



January/February 2011

Norah Miller, Editor

Grace Notes from Kristie

Every time I find the meaning of life, they change it.

Ah, the winds of change are a'blowing through our culture, our churches, our Conference. And even if we recognize that we cannot keep doing things the old way and be confident our churches will be healthy and strong, it takes work and courage to step into the new! Sometimes it feels like we're lost in the Wilderness. Then we catch a glimpse of the Promised Land and it pulls us on again. Thanks be to God!

Our Annual Conference, which includes over 360 churches in northern California and Nevada, is just one of many Conferences of the United Methodist Church caught up in a movement of faith and hope. We call it **Rethink Church**. Some of us are wearing it on our T-shirts or putting it up on banners outside our buildings. Church leaders are connecting, sharing stories, and naming our best practices -- bishop to bishop, pastor to pastor, church to church. Rethinking is leading to realignment and resource sharing and surprises along the way.

At last June's Annual Conference Session, we took action to bring to life our hunger for renewal on Conference basis. The gathered lay and clergy members of the Conference took two bold steps that invited dreaming, vision, and action. We decided to suspend our Conference rules, called the Standing Rules, which order our connection in addition to the Discipline. We also shifted monies to fund a position at the Cabinet level focused on starting new churches and revitalizing existing churches.

So, what is happening now on these two action items? For the last several months, two small task forces have met in regular brainstorming conversations. One group is considering new organizational possibilities for the Conference. The other task force is focused on revitalization of churches and starting new ones.

They are collecting information on what is, pooling their experience and training, and leaving space for the Holy Spirit to guide them into fresh ideas that respect the values we hold as United Methodists. Each task force is comprised of lay and clergy persons, and each task force includes some persons from our own El Camino Real District. The Bishop and Rev. Linda Caldwell, our Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, participate in both.



Continued on page 4

Facebook Strategies & Email Newsletters for Non-Profits

**Thursday, January 27, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Each workshop is \$25 or register for both for only \$45 by January 21.

**Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette
www.thelumc.org**

Information and Registration at www.bethannon.com/services/workshops
Learn how to use Facebook to promote your church's mission and connect with existing and potential new members. Learn best practices and effective strategies for sending email newsletters. Presenter is Bet Hannon.

Online course offered by Claremont School of Theology

Three courses are offered this spring by Claremont School of Theology, our Methodist seminary in southern California. But you don't need to travel there to participate.

The classes are offered online from February 28 through March 25. Each class earns 2 CEU's. The tuition charge is \$200. Class titles are:

Short –Term Spiritual Guidance, taught by Professor Duane Bidwell

No More Lone(ly) Ranger: Learning to Lead with Teams, taught by Sue D'Alessio
Ministry with Young Adults in the Twenty-First Century, taught by Anne Carter Walker.

For more information, visit www.cst.edu or contact lifelonglearning@cst.edu.

Hear about UMVIM trip to Swaziland in August 2011

Wednesday, January 26, 7:00-8:30pm in the LAUMC Youth Room

The Boulder Creek United Methodist Church is organizing a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team to Swaziland, Africa in August 2011. Do you find your heart turned towards Africa? Come and experience God's spirit which refuses to allow this small, breathtakingly beautiful country to die. You are invited to join this team led by Becky Perry. Becky is a trained UMVIM team leader, lay leader at Boulder Creek UMC, 2008 Conference Lay Minister Training graduate, and experienced traveler who led a Volunteers in Mission team of 12 to Swaziland in July 2009. Becky will talk about her experiences on Wednesday, January 26, 7:00-8:30pm in the Youth Room. Contact Becky (perry95006@yahoo.com or 831-338-4998 or 831-338-4998 for details and information about the August 2011 trip.

San Jose District United Methodist Women Mission Springs Spiritual Retreat

March 18-20, 2011

**Mission Springs Conference Center
1050 Lockhart Gulch Road
Scotts Valley, CA**

Registration deadline Feb 18, 2011.

Rev. Debbie Weatherspoon and Rev. Sun Hee Kim lead the program, "Speaking Our Truth in Love." For information contact Dollie Forney, Dollie.Forney@sbcglobal.net, or 408 738 3976.



LEARNING ABOUT PRAYER

For Children

In **The Lord's Prayer (DVN-301.16)**, Jesus teaches His disciples the power of prayer through parables and His personal example. The video shows the stories of Peter and the early church. Included are: the arrest of Peter and his eventual escape, the united prayer of the righteous, and stories of faith testing.

For Youth/Young Adults

In the 18th episode from the **Nooma series (DVG-512)**, Rob Bell presents and discusses some questions about prayer: Does God answer prayer? Sometimes, but not all the time—or does God always answer prayer and it's just that sometimes God says, "No!"

For Adult Study

In **The Four Acts of Prayer (DVW-843)** Walter Wangerin uses stories to explore the four vital parts of the complete circle of praying: We speak, God listens, God speaks, we listen.

