

The Messenger



VALENCIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Issue 231

November 2010

What is Planned Giving?

A message from the Stewardship Team

Since life is a temporary assignment, we must make the best use of it. I like what Pastor Rick Warren advises us Christians to do to make the best use of our lives. He says we must never forget these two truths.

First, compared to eternity, life is extremely brief. Second, earth is only a temporary residence. We will not be here very long, so don't get too attached to the things of this world.

All throughout the Scriptures, life on earth is compared to living temporarily in a foreign country. As Christians, we know earth is not our final destination. Heaven is our eternity. Here at VUMC, we are creating change. We, as a congregation, are changing people's lives through our service and our outreach...Family Promise, F.I.S.H., Angel Food, Project Chacocente, Hill's Angels...to name a few. We are, as a body of Christ, moving in wonderful, miraculous, and exciting ways.

I know many of us are asking ourselves, "How can I help?" Given the anxieties caused by these current economic times, giving is a concept that can be of concern to each and every family. I recently read an article from another church about stewardship and I would like to share a couple of the ideas they put forth.

Count Your Blessings (Matthew 6:25-27): Focus on what you have, not on what you want or what you fear. Write down the things for which you are thankful and give thanks to the Lord for all the ways He has blessed you.

....continued on page 3

EU2Charist

Sunday, November 7th

6:30 p.m.

**"Ancient Christian worship
meets the music of U2"**

The VUMC Praise Band and guests will lead the worship for the evening.

The offering from the worship gathering will benefit Project Chacocente, our global initiative in Nicaragua. This will continue to help move people out of the garbage dumps of Managua, Nicaragua and into a new life. For more information on Project Chacocente check out outofthedump.org.



5:30 p.m. Food Trucks

6:30 p.m. Concert

7:30 Dessert Bar
(\$2 all you can eat!)

The Messenger

Off the Blocks with Pastor John

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1*



Dear VUMC Family,

As I write to you I am 30,000 feet in the air on my way to a gathering for United Methodist Churches in Ohio entitled "Change The World Conference." I sometimes joke about the travails of flying these days and I could share some areas that an unnamed airline could work on hospitality but I want to move in a different direction.

As you read this we are in the midst of our stewardship season and I am thinking about the way in which VUMC has truly moved in world changing ways this year. I also am reflecting on this month that is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving as well as celebrating one of those birthdays ending in 0 (I'll let you guess what number goes before...guess low to make me feel better).

Often when I come to Thanksgiving and big birthdays I use a little exercise to reflect on what has been happening in life. It's nothing profound but just a simple little exercise called the "blessing exercise." So let me share it with you and maybe you can take a moment to do your own.

I thank God for the gift of family and the way in which they love and support me! I thank God for an incredible congregation that takes risks as we grow together! I thank God for a staff family that strives for excellence in so many ways as well as a staff that encourages each other! I thank God for a church that is leading our community to reach out to the homeless and those who are struggling. I thank God for a church that is taking a risk to build a partnership with families in Nicaragua! I thank God for a church that continues to say, "what's next" instead of "let's take a break." Most importantly I thank God for Jesus who gave his life for me, you and all God's children!

I hope you see what is happening in this exercise so often we can get stuck in the mires of one bad flight, day, conversation or whatever it may be

but with God that doesn't have to be the last word. With God, we can look at things in a different way...a way that is filled with joy, laughter, opportunities. I hope many of you see that you are included in my blessings and I thank you and God for that gift! My prayer for you this November is that you may be blessed and may you be filled with joy as you count your blessings. And may you go and be a blessing to others!

Happy Thanksgiving and see you in worship!

Grace and Peace,

John



Angel Food
November Early Deadline
*Order deadline through the
church office—11/9*

*Order deadline through the website, with
credit card—11/11, 11 a.m.*

Distribution Day—November 20th

Issue 231

.....Continued from page 1

Learn To Be Content (1 Timothy 6:7-10): Learning to be content is one of the most significant disciplines one can achieve. It reduces your desire to spend and increases your ability to save and to give.

