

# The Friendly Visitor



January 2011

**United Methodist Church of Yucaipa**

**35177 Beech Ave., Yucaipa, CA**

**The Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas**

**Gathering 8:45 a.m. - Worship Service 9:00 a.m - Sunday school 10:30 a.m.**

**(909)-797-1143**

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## *Epiphany*

Observed on January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *Epiphania*, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

The baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River revealed his divinity as the Son of God. John the Baptist, according to Matthew 3:16-17, testifies of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove, and a voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Several Russian, Coptic, and Greek Churches also focus on the Cana wedding miracle as part of the Epiphany celebration observance.

For the Church, the Epiphany represents a responsibility to reveal Jesus as the Divine Son and Savior sent by God the Father to atone for the sins of mankind. It is a time of healing and fellowship, where the Church comes together in the covenant of brotherhood to love one another as Christ commanded.



## *From Pastor Sharon*

Richard Alleine, a Puritan, published *A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It* in 1663. According to the *United Methodist Book of Worship* (BOW), John Wesley was so moved by the chapter entitled, "The Application of the Whole," that he used it in what is believed to be the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement.



This first celebration of John Wesley's Covenant Service took place in 1755, and was thereafter conducted whenever Wesley visited the Methodist Societies. Following is a version of Wesley's Covenant Prayer (a combination of the hymnal version, #607, and the BOW version, #288):

*Lord, make me what you will.  
I put myself fully into your hands:  
put me to doing, put me to suffering,  
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and with a willing heart  
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

At the first of the year, United Methodists are reminded by Wesley's familiar prayer to put Jesus first in 2011. It is a good reminder to all Christians and would-be Christians everywhere.

January 2011! A New Year! Time for New Year's resolutions!

As we contemplate eating healthier in 2011; exercising more; kicking bad habits such as smoking, alcoholism and drug abuse; doing more for the homeless; spending more time with our children, our significant other, or our dearest friends; cleaning the garage; ushering in world peace... John Wesley's prayer can help us to remember the Prince of Peace, who is the author of our salvation. Without Him we can do nothing. With Him, all things are possible.

And now I'm off to write my 2011 resolutions... Or maybe I'll pray a bit first.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Sharon

### **January Lectionary Readings:**

- 2 Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
- 9 Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
- 16 Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- 23 Isaiah 9:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
- 30 Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
2 <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY: Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30</b>  NAs 7 pm	3 NAs 8 a.m.  Pack 4, 7 pm	4 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8:30 am  <b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b>  Boy Scouts 7 pm NAs 7 pm. Webelos 7 pm  <b>SPRC 7 pm</b>	5 NAs 8 am	6 NAs 8:30 am  Community Bible Study 7:30 am  Treble Clefs 6 pm  <b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b>  Pack 10 7 pm	7 NAs 8 am  <b>Nine-Patchers Quilting 9 am</b>  NAs 7 pm	8
9 <b>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30</b>  NAs 7 pm	10 NAs 8 am  Pack 4, 7 pm	11 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8:30 am  <b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b>  Boy Scouts 7 pm NAs 7 pm	12 NAs 8 am	13 NAs 8 am Community Bible Study 7:30 am  Treble Clefs 6 pm  <b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b>  Pack 10 7 pm	14 NAs 8 am  <b>Nine-Patchers Quilting 9 am</b>  NAs 7 pm	15 <b>United Methodist Men Breakfast</b>
16 <b>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30</b>  As 7 pm	17 NAs 8 a.m.  Pack 4, 7 pm	18 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8 am  <b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b>  NAs 7 pm Troop 9 Boy Scouts 7 pm <b>Finance Comm. 7 pm</b>	19 NAs 8 am  <b>UMW 10 am</b>	20 NAs 8 am Community Bible Study 7:30 am  <b>Staff Meeting 11 am</b>  Treble Clefs 6 pm  <b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b>  Pack 10 7 pm	21 NAs 8 am  <b>Nine-Patchers Quilting 9 am</b>  NAs 7 pm	22
23 <b>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30</b>  NAs 7 pm	24 NAs 8 am  Pack 4, 7 pm	25 Woodcarvers 8 am NAs 8 am  <b>Prayer Time 9:30 am</b>  Boy Scouts 7 pm NAs 7 pm  <b>Program Committees 6:30 pm Ad Council 7:30 pm</b>	26 NAs 8 am	27 NAs 8 am Community Bible Study 7:30 am  Treble Clefs 6 pm  <b>Chancel Choir 7 pm</b>  Pack 10 7 pm	28 NAs 8 am  NA's 7 pm	29
30 <b>Worship 9:00 Fellowship 10:15 Sunday School 10:30</b>  NAs 7 pm	31 NAs 8 a.m.  Pack 4, 7 pm	<h1>JANUARY, 2011!</h1> 				

