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DISTRICT SUPT. CATHLEEN COOTS
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THE METHODIST



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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

California-Pacific Annual Conference Representatives Report

When we were asked, by Reverend Paula Ferris to represent our church at the Annual Conference we were very pleased because, though we have been church members for over 30 years, we had never attended sessions of the Conference. It was indeed an interesting and inspiring experience! We found both the clergy and the lay members to be dedicated, capable, full of energy and representative of all ages, genders and ethnic groups. The Conference left us

feeling very positive about the leadership, organization and potential for the future of the United Methodist Church.

There were approximately 1500 people there, representing the churches of the eight districts in the Conference. General sessions were chaired by the Conference Bishop, Rev. Mary Anne Swenson. Each daily session was opened with prayer and a message of inspiration from Marjorie Suchocki, professor emeritus and former dean of the

Claremont School of Theology.

The sessions also featured music by partially-blind Ken Medema who played and sang original songs. The highlight of the Conference was the various commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the admission of women to Full Connection in the ordained ministry in 1956.

The Plenary sessions, usually in the afternoons, featured explanations and discussions of the many resolutions and business

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FROM THE



PASTOR

At age sixty-six, John Walker retired from the company that had been his employer for 32 years.

John and his wife, Dorothy decided to leave the home in which they had been living for nearly 30 years and move 800 miles to a more attractive climate.

The second weekend in their new residence, they began to shop for a new church home.

After 15 visits to nine churches, they chose one as their new church home.

Both John and Dorothy had been active members of the same congregation "back home" for more than four decades. They knew that churches need money to pay the bills. They felt that visitors should pay their share. So in each of those 15 visits to churches, John dropped a check for \$25 into the offering plate that ushers passed along the pew in which they were seated.

John and Dorothy left each church building with the satisfied

feeling that they had contributed their fair share toward that congregation's expenditures.

At this point, more than a few readers will interrupt with, "You missed the point! Shouldn't the Walkers be thinking about how they return their 10 percent to the Lord, not about the question of what would be their fare share of a congregation's expenditures?"

However, this article is not about stewardship but about congregational expenditures.

If the year was 1987, that \$25 check for two worshipers could be

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In Gratitude

Kudos to Jeri Barricklow who prepared a most wonderful luncheon and served it almost single-handedly to the many volunteers who work in the office on a regular basis. Attendees included Phil Alcorn, Charlie Atteberry, Joanne Buttrey, Jean Collin, Dorine Collins, Joann DeSantis, Betty Erlandson, Alice Gratias, Shirley Hersh, Virginia Jackson, Pat Johannesen, Lee Kavaloski, Gretchen Keeler, Cynthia Kuzmin, Margaret Rodie, Ruth Sanders, Ruby Shapel, Barbara Shields, Jerry Silvey, Nancy Taylor, Sally Taylor, Jean Thompson, Win Wheatley and, of course, Jeri!

Missing the luncheon but not forgotten were Judy Atkins, Jim Benham, Margie Douglas, Mary Farish, Ruby Freemark, Harriet Lewis and Jean Paris.

Pastor Paula gave out "Prayer Rocks" with a poem and Pastor Joy handed out cleverly created certificates of appreciation. As noted at the "Thank You Luncheon" Joan Coston, Mary Jane Rotella, along with the ministers could not accomplish all that we do without the help of all these wonderful volunteers!

Thank you again and again! We do have fun, too!



We are fortunate to have another group of volunteers who normally assist Bill Margadant and Chuck Grant in maintaining our large campus and the facilities. These same men spent a very hot and humid week painting the sanctuary and narthex because "they thought it was needed" and wanted

to do it in time for Malcolm Sears' memorial service. Malcolm would be grateful for the care and efforts of Dave Hergesheimer, Mike Shields, Bob Ulrich and Gene Schmidt. We all thank them for a job well done.



In case you are wondering what to do with your empty printer cartridges the church has a wonderful program. The church makes a tidy little sum of money for recycling them. Thanks to the efforts of John and Dorine Collins, and their taking time out of their schedules to come by and pick them up to take them to the recovery center -- we get money into the church coffers! Keep bringing those empty cartridges into the church office!



