

HIGHLIGHTS

FUMC DODGER NIGHT

Tuesday, August 23

"Take me out to the ball game..." The time has come for this year's FUMC Dodger Night! The Los Angeles Dodgers will be playing the Colorado Rockies and the game begins at 7:10 pm. Tickets are being sold during coffee hour on Sunday mornings for \$17. The Finance Committee is sponsoring this event which is a fundraiser to benefit FUMC's general operating budget. Come out and enjoy the game with your fellow church members and friends. "... buy me some peanuts and crackerjacks..."

BOOK STUDY IS BACK

Worshipping God With Our Minds

*Join Rev. Patricia Farris at 11:30 am in the Fireside Room on Sunday, August 28, for the monthly potluck and book study. The book to kick off the new fall session is **Who We Are Now: The Changing Face of America in the 21st Century** by Sam Roberts. The books for this study and the one in September are already available in the church library. Pick up your copy today! Happy reading!*

VISIT THE LIBRARY

Carol Greenwood and Louana Seibold, along with the Library Committee, would like to invite you to the library. The books for the upcoming Book Studies with Rev. Farris are now available. You may also stop in just to browse. Peruse the new children's section and if you have a "library wish" add your suggestion to the list. The committee is always looking to enhance and enlarge the selection. Additionally, keep your eyes on the Sentinel and the church website for upcoming book reviews and sales!

RELAY FOR LIFE 2005



by Shannon Bishop
and Mary Jo Dalton

The fourth annual Santa Monica Relay for Life was held at Santa Monica College on July 23-24. We joined the Holy Strollers, an interfaith team headed by Betsy Kollgaard of St. Augustine's Church, Linda Rathfelder and Mary Jo Dalton from FUMC's Health Ministry Council. Other team members included Mary

Garbesi, Carole Sumler, Karen Groethe, Margie Roper, Dave Roper, Eva Duppel and the energetic members of The Bridge: Seta Alexander, Shannon Bishop, Noel Eaton, Christina Reagh, Charley Worley and Jennifer Worley. FUMC members Dee Menzies, Paul Leoni and Ruth Smoot participated with the Rotary Club and Jamie Menzies helped run the silent auction at the Relay as well as representing the Santa Monica Mounted Police.

The purpose of this 24 hour event was to raise money for the American Cancer Society's (ACS) goal for 2015 of increasing the number of lives saved from cancer by 50%, decreasing the incidence of cancer by 25% and improving the quality of life of those touched by cancer. The opening ceremony concluded with cancer survivors walking the opening lap. The Holy Strollers celebrated two survivors, Eva Duppel and Octavia from St. Augustine's. The survivors were treated to a special catered breakfast and all participants enjoyed food and snacks throughout the day. The team lap followed the survivor's lap, then each team continued to have one or more members walking for the duration of the relay.



At 9 pm, luminaria were lighted in honor of survivors and in memory of those who lost their battle with cancer. In a moving ceremony, each of the participants illuminated a glow stick and walked as a group, led by bagpipes, in a lap honoring those who have succumbed to cancer. Teams then tried to get some rest in order to last through the night, but always had at least one member on the track.

The Holy Strollers were noticed throughout the relay. Adrian Davis from St. Augustine's sang a set of inspirational songs as a prelude to the luminaria ceremony. Our team won first place as the best representatives of the mission of ACS as well as the first place (Gold medal) finish in the Mission Delivery Olympics. As a team, we raised over \$2,000 and the relay itself raised over \$160,000.



This event was enjoyed by all who participated. There was community building among the FUMC members and with members of St. Augustine's. Our theme "we walk by faith" reflects the commitment we had to support the ACS in their efforts to research, treat, advocate and eventually find a cure for cancer.

Several months ago I bought a new cell phone—an updated model which allegedly has more capacity for keeping me in touch with the world than I ever thought possible. But so far my only use of the instrument has been to make simple phone calls—the one thing I can do without digging into the manual that came with it. Doubtless I am missing a whole array of communication possibilities because of my ignorance. I could systematically study the manual to learn about these options; or perhaps better yet, I could spend time with people who understand all a cell phone can do. But having yet not taken that step, I continue in blissful ignorance of this technological potential for my life.

There's a parallel with the Christian life here. Our faith bears witness to the potential for a full and abundant life for Christ's people—but it doesn't just happen. As Brad Beeman said it so well in his recent sermons, we need to be in touch with the core of our faith if it is to be a significant force in our lives. And one way we do that is by studying our faith manuals—the written records of how people through history, including our own time, have understood what the God revealed in Jesus means for human life. Optimally we do our study in the company of fellow seekers so that we learn from them even as they in turn learn from us.

Elsewhere in this Sentinel you will find a listing of some of the opportunities for adult growth and learning to be offered this fall. This year we are focusing on shorter-term classes to make them more accessible to more people. Every one of them is an opportunity for you to go deeper in your Christian core and to realize more of what your faith can mean to you. As we move toward fall, I urge you to consider which of these options seems right for you, and to make a commitment to it. Most of us don't lack for ways to spend our time. Growing our faith core ought to be one of our higher priorities! May it be so for many more of us.



Quilt Thanks

Thanks for my beautiful prayer quilt! What a wonderful ministry. I am going to show it to the women in my congregation and I hope we can start a ministry like that in our church. Everytime I touch a knot I ask God to bless the person who tied the knot and to answer your prayer request for me. God bless each and every one of you. Sincerely, Joyce Weber (a friend of Carol Solverson)

Condolences

We wish to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the Magee family. Rev. Magee, of Trinity Baptist Church, and his family lost their 21 year old son Nick in an automobile accident at the end of July. A memorial service was held for him on August 8.

We extend our sympathies to Sue Payne and her family in the loss of her uncle on August 2, in Moorpark, CA.

