



Sunday Celebration Notes from Libby Tigner

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

Sunday, August 2

This Sunday the choir begins its well-deserved summer break, and we'll be treated to special music by mother-daughter violin duet Linda Kellogg and Jennifer Mota. Everyone is invited to stay at church for lunch as the First Church Café will be open, with food prepared by Karen Cannon. A small fee applies.

My sermon will take a look at one of the shortest of the parables of Jesus as recorded in the book of Matthew. To me, it has always been one of the least satisfying of Jesus' sayings, so I decided to poke around in it some. As usual, context has helped me to make some sense of it. I'll share my explorations and my thinking with you.

SERMON: Which Is It?

The Rev. Libby Tigner, preaching

READING: Matthew 21:28-31

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Mr. Eddie Nazarro

Sunday, August 9

A group of lay folks led by former moderator Bob Kalayjian are putting together this year's laity Sunday service. Inspired by the anniversaries this week of the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, our service will be a time of remembrance and a call to action in creating a world filled with peace. One of the speakers will be church member Akiko Dohi, who was a child living in Japan in 1945, and she will share her memories. Akiko, who is a concert pianist, will also play the special music. Others participating in the service are Edric Guise, Steve Schatz and Nancy Valencia.

The 1,000 paper cranes that many church members have been creating this summer will be hanging in the sanctuary – a visual call to peace that promises to be both beautiful and profoundly moving.



Music on Sunday

The Sanctuary Choir is now on vacation, although most of the choir members attend services throughout the summer. Special music will be provided on Sunday, August 2 by Linda Kellogg, violin and her daughter Jennifer Mota, viola. They will play a duet together, so you will not want to miss this.

On Sunday, August 9, which is Lay Sunday, Akiko Dohi will be featured on piano. Akiko is one of the finest concert pianists in southern California. It is always a pleasure to hear her play.

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

In Sunday School

August 2

Theme: Bread of Life

Scripture Focus: Matthew

13:1-9, 18-23

August 9

Theme: Shaping Community

Scripture Focus: Matthew

13:24-30, 36-43

In Adult Education

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

We'll continue our discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*.

Stay for Lunch! First Church Café Open August 2

The First Church Café is open on the first Sunday each month, allowing folks to develop new friendships and deepen existing one by sharing a meal together. It's also convenient for members who have board or committee meetings after church.

The meal, prepared by Karen Cannon and featuring a special buffet for children under 10, costs \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Plan now to stay for lunch!

First Church Café Italia Menu from Stars Catering

Pasta Grande: tricolor rotelli pasta tossed with chicken, sausage and garden fresh vegetables in a merlot-spiked marinara sauce, baked *en casserole* and finished with grated romano and mozzarella (vegetarian version also served)

Polenta lasagna with fresh vegetables and chicken for gluten-free diners

Warm garlic bread and dinner rolls

Stars' Caesar salad: crisp romaine with garlic croutons, parmesan and our own Caesar dressing

Warm apple cobbler and whipped cream

Summer "sangria" and iced tea

Children's Table

Pasta and pizza – children's version of the adults' pasta, plus pepperoni and cheese pizza, bumps on a log, fruit and Jello cups (because young menu consultants say "applesauce is for babies!"), s' mores, crackers and juice boxes

Practicing Pew Fellowship

By Libby Tigner

We're creatures of habit, and those habits extend to Sunday morning. A common habit for most of us is sitting in the same place in church. It's almost like we think we have assigned seats!

One big advantage of having "our pew" is that we generally get to know our "pew mates." And so it's easy to notice if someone is new or if someone else hasn't been in their regular spot for a while.

This church, like all churches, survives on the connections that people have with one another. If you've noticed that one of your pew regulars has missed a few Sundays, how about practicing

(Continued on page 3)

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

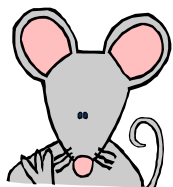
The Pilgrim (USPS 602-580) is published weekly except the last week in December and twice a month in July and August by First Congregational Church, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802. Phone: 562-436-2256. Fax: 562-436-3018. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Pilgrim*, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach,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

Editor: Ruth Warkentin

Deadline: Thursday noon

Periodicals postage paid

at Long Beach, CA



The Church Mouse has heard...

