

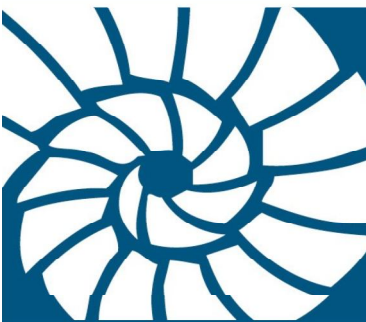
Hilltalk

March 2011

News & Inspiration
for Members & Friends

St. Andrew's
by-the-Sea

A United Methodist Community of Faith ~ www.sabts.org



Lenten Prayer Partners

As Christians, we're encouraged to experience the comfort, peace, and support achieved through prayer. Once again, St. Andrew's is offering a Lenten opportunity to make prayer a priority.



You won't know the identity of the person praying for you – only the identity of the person you pray for.

How do you “partner up”?

A short “Prayer Partner” form will be provided at the services.

If you wish to participate, simply fill out the form, giving your name and listing any prayer concerns. Forms will be collected and placed in a basket and then, after the service, those who have elected to participate will be given an opportunity to take a form from the basket, revealing the name and prayer requests of their prayer partner.

During the six weeks of Lent, prayer partners will pray for each other daily. If you'd like to reveal your identity to your prayer partner, this can be accomplished via any method you choose on Easter Sunday.

This is a voluntary opportunity that will enrich your life and someone else's. What a wonderful “Resurrection Gift” to give and receive throughout the Lenten season!

People attending the March 9th Ash Wednesday service will the option to participate in “Prayer Partners.” For those unable to attend the Ash Wednesday service, this opportunity will also be offered at both worship services on Sunday, March 13th.

What is a “prayer partner”?
A “prayer partner” is someone who wishes to pray for and be prayed for each day during Lent. If you wish to be prayed for, you commit to pray for someone else.

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A full listing of staff, including email addresses, may be found on our website, **www.sabts.org**. Deadline for next Hilltalk is **noon March 15, 2011**. Please submit articles via email (office @sabts.org) as an attachment whenever possible. *All submissions subject to editing.

Pastor Paula's Peace

When I was first assigned to come to St. Andrew's UMC, several friends in Long Beach, where I had been living for 13 years, remarked that I would find it interesting living "behind the Orange Curtain."

I've lived in Southern California since 1971, so I thought I knew what that meant. To begin with, in gay and lesbian friendly Long Beach, it meant the "curtain" behind which gay and lesbian folks hid here in Orange County. I guess it also meant the "curtain" behind which poor people in the OC are hidden.

The first week I arrived, I was asking some adults to get their lawn chairs off our cell tower roofs and watch the July 4th fireworks from the terrace. I got a lot of guff and one of our members standing near me said, "Welcome to Orange County, land of entitlement."

Naturally, that was the year "Real Housewives of Orange County" appeared on television and a woman from San Clemente was among those featured.

Sigh. I suspected I was out of my league.

After three and a half years, I have found something entirely different than those initial introductions might have indicated. Sure, affluenza is a danger here. We forget just how financially affluent we are here. But if your retirement portfolio has collapsed or one of two high-earners has lost that nice paycheck, your problems are just like everybody else's, only with more zeroes.

What I've found (of course, I hang out with church people, girl scout leaders, civic servants, Rotarians and musicians--oh, and bar flies, sports nuts and recovery people) here in San Clemente belies all I was told or feared to experience.

I've found a kind of informality here in SC that means everybody wears flip flops, board shorts and t-shirts. You can't tell how much money people have by what they wear or even by what they drive--some well off folks cart their sports equipment around in some weird vehicles.

There's a friendliness in our town I've found very embracing. Strangers on the street will stop to talk about how steep the hills are or the condition of the dog park. Everybody's got a dog and they're mostly welcome in stores and on restaurant terraces.

People here are astonishingly willing to talk about their church, their faith, their experience with God this week. They talk about their family, Boy Scout events, the needs of the local schools and our local playhouse.

They're willing to raise money to give away dictionaries and cure cancer. They'll walk or bike or run or surf for just about any cause, any day, any weather. People here think a surfboard is required decor for every business from the doctor's office to The Bagel Shack.

