



# BEACON

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## The New and the Familiar

by John Leonard

Bob and Sally Valentine both grew up in central Illinois where they met at their local Methodist church on April Fool's Day in 1962 at an MYF Easter Egg Hunt. Bob, born in Goldsboro, N.C., moved to Champaign, Illinois at eighteen months and Sally, born in Decatur, Illinois, moved to Champaign at nine months. MYF was a big part of their high school experience where they worshipped God, sang in the choir, and had a Christian circle of friends. After finishing college at different universities, they were married in their First United Methodist Church in 1968. After living in both Massachusetts and

southern Illinois, they moved to southern California in 1975, bringing two children, Rob and Amy, with them. Their third child, Sarah, was later born in Orange.



After attending a Presbyterian church in Santa Ana, the Valentines joined FUMCHUB in 1982. Friends of theirs were attending and encouraged them to accompany them. They have been active ever since! Bob, who has taught Adult Bible Studies, been chairman of several committees and Lay Leader, and is active in the choir is a veterinarian in Fountain Valley. He has a busy practice with his daughter, Amy. Sally, who has served on various committees, sings in the choir, and has been active with annual Women's Retreats, is a school nurse in Irvine. Bob enjoys reading, ship model building, traveling, and absolute loyalty to the Fighting Illini. Sally enjoys Book Club, Bunko, Assistance League, scrap booking, and cooking. The true delight of their lives centers on their two granddaughters Maddy and Sadie, who live locally with their parents, Amy and

*Continued on page 8; see New & Familiar*

## Holiday Boutique and Craft Show

by Nancy Tone

The First Annual Holiday Boutique and Craft Show was a huge success! The event, organized by Amy Lammers and myself, took place Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Twenty-six vendors filled the room with beautiful handmade jewelry, crafts and gifts galore. Gracious church members donated baked goods, chili, and hot cider for hungry shoppers. Among the favorites were Marge Mitchell's fudge and an incredible chocolate sandcastle cake made by John Leonard. Virginia Terry provided the vendors with a complimentary lunch and all expressed gratitude, saying that we really went out of our way to take care of them. Many asked to be invited to our boutique next year.



I would like to thank those of you who volunteered especially Amy Lammers, Marion Hitt, Virginia Terry, Rik Buckus, and Virgil at Sunset Graphic Design of Huntington Beach for donating

the banner. A total of \$791.00 was raised for the church, but even more importantly, was the community outreach that was made. What a blessing!

### On the FUMCHUB Website by John Leonard

You can look at pictures of Church events on our website, <[www.fumchub.org](http://www.fumchub.org)>. These pictures may be found in the "Gallery": Holiday Boutique, Fall Festival, Bowling Fellowship, Women's Tea, Dinner at Dwight's on the Beachwalk, Youth sleep-over, Parsonage Open House, St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Samaritan's Purse Volunteer Day, and the Schumacher's Visit.

If you take digital pictures at a Church event and would be willing to share them on the web, please speak with John Leonard. This is an excellent way to provide prospective members a glimpse of the life in and of our church.

**Pastoral Ponderings**

by Reverend SonHye Kim

Dear Friends,

“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their



forefathers to give them. Be strong and courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:6-9)

This passage is one of my morning devotions in November, which empowered and strengthened me a lot. I feel that our church has been in wilderness and God is taking us to the Promised Land that is filled with prosperity and abundance.

He reminds us of His promise that He would be with us and lead and guide us. When God is with us nobody can be against us. When we are surrounded by His protection and care, we are safe and secure.

God says, “Be strong and courageous” three times. Be strong and courageous because God is going to fulfill His promise. This strength and courage comes from His words. When we obey His words, the power of God strengthens us. When we are in line with God, His blessings are guaranteed wherever we are. Like Joseph, regardless of his harsh circumstances, God was with him and everything was successful with him.

