



Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

On the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, during our prayer time we will once again honor the memories of loved ones who have died. During the announcement time, we will have Mayor Bob Foster with us to make a special announcement. Steve Berlanga, our baritone soloist, will provide special music this Sunday.

Forrest Church is someone for whom I have significant admiration. The son of the great liberal Idaho Senator Frank Church, Forrest graduated from Harvard Divinity School a few years after I did and went on to become the senior minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City. He is a prolific writer and his thinking has played a major role in shaping my own theology. I have quoted him in many of my sermons.

In February, 2008, he sent a letter to his congregation informing them that he had terminal cancer. His remaining life would be measured in months rather than years. But he also said, "In more than one respect, I feel very lucky." He then quickly wrote what will be his last book which talks about why he feels so lucky. My sermon will be built around his insights in that book.

SERMON: *Forrest Church's Perspective on Love in Light of His Imminent Death*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Ms. Amy Sutton

Next week we will celebrate Pentecost in a dramatic way in a service planned by our Worship and Arts Ministry Team.

In Sunday School This Week

Theme: Guided in Prayer **Scripture Focus:** John 17:6-19

In Adult Education This Week

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

Jerry Stinson will continue with "Occupied Palestine – De-
(Continued on page 2)

Music on Sunday

This Sunday we remember close to us those who have died, some recently and some many years ago. It is also Memorial Day Sunday, when we remember those who sacrificed their lives in service to this country. The Sanctuary Choir will sing "Lacrymosa" from the *Requiem* (K. 626) by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791). The text comes from the sequence of the requiem mass for the dead, which begins with the *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath). The English translation is "O how tearful that day, on which the guilty shall rise from the embers to be judged. Spare them, O God. Merciful Jesus, grant them rest. Amen."

The first eight bars of this movement were the final notes composed by Mozart before he died. Mozart's former student, Süssmayr, used the figured bass and orchestral and choral sketches to complete the movement. Those of you who have seen the movie *Amadeus* will remember that this movement is sung at the end as the coffin of Mozart is taken to the graveyard outside the city; his shrouded body is dumped into the mass grave and covered in

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Adult Education *(Continued from page 1)*

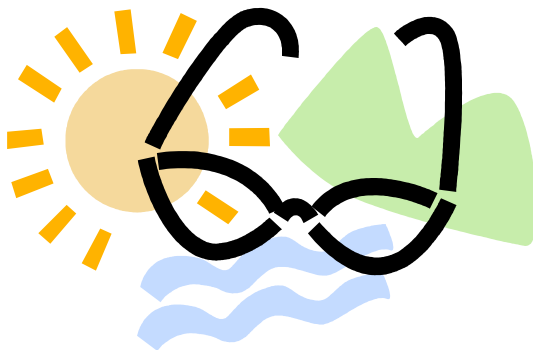
spair and Beyond," sharing experiences and learnings from his two recent trips to Israel and the Occupied Territories. This week the subject is "Checkpoints, the Wall and Refugees."

Summer in the City: Saturday, June 6, 6 PM

By Nancy Valencia

Summer in the City, our annual fundraising event in support of our summer camp, is approaching. Join us for dinner and an evening of entertainment in Patterson Hall.

For further information or to reserve space as a table host look for us in Kilsby Courtyard for the next the several Sundays or contact Nancy Valencia at 562-234-2851.



End of Support Group

by Jerry Stinson

Several months ago I formed a support group for those caring for aging parents. At that time, several church members were struggling with the demands of that kind of caregiving. A number of people attended the first several sessions, but that number has decreased and only one or two people have been present for recent support group meetings. So that group will no longer meet. However, if you are caring for an aging parent and want to talk about your feelings and concerns, please feel free to call me and set up an appointment for us to have that kind of conversation.

Music on Sunday *(Continued from page 1)*

lye. The rain descends and the graveyard workers depart, all to the strains of the final "Amen." See you in church.