People here care about folks with addiction issues and they speak with pride about the halfway house next door to them on their cul-de-sac.

Recently, a member of our church asked if he could make an anonymous donation to one of our church families who has a child with some special needs. Knowing the expenses of such needs, he just wanted there to be a little "extra" for Christmas.

Our church member told me, "I've done so much healing since I've been worshipping here at St. Andrew's and I'm so grateful. I just want to give something back."

A sense of sweeping generosity is the hallmark of the Christian life. We know that it takes money to transform lives and we're a generous people.

Lives are being transformed here at St. Andrew's. Sometimes it's pretty subtle. Like the man whose life slowly healed and he found himself no longer lonely and fearful, but full of gratitude with a sense of God in his life everyday.

It's worth putting your generosity to work here--see what happens for you and for others.

Shalom,

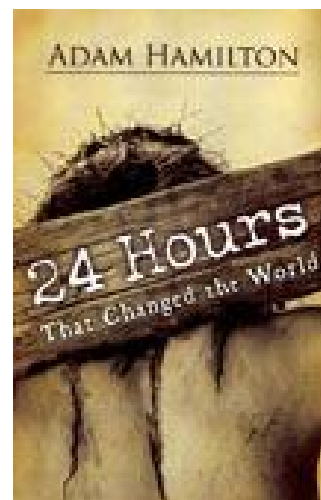
Pastor Paula

Lenten Small Group Study Available!

After our very successful Fall Study Initiative concluded, a number of small groups asked: "What's next??" Although we won't have another "all church" study again until Fall 2011, a six week study is available for small group use during Lent.

It's called "24 Hours That Changed the World" by best-selling author and UMC minister, Rev. Adam Hamilton. The study focuses on the 24 hours leading up to and including Jesus' death and Resurrection.

Essentially, there are three study components: 1) the book of the same title; 2) an easy to use leader guide; 3) an accompanying, optional video featuring Adam Hamilton in the Holy Land, walking the viewer through key, historic places that played a part in Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. Pastor Paula will also be basing her Lenten sermon series on the book, and after each worship service during Lent, she'll be providing questions for further discussion or journaling. All or just a few of these study components can be used by small groups.



Given limited resources, Lenten study group sign-ups won't be formally organized. However, if your Fall study group elects to reconvene, or if you're interested in starting a new study group, please e-mail or call me and I'll get you started with the "24 Hours" materials.

Finally, our SABTS office will be selling a limited number of Adam's Hamilton's book for \$15. If you're interested, purchase your copy now while supplies last! Or visit www.amazon.com or other online retailers to purchase your copy!

May this Lent bring you a deeper, richer understanding of Jesus' love for all of us –

Ann Small

spiritform@sabts.org or 949-369-5893

Stewardship Minute

Every Sunday our worship bulletin calls out and allows us to re-affirm St. Andrew's Core Principles as fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. Two of these in particular :

“We practice **sacrifice** through tithing and selfless giving of ourselves.”..and..

“We live our lives **humbly**, knowing the gifts we have received come from God.”

Both speak to how so many of the amazing missions and ministries of St. Andrew's are supported with your time, talent and tithes. As we move towards Lent, Easter and Vision Sunday I wanted to share the St. Andrew's by-the-Sea vision of Stewardship.

Stewardship is not the church's way of raising money. It's God's way of raising Christians. We will raise faithful stewards of God's gifts with resource and fund development that will financially support the missions and ministries identified in the core principles of St. Andrew's by-the-Sea. As a part of the worldwide connection of the United Methodist Church we support our annual apportionments.

Thank you for making a difference in the world.

VBS 2011: July 25-29

Pandamania Awaits You!

Mark the dates and dust off your suitcases—come along on a Vacation Bible School journey into bamboo jungles where we'll discover God's great love for us.



In fact, we'll learn that God is WILD about us! Our friend, Boomer, the Panda, will guide us through a week of Pandamania beginning July 25-29, 2011 and we can't wait!

Vacation Bible School week is always a highlight of the summer and it would not happen without amazing leaders like you! Contact Co-Directors Emily Bredthauer (emily@sabts.org) or Kelley Mauerman (kmauerman@cox.net) and let them know where you would like to serve in this summer's VBS.

