



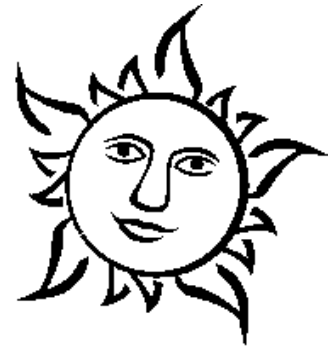
# The Beacon

University Baptist Church

July / August 2008

## TELLING STORIES

A friend of mine, a fine story-teller, remarked to me, "Jesus was not a theologian. He was God who told stories." - Madeleine L'Engle in *Walking On Water*



Last month's series, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, was an opportunity to pay attention to what we know and believe about the Bible related to sexual orientation and gender identity. I was inspired by the texts several of you offered as alternatives to the 'texts of terror' used simplistically as instruments of condemnation. This affirms what I have always suspected -- liberal-progressive Christians know more about the Bible than we are usually given credit for, even by ourselves.

To continue down this road and to see what kind of 'community canon' informs our understanding, I decided to ask folks to tell me their favorite Bible stories. Some might have been expected -- like the Good Samaritan -- but others were surprising, like the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, or the ten lepers in Luke 17, or the story Jesus tells about laborers in a wage dispute in Matthew 20. And this got me thinking about story-telling itself. Sometimes 'telling stories' means that someone is stretching or hiding a truth. But stories can also be the best way to tell a truth. That's why so many of the world's religions rely on stories and why Madeleine L'Engle's friend might say: "Jesus was not a theologian. He was God who told stories."

Let's say first that the Bible tells different kinds of stories. There are *mythic* stories that try to tell grand universal truths, like the creation and flood stories in Genesis. There are *testimonial* stories that try to convey the truth about a particular person or experience, like Jesus preaching in his hometown in Luke 4. There are *parabolic* stories told to illustrate a point or to point out a deeper question, like the Good Samaritan story in Luke 10. Each kind of story has its own language and context so that each one requires a different kind of

attention. Nonetheless -- and here's the second thing to say -- all of them are told to convey some meaning or what we call the 'moral of the story.' Telling stories in the biblical sense is not just 'telling stories' but a way to communicate a truth.

And a final thing: When I was told these stories in Sunday School, they were often told like news stories to be believed in a literal 'factual' way that left no room for the imagination. But I think that sells these stories short. Stories have the power to ignite the imagination. And I think that is why the Bible is so full of them. Join us this summer as we tell our favorite Bible stories. Your imaginations are welcome!

Blessings ... Tim

Minister  
Rev. Timothy Phillips  
tim@ubcseattle.org

Minister of Music  
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  
Ryan Hagan  
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 September  
issue is Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.



## HAPPY JULY

### BIRTHDAY:

- 7/3 Larry Sims, Vincent Lachina
- 7/5 Lianne Sheppard
- 7/6 Kyle Sims
- 7/7 Eva Gaertner-Johnston
- 7/12 Eleanor Dimm, Glenn Law
- 7/14 Margaret Guthrie, Kendra Kehl-Fie
- 7/15 Tom Nielsen
- 7/20 Mary Jeffers Schroder
- 7/29 Elizabeth Patrick.

## HAPPY AUGUST

### BIRTHDAY:

- 8/7 JoAnne Wright
- 8/8 Tosten Haugerud
- 8/9 Steve Anderson
- 8/15 Marilee Nielsen
- 8/18 Zandi Carlson, Romy Domingo,  
Audrey Smith
- 8/19 Kirsten Palmén
- 8/25 Marla Meislin,
- 8/28 Ago Pedalizo
- 8/30 Peter Haugerud;
- 8/31 Virginia Nielsen.

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

## OUR JULY

### SPECIAL OFFERING:

Supports the UBC fellowship fund that enables us to respond to emergency needs in our community.

## OUR AUGUST

### SPECIAL OFFERING:

will help to support 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!

