



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

June 2009

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Seattle, WA

Deadline for the July issue is
Sunday, June 21st. Please
send submissions to Meesh
at: office@ubcseattle.org.



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Hurry up and wait. This is a good description of a typical Seattle commute. Get up in a hurry. Get out the door in a hurry. Move car into traffic and wait. Traffic eases—change lanes; pass a few cars; traffic slows to a stop. Wait.

I am commuting in high density interstate traffic for the first time in 35 years, and I must say that Seattle interstate drivers are more courteous than the ones I remember from Atlanta. I did, however, witness my first accident yesterday—a rear-ender which was certainly caused by either too much speed for conditions, or inattention to the task at hand – driving.

I came to Seattle and UBC two months ago. Since then I have worshipped with you, had conversations with many of you, worked side by side with you, and experienced the Big Sort. In this time I have learned quite a lot about this congregation, but I learned the most about you, during the past week – the week in which our building sale fell through and our sound system ended up missing. What I learned is that UBC trusts its excellent leadership, is very resilient in the midst of challenges, and continues to look forward in ministry and mission. As our moderator Joy said Sunday morning, “We aren’t stopping. This is only a bump in the road. Our plans haven’t changed; they are only delayed.” I talked with several of you during the week and on Sunday morning. Not one of you was overwhelmed with crisis thinking, and all of you accepted the reality of our situation graciously.

The reality of our current situation is that we will continue to seek a buyer for our building. In addition, we will continue with the Big Sort. It is spring and we have closets and corners that are not yet sorted and scrubbed. However, the most important reality is that we have ministry to do now and needs to meet now. We recently closed the Saturday Kitchen, but we also talked about serving box lunches from our new location. Maybe we have time to experiment with that ministry idea here and now. We are beginning a study of the book Christianity for the Rest of Us that describes characteristics of thriving, healthy, progressive churches throughout the United States. We have time to study and reflect here and now. We are beginning a study of Mark. We have time for Bible study. We have time to enter into a season of prayer and discernment. We will make good use of this time.

I remember with absolutely no fondness my commutes in Atlanta, but since revisiting commuting experience, I have noticed that the speed of a commute is **not** its most important attribute. Rushing to cut out two minutes here and 30 seconds there may get me to my desk a bit earlier, but at what cost? I’m likely irritated, already tired, and my mind is cluttered with road encounters. Furthermore, I miss the beautiful views of Seattle. But when I slow down a bit, I see the cityscape and waterscape. I notice the needs of others travelling around me. I notice that I can help meet their needs by slowing a bit to let them into my lane, by acknowledging them with a wave when they let me in. I arrive at my destination more relaxed, with more energy, and ready for the work of the day. I can’t say that I’m happy our sale fell through, but I am happy to be with this congregation who is meeting this news with such grace. I also believe that we have a gift of pause and that we can now arrive more relaxed, with more energy, and ready for the work of that day.

– Nancy

Happy June Birthday:



Amy Zuercher-Stern 6/3
Erica Badgeley 6/6
CoraLea Doty 6/8
Diane Schmitz 6/9
Annette Klapstein 6/10
Tyler Thirloway 6/13
Jessica Badgeley 6/14
John Mix 6/16
Zion Tay 6/19
Susan Vaughan 6/20
Catharine Fletcher 6/20
Hnin (Rosie) Yee 6/21
Alethea Putnam 6/21
Jackie Lamont 6/22
Olivia Gordon 6/24
JoAnn Sims 6/25
Mike Stern 6/27
Tobias Porch 6/27
Michael Gaertner-Johnston 6/28

