

The Window

First
Presbyterian
Church of
Santa Monica

September 2017



Fall Kickoff Celebration
September 10, 11:15 a.m.

Fall begins a new program year of discipleship, education, and service. Please join us on Sunday, September 10th, following the worship service.

Pastor's Pen

Relinquishment

Relinquishment. Letting go. It's an essential aspect of a lively spiritual journey. We have to let go, in order to let God. It is true for us individually. It is true for a vital and active church.

A trapeze artist has to let go in order to be able to perform amazing acts of derring-do, floating through the air with the greatest of ease. It takes courage to let go—first of the swinging bar that is all that prevents a painful crash below, but second, the flying trapeze artist needs to let go of their need to grab on to their co-artist who is called, "the catcher." It is the catcher alone who does the catching. If the one who just let go of the bar tries to grab the wrists of the catcher, both sets of wrists may end up broken. The one who has let go needs to relax and do nothing, trusting that the catcher will do their job and all will be well.

That's the way it is with us and God. We need to let go of our illusion that we are in control of our lives. We need to let go of our self-directedness and trust in Another. We need to let go and let God, the Catcher, do the job that God alone can do. Try as we might to reach out and grasp for God, we paradoxically need to do just the opposite. We need to trust in the One who never lets go, the One who has already grabbed ahold of us with steadfast, never-ending love, the One who alone is perfectly trust-worthy.

This same dynamic is present in God's church. In the midst of the pastoral transition that is now upon us, relinquishment is the task that is before us. It is true for me, a pastor who must now relinquish a pastoral relationship with a people whom he has loved. And it's true of a people who must also relinquish their expectation of that relationship and let go, to make way for the new thing that God is already doing in their midst.

The Presbytery of the Pacific, of which I am a member (and shall remain as an "honorably retired" minister member), and of which First Pres is a member congregation, has some wisdom and experience to share with us all regarding pastoral transitions. The session and I have signed a *Boundaries Covenant for the Presbytery of the Pacific*. I heartily support both the spirit and the letter of this covenant. It requires us all to do a significant amount of relinquishment:

The Rev. William A. Wood III, the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, CA, and the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of the Pacific enter into the following covenant:

I, the Rev. William A. Wood III agree:

- a) Not to become involved in any leadership role (public or private) in the congregational life of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, and to limit input to items of information explicitly requested by the moderator of Session;
- b) Not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute, and refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;
- c) Not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc., unless expressly invited by the moderator of Session;
- d) To decline requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation and inform the moderator of Session of the request that was made;
- e) To consult with the Commission on Ministry and the moderator of Session prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;
- f) To explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter, email, or newsletter) and/or the pulpit before departing;
- g) To encourage the Session to devise ways of periodically affirming the above principles to the congregation following the departure of the pastor.

Also:

No Relationship with Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) – The former pastor shall not be involved in the call process for a new pastor in any way. This includes, but is not limited to, influencing the election of a PNC, commenting on the mission study, or making recommendations on particular candidates.

The reason for all of this letting go is to make way for our forging ahead with the "new thing" that God is about to do in our midst [Isaiah 43:19]. For me, it is the new thing of listening to God's call in the vocation of honorable retirement. For First Pres, it is respecting and honoring the new pastoral relationship with Interim Pastor Dr. Tim Beal as he guides and nurtures and leads the church to discern God's purpose in the days ahead.

I am full of excitement and hope for us all! As hard as it is to let go, we can all be confident that God is going to catch us securely in everlasting arms. Because that's who God is. And that's what God does. Without fail.



Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

September 2017 Calendar

September 10th

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Fall Kickoff and Dr. Beal Welcome Celebration, Patio
- 11:15 a.m. Mariner's Social, Renaissance Room

September 17th

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Children's and Family Ministry Team meeting, Library
- 11:15 a.m. Mission Team meeting, Conference Room

September 19th

- 6:30 p.m. Finance Team meeting, Library
- 7:15 p.m. Session meeting, Library

October 6th

- 6:30 p.m. Vawters' Daughters, Off-Site

WEEKLY AT FIRST PRES

- Wednesdays:** 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Gathering, Wictum Hall
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Church Mice, Church Mice Room; C.E. Building
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Youth Study Hall, Youth Lounge
5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Midweek Groups Dinner, Youth Lounge
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Midweek Groups Activities
7:00 p.m. Yoga, Renaissance Room

- Thursdays:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, Library (Begins September 7th)

- Sundays:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary



Celebration of Bill and Sherril Wood

Thank you Congregational Life team for hosting a wonderful party to honor the 19-year ministry of Bill and Sherril Wood here at First Pres Santa Monica. The food was delicious, the cakes were beautiful, and so many wonderful family and friends came out to visit.



