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DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT CATHLEEN COOTS
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SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Consecration Sunday Plans Include Everyone

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We also urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to com-

plete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Karen Soto-White, Lay Leader

Greg Taylor, Church Council Chair

Maury Neville, Vision Team Leader

Dorine & John Collins, Co-Chairpersons

Consecration Sunday Committee

SAVE THE DATE!

Consecration Sunday

Is May 20, 2007

Worship Celebration at 9 AM

Brunch Celebration

at 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall

Worship Service 11 AM

Brunch Celebration

at Noon in Fellowship Hall

MISSION  **Voices**

Czech This Out

Forty per cent of the population of the Czech Republic is atheist, as a result of over forty years of communist domination. It appears that a whole generation of Christians was lost. At present however, Christianity is beginning a comeback but the road will be a long one. We should help. But, how can we? Here is the answer.

The IN MISSION TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM is designed to assist churches to engage in shared mission and ministry with a developing congregation or in the development of a relationship that could lead to a new congregation. It is a means for US churches to relate to existing Czech churches for:

- Friendship and culture exchange,
- Short-term mission team visits,
- Spiritual development and growth,
- Shared ministry,
- Needed support - financial and other.

Several partnering programs have already been established and the number continues to grow. They are operated under the auspices of the Evangelization and Church Growth office of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

This will be an enriching experience for all of us here at NUMC in many ways. We expect that all will want to be involved in one way or another.

We are currently forming a task force to bring it all together and have some fun doing so. Gordon Short, Judy Kolstad, Steve Wheatley and Bob Serrano are already on it. We would welcome you too.

Gordon's e-mail is apairofshorts@msn.com.



Dodger Tickets On Sale

Tickets to Dodgers baseball games are on sale in Fellowship Hall between services on Sunday.

Support NUMC fundraising. Remember, order early to get your reservations for the best games... and the best seats.



Articles Due For Next Newsletter

Articles for the May 14th issue of the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 4:30 PM, **Thursday, May 3rd.**



Prayers of healing for:

Bill Bowen; Bill Foster; Mike Gaba and family (Sue Hollahan's son-in-law); **John Hergesheimer; Lucille Hodges; Pat Johannesen; Karen and Karlyn Kraft; Herb McKenley; Rev. Sunny Pak's mother; Ileene Parker; Joe & Roz Rosen; Mary Jane Rotella** (at Tarzana Rehabilitation Center); **Joe Sands; Bill Scheppers; John Slater; Junior Spencer.**

Congratulations to Margie Wilson on her 93rd birthday, April 21st.

Taizé

(Service of Chant and Meditation)

6:30 PM- Sanctuary



Our Taizé Service for May is being held on the fourth Sunday, May 27, 2007. Please join us for a service of silence, candlelight and simple repeated melodies from the Taizé community in France.

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.

Child care is available.

Opportunities for Recycling



Your empty printer cartridges and old cell phones can be recycled into donations for the church. NUMC can receive cash for those empty printer cartridges and outdated cell phones.



We have placed boxes in the church library where your empty ink cartridges (any kind — black or color — all brands) and old cell phones can be deposited.

Thank you, in advance, for your contributions!

2007 Entertainment Books Available



We still have a few 2007 Entertainment Books available in the church office. Help support our Youth Group and start saving on your entertainment costs today!

Gift to the World Needs Leadership

Christmas is a time of giving and a time to remember the true meaning of the holiday. Each Christmas "Gift to the World" has a list of deserving charities to which individuals may contribute.

The "Gift to the World" list extends a hand to those who are in great need. Many of our members have contributed to this wonderful project, giving protection to victims of society and support to those who are trying to build better lives for themselves through self-help.

In our lifetime, we have opportunities to be helpful and generous, to make a difference. This may be your chance to help many people in different ways. You will gain a feeling of fulfillment and know how you are making a difference.

The Missions Work Area is looking for someone to lead the Gift to the World project. Are you willing to give your time being a part of the "real" Christmas?

"Somehow, not only for Christmas,
but all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
is the joy that comes back to you,
And the more you spend in blessing
the poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing,
returns to you glad."

— John Greenleaf Whittier

In 2006, \$5,030 was contributed to Gift to the World. It would be a shame if we had to discontinue this wonderful project due to a lack of leadership. Those interested can call Steve Wheatley, or Warren and Peggy Howard.



Feed Your Mind With Books

Join us on May 28th when we discuss "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen. Jean Thompson will host the meeting at 7 PM in her home. You may call her if you would like to attend.

