



# The Beacon

University Baptist Church

July 2009

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Deadline for the August  
issue is Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Please send submissions to  
Meesh at:  
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I recently found cards in my office with answers to two questions that must have been something like this:

“What is the gift of University Baptist Church to you?”

“What would you miss most if UBC weren't here?”

I can summarize most of the responses into three groups. The first group says that UBC is family. Most people actually used the word family, but I included community, friendships, and fellowship in the family group. This response does not surprise me since so many of us live miles away from family, so we sometimes gather together our own created family of friends, or attach to a family that is already formed—a family like UBC. Finding a place in an existing family is never particularly easy, but many of you have been able to find your place here.

The second most typical response is that UBC is a place where individuals can be themselves. For example, one wrote “I can voice all of my questions and know that I am still accepted,” while another wrote “I have no need for pretense,” and still another, “UBC gives me the space to shape myself.” These responses do not surprise me because everyone wants a safe place to be authentic and seek meaning.

The third group is a bit broader. Those in this group believe that UBC pushes them and their personal boundaries through study and a depth of thinking. UBC also provides for them a framework in which to seek justice, and work for peace. These responses do not surprise me since so much of the past 30 years of UBC ministry has focused on peace and justice action.

Obviously, UBC is all this and more. UBC is all of *you* and more. This church not only has a history of wonderful music, we continue to have wonderful music provided by gifted musicians. And while gifts are important, developing these gifts takes hard work, and our musicians are willing to work. This church has many people who will get their hands dirty taking care of our flowers in the front, the graffiti in the alley, and the work of the Big Sort and its associated dust in every corner of the building. This church has many gifted leaders, many gifted care-givers and teachers. We have visionaries and spiritually insightful thinkers. We are not only family, but we are a gifted family. We are not only individuals asking questions and seeking safety away from pretense, we are a thoughtful and spiritually active community. We are not only broadening our experiences and doing justice and peace tasks, we are a vital, probing, justice seeking and peace making community that risks for the sake of building the household of God envisioned for this community and creation itself. We are a family with values to spare—with values to share.

– Nancy

## Happy July Birthday:



Joshua Porch 7/2  
Vincent Lachina 7/3  
Larry Sims 7/3  
Lianne Sheppard 7/5  
Kyle Sims 7/6  
Eva Gaertner-Johnston 7/7  
Eleanor Dimm 7/12  
Glenny Law 7/12  
Margaret Guthrie 7/14  
Tom Nielsen 7/15  
Mary Jeffers Schroder 7/20  
Katie Porch 7/27  
Elizabeth Patrick 7/29

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

## Among Ourselves

We celebrate the arrival of summer and all it brings. It brings **Zandi Carlson** back to Leavenworth, Washington, to perform in *The Sound of Music*, *Singin' in the Rain*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. For information, visit [www.leavenworthsummertheater.org](http://www.leavenworthsummertheater.org)... “Moving mercies” for **Ethan Carlson**, who is moving from Miami to Los Angeles by car late this month... We think of **Tom Nielsen**, as he spends most of July in camps... Our hearts traveled with **Marilyn Marston** and **Rhonda Hue** to Pasadena, as Rhonda attended her first American Baptist Biennial... Talk to **Lin Carlson** about an international conference on empowering people to end poverty, which he recently attended in Washington, D.C.... Congratulations to **David Bloom**, whose campaign for Seattle City Council launched officially in late May at an event attended by 10 UBC members and friends among many other supporters. For more information about David's campaign, visit [www.bloomforcouncil.org](http://www.bloomforcouncil.org)... Ongoing appreciation to **Bev Spears**, who continues to inform us and work tirelessly in support of health care for all... Kudos to **Aaron Burkhalter**,

