



The Cross

January 2011

and The Flame



Pastor John and Kathleen
McFarland

New Year Love for the Bride of Christ...

"Thou art all fair, my love." - Song of Solomon 4:7

The Lord love's his church. When I hear people say they are very spiritual but don't like organized religion, I think of how the Lord hears that. I love you Jesus, but your bride... ugh. AND the reality is if the person saying this is actually a believer, then they are part of that bride.

The Lord's admiration for his Church is very wonderful, and his description of her beauty is very glowing. She is not merely fair, but "all fair." He views her in himself, washed in his sin-atoning blood and clothed in his meritorious righteousness, and he considers her to be full of comeliness and beauty.

How would our attitude toward the church change if we remembered how precious this group is to Jesus? When I married Kathleen I entered a most wonderful family. I LOVE to get together with the Belden clan and I also do have a great family of origin. But I am so thankful that I grew up with a love for the Church.

Jesus views us (his church) with pride, saying "behold" (a special exclamation) inviting and arresting attention. "*Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair*" (Song of Sol. 4:1). His love for us does not mean there is no room for correction, but that is done within the context of his sacrificial devotion.

What a privilege to part of the Body of Christ. In 2011, Let's look upon one another with the appreciation that Jesus has for his bride.

Blessed to be part of you,

Pastor John



that was easy.



United Methodist Women



Thank you to all that supported the ANGEL TREE this year. 125 gifts were received and there were many happy children at BCIS. Thank you!

There will be no regular meeting in January, but on Saturday, February 8, 2011, there will be Officers Training at Mesa Verde UMC. Please contact Merna Young if you would like to attend.

Other opportunities to be involved in our mission work include:

PULL TABS: Please continue to collect pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and turn them into the little house in the sanctuary foyer or into the office. The tabs are recycled and the proceeds used to support children and their families while they are staying at the House.



SOUP LABELS: Please turn in soup labels to the front office. These are used by the David and Margaret Home to provide school supplies for children.

BEACH CITIES INTERFAITH SERVICES (BCIS): Bring in staple groceries and place in the white basket in the foyer of the sanctuary. These go to help the many families in need in our area.



NEW YEARS RESOLVE: TIME FOR GOD

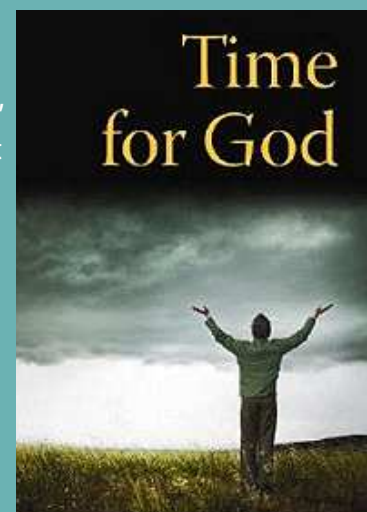
"What's #1 in your life?" *Oh I donno... my job, my family... what are you gettin' at?* "I mean, you're a Christian right?" *Yeh...* "Then what's the most important relationship in your whole life? *Well you put it that way I guess its God.. or I think it oughta be.* What if I could offer you a plan that would really help make God #1 every day this New Year? *That would be great... I think... what is it?*

Your first Bible study guide "DISCOVERY" is FREE to the first 25 who come to the office. This is a great opportunity to start off your New Year with the Lord. What a perfect time to invite a friend or neighbor to study the Word as well. Get yours by coming by the church office or calling 714- 962-2593

By taking the time to make this time with God a priority each day one effectively elevates the Lord's position in his life. You give God a chance to communicate with you through His Word, and you take time to share yourself with Him daily. This is really what happens at retreats and Church camps. We give God our full attention. We go there to focus on our relationship with Him. But when we come down from the mountain we leave the Lord out of our daily routine or maybe try to fit Him in somewhere.

"Seek ye **FIRST** the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you!" (Matthew 6:33) Wouldn't you like to try this? Get your "Discovery" Guide today OR order on-line <<http://www.scriptureunion.org/products/discovery®>>

This may be the most important thing you've ever done for yourself. I'm always amazed what making the Lord #1 does for us all!





SPRING QUARTER OF AX 29 STARTING JANUARY 26TH

Our Spring Quarter line-up of groups for Wednesday evenings has something for everyone!

Pastor John will be teaching DISCIPLESHIP 101. If you want to learn how to grow in your walk with the Lord and be a better witness to your faith, this is the group for you. Disciple makers follow Jesus as Savior and Lord, by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Prayer. They are rightly connected to the Body of Christ and are reproductive as they share their faith in Word and Deeds.

