



California-Nevada United Methodist Review

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News BREAKS

New Conf. e-mails

In conjunction with a new Conference internet site, many Conference officers and staff are getting new e-mail addresses. The new domain is easy to remember: *calnevumc.org*. The new addresses will use a person's first name and last initial @*calnevumc.org* as they become active. So, to reach Linda Wiberg, use *lindaw@calnevumc.org*. A general mailbox is active now: *genmail@calnevumc.org*. Existing AOL based e-mail addresses will be shut down on Aug. 31. So far, there is only one page on the new world wide web site at *www.calnevumc.org*, which lists the Conference's address, PO Box and phone numbers. A more complete site is in development.

Glasses to Philippines

18 boxes of used eyeglasses are on their way to new users. Collected during Annual Conference Session in June, the glasses will be distributed among people who have little chance of ever seeing an optometrist. Those in charge of the project say the collection was "pretty good" given the lack of much advance publicity, this year. They thank Jim Munro and helpers at Sacramento St. Mark's UMC for packing the boxes, to Laddie Gaslang of the Filipino Caucus for facilitating the shipment overseas, and to the churches who contributed \$110 toward shipping costs.

One-day Jubilee pass

Taking advantage of all the activities at Jubilee 2000 has been made easier. One-day passes are now available. See the story on Page 4 for additional information about registration for the event.

900 costumed kids at Petaluma VBS



UM Review/Ted Langdell

Petaluma UMC Pastor Judy Currier teaches Hebrew to a group of "First Century" youngsters participating in an ecumenical vacation bible school at the Marin-Sonoma Fairgrounds. The event was the first time that "Marketplace 29 A.D." has been organized for so many participants. The author of "Marketplace" attended.

Youngsters learn what life was like in Jesus' time

By Review Staff

"There were so many kids that we had to have three different marketplaces," exclaimed Judy Currier. The Petaluma UMC pastor is still excited about what happened from July 17 through 21, when fourteen local churches followed the handbook for "Marketplace 29 A.D." and created a Vacation Bible School environment to simulate what life was like in Jesus' time. They succeeded so well that the author of the handbook came out for a two-day visit. Currier said B. J. Goetz was pleased beyond belief. "She said that this was what she'd imagined when she created the idea, but no one has

See MARKET on Page C4

Pastors sent to replace Rev.'s who quit UMC

Conference acts to keep churches going where leaders left in flap over gay unions, apportionments

By Ted Langdell

Rev. Chuck White "retired" June 25 with a sermon at the Weldon United Methodist Church, and within a week, was back in the pulpit again, an hour and a half from home.

White is serving as the interim pastor for 30 to 35 worshippers at Tehachapi Valley UMC, which

had been pastored by Kyle Phillips.

Phillips was the first of four United Methodist clergy who quit the denomination in the past two months.

With two of the resignations occurring in the Fresno District, Superintendent Vicki Armour Healy has been on the road and on the phone meeting with depart-

ing pastors, congregations, church committees, and potential replacement pastors.

"I'll be taking a potential pastor to meet with the Atwater UMC Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Monday (July 31)," Healy told the *Review*. "If it works out, (the replacement) would be preaching Sunday, (Aug 6)," she said.

Healy was there Sunday, July

23 when John Motz preached his last sermon as a United Methodist. He will leave the parsonage soon, on a schedule they mutually agreed on, Healy said.

Just after Motz announced he was quitting last month, 45 people from Atwater UMC met with her,

See REPLACE on Page C3

'Phony' pain felt by Conference touches new Fred Finch official's heart

Dear Editor,
 Saw your article in the June 23 issue, in which Loran Berck is quoted as saying, "They were hearing one another's pain" around LGBT issues. Yeah, right. Is "hearing your pain" the catch phrase of the Clinton years? It's phony pain — an effort to "seem" Christian — if it's never follow up on.