whose newspaper, the *Skagit Valley Herald*, won a regional award for general excellence, with one of Aaron's front-page stories as part of the award submission... **Eva Gaertner-Johnston** was named Most Outstanding Freshman in the Ballard High School Orchestra. Brava! ... Hurray for **Martha Bean**, who exceeded her fundraising goal of \$3,000 and will climb Mt. Adams in late July on the Climb for Breast Cancer Research... **Ralph Haugerud** traveled to Montana with the UW Field Camp, and **Peter Haugerud** travels to the Santa Fe National Forest for the Rainbow Gathering... Away from the classroom for the summer, **Megan Walker** is glad to stop traveling—that is, in her customary long commute to work... **Harvey Doty** is enjoying his work and being rewarded for it, and **Liz Doty** is pleased about a recent work assignment she had making infant clothing... We pray for **Alethea** and **Charles Putnam** as they face the end of Charles's life and continue to confound doctors with his enduring body and spirit... We send healing thoughts to **Tim Tribble**, who had surgery for the removal of a lymph node on his thyroid, and to **Kathryn Jans**, who is experiencing ongoing joint pain... We pray for peace and healing for **Katie Porch** and her family, as they grieve the loss of Katie's mother, Teri Porch... We send blessings to all among us who have experienced the recent passing of a friend, neighbor, or colleague, including **Brooke and Mary Rolston** for their neighbor; **Margie Paynton** and **Eleanor Dimm** for the loss of a friend; **Joanne Wright**, for a coworker; and **Tom Nielsen** for two campers. We hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

— Thanks to **Lynn Gaertner-Johnston** for compiling “Among Ourselves.” If you have news to share, contact Lynn at [lynngaertner-johnston@comcast.net](mailto:lynngaertner-johnston@comcast.net) or leave a message with the UBC office: 206-632-5188.



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](mailto:jblamont@mindspring.com)  
If you could help by making a meal, visiting or writing a card please contact Jackie.

## Upcoming Worship at UBC

**July 5: Religious Liberty Sunday** – Not what you expect... Maybe what you're looking for.

**July 12: TBA**

**July 19: Hymn Festival** – a Hymn Festival designed by our Minister of Music Margie Paynton, reflecting in hymns upon the Mission and Vision statements of University Baptist Church.

**July 26: Lighthouse: Big Enough?**

**August 2: Lighthouse: Function and Dysfunction**

**August 9: Worship in the Park / Blessing of the Animals.** Join us for our annual gathering in Ravenna Park! Watch for details in the next *Beacon*.

## UBC Social Corner

**Calling All Pairs, Spares and Devil-May-Care Folks....** Come spend time with your UBC family at the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. See [www.nwtrek.org](http://www.nwtrek.org) for more information.

We are leaving UBC at 9:00 am and will return back to UBC roughly at 6 pm. If you would like to carpool or offer to carpool, please contact Rhonda Hue at 206-245-8116.

Check your entertainment books (Valerie and Eva sold these earlier this year) for a buy one, get one free offer. Bring a brown bag lunch or dine at the café.

One main outing is being planned each month: Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> for a day-trip to La Conner, weekend trip to Winthrop in late September, over-night trip to Moclips in October, Thanksgiving at the Eagle Beach Treehouse on the Kitsap Peninsula in November and Warm Beach Christmas Lights at Stanwood in December.

– Rhonda and Mary Clare

## July 18 – Bar-B-Que Cook Off Fundraiser for Evergreen at Cedar River Trail Park, Renton

The Evergreen Black Caucus invites you to come to a Bar-B-Que at the Cedar River Trail Park Picnic Shelter in Renton where our best cooks will prepare a feast for you. Proceeds from ticket sales will support the ministries of Evergreen Association. Bake sale contributions also needed! Those who can contribute a dessert or other item please contact the Evergreen Office at 253-859-2226.

### Bar-B-Que: Noon until 6:00pm; Bake Sale Auction at 3:00pm

BBQ includes choice of Brisket, Chicken, Ribs, or a combo of the three, along with green salad, corn on the cob, potato salad, baked beans, cake, and water (so there will be plenty of choices of side dishes for a satisfying meal for vegetarians among us). Chris Boyer, Julian Hunter, and Ken Curl are our volunteer chefs for the brisket, chicken, and ribs. Please come enjoy the food & fellowship!

**Tickets are \$20; please contact Mary Clare Benson at 206-280-5478 or [mirtleirfo@aol.com](mailto:mirtleirfo@aol.com), or talk to her at church to purchase tickets.** We look forward to seeing you there!

