

Weekly Hilltalk

St. Andrew's By-the-Sea United Methodist Church



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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



Pastor Paula's Peace—Part I

How to Read the Bible (Excerpted from an article by the same name by Marilyn McEntyre in *Sojourners*, June 2009 with additional commentary from Pastor Paula.)

Asked what he considered the most pressing problem in the American Church, one seminary president offered a one-word response: "Literalism."

How we read the Bible is very important, since we rely on this sacred text as a means of connection with our living God. When Luther insisted on "*sola scriptura*" as a corrective to the abuses of the medieval church, he opened up not only the richest conversation in history for the priesthood of believers, but also a large can of worms.

Hebrew is one of the most ambiguous languages on earth. And Greek draws distinctions that do not survive translation. And the cultural assumptions of the ancient folk who sat on a hillside and heard the Beatitudes differ from ours profoundly.

It takes careful, ongoing scholarship to help us imagine how they heard what they heard.

We need courage because Jesus' directives, while they resonate with wisdom, compassion, and prophetic suggestion, rarely resolve the ethical ambiguities they leave in their wake.

Those who take a hard line on divorce have to consider why the woman at the well was authorized to preach the good news. Those who regard wealth as a sign of blessing may be forgetting the dire parable of the rich man and his bigger barns. A good many earnest believers have been frustrated when they come upon, "whoever is not with me is against me," only to find elsewhere, "whoever is not against us is for us."

Such ambiguities frustrate seekers of truth now as, no doubt, they did then. Yet when Jesus spoke, he left people "amazed."

Amazement is an appropriate response to an encounter with the Christ of the gospels. To be amazed is to find oneself in a maze, knowing there is a way, but unable to foresee the whole path all at once.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Rev. Lucy Stafford-Lewis
preaching—

**Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 14, 2009**

"Holy Hospitality"
II Kings 4:8-17

SUNDAYS AT ST. ANDREW'S

At 9:00 a.m.
Band-led service

At 10:30 a.m.
Choir-led service

Sunday School Classes

Children
9 & 10:30 a.m.

Youth
Youth Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Adult
Adult Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.

**OUR COMMON MISSION IS TO DEVELOP
OUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS TO SERVE THE
CAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST**

A center where the Word of God is proclaimed; an environment where children, youth and adults find acceptance and personal worth, where learning and spiritual growth are fostered; a place from which we reach out to meet the needs of the community and the world.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, June 8

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—SSI
7:00 p.m. SPRC—SPO
7:30 Mission & Outreach—
Library

Tuesday, June 9

9:00 a.m. Andrew's Kids—CC
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts—YC
7:00 p.m. Light Reigns Band—
Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Stewardship—Library

Wednesday, June 10

Monthly Hilltalk articles due
7:30 a.m. Bible Study—Carrow's
on Pico Ave.
9:30 a.m. Mom to Mom—
Children's Center
10:30 a.m. Super Seniors—
Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. Finance—Library

Thursday, June 11

5:45 pm Bell Choir—Choir
Room
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice—Sanct.

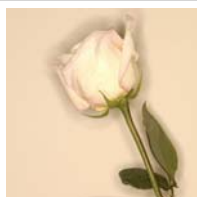
Friday, June 12

8:00 p.m. AL-ANON—Fireside
Lounge

Saturday, June 13

9:30 am Holy Rollers Bicycle
Club

CHURCH HAPPENINGS



Grief Support Group

Caring for one another during important transitions in life is one of the most valuable gifts we can offer as a people of faith. To this end, we are planning a 6 week Grief Support Group this summer, if there is a need or interest among members and friends. If you would be interested in participating in this group (or know someone who is), please contact Pastor Lucy at revolucy@sabts.org or at the church office, 492-2537.

Supper Club



Supper Club sign ups now being taken for Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov. Join church couples and singles who meet monthly at one another's homes for dinner and fellowship. For sign ups and info, phone Ena and Richard Proctor at 498-7994.

Bach to Broadway— June 14 at 4:00 p.m.

As the finale performance of our 2008-2009 Concert Series the choir will present the great choruses from classical choral repertoire to Broadway. Please come out and support your friends in this fabulous, toe-tapping, make-you-want-to-sing-a-long performance!

Tickets can be reserved by calling the office 949-492-2537. Suggested donation \$10.

ATTENTION MEN



Our last men's club meeting before the summer break will be on **Saturday, June 20.**

Our own senior pastor, **Rev. Dr. Paula Ferris**, will give a thought provoking talk, "**Things you thought you knew about the Bible!**" Don't miss this great time of fellowship as well as some revealing Bible facts. Guests are invited. Breakfast is served at 8am for only \$7.00 with profits going to church projects.