



FINE LINES *Notes from Pastor Pam*

Dear ones,

I am writing to you from our Annual Conference in Sacramento. For those of you who don't know what that is, it is the gathering (the *annual* gathering) of the clergy and representatives of all our churches in Northern California and Nevada (about 1,000 of us) where we ... well, we do a whole bunch of stuff. We reunite with our church friends. We review what we've done together over the previous year in our churches, and in our boards and agencies, and in the world. We make plans for the year(s) to come. We say good-bye to retiring clergy, and witness the ordination of new ones. We do a lot of business (budgets, disposition of property, reorganizing our structure, fixing the appointments of our clergy ... and more). And we worship.

Oh, how I wish you were all here with me!

Why? It is such a fundamental aspect of being a United Methodist Church to understand that our church is not simply those of us who gather at that lovely spot in Aptos. For all major intents and purposes, our church *is* the Annual Conference – and we at Aptos are simply a part of it. (Think of it like a franchise) As a practical matter, decisions are made at this annual gathering that very directly affect our life in Aptos. How much should our

apportionments be? How much will your pastor be paid? Will we – as the church – make public statements in favor of, or opposing, such matters as gay rights or war.

But more importantly, when we gather in this large a group, when we sing together, and pray together, when we hear one another's stories and concerns and dreams, we see ourselves for who we are – an organization, yes, but also – as John Wesley intended – a movement with the intention and the capacity to “spread scriptural holiness across the land.” The concern of our church is not simply the spirits of those we love in Aptos, but those we love all across California and Nevada ... and all across the world.

For me, it is so inspiring. We are a human – and therefore fallible – organization, this United Methodist Church (and this Conference). And yet, in a gathering like this it is so much more possible to recognize that we as a church *are* responding to Jesus' commandment to make disciples of *all* the nations. That we *are* making a difference in the lives of people everywhere. We *are* changing the world, one life, one community at a time.

Oh how I do wish you could be here with me! Maybe next time?



THREE SIMPLE RULES



Pastor Pam will offer a short study during the summer on a little book called *Three Simple Rules*: a book more on our practice of Christianity than on history, or theology. The class will be four weeks long, starting Tuesday, June 29th, and finishing on Tuesday, July 20th: 5:30 – 7:00 PM. The book will cost \$5. Please let Pastor Pam know as soon as possible if you would like to join in.

Disaster Preparedness Program Synopsis

prepared from Steve Green's comments to UMM

We had a terrific potluck program with Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Red Cross speakers and great enthusiasm from about 50 people in attendance, including several neighbors. I asked all in attendance to fill out a feedback/future interest form and more than 30 participants responded. While I need some time to review this information in depth, I can say that about 15 to 20 folks want to participate in the Disaster Preparedness Team, 20 want more information on contacting or joining a neighborhood CERT, and 15 to 20 expressed interest in additional training. We had several church members ask for help, so we will need to organize some help teams later this summer.

We have a lot of raw positive energy, and we now need to ponder the next steps. Clearly we have a lot of interest beyond our core UMM team. I believe we may need a Disaster Prep Steering Committee of several in UMM with the church willing to take leadership to organize and capture the volunteer spirit. PLEASE BE THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU CAN JUMP IN TO COORDINATE A PIECE OF THIS PROJECT. I will stay involved and do one or more of the coordinating tasks, but this project will only grow to its potential if others get fully involved in leading key project areas. A few of the possible project areas (if we have volunteers to lead an approved plan) include:

- Forming a steering committee which includes church-wide representatives from those interested.
- Encouraging the formation of a CERT in our neighborhood.
- Building a database from church records showing neighborhood clusters of our members.
- Developing calling trees, a buddy system or another process to check on members after a disaster.
- Organizing our 'help' teams to visit homes and help in disaster prep actions (only a few requests so far).
- Following-up coordination and information to connect interested members of our congregation with Red Cross training and CERT coordinators .
- Identifying someone to rev up information and interest in UMCOR/VIM and really keep the church informed and encourage participation.
- Do we have someone in the church who is or wants to become a certified Red Cross CPR/first aid instructor to do in-house classes?
- Do we need to organize another communication event in the Fall ? With neighbors? Hand out info kits at the rummage sale? After church one Sunday?



Wait! Don't Throw That Out!



Attention all you pack rats – as well as you compulsive cupboard-cleaners! We will be holding a Church Yard Sale and Rio del Mar Neighborhood Flea Market on Saturday, August 28th. (Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. With the final hour being \$1 per bag time.) The Yard Sale will be held in our courtyard, while slots in the parking lot will be rented to neighbors who would like to sell some of their own used goods (\$5 per slot). (And maybe some guys would like to barbecue??) Mark your calendars and keep your eyes and ears open for invitations to volunteer. But, in the meantime, hit those closets and garages – gather up the items you could donate to help the church. (Please do not give us the stained and chipped things you couldn't sell either.) Items cannot be stored at the church until Tuesday, August 24th, so please do not bring them before that date. If you have questions, please call Pastor Pam, Marcia Burns, or Vicki Wasson. And one last thing – tell your friends and neighbors!