**To get there from I-5: Take Exit 157** for WA-900/M L King Way S. Merge onto Martin Luther King Jr Way S. Continue to follow ML King Way S. Turn **left** at Rainier Ave S. Continue to follow Rainier Ave S. Turn **right** at traffic light at Airport Way, this becomes a bend to the left and turns into Logan. Turn **left** on N 6th Street and follow to the end through gate, this leads into Cedar River Trail Park. Once in the park, turn **right** onto Nishiwaki Lane. Park at the end of the lane.

To get driving directions to Cedar River Trail Park Picnic Shelter in Renton, **do not use** Google maps; it will give you directions to the wrong park. Go to [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com); enter “1060 N Riverside Dr, Renton WA” for the address – the name change from Riverside Drive to Nishiwaki Lane hasn't been registered by most websites yet.





## From the Moderator

I have not had many pastors in my life. As we begin to form our search committee, I have been thinking about the ones I have known and what is important to me as we search for a new pastor.

As a child I split my time between my mother's Lutheran church and my father's Baptist church. I was raised as a Lutheran and attended catechism to prepare for my first communion. Our pastor did not have a first name. I imagine he did to his wife, but it was hard for me to imagine that anyone else called him by his first name. I don't think I even knew what it was. He scared me and I seldom raised my hand to ask questions in catechism class. That's probably why I don't remember anything I learned. From him I learned that pastors were well-educated and were given a great deal of respect and power by their congregants. You didn't question them, and actually elevated them above everyone else.

After my first Communion, I announced that I wanted to join my dad's church. My mother and brother decided to join as well. I loved the Baptist Church. Our pastor's name was "Frank". He had children, played baseball with the youth group, told jokes in his sermons, and encouraged me to ask questions. He was my pastor during my teen years when I had plenty of questions. It was during this period that I really felt like I belonged to a church for the first time.

*Lesson 1: I relate better to a pastor who is approachable and personable.*

After we moved to Seattle and our children were born, I began to think about finding a new church. I found UBC because I was drawn to the social activism. After a few months, Bill and I decided to become members. Our first pastor at UBC rallied us to action, gave the best sermons we had heard to-date and made us feel good to become a part of UBC.

*Lesson 2: I want my church to "walk the talk"; I want my pastor to be engaged in our missions.*

Then things fell apart. We listened to members talk about the pain they felt surrounding the dismissal of their pastor, and the pain inflicted on those who were victims of abuse. We appreciated the heart-felt conversations and the compassion and caring shown by members. After some soul-searching the congregation wrote new vision and mission statements, also resolving to balance the power of a pastor.

*Lesson 3: I want a pastor who follows proper conduct, and a process to make sure members' concerns are heard and investigated.*

Anne Hall allowed me to see a place for women in the Bible. I didn't realize how much I had felt excluded until she used inclusive language and preached from the perspective of women in stories whose voices were not heard. Walt Pulliam brought me his story of finding his path from a traditional to progressive church. I learned about myself and challenged my own faith by listening to them. I was allowed to form my own beliefs and conclusions.

*Lesson 4: I want my pastor to use inclusive language and lessons.*

*Lesson 5: I want my pastor to let me to find my own path, but provide guidance on the way.*

I remember listening to the recording of the sermon Tim Phillips submitted when he applied to become our minister. Wow. I remember my excitement to meet him when the search committee presented him as their choice. After 12 years, he never let me down; he always seemed to address what was on my mind and he preached one memorable sermon after another. How did he do that? He came out of the pulpit, he spoke to us personally, and wasn't afraid to shed a tear. His perspective from experiencing exclusion and prejudice helped

underscore his message about celebrating ourselves just as we are. His sharing of his life experience made his messages more meaningful.

*Lesson 6: I want my pastor to have the courage to speak from his or her heart.*

My children grew up with close relationships to their pastors. Ashley remembers Walt as a grandfather figure who was loving and huggable. Anne was her mentor in hiking and activism. Her first memory of Tim was when the youth group took him to the Seattle Center to ride a roller coaster. Six years younger, Audrey's pastoral relationship was more with Tim-and-Patrick; the composite.

*Lesson 7: I want a personal relationship with my pastor for myself and my family.*

Anne challenged us to define ourselves. Tim challenged us to find our own strengths and gifts. After Tim left in January, we have remained strong. Members assumed various duties in leadership, worship and pastoral care.

