

Since this issue went to press on Saturday, Aug. 26, we've learned that two more Cal-Nevada Conference clergy have departed the denomination. In what became tearful worship services, Gridley and Biggs UMC congregations learned Sunday, Aug. 27 that Pastor Ben Kelly was preaching his last sermon to them that morning. We're checking with Shasta District Superintendent Ruth Ocerá Cortez to see whether an interim pastor has been appointed for either or both churches. Former Yuba City First UMC Associate Pastor Peter Kremer told friends by e-mail that he drove to the Conference offices, Monday, Aug. 28 to turn in his elders orders. Kremer has been on sabbatical for more than a year. Check this document or the Review web page for updates.



California-Nevada United Methodist Review

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News BREAKS

Bishop arrives

Bishop Beverly Shamana arrived in Elk Grove Friday, Aug. 25, moving into the Episcopal Residence just five days before her first four-year term as spiritual leader of the California Nevada Annual Conference. Difficulties in coordinating an interview in the three weeks before she left Los Angeles, and as she arrived in Sacramento have delayed our profile which was promised for this issue. If you have questions you'd like to have posed, write or e-mail the Review editor at the addresses on Page 2 of this issue. Please include your name, address, e-mail and phone so we can contact you if we don't understand your question. We may leave copies of your questions with Bishop Shamana for her to follow up.

2000 Journal update

The latest Conference Journal is now being printed in Dallas, and will be mailed directly from there. Each church will be sent three to ten Journals, one for the church, one for each appointed pastor, and one for each Lay Member of Annual Conference. Retired clergy and surviving spouses will also receive copies. So will Diaconal Ministers, Laity who are members of Annual Conference by virtue of office, Clergy in ATEM appointments, on leave, sabbatical or disability, Youth or Young Adult delegates who requested Journals, and people who ordered them. Additional Journals can be ordered from Cokesbury at 2907 W. Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA, 95691. Or call (916) 371-2278.

Labor Day closures

District offices, The UMC Center and Conference offices in West Sacramento will be closed, Monday, Sept. 4.

Quiet helpers for 44 years



Fred Finch Youth Center photo

Dave and Annis Beutke have been helping out at Fred Finch Youth center for most of their lives. Annis used to go with her mother who volunteered at the former orphanage. Since 1960, the couple has lived in the same neighborhood as the youth center, which now helps severely emotionally disturbed youth.

Fred Finch Youth Center depends on more than money

By Fred Finch staff

Volunteers at Fred Finch Youth Center have long played a major role in its success.

Maybe no other couple has a longer history working for the youth of Fred Finch Youth

Center than Annis and Dave Beutke. Annis remembers when Fred Finch was still an orphanage. "My first knowledge of Fred Finch was as a pre-schooler coming here with my mother who was in the Baptist Church. There was a mending day and the la-

dies from the churches would come and mend holes and sew on buttons. And so I came with my mom way back before I even started school." Annis then went to school

See BEUTKES on Page C4

House blessing wraps up Jubilee

Powerful preaching, spirited music send participants home

By Chuck Myer,
J2K Admin. Coordinator and
Bill Sanford, Jubilee Committee member

With a rousing rendition of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, Jubilee 2000 concluded on Sunday morning, Aug. 13. A short time later, people were weeping during the dedication of the "blitz-built" house, which Habitat for Humanity turned over to the Duran family. (See "House turned over" on Page 4)

Some 1,200 attended the event on the campus of Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. While not everyone liked everything, according to the evaluation forms, people were generally enthused about what they experienced.

"Great event!", "Beyond my expectations!", "Had a wonderful time!" wrote some attendees. There were positive remarks about the setting, the weather, the schedule, the variety in the program. "Sunday worship was glorious! I'm proud to be a United Methodist."

It's hard to imagine more being packed into one worship service. The closing program of the gymnasium lasted just over two hours but contained a multitude of highlights: Bishop Melvin Talbert's closing sermon to the conference he has led for twelve years recapped the impact of the Civil Rights struggle on his pas-

Fight over Fresno church?

St. Luke's pastor suspended; Congregation splits at Hope, Sacramento

By Ted Langdell

Another Cal-Nevada pastor has quietly left the denomination, while a Fresno church is still livid about the suspension and removal of its senior pastor.

