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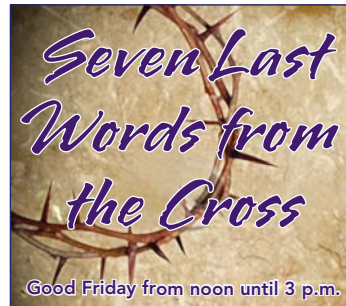
Local choir signs and sings into the hearts of congregations

By Lisa D. Lenoir and Erik Nussbaum

To be able to experience music through one's sense of hearing is a blessing. But for those with hearing impairments such sounds don't transcend – unless someone cares and interprets the songs through the language of American sign.

The Rev. Carole Clemons-Clark is that person. She has taken on this mission to assemble a congregation in 2005, Praetorium "Signing" Church of Chicago, to share the Good News, to the hearing, hard of hearing and deaf alike. The fruits of this ministry are shared at The Chicago Temple during Holy Week. Members of the church's choir will perform, along with Chicago Temple Choir, during the **"Seven Last Words from the Cross" from noon to 3 p.m., Good Friday, April 2.**

Her interest in signing and starting this ministry began at Salem Baptist Church of Chicago,



where she took her first ASL interpreting class and became engaged by the language's vocabulary, sentence structure and alphabets. But more important, she became moved with inspiration by meeting deaf/ hard of hearing people and sign language interpreters and teachers. Since the church needed

interpreters, she transitioned into this important role with what she writes "with fear, the anointing of God and excitement."

This newfound ministry took her to many heights at Salem Baptist, where she performed in the sign language choir, taught sign language to the youth on Wednesday nights and to the Adult Sunday School class. Also, she established the "Signs of Love" and directed "Signs of Trinity," both sign language choirs.

The training at Salem prepared her to launch into a career in education and interpreting. In *(continued on page 2)*

THE SENIOR PASTOR'S COLUMN

New FUMC mission statement to guide the congregation toward the future



What is the mission of the Church? We easily can answer that question if we turn to *The Discipline of the United Methodist Church* and quote the denomination's statement. "Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

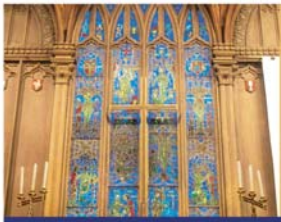
But, how does that translate into the mission of our church? It is a necessary discipline of our congregation from time to time to recast our sense of what God is calling us to be and to do today. So, over the past six months an

increasing number of members have been invited to join in the process of declaring a mission and claiming a vision that would serve that mission. Under the leadership of Rosanna Velat, we started with a small group, then expanded it to Church Council members, followed that with making it our agenda for a planning retreat, returned the best ideas to an editing group, and now are advancing the discussion to the congregation, in general.

Of course, we all know from past experience that this process can get stalled at the conceptual level (there are a thousand good ideas to evaluate) or the verbal level (agreeing on the right word and the correct punctuation is hard in a group). So, while there are people *(continued on page 2)*



Have a Blessed Easter
He is Risen!
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CHICAGO TEMPLE NEWS

UMCOR extends its efforts globally to earthquake victims



By Stephanie Vazquez

The people in Haiti and Chile still need our prayers, gifts and time. Here are latest updates from the regions and the United Methodist Church's efforts.

Haiti Update – On March 11, United Methodist Committee on Relief

(UMCOR) held a meeting to discuss long-term plans for servicing the needs of the Haitian people. According to UMCOR's Web site, the "participants recommended, among other things, the development of a comprehensive, integrated health strategy in which the represented agencies, US-based Methodist hospitals, United Methodist volunteers and UMCOR would participate."

International Child Care (ICC) erected two 52-by-18 foot tents to serve as impatient wards. The directors have begun to develop plans for ICC for the next 6 to 12 months. To make a donation to support Grace Children's Hospital through UMCOR, the Advance Special Number is #418520 when making your donation.

Chile Update – In Chile, UMCOR is working with Iglesia Metodista de Chile (IMECH), and Equipo Metodista de Acción Humanitaria (EMAH) to respond with resources and support. A \$10,000 emergency grant was awarded to these organizations to assess the needs and bring food and clean water to the victims of

the earthquake. To make a donation to support the Chile Emergency Relief through UMCOR, use the Advance #3021178 when making your donation.

