

Communities of Joy!

Southern California Mission Center

January 2004

We Celebrate the Birth of Our Savior



The children offer a Christmas play at Covina



La Nueva Esperanza enjoys a Posada



Denise Leichter and Meredith Bischoff enjoy a Basileia celebration of diversity



Mitch Leichter lights the menorah



Tawny Brents (left) and Brandi Herrington load nearly four dozen Christmas gifts collected by the Anaheim Congregation to assist the Fire Department in its distribution to needy children. The congregation also donated \$110 to the Precious Life Center, a home for pregnant, homeless women and their new-born babies.

Women Plan Feb. 21 Retreat for a Day

The women of SoCal Mission Center are invited to a one-day retreat at the Ventura Congregation on Feb. 21. Retreat Facilitator Denise Leichter reports that "We will be supporting 'Project Understanding' for our Outreach and Service this retreat. It is a community-based organization related to 'survival needs' of food, housing, training, employment, and healthcare. Please bring with you a contribution for 'Food of the Month...Beans' and/or towels (used and new) for their transitional houses." Deadline for registration is February 17th. Cost is \$20. Please make your checks payable to Community of Christ and mail to The Austins, 10671 Yolo Street, Ventura, CA 93004-1201.

Jr/Sr High Winter Retreat at Buckhorn

Come to Camp Buckhorn **Feb 13-15** for a fun weekend with **SW Int'l MC kids**. Cost is a **low, low \$50**. Bring a friend who hasn't been to camp before and both of you come for **half price!** Contact Letha at 626-331-3218.

Flyers have already been mailed.

See you there!

Young Peacemakers Go to Magic Mountain

December always brings the opportunity for different activities in La Nueva Esperanza. This year was no exception. For a number of years, the Young Peacemakers Club has been rewarded for their efforts during the year with a trip to Magic Mountain. With the admission price of a toy for "Toys for Tots," both the children of the area and the YPC benefit. Those older than 12 again enjoyed the thrills of the rides, while the younger children were rewarded with other activities. In all, 26 children and youth consistently participated in the YPC activities, with many others participating occasionally.

Two Posadas!

This year, as last, we had two Posadas. (A Posada is a Mexican tradition before Christmas reenacting Mary and Joseph's plight as they look for room at the inn.) One was held in Los Angeles in Sergio Juarez's neighborhood, with more than 120 people participating in a Procession for Peace which covered two blocks. The march ended at the Juarez home with piñatas, special music, tamales, and champurrado (chocolate).

In Temple City, the procession was much lower key. La Nueva Esperanza marched for the 3^d year on the block in front of the church singing Christmas music in Spanish. Returning to the church, the "peregrinos" (pilgrims) did the traditional asking for lodging (posada) and were invited in to enjoy Mexican sweet bread and hot chocolate. There were over 30 in attendance.

La Nueva Esperanza Filmed for World Conference

On January 16, 17, and 18th a film crew from World Church filmed activities of La Nueva Esperanza for World Conference. They attended a Friday night youth class, Saturday's Peacemaker event, and Sunday's service. This is an exciting event for the congregation.

A Wedding!

There was another event of note in the Hispanic community. A young woman, Tania Gonzales, (originally from El Salvador) and Domagoj Hum from Croatia were married in her home in Gardena a couple of days after Christmas. Tania was a part of the Freeman Avenue group who attended Graceland University some 8 years ago. There she met her future husband, Dom, who was also attending Graceland from Croatia. This truly was a celebration of the merging of cultures spanning the globe. These two young people begin their new life together in Croatia. Tania's brother, Alvaro, has been active in Senior High activities and attended Spec in August. Don Ivans performed the ceremony.



La Nueva Esperanza and Hispanic Ministries looks forward to 2004 and God's continued blessings. Que Dios les bendiga a todos en el Nuevo Año (May God bless you all in the New Year).

Basileia is a Welcoming Community

Basileia: An Open Door Community of Christ is proud to declare that it is officially a Welcoming Community. At a congregational business meeting on January 4, the congregation voted to adopt the following paragraph as their welcoming statement:

In working to bring about the realm of God, Basileia: An Open Door Community of Christ values diversity and celebrates those differences as intentional acts of God's creation. In that the realm of God includes all persons, we welcome and include all persons including persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities and family units in the full life of the congregation.

