



The Beacon

Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's life-giving love.

First United Methodist Church
of Seal Beach

From Pastor Tia

Greetings Friends,

Many years ago, when I was an associate pastor at St. Matthews UMC I was sitting talking to the Administrative Assistant about all manner of things. At one point, I asked why, as a longtime member of the church, do we rarely see her on Sunday mornings. She went on to describe her love for her home church so much that when the position for the Administrative Assistant opened she applied. You see she had been an executive secretary in the secular world but thought the church would be a great place to serve. And although she was excellent at her job there were times when I believe she wished she had never taken the position. What she didn't know was that she would somewhat lose her local church.

On Sunday mornings, I arrive at the church around 7:30 am. I do a few housekeeping items and sit at my desk until Anjanette and Chris arrive at 8:00am. I cherish that quiet time as I prepare for worship because I know soon enough people will begin to arrive and inevitably someone will need to talk about something. Sometimes it's pastoral care issues but more often than not it's just the business of the church. And that's ok, I keep my door open just for that reason. You pay me to be here on Sunday's and it's my job so I would never ask you not to stop by.

But a pastor's job is a 24/7 open door policy, this is not true of an Administrative Assistant's job. The woman I mentioned above stopped coming to worship because rather than members treating her like another member they treated her as an employee. They would expect her to be available for questions, information or other secretarial duties. Every Sunday she attended, someone or several someone's would start out a conversation with her something like this "I'm glad to catch

you so I don't have to call the church tomorrow..." or "I know you're not working today but would you please..." After a while her home church was just her place of business.

I tell you this story because I see it happening more and more to Jeanne on Sunday mornings. I don't believe this is done with any thought but rather in this busy world we live in we often become more task oriented than people oriented. Jeanne has a right for a sabbath morning to come and worship like the rest of you. And so, I ask that you respect her time off and her time to worship. Just so you know this is not coming from her but from me. Jeanne is in the office Monday-Friday 10:00am-2:00pm and you may always email or leave a message on the churches voicemail if those hours are not convenient for you.

Now for those of you who are volunteers, I know that I will often discuss church matters with you before or after worship. And I'm sure Renate and Debbie have fielded their fair share of questions on a Sunday morning. For the leaders of the church I would ask if you would rather not talk shop during fellowship or before worship please let me and others know and we will respect your wishes. For all who attend Sunday mornings, worship time is sacred time. Passing the Peace of Christ is not a time to talk about business, but a time to greet your brother or sister in Christ. As good Methodists, business of the church is best discussed with a cup of coffee or juice and a plate of food in front of you. See you all at church.

Shalom,

AUGUST 2017

Fantastic Folders

☎ (562) 431-0494. Jeanne Mignacca Fri. @ 11:00am.

Lunch Bunch

☎ Dolores Wildermuth. (562) 594-6858. Thurs. Aug. 31st @ Islands restaurant.

Men's Breakfast Group

☎ Greg Fellers (562) 296-5889. Every Thurs. @ 7:00am @ Denny's on Westminster.

Miracle Prayer Group

☎ Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540 Sunday after service & on second Sat. @ 10:00am for Study.

Mission Ministry Fellowship

☎ (562) 431-0494. First Thur. @ 10:00am.

Music Ministry

☎ Anjanette Navarro (714) 305-2313. Children's singing @ YEBs. Summer Choir rehearsals Sun. 8:30am. Bell choir off July & Aug.

Prayer Chain Covenant

☎ Charlotta Butler (562) 431-8540 Or call office for information. prayerchain@firstchurchsealbeach.org

Children's Ministry

☎ Jaime Lopez (562) 431-6340 & Beth Barinek (562) 596-8038, Renate Carnegie (562) 596-0202.

United Methodist Women

☎ Call Kathy Fellers (562) 296-5889, Renate Carnegie (562) 991-5918. 2nd Mon. @ 10:00am.

Young Explorers of the Bible (YEBs) Kindergarten - 6th grade.