For more information and updates on emergency relief efforts of the United Methodist Church, visit www.umcor.org.

Local choir signs "Seven Last Words"

(continued from page 1)

1996, Clemons-Clark went to work at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School as a sign language interpreter in the school and a Deaf Girls' Basketball coach. "Whom God calls, he qualifies," she writes.

To formalize her training, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia College Chicago in ASL/English Interpretation. Her passion — "to see the deaf/hard of hearing loving the Lord and become leaders and doers of God's Word."

Through Praetorium "Signing" Church of Chicago, Clemons-Clark and the flock come together each Sunday from 9:30-11 a.m. Stone Temple Church, 3622 W. Douglas Blvd. The 24-member choir receives its inspiration from various artists, suggestions from participants and of course, through God and the Holy Spirit.

And during Holy Week, His presence will be surely evident in the group's performance.

Learn more about the Clemons-Clark's work, go to psigning-church.blogspot.com or visit her MySpace page at www.myspace.com/1praetorium

New FUMC Mission Statement (continued from page 1)

crafting the precise formulation, there is a compelling consensus that our mission as the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple is to welcome all to worship God, to be a nurturing community, and to serve the world by offering Christ's love.

How can we do that? We envision ourselves striving to grow in our own faith and understanding, diligently reaching out to support one another, and being faithful stewards of our resources. We also see ourselves embodying God's love in the world by addressing the needs of others through prayer and action, as well as advocating for social justice inside and outside of the Church. And further, we claim the unique opportunity we have to offer our sacred space as a gift to all who are in the heart of the city.

How that understanding of our mission and the multifaceted statement of our vision get "wordsmithed" over the next few weeks will be left up to a small group of former English majors. (I can say that; I am one.) But I ask you to catch the scope of the vision and begin to imagine specific steps, which we can take to make the richness of our mission a reality. Imagination is a gift from God; let us use it to see well beyond our present ministry to what is possible.

Ultimately, the task of describing our ministry belongs to everyone, not just Church Council members. Rosanna has been wonderful

in her careful leadership of the process. Now, it becomes the property of the congregation to adopt the mission and the vision for the purpose of defining our life together as this church at this time in this place.

Over the summer and into the autumn we hope to craft our best ideas so that we can determine what changes we need to make to fulfill God's call. This has implications for how we use our space, deploy our staff, focus our time, and allocate our resources.

We know that God is not calling us to coast, but rather to venture forth in faith. Discerning in which direction is the work of all of us.

Peace,

Phil Blackwell

P.S. As part of my role in this process, I have requested that I be granted a "renewal leave" this summer so that I can read, plan, and in all honesty, get some rest so that I will be of use to you as the senior minister in what promises to be a three- to four-year initiative. I will say more about this next month.

CHICAGO TEMPLE NEWS

Special financial update and appeal

Dear Members and Friends of FUMC at The Chicago Temple:

For the past four-plus months, you have heard and read numerous items related to our 2010 Budget and the Stewardship Drive "Heeding the Call." These testimonies have increased involvement and commitment of this congregation. We are pleased to report wonderful results:

- With a three-week rush from "passionate spirit" the church office has received 221 pledges representing approximately 320 members and 15 non-members.
- Several pledge amounts were increased from last year, and there are 51 NEW pledges!
- In recent history of pledging at the Temple, the number of pledges has increased from 138 in 2007 to 221 in 2010.
- This action helps the Church Council implement and plan for our present and future.

While we celebrate this moment in the life of the Temple, each of us must understand that we continue to have a significant debt for the Sanctuary Renovation, "Rejoice and Renew," and our apportionment will increase 35% next year. With these facts in mind, our current increased giving to support our vision and mission must continue and increase in the coming years.

Thank you, again, for your prayers, contributions and commitment.

Sincerely,
Charles Emmons,
Chair, Finance Committee

Small groups to foster building bridges through common interests



The new Small Group Ministry initiative for First United Methodist Church at The Chicago Temple received an overwhelming response during the first-ever "Affinity Fair" on March 14. Topics of interest included golf, dining out (at different ethnic restaurants), dining in (at

homes focusing on organic and/or locally grown foods), crafts, science and religion discussions and photography.