## January Birthdays



- 5 Amy Wahe
- 6 Margaret Hutton  
Mike Pistilli  
Kristin Shotts
- 7 Harold Hudson
- 10 Bill Klein
- 13 Beth Snook
- 18 Gary Barlow
- 19 Paul Kielhold
- 23 Louise Wetmore
- 25 Grace Crum
- 28 Tess Trafzer
- 30 Ella Marie Harty

## January Anniversaries



- 1 Joel & June Fisher
- 10 Bill & Nancy Greening
- 31 Cliff & Lee Ann Smith-Trafzer

## Letters...Letters...Letters...

Dear Church Family & Foundation Committee,

Thank you so much for thinking of me so generously, and for your constant support as I follow God's calling in my life. Not a day goes by where I do not have reason to be thankful for your love and example in what it means to be faithful disciples of God – thank you!

As I enter the second semester of my second year at divinity school, your generous gift is very timely and deeply appreciated. I look forward to the next time I can be with you so I can thank you in person as well.

Again, thank you for your love, prayers, and support.

Blessings,  
Jessica Moore Strysko



To My Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the love I have received since “re-newing” my faith in this beautiful church in November 1998. Pastor Ron had been assigned the ‘new’ pastor that summer. I joined the Jolly Mixers Sunday school soon after and at the time the attendance was around 55 to 60 wonderful souls and great fellowship abounded. Attendance has slowly gone down and I urge you all to ‘visit’ the class. You will be glad you did.

I joined the choir about a year and a half ago (should have done it a lot sooner, but you know about “hindsight.”) The choir Director, Wes Harty, has been such an inspiration to me and I’m sure to all the other members, although at times, I was sure he was going to “stomp” a hole in the floor to get us to keep ‘in time’ to the music. I will miss all of the members and of course the wonderful organist, June Fisher.

So, I will close with a sad and emotional “good-bye” and ask God to bless you and your families until He comes to “take you home.”

In God's Love, Patsy Coffman



Dear Koinonia Sunday school class,

Thank you very much for the \$400.00 scholarship. It will go toward buying my books for RCC.

I am truly grateful; it was so nice of you to think of me.

Thank you, Rachael Moore





## The Book Nook

It is an interesting coincidence that I picked the following book for review in the January, 2011 *Friendly Visitor*. *O Say Can You See*, by

James W. Moore, uses biblical stories of spiritual blindness to illustrate issues and problems many of us face today.

A recurring theme is that Jesus' disciples were constantly misunderstanding their mission and purpose. They thought about their own importance. They were sometimes preoccupied with the notion that the Kingdom would be material and political, overthrowing their oppressors. They were blinded by jealousy, bickering about who would be the most important and powerful.

Jesus had to remind them, almost constantly, that they were missing the point! It wasn't about overthrowing King Herod or rising above the Roman Empire. And it certainly was not about material wealth, arrogance, political power, or self-centeredness.

