



October 2015

# The Courier

**First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park**

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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*Join us at church Sundays at 10:00 am*

## Heart to Heart

I was sleeping when it started to rain in September. Before long, it was raining in my dream. I remember thinking in my dream, "It's raining! There's something I need to know about the rain." But nothing came to mind. A little later in my dream, I thought, "There's something about the rain I should know." But I couldn't figure it out.

The rain started pouring in my dream. I was watching raindrops fall, when it suddenly came to me. "It's really raining. Wake up." I woke up, looked outside and thanked God for rain.

When it was light, I opened the door to the backyard and sat as far outside as I could without getting wet. Plants were already lifting their arms in gratitude for water. Rain splashed in the birdbath.

Birds – twenty finches and fifteen doves - were on the ground after the seed we scatter. They usually fly away in groups, when there is a noise or movement and return quickly. But suddenly, birds scattered in every direction - every bird for itself. Then, it was quiet, and the birds did not come back. I scanned the sky but saw nothing.

Six hummingbirds zoomed around the feeder. They all want a place at the table, but they do not want to share. One bird has started sitting on the feeder to guard his flower. Most often, as soon as there are two birds, tails flare and a chase ensues. But this day, three birds – and for a split second, four birds – were drinking at the same time. Amazing!

I finally noticed the hawk perched above our yard. It was very still except for its wingtip feathers spreading apart and closing like fingers. After a very long time, a dove went to ground and caught the hawk's attention. A pursuit over the roof and out of sight followed.

All of this is to say, that we can be like the hummingbird sitting on the feeder to guard his flower, when the nectar is abundant beyond measure. Sometimes, we need to wake up to count our blessings.

*Pastor Lynn Westover*



**Pastor**

Lynn Westover

**Preschool Director**

Wendy Finley

**Music Director/  
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Christian Education  
Director**

Margaret Cates

**Administrative  
Assistant**

Julie Mosley

**Courier Layout**  
Sharon Mountford



**Resident Bishop**

Minerva G. Carcaño

**North District  
Superintendent**

Rev. Jim Powell



# October Calendar

## October Birthdays

- 2 Geraldine Allen  
Jacqueline Robertson  
P.J. Umphres
- 4 Rosario Lirio  
Marcela Rodriguez  
Lauren Stipulkosky
- 7 Sarah Alderman  
Jennifer Ervin  
Marilyn Kleinsmith
- 9 Paul Cady
- 13 Glynene Roe
- 14 Anne Archer
- 15 Charles Bowles  
Jasper Hood  
Lou Mountford  
Jennifer Waters
- 16 Robin Foreman
- 17 Ruth Albrecht
- 18 Walter Deonik
- 19 Trish Simmons
- 22 Stan Westover
- 23 Stan Dimmick
- 30 Beulah Hajek

## Anniversaries

- 6 Pat & Gerald Rowe
- 12 Bill Satterlee  
& Ginger Huston
- 26 John & Cheryl Willauer  
*If your special day is missing,  
please contact the church office.*

## Altar Flowers

- 4 JoAnn McColloch, *in honor  
of Paul and the choir*
- 11 Sharon Mountford, *in  
honor of the October 15  
birthdays*
- 18 Open
- 25 Liz Rogers, *in honor of the  
birthday of Mike Fox*

## Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am  
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Senior Exercise Class, Hall, 9:00 am
- Tuesday Shower Ministry, 8:30 am - noon  
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm
- Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm

## Other Activities

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*  
Memorial Service for Anna Bennett,  
followed by interment, 1:00 pm
- Sunday 4 World Communion Sunday
- Tuesday 6 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 10 Make and Take Class, Library, 10:00 - noon
- Sunday 11 Inspiration Sunday, with the Rev. George Crisp
- Tuesday 13 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 15 Courier deadline for the October issue
- Saturday 17 Rockchippers Lapidary Show, Lawn, 10 am - 5 pm
- Sunday 18 Celebration Sunday, *return Estimate of Giving Cards*
- Tuesday 20 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Sunday 25 Laity Sunday
- Wednesday 28 Education Ministry, Library, 4:00 pm

## Upcoming in November

- Sunday 1 Daylight Savings Time ends
- Tuesday 3 Leisure Club
- Wednesday 4 Stewardship meeting
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast

## Health Seminar

Lakeside Community Healthcare, which sponsors the Senior Exercise class in the Fellowship Hall on Monday mornings, is offering an education class here on October 19 from 10:15 - 12:00 noon.

