

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, September 25

*Our first Celebration Sunday will include participation in worship by Dr. Don Saliers of Emory University at both services. The Youth Choir will sing at 9 am and the Chancel Choir at 10:30 am. The Rev. Farris Book Study and Potluck will follow at 12 noon in the Fireside Room with Don leading the discussion about the book he wrote with his daughter Emily (of the Indigo Girls) entitled "A Song to Sing / A Life to Live: Reflections on Music as Spiritual Practice."*

### SONGS OF STRENGTH

Musical Benefit for Katrina Victims



*FUMC and the United Methodist women of FUMC present "Songs of Strength," a benefit concert to raise money for UMCOR on Sunday, September 25, at 4 pm in the sanctuary. Confirmed artists include The Gwen Wyatt Chorale, k.d. lang, Jackson Browne and Judith Owen with speakers Rev. Grant Hagiya and Rev. Patricia Farris. Tickets may be purchased at a suggested donation of \$25 from the church office or through the website [www.songsstrength.com](http://www.songsstrength.com). All proceeds will go to UMCOR which will use 100% for Hurricane Katrina relief. Many thanks to Dana Collins, Patricia Farris and Jim Smith for organizing this benefit and to the UMW for expanding their 136th Anniversary Celebration for UMCOR relief.*

## HOMECOMING - A SUCCESS!

 by Brad Beeman

There are times when what we imagine could come true, in fact does come true. Homecoming Sunday was just such a time. Homecoming Sunday was all that I could have imagined and more. The worship was exquisite as the bag-piper

took us in and led us out. Between the two was a time of deeply felt worship and praise, of great music, a solid and challenging message, and times of remembering, celebrating and praying for others. The worship – our final “one service” Sunday for the year, once again was at the center of our morning and surrounded by meaningful, fun, creative and encouraging fellowship. It was wonderful to have the chancel steps literally overflowing with children of all ages as we went on our “field trip” in the children’s message.

If you missed Homecoming Sunday this year, the day began and concluded once again with a breakfast that was superb. The tables offered by our groups were fun and creative. I believe the Holy Rollers table took the prize for creativity although Stewardship was close behind. The Nursery School was well represented with a beautiful table and smiling teachers and staff. Upward Bound House was also well represented by staff and Board members. Without exception, every table had smiling faces and joyful people to answer questions and offer information to anyone who passed by. Great job, everyone. And it was the perfect day to kick off the new year of our “Welcome Ambassadors Ministry.” Well done to our first team. You set the bar high for all of those that will follow.

One of the more moving aspects of “Homecoming – Bring a Friend Sunday” was to watch new relationships be born and expand as first-time visitors were introduced to FUMC veterans who introduced them to still others. It was moving to hear so many visitors talk of coming back, joining groups and deepening the relationships born out of the day. It was wonderful to see the cross section of people visiting us on Sunday. There were so many different ages, different races, and differing levels of church experience becoming a part of our worshipping community. GREAT JOB to all who helped set up and decorate tables, introduced folks around, participated in worship, cooked, served (a big thank you to all the Cub Scouts who worked so hard), cleaned and all those who just kept smiling and greeting throughout the day. It was a good day all around. Thank you to everyone for all of your hard work.

This coming weekend, Sept. 24-25, is full of incredible riches for our life together at FUMC. You can read elsewhere in this Sentinel and on our webpage to find all the details about our Saturday Worship Workshop and Celebration Sunday with Dr. Don Saliers from Emory University. I encourage you to make participation in both days a priority in your week.

Throughout this year, with the support of funding from our Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute, we will be exploring how we worship together and, more importantly, how we deepen our relationship with the living God. Surely it is more than mere coincidence that the climax of our first weekend will be our Benefit Concert for UMCOR Hurricane Relief, honoring our United Methodist Women and our common commitment to mission. We hope to pack our sanctuary, filling it with the sounds of music. All the artists are donating their time and come with a sense of reverence and generosity of spirit. They join with us to reach out to those in greatest need in our nation. At the same time, the draw of these "big name" artists gives us an opportunity to again clearly witness to our community to what we stand for as people of faith in this congregation.