## AMONG OURSELVES...

We celebrated the graduations of **Audrey Smith** (Shorecrest High School) and **Hilary Pittenger** (UW) on Father's Day and sent **Eva Gaertner-Johnston** off to Costa Rica for her ecology trip on June 22 – Eva's parents, **Michael & Lynn** were celebrating Michael's birthday in the Windy City while Eva was away ... Also graduating was **Bev Spear's** son **Aaron** (O'Dea High School) who is off to Western Washington in the fall ... **Annette Klapstein & Rich Gile** return to Seattle from Mexico July 8 and plan to be here through December – they report that son **Alec** has graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in theater and is now performing in a production of *Guys and Dolls* through mid-August when he will head off for NYC ... Also performing this summer is **Zandi Carlson** with the Leavenworth Summer Theater – see following pages for more details – and **Walt, Valerie, and Gail** completed their May-June performance in *Beauty & the Beast* with the Mountaineer Players; it was a great show! ... **Ago & Violy** called on their way out of town to say they miss us already – they have moved to San Francisco and we will have an updated address for them soon ... **Enid Griswold** has left for her second home in Northern California ... **Eric Brown** spent vacation time in Sweden and Denmark in June ... **Tosten Haugerud** is traveling in China and then will be home for the summer before spending a year in France ... **Jackie Lamont** attended the June wedding of her nephew; she is the creator of yet another wedding Chuppah ... **Tom Nielsen** has begun his summer camp schedule including two camps for young people living with cancer ... **David Watson** is working as a caregiver up in Gold Bar these days ... **Mary Jeffers Schroder** celebrates her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in July, **Don & Mae Bell** celebrated 40 years of marriage in June, and **Sadie Peterson & Peter Cunningham** will be married on July 26 at Four Springs Lake Preserve on Camano Island ... Continue to remember those who are facing health issues: **Charles Putnam** who continues treatment at home and **Carli MacColl** who will be recovering from a June 1 surgery ... please also remember **Jim Paynton's** mother **Elizabeth** who is also recovering from surgery and is facing other decisions about treatment; and continued prayers for **Matt & Diane**

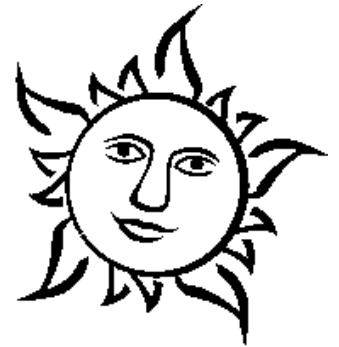
**Paynton** ... **Virginia Nielsen** reports that son-in-law **Steve** had some good news about his health but please continue to hold him in your prayers ... For these and many others, we offer prayers of healing and peace.



## FROM THE UBC OFFICE...

I am so grateful to all of you who have warmly embraced me as your new Office Manager. Thank you for your special welcome to me during Sunday's service on June 8<sup>th</sup>. I am in awe of the speed at which the Spirit moved me all the way from Birmingham, Alabama to UBC in Seattle, Washington; truly, the Lord hears our prayers, and His hand upholds us in times of need. I come to your church office as a Companis worker. Companis is a service organization which matches professional volunteer and community workers with nonprofit agencies in need of staffing assistance. Through the friendship of Companis' Executive Director, Craig Darling, and your Pastor, Tim Phillips, an extremely unique and extraordinary match was made within a few days of my arrival in Seattle. Already, I feel a part of this wonderful church body, and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for our future. I am currently staying busy at my desk, but I have also tried to make a conscious effort to clean and organize around the office. Please stop by and see it- I'd love to meet you!

From your church office,  
Ryan Hagan



## SUMMER VACATION FOR STAFF

Minister of Music, Margaret Paynton, and Pastor, Tim Phillips, are orchestrating their vacations so that there will be no Sunday during the summer when both of our staff will be absent from worship. Margie will be gone for a study leave at the national Hymn Society conference in California, July 14-17 - thanks to a special gift from a member of the congregation. Her scheduled summer vacation will be the first three Sundays in August and we are grateful to Diane Schmitz and Rich Boudet for offering their musical gifts during this time. In addition to study leave at the beginning of July, Tim will be on vacation from July 14-21 and July 25-29. In August, Tim will be traveling to California to officiate the wedding of Enid Griswold's daughter, Joan, and her partner of 25 years, Gail Shabaghlian from August 21-27. During these vacation times, pastoral concerns will be addressed by Jackie Lamont and the Congregational Care team. Administrative concerns will be referred to our congregational Moderator, Eric Brown. Our Office Manager, Ryan Hagan, will be in the office throughout this time and will be able to refer your concerns to the appropriate person or, in the event of an emergency, to reach Pastor Tim.