Since dates have not been set yet for the first meetings of the groups, people should watch the bulletins for announcements. (Golf, however, will begin the 2nd Sunday of May following the 8:30 a.m. worship service.)



"The goal of the small groups is to provide an opportunity for us to get to know each other better – to become connected and to strengthen our love and care of each other," says Marva Andrews, leader of this small group ministry.

Interested? Contact Andrews at marvalee47@yahoo.com or Tom Laidlaw at tomnchgo@comcast.net for more information.

CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS

Please Remember These Persons In Your Prayers

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rose Martinelli's parents | Pat Patton's friend Ruth | Delbert Brown |
| Peg Isaacson's father | Stamper's son, Scott Austin | Florence Bos |
| Ralph Neyland | Chili Shears' father & sister | Teresita Crisostomo |
| Nati Oro | Verlane Franklin | Extended Care or Rehab |
| Marti Zimmerman | Maria & Elizabeth Elizondo | Edna Walters |
| Ausbie & Etta Lenoir | Beth Jacobs' mother | Henrietta Brown |
| Sheila Lockhart | Louise Foote | James Humble |
| Amy Schutt, | Azucena Munoz Tressler, | Mildred Kretz |
| Dorothy Emmons, mother | and her mother and sister | Esther Penaloza |
| of Charles Emmons | Yvonne Scott | Edward Clay Jr. |
| Ed Gabriel | Stella Amaefule | Irene Stull |
| Lin Sanford Keppert | Aida Roque | Alice Inouye |
| Paul Hain | Jessica Taylor | John Romans |
| Joann Contos | Martha & Rudolph Chavez | Priscilla Zapatka |
| Marilyn Dugas | Darlene Grass' grand- | Virginia Schuler |
| Ponnamma Benjamin | daughter, Abbey | Mourning the loss of |
| Annie M. Geiger | Doris Galloway's sons, | a loved one |
| Randy Heller | Erik & Allen | The family of Ruth |
| Maureen Moroney | Joyce Rimel | Williamson |
| Anita Phillips | Edith Smith's husband | The family of Mae |
| Dorothy White | Tim Weiss | Gladys Mackey |
| Jason Chamberlain | At Home | |
| | Barbara Schubert | |

Members Celebrating A Birthday

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| April 1 | Ceda Orton | April 17 | April 23 |
| Cheryl Price | Carl Riehs | Ellie Herman | James Rollin |
| Jennifer Pollock | Nathan Johnson | April 18 | Melissa Hampson |
| Joanne McCarthy | April 7 | Nena Bradshaw | April 25 |
| Katherine Lee | Fidelita Abellera | April 19 | Shela Krell |
| April 2 | Corazon Lomboy | Annie Geiger | Ruth Baker |
| Jon Kaplan | April 9 | Victoria Bennett | Ruth Enright |
| Ellen Daniels | Jaime Hernandez | Kimberly Grauer | Jeremy Riel |
| Lauren Benito | Avery Robinson | April 20 | April 26 |
| April 3 | Christopher Guillen | Nathan Trautvetter | James Daniels |
| Emily Pernel | April 10 | Mike Foreman | Janis Mabalay |
| Jessica Pernel | John Koerner | Nancy Hickman | John Collins |
| Kathy Leech | Connie Twiss | April 21 | Steve Barczak |
| Cassandra Harlan | Thandiwe Malusalila | Mary Elliott | April 27 |
| April 4 | April 12 | Erik Opland | Charles Emmons |
| Danielle Szukala | Melita Aquino | Grace Bennett | Joyce Carrasco |
| Douglas Carleton | Benjamin Zywicki | April 22 | April 29 |
| April 5 | Katie Arnold | Dean Oorbeck | Ethan Skibins |
| Margaret Meiser | April 14 | Anne Herman | |
| April 6 | Gregory Miller | Matt McMunn | |
| Leslie Stein | Jay Elliott | | |
| Maureen Pfister | Ashley Eddy | | |

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Thursday, April 1

12:10 pm-MAUNDY THURSDAY NOON WORSHIP.
 6 pm-MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP.