As an example of how we sometimes think that life is all about us, the author relates an episode that took place in the mid-1800's. Senator Charles Sumner was asked by Julia Ward Howe to help one of his constituents. He replied that he had duties that were so important that he couldn't be concerned about the problems of one person. She replied that his answer was remarkable and said, "Even God himself hasn't reached that stage." (p. 84) Even today, the author says, we need to act on the lessons Jesus taught, and try to forget how important we are.

Eventually, after the Resurrection, the disciples saw what their Master was trying to say and do. They became dedicated servants and witnesses to His truth.

This book is short (105 pages plus a study guide). However, it got me to examine many of my ideas about my faith. It is my hope that, in the New Year, I will miss the point less often.

*Arden Adams*

## Who's in Your Pew?



If you attended the UMCOY Christmas cantata last month, you were treated to a solo by Carole Jones, one of the altos in our Chancel Choir. She is a quiet and



unassuming lady, but her life's story is quite remarkable.

Carole was born in Hollywood. Her grandfather was a co-founder of Safeway Markets and had made quite a fortune, which he had invested in the stock market. "I come from a long line of adventurous, entrepreneurial people," Carole notes. When the Great Depression hit, of course, her grandfather lost everything and had to begin again. Carole's father, who attended Fairfax High School and had intended to go to law school, was forced instead to go to junior college and work right away. He, like his father, became an entrepreneur. Carole's mother, who also attended Fairfax High School, was well on her way to becoming a professional singer. She was already singing light opera and musicals, and was being groomed for grand opera. She would attend high school half-days, and then spend eight additional hours per day studying music, languages, and dance. Even though her parents could not afford to pay for the training, her teachers were so impressed with her talent that they volunteered their time.

But love always prevails over reason, and the couple eloped. Carole's grandparents were shocked and disappointed at the turn of events, but accepted it gracefully and turned their efforts toward helping the young couple as best they could.

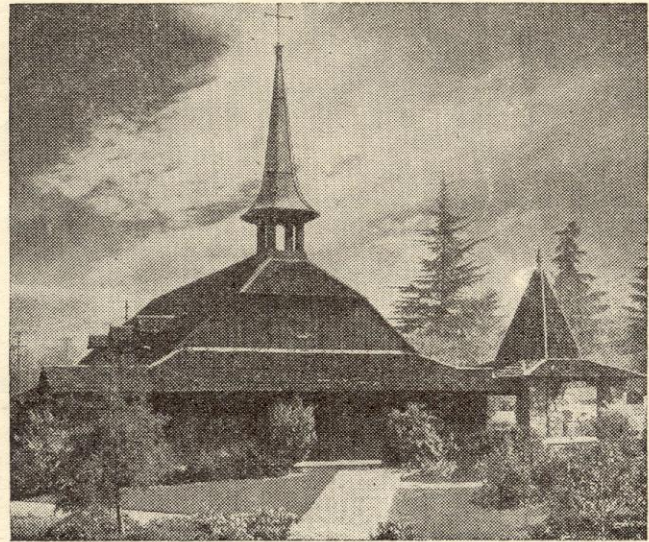
Carole came along in 1941. The family lived in Los Angeles until she was six years old, at which time they moved with Carole's maternal grandparents to Yucaipa. The family bought a five acre ranch. "Let's see," Carole recalls, "we had 5

cows, 3,200 chickens, 10 pigs, 50 ducks, and about 15 cats. (Most of the cats lived in the barn, where they kept control of the rodent population.) My brother Norman and I learned to feed the little calves with a bottle that had a nipple on it. We fed the chickens, and dad taught us how to milk a cow by hand. You have to keep one foot in front of the cow's leg in order to keep her from kicking over the pail." The Solberg family lived nearby, and they bought milk from the farm.

Farm chores were not a required "job" for Carole and Norman, but they enjoyed helping. The chickens enjoyed life on the ranch for nine weeks, and then they departed as fryers, destined for someone's table. "We didn't form a personal bond with those fuzzy little chicks each time a shipment came in, because we knew where they were headed. But our layers were our friends. We enjoyed collecting their eggs."

