

**NUMC**  
**9650**  
**RESEDA**  
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**NORTHRIDGE**  
**CALIFORNIA**  
**91324**

**BISHOP MARY ANN SWENSON**  
**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT CATHLEEN COOTS**  
**REV. DR. PAULA FERRIS**  
**REV. JOY PRICE**

# THE METHODIST

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OFFICE: (818) 886-1555

FAX: (818) 886-9105

[WWW.NORTHRIDGEUMC.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHRIDGEUMC.ORG)

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL: (818) 886-4949

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 & 10:30 AM

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

## It's a Spooktacular Show!



GEMboree is coming again to NUMC on Friday, October 27, 3-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show is FREE with lots of fun and educational activities that appeal to all ages. There will also be Free valuable door prizes.

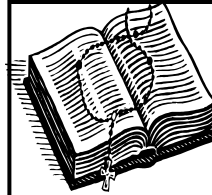
Start celebrating Halloween early by walking into the HAUNTED MINE where your eyes and ears play tricks on you! See the weird, glowing rocks change color and ghostly sounds jump at you in the dark.

Demonstrators will show you how to fashion jewelry, and dealers will be offering all kinds of unusual and special holiday gifts.



Touch and feel some rocks and fossils and learn how to identify them. Visit the exhibits, have a geode of your choice sliced in half, play games, take advantage of plant sales.

Plan to eat while you're there, with hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, pie and drinks to choose from.

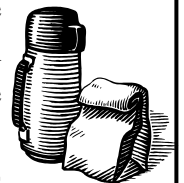


## Wednesday Lunch Bunch

### New Noon Bible Study Explores 1st Corinthians

Join Dr. Paula Ferris, senior pastor, and Dr. James Goss, Scholar In-Residence and retired chair of Religious Studies Dept. at CSUN, for an 8-week lunch time exploration of First Corinthians beginning October 25th.

Bring your own lunch, your own Bible and a friend to the Library, at noon on Wednesdays. This experience is open to the community.



The class promises to be challenging (it's about how the church should be the church in a difficult world) and fun (after all, it's Jim and Paula!).

If you can join us, it will be great. Class will run for 90 minutes, but if you can only get an hour off work, come anyway! Our last meeting will be December 13th.

FROM THE



**PASTOR**

## Why & How Churches Grow Is Up to Us

Occasionally (very occasionally!) I clean out my file drawers. Last week, as I cleaned out a few files, I discovered some notes I had taken a couple of years ago at a seminar, sponsored by the Conference Board of Congregational Development, with nationally respected church growth expert, Jim Griffin.

I remembered the vigor of his presentation and the enthusiasm and force with which he addressed us. Then I read my notes. He said, "Do you really want to have

people in your 'family'?" I remember perking up my ears as he continued.

"Do you know why people come to church?" he asked. Actually, I did know that 75% of new church members come to a church because of personal invitation from a friend or acquaintance. "Because they're asked!" he exclaimed. (Two points for me.)

"Do you know why they stay?" he asked. "Because of the great preaching," I thought. "Because they feel 'friended'!" he exclaimed. (Minus two points for me.)

*Continued on Page 3*

## Church and Society Team Sponsors Christmas Card Drive for Military

The Church and Society Team is sponsoring a drive for Christmas cards for military personnel. Donations need to be received before November 5th so the cards will reach the recipients in time for Christmas.



Bring a box, or two, of signed Christmas cards, which should include a positive message of support. The cards can be secular or religious, but they should be unsealed and unstamped. Include an address or e-mail address if you don't mind a response. Bring these wonderful cards to the box (decorated as a gift) in the coffee reception area after both church services on October 28th and November 4th.

We will be donating the cards through Soldiers Angels ([www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org)), but would like to include anyone in the military who is connected to the church.

If you know of someone in the service (even if their unit is not currently overseas), please contact Teresa Priem so we can include their unit.

