



The Good Word

Culver-Palms United Methodist Church

“Our mission is to joyfully share Christ’s love.”

February 2010

Volume 41, Issue 2

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Sunday

Contemporary Wshp	9:00 am
Sunday School	9:15 am
Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am
Traditional Worship	10:45 am
C-P Youth	5:00 pm
Sacred Song&Prayer	6:00 pm

Tuesday

Crafts Group	10:00 am
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Wednesday

Prayer Svc	9:15 am
Pastor’s Study	10:00 am
Adult Studies	7:00 pm

Thursday

UMM/W Breakfast	8:00 am
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

Friday

KidStuff!	6:00 pm
(1 st & 3 rd Fridays)	

Saturday

UMM Breakfast	8:00 am
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Office Hours

Mon – Fri	9 am–3 pm
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Lent begins February 17

The season of Lent, a time for reflection, study and anticipation, begins on February 17 with Ash Wednesday and culminates six weeks later with the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 4.

The Service of Ashes will be on Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Pastor Lynette Fuka will bring a homily, “Cleaning Up.”

“The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.” (*United Methodist Book of Worship*).

The Lenten sermon series begins on Sunday, February 21:

February 21: “*Salvation is Jesus*” Pastor Rich Bolin

February 28 “*Salvation is Freedom*” Pastor Rich Bolin

March 7: “*Salvation is Discipline*” Pastor

March 14: “*Salvation is Reconciliation*” Pastor Rich Bolin

Subsequent sermons leading up to Easter Sunday, and other Lent and Easter activities, will be announced in the March Good Word.

A six-week Lenten study, *Food & Faith*, will be led by Pastor Rich Bolin. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the class will meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. every week through March 24. The class is a project of United Methodist Women. Written by Wendy Whiteside, *Food & Faith* explores the spiritual dimension of eating food. Subjects include how faith is nurtured, strengthened and enhanced by food; methods for developing healthy relationships with food and deepening relationship with God; ways we involve food in our lives; food’s relationship to hospitality, and rituals of fasting and feasting in which spiritual growth results in outward demonstrations of faith and God’s love. All are welcome to join the study; if you plan to attend, please advise Ellen Weakley (310-836-31121). Cost of the book is \$7.50.



Easter Lilies

Order Easter lilies to honor a loved one, and help to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. You may take your plant(s) home after the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday. Order forms will be available in late February. Order deadline will be March 17.

Rich's Reflections

Shocked by the destruction and tragedy of the Haiti earthquake, we have responded with prayer and generosity. On the Sunday following the earthquake 130 persons, including 28 children, attended worship at Culver-Palms. You spontaneously gave \$2,550 directly to our United Methodist Haiti response. Designated offerings are continuing to be received, and as the Good Word is being printed we are preparing to co-host the 6-hour "Concert for Haiti," an act of love that represents significant effort and a whole lot of love. Thank you.

All of this will make a difference for the people of Haiti, who despite the death toll and the devastation, are also responding with prayer, mutual care and resilience. Kathy Gilbert, a United Methodist journalist in Haiti at the time of the earthquake, shares that post-earthquake Haiti is full of surprises: "After people from this rural town outside of Port-au-Prince spent an hour talking about horrific conditions they are experiencing ... they served visitors all one large green coconut freshly peeled with a machete. After we drank all the milk, the hard fruit was cut in half (machete again) so we could scoop out the meat. ... This past Sunday at St. Martin Methodist Church in Port-au-Prince, two women came to worship and sat down next to the space where they had been trapped and where three of their friends died." "I wonder if I would have the courage to do that," wonders Gilbert. What we have seen is that faith, hope and love give us the endurance and courage to do more than we imagine.

The church's generous giving for Haiti is characteristic of our response to special needs as they arise. With some hesitation, I must also share with you more mundane financial needs close to home. The office heater failed early in January and had to be replaced at a cost of over \$5,000. Our total giving for the current year is down from the year before. Elsewhere in the Good Word is the financial chart that notes that so far this fiscal year (beginning July 1st), we have spent \$24,000 more than we have received. The Finance Committee and Church Council are facing difficult choices, wondering if we will be able to raise the money needed, or what ministries we may need to curtail because we do not have the funds. I share these concerns with you and ask for your prayers and your generosity.