Families of Faith

Our next Families of Faith gathering will be March 4th for dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. For the program we'll tackle some of these bigger "what if" questions together. For instance, when IS it appropriate for a child to ... go to a sleep-over? have his or her own cell phone or computer? go to the mall or other similar place unattended? begin dating? get a tattoo? These challenging parental questions have no right or wrong answers, but thinking about them now when it's not a pressing dilemma may be useful. Additionally, some of us have children who have already had their first sleepover, computer, cell phone, etc. What a gift to share knowledge among fellow travelers on this parenting road.

Dinner: Baked Potato Bar

Items Needed: Potatoes, sour cream, butter, onions, chili, broccoli, cheese, chives, etc. Veggie Tray. Chicken nuggets for kiddos with veggies on side. Dessert.

To sign up for the evening or for more information, contact Emily Bredthauer (#412-7523 or emily@sabts.org).

Attention: St. A's Youth

Hang with Shaunna

Shaunna has "office" hours at Starbucks (638 Camino de los Mares) off the Camino de Estrella exit. Stop by and hang out any time between 7 p.m.—10 p.m. on Wednesdays!



Play Sports?

Give Shaunna & Bill your schedule and they'll do the best they can to come cheer you on at a few games!

ALL Youth Lock-Out

This event may or may not include a late night excursion to a trampoline-covered venue (even the walls), slurpees, a beach bonfire, and Denny's.

Who: ALL youth, grades 6-12 – feel free to bring your peeps!

When: Saturday, March 26th @ 8pm to Sunday, March 27th @ 8am

Where: We're meeting @ St. Andrews, but we'll be running around San Clemente doing some pretty spectacular things!!

Cost: \$30/person + money for a midnight meal @ Denny's and an infamous 7-11 Slurpee.

*Don't forget to dress in layers!

Sunday School – New Testament

Join us at 10:30 (grades 6-10) on Sunday mornings in the youth room as we study various stories in the New Testament from Jesus' life and Ministry!

Youth Group – God in Movies!

Join us from 6-8pm through the end of March as we watch REAL movies and talk about Christian themes we see in movies that aren't actually Christian.

OPERATION CLASSROOM

OPERATION CLASSROOM, one of SCMFO yearly Moral Events for the Marines in San Onofre area, will be needing persons to adopt a classroom at San Onofre School at Camp Pendleton to help supply the teacher's needs for his/her class.



You could go together with 1 or 2 other people to adopt a class, as a group. Last year, Gene and I adopted a class last year and it was exciting to take the items to the classroom for all the children to use. Please feel free call me if you are interested and I will answer your questions.

Thanks, Marian Fournier: 492-4015

**Also if you would like to join San Clemente Military Family Outreach to help with an event of your choice we can use you. This is one way we can help repay all the young Marines for all they do for our country.

Dear Friends of St. Andrew's,

Is there someone you know who is struggling through this challenging economic situation? Has someone close to you lost a loved one recently? Do know someone challenged by an addiction? As people of faith, we know that those with "God-shaped holes" can find love and support here at St. Andrew's....and we are providing an easy means to invite them to share Easter worship with you.



Invitational postcards will be available after worship Sunday, April 3rd for each family. Add a personal greeting and invitation to the postcards. Be sure to tell them which service you and your family will be attending.

An example might be:

Dear Jim and Linda,

One of the gifts we would like to give you this year is the joy we find by attending our Easter worship services at St. Andrew's.

8 am Our "Celtic Fire" service is contemplative and moving and communion will be offered.

9:30 am The children's Puppet Service brings the Easter story alive for the young and the "young at heart."

10:30 am We'll have an egg hunt on the lawn for the children, so make sure your kids/grandkids bring their baskets!

11 am Our Chancel Choir performs during this Victory Celebration and we will take communion.

We would love to have you join us at the ____ service!

Rich and Jane

...or simply make the invitation in your own words.

Thank you in advance for sharing the triumph of Easter and helping to spread the news.

Chris McCann and the Invitation Team

SCMFO NEEDS A GEEK!

