

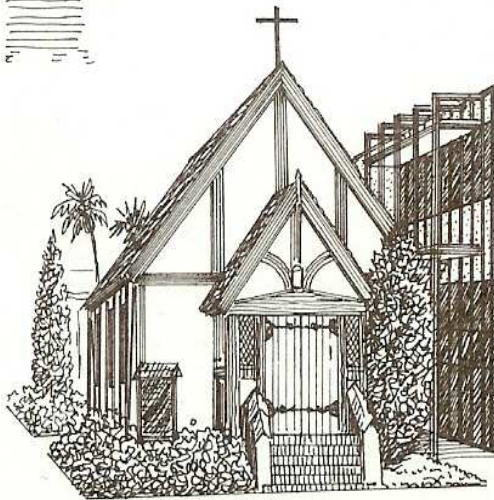


The Beacon

Do No Harm. Do Good. Stay in Love with God

First United Methodist Church of Seal Beach

From Pastor Tia



Greetings Friends,

It seems like every month I write about how busy we are here at First Church, and what a blessing that is. December is a wonderful month of Advent wreaths and Christmas trees. It's a time when we gather together preparing our hearts and our lives for the celebration of the birth of Christ. And your church is in full swing with a lot of activities of celebration and worship. Here are a few of your opportunities:

9:30 am Sunday, November 28, is the First Sunday of Advent and our traditional **Hanging of the Greens** service. During this service we celebrate the rich history of why we decorate the sanctuary and our homes.

Friday, December 3, is the **Seal Beach Christmas/Holiday Parade**. At 3:00 pm we will be at the church putting together the float for the parade. We always can use a few extra hands so I hope you will be there to help. At 7:00 pm we will be heading down Main Street riding our little church float. Anyone who would like to ride on the float should meet us

on Ocean Avenue between 11th and 10th Streets no later than 6:30 pm. We will return to the church after we are done in the parade.

9:30 am Sunday, December 5, St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will come to visit the children in church. There will also be a time during the fellowship gathering after worship for pictures with St. Nicholas.

5:00 pm Sunday, December 11, is our **Children's Christmas Musical "Miracle on Main Street."** The children have been working very hard on this musical for several months; I hope you will plan on being there to support them. It would be a blessing to them to have a full house.

Christmas Eve Services - 7:00 pm **Family Service of Carols and Lessons** that will end with Holy Communion and the singing of Silent Night. The Adult Choir and the Children's Choir will have wonderful selections for that service.

11:00 pm also be a service of **Lessons and Carols** that will end with Holy Communion and the singing of Silent Night at midnight. The music will be special offerings from members of our church.

I hope you will plan to celebrate and worship with us this Holy Season of Light.

Shalom,

DCEMBE 2010

Fantastic Folders

☎(562) 431-04994 Nell McCown
Most Fridays @ 1 pm

The Lunch Bunch

☎Dolores Wildermuth (562) 594-6858 Thurs., Dec. 2 @11:30 @ Busters @ the Marina

Men's Breakfast Group

☎Greg Fellers 562-296-5889 every Thurs 7:00 am @ Kinda Lahaina @ Ocean & Main

Men's Group

☎Mike Goodrich 562-431-7322 This spiritual group meets some Saturdays @ 9:30 am.

Miracle Prayer Group

Meets Sundays after the service & Sat., Dec. 11 @ 10:00 am

Missions Team Fellowship

☎(562) 431-0494 Wed., Dec. 1,8,15,29 @ 8:45 am @ Fellowship Hall

Music Ministry

☎Anjanette Navarro 714-305-2313; Children's choir at YEBs; Choir rehearsal Sundays 8:30 & 11:00 am; Bells Thurs. 6:00 pm

Prayer Chain Covenant

☎Meg Watkinson 562-596-3785 Call for information

Quilting Group

☎Renate Carnegie 562-596-0202 Sat., Dec. 4 @ 10:00 am

Teaching Team (Church School)

☎Bonnie McCarthy 562-490-7388 & Jaime Lopez 562-431-6340

United Methodist Women

☎Carolyn Nicks 562-431-9491 Wed., Dec. 1 @ 7:00 p.m. FH

Young Explorers of the Bible (YEBs) up to Grade 6

☎Pastor Tia 562-234-0641 Mondays @ 4:30 pm

Youth Group

☎Mike Goodrich 562-431-7322 usually 1st & 3rd Sundays



UMW Fall Boutique

United Methodist Women's Fall Boutique Around \$1,700 raised for UMW Missions

The UMW Fall Boutique was a great success! All money raised will go to various area missions like the Long Beach Rescue Mission, Interval House, Orangewood Children's Shelter, Toberman, We Care and the David & Margaret Home for Girls.

