



Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

This Sunday we will have special music by our soprano soloist, Megan Berti. My sermon will grow out of some reflections after reading Pat Barker's novel *Life Class*, which is about some young British art students caught up in the tragedy of World War I. I will be looking at the difficulty of dealing with the pain of someone we love.

SERMON: *Being Aware of Someone Else's Pain*
The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

READING: Selections from the Book of Job

LITURGIST: Ms. Barbara Smith

Next week Jerry Stinson's sermon will be titled "Progressive Spiritual Politics and a Possible New Covenant with America."

In Sunday School This Week

Theme: Healing Powers

Scripture Focus: Mark 5:21-43

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 "Good People Making a Difference – Israelis."

Music on Sunday

English composer Herbert Howells (1892-1983) is highly regarded for his distinctive English style of composition. His works include instrumental works, a number of solo songs, mass settings, an unaccompanied *Motet on the Death of President Kennedy*, some exquisite organ works, and several anthems. In 1925 he wrote "My Eyes for Beauty Pine" for SATB chorus and organ. Most of this work is sung in unison, with just two measures where the parts divide on the text "'tis love, 'tis heavenly love". The soaring melody, which introduces the work and concludes it, is set in an irregular rhythm. The basic meter is 3/2 (meaning the half note serves as the beat, with the quarter notes remaining constant; there are three beats in each of these measures). The meter changes to 7/4, with a grouping of two half notes (each with two quarter notes), and a dotted half-note (with three quarter notes). This unequal rhythm usually creates a noticeable syncopation. However, Howells sets his melody over this irregularity in such a way that minimizes the irregu-

SAVE THE DATE!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, July 12, at El Dorado Park
after the service

Tickets available on Sundays



(Continued on page 2)

Forum on Torture This Sunday

By Dale Whitney, First Church Contact for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture

The congregation is invited to attend a one-hour workshop on the subject of torture after the coffee hour on Sunday, June 28. We will view a 15-minute video entitled "Ending US-Sponsored Torture Forever: A Study for People of Faith." Featured are Matthew Alexander, Dr. George Hunsinger (the originator of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), of which we are a member), Dr. Sayyid Syeed, Dr. David Gushee, Rabbi Gerry Seretta, Rabbi Brian Walt, and a victim of torture.

June has been designated as National Torture Awareness Month by NRCAT, and this workshop, led by Dale Whitney, will feature an open discussion period after the viewing of the video. There will also be information about other torture-related events occurring in the near future, including a special Sunday afternoon event in Newport Beach and congressional visits in early July when Congress is in recess.

Cereal Needed for Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp starts on June 25. Every day the camp provides breakfast to the children, and we would appreciate cereal (i.e. granola, Wheaties, Life, Honey Oats etc.) donations. For our summer art activities, we also need empty cereal boxes, toilet and paper towel rolls, empty shoeboxes and any other small boxes. Please leave all items in the Narthex.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please contact Nancy Valencia at 562-234-2851. Thank you for your continued support.

The Downtown Associated Youth Services (DAYS) Committee

Music on Sunday (Continued from page 1)

larity and creates a smooth flowing line. The organ accompaniment is quite legato and thus preserves the fluid line. The listener should not perceive this mix of meters. Ensuring this provides a wonderful challenge for the conductor. See you in church!

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

www.firstchurchlb.org

First Church Staff

Jerald Stinson

Senior Minister ext. 230
jstinson@firstchurchlb.org

Libby Tigner

Associate Minister ext. 224
ltigner@firstchurchlb.org

Ed Bloomfield

Minister of Visitation
bloomfield_ed@yahoo.com

Mary Ellen Kilsby

Senior Minister Emerita
revmek@aol.com

Leland Vail

Minister of Music ext. 231
lvail@firstchurchlb.org

Tracy Halter-Balin

Assistant Director of Music
thalter@firstchurchlb.org

Marc Dickey

Organist
mdickey@firstchurchlb.org

Wally Hoeger

Director of Children's and Youth
Ministries ext. 226
whoeger@firstchurchlb.org

Ruth Warkentin

Office Manager ext. 221
office@firstchurchlb.org

Yvonne SaMarion

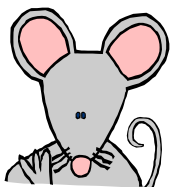
Maintenance Supervisor ext. 227
ysamarion@firstchurchlb.org

Heather Chambers or Melody O'Keefe at Halter & Associates

Bookkeeper ext. 225;
halter.assoc@verizon.net

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Editor: Ruth Warkentin
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The Church Mouse has heard...

... Meghan Ramsay graduated from CSULB on May 28. with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English education and a minor in communications. She will continue her education at CSULB next year to gain her teaching credential.

Please send your news to the Church Mouse in care of Ruth in the office, or put one of the news slips from the pews in the offering plate on Sunday.



Next Pilgrim

The next issue of *The Pilgrim* will cover the weeks of Sunday, July 5 and Sunday, July 12. The submission deadline is Thursday, June 25 at noon.

Senior Minister's Blog

Jerry Stinson's blog article, posted on either Tuesday or Wednesday, will explain why he intends to continue to sign wedding licenses even though some of his colleagues have decided not to sign any licenses until everyone has the right to marry.