Faith, hope and love, these three endure. And the greatest of these is love.

Pastor Rich Bolin

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Lynette's Letter

Many are still contributing to the Haiti recovery process after the 7.0 magnitude earthquake. In addition to our special offerings and the benefit concert (see Pastor Rich Bolin's article above), the Mission Team is coordinating a hands-on offering of Health Kits. UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, and UMCOR West in Salt Lake City, Utah are accepting much-needed health kits for distribution in Haiti.

The kits provide basic necessities to those affected by natural disasters or human conflict. They also serve as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. A health kit contains: hand towel (15"x 25" up to 17"x27", no kitchen towels); 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large sturdy, not pocket-sized); 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers), 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up), 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no children size brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages; \$1 to purchase toothpaste (toothpaste purchased by Sager Brown). If you are able to put together this health kit, please put the items in a large ziplock bag and bring it to the church office.

The Social Justice Team brings our attention to banks and we have invited Vicky Cruz, Business Development Officer of the United Methodist Federal Credit Union, to talk with us about membership. If you decide to become a member of UM Credit Union, Culver Palms will earn \$20 per person! Meeting date to be announced.

Martin Luther King Jr. believed that "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." We invite you to voice your concerns about the things that matters to you and your country. Contact your elected representatives – they work for you! Call or fax letters to D.C offices for greatest impact.

Pastor Lynette Fuka



Super Bowl party – Sunday, February 7

Join football fans and others for the annual CPUMC Super Bowl party in Fellowship Hall starting at 2:30 p.m. Kickoff time for the contest between the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts is 3:30 p.m.

Bring snacks to share. There will be quizzes, contests, and drawings for white elephant door-prizes. There may also be a few board games for family members who don't care about football. See you Super Bowl afternoon!

2010 L.A. District Leadership Conference – February 6

If you haven't registered yet for this year's L.A. District Leadership Training Conference, you still have time. The theme is *"Re-imagining God's Works: What is ... What can be!"* The focus will be on successful ways to bring new energy and excitement to our churches and our lives. Workshop topics include the arts in worship; good relationships between pastor, staff and congregation; literature and programs for bible study and prayer ministries; working in and through the church to make it better for present and future generations (led by CPUMC Director of Youth Ministries, Ben Idom); applying scriptures to our daily lives; and many other "nuts and bolts" topics. Registration forms and more information about workshops and leaders are available in the church office. Registration fee is \$15.

UMW February Calendar

- 02:** Crafts, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- 06:** Executive Board, 9:30 a.m.
Devotions: Ruth Golby
- 09:** Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Hostesses: Lottie Gill & Liz Bremer
- 09:** Patience Circle, 7:30 p.m.
Hostess: Ardis Smith
- 13:** Friendship Circle, 10:00 a.m.
Hostess: Carla Bailey
- 14:** Choose 2009 Special Membership Recipients
12:05 p.m.
- 16:** Crafts, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m
- 17:** Lenten Study, 10:00 a.m.
- 20:** Mid-Winter Event, 8:30 a.m.
- 23:** Crafts, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 24:** Lenten Study, 10:00 a.m.

About Our Prayer List ...



In union with Christ we pray for each other in times of illness and crisis, tragedy and loss as well as celebrations and joys. We publish our prayer list in our weekly bulletin and our 9:15 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Service. If you would like to include anyone in prayer, this is the perfect opportunity.

Please contact the church office to add or remove names or to receive a copy of the Prayer List.

United Methodist Women Mid-Winter Event – Saturday, February 20

The Cal-Pac UMW Mid-Winter Event features entertainment and a time for sharing in all four areas of mission focus: Social Action, Spiritual Growth, Education, and Membership in UMW. Bishop Beverly Shamana, a dynamic speaker, will deliver the keynote address.

