



Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

This Sunday will be our annual Christian Education Sunday when we honor those who have worked with our children and youth during the past year. We will also honor our graduates and our Scholarship Committee will present several scholarships. There will also be special music by Beloved Bells, our youth bell choir.

The Gospel of Philip is an obscure gospel about Jesus developed in one of the early churches. It has a fascinating image of God as a farmer, and I want to explore that imagery with you in my sermon.

SERMON: *An Early Church Image of God's Farming*
The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

READING: Gospel of Philip 79:18-33

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Ms. Wally Hoeger

Next week Jerry Stinson's sermon title will be "Can We Hold Both Anger and Hope?"

In Sunday School This Week

Theme: Mysterious Encounter **Scripture Focus:** John 3:1-17

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 – Despair and Beyond," sharing experiences and learnings from his two recent trips to Israel and the Occupied Territories. This week the subject is Gaza.

Calling All Graduates!

Please let us know if you are graduating or have finished a degree program in the last year so that we may honor you during the service on Christian Education Sunday, June 7. Please send your name, degree received and school to Ruth Warkentin (562-436-2256 ext. 221 or office@firstchurchlb.org).

Music on Sunday

June is the final month for our soloists to be with the choir. In July and August we will feature various choir members as soloists. The choir will provide anthems throughout July and then vacation in August. This Sunday we will sing "Simple Gifts," the famous Shaker tune, as arranged by Marie Pooler. This arrangement was first published in 1971 and was sung by the CSULB Choir under Frank Pooler's direction in many concerts throughout Europe in the summer of 1972. Pam Chapin, Sara Estes, the late Don Orr and I sang in this choir. Marie's arrangement is rather straightforward, with a lively accompaniment for piano. I know you will enjoy it.

Our baritone soloist, Steve Berlanga, will sing "Ching-A-Ring Chaw," an American folk song arranged by Aaron Copland. Steve is the revivalist who is calling his flock to worship, probably in a tent or under the trees out in the prairies in the 19th-century mid-west. You will find yourself wanting to clap and dance along with this toe-tapper.

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

First Church Café Open This Sunday

By Libby Tigner

You're in for a triple treat this Sunday after church: lunch, the Young People's Concert, and an Ice Cream Social.

The First Church Café will be open for business. Lunch will be prepared by Karen Cannon of Stars Catering. The menu is below.

The cost for lunch is \$8, and a special kids-only buffet table for children 10 and under is available for \$4. Correct change is greatly appreciated. Boards and committees that meet on the first Sunday are invited to meet over lunch, so that everyone can attend the Young People's Concert at 1 p.m. The traditional Ice Cream Social will be held following the concert. Child care is provided through 1:30 p.m.

First Church Café Menu for June 7

Chicken Chili Verde

A green and white CalMex chili with tender chicken, white beans, onions and an "eat your greens" healthy mix of tomatillos, sweet green peppers and chilies, green onions, cilantro and parsley - it's a vitamin in a soup! Vegetarian version offered also; both are gluten-free. Accompanied by shredded cheese and lime sour cream

LBC Rancho Summer Salad

Crisp mixed greens with shredded cheddar and jack, tomatoes, black olives, garlic ranch croutons and Stars' own ranch dressing

*The bountiful bread basket and creamery butter
plus crisp tortilla chips and salsa*

Triple fudge brownies and toffee bars, assorted cookies and pralines

Iced tropical tea and lemonade

Children's Table

Pepe's Pasta: baby bow tie pasta with chicken Alfredo sauce

Baby carrots with ranch, fruit cups, fruit gummy snacks and juice boxes

(Of course children are welcome to raid the adults' table as well!)

Thanks, First Church!

I'd like to express my warm thanks for all of the cards and calls I have received, since I cannot have visitors.

John Baney

www.firstchurchlb.org

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Urban Community Outreach Board

By Teri Brewster, Secretary,
UCO

As you may remember, our church developed a non-profit organization, Urban Community Outreach (UCO), to manage both the Drop-In Center (DIC) and the Downtown Associated Youth Services (DAYS). UCO has been in existence for more than a year and would now like to expand its board. To learn more about us you may visit www.urbancommunityoutreach.org.

UCO currently has a large number of church members, but we think that our outreach will go further if we have members of the community beyond our walls. For that reason UCO is asking if you know anyone in Long Beach, not a member of this church, who might be interested in serving on the board.

