

# *The Outlook*

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LIII, #1

Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Pastor

January 5, 2011

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## **Sunday, January 9, 2011**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School - 10:30 a.m. Worship

Isaiah 42: 1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

"Journey from the Jordan"

Karen Stoffers-Pugh, preaching

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## **All Women of Wesley**

If you are interested in touring Ronald McDonald House, we will meet on Thursday, January 13, at 10 am in the Lounge and carpool from the church. The UMW is sponsoring this tour, and hope you will be excited to participate. If you need a ride, please call Louise Clay or Barbara Knowlton. This is the UMW General Meeting for January.

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## **Baked Potato Lunch January 23**

Join us on January 23 for an all-church baked potato luncheon following worship. Beverage and dessert will be provided. There is a sign up list in the Narthex to provide toppings: chili, cheese, sour cream, bacon, green onions, and broccoli.

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## **Volunteers Still Needed for Children's Narthex Program**

We still need volunteers to assist with the children's narthex program during the worship service. Please sign up to help with this important activity. The child hears a story, learning scripture, and doing an enjoyable project that may be taken home. A sign up list for volunteers is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Two adults are needed each week to read stories and guide the children in completing an activity. Volunteers may develop their own curriculum or use the curriculum that is provided.

## From The Pastor's Desk,

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17*

*One evening the New Testament professor from Princeton Seminary visited a high school youth group. After the professor finished speaking about the significance of Christ's baptism as a revelation of God's presence in Jesus, the high schooler said without looking up, "That ain't what it means." Glad that the student had been listening enough to disagree, the professor asked, "What do you think it means?"*

"The story says that the heavens were opened, right?" "Right." "The heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came down, right?" "That's right." The boy finally looked up and leaned forward, saying, "It means that God is on the loose in the world. And it is dangerous."

I found this anecdote on line as I began studying and preparing for this week's sermon. I had not thought of God in this way before, loose in the world. I had an understanding of God's presence or omnipresence (meaning God is everywhere) in the world. But there is something in those words, "loose in the world" that stirs up a more active vision and understanding of God's presence. When we think of something being "loose" that means it is something we normally would keep contained.

But God can't be contained. God is on the loose in the world. Is God on the loose in your life? Does your faith impact your life? Change or shape your decisions? The person who offered the anecdote concludes, "After his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness, and it was dangerous. Jesus taught in the temples, and it was dangerous. Jesus healed on the Sabbath, and it was dangerous. Jesus confronted the authorities and turned over the tables, and it was dangerous." (D.Chambers)

Be on the lookout for our dangerous God who is on the loose in the world. Be on the lookout for dangerous discipleship in the name of Jesus. Be on the lookout for a dangerous Spirit leading you into the wilderness.

Peace,  
Pastor Karen <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://web.me.com/lindyblack/Sermon\\_Fodder/Lectionary/Entries/2011/1/2\\_EPIPHANY\\_1A.html](http://web.me.com/lindyblack/Sermon_Fodder/Lectionary/Entries/2011/1/2_EPIPHANY_1A.html)



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the Hail family in the death of, **Jean Hail**, on January 1, 2011. Jean was a member of Wesley since 1993. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held at Wesley on Friday, January 7, at 10 a.m.

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### **Sunday Morning Greeters**

Greeters are needed each Sunday to welcome people as they come in the church doors. A sign up list for greeters is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. We want Wesley to be viewed as a church that welcomes everyone, whether a first time visitor or a long time member. Please consider greeting for a month during 2011 and sign up this Sunday.

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### **From Our Members...**

Thank you for your expressions of sympathies from our Wesley family.

--From the family of Isabell Davisson

New address and phone number for John, Patricia, and Erin Carter  
10607 Valverde Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93311  
661-835-5642