Dear NUMC Friends,

Your expressions of sympathy brought much comfort to us. Thank you for the many cards and prayers at the loss of our dear Malcolm.

Special hugs and kisses to Jay, Larry, the Choir and Handbells for their special music. Also to Joan Coston, Bill Margadant, Virginia Jackson and her helpers and to Fred Rohde and the Soul Food crew for their great "Sears Burgers."

And special thanks to the ministers, past and

present, who helped make the service so wonderful.

Sincerely,
*Margaret Sears
and Family*



Dear NUMC Family;

We count our many blessings as we prepare to leave for our Mexico Mission trip (August 4-14). We are so fortunate to belong to such a loving, caring, generous church. We look forward to sharing all the gifts you have given us to take to the people of Mexico. Some of these items are: 138 combs, 168 tooth brushes, 34 tubes of tooth paste, 36 rolls of dental floss, 57 dish towels, 54 dishcloths, 42 pot holders, 2 bed sheet sets, and many wonderful clothing items. A special thank you to the NUMC Youth for their journal notebooks, cash, gifts and well wishes for a successful experience.

We are concerned about the Dengue Fever problem at the Center but, the Mexican Health Department sprayed several times and the situation is much better. We have insect repellent with DEET and will be purchasing mosquito netting to hang over each of our beds. Your prayers are always appreciated and thank you for your help in making this outreach experience possible. We look forward to sharing our adventure with you when we return.

*Nancy Easterly &
The Mexico Mission Team*

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Condolences to Lin Squires and family on the loss of her mother, **Ruth Wieser**, who died July 22nd.



Condolences to the family of **Ann Hicks** who died August 3rd.

Prayers of healing for: **James Chapman** (brother of Patty Sciortino); **Delia Curiel**; **Marie Davis**; **Kevin Downey** (Charlotte Buckles' husband); **Ruby Freemark**; **Ruth McGinnis** (Frank & Freddie Lu McGinnis' daughter); **Marvin Shapel**; and **Ed Spoehel** (father of Jacquie O'Connor).

Prayers of Praise for **Eva Xochitl** born to Todd and Spring Barricklow on July 29. Granddaughter of Ted and Jeri Barricklow.

Prayers of protection for Katie Soukup's cousin, **Nick**, deployed in Iraq.



Sunday School News



Who is our neighbor? How do we show respect, love and kindness to people we don't like? How do we live out the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) in today's world? These are some of the questions our elementary children are being asked (and asking) during the summer Sunday School program "Building a Culture of PEACE Begins With Children."

Each week we will explore one tenet of the "Pledge of Nonviolence." They are: To respect self and others; To communicate better; To Listen; To forgive; To respect Nature; To play creatively; and To be courageous. We pray by the end of summer, children will have internalized some of the "things that make for peace." Why don't you take the "pledge" too?

Before we know it we will be turning our attention to the fall and the new school year. We would like things to be in place for the first Workshop Rotation for the year. Please think about leading a workshop sometime in the fall? Imagine teaching children about Noah's Ark through a cooking experience? What DID they eat on the ark? Or, YOU can be Noah and the children can be the animals? I know there are actors in our congregation! Of course, Noah is just one story for one rotation. Cooking and storytelling (drama) are just two types of workshops.

Perhaps you are a scientist, a musician or an artist? The children would love to learn from you. Please consider being part of this ministry and say "YES" when called! If you have any questions please call me!

Blessings,
Katie Soukup

Reseda 1st UMC Invites Kids To "Treasure Seekers" VBS

Reseda 1st United Methodist Church, 18120 Saticoy Street, invites our members to attend their Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is: "The Adventure of the Treasure Seekers."

This VBS promises to combine fun and discovery of the wonderful spiritual journey with God. It will be a significant highlight of the summer for the "Treasure Seekers." It will equip them with happiness and spiritual blessings that will get them ready with hope and positive attitude for the upcoming school year.

