

The Messenger



VALENCIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Issue 229

September 2010



Ministry Expedition Opportunity Fair Sunday, September 19

*It is time for our annual expedition..
...ministry expedition that is!*



During August our messages centered around the understanding of the gifts God had given everyone of us. The spiritual gifts given for the purpose of furthering God's kingdom in our church, our community and the world.

In September, our sermon series will focus on our role as "servants" which we are modeling after the example of Christ who taught and demonstrated the words that He "came not to be served but to serve."

Our "Ministry Expedition - Opportunity Fair" is meant to be a vehicle by which you can investigate all the ministry opportunities available through our church. Some of these opportunities are for

"in house" ministries (ushers, greeters, Sunday School Teachers, etc) and some are more outwardly focused (Prison ministry, Angel Food, FISH, Family Promise). The beauty of a ministry expedition is that you can "track down" just the right ministry for you because all ministries are represented by people who can answer your questions, share their experiences and tell you everything you need to know to make the decision about where and how you will use your spiritual gifts.

So get ready to go on your search. Plan to spend some time out at the tables on the patio, ask your questions and really search for what God is calling you to do—"speak (Lord) for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON—September 26

Calling all servants! You are invited to a special luncheon in your honor.

"You talkin' to me?"

If you have served on any ministry team or served this church or one of our outreach ministries during the last year, then YES! we're *talkin' to YOU!*



Please plan to attend the luncheon which will begin at 11:45 in our Fellowship Hall.

Child care (along with kid's lunch) will be provided.

Please RSVP to the church office or to umcv@umcv.org by Monday, September 20.

The Messenger

Off the Blocks with Pastor John



Thoughts on the Block Party and Gratitude—*I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.* G.K. Chesterton

Dear VUMC Family,

As I read the quote from Chesterton it reminded me that every moment there is something to be thankful for. Take some time, let go of what is happening and think about all the great things that surround you. Experience the wonder of God. I share this with you today because I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for the great Block Party. Here are a couple of my thoughts.

- I'm thankful for seeing all the new people that set foot on our campus. (Thank you to those of you who were new with us; and thank you to those that invited!)
- I'm thankful for all those who spent time setting up, playing music, cooking and serving food, hosting booths and cleaning up. (Thank you to all who served others in great ways!)
- I'm thankful for all the planning and sharing of your gifts to be able to welcome others without a cost. (Thank you for your vision!)
- I'm thankful for a day we could celebrate God and share the reason we come to VUMC throughout the week. (Thank you, God, for giving us so many reasons to celebrate!)

Again, I hope you'll take a few moments to look around and thank God for the many blessings that surround you right at this moment. When you do that, watch how quickly you begin to smile and see a change in your attitude.

It can even improve your well being! Robert Emmons, PhD, a professor of psychology and professor Michael McCullough, have long been interested in the role gratitude plays in physical and emotional well being. They took three groups of volunteers and randomly assigned them to focus on one of three things each week: hassles, things for which they were grateful, and ordinary life events. The first group concentrated on everything that went wrong or that irritated them. The second group honed in on situations they felt enhanced their lives, such as, "My boyfriend is so kind and caring—I'm lucky to have him." The third group recalled recent everyday events, such as, "I went shoe shopping." The results: The people who focused on gratitude were happier. They saw their lives in favorable terms. They reported fewer negative physical symptoms such as headaches or colds, and they were active in many ways that were good for them. Those who were grateful quite simply enjoyed a higher quality of life. Emmons was surprised. "This is not just something that makes people happy, like a positive-thinking/optimism kind of thing. A feeling of gratitude really gets people to do something, to become more pro-social, more compassionate." Such was not the case in either of the other two groups.

I am thankful for all that you each do!

Grace and Peace,
John

Coming This Fall—Alpha Program

Over 13 million people worldwide have attended an Alpha course, an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Alpha is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. Class is scheduled to be held on Sundays at 11:30 beginning September 19th.

