



Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

This Sunday there will be several special elements both in our service and in our time for coffee and conversation after the service.

During the service itself there will be a brief opportunity for Robert Garcia, the newly elected city council member from the first district, to extend his greetings to our congregation. We will also honor our young people who have just completed the "Our Whole Lives" sexuality program, and we will have an opportunity to thank the adults who guided them through that program. We will also have special music from our tenor soloist, Carlos Carlos.

If we don't feel outrage at the injustices we have personally experienced or at the injustices that are part of the American or global communities, then we seem to have just numbed ourselves to evil. But if we get angry about injustice, can we hold onto hope at the same time? That is the question I will look at in my sermon.

Following the service, there will be a baked potato lunch as a fundraiser for our Board of Parish Life. The dessert will be for everyone, not just those who buy the lunch, because it will be part of an informal reception for Robert Garcia who will stay after the service to greet our members, answer their questions and listen to their concerns about the first district. The Board of Christian Education will also hold a Greenfest focusing on specific things each of us can do to be better stewards of the earth.

You won't want to miss this special Sunday.

SERMON: *Can We Hold Both Anger and Hope?*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

READING: Selections from the Eighth- and Seventh-Century BCE Prophetic Writings of Ancient Israel

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Mr. Glenn Agoncillo

Next week Libby Tigner will preach.

Music on Sunday

Jean Berger is a composer who enjoyed enormous popularity during the 1960s and 1970s. His short anthem "The Eyes of All Wait upon Thee" was published by Augsburg Publishing House in 1959 and was a best seller for almost 30 years. The text is from Psalm 145:15-16. Berger uses a descending interval of a seventh, mixed meter and harmonies that are more modal than diatonic to create the sense of mystery reflected in the text. See you in church.

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

In Sunday School This Week

Theme: Flourishing

Scripture Focus: Mark 4:26-34

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 "The US Role in the Conflict."

Beloved Bells Tour 2009

By Tracy Halter-Balin

The youth ringers of First Church are heading down south to the San Diego area the last weekend of June. We'll be performing a concert on Friday night, June 26 at the First Congregational Church of Escondido. They will be hosting a reception for the ringers as well as putting us up for the night in their Youth House. We will enjoy time together exploring the sights of the Wild Animal Park and other parts of San Diego on Saturday and then participate in the Youth Service at the Pilgrim Church in Carlsbad Sunday morning.

We are very excited about our fun, musical trip! If you have any friends or relatives in either the Escondido or Carlsbad areas, please let them know that we'll be in their town and would love to have them join us!

Custodial Corner: Refrigerator Cleanup

By Yvonne SaMarion

As we don't want to wait until our refrigeration units become toxic, during the week of June 22 ALL church refrigerators and the Plymouth West landing freezer will be emptied of all items and sanitized. All programs and individuals should remove their items from said appliances BEFORE June 22. **All items left in the units after June 21 will be disposed of.** This cleanup will not include Drop-In Center refrigeration units.

Two other notes: 1. Please continue to bring your old worn-out t-shirts to church; 2. Answering phone calls is problematic. Please send any requests or queries regarding room set-ups for your special occasions by email.

Study Leave

Jerry Stinson will preach this Sunday, June 14, and then leave immediately after the service to fly to Washington, DC where he will be a participant in a week-long Institute on Christian-Muslim Relations at Georgetown University. This is a program specifically designed for Christian ministers and Muslim Imams. Jerry will return on Saturday night and will be present for the Sunday service on June 21 when Libby will preach and he will be the clergy liturgist.

www.firstchurchlb.org

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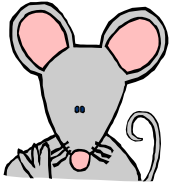
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The Pilgrim (USPS 602-580) is published weekly except the last week in December and twice a month in July and August by First Congregational Church, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802. Phone: 562-436-2256. Fax: 562-436-3018. Postmaster: Send address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

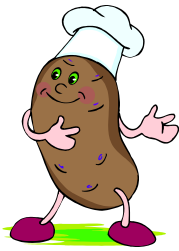
Editor: Ruth Warkentin
Deadline: Thursday noon
Periodicals postage paid
at Long Beach, CA



The Church Mouse has heard...

