



## Grace Notes from Kristie

The birds outside my kitchen window have been building their nests over the last few weeks – bit by bit. The roses are blooming in the Rose Garden in San Jose and in front of houses all over our area. After weeks of much-appreciated rain, sunshine is gracing many of our afternoons. Ah, yes... it must be... appointment time!

Your Bishop meets with all of us district superintendents regularly as the appointive Cabinet. One of our tasks is to consider how we best use the leadership resources – the pastors -- we provide for the churches for which we are responsible. As you may well know, every appointment we make is a one year appointment, from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. As we make our decisions, we hold the big picture of how our mission of being and making disciples for transformation is lived out across the vast regions of our Conference. But we also come with your stories of prayer groups and Bible studies and mission projects and Sunday schools right there in your home church. We know you want to be pastored by an excellent and caring person of faith. We bring all this plus notes from our conversations with your pastors and SPRC committees to the table and we begin to discuss: where will our pastors serve for the next year? Our decisions are made with much prayer, much thought, and great care. We consider whether the timing is right this year or we ought to wait a year, for both the pastor and the church.

The focus of our decisions is **missional: what leadership is needed to help a church be vital and growing? Can a church work through any challenges and dreams with the leadership they now have?**

**Where can a particular pastor best use his or her gifts to effectively live out his or her call for the building up of God's kingdom in our Conference?**

Our missional focus is part of our Rethinking Church at all levels. As we live together in communities of faith, we affirm the principle – but sometimes it is harder to live out in our own situations than we hope!

Some of our pastors are expecting they might move this year, and anxiously await The Call from a district superintendent. Other pastors are praying that the voice on their phones is NOT a district superintendent. Others have taken to heart their call to serve God wherever they are asked to go.

As church members, sometimes we are surprised when our pastor is asked to move. After 6 or 8 or 10 years or more, we are comfortable with each other. But if the gifts and skills of a particular pastor are needed at another church for **missional reasons**, that pastor may be asked to move there. If our pastor is an ordained elder, he or she has made a commitment to itinerancy – to serve where God calls. But we still like certain areas

*Continued on Page 5*

### Inside This Issue

District News & Events.....	2,3, & 4
Media Resources.....	5
Calendar.....	6

## Quarterly Conference on Youth Ministry April 17, 2010



We praised the Lord with the Creekside Worship Band, led by Rev. Dirk Damonte



Young leaders from Genesis UMC shared a table with area youth.



Kelly Newell, Conference Director of Ministries for Young People, encouraged us to become more connected with the youth around us.



Clergy, youth directors, and church members exchanged ideas and experiences for meaningful youth ministry.

### Watch the Rethink Conference Video

A video is now available online of the presentation Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., made recently at six locations in our Conference. Go to the Conference website, [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org), and follow the prompts. Or, go to the video section of the website. For your personal viewing, or perhaps to be shared with other leaders of your church.

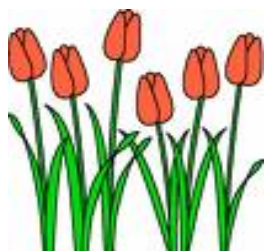
## Annual Conference Session, June 16 - 19

Register. Download materials. Prepare!

Step by step, whether you are a clergy person or a lay member of your church, it's time to get ready for Annual Conference Session:

- Go to the Conference website, [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org), to register for Annual Conference Session. The deadline to pre-register is May 23.
- Arrange for your housing. The website has several suggested hotels, but you need to make your own reservations.
- Sign up for your district dinner. The registration form for the San Jose picnic in the park is in this newsletter.
- Download resolutions, budget, and reports from the Conference website. You'll need to bring these materials with you, on paper in a binder or saved onto your laptop computer.
- Plan to attend the pre-conference orientation on May 15. Rev. Kristie Olah and others will highlight several of the resolutions. Details are on the flyer in this newsletter.

Have questions or need help? Ask your pastor or another leader in your church, or contact Pam in the District Office, who may be able to assist you.



## 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.

### 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. Sign up by June 11<sup>th</sup>! Questions? Call Pam in the office, (408) 295-5341.

# Celebration of Hispanic Ministry on the Central Coast

May 2, 2010

On May 2, the Monterey Bay Church Extension Society gathered people for a worship celebration, food, and fellowship at La Sagrada Familia, also known as the East Salinas Family Center.



