

**Thinking about ‘Waging Peace’** by John Leonard

This week I read an article about Karen Hughes who is the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the State Department. Her job is to promote America and its good works in a hostile world. “I view my job as waging peace,” she said in a recent interview with Parade Magazine. After reading the article, I was struck by the thought “waging peace” and how that contrasted with my thoughts on the war on terror.

I wondered to myself, what is a Christian’s role in the war on terror? To get an answer, I turned to the following article about this subject. In particular, the second point about violence affirmed that the action that Karen Hughes is taking to change a world view of our nation is more in line with the teachings mentioned in the paragraph just preceding his third point. While the commentary by CJ Sprague is a few years old, its points serve to remind us that we have a responsibility to take action according to our mission statement and that we are part of a church with a mission, a mission described in detail in the opening article. Read the commentary by CJ Sprague, the article about Karen Hughes, re-read the *We Have a Mission* article, and you will know that Methodists are on the right tract. The Commentary by C. Joseph Sprague follows.

Regarding the topic:

*What is the Christian role in the war on terror?*

I challenge three assumptions abreast in today's church in the United States and finding voice in church publications. The assumptions are these:

1. That the present war in Afghanistan finds validation in the "just war" theory;
2. That the November Pastoral Letter of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church lacks theological insight; and,
3. That the tepid theological and political middle ground is where the vast majority of Christians are and should be regarding the war and other related issues.

I contend that the "just war" criteria of proportionality and discrimination have not been and are not being met in this war. My assertion based on these facts:

- The body count of non-combatants in

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Afghanistan equals the number of people killed by terrorists on September 11;

- The presence in 118 Afghanistan locations of 14,000 U.S. cluster bombs, whose bright hues attract children to their maiming and killing power; and

- The further devastation of a bleak landscape in the unsuccessful hunt for Osama bin Laden and his henchmen.

The Church historically has said that a war is just only when all seven criteria of the "just war" theory are met before and during a war. Clearly, this is not the case in Afghanistan.

Further, the "just war" theory is to be employed only after all non-military means for seeking peace with justice have been exhausted. The rush to war in Afghanistan hardly allowed for non-military means to be employed before the killing began. That this nation intends to fight and expand this war is undeniable. But that such behavior should be blessed by the Church under the rubric of a "just war" flies in the face of the correct application of this historic theory.

Second, I knowingly initiated the action that altered the original language of the bishops' pastoral letter. My motion changed our condemnation of terrorism in particular to a refutation of violence in general. The Council of Bishops' statement condemns violence in all its virulent forms, including acts of terrorism. Surely any thinking, feeling and loving person, let alone Christians who have been taught that every war is a civil war and that each human being is a gift of God, knows that acts of terrorism are heinous wrongs to be opposed unequivocally.

However, to fail to connect horrific acts of terrorism with a culture of violence and a climate that fosters death-dealing machinations is myopic at best.

Monstrous situations beget monstrous deeds. There is a direct connection between the horror of Sept. 11 and the failure of this nation to broker a just peace in the Middle East. There is a direct connection between the senseless killings in New York and Washington and the estimated deaths of 5,000 Iraqi civilians each month since the Gulf War ended because of the U.S. imposed embargo. There is a direct connection between the hatred of much of the angry and

**Christian role ... continues on page 8**

**Christian role ... continued from page 7**

frustrated Islamic world for the West and the presence of the Western 4M's - MTV, Militarism, McDonald's and Michelob - wherever they look.

Surely perceptive Christians see the link between calloused killings by terrorists and state-sanctioned violence around the globe, including this nation's embrace of capital punishment, its rush to incarcerate young men of color and a proposed national budget that elevates military might to the status of a god. Why do we wonder that many Muslims hate our "Christian" values?

The Bible and tradition teach that the Church is to be a harbinger of a radically different way, a new order that was glimpsed in Jesus and is anticipated on earth as it is in heaven. This is the Church's compelling vision, that for which we yearn and that which we are to teach, preach and embody. I fail to see how an uncritical embrace of the current war hysteria resonates with the teachings and example of Jesus or honors either the pacifism of the first four centuries of the early Church or the rightful application of the "just war" theory.

Third, it is no small thing to walk on eggs and crack none. This is adroit institutional maneuvering, if not a self-serving and rather smug way to claim the middle as sacred while assigning to the edges egg-breaking malevolence. "If only the bishops would recognize and reflect the broad middle, that solid core of collective wisdom," is the oft-stated argument.