Don Fado told me the night of the Church and Society banquet in Cleveland that his fellow members who were Good Newsers on the Faith and Order Committee were saying, early on, that they wanted compromise on these issues. Then what did they all do when the votes came? They voted the same way they always had — wouldn't even acknowledge that the division should allow for a moratorium on trials for four years.

What they want is all the bitterness to cease without their giving up anything. They feel "why should we?" since they've got the votes.

The "I feel your pain" talk is a smokescreen until they are willing to yield somewhat on enforcement of the Discipline.

Bruce Pettit
 San Francisco

Dear Editor,
 In June, I attended my first Annual Conference as the representative from Fred Finch Youth Center. As a new employee, I know the historical connection of Fred Finch to the UMC, yet I never experienced the support of the UMC in the form of speaking with so many people who have contributed to Fred Finch throughout the years.

I could not help but be touched by all of the hands that have had a part in building the agency that has been in existence since 1891! The theme of service touched me the most at Conference. I participated in the V.I.M. projects on Friday morning and then returned to the convention center and gave blood, the first time I had done so in many years.

I was grateful for the opportunity to serve and recognized that this theme permeates the United Methodist Church. My final impression of Conference came at Bishop Talbert's retirement dinner. There, I recognized the diversity of people represented at Conference and thus in the UMC. How many organizations or churches can boast of such a diverse membership? I can not think of many, and while this may lead to issues to be resolved within the church, these are the very issues with which our society as a whole is struggling. So, to hear about

Bishop Talbert's legacy of Reconciliation, and to feel a part of an organization that continues to grapple with the issues of diversity head on, was most welcome to me.

I arrived back at Fred Finch Youth Center on the Monday after Conference with new insights about the Fred Finch Youth Center, some new friendships forged over the week, and a renewed desire to contribute to this agency's legacy of serving our society's most troubled children. For this I am quite thankful. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of those who took the time to speak with me about Fred Finch Youth Center at Conference: thank you for sharing your memories of the center and your well wishes for its future with me.

Sam Collins, Development Director
 Fred Finch Youth Center, Oakland

See what's in the next issue before it arrives! Go to the Conference website www.gbgm-umc.org/canv and click your mouse on the Review link.

Visit the Conference website: www.gbgm-umc.org/canv

Pastors quitting saddens ERF head

By Review staff

The recent departure of four of this Conference's conservative-evangelical pastors has rattled and strained congregations in three of Cal-Nevada's seven Districts. Two of the former UMC pastors have started churches aligned with the Wesleyan Church.

Three were members of the Evangelical Renewal Fellowship. President Robert Kuyper is distressed and concerned.

"I am deeply saddened by the departure of so many good friends," he told the Review.

"It seriously weakens the evangelical witness in our conference and even jeopardizes the future of the Evangelical Renewal Fellowship," the Bakersfield Trinity UMC pastor said.

Mistakes were made on both sides, he related, "but I do feel that all churches and denominations have institutional problems." Kuyper said the United Methodist system "is a human system and has its failures, like all sinful human systems."

He warned that leaving the denomination might not prove to be the answer for pastors who are upset. "I fear those who are leaving and have left will sadly find out their new situations are no better."

Oops: Corrections gladly made

Marvel Walter wrote to say there was a problem with how the Review identified the lady standing next to the pastor of the newest Korean UM church.

The caption for the July 7 picture should have said that the bishop and district superintendent conveyed the church charter to Pastor San En Han and "the church's newly elected Lay Leader, Jung Ja Pak". Due to an information gathering error, we had the lady labelled as the pastor's wife.

Keeping track of people's titles was evidently a problem in the June 23 issue, which was full of Annual Conference news.

In the Hands-on Mission story, Rev. Paul Wiberg was quoted about what happened at a Sacramento retirement home when volunteers helped on various carpentry projects. Either Rev. Wiberg misstated Bill Beck's affiliation, or your editor mistakenly changed his connections

when transcribing the tape.

Beck gently chides us: "In the June 23 report on Hands on Mission projects on Friday of Conference my name is attached to the phrase Habitat for Humanity. I am flattered, but I have been with Heifer Project International for 40 years. Bill."

