



### Words from your District Superintendent

As the cold and wet makes itself known throughout our region, we cannot help but notice the unmistakable signs that the holiday season is about to make itself known. It is that most wonderful season of all and I pray it will be for you the season to make that connection to the holy in your personal life. Once more we prepare for the promise of a Savior, asking that we accept and claim the gift as our own, and experience the true gift of what Christmas is really all about.

It is hard to imagine that our new work as a district is now nearly six months along and the work with Mariellen and with me is now beginning to take some real shape. Together with our circuit leaders, we as a district have completed our conference season. On behalf of Mariellen, I write to thank you sincerely for your warm welcome, the quality of the reports you have submitted and for the wonderful ways in which you are making disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you.

In these next several weeks, I pray that you will find your way into a local church. That in this season of hopes and promises, you will experience once more the blessed gift of Jesus Christ in your own personal experience, which truly is the gift of Christmas.

May you use these days to connect with loved ones, to sing the songs of the season, to reflect on the many blessings that are yours, to make plans now to attend the celebrations of the season. And please remember that many in our communities are experiencing some real difficulties. I hope that those in need might find in you a kind and generous friend.

May this season of Advent and Christmas prove to be a time of great blessing and grace in your life and the lives of those you love. May this season be the time for you to know that peace that passes all of our understanding and a love that knows no bounds.

**Merry Christmas!! Merry Christmas!!**

See you in church, Jerry Smith

revjerrysmith@sbcglobal.net

Have a Merry Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! From the Delta District Office Jerry Smith, Mariellen Yoshino & Cindy Buna



**Cindy's Chat:** Fala-lalala lala la la! The first Christmas gift I remember getting and how excited I was (I was 6) was a stuffed animal . . . Dino from the Flintstones!

**Sexual Harassment Hotline**  
916-374-1569



### ABOUT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

#### Together We Serve

The United Methodist Church (UMC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have joined in full communion. This momentous interfaith event was celebrated in the Sacramento area on November 15, 2009. Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., San Francisco Area, California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church conducted the service assisted by Rev. Kathi McShane, First United Methodist Church in Sacramento and Rev. Scott Sorensen of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. Faith groups from throughout Northern California participated.

Ecumenical dialogue began formally in 1977, continued in interim Eucharistic sharing, and culminated in a vote for full communion by the General Conference of the UMC in April 2008 and by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in August 2009. Full communion means that we recognize the authenticity of each other's baptism and Eucharist. Ordained ministers may now serve members of both churches. Full communion strengthens our relationships, allowing, for example, exchange of clergy, missionary training, and sharing of resources. Ecumenical work continues through the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (UMC) and the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (ELCA) as we recognize our unity in Christ across denominational lines. We encourage local churches of both denominations to serve their communities in compassionate and creative ways.

**"Together we serve united by love".**

From Celebration of Full Communion: ELCA-UMC held at Sacramento 1st UMC, (edited from program at event, , November 15, 2009).

**Come join us for a day with Bishop Robert Schnase, author of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations who will be at the Nevada-Sierra District's Leadership Training Day on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at South Reno UMC. The cost is \$20 until January 31, 2010, after that it goes up to \$25. Sign up now! Contact Audrey at the Nevada-Sierra District Office to register;**

phone: 775-786-2332 or email: nsdistumc@sbcglobal.net

**Attend the January SUMU meeting on Thursday, January 21st at the Conference Center located at 1276 Halyard Drive in West Sacramento. Meeting is from 10:00AM until noon.**

Sacramento United Methodist Union

### Prayer Calendar

- Dec 20 Loomis First UMC  
Lincoln UMC
- Dec 27 Woodland UMC
- Jan 03 Modesto First UMC
- Jan 10 Coulterville Community UMC  
Isleton UMC
- Jan 17 North Sacramento UMC
- Jan 24 Lodi Salem UMC



### DELTA DISTRICT CALENDAR

- Dec. 18 Furlough Day Conference Ctr. closed
- Dec. 14 thru Dec. 18 District AA Vacation
- Dec 24, 25 Holiday, District Office closed
- Dec 31/Jan 1 Holiday, District Office closed
- Jan 14 District Council on Ministries Mtg. Stockton Holy Cross, 6:00PM
- Feb. 6 Delta Lay Leader Gathering/Lunch, Lodi First UMC, 9:30AM to 1:30PM Saturday
- 2010 Annual Conference:**  
Wednesday, June 16 thru Saturday, June 19 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

## Lay Speaking Classes:

UM History: led by Paul Hampson on Jan. 16th 2010 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM (fee is \$25 includes lunch) Location: CA/NV Conference Center, 1276 Halyard Drive in West Sacramento.

Preaching (Part I & II): led by Rev. Elizabeth Brick and Bob Emens on Jan. 23 and Feb. 6, 2010 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM (fee \$25 bring bag lunch)

To register: Call the Delta District Office at (916) 374.1501 or email [deltadist@calnevumc.org](mailto:deltadist@calnevumc.org)

## Opportunities for a short-term Mission Trip

Participate in a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission trip. Below is a list of trips planned for 2009. These trips are sponsored by local churches but open to volunteers from any church.

**Philippines** (end of Jan—end of Feb 2010) St. Paul's UMC in Stockton; International - Medical & Dental Team

**Utah, Salt Lake City - UMCOR West Supply Depot** (Jan 25-29) U.S. Construction & Multi-Generational Conference Team (RECRUITING NOW!)

