

MAILED ON THE 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH

SPRC Announces Appointment of Jessica Stryko



First Church Staff Parish Relations Committee introduces Jessica Stryko, our new Associate Pastor. Jessica will begin ministry on July 1.

Jessica grew up in Yucaipa, California, the daughter of David and Lori Moore. She has two sisters, a fraternal twin, Karyn, who is finishing her second year of law school at the University of San Diego, and a younger sister, Rachael, who is studying at Riverside Community College. Jessica was raised in the United Methodist Church of Yucaipa and it was here that she developed a deep love for God nurtured in the youth and camping ministries of her church. As a result of these ministries, she first felt God calling her to ministry at age 14, and has been pursuing this calling ever since.

Jessica attended the University of Redlands and double majored in English Literature and Religious Studies, where she met her husband, Timothy Stryko. Tim also studied Religious Studies, and minored in Creative Writing. They met in a Christian Scriptures class, fell in love, and were married after their graduation from Redlands, and have been married for almost three years. Tim and Jessica then moved to Massachusetts, where Jessica attended seminary at Harvard Divinity School, and Tim discovered an interest in Human Resources. Jessica will receive her MDiv at the end of May 2012, and Tim will begin an MBA program at the University of San Diego in the fall.

Jessica's ministerial experience includes serving as a Christian Education Director at Arlington UMC in Riverside, a Spiritual Life Coordinator for Sierra Service Project, a hospital chaplain intern at Beverly Hospital in Massachusetts, and serving as a pastoral intern and then a Coordinator of Children's Ministries at Harvard-Epworth UMC for the past three years. Jessica and Tim look forward to becoming a part of First Church, and to our future ministry together.

Mission Sunday is May 20

Meet our new covenant missionary, Rev. Saul Montiel

With the retirement of our covenant missionaries Eunice Arias and Luis Aramayo (who were serving in South America) we are in a new covenant relationship, which gives



prayer and financial support with Rev. Saul Montiel who serves the US/Mexico border areas. We are very excited that we have a missionary serving "in our own backyard," so to speak.

We are looking forward to the congregation meeting Rev. Montiel and hope you are able to join us when he addresses the congregation on May 20, "Changing our World" Sunday.

Rev. Montiel, whose office is housed on our campus, works with the Methodist Border Mission Network, an organization composed of Methodist churches on both

sides of the border and is interested in issues of human rights, migration, detention and broken families, and police violence. He is a clergy member of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, having served as a church pastor for 11 years. He holds several academic degrees including a Bachelor of Theology from the Latin American Theological Seminary, a Bachelor of Arts from Vanguard University, Costa Mesa, CA, a Master of Arts in Education from Arizona State University; and a Master of Divinity from the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA. He is married and has four children.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Saul Montiel as our new Covenant Missionary. A brunch will be served after the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. services. Sign up for the brunch this Sunday at the table on the patio. The

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • TRADITIONAL
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary

MAY 13 • MOTHER'S DAY

Dr. Jim Standiford
"Family: 2. Lessons from Mom"
Proverbs 31:26-31 and
Matthew 20:20-23

MAY 20

Dr. Jim Standiford
"Family: 3. In Tough Times"
Jeremiah 29:4-7 and John 19:26-27

TROTTER CHAPEL • ALL SUNDAYS

9:30 Children's Church
10:40 Holy Communion

SUNDAY • CONTEMPORARY

The Water's Edge
9:30 a.m. in The Cove

MAY 13

Rev. Molly Vetter preaching
Acts 10: 44-48 and John 15: 9-17

MAY 20

Rev. Molly Vetter preaching
(infant baptism of Molly Ann Palmer)
Acts 1: 15-17, and John 17: 6-19

EVERY WEDNESDAY • VESPERS

5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Rev. Gregory LaDue, celebrant
Bob Plimpton, organist
Music begins at 5:15
Childcare by prior reservation, 619-297-4366

cost is \$5. Additionally, there will be a free will offering to help support Rev. Montiel in his good work. We hope to see you there!