Carole had her own horse, and she loved riding. She had no need for a saddle. "I'm going to the hills," she'd say, and she'd take a lunch and ride bareback. "I'd be gone for half a day at a time," she remembers.

The family came to UMC OY in about 1951. "I've always felt called to God," she comments. "I had scouted about for churches. I considered the Baptist church, but at that time they talked about hell an awful lot, which didn't appeal to me. I didn't feel so threatened among the Methodists." Carole attended Sunday school here. Her mom and her grandma sang in the choir – Doc Andrews was the director. She showed me a yellowed copy of the church bulletin from December 26, 1956, which she has saved all these years because her mom's name (Norma Negus) appears in it. Carole enjoyed church. "When I was in elementary school I thought about becoming a nun, but there were two problems: first, I wasn't Catholic, and second, I did not



## THE YUCAIPA METHODIST CHURCH

Adams: Acacia to Beech

DARREL McCORKELL, Minister

Res. 174 E. Acacia Ave. Ph. 7-3135 Mailing Add. P.O. Box 396

Resident Bishop: Gerald Hamilton Kennedy

District Superintendent: Fletcher Scharer

Retired Minister: Arthur Heinlein

consider the issue of celibacy to be appealing. So then I thought about becoming a missionary."

Carole attended both Yucaipa Elementary School and Yucaipa Junior High School, which was brand new at that time. [Carole loved school; "I have a passion for education!" she exclaims.] Her third grade teacher was her first role model; that's when she decided to pursue a career as a teacher. She was invited to attend the Nancy Jackson Finishing School in Redlands, where she learned ballroom dancing.

Yucaipa had no high school when Carole was growing up; Yucaipa students were bussed to Redlands High. There, she served on student council and sang in chorus. She also studied modern dance. She was a district leader for Methodist Youth Fellowship for two years. She

participated in the Christian Witness program, where high school students were mentored to work in conference-level teams to go out and witness in Los Angeles and Arizona. In 1957 she was nominated by Pop Showalter, the high school music director, to sing in an all-district choir for the Music Educators National Conference in Los Angeles. A team of visiting adjudicators traveled to Redlands to audition her, and she was accepted. Judi Wheeler's sister Karen was accepted, also. After the performance, Carole's mother told her that she had sung for the same event 20 years before.

When it was time to apply for college, Carole hoped for a scholarship to the University of Redlands, but was awarded only half of what would be required. "My family had a firm *no debt* policy," she explains, "so a loan was out of the question." UC Riverside, which had started as an

agricultural station, was now aspiring to be "the Harvard of the West" in an appeal to attract a small body of academically elite students. Carole matriculated there, majoring in Spanish. ("I had always had a passion for languages.") She sang in



the college chorus with Dr. Reynolds. "He was a good director, and when you have good directors you learn a lot of stuff. And that's always been what I like – learning a lot of stuff!" She notes that Bill Baumann, who was 15 years older and had already graduated, returned to campus for Madrigal rehearsals and concerts. She continued studying modern dance while she was in college.

In 1961 Carole met Bob Jones at the UMCOY 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic at the Baumanns'. "Bob was an intellectual – he wrote poetry, and he took me to the ballet and the opera." They married in the summer between her sophomore and junior years of college. A son, Greg, was born the next summer, and Ken came along before Carole could finish her senior year. Bob had a good office job in transcontinental freight transportation – "He could type 120 words per minute!" – and he ran a recorder group at Crafton Hills College. Carole stayed home to raise the children. Rob was born in 1968, and Steve followed in 1970.

