



Minister
Rev. Timothy Phillips
tim@ubcseattle.org

Organist
Margaret Paynton

Office Manager
Sofia Olson
office@ubcseattle.org

Building Manager
Meesh Cobban
building@ubcseattle.org
Cell 206-913-7271

UBC Children's Center
Director
Sandra Blood
universitybaptistchildrens
center@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Patrick Green
patrickgre@comcast.net

4554 Twelfth Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 632-5188
www.ubcseattle.org

All original material:
Copyright, University Baptist
Church Seattle, WA

Deadline for the October
issue is Sunday, September
23rd.

The Beacon

University Baptist Church

October 2007

PSALMS: THE ANATOMY OF THE SOUL

For any of us who were conscious in 2001, September will always be marked by the tragic events of September 11. That weekend I was officiating at a wedding on Orcas Island. The backdrop for the wedding should have been the beautiful scenery and the amazing outdoor décor. With several of the guests coming from New York, the backdrop was instead the fallen towers of Manhattan. Recognizing this, the couple asked me to offer a prayer at the beginning of the reception to acknowledge the devastation and to move us toward celebration. The only thing I could think of were the words at the end of Psalm 30: "You have turned my mourning into dancing." It was one of those times when those ancient words spoke exactly our hopes for that night and the days to come.

So I was stunned to read the preface to Walter Brueggemann's concise *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Brueggemann says that the book went to press "in the immediate wake" of September 11, 2001. I had already decided that this book would be a good introduction to our series on the Psalms but I had no idea of this backdrop. Brueggemann's understanding is that the Psalms are an expression of the spiritual experience of orientation ("God is my shepherd"), disorientation ("the valley of the shadow of death"), and re-orientation ("I will dwell in God's house forever"). All of a sudden this structure had a new significance. On September 11, we had gone from seeing ourselves as the most powerful nation on earth to the disorientation of shocking vulnerability. Our view of ourselves as a nation committed to goodness and mercy had oriented us. But now we were disoriented: "Why do they hate us?" we kept asking. And, in the wake of this disorientation, our fear and impulse to retaliation got the best of us. What we needed, the Psalms might say, was to move from disorientation to a new orientation – to see ourselves in a new way that acknowledges the reality of our fear and vulnerability in the light of a new hope that would re-orient us to the world.

Darker and more destructive forces won the day in 2001. Nonetheless, what is true of our nation is also true of us. We think we know our way. The way



becomes overshadowed with destruction or death. We get lost – either returning to some kind of naïve assertion that things are 'okay' when they are not or we spiral into deeper levels of despair. The Psalms offer another way – admit the truth; face the fear; live in confidence that, no matter what, we live in God's house where goodness and mercy are our legacy. This is why John Calvin called the Psalms, 'the anatomy of the soul.' With the help of Brueggemann's *Spirituality of the Psalms* (available for \$10, see Tim), the wisdom of one another, and the confidence that we live – always – in God's house, we invite you to join us as we seek to restore our souls ...

Blessings, Tim



**HAPPY OCTOBER
BIRTHDAY:**

10/7 Lori Taylor; 10/18 Lin Carlson;
10/20 Jim Paynton; Kwasi Tay
10/22 David Katterman;
10/29 Walt Pulliam;

**If you don't find your birthday here,
please call the office so we can add it to
our list.**

**OUR OCTOBER SPECIAL
OFFERING:**

goes to American Baptist World Missions. AB international missions offer faith-based life-giving support to people on all six continents. Relief work, resources for children's ministry, training volunteers and full time instructors for education and short term loan programs to help the poor help themselves are just a few of the important works that our donations support through this agency

AMONG OURSELVES...

This year's Fall Retreat at Camp Burton was a great time for talking, resting, walking, creating, and interacting thanks to the leadership of **Eric Brown, Martha Bean, Daniel Hannah, Patrick Green, CoraLea Doty** and (by extension) **Jackie Lamont** who provided the patterns for beginning work on our "Fabric of Christmas" banners – remember Jackie as she continues to recover from knee surgery at home ... Traveling mercies for **Violy de Guzman Reyes** as she travels to the Philippines to visit an ailing grandmother and then heads East for several weeks ... **Rosie** also travels East to visit sons, Tim and David, and their families – **Mona** and Rosie ask for prayer for the people of Burma (Myanmar) as protests continue there ... **Lynn Gaertner-Johnston** travels to Florida to visit her parents as her mother's health continues to decline ... **Brooke Rolston** travels to El Salvador on a trip that honors his late brother's work for schools and a library there ... **David Bloom** continues his stay in Minnesota before heading home to Seattle at the beginning of November ...

