



## *Grace Notes from Kristie*

This week a new baby was born into our family. Our son Erik and his wife Heather (Stout) Olah welcomed Matthew William Olah into the world. His birth in this Holy Week is a fresh reminder of God's possibility come alive in the world.

Like all grandparents, our hopes are simple: that Matthew grow up in a caring home, surrounded by people who love him and who will teach him what is important. And yes, we would hope he comes to know how much God loves him and to know Jesus for himself.

We people of faith have the same hope for every child and youth who enters our church communities. Our churches often make ministries for and with children and youth our top priorities – but sometimes we struggle to create programs and events that will really help younger people to know the love of God.

It seems our biggest challenge is for our youth and those in the neighborhoods around us. How many times I have heard church leaders say... We would really like to see more youth in our church! Some of us fondly remember our youth group days (like me!) and camping experiences (like you?) and want those special experiences for the young people we know. Others express dismay at the challenges our young people face and hope the church would be a community of connection and support for tough decisions. Our district lay leader, Nina Klepac, told our District Council on Ministries that many of you have expressed to her a deep desire of to create ministries or programs for and with youth that will really make a difference.

In response, we have planned our next **Quarterly Conference** around youth ministries for churches small or large. **On Saturday morning, April 17**, all church leaders, youth directors, pastors, and young people are invited to gather at Los Altos UMC to learn and grow together. Anyone who cares about youth is encouraged to attend. Look for the registration form with this newsletter. Our special speaker will be **Kelly Newell, Conference Director, Camping and Young People's Ministries**. Kelly has a passion for working with churches and their leaders toward new ways of involvement of youth that are appropriate for the places and people who are gathered. She has worked with larger and smaller churches and is convinced that all churches, of every size, can develop meaningful youth ministries and connections.

**Our worship service will be led by Rev. Dirk Damonte and youth from some of our churches.**

After we eat lunch together, Pastor Frances Sunae Cho is organizing a special early afternoon session for anyone who works directly with youth.

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## Bishop Brown speaking in our area

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., will be speaking and inviting conversation several times during the next few weeks, sharing ideas and proposed legislation as we rethink Church from a Conference perspective. All lay persons and clergy are welcome and encouraged to attend. You may find a letter from the Bishop articulating the basics of his message, other articles and a short video from the first gathering at Redding UMC in March on the Conference website, [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org)

The upcoming schedule:

<b>Saturday, April 10.</b>	3 – 5:30pm	Central UMC, Stockton
<b>Saturday, April 17.</b>	10am – 12:30pm	Asbury UMC, Livermore
<b>Sunday April 18.</b>	3 – 5:30pm	First UMC and First Tongan UMC, Palo Alto

Note: Music and gathering begin at 2:30pm. Arrive early to find parking on area streets.

<b>Saturday, April 24.</b>	9:30am – 12:30pm	Visalia UMC
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### Clergy Transition Effective July 1, 2010

- Aniko Olah from Marina UMC is requesting a leave of absence to attend school.
- Mark Buenafe from Tracy UMC to Marina UMC.
- Fel Cao from Sunnyvale Valley Faith to Vallejo Wayside.

*Kristie, Continued from Page 1*

Experienced youth leaders will share ideas, answer questions, and hopefully, form new connections with one another. We'll explore what works in our settings, in our cultures, in our neighborhoods.

People of all ages matter to God, so they matter to us. But we have a special responsibility to our young people. We have been given the gift of loving them and sharing the stories of our faith with them. When we interact with youth, sometimes they reveal the face of God; and when they get to know us who are a bit older, sometimes they see the Christ in us. We are blessings to one another across the generations.

In this season of hope and renewal, may God help us find the courage, the words, and the passion to share our faith across cultures, across ages, across languages, and into connection.

***Blessings, Kristie Olah***  
District Superintendent

## Registration Now Open for Annual Conference Session

It is time to register for our Annual Conference Session, which will be held from June 16 to 19 in the Convention Center in Sacramento. Clergy, lay members elected from each church, official youth delegates and others are encouraged to register soon.

