



## Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

*Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.*

On this Sunday when Daylight Savings Time begins, Megan Berti will provide special music. In my sermon I will tell some stories about messengers who paid dearly for their challenging words and then look at the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus in relation to those stories.

SERMON: *Sagdluk, Zeidel and the Killer Minister*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

READING: Mark 6:17-27

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Ms. Jason Jintz

*Next week Jerry Stinson's sermon title will be "Isaiah's Mosquechurchnsynagogue."*

**Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday -  
set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night.**

## Sunday School

**Theme:** Always Close    **Scripture Focus:** Psalm 22:23-31

## Adult Education: New Topic - The Bible and Ways of Reading It

*Sundays at 8:30 am in the Klar Rooms, upstairs in Pilgrim Hall*

It was Martin Luther who said, "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me." In March, our in-care student, Richard Grauman, will examine this "aliveness."

On March 8 the class will examine the historical context of the Bible. How did a collection of individual writings get put together? As a class we will look at how the writing "speaks" out of different contexts, with distinctive voice and from various divergent viewpoints. We will uncover its wide variety of genre, style, quality and history.

Then the following Sundays we will first peruse the letters of Paul (or so they say are his letters), looking at meaning of structure of these documents (March 15). And finally we will view the literary devices used by the prophets that might trip us up or en-

## Music on Sunday

This Sunday, the choir will sing "Salmo 150" by Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar (b. 1949). The editor of this work, Maria Guinand, writes: "He is one of the best known of the newer generation of Brazilian composers. In addition to works for chorus, he has written a number of short instrumental works. He has also worked with the eminent musicologist Francisco Curt Lange on the revising and editing of works by composers of the Minas Gerais School of the XVIII century. This setting of Psalm 150 is characteristic of his style which is rhythmic with rapid articulations." The choir sings in Latin. The English translation can be found on page 723 of the *New Century Hymnal*. See you in church.

*Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music*

---

able us to grasp what we're reading (March 22).

Coffee and a light snack will be provided - not that you'll need it to stay awake! Join us and discover the book that has become the cornerstone of our Christian faith.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Sunday, March 22

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people, our brothers and sisters, in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business and micro credit, emergency relief and advocacy, and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. The OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

This year the OGHS is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary. It has affected and changed the lives of untold millions of people and is needed more than ever due to the current global economic meltdown. We will receive the offering on Sunday, March 22. Please be as generous as your circumstances permit.

*Lloyd Wright, Board of Outreach*

## Tears for Gaza: Interfaith Memorial Service for the Dead in Gaza

Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
13091 Galway Street, Garden Grove

This solemn observance is in remembrance of the lives of those killed in the recent Israeli siege of Gaza. Those who can are asked to dress in black as a sign of mourning over the reckless loss of human lives. Sponsored by SA-BEEL Orange County, Islamic Society of Orange County, Middle East Task Force of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, Council on American Islamic Relations, Orange County Chapter, of Progressive Christians Uniting, ImagineAction, St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church, and Muslims for Progressive Values.



## The Church Mouse has heard ...

Tina Datsko has just signed a publishing contract for *The Deliverance of Simon Bolivar*, her first collection of poetry. She says, "Many thanks to First Church for supporting my poetry."

## [www.firstchurchlb.org](http://www.firstchurchlb.org)

### First Church Staff

Jerald Stinson  
Senior Minister *ext. 230*  
[jstinson@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:jstinson@firstchurchlb.org)  
Libby Tigner  
Associate Minister *ext. 224*  
[ltigner@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:ltigner@firstchurchlb.org)  
Ed Bloomfield  
Minister of Visitation  
[bloomfield\\_ed@yahoo.com](mailto:bloomfield_ed@yahoo.com)  
Mary Ellen Kilsby  
Senior Minister Emerita  
[revmek@aol.com](mailto:revmek@aol.com)  
Nicholas Chaffee  
Director of Sheep's Kin  
[nchaffee@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:nchaffee@firstchurchlb.org)  
Marc Dickey  
Organist  
[mdickey@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:mdickey@firstchurchlb.org)  
Tracy Halter-Balin  
Assistant Director of Music  
[thalter@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:thalter@firstchurchlb.org)  
Wally Hoeger  
Director of Children's and Youth  
Ministries *ext. 226*  
[whoeger@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:whoeger@firstchurchlb.org)  
Leland Vail  
Minister of Music *ext. 231*  
[lvail@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:lvail@firstchurchlb.org)  
Heather Chambers or Melody  
O'Keefe at Halter & Associates  
Bookkeeper  
*ext. 225; halter.assoc@verizon.net*  
Yvonne SaMarion  
Administrative Assistant and  
Facilities Coordinator *ext. 227*  
[ysamarion@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:ysamarion@firstchurchlb.org)  
Ruth Warkentin  
Office Manager and Newsletter  
Editor *ext. 221*  
[office@firstchurchlb.org](mailto:office@firstchurchlb.org)

*The Pilgrim* (USPS 602-580) is published weekly except the last week in December and twice a month in July and August by First Congregational Church, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802. Phone: 562-436-2256. Fax: 562-436-3018. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Pilgrim*, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802.