I dissent from such poppycock. God's arm always bends toward love, mercy and justice. In the long run, God is the ruler yet. The biblical God always asks, "Where were my people when they were needed most?" Too often, we are found sitting smugly and quietly in the safe middle - picking blackberries, as the poet once noted. United Methodists who sit in the middle today, either actively supporting the war or quietly acquiescing in the face of blatant war hysteria, would do well to struggle with our church's Social Principles.

Supporters of the war are correct to a degree. The United Methodist Book of Discipline does say, "Some of us believe that war, and other acts of violence, are never acceptable to Christians. We also

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acknowledge that most Christians regretfully realize that, when peaceful alternatives have failed, the force of arms may be preferable to unchecked aggression..." But, the Discipline does not stop there. It continues, "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and examples of Christ. We therefore reject war as a usual instrument of national foreign policy and insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises..."

The bishops' pastoral letter reflects current United Methodist Church teaching accurately, if not courageously. From my perspective it simply does not go far enough in claiming that teaching and condemning an unwise and unjust war.

I say to those who would hide in the silent center, while the war continues and a debate about it is treated as unpatriotic, that history reminds us that the silence of good people provides space for evil to take root and grow.

*At the time of the writing of this article, Bishop C. Joseph Sprague was serving as Episcopal leader of the Chicago Area of The United Methodist Church;*

True meekness is power under control. ...

Do not confuse meekness with weakness.

Reverend SonHye Kim – 28 January 2007

**Familiar ... continued from page 4**

and 3, have lived in the San Luis Obispo area since 1993. My hobbies are knitting, working crossword puzzles, and 'eating out'. My favorite dessert is anything chocolate or sweet. My favorite hymn is "Great is thy Faithfulness". Two praise songs are "Everyday is the Day of Thanksgiving" and "The Joy of the Lord Is My Strength". My favorite scripture, Romans 8:28, is the verse that has meant so much to me since it was read at Martha's funeral.

The people of FUMCHUB have supported and encouraged me with their love, kindness, concern, and helpfulness over the years. The church and its pastors have provided opportunities to experience and grow in my relationship and love of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit through Sunday school, small groups, retreats, annual conferences, and church services.

**Mission** ... *continued from page three*

ordained man or woman. But for United Methodists, all of God's people—children, youth, and adults—are called to be ministers. Most of these people are laity—baptized Christians of all ages who minister in formal and informal ways within the church and beyond it.

In The United Methodist Church, we have two expressions of ordained clergy, who are also ministers:

**Deacons:** Men and women ordained by a bishop to a lifelong ministry of Service and Word—especially in leading and supporting baptized Christians in their varied ministries in the world....

**Elders:** Women and men ordained by a bishop to a lifelong ministry of Service, Word, Sacrament and Order—that is, to serve, preach, teach, administer the sacraments, and order the life of the church for its mission.

Though our gifts vary widely, we're all called to and engaged in the one ministry of Jesus Christ. Some aspects of our ministry are easy and come naturally. Some are difficult, involving long hours, tough work, perhaps with conflict, perhaps with disappointing results. What drives us? What keeps us going? The list includes at least these three things:

- The memory of Jesus' life of service to others, which inspires us to follow him in ministry;
- the assurance of God's gracious love for us, which empowers us to love others;
- the promise of God's coming reign on earth, which draws us into action directed toward this vision.

Let's be more specific. Where does ministry happen?

**It happens in our daily activity.** For those who are alert to the needs of others, each day abounds with opportunities to serve. We minister with our families as we inquire about one another's lives, as we listen and respond with care, as we touch, as we smile and offer a kind word, and as we decide questions and reconcile conflicts. We take time to listen to a friend in need and we respond; this is often the greatest gift we can offer. We minister at work, to both co-workers and those we serve. We minister in the neighborhood or the shops as we go about the day's work.

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**It happens through new initiatives.** We also go out of our way to minister. We hear of a need, read of a crisis, or see an opportunity to share God's love. It may be with someone across town, someone of another racial or economic group, a person with a disability, or a person of another nation or culture. We take time to call, to visit, to write, and to ask how we can help. We also take the time to respond.