On Sunday, May 20, we will also receive a special offering to support our Covenant Missionaries. Our missionaries are on the ground, around the world, doing the work of Christ with our support. Our Covenant support is \$2,500 per year for each of our four missionaries; these funds provide salary support that lets them do their work. Our missionaries include Romy del Rosario in Cambodia, David and Lori Persons in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Svetlana Tsoy in

(continued on page 2)



ACOLYTES HONORED, SUNDAY, APRIL 29

ACOLYTE RECOGNITION CEREMONY: On Sunday, April 29, at the 9:30 a.m. service, our 42 Acolytes were honored in a ceremony conducted by Ron De Fields, acolyte coordinator, assisted by Chris Stephens and Ann De Fields. Ron explained the symbolism of the various functions performed by the Acolytes in worship services. New pendants were awarded to Acolytes reaching new levels of service to God and the congregation.

FIRST YEAR ACOLYTES

Joy Churchill, Lauren Gygax, Kailey Little, Bailey Logan, Dayna Miller, Russell Sorbo, Jennifer Voogd.

SECOND YEAR

Lauren Dvorak, Sara Newmann and Carlson Temple.

THIRD YEAR

Emma Churchill, Andrea Cobb, Lexi Gygax, Madeline Herbold and Margaret Poltorak.

FOURTH YEAR

Caley Halpern, Amy McMaster and Shea Reeser.

FIFTH YEAR

Justin Bush, Kyle Fait, Josie Fialko, Jonathan Lilley,

Sage McWay-Teribery, Leah Mueller, Melinda Poltorak and Delaney Todd.

SIXTH YEAR

Rebecca Dvorak, Elena Herbold, Matthew McMaster, Laura Miller, Jordan Pada, Veronica Slavik, Brigitte Temple, Abby Vickers.

SEVENTH YEAR

Sarah DeRosier, Jessica Gilbert, Taryn Kilgore, Justin Newmann and Miranda Poltorak.

EIGHTH YEAR

Sofia Fialko, Samantha Owens and Kendall Todd.

NEW ACOLYTE CANDIDATES may register in September for the coming year. Students in fifth through eleventh grades are eligible. A sign-up will take place on the patios, and training will be held in the fall. Watch this newsletter and *eNews* for details.

5th Annual Holy Hole-in-One Golf Tournament

Friday, June 1, Eastlake Country Club and Golf Course in Chula Vista

The Holy Hole-In-One Golf Tournament returns this year to the Eastlake Country Club and Golf Course in Chula Vista. Save the date of Friday, June 1, and plan now to bring your friends for a day of fun and fellowship on the links.



Torrey Pines and the Farmers Open have nothing on First Church. Our Fifth Annual Golf FUNdraising event is not only great fun, but

we include Rubber Duck races! You don't want to miss it.

Activities begin with registration at noon and a Shotgun Start at 1:30 PM. The tournament wraps with dinner at 6, including the awards program, opportunity drawing and Rubber Duck Race winner announcement.

This churchwide tourney is one of the annual FUNdraising events for First Church. Other than a great chance to enjoy in a day of golf, the proceeds will offset budget line items that support missions and outreach. Our goal is to have 88 golfers participate this year.

Help achieve our \$15,000 FUNdraising goal. It's easy:

1. *Sign up* individually or as a foursome to play in the Tournament (we need at least 22 foursomes). If you are looking to join a foursome, let us know and we can find other players to complete.
2. *Be a tee sponsor* (this may be achieved by giving individually or as a group).
3. *Become an underwriter* at any amount or sponsor golf related items for prizes.

Look for additional information in the mail, on our webpage, here in the coming weeks, or call Tom Hamilton, 619-297-4366, ext. 110, or Sandra Sinn, 619-297-3442, to participate. Thank you!

(Mission Sunday continued from page 1)
Russia and our newly appointed missionary Saul Montiel now working along our Mexican border. This special offering—above and beyond our regular giving—is our opportunity to continue our long legacy of support of Missions at First Church.

