

**EL DORADO COUNTY
FEDERATED CHURCH**

A-Z

**GUIDE TO
CONNECTIONS**

*OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVING OTHERS
IN YOUR CHURCH, YOUR COMMUNITY,
YOUR NATION AND YOUR WORLD*

**CONNECTIONS
MINISTRY TEAM**

MARCH 2011

The Connections Ministry Team has
this focus for this year:

*To communicate, raise awareness, and invite the
people at Federated to connect with Christ's
community locally and throughout the world."*

We generally meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30
p.m. in the Health Ministry Room. Please contact Karen
Shelnutt at 622-0273 #13 for more information or an
update on meeting times.

A **Little Help** provides backpacks full of food to needy Sierra Elementary School children. Needs include donations of small servings of lightweight, non-perishable food and help filling backpacks on the third Thursday at 3:00 p.m. [Peg Keating—642-9152]

A **lternative Christmas** is the market place at Federated that helps celebrate Christ's birth through meaningful gift giving. This is not your everyday Christmas shopping experience. Whether you are buying a goat for a family in Chile, making a purchase of a gift basket of fair trade coffee products from a Central American farmer, or supporting Federated youth mission, this is a *different* giving experience. These gifts make a huge difference for families and communities needing help with food and shelter. Your family can choose to make your Christmas *alternative*, developing new gift traditions that will help people in our community and around the world. [Wendy West - 626-5078]

B **read for the World** is a faith-based organization that seeks justice for the world's hungry by lobbying elected officials. Federated participates in this annual offering of letters and legislative alerts. [Leslie Bush - 644-1154]

C **ROP Walk** raises money for food for the hungry in local and international communities by walking through downtown Placerville every October. It is an ecumenical and community effort. Become a recruiter, sponsor or walker! [Chuck and JoAnn LePere - 676-7181]

D **isaster Preparedness Team** plans our congregation's response to local emergencies or disasters and coordinates with other churches and community organizations and agencies. [Mark Stanley - 644-1631 or Karen Shelnutt - 622-0273 #13]

D **isaster Relief** needs arise around the world and in our own neighborhood. Trips to areas suffering from the devastation of natural disasters or boxes of supplies sent to an elementary school in third-world countries provide practical assistance in emergency situations. (*see next page*)

Teams volunteer through either the Methodist or Presbyterian churches worldwide, which welcome individuals and groups to be part of relief efforts. [Sara Munday—644-9929]

El Dorado Convalescent Worship happens monthly with the residents of this care facility. Old-time songs, stories, and hugs bring huge smiles of appreciation from the older adults who are unable to attend their own church services. Barbara Atkins says “We would love to invite others to join us in the fun and have a meaningful experience...” on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. [Barbara Atkins - 626-9344].

Federated Farmer’s Market offers tables overflowing with fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs in the summer and fall months. Gardeners donate extra bounty from their gardens and shoppers enjoy the farm fresh tastes. Donations support the *Hope Community Garden* and *SHARE*. [Dick Hunn - 647-9337]

Federated Preschool and Infant Care Center provides loving and accredited child care on our site. Our infants and children would love to have you read to them, play with toys, or simply give them a hug! Your extra hands are always needed. [Cherlye Price - 622-5226]

Great Decisions is an annual class that generally meets weekly. The class uses materials from the Foreign Policy Association to explore national and global issues. [Bob Olmstead - 295-5561]

HELP (Housing Emergency Lodging Program) provides a roof and assistance to get back on your feet when everything seems hopeless. Life can get scary when you do not have a home and have children who need to go to school the next day. Opportunities for volunteers are two-fold: either as a *Mentor* to families housed in the *HELP* house, or as a *Placement* person who secures a motel room for one or two nights. [JoAnn LePere - 676-7181]

Homeless Nomadic Shelter, in conjunction with the *Community Resource Center*, provides sleeping space in a variety of West Slope churches during the winter months. Federated volunteers staff Thursday nights and Friday breakfast at Cold Springs Community Church. [Shirley Edwards - 622-1103]

United Outreach is working to develop long-term solutions for the homeless of our community. Currently, they provide housing for 6 people, as well as emergency survival care, including tent, tarps, sleeping bags and daily lunches. [Linda Gates - 644-5695]

Upper Room is a daily dining opportunity for the hungry in our community. Help cook and/or serve on the third Sunday of the month. [Cyndy Salmon - 621-1898]

Visually Impaired Center provides support and instruction for people experiencing impaired vision. *El Dorado Center for the Visually Impaired* is located on Federated Church property in El Dorado, in front of the Hope Community Garden. [Robin Stanley - 644-1631]

World Day of Prayer enables us to join a global ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions from 170 countries and regions who come together in prayer on the first Friday of March each year.

Xtraordinary opportunities exist for serving in response to God’s call to each of us.

Youth serve Native Americans through the *Sierra Service Project (SSP)*, a program that coordinates home re-roofing and re-building on reservations. Federated youth have served in the Yuroc, Shoshone, Paiute, Hopi, and Navajo communities, while learning of Native American culture and sharing worship and fun with youth of other churches. [Patty Case - 626-7764]

Zephyr Point Conference Center, a lakeside gem on the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe, is home to many faith-related conferences and retreats. See what is offered this year; brochures are available in the Federated Church office or at www.zephyrpoint.org.

how the church serves around the world. You are invited to join in intentional daily prayer. Books are available in the church office.

Quietly serving our world is good, but we don't always have to do it quietly!!

