



Gathering



FEDERATED CHURCH IS DUSTING OFF THE AUCTION PADDLES!

The Sixth Annual Holy Harvest Auction, featuring the gifts and graces of the Federated family, will be held on Saturday, November 7, in Price Hall, beginning at 5:45 pm. This church-wide event will include two silent auctions and a live auction with auctioneers Carolyn Mansfield and Wendy Westsmith Jones, back by popular demand. Saying "You won't want to miss it!" Auction Chair Linda Gates urges that congregation members save the date and watch for sign-up tables in September. For information or to join a volunteer team, contact Linda Gates at 644-5695 or linda.gates@earthlink.net.

A CONCERT OF KEYBOARDS AIDS ORGAN RESTORATION

Federated Church's historic pipe organ, the sanctuary piano, and Betsy Moore's electronic keyboard take center stage for a Concert of Keyboards, Sunday, October 25, 3:00 pm.

Tinkling the keys will be organists Leslie Bush, Joan Cook and Larry Ramos, Jr.; pianist Leah Hall, and keyboardist and pianist, Betsy Moore. Musicians promise all kinds of music from classical to sacred to secular, from powerful to playful to exciting, from melodic to just plain beautiful, from old favorites to new beats and new favorites.

A freewill offering will be taken to work towards restoring two very special stops on the organ - the harp and the celeste. Each of the newly restored stops will add another unique and delicate sound to the organ, which will be demonstrated during the concert.



FEDERATED FEEDS THE HUNGRY AND INVITES YOU TO HELP!

From walking on behalf of hungry people in the world to filling backpacks for neighboring schoolchildren, the Federated family works to solve hunger. Volunteers are invited to participate in the following ways:

- Walk to Stop Hunger in the Crop Walk on September 27th. Pledge forms available on Sundays in the church patio.
- Prepare food or serve for two hours at the Upper Room, a dining room that feeds the hungry daily in our community and is staffed by Federated on the third Sunday each month. Contact Patty Case 622-0273 x16 or Laurie Dahl 622-4922 to become a regular server.
- Fill a backpack with food that provides A Little Help for 20 students and their families from Sierra School. Bring foods and fill the blue bin in the kitchen or help stuff the packs on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm. Let Peg Keating 642-9152 know if you can help.
- Put nonperishable food items in the SHARE Bin located in front of the church. SHARE, a food closet, is located on the lower level of Federated Church and needs donations of food and volunteers to help. Check with Dianne Ettlich (916) 984-9387 for information on volunteering for a 3 hour shift once a month.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS
PEACEMAKING OFFERING**

The annual Peacemaking Offering will be taken on World Communion Sunday, October 4, as Federated Church joins with Christians all over the world to donate for peace locally and globally.

Last year Federated's donations were divided 1/3 each among the Presbyterian USA and United Methodist Peacemaking programs and the Schnell School program on bullying (1/3 always goes to a local program which promotes living peaceably).

Further details will be posted on the bulletin board and in special inserts in the announcements regarding the use of the offering worldwide and how "Justice and Peace shall kiss each other."

CAFÉ JUSTO - JUST COFFEE

Emerging out of a desire to address the immigration crisis, in 2002 in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico, the idea for Just Coffee was born. A coffee producing collective was formed, modeled after the Fair Trade principle that farmers should be paid a just price for their products. Bart Bawden has been faithfully ordering fresh roasted coffee beans or ground in both regular or decaf at the competitive price of \$10 per lb. for regular, \$11 for decaf. It will be sold in between services on Sundays. Please contact Leslie Bush (644-1154) if you would like to help. And if you would like to know more about the coffee contact Bart Bawden (621-3332).



HOW ABOUT A GOOD OLE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

The Old Testament: The Stuff of Good Storytelling
THE GREAT COURSES by THE TEACHING COMPANY

An academic course on CD taught by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School will begin on Sunday, September 6 and continue through Sunday, November 22, in the Historic Church from 10:00 until 10:50. These Bible-study sessions are oriented toward historical context that will enrich understanding of the Old Testament stories. Classes start with the book of Genesis with "In the Beginning" and end with "The Conquest" in the Book of Joshua. The format will include 30 minutes with Professor Levine on CD and her outline for discussion, facilitated by Carol Brinkerhoff and Susan Taseff. Carol describes it as "a friendly way to plunge into the ancient stories of our ancestors in faith." She adds that Pastor Andrew will come, as needed, to answer any unanswerable questions!"

