

# Circuit West

## California-Pacific Annual Conference

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MUSIC IS IMPORTANT--The Rev. Albert Rhodes-Wickett still enjoys playing the piano, although his skills have diminished. His wife, the Rev. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, looks over favorite hymns with him. (UMNS Photo)

## Battle with Alzheimer's Draws Clergy Family Together

By Tom McAnally  
United Methodist News Service

Like a computer virus, Alzheimer's disease has invaded the home of a California clergy couple, Al and Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, and turned their lives upside down.

The comparison to a computer virus ends, however with the realization that this disease that slowly steals memory cannot be stopped.

The ordeal for the United Methodist family began when Al was in his late 40s. He had trouble completing tasks and became unusually forgetful. One day, he forgot to pick up his young son, Ben, from school. When Sharon was asked to serve as superintendent of the Long Beach District in 1990, Al took leave

from active ministry to be home with Ben and daughter Rachel. Sharon served as a district superintendent for four years and is senior pastor of Westwood United Methodist church in Los Angeles.

Al's condition worsened. After months of observation and tests, the diagnosis finally came: Alzheimer's.

Like many people, Sharon had thought of Alzheimer's as a disease that strikes the elderly. All of us know of Ronald Reagan and have seen the blank stares of frail individuals who populate nursing homes. Here Sharon and Al were, in the prime of their ministry, with two young children.

"I had that sinking feeling that so many people have when a disaster or a (See Clergy Family Page 4)

## Garage-Based Ministry Receives '2003 Outstanding Clergy' Award

The Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder, a United Methodist minister of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, was named National Alliance for the Mentally Ill California's "2003 Outstanding Clergy" at the NAMI luncheon Sept. 6.

She was the plenary speaker on "Spirituality and Mental Illness" at the luncheon held at the Newport Beach Marriott.

She was selected for this award for her many contributions in the area of outreach to and through the faith community for the benefit of those affected by mental illness.

Though the "2003 Outstanding Clergy Award" from NAMI California came as a surprise, the Rev. Gregg-Schroeder is no newcomer to awards and

honors for her outstanding efforts. She is known on the west coast and nationwide as a preacher, lecturer, workshop and group leader, educator, consultant, and even now as a video producer.

The Rev. Gregg-Schroeder, a certified pastoral care specialist with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a member of "Methvision," the United Methodist Mental Illness Network of the General Board of Church and Society, took a "leap of faith" two years ago when she left her 13-year appointment as the minister of pastoral care and spiritual formation at a large urban church. Bishop Mary Ann Swenson appointed her to the unfunded position of coordinator of mental health ministries. The mission is to erase the (See Gregg-Schroeder Page 3)

## Filipino Caucus Sponsors Seminar on Igniting Ministry at Rosemead UMC

The Filipino Caucus of the California-Pacific Annual Conference is sponsoring a seminar on Igniting Ministry from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 11 at the Rosemead Mission Community United Methodist Church.

With the theme, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors," the seminar is aimed at raising awareness of the United Methodist Church from among the 25 to 54 year old un-churched people. Its goal is also to create a positive feeling and a willingness to visit a United Methodist congregation and to renew a sense of commitment in the current United Methodist church setting.

Larry Hygh, the Cal-Pac communications director, will serve as the presenter and will talk about what the UMC is doing in the area of communication and what the local churches could do in strengthening and

igniting the ministry. He is also expected to discuss the resources and assistance available to local UM churches in the area of promotion and advertisement.

Ding Lopus, president of the Filipino Caucus, and the Rev. Manny Orio and Nena Martinez, co-chairs for this seminar, have written the 20 or so local churches with Filipino constituents urging them to encourage the members of their evangelism, witness, and/or church and society committees to attend the seminar. There will be a \$5 admission fee per person, which includes a lunch and topic material.

The Revs. Mike de Guzman, Lisa Gay Santiago and Neil Platon plus Amado Umaguang, Fe Calma, and Paddy Padilla are members of the program committee. For more information, call the Rev. Mr. Orio at (626) 968-2239, or the Filipino Caucus at (626) 354-3500.

## A New Understanding of Life and Death

By Mary Ann Swenson  
Bishop, California-Pacific Annual Conference

At the Bishop's Convocation, I reflected with the group about Mark 8:27 ff, where Jesus says, "If any would be my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Church consultant Mike Rigele has asked "where is the death in the message?" In this gospel text, Jesus proclaims his own dying and invites us into a different understanding of death and life.

Since my mother's death, I have been more sensitive to the passing of friends and family and those within the connection. Through the years I have found a blessing being officiant at baptisms, weddings, church anniversaries and so many church occasions, but lately it seems I am doing far more funerals than baptisms. I suspect that is true in many of our congregations.

In my travels I sense the weariness of the imbalance. It seems that in so many places, people and congregations and service organizations are fighting against the slippery slope of mortality. An ancient Latin maxim, "momento mori," translates "remember, you will die." We all face it, even Jesus. So the question is not "Will you die?" The question is "What are you willing to die for?"

In my life call in ministry, I understand when I have questioned what my life is to be. And I believe most Christian disciples remember the times when they have felt this claim on the whole of their life.

Nicodemus asked Jesus, "What must I do to be born again? Can I go again into my mother's womb?" It's a kind of baptism, a dying of the former, incomplete self, to become someone new, larger, a part of the whole of God's presence and activity in the world.