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I Am Here to Recruit You

By Michele Wilson

Quoting one of my favorite movies, *Milk*: "My name is Michele Wilson and I am here to recruit you." The Nominating Committee consists of a minimum of twelve members. The immediate past moderator, me, is the chairperson and the current vice moderator, Allison Mitchell, is the vice chairperson. The Nominating Committee is composed of one representative from each board and the three members at large from the Church Council. The first meeting of the nominating committee will be on the fifth Sunday, May 31, after church. Support the bake sale that is occurring the same day and bring your baked goods upstairs for the meeting.

In this article, I wanted to take a moment to get everyone thinking about where they would like to serve in 2010. The Diaconate provides us with efficient services and for our every need as a congrega-

tion during our services. If you have a congenial and generous personality, this board is for you. The Board of Stewardship and Finance provides for the congregation's financial stability and for the maintenance of our historic building, among other things, and you do not have to have a business, finance or property management background to bring new ideas to this board. If you have ideas about the budget and how we operate financially, this is your board. The Board of Christian Education contributes to the educational programming and the children and youth program. This is an essential cog in the congregation's machine because whatever brings people to First Church will not retain them if we do not have interesting, diverse programming. The Board of Parish Life provides the events that help us get to know each other as a congregation and deepen our bond as a church family. For this board, only party people need apply. The Board of Cultural Arts enlivens us with arts and culture throughout the year. You do not have to have a background in arts or music, you just need to love them and have a desire to make sure they remains a vital part of our congregational life. The Board of Membership Development leads the very difficult task of growing the congregation and retaining the members we already have. Certainly, this is the perfect board for those who won Mr. or Ms. Congeniality in high school and are committed to growing the congregation. Finally, there is the Board of Outreach and Social Justice which is the board that requires that you put your marching shoes on. Of course, this board furthers the church's social justice stand and supports our stance as a Just Peace Congregation. This is the board where I walked off 20 pounds in parades and had a blast building a house for Habitat for Humanity.

Of course, each board does much, much more, and you can read about each in the by-laws in the members area of the church website (www.firstchurchlb.org; contact Ruth in the office if you do not know the username and password). In the interim, as many of you are aware, there will be staff reductions later in the year to reduce the budget shortfall. This means the boards will be more active than ever to continue our wonderful programming. If you think about it, each of the boards above provides the foundation required for the increase in membership and stewardship that helps our congregation grow and thrive. Further, with most boards meeting on Sundays after the First Church Café, attending

Senior Minister's Blog

Jerry Stinson's blog article this week is titled "*Taking Our Faith Seriously*." Go to the blog and not only read the article, but add your comment as well: jerrysjustice-journal.blogspot.com.

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TO:

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

Parish Concerns

Your thoughts and prayers are requested for Mary Martin; Ray Riecke (Melanie Hiller’s father); Daniele Ware (Karen Miller’s granddaughter, stationed in Iraq); Gwen Wiggins-Long and family (Yvonne SaMarion’s cousin); Giomara Whitesell (Melissa Hill’s friend); and Georgette DeBruyn upon the death of her uncle, Charles Cosyns.

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 23

6 p.m. Kindred Spirits Potluck

Monday, May 25

Office closed

Tuesday, May 26

7 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, May 27

7 p.m. Sacred Practices

Thursday, May 28

7 p.m. Social Justice Committee

Friday, May 29

6:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives Retreat

Sunday, May 31

11:30 a.m. Interfaith Forum; Pride Bake Sale; School-Age Outing to El Dorado Reptiles; Nominating Committee

1 p.m. Beloved Bells fundraiser: car wash and cut-athon (offsite)

Nominating Committee *(Continued from page 3)*

board meetings has become much more convenient. Finally, for the Sunday boards, child care is provided so parents with small children can get involved in lay leadership. That is what it is to be part of a board: leadership as a lay member of the congregation.

Feel free to contact me at mwilsonlawoffice@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer for a board (to all past moderators who have led the Nominating Committee: I remain an eternal optimist that I will have more volunteers than our committee can handle). Otherwise, we will be calling upon each of you to see what area of leadership you would like to embark upon.

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.