... One of our neighbors has put his water-color paintings of the church online. You may see them at www.lulu.com/content/e-book/church-watercolors/7193620.

Baked Potato Lunch This Sunday



This Sunday, June 14, the Board of Parish Life is having a baked potato lunch fund raiser. For \$5 you can get a baked potato with all the fixings, a simple salad and a cold drink. We will be serving right after church. Proceeds will help offset the cost of the All Church Picnic on July 12.

Senior Minister's Blog

Jerry Stinson's blog article this week will be a reaction to the murder of Dr. George Tiller.

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

Books Available for New Adult Class on Sundays

By Libby Tigner

A new adult book study will begin on July 12, and copies of the book are now available. From July 12 through September 6, we'll read and discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, *An Altar in the World*.

Taylor, an Episcopal priest and professor of religion at Piedmont College and teacher of spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary, was named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University in 1996. She is a sought-after speaker, and several of us are excited about hearing her at the UCC's General Synod in Grand Rapids later this month.

Here is an excerpt from her introduction to this new book: "I have no idea what you will see when you look at your life – but if you are tired of arguing about religion, tired of reading about spirituality, tired of talk-talk-talking about things that matter without doing a single thing that matters yourself, then the pages that follow are dedicated to you. My hope is that reading them will help you recognize ... some of the altars in this world."

The cost for the book is \$16.50. Copies are available from Libby.

Congratulations, 2009 Graduates!

The following people were honored during the service on Sunday, June 7:

Casey J. Holman, Educational Partnership High School; in the fall will attend Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma, WA

Allison King, Long Beach Polytechnic High School; in the fall will attend Reed College in Portland, OR

Brandon Solem-Kuehl, Los Alamitos High School; in the fall will attend California State University, Long Beach

Megan Berti, Bachelor of Music Degree in Opera Performance, California State University, Long Beach

Erin O'Keefe, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, Chapman University

Martha Duncan, Paralegal Certificate from Cerritos College





The Pilgrim
241 Cedar Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90802

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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 Mascereneas family (the De Bruyns' friends); Tyrone (Jim Snelling's son); Rina Hildebrand (Bob Hildebrand's mother); and Tom Nettifee upon the death of his mother. In the armed forces: Daniele Ware (Karen Miller's granddaughter, stationed in Iraq).

Online Pictorial Directory

Our pictorial directory is available online via a link on the members area of our website. Starting this Sunday members may pick up a card from Libby Tigner with a unique username and password to access the site.

Our One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts at Work

By Jerry Stinson

Each year in the weeks leading up to our One Great Hour of Sharing offering, I talk with our children about the use of those ecumenical funds to assist refugees. Here are two illustrations of how this year's gifts are being used.

Using One Great Hour of Sharing money, Global Ministries (a shared program of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ) is working with local partners in assisting a large number of internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka. The government of Sri Lanka has announced an end to war for the first time since 1983. While for some this may sound like a victory, large numbers of civilians are in transition and without the necessities needed for their survival. Children, especially those under the age of five, are most severely impacted and are suffering from undernourishment even if they and their families can reach the camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Short term, immediate humanitarian support is needed to help IDPs survive until they can return home by the end of the year. Of the 265,000 IDPs reported, approximately 80,000 are children. You can read the entire report at <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/assistance-sri-lanka-1.html>.

In Pakistan, 1.17 million people have been displaced by conflict. Most severely impacted are the children. Global Ministries is working with local partners through Church World Service and Action by Churches Together (ACT) International to provide relief for displaced persons. OGHS funds have been used to provide food relief, shelter kits, cooking utensils, blankets, water, hygiene and healthcare. For more information you can go to: <http://globalministries.org/news/sasia/pakistans-displaced-2.html>.

Online Calendar: Check the online church calendar at www.firstchurchlb.org/calendar.html for details about all church events. Just click on any event to see information about it.