Dave Ramsey FINANCIAL FREEDOM SEMINAR. National speaker and radio show host, Dave Ramsey, teaches an excellent, easy to understand course on DVD applying Biblical Principles of money management for practical application

Chuck Schussman: Having completed a captivating series on Revelation, Chuck will turn his excellent research and teaching skills to a new topic from the OLD TESTAMENT. Stay tuned for more info...

SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART: If you are a parent, or plan to be a parent, or are assisting with parenting another generation, you won't want to miss this excellent series, taught by Pastor Dan, applying Biblical Principles to the ever challenging task of raising up a generation after God's own heart.

PRAYER AND SHARING: This important group, will be led by Ann Bronson as a continuation of what Pastor Don began. There are obvious blessings to all who have participated, as well as to our larger church body. Come and practice our most precious access to The Lord.

“Dia De Los Reyes” = The Kings Day

Sunday, Jan. 9th 6 pm HB Campus



The twelve days of Christmas end on Twelfth Night, January 5th . January 6th, traditionally the last day of the Christmas season, is when we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. In Mexico, the tradition for children to receive the majority of their gifts from the Three Kings rather than from Santa Claus at Christmas. Before going to bed the children place their old shoes or a box filled with grass or hay under their bed for the camels with a wish list on top for the Three Kings. In the morning the shoes or box is filled with toys & gifts from the Three Kings.



The “Rosca de Reyes” is a ring-shaped bread with a small doll baked inside which represents the baby Jesus. The figure symbolizes the hiding of the infant from King Herod's troops. According to tradition whoever finds the figure in their slice of sweet bread must give the next party

The HBUMC Neighborhood will be planning this fun evening. More details to follow: Mark you calendar!

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>COMMUNION SUNDAY</p> <p>9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection</p>	<p>1:00 pm Prayer</p>	<p>11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Trustees</p>	<p>9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00a MASH 2077 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men 7:00 Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>Church Office Closed 6:30 MASH 3077 1:00 Word by Word</p>	<p>7:30 UMM @ Carrow's 7:30 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Finance Committee 8:00 Welcome Home 10:30 am UMM Exec Brd</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection</p>	<p>1:00 Prayer 7:00 Preschool Board 7:30 Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC</p>	<p>10:45 Preschool Chapel 11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00a MASH 2077 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men</p>	<p>Church Office Closed 6:30 MASH 3077 9:00 Preschool: Happy Birthday Jesus parties 1:00 Word by Word</p>	<p>7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection</p>	<p>17 Preschool Closed 1:00 pm Prayer 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC</p>	<p>11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00a MASH 2077 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men</p>	<p>Church Office Closed 6:30 MASH 3077 1:00 Word by Word</p>	<p>7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection</p>	<p>1:00 pm Prayer 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC</p>	<p>11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:00 Ax29 6:30 Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00a MASH 2077 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men</p>	<p>Church Office Closed 6:30 MASH 3077 1:00 Word by Word</p>	<p>7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home</p>
30	31					
<p>9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection</p>	<p>1:00 pm Prayer 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC</p>					

MISSION UPDATE:

Happy New Year!!

I was asked the same question over and over again this past year: "*Why do you help these girls? It is a revolving door, and it will never end.*" I was often flustered by this question. I gave simple answers: "Each girl is a different case" or "To help one person is better than not helping any." But during this Christmas Season while I spent time at the safe house praying and talking with the girls, we were freezing! It was snowing and raining outside and the wind had really kicked up. The girls had no heat! Many of us in Jordan don't have central heating because the diesel fuel used to run it is very expensive. However, we do have space heaters to warm our apartments. Many of us get by with this in addition to wearing warm clothes. At the safe house, however, these heaters are forbidden. These poor girls had no socks or gloves or hats or other warm clothes. When I brought them warm clothes that had been donated, I witnessed their extreme need. Many of them pushed and grabbed for the clothes and I didn't have enough for everyone, and so some of the girls had their feelings hurt. I walked away downcast and sick to my stomach. I was angry at the women who had selfishly taken whatever they could from me, but I felt worse knowing that this is a normal reaction for those struggling to keep warm in the winter. I prayed and took time away from the safe house. I related to the story of Jesus' desire for quiet alone time during his ministry. He spoke so clearly to me during this time. He told me that taking care of the women at the safe house is His job and not mine. He made it clear that He was in charge of this work. He also gave me the answer for the people who kept asking me why I do what I do for these women. He said, "You are like a revolving door to me. You keep coming back to me, and I will always be there for you." I just broke down in tears. I felt so ashamed that I had forgotten Jesus' example. How many times has He forgiven my sin, and I have simply returned to the same places and made the same mistakes over and over again? I am so thankful that I serve a God whose door never closes.

