



June Business Meeting Calls Sara

The congregation voted to call Sara Haldeman-Scarr as our full-time settled pastor at the business meeting on June 5, 2005. Pastor Sara served as interim pastor in San Diego since March 1. Pastor Sara was ordained in 1987. She and her husband Bill have served as pastors in a number of congregations throughout the United States. Currently Bill is the pastor of the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren. Most recently, Sara worked as a church planting/church revitalization consultant for 2 ½ years at the Center for Anabapist Leadership (CAL). She was also the

interim pastor at the Papago Buttes (Arizona) Church of the Brethren for 9 months. Sara has been active in the Pacific Southwest District. She was district board chair in 2003 when the district held its August board meeting at the San Diego church.

Bill and daughters Jenni and Ashlie will continue to live in Pomona. Sara will be in Pomona on Sunday afternoon, Monday and Tuesday. She will be doing work on behalf of the San Diego church on Tuesdays. Sara will move into the parsonage in late July.

She will have a San Diego cell phone number to make her accessible by a local phone call when she is in Pomona.

On Sunday, September 11, 2005 Bryan Boyer will join us for worship at 10:15 am as we install our newly called settle pastor. Come and support Pastor Sara as she officially begins her service at the San Diego Church of the Brethren. Bryan Boyer our District Executive Minister will preach and do the installation service. Everyone is invited to share in this special day.

Byron King

In Remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

This year, August 6 and 9 will mark the 60th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the dawn of the Nuclear age. For six decades, nuclear weapons have figured prominently in the plans and fears of nations and individuals alike. The day the bombs were dropped, tears flowed down the faces of people everywhere and brought a sadness to the heart of God. On Sunday, August 7, 2005 during our morning worship Pastor Sara will preach on "Blessed are the peacemakers." We will remember the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We will remember the pain humanity brought to the heart of God, pray for our world, reflect on God's desire for peace in our world and fold peace cranes as a message of hope for our global community. Invite your family and friends to this special service of remembrance.

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Special points of interest:

- July 23: Board Retreat
- July 24: Grill Fest
- August 6: Beach Bash
- August 7: Remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- August 19: Picnic at Parsonage

Jumping Off the Christian Tour Bus

On my Christian journey, I've pretty much learned that I'm not a tour bus Christian. In the short time we've journeyed together I've pretty much learned that San Diego is not a tour bus Church. What a blessing to know that God has brought us together for "such a time as this." What a blessing to know that we resonate with the whole concept of rolling our sleeves up and getting into the fray of life so that we can make a difference in God's world.

I was once told that I'm not much of a theologian. I don't spend hours sitting around dissecting the biblical story or delving into the nature of God or even examining the nuances of what God does (assuming that's what a theologian does). I'm more of a "roll up your sleeves and get dirty kind of girl." Yet, in one of those reflective times (and they usually hit during my hour of scheduled spiritual reflection, you see I'm a fairly structured, spontaneous person) I came across a reading by Leo Strobel in the book I use to stimulate my devotional thoughts called, *Celtic Daily Prayer*. It gave me the opportunity to reflect on the way I encounter Christ in life. Not totally descriptive perhaps, but I certainly resonated with the ideas presented.

Strobel shares:

"Tour bus Christians' drive comfortably through life as they gaze out the window at others who are elbow deep in the daily adventure of serving God and working among spiritually needy people.

Tour bus Christians are insulated from the real-world activity and excitement of God's work. They may avoid some of the pain that's

involved, and they may protect themselves from the difficulties and struggles, but there's no real adventure on a tour bus. They miss out on the excitement of living at the edge of expectation. They don't experience the tremendous counter-cultural truth that the more a Christian pours herself out serving others in God's name, the more God will fill her to overflowing. The adventure comes when you tell the tour bus to stop, and you jump off and say:

"Lord, I want to get into the fray. I want to play a role in the biggest adventure story of all time. Use me to make a difference. Use me to impact a young person for You. Use me to solve someone's problem. Use me to soothe someone's pain. Use me to assert someone's prayer. Use me to feed someone who's hungry. Use me to rescue a child. Use me to bring someone to you. Use me to ease someone's loneliness. Use me to raise a godly family. Use me to deepen someone's faith. Use me to cheer someone on. Use me to help a bro-

ken person understand that she's precious in Your Sight. Use me to touch lives in Your name.....'