1st & 3rd Mon. @ 4:30pm off July & August.

Youth Group Middle School & High School

☎ Sue Dunbar (562) 260-1418 or email sldunbar@roadrunner.com for information.



Brief Administrative Council Minutes – July 8, 2017
by Kathy Fellers

TREASURER’S REPORT: Renate Carnegie reviewed the Bank Account Analysis and Financial Status reports through June 30, 2017. Our income YTD totaled \$98,965 and expenses YTD \$98,722 for a difference of \$243. Non-pledged giving is currently up. She noted that our Actual YTD monies are less than our Budget YTD because we have not drawn from our investments, not because we chose to omit a proposed program.

Endowment and Investment

Committee: Pastor Tia reported the June balances are: Jubilee: was \$86,222 and currently is \$86,772; Memorials & Bequests: was \$164,017, currently is \$164,894; Endowment Fund was \$101,189, currently is \$101,761. After discussion of the use of McCown Bequest funds for major repair/remodel, those expenses will be tracked and the McCown Bequest Fund will be reimbursed from the Jubilee Fund when the McCown Bequest fund becomes depleted.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Worship: Charlotta Butler noted that summer choir months are July and August.

Missions: Carolyn Nicks reported that they will be offering a BBQ and movie on August 13th to raise funds for John Igwu’s fall tuition. Renate elaborated on John’s progress; he will begin his final level in September. The sum for tuition, room and board will be \$2,550. The Mission committee recommended and it was approved to cover his expenses beyond what will be raised by the BBQ/movie event, Change for Change and Renate’s individual efforts.

UMW: Kathy Fellers noted that their annual Mothers and Others Tea received additional donations to total \$2,230 toward providing supplies for Birthing, Layette and Health kits for UMCOR. The kits were assembled and Dan Butler delivered them to Annual Conference. West District held a tea on June 3rd at Anaheim UMC to honor senior women. Our UMW recommended Virginia Haley and Polly Gerwig for recognition at the tea. In their recent meeting, UMW studied Climate Justice and were encouraged to “Be Just, Be Green” as conscious stewards of God’s creation. At our next meeting, July 10th, we will be voting on our Special Recognition Award nominee.

Trustees:

- a. Parsonage Committee Report: Pastor Tia gave a positive report on the bath-rooms) remodel project. It is complete except for a few accessories. The committee will go ahead and pursue “readying for permit” plans for further parsonage remodel.
- b. Daniel Carnegie has had no replies to his multiple emails to Spinitar. Pastor Tia noted that the service is not working. We need to continue with the company so she will schedule them for an evaluation and repair appointment.

Mike Strawn reported that they are still seeking bids for a backdoor camera system. While the upstairs bathroom plumbing is progressing, the double door design will be removed.

LAY LEADER REPORT: Greg Fellers gave an update on the Long Beach Area Faith Coalition and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles large building project in the Washington neighborhood. At the last Coalition meeting, we received an OK to send a small team to the Henderson Ave. site on the 3rd Thursday of each

month, beginning in August. Greg has the Welcome Packet with all the pertinent information and the Volunteer Packet with all the necessary forms to be filled out by each volunteer to bring to the construction site. The teams are opened to ALL, no matter what skills one may have, as the site supervisors are experienced at assigning a skill-appropriate task. Construction volunteers must be at least 16. All interested should contact Greg to reserve a spot on a team.

Fund raising was also discussed with the intent of introducing “Alternative Christmas” giving as a way of encouraging donations to Habitat.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Tia reminded us of United Methodist Dodger Night, Saturday, August 12th at 6:10 pm in the “All-you-can-eat Coca-Cola pavilion.” Fall Focus Bible Study will begin Tuesday, September 12th. For 6 weeks we will be studying “Creed” by Adam Hamilton. One week later we will start on Mike Slaughter’s “shiny gods.” Our Messy Church for July 30th will center on “God’s Family, Our Family.” At Annual Conference, Bishop Hagiya asked that we aim for 10 baptisms and 10% increase in congregation size within the next year.