And all of this is in the

paradox of Jesus' message: losing life for Jesus sake, letting go for the sake of the gospel, is to save life. Nicodemus struggled to understand it. Common sense tells us to avoid dying. It can be painful, physically and emotionally. We fear the disconnection of death, being separated from those we love.

But Jesus says and acts out that beyond dying is a new connection with a dimension of life that is not evident as long as we cling to it. So we "momento mori," remember to die, knowing that in Christ, death is baptism, dying to old and rising to new, the beginning of a new relationship to life.

Are we prepared to die for this? I wish for us in the conference a spiritual baptism, knowing it means letting go of some of the things you have here, if the institutions will "momento mori." We will be called to let go of some of our previous worthy commitments so that new commitments can be made, commitments and promises and programs that meet the challenges and opportunities and possibilities of this age.

We need to die to all of the idolatries and distractions that keep us from simply following Jesus. If we can, to connect with new populations, people, communities in our midst. We must disconnect from the absolute control we have kept for ourselves in our decision making. We simply need to let go of some things, let those things die, so we can be baptized spiritually afresh. We need to give ourselves away in service of something greater than ourselves, something worthy.

Something Jesus invites us into, which is grander than ourselves, more tremendous than our institutions. What are we willing to die for? Or more precisely, what are we ready to live for, to be baptized into.

L'Chayim,  
Mary Ann Swenson

## Letter to the Editor

### In God We Trust

With regard to the article "Don't Ask Where God Is . . ." by Ben Evaline Gomersall in the Aug. 15 issue of *Circuit West (United Methodist Review)*, certainly we all agree that "we have the Holy Spirit everywhere and at all times . . ."

But the phrase "In God We Trust" is NOT just a "statement of our belief as a Christian . . ." It (the phrase) is equally applicable to the Jews, to the Muslims (Islam), to Hinduism, and to others.

Lyell H. Carver  
Lay person  
Shell Beach Community UMC

## Disability Ministry to Recognize Most Accessible Congregation

The Conference Council on Disability Ministry is seeking applicants for the 2004 "Most Accessible Congregation" Award.

The award will be presented at the 2004 Annual Conference and will include a \$1,000 gift to the winning congregation. In 2003, the award was shared by Fallbrook United Methodist Church and Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church. Both congregations demonstrated their commitment to open doors through facilities increasingly accessible to persons with mobility, sight and hearing impairments; and through worship, education and leadership opportunities welcoming to all those who are merely "differently-abled" in the eyes of the God.

All congregations following a call to become more accessible and welcoming to persons with disabilities are urged to apply for this award. For further information about the award, or to help your congregation learn more about sharing the good news with the "differently-abled," contact the Conference Disability Ministry coordinators, the Rev. Jerry and Mrs. Juda Carter at (949) 855-8297 or judaathome@aol.com

To apply for the award, churches will complete an application and submit it by fax, email or mail no later than March 15, 2003 to Ms. Jheri Resnik, P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena, CA 91102-6006; (800) 244-8622; or jresnik@cal-pac.org

## John Wesley's 300th Anniversary to be Celebrated Oct. 12 at Whittier

Dr. Tom Thomas, former professor at Asbury Seminary and member of the California-Pacific Board of Or-



Rev. Tom Thomas  
United Methodist Church.

daind Ministry, will be the keynote speaker at John Wesley's 300th anniversary celebration, at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 12, at Whittier First

Dr. Thomas will speak on "John Wesley: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." After his talk there will be workshops and a love feast meal.

The worship service will include choirs from different churches. People interested in singing in the choir can come to a rehearsal at 2 p.m. prior to the worship service.

Five workshops, related to the contributions of John Wesley to the Christian church, include, "John Wesley and Social Activism" with Rev. Maria Hamilton, "Susanna Wesley, the Mother of Methodism" led by Rev. Gwen Ehrenborg, "John Wesley's View of Scripture" taught by Dr. John Giffen, "John Wesley and Small Groups" led by Kristen Oh, and "John Wesley and African-American Christianity" led by Dr. Kenneth Waters.

"We are truly excited about celebrating the anniversary birthday of the founder of our church," said Dr. Newton Maloney, planning committee member. "I just returned from Bristol, England and was deeply moved to stand in the New Room, Wesley's headquarters in Bristol, the oldest Methodist building in the world."

Videos of the New Room, John Wesley and Susanna Wesley will be available at the event.

To make reservations for the free dinner, a true Wesley love feast, email zdena@juno.com. For more information about this event visit CPR at <http://www.cal-pac-renewal.org> or call the Rev. Glen Haworth at (818) 352-1481.

## Gregg-Schroeder

(Continued from Page 1)

stigma of mental illness in faith communities and to encourage mental health care providers to include spirituality in the treatment and recovery process. The pastor traded in her church office for a garage stacked with books, video tapes and handouts on mental health topics.

The Rev. Gregg-Schroeder is the author of many books including *In the Shadow of God's Wings: Grace in the Midst of Depression*, (The Upper Room), now in its second printing, in which she takes the reader on her personal journey into depression and encourages a new understanding of the spiritual gifts that can come from depression. Upper Room also offers a four-session Group Study Guide to accompany the book.

As a member of the board of Pacific Media Ministries, she developed skills in media production and has, with their assistance and the generous financial support from many, produced educational videos for congregations. The videos are designed to help them better understand the devastation of mental illness to persons and their families and the critical need for congregations to be seriously concerned about the need for outreach to these persons and their families in their ministry efforts.