**Editor: Ruth Warkentin**  
**Deadline: Thursday noon**  
**Periodicals postage paid**  
**at Long Beach, CA**

## Thanks, First Church

Thank you, First Church, for the outpouring of love, cards, and lovely reminiscences about Bud. Your incredible support is awesome, and I and our children are most grateful.

*Mary Ellen Kilsby*

## Sunday Bulletin Changes

As the result of a Church Council action, starting on March 1 we went back to the legal-size Sunday bulletin in 12-point type, which will save trees and money. Every Friday, the complete text of the bulletin will be put on the church website as a Word document, so those who would like a large-print version may download it and make the type as large as they like before printing it out.

## No Email from Jerry?

Jerry Stinson has had some computer problems. If you sent him email in the last three weeks and he hasn't replied, please send your message again.

## Senior Minister's Blog

Jerry Stinson's blog article this week is about "My Real Disappointment in the FBI." See [jerrysjusticejournal.blogspot.com](http://jerrysjusticejournal.blogspot.com).

## Invitation to Leadership Day

All are invited to attend our annual Leadership Day, which will be held on Saturday, March 14. We will have a Continental breakfast at 8:30 in Patterson Hall and then adjourn to the Koinonia Room at 9:15 for our meeting. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about how to get things done at First Church and also for spending some quality time working with your fellow church leaders in a spirit of camaraderie. The meeting is expected to conclude by noon. Hope to see you there.

*Peter Wright, Moderator*



## Spring Fling: March 21

*By David Fisher*

Mark this day on your calendar!

On March 21, the Board of Parish life is announcing the first ever Spring Dance. So put on your best clothes and fancy baubles. Get out your dancing shoes and be ready to celebrate with friends and family. This event will start at 8 p.m. and there will be child-care. There will be opportunities for couple and group photos, great hors d'oeuvres, and dessert!

Tickets will be on sale on March 8 and 15. Please join in on the celebration. We can't wait to see your dance moves!

## Day Camp Family Needs Help with Medical Bills and Burial Fees

Two weeks ago a child from Summer Day Camp died after a long illness with leukemia. He was nine years old and had attended camp every summer since he was 5 years old. His family is overwhelmed with medical bills as well as burial fees. If you are able, please consider making a donation to cover some of their expenses. Please make the checks payable to The Neighborhood UMC, 507 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802, and put in the memo section "Aviles Family." As you can imagine, his family is heartbroken, and your support would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Valencia (562-234-2851). Thank you,

*The Downtown Associated Youth Services (DAYS)*



*The Pilgrim*  
 241 Cedar Avenue  
 Long Beach, CA 90802

Periodicals  
 postage paid at  
 Long Beach, CA

TO:

“Never place a period  
 where God has placed a comma”  
 [Gracie Allen]

## You've got a date ...

### Sunday, March 8

11:30 a.m. Parish Life Board

### Monday, March 9

7 p.m. UCO Board

### Tuesday, March 10

7 p.m. Theological Study  
 Group

### Wednesday, March 11

7 p.m. Children's Bible Class;  
 Sacred Practices; PFLAG

### Thursday, March 12

6 p.m. Board of Cultural Arts  
 6:45 p.m. Our Whole Lives

### Saturday, March 14

8:30 a.m. Leadership Day

### Sunday, March 15

11:30 a.m. ONA bake sale;  
 Church tour; Christian  
 Education Board

## Online Calendar

Don't miss out! Check the online church calendar at [www.firstchurchlb.org/calendar.html](http://www.firstchurchlb.org/calendar.html) for details about all church events. You can use the online calendar to email invitations to friends to church events and to set up emailed reminders to yourself. Just click on any event to see information about it.

## Parish Concerns

Your thoughts and prayers are requested for Ivy Bottini; John Buchlottz (Mary Granger and Richard Berryman's friend); Kenia Casarreal; Maribelle Shelton (Gary Shelton and Janet Rhodes'

mother); and Helen Lattimer's friend's granddaughter.

*To put someone on this list, put a note on the Parish Concerns board on the Third Street landing or contact Ruth Warkentin in the office.*

## Pride Parade: Bake Sale on March 15 and Convertibles in May

*From the ONA Committee*

In preparation for our marching in the Long Beach Gay Pride Parade, the Open and Affirming Committee and the Board of Outreach will hold a bake sale fundraiser after church on Sunday, March 15. There will be giant, delicious muffins for you to enjoy with your coffee and tea. There are a number of expenses associated with the parade, so all donations will be most welcome!

The committee is also looking for one or two convertibles for participants who cannot walk and do not have wheelchairs that will work for the distance but wish to be with the church group. The number of vehicles we use affects our parade registration, so we need to determine how many cars we'll have as soon as possible because the registration deadline is approaching. If you can donate the use of a convertible for the parade, please contact Ben Rockwell (562-432-0448 or [rocky.ben@verizon.net](mailto:rocky.ben@verizon.net)) or Deb Moore.

## Becoming a Member of First Church

Whether you have been attending for a few weeks, a few months or several years, we would like you to consider becoming a member of First Church. When you are ready to take that step, please call or email Rev. Jerry Stinson at 562-436-2256, ext. 230 or [revjstinson@verizon.net](mailto:revjstinson@verizon.net).