



Sunday Celebration Notes from Jerry Stinson

Celebrating God's Love Every Sunday at 10 am.

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday so we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Worship and Arts Ministry Team is working on some visual elements for the service that enhance this celebration of our global connections.

There will be an introit from our chant choir, Una Voce and a special Stewardship Moment, and we will receive our Neighbors in Need offering.

In my sermon I want to look at how some of the colonial Quaker leaders interacted with the Native Americans they encountered. I think there is much we can learn from that interaction.

SERMON: *Colonial Quakers Putting Faith into Practice*

The Rev. Jerry Stinson, preaching

READING: A Letter from William Penn

LITURGIST: The Rev. Libby Tigner

Next week our guest preacher will be Cantor Steve Puzarne.

In Sunday School This Week

Theme: Enfolding Love

Scripture Focus: Mark 10:2-16

In Adult Education This Week

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

We will hold our first discussion of "First Light," a DVD-based series featuring scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan which examines the beginnings of the Jesus movement. Filmed in and around Jerusalem and the Galilee, life in first-century Palestine and the social and cultural world into which Jesus was born and on which his teachings made such a deep and lasting impact. Reading materials prepared by John Dominic Crossan, including study questions and are available for \$1. You can pick up your copy on any Sunday morning in class.

Music on Sunday

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) composed a number of settings of the *Tantum Ergo*. The text is actually the fifth stanza of the *Pange lingua* (sing o tongue), a hymn written by St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1263). Schubert composed the setting we are singing Sunday in E-flat Major in 1828. According to William Hermann, the editor of the score we are using, this was one of the last pieces Schubert wrote before his death in 1828. The translation is as follows:

Let us therefore, bowing
low,
Venerate so great a Sacra-
ment;
And let the old Law
Give way to the new rite;
Let faith afford assistance
To the deficiency of the
senses.

To the Begetter and the Be-
gotten
Let there be praise and ju-
bilation
Salvation and honor,
And power and blessing;
And to the One proceeding
from both
Let there be equal praise.

Schubert contrasts this sim-

(Continued on page 3)

Neighbors in Need Offering

by Jerry Stinson

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive this Sunday, October 4, supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through *UCCTakeAction.org*, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs our support.



www.firstchurchlb.org

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T-shirts and Towels

By Yvonne SaMarion

Are you cleaning out your closets, drawers and cupboards? Have the kids outgrown all of their old play clothes? Don't throw away those old t-shirts or terrycloth towels! Help First Church save some money and bring those worn items to church on any Sunday. If you place your t-shirts and towels in the red barrel located in the Narthex, they will be re-used as cleaning cloths to help keep our church looking its best.



Valla Lecture: Saturday, 9 am

The Rev. James Adams

\$10, including continental breakfast

RSVP with Ruth in the office
(562-436-2256, ext. 221,
office@firstchurchlb.org)

(Continued from page 1)

Music on Sunday

ple classical phrase structure with solo quartet and chorus, giving the work a Baroque characteristic by using this *concertato* style. I hope you enjoy this treasure from the early 19th century. See you in church!

Dr. Leland Vail, Minister of Music

An Electronic *Pilgrim*

By Jerry Stinson

By vote of the Church Council, we will begin sending *The Pilgrim* only by email to most readers. This will commence with the next issue, which will be distributed on October 6.

We currently have 630 people receiving the electronic version of *The Pilgrim* each week. We have an additional 228 addresses to which we send printed copies. We have email addresses for many of those people, so we will simply add them to the list of those receiving *The Pilgrim* electronically.

Approximately forty of our members do not have email, and those folks will continue to get a printed copy of *The Pilgrim* mailed to them.

Others who receive the printed version are recent visitors, UCC clergy or churches, members' relatives and other people who have asked to be on the mailing list for a variety of reasons. IF YOU CURRENTLY RECEIVE THE PRINTED VERSION AND FIT INTO THAT CATEGORY, AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE *THE PILGRIM*, PLEASE MAKE SURE RUTH WARKENTIN, *THE PILGRIM* EDITOR, HAS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. You can send it to her at office@firstchurchlb.org.

There are many advantages to making this change. We will save approximately \$1,500 per year. In addition, we will save a great deal of our Office Manager/Editor's time. She currently formats *The Pilgrim* in two ways and that is time consuming. When we make this change, the printed version will no longer be on 11"x17" paper carefully laid out in columns – it will instead be 8.5"x11" copies of the electronic version. Those members who will still receive printed copies should receive them in a more predictable and speedy fashion because we will be mailing them first class since our postage permit requires mailing at least 200 at a time.

If you have an email address but you are currently receiving *The Pilgrim* by mail because you prefer to read it in printed form, the email version will carry a new link where with one click you can get to a version you can print for yourself.

We are clearly in a new electronic age, and like many other faith communities we are changing some of the ways we communicate with our members. If you have questions about the change, feel free to call Ruth in the church office at 562-436-2256, x221.

Presentation of the Marion Morgan Award to Mary Flynn

By Cheryl Doorbar, Board of Outreach and Social Justice

Each year the Board of Outreach has the honor of representing First Congregational Church in the presentation of the Marion Morgan Award. Recipients of this award are chosen based upon their commitment to peace and social justice in the spirit of Marion Morgan. Past recipients of this award are Tom Miller, Margaret Jacoby, Cathy Chambers, Janet Rhodes, Bob Hildebrand, Dale Whitney, Bill Cole, Ben Rockwell and Gary Shelton.

