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The Beacon

University Baptist Church December/January 2007-2008

WISHING YOU AN *IRONIC* HOLIDAY!

Okay. That's odd, right? Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas you might expect. But wishing you an *ironic* holiday, that's just weird. From the bottom of my heart, however, I wish you a holiday that wrestles some kind of deep blessing out of the shallow, nostalgic, superficial spirituality of this season.

And I am, you'll be glad to know, in good company. While we will sing with gusto "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" this Advent season, the truth is that Emmanuel means "God-with-us." Essentially, we are asking for something ironic -- that the God who is always with us will come. Or take the irony of this season's preoccupation with a kind of Norman Rockwell picture of a 'holy family' when Mary and Joseph represent -- even in the most conservative theological terms -- the most alternative family of all. Or consider the irony of the 'other Christmas story' -- the birth of the promised Messiah in Bethlehem occasions the killing of all the children two years old and younger in that small town (Matthew 2). This is a tragic irony that I wish on no one and it is a poignant reminder of just how ironic our superficial celebrations of this season may be.

But I want to take this opportunity to wish you the grandest irony of all -- that in the birth of a baby, peace will come. Sure, all of our Christmas carols make it sound like the baby Jesus was born in stellar silence and we will sing with solemn faces, "Away in a manger the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes." Right. Anyone who has ever been around a newborn knows that this would be a fantasy. The birth of the baby brings anything but peace. The birth of a child brings long nights and daily interruptions and inconsolable cries. Anything but peace. The irony is that the birth of a child -- any child -- makes us more aware of how incredibly important peace is. The birth of a baby makes us *want* peace; to long for it. And not just for ourselves but for the world.



That is the irony I wish for you in this hurried, frustrating, perhaps inconsolable experience we call the holidays. In the middle of it all, I wish you the irony of peace. Some stillness in the noise. Some hope in the hurry. Some peace beyond the packages. And more than that. I wish, with the birth of this baby Jesus, that you will long for peace in a way that will change your life. That's what babies do. They change lives. May it be true for you and for the world.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all! ... Tim



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY:

12/2 Annie Mix; 12/14 Tim Phillips;
12/18 Angela Farrar; 12/28 Virginia Bishop; 12/30 Lee Kanning

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY:

1/1 Marie Uwase; 1/3 Kathryn Jans, Deborah Jordon; 1/12 Pete Dorman
1/13 Carol Stern; 1/17 Gail Foster;
1/24 Mona Han; 1/30 Henry Nielsen
1/31 Paspita Biswas

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

OUR DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING:

supports the work of the **Church Council of Greater Seattle**. The Church Council of Greater Seattle brings hundreds of Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, thousands of volunteers and numerous religious organizations together to serve social needs and to advocate for global peace and economic justice. The Council is also the new home of the UBC-founded Rauschenbusch Center.

On December 23rd we will take a special offering for the **Retired ABC Ministers and Missionaries Fund**.

...Prayers for **Elizabeth Patrick** who is recovering from surgery at home and for **Winnie Green** who is recovering from a stress fracture in her spine ... **Megan Walker** asks for prayers for her grandparents who are moving to a new home where they can be better cared for ... We also remember **Brooke & Mary Rolston** as they complete their move to Bothell – the news about grandbaby **Grace** is that things are fine after undergoing some medical tests ... We send prayers for peace to **Carli MacColl** in the loss of her step-mother, **Caroline**, whose life was celebrated in articles in both the Times and the P-I ... We gave thanks to all those who shared their Thanksgiving table with new friends!

AMONG OURSELVES...

