

The Messenger

Eureka First UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2010



First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte
Eureka, CA 95501

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A Story From David . . . “Vera Perske”

For the last 61 years, Vera Perske has been a wonderful embodiment of faith and faithfulness to this community. Vera's death on New Year's eve sent a shock wave through the church. At 91 years of age, we normally think of death as something to be expected – in fact a milestone beyond the reach of most folks. Yet, with Vera it caught us by surprise. We generally don't think of 91 year olds picking up folks and driving them to church, or on a regular basis reading scripture in worship or serving communion; or the many other things that Vera did so seamlessly. Her amazing dependability, consistency and durability—resulted in many of us, including myself, seeing her as almost indestructible, even though that is never the case.



On January 1st, through telephone calls and emails I shared the sad news of her passing. I did this partly since I worried about the collective shock of simply sharing it in worship on January 3rd. Over the last week, I've heard many many of you use a simple phrase in reference to Vera: “she was my model”.

“She was my model of true Christianity.”

“She was my role model.”

“She was my model of caring and serving.”

“She was my model of how to age with grace and love.”

I concur with these tributes of how Vera served as a model of faith and faithfulness.

When Vera joined Eureka First, she was 30 years old. Along with her husband Fay a recent transplant from Minnesota. She and Fay

raised their four children: Patricia, Pam, Richard and Peggy in the church. She served in many ways: secretary of the Board of Trustees, UMW Secretary for decades, and terms of service on just about every other Board and Committee in the Church. And monthly she prepared the Newsletter for mailing – picking up Helen Buck on the way in. She worked in the schools for years—some of those year's aiding in Nancy Quintrell's Kindergarten class. And she drove many many people: to church, to doctors appointments, to the store. Helping those around her was simply the way Vera understood life.

She and her husband Fay shared 54 wonderful years together until his death in 1991. And Vera loved her home on V Street and the unique carport which Fay built for her. She maintained her independence to the end of her life. Paula Blackshear always remembers Vera telling her on her 82nd birthday: “I've made a firm decision, I'm not going to go on the roof and clean my gutters any more.”

Living close to Humboldt State she enjoyed more than one of her grandchildren living with her while going to college, and she worked hard to build strong bonds with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She will be missed. Elsie Grisham who Vera picked up each Saturday for their weekly lunch together—described her as her dearest friend and the most caring person she had ever known.

We will honor and celebrate Vera's life at 2:00 p.m. Sunday January 17th in a memorial service at the church where this remarkable woman lived our her life and faith.

See you in Church
Pastor Dave

Financial Summary

December 2009

General Fund Revenue: \$19,581
 General Fund Expense: \$15,433

2009 Full-Year

2009 General Fund Revenue: \$173,393
 2009 General Fund Expense: \$173,355
Surplus +\$ 38

With strong giving in December we finish the year in the black – with all our commitments paid. Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

The Finance Committee

DECEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DEC 6 TH	8:30--31	10:00--	97	TOTAL 128
DEC 13 TH	8:30--39	10:00--	112	TOTAL 151
DEC 20 ST	8:30--35	10:00--	106	TOTAL 141
DEC 27 TH	8:30--16	10:00--	84	TOTAL 100

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:30 P.M. . . . 190



January Birthdays

2 Seren Davies-Hughes	18 Carrol Newquist
3 Jasmine Hogue-Freemon	19 Fabiola Drumm
4 Dustin Jauernig	20 Lyn Howell
10 Dean Wallace	21 Jill Kimura
10 Gwen Bellairs	25 Irene Hedgecock
11 Linda Palmrose	
12 Jean Ogimachi	27 Shirley Peterson
14 Heidi Kerr	30 Rachael Green
15 April Alto	31 Charlotte O'Keefe
16 Bob Lorensen	31 Pat Patterson
16 Helen Buck	

January Anniversaries

10 Laura and Don Holt

Congratulations!-- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.



This Sunday January 10th

Second Sunday Breakfast

Served from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Free will offering to cover expenses



Church Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

Heartfelt thanks from the two of us for all the care, help and meals with which you have helped us get through the last three weeks. It has made all the difference in making it possible for Bud to give care to his caregiver! Kathleen's foot is beginning to improve and life is getting easier. Blessings on you all.

