

HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL BOOK STUDY & POTLUCK

Sunday, April 22 @ 12 noon
The book Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense by N. T. Wright will be the topic of discussion. Join Rev. Patricia Farris for this enlightening book study and potluck lunch in the Fireside Room at 12 noon.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Social Concerns Seminar
On Sunday, April 29 at 11:45 am in the Fireside Room, the Social Concerns Council will sponsor a seminar with guest speaker Laraine Mestman, who is a Mediator and Facilitator for Centinela Youth Services in Hawthorne. She will talk about the widely respected center that works with disadvantaged youth and communities to stem the tide of violence, and to promote mediation, conflict resolution, and restorative justice. She will also lead us in a discussion of how dedicated individuals can be "peacebuilders" in families, in their communities and in the world. All are welcome.

PRESCHOOL SPRING FAIR

Saturday, May 5
The Preschool will be holding its annual Spring Fair Fundraising Gala on May 5. The theme will be a Luau and there will be activities, food and fun for children of every age. Come join in the fun and help raise money for this award-winning and so very important Preschool that is part of our church.

COME WALK THE LABYRINTH

Saturday, May 6
The Labyrinth will be open on May 6 from 10:30 am - 12 noon (last entry at 11:15 am) and 2 - 4:30 pm (last entry at 3:45 pm). Come renew your spirit!



Palm Sunday and Easter 2007 proved to be a joyful time at FUMC! Photos by Howard Hackett, Janet McCreight, Chris Stanfill, Dan Stirling and Allan Walker. Photo of Fucsia flowers from our Covenant Missionaries in Guatemala.



Tax Time

As this issue of the Sentinel goes out, I'm sure some among you will have just squeezed those extra two days to get your tax returns in for every possible minute of additional time to procrastinate! You know who you are!

I don't suppose there are many among us who look forward to paying our taxes. Most people who get their returns in early seem to be anticipating a refund. But it got me thinking about taxes and what they can do and how they might be directed. What we fund with our taxes and what we're willing to pay in taxes reflect our basic priorities and values as a people.

When I was in France recently, the 90+ year-old aunt in the family was receiving "at home hospitalization" fully paid for by taxes. She is visited at home twice a day by a doctor, three times a day by a nurse/attendant who monitors her medication, prepares her meals, bathes her, etc. She has all the equipment she needs—a hospital bed, special chair, chair for the bath tub and so forth. All this allows her one remaining family member to care for her at home. She receives excellent fresh, home-cooked meals. She remains part of the neighborhood network of friends of all ages who come to visit her still in the house where she was born. She can watch the Mass every Sunday on television and stay connected to the faith that sustains her and gives meaning to her living and her dying.

So, with special blessings upon all you CPAs, financial advisors and tax preparers out there who are ready for a bit of well-deserved time off, let's all say a prayer for what our taxes could make possible for children, for seniors, for all those in great need. Here is a prayer of intercession from the Lutheran Book of Worship:

"O Lord, our governor, your glory shines throughout the world. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Help us elect trustworthy leaders and give to all in authority the wisdom and strength to know your will and to do it. Help them remember that they are called to serve the people as lovers of truth and justice. And help us to contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and thus serve you faithfully in our generation to the honor of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Patricia Jarvis

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Prayer Quilt and Square Thanks

-I want to thank you with all my heart for your thoughts and prayers you all covered the prayer quilt with. My grandparents: Connie and Carmen Casillas are very wonderful people and without them I would not have received such a wonderful gift during this hard time in my life. Always - Brooke Phillips
-I wanted to thank the entire congregation for all of their support during my recent hospitalization and recuperation. What a blessing it is to be a part of this congregation and to be cared for with your food, prayers, baby-sitting, cards, calls and love. I know that I owe my speedy recovery to your faith and support. A special thank you to the Prayer Quilt Ministry for my prayer square and prayer quilt. The quilt never left me and it provided comfort to my boys as well as to me. With profound gratitude, Shannon Sturges

McCurdy School Thanks

A big thank you to all who collected and turned in your food product labels for the Education Program for McCurdy School in New Mexico, a mission of the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC. So much good has come out of these labels - a van, 20 computers, playground equipment, etc... Recently we sent 1500 labels plus 535 General Mills box tops which will buy books for the children. Please continue to save and turn in (to a member of UMW or the church office) your labels from Campbell soups, beans and juices; Franco American Spaghetti; Pepperidge Farms; Swanson; V-8 and Prego products. All are appreciated. If you have questions or for more information, contact Ellen Wise at (310) 828-3382.

Alternative Thanks

Thank you so much for letting us stay in the church this week! It has been a trip we will never forget. Please send our thanks to all of the Santa Monica FUMC community as well! Take care, Northwestern University Alternative Student Breaks

Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of member Esther Shaw who passed away on April 4.