OLD ACTION ITEMS: The finance committee researched our offering envelope cost which is \$275 yearly or .17% of our budget. Pastor Tia found that through Cokesbury we can order both monthly and weekly envelopes (special Sunday envelopes included in each style.) In order to save on paper and give congregants an option, Finance ordered 25 of each style envelope.

Next meeting: August 12, 2017 @ 8:00 am.



Annual Conference
by Dan Butler

In June, it was my honor to represent First Church at the annual meeting of the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church at the University of Redlands. Our conference includes all the churches in Southern California, Hawaii and the Pacific islands.

The conference was relatively uneventful this year. I am sure that you already know that Pastor Tia has been reappointed by the Bishop to First Church for another year. What I want to share with you are my impressions of our new Bishop.

Grant J Hagiya, a native of Southern California, will be our Bishop for the next four years. He refers to himself as Bishop Grant. This is a reflection of the type of person that he is. Even though he is definitely our leader, he leads in a compassionate, friendly manner. He does not impose his will and is responsive to the feelings and wishes of others.

An example of his leadership style occurred when he proposed taking a straw poll on a very sensitive issue. After hearing from several conference members, and getting the feeling that his idea was not a popular one, he abandoned the idea. He did not attempt to impose his will.

Another characteristic of Bishop Grant is what I would describe as prophetic. He speaks the truth plainly, even when the message is not comfortable.

He gave a short speech regarding the future of the United Methodist Church. He recounted the loss of membership over the last generation. He pointed out that in the 1950s people flocked to

the churches. The size of our education building reflects that fact. Now, however, he points out the obvious: Even though our doors are open, people are not coming in large numbers. This is particularly for the younger generations. The Bishop's message is that we need to rethink how we do church. One thing along that line that we at First Church are doing is Messy Church on the last Sunday of the month. I urge you to give it a try.

Another subject that Bishop Grant addressed is how the cost of running the Annual Conference is funded. For over 50 years, the process has been to develop a budget for the conference and apportion it among the member churches based on their ability to support the conference. We call that "apportionments," which are a part of our church budget. The Bishop says that younger members do not buy into that process nearly as strongly as older members. He says that the denomination needs to rethink that whole process. He does not offer solutions, but asks for ideas from the secular world. He specifically mentioned corporate chief financial officers.

In summary, I feel that we have an open, compassionate, progressive and prophetic leader in Bishop Grant.

Dan Butler
Member, Annual Conference

The pantry needs restocking.

Since the last Beacon we have given out 26 lunches, 14 peanut butter sandwiches & a few McDonalds cards.

August Birthdays

- Colin Jordan
- Dylan McCarthy
- Hannah Fackrell
- Cash Lopez
- Heather Duarte
- Pat Hines
- Anjanette Navarro
- Patricia Huffstutter
- Cindy Harvey
- Chuck Stilwell
- Gabriel Avedian
- Wendy Johnson
- Pastor Tia



August Anniversaries

- 5th Leonard & Ruth Jordan
- 8th John & Kathi Powelson
- 9th Dan & Renate Carnegie
- 14th Daniel & Donna Carnegie
- 17th Greg & Kathy Fellers



Youth Group
Middle School & High School

The Youth Group meets once a month for social activities, work related projects, community service and religious studies. The group is open to all middle school and high school students regardless if they are a church member or not.

Sat. August 12th @ 6:10pm
United Methodist Dodger Night!!!



\$45.00 seat in the All-you-can-eat Coca-Cola pavilion. To purchase tickets or more information contact; West District Office @562-429-1441 westdistrict@calpacumc.org Order Deadline extended to July 31st. See flyer in Fellowship Hall.



