



Sign Up Now For FaceLift

The corner of Laurel and Sumac Streets, near Hamilton Elementary School on Fairmount Avenue, will be the focus of June 7's FaceLift. This joint project, involving Community HousingWorks and community volunteer groups including KCC, aims to help turn struggling neighborhoods around by giving them a big lift.

In conjunction with area residents, between 10 and 12 homes will be painted and landscaped and tons of trash will be hauled away from neighboring properties and canyons. There will be opportunities for every level of skill and physical strength.

Come join members of your church community in this worthwhile project! We will carpool from church at 8:00 a.m., work through the morning, enjoy snacks and lunch and awards, and be back by early afternoon. Ask anyone who has attended one of these FaceLifts in the past – they are profoundly gratifying. For more information, please see Missions Committee Chair Leslie Wells (lwells13@cox.net or 619-48-9541). ♦

Sacred Conversation On Race

Nearly a hundred people from the five San Diego Partnership UCC churches, including a lively group from KCC, gathered together on May 18 to begin a new experience: a "Sacred Conversation on Race." It was inspired by UCC President and General Minister Rev. John H. Thomas' call for open dialogue, where thoughtful and prayerful listening to divergent points of view could offer all involved a deeper means for spiritual growth.

"What a great experience to share around scripture and stories from our lives about a topic not very much talked about," said one participant. Another added, "People everywhere need to do more of this! We all tend to kind of brush race under the rug, or talk about it only with people who are just like us. Tonight, we all experienced something really different, really deep."

The evening began with a home-cooked meal, and then the intergenerational, multi-ethnic participants prayed together, engaged together in Bible study led by Christian Fellowship's Rev. Amelia Walker, and shared together. The Bible verses had been chosen to elicit discussion and divergent points of view.

Each table was assigned a different scripture passage. Once the table-wide conversations were completed, each table gave a brief report about their issues, discussions, and insight to the whole group.

As table after table reported, laughter and applause filled the room. What had begun as quiet, focused, intense, discussions ended up with smiles and nods and hallelujahs. Finally, the whole roomful of people sang a hymn together, and the evening ended with more prayer. ♦

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Pastor's Ponderings

In early April, the leaders for the Partnership churches – five UCC churches from different racial-ethnic backgrounds in San Diego committed to affirming our diversity and working together – were discussing whether we should sponsor a Sacred Conversation on Race, an event that national UCC and ecumenical leadership were advocating.

It didn't take us long to realize that this event was perfect for what the Partnership churches strive to do. So we decided to go ahead, and our enthusiasm grew as we began to brainstorm what we might do.

Rev. Curt Fuller from University City UCC suggested that we help folks mingle by having each table identified by a month of the year, and then ask everyone to sit at the table of their birth month. "Great idea!" we all chimed. Rev. Amelia Walker from Christian Fellowship and I volunteered to plan and lead the program.

Rev. Walker and I met. After we decided what we would do, we turned to logistics. We had twelve tables available. Perfect. One month for each table. "But," I thought to myself, "with each table holding 8 people, that's 96 people! Can we expect that many to show up for an event like this?" I didn't think so.

I suggested that we should put two months per table, and use just six tables. My suggestion came from my inner file folder labeled, "O ye of little faith." I rationalized my doubts, saying, "We've never done anything like this before. And it's a contentious topic. How many people really want to get together and talk about something as ugly as racism? If we get 60, that would be a huge turnout."

Rev. Walker looked at it differently. "How about we go with one month per table, and then if the tables that don't fill up, we can join some together?"

"Sounds good," I replied, still unconvinced that we'd break 60.

As you already know from the article on the front page of this *Chimes*, almost one hundred people

participated in the Sacred Conversation. Almost one hundred! Including a strong contingent from KCC!

So much for my rationalizing. So much for my doubts. So much for my little faith. Almost one hundred people considered it important enough to get together to address the ugly reality of racism that affects all of us in both church and society. Why? Why would so many people want to do this? And on a Sunday evening, no less?

I think it's because we wanted to do something to confront what is so often is used to divide us. As commentator Donna Brazile recently observed, "Race remains the most explosive, corrosive and exploitive subject in American life."