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP LOOKS AT AGING GRACEFULLY

The Gift Of Years, Growing Old Gracefully, by Joan Chittister, will invite members to embrace older age as a natural part of life that is both active and contemplative, productive and reflective. The discussion will invite those attending to cherish the blessings of aging and to address its challenges. This group will gather in the Fireside room on Thursday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:00pm for 8 weeks starting October 1, facilitated by Karen Shelnutt and friends.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE! FLU SEASON: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

The upcoming flu season is unique as it will necessarily include prevention and vaccination for both the seasonal flu and the H1N1, or swine flu, and will thus involve two vaccines. People most affected by the H1N1 virus are those age six months to 24 years, pregnant women, health and childcare workers, and those with chronic health conditions. This group will be the target for the H1N1 vaccine. Even though the H1N1 flu epidemic has been relatively mild this spring and summer, it did not go away and the Center for Disease Control is concerned it may become a stronger or more serious illness. As students return to school and the traditional flu season begins, these are the steps to take:

- Stay home from school, work and church if you are sick.
- Wash hands frequently.
- Clean surfaces at home and at the office frequently; flu viruses can survive on surfaces for up to 48 hours.
- Get vaccinated for the seasonal flu. H1N1 vaccine will hopefully be available in mid-October for the target group.
- Prepare for alternative childcare if they need to stay home while they are ill.

BISHOP AWARDS FEDERATED LAYWOMAN - Submitted by Bob Olmstead

One of the editors of our *Gathering* is too modest to include this herself, but we can all take pride when “one of our own” is honored. Every year the Bishop’s Award is given to three or four United Methodist laypersons from the California Nevada Conference. These persons are selected from the 80,000 laypersons of the CA/NV Conference for exemplary service to church and community. The Bishop’s Award honored Susan Hunn this year for her administrative and visionary contributions at the local level (Federated Church), District level, Annual Conference level (where she is in charge of the 1000-member, 4-day Annual Conference), and national denominational level (where she is a repeatedly elected lay delegate to the once-every-four-years General Conference of the international United Methodist Church). What follows is the proclamation read at this year’s Annual Conference as Bishop Warner Brown presented his award to Susan Hunn.

Bishop’s Award 2009

Two joys, among many, rise to the surface when this person finds time to relax. They include family celebrations and Oakland A’s baseball. Keeping track and keeping score are gifts of God that bear fruit in the local church, the conference, and ministry in the wider context of God’s work.

Deeply committed to Christian values, the United Methodist Church, and to compassionate justice, this child of God speaks to and lives a life of witness and service. Elected multiple times as delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference, it is clear that colleagues and friends in ministry recognize God’s gift of leadership. In witness for all of God’s children, she has wept and prayed.

At the District level, the committee on superintendency has offered the opportunity to serve. In addition, our awardee takes a personal interest in the development of transformative leadership. This is evidenced by serving in the role of a candidacy guide—one who mentors those responding to the call of ministry.

At the local church level, as part of a federated church, our sister in Christ has contributed to being the voice of United Methodist values, even as the relationships across denominational lines are lived out. Appreciating the gift of God’s creative work in artists, we see her active as a docent at the Crodker Art Museum.

A friend has described our awardee as “a living example of what life in Christ, lived through the community of the Church, can look like.”

We see and know this servant of Christ in concrete ways each year as we share in Annual Conference. Through her relational and supportive way, she directs and coaxes our every move. The role of keeping us efficiently on task has been described by her as similar to “matching plaids.” Surely, the seamstress among us, in ministry today and in the wider church, is gifted at crafting something effective and purposeful, by God’s grace.

We welcome and celebrate today, along with El Dorado County Federated Church of Placerville, Susan Hunn.

LIVING THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” A new group looks to respond to that great commandment, seeking ways to continue modeling Federated Church’s stated commitment to inclusivity and welcome to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation.

Neighbors will meet for conversation around inclusiveness and how to live out the radical hospitality of Jesus with a light dessert at the home of Art and Shirley Edwards, 2820 Miller Way in Placerville, on Monday, September 14, 7:00 pm. Please contact Susan Hunn at shunn@comcast.net or 647-9337 to indicate your interest in attending. Anyone who would like to continue to receive information about the group, but can’t attend the first gathering, is urged to advise Susan of that as well.

For many years, Federated has welcomed Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) to use Federated’s facilities for meetings and has provided a forum for such organizations as the Human Rights Roundtable. In recent years, Federated has hosted the Shower of Stoles and facilitated the “Claiming the Promise” class about homosexuality and the Bible.

For the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community to know they are welcome in a Christian church, it is necessary to be intentional, proactive and persistent in efforts to educate and inform. Fortunately, there are resources available from both United Methodist and Presbyterian organizations in the way of videos, curriculum, worship materials and speakers.

THE VISIT

By Patty Perrin

My mother was widowed at 88. She immediately announced, "I'm going to stay alone." I didn't know what to do. She was at that in-between age, not really capable of living alone but impossible to tell what to do. So, I went along with her. About once a month, I would fly up to Oregon to see how she was doing and clean her house. On each visit, I would hire someone to help, but Mother would fire them before I even made it to the airport.

