

The Mustard Seed

A monthly newsletter of St. John's United Methodist Church, Rohnert Park, CA

Issue 0610



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Music Appreciation
Sunday, June 13

Lunch immediately
following worship
service.

"Without music, life
would be a mistake."

-- Nietzsche



St. John's Hosting Food Pantry June 1

NOAH food pantry coordinators will meet at St. John's at 3:00 on June 1st. A business meeting to elect officers for coming year will follow at 3:30. Everyone is welcome to attend the general meeting at 3:30 p.m. We will be responsible for shopping and food distribution every Wednesday in June, a five Wednesday month. We will need many helpers to distribute the food from 4:00-6:00 every week. If you can help on any or all of these days, contact Barbara St. Marie or Herm Johnson. It is not necessary to work the entire two hours or every week; any help will be deeply appreciated.

Ordination

I am happy to announce that I will be ordained as an Elder in The United Methodist Church on June 19 at the Service of Commissioning and Ordination at Annual Conference. This event takes place each year at the Convention Center in Sacramento, as the culmination of Conference.

The ordination process began with a call to ministry and regular meetings with a mentor during 3 years of seminary. It continued in annual interviews and papers to write throughout 4 more years. Finally, the process has concluded with the Board of Ordained Ministry's vote to recommend to Clergy Session that I be ordained. I will meet with the Bishop and the other 8 ordinands on June 8 in retreat.

Bishops have been ordaining ministers in America since 1784 when The Methodist Episcopal Church formed. The "Christmas Conference" held at the Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland was the site of this first ordination in the new world, when 12 lay preachers were ordained, allowing them to administer the sacraments of baptism and holy communion. John Wesley had held that the "People Called Methodists" should not separate from the Church of England, but he finally conceded that because the Church of England did not serve Americans, the Methodists in these newly "united" States needed ordained preachers. This decision created a new denomination, today The United Methodist Church.

We are all ministers of the Gospel. My ordination sets me apart as committed to serve for life through the ministries of service, word, sacrament, and order. You won't notice any difference in me once I'm ordained, but officially I'll be a "Reverend." —Please still call me Heather!

Pastor Heather

June 2—7:00-8:00 pm Last Hymn Sing of the Season

June 2 we will sing Darlene Bradley's favorites! Darlene has faithfully accompanied our singing on the 1st Wed. of the month. Sometimes we have been a very small group, but we have sung lustily! This month we conclude with some more contemporary tunes. Come and enjoy the informality of singing just for fun!

SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH HONOR OUR PASTOR'S ORDINATION

On Saturday June 19th at 3:30 pm, our Pastor Heather Leslie Hammer will be ordained as an Elder and received into full membership in the California Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The service of worship and ordination is the final item on the agenda of this year's Annual Conference Session, and will be held in Hall A-B of the Sacramento Convention Center. Friends are invited to attend and several in our congregation have expressed interest in attending. Car-pooling is a possibility and persons interested in car-pooling are asked to contact Kathy Eastman, chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

This is an important event in the life of every pastor, and on Sunday, June 20th we will be honoring Heather following the Sunday Morning Worship Service. The SPR Committee has planned refreshments and the presentation of a gift as part of this celebration. Individuals and families wishing to contribute to the gift may do so on Sunday mornings (now until June 13) by giving their contributions to Kathy Eastman or El Hoffman. Contributions may also be sent to the church office. Please indicate the contribution is for the "Ordination gift." It is our hope that we can present Heather with a new robe and possibly a stole. Any contributions remaining after the purchase of the gift will be presented to Heather for use at her discretion.

Please share this announcement with your friends, and we look forward to Sunday June 20th as a special day in the life of our congregation as we honor our pastor.

