

7 ways to attract new members... continued from page 4

4. Welcome at worship. _ When visitors walk into your church doors, the welcoming effort is just beginning. You will gain other insight from your visiting church team, but some initial ideas include:

Create a hospitality team. Invite visitors to a member's home for Sunday dinner.

Connect less mobile with more mobile. Pair a less mobile visitor with a physically active member who can assist in navigating the church building and perhaps assist the visitor during the rest of the week with grocery shopping or a trip to the doctor. Care for the caregiver also necessary.

Distribute visitors' packets and videos. These are different from the general welcome kits. This information introduces newcomers to worship, missions and other ministries. Be sure to include a welcome message from the pastor.

Print in your worship bulletin every Sunday a statement inviting newcomers to become members of your congregation and telling them how to do so.

5. Become the neighborhood "welcome wagon." _ This site offers detailed instructions on how to build new relationships. One of the ways is to work with local utility companies to learn who has registered for new service in the community. Many recently moved families are looking for a church and just need an invitation. And here are two additional ways to offer more general invitations to your church. Both could spark new relationships that might lead to personal invitations.

6. Stake your church: _ Distribute yard signs to members that say, "This family invites you to (name) United Methodist Church." Ask them to post a sign for a specific event, respecting local zoning ordinances, for a few weeks.

7. Create a welcome kit or basket: _ Talk to local Christian schools. While they will not be able to share contact information, they may be willing to give families your welcome kit at registration. Share need-to-know information about your community as well as details about your church. Congregation members may be willing to donate items. When someone moves into a new home, a welcome basket that first day with toilet tissue, paper towels, soap and other basics would be a nice welcome.

From the online communications, UCOM, from the United Methodist Communications. Go to this website and click on the 'eNewsletter' button near the top of the page, <<http://www.umcom.org>>

Strength & Volunteers

From OnHealth, a publication of Consumer Reports

Each month in the UpFront section of the Consumer Reports monthly OnHealth newsletter, is a section of short articles about topics related to an individual's health. In the April 2010 'Say yes? Say no?' is the following.

Strength through helping others.

Older people who volunteer have lower rates of physical frailty – marked by weight loss, low energy, and reduced strength and activity – than other folks, even after controlling for disability and other factors a recent study suggests.

Is this a hint from God that doing his work is good for your health at any age?

Self serve Communion on Good Friday

Preceding the Cross Lighting on Good Friday, from 8 am until 6:30 pm, the sanctuary was open for a self-serve communion. For those not attending, the table was set and there was a guide sheet for that came during the day.

Don and Lu Trim prepared the bread and wine the night before and John Leonard opened and set up the sanctuary early in the morning on Good Friday.

At that early time black cloth supplied by Pat Niesley was draped on the Cross on the corner of Clay and Delaware.



Coupons, Food Bags, and Love

by John Leonard

I admit that I am a compulsive coupon clipper. Weekly I scour the market ads for specials and coupons. I get a chill when I see those words, "You saved ..." at the bottom of the sales slip. Barbara, on the other hand, doesn't bother with coupons because they are a hassle to organize and keep track of where they are. Recently, as we have prepared to take children and grandchildren on ski trips in our motor home, I checked frequently for coupons related to items we would be taking with us for breakfasts, snacks and dinners.

During one of these coupon searches, I had a flashback to some earlier coupon clipping days at our former UMC church in Fullerton where, a couple of times a year, we were asked to take grocery bags and fill them for FIES*. There were both family and single person bags.

You may be thinking at this point in your reading that you've got the coupon and food bag notion but where's the love? That epiphany came during a daily study in *Experiencing God* and reading the Sunday Bulletin I had put in my book after church. The notice reminded the body that FUMCHUB's small food pantry is in need of some restocking.

I know that God is tugging at someone's heart and whispering, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Volunteer to become our body's Pantry Person. And, if you are having trouble putting these random thoughts together, here is a proposed plan of action. The food pantry needs some TLC and planning, FIES has a list, and all of us can take a moment while we watch TV and cut a coupon. Put it all together with a few well placed reminders on Sunday and let each of us bring something from this list to church with them to church on the second Sunday of the month. The Pantry Person can decorate a box and organize items into bags to have on hand as the need arises and.... *shazam* ...coupons, food bags, and love!

FIES: The following items complete a sack of food for one homeless person:

8 sm. Cans of juice, 6 or 8 oz.
2 cans Spam 1 jar peanut butter
1 box crackers 4 cans fruit, 4 oz. or 8 oz.
8 sm. Boxes raisins or 1 large box
4 sm. Cans tuna or Vienna sausage w/pull tops
6-8 snack items (i.e. granola bars, breakfast bars)

FIES < <http://www.fies.us> >

Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services, Inc.

Many thanks to
Fern Burgess and Pat Wilson
for their Friday Sanctuary
Straightening.

Kudos to Jack Niesley
and Tyler Brinker for the
installation of the
rain gutter on t
he classroom
building.



The Mission Front

by Ron and Peg Novkov

We received this email from Brenda and Perry Jansen, our missionaries in Africa. This email reminds us of the tremendous power of prayer that we experience from our Lord.

Pastor Al and Jackie Jansen's Triplet Granddaughters!

Please join us in prayer for three precious, identical triplet girls born to Gayle (Jansen) and Bertrand Brisbane. The prayers of many began when Gayle started having complications in her pregnancy in mid-January. Five weeks later, on February 16th, Abigail, Isabella, and Simone were born, at 25 weeks gestation. That's 3 _ months early!