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](mailto:jblamont@mindspring.com) **NOTE: this is a new address for Jackie**  
If you could help by making a meal, visiting or writing a card please contact Jackie.

# STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

## JUNE 19, 2008 MINUTES

Present: Joy Smith., Martha Bean, Bev Spears, Brooke Rolston, Jackie Lamont, Mary Clare Benson, Daniel Hannah, Marilee Nielsen, Tim Phillips, Elizabeth Patrick, and Lin Carlson

Joy opened the meeting with prayer.

The May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: The office is now open from 9am-4pm Monday through Friday. Ryan has settled in well as the office manager. Staff vacation schedules were reviewed. We are invited to serve as a co-sponsor of the August 6<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima to Hope event. Mission Support/Peace and Justice Team will respond. The New Hope Baptist Church is doing a large farming project and this is an opportunity for us to participate. Tim reviewed upcoming events. Daniel noted that we will need some additional volunteer help for the July 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday kitchen.

Treasurer's Report: The financial statement was distributed. Mary Clare stated that pledges are at 88% and down about \$6,000. We experienced lower giving in May than normal. Our tenant income is down. An announcement will be made at the Sunday service about the current status of income.

Learning and Play Team Report: Brooke noted that the youth group has completed a garden project at the front of the church.

Mission Support/Peace and Justice: Daniel explained that University Christian is continuing to consider the opportunity to sponsor Saturday Kitchen. Work is underway to create a new Saturday Kitchen leadership team.

Pastor Staff Relations Team: Elizabeth said the team is dealing with issue of maintaining staff health insurance after UBCC leaves UBC. Team is working with Tim on plans for his study leave. Steve Anderson is new team member. Martha Bean asked about the opportunity to submit a grant to a foundation to funding a sabbatical. Discussion held on what the budget additions would be needed for staff positions next year. Ideas were suggested for inviting newcomers to upcoming In the Garden Events.

### Seeking the House

Joy noted that the contract with Service Realty ends July 6<sup>th</sup>. Criteria for extending the contract and length of a new contract are being discussed. Martha reviewed her memo with recommendations for inventorying the building and handling UBC property. Next steps were discussed.

Conversation on Race: Bev explained the UCC invitation for a Sacred Conversation on Race. Council members responded positively to a proposal that UBC initiate a Sacred Conversation on Race. It was recommended to begin the conversation at the September retreat. Bev, Brooke, Joy, and Martha will work on the plans.

The next council meeting is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will include reviewing the April 20<sup>th</sup> quarterly business meeting (QBM) brainstorming ideas, scheduling the next QBM, and reviewing the language of our welcoming and affirming statement.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:25pm.

Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk

## YOUTH PLANT AN EASTER GARDEN IN JUNE!

Inspired by Tim at Easter, UBC Youth gathered at our church building on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June (that's a long-lasting inspiration!) to plant an "Easter Garden." First we cleaned the urn which held flowers on Easter morning. Then we prepared soil and lettered small stones with words of blessing (love, hope, fun, support, peace, transition) and placed them at the bottom of the urn. We added the soil and placed the plants Sadie had brought for the occasion. Finally, we set the garden-in-an-urn on its pedestal among the roses in our front garden. The growing plants will remind us of the promise of "the house God has for us," and when we move, the pedestal, urn and plants will go with us.