Bud and Kathleen Tillinghast



Church Family News

The last four weeks have been a time of great loss at Eureka First. Four wonderful women of faith and grace passed from this life: **Ruth Chamberlain, Beverlee Bradshaw, Vera Perske and Virginia Devine.** A memorial service honoring Ruth took place Tuesday January 5th. A memorial service honoring Virginia Devine took place at 11:00 a.m. Friday January 8th. Vera Perske's Memorial Service will be at 2:00 p.m. Sunday January 17th. According to Beverlee Bradshaw's sister Janice Schleunes, there will not be a service for Beverlee at this time. Please hold Ruth, Beverlee, Vera and Virginia's families in your prayers. Each of them will be deeply missed.

Cindy and Bob Patton are announcing the birth of a new grandchild: **Elizabeth Grace Patton** was born on December 8, 2009, to **Tim & Kathy Patton.**

Pastor Dave and Sonia share the news of the birth of their first grandchild: At just under 6 lbs, little **Emmett** was born to their eldest daughter **Shawna** on January 6, 2010, in Louisiana. Both mother and baby are doing well following a difficult delivery. Please keep Shawna and Emmett in your prayers.

Kathleen Tillinghast's foot is healing after having it run over while walking the dog. She and Bud appreciate the prayers, cards and meals.

Laura Holt continues to need our prayers as she and **Don** make regular trips to the Bay Area for her to receive cancer treatments.

Hank Beck is home recovering from his recent successful rotator cuff surgery.

Lacy Ross is heading back to UC San Francisco Medical Center to see about her next surgery

Shirley Peterson will be having hip replacement surgery on January 14th. Shirley and Herb appreciate your prayers.

The Family of **Helen Buck** invites you to her 90th birthday party – this Saturday Jan 16th from 2:00 - 3:30 at Timber Ridge in Eureka. No gifts please.

After three productive but exhausting semesters at the San Francisco Ballet School, **Tadesse Samelson** has come home to finish his senior year of high school. He will return to North Coast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy in Arcata next week, and has also accepted an offer to teach ballet at North Coast Dance here in Eureka.

On the last Sunday of the year, the United Methodist Women honored three faithful servants in our church: **Kris and Ted Flanders and Marie Granshaw.**

This Sunday, January 10th will be a **Youth led service**, at both 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Our youth have been working on the service since early fall.

Church Family News Continued on Next Page

Church Family News Continued from Pg. 2

Our 50th Anniversary Advent Tea was a wonderful event, thanks to all the dedicated hostesses and the great music. Both the daytime and evening teas were well attended and enjoyed by all. The afternoon tea featured the music of Eureka High School's *Limited Edition*, directed by Charles Young. And the evening tea featured a classical ensemble group also directed by Charles Young.

The All Church Christmas Program on Sunday evening December 20th involved our Sunday School children and youth and a talented group of adults in telling the story of the real St. Nicholas (the Bishop of Myra) with lots of music from our Joyful Noisemakers Children's Choir. A big thanks to Sonia Samelson for directing the program.

Mission Trips

NEW ORLEANS JANUARY 9TH - 16TH

The mission team will be repairing hurricane Katrina damaged homes (there are still tens of thousands with major damage). This year's team is our largest ever to New Orleans - 23 members and includes three from Arcata UMC, one from Yreka UMC, one from Saint Marks United Methodist Church and one from Salinas UMC.

Due to the size of the team we are sending our fundraising goal has been increased to \$4,000 (this doesn't include airfare which is paid for by team members themselves). We thank you for the generous support of the church.

New Orleans Mission Trip

Amount to be Raised \$4,000
Amount Raised to Date \$4,003
Amount to be Raised \$ 0
This year's Christmas Offering of \$1,282 went toward our mission trip to New Orleans.

Eureka First members of the team: Ken and Paula Blackshear, Leo and Louise Fredrickson, Herb and Sally Pierce, Steve and Sue Peacock, Kris and Todd Flanders, Marie and Tyler Granshaw, Rich and Bev Strubinger, Sara Beyene, Connie Wilson and Pastor Dave

SHELTER DINNER VOLUNTEERS

On January 23 we will bring dinner and devotions to the Eureka Women's Shelter at the Rescue Mission. Our main dish will be chili for a cold January day. Jim Warren is making the chili but we will need the following to complete the meal:

- * 2 salads
- * 2 large pans of cornbread
- * Fresh fruit platter
- * 2 half gallons ice cream
- * 40 ice cream cones

Call Sharon Warren (443-1625) if you would like to help out

Think About Being A Part of . . .