**It happens through groups and institutions.** Many needs are best met by joining forces with others. We take part in community groups that are trying to serve human need or trying to change social forces that cause suffering. We give our time, our energy, and our money. Though others in these organizations may not think of it this way, for us it's Christ's ministry.

**It happens through the church.** Through our support and our contributions, we participate in the far-flung ministries of The United Methodist Church—in our district and annual conference, across the nation, and around the world. Here in our congregation we take part in service groups, we sign up for special action projects, we visit, we telephone, we lead, and we teach. And we minister face-to-face in all kinds of ways, both when we gather and in our informal contacts.

Inspired by the example of Jesus and empowered by God's love for us, we all carry out our ministry, both individually and together with others.

Excerpt from The United Methodist Member's Handbook by George Koehler (Discipleship Resources, Rev. 2006), p. 18-19.

Think about it; how can you minister? What can you do to follow this ministry message? Will you join with those around you, with those in this congregation, to provide a ministry? The Vital Covenant committee and the Council on Ministries are brain storming ways in which we can reach out and fulfill our Methodist calling "to be in servant ministry with and to others." Be a part of it.. Whether it be in the church office, writing a letter, writing a devotional, sharing your stories, folding a newsletter, or surfing the web for ministry ideas, you are God's hands on this earth, at this time. Don't wait to be asked to help, but ask how you can help. Take that step with Jesus at your side and tell one of those listed on the first page that you are ready to minister.

**Do You Know a Rosie?**

By John Leonard



A new Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park will rise from the former Kaiser shipyards and other wartime industrial and community sites in Richmond, California as a result of President Clinton having signed into law on October 25, 2000, legislation by Congressman George Miller (D-Martinez) to establish the park to record the stories of the women who changed the way this country looked at the role of women.

One of the first priorities of the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Part is to record the experience and stories of the people who lived and worked on the home front during World War II. These people's memories provide us with a wealth of information about the workplace, industrial processes, social movements and home life during this time of rapid change.

Information is available in the Narthex, on the web <[www.rosietheriveter.org](http://www.rosietheriveter.org)>, or by calling 1-800-497-6743.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4,5

**Lids Away**

by Dorothy Kelly

FUMCHUB folks collected 389 Yoplait yogurt lids for the semi-annual "Save Lids to Save Lives" program. 2006 marks the ninth year of Yoplait's Save Lids to Save Lives program. Twice a year Yoplait strives to reach our semi-annual maximum donation of \$1.5 million. With our 389 lids at \$0.10 per lid, we helped them reach the total 2006 maximum donation of \$3 million to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Thank you and remember to pray for all those undergoing treatment.

**Wanted: Bibles New and Used**

by Dorothy Kelly

"... My word ...shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please...for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

Do you know there are Christians who have NEVER owned a Bible; do you know there are some churches that share a SINGLE Bible? Do you, your family or friends have EXTRA or unused Bibles? Bethany Bible Fellowship wants bibles, whatever the condition, for their February Bible Outreach Drive. Bethany Bible Fellowship will take all Bibles to Children's Network International (CNI) for free delivery to countries in Africa, India, Romania, and Guatemala.

<[www.bethanybiblefellowship.org](http://www.bethanybiblefellowship.org)>

For FUMCHUB to be a part of this outreach, we need each household to check around for unused, extra English Bibles and we will need a volunteer to deliver the collected Bibles to Bethany Fellowship on February 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact John Leonard if you will be able to delivery the collections. Bring your donations to worship service on one of these Sundays: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 18<sup>th</sup>. Remember: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalms 119:105

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- Mathew 5:3-6

**Jean McKee's Retirement Celebration**

Please join the retirement celebration for Jean McKee. which will be held on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 3-5 pm at Garden Grove United Methodist Church, Acker Hall, 12741 Main St. Garden Grove. Contributions toward her retirement gifts can be made out to Fullerton First UMC and mailed to Gaylen Roe, 1838 Cartlen Dr. Placentia, CA, 92870. Please attend this celebration as we thank Jean for her 27 years of service in the Santa Ana District office!

## Feed Your Spirit Everyday

by Reverend SonHye Kim

In the churches I served, I always made a Bible Reading Schedule and encouraged people to read the Bible everyday. One church member had the schedule and read the Bible during her break time at work. Her boss saw her reading the Bible and said, "Methodists are not known for not reading the Bible. You are an unusual kind of Methodist." When she came and shared the story with me I said, "That's not true."



