

## HIGHLIGHTS

### HOMECOMING & OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 9

*Our Homecoming Sunday and Open House will take place on September 9 complete with worship services at 9 am and 10:30 am. This special day will be filled with meaningful worship, activities, information about the church, refreshments, fun and fellowship.*

### YOUTH GULF COAST REPORT BACK

Sunday, August 26 @ 11:20 am

*Please join us in the sanctuary after worship and once you've spent a little time at coffee hour, for a presentation by the Youth Gulf Coast Work Team who will be sharing their experiences and photos from their recent trip to New Orleans. A light lunch will follow in the courtyard. All are invited!*

### MISSIONARY TRAVELS/LEARNINGS

Wednesday, August 29 @ 7 pm

*Richard Hewitt will be presenting a talk on "Kyrgyzstan Past and Present: Jewish and Christian Traditions Among the Nomadic Muslims in Central Asia" on August 29, at 7 pm in the MLK Auditorium at the Main Santa Monica Public Library. Richard has lived with the Kyrgyzstan people for 12 years. His work has revealed more than 100 similarities between the Bible and the Manas Epic. Does their epic and their genetic background suggest a link to the Hebrews? Come find out!*

### OCEANAIRE'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, September 8 @ 7 pm

*The Oceanaires look forward to seeing you at this ole' fashioned sing-out that is sure to fill you with ice cream sweets and a capella music as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Music Man. Tickets are available from Gale Williams or by calling (310) 472-1382.*

## GULF COAST WORK TEAM IV

photos by team members



On August 26, join team members after worship in the sanctuary for a presentation about their experiences, photos and videos and a light lunch in the courtyard.



A Point of Reference

Sometimes things happen so fast that I actually become disoriented. Between home, Kelly and Eric, Sean and Heather, school, church, and a whole hosts of other people and situations that I must face every day, I seem to lose my place.

There are times that I feel that the solution is simple. Think about what I must do, prioritize actions, and get back at it. But, no matter how much I prioritize, I end up spinning in different directions. At times I wish I could just rewind the clock and start again from the beginning. After all, how many times have we been in situations that just become so complicated that someone finally says, "OK, let's just start all over again from the beginning." The beginning just seems to be such a great point of reference. Unfortunately, the beginning is seldom available to us to return to.

In the past few months I have been given an invaluable point of reference. The first, my grandma turned 101 years old, and second, I received a phone call from my dad saying that he was under hospice care. Certainly, these two events would cause anyone to pause and reflect.

This summer, I have been to Florida twice to visit both dad and grandma. Each day with them was a life lesson and an inspiration. You see, both know that tomorrow is not promised. That waking each day is a gift. Live for the day, because there may be no tomorrow. Live life in such a way that there are no regrets and above all, be able to say honestly to yourself, "I'm ready."

I have learned from them that the most important point of reference is found by asking ourselves *how* we are living each day. I have learned from them that what we do today creates hope for tomorrow. Dad and grandma both said that they have no regrets, and that no matter what happens tomorrow, they know that there is hope because they leave a wonderful family and friends to carry on.

I encourage all of you to find that point of reference. You only need to look in our sanctuary on Sunday. There are wonderful families that have been nurtured and loved by our senior members. The generation that, it seems, only yesterday was singing on the steps of our church are now raising the next generation. There are new and lifelong friends that we worship with. There is a Bible in the pew that tells us how to live life without regrets. And, most importantly, by living the way Jesus taught us to, there will always be the hope and promise of tomorrow.