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern**

Prayers of concern were expressed for Brandon Lansche who has undergone surgery on his jaw and face which will be a long recovery and for his caretakers/parents, Jean Ann and Wayne; for the Rous' friend, Russ Hamilton, who is recovering from abdominal surgery in Illinois; that Gia Murillo has begun the process for next year's study in Israel, prayers that she meets all the deadlines and is accepted into the program; for Linda Tilton's bus driver Joyce's sister who passed out before Christmas and now is in a coma, that she will come out of the coma soon and be just fine; for Linda Tilton's aunt who is back in the hospital, prayers that she will be just fine soon; for Linda Tilton's friend's mother who broke her hip and is not recovering well after her operation; for Linda Tilton's friend's father who broke his hip and is recovering after having surgery on Tuesday, and for Linda Tilton who stepped on a piece of glass and now her right toe hurts real bad, prayers that it will not get infected and that it won't hurt for a long time. Prayers of thanksgiving were expressed by Shelley Urzua for bringing the whole family together (both sides) right in time for this wonderful celebration of Christ's birth; for another year with Victoria as our accompanist; for the life of Florence Pfister, wonderful teacher and friend; for the life of Ron McMaster, an extraordinary Bakersfield administrator, retired, who died last week of leukemia.

## **Prayer Requests From California-Nevada United Methodist Volunteers in Mission**

*Lift these volunteers up in prayer as they go forth in service to others this month.*

### **Solidarity Task Force to the Philippines –**

**January 2 -16:** Laddie Perez-Galang of *Lake Park UMC* serves with Nicole Harris, Monico Luis Jr., Jeanelle Ablola, Lindsey Kerr and Adonis Galang.

### **Elk Grove UMC to the UMCOR West Depot in Salt Lake City, Utah – January 3 - 7:**

Mary Popish leads a returning team to the depot and serves with Giles Popish, Martin Popish, Kaitlyn Daley, Sidney Antonsen, Abria Deutsch, Kristin Emmons, Joe Rokoyawa, Mataiasi Ahokava, Hulita Fakalata, Delilah Fakalata, Janet Ma, Lesieli Taumoefolian and Curtis Azeveto of *Elk Grove - Elk Grove UMC*.

### **Connectional Team to the Mumbai, India –**

**January 8 - 17:** Mary Philip of *Davis UMC* will lead a team back to Mumbai to continue work there. A list of those serving with her was not available at the time of posting.

### **Multi Church Hurricane Recovery Team to the Dulac, Louisiana – January 22 - 29:**

Ken Blackshear leads a team of 28 volunteers to Dulac. He serves with Paula Blackshear, Joan Brady, Dan Dionne, Kris Flanders, Todd Flanders, Leo Fredrickson, Louise Fredrickson, Marie Granskaw, Michelle Montgomery, Sue Peacock, Steve Peacock, Herb Pierce, Sally Pierce, David Samelson, Bev Strubinger, Ken Stumpf, Chris Thomas and Connie Wilson of *Eureka - First UMC*, Haati Nai and Henele Nai of *Salinas UMC*, Zach Boyd, Gail Brotherhood, Carol Layton, George Layton, Kerry McKinney and Rob Wyckoff of *Crescent City UMC*.

### **Los Altos UMC Hurricane Recovery Team to Gulfport, Mississippi – Jan. 30 – Feb. 5**

Bob Lee and Hal Taylor lead a team back to Gulfport. They serve with Angela Eglen, Carol Woronow, Dana Kreitter, Dick Roy, Jenny Madlem, Lissa Sheldon, Tom Wehman and Yvonne Murray of *Los Altos - Los Altos UMC* and Bruce Barsi of *Saint Nicholas Catholic Church*.

### **Wesley UMC – San Jose Team to Cancun, Mexico – January 30 – February 6:**

Jackie Kawashima leads and serves with Don Kawashima, Jody Kamachi, Kelvin Kamachi, Laura Kinoshita, Dennis Kinoshita, Hector Acuna, Beverly Acuna, Barbara Hiura, and Warren Shimonishi and Mona Otomori of *San Jose - Wesley UMC*

### **Medical / Dental Team to the Philippines – January 30 – February 3:**

Paul Cabotaje leads and serves with Virgie Cabotaje and Leah Estrella of *Stockton - St. Paul's UMC*, Monika Bautista, Lance Mitchell Choy, Rev. Anne Lau Choy of *Fremont - St. Paul's UMC*, Estan Cueto of *Vallejo - Wayside UMC*, Norma Florendo of *Atwater - Atwater UMC*, Ben Silva-Netto and Marlyn Silva-Netto of *Union Theological Seminary - Cavite, Philippines*.

Please post this Prayer Request in your home, office, church or car...anywhere that you'll be reminded to offer prayers of support and for the safety for these United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