Before Rob and Steve were born, Carole and Bob sang in the UMCOY choir (Bill Baumann was the choir director) and the Redlands Bowl Community Chorus, which performed one light



Photo by Don Burian

opera and one serious opera each summer. They also sang in a church octet, which rehearsed every Sunday afternoon and performed at church and the Women's Club. Vickery Dougherty was the pastor, and his wife Anna decided that the church should incorporate sacred dance into the worship services. Carole had studied dance in high school and college, so the idea appealed to her immediately. Judi Wheeler, Carole, and Sandy Brooks participated, also. "It was '60s radical stuff," Carol smiles. "We used Simon and Garfunkle's 'Silent Night' as well as other sacred music. We made long, flowing white gowns to wear. It was very important for those of us who were in it – my heart was being pulled to worship in a new way."

Carole was ready to go back to UCR to finish her degree, but discovered that she was pregnant with Rob. "I decided that I needed to stay at home, be a mom, and raise our kids." She had been invited to attend the Institute of Foreign Language Studies in Monterey, which she would have loved to do, but had to turn it down. She saw to it that the boys, four of them by now, were involved in church. All of them were interested in both sports and music, although sports took top billing. "They were 'all-star' types of people," she smiles. Steve delivered newspapers on horseback and trophied in motocross. The other three boys trophied in baseball, football, and wrestling. In 1972, when the boys were attending Calimesa Elementary School, Carole and two other ladies decided that the school needed a library. So they put up shelves, collected the books, and cataloged them!

Carole stopped going to church when the marriage began to fail. The boys went to other churches. "I was kind of mad at God," she says. When Steve entered kindergarten, she got a job as an instructional aide for two and a half hours a day. She found that she enjoyed the new connections that came with the job. "It was nice to be paid, and to be appreciated!" After two years, she applied for a position as instructional aide in RSP special education at Dunlap Elementary School. Her friend Sandy Brooks was the RSP teacher with whom she would be working. The principal was Carole's former sixth grade teacher and knew that Carole would be

good at the job. Carole worked there for nine years, 5 to 6 hours per day, which worked out beautifully because those hours meshed with the hours that her boys were attending school. She also opened her own private tutoring business on the side.

It was during this period that Bob and Carole separated. Her friends urged her to get a teaching credential, as she loved both teaching and studying, so she transferred her UCR units to Cal State San Bernardino and went back to school part time in 1984 to complete her senior year and do her grad work. When it was time to student teach she had to quit her job. But during the second semester of that year she found a job using her substitute teacher credential. "I was always trying to figure out how to pay the bills," she smiles.

In 1977 or so, Carole went as an adult chaperone with the church youth to see Terry and Muriel Henderson in Mexico. The youth had done fundraising for the year prior in order to fund the trip. They spent two weeks on the Heifer Project outside Puebla, painting the Hendersons' house and building pigsties for their pigs. This was very early in the Hendersons' ministry. Besides doing the work, the youth visited archeological sites. "I fell in love with posole," she laughs. "That trip was a life-changing experience! It gave me the courage to take my children with me to travel in Mexico." The next year, she took three of her children to San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, where a friend had opened a language academy. There, she enrolled her boys in the Art Institute while she studied Spanish seven hours a day. "Our costs were \$20 a day," she comments seriously. "I had to scrimp and save in order to get the money."

For five summers between 1980 and 1985, Carole was hired to run one-month summer programs for Japanese students. The program provided for housing, busses, and tours. "I enjoyed working with them," she remembers; "Yucaipa was, well, a little 'flat' when it came to interacting with other cultures."

She started working full time in Calimesa in 1987 as a second grade teacher and worked there until 1990, when she took a year's leave to work on a

human relations project with some friends. Living on rental income and some financial help from her parents, she spent a summer's vacation in Guatemala. She loved it there so much that she asked her project friends to move there for a year. They had all planned to spend that year working together in Santa Barbara, but a devastating fire made housing there almost impossible to find. So they joined her in Guatemala and worked for four hours each day designing exercises and a workbook for helping people to establish positive relationships. For another four hours each day, Carole studied Spanish and learned about the rich cultural history and archaeology of the area's colonial period, which began in the 1500's. She visited the site of the third university founded on this continent, and she helped establish an international library.