Is it true or not true for you? We don't read the Bible to have a good reputation. It, however, is important to be a good example as a Christian. Bible reading is a good Christian discipline, through which we grow in our faith. God shows us who He is through the Bible. He gives us a roadmap that leads us to live as faithful and obedient believers. He grants us wisdom and discernment through the Bible.

The Bible Reading Schedule was enclosed in last month's Beacon but I heard that some of you didn't receive it. I am enclosing the schedule this month. Please read the Bible everyday according to this schedule by starting your reading from the day you receive the schedule. You can catch up with what you missed when you have time. If not, it is okay to miss the reading for the day.

I hope and pray that your spirit will be fed, your knowledge of God will increase and you will experience God's transforming power in your life when you read God's words. God honors those who honor Him. Reading the Bible is one way of honoring God. Let us be Bible reading, spiritually growing, God-honoring Methodists.

*It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. –  
1 Corinthians 13:5*

### Stewards Needed

We need volunteers to staff the office from 9 am – 1 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Please contact Reverend Kim if you are available to help once every two weeks. A steward is also needed to serve on the Outreach Committee. This group meets three times a year and corresponds with those we support overseas. They also work with local groups.

## A Vision for FUMCHUB by John Leonard

A Vital Covenant Committee, John L., Sarah M., Marge M., and Virginia T., met for several hours on Sunday, 7 January, to complete the District required Self-assessment for our Church. These three goals were set for our church:

- a. Make a Vision Statement to be completed by April 2007.
- b. Increase membership from 2006's or increase the Sunday worship service attendance
- c. Participate in outreach ministries to increase attendance and membership. This will be measured by events participated held after July 2006.

The Council on Ministries (COM) met on 23 January and discussed the goals set in the Vital Covenant with members suggesting actions and activities to accomplish these goals. In the next few months, you will be hearing more about this report and the goals. A copies of the report and the COM Minutes will be posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board and be available in the Church office.

Our Mission Statement is listed on the front page of this Beacon. When you read it, you will see it guides us in the now. It states what we are doing currently. The three goals set forth in the Vital Covenant should help us achieve our Mission. The Vision statement we need to create, on the other hand, should express our future self or where we want to be in, say, five years. Where would you like to see FUMCHUB be in five years? What is your vision for FUMCHUB's future? Pray on this.

Please consider contacting a COM member with your suggestions for a Vision statement or words you would like to see included in the statement.

### A Reminder to Committee Chairpersons

As the Council on Ministries has completed the first phase of the Covenant for Vital Ministry, committee chairpersons are reminded to write a summary of the activity of your committee in 2006. In the report from each of the groups listed on the first page, be sure to list the members of the committee and give a description of the activities and/or events the sponsored, co-sponsored, or organized. If possible, submit the report in the church office typed the report in 12 point Times New Roman font to facilitate the assembling of the report.

**Outreach: Mission to Mississippi** by John Leonard



Michael Santillan will be joining fifty other United Methodists from the Santa Ana & Santa Barbara Districts from April 7<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup> on a mission to Waveland, Mississippi, to help rebuild this town devastated in the wake of hurricane Katrina. It will cost approximately \$700

**By the Numbers: January Attendance**

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Children's</u>	<u>Worship</u>
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	9	12	59
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	12	7	53
January 21 <sup>th</sup>	16	10	80
January 28 <sup>nd</sup>	10	6	78

for Michael to go on this outreach work trip. In Mississippi, an estimated 211 lives were lost and the towns of Waveland and Pass Christian were virtually wiped out. The United Methodist Church's historic Gulfside Assembly in Waveland suffered catastrophic damage. Gulfside was opened in 1923 as a retreat and recreation center for African Americans who were not permitted to use most resorts in the segregated South, and it later became a retreat center for the entire church. Hopefully, we will have a presentation about this mission later in the month. Watch for details. In the meantime, you can be supportive in two ways:

1. Prayers: add Michael and the United Methodists going with him to your prayer list. Pray that their travel will be pleasant, the rebuild successful, and their rewards many.
2. Make a donation by putting money in a pew envelope. Mark the envelope: "Helping Hands - Mississippi Trip". This will help cover the plane fare and contribute to the group's meals.

For more information about the area and UMC's efforts in rebuilding, links are available on our website under the outreach and "Events" tab.

