and the middle and high school classes will reconvene. Welcome to Anna who has volunteered to be the student teacher leader of the high school class! The children will meet in the chapel to vote on their Mission Project for the year.

September 12, Rally Day: We will dedicate our teachers in the church service. Parents and children will be given their Sunday School pledge cards as they enter church. The children will pledge in the chapel. Then, there will be hat painting, tattoos, games, a Jolly Jump and cupcakes for the kids to kick off the new school year. Children should wear their Sunday School t-shirts. Speak to Fran Arner-Costello if you need one.

September 19, Bible Sunday: Third graders Michelle, Matthew, and Molly will all be receiving Bibles in the sanctuary this year. Let Pastor Barbara know of any children third grade and older who have not yet received a Bible.

September 26, Sunday School Open House: Come enjoy Coffee Hour in the Education Courtyard and take a tour of our wonderful Sunday School building.

October 3: Full Children's Church in the chapel to celebrate World Communion Sunday.

Parents and grandparents, be sure to have your children in church for all these great events. Bring friends and neighbors too!

Musings . . . Leaders for 2010-2011



In September there will be opportunities to sign up to participate in the work of the church. This is important! If the new structure we are implementing is to work well, we need full participation. Every member needs to be doing the “work of the church” in the months ahead. Sign ups will be for programs, classes and leadership of many activities we’ve always done, plus new endeavors. You will hear this again from someone else with greater detail, but I wanted you to hear it from me!

I’m working to put in place our administrative committees by Sept. 1, 2010. New committee members will come on board in September. We must have a strong Church Council, Finance Team, Board of Trustees, Staff-Parish Committee, and Endowment Fund Board. Other ongoing working groups will be in place including the Scholarship Committee, Communications, Preschool Board, and the Sunday School Steering Committee. The work of Evangelism, Membership, and Missions & Social Concerns will be guided by the new Pathway Steering Committee. They will not DO these tasks. They will help sign you up so that all of you who have enjoyed this work in the past can commit to being an integral part of continuing these activities.

There is no monthly Worship Committee, but the groups involved in this work continue, i.e., acolytes, altar guild, communion steward, greeters, liturgists, liturgical dance, sound crew, ushers, etcetera. I may pull a group together once a quarter to brainstorm worship improvements.

When I started ministry there were still one-income families. All of us had “more time” for volunteer work. Two-income families, hectic schedules,

Continued on Page 6

Prayer Concerns



Summer Sunday School Thank You

Thanks to the following
summer Sunday School volunteers:

Tammy	Dianna
Jennifer	Kristen
Leonard	

UMM Outreach Sept. 13

Calling all United Methodist Men! FUMC is initiating an outreach to the men of our church for extending our membership, fellowship and Christian activities in our community. Over the next few weeks, months and beyond, you have the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of events designed for spiritual growth and community service. The “kickoff” meeting is planned for Monday at 4:30 p.m., Sept. 13, for an informal get-together and half-time UMM chat which will coincide with Game One of Monday Night Football. Meet at a church member’s home.

UMM Retreat — Save the Date

Our brothers in Thousand Oaks have invited the men of FUMC to join them for the upcoming United Methodist Men retreat in Lake Hughes, to be held October 15-17. Theme is “*A Man After God’s Own Heart*” and will be facilitated by Chris Pettit. Flyers will be available in the church office for further details and registration, or you can contact Pastor Jimmy. Hope you can make it!

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) Information

We, the First United Methodist Church SPPRC, are beginning the process of recruiting to fill the position of youth director. Persons interested in applying for this position can obtain a copy of the position description and an application for employment from the church office. Those who apply should be interested in working with middle school and high school youth in programs and activities related to their Christian spiritual development.

This is a part-time position which is estimated to take approximately ten hours per week and includes a requirement for planning and participating in a yearly work project which is usually related to community outreach and requires a week of travel.

The closing date for submitting applications is September 15, 2010. If additional information is desired contact the church office and you will be referred to the appropriate SPPRC or staff member.

Hilltoppers’ Brunch Sept. 5

The Hilltoppers will meet in the Garden Room at Marie Callender’s for brunch on Sunday, Sept. 5, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The cost will be \$19 per person. Call the church office to make a reservation or to learn more of the details for the brunch.

For Transformation

Recently, Beloit College of Beloit, Wisconsin once again developed a mindset list. This time, the Mindset List is for the entering college class of 2014. The college explains what this list is all about on its website. “Each August since 1998, Beloit College has released the Beloit College Mindset List.

The Mindset List website at www.beloit.edu/mindset.”

Here is a small sample of what is on the list:

- * E-mail is just too slow, and they seldom if ever use snail mail.
- * A quarter of the class has at least one immigrant parent, and the immigration debate is not a big priority...unless it involves “real” aliens from another planet.
- * They never twisted the coiled handset wire aimlessly around their wrists while chatting on the phone.
- * Leno and Letterman have always been trading insults on opposing networks.
- * Second-hand smoke has always been an official carcinogen.