□

Children's, Youth, and Family Ministry

September 2017

SUNDAY FAITH GROUPS

Children and youth leave worship following Time for Children and go to classrooms for fellowship and Bible study.

Church Mice (Preschool – Kinder)

September 3 – *Come to God's house*
September 10 – *Share with God's people*
September 17 – *Sing to God*
September 24 – *Learn and pray together*

Faith Discovers (1st-2nd Grade)

Faith Explorers (3rd-5th Grade)

September 3 – *Pentecost*
September 10 – *Enough for all*
September 17 – *Cornelius and Peter*
September 24 – *A rescue from prison*

Middle School Youth (6th-8th Grade)

High School Youth (9th-12th Grade)

September 3 – *Remain in Worship*
September 10 – *Abraham & Sarah: The Ordinary Patriarchs*
September 17 – *Jacob: The Conniving Survivor*
September 24 – *Joseph: The Virtuous Dreamer*

MIDWEEK FAITH GROUPS

Children and youth meet on Wednesdays for fellowship, games, and Bible study activities.

Church Mice (Preschool – Kinder)

Beginning September 20th

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Church Mice Room, C.E. Building

Faith Discoverers (1st-2nd Grade)

Faith Explorers (3rd-5th Grade)

A starting date has yet to be determined

5:30 p.m. Dinner in Youth Lounge

6:00 p.m. Meet for activities, Wictum Hall/Big Yard

Youth Group (Mid High and Sr. High)

Beginning September 13th

4:30 p.m. Study Hall in Youth Lounge

5:30 p.m. Dinner in Youth Lounge

6:00 p.m. Meet for activities, Wictum Hall

Welcome Dr. Beal

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We are very pleased to announce that we have formally offered the position of Interim Pastor to the **Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Beal**, and he has accepted! We are currently in the process of obtaining Presbytery approval, which is expected immediately after Tim's interview with the Committee on Ministry on August 23.

The contractual start date for Tim as Interim Pastor is October 1, 2017. However, we are fortunate in that Tim is willing, and Presbytery has permitted him, to be our Supply Pastor during the entire month of September while Dr. Wood is on vacation. Tim will preach each Sunday in September and will have office hours two days a week during that month. **His first Sunday with us will be Labor Day weekend, September 3, 2017.**

Tim has been in ministry for over 30 years, but he started his career as a lawyer. Raised as a pastor's kid, his dad gave him an excellent piece of advice: "Don't go into ministry if there's something else you want to be doing." So, Tim got his law degree and was practicing as an attorney when he realized that it was his volunteer capacity in the church that brought out his best gifts. He had received his bachelor's degree and law degree at the University of Michigan, and he went on to earn his master's degree and doctorate degree in ministry, both at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Tim has been a pastor at churches with memberships as large as 2500 and as small as 125. He has served in Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as in San Diego, El Cajon, Thousand Oaks, and most recently, Oceanside. He also taught at a Bible college in Moscow, Russia, about new church development.

Tim is married to Cherie, whom he met when she was twelve years old and he was 13! Cherie retired two years ago from Wells Fargo. They've been married for 42 years and have two sons and one daughter, and very importantly, two grandchildren.

Some of you may remember Tim from last fall when he preached one Sunday while Bill was on vacation.

You may have some questions. We've tried to anticipate some of them. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions on the following pages.

Please begin welcoming Tim and Cherie today by adding them to your prayers, even as you continue praying for Bill and Sherril as they transition to their retirement life.