Mental Health Ministries has received a number of small grants to produce high quality video resources. The video, "Creating Caring Congregations," which she produced with a grant from the Georgia Lynch Fund, was named a finalist in the 24th annual Telly Awards in the religious program category. The Telly has become one of the most sought after awards in TV, commercial agencies, production companies and cable operations, as well as corporate video departments. Other videos include "Understanding Depression," "Teenage Depression and Suicide," "Overcoming Stigma, Finding Hope," "Gifts of the Shadow," "Addiction and Depression," "Eating Disorders: Wasting Away," "Anxiety Disorders: Overcoming the Fear," and "Alzheimer's: Care and Support."

Mental Health Ministries is currently seeking funding for a video on "Mental Illness and Families of Faith." For more information on these videos and on this ministry, visit the Mental Health Ministries website at [www.MentalHealthMinistries.net](http://www.MentalHealthMinistries.net) or e-mail the Rev. Gregg-Schroeder at [sgschroed@cox.net](mailto:sgschroed@cox.net).



**OUTSTANDING CLERGY**--The Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder received the "Outstanding Clergy" award from the National Alliance for Mentally Ill, California. Dr. Gunnar Christiansen, co-chair of FaithNet NAMI, made the presentation.

### Keep Pensions Posted

Moving? Got a new phone number? The Pensions Office asks all clergy, active and retired, and surviving spouses to keep it informed about changes in address or phone numbers.

Contact Marji Martin at (800) 244-8622 or [mmartin@cal-pac.org](mailto:mmartin@cal-pac.org) or drop a card to Pensions Office, P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena, CA 91102-6006.

### Normal Heights UMC to Celebrate 90th Anniversary Nov. 9

Normal Heights UMC in San Diego will celebrate its 90th anniversary Sunday, Nov. 9.

The celebration starts with worship service at 10:30 a.m., with Bishop Mary Ann Swenson. A catered luncheon will follow.

All former pastors, members, Sunday school attendees, employee are invited, said Pastor Yongwan Kim. The RSVP for the luncheon is required by Oct. 5. For reservations or more information, call the church office at (619) 284-9243.

## Fall Ministry Convocation at CST Focuses on 'Preaching Freedom'

"Preaching Freedom," the Fall Ministry Convocation at Claremont School of Theology, will be held Oct. 28-29.

Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Dr. Lincoln Galloway, and Dr. Kelly Bender will lead participants in an exploration of the current notions of freedom and the relationship to worship and Christianity.

Dr. Floyd-Thomas, assistant professor of ethics and black church studies at Brite Divinity School, will discuss "Cultivating an Ethic and Identity of Christian Freedom." Dr. Galloway, assistant professor of homiletics at Claremont School of Theology, will deliver his inaugural lecture. Dr. Bender, senior pastor at Paradise Valley UMC in Greater Phoenix, one of the large churches in the Western Jurisdiction, will lead a workshop on "The

Preacher as Pastor and Prophet," and preach at the Wednesday chapel service.

In addition, Bishop Charles Jordan will preach at Tuesday chapel service.

The convocation begins at 8 a.m., Tuesday, October 28, and ends after chapel Wednesday, Oct. 29. On Tuesday evening, all registrants are invited to attend the alumni/convocation dinner at the Round Building at Claremont UMC.

Clergy and laity are welcome to register for the convocation, said the Rev. Gary Oba, director of church relations at CST. The registration fee for the convocation is \$35. Meals will be additional. For more information or a registration form, contact the Rev. Mr. Oba, at (909) 447-2557 or e-mail [goba@cst.edu](mailto:goba@cst.edu).

### Secretaries Group to Have Computer Instructions Oct. 23

The Cal-Pac Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) will hold its fall meeting, Thursday, Oct. 23 at Claremont School of Theology.

Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Philip Amerson, president of the School of Theology, speaking on "The Holy Work of Encouragement."

The program also features a tour of the Cal-Pac Archives by Kim Creighton, archivist and two optional computer classes, using the university's computer lab. Ninety-minute classes will be taught by Peter Pocock, information systems specialist for California-Pacific Annual Conference, on "Introduction to Power Point" and "Introduction to Front Page."

This program is open to administrative support staff of all United Methodist churches and agencies within Cal-Pac Conference. The main program, including lunch, costs \$10 for members of Cal-Pac Chapter of PAUMCS and \$15 for non members. Enrollment in the computer classes is limited, with an additional charge of \$15 per class.

For a brochure, call Jheri Resnik at the United Methodist Center (626) 568-7357.

### Women to Hear Talk on Religious Art

The Rev. Molly Vetter will speak on "Encountering Mystery: A Look at Religious Art" for the women's dinner program Monday, Oct. 13 at Foothills UMC of San Diego.

The Rev. Ms. Vetter, a minister of social justice and outreach at San Diego First UMC, will guide the group through a "gallery" of images in her slide show and presentation. She will also weave into her presentation stories, poetry and other treasures of our faith's diversity and history.

While at Boston University, Rev. Ms. Vetter received her B.A. in art history and spent a semester studying and working in the west African country of Niger. In 2001 she received a Masters of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology, where she also was awarded a prize for leadership in the arts.

Paid reservations are required by Sunday noon, Oct. 12. The cost is \$10. For information, call (619) 670-4009.