"She costs too much and I don't need her," was Mother's explanation.

In desperation I suggested, "Maybe you should come live with us."

"Never," she vowed. "I'll never live with any of my children."

I was relieved. I didn't really want her to live with us, but I also felt guilty. I tried getting her a companion to live with her and for a while it worked. One great addition was a young Vietnamese woman, Leico, who stayed for two years. The two of them were great pals. They had big parties and lots of fun and didn't seem to notice the cockroaches in the kitchen. When I flew in, I was the "visiting inspector" and they conspired to keep things from me. I fell in with their intrigue, relieved to know that Mother was safe and happy. Then Leico got married and left.

Next came a cousin of mine who gave more temporary respite. By now Mother was 93.

"Why don't you fly down for Christmas," I suggested, and she accepted.

And she stayed two years, three months and 21 days.

But, true to her word, she never lived with us.

"Mother is visiting," I'd explain.

I was no longer working, so when I went out I'd take Mother along. She'd go anywhere. We drove to the desert to see the wildflowers. We went to the mountains. Sometimes we'd just go exploring in the car, packing a lunch to eat at some scenic spot.

When Mother came to visit, she could walk with ease, but gradually it became more difficult. "Let's get a wheelchair," I suggested. "I don't need it and anyway they're too expensive," she retorted. But on one of my exploration trips to the Salvation Army thrift store, I found a lightweight wheelchair for \$25. She was delighted; a bargain was different. Once again we were on the road.

All her life, Mother had been a creative seamstress, so on rainy days I'd put her in her chair and we'd visit yardage stores. We pored over the pattern books, then handled and discussed the materials, all the while planning new wardrobes.

As the visit extended, her personal care became a problem so I hired a young woman to come in a few days a week to help with her bath.

"Be sure to wash her back," I instructed. "My Dad did it for 63 years and she misses it."

While the two of us sat in the sun on the patio drying our hair, I'd give her a manicure or a pedicure, new luxuries in her life. I especially enjoyed doing it as neither her hands or feet seem to have aged.

And so the visit slipped into years, two women together getting to know each other. The other day, I found a silly picture I had taken of two identical right feet with bright red toenails. One foot is mine, the other my mother's. I cried when I saw it,

It reminded me that I, too, do not want to live with my children. But I must tell you that although there were days when she nearly drove me crazy, I wouldn't change one day of Mother's visit for anything.



FEDERATED CHURCH WOMEN BEGIN NEW SEASON

The elected officers, committees and circle leaders are preparing for another challenging and enjoyable year of FCW activities, featuring a Bible study of "Joshua: A Journey of Faith," new mission projects, a variety of delicious monthly luncheons and inspiring programs. The theme for this year is "Our Journey of Faith" and the theme scripture is Joshua 1:9. FCW's first luncheon of the season will be a sandwich bar hosted by the FCW Board on Wednesday, September 2, at 11:30 a.m. in Price Hall. All women of Federated Church are invited to participate. Pastor Andrew will provide thoughtful insight into the "troublesome" book of Joshua at this first luncheon. Several special events are being planned, including a craft and bake sale during Alternative Christmas on December 13, and a Spring Tea Luncheon on May 8, 2010. More FCW news is found on Federated's website, www.eldoradofederatedchurch.org.

PATTY CASE CALLED TO LEAD YOUTH

As Federated's new Youth Coordinator, Patty Case brings both experience working with children and young people and an enthusiastic outlook for seeking God's guidance in one's life. An artist with a gift of expressing scripture in tactile forms, Patty is also planning to enrich her theological interests with enrollment in the Pacific School of Religion.

Patty will take on her new leadership role quickly, beginning with the youth kickoff event on Wednesday, August 26th. Patty will be responsible for coordinating activities for youth from 7th grade through high school, interfacing with both Minister for Children and Families Jodie Regan and Minister of Music Bonnie Green. To date a volunteer with Federated youth, she states that she loves working with the youth and is eager to enhance that relationship and to continue to involve volunteers in the youth program.

Patty has experience teaching children through teens, including lead teaching and developing programs at extended day care. She has volunteered in many areas of Federated Church, including Youth Group, Stewardship Committee, Staff/Parish Relations Team, and Federated Church Pre-School. Among her community activities, Patty has worked with children and youth in art and gardening programs.

Church Council members represented the congregation as they offered congratulations and prayers to Patty in her new position.