The replacement of David Wainscott at St. Luke's UMC Aug. 15 didn't seem to make a difference. Wainscott was preaching Sunday, Aug. 20, in spite of the

suspension. He was joined by former Kingsburg UMC pastor Ed Ezaki, who had been scheduled to preach for some time.

The most recent round of events began with a meeting after worship Aug. 13 at Hope UMC in the southern suburbs of Sacramento. That resulted in Pastor Greg Smith and an unconfirmed number of congregation members forming

another church which met elsewhere, Sunday, Aug. 20. (See Sacramento church divides, Page 3)

Events continued with Wainscott's sudden suspension in Fresno. "He was appointed to be the pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church," said Fresno

See FIGHT? on Page C3

See JUBILEE on Page C4

July pastoral departure coverage criticized

Dear Editor,

I find your article, "Third ERF Pastor Leaves," somewhat less than balanced reporting. Most of your information comes from the leaving pastors and from their websites. There is no indication that you received information or interpretation of the events from anyone outside that circle of pastors.

Nor does it help in giving a balanced portrayal to say, "No District Superintendents or other leaders were available for comment on July 14," without saying, as you surely were aware, that most of the superintendents and leaders "were not available for comment" because they were at the Jurisdictional Conference on that day. It seems crucial to me in this situation to remember two things:

First, since we are all liable to justify our own actions and to lay blame on others than ourselves, we are wise to remember that there are many more dynamics in this situation than the disaffected are likely to point out. These have not been reported, and for many reasons, may never be.

Second, it is wise to remember that every year pastors leave the Conference, sometimes the denomination, and sometimes the ministry. For pastors to leave is not unusual. They leave for many reasons. They leave in many ways. Some transfer to other Conferences. Some withdraw to join other denominations. Some choose Honorable Location. Some begin by taking Leaves.

Few strategize for months, even years, work diligently to influence their congregations and then leave to start new churches in the same communities in which they were serving as United Methodist pastors. They are not headlined or remarked on in the Review. Since the Review chose to headline and remark on these pastors, a more balanced report would have given as much

space to exploring the manner in which they chose to leave as to the fact that they are leaving and their own justifications for doing so.

Donald J. Cunningham, Chair, Conference Relations Committee, Board of Ordained Ministry
We should have included the fact that most Conference officers were at Western Jurisdictional Conference. The departure(s) are news because few pastors work hard to build up a congregation, then suddenly leave to start new churches. As often happens in news reporting, the story broke at time which made more comprehensive analysis impossible. The Review reported what was known at the time, and followed up in the next edition and on the web. —Editor.

Jubilee audio tapes available

Audio tapes of the speaker presentations at Jubilee 2000 are available for \$5 each from St. Mark's UMC, 2391 St. Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. Add \$3 for postage and handling.

The Borg/Wright discussions, organized by Rob Jennings-Teats to illuminate themes from their book, "The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions", cover two tapes for a \$10 total.

Jubilee 2000 T-shirts are still for sale. Make checks to "Cal-Nevada Conference".

Jubilee Communion music available

Want a copy of the Holy Communion music Juan Saavedra wrote and played at Jubilee? Call him at (408) 445-0317, or e-mail him at JuSaavedra651@aol.com.

Conference's Primary Task

Our Primary Task is to provide and/or nurture listening, learning, teaching Christian spiritual leaders, both residential and itinerant, for each local congregation and for extension ministries.

—Adopted 1999 Annual Conference Session

See what's in the next issue before it arrives!

Go to the Conference website www.gbmg-umc.org/canv and click your mouse on the Conference News Page link

Notes around the Conference

Conf. Communications post

The California-Nevada Annual Conference is seeking applications for a new position.

Responsibilities include establishment of a conference-wide communication plan, public relations, and print and electronic media development. Application deadline is Oct. 15. Salary DOE; excellent benefits.

For a job description, see the link at <http://www.calnevumc.org>

For information contact the Rev. Charles Johnstone, 19806 Wisteria St, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Call him at (510) 581-3486. Resumes may be faxed to (510) 88-4864 or e-mailed as a Microsoft Word attachment to revchuckj@aol.com

Organist needed in Novato

Novato UMC needs principal organist for fully expanded Allen AP-6 digital organ and Sohmer piano.

