



Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

On Mother's Day, my sermon will attempt to get beyond some of the mythology we attach to "family" and "family values" in order to move to a picture of what it means to create "shalom families."

In addition to a choral anthem, our service will include special music by Bellissimo, our adult bell choir, and a solo by Lisa Bode Heard.

SERMON: *The Church, Keeper of Myths, Including the Conventional Family*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

READING: Selections from the Book of Ruth

LITURGIST: Ben Rockwell

Next week Jerry Stinson's sermon will be entitled "This Is Who I Am."

In Sunday School This Week

Theme: Abiding in Love

Scripture Focus: John 15:1-8

In Adult Education This Week

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

Series of Classes About the Occupation of Palestine

Beginning this Sunday morning, May 10, Jerry Stinson will be teaching a nine-week series of classes during the 8:30 Adult Education Hour in the Klar Rooms in Pilgrim Hall. These classes will look in depth at "Occupied Palestine – Despair and Beyond." Jerry will be sharing experiences and learnings from his two recent trips to Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Sunday, May 10: Demographics and the History of the Occupation

Sunday, May 17: The Settlements, Housing Demolitions and Olive Trees

(Continued on page 2)

Music on Sunday

While attending the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in March of 2006, I heard the combined choirs of BYU perform "The Singing Heart" by Bob Chilcott. I was completely impressed with the beauty and majesty of this choral gem. It is scored for double choir and handbells, and is sung a cappella. Here is the text: "The singing heart is always open, it's beating out alive and free. The singing heart cannot be broken, singing for all eternity. Sing on, sing on, share in our common tongue. Sing on, sing on, voices and hearts as one. A world that brings us all together restores and sets the spirit free. A world that sings gives us forever, a vision of peace and unity." I know you will love this poignant piece as much as the choir and I do. It is with great pleasure that we sing this on the day we honor our mothers and those who mother us. See you in church.

Megan Berti, our wonderful soprano soloist, has had an extremely rewarding and busy 2009. She performed the mezzo-soprano solos in the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Music on Sunday

Sunday, May 24: Checkpoints, the Wall and Refugees

Sunday, May 31: Human Rights, the IDF and Terrorism

Sunday, June 7: Gaza

Sunday, June 14: The US Role in the Conflict

Sunday, June 21: Good People Making a Difference – Palestinians

Sunday, June 28: Good People Making a Difference – Israelis

Sunday, July 5: Possible Pathways to Peace

(Continued from page 1)

Music on Sunday

Haydn *Theressienmesse* that we sang for the Mozart Festival on January 31, and again at Cal Heights United Methodist on April 5. She was the featured mezzo-soprano soloist in the performance of the Verdi *Requiem* at CSULB in the Carpenter Performing Arts Center on April 19. She is featured in the CSULB Opera production of Mozart's *Clemenza de Tito* in the Link Theatre on campus, and she has her senior performance recital on Sunday, May 17 at 1 p.m. in the Gerald R. Daniel Recital Hall. This performance is free and all are welcome. I know that May 17 is Pride Sunday, so those of you who march may have to miss this exciting event, but for those who are not marching, I recommend this performance to you. Megan will be singing art songs and arias. The program will be about 80 minutes in length, so have lunch after church and plan to attend!

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

Camp Dates

By Wally Hoeger

There is still space to sign up for camp. All children from first grade to twelfth grade are invited to join us at Pilgrim Pines this summer. We will be attending camp from August 2-8. If you would like more information please contact Wally at whoeger@firstchurchlb.org or 562-436-2256 ext. 226, or you can also get more information on the Pilgrim Pines website: www.pilgrimpinescamp.org.



www.firstchurchlb.org

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No Parents' Night Out in June

By Wally Hoeger

We will not be having Parents' Night Out in June and through the summer. We will start back up in October with our new helpers in place! Thanks to those of you who filled out a volunteer form and signed up to help for Parents' Night Out. If you didn't get a chance to fill it out, there's a copy of the volunteer form on page 4.

Mark Your Calendar

Young People's Concert

Sunday, June 7
1 p.m.

Followed by the
Ice Cream Social

Israel -Palestine Trip

For the third straight year, Jerry Stinson will be traveling to Israel-Palestine this summer. Others in the congregation may also be interested in this unique trip.

The trip is being organized by Interfaith Peace-Builders and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. It will be from July 25 to August 7, and the focus will be on "An Honest Broker? The US Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." The delegation will examine the role of the US government and civil society as actors in bringing peace and fomenting conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.

The leaders will be Shakeel Syed, the Director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California who preached here in 2007, and Katherine Fuchs, who is the National Organizer of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. For information about the trip, you can go to the following website: www.ifpb.org/del31/default.html.

Greenfest

By Wally Hoeger

Make sure you plan to stay after church on June 17 for our Greenfest celebration in the courtyard. Look for more information in *The Pilgrim* as we get closer.



Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan

The Iraq Veterans Against the War are sponsoring a "Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan" event in our own backyard. Eyewitness accounts and live testimony from local veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan will be heard. Powerful stories that will expose the consequence of a failed policy will be offered. Hear what military families have to say about the wars and listen to veterans from other wars. Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Harbeson Hall, Pasadena City College, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. Contact info: Wendy Barranco at wendy@ivaw.org or call Pat Aviso at 562-833-8035.

