



# The Sea Star

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



It has been an amazing few weeks at Community Church, Congregational. I have that great feeling of having been part of something so worthwhile, so moving, that it is hard to think of anything else I want to do. I think of the great legacy we've inherited in the teaching of Bruce Van Blair and the musicianship of Rodger Whitten and bask in the sunshine of it all. Then Monday comes, and I am to write an article that continues the work of the Holy Spirit so visibly present this past month.

The word that comes to mind is Pilgrim.

The hallmark of our church is that we are Pilgrims on a journey with Jesus together. That doesn't mean we all speak about Christianity in the same way. But it does mean that we will read scripture, pray, come together to study God's word, and love God and one another.

At our church we can have our Pastor Emeritus come and shout out from the pulpit that his heroes are all heretics: Luther, Paul, and Jesus. We can have a Senior Pastor speak often of his affinity for the Pentecostal movement where people lay down everything that they might be more available to God. And, we can have an Associate Pastor here found her faith when she came into contact with the wide stream of "historic" Christianity.

We do not have to agree on the end product of our faith. We are not creedal. But we do require you be a Pilgrim, one willing to be on a journey of faith, with us. We teach prayer. We have multiple Bible Studies, retreats, and hands on

Mission Opportunities. Our music and teaching is often challenging requiring you to do some work before it is meaningful.

While I like some of the packaged Bible Studies which give you a message for the week, we ask for much more from you than most of those studies. In Bible Study, the leaders provide background, and then you grapple with the text itself, the interpretations of scholars over the ages, and your own experience. Pilgrims must do the work of reading and interpreting scripture for today.

We serve God faithfully through our "vocatio," but our faith community remains foremost. We write down our faith commitments in a yearly covenant for membership. We give up weekends for retreats and mission trips. Bible Studies and Logos bring us to church two more times a week outside of Sunday worship. If we covenant to serve on a committee, we add another night during the month.

But as Pilgrims, we continue to joyfully rise to the challenge. We understand that there is nothing more precious for us or our families or our friends than being part of a real, living community of faith. Here we do not have a formulaic answer to a formulaic question, but keep on meeting Jesus. Our worship becomes more than a Sunday offering, it becomes a way of life. And to you, the people, the church, who choose to love God so very much, God shows "steadfast love to the thousandth generation (Deuteronomy 5: 10)." Imagine the love that overflows from such a community! Well, you don't need to imagine. Your love overflows each day, in ways I am privileged, and humbled, to experience.

Pastor Heather

# YOUTH AND MISSION

## Dates to remember:

November 15 - Confirmation Sunday

November 7, 14, 21 and December 5 - Song and dance practice with Marshallese youth in Mertz Hall

December 12 - 13 - Open Arms

TBA - Los Angeles Mission

Open Arms - December 12-13 2009

December 17 - Christmas Caroling

January 9-10 - Open Arms

Mission Sunday - Heidi and Daniel visit Community Church - February 7 2010



Ben Langhorst and some kids from Girls Hope/Boys Hope visiting Newport Aquatics Center.

## Mission Committee

The Marshallese congregation was happy to welcome Dri-Kaki (Pastor) Kabua last month from the Marshall Islands. Last Saturday I had the honor of participating in a housewarming blessing and dinner at the new pastor's apartment in Costa Mesa. As usual, the event was filled with generous hospitality and a veritable feast to commemorate the occasion.

The pastor and his wife took their son to his first week of first grade recently and he seems to be quite happy with his new school. I asked if they were in need of furniture and their nephew said that anything would be greatly appreciated. Please see the wish list below:

### WISH LIST

1 double bed	armchairs
1 single bed	kitchen table/chairs
1 couch	desk
dressers	lamps

If you have any of these items to donate, please contact me at (949) 307-4440.

In Christ,  
Mary Anderson



November is here, and the beginning of Advent is upon us. I always look forward to this season in our church year, for musical and many other reasons. We have much to be thankful for, whatever the challenges of our individual lives may be.

I am very thankful for the wonderful turnout for our musical retrospective concert on October 25th. Wow, was that fun. I can't begin to thank all the musicians enough for their incredible music making, but I'll continue to try. And thanks to the Music Committee, and particularly chairperson Carol Hoppe, for underwriting the event and providing the beautiful reception that followed. Thanks to the publicity group which prepared the beautiful posters, postcards, and programs for the concert. Particular thanks go to Leslie Kazarian, Angela Cortwright, and Susan Bubb, for their artistic contributions. And, finally, thanks to you, the church, for making the 20th Anniversary celebration for 'yours truly' so memorable. It continues to be my great privilege to serve here as your Minister of Music.

What a treat it was to welcome the Van Blairs for their extended residency here in mid-October. Always provocative and inspiring, Bruce is a unique leader, pastor, and theologian, and I join with you all in celebrating him as our Pastor Emeritus. A fitting tribute, indeed. Let's hope his two 'new' knees serve him well in the months and years ahead. And thanks to Mariana for coming right back down here to sing with us in the anniversary concert on the 25th.

That's about it for now. I look forward, together with our fine Chancel Choir, to sharing great seasonal music with you all throughout the weeks of Advent.

God bless,  
Rodger

# PEOPLE YOU KNOW



## Birthdays

Emma DeLaney	11/4
Tina Hoover	11/4
John Felicione	11/5
Samantha Rekoon	11/7
Emily Ryan	11/7
Celeste Taylor	11/8
Lauren Newell	11/10
Elizabeth McKenzie	11/11
Heather Miner	11/11
Amy Curtis	11/14
Catherine "Katie" Fisher	11/14
Ava Richey	11/14
Anna McCartney	11/16
Donald "Don" Lewis	11/19
Rachel Johnson	11/26
Evelyn Hougan	11/27
Michelle Johnson	11/28

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