“Be strong and courageous” is not an option, is a command. Though we encounter challenges and problems, we shouldn’t get terrified or discouraged because God will be with us. We can fight against enemies’ attacks through fear, worries, deception and scarcity mentality. God will straighten up the path to the Promised Land and provide us with everything we need to get there.

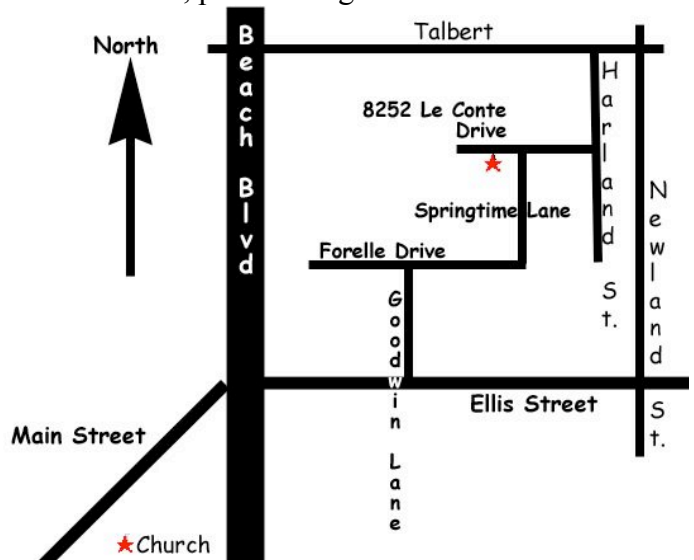
*Continued in next column*

Friends, do you sense God’s wonderful work in our church? Do you feel this spirit of hope and power in the air? Be open and be a part of God’s great plan for our church. Be strong and courageous because God is with us. Read, meditate and obey God’s words and walk in His righteousness. Let’s march on to the Promised Land as mighty warriors of God and let people know how wonderful and powerful our God is. God needs each and every one of us to fulfill His purpose for His kingdom.

In His Love,  
Your Pastor & Friend,  
Rev. SonHye Kim

**New Kids on the Block Dinner** by Reverend SonHye Kim

Rev. Kim is inviting the **New Kids on the Block**, those who began to worship at FUMCHUB from the beginning of this year, to dinner at the Parsonage on Sunday, 3 December, from 6-8 p.m. She also invites church members so that the new people will get to know you. ‘New Kids’ do not have to bring anything. Church members, please bring a dish to share.



Everyone, please RSVP to Rev. Kim at 475-4960.

**Celebrating Birthdays**

7 Jake Steidinger                      11 Nathan Lammers  
25 Jesus

**Celebrating Anniversaries**

23 George and Ruth Yoshihara  
26 William and Harriet Krueger



**Reprise: Thanksgiving Prayer** By John Leonard

In a recent letter, Reverend Kim quoted part of a Thanksgiving Prayer by Reverend Lang. This prayer does not have to be reserved for just Thanksgiving celebrations for each of us has many blessings. Remember these many blessings giving thanks to Him as you read this prayer that needs to be a greater part of our life.

Eternal God, we thank you for our world and our families, for the love of friends, the laughter of children, and our church. We thank you for the beauty of earth and sky, and the stars at night, the lakes, the oceans, the refreshing rain, and snow upon the mountains. We thank you for animals and plants, the flowers and hummingbirds.

We thank you for the gift of life, the strength and health to greet a friend, for powers of mind and body to read a good book, to hear a kind word, and to help and encourage others. We thank you for good memories, for teachers, mentors, and personal heroes who continue to inspire us, by whose noble and kind example and deeds our lives are still enriched.

We thank you for the light Christ has shone on our life's journey, by which we have been able to separate truth from the world's falsehoods. We thank you for the strong "No" you have spoken when we needed it, the unexpected "Yes" when we lacked faith, as well as the "Wait" when we were rushing ahead heedlessly.

