



## Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

*Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.*

### Sunday, July 5

For the Fourth of July weekend, our liturgy will again focus on freedom and the hymns will include the perennial favorites: "God of the Ages" with its opening trumpet call; "This Is My Song" with words that speak of love of country as well as global citizenship; and "How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies" with its affirmation of peace and harmony.

We will have special music provided by Robert Stapp, an ordained minister who has served as a Minister of Music. We will also have an anthem by our choir.

My sermon will look at Rabbi Michael Lerner's proposal for a Spiritual Covenant with America. On this Sunday celebrating our nation's quest for independence, I want to look at what progressive people of all faiths might envision for our nation's future.

SERMON: *Progressive Spiritual Politics and a Possible New Covenant With America*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Ms. Claire de Jong

### Sunday, July 12

On this Sunday we will commission those from our congregation going to summer camp at Pilgrim Pines. We will have special music by Avocation and an anthem by the Sanctuary Choir.

My sermon will be the first of two consecutive sermons looking at how we might understand the meaning of a Sabbath Day. In this sermon I will look at the personal dimensions of what the Sabbath might mean. On July 19, I will look at some of the social dimensions.

SERMON: *The Sabbath Day as a Day of Regeneration*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Ms. Savannah Nguli

## Music on Sunday

For the fifth of July, the choir will sing "Hark, I hear the Harp's Eternal," a traditional American hymn arranged by Alice Parker. I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Parker at the National Choral Director's Association held in San Antonio, Texas in 1987. She was Robert Shaw's assistant for decades and did most of the arrangements for his various choral publications. The tempo is rather stately, with a march-like quality, even though it is in a 3/2 meter. The tune is sung in the soprano and tenor voice, while the altos and basses divide into four parts and serve as the harmonic underpinning. Although some sections are quite soft, the rhythmic drive never dissipates. The final chorus of "Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM!" concludes in a rousing *fortissimo!* Robert Stapp, a wonderful tenor, will provide the special music.

For Sunday, July 12, the choir will sing "Savior, Guide Us" by Canadian composer Nancy M. René and arranged by southern Californian composer Allen Petker. This is a

*(Continued on page 3)*

## In Sunday School

**July 5**

**Theme:** Sent with Power      **Scripture Focus:** Mark 6:1-13

**July 12**

**Theme:** God-inspired Joy      **Matthew 10:24-39**

## In Adult Education

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

**July 5:** Jerry Stinson will conclude the series on "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 "Possible Pathways to Peace."

**July 12:** 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. Libby Tigner will lead this class.

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."

Copies of the book are available after church from Libby for \$16.50.

## Cereal and Cardboard Boxes and Rolls for Summer Day Camp

Every day Summer Day Camp provides breakfast to the children, and we would appreciate donations of cereal (i.e. granola, Wheaties, Life, Honey Oats, etc.). 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.

**www.firstchurchlb.org**

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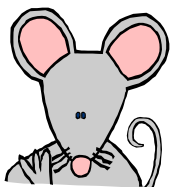
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**Editor: Ruth Warkentin**

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## The Church Mouse has heard...

... Wiley & Sons, probably the best known business book publisher, will be publishing Bob Phibbs' new book, *The Retail Doctor's Guide to Growing Your Business*, in mid-2010.

... Claire de Jong has recently returned from spending one and a half years as an au pair in Budapest. In the fall she will attend the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

*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.*




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## Senior Minister's Blog

Jerry Stinson's blog article, which will be posted on July 30, will look at the issue of deporting fathers in the name of homeland security. His blog article on July 7 will share some of his learnings from the Muslim-Christian Institute he attended at Georgetown University.

Go to the blog and not only read the article, but add your comment as well: [jerrysjusticejournal.blogspot.com](http://jerrysjusticejournal.blogspot.com).