For the record, he is (according to his e-mail to us) Dr. Bill E. Beck Volunteer Cowboy, Custodian, History Writer, Heifer Project International, Modesto. His e-mail address is bill.beck@heifer.org

And District Superintendent Dave Bennett's name is spelled with two 't's at the end, not just one, as I had the misfortune to write in an edition several months ago. He was gracious about it.

We strive for typographical and factual accuracy. If we've goofed, please gently point it out to us, and we'll happily make a correction at the earliest opportunity. E-mail (see below) is quickest and most accurate. A phone call works, too. —TL

Seeking your input

The Cal-Nevada UM Review accepts stories and Letters to the Editor for most of its editions, and tries to publish as many as possible.

We do reserve the right, however, to publish items on a space-available basis, and to edit submissions for length and content.

If there are scores of letters presenting both sides of a contentious topic, we reserve the right to use excerpts from a variety of letters in a column on this page, giving equal space to varying points of view.

Send submissions to UM Review Editor, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento CA 95798-0250, or to UM Review Editor at cnumr@aol.com.

Letters, opinion columns and stories should be submitted 10 to 14 days before the edition is published.

Article deadlines for UM Review

***Note: dates have changed**

Aug. 18 items by Aug. 7

Sept. 1 items by Aug. 18

Sept. 15 items by Sept. 1

Sept. 29 items by Sept. 14

Oct. 14 items by Sept. 29

Oct. 28 items by Oct. 14

The California-Nevada edition of the United Methodist Review is published every two weeks by the Conference Communications Committee, Aurelius Lindeen, chair. Find us online at: www.gbgm-umc.org/canv

NEWS ITEMS, photos, and letters to the editor for the conference paper should go to Ted Langdell, the Cal-Nevada Review, P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento CA 95798-0250. The Review office is (916) 374-1529, Review FAX is (916) 372-5544; e-mail: cnumr@aol.com Ted's phone is (530) 741-1212. Fax is (530) 749-1112.

QUESTIONS about circulation and subscriptions should go to Jennifer McGrath, circulation manager, at P.O. Box 980250, West Sacramento CA 95798-0250. Her phone is (916) 374-1515. Her e-mail is Jenniferum@aol.com. FAX is (916) 372-5544.

Bishop Brown preaches last Bakersfield sermon

By Review staff

Newly elected Bishop Warner Brown called his last Bakersfield sermon, "Standing at the Crossroads". Brown and the First United Methodist Church there are facing new directions: he to Denver, Colorado where after Sept. 1, he'll serve as bishop for two Annual Conferences; the church at a junction where a new senior pastor will be appointed to take Brown's place.

"As you stand at the crossroads, remember we have a past heritage of success. Seek the good path and follow it," he told the 500 people who filled the church, Sunday, July 23.

When Brown was ordained a United Methodist Deacon in 1973, his godmother had prophetic words. "She told me that

this won't be the last of it for me, that I would become a bishop someday."

After his election, July 14, Brown told the United Methodist Reporter, "I bring passion for social justice, but at the same time I have relationships with the evangelicals in our conference. I hope I will be able to close some of the wounds that have been opened wide in the past few years."

Evangelical Renewal Fellowship President Robert Kuypers agrees. "I think he is right and has (a) good possibility to bring some change to our Jurisdiction," Kuypers said.

In Bakersfield just two years, Brown's wife and two teenage boys will remain in the San Joaquin Valley to complete their schooling.