The Adventure begins Monday, August 21, and runs from 9 AM to Noon through Friday, August 25. Admission is \$10 (\$15 for two students) and is offered to students from pre-school to older elementary ages. For registration or additional information, call (818) 344-7135.

MISSION Voices

Toberman Settlement House Provides Assistance

NUMC's Mission Growth Fund has helped many mission programs. One of them is the Toberman Settlement House in San Pedro. Toberman is the oldest Methodist mission project in Southern California. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson has said, "I am very familiar with Toberman Settlement House. It is, in my opinion, one of the most worthwhile projects that the church can support."

Toberman serves 14,000 inner city residents each year. Their programs cover a wide spectrum. Toberman runs a school, programs to combat domestic violence, family welfare assistance, child care, a senior's club, promotes interracial unity and moves people beyond poverty. They reach out to the poorest members of society.

The settlement house director caught the spirit of the house when he said "easy things are not worth doing."

"The families coming to us do not get just help or services" he added. "They get a plan, a plan of action. Our agenda is to help them raise their capabilities, education and economic status. We are known for children's programs but, we serve as many adults as we serve children."

Peggy and Warren Howard



August 28th Discussion Planned

The Book Club will meet in the home of Jean Thompson at 7:30 PM on Monday, August 28th to discuss Lisa See's book *Snowflower and the Secret Fan*. Please call her if you would like to join the discussion.

The book for September will be *The River at the Center of the World* by Simon Winchester.

Redeeming & Recycling! Saturday, August 19th 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Please bring your newspapers, aluminum cans and plastic bottles to the church parking lot and we'll do the rest. Thanks for all your support!



♥ NUMC YUTES





Taizé (A Service of Prayer)

Taizé, a service of prayer — in song, word and silence — is held on the fourth Sunday of every month at 6:30 PM, in the Sanctuary. This month's service will be on August 27th.

Experience a time to detach from the confusion, noise and busy activities of your everyday world and reflect on the living presence of Christ in your life.

Childcare is available.

At-A-Glance for Everyone

August

- August 14... **Mission Meeting** — @ 7:30 PM
in Kendall Building
- August 15... **Caring Ministries Meeting**—@ 4 PM
In Library
Finance Meeting — @ 7:30 PM in Library
- August 19...**Recycling & Redeeming** — @ 9 AM
in Parking Lot
- August 22...**Team Leader Huddle** — @ 7:30 PM
in Kendall Building
- August 26...**Mexico Mission Trip Shareholders
Dinner** @ 6 PM in Kendall Building
- August 27...**Taizé, Service of Prayer** @ 6:30 PM
in Sanctuary
- August 28...**Methodist Money Makers** — @ 7 PM
In Library
- Tuesdays*...**Senior Exercise Program** @ 11:30 AM
in Fellowship Hall
- Sundays* ...**Book Study** @ 8:00 AM in Library
Grief Healing Support Group @ Noon
in Library

Worship Services @ 9:00 & 10:30 AM
Taizé, Service of Prayer, @ 6:30 PM
on 4th Sunday of each month.
Childcare available at all services.

Conference Report ...

Continued from Page 1

matters which were brought before the conference by the various boards, commissions, committees and districts.

Each resolution was considered in a small group meeting where a vote was held to determine whether or not the matter should be passed on for vote by the whole conference.

Voting was conducted in the Plenary Sessions, with voting members casting their ballots by holding up colored cards to indicate pro, con or abstain on each matter.

A broad variety of issues were discussed and voted on. Among these were the conference budget for the coming year, clergy retirement benefits, U.S. immigration policy, support of black churches, medical aid for HIV-AIDS patients, reorganization of campus ministries, camping and retreat ministries, the sale of Camp Virginia in San Diego County, support for workers at Turtle Bay Resort in Hawaii, support of Democratic institutions in Taiwan and conference staff personnel policies regarding bereavement, holidays, health insurance and leaves of absence.

There were a number of memorable events during the week. The Youth Day program featured dancing by the young people of a Tongan congregation. There was an inspiring report presented by Louisiana pastors who told of the devastation and the efforts to clean up and rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. We attended the Saturday evening ceremony of Graduation/Ordination of new pastors and the Sunday service of Commissioning of new Deacons and Holy Communion.

