

December 2010



# The Cross and The Flame

## TRADITIONS

Most of us have strong Christmas traditions. What is the first sign of Christmas in your home? Working on cards? Putting up lights? The tree? Buying gifts, baking, or house decorating?

Kathleen and I remember early conflicts in our Christmas traditions. One of the conflicts surrounded Holiday schedules and expectations between our families of origin. We had stress concerning everything from how to wrap gifts to how to un-wrap gifts! We had to work with my divided family, her very large family and our own growing family. The whole process drove us to decide what traditions we would own as ours.

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem because of their family of origin... *"they were of the house and lineage of David."* (Luke 2:4) God called them to Bethlehem through a census fulfilling the prophesy about where the Messiah would be born (Micah 5:2). God designs traditions into the practices of his people. Our church calendar begins with Advent both to look back at his first coming and to look forward to his coming again. Be ready! The culture has picked this up in the popular Holiday song... *"You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm telling you why.. Jesus is coming to town!*

We start the church year November 28<sup>th</sup> with the anticipation of his coming. Then come the 12 days of Christmas.

Here is a song I wrote about what my true love (Jesus) gave to me!

*On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...*

*A calling to ministry  
2 Congregations  
Faith, Hope and Love  
4 Gospel books  
5 groups that sing  
6 working laymen  
7 staff-a-serving  
8 people praying  
9 potluck dinners  
10 total "tithers"  
11 loving mothers  
12 fasting fathers*

May you discern and embrace the Christmas traditions that help you know him more each day in 2011....

*Pastor John*



Pastor John and Kathleen  
McFarland





The 2010 Stewardship dinner on November 7, 2010 was a wonderful event, and joy was experienced by all. Testimonies were shared followed by several videos of the various church ministries, especially Welcome Home. We could only render thanks to God for all He has done and continues to do through our church.

All in attendance brought their best dishes, and we feasted on barbequed ribs, roasts, and more.

The Finance Committee wants to thank all who participated in every aspect of the event, including the planning. It is with a grateful heart that we can say whatever we do, we do it all for the Glory of God!



*"BLESS the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."*  
Psalms 103:1,2 (New King James Version)

The preschool had a fantastic and yummy Thanksgiving Feast with the children and their families, on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. What a great time of sharing food, visiting with each other, and hearing the wonderful sounds of children's laughter! We are truly blessed and thankful.

In November the staff was able to attend the National Association of the Education of Young Children's national conference which was held in Anaheim this year. Did you know that this is the world's largest early childhood conference? It was a four day conference and the staff attended three days. There were thousands of educators attending from around the world. I sat at a table with people from England, Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Northern California. It was an excellent conference and the children and families will benefit from the knowledge we all gain from the conference.

The preschool's newsletter is now available on the website. Just go to the church's website and click preschool. This is an easy way to keep up with what is happening to your preschool.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Donna McInteer, Director

Come watch Musical Theater perform

*Arrest These Merry Gentlemen*

On December 12th, 2010

at

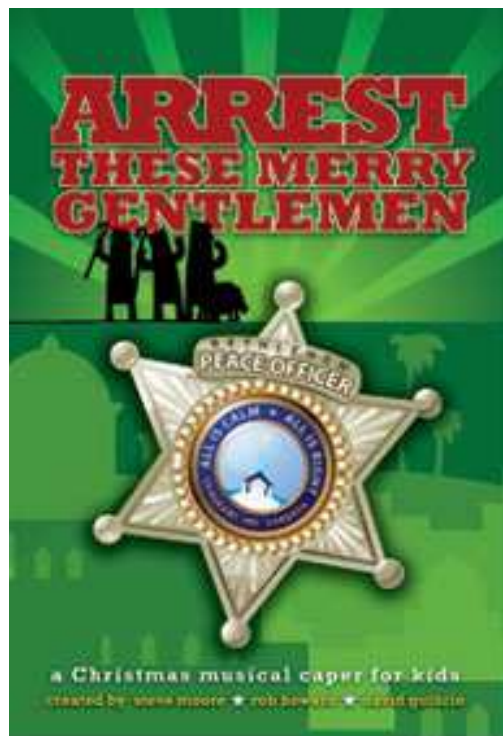
9:00 a.m.

during the  
Worship service

and

7:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary



## United Methodist Women

Come join the UMW on December 14th at 11:30 am in the MPR for the Annual Potluck! The Peters family will be sharing their musical gifts with us and there will be a time for fellowship. All are invited—first timers included! Please bring an unwrapped gift, which will be donated to BCIS. Also, please bring your thank offering boxes.