### Escondido UMC Holds Holiday Craft Fair

Artisans of the Escondido First United Methodist Church will hold their Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The fair will feature handcrafted gifts, holiday items, and home decor; Christmas, keepsakes and treasures rooms; as well as Grama's Kitchen with jams, jellies, pickles and home baked goodies. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for \$5.

## Clergy Family

(Continued from Page 1)

train wreck happens," Sharon recalls. "I just felt swallowed up ... my gosh, now what?" However, she wasn't surprised by the final diagnosis, since Al's father had also suffered from the disease. "This is it," I thought. "This is what we are going to have to live with."

Al was an effective pastor and a gifted musician who used his brain a lot, according to Sharon. "He bought a computer long before they were commonplace and began writing programs that were more suited to what he wanted to do. Right now he can barely figure out how to go online or switch the printer from color to black ink. It just breaks my heart because he's really a smart person."

The husband and father they once knew is disappearing. Sharon sees the disease as death by a "thousand subtractions."

In an interview with UMTV, Al describes the joy of being a pastor and the pain of going on disability leave. "That was kind of tough because I knew something was wrong, but then all of a sudden, bam, I'm out."

He describes the disease as "microscopic little persons that like to eat the memory (and) consider the newest memories to be the tastiest ones of all." In addition to medication, he said he has fought the onslaught of the "little persons" with three W's: walking, writing and wishing.

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"I really can't imagine going through this without being grounded in God's presence," Sharon says.

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As a pastor of a 600-member congregation, a wife and a mother, Sharon finds herself in the dual role of caregiver and care receiver. She is trained to care for others, a role she loves. But she admits that receiving care, such as a weekly dinner for the family prepared by women in the church, is difficult. "I feel like, well, I'm capable. I shouldn't have to take help. I shouldn't have to receive this.

"I really can't imagine going through this without being grounded in God's presence," she says. "I know that God gives us the strength and capacity to take the next step. I know that my future is different than I thought it was going to be, but whatever it is, God's in it."

For her, being part of a faith community is critically important. "So

## Resources Help People Deal with Alzheimer's Problems

By Tom McAnally

United Methodist News Service

When Al Rhodes-Wickett was diagnosed with Alzheimer's at a relatively early age, his wife, Sharon, discovered that few resources address how to deal with the early onset of the disease or help children understand it.

Where do you turn if Alzheimer's confronts a family member or friend? Sharon suggests starting with the Web site: <http://www.alz.org>. From there, you can find the support organization nearest you.

Sharon and her children are in a pilot support group funded by the Unihealth Foundation. "The creators of our program are now completing a manual for replication, which means that this wonderful group, which included both teaching and support, will soon be available through the Alzheimer's Association," she says.

Sharon recommends several books:

*Living in the Labyrinth: A Personal Journey Through the Maze of Alzheimer's* by Diane Friel McGowin, 1994, Dell Publishing.

*Speaking our Minds: Personal Reflections from Individuals with Alzheimer's* by Lisa Snyder, LCSW, 1999, WH Freeman Co.

*Alzheimer's Early Stages, First Steps in Caring and Treatment* by Daniel Kuhn, MSW Publishers Press, Salt Lake City.

*Courage to Care: A Caregiver's Guide Through Each Stage of Alzheimer's* by Joanne Parrent, 2001, Alpha Books.

*The Forgetting, Alzheimer's: Portrait of an Epidemic* by David Shenk, 2001, Doubleday.

Regarding *Courage to Care*, Sharon says, "I loved this book. It was written by a journalist who is not involved in it (Alzheimer's) personally. It is a very different approach with amazing quotes interspersed with a lot of history, detailing famous people with the disease."

many people tell me they pray for us all the time, and I know they do. It is very sustaining to know there's that kind of support."

Looking for a support group was almost impossible. "People can't believe that someone Al's age has Alzheimer's," Sharon says. "When I went looking for a support group, I was pretty much told that either you can have a support group with people your age who are dealing with their parents or you can join a spouse's group where everybody would be the age of your parents.

"I wanted a support group for people like me - younger, still working, with children." She finally found such a group, the only one of its kind in Los Angeles County. "It is new and experimental," she says. "We're writing the book."

Al is 58, Sharon, 54. Ben, 17, is a high school senior, and Rachel, 21, attends Scripps College in Claremont.

Because her dad was so young when the disease emerged, Rachel says she has had few places to turn for support. "I'm so glad I have my brother. He's the only person I know my age that knows someone that has a dad with Alzheimer's disease."

Although no one tracks early onset

cases, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that as many as 10 percent of Alzheimer's patients, or 400,000 of the 4 million people diagnosed each year, are younger than 65. An unknown percentage of that group is still caring for children. Shin Yi Wu, a health researcher with the Rand Corp., a Santa Monica Think Tank, told the Los Angeles Times that if trends continue, more than 513,000 American men and women between 45 and 64 might be affected by the disease by the beginning of the next decade.

Sharon expresses amazement at how the children are coping. "What they're facing with their dad is really tough, and they don't have the experience and the resources that come from being batted around in life. I think there has been a drawing together for us, all four of us, to figure out how do we get through this."

Ben ticks off the accomplishments of a father who was a university math major, musician, licensed pilot, and teacher in Africa, where he learned the Shona language.

"He's the most amazing musician I think I've ever met in my entire life," Ben says. "He's written three musicals and is working on a fourth. He plays banjo, guitar, piano. He sings. He does

everything."

Watching his father's musical skills disappear has been painful. "He plays (the piano) every day, but he seems to get worse."