On my Christian journey, I've pretty much learned that I'm not a "tour bus Christian." In the short time we've journeyed together I've pretty much learned that San Diego is not a "tour bus" Church. What a blessing to know that God has brought us together for "such a time as this." What a blessing to know that we resonate with the whole concept of rolling our sleeves up and getting into the fray of life so that we can make a difference in God's world. So the next time you call the office, or want to speak with me and I'm not there contemplating the significance of the universe and why there is an abundance of air, or the theological implications of the biblical story on the tour bus of life, remember, more than likely, I'm off the bus somewhere, out getting my hands dirty, being a theologian in the thick of life. I'm excited to come along side of this congregation and touch lives in the name of the Divine. It's time to roll up our sleeves and to get a little mud on the tires.

Sara Haldeman -Scarr

Friends Center Building Update

More digging, and more concrete! That has been the motto for the volunteers who have been working on the Friends Center Project. Concrete footings and slab floors have been completed for both outer wings and for the round Friends Meeting room. Also, concrete work has been completed for the 'solar shed' floor, which will house the solar heating system for hot water to heat the building's floor.

Trench digging has been completed for footings for the main entrance side of the building and you may now observe the total outline of the build-

ing's floor. Concrete forms and steel rebar are being installed for the next concrete pour scheduled for late July. Many hundreds of feet of electrical conduit have been run to carry electrical wiring to all parts of the building. Plumbing is being installed for the apartment and for the bathrooms. A big "Thank You!" to volunteer groups who have come on special workdays, such as the Work-A-Thon on June 4, and Peace Corps Association, scheduled for late July. Several volunteer 'regulars' now come almost every day and the progress is quite noticeable due to their efforts.

New Website

The Friends Center unveiled a new website this past month. The website is designed to be user friendly so that you can surf quickly and easily to the information you need. Click on the web at www.sandiegofriendscenter.org and take a look. There is always good info there and Hal Brody has great pictures. You might even see Ken and Alvin somewhere in those pictures.

Ken Aeschbacher

A Concert of Compassion and Hope for a Troubled World

What a blessing it was to sit in the crowd that gathered for the Michael Stern Concert on June 4, 2005. Michael traveled to our Church for an opportunity to celebrate the release of his fifth album entitled "The Strangest Dream". This album is a compilation of pieces dealing with the dream of peace and justice

throughout the world. The close to 50 attendees including at least 20 persons not directly associated with our church, enjoyed the humor, instrumental and vocal talents of this peacemaker from Washington state. Michael also sang and preached during the worship service on Sunday, June 5. If you would like a copy of

Michael's newest album and were not able to get one at the concert, you can log on to www.mikesongs.com and order right off the web site. Thanks to the Witness Commission and Pastor Sara for making this concert possible. We were truly blessed.

Annual Conference: "Keep Our Eyes on Jesus"

"Keep Our Eyes on Jesus" marks the theme of our denominational Annual Conference to be held in Peoria Ill during the Month of July. Beginning July 2 thousands of Church of the Brethren members will gather to celebrate, grow spiritually, worship and do the business of the national church. This conference held in America's heartland is hoped to bring about 5,000 participants from all over the country. The new business items include a look at how we review and evaluate the ministry and mission of the General Board and a discussion of polity. The unfinished business will see the delegates dealing with how we do business as a church and the question of becoming a multi-ethnic church. Speakers include 2005

Annul Conference Moderator, Jim Hardenbrook, Francis Townsend, Sandy Bosserman and Anastacia Bueno Beltre. The days will be full of luncheon gatherings, insight sessions and opportunities to sit with a cup of coffee and catch up on the life of a friend. Ken Aeschbacher of course will be making a trip to the CAT plant located nearby leaving Pastor Sara, Mary Aeschbacher to enjoy the business sessions. Thanks so much to Mary for being our delegate this year. If you would like more information simply click on www.brethren.org and find the Annual Conference link.