Journey Through Grief

A course, "Journey Through Grief," for those grieving the loss of a loved one will be offered at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, May 13, 20 and 27 in Linder Hall 5, Rev. Jim Mowry facilitator.

Those who have lost a significant person through death are welcome to come and share with others who have lost loved ones themselves. There is a sign-up sheet in the office reception area.

May 13: *Grief Shared is Grief Diminished.*

May 20: *Grief is the Price We Pay for Love.*

May 27: *Grief Does Go Away but the Longing Does Not.*

Understanding Family Dynamics through Families in Scripture

Ever wondered how families function and why? Rev. Gregory LaDue, Licensed Marriage and Family therapist and director of the New Life Counseling Center, taught Family Systems Theory for 12 years at National University and will conduct a class beginning May 20 at 11:00 a.m. in Linder Hall 2 explaining Family Dynamics and applying these dynamics to families in scripture. Join him as he explains how families function and why, and then see that these dynamics have deep roots as far back as biblical families.

SDSCS Presents:

**The Dead Sea Scrolls—
Latest Research**

Wednesdays, May 16 & 23,

Trotter Chapel, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

\$10/session, students free with I.D.

Dr. Risa Levitt Kohn, Professor of The Hebrew Bible and Judaism at SDSU and a leading authority on the scrolls, will bring us up to date on the latest research. "The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Library which Houses Them" will be presented on May 16 and "The Significance of the Scrolls to Jewish Christian Origins" will be presented May 23. Register online at www.fumcsd.org by May 14.

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Thurman passed away on April 13. She was received into membership in 1971 by Rev. C.A. McClain and is survived by Brian Thurman, Terry (Meridee) Thurman, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on April 23.

UMC Change the World: San Diego River Work Day

On Saturday, May 19, United Methodists around the country will join together to Change the World through volunteer work in their local communities. Here in San Diego, we will be working to care for our river — the San Diego River, which runs through our Mission Valley home. We will join in the San Diego River Park Foundation's Youth Day of Service, making our local effort a part of a big river work day, where 1,000 young people and families will get out to care for the river's parks.

All ages are welcome to volunteer. This is a free event and all participants get a free T-shirt.

To participate, RSVP online at www.fumcsd.org by May 17; print, sign and bring a liability waiver; meet at 9:00 a.m. at the San Diego River Garden. Wear protective clothing (long pants, long-sleeve shirt, closed-toe shoes, work gloves, hat) and bring sunscreen and a bottle of water.

In Our Prayers . . .

This information is included in our weekly eNews. Subscribe at eNews@fumcsd.org.

A Prayer Quilt was presented on Sunday, April 29, for Judy Larson. Please keep this individual in your prayers.

Our sympathy is with Pat Twyman and family on the loss of her mother, Beulah Bruce, who passed away on April 16.

Our sympathy is with Lois, Tim and Juliet Pinnell on the loss of brother and son, Roger, who passed away on April 19. A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 20, at North Chapel at Liberty Station, 2881 Roosevelt Road.

Our sympathy is with Margaret and Larry Barnes on the loss of her father, Woodrow Juncker, on May 7 in Iowa.

Remember in prayer those in our congregation deployed and their families:

A Closer Look at Vespers by Rev. Gregory LaDue

Early Christian monastic communities divide the day into periods of prayer and meditation for focusing on God. Seven times every day the community assembles in the church to sing God's praise and listen to God's Word. Generally we use the traditional Latin names for these times of prayer:

Vigils begin some time during the early hours, around 4:00 a.m. while it is still dark

Lauds — morning prayer, at daybreak

Terce — mid-morning prayer, around 9 a.m.

Sext — mid-day prayer, around noon

None — mid-afternoon prayer, around 3 p.m.

Vespers — evening prayer, ideally at sunset

Compline — night prayer completes the day.

Each one of these hours of prayer has its own unique color and focus, linked particularly to the

time of day at which it is celebrated. Each reveals to us something of the goodness of God and the mystery of Christ. As St. Basil put it, each period contains a reminder peculiar to itself, of blessings received from God.