Resources are crucial for financially supporting or giving of your time to our seven international mission partnerships and our local and denominational outreach. A percentage of the congregational giving is designated for these projects. Help support the stewardship of this congregation. [Bob Olmstead - 295-5561]

SHARE is the food closet that is located at Federated Church. Fourteen churches in the community work together to feed families who are hungry and need food. Volunteers assist with sorting and distributing donations. The first Sunday of each month is *SHARE Sunday*, when food donations are encouraged. [Dianne Ettlich - 916-984-9387]

Stewardship Team promotes a lifestyle of caring - care for the earth, care for our families, care for the environment, and care for our church. When we take active intentional care of these things, we are acting as stewards for God - who is the Giver of all things. [Bob Olmstead - 295-5561]

Tree of Kindness, our Christmas sharing program, touches the hearts and lives of children and families who need warm clothing. Come to the Christmas tree in Price Hall during Advent and take an envelope to adopt a family and provide gifts. Lots of volunteer help and donations are needed to make this project a success. [Robin Stanley - 644-1631]

Two Cents a Meal asks us to put 2 pennies in a container on the kitchen table for each meal we eat while we pray for relief for the hungry and thank God for the abundance of food that is available to us. Help feed the hungry by bringing your pennies on the last Sunday of the month and adding them to the *2 Cents* container as you enter church. [Julia Hill - 622-2007]

Hope Community Garden provides individual garden plots at the El Dorado property which is owned by Federated Church. Tools and supplies are available on-site and experienced gardeners can provide assistance. The *Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR)* beds provide produce for *SHARE* and the *Food Bank*. Help is needed to prepare beds for new gardeners and maintain the PAR beds and public areas. Plant and seed donations are also welcome. [Robin Stanley - 644-1631]

Home Visit Team offers you a chance to become a friend to members of our congregation who are confined to their home or a care facility. No special skills are needed... just a willingness to enjoy and share stories with others! [Health Ministry - 622-0273 #13]

International connections and global partnerships are part of the Federated family around the world. We support communities and missionaries in:

- **Bolivia:** the *Graner* family in Thiu Rancho, Coachabamba
- **Cameroon:** *Jeff and Christi Boyd* support education and hunger programs in Cameroon, the Congo and Rwanda. The Federated Church *Granary Project* is part of these efforts.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:**
 - *Jacques Umembudi*, a medical pilot in Kananga, flies for *Wings of Caring*.
 - *Larry Sthreshley* coordinates health for the urban poor through *Health for All* in Kinshasa.
 - *Rev. Jean Niita Muamba* coordinates educational support for the *Education for Kinshasha* program.
- **Mexico:** see "M" for Mexico.
- **West Angola:** We partner with other Methodist churches to rebuild schools, libraries, churches, clinics and a model village after 26 years of civil war.

These missions are supported through our personal prayers and congregational giving. Would you like to write or e-mail to help keep the lines of communication open between our congregation and our partners? [Leslie Bush - 644-1154]

Juvenile Service Council brings together a group of adults who care about the kids in Juvenile Hall and want to show them that “there are other ways.” The twice-a-month gatherings at Juvenile Hall include music, crafts, games, speakers and food, which are remembered by many youth as a turning point during their troubled times. An application process is necessary to volunteer on-site. Bakers of birthday cupcakes are also welcome. [Jerry Homme - 626-8646 or Vivian Carpender - 622-3769]

Kamp Koinonia is our summer week of fun for kids going into Kindergarten thru 6th grade. A variety of music, games and crafts are offered to help the children learn about Jesus. An exciting musical production concludes this week of adventure. Youth counselors and helpers of all ages are needed! [Bonnie Green or Jodie Regan - 622-0273]

Local opportunities in the community are open to all! Many Federated folks and friends are involved in the following organizations:

- *CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)* - Don Vanderkar (622-1092)
- *Community Resource Center* - Gail McGuire (748-9809)
- *El Dorado Habitat for Humanity* - Sally Long Johns (306-0821)
- *Make a Difference Coalition* - Robin Stanley (644-1631)
- *New Morning Youth and Family Services* - Carl Hagen (622-1231)
- *Salvation Army* - Becky Bell (672-1892)

Mexico Missions are organized locally and through border and international organizations:

- **Youth Mission Trip** is the annual trip of senior high school students invited to spend their Easter vacation building homes in the communities near Tijuana, Mexico. Federated teams up with Brentwood Presbyterian Church to work with the *Amor Project*, which constructs small homes for families in need. [Patty Case - 626-7764]

Mexico Missions (cont.)

- **Frontera de Cristo** is a ministry of reconciliation that provides a medical clinic and family ministry services to support the communities of Agua Prieta, Sonora Mexico and Douglas, Arizona. This Presbyterian mission site is supported by Federated’s generous donations. They invite groups and individuals to work for short or extended visits. More information is available on their website: www.binationalministry.org [Gwen Upshaw - 622-8793]
- **Companeros in Mision** focuses on building and strengthening faith understanding and relationships among people on both sides of the border in the states of Sonora, Mexico and Arizona, USA. They work through five small Presbyterian mission churches in Sonora and coordinate visiting short-term mission teams which focus on three goals: 1) Building faith, 2) Building understanding, and 3) Building relationships on both sides of the border. [Gwen Upshaw - 622-8793]

New opportunities always arise for responding to the needs of our world and community. Join the *Connections Ministry Team* to help identify, plan and organize our congregation’s response. [Wendy West - 626-5078]

Offerings allow us to make special gifts throughout the year to support international denominational programs and special local programs:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** (Palm Sunday)
- **Pentecost** (Pentecost Sunday)
- **Peacemaking** (Worldwide Communion Sunday in October)
- **Christmas Joy** (December)

Pace and Justice unites folks working for peace and justice in our community and the world by sponsoring events and advocating for change. [Flossie Duchardt - 622-7301]

Prayer is needed for those who are suffering in our community and world. The *Mission Yearbooks* describe both the Presbyterian and Methodist mission outreach and illustrate
(see next page)