Bill Stalder & Diane Schmitz offer these words of thanks:

Hello everyone,
This is a belated but heartfelt thanks for all your care and support during Bill's surgery and recovery. Tim's visits to the hospital and our home, Patrick's wonderful meals, and the abundance of cards and calls kept us going through some dark moments. You may know that Bill had a couple of small strokes during surgery which caused loss of mobility and seizures in his left arm. The seizures are now controlled by medication and he has only a bit farther to go on fine motor skills in his left hand before things should be back to normal. We're thankful things have turned out well after these bumps in the road.

This weekend we'll be traveling to Bellingham to send my youngest off to college at Western but we hope to see you the following week as we together explore new possibilities in the University Christian chapel.

We are very appreciative of how you so intentionally live out an ethic of care.
Thank you.
Diane Schmitz & Bill Stalder

**From JoAnn, Larry & Kyle
Sims:**

After 35 years in the Seattle area, we are in the process of relocating to rural Oregon. We have purchased 7 acres of oak forest in the Willamette Valley near the town of Amity. We are currently having a new home built on the property. We are excited about our new location, our new home and the change of pace. We will be about an hour from the ocean, a little more than an hour from Portland, 15 minutes from Linfield College and 1200' from the nearest winery.

Our new mailing address is:
P.O. Box 464 Amity, OR
97101.

From the Moderator

Living in God's House and Seeking the House God has for Us: One and the same?

It is Sunday evening, September 23rd. We've just returned home from Vashon Island and Camp Burton, our annual fall retreat. The theme this year was 'Living in God's House', and indeed we surely did. Ralph and I were able to kayak during the retreat itself, and again for several hours this afternoon on the west side of Vashon Island. We saw Dahl's Porpoises – a specie of fish that looks like a miniature orca, we saw salmon moving with the long shore flow, we watched curious river otters at the water's edge and we played leap-frog with the ubiquitous kingfishers. This retreat (and it truly was a retreat!) that we are 'Living in God's House' at every moment of every day.

So, what does it mean, then, to 'Seek the House God has for Us' when we are already 'Living in God's House'? What is

it we seek? For me, the retreat helped me realize that I am no longer seeking *per se*, but I find myself being open to what exists already, and what is possible for the future.

By the time you read this article, September 30th will have come and gone. We will have in hand proposals for the future of our building and property. We will be looking at these proposals critically, prayerfully and openly. As we enter October, let us all remember this lesson from our retreat at Camp Burton: We are *already* in 'the House God has for Us' when two or more of us are gathered together, alive and aware within God's glorious creation.

Mission at UBC. Daniel Hannah is our Team Lead for our Mission Support, Peace and Justice Team. On Saturday morning of the retreat, Daniel asked us this intriguing question: What missions to you want identified with UBC? Eric Brown kept notes for us as we listed and

discussed the many things we do, and have done at UBC and how these are part of both our internal and external identity. We talked about how many of these missions are currently tied to our building – someone observed that right now, our building IS a mission in and of itself. We began discussing how we might support our existing missions without providing space. This discussion then launched us into a rich discussion of a number of different models for providing support for mission work in the future. Do we have 'corporate' missions that of the whole church, or do we support individuals and groups in the church to fulfill their missions? Do we fully engage in the missions offered by the Evergreen Baptist Association (in 2007 these are Haiti and literacy), or by the American Baptist Women? The discussion was honest, spirited, respectful and eye-opening. Oh the possibilities ahead of us! There will be more for us to discern in this arena in the future.



The Joys of Moder-hood. Many of you know that my profession is one that is similar to my role as your moderator. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that working as your Moderator has been my favorite 'job' for the last 9 months. Serving this congregation is a real joy. The joy of Moder-hood fills me when I see all of us struggle with and then make a decision; when I see us respectfully and honestly engage one another; when I experience us stopping to take a breath, or a walk or a prayer in order to listen to one another more fully.