Peninsula churches 'marry'

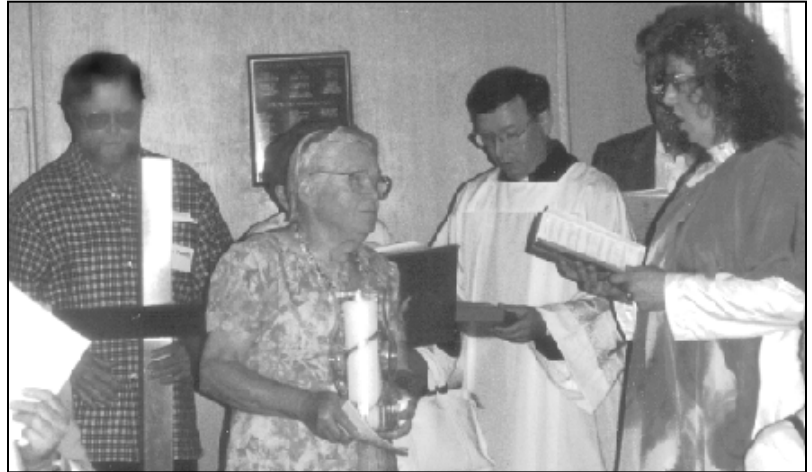


Photo by Carol Evans

Jim Tandy carries the San Bruno UMC cross and Mary Marcus carries the Light of Christ into Community UMC, Millbrae as the two churches merge on June 18. San Bruno Rev. Jeffery Smith and Millbrae pastor Linda Pickens-Jones joined the procession which started earlier at the San Bruno sanctuary. A Litany of Unity was read by three generations of members from each church. A wedding cake was cut following the service. San Bruno decided to merge because of declining membership. A Tongan UMC remains there.

Judicial Council to rule

Two requests for rulings from the California-Nevada Annual Conference will be heard by the nine-member Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church Oct. 25-28. The two cases regard judicial procedure.

One relates to Bishop Melvin Talbert's decision about a paragraph (previously declared unconstitutional) that contains disciplinary stipulations about errors in judicial proceedings. The other alleges that Bishop Talbert unlawfully permitted the Committee on Investigation to hear testimony about homosexuality and sexual orientation in general, rather than restricting testimony to the specific events of a Jan. 16, 1999 holy union for two women, as described in the complaint against 68 Conference pastors who were there.

The two issues were on the agenda at Annual Conference, but the petitioners, Rev.'s Ron Grelich and Robert Kuypers pulled them off the docket before any action was taken.

The fall session, at a location yet to be determined, will be the first for five members elected at the denomination's General Conference in May.

A standard review of a bishop's decision of law in the

Pacific Northwest Annual Conference asks whether a motion affirming the goodness of human sexuality could be adopted in light of the 1996 Discipline and the Judicial Council's recent Decision 886, which says that annual conferences cannot "legally, negate, ignore, or violate provisions of the Discipline with which they disagree, even when the disagreements are based upon conscientious objections to those provisions." The decision affirmed that the Discipline "is the law of the church" and regulates every phase of the life and work of the church.

President of the council is the Rev. John Corry of Nashville, Tenn.; vice president, the Rev. Rex Bevins, Lincoln, Neb.; secretary, Sally Curtis Askew, Bogart, Ga. The three officers, elected in May, were members of the council during the previous 1997-2000 quadrennium, along with Thomas Matheny, Hammond, La. The five new members are: Rodolfo C. Beltran, Cabanatuan City, Philippines; the Rev. Keith Boyette, Fredericksburg, Va.; Mary A. Daffin, Houston; James Holsinger, Lexington, Ky.; and the Rev. Larry D. Pickens, Chicago. —UMNS

REPLACE: Tehachapi, Atwater Rev.'s

(Continued From Page C1)

to say they wanted to keep the 92 year old church alive.

Motz, Phillips, Yuba City UMC's John Sheppard and Luiz Lemos of Camreon Park's Foothill UMC have all left the United Methodist Church in the last 60 days.

In some cases, a significant number of members left with them, creating some operational problems for those who remain.

So the church in Tehachapi could function, Healy says she obtained resignations of departing officials and held a church conference to elect new Administrative Board and committee members. That will happen soon in Atwater.

30 to 35 active and retired clergy from the Fresno District met with Healy Thursday (July 27) for a morning worship and question/answer session.