Karen Carrey and Phyllis Kai-Kee
Co-leaders, Interim Pastor Search Team
and the Session of FPCSM

Frequently Asked Questions

FPCSM, Our New Interim Pastor, and the Presbyterian Process

1. What do Tim and Cherie look like?



2. Will Tim and Cherie move into the Manse? If so, when?

Yes, they will move into the Manse. We are aiming to make the Manse available for them by October 1. At the beginning of September (after Bill and Sherril move out), the Manse will undergo a “refresh” – interior painting, hardwood floors refinished, kitchen cabinets and appliances updated, new garage roof installed, and various other repairs. As soon as all of the work is completed, Tim and Cherie can move in at their convenience.

3. Where will Tim and Cherie live until the Manse is available?

They will live in their condo in Encino.

4. In September, what days will Tim be in the office? What will he be doing?

Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition to settling in, setting up, and meeting with church family and friends, Tim will attend weekly staff meetings, prepare sermons, lead the Thursday morning Bible study class, and work with staff and elders on ministry programs. Tim will attend the September Session (as Moderator) and Finance team meetings held on the third Tuesday evening

5. Why is the effective date of the contract October 1, 2017, when we ideally would like for the Interim Pastor to formally begin on September 1 after Dr. Wood goes on vacation?

The Presbytery requires that the effective date of the contract be on or after the retirement date of the Installed Pastor. A church may not have an Interim Pastor and an Installed Pastor on staff at the same time.

6. Why is the contract with the Interim Pastor executed for only one year?

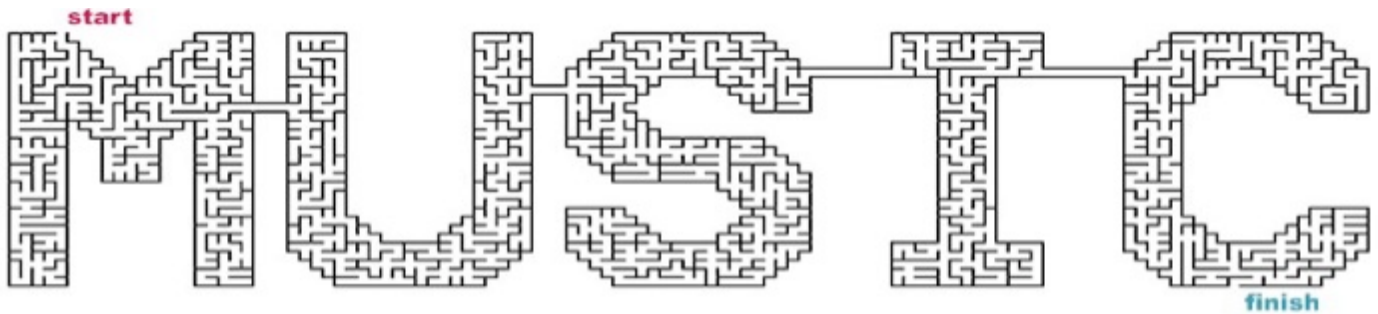
The Presbytery requires a one-year renewable contract between an Interim Pastor and a church, and provides the template for the agreement. Due to the rather intensive requirements of the search process, it is highly unlikely that FPCSM will complete the search for a new Installed Pastor within one year. We therefore expect to renew the contract with Tim as needed until our new Installed Pastor is nominated by the search team and approved by the congregation.

7. OK, we have our Interim Pastor. Now what? How do we proceed with searching for a new Installed Pastor?

The Presbytery has a set process, shown below with estimated timeframes (Q1, Q2, Q3 mean first, second, third quarter of the calendar year indicated):

- Dissolve the pastoral relationship between FPCSM and Dr. Wood (a congregational meeting for this purpose is scheduled for August 20)
- Session coordinates with Presbytery for a representative to support FPCSM's search process (September/October 2017)
- Session provides for and participates in a congregational mission study to discern the ministry direction in which God is leading us; Tim provides guidance and counsel to session in this process (Fall 2017)
- FPCSM Nominations team nominates members for the Pastor Nominating Committee (Fall 2017-Q1 2018)
- Session authorizes a congregational meeting to elect PNC (Q1 2018)
- Pastor Nominating Committee elected by congregation (Q1 2018)
- PNC writes Ministry Information Form and posts nationally (Q2 2018)
- PNC conducts search (reviews, interviews, checks references, etc.) (Q2 2018 through Q2 2019)
- PNC selects nominee, negotiates terms, obtains COM approval, reports the call to Session (Q2 2019)
- Session authorizes a congregational meeting to elect Pastor (Q2 2019)
- Congregation elects Pastor (Q2 2019)
- PNC and COM sign the call; Pastor starts (Q3 2019)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



JOIN US THIS FALL FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Ring and Sing (Sunday, September 10)

All ages

Come and ring or shake some bells in service while we join with the congregation to singing *This Little Light of Mine*. There will be handbells for our older kids and jingle bells for our littler ones.