... Congratulations to Tracy Sachtjen who graduated from the University of California at Irvine in June with her Ph.D. Tracy has a history teaching position at Pasadena City College.



Pew Fellowship *(Continued from page 2)*

some pew fellowship? Pick up the phone and let them know that they are missed. There may be something going on with them that we're not aware of. And even if they've just gotten busy, everyone likes to know that they're missed!

In the same way, if you see a new face in your pew, extend a warm welcome. It doesn't have to be elaborate - maybe you're not comfortable with starting conversations with folks you don't know - but you can say "Hello, welcome to First Church!"

The next time you're in church (and sitting in your regular spot, I assume!), take a look around. Greet your regulars, notice who's missing and who's new, and let them know that you noticed!

Service of Remembrance on August 6 – Hiroshima Anniversary

By Libby Tigner

On Monday, August 6, 1945 at 8:15 a.m., the nuclear weapon "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima by the crew of the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay, directly killing an estimated 80,000 people. By the end of the year, injury and radiation brought total casualties to 90,000-140,000. Countless more fell victim to cancer, leukemia, and the emotional, social and psychological fallout from the atomic bomb. Three days later, on August 9, the "Fat Man" plutonium bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, at the cost of an additional 40,000-70,000 civilian lives in the initial blast.

In an act of remembering and as a part of our individual and collective calls for an end to nuclear armament, we will hold a Service of Remembrance on Thursday, August 6 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

For this service, and for the next couple of Sundays, the sanctuary will be adorned with the 1,000 paper cranes that have been created by members of this congregation – an offering for peace. The service will include a time of naming those who have lost their lives to war, lighting candles both in their memory and for peace, music, litanies, and time for quiet reflection and prayer. We invite you to be present.

Save the Date!

Homecoming Sunday, September 13

This Year's Theme: "Be the Welcome"

Lunch on Homecoming Sunday, September 13

By Barbara Smith

The Church History Ministry Team invites you to lunch on Homecoming Sunday, September 13. Luncheon will feature the team's delicious salad bar, drinks and yummy dessert. Tickets for this event will be on sale August 30 and September 6 and 13.

Vacation Church School Is Almost Here!

By Wally Hoeger

Sign up today via email or after church to reserve your spot for Vacation Church School. Spots are filling up. Our program has been designed for all ages to be engaged in learning, experiencing, playing, and eating together as a church family. We start the night off by enjoying catered food together, as well as community time. Then, each night adults can choose between our adult series, Evidence for Evolution, taught by our very own Dr. Carol Welsh (please see article below), or our scheduled adult activity. Children will engage in biblical science experiments that deepen understanding of scripture as well as include fun activities such as building rock candy and terrariums.

Tuesday Nights,
August 11 - September 1, 6 - 8pm
\$8 per night, \$70 per family
Dinner included

Adult Vacation Church School Class: Evidence for Evolution

by Dr. Carol Welsh

Beginning Tuesday evening August 11, I offer you a chance to brush up on your science by actively participating in a mini-course: Evidence for Evolution. No discussion of evolution would be complete without a review of the nature of science and an historical perspective of evolutionary thought since the 18th century. We continue with an overview of "lines of evidence" which converge to support the "theory" we call biological evolution. These lines currently include radiometric dating, fossils, comparative morphology and embryology, biogeography, gene modification and experimental evidence. Looking forward to seeing you here, August 11 through September 1.

Vacation Church School Schedule

	August 11	August 18	August 25	September 1
Dinner provided by	La Traviata	Super Mex	Panda Express	El Pollo Loco
Adult Activities	Crafting Circle	Candle Making	Baking	Homeless Kits
Children's Classes Themes	Crystals	Water	Rock	Forces
Series for Adults	Evidence for Evolution, led by Dr. Carol Welsh			

Koinonia Café Concert

3 p.m., Saturday, August 22

Bruce Russell, piano
www.facebook.com/reqs.php#/profile.php?id=1253285478

Noteworthy Duo:
 Michael Nigro, guitar;
 Lisa Schroeder, flute
www.noteworthyduo.com

Tickets \$10. Donors of \$100 or more to the Board of Cultural Arts receive two free tickets to the concert. Contact Aaron Gonzalez-Palmer for tickets (714-744-3960 or Palm135@hotmail.com).