**California, Oroville** (February 2010) CA-NV Conference; Construction Team (Electrician Heat/Air specialist needed)

**Mississippi, VanCleave** February 2010) Los Altos UMC; Hurricane Recovery - Construction Team

**Brazil, Conconde** (Feb 2010 - The Senior Center) Los Gatos UMC; International - Construction Team

**Philippines** (Feb 4-17, 2010) **Choir Team;** International - Connectional Team

**Matagalpa, Nicaragua** (Feb. 15- ?) Los Altos UMC; International Educational / Connectional Team

**Cambodia** (Feb 20-28) Conference Team; International - Connectional & Site Assessment

**Nicaragua, Nueva Guinea** (March 2010) Epworth UMC Berkeley; International - Educational & Connectional

**Louisiana, Dulac** (Mar 13-19, 2010) First UMC in Reno; Hurricane Recovery - Construction Team

**Guatemala** (March) First UMC Modesto; International

**Contact UVMIM office at 916-374-1582 or email us at: [umvim@calnevumc.org](mailto:umvim@calnevumc.org) or our website: [www.cnumcvm.org](http://www.cnumcvm.org)**

**Sacramento United Methodist Union (SUMU)** has not escaped the effects of the poor economy, but that hasn't dampened its mission to provide grants, camperships and loans to United Methodist Churches in our area. During this past year SUMU has provided sizeable grants to two churches in an effort to provide a restart or a way to increase their attendance. SUMU is helping Oak Park UMC in its effort to expand its membership and community involvement.

**Oak Park UMC** was organized in 1895. By 1921 a building committee began work on plans and the new church building was dedicated in 1927. Church membership at that time was close to 300 and attendance in church school was about 350. It included a gymnasium for outreach to youth and children. Since that time many unfortunate events happened. Highway locations changed the demographics of the area; there has been racial strife and tensions and periods of economic disparity in the area. Membership fell to a low of 48 members. In an effort to revitalize this church the present minister, Bobby Jones, presented a plan to the SUMU Board and to the Delta District on a way to make this happen. Rev. Jones has the charisma, ability and energy to work with the business community and other groups in the area to find ways to work together to provide service to the community. Having the right people to enable a church to meet its goals met the criteria of SUMU's mission of restarting a church. His commitment to extend a hand and build trust in God to all in the community is starting to bring a turnaround in their membership.

In coming issues of the Delta Current we will cover another church restart that we are supporting this year as well as a report on how we have expanded our campership program. We wish to thank all who have supported the mission of SUMU through church askings and individual endowments. It is through your gifts and the interest gained from our endowment funds that we are able to further our mission of starting new churches or providing financial assistance to restart existing churches. It also provides the funds used in making short term loans to churches for emergencies such as repairing a leaky roof, installing a new heating or air conditioning system or other need. Your gifts also assist in financing our campership program.

The Delta District Council on Ministries Cordially invites you to our . . . . .

## LAY LEADER LUNCHEON

Rethinking Laity: Roots and Wings

Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 9:30AM until 1:30 PM

Location is: Lodi First UMC  
200 West Oak Street in Lodi

Do you or your newly incoming Lay Leader have questions about what it means to be a Lay Leader? Have advice for other new Lay Leaders? Want to learn more about how other Lay Leaders and churches operate and minister?

We also want to introduce our new co-District Superintendents, Rev. Mariellen Yoshino and Rev. Jerry Smith. They will be giving a thought-provoking and fun dialogue (maybe even a skit). Our District Lay Leader Chair, Paul Hampson, will follow up with some words of wisdom as well.

Let's solidify our roots in love as Christians and sprout some wings to energize ourselves and our congregations!

**Important:** Please invite the incoming Lay Leader to accompany you! If you are the present and continuing Lay Leader, we encourage you to bring another interested lay member or even two.

Please RSVP to Cindy Buna at the Delta District Office at 916.374.1501 or email [deltadist@calnevumc.org](mailto:deltadist@calnevumc.org)

See you at the luncheon.

Paul Hampson, District Lay Leader  
Rick Young, District Council on Ministries

**Side-by-Side Ministries:** Drop off candles, writing journals, bibles, cross necklaces or rosaries for the Side-by-Side Ministry to the homeless at the Delta District Office of the CA-NV Conference Center located at 1276 Halyard Drive in West Sacramento.

## The Table UMC

Why do we need the table? *The Table* is important because it is experimenting with new ways to do church.

*The Table* is a place where:

- The Bible and Tradition are honored enough to be faithfully questioned and struggled with.
- Reason is valued and questions are encouraged, where you will not be handed a checklist of orthodoxy, where ambiguity is not the enemy of faith but its partner.
- We bring our authentic selves and lived experiences, where we no longer have to bracket parts of who we are to be in Christian community.

The Table seeks to create a community of faith in Sacramento that is: rooted, growing and reaching.

Go to our website at:

[www.thetableumc.org](http://www.thetableumc.org)

**Parenting:** Expecting & New Parents are invited to join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month beginning January 6, 2010 from 6:00PM to 7:00PM in East Sacramento. Email Rev. Matt Smith for more information

[matt@thetableumc.org](mailto:matt@thetableumc.org)

## Prayer

Jesus, my Lord, Come to me, Comfort me, console me. Visit the hearts in strange lands yearning for you. Visit the dying and those who have died without you. Jesus, my Lord, visit also those who persecute you.

Lord Jesus, you are my light in the darkness. You are my warmth in the cold. You are my happiness in sorrow . . . **Amen**

(From the Oxford Book of Prayer)



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Jerry Smith, DS north delta  
Mariellen Sawada, DS south delta

Rick Young, DCOM Chair  
Paul Hampson, Lay Leader Chair  
Katy Houghton, SUMU President  
John Kimbell, CES President

Send Ideas, contributions, and announcements to the Delta District Office at the above address. Deadline is the 5th of each month for distribution on the 10th.