*Lesson 8: I want a pastor who empowers us.*

Nancy has come in as our interim pastor to a congregation that was functioning without a pastor. She has shown a good balance of taking leadership when needed and asking how to proceed to honor our existing leadership. Additionally, she has done what we asked her to do: hold a mirror to us, tell us if we appear to be as welcoming as we think we are, following the path we want to follow, and using the gifts we know we have.

*Lesson 9: I want a pastor who is honest and not afraid to tell us what we need to hear.*

I have felt blessed to have pastors who have provided me and my family the care and comfort we need through illness and loss. My pastors have also shared the good times with us. We are a congregation that likes to come together for a celebration, entertainment, playing games, learning, working and marching for justice as much as we enjoy coming together for worship.

*Lesson 10: I want a pastor who is engaged and involved in our community.*

As much as it hurt when Tim left, I wouldn't have wanted to love him less, or have him less involved in my life to avoid the pain of loss. Our challenge now is to go through our checklist of what we value from our pastor. No one can live up to our perfect ideal. We need to be practical and realistic and prioritize what is important. We will need to be engaged, honest, empowering, courageous, and personable in return.

We will be selecting and organizing our Pastoral Search Committee this summer. Beginning this fall we will start a process to gather information from UBC members on what attributes you want most in our new pastor. We want everyone to be involved in this process, so I encourage you to start thinking about what is important to you. My list above represents my perspective only, and the Search Committee needs to hear from everyone.

As the process unfolds, the committee will notify you of the timeline and give you many opportunities to discuss your thoughts and submit your ideas. As moderator, it is my goal to kick off a process that is inclusive and clear, and one that will enable us to identify and select the right pastor. I also plan to work with Nancy and the PSRT team to see what information she needed that we didn't have available for her. I want to make sure that we will be prepared to welcome our new pastor with needed information to make the transition as easy as possible.

– Joy

## Thank-you to:

- ☆ **The UBC Choir and our Minister of Music Margie Paynton** – we have received thank-you cards to the choir from the Evergreen Association (for the choir’s participation in the Easter Sunrise Service) and Camp Burton (for the choir’s participation at their Centennial Celebration). And we all thank you for sharing your talents with us during the year – we are truly blessed as a congregation to have you with us.
- ☆ **I want to recognize the Pastoral Staff Relations Team** for its time-consuming and at times emotionally draining work. Elizabeth Patrick, Eric Brown, CoraLea Doty, Kathryn Jans, and Joy Smith are thoughtful, kind, and willing to take on difficult topics. I’m certain that you are grateful, and I know that I am, to be working with them during this transition time. – Nancy
- ☆ **Thank you to Matt Paynton, David Spears, and Mike Stern** for helping us with the sound system while we work on getting a permanent replacement.

**Do you have a thank-you to include in the next newsletter?** We know there are a lot more thank-yous out there – please let us know at: [office@ubcseattle.org](mailto:office@ubcseattle.org), 206-632-5188, or 4554 - 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Seattle WA 98105.

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## Summer Event Announcements

### **Aging as a Spiritual Pathway Senior Adult Retreat**

**Wednesday, July 15, 8:00 a.m. to Friday, July 17, 2:00 p.m. at Rainbow Lodge in North Bend, WA**

We have been invited by the Retreat Ministry of Seattle First Baptist Church to participate in this retreat.

Does the thought of getting older bother you? Is your body not doing what it used to? Are you losing friends due to illness, death or snow-birding? When the future seems uncertain, is the past all that one really has?

How about living well in the present? That’s all there really is. Come join us this July for a time of reflection on the process of aging as the pathway that enlarges the spirit. Dr. Gretchen Gundrum, a local psychologist and spiritual director, will lead us to focus on all the strengths we’ve developed throughout our lifetime. We’ll take a look at the hard-won wisdom gained from making mistakes. Instead of feeling left out of the “youth culture” we’ll look at the turning points and transformational experiences that have made us who we are and that lead us right into the heart of God. We will share devotional practices that calm our spirits and give us a sense of Divine presence.