The Power of Prayer

Please keep in your prayers this month: **Ken and Kathleen Cook for the loss of Ken's dad Gil, Netha & Jerry Thacker on the loss of their mom Jane, Hazel Smith's new premie twin grandbabies, Max & Sierra, Jane Hull Harvey, The family and friends of Mary Sparks, Suzanne McCourt on the loss of her mom, Ruth Briezy on the loss of her brother Joe, The Pearce's cousin Bill Casillas, Deb Eaton's friend Robin Rose, Bobby L's friend Amber, Margaret W's mom, Gary W's mom, Carol Frazier, Dossie Perkins, Peggy Roll.**

The Prayer Chain is an important part of our ministry, whose members pray for those in need throughout the week. If you would like to add a name to the list or to join this quiet yet powerful ministry, please contact the Church Office, 831-688-2210.

Worship in July



Sunday, July 4th
Communion
 Guest Preacher

Sunday, July 11th
 Text: Luke 10: 25-37
 Theme: The Good Samaritan Story

Sunday, July 18th
 Text: Luke 10: 38-42
 Theme: Discipleship

Sunday, July 25th
 Text: Luke 11: 1-13
 Theme: The Lord's Prayer



Worship in August

Sunday, August 1st
 Guest Preacher

Sunday, August 8th
 Guest Preacher

Sunday, August 15th
 Guest Preacher

Sunday, August 22nd
 Text: Luke 13: 10-17
 Theme: Freedom

Sunday, August 29th
 Text: Luke 14: 1, 7-14
 Theme: Radical Hospitality



July Birthdays

2 David Daley
 Dianne McElroy
 4 Austin Daich
 Pam Wood
 7 Connor Clark
 11 Cynthia Holladay
 14 Dick Allen
 17 Tracy Langhorne
 18 Pat Carr
 Debbie Eaton
 Jane Harvey
 David Vallelunga
 20 Shirley Isaac
 21 Peggy Kaysen
 22 Cathy Martin
 Mary Williamson
 23 Debbie Daich
 Galen Sampson
 26 Craig Clark
 27 Becca Beach
 Austin Eaton
 28 Jeane Kelley
 Evelyn Longanecker
 29 Josh McCourt
 Susan Weeks

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Anniversaries

5 Jim & Anne Young
 18 Don & Peggy Baldwin
 Ralph & Caroline Carney
 26 Glenn & Joyce Pearce

August Anniversaries

5 Jay & Marilyn Corsetto
 12 Craig & Colleen Clark
 13 Rob & Tracy Langhorne
 15 Gary & Margaret Williamson
 20 Patrick & Allison Kennedy
 Murray & Susie Lewis
 23 Pharis & Jane Harvey
 27 John & Susan Baird
 29 David & Deb Aaron

August Birthdays

1 Paula LaHue
 2 Holly Ota
 4 Deb Murphy
 6 Ken Cook
 10 Jared Fiorovich
 11 Julie Lewis
 14 June Dyer
 15 Melissa Favorite
 17 Nancy Moody
 18 Carolyn Collins
 21 Netha Thacker
 22 Alison McKenna
 Joyce Pearce
 Miriam Pike
 23 Rebecca Jot
 24 Jeff Favorite
 25 Bill Moore
 Roger Swenson
 26 Jeff Wood
 31 Gabe LaHue





Aptos Community United Methodist Church

“The Church Worth Finding”

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

Phone: (831) 688-2210

www.aptosumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM

Church School at 10:30 AM

Child Care Available 10:15 – 11:45 AM

Write-Start Backpack Project – Will You Help This Year?

WHEN: Saturday, August 14th, 2010, 9:00 AM until finished

WHAT: A backpack packing party!

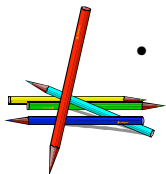
GOAL: to collect 100 new backpacks AND school supplies to fill them.

(Other items are needed as well, but our goal is to collect and fill 100 backpacks.)



This year the Christian Social Concerns Committee is dedicated to helping needy youth in our county. One way to do that is to participate again in the Write-Start Backpack Project for homeless and low-income students. Write-Start Backpack Project has supplied 18,500 backpacks to homeless & needy children since 1989, and our congregation has helped last year and in previous years.

Write-Start Backpack Project is the Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s annual campaign to supply homeless and needy children with backpacks filled with essential school supplies. Last year, through a partnership with Costco and thanks to community donations, they provided over 3,500 children with backpacks. This year the goal is to provide 4,000 backpacks. To make this possible, they are asking for donations of the following items:



- **New Backpacks:** Please purchase in dark, solid colors, medium or large sizes. Note: Royal blue or red backpacks cannot be accepted.

• **School Supplies**

We need NEW:

- two-inch ring binders
- binder paper
- colored pencils
- spiral notebooks
- pencils



- pens
- rulers
- 16 pack crayons
- calculators
- Spanish-English dictionaries



- **Santa Cruz Metro Bus Passes:** Children need transportation to school.
- **Gift Certificates:** We accept certificates for shoes or clothing — we do not have the facilities to accept used items.
- **Cash Donations:** Please make checks payable to SCCOE Students in Transition Program.

Please see Ruth Landmann for more information about when to bring the supplies prior to August 14th.