Pianist Bruce Russell performs throughout the Los Angeles area in addition to teaching piano in his home studio in Bixby Knolls and at Cerritos College. Bruce specializes in classical music, but has also played for musical theatre productions at the Lyric and Hudson Theatres in Hollywood.

Bruce recently spent two years on the East Coast: one in New York City, where he earned a professional studies certificate in piano perform-

(Continued on page 5)

Café Concert *(Continued from page 4)*

ance at the Manhattan School of Music, and one in Vermont, where he worked as a vocal coach and piano instructor at Bennington College. Bruce has a master's degree in piano from Cal State Long Beach, and a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University.

The Noteworthy Duo is touring 17 states from Massachusetts to California. Lisa Schroeder and Michael Nigro join their musical talents to create Noteworthy Duo. Their vision is to reach a non-classical audience, inspire the classical listener, and to touch just one life with a "noteworthy" performance. Noteworthy's interest in South American music can be heard throughout their extensive flute and guitar repertoire.

Lisa is the winner of the 2009 National Flute Association Convention Performers Competition. Her expressive playing transports the audience into the music and has received praise from the flute community.

Michael Nigro attended the prestigious Indiana School of Music for his Bachelors and CSU Fullerton for a Masters of Music. He is the co-founder of the Long Beach Classical Guitar Society.

"Individually, Nigro and

Friday Night at First Church

By Yvonne SaMarion

September is right around the corner. With the coming of fall, the life of the church will begin to quicken. Friday Night at First Church will undergo a few changes. The Rev. Libby Tigner has turned the program over to a volunteer committee who would like to keep this fun adult night going. Our first night of fun will be on September 11. We would like your feedback to help broaden the program. Please circle all items that might entice you to join us on a Friday night.

Musical sing-a-long

Movie night

Murder mystery party

Craft night

Charades

Team games

Scrabble

Trivial Pursuit

Pictionary

Card games

Gin rummy

Bridge (for all levels)

Other games

Scattergories

Monopoly (fast version)

Dominoes/Mexican Train

Jenga

Yahtzee

Sorry

Bingo

Uno

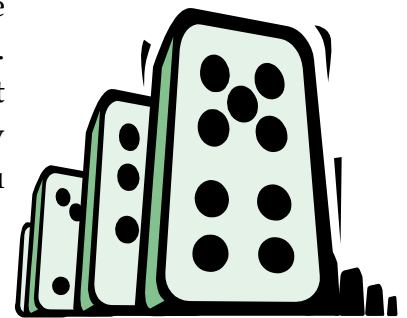
Farkle

Clue

Volleyball



Please return this survey to the church office no later than August 21. You may return this form by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday or by mailing it to the church. Thank you for your participation.



Schroeder are accomplished, dynamic musicians at the top of their game. Together, they created a gorgeous, seamless sound, completely at ease with their music and audience..." (Cathy Brown, UCLA, Music in the Rotunda).

Come join us for a wonderful afternoon of classical music.

August Anniversaries

- 5 Melanie and Luke Hiller, 3 years
- 6 Robert Stapp and Harold Sutherland, 29 years
- 16 Howard and Michelle Williams, 5 years
- 17 Casey and Diana Scott, 13 years
- 23 Rick and David Travis-Bourassa, 1 year
- 25 Scott and Linda Ramsay, 30 years
- 26 Steven Adams and Mark Burns, 10 years
- 26 Doug and Nadine Ramsay, 25 years
- 31 Nate Stoutemire and Jim Frisby, 31 years

August Birthdays

- 1 Michael Bush, Lisa Heard, Joshua Tann
- 2 Kim DeVane, Katelyn Wells
- 5 Erica Strauss
- 6 Harold Sutherland
- 9 Jenny Dolan, Timothy Jones
- 10 Charles Spencer, Dottie Polsey
- 11 Maxwell Charles
- 12 Elizabeth Edwards
- 13 Paul Boyd-Batstone
- 14 Claire Mitchell, Adella Valla
- 15 Ivy Bottini, Alexander Cannon, Kim Hendricks
- 16 Debbie Byrne
- 17 Ben Rockwell
- 18 Bill Wells
- 19 Jane Crandall, Rex Dulin, Owen Gardner-Orr
- 20 Rob Daniel
- 21 Susan Dampf
- 23 Kim Marshall
- 24 James Loeffler
- 25 Pam Chapin
- 26 Amy Sutton
- 27 Joanne Burcham
- 28 Charles DeBruyn II, Joanne Paine
- 30 Zoe Gholson, Sophia Hanna, Scott Juhl, Dale Whitney
- 31 Nico AmirArdalan, Barbara Armstrong, Ben Nguli, Gordon Shepherd