Xylophone and Glockenspiel Jam (Sundays, September 17 - October 8)

Grades 1-5

Join us in testing out the church Xylophones and Glockenspiels as we musically explore the things we are thankful for.

Fall Harvest Festival Ring (Wednesdays September 13 – October 11 and Sunday, October 15)

Grades 6-12

Get your hands on some Handbells as we practice a few fun techniques like plucking and martellato lift. We will share these techniques on the Sunday of Fall Festival by playing Etudes 4 and 5 by M.L. Thompson

Christmas Pageant (Sundays, October 29 – December 17)

Children (3 and up)

Our annual Christmas Pageant is a fun musical experience allowing our children to retell the story of the nativity. The Pageant occurs during our Sunday morning worship service. Speaking parts are available for our elementary aged participants. Non-speaking parts are available for our younger cast members.

Winter Ring

(Sundays and Wednesdays, November 12 – December 17)

Grades 6-12

Our Youth Handbell group will be preparing to perform *We Three Kings* and to accompany the hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful*. We plan to share these at the annual Christmas Pageant and possibly at the Advent Celebration Lunch. We hope to see participation from new ringers and previous ringers alike.



Connect the dots

Faith and Family

Forming Christian Identity in Children and Youth

*"The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is **guided participation in a community of practice**. We invite people into the **way of life** that embodies God's love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation, **by being, doing, and thinking about it together.**" Joyce Ann Mercer*

By my calculation, I have attended forty back to school nights at this point in my life. Without fail, I know that I can expect to hear from each teacher what their goals are for the kids for the school year and what their plan is for achieving those goals. What I will not hear, however, is a plan for how math or language arts or science is going to make my child or youth a more compassionate or a more giving person. And that's okay, because despite well-meaning character education programs like Bucket Filling, I don't necessarily expect the school to be responsible for my kids' moral or spiritual development.

I do hope, though, that your expectations are different when it comes to the Christian faith formation of your children or youth in our Children's, Youth, and Family Ministry programs at First Pres. The reason is that children and youth do not become Christian by learning *about* what Christians do or say or think or even believe. Like all of us, children and youth become Christian, forming their identity as disciples of Jesus, by doing things that Christians do, by saying the things that Christians say, and by living the way that Christians live. Over time, by doing and saying and living as a Christian, their hearts and minds come to be formed in the Christian way of life.

Joyce Ann Mercer in the quote above has described this process of Christian identity formation as "guided participation in a community of practice." To help us understand what she means, she offers the example of a musician. No one begins life as a musician. It is an identity that is shaped and formed through "participation in practice." First, a child's or youth's interest is nurtured by a musician, who uses the language of music to teach technique and guide learning in musical notation, while also sharing his or her own music and allowing the child to practice making his or her own music. Over time, daily practice and participation in music groups lead to the development not only of skilled musical ability but also of musical hearing and musical thinking and eventually the realization that "I am a musician", i.e. musical identity.

In the same way, Christian identity formation requires participation in a community that practices worship of God, love of neighbor, and stewardship of resources, all of which shape a child's or youth's hands and feet, heart and mind, in a uniquely Christian way of being. Children and youth need to be in an active Christian community where faith is practiced, and where they are invited to participate in those practices.

But participation alone is not enough. Christian identity formation also requires children and youth to understand what the practices mean. The Christian practice of celebrating the Lord's Supper makes little sense to children or youth until they learn the story in which Jesus renders ordinary eating holy by telling his disciples, "whenever you do this, do it in remembrance of me." The story makes sense of the action and the action gives meaning to the story.