I think we gathered because we were fed up with others speaking for us. We were fed up with being represented by stereotypes and sound bites. We were fed up with boundaries being used as barriers to keep us apart.

Sometimes it's hard to disagree with people, and so we tend to limit ourselves to people who think or look or act like us. But if we do only that, we turn inward, freeze up, die a little. The rest of the world, the folk we ignore or stay away from, misunderstand and mischaracterize us. In turn, we turn our backs ever more fiercely. And the world becomes ever more polarized and intolerant.

So, that night of May 18, we got together. We prayed. We ate. We met new people. We shared our impressions about Bible passages and what they could say to us about racism. We sang. And we prayed some more. After it was done, we had removed some of the blocks from the barriers that keep us apart. We had begun to build bridges. We had experienced a diverse community of the Spirit.

Brazile pleaded, "Just once, can we have a healthy dialogue and conversation?" Once, we did. But once is not enough. We must do more. And we will.

Grace and peace,
Bruce ♦

Please Accept Our Apologies

KCC's phone system's glitches continue. A temporary but unsatisfactory fix is in place; when you have trouble getting through, we apologize. Please keep trying! ♦

Help! Our Phones Are In Trouble!



Do you know anything about small business phone systems? As the apology above indicates, the Trustees need you! If you can help, please contact Jay Trischman, Chair of the Trustees, via email at trischmanj@saic.com. ♦

Kensington Concert Series

This series ends with a bang on Sunday, June 15, at 5:00 p.m. with the San Diego Men's Chorus performing at 4617 East Talmadge Drive. See Ron Morebello at rmorebello@rmorebello.cts.com for more information. ♦

Looking Ahead

Mark August 16 on your calendars for the UCC Partnership churches' annual picnic at Emerald Hills Park. Watch your *Chimes* for news of special entertainment and other fun! ♦

Kensington Community Church United Church of Christ

4773 Marlborough Drive
San Diego, CA 92116
619-284-1129
www.kensingtonucc.com
info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com

Rev. Dr. Bruce Larson, Senior Pastor
John Tarbox, Director of Music
Nina Deering, Organist
Connie Cleland, Preschool Director
Donna Hanson, Administrative Assistant

Chimes Editor Katherine Larson
Production Staff Millie Medigovich
 Beverly Patch

Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
All are welcome!

Baptism Available June 9

Are you, or is someone you love, ready for baptism? The sacrament of baptism will be performed at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 9. If you would like to be included, please contact Bruce Larson (bruce@kcc.sdcoxmail.com or 619-501-1187). ♦

Women's Spirituality Group New Date, New Time, New Book

The Women's Spirituality Group is meeting at a new day and time – Tuesdays, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. On May 27 we will begin discussing Karen Armstrong's *The Bible: A Biography*, which describes how, when and by whom the Bible was written and examines some 2,000 years of biblical interpretation. Please join us. We welcome visitors, so come whenever you can.

Sharon Young ♦

Lectionary Readings

Here are the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for upcoming services. Bruce will pick two from this list each Sunday.

- June 1: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19 or Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28; Psalm 46 or 31:1-5, 19-24; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-31; Matthew 7:21-29.
- June 8: Genesis 12:1-9 or Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 33:1-12 or 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.
- June 15: Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7) or Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 or 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23). ♦

What Would Jesus Do?

Ever think, "If only I had some extra money, then I'd be able to give more generously for social justice"? Well, our tax refund checks are coming. The government wants us to spend the money on ourselves. Financial gurus want us to invest it. But what might Jesus want?

We propose that all who are not faced with a financial crisis consider giving away some or all of this money to the poor, the homeless, the hungry and to organizations working to change the systemic causes of these conditions. We encourage you to prayerfully consider the possibilities.

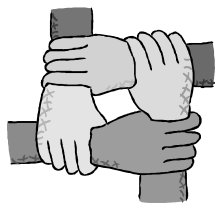
This is not a plea for money to go to our church needs. This is a plea for prayerful consideration of willing, loving, extravagant giving to those we are called to consider as the Christ knocking at our door.

