

Seaside Community Church United Church of Christ

22940 Ocean Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 (310) 375-4441
www.seasidecommunitychurch.org seaside@seasideucc.org



“The Good News”

January 2012

“In Between Times”

REV. GAIL BENSON, Transitional Minister

IT'S NOT OVER

It's not over,
this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
Watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.



By Anne Weems
From her book of poetry, Kneeling in Bethlehem



A Note From Your Co-Moderator

Cynthia Snell

With the beginning of the New Year, let us take time to think about where we have been and where we are going as a congregation. During the holiday season both our Youth Group and “Sisters In Spirit” continued while other groups such as “Living the Questions” took time off, but will be starting again later this month.

The upcoming Congregational Meeting on January 22nd will be addressing the budget for 2012, beginning the review of the revised by-laws, and providing updates on the profile and the search process. The Profile Committee is currently incorporating the 2011 financial information and compiling the survey results of the “most important aspects in a pastor” into the profile. Once these are finished a Search Committee can be formed.

As we begin thinking about “New Year’s Resolutions” and where we are planning to go this year, I’d like everyone to think about how they can get more involved here at Seaside. We are in desperate need of more voices and more leaders from the congregation. Please make 2012 the year you decide to get more involved in the church. We have many opportunities to volunteer: the Fellowship Committee needs help, we need a Nominating Committee and Delegates, and the Worship Committee needs more members. All of these are available and more. We need more and different people stepping up to fill these positions.

A healthy congregation is a congregation that has many different people working in various capacities. We currently do not have enough folks involved. Remember, we are the church, not our paid staff. We are the people who have to determine what we want our church to do and be and where we want it to go in the future. Let’s all start working together to move forward, so we can get Seaside Community Church well on the way toward being a healthy congregation ready to call a new minister.

Blessings,
Cynthia Snell, Co-Moderator

Youth News

December has been a busy month for the youth in our Church. Several of the youth attended the Youth Roundtable Sleepover, which is sponsored by the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC. This is a time for the youth of many churches to get together to share ideas and plans!



The Youth Group also worked with Erica to make five blankets for our wounded soldiers overseas. These will be sent with other blankets to Germany to keep our soldiers warm when they arrive in Germany after being wounded. The soldiers have written many thank you’s to our friend, Linda Ferrara, and her group, to say thank you for thinking of them and how wonderful they feel when they are surrounded by the love that went into making these blankets! Our Youth Group is interested in helping with other projects ... so if you have ideas for them, please let Erica know! The Youth Group also had a sleepover with the Youth Group from Los Altos Church, in Long Beach. Working together with another Youth Group has made for many great friendships and possibilities for future projects!





Seaside Events

SAVE THE DATE!!!



January 22, 2012 right after church we will be heading over to Miller Hall for a VERY important congregational meeting. On the agenda are:

- The presentation and approval of the 2012 budget (nothing last minute this year since we did our stewardship campaign in November!)
- Presentation of the Church Profile – this is the document we will be submitting to the Southern California Nevada Conference in order to begin our search for a new pastor, it describes our church and what we are looking for in a pastor
- Presentation of the revised by-laws and mission statement for the church. Would be great if everyone would bring a highlighter.

Exciting stuff, we need everyone's involvement, so mark it on your calendars and we will see you there.

Living the Question

Starts back up again on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. There will still be two sessions. One that starts at 1pm and ends at 3pm and one at 6pm that ends at 8pm.

Everyone is welcomed. If you did not go to the beginning sessions and would like to join in now, give the office a call at 310-375-4441 and we can set you up with a binder with all of the old session topics. Hope to see you there.



Thoughts from Marsha, Co-Moderator:

2011 has been a challenging year for Seaside Church. There certainly have been “ups and downs,” but hopefully, more positives than negatives. I have been receiving the UCC's Still Speaking Devotionals and I found one this week that seems especially pertinent to Seaside.

Quoting Paul in Philippians 3:12-16 “this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.” Wouldn't it be nice to remember that God has good things ahead for us, instead of spending time lamenting our loss of what the past held for us? I have heard many complaints of the changes and what we are losing, rather than looking ahead to the exciting things that God has in store for us. I hope 2012 brings us all to work together in faith so that Seaside has a wonderful future!