This, then, is my back-to-school goal for your children and youth this year. To engage them and you in the practices of God's love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation of this faith community, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, and to share with them the stories that give meaning to those practices. Together, with God's power and blessing, we will continue to grow in our Christian identity while this faith community grows in its mission of building God's kingdom in Santa Monica.

Blessings,

Peter



New Members

Gary Ruster

Gary Ruster is originally from San Francisco, CA and has been living in Santa Monica, CA on and off for the past 40 years. Gary has attended both Stanford University and Occidental College. He currently resides at Westminster Towers and is happy to become a member of the First Pres family.

Chase Milner and Sarah Haggerty



Chase Milner was born in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida where he was baptized at First Presbyterian Church. Sarah Haggerty was born in New Orleans, Louisiana where she was baptized and received her first communion at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church. Due to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, her family travelled east to Florida where they would eventually make Orlando, Florida their new home.

Sarah and Chase met at the University of Florida while Sarah was pursuing her MS in Business Management and BFA in Dance and Chase was pursuing his BS in Marketing and BFA in Theatre. Upon graduation, Sarah and Chase moved to the Los Angeles area for career opportunities in the arts and real estate industries. They are joining the Church by reaffirmation of faith.

Joel Gayner

We welcomed Joel as a member of the First Pres family in June of 2017. He currently resides in Marina Del Rey.



Interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica?

If you want to become a member, or find out who we are, what we do, and what it can mean in your life, please come to an Inquirer's class. We will talk about what being a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of First Pres is about. Please call the church office for information on class dates.

BOUNDARIES COVENANT FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PACIFIC

The Rev. William A. Wood III, the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, CA, and the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of the Pacific enter into the following covenant:

1. I, the Rev. William A. Wood III agree:

- a) Not to become involved in any leadership role (public or private) in the congregational life of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, and to limit input to items of information explicitly requested by the moderator of Session;
- b) Not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute, and refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;
- c) Not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc., unless expressly invited by the moderator of Session;
- d) To decline requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation and inform the moderator of Session of the request that was made;
- e) To consult with the Commission on Ministry and the moderator of Session prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;
- f) To explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter, email, or newsletter) and/or the pulpit before departing;
- g) To encourage the Session to devise ways of periodically affirming the above principles to the congregation following the departure of the pastor.

It is understood that this policy does not require termination of friendships with individuals who are connected with the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, CA.

2. The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica agrees:

- a) To respect the Terms of the Covenant agreed upon with the Rev. William A. Wood III as outlined above;
- b) To interpret the terms of the Covenant to the congregation at the time of dissolution and during the absence of an installed pastor. Also to incorporate this agreement in the minutes of the congregational meeting when the pastoral relationship is dissolved; and
- c) To incorporate this agreement in the minutes of the session meeting when approved.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE BOUNDARIES COVENANT ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE:

- 1. No Relationship with Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** – The former pastor shall not be involved in the call process for a new pastor in any way. This includes, but is not limited to, influencing the election of a PNC, commenting on the mission study, or making recommendations on particular candidates.
- 2. Compensation Ceases** – The former pastor shall not continue to receive compensation from the congregation, whether salary, use of church property including office space, or reimbursements except those negotiated as part of a severance agreement that has been approved by the Commission on Ministry.
- 3. Officiate by Invitation Only** – The former pastor will only provide pastoral services for members of their former congregations as invited to do so by the current moderator of Session. The moderator of Session may withdraw an invitation previously given by a past moderator or pre-arranged in the *Boundaries Covenant*.
- 4. Discourage Membership Transfer** – If the former pastor has taken a new call near the former congregation, he or she will not attempt to recruit members from the former congregation and will encourage any who inquire about moving their membership from the former congregation to the new one to remain committed to their current congregation.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE BOUNDARIES COVENANT ARE NEGOTIABLE:

NOTE: The pastor and the Session should discuss and make decisions regarding the following issues prior to departure and incorporate into the *Boundaries Covenant*.