While monastic communities observe these hours daily, each week on Wednesday we gather at the close of the day for Vespers, or Evensong. The emphasis is on reflection and meditation. We sit in silence and listen to music, hear God in scripture, sing, pray and share Communion together. We come apart from our daily work and stress and sit in the presence of God and renew our souls. It is a time to gather together and re-center ourselves in God. Join us at 5:15 p.m. any Wednesday and renew yourself with us.

Sam Adams, Jason Constantine, Kirsten Bowen Hill, Wayne Liebold, Doug Samples and Collin Sullivan.

Notices

The 2012 Altar Flower Calendar has openings all Sundays in May, June and July. Please call Eleene in the church office, 619-297-4366, if you would like to make a reservation. Altar flowers are \$50.

Memorial Sunday is May 27. As in the past 12 years, we ask active, reserve, and retired military personnel to wear their military uniform or their medals and service ribbons on civilian clothing. Those willing to usher at services are asked to contact Capt. H. E. Reichert, 619-424-7961 (home) or 619-594-7589 (work). Service personnel will be recognized at each service prior to the playing of *Taps*.

Ushers Needed: If you are looking for a place to volunteer your time, please consider ushering at one of our Sunday morning services. We especially need new ushers for the 11:00 service. Volunteers can work one or more Sundays a month; whatever works best for you. If you can help out at 11:00, please contact Rad Radmilovich at 619-741-0940, or Frank Jonasson at 619-582-8255. If you would like more information about being a church usher, contact our head usher, H. E. Reichert, at 619-424-7961.

Coming Events

Friday Night Singles (50+ or -) meets Fridays at 6:00 p.m. for a meal (\$6.00) followed by various activities. *May 11:* Game Night. Meal: Oscar's pizza—the best—with salads, fruit, and yummy desserts. *Please note location change:* High School Room (first floor of the United

Methodist Center). Contact Karen at kmaczka@dslxextreme.com or 619-263-3743.

Book Rapport meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Linder Hall 5 to discuss a current or classic book. Our selection for May 14 is *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Edgar award-winning author Laurie R. King.

"Women of the Bible" continues Wednesday nights through May 30 from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. in Linder Hall 2. Led by Beckie Henselmeier.

Free Neighborhood Family Meal: Thank you to all the volunteers who brought food to the Neighborhood Family Meal on April 23. The extra effort made a difference to the community we serve with enough to feed all who sought nourishment. The next "Meal" is Monday, May 21. Help provide and serve food and enjoy fellowship with families, teens, seniors and people in need of a nutritious, hot meal from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Normal Heights UMC, 4650 Mansfield St. Volunteers prepare a main dish, salad or dessert. Contact Brenda at 619-297-4366, ext. 125 or bblake@fumcsd.org to sign up.

Methodism Class will be presented on Sundays, May 20, May 27 and June 2 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Linder Lounge.

Save the Date!

Farewell Dinner for Rev. Molly Vetter, Wednesday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m., Linder Hall.

Cultural Events Summer Pops Concert with Vocal Quartet, June 10.

Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 10. Send names of family members graduating from high school and college to Demmie in the church office at ddivine@fumcsd.org by June 10.

The Cup Overflowing

This year will mark Bishop Mary Ann Swenson's retirement after 20 years of service as a Bishop. In keeping with Bishop Swenson's theme of "The Cup Overflowing with Gratitude" the Episcopacy Committee has requested that any honorariums be used for water projects around the world. With that in mind, First Church's Mission Committee has designated \$1,500 to be used for water projects in the Joint Commission, an agency of the United Methodist Church joining churches in Mexico and the United States. The majority of the funds will be used at Camp Nuevo Amanecer in Tecate which is in need of complete water systems. The remainder of the funds will help the church Monte Moria to connect water from the street to the church.

We wish Bishop Swenson a time of peace and God's presence as she moves into this season of her life.