Duties: accompany the chancel choir at weekly rehearsals as well as at one Sunday service; play for congregational hymn singing and for a limited number of special events during the year.

Compensation is negotiable. Contact: Kay Walker, (415) 883-5780, fax: (415) 883-6984 or e-mail to kaywalker@quixnet.net

Oroville choir director needed

A part-time Chancel Choir Director is needed one morning and one evening per week at Oroville United Methodist Church. To request an application and more detailed job description, contact Elaine Klein, Chairperson Staff Parish Committee, Oroville UMC, PO Box 5700 Oroville, California 95966, call (530) 534-9455) or e-mail aeklein@cncnet.com

Free mahogany pews

Following recent remodeling, Palo Alto UMC has to find a new home for some of their sanctuary seating. The pews are mahogany color with almost new blue-grey upholstery. There are three rows, 12 pieces. Seats and backs are fully upholstered, and six pieces have hymnal racks, communion cup, guest and pencil holders. The comfortable seats are 18" deep. Six measure 80" long, and six are 172" long. All are 40" high and have 19" wide ends. For details contact Evelyn Berk, Church Business Administrator, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94025 (650) 323-6167 or fax (650) 323-3923 or e-mail finceberk@aol.com.

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

New Review e-mail address
news@calnevumc.org

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 news@calnevumc.org.

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**

Sept. 15 items e-mail Now!

Sept. 29 items by Sept. 14

New print/ e-mail publication deadlines to be announced.

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.gbmg-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: news@calnevumc.org. 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 jenniferm@calnevumc.org. FAX is (916) 372-5544.

Hope UMC divides, interim pastor appointed

Quiet transition as Greg Smith surrenders UM orders, forms new church in same Sacramento suburb

By Ted Langdell

111 people were in worship Sunday, Aug. 20 at Hope UMC in the southern Sacramento suburbs, a week after a substantial number of members chose to leave the denomination and form a new congregation.

That decision was made following worship, Sunday, Aug. 13.

Hope UMC's now former pastor, Greg Smith

surrendered his orders as a United Methodist Elder to District Superintendent Dave Bennett later that day. "I just feel like we've take up a different role," Smith told the *Review*, "that for us it was a decision of integrity." Smith said After six years at Hope UMC, "I was not an itinerant pastor, anymore, and the congregation was not ready to welcome just any pastor to the pulpit, anymore."

"Nearly all" the leadership of the church resigned their positions and UMC membership, Bennett told the *Review*. The vice-chair of the administrative council and the church's Lay Leader remained. "We have established an organizing committee," Bennett said. "A group of the remaining leaders are working as a nominating committee, and we'll be holding a church conference in the near future to establish new officers." An interim treasurer has been named to make sure that bills are paid. "The leadership of Hope church made sure had made sure that was all taken care of before they left," Bennett said.

The church's administrative council voted to recommend that the church split from the UMC at a meeting, Monday, Aug. 7. Bennett was advised, "and I was in conversation with Greg and other leaders of the church," even though Bennett and most Conference leaders were attending Jubilee 2000 at Sonoma State University near Santa Rosa. "It was an amicable transition," he said. Smith said he feels "grief in parting, but relief and a sense of freedom for the future."

This is the fifth departure of a conservative-evangelical pastor

from within the California-Nevada Annual Conference. Smith strongly disagrees with positions taken by the Conference and by retiring Bishop Talbert, which have sometimes conflicted with official church policy.

Smith, like David Wainscott, (see "Fight?" also on this page) is one of six conservative-evangelical pastors who urged unhappy churches to divert apportionments to an escrow account instead of sending them to the Conference, as required by the Book of Discipline. When paid, apportionments support local churches, regional and world-wide ministry.

Earlier this year, the six pastors were accused of breaking church law for their actions, a situation which Conference ministerial supervisors were trying to resolve. "That was not resolved before he (Smith) surrendered his orders," Bennett said, "so that anytime he wishes to perhaps, reinstate his orders for purposes of transfer (to another denomination) they would be reinstated noting that they were 'under complaint'."