Pastor Frank Gomez joined La Sagrada Familia Band and their dancer to lead us in singing.



Dancers and singers from Mision Metodista de Soledad inspired us.

## Volunteers in Mission



The San Jose District UMVIM Team, above, takes a break from assembling kits at the Salt Lake City UMCOR Depot.

A San Jose District Volunteers in Mission team traveled to the Salt Lake City UMCOR Supply Depot and served from April 5-9, 2010. The team transported several hundred health kits and supplies. The San Jose VIM team, along with a couple from Modesto and a Denver, Colorado VIM team, processed and repackaged over 14,000 health kits.

Team members included: Marv and Ina Tanner, Patti and Jeff Lawson, Campbell UMC, Jackie and Don Kawashima, San Jose Wesley UMC, Selma Chung, Santa Clara UMC, Jane Cross, Pacific Grove 1st UMC, Rosemary Steenhausen, Almaden Hills UMC, Sunshine Johnson and team mascot, Sheba, Garrett Wallace and Becky Perry (team leader) Boulder Creek UMC.

Another VIM team is being organized for the week of August 2-6. Please contact Liz Ryder, [ltryder1@yahoo.com](mailto:ltryder1@yahoo.com) for more information.

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



## **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

### **For Children**

In **DVO-312 – God’s Top 10: An Adventure Through the Ten Commandments** – Dr. Laura Schlessinger presents the Ten Commandments in a clear fashion through lovable, traditional puppets, including a butterfly, a bunny, a raccoon, and a skunk. The puppet animals bring each commandment to life through story and song. The puppeteering is state-of-the-art in vibrant computer-generated environments.

### **For Youth and Adults**

**Moses and the Ten Commandments (DVO-507)** is an extraordinary, feature-length program which traces Moses’s life and recounts the majestic story of the Exodus through abundant location footage, rare paintings and artifacts, and myriad interviews with Biblical experts.

### **For Adult Study**

**Liquid Series: The Ten (DVO-812)** translates ancient stories into the language of today’s culture. Each of the two DVDs presents five 10-minute episodes, paralleling one specific Bible passage. The emotionally charged episodes present a story of everyday characters with real problems that mirror ones found in the Bible.

In **.1** we follow the lives of five different freeway drivers, each one living out one of God’s Commandments on the streets of Los Angeles.

In **.2** we look at murder, adultery, theft, lies, and desire through the lens of today. We see the dire consequences of choosing to ignore God’s Commandments and see the power of God’s love through the journey of redemption.

Submitted by *Patricia Strandburg*  
Media Resource Center

### *Grace Notes from Kristie, continued from page 1*

or schools or homes we live in... we may be excited about new possibilities, but never, ever, about packing boxes!

Yes, changes can be difficult. it is not easy to say good bye to people you have grown to love. It is hard to walk away in the middle of projects. Pastors and members alike, we grieve the loss of relationships. We need to take time to say good bye well.

And, yes, changes can be wonderful. New relationships bring new life and new ideas graced by God’s care and hope. They may be revealed slowly or come with a joyful welcome – but in the midst, always, is God’s call to possibility, to fullness.

Through every day, in our connections, in all our care for each other and the world, may God’s abundant wisdom and grace guide our hearts and minds.

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

## CALENDAR

May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00-1 pm

**Gathering of Laity and Pre conference orientation, Alum Rock UMC**

May 18<sup>th</sup>—May 20<sup>th</sup>

**Ministry Staff and Cabinet**

May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am—1:00pm

**Circuit Leaders, Almaden Hills UMC**

May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Furlough Day—District Office Closed**

May 31<sup>st</sup> **Memorial Day Holiday, District Office Closed**

## May 2010



*The District Spirit* is published September through June by the San Jose District 408 295 5341. The purpose is to keep district churches connected with information on activities and news happenings around the local churches, District and conference. Send your church information to the District Office at [sjdist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjdist@sbcglobal.net) or email Norah Miller at [nkmill52@cruzio.com](mailto:nkmill52@cruzio.com)

San Jose District  
California-Nevada Conference  
Of the United Methodist Church  
729 Morse Street  
San Jose, CA 95126