



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

August 2009

Interim Minister
Nancy Darnell

Minister of Music
Margaret Paynton

Office Manager
Meesh Cobban

UBC Moderator
Joy Smith

All original material
© University Baptist
Church – Seattle, WA

Deadline for the September issue is August 25th. Please send submissions to Meesh at:
info@ubcseattle.org.

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation.

We celebrate our diversity in religious background, sexual orientation, race, age, gender and abilities.

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

Sara Abbasian brought me a birdhouse/feeder yesterday. She and some of her friends at the Y made it, and it is beautiful. I love beautiful, handmade items, so of course I love Sara's gift.

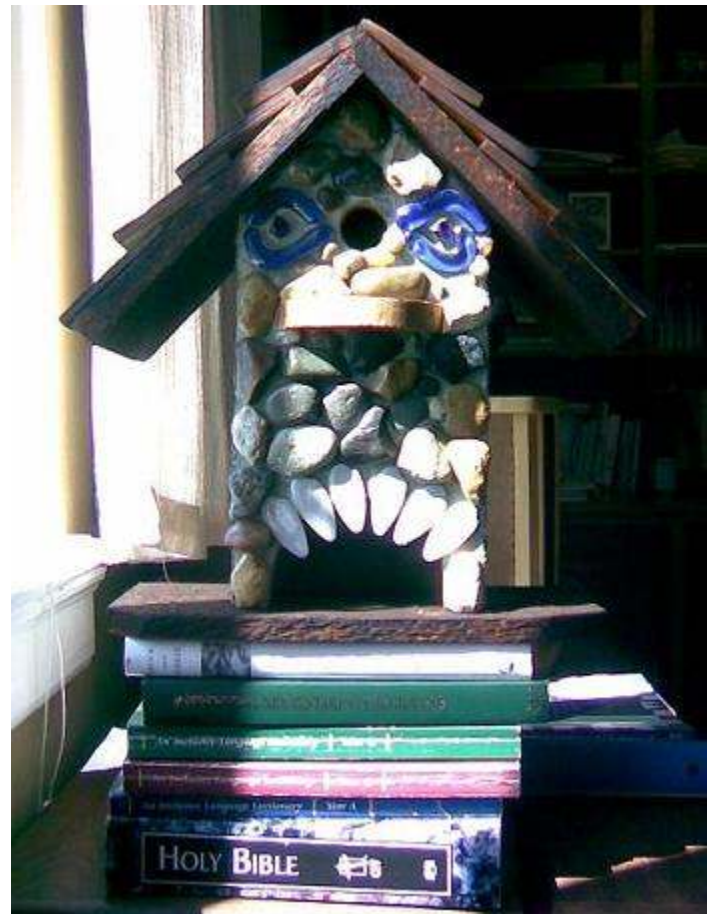
I also love birds. My mother introduced me to birds – we lived on top of a hill completely surrounded by woods and had many bird visitors. My mother noticed birds and delighted in watching them; she taught me to notice them, and I also inherited her delight. My mother particularly liked tufted titmice which are small grey-brown birds that are not particularly easy to notice. I, on the other hand, am most drawn to brightly colored or very large birds that are so much more obvious. Give me a soaring bald eagle or a western bunting any day of the week.

I love the birdhouse because it is beautiful and handmade and because I love birds. However, maybe most importantly I love the birdhouse because Sara noticed me. The noticing in this case is a large part of the gift I received.

University Baptist Church is a noticing congregation. You notice when people need our prayers during the "Joys and Concerns" portion of worship. You also notice when someone is missing and may need a call. You notice when someone in our congregation needs our help and you respond with food or a ride or a shoulder to lean on or a word of encouragement. Your noticing itself is a gift of the Spirit. Your response is a Jesus-following act of discipleship.

Thank you for noticing. Thank you for responding.

– Nancy





Happy August Birthday:

Joanne Wright 8/7
Tosten Haugerud 8/8
Stephen Anderson 8/9
Marilee Nielsen 8/15
Zandi Carlson 8/18
Audrey Smith 8/18
Kirsten Palmén 8/19
Ago Pedalizo 8/28
Peter Haugerud 8/30
Virginia Nielsen 8/31

If your birthday isn't listed here please contact the office so we can add you to our list!