This year's theme, "Widening the Circle," will focus on outreach and hospitality and will include college campus ministries information for students and parents, and music and dancing. Lunch is included. Offerings will be taken for Mission Giving and possibly for the Methodist Hospital ER. The registration fee is \$12.00 until February 6; \$15.00 is postmarked after February. Registration includes lunch, and the fee is waived for registrants age 39 and younger. The Event will be at Wilshire UMC on February 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration forms are available in the church office.

KidStuff! Activities

Our Friday night family program, KidStuff!, provides opportunities for families of all ages and sizes to have quality worship and play time together. Children are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the worship service, learning to be leaders in church at an early age. All Friday KidStuff! events include a healthful family meal.

Worship nights: dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m., crafts at 6:30 p.m., worship in the sanctuary 7:00-8:00 p.m. Game nights: dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m., game time 6:30-8:00 p.m. Movie nights: dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m., movie time 6:30-8:00 p.m. (popcorn and juice provided!).

Our next two events will be Movie Night on February 5 and worship night on February 19.

- Feb 5 – Movie Night
- Feb 19 – Worship Night: "The Story of the Forgiving Father"
- March 5 – Game Night
- March 19 – Worship Night: "A Walk through Holy Week"
- April 2 – Good Friday – No KidStuff!
- April 9 – Movie Night – **Special "Second Friday" event instead of Good Friday**
- April 17 – Worship Night: "The Good Samaritan/We can love others."
- May 7 – Game Night
- May 21 – Worship Night: "Stories of the Lost/We can trust that God will always love and care for us"

Mustardseed Ministries offers Black History Month Celebration Feb. 21st

After taking time to regroup and reexamine its mission, Mustardseed Ministries International (MMI), under the leadership of Charlotte Ferrell, is planning a Black History Month celebration on Sunday, February 21st, from 2-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The event will feature a soul food buffet, music, spoken word and dance, and welcomes participation from any church members.

Charlotte Ferrell has also joined the KidStuff! leadership team, bringing her poetic, storytelling and cultural gifts to share in our creative worship experiences for children.

General Fund Update

	December		Year to Date thru December	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income	\$ 30,518	\$ 24,428	\$ 154,460	\$ 138,729
Expense	\$ 28,885	\$ 32,637	\$ 161,016	\$ 162,993
	\$ 1,633	(\$ 8,209)	(\$ 6,556)	(\$ 24,264)

Culver-Palms UMC

4464 Sepulveda Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90230

Phone: 310 390-7717

Fax: 310 737-9356

E-Mail: office@hope4la.org

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Richard A. Bolin

Associate Pastor

Rev. Lynette Fuka

Dir of Youth Ministries

Ben Idom

Administrative Assistant

Fernanda Gray

Choir Director

Shannon Mack

Accompanist

Benjamin Jose

Praise Band Director

Dan Brown

Custodian

Juan Lopez

Thank you ...

Each year CPUMC members and friends send greetings and love to one another when they participate in our Narthex Christmas Card Tree tradition. Cards are hung on the Card Tree and the postage saved is contributed to the church. Among those participating in the tradition in Christmas 2009 were:

Curt & Mary Beyer

Anna Burleigh

Penny Choy & Gene Rothman

Tim and Karen Crawford

Joy Elwell

Loyd & Sue Eubanks

Ruth Golby

Cheryl Handel

Lorraine Henderson

Jennifer Lim

Margaret, Disa, & Alan Lindgren

Pam and Gary Magnuson

Bonnie Malcolm

Fred Marvin

Darlene McMurry

Peter & Emma Moore-Kochlacs

Janis Nathan & family

Dick Ramsdell

Mary Swan

Veda Veach

Ellen Weakley



Transition Culver City Presents: Ocean-Friendly Gardens

On Wednesday, February 24, come to a presentation on water use in California and how ocean-friendly gardens help us conserve water. Pieter Severynen, Director of Design and Planning at North East Trees, will speak, telling us about how water is distributed in California, the impact of commercial agriculture on water conservation, and designing ocean-friendly gardens and irrigation systems to maximize use of and conserve water. Free admission, but donations welcome. 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

PERIODICALS

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USPS #019-536
Culver-Palms United Methodist Church
4464 Sepulveda Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90230