## UMWomen Plan Cal-Pac Events

District United Methodist Women Officer Training will be held on Friday, October 27, with the Annual UMW meeting celebration on Saturday, October 28.

Both events will be held at Wilshire United Methodist Church, Los Angeles. The meeting's theme will be *Bringing in the Peace*, with the keynote speaker, the Rev. Sandra Olewine. The registrar is Helen McVey and registration is available on the Cal-Pac UMW Web site: [www.calpacumw.org](http://www.calpacumw.org).

Attendees are asked to wear black or dark shoes to show solidarity with those whose footsteps are working for peace.



## Blood Drives Scheduled at NUMC

Those of you who would normally give your blood at our NUMC Red Cross blood drive in December, please give at the Boy Scouts blood drive on Nov. 10, from Noon to 9 PM in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to donate at the information table, after services on Sunday.

The December Blood Drive will be rescheduled for the end of February.



Prayers of healing for: **Betty Adams** (Nancy Easterly's mother who had hip surgery); **Jennifer Boss** (friend of Jack & Sherry Kister); **Luisa Burkes**; **Mike Gaba and family** (Sue Hollahan's son-in-law); **Ruby Freark** (now in a care center near her daughter's home in Tehachapi); **Ruth McGinnis** (Frank and Freddie Lu McGinnis' daughter); **John Landon**; **Ruth Scheppers** (recovering from shoulder surgery); **Bishop Mary Ann Swenson** (recovering from surgery at home).

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Michael and Nancy Easterly** on the birth of their new granddaughter, Lillian Jane King, born October 4th. The proud parents are Kimberly and Mike King in San Diego.

## In Gratitude

We extend our sincere thanks to our church family and friends for the many prayers and good wishes we received following Anne's recent knee surgery and our son Michael's traffic accident. We could not have gotten through these crises without everyone's support. You carried us through and we are most grateful. Both Anne and Michael are now recovering and hope to greet you soon. With Love, **Anne & Martin Early**



## Usher Team Meets Everyone

Volunteers are needed to usher on one of our usher teams, once a month, for either the 9 or 10:30 AM service.

This is a great way to get acquainted with your fellow worshippers. Anyone interested in helping please contact Ken or Joanne Buttrey.

## Group Offers Support & Healing

If you have experienced a deep loss, you are welcome to the Grief Healing Support Group meeting every Sunday, from noon to 1 PM, in the Library.

Grief comes in many forms, whether a loved one has died, you or a loved one has a serious illness, divorce, or any other trauma, you are welcome at any time.

Call the church office for more information.

FROM THE



PASTOR

## Why & How Churches Grow Is Up to Us

*Continued from Page 1...*

He then went on to ask some pointed questions of the lay people in the audience. (I was off the hook for the moment.) “Do you talk about your spiritual life to your friends, family, acquaintances?” he inquired. “Do you invite people into your spiritual world? Do you make friends?”

Then he got really meddlesome, “When did you last have a spiritual conversation?” he pushed, “When did you last make a new friend?”

Then he all but yelled, “Come on, say it out loud, ‘I don’t want new friends and I don’t want new people at my church. I just want the church to be big and full of people I already know and who honor and respect and love me.’”

“Yipes!” I thought, “That gets to the heart of the matter, doesn’t it?”

I know that every member of our church wants the church to grow. Some of us want the church to grow because we think it will improve our financial stability. Some of us want the church to grow because it affirms us and our choices. But, I know that lots of us want the church to grow because we love God and we want others to know the joy of a life lived in the love of God.

A growing church is a church where the friends and members of the church are living the love of God right out loud and people are being touched and transformed. We want to be that kind of place.

So, next time you are in church, greet someone new to you by saying, “I don’t think I know you, my name

is...” You may find a new friend! Share just a little of how God is at work in your life to strengthen, guide or comfort you and then listen to the other person share.

That’s all it takes to have a spiritual conversation and make a new friend.