The Angel tree is currently in the Narthex waiting and hoping that you will pick an angel from the tree. The gifts are for a boy or girl ages 0-12. BCIS will be serving 500 children this season and need our help to be able to provide this service. You may bring gifts on Sunday or to the church office during the week.

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.



# December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
38	29	30	1	2	3	4
			9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:00 Ax29 6:30 Youth Group	6:00a MASH 2077 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	<b>3 Church Office Closed</b> 6:30 MASH 3077 1:00 Word by Word	7:30 UMM @ Carrow's 7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i> COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection	1:00 pm Prayer 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC	11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Trustees	9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:00 Ax29 6:30 Youth Group	6:00a MASH 2077 11:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:30 MASH 3077 1:00 Word by Word	7:30 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Finance Committee 8:00 Welcome Home 10:30 am UMM Exec Brd
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i> 9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection	1:00 Prayer 7:00 Preschool Board 7:30 Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC	10:45 Preschool Chapel 11:00 Moms In Touch 11:30 UMW Potluck 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Charge Conference and Ad Board	9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:00 Ax29 6:30 Youth Group	6:00a MASH 2077 9:00 Preschool: Happy Birthdays Jesus parties 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:30 MASH 3077 9:00 Preschool: Happy Birthdays Jesus parties 1:00 Word by Word	7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i> 9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection 6:00 HB Posada	20 Preschool Closed 1:00 pm Prayer 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC	21 Preschool Closed 11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study	22 Preschool Closed 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:30 Youth Group	23 Preschool Closed 6:00a MASH 2077 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	<b>24 Church Office Closed</b> Preschool Closed 6:30 MASH 3077 Christmas Eve Services 5:00 pm @ FVUMC 7:00 pm @ HBUMC 11:00 pm @ FVUMC	7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home 
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9 a.m. United Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Connection	27 Preschool Closed 1:00 pm Prayer 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal @ HBUMC	28 Preschool Closed 11:00 Moms In Touch 6:30 Men's Bible Study	29 Preschool Closed 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 MASH 4077 6:00 Prayer Night 6:30 Youth Group	30 Preschool Closed 6:00a MASH 2077 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	<b>31 Church Office Closed</b> Preschool Closed 6:30 MASH 3077 1:00 Word by Word	

**Sunday evening, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
from  
6 to 8 pm HB Campus**

¡Gloria Dios! Come have a cultural blessing as we celebrate “Posadas” with the Hispanic neighborhood surrounding our HB campus. Ana Gan has been organizing this with the neighborhood for months. It is a traditional Hispanic practice to act out Mary and Joseph knocking on doors looking for a Posada (an “Inn”) for Mary and Joseph to birth Jesus. There will be lots of singing in English and Spanish in the sanctuary. Pastor “Juan” will be sharing the message and then into the fellowship hall for a “Piñata” wonderful party and Food. Come feast on the Tamales, Horchata and great food.



***Get Ready!  
Passport to the Kingdom  
is coming in January***

The Christian Adventure passport is designed to give members of our church an idea of the adventures of the Christian life within our church body. There are pages to motivate us to get involved in all the areas of ministry offered by FVUMC. We get our visas stamped when you have visited the appropriate ministry or completed the appropriate goal. We will have a “customs agent” in the “customs office” on Sunday mornings, but you may also visit the church office and have the secretary stamp your passport.