Some suggestions for people who might be valuable to the board are: 1) employee of Wells Fargo Bank because having a member from Wells Fargo Bank allows us to apply for grants from that bank; 2) employee of some of other large employers, who might help out with contacts for grants, such as Boeing, Verizon, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, and the Bragg companies; 3) employee in the

Church Maintenance

By Jerry Stinson

We have now said goodbye to Antonio Ruiz, who has been the custodian charged with the primary cleaning of the church for the last twelve years. Yvonne SaMarion will become our Maintenance Supervisor, responsible for most of the cleaning of the church as well as supervising and scheduling the custodians. She will work from 6:30 to 3:30 each weekday. In addition to her maintenance duties, she be in the office during Ruth Warkentin's lunch hour.

Sonny Brown and Carl Glover will continue to work between 20 and 30 hours a week as custodians. Sonny will work primarily on weekday mornings and then on Sundays. Carl will work on weekday evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays. Gavin Dendy will continue to work as a custodian on Sundays.

Clearly we are going to have to make some adjustments going from 130 hours of custodial work to 100 hours or less. Please be patient as we make this transition, and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly.

First Church on Magazine Cover

By Jerry Stinson

The most recent issue of *Worship Facilities* magazine has an extensive cover story about the construction of Pilgrim Hall. It has some factual inaccuracies but nevertheless does a good job of talking about the building. If you would like to see the article you can go to <http://worshipfacilities.com/go.php/editorial/8377>.

healthcare community such as Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, St. Mary Medical Center, and Pacific Hospital of Long Beach; 4) person with a high-profile job who knows a lot of other people in the community; 5) person with nutrition/food experience who might want to help the DIC; 6) person with teaching experience who might want to help with DAYS programs; 7) person with non-profit experience who is interested in helping us with Urban Community Outreach's mission: *To advance the interests and to promote the welfare of children, the poor, the homeless and the disenfranchised people in the Long Beach area.* If you know anyone who you think might be interested or if you are interested yourself, please contact Kathleen O'Neal, Nancy Valencia, Teri Brewster or John Kness.



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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 John Baney and Brian Lands; Stan Cook (Georgette De Bruyn’s cousin); Paul Curtis (Jennifer Mota, Linda Kellogg and Harold Curtis’ relative); Marla Fisher; the Guberman family (Deb Buller’s friends); Patrick Malone (Larelle Hendon’s brother); the Masereneas family (the De Bruyns’ friends); Tom Nettifee; Tyrone (Jim Snelling’s son); and Gromara Weitzel (Melissa Hill’s friend).

In the armed forces: Daniele Ware (Karen Miller’s granddaughter, stationed in Iraq).

To put someone on these lists, put a note on the Parish Concerns board or contact Ruth in the office.

Senior Minister’s Blog

Jerry Stinson’s blog this week has his thoughts about marriage equality and last week’s march and rally in Long Beach. See *jerrysjusticejournal.blogspot.com*.

Camperships Available for Pilgrim Pines

By Libby Tigner

Going to summer camp is one of the joys of childhood and youth, and we are indeed fortunate to be able to offer our young people an outstanding camp experience through our United Church of Christ conference-owned and operated Pilgrim Pines. But camp is not inexpensive, and in the current economy and job market camp will cost more than ever this year.

We don’t want cost to keep anyone from going to Pilgrim Pines, and we want to remind parents that camperships, that is, funds to assist with Pilgrim Pines costs based on need, are available. These funds are administered by the clergy, so if you’d like to take advantage of this assistance, please talk to Jerry or Libby.

Donations to the camperships funds are welcome year-round, so if you’d like to help send one of our young people to camp, you can do so by sending a check to the church and noting “campership” on the memo line.

You’ve got a date ...

Saturday, June 6

6 p.m. Summer in the City (DAYS fundraiser)

Sunday, June 7

11:30 a.m. First Church Café
 12:15 p.m. Meetings: Christian Education, Diaconate, Outreach, Parish Life, Stewardship/Finance, Communications
 1 p.m. Young People’s Concert and Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, June 9

7 p.m. Congregational Care (offsite)

Wednesday, June 10

7 p.m. PFLAG

Thursday, June 11

6 p.m. Board of Cultural Arts

Friday, June 12

5 p.m. Bolsa Chica beach clean-up and bonfire (jr. and sr. high youth)