See you Sunday! - Ron Theile, Lay Leader

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

**Thanks from New Orleans**

*On behalf of the Rayne and Mt. Zion United Methodist Churches, I wish to thank you for expediting the extraordinarily generous check for \$5,000 from HealthNet. As you know, this support comes at a critical time in our city's recovery and will be instrumental to the rebuilding of our broken neighborhood and the lives of those who daily seek help and healing. May God bless you as you have so generously blessed us! Grace and Peace, Carol Winn Crawford, Senior Pastor, Rayne UMC*

**Relay for Life Thanks**

*To the church staff and congregation, I would like to say thank you for your help in donating over \$1,000 to the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life marathon that we participated in on July 28 & 29. Thank you for your continual commitment to making things happen and your drive to see it through. God bless you all. Go in Christ, Chris Reagh, Wesley Walkers Team Captain*

**Condolences**

*We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bobby Ross who died on August 9. A service was held for him in the sanctuary on Monday, August 20 at 1 pm followed by a reception in the Fireside Room.*

**VBS Thanks**

*Thanks to our friends at Westwood UMC, spearheaded by Mary Eaves Mitchell and Kathy Canon, for helping create a wonderful Vacation Bible School experience for all of the children (80 or more) who attended. We had children from both communities and 10 homeless children from South Los Angeles in attendance. We also thank our own church community of volunteers and staff: Debbe Adamson, Shannon Sturges, Madeleine Ing, Robert Stamps, Johanna Stutsman, Becky Pearson, Jack Pearson, Bee Campbell, Anne Chen, Debra Wollitz, Leslie Nordby, Carol Solverson, Christian Wallace, Carsten Kampe, Jessica Jones, Helen Hewitt, Christine Stumpf, Karen Van Kirk, Mary Garbesi, Paul Deveaux, Michelle Deveaux, Rachel Eaton, Barbara Hackett, Brad Beeman, Joy Peterman, Lynn Stokes, Joyce Landsverk, David Landsverk, Phil Flanders, Sherry Erlandson, Laura Farrand, Carol Reich, Michael McCreight, Kyle McCreight, Patty Eskridge, Michael Eskridge, Brian Eskridge, Caroline Palo, Adam Guerrero, Emily Payne, Bill Prescott, Jessica Johnston, Nancy Perov, Dennis Davidson, Javier Espinosa and Abie Mazon. -Claudia Flanders and Nate Risdon*



### August 26

8:45 am Partnership with God,  
Rm 101  
9 am - 12 noon Preschool Art Show,  
SH alcove  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour, SH

### August 28

7 pm Church Council, FR

### August 29

7 pm Richard Hewitt speaks at the  
MLK Auditorium in the Main SM  
Library about "Kyrgyzstan Past and  
Present"

### September 2

8:45 am Partnership with God,  
Rm 101  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour, SH

### September 3 - Labor Day

Office Closed

### September 6

11:30 am UMW Unit Lunch, SH alcove  
7 pm Hope Circle, MH

### September 7

7 pm Sharerangers Potluck Mtg, FR

### September 8

7 pm Santa Monica Oceanaires Ice  
Cream Social, SH

### September 9

#### Homecoming/Open House

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee Hour/Open House  
10 am Blood Pressure Screenings, FR  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hour/Open House  
11:30 am Blood Pressure Screenings,  
FR

## WHAT'S NEW WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We are currently looking for committed people of all ages and stages of life to work with the children of this church. Our Children's Ministry is one vital component of our ministry to the families who attend our church, both long-time members and newcomers. Be a part of the team that welcomes these children and their families into our church community. We are currently looking for volunteers to help out with Sunday School during the first worship service and with our Children's Club during the second worship service. If you are interested in joining the team please contact me at [nate.risdon@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:nate.risdon@santamonicaumc.org) or by calling the church office.