Friday, April 2

Good Friday
 Noon to 3 pm-"The Seven Last Words from
 the Cross" (in 25-minute segments)

Saturday, April 3

5 pm-EASTER VIGIL WORSHIP.

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday
 6, 6:30, 7 am-Easter Sunrise Services.
 SKY CHAPEL.
 8:15 am-12:15 pm Nursery open. 4th Flr.
 8:30 am-EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE
 9:30 am-Easter Breakfast. Pierce
 11 am- EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE

Monday, April 5

Church Office Closed
 6 pm-Disciple VII. Pierce 2
 6 pm-Temple Handbell Ens. Rehearsal. Choir Rm.
 6 pm-Bereavement Support Group. James

Tuesday, April 6

10:30 am-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 11 am-Mary Martha Circle. James.
 6 pm-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6:30 pm-Gospel Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm

Wednesday, April 7

7:30-9 am-HOLY COMMUNION. Sanctuary
 12:10 pm-NOONTIME WORSHIP SERVICE
 3 pm-Tutoring Center. Pierce
 6 pm-Temple Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Thursday, April 8

5:30 pm-EVENING PRAYER SERVICE. Sky Chapel

Saturday, April 10

5 pm-SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP. Dixon

Sunday, April 11

8 am-12:15 pm- Nursery open. 4th Flr.
 8:30 am-SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
 9:30 am-Sunday School Classes
 11 am-SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Monday, April 12

Wesley Heritage Trip through April 17
 6 pm-Disciple VII. Pierce 2

Tuesday, April 13

10:30 am-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6 pm-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6:30 pm-Gospel Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Wednesday, April 14

7:30-9 am-HOLY COMMUNION. Sanctuary
 12:10 pm-NOONTIME WORSHIP SERVICE
 3 pm-Tutoring Center. Pierce
 6 pm-Tutor Training
 6 pm-Temple Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Thursday, April 15

5:30 pm-EVENING PRAYER SERVICE. Sky Chapel
 6 pm-Church Council. James

Saturday, April 17

5 pm-SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP. Dixon

Sunday, April 18

8 am-12:15 pm- Nursery open. 4th Flr.
 8:30 am-SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
 9:30 am-Sunday School Classes

11 am-SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

12:15 pm-Mabuhay Fellowship. Choir Rm.
 12:15 pm-Fine Arts Committee. 3rd fl. Conf. Rm.

Monday, April 19

6 pm-Disciple VII. Pierce 2
 6 pm-Temple Handbell Ens. Rehearsal. Choir Rm.
 6 pm-Bereavement Support Group. James

Tuesday, April 20

10:30 am-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6 pm-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6:30 pm-Gospel Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Wednesday, April 21

7:30-9 am-HOLY COMMUNION. Sanctuary
 12:10 pm-NOONTIME WORSHIP SERVICE
 3 pm-Tutoring Center. Pierce
 6 pm-Temple Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Thursday, April 22

5:30 pm-EVENING PRAYER SERVICE. Sky Chapel

Saturday, April 24

5 pm-SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP. Dixon
 3 pm-Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, April 25

8 am-12:15 pm- Nursery open. 4th Flr.
 8:30 am-SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
 9:30 am-Sunday School Classes
 11 am-SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Monday, April 26

6 pm-Disciple VII. Pierce 2
 6 pm-Temple Handbell Ens. Rehearsal. Choir Rm.
 6 pm-Finance Committee. 420

Tuesday, April 27

10:30 am-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6 pm-Disciple I. Pierce 2
 6:30 pm-Gospel Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Wednesday, April 28

7:30-9 am-HOLY COMMUNION. Sanctuary
 12:10 pm-NOONTIME WORSHIP SERVICE
 3 pm-Tutoring Center. Pierce
 6 pm-Temple Choir Rehearsal. Choir Rm.

Thursday, April 29

5:30 pm-EVENING PRAYER SERVICE. Sky Chapel

The Carillon is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church-Chicago Temple. Submission deadlines are by midnight on the Second Friday of each month. We reserve the right to edit all submission for accuracy and relevance. Send for consideration to Lisa D. Lenoir (lisa@chicagotemple.org) or Stephanie Vazquez (stephanie@chicagotemple.org).