Remember.... We have an *active Congregational Care Team* at UBC. If you or someone you know at church is sick, needs pastoral care or has prayer concerns, please contact Jackie Lamont, our Congregational Care Team Coordinator, at 206-985-7927 or jblamont@mindspring.com

If you could help by making a meal, visiting or writing a card please contact Jackie.

Among Ourselves

We hold **Carol Guthrie** and family in our thoughts and prayers as she appears to be in her last hours as we go to press... We pray for healing for **Alethea Putnam**, who had surgery on her foot, and for **Charles Putnam** as he accompanies Alethea on her healing journey... We also pray for healing for **Ginny Bishop**, who was hospitalized with a dislocated shoulder but is now recovering at home... We rejoice to have **Sarah Reed** and **Xavi Ortiz** back in town. **Sarah** is in Seattle through the end of September and then travels to Idaho. **Xavi** is here through December, except for a trip to Texas this month to visit her mother and take an exam in clinical skills. Both are beginning to apply for residencies... **Joanne Wright's son, John Mix**, will begin the culinary arts program at Seattle Central Community College next month. John is now in a self-created internship at Lark Restaurant, run by renowned chef John Sundstrom... **Kendra Kehl-Fie** has been accepted to grad school in Michigan to study clinical psychology... **Cass Newell** and **Puspita Biswas** are both enjoying retirement... We send blessings and congratulations to **Sadie and Peter Cunningham**, who have purchased their first home in Ballard... **David Bloom** reminds Seattle residents to vote in the mail-in primary by August 18. David is running for Seattle City Council... **Pete Dorman** has been spending his weekends at festivals and craft fairs and is pleased with the technique of printing his photographs on canvas. Visit Pete's website at www.dormanimages.com... **Shari Peterson** had a mini-reunion with her sisters Leda Kalilimoku and Morna Stockman in July in Sequim... **Jackie Lamont** is delighted that her daughter Rebecca is visiting from the East Coast... **Margie and Jim Paynton** are taking a well-deserved vacation on their boat, joined by **Matt and Diane**, and daughter **Mary** and her husband Tracy... **Rhonda Hue's daughter Meagen** is helping her friends by living and working in their adult care home in Everett. Rhonda's son **Matthew** was overjoyed by the many cards he received for his 21st birthday... We send our prayers to **Ginny Bishop's caregiver Paulini Wasoi**, whose father died of a heart attack on July 22... We also grieve the untimely passing of our friend **Lee Ford** and former member **Olga Nettelblad**, and we send condolences to friends and family of Dr. Richard Keller, whose friends **Dan Peterson** and **John Doty** visited the night before he died... Congratulations to **Virginia Nielsen's son-in-law Steve**, who achieved his dream of climbing Mt. Rainier... We welcome **Audrey Smith** who is home from Washington, D.C. – and one successful internship – only to begin another one in Shoreline at Marrowstone in the City music camp... **John and CoraLea Doty** traveled to their cabin to reunite with their great-grandchildren from southern Idaho, and the **Gaertner-Johnstons** are traveling to Ocala, Florida, for Lynn's father's 87th birthday... Congratulations to **Edith Glover**, who celebrates 40 years of employment at the UW on August 1!... Go Storm!

– Thanks to **Lynn Gaertner-Johnston** for compiling "Among Ourselves." If you have news to share, contact Lynn at lynngaertner-johnston@comcast.net or leave a message with the UBC office: 206-632-5188.

UBC Social Corner



At the entrance
to NWTrek
Wildlife Park

On a warm Saturday morning in July, several UBC family members made a trip to the NW Trek Wildlife Park near Mt. Rainier in Eatonville. Upon arriving at the park, we made our way to see the wetlands where we were able to view the river otters, beavers and a few other cute critters in their habitat. Moving on, we had a brief discussion with one of the park staff about how the animals were cared for and that each animal was looked upon each day. We got to see Mr. Porcupine up close and were told that they do not name the animals, which we all thought was unusual. We saw a few bears, cats and birds before we took the tram around the huge wildlife park. Our group got prime seats and we were able to sit together as we viewed mountain goats, elk, bighorn sheep, moose, bison and several other larger creatures.