The SC Military Family Outreach ministry is more than just an equal opportunity employer. They are actively looking for a volunteer computer geek to coordinate content for their website.

SCMFO, operating from St. Andrew's fellowship hall, needs someone to serve on a volunteer basis as the link between the Outreach and the website manager. This person will be familiar with IT and website process, and able to converse (hopefully in the same language) with our professional web manager. The site will be updated 3 or 4 times a year. Familiarity with computer graphics and Photoshop would be helpful, but not required.

Interested applicants should e-mail Bob Crittendon at [<bcrittendon@cox.net>](mailto:bcrittendon@cox.net) or leave a note in the SCMFO mailbox at the church office.

Please continue to be
in prayer for:

Arliss & Betty Berenger
Bob Creighton
Alyssa & Tina Dolegowski
Virgene Heath
Jeanette Hill
Fred Muster
Dorothy Osborne
Alfreeda Roberts
Fred Vote
Bruce & Patty Walden
Peyton Woll

If you have a prayer request—
send it to office@sabts.org or
call the Church
Office at 949.492.2537

Men's Club: ALZHEIMER'S Program

All the church and friends are invited to an outstanding program by the Alzheimer' Association of Orange County on **March 19th: KNOW THE 10 SIGNS - EARLY DETECTION MATTERS!**

Learn more about memory loss, the importance of early detection of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, and what can be done to help people and families living with dementia.

The meeting will begin with breakfast, as usual, at 8 am **in the Sanctuary Building** for \$7.00.

Patty Mouton, the presenter, is an especially effective speaker. Please RSVP to Prescott Cogswell - 361-2345; or Keith Sims - 495-5106.

Missions & Outreach- Imagine No Malaria

Imagine No Malaria is an initiative of the people of The United Methodist Church to raise \$75 million to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. The Imagine No Malaria campaign has recently gained some prominence because of actor George Clooney's contraction of the disease. He is fortunate to have access to resources, quality medical care and will be just fine with treatment. Unfortunately, other people – especially those in sub-Saharan Africa – are not nearly as lucky and each year over a million people die from malaria.

Every 45 seconds a child in Africa dies of malaria and infants, children and pregnant women are at greatest risk. As United Methodists, we are strong—11 million strong. We believe the world is our parish. In reaching out to people to relieve suffering, we find a revitalization of our own faith and our understanding of what it means to be Christ followers.

During Lent, Mission & Outreach and Children's Ministries will support this initiative. Small World Banks will be available to take home and we invite you to put a little change in the bank each day. \$10 will purchase and distribute a mosquito net to those most at risk for contracting malaria. We will collect these containers on Palm Sunday and Easter. It is our hope and prayer that the gifts and resources shared through Imagine No Malaria will empower an entire continent to achieve a sustainable victory over the disease.

For more information, visit www.imagenomalaria.org.

Financial Update

Effective year-to-date through
January, 2011:

Year End Income: \$44,232

Year End Expense: \$36,796

Surplus/ (Deficit): \$7,436



St. Andrew's wishes to express our gratitude for the support of our sponsors. Sponsorships are used to defray the cost of public action of our Hilltalk newsletter. Acceptance as a sponsor is not an endorsement of the individual business. For more information about becoming a sponsor, contact Chris McCann at chris@sabts.org.



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George Devan was the "Bubble Man" at Back to Church Sunday



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Mailing label here

St. Andrew's by-the-Sea Core Principles

As fully-committed followers of Jesus Christ:

We have been **transformed** by our encounter with the living God in Jesus Christ.

We practice **spiritual disciplines**, such as prayer, meditation, scripture reading, attending worship, receiving the sacraments, and fasting, which cultivate our daily conscious contact with God.

We seek to **learn** more about God through continual study.

We practice **sacrifice** through tithing and selfless giving of ourselves.

We actively work for **justice and mercy** in the world.

We seek **unity** through working and living in harmony with our community of faith.

We walk our spiritual journey with **honesty and authenticity**.

We live our lives **humbly** knowing the gifts we have received come from God.



Mark Your Calendar !

Ash Wednesday

March 9th at 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Building

Prepare your heart and mind
for the Lenten Season
