

*The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Lord, hear our prayer ...*

**This week we pray for Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam**

***Give thanks for:***

- Those who help to clear landmines.
- Caregivers for those who have lost limbs.
- Cambodian Christians who are returning home after years in exile, preaching the Gospel and starting new churches.

***Pray for:***

- Those who grieve either because of civil war and genocide, or because of floods and other natural disasters.
- Those who suffered losses in the tragic civil wars and genocides that marked the middle years of the twentieth century.
- Women and children who are kidnapped and taken from their countries, forced to work in the sex industry.
- The establishment of economic justice in Southeast Asia, and the reduction and elimination of debt to wealthy foreign countries.
- The children of Cambodia, that they may know peace, and that they be able to play and attend school instead of making war.
- The land, that it may be green again, its trees left unharmed and its fruit shared.
- The poor, who subsist on an average of less than one US dollar per day.
- Christian witness to the gospel.

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

*March 14, 2010  
4th Sunday of Lent*

***Lenten Worship Order***

***Focus Scripture: Luke 15:1-3,11-32***

***Gathering & Centering***

Welcome and Invitation  
Song  
Reading and meditating on Scripture  
Song

***Reflecting on the Word***

Sermon

***Responding to the Word***

Prayers of the people  
Offering  
Announcements

***Sending Out***

Song  
Benediction



Thank you to our worship leaders today: **Tony, Aeri, Jenny, Abby, Frances, and Charlie**

Our worship leaders next week will be **Donna, Jane, Wendy, Adrienne, and Rich**

***The Lord's Prayer***

*Our Father/Mother/God who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.*

## View from the EMC Chair

*By Derek Lang*

Last Sunday, we held our regular English Ministry Council meeting. Our original intent was to hold a strategic planning meeting, but I think it would be fair to say that we are struggling with some more fundamental questions that needed to be addressed first. I say “struggle” in a good sense. Over the past several years, we have been challenged to define a vision for our English Congregation. We, as a congregation, have discussed mission statements, vision plans, vital churches, target groups, ministry areas, etc., all in effort to discern God’s calling for CCUMC. We continued this conversation by beginning with a recap of our January Congregational Meeting. The intent of the congregational meeting was to present the different ministry areas and do some faith-sharing, e.g., how Worship resonates with Aeri, how Richard connects with community service, the awe that Becky sees in Missions, the need for spiritual growth that Charlie sees, and the challenges and opportunities for Invitation/Witness that Ben envisions. This faith-sharing is somewhat new for all of us, so the context may not have been so clear. What was clear is that we need to spend more time in conversation about how each of these ministry areas fit into each of our own spiritual journeys and how we might respond to God’s call to these ministries.

How everything fits together is part of that fundamental question that we have been asking about what we need to do to be a vital and passionate church. In our denomination, the United Methodist Church has embarked on a ReThink Church campaign. In our conference, our local church is part of a circuit of six churches that are exploring how we can share ideas and resources as a means for revitalizing our ministries. Some of our EMC leaders also attended a Simple Church workshop, whose premise is that the thing missing from declining churches is a simple, clear, implemented discipleship-formation process that the whole church aligns itself to and remains focused on.

The Simple Church concepts resonated with these leaders because we have for some time now recognized that spiritual growth and ministry must go hand-in-hand. Too often, we (and this is endemic to churches as a whole) have asked people to sign up for a ministry or elected office, but without equipping them with the skills or the spiritual base. This often led to burnout and decaying churches and spiritual lives. So for example, as we sought to invite others to be in partnership to discern the direction of our ministries, we were hampered by basic problems like who would be willing to participate and who wanted to attend more meetings. As part of our

strategic planning, we are studying how the life of the church can be integrated into our discipleship-formation process, i.e., how the things we do at church (and outside) relate to our own personal and community spiritual growth. As we get a better handle on the task at hand and the opportunities for the future of CCUMC, I hope that you will all start asking questions and join us in this exciting new way of thinking about church and our faith lives.

Other miscellaneous items discussed included:

- Reevaluating our EMC budget request to help BOAT’s budgeting process so we do not have a budget deficit.
- Preparations are underway for the YCVM Benefit Dinner on April 29.
- We are looking at starting new small groups.
- Pastor Emily is meeting with several newcomer and youth for baptism, confirmation, and membership.

## *Upcoming News and Notes ~*

St. Paul UMC in Fremont is sponsoring a training for **Healing Prayer Ministry**. There will be 3 sessions of 2 hours each from 9-11AM on **February 27, March 13 and 27**. Sessions will include teaching and practice. Please see Jane for more details.

**April 29:** Benefit dinner for the **Kumi Boarding School**. Please see Becky if you’d like to help with the plans.