Many thanks for making the Boutique a success go to Carolyn Nicks and Charlotta Butler as well as:

Our special vendors, including local artist Gino, Mary the Card Lady, Jaime

Lopez, Bonnie McCarthy, the First Church Quilters, and the stuffed animal lady

Ralph & Arlene Rees are still offering Entertainment Books of coupons for area restaurants and other businesses

Renate Carnegie for making a special quilt

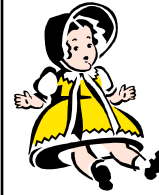
Harlene Goodrich for donating copies of her recent children's book

Those people who donated opportunity baskets

All those people who brought in baked goods for the bake sale or items for Grannie's Attic

Everyone who put in a lot of hard work to make the Boutique happen!

Gifts for the Girls at the David & Margaret Home Deadline Sunday, December 12



There is a collection box for gifts and personal items for girls aged 11-17 who live at the David & Margaret Home in La Verne. They live there because they cannot live

at home for some reason. Most are wards of the court and their needs are many. Stuffed animals are good for the younger girls, and cosmetic kits or jewelry for the older girls. Thank you for your help! This outreach is sponsored by the UMW.

The David & Margaret Home uses Campbell's food labels to get educational aids and other needed items. They have even saved up for a bus! More information on the Campbell's labels is in Fellowship Hall.

Suggested gifts—

- Stuffed animals
- Purses
- Gloves/Scarves
- Nail care items
- Hair accessories
- CDs
- Make-up (especially for the eyes)
- Jeans
- Any lotions (body & hand), perfumes, hair care (shampoo & conditioner)
- Small sizes of personal items in small bags (leather, colored plastic, etc.)

Gifts for each girl should be about \$10 in value.

The Missions Team supports this UMW mission and will meet at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Fellowship Hall to assemble gift kits of some of the above items for the girls.

Lay Leader's Report By Russ Cross

One of the most important months of our Christian faith is here! The birth of our Savior is celebrated all over the world and is a true blessing for every Christian. While it is filled with many traditions and family get-togethers, it is important to remember the true meaning of the season. We are blessed at First Church with many events that help us to worship God in so many ways. I wish you a very joyous Christmas!

In my role as your Lay Leader I stand ready to assist you with any concerns, recommendations or other church-related issues you may have. Please feel free to contact me at any time via telephone at (562) 430-7565, via e-mail at rossmoorcross@aol.com or in person.

This month I am profiling one of our most high-profile members, Tom Blackman. His story includes serving as the Seal Beach mayor on three separate occasions and being named "Seal Beach Man of the Year!"

Young Explorers of the Bible to Present

"Miracle on Main Street"

Sunday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

The YEBs choir is proud to their 2010 Christmas Program. They have been working hard on this musical and are very excited to perform it.



Save the date. You won't want to miss it.



1st Church December 2010 Calendar

Calendar table with columns for Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat and rows for dates from Nov 28 to Jan 8. Includes church events like 'African Team Ministries', 'Missions Fellowship FH', 'Parade Day', and 'Happy Birthday Jesus!'.



Prayer Needs

We hold up Barbara Blackman, Curly Hirata, Arlene Rees, Doris Kenner, Phyllis Waters, Jeanie Barnett, and other members of our church family who are in need of healing and relief from pain.

We thank God for the opportunity to be with our families during the holidays, and pray for safe travel for all those on the road.

And we pray for the families of Ellen Yazejian Habib, a cousin of Belva Jettie, especially for her husband Kirk and daughter Kelly, upon her passing away suddenly.