Choose A Simpler Lifestyle (Luke 9:1-4): This current economic period is an excellent time to evaluate your lifestyle and to reassess what is important to you. Any gardener will tell you pruning is a vital part of encouraging healthy growth. Ask yourself why Jesus linked the sending out of the disciples to living without the clutter of possessions.

Keep On Giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-8): It's important to continue to give during an economic downturn not only because churches and other charities depend upon you, but also because you need to give to experience the joy of growing into the full stature of Christ. You need to give thoughtfully, thankfully, generously and cheerfully.

Rebuild Generous Communities (Acts 2:44-47): Like the early church, demonstrate a willingness to sacrifice to meet the needs of others.

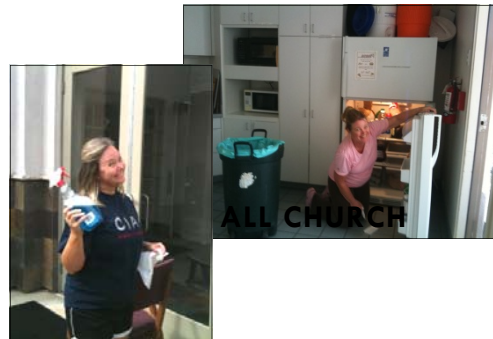
Many families have heard of and are interested in the concept of "Planned Giving." This is where a portion of your estate/will is donated to the church. Planned Giving is a gift that costs nothing at this point in your life...but has the ability to reach so many people through the continued outreach of VUMC. Planned Giving is a way to "live on" in the gracious programs of our church.

In early 2011, VUMC will offer a lunch for those families wanting to learn more about Planned Giving and other programs to assist you with your estate. Dave Davis and Lisa Bashor will be organizing this lunch. If you would like to know more, please contact them through our VUMC office.

Blessings from the Stewardship Team!

Deb Baur	Dave Davis	Randy Sain
Lisa Bashor	Damian Jones	John Shaver
Glenda Bona	Vicki Kubasak	Jane Solomon
Carla Davidson	Wendy Langhans	Ron Vanek
	Dennis Park	Joseph Yoo

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED! MAKE OUR CHURCH CAMPUS A LITTLE BRIGHTER!

Jeff and Sherry Balsler
Mike Barber
Bill Bowman and Patrick Bowman
Eric Broneer, Ava and cousins
Brosnan Family
Eileen Butler
Cannizzaro Family
Larry Comp and Colin Comp
David Eckelman
Fagan Family
Ghasserani Family
Michelle, Ashley, and Sydney Jones
Deb Manahan
Tippi Manske
Paula Miller and Alexis Miller
Dennis Park
Barry Pontius
Brad Potts
John Schmidt
Jon Sims
Andy and Suzanne Sleutjes
Tim Thompson
Rick and Ann Velasco
Ava, Alex, and Miranda Velasco
Viergutz Family



The Messenger

YOUTH HAPS....The REFRESH Ministry

Love God—Love Others—Serve—Repeat



I wouldn't be too surprised if someone out there knows more about who and what God hates more than who or what God loves.

There are so many messages out there about God that are very... well, un-God-like. A church that I used to work for handed out tracts as a form of evangelism. I don't think they ever read through the tracts (at least, that's my hope) because this was a Korean church and the tracts were in English. But one of the tracts (all the tracts were in comic form) dealt with a Catholic person who is sent to hell for being... Catholic. The tract went out of its way to condemn Catholicism. You have other people (even locally) that hold signs on street corners that condemn people. When did we get in the business of condemning people? In the words of Marvin Gaye "what's going on?" Or, more modern, in the words of Black Eyed Peas, "Where is the love?"

On November 4th, our youth and a few adults are going to send a sort of different message out there. I want people of the Valley to know that more than anything, God is love.

We're going to wear a shirt on that designated day with the design that you see here to let people know that they are loved by God, whether they want to be or not; whether they believe in God or not.