Seaside's Outreach for 2012

Karen Ury, Outreach Coordinator

Alternative Market "Thank You"

Many thanks to everyone who supported the **Alternative Gift Market** in December. Rev. Casey Howell was there representing Heifer International and Clarence Fung, an active volunteer, represented Habitat for Humanity. Bryn Turner served as cashier and ably assisted Ron Ury with the clean up duties. The Fellowship team of Linda Knaus and Patricia Flack provided all the hot beverages for a chilly morning in Miller Hall.

The following gifts were received for:

Church World Service:	\$481
Heifer International:	\$740
Habitat for Humanity, Greater Los Angeles:	\$695

Total donations of **\$1,916!**

Year-End Outreach

The year-end recipients were divided into two groups. Members of the first group were gifted with \$44.65 checks from Seaside's annual year-end distribution of **Bertha Hartley Memorial Fund Interest** and included the following:

**Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)
1736 Family Crisis Center**

Members of the second group were gifted with \$126.36 checks from Seaside's **Other Outreach** year-end distribution and included the following:

Bread for the World	Pilgrim Place
Emmanuel Orphanage	Pilgrim Pines
Harbour Area Halfway Houses	Southern CA
Harbor Interfaith Services	Ecumenical Council
Koinonia	Peppermint Ridge



DCFS Christmas Gift Giving

In December, Seaside participated in a Christmas gift program to provide holiday gifts for 70 foster children who are served by the DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services). We initially were given 55 names, but the generosity of our church and our friends outside of our immediate church was wonderful and we were able to provide for 70 children!

This was a new outreach opportunity for our congregation and there was a wonderful response. We had only one week between the distribution of the names and the collection of the gifts but we mobilized and provided these youngsters with something of their own for the Christmas Season. There are over 1,200 foster children in the South Bay area, and DCFS provides gifts for each child. There are several churches working with DCFS in a faith-based ministry, which also helped to provide gifts.

We also work with DCFS to allow parents to visit with their children in our Church house, in an effort to bring families back together. The social workers and families talk about what a great facility we have to help families learn to work together as they move towards reuniting. Donna Bell has been meeting monthly with the faith-based group and DCFS to develop programs and to determine needs that Seaside can assist with.

Hopi Holidays

The Hopi Reserve Fund was closed with the gift of a \$321.00 check to Hopi Day School in Kykotsmovi, AZ. This Fund was designated only for Hopi Day School when it was established a few years ago.

Change for a Change



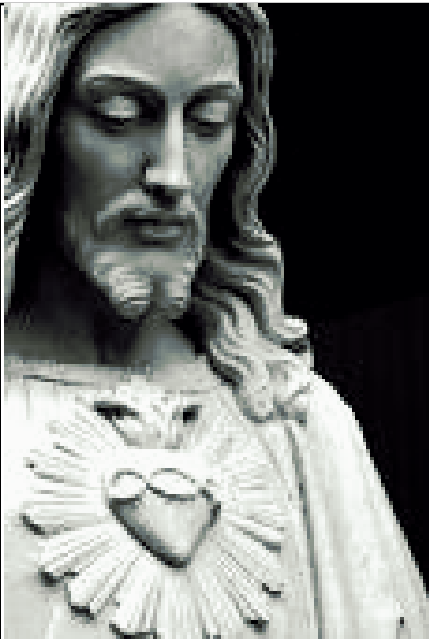
November Coins of \$25 were added to our Thanksgiving Basket for project for Love, INC. The project total was \$390.00

In **December**, loose change offerings were directed toward **The Bertha Hartley Memorial Fund.**

In **January**, the recipient of our loose change will be **Haitian Relief.**



Congregation News



JESUS: Then and NOW

February 17-18, 2012

Irvine United Congregational Church (IUCC) is hosting **Marcus Borg** and **John Dominic Crossan**, who will lead this two day conference.

Lecture Schedule

Telling the Story Now and the World of Jesus Then

Friday, February 17th, 7:30pm

The Kingdom and The Way

Saturday, February 18th, 9:00am

Good Friday and Easter

Saturday, February 18th, 11:00am

Following Jesus and American Christianity Today

Saturday, February 18th, 2:00pm

Registration Forms available in the church office. Early registration before December 31st - \$100.00. Regular rate - \$125.00.

Location: 4915 Alton Parkway
Irvine, CA 92604
949/733-0228



Sisters in Spirit Women's Group

The film we watched in November, "The Living Matrix," caused interest in the topic of spiritual healing, and so, at our next meeting we decided to watch another film, "Resurrection," which is a fictional story about a woman who becomes a faith healer.