Lay Leader
by Greg Fellers

Trustees
by Mike Strawn

This month's message is a follow up to what I wrote about in June. If you remember, our church has decided to be Covenant Partner with the Long Beach Area Faith Coalition and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles. Together we all are embarking on a ambitious project to build 50+ new homes and re-store another 50+ plus homes in the Washington neighborhood of Long Beach.

I have posted information about the project on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. There are maps and descriptions of what will be happening. The first phase is a 4-house site at the 1900 block of Henderson Ave. My hope is that I can work with our office and post a whole section about this project on our webpage. It will also have the downloadable forms needed for signing up as a volunteer. In this way, this project could attract members of the community who are interested in volunteer work.

Groundbreaking ceremonies have taken place at the Henderson Ave. site and permits are currently being finalized. Foundation infrastructure work is to begin in July. It is our dream that we can send a team on a monthly basis for as long as construction continues or as long as we continue to have the interest and ability to send teams.

Our idea for how this might work started with talk at our men's breakfast group which meets at Denny's at 7:00am on Thursdays. What if we left breakfast a little early and carpooled to the construction site from there? Could we do that once a month on a regularly scheduled basis? That way it would be on our Church Calendar for every month and the Habitat construction leadership would know when we're coming ahead of time.

I attended another Faith Coalition leadership meeting in July and we've received a go ahead from Habitat to schedule a team for the 3rd Thursday of each month. To start with for the first few months, they asked that we have a small team, not to exceed 5 people. Our first build day will be the 17th of August. We will start with breakfast at Denny's and then carpool together down to Henderson Ave. I want to make clear that this is an invitation to all in our church, men and women, to join us for breakfast and a day of work.

I have Welcome Packets, with all the necessary information, and Volunteer Packets, with the forms that will need to be filled out and brought to the construction site. Anyone over 16 is able to come on the site. From our past experience at Habitat builds, there will be work supervisors available that will break us down into groups of 2-3 people and assign us duties appropriate for our skill level.

We hope, as the months go by, that a wide variety of folks will have the opportunity to come work and serve for a day. The designated families for these homes are required to put some 500 hours of their own sweat equity into their homes. Working alongside members of these families who are so excited about the prospect of their very first homes is very gratifying. The work you are contributing has a very obvious and direct benefit, quite different than writing a check for a project in another country.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining one of our monthly teams. Check out the information available in the Fellowship Hall and soon to be on our First Church website.

Greg Fellers
Lay Leader

The Trustees have been working on several pending projects in July.

Bids for re-piping of the upstairs bathrooms and outside office door security are pending.

Parsonage project has been completed.

As always, please notify one of the Trustees if a repair is needed.

Mike Strawn
President, Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees:
Lynn Adkins
Dan Carnegie
Daniel Carnegie
Richard Irving
Mike Strawn



The 2017 Altar Flower calendar is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to commemorate a special person or event. Your gift of flowers for the altar on Sunday morning really adds beauty and meaning to our services. We have several openings for flowers including Aug. 6th & 27th & Sept. 3rd & 17th. If you'd like to provide flowers for any of the above dates and state it's in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. You can sign up on the flower calendar in the Fellowship Hall, call the office or send an email: office@firstchurchsealbeach.org
Thank you.



UMW By Kathy Fellers

VENDORS? VENDORS? ANYWHERE?

Our July UMW Boutique planning meeting got off to a solid start. After reading the evaluations from our 2016 Boutique we identified several upgrades to improve this year's event which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11th. We are determined to draw an even larger crowd this year with our expanded patio seating and nature-oriented displays.

Our first step is seeking **VENDORS**. Perhaps you know of an entrepreneur that would enjoy displaying their talents in our event, if so please let ANY UMW know and we will contact them.

All of the monies that our Boutique raises will be going to the following missions: Interval House, We Care of Los Alamitos, Long Beach Rescue Mission, Orangewood Children and Family Center, Sierra Service Project, David & Margaret Family Center and Toberman Neighborhood Center. We are asking vendors to help donate to these missions through a \$25 table fee (\$45 for 2 tables) at 6' in length.