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

Among Ourselves

We grieve the sudden, sad loss of **Beverly Katterman**, whose memorial service took place on Saturday, May 30. Our prayers are with **David Katterman** and all of Beverly's family and friends, among whom we count ourselves...Sadly, **Katie Porch's** mother, **Teri**, has moved into hospice care at Bailey-Boushay House, her cancer having metastasized to her brain. The smiling baby **Finn Porch** charmed us in worship recently, along with his well-behaved big brother **Toby**...A good-sized UBC contingent attended **Carol Guthrie's** 90th birthday party. (See photo of Carol and family at the bottom of page 3.) It was a pleasure to see former member **Forrest Wald** there... **Carol** is delighted that her great-grandson **Kadin Scollard** has joined the Marines and is in training...**John and CoraLea Doty** are pleased that their grandson **Andrew James Doty (AJ)** has earned his degree in sociology, with honors, from Pomona Pitzer College. **AJ** is now on his way to Costa Rica...**CoraLea** received a Mother's Day card from **Nsoki Kumeso**. Nsoki wrote from her home in Michigan to remember all at UBC who shared their love and caring with her family when they were at UBC many years ago...**Rhonda Hue's son Matthew** so appreciates the wonderful cards and messages he received from our community. You may write to him at Matthew Michael Gallwey / 326387 / BA-49 Coyote Ridge Corrections Center / PO Box 769 / Connell, WA 99326-0769...We congratulate **Sara Abbasian**, whose story "Goodbye, Salt Lake" appeared in

"What It Takes, Stories of Bravery," published by 826 Seattle and Hamilton Middle School. Way to go, Sara!...**Sara, Brooke Rolston, and Sadie Cunningham** enjoyed spending a sunny Sunday at Folklife...Congratulations to **Doris Brevoort**, who has finished her course work for her Ph.D. and can now dive into her dissertation...We pray for **Doris's sister, Marcia**, who is suffering from pulmonary disease, and for **Tim Tribble**, who is worried about the possible return of thyroid cancer...We were dismayed to learn that **Ralph Haugerud** suffered a nasty bicycle accident, causing the need for major dental work...**Audrey Smith** will soon be off to Washington, D.C., where she will intern at the Manoff Group (where **Ashley Smith** works), which focuses on health and nutrition programs...We send our best wishes and encouragement to **David Metzger**, whose job of many years was recently eliminated...Traveling mercies to **Vincent Lachina**, who has been speaking, traveling, and preaching nonstop in his work as chaplain for Planned Parenthood...We enjoyed meeting **Rosie Yee's** goddaughter **Rita**, who is visiting from Burma, and we were pleased to welcome former member **Ron Nece** on a recent Sunday. We continue to hold Ron in our prayers as he grieves the loss of his wife **Mary**...We are grateful to **Jackie Lamont, Joanne Wright, Bill Stalder, and Brooke Rolston**, who reflected powerfully on race and white privilege in worship last month, and to **Diane Schmitz**, who led the service and played piano at the same time!...The Mountaineer Players' "Seussical," with musical direction by **Gail Foster**, continues through June 14...As we go to press, we have heard that **Enid Griswold** is soon to be in Seattle. Welcome home, Enid! ... Congratulations to **Bruce Chittick**, who is graduating from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry with his Master of Divinity degree this month. **Way to go Bruce!**

– 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.

From the Moderator

A few months ago I wrote about how I focus on home improvement projects when I'm dealing with stress and uncertainty. My house is getting quite a make-over this year! I guess when something happens that's beyond our control it's natural to find something else we can do that's productive. This past week we've had a couple of setbacks: the failure of the building sale and the theft of our sound system.

Despite these new obstacles, Martha Bean and Kathryn Jans worked on creating a more intimate worship space in the sanctuary, which was very timely because we all had to sit up front to hear the service. John Doty continued his diligent work painting the wall in the alley. I asked him how many times he had done this. "Many," he said. And how many times has your worked been tagged with graffiti? "Every time," and yet he still keeps painting.

We are a resilient and persistent congregation. We have stood up for those who have been shunned or forgotten by others. We continue to support missions to help those most in need. Like John, we can't give up. We will continue to utilize our building for worship, UBC business, various meetings, rentals, housing and child care. We will continue painting and general maintenance, we will continue sorting through and ridding ourselves our years of accumulated items.

As I said in the service on May 24th, the only thing that has fundamentally changed at this point is our timeline. But we can't just push it out further; we need to reassess the items we were delaying until we were in our new space. Immediately after worship we talked about holding our chili dinner, especially to raise funds for a new sound system. We can't change the real estate market or free up bank loans. We can continue to be University Baptist Church. We can continue to support each other, our programs, and care for our building.