These services were impressive and encouraging both because of the high quality of the people receiving degrees and because of the broad and detailed commitments they made to moral, spiritual, social and economic goals for the future of the church.

We urge all who can to attend an Annual Conference in the future. The experience refreshes and recharges one's beliefs in the potential of our church for continuing to do important work in our society.

Martin and D. Anne Early
Conference Representatives

Articles For the Next Methodist

Articles for the August 28th issue of the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 4:30 PM, **Thurs., August 17th.**

Opportunities

Investor Rewards Are Donations to NUMC

Fremont Investment & Loan is offering investors an opportunity to help their church while investing in that company's Certificates of Deposit. Fremont will donate to NUMC 1/10th of 1% of the total money that is on deposit with them on December 31 of each year by members and friends of NUMC. To qualify, NUMC must have a minimum of 5 investors registered for this program. There are currently 3 NUMC investors with a total of over \$300,000 currently on deposit - 2 more accounts, of any size, are needed to qualify.

Fremont has been offering very competitive rates, currently at 5.35% for 6-month CD's and 5.45% for 12-month CD's for \$10,000 or more. The accounts are



FDIC insured.

If you are interested in taking advantage of higher rates now being offered on CD's we encourage you to consider Fremont - and tell them, and Dorrel, that you want your investment to be counted in this program. Here is a way to help the church while helping yourself.

The Finance Committee

Wrightwood BBQ Set

In celebration of 60 years of camping and retreat ministries at Camp Wrightwood, the annual BBQ will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2006, at 1 PM.

Everyone is invited to attend. Please RSVP to (760) 249-3453 by September 8, 2006.

The luncheon cost will be \$8 per person. Attendees will have a choice of chicken or tri-tip beef. Also on the menu are corn on the cob, baked beans, potato salad, cake. There will be a raffle.

Young Adult Gatherings

Young Adults can participate in a Fall Retreat at Wrightwood Camp in October, go skiing at Big Bear Camp in January, 2007, or sign up for a mission trip to New Orleans in March 2007. More details are available in the church office.

Pastor's Pen: What Does It Cost to Run a Church?

Continued from Page 1...

described as close to a fair share.

If that year was 1930 instead of 1987, the treasurers of those congregations the Walkers visited would have been overcome with joy to find a check from strangers for \$25!

If the Walkers were church shopping in 2005, that check for \$25 for two worshipers would have been far less than their fair share.

In 2005, most congregations fell into the \$1500 to \$2500 per worshiper bracket. An average contribution of \$20 by each worshiper, every week (including the children who are part of that count), comes to only \$1,040 for the year; and \$25 *per attendee* adds up to only \$1,300 per worshiper for the year - somewhat short of paying the church's bills.

Why have congregational expenditures doubled since 1987? The obvious factor has been inflation.

The Consumer Price Index tripled between 1967 and 1983, and nearly doubled between 1983 and 2005. Slightly more than keeping pace with that cost of living jump, the median per capita personal income more than doubled between 1987 and 2005.

More important, however, has been the rise in expectations that younger generations bring to church. They expect higher quality, more choices, and a variety of specialized ministries. That usually means an increase in paid staff, and that costs money.

In addition, the cost of what congregations purchase - such as land, insurance, and personnel - has increased at a faster pace than the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Unlike service stations, grocery stores, the public schools, and movie theaters, churches rarely tell people about the increase in their

costs of operation.

What happened as a result of those financial shifts?

One consequence in most congregations: 30 percent of all contributors of record provide 70 percent of the total receipts from living contributors.

A second consequence: an increasing number of congregations now rely on other sources of income, including rental of real estate, income from investments, bequests, and contributions from non-members.

A third consequence: more congregations are now more aggressive in explaining what it costs to operate their ministries.

A fourth consequence: John Walker now writes a check for \$75 when he and Dorothy are traveling and worshiping with other congregations.

Shalom, Pastor Paula