THE POURING OF THE WATER . . . A NEW FOCAL CELEBRATION FOR CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Children light candles to begin Federated Church's 9:15 contemporary worship service, helping to quiet and open member's hearts to the loving presence of Jesus in worship. Now, during the "Declaration of Forgiveness," the candle lighter pours water into the baptismal font. This is an important visual reminder of baptism: complete forgiveness and acceptance. The first group of young children with this



responsibility have indicated they are very happy with this new responsibility. A training class will be held this fall for children and families who would like to be part of this service.

FALL CLASSES SET FOR "ROCK 6/57"

Kick-off for an energetic new program of classes and activities for fifth, sixth and seventh graders, called "R.O.C.K. 6/57" - Rowdy Organization of Courageous Kids - will be on Second Sunday, September 13, in the youth room. With a focus on service and reaching out, the group's ambitious goals include:

~ Build and make creative props and teaching tools for the younger classes at church.

~ Learn skits and act-out Bible lessons so they can be occasional teaching guests for the younger classes.

~ Community service projects, visits to Convalescent Hospitals and more.

~ Consider new efforts at church such as recycling programs and/or composting.

~ Help welcome and greet newcomers to church.



~ Sponsor one child at the Hatua-Likoni school for \$30 per month; get to know this child, correspond by mail and more.

A dynamic group of teachers include: Adam Styles, Jim and Mary Hughes, Shelly Cartee, Dennis Murphy, and Bruce Owens.

FCW SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD COLLEGE- BOUND SENIORS

FCW 2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

El Dorado High School –

Sara Rangel attending Lewis and Clark College

Ariel Zuber attending University of Pacific

Union Mine High School –

Rachael Prow attending UC Davis

El Dorado Adventist School –

Katelyn Lane attending CSU Chico

Madelyn Lane attending Pacific Union College

Federated Church Women are seeking donations to their scholarship fund, which provides help to deserving high school seniors each year. As the cost of college and vocational schools keeps rising, donations become increasingly important. Donors are encouraged to make a check payable to the FCW Scholarship Fund.

Young Voices



“ASANTE SANA LIKONI” - THANKS FROM THE ORPHANAGE

Thanks to the generosity of Federated Church members and the hard work of Federated's Children's Ministry, a relationship with the children of Hatua-Likoni in Kenya continues to grow and be nourished. The monies that have already been collected and sent have been used in many ways. Recently, Federated received a plaque of thanks, "Asante Sana," which means "Thank you very much." The plaque is hung over the stairway to the children's ministry classrooms.

A child in Likoni writes to Federated Church:



KUDOS FROM KAMP KOINONIA

A week of Bible stories, friendships, games, music, and crafts was shared by 103 children from Federated church and the community. The day camp culminated in the presentation of a lively musical, "Livin Inside Out in an Upside Down World" According to Minister of Music Bonnie Green, the children, 32 teen aides and many adults helped make this a special week in the eyes and hearts of all. As she affirms, "Being able to put all they learned into this wonderful musical helps the word of God take root in their hearts. It was a wonderful vehicle to reach out to others, as they came to witness faith in action. A big thanks to all who helped."



CHOIRS HAVE STARTED!

Says Bonnie - "How wonderful to have so many awesome children, teens and adults involved in music ministry. They are a blessing to one another and to our God in Heaven!"

Choir Schedule

God's Promises (4 yrs to 2nd Grade)

Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:00

Kids of the Kingdom (2nd Grade to 6th Grade)

Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00

Boyz R.O.C.K.

Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30

Y.E.S. Choir (Teen Group)

Sundays from 10:15 - 11:30

Celebration Singers (18 yrs to 100 yrs)

Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:15

Any questions call Bonnie Green, Music Minister,

622-0728



Gathering ~

Federated Church

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News from Federated Church

What's Happening at Federated



September

2 - Federated Church Women meeting and luncheon, 11:30am
Joshua - "A Journey of Faith"
Andrew Headden

2 - Celtic Communion Starts, Historic Church, 12 Noon
Every Wednesday

6 - SHARE Sunday

7 - Labor Day, Office Closed

9 - FCW Board Meeting, 10:00am

13 - Blood Pressure Sunday, 2nd Sunday Breakfast

15 - Church Council, 6:30pm

20 - Ministry Team Sunday

27 - Crop Walk

30 - Offsite Staff Meeting - Office Closed

October

4 - SHARE Sunday

7 - Federated Church Women Meeting and luncheon,
11:30am - Music Ministry Bonnie Green

11 - Blood Pressure Sunday, 2nd Sunday Breakfast

14 - FCW Board Meeting, 10:00am

20 - Church Council, 6:30pm

25 - Fall Concert, 3:00pm

25 - Trunk or Treat

November

4 - Federated Church Women Meeting and Luncheon,
11:30am, - Christmas Ornament Nancy Ramos

7 - Holy Harvest Auction, 5:45pm

22 - Advent Event

22 - Alternative Christmas

21 - Christmas Musical Practice Begins