Because of the disease, Ben says he has matured fast and appreciates things more. Rachel agrees. "I credit some of our family's closeness to this disease, partly out of necessity and survival, but partly out of a genuine care and concern for each other."

Sharon and the children like to accent the accomplishments and good memories of their husband and father.

"It truly is an unjust disease," Rachel says. "In my father's case, he's lucky because he lived an amazing life. He did more than most people do in their entire lives by the time he was 50. It is comforting to know that he really did complete a lot of things he wished to complete before the disease began to hit him hard."

\*McAnally is a former director of United Methodist News Service.

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## Video on Sexual Ethics, Behavior to be Available Soon

The Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women in cooperation with the Conference Sexual Ethics Task Force plans to make available a new video from the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, said Ms. Kathleen R. Johnson, chair of the commission.

The video, titled "A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers" has four parts: (1) Boundaries, Power and Vulnerability; (2) Dating, Friendships, Gifts, Dual Relationships; (3) The Pulpit, Transference, Hugging and Touch, Intimacy; and (4) Personal Needs and Self-Care, Red-Flags, Final Reflections. Each segment is about 20 minutes in length.

The Rev. Preston Price, III, chair of the Conference Sexual Ethics Task Force, said the video would be excellent resource for workshops, cluster meetings, boards and committee meetings as well as the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Any one interested in the video should contact the Conference Media Center at (626) 568-7366 or [lschwitzer@cal-pac.org](mailto:lschwitzer@cal-pac.org). Ms. Johnson can be reached at (562) 461-3728 or [kathleenrjohnson@aol.com](mailto:kathleenrjohnson@aol.com) and the Rev. Mr. Price at (714) 534-1070 or [priceumc@pacbell.net](mailto:priceumc@pacbell.net).



# La Esquina Latina

## Mi propio ministerio en la iglesia

por Julisa Neri

Cuatro años ya han pasado y todavía siento como si hubiera sido ayer que comencé a trabajar para la oficina de La Misión Hispana, la cual ahora lleva por título Oficina Conferencial de Ministerios Latinos. Quién me iba a decir que mi trabajo como secretaria de dicha oficina se convertiría en “mi propio ministerio especial en la iglesia.”

A través de todo este tiempo he conocido a tanta gente dentro y fuera de nuestra conferencia que trabaja duro para sacar adelante el ministerio latino. De todos he aprendido tanto y todos me han inspirado de igual manera.

Quisiera usar este medio para dirigirme a todos ustedes y darles las más sinceras gracias por haberme apoyado en mi trabajo y por haberme brindado su amistad. Gracias a ustedes mi trabajo dejó de ser trabajo y se convirtió en mi ministerio especial. Orgullosamente puedo decir que con mi granito de arena contribuí al desarrollo del ministerio latino en nuestra iglesia.

Pero ahora debo dejar mi ministerio para darle nuevo rumbo a mi vida, en el cual finalmente estaré ejerciendo mi profesión: maestra de matemáticas en una escuela preparatoria. Este es un cambio tremendo para mí, es por eso que les pido a todos me mantengan en sus oraciones, que de igual manera ustedes permanecerán en las mías.

Unas vez más les doy las gracias y les pido sigan apoyando a esta oficina porque el ministerio es de todos nosotros. Que el Señor nos bendiga a todos.

## Los Hispanos/Latinos buscan iglesias que les ofrecen “un espacio”

Por Linda Green

NASHVILLE, Tenn.(UMNS)- Los metodistas unidos de todas las iglesias locales tienen que levantarse de sus bancas y salir a alcanzar la creciente población hispana/latina en sus comunidades.

“Si creemos que nuestra misión es compartir el amor de Dios con toda la gente, entonces ¿qué es lo que nos impide alcanzar a la comunidad hispana?” pregunta Marigene Chamberlain, directora de liderazgo para ministerios hispanos de la Junta de Discipulado de la Iglesia Metodista Unida.

Lo que atrae a los hispanos/latinos son lugares en los cuales se les ofrece un espacio donde pueden congregarse a oír la palabra en el lenguaje de sus corazones, dice Chamberlain. Un lugar amable donde pueden hacer más amistades. Un lugar donde su cultura es incorporada durante los servicios de adoración.

Las tradiciones de fe que se ven entre los hispanos/latinos alcanzan a la gente dondequiera que vivan, dice Joaquín García, ejecutivo jubilado de la Junta de Educación Superior y Ministerio. “La Iglesia Metodista Unida es una iglesia de clase media que no ha alcanzado por completo a la población latina. No sabe como llegar a toda esa gente que tiene que trabajar los domingos por la mañana. Piensa que para ser metodista unido tiene uno que tener los

domingos por la mañana libres para ir a la iglesia.”

Entre los hispanos/latinos, el carácter denominacional de la iglesia es irrelevante comparado con la oportunidad de establecer relaciones a nivel local. “Todo lo que se refiere a estructuras y conexiones fuera de la iglesia local no es realmente importante para ellos,” dice Chamberlain.

Muchos de ellos, son personas que trabajan duro sólo para recibir el salario mínimo, y en otros casos son personas que están sumidas en la pobreza. La Conferencia General o cualquier otra junta son temas que ellos no consideran importantes. Para ellos lo que es importante es recibir ayuda para sus vidas diarias. “Lo que a ellos les gustaría encontrar en las iglesias son servicios de ayuda para su familia,” dice Chamberlain.