May						
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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					

July							
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 30 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship	31 HOLIDAY- Office Closed	June 1 10 AM Morning Bible Study 7 PM Book Study w/ Louise	2 10 AM S Group @ Oakmont 7 PM Hymn Sing	3 7 PM S Group @ Jacksons	4 3:30 PM Bible Study @ Merrill Gardens	5 11 am-4 pm Car Show
6 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM MarketPlace	7 7 PM Fellowship Meeting	8 10 AM Morning Bible Study 7 PM Book Study w/ Louise	9 10 AM S Group @ Oakmont 7 PM UMW Meeting	10 7 PM S Group @ Jacksons	11 3:30 PM Bible Study @ Merrill Gardens	12
13 9 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Music Appr. Lunch	14	15 10 AM Morning Bible Study 7 PM Book Study w/ Louise	16 Annual Conference, Sacramento 10 AM S Group @ Oakmont	17 Annual Conference, Sacramento	18 Annual Conference, Sacramento 3:30 PM Bible Study @ Merrill Gardens	19 Annual Conference, Sacramento 3:30 PM Heather's ordination
20 8:30 AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST 10:30 AM Worship	21	22 10 AM Morning Bible Study 7 PM Book Study w/ Louise	23 10 AM S Group @ Oakmont 6 PM Soup Dinner 6:45 PM Committees 7:45 PM Church Council	24	25 3:30 PM Bible Study @ Merrill Gardens	26
27 9 AM Adult Class 10:30 AM Worship	28	29 10 AM Morning Bible Study 7 PM Book Study w/ Louise	30 10 AM S Group @ Oakmont	July 1	2 3:30 PM Bible Study @ Merrill Gardens	3
Becky Jackson						5/19/10 10:37 AM

Highlights of Church Council Meeting: April 28, 2010

- UMW will have a presentation from The Living Room in Santa Rosa at an upcoming meeting.
- Fellowship: Grace Johnson reported that coffee signups are available.
- Outreach: Tom Sacco resigned as chair. His replacement is referred to the nominating committee.
- Spiritual Nurture and Discipleship Ministries: Gail Claus reported that Marie Fox has been added to this group.
- Staff Parish Relations: The new Abuse Prevention Policy was approved.

- Finance: Barbara St. Marie asked for clarification on fundraising procedures of the HisStory committee.
- Dave Graves reported that expenses and apportionments are current although there has been delay in some payments.

Father's Day Pancake Breakfast Before Worship Service

Sunday June 20th, 8:30 am

Everyone is invited to come before Worship and enjoy fellowship, fresh fruit, and fabulous flapjacks.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Haiti Revisited

Lynda Berg made a presentation during the soup dinner before the April committee and Church Council Meetings. The following is a summary of her talk.

Haiti is an incredible country of joy and sorrow. The people have experienced such unimaginable oppression and hardship but they have a resilience that is hard to comprehend and a faith in God that is deeper than most of our comfortable religious experiences. I first spent time in Haiti in 2008 where I interned at an orphanage in Ouanaminthe Haiti for 6 months. I had planned to return to spend time with the children and community that I love this spring, and when the Earthquake struck on January 12, I was certain I needed to go. I returned to the same orphanage in the north of Haiti and spent the next two months helping care for the 40+ children that had come from Port-au-Prince after the quake. We have many new special needs children, some with lost limbs. My time was spent caring for the everyday needs of our children and helping them transition into a new home where they could feel safe and heal from the wounds that many have buried deep inside from the horrors they saw in Port-au-Prince. Despite all the challenges these children have faced, they are incredibly joyful and remind me daily of God's beauty and restoring grace.



This is Lonique. He is seven years old and lost his father and his left arm in the earthquake. He now lives at our orphanage with his mother and is one of the cuddliest, silliest little boys I know.



This is Jocelyn and Johnny. Jocelyn is 24 years old and lost his leg in the earthquake. He speaks a little English and is always trying to learn more. I found out that a few days ago he was finally fitted with his new prosthetic leg. Johnny is our little wonderer who most likely wandered the streets of PAP prior to the earthquake. When we found him he had a broken femur, but due to lack of proper medical attention had a cast on his ankle. Since then he had surgery on his femur and is now so active it is impossible to keep him in one place for too long.



Here I am with Tamara and Katiana. Tamara is one of 17 children that came from an orphanage in PAP that crumbled in the quake; fortunately they all survived. Katiana lost her mother, father, and half her right arm and broke her leg in the quake. She used to wake up at night afraid, wanting someone to be close to her. In the two months I was there I saw her heal so much both physically and emotionally. She still has deep sorrow in her past to work through, but she is a joyful 14 year old who is learning to adjust to her arm and has made friends with all of our other teenage girls in the orphanage.