Try it at the car wash. You’d be surprised at how willing most people are, in ordinary conversation, to share with you their spiritual experiences. Just listening can be fascinating. And, of course, the more you listen, the more fascinating you will appear to be, too!

But, it takes all of us doing this together as the Body of Christ. If you’re hanging back waiting for someone “braver” or “more outgoing” than you to do this job, your spiritual life WILL languish and the spiritual condition of our faith family WILL languish.

In the coming weeks, I’ll be presenting a little “Newsletter seminar” in the pages of The Methodist called, “What To Say After ‘Hello’.” You won’t have to come to a class or make an appointment or pay a fee—it will just be in these pages for you.

I have heard from several of our members of the many different ways that this congregation has been taught and encouraged over the years to meet, greet, invite, welcome and love the people of our community and one another. I’m inspired by so many of you whose love just overflows onto those around you. I join the long line of previous pastors and lay leaders in reminding you, once again, to open your spiritual lives to conversation and relationship for your own renewal and the renewal of this faith community and its mission.

*Shalom, Pastor Paula*



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## Civil Grand Jury Seeks Citizens Who ‘Make a Difference’

Would you like to make a difference? The Los Angeles County and Superior Court are currently seeking qualified citizens who may be interested in applying for the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury.

The deadline for volunteer applications to be part of the 2007-2008 Civil Grand Jury is December 14. Application packets can be obtained by calling or writing to: Los Angeles County Grand Jury, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 West Temple Street, 11th Floor, Room 11-506, Los Angeles, CA 90012, phone (213) 893-1047 or fax (213) 229-2595. For forms online: <http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/jury/>

Applicants who are ready to take the challenge will be willing to volunteer 30 to 40 hours per week. The primary function of the Civil Grand Jury is to investigate county, city and joint-power agencies and act as a “watch-dog” by examining carefully and completely the operations of various government agencies within Los Angeles County.

Qualified applicants will be a citizen of the United States; at least 18 years of age; a resident of Los Angeles County for at least one year; of ordinary intelligence and good character and; have working knowledge of the English language.

## Open Minds

### Book Club Meeting Planned

We will meet in the home of Dorine Collins at 7:30 PM on Monday, October 23rd to discuss John Borendt's book *The City of Falling Angels*. Call her if you would like to attend.



November's book will be *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

### New You Fellowship Planned

The New You will meet at 7:30 PM, Monday, November 6th at the home of Harriett Anglea. All women of the church are welcome to this fellowship.

For further information, please call Barbara Hamilton or JoAnn DeSantis. We hope you will join us.

### Propositions Discussion Planned



Sandra Wolber from the League of Women Voters will be at NUMC on Sunday, October 29th, at noon, in the Fellowship Hall (right after second service coffee time) to discuss the propositions on the November 7th ballot.

There are 13 propositions on the ballot, five of them are bond initiatives. The propositions will effect many issues: punishment for sex offenders, parental notification needed for termination of teenage pregnancy, taxes on cigarettes, clean money election campaigns, a tax to help fund K-12 education, a tax on producers of oil extracted in California, government acquisition and regulation of private property and more. These are all important and it is imperative for us to know the particulars of these initiatives so we can be educated voters.

Those who vote via absentee ballot have until October 31st to submit their ballots. This discussion is an opportune time for everyone who plans to vote. Please join us.

### Prop 89 Discussion Helps Inform Voters

There will be a discussion of Proposition 89 at 7 PM, Wednesday, November 1st, in the Kendall Building.

The discussion will cover how publicly financed elections work from both the national and state perspective. With all the advertising regarding PROP 89, the Clean Money and Fair Elections Initiative, it's hard to know just what is included in this complicated ballot proposition. Join us for this informative meeting.



**Dinner Bridge**  
**Sat., Nov. 11th – 5:30 PM**  
**in Fellowship Hall**

For reservations, please call one of our co-hosts, Marge Douglas or Joanne and Ken Buttrey by Tuesday, November 7th.