In response to the theft of our sound system, we do need to re-evaluate our building security. I hope we can move on this right away, as well as find a replacement for the sound system so our members with hearing challenges can continue to enjoy worship. If you have ideas or would like to help, please let me know or leave a message with the church office. We value every contribution of time, money, thought and prayers. Tim's legacy to us was his teaching us to value and utilize our individual gifts. Sometimes we may forget to say "thank you".

Thank you, John, for painting the alley wall. Thank you, Martha and Kathryn, for bringing us closer together in the sanctuary. Thank you, Dan Peterson, for picking up the front walkway before service on Sunday, and for attending the UDECC meetings. Thank you, "Big Sort" workers, for the many hours you've put in on weekends sorting through our many rooms. Thank you, Margie, choir and guest artists, for our wonderful music. Thank you, Nancy and UBC worship leaders, for continuing to create beautiful and thought-provoking worship services. Thank you, Paul, Suzan and Lisa for greeting us at the door. Thank you, Edith, for taking our offerings and baking our communion bread. Thank you to all who have participated in worship. Thank you team members, team leaders, Stewardship Council officers, and others involved in the leadership of the congregation and our missions. You have all shared your gifts for the good of UBC. I am privileged to be your moderator this year.

– Joy



Happy 90th Carol!

Carol Guthrie waits to blow out her candles with granddaughters Whitney (at far left) and Wendy, grandson Adam, and niece Margaret (at far right).

Sacred Conversation on Race Event Draws Us Forward

There were eleven of us. All white, members of UBC; enough to take further steps toward change in us and in our church. On May 2, a fine Saturday for working indoors, we gathered in the McAfee Parlor to move on in our Sacred Conversation on Race (SCOR). Using the guide book, Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the Church, we continued work on a timeline of U.S. history, building on a “river of America” first made from crepe paper in a SCOR session earlier this year.



We noted events that shaped the relations between peoples of different races across the country. Then we added events that marked the history of American Baptist Churches, of our own church, and of the emergence of the Evergreen Association of churches. With each marker we wondered how the event moved us toward or away from racial partnership.

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And we did many other things that day. We discussed readings on “white spaces” and on white privilege. We entered structured conversations to learn how language about color and race shape our thinking, so that we see whites as individuals, but others as members of racial groups.

We reflected on culture and levels of racism, and identified ways in which we as whites have been given privilege and experienced loss. We enacted (playing as children, we hoped) Jesus’ “Parable of the Sower,” praying that we would be like the soil that nourished the seeds of justice and reconciliation.



At the close of the day, several suggested that such an event needs to happen again when more in our church can participate.

– Diane Schmitz and Brooke Rolston, workshop leaders

Upcoming Undoing Racism Workshop in Seattle – July 23 & 24

The Undoing Racism Workshop is an intensive two-day workshop designed to educate, challenge and empower people to "undo" the racist structures that hinder effective social change. The training is based on the premise that racism has been systematically erected and that it can be "undone" if people understand where it comes from, how it functions and why it is perpetuated. This workshop is offered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, a national multiracial, antiracist collective of veteran organizers and educators dedicated to building an effective movement for social change.

The Undoing Racism workshop is generally two days in duration, and typically geared to 30-40 participants. When: July 23 & 24 2009 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Participants are asked to commit to the full two days of the session. Cost: \$300.00 Location: TBD. To register: contact People's Institute Northwest at 206-938-1023 or pinwseattle@yahoo.com. A description of the Undoing Racism workshop can be found at www.pisab.org.

Diane Schmitz and Brooke Rolston have both participated in this workshop; if you are considering going, feel free to ask them any questions.

Book Group and Bible Study Gatherings at UBC starting in June!

Thank you to everyone who responded with your available dates and times for the Christianity for the Rest of Us book group and the Gospel of Mark study group. **The groups will meet on alternating Thursdays at 6:00pm in the McAfee Parlor**; everyone is welcome to join either or both groups, and no, you don't have to promise to be at every one, but you will want to be at everyone. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at 206-632-5188 or nrdarnell@comcast.net.

Christianity for the Rest of Us Book Group – beginning June 4th

This group will meet the **1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays** of the next couple of months at 6:00pm in the McAfee Parlor. You will need to purchase a copy of this book by Diana Butler Bass; used copies are readily available online. During our time together we would seek to discern what Christianity for the Rest of Us has to say at University Baptist Church.