This is Emanie. She lived on the street in Port-au-Port and when the earthquake hit a building fell on her. She was rescued by a medical team in Port-au-Prince and they did surgery on her hip and head. As I go around to kiss everyone goodnight, she always asked me to stop and pray for her. She is so beautiful with a disposition that matches.

This is Fitzon. He is about 3 years old and was living in a tent city after the quake. He has cerebral palsy and the greatest laugh you will ever hear in your life.



St. John's Appreciates its Music Leadership

June 13 we will especially thank Shirley Spina, Music Director, for 10 years of loyal service and fine music, as we appreciate all the musicians of our church at the end of this choir season.

Join us for a luncheon after church to say thank you also to our Pianist, Muza Mdzinarishvili; St. John's Choir; Bell Choir; Praise Band Director, Darlene Bradley (also Hymn Sing accompanist, and summer music planner); our many instrumentalists, Winds of Praise; and vocal soloists. We have been blessed with much musical talent.

Lunch will be available June 13 for a small donation. Please sign up if you plan to come.

Farewell from Shirley Spina as She Retires

Dear St. John's members and friends,

It was with great regret that I tendered my resignation as your choir director. I have been here for 10 years, and I have always felt greatly loved and appreciated. The warmth and friendliness of the congregation, and the willingness of the choir to work hard have made this a very pleasant time of my life. I've worked with two excellent pianists, Lori and Muza, who both bring fine musicianship to their work. I've worked with several great pastors, and especially hate to leave since I enjoy Heather so much!

However, it is definitely time for me to actually "retire." I retired from my teaching career in June of 2000 and started here in September of that year. So I've never really tasted complete retirement, and I think I need that now.

We have had some really great experiences in preparing and performing meaningful music for the congregation's pleasure and spiritual enrichment. I guess two high points, for me at least, were the Easters that we hired a brass quintet to accompany the choir in glorious celebrations! A year ago, I asked Cross and Crown's choir to join us, and that was a wonderful experience of cooperation and enthusiastic singing. I also loved the Christmas services where I used my own poetry and that of other poets I enjoy to put together a moving service of poetry and music. I hope that these services were as meaningful for the choir and congregation as they were for me as a director. It's not easy to provide excellent music Sunday after Sunday, and we have not been "perfect" at all times. However, it's amazing to me how often the choir just rises to the occasion and comes through in brilliant fashion. Thanks for that!

I wish you all great success in your future endeavors here at St. John's. I know you will continue to grow in your love and service as a congregation. I imagine I'll attend now and then to say 'hi.'

With much love and gratitude for a wonderful ten years,

Shirley

Cycling Event a Great Success!

The May 23 cycling event to discover the beautiful Rohnert Park bike paths was a fun afternoon for all. The afternoon included a stop for a picnic lunch. Watch the Sojourner and Mustard Seed for future events.



UMW Schools of Christian Mission

Each year throughout the country women and men attend United Methodist Women's Mission Education Events. Men join their wives year after year and find the studies are informative and can be life changing. There are always three areas of focus each year: Spiritual Growth, Mission, and a Geographical Study.

This year's Spiritual Growth study is For the Love of God' The Epistles of John; the Mission Study is Joy to the World! Mission in the Age of Global Christianity; and the Geographical Study is The Beauty and Courage of Sudan - Why a Dream of Peace is Possible.

The event is two days, at a cost of \$40.00. August 28 will be held at the New Vision UMC in Millbrae and September 18 will be held at Merced UMC in Merced. The events begin with registration at 8:00 a.m., and the class concludes at 3:30 p.m. Childcare is available.

There are also one-weekend classes. The first, Reno Nevada, will be held July 23-25, and the second at the University of the Pacific (UOP) in Stockton August 6-8. Lodging is \$235.00 for a double room and \$280.00 for a single. All meals are included.

Scholarships are available through the conference, district and St. John's UMW. More information is available on the UMW Board in the Narthex.

St. John's United Methodist Church
5150 Snyder Lane
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Annual Car Show and
barbecue- June 5



St. John's United Methodist Church

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The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.