Sara Haldeman-Scarr

Work-A-Thon 2005 a Success!



Thirty-three people showed up at the Friends Center building site on June 4 to participate in the annual Peace Resource Center/Project Yano Work-A-Thon. The workers got a short orientation on steps needed to install

sub-floor layers, and then they went to work. Teams were formed and assigned to different steps. One team cut styrofoam sheets into shape, placed it in the lower layer of the sub-floor and taped the sections in place. Then they added a layer of sand and wired in place a grid of steel rebar. A second team measured out coils of tubing for the floor heating and tied them to the rebar. The third team hauled out jackhammers and began excavating the compacted soil from the trenches that will form the outside footing for the rest of the build-

ing. A fourth team trekked to the slopes where all the trees and shrubs were planted during last year's Work-A-Thon. Their task was to pull and cut weeds that have grown up from all the rains this winter. The latest report is that over \$3700. was donated by sponsors of the workers, a great benefit for PRC and Project YANO.

Thanks to all who participated in this successful day's project!

Ken Aeschbacher

Witness Against Genocide in Darfur

David Oddo, a recent participant to our congregation has a passion to do what he can to help raise the awareness and stop the genocide that is occurring in the Darfur region of Africa. On Sunday, June 12, 2005, David was invited by

the Witness Commission to be present after worship and engage anyone who chose in a conversation about the situation in Darfur. He also had a petition available for anyone who liked to sign and register their con-

cerns about this incredible situation. When he has raised a thousand or more signatures David plans to personally deliver these petitions to Washington so that he can make a difference for this African country.

Coalition Gears Up For Gay Pride Parade

The San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice will participate in the 31st Annual Gay Pride Celebration on July 30-31. The Coalition will march in the parade, which will start at University Avenue and Normal Street at 11 AM on Saturday, July 30. The parade will travel west to 6th Avenue, then south to Upas Street. Last year's Coalition contingent won First Prize for creativity!

The Pride Celebration also will include a two-day rally in Balboa Park. The rally will feature a country western village with dance floor and saloon, three beer gardens, a children's garden, senior connection, coffee exchange, youth hangout and Rhythms of Nations dance tent. For further information, call 619-297-7683. If you would like to participate in the Coalition parade contingent, please contact a member of the Witness Commission (Sally Kurzdorfer, John Davis, Roberta Mortimer, or Margi Secor).

Summary of June 5 Congregational Business Meeting

Cheryl Old, Aleta Stern, Jason Stern, Pearl Hartz, and Pat Perry were recognized for their diligent service to the church on the Pastoral Search Committee.

The congregation called Sara Haldeman-Scarr to serve as the settled pastor for the First Church of the Brethren of San Diego.

Pastor Sara presented a Strategic Revitalization Plan that would be the basis of her work with the congregation over the next five years.

The congregation approved a full-time contract for Sara Haldeman-Scarr with an annual salary of \$39,000 per year. The congregation agreed to permit Pastor Sara to work one day a week from her house in Pomona.

The congregation authorized Board Chair Byron King to apply for an Exceptional Needs

Grant from the Pacific Southwest District in the amount of \$14,000 to ensure that the church is able to meet all its obligations for a full time pastor's contract without causing cash flow problems. District Executive Bryan Boyer was present at the Congregational Business Meeting. In behalf of the district, he stated a commitment to provide financial support through 2007 so that the congregation is able to afford a full time settled pastor.

The congregation approved a recommendation to withdraw an amount not to exceed \$4,000 from the church's cash reserve invested in Brethren Foundation to pay the balance of benevolence payments found in the 2005 Witness Commission budget. The current balance in the Brethren Foundation investment is \$137,352.47.

The Stewards Commission is negotiating to add a third cell

phone antenna for Cingular to church property. Attorney Lewis Fishback has been hired to review the contract on behalf of the church.

The Treasurer reported that the church had a positive cash flow of \$2,656.79 through the end of May 2005. Offering income for the first five months was \$22,992.39. The church has \$26,761.07 in the MIR account for major repairs to church property.