We hold up our state and our national leaders to God so that he may give them the wisdom and guidance to govern wisely.

We praise God for his mercy for us and for giving us his Son as a teacher and as a sacrifice for our sins.

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

Congratulations Rev. Mary Walton



Rev. Mary Walton graduates from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, with her Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) on December 17th!

December Birthdays



- John Morgan
Barbara Blackman
Kellie Fackrell
Ed Harvey
Sharon Arnstein
Joshua Butler
Rev. Kathey Wilborn
Jesus Christ
Nicholas Morgan
Curly Hirata
Carol Wylie
Polly Gerwig



Anniversaries

- Justin & Bonnie McCarthy Dec 4
Phylis & Fred Crosby Dec. 7



Finance News

For Jan. 1st through Nov. 22, 2010:

Contributions	\$140,173
Expenses	<u>-136,704</u>
Difference	\$3,469

Apportionments Paid

Annual Obligation	\$18,259
Paid to date	\$8,000
Percent Paid	43.81%

Apportionment goal: \$11,868 (65%)

Note: The above does not include \$1,106 Haitian Relief, \$914.45 Interval House, \$178 Human Relations Day, \$425 One Great Hour of Sharing, \$147 Native American Awareness, \$89 Peace with Justice, \$80 World Communion, \$40 UMCOR, and \$158 Tennessee Floods. \$540 in apportionment donations have not yet been sent to conference.

Your 2010 Giving Statements will be mailed in January

2011 is coming up! Any donations received by Sunday, Dec. 26, will be on your 2010 year-end giving statement. Donations received after that will be included in your 2011 giving statement. If you have any questions, see Nell McCown or call (562) 431-0494.

ENTERTAINMENT COUPON BOOKS ARE HERE!

The new Entertainment Coupon Books are here. If you can't wait to start saving money on dining, shopping, movies, and more, contact Arlene Rees at church or by telephone (562-598-9125). Los Angeles and Orange County books are available. 20% of the purchase price supports the good works of our United Methodist Women. These make great gifts, and books may be ordered for many other areas throughout the USA.

Small Group Happenings @ 1st Church

New! Movie Bunch

This new group meets at arranged times to see a movie together. Call Elaine Burrows (562) 296-5245.



Quilting Group Sat., Dec. 4 @ 1:00 pm

The Quilting Group meets once a month on First Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This active group donates their quilts to the Orangewood Children's Home. Come join this group for fun, fellowship and service! Renate Carnegie @ (562) 596-0202.

Prayer Chain Covenant

As part of the Worship Committee, this team receives prayer requests and passes the requests to all chain members for prayer. If you would like to join them or have any questions or prayer requests, call Meg Watkinson at (562) 596-3785.

Miracle Prayer Ministry Meets Sundays after the Service and Sat., Dec. 11 @ 10 am

The Miracle Prayer Ministry Group is available every Sunday in the sanctuary after the service for your prayer needs, and also meets second Saturday mornings for Bible 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.



Friday Folders at 1:00 pm Beacon Folders Wed., Jan. 7

Most Fridays some wonderful people come to fold your bulletins and your Beacon. Please call the office at (562) 431-0494 for information.

Holiday Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 2

@ 11:30 am @ Busters across the Marina Bridge

This is a group of restaurant goers who meet once a month to give support to each other and encourage each other in their Christian walk. If you would like to go, please call Dolores Wildermuth @ (562) 594-6858.



Men's Breakfast Group Meets Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Kinda Lahaina

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



Men's Group News

This men's spiritual group occasionally meets on Saturdays @ 9:30 am. Come for fellowship and prayer. For more information, call Mike Goodrich @ (562) 431-7322.

United Methodist Women Wed., December 1 @ 7:00 pm

95th Anniversary Cookbooks Make Great Gifts!

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. They also discuss events that they are sponsoring to raise funds for mission support. For more information, call the office at (562) 431-0494 or Carolyn Nicks at (562) 431-9491.



Pavilions Update *by Mike Goodrich*

As you can see from the chart below, our purchases and contributions with Pavilions have grown each month since we started the program. My projections for this year are around \$700 in Pavilions contributions. We may surpass that figure since Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up. I see at least \$1,000 in contributions next year if the trends for this year continue.

