

Donors of Easter Lilies 2010:

Mrs. Vikki Chan Siu (2 plants in memory of Mrs. Yuk Tam and Mrs. T.Y. Louie), Mrs. Linda Woo (2 plants), Mr. & Mrs. Kwok Leung Kwan, Mr. & Mrs. David Yeh, Mrs. Theresa Leung, Rev. & Mrs. Peter Lau, Mrs. Elsie Wan, Mrs. Ulander Pang, Mr. Jim Yu, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Lin, Mrs. Christine S. S. Wong, Mrs. Lin Kam Huey, Mrs. Donna Louie, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Lang, Mr. Xing Feng, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Ng, Mr. & Mrs. David Wong, Mr. & Mrs. Chi Kang Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fong



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

April 4, 2010
Easter Sunday

Happy Easter



- **Gathering & Centering**
 - Welcome & announcements
 - Call to worship
 - Opening hymn
 - Opening prayer
- **Hearing & Reflecting on the Word**
 - Sharing the Story
 - Hymn of preparation
 - Sermon
 - Flowering of the cross
- **Responding to the Word**
 - Prayers of the people
 - Offering
 - Holy Communion
- **Sending Out**
 - Closing Hymn
 - Benediction

 Great Thanks to worship participants this morning:
 Becky, Brenda, Burt, Derek, Wendy, Michael, Jenny, Jenene, Aeri, Matthew, Ben, Aeri, Donna, and Steve

Special Offering for Edmond Chinese International UMC

A few year ago, the sanctuary of Edmond Chinese International UMC in Oklahoma was burned down. Edmond Chinese International UMC is the only Chinese UM church in Oklahoma. This congregation has grown out from a college Christian fellowship in the University of Oklahoma. Their current worship attendance is about 90-110 adult plus 50 children under 11 years old.

Recently they found an old church property to be their new church home. The building has 8 rooms and its sanctuary can accommodate up to 170 people. We rejoice over the wonderful ministry in Edmond. We also want to support the vital ministry of our sister church. A free-will offering will be taken next Sunday, April 11, 2010. Thank you.

Note: For more information, please visit their church website: www.eciumc.org

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.

CCUMC 321-8th Street Oakland, CA 94607 Phone/Fax: 510-452-1020
 Website: <http://www.chinesecommunityumc.org>

Celebrating Resurrection!



Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

During the last week, many of us entered into a time of darkness and heaviness as we contemplated the suffering and death of Jesus. We grappled with the path of Jesus being one that takes us to death and through death. This is no easy path! Many would say that Easter – celebrating the Resurrection – makes no sense if we have not tasted and experienced death.

For truly, the utter miracle of new life and new birth in ourselves and one another is made that much more amazing when it comes to us as we weep at the tomb. As we let go and nail to the cross habits, ways of being, and attitudes that keep us trapped and suffocating, we can more fully shout, “Alleluia!” because we sense the wriggling of new life and new possibilities making their way to the surface!

One of the ways we are celebrating the Resurrection this morning is through the ritual of flowering the cross. The flowering cross is found in Christian art as early as the 6th century and is based on a legend that says that the cross itself burst into bloom at the moment Jesus died. The legend of the True Cross describes how the wood of the cross came from a tree that sprang from a seed taken from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. This morning, by flowering the cross we will reclaim it as the site not of our death, but of our new life and new hope!

As we enter into Eastertide, may our eyes be opened wide to the ways in which God is doing something new in us, with us and for us. May this Easter season bring us hope and joy as we are transformed, like Mary in our Gospel story, by hearing our name and encountering the Risen Christ.

Alleluia!

Pastor Emily

View from the EMC Chair

By Derek Lang

During Holy Week, we experience a sense of darkness and sadness as we reflect on Jesus betrayal, trial, torture, and crucifixion. But at the end of the week, Easter reminds us of Jesus’ resurrection, so that even death is turned upside down as God creates a new life and new hope.

If you have been watching the United Methodist Church for at least the last thirty years, you may have been dismayed at declining membership, tightening budgets, and shrinking apportionment contributions from the local churches.



Even at CCUMC, membership has been static (not declining significantly, but not growing either). In response, the denomination has initiated a campaign called “ ReThink Church .” The Bishop will be holding orientation meetings to explain what this means for us (all are welcome).

Church for many has become a place that you go to. The fire has gone out, and some go more out of obligation or habit than anything else. It has become the Institution rather than the rebel. But what if people were actually EXCITED about church? What if people wanted to spend 6 hours in worship on Sunday?

What if we had to turn away people wanting to teach Sunday School? What if we needed six additional pastors to lead our age and language based ministries?

What if we had over 50 people go overseas for mission this summer? Wouldn’t this be exciting?! ReThink Church changes our paradigm in that church is not a noun; rather it is a verb. We are called to make disciples for the transformation of the world, and not to worry about numbers of members. Instead of being an isolated church, we are asked to look at ourselves as part of circuit of churches.

An outgrowth of rethinking about church is a concept to churching called Simple Church . A key characteristic found in vibrant churches is an emphasis on a disciple-making process. People and churches have been more apt to grow and flourish in an environment where a process is clear, there is movement through the process, ministries are aligned to this process, and the ministries are focused on the process (i.e., no extraneous ministries). What is our disciple-making process? What is spiritual growth? How do I know if I am growing? And, what am I growing toward? These are some of the questions that EMC is exploring as we discern how worship, nurturing/development, community service/missions, and invitation/witness fit into this process of spiritual formation.

EMC is slowly making changes to how we church. Our Tuesday Night Prayer group is reorganizing and exploring the creation of new small groups intended to reach outside its traditional group. Our young BBQ group is grappling with intentional spiritual formation. And our Ministry Area coordinators are forming ministry teams, or small groups, to study what spiritual growth looks like in their areas for themselves and for the church.

Change is not easy. It is often difficult to change traditions, and it is sad to let go of programs that have been around for 30+ years. People are used to relating to situations and other people in a certain ways. Doing hopework to plan and think about something new takes extra effort. People have different expectations, needs, and calls. We hesitate to make new commitment. Sharing and being vulnerable are scary. But I hope that you will all bear with us, and even be excited with us, about the possibilities that God will make a new thing here at CCUMC. Keep us in your prayers.