After that year the friends all returned to the United States. Carole took a job in Montecito, running workshops and teaching. But her heart was in Guatemala, and she soon returned in 1992, this time staying for four years. She lived on rental income and part time work at various jobs. She taught English at the American English School and worked at several hotels. She home schooled and tutored children of foreigners, usually North Americans. She tutored Guatemalan students privately in the study of English. She interpreted for foreign journalists when they didn't speak Spanish. (That gave her the opportunity to travel to many unusual places.) She ran an office for an exporter, was her photographer, supervised her workers, and went on buying trips to remote areas with her. She wrote for a local English language magazine about people and places which she found interesting. She did bilingual book reviews. Once she even ran a bakery for a friend for a month while he traveled abroad! "Every time I wondered how ends would meet, an opportunity to work presented itself. I was very blessed." And she started a musical group which met weekly at her house and performed in various churches and at local events. "I just put the word out, and people showed up!"

"I experienced anonymity for awhile in Guatemala," she muses. "I had never had that before – everyone in Yucaipa knew everyone

else. My anonymity didn't last a very long time in Guatemala, but I enjoyed the freedom it provided." This time she learned about Common Hope, an educational human development program now located in the Antigua area. The school supported poor children, providing health care, education, and housing. Parents had to contribute by bringing one cement block per month, in order to build the school. During the revolution in Guatemala, the program's founders were forced to leave at gunpoint. But the program was restarted in 1990 after a five year hiatus. Today, 2,800 children are being sponsored in the program. ("It is true immigration reform, led by God," Carole affirms.)

"I still couldn't commit my life to Christ," she explains, "but I had become fascinated by the fact that blood is an important sacramental theme among tribal peoples all over the world. I talked with a missionary weekly about this phenomenon. And then one day, as I was sitting quietly and looking out at the landscape, I felt a sudden wind sweeping over me and entering my heart. It was the Holy Spirit, and in the blink of an eye I knew repentance and God's gift of forgiveness. I was overcome with gratitude."

In 1994, while still living in Guatemala, Carole made her first trip to Europe. "Though I had traveled extensively in Mexico and Central America, I had never been to Europe. My parents had set funds aside for me to do this as their possibilities increased. They were stunned when I decided to go for five weeks, by myself, equipped only with four books and a Eurorail pass. Mind you, I was 52 years old and had wanted to go to Europe since I was 15. It was a wondrous adventure! I've been back many times to continue to explore Europe, but never alone again. I've traveled in 38 of our own United States. And in the last 15 years I have gone to Guatemala for at least a month each year. Sometimes I go alone, and sometimes with friends and family. I have also led two work teams to Common Hope."

The sudden death of Carole's mom brought her back to the states in 1995. Carole taught school and stayed with her dad, who passed away the following year. One of Carole's friends invited her to participate in the Walk to Emmaus. After

quite a bit of coaxing, she agreed to go. As part of that experience, she was urged to re-join the Body of Christ by going back to church. "I'm not a joiner," she says vehemently. "But Jackie Kielhold kept inviting me to come back to UMC OY. She wanted me to meet Pastor Ron." Carole was determined not to commit until she had attended at least 12 different churches, one per month, for a year. "I started with this church, and I never left. I couldn't." Helen Secker urged her to join Chancel Choir, so she did. Her brother Norman became very ill, and passed away in 2004. "I mentioned Norman's ill health to Pastor Ron, and Ron visited Norman regularly for a year. I am certain that my brother's faith was renewed during that time." Carole re-joined our church, her church, last year.

Carole retired in 2009 from teaching after 14 years at Yucaipa Elementary School.

These days, she is tutoring a high school student who fell behind academically because of illness. The young man is responding well to her tutelage, and is very happy to see her arrive for a lesson.