New Preschoolers Sunday School Offered

We are pleased to announce a new class for preschoolers every Sunday during the 11 AM service. The class uses traditional Cokesbury curriculum designed for children ages 3 to 5 years old. Faith stories, friendship and fun are offered by Mrs. Danita Heathington, the class teacher, in Room 9. Come on by and check it out!

Sunday School News

I missed you all Easter Sunday and as I sat in church in Morro Bay, I thought of Northridge UMC! I hope everyone had a happy morning celebrating our Risen Lord.

I would like to thank all the people that helped make all the Easter Activities happen.

Charlotte Blum, Chuck Mortensen, Valerie and Ariel Hunter, Lacey and Micaela Withers, Nancy and Trish Leverage, Renee Congdon, Julie Mosley, Tina Gilmore, Robyn Peterson, Elizabeth Andersen and Danita Heathington. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. If you helped at the Sunday school on Easter morning...Thank YOU! I hear the children had a wonderful time and that it was a beautiful day. Again, thank you to all who made Easter Sunday a special day for the children.

We are always looking for people who love children to lead Sunday school. Perhaps you would like to try out your teaching skills this summer? If you're interested in getting to know some really terrific kids, please sign up to teach this summer at the "Got Kids" booth. I will contact you with more information.

In His Service,
Katie Soukup

A Letter From Katie...

My Fellow Congregants,

I joined this church 15 years ago and I've been teaching Sunday school the entire time. Before I knew it, Mark Ulrickson asked if I would apply for the Sunday School Director's job. After prayerful consideration I said yes. Now it's time again to reconsider what God has in store for me. And after much prayer I have decided to resign as of June 11, 2007. I'm not leaving the church, I'll probably still continue to teach, but for me, personally I need to let go of these responsibilities.

What calls me are my children (especially my college boy who lives 7 hours away), my elderly parents, and my husband. We need more time for each other.

This was a very difficult decision for me to make. I LOVE the kids of this church. They are so smart and funny. And they have given me so much. The teachers, the ministers, the office staff, have been so helpful and supportive. It's just time for me to move on.

I hope you all will pray for the children of this church and that you will consider becoming part of Children's Ministries. They need you. And I know that you will learn, as I have, that we need them.

God Bless You All,
Katie Soukup

Celebrating Congregations

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Those lines come from an American folk tune, and to our congregation, "Were you there to celebrate His resurrection?" A good many of us did attend one of the three Easter services to be present and to be reminded what our Christian faith is all about. We wished to share in the joy of the living Christ.

For those of you who were in attendance, did you also sense the energy and the dynamic force that is generated by the gathering of numbers of like-minded folk who have come together on a particular Sunday morning in expression of their belief in the Christian ethos?

We could all join together in our appreciation of the planning, the preparation, and the presentation of the service that morning from sunrise to midday. There was the walk through beauty of the campus to arrive in the splendor of the sanctuary. There was vocal and instrumental music. There was breakfast fare. There was a sermon to heighten our spirit, there were families to sharing in the tradition of the day, there were many in their Easter finery, and there was the good feeling of greeting friends and neighbors. Was there a Christian spirit that Sunday? Oh yes, and Amen.

Now then, let us build on the joys and sense of belonging to something greater in our lives as we continue to support our church through our weekly attendance. What we experience on Easter Sunday on that special day is available each and every Sunday if we but make that spiritual uplift a part of daily living. To think of our church with growing participation in the many activities and in the Sunday services... "Oh, Sometimes it causes me to tremble."

Charles Mortensen,
for the Membership Team

Choir Needs Helping Hands



You can join the choir even if you don't sing. The choir needs many helping hands to complete its missions. Let us know what you like to do. We have tasks waiting to be identified.



If you would like to volunteer in this ministry, leave a message in the church office or call Peggy Walters or Larry Jarvis.



Evening of Fellowship Offered

The next meeting of The New You will be held at 7:30 PM, Monday, May 7th, at the home of Margie Douglas.

Our meetings are open to all women of the church and we invite you to join us for fellowship. For more information, please call Barbara Hamilton, Joann DeSantis or the church office.

Join us for fun and fellowship.



Dinner Bridge
Sat., May 12 – 5:30 PM
Change of Venue

This month's Dinner Bridge will be held at the home of Virginia Jackson. For reservations, please call one of our co-hosts, Edith Berry and Margie Douglas by Tuesday, May 8th.

Family Camp Goes "To the Woods"

Remember Family Camp! This year Family Camp is the first weekend in June, at the United Methodist Camp in Wrightwood. It is a great time to relax, enjoy the forest and be at fellowship with family and friends.