Child care and lunch (for a small fee) will be provided. Call the church office if you are interested in this class. 661-255-1301

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

Chacocente Information Meeting

The next VUMC trip to Chacocente, Nicaragua will be January 17-24, 2011. If you would like to learn more about going this year, please attend the upcoming informational meeting on Thursday, September 9th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Pizza with the Pastors



If you have recently started attending VUMC and are interested in joining the church, we invite you to join us for Pizza with the Pastors on Sunday, September 12th at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall. This informal gathering will be a time to meet the pastors and to learn more about this community of faith, our Mission, Vision and Values, and how we are serving our community and the world. We'll introduce you to some of our ministries and small groups and help you find ways to begin to get connected. We'll talk about how our membership process works and we'll show you around our campus. We want to get to know you, and we want you to get to know us, so please feel welcomed to join us for lunch. Please RSVP by contacting the church office. Call 255-1301.



Letter From Kim Brosnan

Dear Church Family,

For the last few years God has given me the notion that I ought to go to Nicaragua on a mission trip. After much thought and realizing that any hurdles standing in the way would all work themselves out, I now have everything in place.

Here was my dilemma...with whom do I serve? After much prayer and many discussions with various people a decision was made and things were thrown into high gear.

I am not going to Chacocente with my CHURCH family but to El Ayudante with my ACTUAL family! As it turns out, my sister is leading the team of 11, which includes my mom (both former VUMC members but now at St. Francis UMC in Cary, NC) and my sister's father-in-law (a member of Northridge UMC). What a unique and special opportunity to serve God in this capacity alongside 3 people I love so dearly.

Well, before I knew it, God was making sure I clearly understood He was pleased with my decision. My dad is flying out to help watch the kids, my brother-in-law is giving me airfare miles, and my dear grandfather, whom many of you know, is paying for all other expenses. I couldn't have been shown greater love.

Here's where I need your help... Please PRAY for me and this mission trip to Leon, Nicaragua! We leave the last week in October which is coming up very soon. I've gotten my shots, my malaria medicine and have been practicing my Spanish (please pray for that too!!!). Our hope for the future is that our 3 churches can continue to work together in Nicaragua. Only God knows what He himself has planned. Thanks for letting me share this exciting news with you all.

In His Service (always!)

~Kim Brosnan

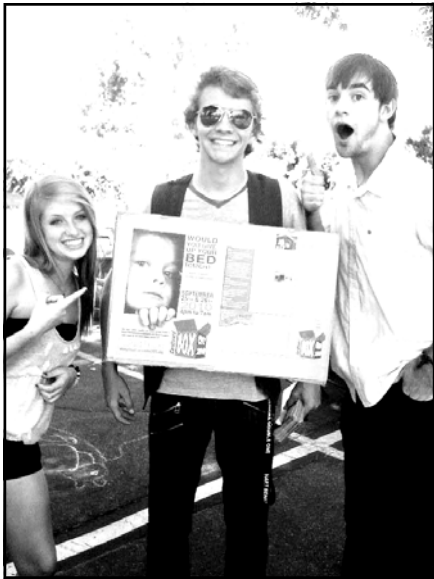
The Messenger

YOUTH HAPS....The REFRESH Ministry

Love God—Love Others—Serve—Repeat



Box City 2010



So, the kids have been asking me for a lock-in since I've arrived. And now I can say, it's coming in September—from September 25 at 4:00 p.m. to September 26 at 7:00 a.m. to be more exact! And it's going to be a completely different experience! This time around, we'll have a bigger purpose and be surrounded by the community throughout the entire event.

I'm talking about Box City 2010. We'll be hanging out in boxes all night to bring awareness to the homeless families in our community, along with our community. Sure, this isn't a traditional lock-in that the kids have had in the past. But those lock-ins are always self-serving and most youth workers over the age of 20-something consider lock-ins to be a necessary evil. However this time around, it'll be for a great cause. I think our students will benefit from being involved in this project and hopefully will take away a bit more about the homeless community, and that we CAN do something to help out.

All the information can be found at the website, www.familypromiseSCV.org. Or you can call/email me. Please talk to your kids and, you can make this a family event as well! It's not just limited to youth, but to the entire family. There are over 2000 passages that reveal God's sorrow over poverty and injustice. God cares for the poor. In fact, if you read about Jesus' ministry, he continuously served those who were less fortunate.

So, as Christians, our hearts should reflect God's heart. I firmly believe that Box City can be the first step for many people to have their eyes opened towards the injustice of poverty and hopefully spur one another to live out God's heart and God's mission. So, come on and join us! Let's learn what we can do as a church for the homeless, together!

WHAT IS IT?

