



Sunday Celebration Notes from Libby Tigner

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

August 16

This Sunday we welcome the Rev. Mary Ellen Kilsby, our Senior Minister Emerita, back to our pulpit. Mary Ellen, who retired in 1999, has remained a vital and involved member and supporter of this church. Of her sermon, Mary Ellen says, "The news these days is horrific: violence all over the world, economic disaster, personal pain. How and why do we laugh in the midst of all of it? I think our faith, especially in a forgiving, grace-filled Spirit, helps us with this. Illogical? Perhaps. Crucial? Absolutely."

Dr. Leland Vail, our Minister of Music, will sing Stan DeWitt's lovely piece "Pray" and will be accompanied on the viola by Laura McCrary. Please join us.

SERMON: *Illogical Laughter*

The Rev. Mary Ellen Kilsby, preaching

READING: Psalm 90, selected verses

LITURGISTS: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Mr. Tom Nettifee

August 23

Last year, theologians Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker published a book entitled *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*. This heavily researched volume looks at the history of Christian art in Europe and uses it to trace changes in Christian theology – particularly from a religion that embraced a living, loving Jesus to a religion that elevated his death. I will glean from their book in a sermon that will urge us to recognize that in the gifts of our present lives is where paradise is to be found.

Our chant choir, Una Voce, under the direction of Karen Miller, will provide the special music for this service.

SERMON: *Saving Paradise*

The Rev. Libby Tigner, preaching

READING: Genesis 1 and 2, selected verses

LITURGIST: Kayla Sutton

(Continued on page 2)

Music on Sunday

On Sunday, August 16, Laura McCrary, viola, will join me in presenting "Pray" by Stan DeWitt. This beautiful song was featured on the CD of "Music at First Church." Special music for August 23 will be provided by our wonderful chant choir Una Voce, directed by Karen Miller. Finally, Jim Lumen, guitar and voice, will present the special music for August 30.

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, August 27, 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you are interested in joining the Choir, please come to this first rehearsal. See you in church!

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

Next Pilgrim

The next issue of *The Pilgrim* will cover the week of September 6. The deadline for submission is Thursday, August 27 at 12 noon. Please submit all emailed items as attachments, not embedded in the body of the email.

Ruth Warkentin

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday Celebration Notes

August 30

SERMON: *A Different Kind of Hospitality/Justice Ministry*
The Rev. Harold Sutherland, preaching

READING: Luke 14:15-23

LITURGIST: The Rev. Libby Tigner and Mr. Joel Kemper

The Rev. Harold Sutherland, who sings in the choir and is the chair of the Worship and Arts Ministry Team, will be our guest preacher. Harold, and ordained minister in the American Baptist Church, now works with people seeking political or religious asylum in the United States in his work with the immigration arm of the Department of Homeland Security. The special music will be provided by another choir member, baritone Jim Lumen, who will accompany himself on guitar.

Of his sermon, Harold says, "This will be a reflection on my 30 years of 'ministry' with refugees and asylum seekers. The first 12 and a half years were in an official church-related setting and the past 17 and a half years have been on the other side (working for the US Federal Government), but there is still a sense that the work that I do is a ministry."

In Sunday School

August 16

Theme: Wisdom Quest

Scripture Focus: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 23

Theme: At Home with God

Scripture Focus: Matthew 14:13-21

August 30

Theme: Be Love

Scripture Focus: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

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*.

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

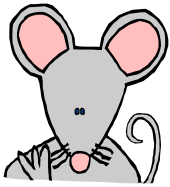
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Editor: Ruth Warkentin

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The Church Mouse has heard...

... The Rev. Dale Whitney, Manager of the Harbor Area Farmer's Market, has been named the Farmer's Market Manager of the Year by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Dale was honored by the supervisors and presented with a scroll at the August 4 meeting.

... Christine DeBruyn (the DeBruyns' daughter) will marry Adam Brinkman on August 14.

... Mary DeBruyn (the DeBruyns' daughter-in-law) received her teaching credential from CSU San Bernardino on June 12.