**CHRISTIAN LIFE  
PASSPORT**



***Fountain Valley United  
Methodist Church***

**JESUS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR**

*(Written by Lambert with the help of Pastor John and sung to the tune of Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer)*

You know Adam & Noah & Joseph & Moses  
 prophets by whom  
 God's Salvation discloses  
 But do you recall  
 The most famous Savior of All?  
 Jesus our Lord and Savior  
 Lived with God above we know  
 And when he saw his people  
 Love went out to those below  
 All of the other nations  
 used to laugh and call God names  
 They never prayed or worshipped  
 But just joined in selfish games  
 Then one foggy Christmas Eve  
 Jesus Christ was born  
 All the Shepherds came to see  
 The Christmas Child that morn  
 Then how the nations loved him  
 And they shouted out with glee  
 Jesus our Lord and Savior  
 You're the Joy of History!

**December Birthdays!**

- 2 Anthony Huff
- 3 Brian Donley  
Tammie Harakas
- 4 Mark Hollenbeck,  
Kenda Woodward
- 5 Mariharlett Diaz
- 6 Micah Nehrbass
- 7 Ruth Reed  
Forrest McFarland
- 8 Chris Bonthius  
Jamie Kempf
- 10 Sylvia Stambol
- 11 Kathy Alves
- 12 Ashley Clendenin  
Santana Scott
- 13 Eleanor Wallace
- 14 Molly Marbut
- 15 Janae Woodward
- 17 Shirley Jennings
- 18 Brandon Armour
- 19 Caylin Woodward
- 20 Tom Traphofner
- 23 Kathryn Matheny
- 27 Jessamine King  
Mikaela McFarland  
Natasha Nehrbass
- 28 Kristina Nehrbass
- 31 Grace Yamashiro

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



Dear FVUMC,

Thank you so much for your always generous and always faithful support. I am so blessed to be part of such a great church family!

Blessings,

Tara



# MISSION UPDATE:



## **UMCOR. Be There. Be Hope.** **The United Methodist Committee on Relief**

UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster—with open minds and hearts to all people.

UMCOR marks its 70th birthday in 2010. The anniversary is a milestone in a history of hope that has provided relief and other assistance to millions of people around the world. UMCOR will continue in the future to do God's compassionate work through the generosity of United Methodists and their friends.

In 2010 UMCOR responded to a 7.0-magnitude earthquake in Haiti that killed more than 230,000, injured another 300,000, and left more than a million homeless. Among the dead were UMCOR Director Rev. Samuel Dixon, Jr., and the director of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Rev. Clinton Rabb. By the end of May, concerned United Methodists and other people of goodwill had sent more than \$33 million in aid; 700,000 health and other survivor kits; and volunteers to help in the relief and recovery work.

In 1940, Bishop Herbert Welch issued a challenge to establish a “voice of conscience among Methodists to act in the relief of human suffering without distinction of race, color, or creed.” For 70 years, United Methodists have responded to that challenge, spreading hope to God's most vulnerable people, through UMCOR.

United Methodists continue to be the hands and feet of Christ by welcoming the stranger, promoting global health, rebuilding homes and lives affected by civil and natural disasters, and assembling school kits and other material resources for people around the world.

David Smith a member of our church submits this article as an example of UMCOR's reputation even among all the charities that come to help:

As you know, I am in the aviation business. One of the magazines I read is “AOPA Pilot” – published by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. In a recent issue they had an article about private pilots and businesses volunteering their time and aircraft to ferry supplies into Haiti and fly out refugees and injured people, after the earthquake. The second to last paragraph of the article reads:

“As Merritt and I, and the four missionaries from South Carolina, waited for the fuel that would take us back to Nassau, it got a little quiet. Finally, one of the missionaries said, “We called the embassy and they couldn't help us; we called the military; a congressman back home; and even someone who had a friend in the White House, and nobody could get us out. Then the Methodists came and got us.” “

# CHRISTMAS EVE DEC. 24th

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

### 5:00 pm Family candle light service (at FVUMC)

Lambert brings the story of the Candy Cane to life.  
Special performance by our Youth Bells and Adult Choir.

### 7:00 pm Family candle light service (at Huntington Beach UMC 2721 Delaware)

Lambert brings the story of the Candy Cane to life.  
Joyful Music of the season

### 11:00 pm Midnight Candlelight service (at FVUMC)

Connection Praise Band



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WE'RE ON THE WEB: [WWW.FountainValleyUMC.org](http://WWW.FountainValleyUMC.org)

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