ATHEISTS DEMOCRATS REPUBLICANS INDEPENDENTS AGNOSTICS
TEENAGERS ADULTS DOUBTERS BELIEVERS HOMOSEXUALS
HETEROSEXUALS JACOB EDWARD SAINTS SINNERS BUDDHISTS HINDUS
CATHOLICS PROTESTANTS MUSLIMS JEWS GAMBLERS ALCOHOLICS
ADDICTS THIEVES PROSTITUTES THE POOR THE RICH THE FAMOUS NERDS
GEEKS JOCKS BROTHERS LEADERS MUGGLES HARRY POTTER
SCIENTIST POLITICIAN CHRISTIANITY DENYERS EVOLUTIONISTS
NATIVES IMMIGRANTS GAYS LESBIANS TRANS MEN SPIDERS
SNAKES CHRISTIANS LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE MINORITIES ALL
SPORTS TEAMS THE HOMELESS COUCH POTATOES VEGANES HOLICS CEOS
CUSTODIANS THE HUNGRY THE FULL RESIDENTS VANDALS HOBBITS
HATERS LOVERS THE HEALTHY THE BROKEN THE SICK EXTROVERTS
INTROVERTS MACs PCs BICYCLISTS MOTORISTS THIEVES INMATES ME

GOD LOVES

YOU

GOD LOVES EVERYONE AND ANYONE WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN



We tend to forget how scandalous God's grace and love is. Because God loves everyone. Yes, even *that* person. I hope that on November 4th, you'll join us in prayer. I hope that you pray that someone on that day will go home knowing that they are loved, regardless of who they are and what they believe.

Valencia United Methodist Church

Vision Statement

We are a community of faith where lives are continuously transformed through Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Our Church exists to:

Invite people

Nurture them with Christ's love and the Word of God

Send them out to serve others

Our Core Values:

Worship—Public and private

Small Groups—Building relationships

Service—Using God given gifts



Fall 2010 New Member Class

Top Row—L to R— Mary Johnson, Ric Wheeler, Jackie Wheeler, Rachel Yoo, Lenny Resnick, Chris Ender, Michele Tanchanko.

Bottom Row—L to R—P

Pamela Baldwin, Jamie Oettle, Sarah McMenamy, Kristal Ongsing, Steven Applegate, Tate Holland

Not pictured: Steven and Rachel Villanueva, Laurie Ender

Pajama Party



Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. If you like to plan kids' parties, and would like to help with the Pajama Party, please see Michelle Andrews. The party will be held on Sunday, December 26th during our one Worship hour at 10:30. It's a fun way for the kids to continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and you get to wear your PJs to church!

Chacocente

We will be sending backpacks to the kids living in Chacocente (www.outofthedump.org) again this year in time for Christmas. Backpacks and instructions will be available to be picked up between October 24th & November 7th on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings during Pioneer Clubs, and during the week in the church office. This year, you will need to sign a backpack out, fill it with the suggested items and return it to the church (with \$10 for shipping included) between November 7th & November 14th. We are also looking for help coordinating and organizing this special ministry project.

September 27, 2010

Dear Pastor John and Everyone,

How can I begin to thank you for the incredible honor of receiving the Towel and Basin Award?

To be the first person to receive this honor is truly humbling. The white ceramic pitcher is so beautiful in its simplicity & the bouquet of sunflowers reminds me of all the times that members and staff at VUMC have brought light and comfort into my life during times when I have struggled. The projects that I have participated in over the years have truly blessed me & helped me to learn more about the nature of my faith—as I'm sure God probably intended.

Please accept my sincere thanks and know that you are all very special people to me and to my family.

Blessings and peace,
Martie

THEN.....



NOW....

(with more to come!)

- Eric Schmidt, coordinator
- Mike Barber
- Paul Bonnette
- Bob Bouknicht
- Rick Choate
- Bob Dawe
- Bill Fagan
- Ryan Fagan
- Alan Ghasserani
- Harry Hauge
- Greg Hayes
- Damian Jones
- Quinton Jones
- Eric Loyer
- Dennis Park
- Mark Perez
- Barry Pontius
- Brad Potts
- Wade Reynolds
- Rigo Rosales
- John Schmidt
- David Stradling
- Tim Thompson
- John Veal
- Rick Viergutz
- Ric Wheeler
- Kellie Wood

The Messenger

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Habit Sunday—November 7th



Help support our Pioneer Clubs Program by having lunch or dinner at The Habit (located in the Granary Square). It's so easy! Just present your Sunday Bulletin to the cashier when you place your order and a portion of your total bill will be returned in support of our children's programs.