- 1. Period of Separation** – It is customary for a former pastor to observe a period of no contact with the congregation for a period of time after the call is dissolved. Ordinarily, this period lasts until 2 years after a new pastor is installed.
- 2. Return for Pre-Arranged Services** – Are there any impending services that will take place after the date of dissolution for which it has already been arranged for the pastor to preside? Is there someone else who can preside at these services instead?
- 3. Community Relations** - A pastor is often seen as a “pastor to people” beyond the membership of the congregation. This may take on many forms whether it is presiding at weddings, funerals of non-members, participating in the leadership of local ministries, or providing counseling to members of the community at-large. To what extent were these activities because he or she was the pastor of the congregation and to what extent were they the personal projects of the pastor? Which of these activities will continue and which will end? Who needs to be told of these new boundaries (funeral directors, wedding planners, hospital chaplains, ministry boards, etc.) and how will they be informed?
- 4. Family** - Are any of the pastor’s family members also members of the congregation? Will they continue to be active in the life of the congregation? How will the congregation continue to provide support and care to them while also keeping appropriate distance from the former pastor? What considerations need to be made for and by the family as the congregation proceeds to call a new pastor? To what extent does the family of the former pastor influence the congregation through their relationship with the former pastor?
- 5. Friendship** – Just because the former pastor is no longer the pastor does not mean that he or she does not have real and lasting friendships with members of the congregation. How will the line be drawn between being someone’s pastor and being someone’s friend?
- 6. Social Media** – New forms of media have enabled new forms of ministry; they have also complicated separation ethics as pastors who have moved far away can more easily continue to provide pastoral services to members of their congregations using those means. To what extent were blogs, social media, text/instant messages, email, and other electronic means a part of the ministry of the pastor? What activities need to end?

Happening at First Pres

Nominations Team

The Answer is Yes...

For opportunity! The Nominations Team is looking for church members to serve on various leadership and service boards. Take this opportunity to share your gifts with the church at this time of change and growth. You will deepen relationships, grow in faith, and lead the church at a pivotal time. Nominate yourself or someone you feel would serve the church well in any of the following areas:

Deacons – minister to those who are sick or in need of support, nurture the congregation by assisting with the Lord’s Supper

Elders – encourage and lead the congregation, establish church policy and priorities, support ministry teams in their various functions

Nominations Team – inform members about opportunities to serve, identify and invite candidates for open positions as church officers

Pastor Nominating Committee – lead the congregation in future ministry planning, search for and nominate a pastor candidate who can best lead in this ministry plan

Look for an insert from the Nominations Team in the church bulletin (First Pres Connection) to complete OR talk to a Nominations Team member.

Karen Carrey, Team leader

Joe Deering
Sue Hall

Laurel Earhart
Sandy Micallef

Wendell Hahm
Amy Wiwuga

Sacred Places Tour *Architecture | History | Culture*

Saturday, October 7, 1:00 - 5:00 pm: Santa Monica, CA

Fifteen historic places of worship throughout Santa Monica will be featured at our annual architectural tour. **Sacred Places** will explore the architectural beauty, history and culture of churches, chapels and a synagogue. Selected for their historical significance and cultural diversity, these sites are also located in different parts of our City.

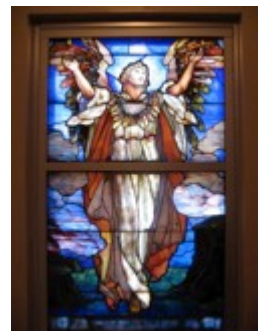
Discover the magnificent Tiffany stained glass (pictured right) at First Presbyterian, which was established in the same year as Santa Monica's founding in 1875 along with First United Methodist. Learn about our City's oldest African-American church, Phillips Chapel, founded in 1906, and glimpse into ancient Eastern Orthodox traditions at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Coptic Orthodox.

Explore two churches with predominantly Latino congregations-- Saint Anne with its beautiful outdoor shrine and Iglesia el Sermon del Monte with its vintage stained glass windows.

This self-driving and biking tour offers several check-in locations where visitors can start the tour. Visitors are encouraged to select sites of interest as time may not allow stopping at all 15 sites on the list. All ages welcome.

Advance tickets: \$25 for members of the Santa Monica Conservancy, Santa Monica History Museum, and tour site congregations; \$30 for the public

At check-in: \$30 for members of the Santa Monica Conservancy, Santa Monica History Museum, and tour site congregations; \$35 for the public.