We celebrated the years of service by **Larry, JoAnn, and Kyle Sims** in a special appreciation on Sunday, Nov. 18 – the Sims were back in town to visit after their move to Oregon where they are building a home in Amity ... We celebrate with **Sadie Robertson** and fiancé **Peter** the announcement of their wedding date – July 26 – at the Four Springs preserve on Camano Island ... We also celebrate with **Suzan (Blais) & Paul Wilkerson** the birth of a new grandbaby, **William**, born to daughter Jenny ... Thanks to **Ago Martinez Pedalizo** for providing leadership for the End the War Now Rally and Peace Forum held at UBC on Oct. 27-28 and we welcome home **Violy** from her nursing program out East on Sunday evening, Nov. 18 and we thank **Margie Paynton** for leading worship on “Harvest Sunday” Nov. 25 in the absence of **Tim & Patrick** who were visiting Tim’s parents in Michigan for the Thanksgiving holiday ... We are also thankful for **Paula Eisenrich** lending her voice to the Seattle Peace Chorus and its Dec. 1 Fall Concert featuring world-premier music *Mass for Peace & Justice* – UBC continues to be the rehearsal home of the Chorus ... Thanks also to **Bev Spears** for all her work to bring together *Seussical the Musical* which benefited Tent Cities and Evergreen Association justice ministries ... With **Hilarie Pittenger** we celebrate her successful completion of the GRE exams ... Our summer seminary intern from Princeton, **Travis Winckler**, sends his greetings as he wades into the semester and prepares for a return trip to Guatemala ... We remember **Gary**, the partner of **Jackie Lamont’s** daughter, **Becky**, who is serving in Afghanistan and has lost a friend in the fighting ... We also remember the **Foster** family as **Walt’s** mother has discovered that her sister has advanced cancer and **Gail’s** mother recovers from double knee replacements



FROM THE UBC OFFICE...

In order to get affordable tickets to visit her family in Japan, our Office Manager, Sofia Olsen, will leave for the Christmas holiday on December 6 returning to the office on December 27. During that time, the office will be open but on a limited schedule. Building Manger, Meesh Cobban, will be spending some time in the office and Tim will be available Tuesday-Friday.

From the Moderator

FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF UBC:

You may be one of those who stays connected to the work and life of University Baptist Church through the words of this newsletter. If so, here is news: the members of University Baptist Church decided unanimously on November 18th 2007 to sell our property and building as soon as is feasible. This is a *vigorous* decision – or, to say it another way – a decision that is full of life. Vigorous in that we have reached this choice: by affirming the importance and blessings of our history, and by looking with strength and faith at the *life* we have ahead of us.

We expect to have a real estate professional working with us by January.

Know that your UBC leadership has a deep and *joyful* commitment to keep all informed and involved in the coming months, just as we have to date. After all, it is through your active attention to information, and your sincere and open involvement that we have been able to get to where we are today. We will stay true to this pattern, for it has yielded such solid and thoughtful results for us. It has helped us listen more truly to God. We will use periodic mailings, meetings, the website, e-mails and phone calls to assure that conversations continue.

Personally, I greatly look forward to work we will do in the coming months to re-imagine our mission. The opportunities are varied and wondrous. And, as yet, a mystery. We have to love the mystery, remember? Love it to be able to hear God's voice.

Christmas has always been a favorite time for me. It is the theology of Christmas which most speaks to me. The birth of God incarnate is a message of deep generosity. A deep generosity that energizes me and makes me peaceful at the same time.

In this advent season, I see that God has been 'birthed' in each of us. Your deep generosity for each other, and for those around us near and far, is the blessing of God-in-us.

Happy holidays to you! Martha



AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

ABW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

On Monday, December 10th at 5:30 the ABW will meet at the home of Eleanor and Ross Dimm for our annual Christmas Dinner. Spouses are invited. For information call 206-524-4997. We will also be preparing bags of Christmas candy to be distributed at the UBC Saturday Kitchen.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES, NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Present: Martha Bean, Daniel Hannah, Eric Brown, Marilee Nielsen, Tim Phillips, Lin Carlson, Brooke Rolston, and Mary Clare Benson

Building: Meesh reported that fogging of the building has been rescheduled to Friday, November 23rd. UBCC will split the cost with us. A discussion followed on the need to start assessing what is in our many rooms and closets. A suggestion is to schedule future work parties to tackle this. One of the transitional housing apartments is currently open.

Pastor's Report: Staff evaluations are in process. Sofia will be visiting her family in Japan and out of the office between December 6th – 26th. The December – January *Beacon* will be published before she leaves. Tim is taking a holiday vacation with his family in Michigan from Nov. 19th – 29th. Sofia and the Moderator's circle can address administrative concerns, Jackie will handle congregational care concerns and Meesh will be available for building concerns. The Rauschenbusch Dinner is November 30th. In January, Vincent Lachina will begin a Bible Study class before worship. **Annual reports by team leads and others are due to Sofia by January 18th so they can be published in time for the January 27th annual meeting.**

Clerk's Report: The October 11th Stewardship Council minutes were approved. Sofia assisted Lin in reviewing the current storage of church records. We look forward to the recognition of the Sims family on Sunday.