This year's recipient has used her creativity, enthusiasm and strong organizational skills to support this church and those in need in the community, especially children.

Our honoree has been actively involved with the Downtown Associated Youth Services Committee by creating, organizing and working fundraising events supporting Summer Day Camp for inner-city youth, the Get on the Bus program for children with mothers in prison, and delivering holiday baskets to downtown families in need with the Gifts to the Manger program.

Our recipient has been a presenter for Long Beach Alive, an organization whose mission it is to empower fourth- and fifth-graders to recognize child abuse, encourage them to obtain help and seek alternatives to physical violence.

As the inspiring former chairperson of the Board of Outreach, she made it her mission to have a sign language interpreter during our Sunday services and also created the template and organized the first wine tasting event to raise money to support the Drop-In Center. That event has become a regular event and is the main fundraiser for the center.

With gracious and affirming style, our recipient has been instrumental in engaging neighborhood business owners to support various fundraising events by donation of time and goods.

Our recipient sees no impediment when it comes to helping others in this church and in the community.

Christian Outreach in Action Fall Fundraiser October 3

Christian Outreach in Action will hold a fundraiser on Saturday, October 3 at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Lakewood (5336 Arbor Road). Tickets are \$60; call 562-432-1440 to buy tickets and for more information.

Physical Plant Care Un-Committee

By Bob Kalayjian

We have created an "un-committee" that will be concerned with the maintenance and care of the sanctuary, the grounds and what ever part of the physical plant needs attention. An un-committee doesn't need any by-laws changes, special reports or regular meetings, but the twelve souls (so far) who have a passion to make sure that everything is kept in the best working order, clean as possible and beautiful as we like to see it, will form the core of work parties and will help prioritize our efforts. So far the three un-leaders are: Yvonne Samarion, Clarence Dendy and Bob Kalayjian. Un-members are Steve Chambers, Heather Chambers, David McMillin, Cynthia Holt, Pam Chapin, Kathy Young and Kathleen O'Neal. Senior un-consultants are Spicer Ramsey and David Clements. Any one interested in joining us, talk with Clarence and or just wait until we announce a work party (emphasis on party).



Folding Up the Peace Cranes of August

By Bob Kalayjian



They didn't fly south for winter, but when the cranes came down from the sanctuary some were purchased for personal residences, some went to those with health issues, most went into the tower to wait until they can float again in the sanctuary next

August and some, nearly one hundred, took a very long journey with two friends of mine to Nagasaki, Japan. Some of our cranes, prominent for their white coloration compared to the rainbow colored cranes of the Japanese, were laid on the memorial at ground zero in Nagasaki. What a wonderful conclusion to our remembrance and nuclear disarmament services of August. I want to thank everyone who helped with folding, stringing, hanging and taking down our cranes. Hope everyone can participate next year.

First Church Café This Sunday

The First Church Café will once again be open this Sunday. Lunch will be prepared by Karen Cannon of Stars Catering. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ten and under. If you need financial assistance with the lunch, please see Jerry or Libby – vouchers are available. Here is the menu:

Pueblo Harvest “Chilaquiles - southwestern comfort food: layers of corn tortillas, turkey, pinquito beans, green

chiles, cheeses, grilled corn and more, with enchilada and tomatillo sauces with eggs and cream

Rancho Salad: crisp romaine and mixed greens with garlic croutons, black olives, green onions, cilantro and tomatoes with homemade ranch dressing

Multicolored tortilla chips with sour cream and salsas (Also for topping the chilaquiles)

Fall Orchard Fruit Crisp: apples, pears and golden raisins with ginger and cinnamon, topped with oatmeal crumble, baked and served warm with whipped cream

Apple cider, Virgin de Guadalupe “Sangria,” and iced tea

Children's table: petite turkey burritos and campfire mac 'n' cheese, baby carrots with ranch, fruit and Jello cups, cookies and drinks



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 Danielle Malone (Larelle Hendon’s sister-in-law).

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

Names on the Parish Concerns list appear in two consecutive editions of the newsletter. Those in the armed forces serving in combat zones are listed until they come home. 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

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 ...

Friday, October 2

6 pm: Parents’ Night Out;
 Friday Night at First Church

Saturday, October 3

9 am: Valla Lecture with Dr. James Adams

Sunday, October 4

11:30 am: First Church Café
 12:15 pm: Board Meetings - Christian Education, Diaconate, Outreach, Parish Life, Stewardship & Finance

Monday, October 5

7 pm: Getting to Know You (offsite)

Wednesday, October 7

7 pm: 7 pm: Drop-In Center Committee; Congregational Care Committee (offsite); Getting to Know You (offsite)

Thursday, October 8

6 pm: Board of Cultural Arts

Saturday, October 10

10 am: Craft Workshop

Sunday, October 11

8:30 am: History Ministry Team
 11:30 am: Craft Fair; Forum on Autism

Theological Study Group: Tuesday, October 13, 7 PM

The Theological Study Group will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 13 to discuss *Above Us Only Sky*, by Don Cupitt. Cupitt presents a systematic theology of the emerging religion of ordinary life, setting it against its philosophical background, its spirituality, and its relation to other faiths. It is, he says, the legacy and the long-awaited fulfillment of Christianity.

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.