

HIGHLIGHTS

HOMECOMING/BRING-A-FRIEND

Sunday, September 11

This very special Sunday will be a time to welcome new and old friends alike for worship, food, fellowship and education about FUMC. Breakfast will be served in Simkins Hall at 8:45 am. More than 35 booths with representatives and information about all church groups will be in the courtyard. Worship will commence at 10 am followed by coffee, snacks and fellowship in Simkins Hall. This is a Sunday NOT to be missed. Come worship and fellowship with those you know and love and BRING-A-FRIEND!

FALL SCHEDULE RESUMES

Sunday, September 18

On Sunday, September 18 we will resume our fall schedule with two worship services. 9 am is a less formal, family oriented service with a children's message and music led by FUMC's smaller ensembles. 10:30 am is a more traditional service with music led by the Chancel Choir. Children's and youth choirs will also resume as well as coffee hour from 10-10:30 am and 11:30-12 noon in Simkins Hall.

FALL CLASSES

Many choices

Don't forget to sign up for one (or more) of our fall program selections! Deadlines are fast approaching. The offerings include: Invitation to the Old Testament with Rev. Larry Young; Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey with Mary Garbesi; An Exploration of Grace with Mary Garbesi; What it Means to Become a Member with Rev. Brad Beeman; and Beginnings: An Exploration of Basic Christianity with Rev. Brad Beeman. There is more information regarding all of these classes on the church website (Church News page) and on the church bulletin board outside of Simkins Hall.

YOU CAN FLY

by Janet Guyette



Summer Adventures! and Teen Adventures! participants in rehearsal of Peter Pan

Every summer during Session 4 of Summer and Teen Adventures! a play is chosen, parts are cast, sets are designed and a play takes place in only two weeks. This year was no exception. If you weren't able to see it, you missed a great production of Peter Pan on Friday, August 19 at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm.

Although many people help to make sure the show goes as planned, much of the credit goes to returning director Katherine Stanfill and the SA! and TA! Staff which included: Sylvia Casillas, Emily Payne, Perry Guerrero, Adam Guerrero, Leah Guerrero, Adam Eskridge and Caroline Palo. The forty-five children and youth spent many hours learning their lines, expressions, cues and for some even song lyrics. However, the experience of speaking and singing in front of a live audience was unforgettable.



Photos by Janet Guyette

A very sad and strange event this week has shocked the religious community around the world. Brother Roger, the 90-year old founder of the Taize community in France, was stabbed and killed by a worshipper as he was leading a worship service. His assailant was detained and is receiving psychiatric care.

Brother Roger, a Swiss protestant theologian, founded the Taize community in 1940. His ecumenical group of monks included Lutherans, Anglicans, Evangelicals, Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, and was committed to forwarding dialogue and understanding within the Christian family. Today, more than 100 brothers of Taize come from 25 nations. The simple style of Taize worship, using candles and sung chant, has been adopted by worshippers around the globe. We have had Taize services at FUMC and have sung Taize pieces from our hymnal during Sunday worship. Tens of thousands of worshippers make their way to Taize each year, most of them youth and young adults.

Taize is situated in a part of the world historically torn by violence. At the intersection of France and Germany, it has known war and occupation throughout its history. During WWII, it was a haven for many refugees, including Jews fleeing Nazi Germany. It is in that very place that Brother Roger envisioned a community of reconciliation and hospitality, a living witness to the inclusive love of Christ.

The violent death of this man of peace shocks us awake to examine anew the violence in our world. We become numb to it over time and gradually come to see it as inevitable. But Brother Roger's life witnessed to God's alternative realm, a kingdom in which violence is replaced by active bridge-building and peace-making, where swords are hammered into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. He died as he lived, praying for peace.

A statement from the World Council of Churches reads: "The witness he bore throughout his life to the gospel and to ecumenical dialogue has been enormously influential over the past century. The vision of peace and reconciliation...which guided his commitment and the community which he founded was a source of inspiration and spiritual renewal for generations of young people...searching for a spirituality which has meaning in the upheavals of today's world...For many of us, Brother Roger personified the hope that Christian faith can bring to the world and to each and every one of its inhabitants."

May we receive his witness with deep gratitude and prayerfully recommit ourselves to a world free of violence and fear, through the love of Christ.

Patricia Jarvis

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of former member Helen Edgar Lloyd who passed away on August 4. Helen was the daughter of deceased member Mrs. Lucy Margaret Edgar and was the former daughter-in-law of Marion Lloyd.

Member in Training

Carl Rogers sends greetings from Ohio where he's now cleaning out his mom's attic, having just completed some intense training in Bethesda, MD, in order to serve as a cancer advocate on peer review panels making research grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Carl, a survivor of three separate primary cancers (kidney, colon and prostate), is one of the first in a growing number of cancer advocates around the country being trained to sit - with an equal voice and vote - on panels with doctors and scientists who annually grant over \$3 billion in research funds from the NCI, a division of the U.S. government's National Institutes of Health. He returns in early September and hopes to see everybody at the annual Ice Cream Social of the Santa Monica Oceanaires barbershop chorus, Saturday, September 10.

Walking for a Cure

Please keep Ruthie Smoot in your thoughts over the next two months as she prepares for the 60 mile Breast Cancer 3-Day (walk) to take place in Tempe, Arizona on October 21-23. You can find out more and contribute to Ruthie's personal campaign by visiting www.3day.org. We're rootin' for ya Ruthie!