Mission Support/Peace and Justice (MSPJ): Daniel informed the council that he anticipates new members for MSPJ. UBC was represented at the October 27th Peace Rally and March as well as the recent FCC hearing.

Learning and Play: Brooke noted that our youth will be assisting at the *Seussical* musical along with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church. The Youth group will be helping with the Dunshee House Christmas Tree fundraiser on December 9th.

Quarterly Business Meeting: Martha reviewed the agenda for the November 18th QBM. The agenda includes electing officers and Council members for 2008, team reports, approving the 2008 budget, and action on the 'Seeking the House' motion. The candidates for 2008 are listed below.

Moderator: Eric Brown	Finance: Marilee Nielson
Moderator Elect: Joy Smith	House/Building: Martha Bean
Church Clerk: Lin Carlson	Learning/Play Rep: Brooke Rolston
Treasure: Mary Clare Benson	Church Life Rep: Jackie Lamont
Pastoral Staff Relations: Elizabeth Patrick	Financial Secretary: Mary Rolston
MSPJ: Daniel Hannah	Congregational Ministries: Bev Spears

Treasurer and Finance Team Reports: Mary Clare indicates that nothing much changed on the October balance sheet from the prior month. Our expenses are \$3,000 above budget. It is anticipated that people will catch up their pledges in December. Marilee presented the Finance Team's 2008 Budget proposal. We currently have 7 new pledge units for a total of 46. In the 2007 Budget, we had 51 pledge units. At this time our proposed expenses exceeds projected income. A budget amount for Choral Director was cut. The council recommends this carefully crafted budget to the congregation and calls for continued efforts to increase pledges.

Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk

The Fabric of Christmas



Our celebrations of the coming season(s) are not all ‘of a piece.’ While we experience all the layers of these holidays simultaneously, the material of the season includes biblical, cultural, family, and personal pieces. Help us weave these together into the Fabric of Christmas this year. Here is a snapshot of what’s coming – Advent Booklets are available with reflections for every week in the Narthex or online from the office.

THE FABRIC OF CHRISTMAS – THE BLANKET PROJECT

Rightly, there isn’t any way to talk about the ‘fabric of Christmas’ without remembering that the story is about a refugee couple without a room and a new baby on the way who, when born, is ‘wrapped in swaddling cloths.’ And you can be part of the story by offering what is truly the ‘fabric of Christmas. ■ **Blankets for ROOTS Teen Shelter in the University District** There are many people trying to access shelter each night that we must turn away because we don’t have enough room. We would like to be able to give them a blanket to at least keep them warm. You can help us collect blankets during Advent – they need to be clean but don’t have to be new. ■ **Blankets for the world** through Church World Service. You can give the fabric of Christmas by giving blankets to people around the world by making a donation to the Church World Service Blanket program and receive a beautiful fabric-inlaid card, crafted by Akha hill tribe women in Thailand, announcing your gift in honor of your loved one. See the display in the Narthex on Sundays.

ADVENT III, THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The Community of Advent. No *Soul Soup* this Thursday but join us for a *Solstice Gathering, Friday, Dec. 21, 6:00 p.m. beginning with soup* and service follows led by the Rev. Diane Schmitz.

ADVENT IV, THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

The Community of Hope: Youth Christmas Pageant / Special Offering for American Baptist Retired Ministers & Missionaries

CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 7:00 P.M.

The Birth of Hope Came Wrapped in Swaddling Cloths

Our traditional service tells the Christmas story again through music, reflection, and candlelight. Help us move from “Silent Night” to “Joy to the World” with the promise of peace. And remember, there are 12 days of Christmas so if you haven’t got it right so far, you still have time!

■ **Following the Christmas Eve service**, join us for an informal gathering and potluck of treats, a fire in the fireplace, and a movie in the McAfee Parlor. Stay for as long as you like.