We thank you for transportation, a place to live, clothes to wear, and food to eat, for an occupation that helps us pay our bills and make a living. We thank you for all that is better than what we deserve. We thank you for courage that keeps us from giving up when times are bad, and the Christian joy that keeps us faithful in times of temptation.

We thank you for heartaches that have corrected our priorities, and shattered dreams that have kept us humble and loyal to you. We thank you that in all things you have been working to bless us. We thank you, especially, for finding us when we were lost, and for bringing us back when we did not know the way.

We thank you for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in whose conquest over the grave we have been assured of eternal life. We thank you for the forgiveness we have received and can give, and for the miracle of new birth in Christ. We thank you for

*Continued in right column.*

victory over evil and the final triumph of all that is good.

For faith, hope, and love; we give you thanks; through Christ our Good Shepherd. *Amen*

**Anyway** by Kent M. Keith

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.  
*Love them anyway.*

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.  
*Do good anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.  
*Succeed anyway.*

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.  
*Do good anyway.*

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.  
*Be honest and frank anyway.*

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.  
*Think big anyway.*

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.  
*Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.  
*Build anyway.*

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.  
*Help people anyway.*

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.  
*Give the best you have anyway.*

(From *Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments* published by G.P. Putnam's Sons)

On the next page, you will find an **appeal from the Thomson family for special donation** for a replacement vehicle. If you would like to donate through our church, please put the donation in a pew envelope marked "**for Thomson Car Fund**".

*November 7, 2006*

# the THOMSON *times*

## CHURCH PLANTING IN JAPAN WITH ASIAN ACCESS

Dear Friends and Family at First United Methodist Church of Huntington Beach,

Greetings from Sanda. We trust this letter finds you well.

We are writing today to share an urgent prayer and financial request. On October 27, Peter, along with Kendrick, Sophia and Tobias were involved in a car accident. Thankfully, everyone is fine and we have no injuries.

The accident occurred on a small road when an on-coming car went around a parked car, crossed the center lane and drove head-on into us. Because of a curve in the road where the car was parked, we don't think the driver ever saw us coming. The curve also meant that our car was at a slight angle, allowing some of the impact to deflect off our car. Just a split second later and the other car would have plowed into our side. We are so thankful that we were not hurt, though we regret the other driver was slightly injured due to the impact and airbags.

The insurance companies recognize that the fault lay with the other driver, which is a relief. The bad news is that our thirteen-year-old van sustained enough damage that it will be totaled. The insurance company will only pay the market value of the car, just a little over \$2,000.

We are writing today to ask you to pray about making a special gift to help us purchase a car. Replacing our van with a new one (Toyota Estima) will cost about \$26,000. After investigating the used and new markets, we are hoping to purchase a new car because there is little benefit within the Japanese system to purchase a used one. (Cars are taxed on weight and engine size, not on value or age; and mandatory inspections are less frequent and cheaper for a new car.)

Can you help us? We will wait to move forward on a purchase until we know what God is providing. If you could pray and let us know within a few days, we would be blessed. Just drop a note to [pwthomson@asianaccess.org](mailto:pwthomson@asianaccess.org).

As we await the purchase of a car, God has already provided one to use in the interim, a car (picture) from a missionary currently on home assignment. The only problem is that we do not all fit, so going anywhere as a family is on hold for now. If you have ever been to a circus, you will recognize it as the car from which at least twenty clowns emerge.

In addition to ferrying the Thomsons around, our car is used to transport ministry teams, luggage and ministry supplies. We look forward to purchasing a car and resuming these ministries.

You have been an incredible blessing to this work and our family for the past twenty years. Thank you. We could not be here without partners like you. We are confident that your giving is helping to transform Japan, and that it will result in leaders being equipped and released, churches planted, and people entering into a love relationship with Christ.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this letter and pray. We appreciate you.

Blessings,

*Paul & Wendy*

Donations may be sent to Asian Access at  
PO Box 200, San Dimas, CA 91773-0200.  
Just include an additional note stating "Thomson car fund".