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Upcoming Events

November 2010

11/9 Angel Food Order
Deadline

11/7 Habit Sunday

11/7 EU2Charist

11/14 Stewardship
Celebration

11/20 Angel Food
Distribution

11/20 Fall Senior
Luncheon

11/28 Advent
Celebration

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5	6
7 	8	9 	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 	
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27	
28 	29	30					

Body & Soul

Meets every other
Wednesday 9:00 am in
Room 1. Contact Suzanne
Bowman 513-0683

Chancel Bells

Tuesday 7:30 pm in the
Choir Room.
Contact Barb Hauge
259-2899

Chancel Choir

Thursday 7:30 in the
Sanctuary
Contact Steven Applegate
284-1866 ext. 101

**Contemporary Praise
Band**

Rehearses every Tuesday
night at 7:30 pm in the
Sanctuary. Contact Paul
Anderson 259-7224

F.I.S.H.

Every Thursday
6:30 pm in the Kitchen
Sign-up on the FISH
calendar posted on the wall
in the kitchen

Men's Bible Study

Every Thursday
6:30 am in Room 1

Men's Ministry Breakfast

Meets periodically at
various locations and
times. Contact Pete
Brosnan 263-8991

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers
meets the 2nd and 4th
Tuesday of each month at
9:00 am. Contact Michelle
Jones - 284-2564

Prayer and Share

Women's Prayer Group
1st and 3rd Thursday of
each month at 10:00 am in
Room 1. Contact Vicki
Cranmer 259-2774

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets the 1st Tuesday of
each month at 7:00 pm.
Contact Maria Sears
259-4142

Senior Service Ministry

Plans luncheons, sends
cards, provides rides,
makes visitations and calls.
If you can help in any of
these activities, contact
Ron Kari at 799-3808 or
Dick & Maria Sears
259-4142.

Youth Prison Ministry

Every Wednesday.
Held at youth prison
Training materials, and
childcare are provided.

Carpool departs from
church at 5:30. Contact the
Church Office for more
information.

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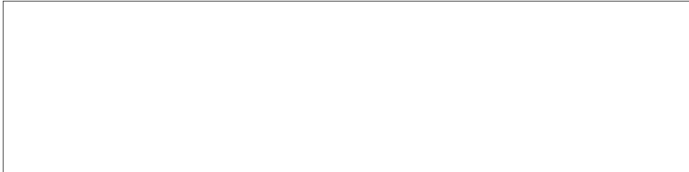
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Let It Be...Christmas ~ Advent Celebration
November 28th, 4:00—7:30 p.m.



PEACE. LOVE. CHRISTMAS

Mark your calendar now—this year's Advent Celebration will be the best yet!

Start off with a mountain of snow for snow play, games, advent wreath making, craft projects, carolers and hot chocolate. Chef Robert will be cooking a great dinner to be followed by fabulous desserts.

The afternoon will be complete when we join together for our Advent worship. We'll trim the trees, our choirs will sing and we'll be inspired as we begin to experience the most Holy season of all.

Like our Block Party, our Advent Celebration is open to all. We hope you will invite neighbors and friends to join you as your guests. We encourage you to purchase tickets for your guests. If you are unable to buy tickets, the church will provide tickets for your guests. Costs for the event are \$7.00 per person or a maximum of \$25 per family. There is no charge for attending only the Advent Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets will go on sale November 7th.

LET IT BE...CHRISTMAS—SERMON SERIES

A story told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo

November 28

Nothin's Gonna Change My World

December 12

I Believe In Yesterday

Christmas Eve, December 24

Let It Be

December 5

All The Lonely People

December 19

You Say You Want A Revolution

December 26

All You Need Is Love