Paul DuNard for the Board of Outreach

Senior Minister's Blog

Jerry Stinson's blog article this week will be about red sex and blue sex.

Go to the blog and not only read the article, but add your comment as well: jerrysjusticejournal.blogspot.com.

First Church Children and Youth Programs Volunteer Form

Thank you so much for deciding to volunteer! There are many ways in which you can help support our youth and children's program here at First Church.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone number where I prefer to be reached: _____

Please check all boxes that apply:

- I have had a First Church background check
- Sunday School Teacher
 - Nursery helper – Ages 3 and under
 - Preschool – Preschool aged children
 - Beginner – Kindergarten and First Grade
 - Primary – Second and Third Grade
 - Junior – Fourth and Fifth Grade
 - Jr. High – Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade
 - Sr. High – Ninth through Twelfth Grade
- Substitute Sunday School teacher
 - Nursery helper – Ages 3 and under
 - Preschool – Preschool aged children
 - Beginner – Kindergarten and First Grade
 - Primary – Second and Third Grade
 - Junior – Fourth and Fifth Grade
 - Jr. High – Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade
 - Sr. High – Ninth through Twelfth Grade
- Parents' Night Out Helper – occasional Friday Nights with Elementary School Age Children
- Youth Group Helper – Thursday Nights with Jr. and Sr. High
- Lead a small workshop on a skill such as sewing, money management, car maintenance, dance, wood working. Please list: _____

-
- Seasonal Helper (i.e., Rally Day, Christmas, Easter)

**Please return this form to Wally Hoeger by mail (241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802)
or by putting it into the offering plate on Sunday morning.**

Thanks Are in Order!

By Wally Hoeger

Many and much thanks to all who helped Youth Sunday be the successful event that it was. The youth and children did a phenomenal job! I received lots of feedback that commenting on how poised and dynamic our speakers, musicians, singers, and ushers were in front of over 230 people in the audience. All of the youth should pat themselves on the back for a job well done. And I want to especially thank all the parents for driving their children to church so early in the morning!

A big thank you also to Tracy and Matt who have worked hard to shape our children and youth into the wonderfully talented groups that they are today. Beloved Bells really wowed the congregation! Can you believe, an encore? One member remarked that he believed that was the first time that the congregation actually asked to stay in church longer! And a final note and thank you to Nic Chaffee who came as a volunteer to help. We really appreciated him being there to play.

Thank You!

Mark This Date on Your Calendar

Saturday, June 6

6:30 p.m.

Summer in the City

presented by

Downtown Associated Youth Services (DAYS)

Join us for an evening of delightful food, entertainment, interesting conversation and so much more. All proceeds from this event will go to support the Summer Day Camp for 2009. More information will follow next week.

Pride Parade – the Tricky Part

The trickiest part of participating in the Pride Parade is getting people from church to the parade. If you are not planning to march in the parade, can you give someone a ride to the parade? We'll be lined up on Ocean somewhere between Redondo and Temple – we'll know more before the day of the parade. If you can drive, please sign up at the Outreach table. If you are planning to march, please see if you can arrange a ride with someone.

Thanks!

Deb Moore

Bed and Breakfast in Santa Barbara

First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara has a special bed and breakfast program for United Church of Christ members and friends, offering friendly and comfortable accommodations in members' homes for a modest donation to the church. A donation of \$100 per night for 1-2 guests (\$50 for each additional guest) will provide you with nonsmoking overnight accommodations, a simple healthy breakfast and the hospitality of friendly people.



Email the church office (fcc-office-805@santabarbarafirst.org) with your contact information. The bed and breakfast coordinator will contact you for your specific requirements and to arrange for a host.



The Pilgrim
 241 Cedar Avenue
 Long Beach, CA 90802

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TO:

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

Parish Concerns

Your thoughts and prayers are requested for Carol Armstrong (Perry Ellwood’s friend); John Baney; Deanna Karafiath (Tina Datsko’s sister); Waid Johnson (Bill & Betty Cole’s nephew); Brian Lands (Jim Deaton’s friend); Doris Leeper (Jim Deaton’s friend); Michelle Repucci (Perry Ellwood’s friend).

To put someone on this list, put a note on the Parish Concerns board on the Third Street landing or contact Ruth in the office (562-436-2256 x221 or office@firstchurchlb.org).

Online Calendar

Don’t miss out! Check the online church calendar at 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.

You’ve got a date ...

Saturday, May 9

11 a.m. Golf Tournament at Los Verdes Golf Course in Rancho Palos Verdes

Sunday, May 10

8:30 a.m. Church History Ministry Team
 11:30 a.m. Scholarship Committee

Tuesday, May 12

7 a.m. Theological Study Group

Wednesday, May 13

7 p.m. Sacred Practices, PFLAG

Thursday, May 14

6 p.m. Board of Cultural Arts

Friday, May 15

12:10 p.m. Just After Noon Music, featuring the Cal State Fullerton Brass Ensemble and Marc Dickey, organist

Saturday, May 16

5 p.m. Guest Chef

Sunday, May 17

10 a.m. Pride Parade marchers commissioned during the service of celebration

T-shirts and Towels Needed

By Yvonne SaMarion

Don’t throw away those old t-shirts or terrycloth towels! Help First Church save some money and bring those worn items to church; you can place them in the red barrel in the narthex. Your t-shirts and towels will be re-used as cleaning clothes to help keep our church looking its best.



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.