Many of you have had a chance to serve in some capacity – some in ways that are visible and out in front, others in behind-the-scenes ways that are essential and so very important to the vitality and excitement of our small but dynamic congregation. Others of you have not yet had a chance to serve. Perhaps 2008 is your year to step forward and say 'Here I am, UBC! If you need me!' And indeed we do. Find your own joy – perhaps 'The Joy of

'Usher-hood' or 'The Joy of Treasurer-hood' or 'The Joy of Dishwasher-hood'. It's all out there, ready for you to take hold and run! Listen as we call this month for pledges, not just of time but of talent.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

Present: Bev Spears, Daniel Hannah, Tim Phillips, Martha Bean, Brooke Rolston, Eric Brown, Marilee Nielsen, and Lin Carlson.

Martha Bean opened the meeting with prayer. The August 16th minutes were approved. Marilyn Marston has expressed her desire to become a member of UBC. After a brief discussion, Brooke moved, Bev seconded, and the Council approved a motion to accept her as a member of UBC. Lin will contact Panther Lake Community Church and obtain a letter of transfer.

Pastor's Report: Tim has copies of Margie Paynton's remarkable September 16th sermon. Discussion occurred on the opportunities of space at University Christian for our building users. Tim noted a positive email from U. Christian on this topic. Tim will participate in a visit of U. Christian by UBCC staff next week.

Building Report: Meesh mentioned the sprinkler system that has been solved. The West Transitional Housing apartment should be filled soon. Unfortunately, we have a problem with cockroaches. The pest control has been here on a couple of occasions. We will redouble our efforts and ask tenants to especially maintain clean areas where food is kept and implement a more frequent spraying plan.

Treasures Report: Marilee distributed Mary Clare's report. The year-to-date summary is good. We are in much better financial shape than last year at this time. **Team Leads need to submit 2008 budget requests to the Finance Team by October 18th.**

Pastor/Staff Relations Team: Eric shared the proposed motion from the PSRT that reads: In recognition that her work among us is, in fact, ministry and in gratitude for her leadership and service in our community, University Baptist church honors Margaret Paynton with the title "Minister of Music." After a discussion, the Council enthusiastically approved the motion. The next topic was the motion approved at the September 9th quarterly business meeting: Authorize the Stewardship Council to hire or contract for a facilities manager for the hours needed and borrow necessary funds to implement this for the balance of 2007. Several folks have volunteered to serve on the reconstituted building team. Bill Bagley recently repaired the fluorescent lights in the parlor. Eric reported that Meesh provides 30 hours a month of work in exchange for the third floor apartment. The Council authorized the PSRT to negotiate additional maintenance and repair work up to 10 hours per week at a reasonable rate.

Mission Support/Peace and Justice Team: Daniel indicated that the Saturday Kitchen folks are connecting with University Christian regarding potential space. If UBC needs to vacate the facility, UBCC has asked for a 6 month notice to provide time for them to locate a new site, license, and move.

Learning and Play: Brooke reports that "things are a move."

Congregational Ministries: Bev stated that the focus over the next month is to identify team leaders for the next year. Thanks were expressed to David Spears for taking on the UBC website and making it informative and attractive. Martha will put Bev at the top of the agenda at our next meeting.

October 12th and 13th is the Evergreen Association annual meeting and will be held at Japanese Baptist Church.

A special congregational business meeting is scheduled and announced for October 21st. Proposals for our building will be discussed and any needed action will be considered. The Moderator and work group leads will be reviewing proposals received by October 1st. **The annual meeting is scheduled for November 18th** and the agenda will include approval of elected officers/Stewardship Council members and the 2008 budget.

The next Stewardship Council meeting is on October 11th instead of October 18th. Tonight's meeting was closed at 8:50pm with prayer by Pastor Tim Phillips.

Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk

IS YOUR CUP HALF-EMPTY OR HALF-FULL?

STEWARDSHIP 2007

One of the activities at this year's retreat was the creation of decorated ceramic cups meant to illustrate the words of Psalm 23: "my cup overflows." While these words appear in the 'disorientation' section of the psalm – and indeed there are times when our plate is too full and our lives are overwhelmed – these words are heading us toward the confidence that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. Our lives are full which means that they are busy *and* that they are gifts that can overflow to bless the world. So the challenge of this year's Stewardship theme is to move beyond the usual limitations of a cup half-empty or the naïve optimism of a cup half-full to identify those places in our energy and resources where we can honestly say "my cup overflows." As you receive your 2007 pledge materials, please consider – honestly, prayerfully, carefully -- your gifts and offer them generously in the confidence that goodness and mercy will be your legacy.