Participants will need to bring a memento that symbolizes their spiritual journey. These will be placed on the prayer table. Come also with your sense of humor, a notebook or journal, towels, a good book, a puzzle, game or song to share with others. Cost for the retreat is \$140 for a single room, and \$125 for a double. To register call Seattle First Baptist at 206-325-6051. More info is also on their website: [www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org).

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### **July 20-25 – Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Conference: When There is Justice, Then Peace will Come**



This summer, peacemakers from around the world will gather on the beautiful campus of Weber State University located in Ogden, Utah in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains. The conference is at Weber State because it is easy and affordable to reach, is welcoming of diversity, offers a top-notch facility, is in a gorgeous location, and allows great vacation opportunities before and after conference.

Copies of the conference information and registration are available in the Narthex or UBC office, or go to [www.bpfna.org](http://www.bpfna.org) for more information. If you are interested in attending, and would like to carpool with folks from other Evergreen churches, please contact the UBC office so we can help people connect.

## UBC Stewardship Council Meeting Summary – June 10, 2009

Present: Elizabeth Patrick, Joy Smith, Martha Bean, Rhonda Hue, Mary Rolston, Brooke Rolston, Jackie Lamont, Nancy Darnell, Mary Clare Benson, Daniel Hannah, Joanne Wright

### Pastor's Report

- Nancy provided a handout with a summary of her activities in the past month, including visits with UBC members, worship, pastoral contacts, and group events at the church.
- Sound System: The insurance company will provide funds to replace our sound system. We should consider a fundraiser to pay for the down payment on a new sound system. A team will be formed to look into selecting a new sound system.

### Quarterly Business Meeting

- The next Quarterly Business Meeting will be on September 27 after church

### Church Clerk

- Joanne has been working on the membership list update and suggested The SC discuss how we can be welcoming for potential new members.
- It was agreed that a dinner for new members or people interested in membership be planned for August.

### Treasurer's Report

- Mary Clare handed out the current balance sheet report. Finances are in good shape.
- Pledges are at 86%, which is not unusual for the summer season.

### Church Life

- The church picnic will be August 9<sup>th</sup>.

### House and Building

- The kitchen still needs a final sort – and to make decisions about what to keep and what to leave.
- The building team is concerned about security – especially leaving the door open for visitors attending meetings in the building.
- Martha suggested that the groups renting space be notified, in writing, of UBC's expectation that they post a person at the door to let their members in.

### Mission Support/Peace and Justice

- Fall Retreat planning will be a function of the Mission Support team.
- Nancy, Joy, Daniel and Joanne have agreed to be Fall Retreat Planners.

### Pastoral Staff Relations

- PSRT will be meeting on June 24 at 6:00 pm

### Discussion Topics:

- Time Off: The SC will take the month of July off for a much needed break from business.
- Joy is expecting to receive another offer on our building, and wants to establish a protocol for review by the SC.
- Martha suggests that we have Big Sort break and resume in late Sept/early Oct.
- Big Goodbye: The SC agrees that we still need to plan the Big Goodbye for the building
- Pastoral Search: Joy proposes that PSRT review people that express interest in being on the pastoral search team
- Stained Glass Window Moving: Brooke has been in contact with 2 companies that will assess the removal and sale of the stained glass windows.

**Next Stewardship Council Meeting will be Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Submitted by Joanne Wright, Church Clerk

## Second Notice:

If you wish to continue receiving the Beacon, please contact us!

Dear Friends – at this time we find it necessary to discontinue sending our monthly newsletter by bulk mail. We have opted to switch most of our distribution to email using Google Groups, but we can still mail copies to folks who don't have email or can't make it into church on Sundays. **If you have already contacted us, thank you** – you will be receiving an email shortly about our new [Google Group](#) list. **If you haven't contacted us and you wish to continue receiving *The Beacon*, please contact us soon – email, call or send us a note!**



To sign up for the email list: email [office@ubcseattle.org](mailto:office@ubcseattle.org) with the subject line “Beacon email list”; no message is necessary.



Some printed copies will be available in the Narthex on Sundays for those who do not use email.



We will make special accommodations for folks who are unable to make it into church on Sundays or who don't have email – please call us at 206.632.5188 or send us a note at 4554 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE – Seattle, WA 98105.

\* This issue will be our last regular mailing \*