

HIGHLIGHTS

WE WELCOME NEW ORGANIST

Sunday, April 15

We extend a warm welcome to our new organist Christoph Bull, whose first Sunday with us will be April 15. Come join us in worship as we begin this new relationship and visit Simkins Hall during coffee hour after the second service (11:30 am) to greet Christoph and introduce yourself.

CHRISTIAN BASICS CLASS

Four Weeks Beginning April 15

Rev. Larry Young will lead a four-week class on the "Basics" of our Christian faith, presented from a United Methodist perspective. The class is designed for those new to the church, those interested in joining the church and anyone wanting to refresh their knowledge of Christian beliefs and practices. The class will meet 9 - 10 am on Sunday mornings in Rm 303 from April 15 through May 6. Register for the class in advance by contacting the church office.

ALL-CHURCH THRIFT SALE

Friday, April 20 - Saturday, April 21

The UMW and the Boy Scouts are sponsoring this year's Thrift Sale which will benefit many mission projects and organizations. You may lend a helping hand on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, you may donate your own Thrift Sale items to the Work Room starting on Monday, April 16 or you may just come and shop! Any way you do it, be sure to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. Sale hours are 9 am - 5 pm on Friday and 9 am - 1 pm on Saturday.

AMBASSADOR RECOGNITION

Sunday, April 22

On Sunday, April 22 we will be celebrating our Welcome Ambassador Ministry. Our Welcome Ambassadors will be commissioned in both worship services and then a luncheon will be held in their honor following the second service. This is Guidance and Outreach's opportunity to say thank you and to check in and explore what could be next for this important ministry. For more information or to RSVP please speak with Rev. Brad Beeman or contact the church office.



A 360° View

of the



New

Youth Lounge



Please come and visit the new, expanded Youth Lounge! With the help of Casey Cutler, Jessica Jones, Conor O'Hara, JP Shanks, Morgan Von Buskirk and Julia and Christian Wallace, Adam Guerrero, Ron Theile, and Sean Theile took down the wall dividing Rooms 304 and 306. We now have one, big room with enough space so that the entire youth group can meet together. And, we have enough space so that we can host groups like the Alternative Breaks team from Northwestern University who came to work in Los Angeles at Covenant House during their spring break in March. As well as creating the extra space we needed, Ron, Sean and Adam had an opportunity to teach a few skills that will be needed when the Youth Gulf Coast Work Team goes to New Orleans this summer to once again help with the rebuilding of New Orleans.



EASTER 2007

Dying and rising, dying and rising, dying and rising. This is the spiraling vector at the heart of our Christian faith. As Marcus Borg writes: "It means dying to an old way of being and being born to a new way of being, dying to an old identity and being born into a new identity—a way of being

and an identity centered in the sacred, in the Spirit, in Christ, in God." It's another way of saying what it means to "be born again" and as Methodist Christians, we know that we experience it over and over and over again throughout life as the grace of God continues its work in and through us.

This Easter and through all the Sundays of Easter we will be lifting up the power of transformation. Transformation is also about being born again, about dying and rising, about finding life in Christ and becoming a new creation in Christ. It's about what happens inside us when more and more we live with Christ at the center. And it's about the transformation of the world through the strong love and the compassion of God.

The beautiful photo that you will see frequently throughout the season on all our materials is a cruciform empty tomb. Or so it appears. It is actually an aerial view of a 4c. baptismal font in the Negev area of southern Israel. Dying and rising. Through the waters of baptism, we enter deeply into life with Christ, dying with him to all that would deny the power of God and rising with him to the fullness of life. The grace of God is transforming us into disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

May God richly bless you and those dear to you in this Easter season and may you, with the whole congregation, this community of transformation, experience the power of life made new.