As we need the use of the TV, DVD player, kitchen and restrooms in the Church House and major repairs of the kitchen and restrooms are still needed, we will postpone our next meeting until February. If there is any update to the meeting time, date and/or location, we will let everyone know via e-mail.

For our February meeting Marsha Bannon will still provide the beverages, and we again ask all others who attend to bring a snack to share.

The Genevieve Kiser Seaside Seniors Club

The group will meet on **Thursday, January 26th at 2:00 pm**. As the Church House is still being repaired, the members of the Seniors Club will have to decide among themselves where their meeting will be held. All men and women over 60 are invited to come and share in some great conversation and coffee.



Senior Adult Fellowship

January Birthdays



Neely Atamaniuk	13 th
Mark Ongarato	16 th
Randy Linke	16 th

Did we forget your birthday?
Please call **Christina** at the church office (310/375-4441) to make sure we have information for your special day!

SEASIDE READING GROUP

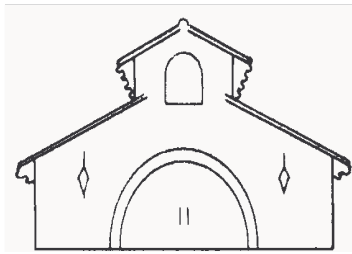
Meeting is January 10th at
7:30 pm at Karen Ury's
home



Discussing "The Lace Reader"
by Brunonia Barry

February's normal meeting day falls on Valentine's Day so an alternative meeting date might be preferable. At January's gathering, a date for February's meeting should be decided on. Also, bring your books and ideas for February's selection, as well as choices for the next few months.

For more information call: (310) 375-4441



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January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1 Communion Sunday</i> 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School	2	3	4 6:00 pm Council Meeting Sanctuary	5 7:30 pm Choir	6	7
<i>8 Welcome New Members</i> 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School	9	<i>10</i> 5:00 - 6:00 pm Qigong Church House 7:30 pm Seaside Reading Group - Karen Ury's home	<i>11</i> 1-3:00 pm LtQ 6-8:00 pm LtQ	<i>12</i> 8:30 am Holy Grounds 7:30 pm Choir	13	14
<i>15</i> 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School	16	<i>17</i> 5:00 - 6:00 pm Qigong Church House	<i>18</i> 1-3:00 pm LtQ 6-8:00 pm LtQ 6:00 pm Council Meeting Sanctuary	<i>19</i> 8:30 am Holy Grounds 7:30 pm Choir	<i>20</i> <i>Newsletter Article Deadline</i>	21
<i>22</i> 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Congregational Meeting after worship</i>	23	<i>24</i> 5:00 - 6:00 pm Qigong Church House	<i>25</i> 1-3:00 pm LtQ 6-8:00 pm LtQ	<i>26</i> 8:30 am Holy Grounds 2:00 pm Seaside Seniors Location TBD 7:30 pm Choir	27	28
<i>29</i> 9:30 am Worship Service and Sunday School	30	<i>31</i> 5:00 - 6:00 pm Qigong Church House				

The Good News is published monthly
by Seaside Community Church,
United Church of Christ.

The church is located at the corner of
230th and Ocean Avenue in Torrance.
Phone: (310) 375-4441

Transitional Minister:
Rev. Gail Benson

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
and
Friday
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Publisher:
Christina Russell
Seaside@SeasideUCC.org

Deadline for February's news articles:
Friday, January 20, 2012

**Everyone is invited to join us
for Worship on Sundays at
9:30 am**

*Sunday School and
Child Care are available*

Seaside Community Church, UCC
22940 Ocean Avenue
Torrance, CA 90505



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

CHURCH LEADERS

Co-Moderators

Cynthia Snell
Marsha Bannon

Past Moderator

Genevieve Kiser

Secretary

Bryn Turner

Finance

Scott Bannon

Christian Education

Donna Bell

Worship

Marsha Bannon

Fellowship

Linda Knaus

Facilities

Sara Morrison

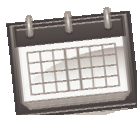
Outreach

Karen Ury

Help for the Worship Committee

Do you enjoy seeing different faces greeting, ushering and reading each week? Well...the Worship Committee is looking for some help with scheduling readers, greeters and ushers. This is a great way to get to know or talk to different people in the congregation that maybe you don't have time to talk to on Sundays. Call Marsha Bannon at (310) 418-6745 if you are interested in helping out with this!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



For those of you who contribute to "The Good News" each month, your article will need to be submitted to the office **on or before Friday, January 20th** to be included in February's newsletter. You will receive a reminder one week before the due date.