Have you just upgraded to a new entertainment system with a flat screen TV? Are you looking for a place to put your older equipment? If so, we would love to help. Beginning this Fall, our Sunday School program will be using a new and exciting curriculum titled *Live B.I.G.* With this curriculum, students will have the opportunity to know the love of God through Jesus through a focus on three major themes or "big truths": 1) God is a great big God 2) God loves us with a great big love. 3) We are part of God's great big world. Through Bible stories, music, art, theater, discussion, worship, and prayer, our children will learn more about what it means to be a child of God and how their faith should be a part of the everyday lives. One of the ways in which this message is conveyed to the children is through a weekly introduction on DVD. Currently only a couple of our classrooms are equipped with the necessary equipment to show DVDs. We are currently looking for 6 DVD players and TVs to help meet this need. This equipment will also be utilized by our Adult Education classes as well. If you don't have the equipment mentioned above, you can make a monetary donation earmarked for this particular need. Any donation would be much appreciated. Please contact the church office if you need more information or have any questions. Thank you and God Bless! -Nate Risdon, Parish Associate

## COMING HOME TO WORSHIP AND SERVE

As part of the celebration of Homecoming Sunday, September 9, we will return to two worship services (9 am & 10:30 am) as we "come home," to Worship and to Serve! At this Open House there will be a wealth of information about FUMC and we encourage everyone to invite their friends and neighbors to join them for worship and fellowship and learn what we're all about.

Sponsored by the Guidance and Outreach, Fellowship and Events, and Missions Councils, we will be continuing the mission project embraced by our Vacation Bible School, just recently completed. The new phase of the project, entitled "Adopt-a-School in the Inner City" (Esperanza Elementary School), will be a clothing drive beginning on Homecoming Sunday. There is a real need at this school, for gently used (or new) school clothes, jackets, underwear (new), socks, and /or shoes! We will be collecting these items before and after church from September 9 - October 14, which is National Children's Day! If you wish to make a cash donation, make your check payable to FUMC with "Adopt-a-School" in the memo line. Council members will gratefully receive your donation in the alcove of Simkins Hall. Age groups in need are Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

On Homecoming Sunday Guidance and Outreach Council members will also assist in assuring that each person receives the Welcome Packet of new information about the opportunities First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica offers throughout the year for worship and spiritual growth, through fellowship, study of the Bible, and service.

Please look for a separate form in this packet, which will invite you and your family to volunteer for council service, and particularly for your assistance in special projects.

We eagerly anticipate the beginning of a new church year. Please join us as we continue our faith journey together.



# SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 am



August 26, 2007

“Psalm 71: The Power of Shame - The Power of Love”

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

*Rev. Brad Beeman*

September 2, 2007

“Psalm 81: You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost/Holy Communion

*Rev. Patricia Farris*

## FOOD PANTRY OFF TO APPETIZING START

Although its only been up and running for a few months, the food pantry has taken off! Thanks to the great vision of Elka Gilmore, Upward Bound House's Service and Volunteer Coordinator, we are already supplementing over 50% of our FP residents' food and meals needs. Our goal is to get that to closer to 90%. Of course, this enables them to save more of their income, and potentially move through our program more quickly.

Several highlights of the Food Pantry program:

1. We have relationships with Whole Foods, Wild Oats and the Westside Food Pantry, providing us with non-perishable and prepared foods. Elka is hard at work cultivating additional relationships with potential food donors, especially for meats and cheese.

2. Volunteers from the First United Methodist Church have provided great guidance and support in making the Pantry a success. In addition, the Church has generously partnered with us with the use of its van, allowing us to make early morning pick-ups from stores.

3. The SM Rotary Club provided a grant that enabled us to purchase a walk-in refrigerator which will enable us to expand our fresh produce and prepared food program.

4. Residents now can “shop” at the food pantry twice a week. Elka works with residents one-on-one to help them with specific nutritional and dietary needs.

5. The program also assists Senior Villa residents, and we are developing a delivery service to for seniors using volunteers.

Elka Gilmore has thirty years of experience as a professional chef and has prior experience starting and running a food pantry. Elka will continue to leverage her extensive relationships with restaurants, distributors, and markets in the Los Angeles area to meet the expanding needs of UBH's Food Pantry program. She will also oversee many new exciting programs and services at UBH which we hope to share with you in the months to come. Of course, we can always use more volunteer help!!! -David Snow, UBH Executive Director



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