"Cardboard Box City" is a fundraiser in which people camp for the night in a temporary dwelling to increase awareness of homelessness and raise money to support Family Promise of Santa Clarita Valley.

WHERE IS IT? The event will be held on the grounds of Real Life Church, 3841 Newhall Ranch Road, Valencia

WHEN IS IT? Begins on 9/25 4:00 p.m.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE? Everyone!

Not just the youth! It's for families, small groups, and individuals.

How can I help? Each youth participant will need to raise \$100 for registration. You can help by making a donation to all our youth. Donations for any amount will be collected during coffee fellowship over the next few Sundays.

www.familypromiseSCV.org



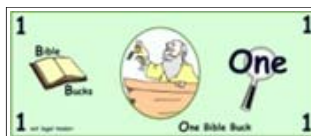
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Sunday School Teachers Needed

Our 10:30 Kids Worship teaching teams are desperately in need of older youth and adults to serve as leaders and assistants. Working with kids is a great way to strengthen and grow your own faith as well as to share some of your faith journey with them.....it's a win-win situation. The curriculum that we use is very user-friendly and offers more material than you can get through in an hour. It provides you with the flexibility to customize the lesson to match your gifts and skills. The teachers and assistants serve on a rotating basis. Please prayerfully consider this

opportunity and talk with one of the current Kids Worship leaders or Michelle Andrews for more information.

Bible Bucks are coming to a classroom near you very soon! This new opportunity for kids will recognize their participation in Sunday School and Kids Worship in a variety of ways. Watch for more specific information to come home with your child very soon!



Host Homes Needed for High Schoolers from India in December/January

The Cultural Bridges Committee, a non-profit volunteer committee from Santa Clarita, is working with a private secondary school in India to arrange an 18-day visit. The Cultural Bridges Committee is part of the SCV International Program, which was founded by our own Carl Boyer.

The Committee is seeking families willing to host the Indian students during their stay, tentatively scheduled from December 30 through January 18. Host families should have children of high school age. The Indian students will be with their host families weekday evenings and all day on weekends. The Committee will be arranging day trips for the students during the week. The students' ages range from 14 to 18 and all students are fluent in English.

Informational meetings have been scheduled on September 14 and 21 in Fellowship Hall from 7 to 8 p.m. Interested families should contact Dave LeBarron at 269-8527.



Children's Choirs

Our Children's Choir program has a long history of offering a solid musical as well as spiritual development experience for children. While ensuring that children have a positive musical experience, we teach an understanding of scripture and worship.

Our Littlest Angels choir is for children age 4 through first grade. Sounds of Joy incorporates 2nd through 6th grade. Rehearsals are every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Rehearsals begin October 3. Registration will be held September 19 & September 26. For more information, please contact Sherry at sklahs@umcv.org.



Small Groups

Are you looking to "get connected" and form new friendships here at VUMC? Are you seeking to better understand the scriptures and how they relate to your life? Are you looking for a safe place to wrestle with the desire to be "transformed" and the demands/pressures of life that seem to work against transformation? Small Groups at Valencia United Methodist Church are designed to be a place where you can experience all of the above. Small Groups are varied in time commitment and focus but provide a sense of community that goes beyond that which we experience in weekly worship. Couple's, men's, women's, and mixed groups will be offered in the fall. We encourage you to consider joining a Small Group.

The Messenger

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Habit Sunday—Sept. 12th

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.

September 2010

Upcoming Events

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9/12 Pizza with the Pastors for Newcomers				1	2	3	4
9/12 Holypalooza	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9/12 Habit Sunday							
9/19 Opportunity Fair	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9/25 Family Promise Box City	<small>Pizza with the Pastors, Habit Sunday & Holypalooza</small>						
9/26 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon	19 <small>Opportunity Fair</small>	20	21	22	23	24	25 <small>Family Promise Box City</small>
10/2 Work Day	26 <small>Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon</small>	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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Believing is Only the Beginning



Valencia United Methodist Church Presents

HOLYPALOOZA 2010

**FREE Rock Concert featuring
GODSPEED**



**Sunday, September 12th
6:30 P.M.**

FREE ADMISSION!

Designed especially for ages 18 to early 30s!

Valencia United Methodist Church
25718 McBean Parkway (across from Henry Mayo Hospital)
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