

Upcoming Notes & News –

- **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:** Thanks to those of you who brought toys, and volunteered time to help wrap!
- **Alternative Marketplace: Today ONLY!** 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 today! Each plant is \$10.00 and can be dedicated to a loved one. Plants may be taken home after English Service on December 20th. Please connect with Helena to place your order
- **Caroling** on 12/20 and 12/21. Please see article!

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for 13 December- 19 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 Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo



INTERCESSIONS

Give thanks for:

- Pastors, priests and evangelists and other church workers for their mission endeavors.
- Those who search for ways to provide clean water.
- The education ministry of Christian churches.
- Coffee and cacao, palm groves and coconut, yams and peanuts.
- The indigenous woven cloth and work in bronze.

Pray for:

- Peace, unity, and political and economic stability throughout the region.
- Unemployed young people.
- The many people in these countries who live in desperate poverty, and efforts to create better living conditions.
- Health care workers who provide medical help and education to those living with HIV and AIDS.
- Children who are trafficked for cheap labor or otherwise exploited.



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

*December 13, 2009
3rd Sunday of Advent*

“What Then Should We Do?”

Pastor Emily Lin

Luke 3: 7 - 18

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

Usher/Greeter: Donna & Charlie

Prayer: Hoang-Anh

Scripture: Peggy

Sound Techs: 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.*** *These offerings furnish scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. Usually observed on the last Sunday of November, this is one of six churchwide Special Sundays of the United Methodist Church. Checks can be made out to CCUMC with UM Student Day noted in the memo line and placed in the special offering envelopes. Your generosity is celebrated!*

Worship with Us Next Week: December 20, 2009

Speaker: Rev. Emily Lin “Pregnant with Joy!”

Text: Luke 1: 39-45

Usher/Greeter: Al and Steve

Prayer: Burt

Scriptures: Peggy

Sound Tech: Abbey

Refreshments: Candlelight

Altar Flowers: Christmas Poinsettias



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View from the EMC Chair

By Derek Lang

In elementary school, did you ever make a compass with a bowl of water, a cork, and a magnetized needle? There is a certain anticipation and perhaps even excitement just before putting the cork and needle into the water wondering if they will indeed follow the laws of nature and spin until they align with the earth's magnetic poles. And every time, they do.



Advent is the time of anticipation for the coming of the baby Jesus. We rejoice in the story of Mary who as a virgin would give birth to Jesus, the trek of Joseph and Mary to the little town of Bethlehem, the manger fill with animals as the only place to shelter the birth of Jesus, the bright star and wise men who come to give gifts to the baby king, and the angels singing to the shepherds at night. Because we know a happy ending is in store, we feel comfort as we anticipate the coming of Christmas. Everything happens for a reason and God takes care of everything.

Did Joseph and Mary felt that same sense calm and reassurance as they went door to door looking for a place to stay in Bethlehem, only to be turned away each time? I am sure they were anxious to find a place to rest – a place that was safe and sheltered from the elements. Perhaps we experience similar anxiety as we walk through Chinatown in the cold, dark night. Perhaps we are searching for a job, our next meal, a place to call home, or someone to call a friend. Rather than standing by and doing nothing, we are apt to do what we can to meet our needs because we have a certain hope that our needs can be met.

Where does that hope come from? One of the tenants of Welseyian theology is “prevenient grace.” Prevenient, meaning “comes before,” is the grace that God gives us even before we know God. It is that gut feel that there is something, or someone, out there with whom we have need to connect. In the face of whatever situation we are in, we have this inkling that there is hope or that God will be there for us. And you know what? God is there.

As we experience Advent, let us be poised in anticipation and excitement - waiting to see at that moment when we let God into our heart that our lives align with all that is good and everything is in its rightful place.

Caroling Opportunities!



Sunday, December 20th, 1pm: Join the Chinese Congregation as they serenade passersby in front of the church. Carols will be sung in English and Chinese, so feel free to join them as they share the spirit of Christmas with the community!

Monday, December 21st, 1pm: Our annual visitation caroling will meet at church at 1pm before heading off to visit the homebound and a few senior residential homes. Please connect with Becky to sign up if you are planning to come, and if you can help with carpool. After caroling (around 5pm), we'll meet back at church for soup and a light dinner. Children must be accompanied by a parent, or have a signed permission slip.

Candlelight Service ~

Join us as we keep watch along with the shepherds and wise men. Follow the star as we greet the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our annual Candlelight Service will be held on **Friday, December 18th, beginning at 7:30pm.**

Refreshments will be provided by the United Methodist Women.



Alternative Market Today!

Today, 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 and you may be delightfully surprised.