Eureka First's House-Building Mission Trip to Mexico

March 13th - 19th 2010

In March (spring break for our local colleges) we will drive to Mexico and build a house for a Mexican Family in Tecate, in conjunction with Amor Ministries. If you are interested in being a part of the Mexico House-Building Mission Team - contact Ken Blackshear 442-8556 or the church office 442-3015.

Cursillo and Walk to Emmaus

Spring Walk to Emmaus

Men's Walk: April 29th - May 2nd

Women's Walk May 14th - 17th

Both the Men's and Women's Walks will take place at Paradise United Methodist Church, in Paradise, CA

Next Cursillo:

October 14th - 17th at Ferndale Fairgrounds

If you are interested in either of these upcoming spiritual renewal weekends, let Pastor Dave or anyone has attended, know that you would like to go. Our church covers the cost for those who choose to attend.

Superbowl at the Samelsons

Sunday February 7th 3:00 p.m.

Bring something edible to share

5139 Blackberry Lane (Take Walnut to Greenbrier to Blackberry) 442-3490

KNITTERS

The knitting group meets every third Sunday in Fellowship Hall after the second service. We bring work in progress, collect charity knitting, and help each other learn -- beginners are welcome. Knitters and crocheters, beginners and experienced, are all invited.

GREAT DECISIONS

Once again we will be starting a Great Decisions discussion group. The Great Decisions Discussion Program is the longest-running and largest grassroots world affairs educational program of its kind. Using a short DVD and informal discussion format we will increase our understanding of the follow eight topics.

- Envoys
- Kenya
- Global Crime
- China
- Financial Crisis
- Russia
- The Persian Gulf
- Peace Building

Great Decisions meets in the church library Sunday afternoons from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. beginning January 24th and continuing for eight weeks. The cost is \$27 Please join us.

Ginny Hedgecock

Missions Corner

2009 Mission Pennies Project

Our 2009 Mission Penny Project was the *local homeless ministry of Betty Chinn*. Betty has become a local hero this year with awards and media attention. Her dream of a shower project for the homeless is becoming a reality, construction has begun. Betty called to thank our Knitting Group for sweaters and scarves donated during the holidays. She said that they had served a Christmas dinner to 500 people and had toys for all of the children. She attributes all of the successes of her program to God. She repeatedly thanked us for our prayers. To recap the year -

- ★ We have raised \$746.92 in pennies for the homeless project
- ★ The knitting group has contributed 4 sweaters, 1 scarf and 18 hats.
- ★ We have held 5 prayer vigils
- ★ The children's Read to Feed project netted 27 jars of peanut butter and jelly (we are still collecting - to date we have 16 jars of peanut butter and 7 jars of jelly.)

Betty has a heart for the homeless and her life story is a story of faith and courage through tremendous tragedy and pain.

On January 31 Betty will share her story with us at a potluck brunch following the worship service. (ONE SERVICE AT 9:30.)

To wrap up our year of focus on her ministry we will hear her story, present the second portion of funds raised for her project and the peanut butter and jelly. **Don't miss this opportunity to hear her amazing story.**

POTLUCK BRUNCH WITH BETTY CHINN
SUNDAY JANUARY 31
11:00 AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
Please bring food to share

READ TO FEED NETS 27 JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY.

Over the summer our children (and some older members of the congregation) read books. For every 10 books they earned a jar of peanut butter or jelly for the Betty Chinn's homeless ministry. The readers have done their part, now we are looking for donations of peanut butter and jelly—

Peanut butter - we have 16 jars - we need 9 more
Jelly - we have 9 jars - we need 18 more
If you would like to contribute - drop the jars in the basket in the narthex or bring them to the office. We would like to present the PB & J to Betty when she visits us on January 31.

FOOD placed in the basket in the narthex is distributed to the Food Bank, the Rescue Mission or kept in the church office for people who fall between the cracks of services available. Our goal is to collect one hundred pounds of food each month.