- **Mudhouse Sabbath: Seven ways of Christian Formation Inspired by the Jewishness of Jesus (DVW-859)** challenges viewers to: encounter the Jewish context that nurtured Jesus, explore spiritual practices of hospitality, mindful eating, prayer, fasting, and mourning, and deepen their Christian faith by incorporating these things into their lives.

INFLUENTIAL LEADERS FROM CHRISTIAN HISTORY

For Children:

Martin! God Loves You (DVC-311) visualizes the story of Martin Luther's life especially for children. Children will discover a person much like themselves, as Martin grows up and discovers the miracle of love freely-given revealed in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In **The Amy Carmichael Story: She Saved the Children One by One**

(DVC-310.8) Amy Carmichael served as a missionary to India. She worked to free the "temple girls" who were held against their will from the powerful customs and superstitions that kept them hostage.

For Youth and Adults:

In **John Calvin – His Life and Legacy (DVC-552)**, World-renowned scholars and Reformed church leaders tell the story of 16th century pastor John Calvin. Using stunning photography and clear, insightful scholarship and analysis, this project dispels the myths of, and sets the context and conditions for, Calvin's effect on the church and the whole course of Western civilization.

For Adult Study

Lost Christianities (DVC-817) includes 12 in-depth lectures on 6 DVDS from the Biblical Archaeology Society's Austin Seminar.

DVDs 1 & 2 – **Gospels Lost and Found** by Charles W. Hedrick

DVDs 3 & 4 – **Thomas and the Gnostics** by April D. DeConick

DVDs 5 & 6 – **Jesus, John, and the Jerusalem Church**



Continued from page 1

I am excited to see where all of this will take us in the coming months. What new ideas will evolve? How will they help us in our own places of worship and work? I invite you to join me in prayer for our churches, for our leaders, for every person who worships in our congregations, that God might bless us along this challenging, joyful, interesting journey to the NEW!

*Kristie Olah
District Superintendent*

“Jesus Seminar on the Road” Coming to Santa Cruz

The “Jesus Seminar on the Road” program of the Westar Institute brings scholars of the Jesus Seminar into conversation with interested people across North America and around the world. Designed to address significant issues in current biblical and theological research and scholarship, these programs are designed for interested clergy and lay people alike.

Bernard Brandon Scott, Ph.D., Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament at the Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa Oklahoma and Thomas Sheehan, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford University will be speaking on the topic of Jesus, Politics, and Empire on March 4th and 5th in Santa Cruz. The UMC of Santa Cruz and the UMC of Aptos are two of a group of congregations sponsoring this event. The event will be hosted by the First Congregational Church of Santa Cruz. You can go to www.westarinstitute.org to get more detailed information about this event and to register.

Bishop’s Confirmation Retreats

Time to sign up for the retreats specially planned for young people in confirmation classes. Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., will participate in all three of the events scheduled for:

March 11 -12 at Monte Toyon

April 8 -9 at Lodestar Camp

Mary 14 at a site to be selected. This is a one day event.

Registration information is available by calling 916-374-1528 (Shari Sandoval) or checking the Conference website, www.cnumc.org. These events fill fast – so please sign up soon!

**Save the date
March 12, 2011**

Worship Workshop led by Marcia McFee

Held at Los Gatos UMC

Sponsored by the Integrated Circuit

For more information contact Bob Chicou at
Evergreen UMC, 408 238 7631.



Cambodia Consultation at Wesley UMC, San Jose

We are pleased to inform you of the 2011 Cambodia Consultation March 31 to April 2 in San Jose, California, sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and the California-Nevada Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The purpose of this periodic gathering of friends throughout the U.S. of the United Methodist mission initiative in Cambodia is education, planning, fellowship, and celebration of Cambodian-American ministries. The focus will be on concerns and perspectives of (1) the Khmer church leadership, (2) missionaries, and (3) volunteer in mission teams, all of whom will be represented.

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. extends a warm invitation to attend. "When I visited Cambodia last February, I saw a beautiful land with a rich cultural heritage that had lost nearly a whole generation of leaders in the 1970s. I saw first-hand the urgent need today for leadership development and for alleviation of poverty. And, I saw the excitement and vitality of Methodists and new Christians practicing their faith in a setting where they are very much a struggling minority. The California-Nevada Annual Conference is proud to support its Cambodian-American community in sponsoring this Consultation."

Contact Chanta Yos
California-Nevada Conference Board of
Missions, United Methodist Church
baysidekhmer@gmail.com

When: Thursday March 31, 2011 at 8:00 AM
-to-
Saturday April 2, 2011 at 12:00 PM

Where:
Wesley United Methodist Church
566 No. Fifth St.
San Jose, CA 95112

Richard Corkrum, retired treasurer of the Monterey Bay Church Extension Society, and DS Rev. Kristie Olah. Thank you Richard for your years of dedicated service!