We're crossing the church/community line, blurring distinctions between sacred and secular. Music does that. It draws us deep into our humanity and, in so doing, opens us to the living Spirit of God. As Don Saliers writes in our September Book Study book, which he wrote with his daughter Emily of The Indigo Girls, "music that invites us to be honest about pain and loss can open us up and set us on the way to healing, both as individuals and within larger communities of belonging." He then quotes this hymn text, penned by Brian Wren in the days following September 11, 2001, words that speak powerfully to us now, as we respond to lives turned upside down by Hurricane Katrina:

*When pain and terror strike by chance, with causes  
unexplained, When God seems absent or asleep,  
and evil unrestrained, We crave an all-controlling force,  
ready to rule and warn, But find, far-shadowed  
by a cross, a child in weakness born.*

*How deep the Wisdom of our God, how weak,  
but truly wise, To risk, to sacrifice, to die,  
and from the grave arise, To shred the shroud of death  
and fate, freeing our hearts for good. We breathe the  
ample air of hope and take our chance with God.*

In our music, in our worship, in our deepest prayer, may God free our hearts for good and breathe into us the ample air of hope.

*Patricia Jamis*

## OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

### Thanks

*I would like to let everyone know how much I have appreciated all your prayers, your cards, flowers, food, phone calls, words of encouragement and well wishes. My recovery is going very well thanks to all the help we've received from our church family. Thank you from all the Beemans for taking such good care of us. Dorothy, Brad, Laura, Ben & Cora*

### Condolences

*Our sincerest thoughts and prayers are with Margaret Speckman in the death of her husband Ray who was an RN at the VA Hospital as well as an active member of FUMC and head of the parking crew for many years. Ray was well loved by many and will be missed.*

*We extend our deepest sympathy to Dee Menzies and her family in the death of her mother, Dorothy Parr.*

*We express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Eilene Bellerue who passed away on August 19. A memorial service was held for her on September 18 at FUMC.*

*Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of Jack Learman who passed away on August 12. A celebration of his life was held at First Presbyterian Church on September 10. Donations may be made in his memory to the Braille Institute, the Salvation Army, RP International or the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica.*

### Congratulations

*Congratulations to Carmen and Connie Casillas on 65 years of marriage! Connie and Carmen would like to thank the UMW for the beautiful flowers they were presented with and for all of the cards and calls they received from others.*

### Getting Better All The Time

*Phyllis Tobler Johnson will now be Head Usher at the 10:30 am service and John Lange will continue as Head Usher at the 9 am service each Sunday. We are blessed to have two wonderful people in these positions. Thanks for all you do!*

### In The News

*Congratulations to Carole Sumler who won an award recently for a poem she wrote.*

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



### September 25 - Celebration Sunday

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee Hour  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hour  
12 noon Rev. Farris Book Study and Potluck with guest Don Saliers on his book "A Song to Sing / A Life to Live: Reflections on Music as Spiritual Practice," FR  
4 pm **Songs of Strength** with k. d. lang, Jackson Browne, Judith Owen, The Gwen Wyatt Chorale, Rev. Grant Hagiya and more. All are invited and encouraged to attend, support UMCOR and the Hurricane relief effort and enjoy this celebration of 136 years of UMW service.

### September 26

7 pm Invitation to the O.T., Rm 307  
7 pm Exploring the Way, Rm 303  
6:30 pm Stewardship, CR

### September 27

7 am Men's Breakfast (new day), FR  
6 pm UBH Board, UBH Community Rm  
7 pm Church Council, FR

### September 28

7 pm St Johns/FUMC "Prostate Cancer," SH (For more info, contact the church office.)

### September 29

2 pm St Johns/FUMC "Prostate Cancer," SH  
7 pm Beginnings, FR  
7 pm Way of Grace, Rm 303

### October 2 - World Communion

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee Hour  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hour  
11:45 am ASP Team Lunch, SH  
The ASP team will tell of their summer experience. Everyone is invited to share their pictures, presentations, experiences and insights! Come for lunch. \$5 Adults, \$3 Kids (Tickets are on sale during coffee hour and in the church office.)



## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

The Access Center is a drop-in service center for homeless and low- and no-income men, women and families. Services provided include a daily sack lunch, groceries, clothing, case management, mental health services, medical care, referrals to emergency shelter and transitional housing, employment assistance, showers, street outreach and mail service.

**Sojourn** provides a hotline, shelter and emergency response services 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. The shelter houses women and children running from domestic violence, some in danger of being killed and many without any other resources to keep them off the streets. Supporting either of these programs through Alternative Christmas will directly affect the lives of those in need in our community.

Kyle and Wendy Menig of **Campus Crusade for Christ** in San Diego are working on 17 campuses with over 235,000 university students; winning students to Christ with His love, building students in their faith and sending them into the world and market place to share Christ with others. A donation to this ministry directly helps Kyle and Wendy with every aspect of their ministry.

## ACADEMIC MENTORS NEEDED FOR COLLABORATIVE

Volunteer academic mentors are needed to help children in foster care succeed in school and make positive life choices. This program is an outreach of the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative directed by our covenant missionary Lydia Templeton. Mentors commit to meeting with students 1-2 hours each week at one of nine L.A. area school campuses. Further information is available online at [www.cyfcla.org](http://www.cyfcla.org) or by calling Michelle at (323) 730-9400.

## HOLY ROLLERS

The Holy Rollers, FUMC's adult coed softball team, play in the local league on Sunday afternoons at Memorial Park. The team's philosophy is to play their best, show good sportsmanship, and enjoy fun and fellowship. New players are always wel-



come whatever their experience level. The team includes both regulars and those who can play only the occasional game. Please see the church website for the roster, schedule and contact information. Regulars on the current roster include Andy Anagnos, Raj Chhina, Kim Defenderfer, Brian Eskridge, Carol Fan, Kendra Gorkitsky, Cathleen and Steve Hagins, Tina Howland, Helen Jeon, Lisa Kelly, Elvira Loreda, John Lange, Nancy Nicosia, Sam Payne, Selina Plair, Leo Reyes, David Searfoss, Paul Smith, Benson Won and Benson Wong.

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 and 10:30 am

September 25, 2005

Celebration Sunday

**SERMON** "Faith in a World of Beauty and Terror"  
*Dr. Don Salliers and Rev. Patricia Farris*

October 2, 2005  
World Communion Sunday

## HOMILY

*Rev. Eunice Musa*



Our preacher for World Communion Sunday, October 2, will be the Rev. Eunice Musa from Nigeria. Rev. Musa formerly served as the treasurer of the United Methodist Church of Nigeria and is now studying at the Claremont School of Theology in preparation for ministry back in Nigeria. Her presence with us symbolizes both the worldwide family of Christ which we

remember in World Communion, and also our covenant partnership with Nigeria through the Iware District.

## HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

Relief supplies for UMCOR should be brought to the church no later than Sunday, September 25, in order to be included in the next shipment. Needed items include: disposable baby diapers, baby wipes, new twin sheets and blankets and Health Kits (see church website for contents).

Contributions for UMCOR's relief work continue to be welcome in the face of overwhelming need. Checks payable to FUMC should have the notation "UMCOR Hurricane Relief." We celebrate the generous gifts received so far for this cause!

## STEWARDSHIP

"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:8-10

God has given us gifts of service, talents and finances that we must use to bless others and serve each other. With kindness, generosity and love in our hearts, we give of our time, talents and finances to bless the people in our lives. However, we must not forget the bountifulness of God and with every day give Him praise and thanksgiving. As stewards of God, we remember that all blessings we have in life are from Him. In everything we do, we must work with a pure and loving heart. We make a conscious decision to be disciples of Jesus and share our service, talents and finances with others by supporting our church and community. As we share with one another, God will share his abundance with us.



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