Nursery School News

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest Nursery School teachers: Seta Alexander, Mary Cornejo, Silvia Martinez, Por-Negin Merikh-bayat and Lisa Russell. They're already at work for our children at FUMC!

Although much belated, we would also like to extend our warmest welcome and congratulations to Dorothy Beeman for securing the Nursery School Office Manager position. She's been at it since March and we all LOVE her! Thanks Dorothy!

In Your Prayers

Dorothy Beeman will be having surgery on August 15 and requests prayers for a successful procedure and calm nerves. Please keep her in your thoughts.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



August 14

9 am Partnership With God, Rm 101
Youth in Prison Ministry with Leslie Nordby
9:45 am Hymn Singing
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR

August 19

11 am & 6:30 pm ***Peter Pan***
Peter Pan will be performed by the Summer Adventures! and Teen Adventures! children and youth in Simkins Hall. Voluntary donations will be accepted to cover expenses. This is an annual event and all are invited!

August 21

9 am Partnership With God, Rm 101
ASP Experience 2005 with Char Smith and youth team members
9:45 am Hymn Singing
10 am Worship - Baptism
11 am Coffee Hour

August 22

9:30 am Monday Prayer Group, FR

August 23

7:10 pm FUMC Dodger Night
Purchase tickets in advance by visiting the Finance Committee table during coffee hour on Sunday mornings.

August 27

9 am Worship Renewal Grant Kick Off meeting, SH
9 am Prayer Quilt Ministry, Rm 300

Visit the church website for a monthly calendar of events.



UMW 136TH ANNIVERSARY

The United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica invite you to celebrate the 136th anniversary of the UMW on Sunday, September 25, at 4 pm in the sanctuary. The Rev. Grant Hagiya, the Los Angeles District Superintendent, will be the guest speaker, with music performed by the FUMC Chancel Choir under Dr. James Smith and the Dr. Gwendolyn Wyatt's Chorus. Refreshments will be served following the program. Free parking is provided in the church garage. For more information, contact the church office. This will be a joyous occasion to unite. Bring your friends and family. Please RSVP to the church office.

FALL CLASSES

Invitation to the Old Testament is a new 8-week version of DISCIPLE Bible Study designed to make the well-regarded DISCIPLE program available and accessible to more people. The class will meet Monday evenings, September 26 through November 14, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Contact Rev. Larry Young in the church office for more information.

What does spiritual formation really mean? Join a short-term small group and find out! ***Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey*** will begin Monday, September 26, at 7 pm.

What is ***grace***? You can find out in the new group that begins Thursday, September 29, at 7 pm. This ten-week group will explore the topic of grace through the experiences of biblical characters or groups of characters in their encounters with Jesus in John's Gospel. For more information about either of these programs, please contact Mary Garbesi in the church office. Sunday, August 28 is the deadline for registration!

Six week classes regarding ***what it means to become members*** of FUMC will be offered in both the fall and spring. The fall class will begin on Sunday, September 18 and will culminate in a Membership Celebration on October 23.

An class entitled, ***Beginnings - An Exploration of Basic Christianity*** will be meeting for eight weeks on Thursday evenings. If you are interested in joining the church, finding out more information about membership or finding out more about these classes, please contact Brad Beeman in the church office.

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

by Mary Jo Dalton

The AED (Defibrillator) is available for use and will be in the Usher Closet during the services on Sunday and in the office during the week. The usher closet is unlocked during services making it easy to grab the unit in case of an emergency. There are five ushers and five members some of whom are ministry leaders who are now trained in CPR and how to use the AED.

Hopefully we will never need to use it but if we have an incident it is an advantage to have it. Studies show that early defibrillation is more effective in saving lives than just CPR.

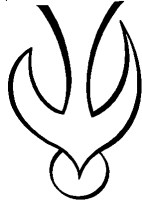
By California law we as a church need five people who are trained before we can make it available to the congregation; however, if one of those five people are not here to take the lead anyone can step in and use it. It talks and walks you through the whole event. The AED will not discharge a shock unless the victim has no heartbeat. If you are interested in learning more about the AED, call me and I will be happy to show you the tutorial I have installed on my computer.

Come, Holy Spirit. Renew the whole creation. Come, Holy Spirit. Renew us.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 am - Congregational Hymn Singing

10:00 am - Worship



August 14, 2005

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

SERMON "God's Politics"
Rev. Larry Young

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 42:1-7; Matthew 25:31-40

August 21, 2005

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Baptism

SERMON *Rev. Patricia Farris*

STEWARDSHIP

"...by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service."

In the month of August, the Stewardship Moments will focus on the four aspects of stewardship in our covenant of church membership. God has blessed each of us with the gift of prayer, time, resources and talents. The Stewardship Committee encourages each of us to examine ways God is leading us to give more of ourselves in each of these areas. In doing so we will grow in faith and discipleship, and we will be a blessing to others.

On August 7, we examined prayer. God encourages us to be in prayer constantly, not just in preparation for activities, but as the sustaining force that gets us through each day. Our church also needs your prayers, for its leaders and members alike.

On August 14, we will examine our stewardship of our time. When we attend worship and other activities at church, it is not just a passive learning process. Our presence with others supports and encourages others, whether it is in a heart-to-heart discussion with a long-time friend or a warm word of welcome to a newcomer.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST SENTINEL (USPS 572-500) is published biweekly by First United Methodist Church, 1008 - 11th St., Santa Monica, CA 90403. Periodicals postage paid at Santa Monica, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address change to First United Methodist Sentinel 1008 - 11th St., Santa Monica, CA 90403-4199

**PERIODICALS
(USPS 572-500)**

Time Value

**DELIVER BY
AUG 12/13**