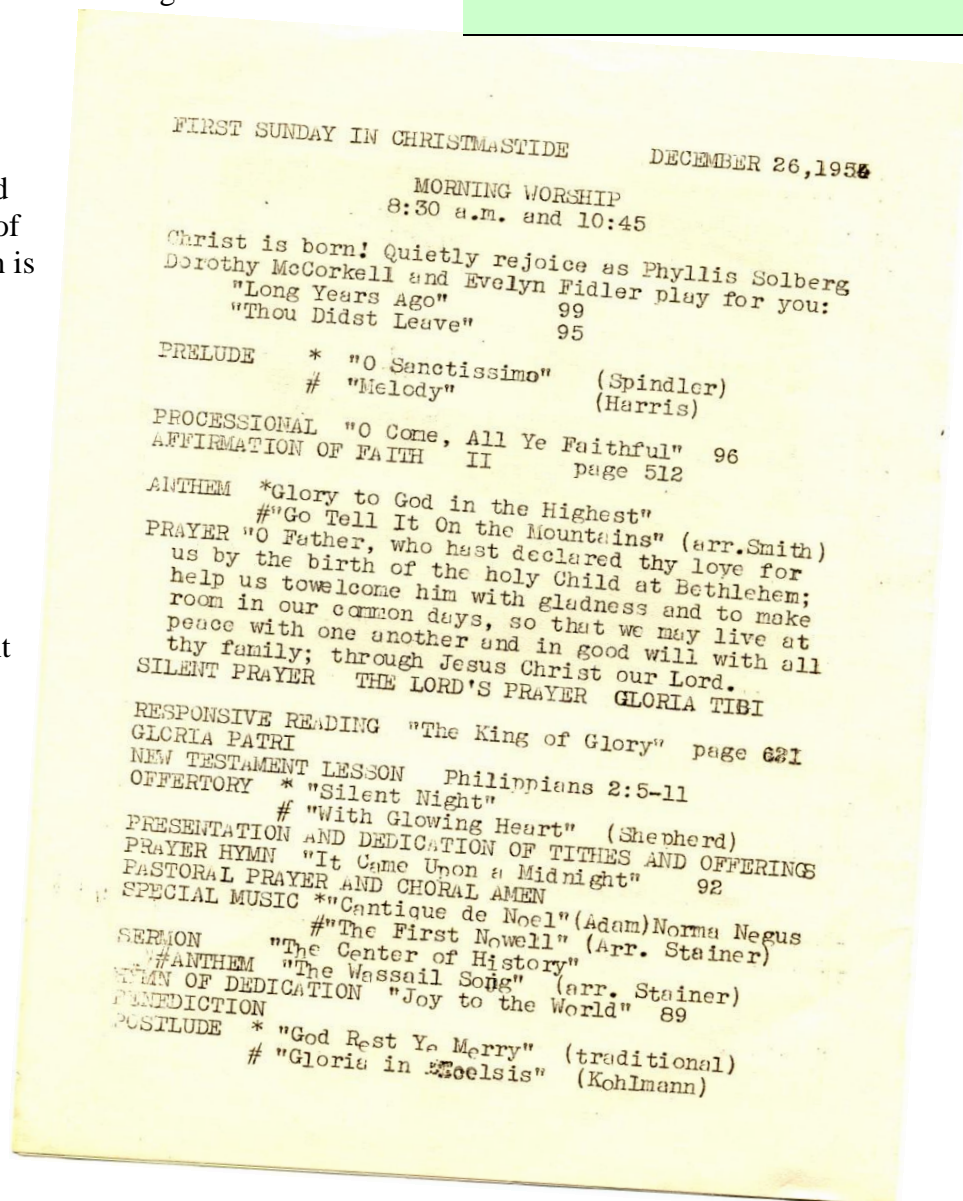
"I'm still full of gratitude," she says quietly. "My children are all in service to the Lord. I have ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and they all know about Jesus. I am so proud of my family!"

And that's as it should be!