Sunday January 31st
A Fifth Sunday
9:30 a.m. Combined Service
Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Eureka First United Methodist Church Officers and Committees for 2010

Church Council, Chairperson	Michael Davies-Hughes	
Church Council, Secretary.	Marie Granshaw	
Lay Leader	Sally Pierce	
Finance Chair:	Marge Custis	
Staff-Parish Relations Chair:	Herb Pierce	
Treasurer:	Connie Ross & Paula Blackshear	
Financial Secretary:	Joann Brekke	
Endowment Committee Chair:	John Lundstrom	
Annual Conference Lay Members:	Sue and Steve Peacock	
Commissions:		
Missions	Louise Frederickson & Sharon Warren	
Church & Society	Marie Granshaw	
Worship	Ted Flanders	
Sacristan/Altar Guild	Kris Flanders	
Director Christian Education	Cindy Patton	
Children's Trust Fund	Sally Upatisinga	
Youth Director	Sally Hansen	
Kitchen	Dona Wright, Todd Flanders	
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Sally Pierce and Margie O'Keefe	
Administrative Council Members at Large		
Herb Peterson	Shirley Peterson	Barbara O'Brien
Bill O'Brien	Bev Flanders	Gail Johnson
Bob Lorensen	Ken Blackshear	Lisa Lewis

TRUSTEES:

Class of 2010: Ralph Nelson, Leo Fredrickson, Ken Blackshear
Class of 2011: Wayne Palmrose, John Lundstrom, Marge Custis
Class of 2012: Brian Hansen, Jamie Cameron, Paul Gosselin

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

Class of 1010: Herb Pierce, Angela Cameron,
Melanie Gosselin, Lori Green
Class of 2011: Bev Flanders, Cheryl Sanford, Michele Woodburn
Class of 2012: Bill O'Brien, Craig Benson

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP – Nominations Committee

Class of 2010: Marge Custis, Kris Flanders, Gail Johnson
Class of 2011: Craig Benson, Margie O'Keefe, Bill O'Brien
Class of 2012: Jim Snow, Tami Davies-Hughes, Charles Young

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Class of 2010 Bill O'Brien (past Chair)
Class of 2012 John Lundstrom (Chair)
Class of 2014 Jeanette Nusbaum

OTHER OFFICERS:

Treasurer, Memorial Funds:	Delores Johnson
Communion Stewards:	Ted & Kris Flanders, Dolores & Gail Johnson
Church Historian	Pat Lewis
Chairperson, Auditing Committee	Greg Goodwyn
Counting Committee:	Delores Johnson, Bev Flanders, And Paula Blackshear

We want to thank those who completed their terms of leadership (usually three years). Their service made a positive difference in the life of our church.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Jeanette Nusbaum
and Tami Davies-Hughes

Board of Trustees: Art Lewis

Committee on Lay Leadership: Barbara O'Brien
and Angela Cameron

UMW Chairpersons Shirley Peterson and Jean Ogimachi
Lay Members to Annual Conference: Jill and Alison Kimura

Just for Kids!

First United Methodist Church Eureka, California January 2010 by Cindy Patton



1-02 Seren Davies-Hughes
1-03 Dustin Jauernig
1-12 Alexxia Bagley
1-30 Rachael Green

January 2010

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 3 Epiphany celebration
- 6 Epiphany Day- visit of the Magi
- 10 Youth do worship service
- 11 Secret Pal Day
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thank you:

THANK YOU recent teachers: Lori, Tami, & Stacy.
Special thanks to Sonia, Craig & Julie Benson, our childrens' choir, Stacy & our new adult choir, & the youth for their presentation of our Christmas program.



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
Thank you, Acolytes!

Trivia ?

A We don't know exactly how many wise men there were! Tradition assumes there were 3 magi because the Bible names 3 gifts that were brought.

(Read Matthew 2:1-12.)

A The epiphany or surprise about the birth of Jesus is that God sent Jesus to be the savior of all people everywhere.

Answers Next Month:

Q Messiah, Savior, & Prince of Peace are all names

for Jesus. Can you think of others?

Q In what river did John the Baptist baptize Jesus?
How were Jesus & John the Baptist related?

