



Grace Notes from Kristie

Advertisements in the latest issue of **The Christian Century**:

The World is Changing. And so is Claremont. Claremont School of Theology.

Refresh your ministry. Retool your skills. Revitalize your spirit. McCormick Theological Seminary.

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Transformation awaits you! Western Theological Seminary.

While every one of these ads is for a seminary, these phrases also describe the winds of change flowing through our Conference and many of our churches. We're in the middle of something to do with vision and transformation and revitalizing. As Phyllis Tickle reminds us in **The Great Emergence**, we cannot see the result from where we stand, but we know things just are not what they used to be.

Some of us have been waiting for this (whatever it may be) for a long time and sense that the Spirit is calling us out into new ways of being. Others of us are listening at the edges, wondering how things might affect us in our corner of the world.

Since the United Methodist Church adopted the phrase, **Rethink Church**, several months ago, Methodists all across our Conference and the world are speaking rethink, dreaming and wondering what it means to live faith and be church in ways that are Gospel-true and grace-full, honoring traditions while touching lives in new and meaningful ways.

A series of events in our Conference have unfolded where ideas were shared and conversations begun: **The Gathering of Orders**, with over 200 clergy considering how to be purpose-centered congregations, instead of preference-driven, seeking only to please ourselves as church insiders. **Simple Church Conference**, where over 230 lay people and clergy were inspired to clear the busyness and focus our efforts on our central mission to make disciples. The February **Quarterly Conference**, right here in San Jose, where Conference leaders challenged us to claim the power of our partnership and leadership gifts together as lay and clergy.

Coming up.... **Bishop Brown** will go out on the road, to five locations across the Conference, to share next steps as we rethink our connections as a Conference. Every one - clergy, leaders, members – are invited. Check out the details in this newsletter. The Bay Area locations are at Asbury UMC, Livermore, and First UMC and First Tongan UMC, Palo Alto, on the weekend of April 17 and 18.

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Hear Bishop Brown Speak: Rethinking Church: A Conference Perspective

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., will be speaking in 5 locations in March and April, sharing more of our developing vision for our Conference. Members and leaders of all churches are invited and encouraged to attend. All pastors and other clergy are expected to attend one of the events.

For our area, there are two nearby locations and dates. The first is **April 18, from 3 - 5:30 pm**. We will be hosted by **First UMC and First Tongan UMC of Palo Alto** and will meet in the sanctuary on Hamilton Avenue in Palo Alto. Please plan to arrive early to find parking. The host churches will start with music by 2:45pm.

Another choice would be Saturday **April 17, 10am to 12:30 pm** at **Asbury UMC in Livermore**. The Bishop will also speak on March 14 in Redding, in Fresno on April 24, and in Auburn sometime in April. You are welcome to attend any presentation.

Watch for more details!

San Jose District Quarterly Conference

April 17th at Los Altos UMC
Focus: **Youth Ministry in Your Church!**
Speaker: Kelly Newell, Conference
Coordinator of Youth and Camping Ministries
Worship leader: Dirk Damonte

Save the Date! May 15

District Gathering of Laity

For all lay speakers, lay leaders, and lay members of Annual Conference.

9:30 – 11 am

Pre Conference Orientation

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Location and details to follow!

Quarterly Conference February 13, 2010

“As we rethink church, what is the role of lay leadership?”



Youth Band during worship



Ted Virts, Conference Superintendent
Kristie Olah, District Superintendent
Gayle Shearman, Conference Co-Lay Leader

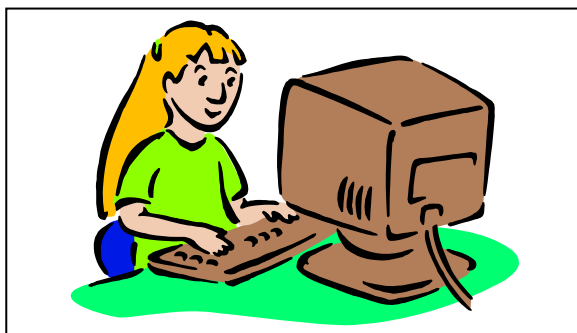
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I encourage every one of you **to be part** of this conversation. Pray and ponder.

Invite the Spirit to truly take flight in your heart and the heart of your church's very being. Take steps to grow deeper in your faith. Listen and share and challenge. Think outside the walls and into the possibilities of kingdom living. Remember, the world needs our hope and we need God's grace.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Mold us and make us..... alive in you!