La iglesia en los Estados Unidos cuando usa la palabra conexión, se refiere a benevolencias, estructuras; mientras que en la cultura hispana/latina la palabra conexión significa familia y relaciones, explica García. “Es muy diferente ser Metodista en Latinoamérica y Metodista Unido en los Estados Unidos.”

Para los metodistas en Latinoamérica, la iglesia es el centro de vida, dice García. “Tenemos que entender que estar conectados es ser una familia en comunidad.”



Foto: Arriba, Comité del Plan Nacional dentro del santuario de la Iglesia Metodista Unida de Huntington Park. Abajo, Algunos miembros del comité escuchando testimonios de pastores locales durante la cena.



## Comité del Plan Nacional visita Los Angeles

El pasado 11 al 14 de septiembre, el Comité de la Comisión Nacional del Plan Hispano se estuvo reuniendo en Los Angeles. El primer día del evento, el grupo fue bienvenido por el Rev. Dr. Fernando Santillana en nombre de la Obispa Mary Ann Swenson.

Este comité, conformado por anglos, hispanos, y afroamericanos, está encargado de preparar el informe que se presentará durante la Conferencia General del 2004.

A pesar de su muy ocupada agenda de trabajo, el comité dedicó la noche del sábado para asistir a una recepción en su honor en la pintoresca Iglesia Metodista Unida de Huntington Park.

Pastores y pastoras que trabajan con congregaciones latinas fueron invitados y muchos de ellos estuvieron presentes en la recepción, durante la cual se disfrutó de deliciosos platillos y música típicos de latinoamérica.

Durante la cena hubo un intercambio de ideas y experiencias entre el grupo de pastores y los miembros del comité, quienes querían saber cómo ellos habían desarrollado nuevos ministerios. También hubieron preguntas sobre el apoyo de iglesias locales, así como de la conferencia, en relación al desarrollo de

vos ministerios.

De igual manera hubo un momento

durante el cual el Dr. Santillana informó sobre el trabajo de ministerios latinos en la Conferencia California-Pacífico.

Los miembros del comité se quedaron sorprendidos con alegría al enterarse que en nuestra última conferencia anual se ordenaron tres nuevos presbíteros y una presbítera latin@s.

Entre los invitados se encontraron: el Obispo Elías Galván de la Conferencia Pacific-Northwest, la Obispa Charlene P. Kammerer de la Conferencia Oeste de Carolina del Norte, el Rev. Elí Rivera y el Rev. Saúl Trinidad, entre otros.

## Calendario

### Septiembre

29- Oct. 3 El Rev. F. Santillana estará visitando y trabajando con el Distrito de Los Angeles. 626-568-7374.

### Octubre

7 Taller Pastoral, 9a.m.  
11 LAMAG, El Buen Pastor. Info: 805-933-5343.  
14-15 Talleres latinos en el Seminario de Claremont.  
21 Taller Pastoral, 9 a.m.  
27 Junta Concilio de Ministerios Latinos, 5 p.m., Centro Metodista. Info: 626-568-7374.

Korean page, coming on film



**CHILDREN REPORT ON VBS IN THREE LANGUAGES**--A special feature of the Vacation Bible Study Sunday worship service at the United Methodist church of Maywood was the children, ages 3 through 18, leading the worship in three languages--English, Spanish and Samoan. The VBS theme was "Treasure of The Nile--On an Expedition To Jesus." They shared what they learned at VBS with prayer, testimonies and special music. The liturgist was dressed in an Egyptian costume. The elementary young people read the scripture, all done in three languages. When the congregation sang "Jesus Loves Me This I know" and "This is the Day," they also were done in English, Spanish and Samoan.

## Councils Support UM Agencies' Budget Increases for 2005-08

(UMNS) Each of the United Methodist Church's program agencies stands to get at least a modest funding increase for the next four years, despite the tough economic times, under a proposal that will go to the General Conference in 2004.

The church's General Council on Finance and Administration had earlier decided to recommend to General Conference that \$222 million be approved for these agencies during the 2005-08 period. Voting members of the finance council and the General Council on Ministries approved a plan at a joint meeting Sept. 8 in Los Angeles.

The \$222 million is channeled through the World Service Fund, the church's largest account for funding worldwide mission and ministry. The fund is a primary source of support for the four program boards and four smaller commissions, but the agencies also receive income from other sources.

The joint meeting also voted to recommend moving Heritage Sunday from its current April date to Aldersgate Day, May 24, or the Sunday preceding it. The groups decided to ask General Conference to continue the six churchwide Sundays with offerings and Laity Sunday without an offering, to discontinue Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, and to retain four special Sundays for observance by annual conference designation.

All these decisions are recommendations to General Conference, which will

meet in Pittsburgh April 27-May 7.

Effects of the economic crunch are evident in the denomination's decline in revenues last year and in 2003.

The agencies received almost \$186 million in World Service funds for the 2001-04 period, but that amount was augmented by reserve funds and other sources of income that are no longer available.

Part of the financial squeeze results from the fact that General Conference instructed the program boards to spend down their reserves during the 2001-04 period. That financial hit was worsened by the stock market downturn, which socked the agencies' portfolios. The market's fall also hurt the denomination's trust fund income, budgeted to help fund retiree health insurance.