Brooke Rolston



*Surrounding the newly planted urn, the 'Easter Garden'...  
Kaj in front; Audrey, Valerie, Jessica, Meagen, Eva, Brooke*

## GARDENING AS PEACEMAKING

I had saved an article from the newsletter of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (of which we are a member congregation) about gardening as peacemaking. In the article, Mennonite author, Tom Beutel, says:

*By growing and caring for even a limited amount of fruit and vegetables, trees and shrubs, or flowers and other plants we are participating in the task given the first humans directly, which involves shalom [peace] in several ways.*

I started wondering if our prayer for "God's reign of peace to come" was closer at hand than I had imagined – as close as my two hands and a little dirt. Then, as if I needed some kind of confirmation, I saw the article in the June 13, *Seattle Times* about New Hope Baptist Church's attempt to do some urban farming. The predominantly African-American church – which is one of our Evergreen churches – has sites in Duvall and Kent that they are using to raise fresh organic vegetables. As Pastor Jeffrey says, "It's just not fair that poor people don't have the same access to organic foods as their richer neighbors." So they are doing some peace and justice work on the ground – actually, *in* the ground.

So I'm wondering if some of us committed to peacemaking might not be willing to get our hands dirty. Bev Spears has offered to collect the names and contact information of folks who might be willing to volunteer to help the New Hope effort. I know there are folks in our community with gardening and farming skills and I hope you will join me in gardening for peace.

Tim

# ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS FOR EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION'S 2008 MUSICAL EVENT, GODSPELL!

Over 400 people attended Evergreen's first annual major fund raising event in November 2007. The Lakewood Playhouse production of "Seussical"™, under the artistic direction of Marcus Walker, was a big hit! The production, a benefit to support SHARE/WHEEL Tent Cities and the Evergreen Association brought in over \$7500.

Auditions are now being held for Evergreen's 2008 fund raising musical production of, GODSPELL! "Godspell," the popular musical based on the gospel of Matthew, features a 10-member ensemble cast. Seattle Auditions for at least 5 men and 5 women's roles will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at the Fremont Baptist Church, 717 N. 36th Street, Seattle 98103, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tacoma auditions will be held Tuesday night, July 15 from 7 p.m. -10 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 2507 N. Vassault Street, Tacoma 98406.

Actors are encouraged to prepare a part of a song (under one minute), bring sheet music for the accompanist, a photo and resume, and a short monologue (also less than one minute). If you do not have a monologue, there will be short sides (speeches) from "Godspell" to read. Please dress to move. **Please call (253) 859-2226 for an audition appointment and any audition related questions.** All auditions are by appointment and are open to everyone. If you or someone you know would like to audition, we encourage you to call for an appointment. For general information about the production, please call the Evergreen offices at: 253-859-2226.

"Godspell" is being produced by Evergreen for *two* fundraising performances on November 21-22, 2008, and is once again benefiting SHARE/WHEEL Tent Cities and Evergreen Association. Godspell will be directed by Evergreen's own Marcus Walker, Artistic and Managing Director of the Lakewood Playhouse in Tacoma, and Pastor of the Burton Community Church on Vashon Island, with music direction by Terry O'Hara and choreography by Katie Stricker.

**Zandi Carlson** will be a little closer to home this summer, in Leavenworth. Zandi will be working with the Leavenworth Summer Theater. Several of you have asked for the schedule of Zandi's performances, Lin and Carli send this message:

*Zandi particularly recommends "Sound of Music" on the following dates:*

*July 11, 12, 22, 24 and 26 and August 8, 14, 27, 30 and 31st.*

*She is Sister Sofia in "Sound of Music"; Lois/Bianca and Dierdre in "Kiss Me Kate"; and Mary Lou in "Sugar." She's having a wonderful time!*

The link for the Leavenworth Summer Theater website is [www.leavenworthsummertheater.org](http://www.leavenworthsummertheater.org)



## JULY EVENTS

*Telling Stories*: a summer worship series of our favorite Bible stories suggested by several folks including stories from Genesis (Creation, Flood, Sodom & Gomorrah); Matthew's story about a labor dispute (Matthew 20); Mark's story about sailing in a storm (Mark 4); Luke's stories about a prodigal, a good Samaritan, and a sermon; and John's story about feeding 5000 with a little boy's picnic lunch.