Staying in Touch

Send us the new address (or email address) for your college student and we'll ensure they are on the Sentinel mailing list.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



August 28

9 am Partnership With God, Rm 101
FUMC's Worship Renewal Grant
with Rev. Farris
9:45 am Hymn Singing
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
11:30 am Rev. Farris Book Study and
Potluck, FR

August 30

7 pm Church Council, FR

September 4

9 am Partnership With God, Rm 101
China with the Hewitts
9:45 am Hymn Singing
10 am Worship - Communion
11 am Coffee Hour
1 pm Church-wide Holiday Boutique
Work Party, SH

September 5

Labor Day - Church Office and
Nursery School Closed

September 6

Nursery School Year Begins

September 10

7 pm SM Oceanaires Ice Cream
Social, SH

September 11 - Homecoming Bring-A-Friend

8:45 am Breakfast in Simkins Hall
10 am Worship
11 am Homecoming Fair, CY/SH
11 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR

September 18 - Return to Fall

9 am Worship - Bible Presentation
10 am Coffee Hour
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour

*Visit the church website for a monthly
calendar of events.*

EDUCATION BEAUTIFICATION

Our Education Building has had lots of use this year, with outside groups (12 Step Programs, a home/school group, Destination Science, and several language schools) as well as our own UMYF groups, Summer Adventures! and Teen Adventures! Until there's money in our budget to do painting, etc. it's up to us to keep our classrooms looking as good as possible. We're asking for your help on Saturday, September 10 from 9 am - 12 noon to clean and polish the rooms in the Education Building in preparation for a new Sunday School year. Students from Pepperdine College will be joining us as they fulfill their community service requirements. Just an hour or two of your time will make a tremendous difference in the way the rooms look to welcome back the Sunday School children, both old and new!



ALL THE ICE CREAM YOU CAN EAT

Yes, indeed! That's the promise of the Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus at their annual old-fashioned **Ice Cream Social**, Saturday, September 10 at FUMC. Doors open at 7 pm for the two-hour session of songs and sundaes.

Admission is \$10 for kids and seniors, and \$15 for general admission. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but advanced reservations are recommended. For more information, please contact Jerry Walker at (310) 202-1380 or jbwalker@usc.edu.

CARING FOR YOUR MONEY

Two significant changes have occurred in FUMC's accounting operations this year: a new online accounting system has been implemented; and the jobs of the financial coordinator and nursery school bookkeeper have been consolidated into the single position of Accounting Manager.

Last fall, Tracy Edwards, Finance Committee Chairman, gave the church more than two months of his valuable time and expertise to create and implement an entire new accounting system. Using Quickbooks Online for nonprofit organizations, Tracy developed accounting procedures which allow an easier understanding of how money is received and spent by all of the operations of the church and nursery school.

"Not only are receipts up and expenses down this year, the reports are easier to understand," says George Reiss, Business Administrator.

George also shared that J. Brooks-Washington has been hired as the new Accounting Manager for FUMC. "J.," as she prefers to be called, has both an MBA and a Masters of Divinity from universities in San Francisco. Her previous position was Vice-President of Finance for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland.

In addition to thanking Tracy for his great efforts and welcoming J. to our staff, we should all recognize the wonderful job done by Fernanda Gray, who took on the accounting activities for the past few months, allowing us time to find the best candidate for this key position.

PROMOTING HEALTHY HEARTS

It has been common practice to order aspirin for prevention of heart disease and stroke for several years. Men and women take it even without a doctor's recommendation. Most take a baby aspirin or 81 mg. Studies on cardiac therapy have been completed extensively in men but now we have a ten year Women's Health Study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Here are the key findings of the study:

- Overall, aspirin did not reduce the risk of a first heart attack or death from cardiovascular disease in women under the age of 65. Over the age of 65 it reduced the risk of heart attacks by 34%.
- Aspirin reduced the risk of ischemic stroke (the most common type) by 24% on the average but most of the benefits were seen in women over 65.
- Women taking aspirin were more likely to have gastrointestinal bleeding, a well-known and potentially serious side effect.

In light of these findings women over 65 or those who are at risk should consider aspirin therapy. For women under 65 aspirin's benefit remains unproven unless they have already had a heart attack. —*Mary Jo Dalton*

To read this article unabridged, please visit the Health Ministry page on the church website.



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 28, 2005

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

SERMON "Keep the Faith"
Rev. Patricia Farris

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 11:1-3; John 14:1-6a

September 4, 2005

Holy Communion

HOMILY "Getting Our Daily Bread"
Rev. Larry Young

SCRIPTURE Luke 11:1-10



FAMINE THREATENS NIGER

Up to 150,000 children are at risk in the African country of Niger, owing to a severe drought and a locust invasion. Already the second poorest country in the world, Niger (which is located north of Nigeria) now faces an unprecedented famine. Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already at work providing emergency food supplies through Swiss Interchurch Aid, an organization with long-term commitments in Niger. Contributions in support of UMCOR may be sent to the church with the notation "UMCOR Niger."

STEWARDSHIP

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teaches, on teaching; or he that exhorts, on exhortation; he that gives let him do it with simplicity." Romans 12:6-8

Our Lord has blessed us with a variety of talents and gifts, two of which are spiritual and financial gifts. God calls us each and everyday to use these talents and gifts to do His work among the church and community. In God's eyes, He is pleased with us when we commit ourselves to doing His will.

As faithful children of God, we freely give of ourselves to the Lord so that we are first seeking the Kingdom of God; in turn, God will supply all our needs. By utilizing our spiritual and financial gifts, we display the sincerity of our love, which is shown through God's grace. When we give spiritually and financially to God, we are living as disciples of Jesus and fulfilling God's plan of loving one another.

With a cheerful, joyful heart and a generous nature, we can give of ourselves to God, so His will is done through the church and in the community. By doing this we are placing God first in our lives and placing our trust in God instead of our possessions.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8



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