Vacation Church School Continues – Join Us on Tuesday Nights

By Libby Tigner

VCS got off to a great start on August 11, and there is still time to get involved in these mult-generational food-learning-fun summer evenings. If your schedule doesn't allow you to be there for all

Dinner provided by
Adult Activities
Children's Classes Themes
Series for Adults

Homecoming on September 13 – *Be the Welcome*

Our new year of programming will kick off on Sunday, September 13 with our Homecoming Sunday. The Worship and Arts Ministry Team is planning some visual arts and new liturgy to accentuate the theme, *Be the Welcome*. The theme is taken from a poem by Tina Datsko de Sánchez, and we'll re-visit the poem throughout the year, pulling out different phrases to celebrate and embody. Homecoming is the Sunday when our Sanctuary Choir returns from its summer break, and the Sacrament of Communion will be a part of our Sunday Celebration of God's love.

Before church, there will be a breakfast offered, children and youth will register for church school, ZONE and music groups, and we'll get an overview of the planned activities and educational programs for children, youth and adults. After church, the Church History Ministry Team will offer a lunch that will help raise funds and awareness for our church building and the rich legacy that we enjoy.

We encourage all First Church members and friends to make a special effort to join us on Homecoming Sunday. Reconnect with friends, find new ways to be involved, and celebrate with us!

Luncheon on Homecoming Sunday, September 13

By Barbara Smith

The Church History Ministry Team will sell tickets for a luncheon fundraiser in Patterson Hall on Homecoming Sunday, September 13. You may purchase tickets in the Kilsby Courtyard after church on August 30, September 6 or September 13. Individuals \$8 and families \$20. The luncheon will feature a delicious salad bar, drinks and dessert.

the sessions, just come when you can! The cost is \$8 per night, which includes supper and all activities. VCS begins at 6 p.m. in Patterson Hall; from 7 until 8, we split into age groups for our activities. Here's the schedule for the rest of the summer:

August 18	August 25	September 1
Super Mex	Panda Express	El Pollo Loco
Candle Making	Baking	Homeless Kits
Water	Rock	Forces
Evidence for Evolution, led by Dr. Carol Welsh		



The Pilgrim
 241 Cedar Avenue
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TO:

“Never place a period
 where God has placed a comma”
[Gracie Allen]

You've got a date ...

Sunday, August 16

11:30 a.m. Church tour

Monday, August 17

6:30 p.m. Air Quality Ministry
 Team

7 p.m. Urban Community
 Outreach Board

Tuesday, August 18

6 p.m. Vacation Church School

Saturday, August 22

3 p.m. Café Concert

Monday, August 24

7 p.m. Wine Tasting with Food
 Pairings (Drop-In Center
 fundraiser)

Tuesday, August 25

6 p.m. Vacation Church School

Thursday, August 27

7 p.m. Social Justice
 Committee

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Sunday, August 30

11:30 a.m. Nominating
 Committee

Jerry Returned from Israel/ Palestine

By Libby Tigner

Our Senior Minister, Jerry Stinson, has returned to the US after nearly two weeks in Israel/Palestine as a part of a

Parish Concerns

Your thoughts and prayers are requested for 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); Betty Cole's nephew; Jack DeBruyn (Chuck DeBruyn's uncle); Pat Green upon the death of her father, Wilson Green; Gloria Harris

(Yvonne SaMarion's great-aunt) Ivory Harris (Yvonne SaMarion's greatniece); the Harris family (Yvonne SaMarion's inlaws) upon the death of Donald Harris; Fran Holand; Narfed SaMarion (Yvonne SaMarion's brother); Cynde Soto; Iris Wells.

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

Memorial at Sea

There will be a memorial service to honor the over 5000 dead American service men and women from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will take the time to consider the true cost of these wars by gathering at the Seal Beach Pier at 10 a.m. and the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier at approximately 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 23. Endorsed by the Long Beach Area Peace Network, Military Families Speak Out, Veterans for Peace, Orange County Peace Coalition. For more information, contact Pat Alviso (562-833-8035).

delegation from Interfaith Peace Builders. We all look forward to hearing from Jerry what he learned and experienced, but in the meantime, you can see photographs and written reports on the Interfaith Peace Builders' website. News from his delegation can be found at www.ifpb.org/del31/default.html. Or simply go to their website, ifpb.org, go to the "Delegations" menu, and click on "Delegation Reports." Jerry will be back in the office on September 1, following some vacation time.