In the peace of Christ, Kristie Olah



San Jose District Website Redesigned

Updated website www.sjdist.org is live and looking for events, news and pictures to highlight ministries in your church. Currently, it contains information about the district, list of churches, news from churches including ways to donate for Haiti relief. It contains the latest newsletter and not only the flyer for Quarterly Conference on April 17, 2007 in Los Altos, but an online registration form for the Quarterly Conference. There are links to the Conference, UMC, Upper Room devotional and UMCOR web sites and an online form to sign up for the newsletter. You can also offer comments about the web site and suggestions for enhancements.

Healthy Choices Series

"By Any Name, A Valued Gift"

Susan Peters, United Methodist Foundation

By definition, *the philanthropic spirit always finds an appropriate form of expression.*

We see this philanthropic spirit clearly each time we witness the desire of a child determined to give a gift to a parent or teacher. That determination will always find the perfect way to express itself. And whether it is another tie for dad to add to his collection or an apple for a favorite teacher, the value of the gift is beyond measure.

As a nation, Americans continually set new records for charitable support. Our neighborhoods and cities thrive in part because of a pervading generosity. The list of churches and non-profit organizations that depend wholly on the private support of individuals, families and businesses would number into the hundreds, even thousands of pages.

In fact there are many ways that you can make a gift to your church. The most common is the way hundreds choose to express their support each year by simply writing a check or giving cash. Many of these same individuals and families plan today for a future gift that comes in the form of a bequest that is articulated in the last will and testament.

Come hear more at the Endowment Committee's special presentation on Sunday, March 14th at First United Methodist Church in Watsonville. Susan Peters, CFRE, Executive Director of the CA-NV United Methodist Foundation will offer ideas for ways to make creative planned gifts. Call 831-724-4434 for reservations and more information. Don't miss it!

Sponsored by the Endowment Committee of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Western Jurisdiction Effort for Haiti: Join in Operation Resurrection

In the aftermath of the devastation in Haiti, many of you in our churches have taken collections of dollars or health kits for UMCOR. Some of you are praying over possible VIM work trips to Haiti. The responses have been quite wonderful!

This Lent, the bishops and leaders of the Western Jurisdiction are inviting us to join in a special effort **together**. Enclosed in this newsletter is a page with the details of Operation Resurrection 2010. The Methodist way of connection is even more evident when we see how all our work and help come together to make a difference.

Though our Conference will get official records from UMCOR, let's keep our own tally in our area. Please contact Pam in the San Jose office (sjdist@sbcglobal.net or call 408-295-5341) or Bruce in the Golden Gate office (goldengateumc@sbcglobal.net) to report (1) **the number of health kits you have made and sent to UMCOR**, (2) **the dollar donations you have sent to UMCOR**, (3) **and the UMVIM trips you are planning**.

What is UMCOR doing in Haiti?

Many of our church members have made wonderful donations to The United Methodist Committee on Relief. How are they using our money to serve the people of Haiti?

UMCOR opened a field office in Port-au-Prince and is hiring five full-time staff persons as part of a five-year plan to help rebuild Haiti after the Jan. 12 earthquake. Anthony Jones, who has 20 years of experience with humanitarian relief agencies, has been hired as an emergency response consultant.

Since the disaster, UMCOR has coordinated food distribution projects in Mellier and Petit-Goave, Aggarwal said. The UMCOR plan includes emergency, recovery and rehabilitation work.

The emergency phase stretches from the time of the earthquake through April. Since the disaster, UMCOR has coordinated food distribution projects in Mellier and Petit-Goave. The focus now is on food, clean water and sanitation, temporary shelter, and emotional and spiritual support.

During the recovery phase, which is expected to run through the first-year anniversary of the disaster, UMCOR will respond to needs for increasingly permanent homes, schools, clinics and churches, along with jobs and other concerns.

The third phase, rehabilitation, will likely stretch through January 2015 and will offer assistance for both physical reconstruction and economic development as well as rebuilding health, education and other systems.

For regular updates, visit www.umc.org.



**One Great Hour
of Sharing
March 14, 2010**

**OPERATION RESURRECTION 2010:
A Compassionate Response to the Earthquake from the Western Jurisdiction**

The bishops and other leaders of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church call our people and our churches to honor the spirit of the Haitian people and our staff who were caught in the earthquake. United Methodist Committee on Relief staff, Rev. Sam Dixon and Rev. Clinton Rabb, died in the earthquake, and Rev. Jim Gulley was rescued. Help us reach the following goals by Easter, 2010. Gifts already received will count towards the goals.

GOAL # 1

Plan to learn about Haiti's history, culture and economy.

GOAL # 2

Gifts totaling \$100,000 for recovery and relief through UMCOR

HOW CAN I HELP?

- ❖ Remember the people of Haiti in worship and receive a special offering
- ❖ Encourage a discipline of Lenten giving
- ❖ Make a personal contribution
- ❖ Host a Haiti relief fundraiser with your neighbors

For more information or to give on-line go to www.umcor.org. Gifts through your local church should be marked for "UMCOR Advance #418325."

