



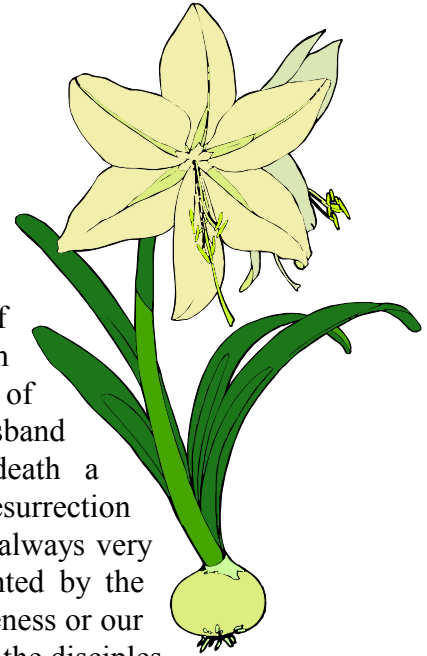
The Beacon

University Baptist Church

March 2008

HAUNTED OR RESURRECTED?

During this Lent/Easter season there will be a lot of conversation about the meaning of resurrection. So I am grateful to our Moderator, Eric Brown, for reminding us of Natalie Sleeth's "Hymn of Promise," dedicated to her husband who died soon after it was completed: "In our death a resurrection; at the last, a victory..." One meaning of resurrection is that death will not have the last word. But that isn't always very comforting. Beyond the grave we are sometimes haunted by the negative impact of people's lives – either their destructiveness or our own guilt or fear. According to Luke's resurrection story, the disciples thought, in their fear, that they were seeing a "ghost." But what makes this a resurrection story is a promise -- a new power is on its way (Luke 24.49).



We can be haunted by the past. Ghosts can paralyze us with fear. Resurrection is the quality of a life that can propel us into the future with a promise from beyond the grave. That is the "victory" I think Natalie Sleeth's "Hymn of Promise" alludes to even as her husband was dying. It is this 'promise quality' of one's life that makes the difference between being haunted and being resurrected. The gospel stories try to tell us that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They don't simply recall nice memories of Jesus. And they don't get stuck in the guilt and fear they felt immediately after his horrible death. They claim a 'victory' – that the quality of the promise in Jesus' life was larger than death. So, when Peter gets up to preach his resurrection sermon in Acts 2, the bottom line of his message is: "The promise is to you and to your children and to all those who are far off" (Acts 2.39). Resurrection is more than remembering a life – it's a promise that continues that life into the future.

Never was this more true than with our beloved Jamie Mock-Robbins, co-pastor of our church during Sanctuary days. This year marks the 20th anniversary of his passing after a struggle with cancer on March 12, 1988. Inside this issue there is a tribute from Kent Harrop, pastor of First Baptist Church McMinnville, Oregon (the new church home of the Sims and founding congregation of Linfield College). It demonstrates that Jamie is no ghost. We do not simply remember his life. We live his promise. Until I read Kent's article I didn't even know that we share this story. And that's another thing about resurrection – its promise connects us in ways that we may not see. As the hymn says, "something God alone can see." And, sometimes, resurrection means we get a glimpse. Please join us as we try together to get a glimpse of resurrection. According to Natalie, Jamie, and Jesus, this promise is for you! 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
Sandra Blood
universitybaptistchildrenscenter@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 April issue
is Sunday, March 23rd.



AMONG OURSELVES...

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY:

3/1 Mary Clare Benson; 3/4 Brooke Rolston; 3/11 Heartie Anne Brewer; 3/12 Sharon Johnson; 3/16 Paul Wilkerson; 3/19 Joy Smith; 3/22 Rich Gile; 3/26 Sue Doty; 3/27 Valerie Foster; 3/30 Mary Rolston.

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

MARCH SPECIAL OFFERING: THE AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING FOR NATIONAL MINISTRIES.

The America for Christ Offering supports the mission work of the ABC in the USA. Some of the missions supported are gang alternatives for youth, area ministers supporting churches and pastors, elder adult ministry resources, childcare for homeless families, Judson Press books, anti-violence and peace work, ministries with students, volunteer skills network, and camping programs.

Audrey Smith has been doing the college tour as she discerns next year's college plans – including a trip to, and audition for, Linfield College ... And speaking of Linfield, if you visit the library there you won't want to miss the **Virginia & Clarence Bishop** Study Room ... **Nate Kirstein** reports that he has been accepted for Law School at Drake University in Des Moines as he continues his plan to integrate law, justice, and spirituality ... The **Sims** family send their greetings from Oregon where their new home is close to completion – and visitors will be welcomed! ... **Mona Han** sends greetings from Thailand where she is teaching refugees from Burma – she sends her love to the UBC family ... Traveling to Mexico in February was **Glenny Law** with friends from her Sweet Adeline's Chorus ... Reporting from Atlanta and the New Baptist Covenant conference were the **Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists** leaders Ken Pennings & Heather Rittenhouse who say: "During the three-day event, former President Carter noted that Baptists hold diverse opinions about gay people. Best-selling novelist John Grisham called for the Church's inclusion of gay people. Rev. Tony Campolo wore a rainbow-colored stole. Hundreds of participants sported rainbow stickers to proudly reveal their support for gay people." Rainbows and resurrection promise among our Baptist family! ... In honor of **Angela Farrar** and her work with MultiFaith Works supporting the care of folks with HIV/AIDS and addiction, UBC will be a supporting organization for the *Many Voices, One Song* benefit on April 18 – for more information, see their website at www.multifaith.org; Angela will be preaching at the March 2

Lent IV service ... We keep in prayer **Jackie Lamont's** neighbor, **Lois**, who is recovering from a respiratory problem ... **Elizabeth Patrick** who is dealing with kidney dysfunction and diminishing energy ... **Carli MacColl** as she continues chemo-therapy and **Charles Putnam** who continues these treatments as well ... For more information about how you can offer support, please contact **Jackie Lamont** of our Congregational Care Team at jlamont@iopener.net or call (206) 985-7927 ... And, for weekly updates of events and gatherings at UBC, see our website at www.ubcseattle.org – thanks **David Spears** for hosting and updating the site!

