

This week we pray for Djibouti, Somalia

INTERCESSIONS

Give thanks for:

- Those who continue to serve others in the midst of great difficulty.
- Christian aid agencies, who do not give up on Somalia, even when they are exposed to frequent danger.
- Christians who persevere in spite of being a tiny minority.
- Each small sign of progress towards reestablishing a government in Somalia

Pray for:

- Peace in Somalia and that clan and military leaders would repent of the devastation they have caused to the land and its peoples.
- Hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees all over the world, and refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia who have fled to Djibouti.
- Those suffering from malnutrition and facing starvation,
- Those who have no clean water to drink, and who suffer with other-wise preventable diseases and infections.



Bricks, Mortar, and Steel ~ Benefit Dinner

This is the last weekend to get your tickets for a fabulous 9-course dinner at Legendary Palace on Thursday, April 29th! All proceeds will go towards the completion of the boarding school that will enable a group of orphaned and vulnerable children in Kumi, Uganda to rise above subsistence living and empower them to build a brighter future.



If you're unable to attend the dinner, you can still donate! See Becky, Jane, Aeri or Pastor Emily for more information!

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THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

*April 18, 2010
Eastertide*

Gathering & Centering

- Welcome & announcements
- Call to worship
- Opening hymns
- Opening prayer

Hearing & Reflecting on the Word

- Scripture reading
- Hymn of preparation – One Body in Christ
- Sermon

Responding to the Word

- Passing of the Peace
- Prayers of the people
- Offering + Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending Out

- Closing Hymn
- Benediction

“Risking Obedience”
Pastor Emily
Focus Scripture: Acts 9: 1-20



Great Thanks to worship participants this morning: Aeri, Peggy, Burt, Charlie, and Michael
Greeters: Rich and Adrienne
Hospitality: Walter and Leily

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



We might all probably agree that giving money (i.e., offerings and donations) in the church should come from the heart. But for some reason, some feel guilt. Some feel peer pressure. Some fear others are watching and judging. Even in Biblical times, e.g., the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), there were issues of why and how much people were giving.

Unfortunately, money and church have been, and probably always will be, a sticky subject. I wrote once about a friend who was turned off from her church because her church kept pushing its members to raise money for a capital project and encouraged her to finish or quit school so she could get a job and give more money to church. Does that sound extreme? Some churches do not have offering during worship (opting for a box in the back of the sanctuary) because they feel this is an act between the individual and the God. Even other churches tell the congregation prior to passing the offering plates that they do not want newcomers to give because they do not want newcomers to feel obligation.

As United Methodists, giving is fundamental to our relationship to God and the church. Our membership vows include giving of our presence, prayers, gifts (i.e., offerings), service, and witness. But we are not immune to angst about money. At CCUMC, we have had complaints about asking too often and concerns that we turn newcomers off by making requests for money at worship. Counting denomination-wide offerings (8), emergency requests like earthquakes (2-3), local needs (2-3), and CCUMC missions/ministries (3-4), it adds up quickly to almost every other week. At Board of Administration and Trustees (BOAT) meetings, we have long and heated discussions: How many "asks" are too many? What criteria should we use to choose between causes? Should we even regulate requests? Shouldn't we be allowing people to respond to God's call to help where they can? While the perfect solution has not yet arisen, we are certainly doing our best to be prayerful and faithful in developing a process.

In the meantime we have several special offering opportunities coming up, including Native American Ministries Sunday (April 18), Wesley House Special Offering (May 2), Golden Cross Sunday (May 16), Peace with Justice Sunday (May 30), and Annual Conference Special Offering (June 6), as well as upcoming fundraisers for YCVM and Community Outreach. So let me offer some thoughts as these come up:

- CCUMC provides the opportunities and trusts each person to prayerfully discern their response.
- No one is (or should be) judging whether or what you give
- You cannot buy your way into heaven
- Giving is a spiritual practice and part of our spiritual formation that reminds us all that we have and all that we are is from God
- Giving is a way to share God's love and generosity
- We will encourage those making the ask to share more about what the request is all about

In the end, we pray that you will listen to God and discern how God may be speaking in your life about giving.

Upcoming News and Notes

- Today, April 18th. Special Sunday offering: **Native American Sunday**
- Today, **EMC Conversation: Simple Church @ 12:40pm**
- Thursday, April 29th, **Bricks, Mortar and Steel**, benefit dinner at Legendary Palace. Reserve your tickets NOW! Connect with Becky, Jane, or Pastor Emily
- Ongoing: Young Adult Professionals **Bible Study**, Thursdays, 7:30pm
- Ongoing: Alameda County Community **Food Bank Drive!**
- Saturday, June 10th. **Intergeneration Night 2010**. Details to come!
- NO knitting group meeting in April. Group will reconvene in May.

Worship with Us Next Week~ April 25th

Greeters: Brenda and Jane Scriptures: Donna
Prayer: Jane Hospitality: Youth Group
Soundtech: Kelvin Acolyte: Jenny

** worship assignments can be found on the worship calendar at www.chinesecommunityumc.org*