Rich Wayman, Stewardship ♦

Prayer List

Please remember these people in your prayers:

David Adams
Kathleen Andrews
Nancy Brest
Carolyn Devine
Ron and Sue Franklin
Bob Guerra
Zosimo Jadloc
Charlene Moore
Millard Stanforth
Those who are unemployed
The family and friends of Fred Biasetti, Bruce Campbell, Helen Dodds, and Raymond Putt



To get a name added to this list, please contact the church office (info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com or 619-284-1129) or the *Chimes* (klarson26@cox.net or 619-501-1187). Also, please let us know when it's time for the name to be removed from the list. ♦

Partnership Churches Plan 2009 Retreat For Women Your Input Sought!

University City United Church Women invite all women who are interested to help plan a Women's Retreat being scheduled at Pilgrim Pines for the spring of next year, Friday evening, April 24 through Sunday, April 26, 2009.

We want your ideas and input. We especially want this retreat to have a mixture of women from all our partnership churches. We welcome and encourage all women from our UCC churches to join us for the 2009 Spring Women's Retreat.

An early fall planning meeting will be announced. If you are interested, please contact Judy Wilkinson at rwilkinson@san.rr.com or at 858-459-1538. ♦

Senior Luncheon June 4

The next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, at noon in Lander Hall. All church seniors are welcome! The program is "Holidays and Seasons." Please let Donna in the church office (info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com or 619-284-1129) know if you plan to come. ♦

Preschool Parents

Chime In On Capital Campaign

From Brendan McCarthy: Special thanks to these generous donors to the Preschool phase of the KCC Capital Campaign!

The Kensington Preschool Parent Auxiliary
Officers

The Borger Family
The Boyle Family
The Chaffee Family
The Clark-Stark Family
The Day Family
The Dixon Family
The Gentry Family
The Griffin Family
The Hueramo-Breidenstein Family
The Loomis Family
The McCarthy Family
The Medigovich Family
The Nicolls Family
The Gary and Zoraida Payne Family
The Sharon Payne Family
The Peterson-Shelton Family
The Playman Family
The Rhee Family
The Sly Family
The Trempe-Thomas Family
The Valenzuela Family
The Williams Family ♦

June Birthdays

2 Bethia Dinning, Damon Schamu
3 Kristin McKenney, Janet Richardson
6 Jonathan Burkett, Justin May
7 Helen Apgar
8 Amanda Short, Susan Curtin
10 Marian Brewster, Duke Clark
11 Gayle Trempe, Scot Wais
13 Mai Ling McInnes
14 Cindi McClain
15 Alexis Solomon
17 Virginia Lantry
19 Marie Trischman
20 Erin Ross, Andrew Trempe
22 Christopher Apgar
23 Sheila Naismith
27 Leslie O'Toole

If your name, or the name of someone you love, should be added to this list, please let Donna know at 619-284-1129 or info@kcc.sdcoxmail.com. ♦



Thanks To All These Generous Donors To KCC's Capital Campaign!