Gospel of Mark Study Group – beginning June 11th

This group will meet the **2nd and 4th Thursdays** of the next couple of months at 6:00pm in the McAfee Parlor. We will look at John the Baptist's role and theology, the miracles, parables, and other teachings, in addition to the apocalyptic vision and last days in Jerusalem including the abrupt ending of Mark.

Sermon Series Starting In June

We will look at the small congregation as a lighthouse in today's culture. Where do we fit in the world of mega churches? What is our value in a world that values big? Are we the only ones who need what we have found?



- June 7: Lighthouse: Real or Imagined
- June 21: Lighthouse: Sailing through the Hidden Course
- July 12: Lighthouse: Big Enough?
- July 16: Lighthouse: Dated?
- August 2: Lighthouse: Function and Dysfunction
- August TBD: Lighthouse: Our Today and Tomorrow

♪ University Baptist Church Choir Performances ♪

Please join us at these events to celebrate to beautiful music of our choir – many thanks to all of you!

June 14, 3:00pm at Camp Burton on Vashon Island

The UBC Choir will join the Centennial Celebration of Camp Burton – see page 6 for more information.

June 28, 2:00pm at University Baptist Church

Please join us as the choir performs some of their favorite anthems.

Special Worship Opportunities at UBC

June 28: Beauty and Spirit

July 5: Religious Liberty Sunday

July 19: Hymn Festival – 100+ years of worship at UBC

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*.

Special Offering for June:



The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB) provides connection, support and resources for churches committed to justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Please give generously to this offering so that AWAB's message of mercy, understanding, acceptance and inclusion within Baptist communities of faith can continue. You can find AWAB online at: www.wabaptists.org.

Summer Celebrations and Events

June 6, 7, 13 and 14 – Seussical, The Musical at the Kitsap Forest Theater

This Mountaineers Players production features musical direction by our own Gail Foster in the beautiful Kitsap Forest Theater. *Seussical* is an enchanting celebration of friendship, compassion, bravery and the power of the imagination. Showtimes are at 2:00pm daily – for tickets or more information go to www.ForestTheater.com or call 206-542-7815.

June 14 – UBC Choir to perform at Camp Burton Centennial Celebration on Vashon Island

Camp Burton is 100 years old! We invite you to come to camp and join us in celebrating this incredible treasure that we all share. We are so grateful that Camp continues its mission, begun those 100 years ago by people who had the foresight to see and set aside the beauty that is Camp Burton. We ask you to come share the beauty, the food, the music, the stories from now and then, and the fellowship with us as we celebrate this day. The gathering starts at 3:00pm; for more information see www.CampBurton.com or call 206-463-2512.

June 26-28 – 2009 American Baptist Churches USA Biennial in Pasadena, CA.

Everyone is welcome to attend! Evergreen Association will be there, and is seeking help with their booth in the missions fair. The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists will also be present with a gathering and worship service open to all. UBC is a proud member of both of these associations and we would like to support them at the biennial. Please take a look at the program for full details – we will have some copies of the program and registration packet available in the Narthex, or it can be found online at the links below.

American Baptist Churches USA Biennial homepage:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/index.htm>

Biennial Program (requires Adobe Acrobat Reader):

<http://www.abc-usa.org/biennial/2009pasadena/Registration.pdf>

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



Black Caucus
cooks and
Servers at
Bar-B-Que for
Asian Caucus,
summer 2006

The 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.

MENU: Choice of Chicken, Ribs, Brisket or a Combination Plate with Green Salad, Corn on the Cob, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cake and Water.

On the Grills: Chicken, Deacon Julian Hunter; Ribs, Deacon Ken Curl; Brisket, Pastor Chris Boyer (Euro-Caucus)

There will be a Bake Sale of desserts prepared by Evergreen Bakers and soft drinks for purchase as well. All Meal Tickets \$20.00 (available soon in the UBC office).

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 - and we hope you'll be one of them! 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.



As always, there will be workshops on a wide variety of topics, programs for children and youth, special gatherings for young adults, fun free-time activities, after-hours events and more! This is a conference for everyone who longs for the spirituality, inspiration, skills, knowledge, and community to support a life of peace rooted in justice. Copies of the conference information and registration are available in the Narthex or UBC office, or go to www.bpfna.org for more information.