## First Church Café This Sunday

The First Church Café is open for your dining pleasure this Sunday, July 5, immediately following our Sunday service. Follow the crowd downstairs to the dining room, where you'll find an array of delightful quiches waiting for you. This month the lunch is being prepared by Brad Lara-Gagne of Bootstrap Catering.



The cost for lunch is \$8, and a special buffet table for children 10 and under is available for \$4. Correct change is greatly appreciated. Following lunch, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., the Christian Education, Diaconate, Outreach, Parish Life, and Stewardship and Finance Board and the Communications Committee will meet. Child care is provided through 1:30 p.m.

### Menu

Summer stew with wild rice: chicken and vegetarian  
Green salad  
Bread  
Congo bars and coolies for dessert

### Kids' Table:

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches  
Grilled cheese sandwiches  
Tomato soup  
Carrots and ranch dressing  
Pudding cups

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## Music on Sunday *(Continued from page 1)*

simple anthem sung in four parts with a closed harmonic structure. The poem is a lovely petition to God asking for guidance in our daily lives. I first heard this work at a choral workshop in Oregon run by American choral icon Rodney Eichenberger.

Our special music this Sunday will be provided by Avocation. They will sing "Away from the Roll of the Sea" by Allister MacGillivray. See you in church!

*Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music*

## A Little Girl and Paper Cranes: Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

By Bob Kalayjian

On Sunday, August 9, there will be a lay service of remembrance of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. An ad hoc committee was formed from the group that organized the Helen Caldicott forum on nuclear power and weapons. At our planning session a story of a little girl was shared.

Sadako Sasaki was two years old and living in Hiroshima, Japan when the first atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. She and most of her family survived the blast that leveled their home and they returned a few days later to rebuild. They were all sick from radiation exposure, but gradually recovered. Sadako grew to be a typical little girl in post-war Japan. She went to school, was a runner on the track team and then, ten years after the bombing, she became fatigued and tired. She went to the doctor and was found to have the "bomb disease" — leukemia. She went into the hospital and was treated for her symptoms, but little could be done.

A friend visited and showed her how to make an origami paper crane. There is an ancient story in Japan that if a person makes a thousand paper cranes, they can make a wish and it will come true. Sadako began making her thousand paper cranes so she could wish to recover from her leukemia. She managed to make 644 before she was too weak to make any more. She died a few weeks later and her classmates finished her thousand cranes and the cranes were buried with her. Sadako and paper cranes have become a symbol of peace throughout the world.

We are going to hang a thousand paper cranes in the sanctuary on August 2. Imagine that! Everyone will be given a chance to make cranes on the two Sundays before at coffee hour. Our youth are making cranes. We will have an ecumenical service at 7 p.m. on Thursday the sixth under the thousand cranes that will remember Hiroshima on the sixty-fourth anniversary of the atomic bomb that was dropped there. On Sunday the ninth, during our service of remembrance, we will make a wish and a prayer to see the elimination of all nuclear weapons from the planet. I hope everyone will come to share in remembering and reconnecting to the hope of a nuclear weapons free world.



## Farm Workers Prayer Vigils

This summer the United Farm Workers and the National Farm Worker Ministry will hold a series of prayer vigils in front of the Wholesale Food Market in Los Angeles and two vigils in Orange County. The purpose of these vigils is to honor the 15 farm workers who have died in the fields from heat exhaustion and stroke since 2004 and to educate people about the conditions under which they work. California has good laws regulating accessibility of water, first aid, shade breaks, rest room and lunch breaks. Unfortunately, they are not enforced and workers do not know their rights or are afraid they will lose their jobs if they protest. All of these deaths could have been prevented.

The first Orange County vigil, sponsored by Progressive Christians Uniting, will take place July 21 at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Trader Joe's at 12932 Newport Avenue in Tustin. Karen Miller will attend this vigil. The second vigil will occur July 26 at 11:15 a.m. at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road (at MacArthur), Newport Beach. It is sponsored by the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Mark.