Registration is online through the Conference website, [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org). Go to the Annual Conference Session tab on the right side of the homepage. There are separate sections for clergy and for lay people, and more than one person in the same category may register together.

A preliminary schedule is on the site. You may also register for childcare online. **A change for this year:** you may need to explore your own housing options. The Conference has negotiated with only one hotel, the Hyatt, for special group rates.

Also new this year: **anyone may register for teaching workshops.** Sessions will be led by two expert presenters, **Bishop Robert Schnase**, author of **Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations**, and **Dr. Marcia McFee**, worship designer and leader. You do not need to be a delegate to attend, but you do need to register. If you are looking for new ideas or want to be a part of our "Methodist family gathering" this June, plan to attend the worships or workshops.



## Gathering of the Laity and Pre-Conference Orientation

**Lay leaders** of local churches, **lay members of Annual Conference**, and **lay speakers:** mark your calendars! **Saturday May 15** is the date and **Alum Rock UMC** in San Jose is the place. The San Jose District Council on Ministries/Board of Laity, under the leadership of our lay leader Nina Klepac, is planning to bring us all together as leaders.

From 9:30am to 11:30am, we will focus on getting to know one another and hear stories of success and inspiration.

From 11:30 – 1pm, District Superintendent Kristie Olah will lead a **PreConference Orientation there at Alum Rock UMC.** Several important items of legislation are coming to vote at the Annual Conference Session. We will introduce the items and their possible impact on our Conference and our churches. This session is open to anyone who is interested.



Bishop Robert Schnase

## UMCOR NEWS!

According to an UMCOR news release on March 11, 2010, some 2,000 volunteers have registered with United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, offering to spend time, talents and their own funds to accompany the Haitian people in their recovery. Across the US, church groups have assembled the components of more than 350,000 health kits.

There is a new request for Layette kits and Birthing kits which are in great demand as Haitians begin to rebuild their lives. These kits will address the basic needs of babies born in displaced persons camps in Haiti.

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/emergencies/ongoing/haitiearthquake/betherebehope/>

**Layette Kit Items**      **Value:** \$35 per kit

- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits
- 2 baby washcloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins
- 1 sweater open in the front
- 2 receiving blankets

Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

**Birthing Kit Items**      **Value:** \$8 per kit

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hotel-size bar of soap (1 oz. and up)
- 1 pair of clean latex gloves
- 1 square yard of clear 4 mil plastic sheeting
- 3 pieces of clean string each 12" long
- 1 clean single use razor blade (carefully wrap the blade in paper or plastic to protect it and keep it from causing injury)
- 2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 square yard

### **Important Kit Assembly Information**

All items included in kits must be NEW items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Consider sending your kits with individuals or UMVIM teams leaving for the UMCOR Depot in Salt Lake City in the coming months. Contact the UMVIM office (916) 374-1584 or [umvim@calnevumc.org](mailto:umvim@calnevumc.org) for more information. If you have completed kits or supplies, **Jan Grodeon, a member of Campbell UMC, is leaving for SLC on April 14 and willing to take kits. Please contact her at [jgrodeon@aol.com](mailto:jgrodeon@aol.com).**

*Submitted by Rebecca Perry*

## Mission Trip to UMCOR Depot?

Is your church interested in sending a team to the UMCOR West Depot in Salt Lake City? The dates of July 25-30 are available for a California/Nevada conference team to volunteer. Other dates can be arranged. Contact Eddie Frutchey, UMVIM office (916) 374-1584 or [umvim@calnevumc.org](mailto:umvim@calnevumc.org) for more information.

**NOR/CAL ECUMENICAL  
MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER  
MEDIA UPDATE – April 2010  
408-378-2532 FAX: 408-378-2652  
emrcvideos@aol.com www.emrclibrary.org**



The Media Resource Center has produced a DVD that introduces the Center, relating its history and purpose. This DVD is being circulated among MRC non-member churches of our sponsoring denominations to invite them to take advantage of the great resources available at the Center. We are offering a free three-month trial period so that Christian educators and pastors may become familiar with our services.