I have signed up two friends who are not members of the church but shop at Pavilions. If you have friends who you think might be willing to join our pavilions shoppers, let me know. It's easy to sign up.

Pavilions receipts no longer show that your shopping is making contributions to First Church. Please check with me if you have any questions on this.

Thank you for your participation!



More First Church News

Advent: The special season of Advent is the time when Christians prepare their hearts and lives for worthy celebration of God's greatest gift, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The season includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas Day.

African Crafts—Great Gifts Sundays, Nov. 28 & Dec. 5 There will be African craft items available for purchase to support African Team Ministries.

A Visit from St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra Sunday, Dec 4 @ 9:30 am.

Come and see the man that Santa Claus comes from, a real Bishop who shared God's grace to all of God's children. St. Nicholas will share a time with the children in church. After services everyone is invited to have their pictures taken with St. Nicholas.

Mark your calendars -- you don't want to miss anything!

Administrative Council Next Meeting Saturday, January 8 @ 8:00 am 7:30 am optional breakfast

January Beacon Article Deadline Monday, Jan. 3 Folders Friday, January 7



Thanksgiving Lunch Sunday, Nov. 21



Everyone had a great time at the annual First Church Thanksgiving Lunch. Many people signed up to help out or to bring food and there certainly was enough for everyone and more!

But, most of all, a big Thank You goes to the Johnson and Gruenebaum family. Wendy and Gary Johnson have been organizing and arranging this meal for a few years and have made this a family event.

Upper Rooms Booklets Available

The daily devotional booklet Upper Room is available in the narthex and in Fellowship Hall. Pick one up! They really do



December Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

December 5 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

A Visit from St. Nicholas Isaiah 11:1-19 "In Awe"

December 12 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 "Shalom"

December 19 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 "Restoration"

December 24 — Christmas Eve 7:00 & 11:00 pm

Communion, Lessons & Carols

December 26 — Isaiah 63:7-9 "His Presence"

Rev. Tia Wildermuth, Pastor

"Young Explorers of the Bible" for Kids 4 Years to Grade 6

Mondays December 6 & 20 @ 4:30 pm

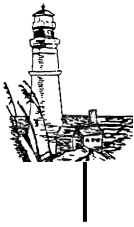
The YEBs (Young Explorers of the Bible) meet with Pastor Tia to explore the Bible and join together in Christian community.

There are also games, singing, and dinner. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends.



For more information, call Pastor Tia @ 562-431-0494.

Decorative border with stars and candle illustration. Text: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Dec. 24 @ 7:00 pm This evening we will gather for the traditional Christmas Eve Service. We will celebrate Holy Communion and end the service with the circle of fellowship, lighting candles and singing "Silent Night." We hope to see you here on such a special night. 11:00 pm Prayers and Carols



**First United Methodist
Church Seal Beach**
148 10th Street
Seal Beach CA 90740-6421

Phone: (562) 431-0494
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., M-F
Web site: www.firstchurchsealbeach.org
Email:
Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org

Pastor: Rev. Tia Wildermuth
Jan. 2011 Beacon deadline: Jan. 3

Rev. Tia Wildermuth
pastortia@firstchurchsealbeach.org
Mobile 562-234-0641



Seal Beach Holiday Parade Friday, December 3

Come and join us as we spread the Christmas cheer at the Parade in our lovely little float. If you would like to help us put it together join us in the parking lot any time after 3:00 on Friday Dec. 3. If you would like to join us on the Float be at the church by 6:00 pm or meet us on Ocean between 10 & 11th up until 6:30 pm. Dress warmly and bring your smile. There will be hot cider and chocolate in Fellowship Hall afterwards!

Things You Probably Don't Know

Many years ago in Scotland a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only . . . Ladies Forbidden" . . . And thus the world GOLF entered into the English language.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"? One thousand.

What do bulletproof vest, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common? They were all invented by women.

The only food that doesn't spoil is honey.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase . . . "Goodnight, sleep tight."

At least 75% of the people who read this will try to lick their elbow!