For information on the vig-

*(Continued on page 5)*

**ALL CHURCH PICNIC**  
**Sunday, July 12,**  
**at El Dorado Park,**  
**after the service**  
**Tickets available on**  
**Sundays**



### Next *Pilgrim*

The next issue of *The Pilgrim* will cover the weeks of Sunday, July 19 and Sunday, July 26. The submission deadline is Thursday, July 9 at noon.

### Prayer Vigils (Continued from page 4)

ils in Los Angeles, contact the National Farm Worker Ministry California office: Lucy Boutte ([bouttelucy@aol.com](mailto:bouttelucy@aol.com), (951-634-8817) or Christy Lafferty ([clafferty@nfwm.org](mailto:clafferty@nfwm.org), (323-893-9605). Jerry Stinson will help lead the Los Angeles vigil taking place on July 21.

## Summer Day Camp News

*The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.* - Helen Keller

Since 1970, Downtown Associated Youth Services (DAYS) in conjunction with First Congregational Church has offered a free six-week summer camp to children in Long Beach.

The camp provides a unique environment where campers can explore, be challenged, and learn. Last year we registered over 245 children, including 40 young people between the ages of 15 and 17. As a result, the camp opened a Senior Youth Program, giving the older children an opportunity to volunteer and learn basic work skills. This year we anticipate our numbers increasing due to the downturn in the economy.

I recently found a *Pilgrim* article from Mitzi Eilts, a former Summer Day Camp Director, which describes perfectly the importance of the camp. Ms. Eilts was asked if it might be better to put our money toward a concentrated week of activity in the mountains, such as at Pilgrim Pines. Her response, "In Summer Day Camp the children learn that people in their own community really care about them and bother to take time out to spend with them. The mountains are a great place to learn about nature and [make] friendships. But a greater lesson for these children is feeling the love and care of all ages of people and [learning] that there are new experiences awaiting their exploration right here at home."

We invite you to come and see the camp for yourself. With the help and support of members at First Church, our campers will continue to feel a sense of community and our love. For more information, please contact Nancy Valencia at 562-234-2851.

Together we can make a difference in a child's life. With deep gratitude,

*Downtown Associated Youth Services*

## Reminder: First Church Sees *Facing East* on Sunday, July 5

Join First Church friends in going to see *Facing East* on Sunday, July 5 at 2 pm. We'll have lunch at the First Church Café, and some will then go to board meetings, finishing up by 1:30. Those who want can carpool to the Long Beach Performing Arts Center. Get your tickets by calling the ICT box office at 562-436-4610 or go to [www.internationalcitytheatre.org](http://www.internationalcitytheatre.org). Tickets are \$25 if you use the discount code FEPC09.



*The Pilgrim*  
 241 Cedar Avenue  
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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 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; Jane and Bob Coughlin; and Casey Holman.

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

*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](http://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 ...

**Friday, July 3:** Office closed

**Sunday, July 5**

11:30 a.m. First Church Café

12:15 p.m. Meetings: Christian Education, Diaconate, Outreach, Parish Life, Stewardship/Finance, Communications

**Tuesday, July 7**

7 p.m. Drop-In Center Committee

**Wednesday, July 8**

7 p.m. PFLAG

**Sunday, July 12**

12 noon All Church Picnic

**Wednesday, July 15**

6 p.m. Board of Cultural Arts

7 p.m. Personnel Committee

**Saturday, July 18**

5 p.m. Guest Chef

**Sunday, July 19**

11:30 a.m. Church tour

## A Double Thank You

This congregation and staff, individually and as the Body of Christ, made Bud’s death bearable. Your cards and specific remembrances, your hugs and your invitations have been more therapeutic that you can imagine. I feel carried, literally. Thank you.

And now, celebrating my 75th birthday, you have again overwhelmed me with love and joy and appreciation. Coming right now, your expressions of support and touching tenderness are God’s own embraces.

Thank you indeed.

*Mary Ellen Kilsby*

## 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](mailto:revjstinson@verizon.net).