After reading the list, I find myself saying, “Boy, am I getting old.” I distinctly remember when e-mail became popular, about the same age as the target of this list. I still use coiled handset wire on one of my phones, regularly. And I remember the times when Leno and Letterman worked together, setting each other up in late night comedy. As a pastor, how do I keep up with the times so to be better equipped to empower the congregation to “make, mature, and mobilize disciples for the transformation of the world”?

Romans 12 writes: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

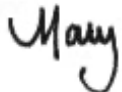
These are the oft-quoted verses of Romans 12. However, if one reads on, the purpose of being “transformed” by the renewing of our minds is further developed by Paul. In the verses following, Paul calls us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God. According to Paul, the key of doing this is for everyone “not to think of [ourselves] more highly than [we] ought to think.” In the time of change, as we are at FUMC Ventura, the best way to approach change is to humble ourselves and “think with sober judgment,” so that all the “gifts that differ according to the grace given to us” can be utilized and commissioned for the transformation of the world.

 Jimmy

Musings . . . Leaders

Continued From P. 2

economics, children's activities on Sunday have changed all that. Volunteer participation lessened and committees in our churches weakened. Pastors put in more time as CEO/administrators filling in the gaps, and less time in the hands-on pastoral ministry with people. I want to have strong working administrative groups so that I can spend more time doing what I do best, i.e., meeting and supporting the people of this congregation as your pastor. I want to be "in the field" and not filling in administrative gaps in our "company." I still need interested people for Finance and Trustees. Since I don't know everyone well, I may be missing YOU. So, help me out and talk to me! There is untapped talent and skill here and I need you. Come forward and make your skills known...and EVERYBODY PRAY!



Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Project Understanding Hosts Electronic Waste Collection

Drop off your electronic waste at Project Understanding's free electronic waste collection, Sat., Aug. 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 43 E. Vince St., Ventura; for information call Sandra at 652-1326, ext. 836. Items accepted: CRT monitors, TVs, mice, keybds, LCD monitors, computers, printers, plus more.

Women of Vision Interfaith Gathering Sept. 23 at Temple Beth Torah

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller has invited women of all faiths to gather in the Temple Beth Torah sukkah to learn about the tradition and rituals of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. The brown bag lunch will be Sept. 23, 12 noon, 7620 Foothill Rd., Ventura. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Information will also be available about the fall book discussion series that begins on Thursday, Sept. 30, sponsored by the Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Association's Ventura County Women of Vision. Anne Lamott's *Traveling Mercies* will be discussed at these weekly discussions (Thursday noon and Wednesday evening groups) during October and November. All women are welcome to the Sept. 23rd gathering and to the interfaith discussion series. For more information, call Nan Waltman, 644-2233, or email: vcwomenofvision@aol.com.

UMW Sunday Study Group to Learn About Sudan

The United Methodist Women Sunday Study Group, will begin meeting again on Sept. 19, at 3 p.m. in the Wesley Center. All women are invited. The study book is *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace Is Possible*. Call the church office if you're interested in participating.

Judy and Ann

Food of the Month

In September the Project Understanding Food Pantry needs canned tuna and plastic grocery bags. Bring donations to the sanctuary, chapel or church office.

Sunday School Teachers

Sunday School teachers please plan to attend a brief staff meeting on Sunday, Sept. 5, 10:15 a.m., in the third-fifth grade room of the Ed Bldg. Also, bring your name tag and gold star to church so you can get your next year pin.

Stephen Ministry — “Why Don’t You Try This?”

When you’re going through tough times, everyone has advice. But often it isn’t advice you need — it’s caring. Stephen Ministers are trained to give this care by listening instead of telling you what to do.



Call the church office at 643-8621 for more information.

Wesley Choir for Children

We invite all children, pre-school through fifth grade to participate in the Wesley Choir. We meet Sunday mornings from 10-10:20 a.m. in Room 204 of the Ed Bldg. We learn songs from both our red (traditional) and black (contemporary) hymnals. Once a month, we sing at the 9 a.m. worship service and participate in our church’s seasonal celebrations, especially at Christmas time.

The first rehearsal this fall is Sunday, Sept. 19, and we welcome all children.

Miriam
Wesley Choir Director

Parents and Sunday School Teachers

If you need a new Sunday School T-shirt, please let Fran Arner-Costello know by stopping by the Education Building after church. If you have a lightly used shirt that your child has outgrown, trade-ins are welcome.

Sing Your Lungs Out and Praise God!

Annual Chancel Choir Retreat

Come join us and discover your inner desire to sing to praise God and to fellowship with us! We are a very likable bunch! You might just fall in love with us! Lunch will be provided. For questions please contact KuanFen at 278-0375 or e-mail at downbeatplus@gmail.com

Saturday, August 28

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Meet in Camarillo

Call the church office for details



Harbor Academy Equipping You to Set Sail With God!

Harbor Academy is designed to help you set sail with Christ as His disciple. It offers core classes covering essential Christian beliefs and discipleship, and introductory and advanced classes in Bible, theology, church history, ethics, spiritual disciplines, and many important contemporary issues. Classes, dates, and times are listed below. To join one or more of the classes or for more information, call the church office at 643-8621.