Dottie Marsden, Rick Pearson, John Mortimer, and Carol Hayden were elected to new terms on the church board.

Aleta Stern was elected delegate to the PSWD district conference.

Lee Albert and Sally Kurzdorfer were elected to serve as Deacons.

The congregation endorsed "A Statement of Conscience among Followers of Faith" regarding the conflict in Iraq as a formal position of the congregation.

Board Retreat and Alternative Board Meeting (July-August)

The annual Board Retreat will be held at Nate's Deli this year on Saturday, July 23rd. Nate's Garden Delicatessen is located in the City Farmer's Nursery; at 4832 Home Avenue on the corner of Euclid and Home. The retreat will open with a complimentary continental breakfast of pastries, milk, coffee and juice at 8:30 a.m. A Dutch treat luncheon will be ordered from the deli menu. The retreat will close by 2:30 p.m. Come prepared for renewal, fun and fellowship!

The August Board meeting will be an alternative service meeting. We will work in the kitchen of Father Joe's (St. Vincent DePaul's Village) on August 4th, from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. Serving the homeless will substitute for our regular meeting. Parking passes, directions and food safety regulations will be distributed to all participants prior to this session.

Sally Kurzdorfer

Cynthia Colbert Takes Her Musical Gifts on the Road

Music Director and Church Clerk Cynthia Colbert is moving to Rio Rico, Arizona (outside of Tucson) this summer. She has a new position teaching fifth grade at San Cayetano Elementary in Rio Rico. Cynthia first became involved with the San Diego Church of the Brethren when she was six years old. Her mother Audrey brought her to the church when it met at Swift and Polk. Since that time Cynthia has supported the church in a number of ways. She had been a custodian, church treasurer, Deacon, board

member and church clerk. For the past thirteen years, Cynthia has served as the Music Director, directing the choir and actively involved in planning worship services. Her recent musical contributions have included performing in the Praise Band. Cynthia's sons Nathan and Cortney are also perusing their education outside of San Diego. Cortney will attend the University of Arizona to get an MA in Art Education. Nathan will attend Moorepark College in Simi Valley to prepare for a career as an exotic animal trainer.

Our blessings and prayers are with Cynthia and her sons as they move on to new stages in their lives. Their new addresses are listed below.

Cortney Colbert
2958 East 5th St
Tucson, AZ 85716

Nathan Colbert
265 Knoll Ridge Rd
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Cynthia Colbert
1125 #1 Plexes Lane
Rio Rico, AZ 85648

Messenger Subscriptions

September is the month for renewal of Messenger subscriptions. One year of monthly Messenger magazines is only \$13.50. A special subscription for students is \$9.50 for 8 months. What better way to keep up on news of the Church around the world! Current subscribers will be receiving a letter with a return form to indicate their subscription renewal and attached payment. For anyone not currently receiving Messenger you may start a subscription by contacting Ken Aeschbacher (619-264-1160).

Benevolence Update

The church received thanks from the University of LaVerne Campus Ministry (\$110) and Church of the Brethren General Board (\$600) for contributions made through our Witness Commission budget. A total of \$2,375 will be withdrawn from the church's Brethren Foundation investment to pay the balance of the church's commitments to outside organizations that were included in the 2005 Witness Commission budget. Special Sunday collections for other projects will continue to be organized by the Witness Commission.

News of Our People

Selma Kammerdiner is retiring after 54 years of playing the viola with professional orchestras - 35 years with the San Diego Symphony, and the last 40 with the San Diego Opera Company, as well as with other smaller ensembles. She says "it's been a blast, but 'to everything there is a season'".

Bill Dandalides wins grand prize in the San Diego County fair!

Bill entered his 1957 Thunderbird into the Old Car category at the San Diego county fair. It was done for fun with little thought to collecting a ribbon. Bill didn't come home with a ribbon, he came home with the grand prize in his category. Congratulations Bill! We always did like that Thunderbird classic!

Please remember to sign up for the worship center or to tell a children's story. The list is on the bulletin board next to the mail boxes. At the same time, you can also volunteer to cut the lawn one Saturday!