Organ and Brass Concert in Balboa Park, June 25

This summer marks the 25th anniversary of the Summer International Organ Festival presented by the Spreckels Organ Society. In celebration, this summer's opening concert on Monday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. will feature our own Bob Plimpton with a brass and percussion ensemble of members and friends of the San Diego Symphony, conducted by Shannon Kitelinger of SDSU. The concert will present major organ/brass music by Charles-Marie Widor, Sir Arthur Bliss, Jeremiah Clarke, Marcel Dupré, climaxing in the virtuosic *Concerto for Organ, Brass and Percussion* composed for Bob Plimpton by his mentor Robert Elmore. Bob has made two organ/brass arrangements specifically for this concert, and will also play organ solos by Marcel Dupré and Robert Elmore.

There is hardly anything more splendid than the sound of organ and brass, particularly outside, yet such concerts are rare. Save the date; think of friends you can invite to share a picnic with you before the concert; plan to arrive by 7:00 p.m., as SOS President Ron DeFields, founding president Vivian Evenson and Bob Plimpton will share reflections on the creation of this festival. An evening not to be missed.

Details of the 2012 Summer Organ Festival can be found at sosorgan.com.

This Sunday, May 13, is Mother's Day

The "FIRST CHURCH" (publication number 197480) is published the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month by First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2111 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, California 92108-3697 (619) 297-4366. Periodical postage paid at San Diego, California. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FIRST CHURCH, 2111 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108-3697.

Periodical
Dated Material

First United Methodist Church of San Diego
2111 Camino del Rio S. San Diego, CA 92108

Youth Mission Trips Pledge Sunday, June 3

This summer both our Middle School and High School groups will be going on mission trips. Mission trips are an important part of our youth's lives where they are able to experience service, spiritual growth, fun and fellowship. Youth come back from mission trips with a new outlook, excited about life and refreshed in their spiritual journeys.

Our High School youth and leaders are making plans for the 2012 High School Service Retreat to El Centro, June 28 to July 1. The youth will be partnering with El Centro United Methodist to repair homes and host an afternoon children's outreach for the community which will include a community celebration and barbecue.

From August 12 to 17 our Middle School youth will embark on a road trip to San Francisco and partner with Glide Memorial Church in Food Ministry.

On Sunday, June 3, Youth Mission Trips Pledge Sunday, you will hear the youth tell you why your support for this Youth Ministry mission project is so important and have an opportunity to talk to the participants at their table on the patio between services. Everyone who pledges support for these trips will receive a personal note of thanks from youth on the trips.

If you would like more information about our summer mission trips please contact Randal Newton at 297-4366, ext. 118, or newton@fumcsd.org.

District Summer Camps for Kids

The Bible is a treasure map that gives us clues on how to live in this world as a follower of Jesus! Join us this summer for a high adventure camp experience, "Secrets of the Kingdom: The Parables of Jesus," where campers will journey through the parables and discover the excitement and mystery of unlocking and applying what these parables mean for our daily lives.

Don't miss out and mark your calendars for: Younger Elementary Camp (Grades 1-3), July 27-29; Older Elementary Camp (Grades 3-6), July 22-27; Jr. High Camp (Grades 7-9), July 15-21, and Senior High Camp (Grades 10-Grad 2012), July 8-14 (\$390). Information available online at <http://www.regonline.com>. Earlybird registration discounts end May 30.

First Church

Editor: Holly Watt. Assistant Editor: Lynda Bell

Design, typesetting, and printing by the *Church Print Shop*: Holly Watt, Lynda Bell, Richard "Dutch" Beaumont

Deadlines: News items for the weekly *First Church* newsletter will be accepted up to Wednesday, one week before mailing (final deadline). For best coverage, submit items up to four weeks before event. Short notices (3 lines or less) are accepted up to the Sunday before mailing subject to space availability. Send E-mail to printshop@fumcsd.org with "Outlook" in the subject line, or drop in the "Outlook" box at the reception desk in the church office.

Church office: (619) 297-4366
Church fax: (619) 297-2933
Church E-mail: mail@fumcsd.org
Send articles to: printshop@fumcsd.org

Web site: www.fumcsd.org
Counseling Center: (619) 297-2571
Children's Growing Center: (619) 295-1915
Thrift Store: (619) 528-0026