### Eating Gluten-Free

What does it mean to "eat gluten-free?" Learn what foods have gluten and how some people are negatively affected by gluten. Learn what symptoms to look for to determine if gluten is bothersome to your digestive system. Healthy and delicious gluten-free snacks will be provided.



## News

Mission U at Biola University had over 350 women, children and youth in attendance. It was awesome to have 15 classes, all of which were well attended.

The realignment of the eight UMW districts with the five districts of the Annual Conference is moving along, and we hope to have it completed by January 1, 2016.

## Future Meetings

**UMW California-Pacific Conference Annual Meeting** is being held on Saturday, October 24, at Holliston UMC, 1305 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena.

Guest Speaker... Yvette Richards

National President of United Methodist Women

"Our Legacy...Pass It On"

### UMW Mission Team

will meet November 5 at 10:00 am in Room 10.

### UMW Silver Tea

will be held December 5 at 1:00 pm. in the Fellowship Hall. Further information will be available in the November Courier.



## Leisure

October 6

11:00 am

Lounge

Everyone is invited to share a pot-luck lunch and hear a presentation from the LA Zoo.

*Please also bring a non-food for the Shower Ministry.*

## Congratulations, Doris Hood!

Doris Hood was recently recognized in worship for developing our website long ago and for maintaining it for many years. Doris had a dream that First Church would have an online presence. In the early days website development was not at all friendly, she studied thick, thick notebooks to learn how to do it. Her good work in developing the content provided an excellent foundation when we recently developed and launched a new, updated website. Doris was given a set of magnets with words affirming her dream and creativity in bringing the website to life.

Well done, Doris!

## New E-mail Address Contest

We are preparing to "freshen up" our e-mail address as we move into the new year. We are looking for an e-mail address that is:

- \* Easy to remember
- \* Tells people something about our church (for example, weloveourchildren@xxx.org)

Please submit your best ideas to Julie Mosley by October 30, by e-mail to FUMCCP@sbcglobal.net or drop them by the office. Thank you for your help and creativity!



## UMW Circle Meetings



### Bookends

Thursday, October 8, 10:00 am

Library

Hostess: Sandra Dedinas

Book: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Anthony Doerr

### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, October 21

7:00 pm

Place TBA

### Sarah Circle

Thursday, October 8

9:30 am

Breakfast at Coco's

## In Memoriam...

We are sorry to report the passing of three members of our extended family.

### Anna M. Bennett

October 6, 1927 - September 11, 2015

Anna Bennett was a long-time active member of our church. She passed away quietly in her sleep at the home of her son in Tustin. Anna was born in Sioux City, Iowa, to Arthur and Ivis Backes.

On August 23, 1947, she married Billy Bruce Bennett, and together they raised their son, Jeff Bennett. In 1968, they moved from Chicago, Illinois, to Woodland Hills, which became home. Anna was a devoted housewife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She enjoyed her worship and spare time volunteering in the library at the Methodist Church, where she established lifelong friendships. Anna was a founding member of Bookends. She was a voracious reader and major contributor to book discussions. After her husband's passing in May of 2012, she moved to her son's home, where she started a new fellowship at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana. She looked forward to her Tuesday Bible Study luncheons.

Anna will be dearly missed by her son Jeff and wife, Nancy; granddaughters, Jenna and Niki; grandson, Jason and wife, Heather; great grandson, Kyle; and her many friends. The celebration of Anna's life will be held Saturday, October 3 at 1:00 pm at our church, with internment to follow.

Donations may be made in her name to either the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park or Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Santa Ana.

## UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief, in response to disasters in the US, like the current California wildfires, has a special fund titled **US Disaster Response, Advance # 901670**. It provides you with the most efficient way to be of financial assistance to the people who are homeless due to the current spate of wild fires.

### Jonathan Ferrin

died on August 2, 2015

Jonathan was the son of Pat and Ralph Ferrin, members of our church. His memorial service will be held in October.

### Nancy Weirbach

passed away on September 4

Nancy was the widow of Rev. Robert Weirbach, who was serving this church when the move was made from Jordan Avenue to the present site. Nancy is survived by their children Lynn, Robert and Nancy. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Lynn Hudson, 5383 Agana Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93111.



## Did You Know?

Placing flowers on the altar in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of a special anniversary or occasion has been a long-standing tradition of our church. There are several ways that this can be done.