So far, none of the complaints against the six have been referred to a Committee on Investigation for Clergy Members, the same committee which handled the complaints against 68 Conference pastors involved in a holy union for a lesbian couple in January, 1999.

Smith had been at the church since 1994, and was a United Methodist pastor since 1981. The congregation traces roots to the Evangelical United Brethren denomination, which merged with the Methodist Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church. Hope UMC came into being when the congregation moved to the growing "Valley Hi" area close to Elk Grove, from a location south of downtown Sacramento.

Conference Director of Connectional Ministries Linda Wiberg preached Sunday, Aug. 20, according to Bennett.

Recent episcopal candidate and religion professor Ben Silva-Netto has been appointed to pastor the Hope congregation on an

interim basis. He took the pulpit for the first time Aug. 27.

Smith and the breakaway congregation met Sunday, Aug. 20 just a few blocks south of the church in the multi-purpose room at Valley High School. The new congregation is called Valley Grace Community Church.

The split affects more than 500 people. The 1999 Cal-Nevada Conference Journal lists 529 members at the beginning of '99, and 429 average attendance at principal Sunday worship services.

The Conference has more than 92,420 members in more than 320 churches.

More detailed versions of the stories on this page are on the Conference website: www.gbgn-umc.org/canv/review.htm and click on Sept. 1.

Most ERF pastors say they'll stay in UMC

Pastors at an Evangelical Renewal Fellowship reorganization meeting are "committed to staying within the conference and within the United Methodist Church at this time," said ERF president Robert Kuyper, pastor of Bakersfield-Trinity UMC. "The good news is there are a lot more staying than there are leaving." The Aug. 22 meeting drew more than 25 people.

Five of the six pastors who departed this year were ERF members.

Kuyper said ERF pastors are looking forward to a meeting they've requested with new Bishop Beverly Shamana, who took office in West Sacramento on

Sept. 1. "I look forward to the dialogue," she told United Methodist News Service.

Kuyper says her predecessor, Bishop Melvin Talbert is being unfairly blamed for action taken by a committee which decided there were no charges to press against 68 pastors involved in a holy union for two women.

"People were way too harsh on him. I think frankly, even though I disagree with the outcome, I think he upheld the Discipline, so I don't think it's fair to accuse him of being unfaithful." Kuyper said that nothing in the Discipline says a committee has to bring charges against someone. (UMNS)

(See longer version on website)

FIGHT?: New pastor locked out

(Continued From Page C1)

Dist. Supt. Vickie Armour Healy.

"He has been organizing and planning a non-United Methodist Church, including establishing 'St. Luke's Community Church' as a non-profit corporation, and soliciting funds for this church during the morning worship."

Healy said that's prohibited under United Methodist policy. "The (Book of) Discipline says 'No pastor shall arbitrarily organize a pastoral charge,' in paragraph 332," she said. A pastoral charge is United Methodist language for a church.

Bishop Melvin Talbert said Wainscott's new church is "a violation of his covenant relationship with us, and he is no longer entitled to receive an appointment with that kind of action."

Wainscott could not be reached for comment by the *Review*, despite repeated attempts.

Retired pastor Doug Norris of Merced was appointed to take Wainscott's position on an interim basis. He accompanied

Healy to St. Luke's and was introduced to staff as Wainscott's replacement.

St. Luke's leaders responded by changing the locks on the church, and by posting a notice on the church website which says that "Pastor Dave and Ed Ezaki

WILL PREACH on Sunday, as scheduled, at St. Luke's." Ezaki is the former pastor of Kingsburg UMC, which left the denomination two years ago, and negotiated with the Conference for the purchase of the church buildings.

United Methodist Church policy—supported by recent court rulings—says that churches hold the property in trust for the greater church, and that the ownership rests with the denomination through the Conference.

St. Luke's leaders appeared to be trying an end-run around that policy, by forming a separate, nonprofit corporation, then—as trustees—leasing the church to the nonprofit for 364 days. That's one day short of a Book of Discipline required review by Conference officials, Healy said.

Attorneys for the conference and St. Luke's are meeting to dis-

cuss the congregation's desire to leave the denomination and take the property, Talbert told United Methodist News Service.

The church had 649 full members at the start of 1999, and 373 people in average attendance at principal weekly worship services according to the 1999 Conference Journal.