GOAL # 3

25 Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trips to Haiti over the next 5 years

HOW CAN I HELP?

- ❖ Schedule and organize a team from your local church, district or conference
- ❖ Join a group that someone else is planning
- ❖ Sponsor a young person to join a VIM team

Contact Heather Wilson, Western Jurisdiction UMVIM Coordinator at www.umvimwj.blogspot.com/

GOAL # 4

Replace 23,000 Health Kits that have already been shipped from UMCOR West Depot

HOW CAN I HELP?

- ❖ Ask members of your Sunday School Class, Youth Group, or UMW to assemble health kits and send to UMCOR West (1479S 700 W, Salt Lake City, UT, 84104) or send \$12 per kit to UMCOR West marked #901440 for Health Kits
- ❖ Schedule a VIM team to travel to Salt Lake City to help assemble kits

*Bless our acts of obedience
that in some small way we might be used
to restore hope, increase faith and widen the pathway to peace.*

100% of gifts through UMCOR go directly to relief. To track progress and for more resources go to www.westernjurisdictionumc.org.

Mission Trip to UMCOR Depot West!

Becky Perry will be leading a domestic mission trip to the new UMCOR Depot West in Salt Lake City. This is where all the health kits for Haiti (and other future disasters) are assembled and stored for shipping.

Dates for the trip are April 4-9. Cost will be approximately \$500 and includes airfare, lodging, food, transportation, \$50 donation per person to the Depot, and reservation fee. If you are interested or know anyone who might like to join, please contact [Becky](mailto:perry95006@yahoo.com) ASAP at perry95006@yahoo.com. Group size limited to 12.

UMCOR West is a 22,000 square foot depot that stores much needed disaster relief supplies that are sent state side and abroad in times of disaster and war. Volunteers at UMCOR West are vital to the success of this ministry. Here at the depot, individuals and groups gather, assemble, package and shelve relief supply kits for future shipping. Moreover, some of our volunteers will be asked to help with other projects here at the depot and in the Salt Lake Valley. We are eager to count you among the many who have made a difference in the lives of thousands of hurting people around the world.

UMCOR Disaster Response Training

March 26, 27 & 28, 2010
Training Classes Include:
Emergency Response/Care Team,
Basic Disaster Overview, Care For
Children in Disaster, Case
Management and Chainsaw
Training

To register for this UMCOR training please contact the Ca-Nv Conference UMCOR Office at (916) 374-1584 or umvim@calnevumc.org with your contact information. More details about this training will be posted soon...

Daylight Savings Time 2010

Set your clocks forward 1 hour on **Saturday night, March 13th** so you can get to church on time Sunday!



Happy St.
Patrick's Day
March 17,
2010



NOR/CAL ECUMENICAL MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

MEDIA UPDATE –March 2010

408-378-2532 FAX: 408-378-2652

emrcvideos@aol.com www.emrclibrary.org

SAFEGUARDING AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

Of Children

Safeguarding God's

Children: Preventing Child Sexual

Abuse (DVT-529) provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and in the ministries in which they serve. This two-part DVD-based training program can be used in one of two ways: for parents and congregations or for ministries.

Of Children and Youth

Safe Sanctuaries for Children and Youth: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church (DVT-525) helps Christian

laity and clergy assess risk and implement processes to reduce the likelihood of abuse in their congregations.

The book, **Safe Sanctuaries in the Church** accompanies the DVD.

Of Youth

The **Teen Help Series (VCY-537)** helps teens understand, face up to, and correct abusive relationships, and eating disorders. Video 3-**Child Abuse-** features riveting interviews with abuse victims, survivors, psychiatrists, psychotherapists and legal counselors. The counselors define different types of abuse and the way in which the silence can be broken, the cycle of abuse can be stopped, and healing can begin. Whether physical, emotional, mental, sexual, or neglectful; abuse challenges teens of every race, background, and economic level.

Of Women

Through the voices of victims, clergy, and helping professionals, **Wings Like a Dove: Healing for the Abused Christian Woman (DVM-699)** offers hope and healing to abused women and valuable information for religious and community groups.

Pat Strandburg

Media Resource Center

CALENDAR

March 3-5 **Cabinet**

March 9 4:30

Monterey Bay CES, Salinas First UMC

March 17 9:30-2:30

DCOOM, Almaden Hills UMC

March 18-19 **Cabinet**

March 26

Furlough Day District Office closed

March 2010



The District Spirit is published September through June by the San Jose 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 sjdist@sbcglobal.net or email Norah Miller at nkmill52@cruzio.com

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