April 22 - Easter Three

- 9 am Christian Basics Class, Rm 303
- 9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101,
My Armenian Grandmother with
Nancy Perov
- 9 & 10:30 am Worship
- 10:10 am Children's Ministry Council,
Rm 203
- 10 & 11:30 am Coffee Hour, SH
- 11:45 am Welcome Ambassador
Luncheon, SH
- 12 noon Rev. Farris Book Study &
Potluck, FR

April 23

- 7 pm Disciple Bible Study, Rm 206

April 24

- 8:30 am Preschool Spring Fair
Committee, Rm 203
- 7 pm Church Council, FR

April 25

- 9 am UMW Work Party, Work Rm
- 6 pm UBH Board, UBH Comm Rm
- 7 pm Gulf Coast Work Project, Rm 203
- 7:30 pm SPRC, CR

April 29 - Easter Four

- 9 am Christian Basics Class, Rm 303
- 9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
- 9 & 10:30 am Worship
- 10 & 11:30 am Coffee Hour, SH
- 11:45 am Social Concerns Seminar,
FR
- 11:45 am Spiritual Formation Council,
Rm 303

April 30

- 7 pm Disciple Bible Study, Rm 206

May 1

- 8:30 am Preschool Spring Fair
Committee, Rm 203

May 2

- 9 am UMW Work Party, Work Rm

May 3

- 7 pm Hope Circle, member's home

May 4

- 7 pm Confirmation Retreat

May 5

- 8 am Preschool Fair, church grounds

GOODBYE, PAULA!

It is with regret and sadness that we accept the resignation of Paula Catling. Paula has resigned, effective immediately, due to health concerns. Paula has been an administrative assistant at FUMC since 1999, and her decision to leave was not an easy one.

Let all of us keep Paula in our prayers. Let us be thankful for her years of service. Let us be hopeful that as she takes care of herself and enjoys this period of rest, that she will also find peace and wellness.

Thank you, Paula. Your presence in the office will truly be missed.

BIG "WEEKEND" - APRIL 28 & 29

We encourage you to join FUMC, members of *the bridge* young adult group and members of our UMYF on Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 1 pm as we build, repair, paint, and plant at Inside Out Community Arts located at Venice UMC (project #0503). Families with smaller children may be interested in the beach cleanup project at Bay Street Beach taking place on Sunday, April 29 from 1 - 3 pm (project #0562). To participate in either of these projects, please go to www.bigsunday.org and sign up using the project # you prefer.

In addition, FUMC will be collecting all kinds of clothing, both new and gently-used, on Sunday, April 22 through Friday, April 27. Beyond that date we will not be accepting donations. Join us in living the motto: *No matter who you are, where you live, or what you do, everyone has some way they can help someone else.* For more information, contact the church office.



MY EVERYDAY SACRED

Where/how do you see and/or experience God, the Sacred, the Holy in your daily life? God is always present and manifest around us. All we need do is open our eyes, hearts and minds.

You are invited to participate in a photo project that seeks to help us all become more aware of the sacred. Through this project we will attempt to deepen our awareness of God's presence in our daily lives and share that with one another through a display of photography and written description.

This is not a contest. The photos will not be judged. No photography experience or expertise is needed. Just accept the challenge, have fun taking pictures and write a brief narrative about your photographs, including where/how you see God in those pictures. Your photos may be any size (minimum of 4x6) and your accompanying text may be any length. You may submit your materials in a variety of ways, whatever is most comfortable and convenient for you. We begin this project on April 22 and deadline for submissions will be May 27 with a display being planned for June 10. A hand-out with the project description and submissions instructions as well as disposable cameras (donations appreciated) will be available during coffee hour in Simkins Hall beginning on April 22. You may also request more information by sending an email to mysacred@santamonicaumc.org.

We hope this will be an enjoyable way to increase our awareness of God's presence in our lives and through sharing our vision of *My Everyday Sacred* we will all be enriched. Give it a shot!

GIVE YOUR KIDS A NEW ALTITUDE!

Vacation Bible School is on the way! FUMC is teaming up with Westwood UMC and inviting other churches in the community to participate in this year's event being held from August 6 - 10 (9 am - 12:30 pm each day). The theme is "Lift Off: Soaring to New Heights with God." The recommended donation is \$50 per child with a maximum of \$80 for families. Camperships are available. Children ages 3 through 5th grade won't want to miss this fun annual summer event. Be sure to mark your calendars! For more information contact Claudia Flanders at (310) 393-2002.





SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 am and 10:30 am

April 22, 2007
"We're On Our Way"
Psalm 30:1-5; John 21:1-19

Easter Three
Rev. Patricia Farris

April 29, 2007
"Resurrection Faith - Here and Now!"
Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30

Easter Four
Rev. Brad Beeman

SKIP A LUNCH - SEND A NET - SAVE A LIFE

That's all it takes to help. April 25 is Africa Malaria Day and for the first time, President Bush has also declared it Malaria Awareness Day in the U.S. in order to educate the public about a disease that kills one child in Africa every 30 seconds. On April 25 United Methodists are encouraged to skip lunch and donate the money saved to the Nothing But Nets campaign (www.nothingbutnets.net) to purchase mosquito bed nets for children in Africa. A \$10 contribution will pay for an insecticide-treated bed net, getting it to a family in Africa and teaching them how to use it properly. A challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is matching contributions dollar for dollar, so your gift will have twice the impact. Donations are being received at the Nothing But Nets website listed above and at www.umc.org/nets.

SOLOMON ISLANDS: TSUNAMI RESPONSE

UMCOR partner Action by Churches Together continues to assess the situation in the Solomon Islands to determine the best way to provide immediate and long-term relief for the thousands left homeless by this disaster. The remote locations of the areas most in need pose serious challenges in responding to the disaster. UMCOR will provide assistance to any relief effort provided by our partners through ACT.

When you give to International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450, you help UMCOR to be at the ready to respond to this and other disasters worldwide.



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