Deepening Your Effectiveness

Wednesdays, Sept. 1-Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Living the Questions: Journey

Wednesdays, Sept. 15-Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Women's Book Study (Small Group for Women)

Wednesdays, Sept. 1- Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m.

FUMCV Inquirers' Class

Sundays, Aug. 29, 1:00 p.m.

The Foundation: Genesis Study

Saturdays, Sept. 18-Nov. 6, 5:00 p.m.

The Heart of God (Small Group for Women)

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

The Fourth Day: Emmaus Men (Small Group for Men)

Wednesdays, Noon

The Seekers 10/50

Sundays, 10:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Disciples Forum

Sundays, 10:15 a.m.

(Child care will be available for sessions on Wednesday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Call the church office if you need child care.)



Next Rummage Sale October 1 and 2

It's time to start thinking about the next rummage sale, to be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 1 and 2, in Trotter Hall. Please wait to bring your rummage until the week of September 26.

We will need help from both men and women in setting up for the sale in Trotter Hall on Wed. morning, Sept. 29, and Thurs., Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help is also needed during the sale on Oct. 1 and 2. Your involvement will be greatly appreciated.

Judy, United Methodist Women

**CHURCH CALENDAR
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**

8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Worship; Child Care
 9:15 a.m. Children's Sun. School
 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hr.
 10:00 a.m. Informal Worship Rehl.
 11:00 a.m. Worship; Child Care
 11:00 a.m. Children's Sun. Schl.
 12 Noon Coffee Hr.

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00 a.m. Quilting
 10:30 a.m. Sm. Grp. Study
 7:15 p.m. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

8:00 a.m. Romeo Men's Brkfst.
 9:30 a.m. MOPercise

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10:30 a.m. Deepen Effectiveness
 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Study
 12 Noon 4th Day
 7:00 p.m. Deepen Effectiveness
 7:30 p.m. Finance Com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Worship; Child Care
 9:15 a.m. Children's Sun. School
 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hr.
 10:00 a.m. Informal Worship Rehl.
 10:15 a.m. Sun.Schl. Teacher Mtg.
 11:00 a.m. Worship; Child Care
 11:00 a.m. Children's Sun. Schl.
 11:00 a.m. Hilltoppers Lunch
 12 Noon Coffee Hr.

LABOR DAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00 a.m. Romeo Men's Brkfst.
 9:30 a.m. MOPercise

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:30 a.m. Deepen Effectiveness
 10:30 a.m. Women's Book Study

12 Noon 4th Day
 7:00 p.m. Deepen Effectiveness

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

10:30 a.m. UMW Jt. Mtg.
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehl.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Let love lead . . . to
 make, mature, and
 mobilize disciples of
 Jesus Christ for the trans-
 formation of the world.



STAFF

Senior Pastor Mary Birgelaitis
 Associate Pastor Jimmy Huang
 Visitation Pastor Charles Simmons
 Diaconal Minister for Barbara Tomblin
 Children's Ministry
 Preschool Director Melissa Ledesma
 Missionaries .. The Elmores & the Persons
 Chancel Choir Director KuanFen Liu
 Contmpy Music Ldr Mark Wingland
 Organist Ivan Shobe
 Wesley Chldrn Choir Dir. Miriam Arichea
 Joyful Noise Bell ChDir .. Miriam Arichea
 & KuanFen Liu
 Church Use Coordinator Ellen Pearson
 Nursery Tasha Dixon
 Custodian Daren McLean
 Grounds Keeper Jim Britt
 Treasurer Rona Gonzalez
 Financial Secretary Gloria Lewis
 Secretary Ellen Pearson
 Planned Giving Director Midge Stork

HOW TO CONTACT FIRST UMC

Church Office 805-643-8621
 Preschool 653-5304
 Website www.fumcventura.org
 Fax 643-8701
 E-Mail office@fumcventura.org
 Scoutmaster 658-0332
 BoyScouts
 www.freepgs.com/troop102/main.php



Disciples Adult Class Resumes Sunday, Sept. 12

The Sunday Disciples Class, meeting from 10:15-11:15 a.m., will resume on September 12, in the Wesley Center, Rm. 103. All adults are welcome.

The class will continue with the video lectures, *From Jesus to Constantine*, about the first 300 years of Christianity, by Bart D. Ehrman.

Dr. Ehrman is a renowned professor of religion at U. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a captivating speaker. After each Sunday's segment we discuss the lecture and also have other interesting topics such as Bible quizzes and current religious news discussions. Each lecture is self-contained, so you don't need to attend earlier lectures to benefit from any particular lecture. On Sunday, September 26, in the afternoon, we will have a class barbecue. Ron

Update on Budget Gap Fundraiser

As of August 3, we have received \$2,700 toward our \$7,800 goal in our \$100 per member Fundraiser, to help fill the budget gap and keep our programs fully funded. Thanks to those who have given early. If you have not yet participated, there is still time. Please mark your gift "budget gap" so we can keep track of gifts toward the goal. Thank you.

John, Finance Chair

UMW Joint Meeting Sept. 9

The United Methodist Women will hold a joint meeting of all the fellowships on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 10:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center Library/Parlor. Pastor Mary will speak and lunch will be served following the meeting. Both men and women are invited.

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