"We talked about some of the things that have been going on," she said. "I tried to lay to rest rumors that had been going on," she said, but declined to elaborate

about what rumors were dispelled.

"I want people to know that the Cabinet and Conference is supportive of those who remain at the churches," Healy said, "and the Conference is working to fill the positions."

In addition to finding permanent replacements for Atwater and Tehachapi, she also needs a Senior Pastor at Bakersfield First UMC, where newly elected Bishop Warner Brown preached his last sermon on July 23. He will head for Denver before Sept. 1.

Also needing a pastor is Lindsay UMC, which is the church that Kyle Phillips reportedly refused to pastor. He claimed the move was retaliation for criticizing the bishop and calling for churches to not pay required apportionments to the Conference. Phillips and many from Tehachapi UMC formed another church.

Rev. Luiz Lemos left when he was to be shifted from Cameron Park to the Lindsay church and, among other things, his wife wouldn't make the move.

"The lay people in Lindsay

have really stepped up to fill in," Healy said. "Lay speakers, clergy from local churches and nearby UM churches have preached and helped with other pastoral functions."

Dr. Mary McCormick Maaga has replaced Luiz Lemos as pastor at Foothill UMC, and Lois Black has replaced John Sheppard in Yuba City. Lemos and Sheppard have become pastors in the Wesleyan Church. Lemos has been joined by a number of former Foothill members in a new church. Sheppard is organizing a Wesleyan Church in Yuba City.

Phillips, Motz and Sheppard are three of the six Conference pastors who advocated diverting apportionments to an escrow account as a protest against Bishop Melvin Talbert and his support for gay holy unions, which are banned. All six have been accused of violating the Book of Discipline.

As of July 28, Don Roulsten remains at Porterville UMC, David Wainscott at Fresno-St. Luke's UMC and Greg Smith at Sacramento Hope UMC.



REGISTER NOW FOR JUBILEE 2000, Aug 8 -13

P.O. Box 980250 West Sacramento, CA 95798 (916) 374-1516 FAX (916) 372-5544
E-mail to: Ostockton@hotmail.com <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/CANV/jubilee.html>

MARKET: Time travel to world of tents, rabbis and Jesus

(Continued From Page C1)

ever done it on this scale."

All kinds of modern tents formed the main structures for Marketplace. Each became a "workshop" or place of business in the simulated Jewish town.

Currier's husband, Andrew Montgomery recreated a booth that made ancient musical instruments. "He is one of many who worked to make the marketplace have something of the flavor of what life must have been like in Jesus' time," Currier noted.

From 8:30 a.m. to noon, children learned Jewish customs and traditions, heard first century music, Old Testament storytelling, and drama.

"Jesus came over and took children to the drama area just as if he was teaching," said co-organizer Carolyn Maloney.

"Shopkeepers" took in "apprentices" and showed them how to make things, while others like Currier instructed them in the cultural aspects of the time. She taught Hebrew in a tent dressed with the artifacts of the Jewish religion, including an ark for the Torah, a Menorah to hold the candles are lit during Chanukah.

The project raised excitement at Petaluma UMC. "I had more adults participating from my



The Cross of Jesus became real for this boy

There were two ways to practice writing Hebrew; use of a large drawing pad and marking pen, or to use a simple stylus on a clay-covered piece of ply-wood.

Photos by David Moon-Wainright



church than we did kids!" Currier related.

One important part of Marketplace was that everyone had to be in costume. Organizer Maloney said "They're not allowed on campus without the proper clothes." For those who arrived without appropriate attire, "We've devised the easiest possible costume. Take two yards of fabric, cut a hole in

the middle and stick your head through the hole. Tie it at the waist with a necktie and you've got your costume." Off duty law enforcement officers dressed the part... as Roman soldiers. The costumes made it easier for them to tell whether people were part of the program.