Supper Club Events for July and August

Supper Club arrangements for June were made by Carol Hayden at Hometown Buffet. There are special Supper Events scheduled for July and August.

GRILLFEST

Sunday, July 24
5 pm
Judy Stout's house
4023 Casita Way
92115

Supper Club for July will be at Judy Stout's house. Bring: Something to grill, a side dish, a folding

Welcoming Visitors To Worship

A recent visitor to our church wrote this note afterwards:

"Thank you so much for asking us to visit your church on Sunday! You all made us feel so welcome; it's easy to see why you are there!

We really enjoyed our experience there. We were so impressed with how genuinely friendly and welcoming your congregation was. We also really liked Pastor Sara--- she seems to be a very good spiritual leader. She's a smart lady! We would very much like to visit again, and learn more.

Thank you again; it felt very good to be in a church with so much love, caring, and where God's love and presence is so appreciated."

Judy Stout

chair.

Provided: Grill, Tableware and drinks.

RSVP to Judy by July 23 email: fraumadame2003@yahoo.com or call 619-255-7202

PICNIC AT THE PARSONAGE

Friday, August 19
6:00 p.m.

The Supper Club for August will meet at the Parsonage on Friday night August 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Young Adult Beach Bash August 6

There is growing interest to gather for fun, fellowship and conversation among our youth and young adults. So several of us are planning a Beach Bash on Saturday, August 6, 2005. Jason and Holly Stern will get the fire going. Where? Well, we're not quite sure. What time? Well that's another good question. We will be gathering and we will be doing the weenie thing, or whatever you want to roast over an open fire. (Pastor Sara suggested a leg of beef, but Jason said that had already been done.) Look to the bulletin for time and details, or give Pastor Sara a call around the end of July.

Sara Haldeman-Scarr

Pastor Sara has invited us to come and enjoy an evening at her new home. She will provide barbeque chicken, table service, and cold drinks. If those who attend will bring something to "pitch-in" and make the meal complete that would be great. The meal will be served at 6:15 p.m. and the evening will conclude when ever you need to leave (She'd like to get to bed around 11 pm). Come, let's have a great time together.

Church Secretary Needed

Pastor Sara is working with the Executive Committee to hire a Church Secretary who will be available to work Monday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The rate of pay is \$8.85 per hour. Until that person is found to take the position, Rae Stern has graciously agreed to help out in the office as our interim secretary. Rae will be available in the office from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. Thanks so much Rae!! Pastor Sara is expecting to hire the new secretary by August 15th. She will begin the interviewing process in late July. If you have knowledge of an available church secretary preferably not a member of this church, Pastor Sara would love to hear about them. The secretary's job description is available in the office



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"Continuing the work of Jesus..."

We're on the Web twice!
www.sdbrethrenchurch.org
www.sdpeacechurch.org

Imperial Heights Community Church of The Brethren Community Orchestra

Imperial Heights Community Church of the Brethren is very excited about a vision that God has given us to start a community orchestra. We have acquired an instructor who has caught the vision and has the passion of working with individuals who have the DESIRE to play a musical instrument. He has 37 years of professional music experience teaching in school districts, community orchestras and is an accomplished jazz and classical musician who has played with the best.

We have extended this wonderful opportunity to the community FREE of charge, asking ANYONE who wants to play a musical instru-

ment with or without experience to come join this orchestra. We are in our fourth week of classes, held every Saturday from noon to 3:00 PM. Those that need individual instructions have an opportunity to meet on Thursday's for private lessons.

I am inviting anyone that is interested within PSWD that would like to participate in our community effort of formulating this orchestra, whether through experience in playing or teaching, to come to rehearsals or contact the church stating you would like to be a part of this ground breaking community opportunity.

Our debut performance will be Sunday, August 21, 2005 during the morning worship service; this is the weekend of the PSWD Board meeting at Imperial Heights. We invite everyone to come celebrate in this community effort as we worship God with Instruments of Praise. I believe you will be blessed in what God is doing in this multicultural community.

Pastor Thomas Dowdy
Imperial Heights Community
Church of the Brethren
1909 W. Imperial Highway
Los Angeles CA 90047-5023