So, you can help us by thinking of talented family members, friends or associates that enjoy selling their creations and participating in a rewarding event!

Thank you in advance for your help.
Kathy Fellers (562-296-5889)



UMW will take a vacation this month: there will be no August meeting. Please continue to enjoy the blessings of summer!



Each month, UMW offers you a small insight on what missions we (and YOU) are helping to fund. This month our focus is on the local organization of We Care of Los Alamitos. Below is their latest expression of thankfulness:



We CARE Program Director Rob Lowenberg with Executive Director Marty Thompson

Thanks for Giving

WE CARE helps up to 125 families a month, including Leisure World residents struggling with vagaries of life.

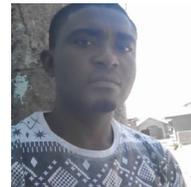
"Our goal is to keep people in their homes, to prevent homelessness, however we can," said Lowenberg. "And they are doing a good job of reaching that goal."

"It's a daily grind, but the daily grind is worth it. If we can't put this together, there will be a host of people who suffer needlessly," said Thompson. "If we can identify even one person a month who we successfully helped, it's all worthwhile."

Mission Ministry Fellowship by Renate Carnegie



First Church's Mission Team is excited to invite members and friends to our *Family "Fund" Night* of Burgers and a Movie on Sunday, August 13th at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall.



Money raised at this special event will help to "fund" our Nigerian college student, John Igwu Iyimoga. John is an adventurous young man who is on his action-packed voyage of discovery. John has overcome many trials to fulfill his dream of going to college, including the death of his father, and a bout of typhoid fever that caused him to drop out of school to recuperate.

With determination, his faith in God, and the financial help of First Church, John is back on track and just completed his Junior year with an awesome 3.27 GPA! Money raised at our *Family "Fund" Night* will finance his tuition and housing expenses for his remaining year to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration.

He (and we) are overwhelmingly grateful for your prayers and financial giving that have enabled him to make this journey.

Cost per family for burgers and fresh peach and berry cobblers plus movie popcorn is \$25. Cost per single person is \$10.

A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall for your RSVP. We hope to see you all there.



Small Groups @ First Church



**Men's Breakfast Group
Thursdays @ 7:00am**

The Men's Breakfast Group meets at Denny's on Westminster. For more information please contact Greg Fellers @ (562) 296-5889.



**Mission Ministry Fellowship
Thursday, Aug. 3rd @ 10:00am**

Your Mission Ministry Fellowship is tasked with supporting local, national and international missions for First Church. They meet for discussion and fellowship on the first Thursday @ 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. They also sponsor some events throughout the year such as Souper Bowl Sunday, food drives and fundraisers. Everyone is welcome at our Thursday meetings!



**Miracle Prayer Ministry
Sundays after Service**

The Miracle Prayer Ministry Group is available every Sunday in the Sanctuary after the service for your prayer needs. They also meet on the second Saturday @ 10:00am for study. They pray for your special concerns. If you are interested in being a part of this team or have need of prayer, please see the prayer team after a Sunday service.



**United Methodist Women
No meeting Monday,
Aug. 14th**

The UMW is a group of First Church women who serve their church and its missions through study and fellowship. During their meetings they study God's call for good works and pray for those in need. For more information, call the office @ (562) 431-0494 or Kathy Fellers @ (562) 296-5889, Renate Carnegie (562) 881-5918.



**Lunch Bunch
Thursday, Aug. 31st**

**@ 11:30am @ Islands restaurant
12320 Seal Beach Blvd.**

This is a group of restaurant goers who meet once a month, usually on the last Thursday to give support to each other and encourage each other in their Christian walk. We meet for devotion and fellowship. Please call Dolores Wildermuth @ (562) 594-6858 to make your reservation.



Music Ministry

Children's singing @ YEBs. Summer Choir rehearsals Sunday @ 8:30am. Bell Choir off July & Aug.