Getting Marketplace 29 A.D. off the ground was a two-year

project in Petaluma. "Methodists have a history of ecumenism and we talk about working together more than we have the opportunity," Currier said. "The Christian family often shows its internal differences, sometimes even to a level as in Northern Ireland."

"Here is a chance to set aside our differences and work to build a connection for our common heritage," she said, making note of the Church's common and Jewish roots. "This was for the children,

but the adults who work on this perhaps got the deepest message."

"For the children to walk through and see and touch and experience life at the beginning of the Christian church deepens and broadens their understanding." "Sometimes," Currier said,

"When there is a rift in family life, one of the best ways to heal it is to tell stories of the past that make us a family. That is the deeper message of hope that this program shares."

New Jubilee workshops scheduled

One-day passes available for those with limited time or money to attend full week

By Chuck Myer

Even more Kaleidoscope workshops and Bible Study activities are being offered at next week's Jubilee 2000, according to planners. More than a thousand United Methodists will blanket Sonoma State University, August 8-13, to partake of an abundance of inspirational and recreational opportunities.

One-day passes are available in advance or on-site at the Santa Rosa area campus.

Newly added workshop presenters include Rev. Dixie Jennings-Teats, who will offer Tai Chi: For Health & Vitality ("meditation in motion") Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (August 9-11) at 2:45 p.m.

Wednesday at 2:45 p.m., Rev. Steve Thompson of Redwood City will offer "How Do We Work with Small Spirituality Groups?" and Rev. Dr. Anne

Dilenschneider will lead "Walking the Fault Lines: An Introduction to Spiritual Leadership in a Fractured World."

Heilala Ahio, pastor at Potter Valley UMC, will share "Symbols in Theology of Pacific Island Culture" at 1:30 Thursday afternoon.

Bruce & Virginia Hilton will draw upon their 40 years' experience in human rights work in "Chasing Rainbows: Seeing the Connections in the Struggle for Human Rights" Thursday & Friday at 2:45 p.m.

Rev. Donna Fado Ivery, who has been on disability leave from the ministry for almost 7 years, will teach the "Art of Healing:

Painting Pain, Finding Healing" Friday afternoon at 1:30.

The Jubilee packet included some of the "cross-track" opportunities available during the weekdays with the Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Congress of the Deaf. Saturday, August 12, will yield even more WJUMCD opportunities: From

10:15 - 11:30 am Saturday morning, a panel of children and adults will present "Communication Within the Family" - tricks of the trade' on how to communicate in a family setting when living with a mixture of persons who are Deaf, late-deafened, deaf/blind, hard-of-hearing and normal hearing. All

Jubilee attendees are also invited to a "Deaf Culture Workshop" Saturday afternoon at 1:30 to learn about living in a Deaf world.

Preaching at the opening night celebration will be Rev. Mariellen Sawada of Wesley UMC, San Jose, our General Conference 2000 delegation leader. She replaces Bishop Leontine Kelly, who cancelled due to health/family concerns. Rev. Harry Wood of Visalia replaces Sawada as the preacher for Friday morning.

If these new offerings affect your workshop registration choices, contact Sylvia Bardes at (650) 854-2719 or e-mail now boangels@ix.netcom.com.

For up-to-the-minute schedule changes, and registration information, call (916) 374-1516 or check the Jubilee 2000 website at <http://www.gbgn-umc.org/canv/Jubilee1.html>.

Jubilee draws international participation

By Review staff

United Methodist missionaries are coming to Jubilee from two continents, ready to tell their stories during a Kaleidoscope at 2:45 p.m., Thursday, August 10.

Larry and Jane Kies will tell about life as agricultural missionaries in Nyadire Mission, Mutoko, Zimbabwe. They'll answer questions about developing the mission farm to make it more self-sufficient, and how they spread the Gospel in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Judith (Judy) Newton is coming from Kwansai Gakuin University in Nishimomiya, Japan. She coordinates the weekly English chapel, teaches a graduate course in medieval literature, holds a weekly discussion/singing group reading the Bible in English, and writes music and poetry in her "spare" time.