YOUNG(ISH) ADULT THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH

Join UBC's young(-ish) adults the third Sunday of each month after church for a lunch out on the town. We'll visit one of the University District's many culinary offerings. We'll gather after church at coffee hour and decide where we're going. Bring your appetite and a friend for fellowship and fun. For more questions call Megan Walker or Aaron Burkhalter at (206) 369-1353.



Seussical *The Musical*

On Saturday, November 17th, actors from the Lakewood Playhouse will do a benefit performance of the Broadway musical, *Seussical!* at University Christian Church. **Sponsored by The Evergreen Association** one half of all proceeds from *Seussical* will be donated to SHARE/WHEEL, Tent Cities. The other half will come to Evergreen Association to help support the social justice ministries and missions of its member churches. This is a one night only performance! Ticket sales begin Tuesday, September 4th. **Buy tickets early!** Due to wide promotion of *Seussical* to ecumenical and interfaith churches and associations that support Tent Cities, we expect to sell out this event.

This is a musical with a powerful message for adults. Based on the words of the beloved children's author, Theodore Geisel, known to the world as Dr. Seuss, Seussical carries Christian themes of faith, hope, forgiveness and redemption, and a universal message against war, intolerance and oppression that make it relevant for everyone.

Tickets will be available after worship and in the UBC office. Evergreen is asking that UBC sell at least 40 tickets. For more information call the Evergreen offices or contact Bev Spears.



SOLES 4 SOULS

In researching how to recycle used, but still usable, sneakers, I came across the web site for Soles4Souls.

This program donates to people around the world who otherwise are without footwear. Please keep any gently used shoes or sandals that you may not want. At some point we will be collecting to contribute to this program. You will be hearing more about this later, but meanwhile please don't throw away usable footwear. (You should, however, feel free to ditch those unbearably uncomfortable 6 inch high heels--they don't want them either!)

Marilee

OCTOBER EVENTS



SOUL SOUP continues on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the McAfee Parlor ...

On **October 4** join us as we talk about our experience of worship at the Chapel at University Christian Church. And, speaking of soup, remember that the UBC Team is scheduled for each first Saturday at **Saturday Kitchen, October 6**. Sign up with the office or in the Narthex after worship.

PROGRESSIVE CHURCH MOVIE SERIES Saturday, **October 6** features the movie *One* at 6:00 p.m. in McAfee Parlor. This award-winning film features scientists and religious leaders pondering the metaphysical reality of unity. The film will be introduced by Mona Han.

EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION of American Baptist Churches Annual Meeting at Japanese Baptist Church, Friday-Saturday, **October 12 & 13**. Activities are planned throughout the day beginning on Friday at noon with the Ministers Council and ABW Luncheons. The Annual Meeting Worship on Friday at 7:00 p.m. will feature the General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches, USA, the Rev. Dr. Roy Medley. All programs are open to the public but you must register for meals. Registration forms are available in the office and in the Narthex after worship.

END THE WAR NOW RALLY Saturday, **October 27** is a national day of action. Join the rally at noon at Judkins Park, just West of 23rd & Dearborn and march to Occidental Park. Sponsored by the October 27 Coalition to End the War. For more information contact Ago.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS meeting follows worship, Sunday, **October 21**. Proposals for our building will be discussed and any needed action will be considered.



of the Spirit

“O What a Web we Weave!”

Sunday, October 28, Worship followed by lunch and the Great Pumpkin Hunt! This all-ages favorite is a great time to introduce friends to UBC. Join us for Pumpkin Soup, the Great Pumpkin Hunt, kids crafts (adults can play too!), spin your own web with cotton candy and costumes are encouraged.

A spring pig- a runt, no less- surrounded by friends, was welcoming his second spring. And all because he saw what no one else was able to see: the grace and beauty and remarkable talent of a common gray spider.

OCTOBER WORSHIP

Choir at 9:00 a.m. / study group in Dotson Lounge at 9:15 a.m.

- Sunday, October 7 World Communion Sunday with the Rev. Ann Holmes Redding and music from around the world.
- Sunday, October 14 Evergreen Association Sunday with the Rev. Michael-Ray Matthews of Grace Baptist Church, San Jose, CA and special celebration of Margaret Paynton.
- Sunday, October 21 Pledge Sunday, please come prepared with your pledge of time and energy! Tim will be preaching and a Special Congregational Business Meeting follows.
- Sunday, October 28 The Festival of the Spirit ... All families welcome!
Tim will be preaching and, following worship, lunch will be served and children are invited on 'The Great Pumpkin Hunt'.