By 1:30 pm, it was so hot that we called it a day at the park. We had a late lunch at a nearby Mongolian Grill in Graham. Paul Wilkerson has many wonderful pictures of our event and would be happy to share them with anyone. Here is our group shot near the entrance of the park.

On August 29th, our UBC family is planning a day-trip to La Conner. We plan to leave UBC at 9:00 am and arrive back to UBC in the late afternoon. I have it on good authority that the best ice-cream in the world is in downtown La Conner. If you would like to carpool or need a ride, please call Rhonda Hue at 206-245-8116. Please be sure to check your email a day before any event for any last minute changes that may occur or call me if you need further information.

Next Trip:

August 29th
Day Trip to
La Conner

With September being a very busy month (we both will be in Maui), Mary Clare and I have determined we will not be able to make the Winthrop trip but instead have scheduled an apple-pressing event on September 26th. This is a good time to see how apples are processed and to purchase some good tasting apple cider for those fall evenings. More details to follow, along with a train trip to Portland for the weekend of October 10th at the request of several UBC family members.

– Rhonda and Mary Clare
Pairs, Spares and Devil-May-Care organizers!

UBC Staff Vacations & New UBC Office Hours

Our wonderful Minister of Music, **Margie Paynton**, is taking a well-deserved break this month. Also our Office & Building Manager, **Meesh Cobban**, will be taking a two-week vacation from August 10-21 to visit family in Alaska. Meesh returns to the office on Tuesday, August 25th with new office hours Tuesday – Friday to be announced.

We are looking for volunteers to help with some basic office tasks during those two weeks—sorting mail, answering email and checking the phone. Can you help? If so please let Meesh or Nancy know. There may also be some fun projects for folks who like to organize or decorate!

Nancy will be in the office part-time as usual during those two weeks—call the office line at 206-632-5188 and leave a message or email her at nrdarnell@comcast.net.



Vacation Time!

Over the past few months I've been hearing many questions about the direction of UBC – what will it mean when we have no building? What missions should we support? What do we want from our new pastor? Are we big enough? How do we measure up to the churches profiled in Diana Butler Bass' book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*?

I kept coming back to our Mission Statement and wondering if it still represented the direction we hoped to head. It's been over a dozen years since we wrote it – does it still apply? I wondered.

And then our Minister of Music, Margie Paynton, planned a service of hymns, scripture and readings inspired by each statement in our Mission Statement. I have not looked that closely at the Mission Statement since we wrote it:

The vision of University Baptist Church is to be a compassionate Christian Community, inviting people into faithful discipleship. We are a congregation devoted to meeting the challenges of contemporary moral and spiritual life. We reflect and draw upon a Baptist tradition and seek insight from faith traditions of the world. Christ calls us to love, nurture and serve one another; offer sanctuary and resources to those who are poor, powerless or in need; learn from diversity; work for peace, compassion and justice. We journey in hope.

The words of the readings and hymns in the service were very poignant for me.

From the very first hymn I found myself called to action:

*Show us a new life in your breath-taking view,
Lovely beyond all our dreaming...*

*May our diversity here be a means to adore you.
Women and men, young, old and youthful again,
Make us one, we implore you...*

*Come let us answer the call,
Offering our lives as the token.*

In *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, Butler-Bass writes:

... emerging Christianity is not about pure doctrine of agreeing with a set of philosophical presuppositions. The kind of Christianity enacted in the congregations where I traveled is more like a recovery group: 'Act as if..' If you act like a Christian by joining in its practices, by following its tracings, you may well become one. Being a Christian is not a one-moment miracle of salvation. It takes practice. It is a process of faith and a continuing conversion. And it can be a long walk.

So our mission statement is a call to action, and taking action helps us to develop as Christians. But what does this mean? Inviting people into faithful discipleship yet reflecting on a Baptist tradition means honoring the beliefs and diversity of others. Reciting the litany for religious liberty helped me to better understand the Baptist Tradition, and made me

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

proud of our tradition:

It is the consistent and insistent contention of our Baptist people, always and everywhere, that religion must be forever voluntary and uncoerced. And that it is not the prerogative of any power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, to compel anyone to conform to any religious creed of worship.