Dinner Bridge will be held in private homes in December 2006 and January 2007. We will return to Fellowship Hall in February 2007.

### Combatants for Peace to Speak

Combatants for Peace is a group of Israeli and Palestinian individuals who were actively involved in the cycle of violence in their area. Come and hear this important message for all on Sunday, October 29 from 3 to 5 PM in the Sanctuary.

Acknowledging the futility of war they no longer believe that the conflict can be resolved through violence. These former Israeli and Palestinian fighters talk about how dialogue, not war, will solve the Middle East crisis.

The speakers are Yonatan Shapira, a former Israeli Defense Forces pilot who refused to participate in what he deemed as acts of aggression against civilians.

Bassam Aramin is a former member of the Fatah movement who has also rejected the option to violence and works to foster discussion and dialogue towards peaceful nonviolent resolutions.

This event is co-sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee of Valley Interfaith Council and the NUMC Church and Society Team.

### Congregational Needs

**MAGAZINES WANTED:** The Church and Society Team is looking for donations of current magazines. Others will enjoy reading what you have enjoyed. Please bring your donations to the magazine table on the patio on Sunday mornings. Thank You.

### Borrowed Wheelchair Missing?

If anyone borrowed a wheelchair from the church, and you have no more use of it, please return it to the church so it can be made available for others.

## Electronic Giving Made Easy

Save time, simplify your life, and support our church! We're keeping up with the times by offering our church family and friends a new way to fund the ministries of NUMC. Our new Electronic Giving program is an automated program that will allow you to make contributions without having to lift a pen to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash!

### Here's how it works:

You authorize a specified amount of money to be electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church account. You also specify the frequency of transfer: weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly.

It is fast, safe, and easy! It is less risky than checks, as it cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed, and the rate of accuracy is high. The electronic transfer will cost you **NOTHING** and you save the cost of the check. The church will issue you a donation statement as usual for your tax records, and your bank statements will provide you with a record of transfer as additional proof of your contributions.

Please check out the enclosed application and return to the church office to begin your electronic funds transfer. Contact Dorrel if you have any questions at: dorrel@northridgeumc.org. Or, stop by the Electronic Giving table after worship.



## UMW Boutique Set for November 4th

The Northridge United Methodist Women will hold their annual Fall Boutique from 9 AM to 2:30 PM on Saturday, November 4th.

The ladies work diligently all year to present their homemade holiday and home decorations, gifts, toys, baby items and recycled treasures. This is a perfect time to do some of your holiday shopping.

If you are hungry, there will be a luncheon menu of antipasto & meatball sandwiches and a bakery booth for purchasing fine baked goods. All proceeds will go to Mission Projects.



## NUMC Hosts CROP Walk

CROP Walk is a project of the interfaith arm of Church World Service in conjunction with the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council. 25% of the funds raised on November 5th will remain in the Valley, assisting Meals on Wheels and the Food Pantry programs.

Walkers from Northridge UMC collected over \$2,000 last year. Will you help? Sign up to walk, sponsor a walker, or volunteer to help host the event here at Northridge, UMC. Stop by the CROP Walk table on Sunday or contact Barbara Shields.

*Your Church and Society Team*

### Ministry Funding Report January – September 2006

Income	
Giving	\$ 381,364.61
Facility Use	54,260.13
Miscellaneous	<u>1,233.85</u>
Total Income	\$ 436,858.59
Expenses	
Apportionments	\$ 72,505.58
Ministerial	122,179.49
Administration	90,265.74
Facility	122,448.77
Choirs/Music	61,903.40
Hospitality	2,263.29
Adult/Youth/Children	15,791.25
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 487,357.52</u>
Difference	<u>\$ (50,498.93)</u>

## Bowling League Meets Wednesdays

Come join us at 9 a.m. on Wednesday mornings at the Matador Bowl and enjoy a group committed to fun and companionship... with a little bowling thrown in for good measure. Even if you have never bowled before, this is the group for you. We are a non-sanctioned league. (This means we make up our own rules.)