Wainscott has been a United Methodist pastor since 1991. He became an Elder in full connection in 1996, the same year he was appointed to St. Luke's. It is the largest United Methodist Church in Fresno, followed closely by Wesley UMC, which listed 622 members at the start of 1999 and 323 in attendance at principal weekly worship services. Wesley's pastor is one of 68 who participated in a holy union for a lesbian couple in January, 1999.

Wainscott, and others who have left the denomination recently are opposed to holy unions for gay couples, and what they consider "spiritual drift" within the Conference from biblical teachings.

St. Luke's was believed to be ready to vote whether to leave the UMC on Sunday, Aug. 27.

For the latest update, check the *Review* on-line edition at www.gbgn-umc.org/canv. Click on the link to the Sept. 1 *Review* edition, where you'll also find links to other related stories.



Smith



Healy



Wainscott



Silva-Netto

JUBILEE: Ends with 'Hallelujah Chorus', Habitat house blessing

(Continued From Page C1)

toral career.

Original music on the "Imagine a World" theme by Hope Kawashima, music director of Lake Park UMC, Oakland, was performed by a multi-ethnic chorus. The people who filled the gym heard a vocal performance and "light show" by the choir from Melrose UMC in Oakland, "Siyahamba" and other special music by beloved recording artists Jim, Jean and Michael Strathdee, the Jubilee 2000 Chorus, under the direction of Doug Albertson, with solos by Rev. Scott Wylie and Ray Jellison. The chorus sang "The Lord's Prayer" to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" and closed the service with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from "Messiah".

Closing meditations centered on the final phrases of the Lord's Prayer. Rev. Janette Saavedra, worship chair, explored use of the theme-prayer throughout the event in various art forms and languages, including American Sign Language.

The Rev. Bob Walker, introduced Bishop Talbert for the Bishop's last large-group gathering in the Conference. Walker is a former member of this conference now living in Washington State who lost his vision to retinitis pigmentosa. He is also a member of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf.

Vacation Bible School children participated. They'd been learning and creating on campus all week under the leadership of Jan Dahl and Boni Fields.

Technical Director Ardyss Golden and crew helped people see and hear in the gym.

A special offering to help underwrite the costs of Jubilee 2000 raised about \$7,000. At press time, treasurer Gene Lefevre reported that the offering brought the Jubilee budget to near the break-even point with some bills still left to pay.

Other projects benefitted financially at Jubilee: \$151,678 was donated to Heifer Project International, \$27,179 of which was brought to the campus.

The pre-Jubilee challenge to churches had been to fund an ark a wide variety of animals priced altogether at \$5,000. Some churches responded to the challenge by doing a whole ark all by themselves. Such were Campbell, Half Moon Bay, Merced,

Modesto-First and Sacramento-St. Marks. Some churches associated themselves with others to rise to the occasion. For instance, the Hill and Dale Cluster bought two arks (Farmington, Jamestown, Linden, Oakdale, Riverbank, Sonora, Soulsbyville, Tuolumne—all Delta District). The Fresno District funded an ark with significant money left over to help Habitat.

The power-packed Sunday service reflected the nature of the entire week where United Methodists gathered together as a community to "Imagine a World" and join in creative thinking and worshipping to form new energy and spirit for the third millennium.

Speakers featured on Thursday, Friday and Saturday included Tony Campolo, Harry Wood, Joyce Sohl, Junius Dotson, Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright.

"Campolo's talk aroused the greatest reaction from among the people," said retired pastor Robert Sanford.

Sweating profusely as he spoke, Campolo was "very challenging in his approach, and criticized the church, which was losing young people because it was avoiding social conflicts."

Those who agreed, "thought it hit the nail on the head," Sanford said, while people who disagreed "showed a certain defensiveness," and said Campolo "exaggerated and was one-sided."

There was quite a bit of conflict about what Campolo said, Sanford reported.

By contrast, Sanford said the debate between Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright was "kind of subdued." The theologians have written a book together and appeared at lectures often. "I think they have developed a very gentle approach to each other, which doesn't heighten their differences," Sanford said.