It has been a roller coaster of struggles and blessings for this family, but God has sustained the girls' lives over the last 8 weeks, and they are doing very well overall. They are still in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the hospital, and they do still occasionally have times when the nurses have to stimulate their breathing. Please pray specifically that their lungs will grow stronger with each day, and that they will put any breathing issues behind them.

We give the Lord Jesus all the praise and glory for what He has done in these babies' lives! It's truly His miracle that they have made it this far. Their parents hope to have them come home in the next few weeks or so. The family appreciates all of you who regularly lift them up to God in prayer. We belong to one very large family... God's.

Welcome Home Ministry by John Leonard



I, like many of our church family, have been in the study called *Experiencing God*. Recently, while speaking with Sylvia Stambol of FVUMC about their Welcome Home Ministry, I was reminded of the seven central ideas laid out by the author, Henry Blackaby, over the twelve week study which he calls the Seven Realities. Pastor John brought these Seven Realities to our attention last summer in a series of sermons. The story behind *Welcome Home* I believe, illustrates the Seven Realities of experiencing God as relayed to me by Sylvia Stambol of FVUMC.

First a little background about *Welcome Home* from the FVUMC website.

“Each Saturday morning for more than ten years Fountain Valley United Methodist has offered a variety of free services to the needy in our community. A team of dedicated volunteers faithfully come each week to pull off this endeavor. Currently our Welcome Home ministry serves about eighty homeless or needy men and women from the Huntington Beach/Fountain Valley area. These guests are offered the following:

A gourmet, bountiful, carefully-prepared and delicious breakfast with a large variety of choices;. A clean, warm shower in a beautiful bathroom; A free haircut; Laundry services; Free clothing; Teaching from the Bible; Friendship among workers and guests.”

When I spoke with Sylvia, she related to me *Welcome Home* is a struggle to keep up and involves commitment by many to keep going. For example, on a recent Saturday there were fifty-four homeless that showed up for *Welcome Home* and eight workers. These Saturday workers started at 6 am and handled the cooking, setup, serving, supervised the washing and drying of clothes, supervised the shower line, sorting of clothes, haircuts, and clean up after the last guest left around noon. A long day but this Saturday illustrates Reality 1: *God is always at work around you.*

What is now known as *Welcome Home*, was created about twelve years ago by Debra Davis. Debra had a dream of starting a women’s shelter and, as any Methodist might, she called a meeting about her idea. The discussions formed into the plan that led to *Welcome Home* instead of a women’s shelter. The first Saturday of *Welcome Home*, saw eight workers, five guests, one shower stall, one washer, one dryer and a box of those individual toiletries. Over the years the number of guests crept up to fifteen, twenty-five, thirty, and to today’s levels of around 55 with the

guest being about 98% male. This process, their struggles, and growth serves to illustrate another reality: *God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.* For your information, Debra let FVUMC shortly after *Welcome Home* started and did create a women’s shelter.

Along the way, people have read about *Welcome Home* in the paper and shown up to help. Parents have brought their children and grandparents have brought their grandchildren to spend Saturdays pitching in to help those in need. These actions suggest another reality: *God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.*

Sylvia stated that everyone is constantly reminded of the blessings, as well as, the difficulty in keeping *Welcome Home* running. In this world, nothing worthwhile is easy but each person *“comes to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.”* (Reality seven) During the week, one person does the shopping to be sure the supplies are on hand for the meal. On Saturday, persons are needed to set up the multipurpose room tables, someone needs to fill the soap, shampoo, and conditioner shower dispensers, the washers and dryers need to be readied, clothes need to be sorted and hung, dishes and utensils need to be set out, and the cooks need to prepare the breakfast for the cafeteria style meal.

Can you hear *“God inviting you to become involved with Him In His work”* (Reality three)? Put your faith into action. Collect clothing donations for men’s and women’s clothing as mentioned above. Call the FV church office, (714) 962.2593, and volunteer to help on Saturday or with the shopping. Donate needed items such as men’s razors or toothbrushes and toothpaste. If you have children or grandchildren over the age of sixteen, bring them along to help.

According to Sylvia, *“we are way down on men’s clothing which includes underwear, socks, and shoes.”* Volunteer or donate ... heed the call.

Sharing With Flowers by Lois Mills

As you remember your loved ones and special occasions, you can share it with the body by placing flowers on the Alter. The process is simple. Just write your name on the flower calendar in the Narthex next to the date you wish to reserve or contact Virginia Terry or myself (960.6009). We can help you purchase flowers through the florist that works with the church or you can arrange your own.

No Men Allowed by Sally Olson

The UMW, Naomi Circle, had our regular meeting at Edrie Brinker's home on Thursday, April 15, 2010. Naomi Circle invited Rachel Circle to join us and combine Circle's at this time. We will begin having our General Meeting every other month along with our Circle Meeting. May 20th we will meet at Sally Olson's home and June 17th we will meet at Marie Callendar's for our luncheon meeting.

UMW will take our summer break and meet again in September. Every other month we will have our Circle meeting in a member's home and next month we will meet in Room 34 for our luncheon meetings. We meet on the third Thursday of the month and invite all women to attend. Hope to see you.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

- 1 John 1:7

Contacts for Church

Cut and post under your refrigerator magnet:

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Mailing Label