Member churches report a high degree of satisfaction with the quality and scope of our services and catalog. Here is what some of the members are saying:

1. “I think our church has been a member forever, and we use it all the time.” Cambrian Park UMC
2. “The Media Resource Center is valuable to new member churches because of the wealth of excellent materials and the help given to members by the terrific staff.” Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian
3. “My church has been a member of the Media Resource Center since 1996. It has enabled us to provide media for all ages that we would not have been able to afford.” Ladera Community Church

If your church joins the Media Resource Center, the annual fees for Presbyterian and UMC and UCC churches are partially subsidized through their denominational support: The fee for Presbyterian and Methodist churches with fewer than 250 members is \$60. (The \$60 fee is partially subsidized by the United Methodist Conference and the Presbytery of San Jose.) The fee for Presbyterian, Methodist, and UCC churches with more than 249 members is \$185.

Please check our web site at [www.emrclibrary.org](http://www.emrclibrary.org) to see an up-to-date catalog of all our wonderful resources. Please encourage all your friends from other churches to take advantage of our services.

*Pat Strandburg, Director*  
Media Resource Center

## **Kit & Relationship Building Team to the UMCOR West Depot in SLC, Utah: April 5-9**

Becky Perry of *Boulder Creek UMC* leads a multi-church team to the UMCOR West Depot. She is joined by Sunshine Johnson and Garrett Wallace of *Boulder Creek UMC*, Jane Cross of *Pacific Grove UMC*, Don Kawashima and Jackie Kawashima of *San Jose - Wesley UMC*, Rosemary Steenhausen of *Almaden Hills UMC*, Ina Tanner and Marv Tanner of *Campbell UMC*, Selma Chung, Patti Lawton and Jeffrey Lawton. Thanksgiving and prayers for all.

## St. Paul's Creative Arts for Youth Program

provides a place for 'at risk' youth from 8-14 to participate in dance, music and drama. The program focuses on providing positive life skills for building self-esteem and good decision making. Currently there are over 40 youth involved with the program, which was begun 10 years ago. Classes meet for two hours once a week. While there is a fee for each semester, no child is turned away for lack of funds. One parent recently shared this letter with us about her daughter: "The Creative Arts for Youth program has enriched my daughter's life in so many ways:

- Taught her to be responsible
- Built good habits
- Taught her new and creative skills
- She has more energy
- Enjoys life more because of dancing
- Given her positive contacts with others – peers and adults
- Higher self-esteem

As a result she has been in school musicals, including a lead, become co-captain of a dance team and the main 'flyer' for her cheer-squad. As a parent I am proud of all she has accomplished and grateful for this program for giving her the skills and confidence to be a positive and successful role model for other young girls in our community."

## District Dinner at Annual Conference

District dinner at Annual Conference session will take place in Capitol Park at 5:30 pm on **June 18**. We will have the same caterer as last year for a hot buffet meal. Flyers for District Dinner will be available in the May 2010 newsletter. Plan to be there!



## An Evening on Bourbon Street

**Live Music!! Dinner!!  
Dancing!!**

**A Benefit for St. Paul's Creative Arts for Youth Program**

Saturday April 10, 2010

7:00 to 9:30 pm

St. Paul's UMC

405 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street,  
San Jose

\$25.00 per person

For more information:

(408) 294-5464.

## Monterey Bay Church Extension Society Annual Meeting & Celebration of Hispanic Ministry on the Central Coast

May 2, 2010 at 3:00 pm, at the East Salinas Family Center, Salinas

All are welcome to attend!  
Worship together, followed by great food.  
Please let your church know of this special event.

Questions? Call (831) 724-4434

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## CALENDAR

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**

San Jose District Quarterly Conference  
8:30 am – 1:00 pm  
& 1-2:30pm optional  
Los Altos UMC

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Cabinet

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Furlough day, District office closed

## April 2010



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