## Shoeboxes Are Packed

by John Leonard



“Pack a shoe box or volunteer”; was the cry which many answered this year with eighty-five shoe boxes taken to the Operation Christmas Child Western

Region Warehouse on 29 November along with the hardy volunteers. The center in Santa Ana processed over 400 000 shoe boxes last year with boxes going from this center to these eight countries: the Philippines, Panama, Mexico, Nepal, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. I would expect have a larger number of boxes this year than last year’s total. Thank you to all of you that took the time to purchase, pack, and wrap boxes to bring joy to God’s children.



Our group at the 2005 OCC orientation.

As of November 26<sup>th</sup>, these people were signed up as volunteers: Edrie Brinker, Tyler Brinker, Sashi Contractor, Joy Drisdelle, Dorothy Kelly, Yonha Kim, John Leonard, Barbara Leonard, Sarah Melton, Michael Santillan, and Lorian Titcomb. If you want more information, read about it here next month or ask one of the volunteers.

want to help us discover what passion we have to reach the unchurched or re-engage those who have left the church by giving us tools and training so we can be successful. Many of you have taken the first step by completing the ‘Blue Steward Form’ distributed the past month in church. Please take this seriously. To paraphrase a president’s words, ‘ask not what God can do for you, but what you can do for God’. Each of us can contribute.

As part of this three-year Assessment Process, FUMCHUB will be looking to start a Web Ministry. The next Beacon will have additional information about this process and you part in the process. If you would be willing to be part of discussion groups to work on this ministry revitalization process, give your name and phone on a slip of paper to any of the listed here: Virginia Terry, Marge Mitchell, Sarah Melton, John Leonard, Lorian Titcomb, Bob Valentine, Pat Niesley, Jack Niesley, Reverend SonHye Kim, Amy Lammers, or Michael Santillan.

### James Conn, Director of New Ministries

The Rev. James Conn assumed responsibilities as director of new ministries for the California-Pacific Conference effective Jan. 1, 2005. Conn previously served as the director of urban strategy/shalom coordinator for the Cal-Pac Conference for nine years. Conn served for 22 years as the minister of an untraditional United Methodist Church known as the Church in Ocean Park. In that time, he initiated a dozen social service projects and grassroots neighborhood organizations. He also served on the City Council and as mayor of the city of Santa Monica. Rev. Conn, as the director of new ministries has primary responsibility for providing the resources necessary to help local congregations, extension ministries, districts, and boards and agencies in developing new ministry opportunities to carry out the mission of the church, recognizing the diversity of the California-Pacific Conference. One of the primary focuses will be revitalizing existing congregations that are declining or stagnant. Through congregational visioning, demographics studies, and retooling of clergy and lay leadership in the areas of evangelism, disciple making, and welcoming, Conn will help local congregations to become more effective faith communities.

One of the new ministries that you may be interested in learning about is web ministry. The UMC has provided an on-line course, “Web Ministry 101” to help churches start this alternate way to meet the church’s mission.

## Convenant for Vital Ministry by John Leonard

As Christians we are all called to take serious the words of Jesus Christ and provide opportunities to make disciples. This is the mission of the United Methodist Church. The Board of Congregational Development of the California-Pacific Annual Conference is charged with the task of equipping churches, laity, and clergy to start new ministries and/or revitalize existing ones. Open your hearts, open your minds, and open your doors to ministries that can expand Christ’s church.

Virginia Terry has brought to the Administrative Board the relevance of this mission to FUMCHUB. As a result, we as Church members will be asked to participate in this process of ‘revitalization’ of FUMCHUB.

Cal-Pac has affirmed that they are here to support our hopes and dreams to revitalize our ministry, hence, our church. Our Cal-Pac leaders

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**Finance Flash** by Marge Mitchell, Finance Chair

We have much to be thankful for as we finish up 2006. For the first time in a long time, FUMCHUB spent less than we brought in during October. The monthly totals and year to date totals are shown in the following table.