See you in church,

Patricia Jarvis

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Job Opportunity

Family Place of Upward Bound House is looking for a part-time Food Pantry Coordinator. Job duties include but are not limited to: creating a system of distribution of the food to the residents working directly with donors, volunteers, and program staff, outreach and PR with the community, schools, churches, organizations, etc. Job Description: must be organized, detailed, a self starter, comfortable working with the public, and able to speak to a group of individuals. Compensation will be \$15 an hour for 10 hours per week. Mondays and Saturdays are a must. Other days are negotiable. For more information contact UBH at (310) 458-7779.

Keiskamma Thoughts and Prayers

Children and adults who experienced the Keiskamma Altarpiece expressed their feelings with words.

-Thank you for showing this beautiful work of art. I also hope that this ordeal in Africa will stop.

-I listen to you, you listen to me, we both feel known for who we are and loved for the heart of God that beats in both of us.

-It's beautiful. I'm amazed.

-A prayer - not to go back to sleep and to continue the journey with my awakened heart. Thank you so very much!

-That was such a cool picture.

-This picture was da bomb; very cool!

-Very interesting!

-Is it only when our hearts are broken that we truly comprehend what Love is about? May there be waves of compassion and healing generated by viewing of this altarpiece!

-Dear whoever it may concern: this was a great piece. It really inspired me. I enjoyed this field trip because I got to witness something that won't come back to L.A.

-Thank you for the great experience. It was nice to see something that was from a different country. It was very special.

-Thank you, it really touched me with my inner self. And now I realize how bad it is outside of California. I am going to be very thankful for what I have!

-I loved it!

-Thank you for a good experience. It was very beautiful and special.

-It is beautiful in every way. It touched my soul.

You're Invited

Our former member Amy Liggett invites you to celebrate her graduation from the Claremont School of Theology on Saturday, April 21 at 2 pm at her home, 12310 Stanwood Drive, Los Angeles.



April 8 - Easter

9 & 10:30 am Worship
 10 & 11:30 am Coffee Hour, SH
Happy Easter!

April 9 - Church Office Closed

7 pm Disciple Bible Study, Rm 206

April 11

12:10 pm Mid-Week Recital and Reception, S/FR

April 12

5:30 pm Trustees, CR
 7 pm Hope Circle Meeting and Potluck with guest speaker Robin Henning who will be sharing her experiences from her Swaziland trip in 2006, FR

7 pm Preschool Committee, Rm 203

April 14

9 am Prayer Quilt Ministry, Rm 300

April 15 - Easter Two

9 am Christian Basics Class, Rm 303
 9 am Partnership with God, Rm 101
 9 am Sharerangers, Rm 203
 9 & 10:30 am Worship
 10 & 11:30 am Coffee Hour, SH
 10 & 11:30 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR

11:45 am Fellowship & Events, Rm 203

12 noon Confirmation, Rm 303

4:30 pm Youth Ministry, Rm 303

April 16

6:30 pm Abigail Circle, FR
 7 pm Disciple Bible Study, Rm 208

April 17

7 pm Finance Committee, CR

April 18

7 pm Disaster Preparedness, Rm 203
 7:30 pm SPRC, CR

April 19

10 am Rebecca Circle, FR

April 20

9 am - 5 pm All-Church Thrift Sale, SH

April 21

9 am - 1 pm All-Church Thrift Sale, SH

A FEW NOTES FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Though you can't yet detect work on Simkins Hall, a great deal is going on behind the scenes as we finalize the electrical plans and contracts. We anticipate the kind of work you can see to begin in April. Thank you for your continued interest and prayers. The dedicated members of the SH Task Force are working very hard to put all our plans and dreams into place just as soon as possible.

A few weeks ago, it came to our attention that the property at 1038 11th Street (adjacent to our Preschool playground) was again for sale. The Trustees established a special Task Force to explore the feasibility of acquiring this property and to consider potential usage scenarios. After completing preliminary research followed by two meetings of careful deliberation, the Task Force concluded that, for financial and missional reasons we would not attempt to purchase the property at this time. Discussions focused on the financial burden that the purchase would entail, existing obligations for major work on our current facilities which will become necessary over the next several years (roofing, plumbing, etc.), and the needed focus at this time on the great programming potential of the new Shelby Center. Any questions may be addressed to John Youngman, Chair, FUMC Board of Trustees.