A number of respondents ventured the view that there should be more Jubilees down the track and in less than eight years. Someone suggested one every four years, in a year that does not also contain General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Bishop Talbert appointed Rev. Don Fado as chair of Jubilee 2000 in 1996. The planning group first met on June 3, 1997. Its last meeting is Sept. 5 to wrap things up and hand on materials which may assist any future Jubilee Task Force. Twenty meetings were required for the total effort. An evaluator saw behind the scenes, saying: "Can tell a lot of work and planning involved. Well done!"

Conference Youth and Camping Coordinator Colin Kerr-Carpenter greets a perspiring Tony Campolo following the speaker's challenging remarks Thursday night, Aug. 10. Campolo almost didn't make it to Jubilee, as he was caught up in the continuing weather and lack-of-pilots related cancellations of United Airlines flights.

Photo by the Rev. Robert Sanford



House turned over to family as Jubilee ends

Following the closure of the event at Sonoma State University several hundred people drove to Santa Rosa for the official dedication of the Habitat for Humanity house at 1249 Ripley Street.

The crowd cheered when vineyard worker Serafin Duran cut the ceremonial ribbon. Many wept as cancer sufferer Adela Duran declined an offer to lift her wheelchair onto the front porch. She rose, then stepped slowly up the sidewalk, climbed the steps and entered her new, 1,200 square foot, three bedroom home.

Central to the construction ef-

fort were lead contractor John Davenport, and his wife, Gayle Pickrell, pastor of Christ UMC, Santa Rosa. She also chaired local arrangements for Jubilee 2000.

Both has spearheaded the drive to keep the local Habitat affiliate alive in order to make the Jubilee 2000 "blitz-build" a reality.

Local Habitat affiliate chair Rebecca Loehr assisted, while Conference Volunteers in Mission Director Dave Wolf helped arrange volunteer construction workers.

Conference churches met the original commitment to HfH of

Sonoma County: \$60,000! Beyond that, folks at the event contributed \$5,000 to HfH International, the night founder and president Millard Fuller gave his dynamic address. They reached down further still and summoned up \$2,958 so the Duran family could get a good start on furnishing their new "blitz-built" home.

Apparently enthused by the affiliate's new life and vigor, someone in Sonoma county contributed \$100,000 anonymously.

(Bill Sanford, Chuck Myer and Jerry Hurley contributed to this story)

BEUTKES: Living is giving for them

(Continued From Page C1)

with several children from Fred Finch at nearby Sequoia elementary school and remembers thinking "that these are normal, everyday people."

In her adult life, Annis continued to give selflessly of her time and energy working at the Fred Finch Thrift Shop, previously located in the Dual Diagnosis building. She describes the Thrift Shop as a place where "People donated clothes and nick-knacks and whatever, and we sold them. We made enough to make good contributions. They bought one of the vans with the contribution. We made quite a bit."

When Annis and Dave were married in 1946, Dave brought his tradition of giving to Fred Finch from the Methodist church.

That tradition continues today as both Annis and Dave serve on

a recently formed outreach committee to local United Methodist churches.

Dave says, "We are trying to bring back the Fred Finch program into the church program which has not been there in the last couple of years. It's like the squeaky wheel gets the grease," he explains, "and if you want additional support you've got to let people know what you're doing. And this is part of our job to let people know. All we gotta do is just tell the story. To let people know you gotta get on the rooftop and say, 'Hey, I'm here!'"

Over the years the Beutke's relationship has been more than just philanthropic. They have been close neighbors since 1960. So close that one of their daughters married a former Fred Finch resident.

When asked what motivates them to volunteer their time at Fred Finch, Dave replies, "It's

about finding need. And we know the need exists. There are so many pressures on youth today. We think the program is worthwhile supporting. And we want others to support it as well."

Asked the same question, Annis responds, "We just have this very close, friendly feeling about this place because we've known it all our lives," she says, and mentions her daughter and son-in-law. "We've been neighbors for 40 years. It's almost like family, you know, because it's been part of our life. So if you're going to pick something, pick something you're going to feel good about."

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Fred Finch, contact Vanessa Gregory at 510-482-2244, ext. 266, or send an e-mail message to vannessagregory@fredfinch.org.

The Fred Finch Youth Center website is www.fredfinch.org.