The Daly City United Methodist Church & its

mission partner Balay Kultura-House of Culture offers this course for Fil-Ams and those who are interested in learning Filipino as a language.

When: 6 Saturdays beginning Jan 16
Suggested donation: \$60.00/ (10 dollars per session)

Target students are pre- and college students

This is part of our youth revitalization program.

Blessings,

Rev. H. Wilson de Ocera



From Won Kie Kim

Western Jurisdiction Korean Mission Council Superintendent

I would like to invite you to consider participating in the 2011 Mission Trip to Korea. It's a great opportunity to learn and experience Congregational/Spiritual Growth through Amen Methodist Church and other churches, also to learn the Korean culture and to visit and observe the Korean churches.

Our plans include:

Evangelism Experience/Learning Tour:

1. To study how Korean Spiritual Formation affect the Growth of Churches in Korea
2. To experience the Evangelism Ministries, the Prayer Ministries and the various Worships of the Methodist Churches in Korea.
3. To learn about the works of the early missionaries and their legacies such as the Ewha Women's University and other Specialized Ministries
4. To visit some other churches in Korea and cultural sites the various places in Jeju Island.

Places: Bupyung Methodist Church, Korea
Lotte Hotel Jeju, Jeju Island, Korea

Dates: October 6 – October 12, 2011
Bupyung Methodist Church/ Jeju Island

Extension Trip: October 12 – October 15, 2011

Requirements:

Must be recommended by Bishop or District Superintendents

Total Estimated Cost of Trip: \$ 1,600/ person

Trip cost includes:

Round Trip Air Fare departing from Los Angeles/San Francisco to Incheon
Round Trip Air Fare from Seoul to Jeju, Lotte Hotel Jeju Lodging and Meals

Estimated 4 Days 3 Nights Extension Trip cost: \$500

Tentative Schedule: Busan, Kurjae, Tongyoung, Masan, and Seoul

Registration:

Application form and deposit, of \$600, must be received by March 31, 2011.

Due Date of the Total Expense: June 31, 2011

Due to the high volume of applicants we are expecting to receive, the first 20 applications with deposits will be accepted. To ensure a spot, send your application and deposit as soon as possible.



“FIFTH SUNDAY” FOCUS ON AFRICA!

All services at Los Altos UMC on January 30 will center around their African Student Education Fund supporting students at Africa University in Zimbabwe and at Methodist University of Western Angola.

Mr. James Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement for Africa University, will be the guest speaker and will be accompanied by a graduate student from Africa University. Twelve African women have received tuition support during this current academic year. Mr. Salley’s enthusiasm and faith in “miracles” helped LAUMC to reach their goal of over \$38,000 last January. The goal this year is just as awesome!

There will be opportunities to speak with Mr. Salley between morning services in Creekside and also at the dinner which follows the 5 pm. Creekside Crossings service

A special collection at all services will benefit the African Student Education Fund. Please make checks to LAUMC with “Africa education fund” as a memo.

Services are: 8 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, and 5 pm in Creekside.

Los Altos United Methodist Women Featured In Africa University Today

Africa University featured our Los Altos United Methodist Women and our African Student Education Fund in their Summer 2010 publication. We are proud to have been recognized for our accomplishment of raising \$40,000 last year for scholarships and for supporting 10 students at Africa University and 2 students at Methodist University Western Angola! The article stressed our joy at seeing African women graduating.

Youth 2011: July 27 – 31 in Sacramento

Can you imagine? This summer, right in Sacramento, there will be a national UMC gathering of youth! And we are all invited – to attend, or to help out, or to support young people who want to attend. Christian music artists Fireflight and Kristian Stanfill will headline and there will be speakers, workshops, and much more.

Bishop Brown is so enthusiastic about this event that he has helped make it more affordable! Put in promotional code “SGDD” when you register, and you’ll save \$100. for your group. There are other early bird discounts if you sign up by February 1.



Can you imagine? What if... 1,000 of our young people from right here in the California-Nevada Conference participate? That’s the Bishop’s challenge.

Registration information is online at www.youth2011.org or call Kelly Newell at 916-372-1515.

NEEDED: Adults will be needed for one or more days to help welcome and support this event. Please contact Kelly soon and offer your time.

CALENDAR

Jan 31 6:30 pm
**Northern San Jose Church Extension
Society, Calvary UMC, San Jose**

Feb 16-18 **Cabinet**

Feb 21 **President's Day holiday.
District Office closed.**

Feb 23
DCOOM, Almaden Hills UMC, San Jose

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The District Spirit is published September through June by the El Camino Real District 408 295 5341. The purpose is to keep district churches connected with information on activities and news happenings around the local churches, District and conference. Send your church information to the District Office at elcaminorealdist@sbcglobal.net or email Norah Miller at nkmill52@cruzio.com

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