MID-WEEK RECITAL - APRIL 11

Cedric Berry, bass-baritone, studied at Interlochen Arts Academy and received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from USC. He has performed a variety of operatic roles, and made his first European stage appearances in Spain as Jake in a concert version of Gershwin's Porgy & Bess. More recently he appeared with LA Opera and sang a concert in tribute to Paul Robeson for the Banlieurs Bleues Festival in Paris. He has appeared as a guest artist with the LA Master Chorale and LA Philharmonic. He has also been the recipient of several awards, including first place in the Metropolitan Opera Western Region Competition. The program begins at 12:10 pm in the sanctuary.

APRIL BOOK STUDY AND POTLUCK - APRIL 22

Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense

N.T. Wright, author, professor of New Testament Studies and Anglican bishop of Durham, England, wrote this book to walk the reader through the Christian faith, step by step, question by question. Along the way, the reader will cover a lot of ground—sin, salvation, kingdom, sex, call, church, blessing, covenant, hope and great good news. New insights will be found into such classic theological constructs as ascension, Pentecost and resurrection. And at the same time, readers are invited into not only new ways of thinking, but into more faithful living as followers of the One sent to bring life and bring it abundantly.

This is a great Eastertide read for seekers as well as for life-long disciples. It is available for sale in our church library.



BIG SUNDAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 28

On April 28 and 29, Big Sunday is partnering with Mayor Villaraigosa with up to 35,000 volunteers expected to work on over 350 non-profit projects in the L.A. area. You are welcome to join FUMC's young adult group *the bridge* and the UMYF (youth group) on Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 1 pm as they build, repair, paint, and plant at Inside Out Community Arts located at Venice

UMC. Inside Out promotes healthy interaction among diverse at-risk and underserved Los Angeles middle school youth using topical theater and art to empower these youth to make positive choices.

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, visit the Big Sunday website at www.bigsunday.org where you may sign up online. More information is also available in the church office.



Transformation

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 am and 10:30 am

April 8, 2007 Easter Sunday
"You've Just Got to See This!" Rev. Patricia Farris
Psalm 118:14-17, 23-24; Luke 24:1-12

Nothing is more glorious than this annual festival, overflowing with music from brass, choir and organ, lilies and Alleluias for the great gift of Christ's triumph over all the powers of sin and death. It's a Family Sunday in which all children 5 years and older remain in church with their families to participate in worship. Child care is provided for infants and toddlers. All children who are in fifth grade and under will receive a special gift and those who ordered lilies may take them home after the second service (11:30 am).

April 15, 2007 Easter Two
"Now What?" Rev. Patricia Farris
Psalm 150; John 20:19-31

NEW ORLEANS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The decision has been made to cancel the April adult work team to New Orleans, owing to the fact that not enough potential workers were available to make a team. Our New Orleans partnership is alive and well, however.

Our youth are now planning and raising funds to send a team of 20 in August. And we are actively in the process of organizing another adult team to go in the fall on October 6 - 13, doing whatever work is most needed at that time. If you are interested in the October team, please enroll by contacting Jim Krause at jkrause@nonprofitventures.org.

We are also busy exploring ways we might aid the budding health ministries at both Bethany and Rayne United Methodist churches. Currently, health care is one of New Orleans' greatest needs. One possibility is that we might organize a team of health professionals to spend a week with the Bethany and/or Rayne health ministries. Stay tuned—and continue to remember the needs of New Orleans' people in your prayers.

THE BETHANY BIBLE

If you would like to contribute to the restoration and rebounding of Bethany UMC's Bible, please make your check out to FUMC and note "Bethany Bible" on the memo line.



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