We bowl three games and are through about 11:30 a.m. Our league began in mid September and ends the middle of May, 2007. We do not bowl the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you are interested, please call Joann DeSantis.

## 2007 Entertainment Books Available



The 2007 Entertainment Books are here! They will be offered for sale after church services on Sunday mornings. Help support our Youth Group and start saving on your entertainment costs today!

# MISSION Voices

Most of us spend the Christmas season shopping, writing cards, decorating the Christmas tree, and eating some delicious food. We never face a grim Christmas in which we might not have a roof over our heads or little food to eat. We have problems, but not like those who have little hope for the future.



Christmas is a time of giving and a time to remember the true meaning of Christmas. We have some generous people in our congregation who always remember the less fortunate.

Is Christmas time just a time to be giving to our family and friends, or is it also a time to be giving to those in need? We are so fortunate not to face some of the difficult problems that some people face each day. Gift to the World tries to help by giving support to those people. Will you help?

Here is your opportunity to help many people in different ways. In the coming weeks you will receive a "Gift to the World" list of deserving charities that you may contribute to in the name of a loved one. An acknowledgment of this gift will be sent to that person. If you wish, you may contribute to a charity with no acknowledgment to be sent.

In future issues of the Methodist we will discuss many of these fine charities.

*In His Service,  
Peggy Howard*

### O Heavenly Father

We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.  
We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.  
We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.  
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.  
May these remembrances stir us to service.  
That these gifts to us may be used for others.

Amen

## Lay Speakers Advance Course Offered

The Santa Barbara District will hold Lay Speaker classes at the United Methodist Church of Westlake Village on November 4, 11 and 18 from 9 AM to 12 noon. Both a basic and an advance course will be taught.

The course fee is \$35 per person. For a registration form go to [www.cal-pac.org/santabarbara](http://www.cal-pac.org/santabarbara) and click on "News."



## Singles to Attend Theatre

Are you an active single looking for some fun and company on a weekend afternoon or evening? Join the gang here at NUMC. Our next outing is for dinner and the theater on Saturday, October 28th.

Join us for a bite to eat at Carrows on Devonshire at 5:30 PM. Then we're off to see "On the Verge" at Theatre CSUN. "On the Verge" is a comic jaunt through time, space, history, geography, feminism and fashion. Three Victorian ladies venture out for deepest Africa but end up confronting Cool Whip, TV dinners, and the future of the world. The play will be held at the CSUN Studio Theatre beginning at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$16 for General Admission and \$14 for Seniors.

Sign up at the Singles Table on Sunday mornings or call the church office. You are always welcome to bring a friend to these exciting events!

### At-A-Glance for Everyone

#### October-November

- October 23... **Methodist Money Makers** — @ 7 PM in Library
- October 24... **Team Leader Huddle** — @ 7:30 PM in Kendall Bldg.
- October 25... **Noon Bible Study** @ Noon in Library
- October 27... **Del Air Rockhounds, Inc. — GEMBoree** From 3 PM to 9:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
- October 28... **Del Air Rockhounds, Inc. — GEMBoree** From 10 AM to 5 PM in Fellowship Hall  
**Singles Ministry** @ 1 PM in Parking Lot
- October 29... **League of Women Voters Discussion of Ballot Propositions** @ Noon in Fellowship Hall  
**Combatants for Peace** @ 3 PM in Sanctuary
- November 1... **Soul Food** @ 6 PM in Fellowship Hall  
**Prop 89 Discussion** @ 7 PM in Kendall Bldg.
- Tuesdays*... **Cracker Barrel** — @ 10 AM in Library  
**Senior Exercise Program** — @ 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesdays*... **Weekday Maintenance Volunteers** — @ 8:30 AM in Church Office  
**Children & Youth Handbell Rehearsal** — @ 4:30 & 5:30 PM in Room 5 & 6  
**Celebration Ringers Rehearsal** — @ 7:30 PM in Room 5 & 6
- Fridays*... **Cracker Barrel** — @ 10 AM in Library
- Sundays* ...**Book Study** — @ 8:00 AM in Library  
**Worship Services** — @ **9:00 & 10:30 AM**  
**Grief Healing Support Group** — @ Noon in Library  
**Young Adults** — @ 7 PM in Room 4  
**Taizé, Service of Prayer,** — @ **6:30 PM**  
**on 4th Sunday of each month.**  
**Childcare available at all services.**