Floral arrangements from Mr. B's are ordered through the church office. If you have a special request for that arrangement, you need to notify the church office by Thursday. These arrangements cost \$35. Please mark your contribution "Altar Flowers."

Cut flowers from your garden or Farmer's Market may also be used on the altar. If you wish to provide cut flowers, please let Julie, our Administrative Assistant, know by Thursday, so she can cancel the floral arrangement from Mr. B's.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Parlor for your flower requests. Please indicate on that sheet if you plan to provide your own flowers.

If you have flowers in your garden that may be used on a Sunday when there is no special request, please let the office know. We will be happy to use your flowers and save the church the cost of a formal arrangement.

## Preschool News

“Back to School Night” will be Wednesday, October 1, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This gives our parents a chance to see their child’s classroom and some of the work they’ve been doing. The teachers are able to share how things are going for each child.

We will have had our Fall school pictures taken in September. We do school pictures in the Spring as well, because the parents love to see how their child has changed.

Our Halloween parade will be held on Wednesday, October 28th. We invite all our church friends to join us as we “trick or treat” and sing our Halloween songs!!

Wendy

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## Stewardship 2016

### Joyful Giving! Joyful Living!

*Additional Ways to strengthen our  
Ministries and Facilities*

Our Stewardship program funds the basic operating budget of First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park. But there are additional ways to support our ministries, programs, and facilities.

### Endowment Fund

Established in the early 90’s, the principal cannot be spent unless there is a dire emergency that threatens the existence of the church – and requires a 75% vote of an All-Church conference.

### Capital Fund

The Capital Fund was established to build a reserve fund for major capital improvements that cannot be met within the normal church operating budget, such as landscaping, sprinkler projects and resurfacing the parking lot.

### Memorial Funds

Individuals donate in memory or honor of a loved one. They can be designated or undesignated. The church Memorial Committee, along with the

pastor, disburses these funds based on the wishes of the giver and the needs of our church.

### Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1984 in memory of Laura Longman, who was raised in this church and died of heart disease during her senior year of college. At least one \$1,000 scholarship grant is awarded each year to qualified upper-class undergraduate students.

### UMW Merritt Memorial Fund

This Memorial Fund was established in 1956 to honor long-time member Ernest Merritt. Its specific ministry is to help the youth of our church in their Christian educational endeavors, as well provide summer camp scholarships.

### Estate Giving

Have you considered leaving a gift to the church in your estate plan? If you already have a will or trust, consider adding the church as a beneficiary.

Even if you don’t have an estate plan, an easy way to remember the church is to visit your bank or credit union – wherever you do your everyday banking – and open an additional savings account. Name the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park the Pay on Death (POD) beneficiary of the account. That’s all there is to it. The account still belongs to you, and if something unexpected comes up – “I need to fix my transmission!” – you still have the use of your money. You can always replenish the account later.

If you opt to designate a gift to the UMCCP in this fashion, remember to let the church know.

Recording the name and location of the financial institution where you’ve opened the account in the church files will ensure that your gift will be gratefully received.

If you would like more detail about these funds or have an interest in making a gift as part of your Christian Stewardship, please contact Pastor Lynn.

God Bless,

The Stewardship Committee



## From the Mailbox

Dear Church Members,  
After five surgeries and having completed my chemotherapy, I am ready to start radiation treatment.

I wanted to let you know that without all of your prayers, the quilt and prayer shawl, I would never have gotten through all of this. Also on the days I walked to my mail box and found a card or note, my day was a better one. Thank you all so much for the comfort you have given me through all of this pain and sickness. As I said before, without all of you, I would not have made it through all of the processes.

Thank you again,  
*Janet Fox (Liz Rogers' daughter)*

First Church Canoga Park,

Thank you for your gift of \$ 785.00 to support the United Methodist Church's commitment to eliminate malaria as a major source of death and suffering in Africa by 2015. Your support serves as an example of how we are living Christ's call to heal the sick and help those in need.

Imagine No Malaria includes continued bed net distributions, community education programs with medical outreach training, radio communications programs reaching remote areas with vital information, and programs that strengthen clinics and hospitals to better diagnose and treat malaria. Thank you for your generosity.

**Helen Robertson** has let us know that we made a mistake on her address in the last issue of the Courier.

The name of the facility where she is living is  
**Aegis at Shadowridge**  
1440 South Melrose, Apt. 240, Oceanside, CA 92056

## Deborah Buttemeier's Wedding

Debbie was married to Steven Santinelli on August 15th at Valley of the Falls, Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. We all had a great time with visits to Gospel Brunch at the House of Blues. We went to the Aquarium, which was very good, and we all had too much good food.