Laura Adams

The **United Methodist Men** of the United Methodist Church of Yucaipa meet the 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:00 A.M. at Bob's Big Boy in Calimesa. Each meeting features a presentation by a guest speaker in addition to prayer, meditation, conversation, good food, and good fellowship. We usually have 14-16 members at each meeting. Our speakers during 2010 were Bill Klein and Carole Jones from our congregation; Dick Riddell, Mayor of Yucaipa; and representatives from Southern California Edison, the California Highway Patrol, Guide Dogs of the Desert, and La Vista Recovery Center. We were also treated by Matt Harward to a tour of the Yucaipa Valley District water filtration plant. UMM is open to all men of the church, and ladies are always welcome, too!

Ralph Snook, President





*Found on the internet:*

**What would happen if the words “sporting events” were substituted for the word “church” in some of the most commonly used justifications for not attending worship services?**

1. Every time I go, they ask me for money.
2. The people I have to sit by don't seem very friendly.
3. The seats are too hard and not comfortable at all.
4. The coach never comes to call on me.
5. The referees sometimes make decisions with which I cannot agree.
6. I watch the hypocrites looking around from their seats – they come only to see what others are wearing.
7. Some games go into overtime, and I am late getting home.
8. The band plays some numbers that I have never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I have read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches anyhow.
12. I don't want to take my children, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!**



## **Stars of Wonder**

(reprinted from the January, 2004 issue of the *Friendly Visitor*)

At the church's celebration of Al Hutton's life, folks were speculating as to what assignments Al would be carrying out in Heaven. My favorite image was suggested by Floyd Crosby: "He's lighting the stars!"

Even as a child, I used to look up at the stars on chilly winter nights and marvel at their beauty. Someone once told me that each star was a saint who had a window in Heaven through which to check on us back on Earth. My dad used to teach me the stories of the constellations: stories that were made up long ago by people who wondered at the quiet, twinkling jewels of the night sky, like the big and little dippers, Cassiopeia, and the stars that are really planets close by. My favorite was, and still is, Orion the Hunter. That constellation shines directly over my rooftop all through the autumn and into winter, and I like to imagine that it represents another hunter whom I knew well, and that he watches over me from his window.

Not too long ago a dinner guest at my home was talking about a book he had read and trying to explain away the "stories" of Jesus as just another set of myths made up to help people feel better. I tried to share with him the story of my personal search for truth, especially the intellectual path of that search that brought me to the very personal spiritual relationship I feel with Jesus the Christ, my Savior. But he would have none of it.

That evening, when my house was again quiet, I walked outside and looked up at the sky. There they were – those faithful, constant, silent points of light, always present even when clouds temporarily obscure their beauty. If only my friend could let his eyes wander among them and wonder Who put them there! How could one NOT believe?!

Quiet nights, dancing stars, and the beautiful story of the Father's infinite love! I know, now, what I'm going to do on New Year's Eve.

I'm going to go out and look at the stars.

*May God bless you and keep you all through this New Year.*

*Laura Adams*



United Methodist Church of Yucaipa  
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Yucaipa, CA 92399  
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### Our Presence for Sunday Worship:

	Totals	Average
Worship	511	128
Sunday School	145	36

Totals for Four Sundays – November 14, 2010 through December 12, 2010

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*Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas – Pastor*  
*Rev. Ron Faux – Pastor of Visitation*  
*Amy Bahnson – Director of Youth,*  
*Praise Worship Leader*  
*Melissa McDannell – Nursery*  
*Linda Ewan – Church Secretary*  
*Wes Harty – Choir Director*  
*June Fisher – Organist*  
*Chris Nielsen – Accountant*  
*Laura Adams – Friendly Visitor Columnist*  
*Gerald Pugh – Caretaker*  
*Phil Michelsen – Facilities Management*  
*Sunday Services*  
*Gathering – 8:45 a.m.*  
*Worship 9:00 a.m.*  
*Fellowship 10:15*  
*Sunday School 10:30 a.m.*  
*Nursery Care all morning*

[www.yucaipamethodist.org](http://www.yucaipamethodist.org)

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**Deadline for the Friendly Visitor is the 10th of each month.**