Friday Folders @ 11:00am

On most Fridays some wonderful people come to fold your bulletins and Beacon. The Sept. Beacon will be folded on, Friday, Aug. 25th. Please call the office @ (562) 431-0494 for information.



Prayer Needs

We pray for Jeanie Barnett, Jane Barrett, Virginia Haley and their caregivers and others in our church family in need of healing.

Jeanette Haley fell & broke her hip in Maui. She's in the hospital recovering from hip surgery. Please keep her in your prayers that she may become strong enough to travel home.

Please keep Sophia Hill and her family in your prayers. Sophia was hit by a car while riding her bicycle, she's home recovering.

Merry Carol Rudnick request prayers for her cousin Joy Hart & her family, her son was diagnosed with ALS.

Debbie Hitchings requests prayers for: the family of Dona Burrell she passed away from a missive stroke. Steve Perry is still in the hospital after spinal surgery. Sandy Larmer continues with chemotherapy.

Prayers for the families of Capt. Rick Moore & Amanda Jensen, victims of the shooting on July 16th.

Prayers for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Prayers for Senator John McCain who is suffering with brain tumor cancer.

We continue to pray for our military, the homeless (especially children) and our leadership of the country.

We continue our prayers for world peace so that all can work together with God for the common good and our leadership of the country.



Life at First Church

Finance Report as of July 26, 2017

	Monthly	Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
	1/1 - 7/26/17	1/1- 7/26/17	1/1-7/26/17
Income Totals	17,986.60	176,968.47	127,366.00
Expense Totals	19,330.10	173,653.77	127,351.00
Difference	-1,343.50	3,314.70	15.00

Administrative Council & Team Meetings
Saturday, Aug. 12th @ 8:00am -
(Optional Breakfast @ 7:30am)
For Church Officers, Team Leaders & Team Members

All Team Members except the Lay Leadership Team are asked to attend.



Messy Church
Sunday Aug. 27th
4:30-6:30pm - Fellowship Hall

Theme for the day is "God is With Me Wherever I Go" Messy Church is a multi-generational gathering which will be the last Sunday of every month. There will be activities, worship and dinner. Consider inviting your neighbors, families and friends.



Adult Bible Study
Begins Tuesday
Sept. 12th @ 7:00pm
& Thursday, Sept. 14th @ 10:30am

This is a six week event ending Oct. 19th. We're used to answers popping up on a screen right in front of us. But when the questions examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life, finding the answers takes more than simply typing a few words and pushing a button. Adam Hamilton believes that powerful answers to many of our complicated questions are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In "Creed," he explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe, and why it matters, which in turn leads readers to confront and examine their own core beliefs and go beyond reciting the Creed's familiar words. I hope you will join us for this interesting study. There is a book, for \$10.00, that accompanies the study, please contact Pastor Tia to reserve a copy.

July/August
Upper Rooms Available

The daily devotional *Upper Room* is available in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall. They do enrich your life.



August Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services 9:30am

August 6th
 Communion
 Friendship Day
 Matthew 14:13-21
 "Compassion"

August 13th
 Matthew 14:22-33
 "Doubts Creep In"

August 20th
 Psalm 133, UMH #850
 "Harmony"

August 27th
 Romans 12:1-8
 "Non-Conformist"

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

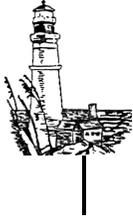


"Young Explorers of the Bible" for Children Kindergarten to 6th Grade

1st & 3rd Monday @ 4:30-6:00pm
Off July & Aug.

Food, Games, Singing and Bible Study

The YEBs meet to explore the Bible and join together in Christian community. There are also games, singing and dinner. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends.



**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**

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Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421

AUGUST 2017

Phone: (562) 431-0494

Office Hours: 10:00am-2:00pm, M-F

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Rev. Tia Wildermuth

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