If General Conference approves the proposed operating budget breakdown, the four-year totals in World Service Fund money for each agency will be:

Board of Global Ministries, \$126 million; Board of Discipleship, \$31.75 million; Board of Higher Education and Ministry, \$25.7 million; Board of Church and Society, \$11.7 million;

Commission on Religion and Race, \$7 million; Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, \$5.5 million; Commission on the Status and Role of Women, \$3.04 million and Commission on United Methodist Men, \$1.5 million.

## Positions Available

### Administrative Assistant

The California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation seeks an administrative assistant. Qualifications: minimum of two years of college, bachelor's degree preferred; minimum of three years of general office work; prior experience in local church or United Methodist agency helpful; Skills: second language a plus; familiarity with accounting processes (generation of check requisitions and deposit memos), computer proficiency in word processing, spreadsheet and database management; general knowledge of the polity, beliefs and structure of the United Methodist Church. Full-time (35-hours per week) Ability to interface with printing professionals, webmaster and to generate attractive graphic displays (brochures, PowerPoint presentations) would be an asset, but not required. Apply to the Foundation office, or mail resumes to the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena CA 91102. Deadline, Oct. 8.

### Secretary, Latino Ministries

The California-Pacific Annual Conference seeks a bi-lingual individual to serve as secretary to the director of Latino Ministries. Must have excellent written and verbal translation skills and be able to produce newsletter content and layout in Spanish. Responsibilities will include telephone, correspondence, file maintenance, record-keeping, and production of the *Circuit West* Latino Ministries section. Skills include: PC, WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Adobe PageMaker and bi-lingual (English-Spanish) ability. Contact: Jan Hanson, Human Resources, Cal-Pac Conference, P. O. Box 6006, Pasadena CA 91102. Phone: (626) 568-7341. E-mail: jhhanson@cal-pac.org.

### Executive Director of Connectional Ministries

The California-Pacific Annual Conference seeks an energetic, forward-thinking lay or clergy person to focus and guide the mission and ministry of the

## Women Bishops to Speak Sept. 30 at CST

Three women United Methodist bishops will present the Bennett-Morton lecture Tuesday, Sept. 30 at the Claremont School of Theology.

The speakers are Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly, the first African-American woman elected bishop in The United Methodist Church; Bishop Judith Craig, the first woman bishop to present the Episcopal address at General Conference; and Bishop Susan Morrison, bishop of the Albany (NY) Annual Conference.

Beginning at 7 p.m., in Kresge Chapel, the lecture is free and open to the public.

Information is available from CST at (909) 447-2557 or [www.cst.edu](http://www.cst.edu) or [events@cst.edu](mailto:events@cst.edu)

United Methodist Church within the annual conference as Executive Director of Connectional Ministries. The selected candidate will provide administrative oversight for the mission and ministry of the conference through a wide variety of responsibilities, administration of a \$2 million budget, and training and development of local church and conference staff. Will supervise and evaluate a staff of directors, campus ministers and support staff, and will effectively model the goals of a Christ-centered professional. Must be committed to the Christian life, and possess in-depth knowledge of the United Methodist Church and its structures, connections and diverse constituencies. Willingness to travel throughout the conference, and to provide leadership on evenings and weekends as needed. Graduate degree in religious studies, business administration, human resources, or related field preferred. Contact: Gary Keene, assistant to the Bishop, Branch Episcopal Office, 1305 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena CA 91106. Phone (626) 683-3115. Email: [gkeene@cal-pac.org](mailto:gkeene@cal-pac.org).

### Yes, I'd Like My Own *Circuit West*

Enclosed is my check for \$20 for a year's subscription to *Circuit West*. Checks are to be made payable to the Cal-Pac Conference.

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## In Memoriam

### Mrs. Marie Della McCallum

Marie Della McCallum, spouse of the Rev. Earl McCallum, a retired member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, died Sept. 5.

Services were held Sept. 9 at White Emerson Mortuary in Whittier. Rev. Dr. Gary Dickey and the Rev. James Rowan officiated. Donations may be made to the Presbyterian Inter-Community Hospice of Whittier, CA (562) 698-0811 in Mrs. McCallum's name.

Mrs. McCallum is survived by her husband, Earl (1415 Otterbein, #37, Rowland Heights [626] 912-1918); a sister, Penny Cioti of Wimber, PA; a daughter, Barbara Sadowski; three sons: David Hill, Steven Hill and Shane Hill; six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

### The Rev. Kenneth J. Mitchell

The Rev. Kenneth J. Mitchell, a retired member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference, died Sept. 8.

Services were held Sept. 15 at St. Mark's UMC, San Diego, with the Revs. Mark Trotter, Myron Wingfield and Martha Wingfield officiating. Donations may be made to St. Mark's or UCSD Alzheimer's Research Center (858) 622-5800 in his name.

Mr. Mitchell, who retired in 1986, was director of the Council of Youth Work for the General Board of Education from 1966-72. He also served as associate pastor at St. Mark's for a time before being involved with community agencies which worked with people.

The Rev. Mitchell is survived by his wife, the Rev. Nancy Bean Mitchell (5029 Park West Ave., San Diego 92117-1047 [858] 270-0709); children David Allen Mitchell, John Stephen Mitchell, Anne Louise Mitchell, Laurie Loudenslager, Julie Hatch; 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

## Christian Education Workshop Coming in March

Save the date for an exciting time of teaching help and education networking--a workshop event for teachers and other Christian Education leaders will be held Saturday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Claremont UMC.

Age-level workshops and sessions on special activities such as art and computers and much more will be included. A pre-workshop retreat will be held Friday afternoon.