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

Wally and Libby at General Synod

By Libby Tigner

Wally Hoeger, our Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and Libby Tigner, our Associate Minister, will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan this Sunday, attending the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Both of them will be back with us on July 5. Wally is a delegate to the Synod from the Southern California Nevada Conference, as is Deb Buller. Libby is attending as a member of the UCC's Executive Council.

The theme of this General Synod, using imagery from the Grand River, which flows right outside the convention hall, is "Immerse Yourself." It reminds us of the ways that water plays a central liturgical role in our faith story – in creation, in birth, in baptism and in life itself. "Immerse Yourself" is also an invitation to deeper forms of faithful living.

Among the items of business before this synod are a resolution calling for an "Axis of Friendship with Iran," which is co-sponsored by this congregation, and a resolution calling for a single-board model of governance in the UCC, which was co-written by Libby and signed by both Wally and Deb. (Oh, the joys and challenges of church politics!)

Your prayers for safe travel and careful discernment are appreciated.

A Message of Hope in Tough Economic Times

Four religious leaders in the Riverside area, representing three major religions, came together to create a video that encourages people to turn to their faith during these tough economic times. To see the video embedded on the website of our sister church in Riverside, see www.fccriverside.org/about/message-of-hope.php

Interfaith Community Organization House Party in July

The Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization will host a house party on Saturday, July 11, at the home of Charlie and Judy Albert, 3329 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. The party will run from 3 to 5 p.m. and will feature food and drink and music, in addition to highlights of ICO's work over the past year and plans for the future. For more information, contact Tom Warnke at tom@greaterlongbeachico.org or call the ICO offices, 562-984-2727.



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 Carl Becker (Janet Rhodes’ friend); Ruth Cannon (Jerry Cannon’s sister); Heather Paine (Joanne Paine’s granddaughter); Lloyd Wright; and the family of Geomara Weitzel, who recently died (Melanie Hiller’s friends); Dorothy Deatherage upon the death of her sister-in-law, Juliana Hickman Deatherage; Doris Leeper (Jim Deaton’s friend); Nick (friend of Mary Humme); Shelley Sinclair.

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

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, June 27

6 pm: Kindred Spirits potluck

Sunday, June 28

11:30 am: Forum on torture

Monday, June 29

7 pm: Urban Community Outreach board meeting

Tuesday, June 30

9 am: *Pilgrim* mailing

Friday, July 3

Office closed

Sunday, July 5

11:30 am: First Church Café

12:15 pm: Meetings: Christian

Education, Diaconate,

Outreach, Parish Life,

Stewardship/Finance,

Communications

Tuesday, July 7

7 pm: Drop-In Center

Committee meeting

Thanks from Libby Tigner

Many of you are aware that I have been working primarily from home for the past three weeks, as some intensive physical therapy on my shoulder has kept me, literally, tied to my chair at home. (I had a closed manipulation for a frozen shoulder on May 28.) But a good report from my orthopedist means I am finished with that portion of my therapy. When I return from General Synod, I will be back to my regular schedule and office hours.

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.



July Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Kay Gault, Audrey Rose Hanna, Casey Scott | 13 | Heather Chambers, Cynthia Holt |
| 2 | Terry O'Neill, Aiden Silva, Shelly Troup | 14 | Ruth Ann Borrero, Dorothy King |
| 4 | Lauren Chambers | 15 | Denise Diener, Bob Kalayjian, Annamarie Macias |
| 6 | Clayton Heard, Jennifer Penner | 16 | Glenn Agoncillo, Emma Jones, Evan Jones |
| 7 | Bill Severino, Kirsten Vangsness | 20 | Gerard Billard |
| 8 | Joanne Halley, Gary Shelton, Derrick Smith | 21 | Lowell Johnson, Brad Lara-Gagne |
| 9 | Robert Cannon, Myrna Pappas, Amy Peer, Anne Witter | 23 | Brad Stevens |
| 10 | Perry Ellwood, Katie Handen Llopis, Kathryn Stevens | 24 | Joel Kemper |
| 11 | Dave McMillin, John Osteen, Marty Silva | 25 | Helene Kennann |
| 12 | Brad Shore, Jim Watson | 27 | Matt Balin, Curt Barnett |
| | | 28 | John Kness |
| | | 29 | Paul DuNard |
| | | 30 | Gayle Connell, Eve Handen, Dean Solem-Kuehl, Peter Wright |

July Anniversaries

- 2 Harold and Ellen Kameya, 43 years
- 4 Debbie Byrne and Rita Edwards, 16 years
- 11 Douglas Emslie and Bruce Adams, 2 years
- 12 Evan and Nan Nutt, 40 years
- 12 Claudia and Robert Orpin, 40 years
- 18 John and Billie Pownall, 68 years
- 21 Marty and Monica Silva, 8 years
- 25 Kathy Young and Kathleen O'Neal, 16 years
- 28 Gil Griego and Chan Brainard, 36 years
- 28 Bill and Iris Wells, 58 years
- 31 Barbara Smith and Janet Waggoner, 42 years