Family members attending included Debbie, Senior Supervisor for Anheuser-Busch in Merrimack NH; Steve, IT professional for the state of New Hampshire; sister Robin Mlynarick, who teaches at CSUN; Robin's husband, Zbynek; Bridesmaids (Robin's daughters) Analyssa Tallas, who is a Junior at USC Stanislaw, and Alexandra Tallas, recipient of the Laura Longman Scholarship and a recent graduate at Gonzaga University in Washington state; Ring Bearer Gavin Mlynarick 6½; Marie Burrows, Joe's sister from Lewellen Nebraska; Best Man Tyler Santinelli, Steve's brother; mother of the groom, Anne Santinelli; and, of course, the proud parents of the bride, Joe and Sylvia Buttemeier.

I have never seen Debbie so happy.

*Joe Buttemeier*



## Crop Walk is coming...Nov. 1 Put Yourself in the Picture

This year's walk will be hosted by the First UMC of Northridge. If you would like to participate in the walk, talk with Joe Buttemeier or contact Amybeth at [cropwalksfv@gmail.com](mailto:cropwalksfv@gmail.com). Our congregation has sent many walkers over the years and raised substantial money for the cause of fighting hunger in the Valley and world-wide.



## World Communion Sunday, October 5

Adolphe Lumuna Kimanwa, of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is using his degree in development planning and economic management to fight poverty and inequality and to establish food security and

water sanitation. His scholarship – made possible through generous giving on World Communion Sunday – will allow him to complete a master’s degree in economic policy and development management. He said that this scholarship has given him an opportunity he could not pursue without the church and the people of God.

Once Kimanwa earns his master’s degree, he will become a senior lecturer, teaching community development management at the Centre Interdisciplinaire pour l’Education et le Développement, Département du Katanga. Eventually, he hopes to earn a doctorate and become a full professor. He said, “Being a teacher at a university is one of the best ways to bring back what I got by grace from God.”

Your generous contributions on World Communion Sunday provide World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program. When you give generously, you equip gifted, qualified students from around the globe to become the world changers God created them to be.

## Shopping Portal Gets New Look

[www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org)

The relaunched UMCMarket will provide an enhanced user experience, quicker access to status reports, regular distribution of micro-donations and the addition of hundreds of savings offers for participants. With the new program, each church starts with a new account. Donations generated prior to July 13 will be paid out before the end of 2015. Canoga Park First has received a check for \$77.19.



The look of the new site for micro-donations has changed, but United Methodists who shop the thousands of retailers available can still generate donations to support their local churches. Existing users will sign up to establish an account with the new provider and designate the ministry they choose to support. All users will be able to watch an overview video and review frequently asked questions prior to signing up.



The family of Jonathan Ferrin

The family of Anna Bennett

Bob Connolly

Ruth Albrecht

Evelyn Heim

Stan Dimmick

La Dean Owen

Ted Jimenez

Chuck Engberg

Charyl Patterson

Kraig Miller



To receive Prayer Chain e-mails, please contact Robin Abernathy at [robingreenbird@yahoo.com](mailto:robingreenbird@yahoo.com)

## Transportation Ministry

If you need a ride to church, or if you are interested in becoming a driver for the transportation ministry, please contact JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis at 818-932-9724 or Mary Mackay at 818-346-5872.

**56th annual all-church  
Barbecue  
Sunday, October 4, 2015**

**Dinner served from 4:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**Adults: \$8.00**  
**Children 6-12: \$4.00**  
**Children 5 and under: free**

**Round up your family and friends and come for an  
afternoon of food and fellowship.**  
**We will be serving professionally barbecued beef  
and oven-roasted chicken breasts in our traditional  
barbecue sauce**  
**- and, of course, all of the trimmings.**

**Please buy your tickets by September 27,  
specifying beef or chicken for your entree.**

**Follow-up to Quilt Sunday**

Saturday, October 10  
Library, 10:00 am to noon

Come and make a small Christmas mat (or a block for a larger project). One option is shown here. Cost is \$5 to cover cost of materials. You will need to bring your sewing machine, unless you prefer to work by hand. Preregistration is requested by October 3. Please contact the church office or Sharon Mountford – 818-340-5084 or smountford@socal.rr.com.



Visit Our Updated Website at [umcnp.org](http://umcnp.org)

Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way  
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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