

## PRESS RELEASE

**Issue Date:** November 11, 2007  
**Re:** First Presbyterian Church, SLO  
**Subject:** Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternative Gift Fair

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Alternative Gift Fair invites Holiday Shoppers to Make a Difference.**

(San Luis Obispo, CA) -- Along with the holidays comes the stress of finding the perfect gift, shopping for "hard to buy for" family and friends, and wading through year-end charity donation requests. There is an alternative.

**First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo** invites the public to their annual **Alternative Gift Fair** – "A Bethlehem Christmas"—on **Sunday, December 2, 2007**. This popular holiday event allows shoppers to find unique and meaningful gifts that "give twice" by also helping the less fortunate all year. Alternative gift opportunities include donations to worthwhile charities in someone else's name, and buying Fair Trade and handicraft items from around the world.

The Fair will be held from **9:30 AM to 2 PM** in the First Presbyterian Church's Wilson Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Marsh and Morro Streets in San Luis Obispo.

Representatives from Ten Thousand Villages will offer handicrafts, jewelry and clothing made by artisans in developing countries who are paid a fair price for their goods so they can support their families with food, health care and education. The Equal Exchange organization will also be on hand with Fair Trade chocolates, gourmet coffee, teas and nuts.

Giving a cash donation in the name of someone else allows local, national and international charitable organizations participating in the Alternative Gift Fair to purchase much needed items and services. Charities represented at the Fair will include: Doctors Without Borders, God's Hidden Treasures, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, Lifewater International, Green Pastures, Peoples' Self-Help Housing and the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter. Gift cards and donation receipts acknowledging the purchase will be available.

All purchases go directly to support the participating charitable organizations. Attendees are asked to bring checks or cash only. Credit cards will not be accepted.

For about the cost of a "token" silk tie or a gift basket, an Alternative Gift Fair purchase can provide many hot meals, vaccinations to children, a wheelchair, vital fresh water or even a farm animal to help a third world family start down the road to self-sufficiency. What better way to acknowledge or honor that person who "has everything" this holiday season?

For more information, contact the First Presbyterian Church office at **543-5451**.

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