So we are to take action while honoring the path to faith by others. Together we are to answer the call of our faith to: “love, nurture, and serve one another, offer sanctuary and resources to those who are poor, powerless, or in need; learn from diversity; and work for peace, compassion and justice.”

From the reading by John Core:

When a prophet sings of justice like broad rivers flowing free,
Let me clearly see the vision of an earth that might yet be...

When a gospel speaks of hunger for the Word and for the bread,
Let me hear how with each feeding of the hungry, Christ is fed...

As you grant us better insight with the vision your grace gives,
Help us make the wiser choices...

Justice, kindness no abstractions,
But made real in words and actions...

Thanks to Margie’s thoughtful and thought-provoking service, I no longer question whether our Mission Statement still applies. I think it fits us just fine. We simply need to map out the actions we will be taking together in this “long walk” of Christianity.

– Joy Smith

August at UBC

This month’s special offering is for Camp Burton and Cascade Meadows. These ABC camps provide a full range of programs for young people and adults, plus great accommodations for church retreats – like ours! Our Fall Retreat will be September 18-20 at Camp Burton. Watch for more details in the next *Beacon*!

Sunday August 2 – Worship & Communion. Sermon: “Lighthouse: Dated?” Prepare for toe-tapping, hand-clapping music as Martha Bean, David Spears, David Bloom and Diane Schmitz provide some bluesy jazz tunes.

Sunday August 9 – Worship in the Park & Blessing of the Animals. Join us for worship and a picnic in Ravenna Park at the picnic shelter just off NE 58th Street and 20th Ave NE. We will include a blessing of animals during worship, so please bring your leashed dogs, cats, hamsters or whatever with you. If your animal is an unhappy traveler, bring a toy or food bowl, photo, etc. and still take part in the blessing. Aaron Burkhalter will be sharing music with us.

Wednesday August 12 – UBC Stewardship Council Meeting, 6:30pm in the McAfee Parlor

Sunday August 16 – Worship at UBC. Sermon: “Lighthouse: Function and Dysfunction.”

Sunday August 23 – Worship at UBC. Sermon: “Lighthouse: Our Today and Tomorrow.”

Saturday August 29 – Day Trip to La Conner (see page 3).

Sunday August 30 – Worship at UBC, sermon to be announced.

My \$18 walk with President Obama.....

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend an affordable housing conference in Philadelphia. I arrived in Philly for the first time and was eager to see the city of brotherly love. When the conference was over, I started my vacation of visiting the many attractions that this city had to offer.

I started the day out walking and discovering the neighborhood around my hotel located by Locust & 17th Street, near the Arts District. I saw that many people walked the streets looking down, walking in pairs or listening to their iPods. While the city has a larger population of African-Americans and Italians, it appeared that the area I was staying in was mostly made up of upper-class Caucasian people.

I purchased a metro pass to view the city and caught a bus to Penn's Landing to see the Delaware River. I then walked to the Reading Market Terminal near Chinatown. As with walking, on the bus no one paid much attention to me. However, that was all to change.

In the market place there was a booth with a theme that leaned to African-American products. There on the counter was this gorgeous pair of earrings that caught my attention. A little history about me – I adore earrings and like to find ones that are different. Well these were certainly different; they had a picture of President Obama on them with his words: *“Nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change”* ... I knew they were for me. The lady behind the booth noticed me standing there and offered to assist me. She only had one pair so I purchased them. Little did I know that I would become a popular lady wearing them.

I took my old earrings off and put on the new ones there in the market. They were so beautiful and of course, they had my President Obama on them. Life was great. As I walked, I encountered this older lady who saw my earrings and expressed her delight at them.

I explained where I purchased them, and the next thing we were having a conversation like two old friends. She lived in Philly but on the outside of the city. It was too expensive for her to live close to where she worked near the market. I told her that I was originally from the ninth ward of New Orleans and that I had moved to Seattle eight years ago. We touched on the subject of how wonderful it was that an African-American man made it to be the president, with the hopes that we would see a woman president before we both pass this earth. We hugged and I left with a good feeling knowing that I had some good company for a while and someone to talk with.