Abbott, Shannon
Allen, Barbara and Brock
Anderson, Janie
Apgar, Bob and Vicki
Apgar, Helen and Robert
Arjona, Oscar
Bachman, Joann
Barber, Gail and George
Barnier, David
Barrett, Froman
Bast, Fred
Baumbaugh, Joel and Marsha
 Dodds
Berger, George and Virginia
Berkshire, Jeannette
Billingsley, Henry
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Bourda, Betty
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Brammer, Joyce
Brewster, Marian
Brimhall, Jennifer and Lee Howeth
Brimhall, Jessie
Broselle, Carl and Susie
Broselle, Dennis and Judy
Bryan, Russell
Burgess, Margaret
Cardoso, Raúl
Ceriani, Carol
Ceriani, Martha
The Chaffee Family
Christison, Susan
Clark, Duke and Marg Stark
Clark, Florence
Cooper, Jerry and Lilian
Cooper, Marie
Craig, Betty
Crane, Kit
Cross, Ellen
Curtin-Schamu, Susan and
 Damon Schamu
Davis, Pauline
Davis, Carolyn and Stephen
Day, Amy Lightner
DeBlanc, Ernest and Paula
In Memory of Lilah DeVries
Diener, Mary
DiMille's Italian Restaurant
The Dixon Family
Downing, Margaret and Rex
Ehlers, Bill and Sue
Eilers, Barbara and Bill
Elkins, Arlene
Elkins, Julia
Ely, Ilah Jo
Frontis, Bill and Carol
In Memory of Irv and Mary Frontis
Gary Payne Photography
Generoli, Betty
Gentry, Alison and Scot
Greer, Marjorie
Griffin, Colleen and Robert
Guepin, Beth and Tony
Gutierrez, Abel and Mary
Hanford, Richard and Winnie
Harrison, Amy and Powell
Hartung, Barbara and James
Hengst, Mary Annah and Nolan
Holloway, Betty
In Memory of Betty Holloway
Holloway, Richard
Holloway, Stephen
Hosler, Kathy
The Hueramo-Breidenstein Family
Hughes, Ralph and Jerrie Stringer
KCC's Aerobics Group
KCC's Chancel Choir
KCC's Junior High Youth
KCC's Preschool Parents
 Auxiliary
KCC's Preschool Parents
 Auxiliary's Officers
KCC's Senior High Youth
KCC's Young Adult Group
Kelsen, Sylvia
Kennedy, Betty
Kieta, Gladys
KVH, Inc.
Lander, Bertha
Larson, Bruce and Katherine
Loomis, Debbie and John
Loop, Earline
Lowe, Robert
Marcoux, Alice
Mason, Ben and Edith
McCarthy, Bonnie and Brendan
McClain, Cindi and Mick
McClure, Lucretia
McKenney, Carl and Rebecca
Medigovich, Milica
Miller, Joan
Morrison, Joann
Naismith, Sheila
Neal, Jay and Jayne
Nelson, Marian
The Nicolls Family
Nielsen, Margaret and Paul
Odle, Joe and Mallie
Parkinson, Bob and Mary
Patch, Beverly
Payne, Gary and Zoraida
Payne, Patricia and Robert
Payne, Sharon
Perrigo, Robert and Wendy
In Memory of the Perrigo family
Peterson, Judie and Shelton
The Playman Family
Prisby, Don and Marie
Rhee, Kristine and Robert
Sapier, Jacques and Susanne
Schroeder, Mary Ann and Paul
Short, Laura and Tim
Slocomb, Eleanor
Sly, Elisa and Jonathan
Stephenson, Cathy and Dude
Swann, Mary Jane
Thomas, William
Thompson, Margie and Steven
Trempe, Gayle and Mike
Trempe-Thomas, Jennifer and
 Patrick
Trischman, Jackie and Jay
Unger, Patricia
In Memory of Amy Utz
Valenzuela, Walter
Vancott, Nancy
Vavra, Kay
Vik, Mary
Vreeland, Helen
Walker, Andrew
Walker, Elizabeth
Ward, Jim and Penny
Wayman, Dick and Joan
Wayman, Rich
Wells, Leslie and Tom Wheeler
Wender, Jacqueline and Paul
The Williams Family
Winn, Amy and Kevin
Winter, Zoa
Young, Sharon ♦

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UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

PLACE: KCC CONFERENCE ROOM

WHEN: TUESDAYS, 10:00 TO 11:30 A.M.

BREAKFAST: ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 9:15 A.M.

MEETING: ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 11:15 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP: SENIOR LUNCH

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, NOON

BENEFIT: PRESCHOOL DINNER, AUCTION, RAFFLE, GRADUATION

PLACE: KCC LANDER HALL

WHEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

MISSIONS: PROJECT FACELIFT

PLACE: HAMILTON ELEMENTARY, 2807 FAIRMOUNT

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

WORSHIP: BAPTISM

PLACE: KCC

WHEN: SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 10:00 A.M.

CONCERT: SAN DIEGO MEN'S CHORUS

PLACE: 4617 EAST TALMADGE DRIVE

WHEN: SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 5:00 P.M.

SEE THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR
AT WWW.KENSINGTONUCC.COM