FIRST PRES COMMUNITY

Wednesday Morning Gathering

We meet on Wednesday mornings in Wictum Hall at 9:00 a.m. and have coffee at 10:00 a.m.

We are planning a mini Christmas bazaar for the beginning of December. Save your money to purchase hand made items as Christmas presents. See the lovely hand made scarf below. We also need gently used jewelry to sell. Bring your items to the church office and we will put them in the bazaar.



Bible Study

Join Pastor Tim as we begin a new season exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus by reading and discussing the Gospel According to John. 9:30 a.m., Thursdays, in the library.

Mariners Social

Mariners socials include lunch, entertainment, and informative presentations year round. This group meets one Sunday a month following the church service.

Sunday, September 10, 11:15 a.m.

The Mariners will meet in the Ren Room to enjoy singing, sandwiches, and drinks. Steve Fry will entertain on the piano with a sing-a-long of hit show tunes.

Please contact Diane Henszey at 310.470.2536 or the church office to RSVP.

Vawters' Daughters

Join the women of the congregation the first Friday of every month. In honor of those spunky sisters who played such a vital role in the history of the church, we are the **Vawters' Daughters**. Contact the church for more details.

Flowers

They beautify our sanctuary, honor your loved ones and provide cheer to our hospitalized and homebound parishioners. The deacons divide each week's arrangement into two or three bouquets and deliver them to members who can't get to church because of illness or frailty. It keeps our "friends at home" connected to their church family in a meaningful way.

We also can put to good use any vases that may be taking up space in your cupboards at home.

Some upcoming dates that still need dedications are: October 22, 29 and November 5.

If you'd like to reserve a date please see Pat Alston during the coffee hour or call the church office 310.451.1303. The cost of the flowers is \$65.

Greeters Welcome You

The Price Is Right. Do you know the TV show that gives you prizes if you know the correct price of an item? It's fun to guess along with the guest, isn't it? Today, we want you to know that this place is right. You don't have to know anything except that God loves you and so do we. We greet you and give you a warm welcome because we are happy that you are here. Please join us in fellowship and worship. You are invited to be a part of the Greeter ministry; call the church office or contact Carole Riggs at ccriggs@hotmail.com.

Westside Food Bank

The Westside Food Bank provides immediate hunger relief to the people of our community. Bring your donations of cash and checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with Westside Food Bank in the "memo" line to church the first Sunday of every month. Canned food and durable goods are also welcome, but donations of cash or check are preferred, as the Westside Food Bank multiplies these donations tenfold through its bulk buying power. A list of needed food items is available. Call the church office for more information.

Need a Ride to Church?

If you are in need of a ride to church, our van driver, Tyrone DuBose has been providing transportation to First Pres members and friends for thirty-four years. He will make sure you get to church on time and in style in the First Pres van, and take you back home after the service. To schedule a ride call Tyrone directly at 310.920.0410.

Hatha Yoga

Join us for yoga in a supportive relaxing atmosphere! Knowledgeable, trained, innovative teacher. Bring water and a mat to the Renaissance Room, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. The suggested donation is \$25 per month. Questions? Call the church office 310.451.1303.



September Birthdays

September 2	Melissa Keiser	September 17	Laura Adams
September 2	John Kim	September 17	Fito Peña
September 4	Andrea Morgan	September 18	Tamara Tarsitano
September 5	Victoria Schriver-Luteman	September 19	Juliet Lukas
September 6	Phyllis Kai-Kee	September 19	Lance Rhee
September 6	Vivienne Monn	September 23	Barbara Jones
September 7	Dominique Yansen	September 24	Chien-Wei Lu
September 8	Michael Peterson	September 27	Harris Bristol
September 9	Alec Rose	September 27	Rhiannon Dourado
September 11	Elizabeth Ireland	September 27	Henry Hedges
September 11	Joe Woods	September 27	Charles Riggs
September 13	Betty Cashin	September 28	Catherine Hou
September 13	Thomas Murdock	September 28	Mateo Monn
September 14	Lucky Harber	September 29	Easton Smith
September 15	Louise Pesce	September 30	Stacie Ginigeme
September 15	Chris Sterparn	September 30	Lora Nee



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