I also learned that these girls come from nothing. They are very poor and the monthly \$100.00 they earn as a domestic worker, goes a long way at home. They are lied to by the job recruiter about working abroad. They are told that they will get to inspect the house before they commit to work there as a housekeeper. They are told that they will have nice living and working conditions—two weeks of vacation per year and one day a week off. They are told that they are allowed to call home on days off or during the week when permitted by their employers. They are told that they will be fed at least three good meals a day. When you come from nothing, these are great reason to work abroad. It is a shame that often these are simply lies that are fed to girls who will be abused and neglected by their future employers.

I want to thank you for all of your prayers and support over this past year. Thank you for the many, many donations of warm clothes, gloves, hats, and socks that poured in before Christmas, and many of the girls are warm as a result. Thank you so much!

We have sent home many girls. Praise the Lord! We have paid for three serious operations and supplied glasses and health examinations for many. Thank you again. There are many more to be helped and shown the love of Christ. I want you to be aware that we don't just help Filipina women. Your donations also have helped Sri Lankans and, if a need arises, will help women of any other nationality. The domestic workers here are many, and the needs are great. God has been amazing in all I have seen Him do thus far.

Last year I was so nervous and afraid when God asked me to quit my full-time job and serve Him in this capacity. I was afraid I would not be able to raise funds for these women. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to help in my own home. But God has blessed me and this ministry. I am so grateful that I was willing and able to be obedient. It was not easy to listen to Him, but I did. I look back now and see all that He has done for these women. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

God Bless you,

Denise Ireifej, Jordan



It has long been the policy here that bicycles, scooters, skateboards, etc., not be used around the church campus, especially on Sundays. While this policy has not had enforcement in recent years, the potential still exists for serious injury

and huge liability. Such concerns are not mere speculation, but based on real experiences of our own members and of other churches.

We are seeking the voluntary cooperation of all members of the body, and invite your suggestions on how to make the campus safer for all of us.

Please refrain from using the church property for bicycling, scooter riding, and skateboarding, and please make this a policy with your own children. Thanks!



Trustees

January Birthdays!

- 1 Dan Best
Joshua Peters
- 8 Frank DiFiore
Doris Forster
Ruth Handy
Sharon Tanner
- 9 Faye Chantanop
Lindsey Iverson
Whitney Iverson
Jakobe Sanford
- 11 James Liming
- 14 David Bolar
Mark Christian
Gary Ruck
- 16 Myra McConnell
- 17 Sarah Peters
- 20 Elyse Kennan
Megan Ahrens
Marilyn Price
- 21 Jim Bohlen
Julie Laffoon
Mara Marbut
Lenny Mullins
- 23 Nina Laffoon
- 24 Doug Woodward
- 25 Madelyn Beltz
- 26 Ric Seaver
Eric Reed
- 29 Nicholas Best
Andrew Summers

If your name has accidentally been left off the birthday list, please call the church office and let us know! Thank you!

UNITED METHODIST

MEN'S MINISTRY ALIVE AND WELL!

Men's Breakfast

January 8, 2011 7:30-9:00 AM

@ Carrows of Huntington Beach
(16931 Magnolia St.)



“Posada” an amazing Success

Over 200 people found shelter (Posada) at First UMC HB in the midst of pouring rain on Sunday December 19th. After months of prayer, preparation and planning the worship service and “Fiesta” were tremendous showers of blessings.

The youth choir sang wonderfully. Mikaela McFarland’s solo “Ave Maria” was beautiful, and the reading of Biblical passages of Christmas powerful. Pastor John delivered a bi-lingual message that the Lord used - over 25 people accepting Jesus Christ as savior and Lord!



Five piñatas poured forth candy as a great culmination to the tamale feast made by over a dozen women from the neighborhood.

Praise God for the wonderful support of FVUMC. Many came and were blessed. Several members of both congregations spent the evening sweeping and pumping water off of the property to enable hundreds to enter the sanctuary.

After many years the vision statement of Huntington Beach UMC: “*We are called by God to be A Loving and Growing church, reaching out and sharing the Love of Christ in the Community*” is showing more signs of fulfillment.

Su siervo humilde, Ana Gan



Love God

Love your neighbor

Connect in Ministry

*GO to those
who don't know*

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:45 The Awakening
Hymns & Praise

9:00 United Worship
Family Service

10:45 Connection
Contemporary
And
Sunday School
Classes for all ages

1:30 Servicio en Español

WE'RE ON THE WEB: www.FountainValleyUMC.org



The Cross and The Flame

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