As I walked through the market, I got smiles and nods towards my earrings and some of the children pointed to my earrings and said, "She has Obama earrings." I was causing quite a stir. I left the market and headed outside to walk up to the city hall. Again, people stopped to admire my earrings and once again I was laughing and talking with people that I felt were old friends. We had something in common –we all supported our President Obama.

Over the next few days each morning I put on my earrings so that I would be able to go out and meet people. I was accepted by a community for my beliefs...people did not have to "get to know me first," they knew what I stood for by my earrings. It was more than just passing someone on the streets or on the bus...it was a white woman supporting our first black president. Here was a community that still knew racism first hand, a community still in poverty, a community that still has little or no health care, a community with a lack of affordable housing, and a community that must fight the daily oppression of not being accepted because of their roots. How glad I was to purchase an \$18 pair of earrings that opened the door to trust, honesty, friendship, communication, and a chance to be equals in all of our hearts. Let me be the change while I walk with Obama.

Save the Date For These September Events:

Sunday September 13: Quarterly Business Meeting. We will meet in the Social Hall after worship.

Friday September 18 - Sunday September 20: Fall Retreat at Camp Burton. The Retreat planning committee has been working hard to organize. Look for more information and registration forms in church and the next *Beacon*.

Monday September 21: International Day of Prayer for Peace. The World Council of Churches has invited faith communities to pray for peace on Sunday, Sept. 20 and Monday, Sept. 21.



Neighborhood Happenings in August

Idriss Mosque Community Barbecue – August 9

The Islamic Center of Washington and the Idriss Mosque invite you to attend their 8th annual community barbecue on Sunday, August 9, from 2-5 p.m., at the Idriss Mosque, 1420 NE Northgate Way, Seattle. The free barbecue aims to bring people together in an effort to strengthen our communities and work together for peace, compassion, reconciliation, and justice, as well as promote harmony, tolerance and inter-faith relationships through sharing and learning from each other. Please invite your family, friends, colleagues, congregation, and neighbors to come!

Clean Greens Market Grand Opening – August 15

The Clean Greens Farm & Market is a project of the Black Dollar Days Task Force to grow and deliver clean, healthy and fresh produce at fair prices for everyone. The Market Grand Opening will be August 15, 2009 at New Hope Baptist Church, located at 116 21st Ave (between Yesler & Fir Streets). There will be a Clean Greens Walk starting at 9:30am at Spruce Park, located right next to the Church. The walk will be about two miles through the business area and ends at the grand opening of the Market. A free community picnic will follow the walk in Spruce Park. We have pledge sheets for the walk to raise funds for the market. Help support this community-based market and enjoy affordable, pesticide-free tasty mustard greens, collards, green & yellow summer squash, turnips, spinach. Call 206-324-3114 for more information or visit www.cleangreensfarm.com.

“Women of Inspiration Night” – Seattle Storm Benefits Elizabeth Gregory Home on August 22

[Elizabeth Gregory Home](http://www.elizabethgregoryhome.org) (EGH) was established in 2006 by members of University Lutheran Church as a

non-profit organization in the U District that serves single homeless women by providing transitional housing and a day center.

EGH has three hundred 100-level tickets for the August 22nd 7pm game to sell for \$20 – normally priced at \$34 per ticket – and EGH will receive \$8 from the sale of each ticket. Take advantage of this opportunity to watch the Seattle Storm and celebrate the women of Elizabeth Gregory Home in the process!



To order tickets send a check payable to “Elizabeth Gregory Home” to Ron Moe-Lobeda at 1604 NE 50th St, Seattle WA 98105 by Monday August 10. You can also order tickets with a credit card – call Kanti

Mani at (206) 729-0262 ext. 2. More information is available at www.elizabethgregoryhome.org.

University District Ecumenical Parish Potluck Picnic August 23

Everyone is invited to join in this time of great food, wonderful conversation, and ongoing fellowship. We will set up in the covered pavilion behind the Good Shepherd Center in Meridian Park, located at 4649 Sunnyside Ave N in Wallingford. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. Also please bring your own table setting. Beverages will be provided. Depending on interest, a few organized games will be planned for all ages.