FUMCHUB Finances	October 2006	Year to Date 2006
Income	\$17,476.45	\$133,200.12
Expenses	\$14,452.29	\$142,007.28
Difference	\$3,024.16	-\$8,807.16

With the money we used from the Nancye Gautier Memorial Fund earlier this year, we are looking to end the year with a positive picture. That money is not reflected as income since it was moved from one account to another account. To improve on the financial health of FUMCHUB, the Shrimp Boil and Beef BBQ netted over \$900. In November, we allocated 10% to Mission and the balance was moved to our general fund.

The Finance Committee is updating forms and procedures to assist in efficiencies and improve record keeping within Shepherd Staff, our financial computer program. 2006 is the second year of working with this financial program and it is proving to be a very valuable tool.

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. - Colossians 2: 6-7*

**Fellowship Opportunities** by SonHye Kim

Please mark your calendar and join our fellowship Saturday, **2 December**: Progressive Dinner: Begin Christmas Festivities with our annual Progressive Dinner, December 2, 2006. Cost: \$12.00 per person.

*What will make your life meaningful? – SonHye Kim*

**Project Self-sufficiency and FUMCHUB**

**- Your Local Outreach** by John Leonard



The Outreach Committee, Dorothy Kelly, Jean Southwell, John Leonard, and Lorian Titcomb, was contacted by Susie Edwards of Project Self - Sufficiency and asked if we could adopt a family for Thanksgiving. We accepted the challenge on behalf of FUMCHUB. As a result, on Wednesday, 22 November, Diana Bayless and her two and a half year old daughter, Marina, met Reverend Kim and I at the Church office prior to the 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Service. At the meeting we provided Diana's family with cash and a Thanksgiving meal, which was cooked and frozen under the direction of Marge Mitchell. The meal consisted of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and cranberry sauce. In addition, John and Barbara made up a basket of canned vegetables with some juices and fruit for Marina along with some coupons for refunds on additional products. Bob and Sally provided two packages of dinner rolls, Greg and Leah Smith provided a fresh pumpkin pie, and several of you donated cash, which Edrie collected.



This past week, Gloria purchased a frozen turkey, which she has placed in the church freezer in anticipation of another adopted family for Christmas. If you would like to participate in a Christmas 'adoption', contact Edrie Brinker.

*God wants you to bear more fruit in your life whatever your age. - D. Anunciation*

**FUMCHUB Mission Statement:**

*We believe God is calling us to introduce Christ to those we encounter and to nourish them and ourselves in faith through His Word.*

**New & Familiar** *Continued from page 1*

Gersh Alaluf. Rob, though single, is a great uncle for the girls!

Bob and Sally feel that our church's strengths are its focus on the scriptural validity of the Bible for daily application to their lives and the love of members for each other. When their third child, Sarah, died of aplastic anemia in 1987, they drew strength from their relationship with God and the love and support of church members. Bob's favorite hymn is "It Is Well With My Soul" and Sally's two favorites are "Trust and Obey" and "In The Garden". These songs have personal and spiritual meaning to each of them."

**Cut and post under your refrigerator magnet:**

SonHye home phone: 842-1249  
SonHye cell phone: 475-4960  
Church phone: 536-3537

**Contacting the Church by email:**

Son-Hey Kim: [shkim@fumchub.org](mailto:shkim@fumchub.org)  
Jaynee Trautman: [jtrautman@fumchub.org](mailto:jtrautman@fumchub.org)  
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Marge Mitchell: [mmitchell@fumchub.org](mailto:mmitchell@fumchub.org)  
John Leonard: [johnl@fumchub.org](mailto:johnl@fumchub.org)  
Amy Lammers: [alammers@fumchub.org](mailto:alammers@fumchub.org)

*Albert Einstein once said*

"It's impossible to get out of a problem by using the same kind of thinking that it took to get into the problem."

*To this I add this thought,*

"Perhaps this is why wise men turn to prayer so often."