Reported by Meredith Bischoff

Temple School Schedule

February 7

SL101 An Introduction to Caring Ministries

Instructor: Greg Barentine

PA104 The Elder

Instructor: Craig Crownover

February 21

SS101 An Introduction to Understanding Scripture

Instructors: Hiroshi Matsushita and Evelyn Sora

SS320 Survey of the New Testament

Instructor: Craig Crownover

February 28

AM200 Aaronic Ministers: Ministry of Presence

Instructors: Hiroshi Matsushita and Sherry Southland

Spring SoCal MC Conference to Be Held April 25

The Southern California Mission Center will hold its Spring Conference on April 25 at the Center for Christian Ministries in Temple City. Stassi Cramm, Counselor to the Presiding Bishop, will provide guest ministry. The conference will begin at 9 and end after lunch.

Upcoming Events

Feb 13-16 Jr/Sr High Retreat at Buckhorn

Feb 21 Women's Day of Retreat

March 14 Congregational Leaders at CCM

March 21 World Conference Delegates at CCM

March 27- World Conference

April 4 Independence, Missouri

April 24 Aaronic Ministries Gathering at CCM

April 25 SoCal MC Spring Conference at CCM

Jun 19-26 Sr High Camp at Buckhorn

Jul 17-23 SoCal MC Reunion at Buckhorn

Kaleikaus Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary



Dave and Henrietta Kaleikau celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends in Independence, MO, on December 28th. Their anniversary was December 19th. They wish to thank the members of the Gardena Congregation, Pacific Islands Mission Center, and Southern California Mission Center for remembering them at this special time in their lives.

SoCal MC Reunion July 17-23

Please mark your calendar for a week at Camp Buckhorn, July 17-23, camping with your friends and worshipping in God's creation.

International Youth Fast

The first annual International Youth Fast will be here before you know it. On the weekend of March 7, 2004, young people are invited to join with sisters and brothers around the world in an effort to help end world hunger. As young people throughout the world fast together, they can experience solidarity with the poor, build friendships, and connect their efforts to the church's mission. Sponsored by the Community of Christ World Hunger and Human Rights Committees, World Accord, and Outreach International, this event coincides with World Hunger emphasis worship on the first Sunday of March. For more information, visit www.CofChrist.org/hunger/youthfast.

Wallace B. Smith, chair
World Hunger Committee

The 2004 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Celebration

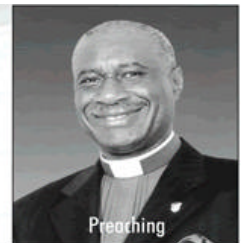
Join us for a special service on
Sunday, February 1



Community of Christ will join with other denominations as Bishop McKinley Young, Tenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will be the speaker at the 3:30 p.m. ecumenical service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We will gather on Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels at the corner of Hill and Temple Streets in Los Angeles. Parking is available under the cathedral off both Hill and Temple streets, and the cathedral is one block from the L.A. Civic Center station of the Metro. Arrangements have been made for guided tours of the cathedral following the service.

Worship with old friends and meet new ones in the diverse religious community we call Greater Los Angeles. This event is sponsored by the Southern California Ecumenical Council, of which the Southern California Mission Center is a member. If you have any questions regarding this service please contact Carol Kostura at kostura@socal.rr.com.



Against the Current Entertainment Presents

"PORTRAITS"
A music performance
By

Shelley Reyn  Hayes

Accompanied by Wally Minko

Saturdays, January 31, 2004 8 pm
February 7, 2004 8 pm
Sundays, February 1, 2004 2 pm
February 8, 2004 2 pm

Open Stage West
14366 Ventura Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA
(Exit 101 Freeway at Van Nuys Blvd)
(Brown brick complex 1 block east of Van Nuys Blvd)

Tickets— \$12.00 advance sales
\$15.00 at the door
For tickets and info call 818-785-2553
Limited Seating
Free Parking

Women 's Day Retreat

"A Whale of a Good Time"

Saturday, February 21
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Ventura Congregation
\$20

- 8:30 Registration and Snacks
- 9:00 Welcome and Opening Worship
- 9:30 The Story and Study of Jonah...is it more than a fascinating Children's Story?
- 11:00 Service Project
- 12:00 Catered Lunch and Visiting
- 1:00 Movie Matinee "Whale Rider" followed by discussion
- 3:30 Closing Worship
- 4:30 Departure

Our service project will support "Project Understanding," a community-based organization providing survival needs of food, housing, training, employment, and healthcare

Please bring with you a contribution of beans (for their "Food of the Month" and/or towels (used or new) for their transitional houses

**For more details, or to assist with the program, please contact Denise Leichter at 818-996-4961 or deniseleichter@earthlink.net
Each One, Reach One...Bring a Friend!**

Registration for Women's Day Retreat	<u>Due Feb 17</u>
Name _____	
Address _____	
Phone _____	Email _____
Please mail your registration by Feb 17 to The Austins 10671 Yolo Street Ventura, CA 93004-1201	
Make your checks payable to Community of Christ	