Brochures will be sent to churches in October. For information contact Carolyn Breihan at [Revcarolynb@hotmail.com](mailto:Revcarolynb@hotmail.com) (562) 598-2451.

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Edna Steinman is the editor. Materials for consideration for publication should be forwarded to her at 1111 Cedar Ave., Redlands, CA 92373 or e-mailed to [ednaprsa@juno.com](mailto:ednaprsa@juno.com)

**Next issue: Oct. 10, 2003. Deadline for articles to the editor: Monday, Sept. 29.**



HOPE UMC YOUTH AT RESERVATION--Jacklyn Taylor and Chris Marshall were among 11 youth and three adults from Hope UMC working at Santa Ysabel.

## 500 Cal-Pac Volunteers Participate in Sierra Service

By Rick Eaton

Executive Director, Sierra Service Project

Nearly 500 high school youth and adult counselors from 41 different Cal-Pac congregations spent a week of hard work, celebration and worship this summer with Sierra Service Project, a United Methodist affiliated youth ministry organization. Groups were present at all five of SSP's different project sites.

This was Sierra Service Project's 28th summer of service on Native American reservations. This summer, nearly 1,100 youth along with over 250 adult volunteers gave a week of their summer to build wheelchair ramps, put on new roofs, paint houses and do other much-needed repair work on five different reservations. They represented 101 churches, 90 of them United Methodist.

For the newly-established youth group from Hope United Methodist Church in Rancho Bernardo, this was their first SSP experience. "The trip was very beneficial to our youth group," said Drew Davis, director of youth ministries. "With the group being new and developing new relations, it gave us an opportunity to step away from 'normal life' and really open up to each other."

The Hope UMC team spent their service week on the Santa Ysabel Reservation in northern San Diego County. Despite its location in Southern California, the reservation has a great deal of substandard housing, including homes without electricity and running water! Projects on the reservation included painting, roofing and building wheelchair ramps.

The Sierra Service Project program employs a "service learning" model. Each day, youth work in teams and repair homes on the reservation. It is difficult and physically challenging work. Evenings are spent singing, worshiping and in celebration. The focus is on understanding the significance of service and community to our lives as Christians. The combination can be life-changing and eye-opening.

"The young people really pulled together to help the families on the reservation. They also pulled together to help each other," said Drew.

Pictures and information on this past summer's activities can be found on the SSP website at [www.sierraserviceproject.org](http://www.sierraserviceproject.org). Also, complete information on enrolling groups for next summer is now available. For more information and an invitation packet, email SSP at [rickeaton@sierraserviceproject.org](mailto:rickeaton@sierraserviceproject.org).

## Sept./Oct. Calendar

### September

- 26-27 Board of Congregational Development, Friday 1:30-3:30, Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Holly Park UMC, Gardena  
*Contact: Craig Brown (805) 495-7215 or Kris Hodson (626) 568-7363*
- 27 Board of Discipleship, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Conference Center  
*Contact: SongJa Park (626) 568-7354*
- 27 Conference Council on Children's Ministry, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Conference Center  
*Contact: Koreen Miller (818) 368-8334 or SongJa Park (626) 568-7354*
- 27 Peace with Justice Committee, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., home of Mary Larsen, 1720 Redondo Beach  
*Contact: Keith Hwang (626) 568-7357*
- 27 Committee on Religion and Race, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., First UMC, Pasadena  
*Contact: Fernando Santillana (626) 568-7374*
- 28 Native American Committee, 1-3 p.m., Native American UMC, Anaheim  
*Contact: Keith Hwang (626) 569-7357*
- 29 Pilot Group, 5:30-9 p.m., Conference Center  
*Contact: Grant Hagiya (323) 733-4100*
- 29-30 Disaster Response Committee, Basic Critical Incident Stress Management Training Seminar, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, Aldersgate UMC, Tustin  
*Contact: Dave Horning (805) 642-3282*

### October

- 1 "One Spirit," Building, Land and Ministries Team, 5-9 p.m., Conference Center  
*Contact: Phyllis Tyler (626) 284-3229*
- 1-2 "Visioning Workshop" for Camp Cedar Glen and Camp Virginia, Wednesday 7-9 p.m., Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m., San Diego First UMC  
*Contact: Marji Martin (626) 568-7330*
- 2-3 "Visioning Workshop" for Camp Cedar Glen and Camp Virginia, Thursday 7-9 p.m., Friday 9:30-11:30 a.m., Hope UMC, San Diego  
*Contact: Marji Martin (626) 568-7330*
- 3-4 Sing the Song of Life, 13<sup>th</sup> annual older adults conference, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Harris UMC, Honolulu  
*Contact: Carol Miyamoto (808) 373-1669 or SongJa Park (626) 568-7354*
- 10-11 Board of Church and Society, Friday 4-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., El Segundo UMC  
*Contact: Larry Wayman (805) 485-0778 or JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto (808) 454-2855*
- 11 Board of Global Ministries, 8-9 a.m., Executive Board; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., full board, El Segundo UMC  
*Contact: Kandy Nunn (626) 335-4503 or Keith Hwang (626) 568-7357*
- 11 Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., First UMC, Pasadena  
*Contact: Nancy Bjorklund (714) 532-4486 or Marilyn Huntington (626) 568-7351*
- 11 Conference Council on Disabilities, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills, Mission Viejo  
*Contact: Tom Simmons (909) 351-8544*