### UMCOR Aids in Sri Lankan Conflict

The resurgence of conflict in Sri Lanka between the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has placed UMCOR and the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka in the unique position to be first responders in a humanitarian crisis that grows more severe by the day. Fighting broke out in early August in Trincomalee District where UMCOR has been working in tsunami recovery. UMCOR and MCSL workers set aside their tsunami work and immediately began helping the tens of thousands of civilians fleeing the fighting. UMCOR is working alongside another organization in the area, Muslim Aid, and in the initial days of the conflict they were among the few agencies able to provide assistance.

UMCOR's aid station in Kantale where approximately 50,000 people are seeking refuge has provided medical treatment to thousands, distributed water, clothing, and hygiene kits. UMCOR, MCSL and Muslim Aid are also providing organizational support for some 20 refugee camps in the area.

Please pray for a peaceful resolution to this conflict and for the safety of the aid workers there. Your gifts to UMCOR Advance #982450, International Disaster Response, Sri Lanka, support these efforts

### Your Apportionment Funds

Do you know we reach around the globe through the [World Service Fund](#) which supports our missionaries, evangelists, community workers, chaplains, boards, and agencies?

Do you know the [Africa University Fund](#) supports the University's campus, faculty, and gives financial aid to students from 21 countries? Africa University is a beacon of hope, providing a foundation for shaping leaders for today and tomorrow.

Do you know the [Black College Fund](#) contributes to eleven colleges and universities in this country developing leaders in the African-American community and around the world?

Do you know that Claremont School of Theology receives funds through the [Ministerial Education Fund](#) along with twelve other seminaries in the US? Its scholarships help people answer God's call to ministry with advanced education.

Do you know the [Episcopal Fund](#) pays the expenses of 68 active bishops and supports 135 retired bishops and surviving spouses in the US, and Central Conferences in Europe, Africa and the Philippines

Do you know the [General Administration Fund](#) supports the Judicial Council, fiscal oversight of the Church and maintains historical sites and documents?

Do you know the [Interdenominational Cooperation Fund](#) sustains out ecumenical and interfaith ministries around the world? As we converse and cooperate with other believers, we witness to all that the Church is one Body.

Do you know work is being done in our district through [Block Grants](#) to the Simi Valley Caring Center, the North Valley Caring Services, and the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council?

Do you know that you are giving to all these important ministries through your annual [Apportionments](#)?



### Farmers Improve Crops in Liberia

This past spring the Farmer-to-Farmer Field School took place in Nimba County, Liberia. It's a unique way that UMCOR helps farmers improve their health, crops, and livelihoods. Fifty-eight farmers, more than half women, met for 18 weeks, or an entire growing season, to learn how to grow crops more effectively using fewer chemicals than they would normally use. They experimented with different growing techniques by planting test plots and trying out different chemicals and organic methods. The farmers also used this time to network and share experiences. The test plots gave the farmers the opportunity to conduct their own field studies for the first time in their lives. They were excited about being "researchers" in spite of their low levels of education.

UMCOR sponsors field schools like this one in Ghana, Liberia, and Democratic Republic of Congo. Your gifts to Sustainable Agriculture and Development, UMCOR