Greater Long Beach ICO Action on Immigration and Health Care Coming in August

Come join fellow faith community congregants from across Long Beach at this historic moment as we push our local Congressional Representatives to take positive action to reform our broken health care and immigration systems. This is our unique opportunity to have input in this historic process -- to share our stories and persuade our representatives of the need for the U.S. Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform and a health care reform bill that provides guaranteed access to affordable health care options. Please contact the ICO office at info@greaterlongbeachico.org or 562-984-2727, for more information.

Housing Long Beach Seeking Childcare Volunteers

Housing Long Beach is looking for people to care for children during their meeting on August 5, 5:30 - 8 p.m. at the Neighborhood Methodist Church (corner of Fifth and Pacific in Long Beach). For more information or to volunteer, please contact Maggie Baker at 562-674-6279.

Don't Forget! Wine Tasting with Food Pairings

A fundraiser for the Drop-In Center
 Monday, August 24, 6 p.m.
 \$50/person, \$80/couple
 For tickets, contact Janet Rhodes at
 562-590-9520 or ucodropincenter@gmail.com

August at First Congregational Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sundays 8:30 Una Voce Rehearsal, Adult Education* 9:30 Prayer in Sacred Space* 12:30 Drop-In Center</p> </div>	<p>*Childcare is provided. To request childcare for a church event, contact Wally Hoeger at 562-436-2256 x 226 or whoeger@firstchurchlb.org.</p>					1
10 Service of Celebration*: Libby Tigner preaching 11:30 First Church Café* 12:15 Meetings*: Outreach, Communications	2 8:30 Summer Day Camp (through August 7) 7 Stewardship/Finance (offsite)	3 7 Drop-In Center Committee 7 Congregational Care Committee (offsite)	4 5	6 7 Hiroshima Remembrance	7	8
8:30 History Ministry Team 10 Service of Celebration*: Lay Sunday 11:30 Meetings: Worship & Arts Ministry Team; Christian Education	9 2 Air Quality Ministry Team	10 9 <i>Pilgrim</i> mailing 6 Vacation Church School	11 7 PFLAG	12 13	14	15 5 Guest Chef
10 Service of Celebration*: Mary Ellen Kilsby preaching 11:30 Church tour	16 6:30 Air Quality Ministry Team 7 Urban Community Outreach Board	17 6 Vacation Church School	18 19	20	21	22 3 Café Concert
10 Service of Celebration*: Libby Tigner preaching	23 7 Wine Tasting with Food Pairings (Drop-In Center fundraiser)	24 6 Vacation Church School	25 26	27 7 Social Justice Committee	28	29
10 Service of Celebration*: Harold Sutherland preaching 11:30 Nominating Committee	30 31					



The Pilgrim
241 Cedar Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90802

Periodicals
postage paid at
Long Beach, CA

TO:

“Never place a period
where God has placed a comma”

[Gracie Allen]

Parish Concerns

Your thoughts and prayers are requested for Bob Hildebrand upon the death of his mother; Wilson Green (Pat Green’s father); Richard deBruyn (Chuck deBruyn’s father); Stan Cook (Georgette deBruyn’s cousin); John Baney; Jim Deaton; Kay Gault upon the death of her sister, Debbie; Doris Leeper (Jim Deaton’s friend); Ben Rockwell; Beverly Sheldrick (Joanne Paine’s friend).

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.

Next *Pilgrim*

The next issue of *The Pilgrim* will cover the weeks of August 16, 23 and 31. The deadline for submission is Monday, August 10 at 8 a.m. Please submit all emailed items as attached files, not embedded in the body of the email. Thanks,

Ruth Warkentin

Thank You, First Church

To my friends in the community that is First Church,

Thank you for the cards, phone and personal calls, letters and kind acts that made my illness so much easier to bear. I am getting a little better each day and am well on the road to recovery. See you in church,

Lowell L. Johnson

Mark Your Calendar

Sixth Annual Valla Progressive Religious Scholarship Lecture

James Rowe Adams

Founder of The Center for Progressive Christianity

Saturday, October 3, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

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.