UBC Stewardship Council Minutes – May 13, 2009

Present: Martha Bean, Joy Smith, Daniel Hannah, Nancy Darnell, Mary Clare Benson, Jackie Lamont, Joanne Wright, Rhonda Hue, Kathryn Jans, Elizabeth Patrick, Cora Lea Doty

Moderator's Report: Joy stated that she feels the bylaws should be re-done – there are areas of the bylaws that need to be revisited. Joy also suggested that UBC create a coordinator of communications position to handle certain communication issues. This person would be on the SC.

Pastor's Report: Nancy will start a class on Christianity for the Rest of Us in June. Once a month Nancy will make dinner for the class. A volunteer is needed to help Daniel teach the class in summer before church. Nancy recommends that UBC use a software package for tracking church databases for finance, members, etc. called “Faithful Steward”. We could download it for a trial. She also asked how much time she is expected to spend on Fellowship Fund requests from people asking for help. The SC recommended that Nancy look for resources and referrals for people asking for help.

Treasurer's Report: UBC has positive income. Staff costs are lower. Pledges are at 85% of the budget.

Church Life: Jackie reported that the American Baptist Women would be meeting on May 30th from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Gail Aida would be speaking on Burma.

Mission Support, Peace & Justice: Daniel reported that the Health Care Reform event needs organizational sponsors. A motion was made, seconded and passed for UBC to be a sponsor. The Mission Support team will contribute \$50 to the event.

Pastoral Staff Relations Team: Craig Darling, Executive Director of Companis Ministries, has a Companis worker available for 1 day per week. Martha asked that the Big Sort be his first job at UBC.

Worship Team: American Baptist Biennial voting delegates from UBC are Rhonda Hue and Marilyn Marston. A motion was made, seconded and passed for UBC to cover registration costs.

UDEP Meeting: David Bloom provided a report from the UDEP meeting, which focused on the rebuilding of the 45th St Viaduct. He will also not be able to continue to participate in this group due to his campaign.

Building Sale: The Bode Properties feasibility study revealed that if UBCC stays, and if Bode proposes renovation, the City of Seattle requires earthquake retrofitting. If the building sale goes through, closing will be on Sept. 1. The UBCC lease would start on August 1. We should be ready to move in August.

Big Sort/Move/Sale/New Space: Kitchen sorting has started. UBC needs to decide what kitchen items we need to take with us. The Big Sale date was set for August 21, 22 and 23. The Finance Team decided that proceeds from the sale of UBC items would go toward new chairs for the space at UCC.

UBC History and Big Goodbye: Discussion focused on how UBC would record the history of our moving, and who should do the work. Margie and Eric are planning the goodbye celebration, but there needs to be more work done for recording of the building & people history.

Camp Burton Retreat: Planning for the Camp Burton Retreat must begin and include discernment for who & what UBC wants to be – what missions, etc. Elizabeth reminded us that some in our congregation cannot make it to Camp Burton easily – so if we plan to discuss pastoral selection we will make arrangements that can include the entire congregation.

Submitted by Joanne Wright, Church Clerk

The Beacon will be going to email only starting in August!

Dear Friends – at this time we find it necessary to discontinue mailing out our monthly newsletter. We have opted to switch the bulk of our distribution to email; we will make some printed copies available in the Narthex for those who do not use email. (We will also make special accommodations for our members who are unable to make it into church on Sundays). Another option is to check our website, www.ubcseattle.org; the newsletter is generally posted a couple of days before the beginning of the month.

If you wish to continue receiving *The Beacon*, we need you to contact us with your email address. We are setting up a separate email list for *The Beacon* distribution; we'll send out an email once a month with links to the articles online. This is a separate email list than our regular announcement email list. Next issue – the July issue – will be our last regular mailing; we'll include another reminder about the switch, then the last week of July we anticipate sending the August *Beacon* by email.

If you wish to sign up to receive *the Beacon* by email, please email office@ubcseattle.org. All you need to include is the subject line “Beacon email list” as your message. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call us at 206.632.5188 or email us at the above address.

See pages 5 & 6 for coming events & special worship opportunities