

Upcoming Notes & News –

- **TODAY, Sunday, December 6th, Charge Conference 1pm at CCUMC**
- **2009 Holiday Food Drive!** Let's replenish the empty barrels that have replaced the barrels we helped fill last month! We will be collecting through Christmas
- **AHS (Asian Health Services) Toy Drive:** If you'd like to volunteer this Tuesday, 12/08 from 1:30 to 4:30pm, please let Peggy or Rich know! So far we have 2 volunteers! Thanks to all who brought toys for children in need!
- **CMC Choir Presents: "Love Changes Everything"** This Christmas Concert will be held here at CCUMC on Saturday, **December 12th** at 7:30pm. If you would like to help with refreshments, please see Helena or Peggy.
- **Alternative Marketplace:** Sunday, December 13th. See article!
- **Candlelight Service** will be held Friday, **12/18/09** beginning at 7:30pm
- **Entertainment Books:** Deadline is Friday, 12/11/09 for ordering from Gloria. Deadline for picking up East Bay or SF/San Mateo editions is Sunday, 12/13/09.
- **Poinsettia Plants** must be ordered by **12/13/09!** Please see Helena

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for 06 December- 12 December 2009

In God's Hands:

At the very heart of the ecumenical movement is the reality of prayer. Jesus prayed that we may all be one, united in God in the mystery of the Trinity. That is the basis and the goal of our search for unity.



This week we pray for Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

INTERCESSIONS

Give thanks for:

Community and religious organizations that work together to improve food security in rural households, to educate and end illiteracy, to support refugees from neighbouring countries, and to provide care for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Christians in these predominantly Muslim countries who continue to witness to their faith and live their lives in accordance with the gospel.

Rural populations, subsistence farmers and livestock herders, who endure the season of want that precedes the harvest every year.

Stilt dancers in Guinea.

Pray for:

Those who flee to urban areas and face problems such as chronic unemployment, alcoholism and drug addiction.

Leaders, to govern wisely on behalf of all their people, and to address underlying problems of ethnic strife and the unequal distribution of wealth through non-violent means.

Rebuilding and healing in Guinea-Bissau as it recovers from civil war.

Those from Cape Verde who are unable to make a living in their home country and must live and work abroad.

All who suffer the effects of water shortages and long-term drought.

An end to discrimination on the basis of religion or ethnicity.

Refugees who seek shelter and safety in The Gambia and for those who work to meet their needs.

The environment, particularly areas that are subject to overgrazing, over fishing, desertification and soil erosion.

Peace, understanding and tolerance between the different religions of these countries, and respect and the freedom to express one's faith.



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

*December 6, 2009
2nd Sunday of Advent*

"Making a Way"

Pastor Emily Lin

Luke 3: 1-6

**We Invite you to be in your seats by 10:55am to begin a time of scripture meditation*

Usher/Greeter: Donna & Charlie

Prayer: Gloria

Scripture: Peggy

Sound Techs: Lin Lin

Refreshments: Frances and Gloria

Altar Flowers: Donna Chan and Elsie Wan



Worship with Us Next Week: December 13, 2009

Speaker: Rev. Emily Lin "What Then Should We do?"

Text: Luke 3: 7-18

Usher/Greeter: Rich and Adrienne

Prayer: Hoang-Anh

Scriptures: Peggy

Sound Tech: Jenny and Janene

Refreshments: Leela, Manual and Melissa

Altar Flowers: Judie Thach



A special offering for United Methodist Student Day will be taken on this Sunday. The funds collected will go towards United Methodist student scholarships and loans across the nation. This is a "special Sunday" offering and you are invited to participate!

Order your poinsettia plants from Helena to honor a loved one and to decorate the sanctuary! Plants can be taken home after the 12/20 English services.

CCUMC 321-8th Street Oakland, CA 94607 Phone/Fax: 510-452-1020

Website: <http://www.chinesecommunityumc.org>

View from the EMC Chair
By Derek Lang

#4 Texas Christian University is undefeated this season in Division 1 football. Pending the outcome of this week's University of Texas-University of Nebraska game, TCU could play in a national championship bowl game. To what is attributed for this small 9,000 student campus' rise in college football to beat Utah, Brigham Young, and the Air Force to share the spotlight with powerhouses like Florida, Alabama, and Texas? Coach Gary Patterson says things turned around for the team when he changed his attitude away from a negativism that permeated to the team to being positive on and off the field. Now, even though the school does not attract the top high school players who go to major universities, the good players that enter his program do even better as a team under Patterson's leadership.



What in the world, you might be asking, does college football have to do with Advent? It is all about Attitude. Advent is the season of coming, expectation, and hope. It is easy to get caught up in the commercialism or just hustle and bustle of Christmas, so often we pray stop and change our attitude about what Christmas is all about. You will notice that we have many Advent and Christmas activities, including:

- Follow the Advent Devotionals
- Donate to the Asian Health Service Toy Drive and help wrap gifts for needy children
- Donate to the Alameda County Food Bank
- Help prepare for the Chinese Choir – See Yvonne
- Participate in the Chinese Choir, Dec 12
- Purchase and give a gift from the Alternative Gift Market, Dec 13
- Participate in Candlelight Service, Dec 18
- Join the local Chinatown caroling, Dec 20
- Join the homebound visits and caroling, Dec 21

Hopefully you will be able to join us for some, if not all, of these activities. But rather than having the attitude that these are just more things to add to an already busy calendar of Christmas activities, I would encourage you to think about what you do for Advent/Christmas to experience and share the joy of God's gift. Perhaps the activity is an opportunity to dig into the Bible or renew your understanding of the story of Jesus' birth. Perhaps it is an opportunity to give and make God's love a reality for someone else. Perhaps it is an opportunity to celebrate being in community and experience a relationship with Jesus.

A Note from Rev. Dr. James Chuck



To the Congregation of the Community Methodist Church in Oakland

Dear friends:

For the past several years, it has been my privilege to be part of the preaching rotation at the English service. I am grateful to have been part of this vibrant worshipping congregation and for the gracious welcome and hospitality that has been extended to me.

Starting in 2010, I will be worshipping with my family on a regular basis in my home church and taking on some on-going weekly responsibilities. For that reason, I will no longer be able to be part of the preaching rotation. I have told Peter and Emily that if I can be helpful in other ways, I would be happy to be involved. I will miss very much seeing you all on a regular basis.

On the upside, this will give Emily, who has much to share, more space to develop her preaching ministry. I am confident that under the pastoral leadership provided by Pastor Peter and Pastor Emily, your congregation will see your ministry grow in the months and years ahead.

Wishing you all the joys of the Advent Season.

James Chuck

*****CCUMC gives great thanks and deep appreciation for the many years of wise words and hopeful messages shared by Pastor Chuck. He will indeed be missed. We wish him and his family well as they transition back into their home church. We will certainly keep in touch!***

Alternative Market

Save the date: **Dec. 13th** is the only day the Alternative Market will be open! This is your opportunity to do some holiday shopping, knowing that the proceeds will benefit a worthy cause: **The Alameda County Community Foodbank**. Did you know that when we make monetary donations, every dollar is able to purchase about \$7 in actual goods, through the special discounts that ACCFB is given?! This year, we have some surprise Hawaiian items, as well as Pashminas, pictures, scarves, and an assortment of giftable goodies. Take time to browse after worship service next Sunday and you may be delightfully surprised.