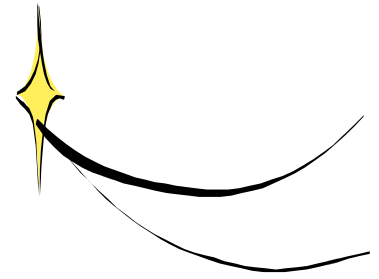
The office will be open on a limited schedule this week.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

The Other Christmas Story

Our regular 10:30 worship service looks at the story from Matthew 2.13-23. Tim and Margie will lead a gathering of carols with reflections on this ‘other’ story of Christmas.

EPIPHANY - JANUARY DATES



SOUL SOUP

No Soul Soup on Thursday, Jan. 3, but the program will return on **Thursday, Jan. 10**, with soup at 6:00 p.m. and program at 6:30.

SATURDAY KITCHEN

Saturday, Jan. 5, UBC Team at Saturday Kitchen

EPIPHANY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Wise Ones Can Always Find Another Way

This Sunday is the traditional celebration of the Star and the Magi from Matthew 2.1-12. Tim will be preaching. Following the service, **Tim & Patrick host their annual Epiphany Open House from 3 – 9** at their home, 16275 8th Avenue NE, Shoreline. Drop in for food, conversation, and a finale to the holidays.

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS IN JANUARY BEFORE WORSHIP, 9:15 A.M.

A new Bible Study program begins in January led by Vincent Lachina. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Vincent was born into an Italian Catholic family and spent his first years in the Roman Catholic Church in preparation for the priesthood. At the age of 15, he became a Protestant and joined a Southern Baptist congregation. He holds the BA in Religion from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and the MEd in Religion and Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. An Ordained minister for more than 40 years, he has served in a variety of positions, including: Minister of Youth, Minister to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, Missionary to Nairobi, Kenya, Minister of Education, Church Administrator and Senior Pastor. For seven years he served the southern Baptist Convention as a consultant and editor for youth leadership and special ministries. Currently a lay member of Seattle's University Baptist Church, he is active in the American Baptist Conference. In November 2004, Lachina was selected to take the position of State Chaplain for the five Planned Parenthood affiliates of Washington (including the Columbia/Willamette affiliate in Portland, Oregon). Join Vincent and the study group on Sunday mornings before church at 9:15 a.m. in the Dotson Lounge.

2008 MCCORMICK LECTURESHIP IN SCIENCE & RELIGION

Covent House, Campus Ministry at the UW is pleased to announce the 2nd annual lectureship slated for **January 27 & 28** with Suzanne Holland, PhD, Chair of the Department of Religion at the University of Puget Sound as the featured speaker. The first lecture will be at 7pm at University Christian Church, Sunday, January 27th. The second lecture will be at the Law School on the UW campus, 7pm, January 28th.

FEBRUARY SNOW RETREAT

Plan now to join us at Cascade Meadows Camp, **Feb. 15-18** (Presidents' Day Weekend), for time to relax, read, play, and have fun in the snow -- no program just time for being together. Retreat registration forms will be available mid-January in the Narthex or call the church office and the forms can be sent via mail or email.



DECEMBER & JANUARY WORSHIP

Choir at 9:00 a.m. / Bible study in Dotson Lounge at 9:15 a.m. Worship at 10:30

Sunday, December 9, ADVENT II, *The Family of Advent*

Following worship: "*The Holiday Table Lunch and Gift Event*"

Sunday, December 16, ADVENT III, *The Community of Advent*

Sunday, December 23, ADVENT IV, Youth Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24, 7:00 p.m., CHRISTMAS EVE

The Birth of Hope Came Wrapped in Swaddling Cloths

Following the Christmas Eve service, join us for an informal gathering and potluck of treats, a fire in the fireplace, and a movie in the McAfee Parlor. Stay for as long as you like.

Sunday, December 30, CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, *The Other Christmas Story*

Sunday, January 6, EPIPHANY, *Wise Ones Can Always Find Another Way*

Tim & Patrick host their annual **Epiphany Open House** from **3 – 9** at their home, 16275 8th Avenue NE, Shoreline. Drop in for food, conversation, and a finale to the holidays.

Sunday, January 13, Epiphany II

Sunday, January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Weekend. Tim Phillips & Mike Stern lead worship.

Sunday, January 27, UBC's 106th Annual Meeting follows worship beginning with brunch.