

Would You Like to Change the World?

We can, you and I, starting in April!

Members of more than 175 United Methodist churches in 49 states, including California and Nevada, do – and they're planning to emphasize that commitment on the week-end of April 24-25. Our church can join them!

Change the World is a two-pronged movement to engage 11 million United Methodists around the world in service in their local communities on that weekend, while uniting them globally to fight malaria – a preventable, treatable disease which kills one child every 30 seconds.

Congregations are encouraged to schedule a community-based workday on Saturday, April 24, and pastors are asked to focus their Sunday sermon on April 25 (World Malaria Day) on the campaign to wipe out malaria (and to take a special offering in support of that effort, if possible).

So far, six churches in the California-Nevada Annual Conference have registered on www.rethinkchurch.org/changetheworld. We salute:

- St. Paul's UMC in Reno, NV, which registered earlier this week to become the first church in the state of Nevada to do so!
- Chinese Community UMC, Oakland, CA
- El Cerrito UMC, El Cerrito, CA
- Forestville UMC, Forestville, CA
- Trinity UMC, Mountain View, CA
- United Methodist Church of Davis, Davis, CA



Taking part is simple, but first we must find out who among us would like to participate in a Change the World Day local project such as CA Coastal Cleanup [which we did two years ago], Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, American Red Cross, or yet other unnamed agencies.

If you are interested in participating and/or know of similar worthwhile projects we can participate in, let me know as quickly as you are able. I'll do a little more research and offer the choices for all to consider and choose one for Saturday, April 24, 2010. Please note: This event will be in lieu of our third Saturday of the month hike, so hurry with your ideas and suggestions.

We will also be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day [April 22, 2010] during this week of Change the World celebrations. More information will be made available.

Lenten Blessings,

Burt Yin

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THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

***March 28, 2010
Palm Sunday***

Lenten Worship Order

Focus Scripture: Luke 19: 28– 40

- ***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 Alvin, Wendy,
Burt, Donna, Jane, Peggy,
Brenda, and Michael***

***Our worship leaders next
week will be Jenny,
Donna, and Steve***

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



In reflecting on this week's scriptures from Luke 19:28-40 and Luke 22:14-23:56, our Seasons of the Spirit guide asks us this week, "What do the stories of Jesus' passion add to my understanding of what it means to be a disciple and journey with Jesus?" Boy, is that a tough question? We hear each year around Easter about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the Prayer in Gethsemane, the Trial, the two criminals who die with Jesus, and Jesus crucifixion. We eat pancakes, hunt for eggs and maybe even have a big dinner with family. We know what the story is about, but what does it add to, or change, how we understand what it means to call ourselves Christians?

While I probably went to others before, the first Good Friday Service that I can remember was when I lived in Belgium. Not having a car, I trekked by foot to church at dusk along the side of the forest. By the time I arrived at church, it was dark and I found a place in the pews to sit by myself. Amazingly, it was not as crowded as I would have expected, but it was conducive to being present in that very moment. Everything else was blocked out and my senses were sharply attuned to a sense of aloneness and a stark physical reality that Jesus faced.

Redemption, salvation, glorious kingdoms, and heaven were dwarfed by the thoughts of a man who was tortured and died on a cross for me – *for me*.

Since then, the story we hear on Palm and Passion Sunday is a constant reminder that my walk with Jesus is a personal relationship with One who gave everything out of love. We can overlook the value of God's love. We can hesitate to accept God's love. But the fact remains that Jesus died on the cross for us. So the only question left is, "what am I going to do about it?"

****Maundy Thursday @ Lake Merritt UMC, Apr. 1st, 7:00 p.m.***

Our sister church has invited us to celebrate a seder meal with them on Maundy Thursday. This is the day we usually remember Jesus' command to his disciples to "love one another as I have loved you." While this is traditionally remembered through a foot-washing ritual, we will instead partake in the ancient sacred meal remembering the exodus of our faith ancestors. RSVP's are requested no later than this upcoming Sunday, Mar. 21st. If you are interested in attending, please let Emily know. A love offering will be taken to cover the cost of the meal.

Good Friday Service Apr. 2nd, 2010

5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Chinese [Mandarin/ Cantonese] service

6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Communal "Last Supper"*

7:30 – 8:45 p.m. English service

*A light communal dinner will be served. We hope this will be a time of quiet reflection and fellowship as we ponder Jesus' last moments of life and his death. RSVP's would be most welcome to help us prepare for the dinner.

Please RSVP's to 510.452.1020 / rockofages@gmail.com [Rev. Peter Lau] or pastoremalee@gmail.com [Rev. Emily Lin]

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Upcoming News and Notes:

- ***Marking Lent By Remembering Hunger*** : The Outreach Ministry Area calls attention to the big red barrel in our foyer during the remaining season of Lent. What better way to mark Lent and practice alms-giving than bringing healthy canned goods, dry goods and more to share with our brothers and sisters in Alameda County. Might it be possible to fill the barrel by Easter Sunday?! Let's do it together!
- ***Maundy Thursday @ Lake Merritt UMC***, April 1st, 7pm. See article
- ***Good Friday Service*** April 2nd, 2010. See flyer above.
- ***Easter Sunrise Service*** ~ CCUMC Courtyard 7:30am, April 4th
- ***Wa Sung Easter Pancake Breakfast***: Lincoln Square Playground, April 4th. 8:30am - 11:30am.
- ***Change the World Movement*** ~ Beginning April 24th. See article
- ***Benefit Dinner, "Bricks, Mortar, and Steel"***. Thursday, April 29th. Read more about it in the Messenger. Connect with any of the Kumi Missions team for more info or tickets!