Registration is being taken at our table in Fellowship Hall during coffee time. Reserve your space early for this wonderful weekend with your family in the mountains. Cost for camp, including all meals and lodging, is \$5 for children 3-years-old and younger, \$50 for children ages 4 to 12-years-old and \$70 for ages 13 to adult.

For more information call Elizabeth Andersen, Sharon Elkins, Patti Sciortino or the Church Office.

Women Plan "Magic" Summer Luncheon

The Northridge United Methodist Women will present "The Magic of Summer" from 11 AM to 2 PM, Saturday, June 30, 2007, in Fellowship Hall.

Get your tickets early for this fun-filled afternoon. The River Oaks Chapter of Sweet Adelines and the Pipes and Drums from Granada Hills High School will provide the entertainment.

Tickets are \$15 per person with all proceeds going to support North Valley Caring Services. Jean Thompson and Margie Douglas are selling tickets with Della Brown serving as committee chairperson. Please let the church office know if baby sitting services are needed.

Open Doors

May 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Schedule of Events

- 1 Church & Society Movie Night at 7 PM in Kendall Building
SPPR at 7:30 PM in Library
- 2 Soul Food at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall
"Living the Questions" class at 7 PM in Library
- 5 & 6 Confirmation Weekend
- 8 Caring Ministries at 4 PM in Library
Dinner Bridge at 5:30 PM — Venue Changed
See "Dinner Bridge" on Page 4
- 9 "Living the Questions" class at 7 PM in Library
Celebrations Ministries at 7:30 PM in Room 5/6
- 14 Missions Team Meeting at 7:30 PM in Kendall Building
- 15 Trustees Meeting at 7 PM in Kendall Building
Finance Meeting at 7:30 PM in Library
- 20 **CONSECRATION SUNDAY**
Celebration Service at 9 AM
Celebration Brunch at 10:15 AM in Fellowship Hall
Family Camp Meeting at 10:15 AM in Kendall Building
Celebration Service at 11 AM
Celebration Brunch at Noon in Fellowship Hall
- 19 Men's Club Breakfast at 8 AM in Fellowship Hall
Vision Team Meeting from 9 to 11 AM in Library
- 21 Church & Society Team Meeting
in Kendall Building
- 22 Caring Ministries at 4 PM in Library
Team Leader Huddle at 7:30 PM in Library
- 27 Family Camp Meeting at 10:15 AM in Library
Celebration Ministries Quarterly Meeting
at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
Taizè, Service of Prayer, at 6:30 PM in Sanctuary

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Tuesdays:		
Cracker Barrel	10:00 AM	Library
Sr. Exercise Class	11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays:		
Maintenance Volunteers	8:30 AM	Church Office
WORMS	9:30 AM	Kendall Bldg.
Thursday:		
Youth Choir	5:00 PM	Sanctuary
Chancel Choir	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Fridays:		
Cracker Barrel	10:00 AM	Library
Sundays:		
Adult Study	8:00 AM	Library
Sunday School & Nursery	9 & 11 AM	
Grief Healing Support Group	11:00 AM	Library

United Methodist Women

UMW
Prayer Chain
Hearts & Hands

Contact Person
Pat Small
Ruth Sanders
Betty Kinzy

May 2007 ACTIVITIES

WEEKLY:

Mondays 9 AM Arts & Crafts in Kendall Bldg Phyllis Nelson
Wednesdays 9 AM Bowling at Matador Bowl Joann DeSantis
For May only: 2nd, 9th and 16th only.

MONTHLY:

1 Tuesday at 10 AM Magpies Bridge Jean Thompson
7 Monday at 7:30 PM New You Barbara Hamilton
14 Monday at 12 PM Ex. Board Meeting in Kendall Bldg.
15 Tuesday at 11:30 AM Fellowship Luncheon in Kendall Bldg.
(SALAD BAR LUNCHEON — Bring a salad to share.)
22 Tuesday at 10 AM Bluejays Bridge Pearl Adams
25 Friday at 1:30 PM Friday Lunch Bunch Win Wheatley

On-Going Support Groups

Sundays: Narcotics Anonymous at 7 PM in Fireside Room
Mondays: AA (Women) at 6 PM in Fireside Room
Alanon at 8 PM in Room 5/6
Tuesdays: Alanon at 10 AM in Fireside Room
Wednesdays: TOPS at 6 PM in Fireside Room
Thursdays: AA at 7 PM in Fireside Room
Fridays: Alanon at 12:30 PM in Fireside Room
Boy Scouts - Troop 911: Tuesdays 7 PM in Fellowship Hall
Call John Orlick at 818-886-6229
Cub Scouts - Call Scott Anthony at 818-268-4762
Girl Scouts - Call Nancy Leverage at 818-368-4844