### ***Saturday Kitchen – Saturday, July 5***

UBC Team is on deck for Saturday Kitchen. Please contact Daniel Hannah at (206) 992-9453 to volunteer or sign up in the Narthex on Sunday.

### ***Gay Men's Spirituality Group -- Friday, July 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.***

This is a group for gay men to come and explore their spirituality. We will be invited to journey together to learn different ways of praying and being with God. Facilitated by Dan Woodard, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in WA State and a Certified Spiritual Director.

### ***Report from Thailand – Mona Han, Sunday, July 13, following worship***

Following worship – and the Bible story about the Flood – Mona Han will tell the story of her time in Thailand and her work on behalf of refugees along the Thai-Burma border. We also hope to have Saw Kennedy with us (see the *P-I* story “Myanmar refugee displays art, and a talent for survival”) to display his art.

### ***Homeless benefit honors David Bloom – Sunday, July 13, 5:30 p.m.***

The Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness is honoring the Rev. David Bloom for his work for more than thirty years in Seattle on behalf of the homeless and those in need. David paved the path for the Interfaith Task Force in 2001 with a shared vision of creating the political will to end homelessness. David will be honored at a fundraising dinner and program at **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 111 NE 80<sup>th</sup> St. Seattle 98115. Reception is at 5:30 PM, dinner & program, 6:00 PM. Donation for dinner is \$25 but no one will be turned away! Join the Interfaith Task Force in honoring David by fulfilling his wish to keep the ITFH funded and speak out for the homeless and those in need. RSVP to: Sally Kinney (206)364-4866, ski9266503@aol.com or Bill Kirlin-Hackett (425) 442-5418

### ***In the Garden gathering – Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 p.m.***

Martha Bean & Ralph Haugerud host a **potluck** event at their home, 5717 NE 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle. Call (206) 524-3899 for directions.

## AUGUST EVENTS

### ***'Telling Stories' series continues in August***

**Sunday, August 3**, continues the series with the 'Good Samaritan' story and a message from Companis – the organization affiliated with Seattle First Baptist Church that cares for our neighbors in need by providing professionals to non-profits serving those needs. Our office manager, Ryan Hagan, comes to us through Companis.

### ***Worship & Picnic in the Park – Sunday, August 10, 10:30 a.m.***

Join us at 10:30 a.m. for worship at Ravenna Park followed by a potluck picnic.

### ***In the Garden gathering -- Thursday, August 14, 6:00 PM***

Mary & Brooke Rolston invite you to their home for a gathering at 17432 Bothell Way NE #B-103, Bothell. Call (425) 408-1944

### **LABOR DAY GATHERING, Monday, September 1, at Tim & Patrick's**

Join us for a potluck Labor Day celebration from noon – 4:00 at 16275 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Shoreline. Phone (206) 726-8638.

# SUMMER WORSHIP - MY FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES

*There will be no Bible Study or Choir before worship during the summer.*

**July 6:** *In the beginning* (Genesis 1 & 2)  
Worship & Communion  
led by Tim Phillips

**July 13:** *Starting over*  
The story of the Flood (Genesis 7-9)  
Tim Phillips & Martha Bean lead  
worship with a focus on religion and  
science.

**July 20:** *Coming home*  
The prodigal story in Luke 15.11-32  
Seminarian Bruce Chittick from Seattle  
First Baptist Church preaching.

**July 27:** *And they sang a hymn...*  
Margaret Paynton, Minister of Music,  
preaching.

**August 3:** *Like a good neighbor*  
The good Samaritan story in Luke 10.25-37  
Worship led by Tim Phillips and the Companis program

**August 10:** *A picnic lunch*  
Feeding the 5000 story in John 6.1-15  
Worship & Picnic in Ravenna Park;  
Tim Phillips preaching.

**August 17:** *A good sermon*  
Jesus preaching in his hometown Luke 4  
Tim Phillips, preaching.

**August 24:** *My favorite Bible story*  
Diane Schmitz, preaching.

**August 31:** *Minimum wage*  
A labor dispute story in Matthew 20.1-16  
Worship led by Tim Phillips and a representative of organized  
labor.