Underwrite a Room at Camp Burton

Our call to help us underwrite the \$2500 furnishing costs of a room at the new Retreat Center at Camp Burton by the beginning of June has been met with great generosity:

- An **anonymous donor will match your gift of \$25 or more** (up to \$500) for a room in honor of UBC;
- A memorial gift in honor of **Bill Nielsen** has been given to underwrite another room; and
- A memorial gift celebrating the life of **Mohan** has been given by Rosie and his family and friends to underwrite another.

A total of three rooms are being underwritten by our community supporting this new opportunity for ministry at our American Baptist Camp on Vashon Island. Please make your gift today! And plan to join us for the Fall 2008 Retreat in September as we try out those new rooms.

A WORD FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

At the annual meeting in January, UBC adopted a deficit budget with the understanding that 2008 will be a very unusual year financially due to the upcoming property sale, and that we may have to respond to short-term needs.

As of January 31, we have a deficit of \$2,370, primarily because only 81% of the anticipate pledges were paid in January. Also, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, a long-term renter, will be leaving our building in the next couple weeks. This will mean an income loss of \$500 per month. Other renters will undoubtedly be leaving throughout the year, although at this time we don't know when that will be.

This is just a reminder that it will be helpful if pledgers can keep their pledges current as we enter this year of financially new territory.

UBC Finance Team

A NOTE FROM THE WORSHIP SUMMIT TEAM

The worship experience is as unique as each person sitting there on any given Sunday. How the sermon is heard, what one hears from the scripture, what the music of the choir and the hymns stir in each of our beings, is different for every single one of us. Yet, what Tim, Margie, and the musicians and readers bring is a cohesive, unifying worship service.

For each participant, be they the worshiper, the usher, the singers, the photographers, or the readers, the call is for each to make the worship experience as meaningful as possible. Sometimes we do that with our silence, our quiet reflection before worship, sometimes through our greeting of one another, and sometimes even through our movement when that is called forth by the worship planners.

Soon, we begin the season of Lent. Lent is traditionally a season of reflection, of turning, of finding new meaning. As we worship together throughout Lent and the whole of the church year, the Worship Summit calls to each of us to pay some attention to how we, individually contribute to the worship experience for ourselves, and those around us.

We treasure the photo history that is kept and shared. It helps newcomers like Rhonda to get to know people better. Yet, after a discussion at the Worship Summit, we are asking that photographs be done before or after worship. Also, photos can be taken from the balcony. With special guests, we will make it known to them that we value our worship history and will want a photo opportunity with them.

We value a worship time that benefits all. May our voices be raised in praise, yet may our voices not distract from the quietness others may need, may our appreciation of music be tempered by the rousing or the reflectiveness of the anthem, and may our "witness" to Pastor Tim's preaching be supportive and committing of ourselves to the voice of God that we may be hearing. And may the Holy One bless our worship together and personally.

Elizabeth Patrick, Worship Team Leader





From the Moderator

In his February 24 sermon “A Man’s Castle, A Woman’s Way,” Tim used the Gospel story of Simon the Pharisee and the woman with the alabaster jar to illustrate the difference between living as a castle-keeper and living as one on a journey. Christ calls us to leave our castles and choose the better way—the anointing way, the journeying way. One of Tim’s points was about dealing with one of the road hazards of the journeying way, the infamous “are we there yet???”—that human need to be at the final destination.

“Are we there yet?” The phrase reminds me of hundreds of childhood car trips. It also reminds me of the Smurfs. If you’re Belgian, you probably know the Smurfs from their comic strips that began in the 1950s. If you’re American, you probably know them from their Saturday morning cartoons in the 1980s. Smurfs are little blue people who live deep in the forest in a village of mushroom houses. They like to eat smurfberries, do their chores, and smurf other smurfy things in their spare time. They are a loving and caring community, industrious and passionate in their pursuits, and quite heroic when the need arises. (Sound familiar?)

When the Smurfs needed to travel over any great distance, they would form a long line and walk single file. Papa Smurf, their leader, would be at the head of the line. They usually didn’t make it very far before some Smurf in the line would call out, “How much farther, Papa Smurf?” “Not far now,” Papa Smurf would reassure them in his calm voice. They would walk on. After some time, another Smurf would call out, “How much farther, Papa Smurf???” “Not far now,” Papa Smurf would say—this time with a little more edge to his voice. They walked on. As the distance grew, so would the agitation in the line. When some Smurf just couldn’t stand it any more, he would call out, “How much farther, Papa Smurf???” Finally, Papa Smurf’s patience would run out, and he would yell in his loud voice, “IT’S A LONG WAY!”

Why did this particular point in the sermon stand out to me? Why am I thinking about Smurfs at age 35? Because at the February 21 Stewardship Council, I got a dose of reality. As we talked about all of the work that needed to be done, a voice within me—which I would now describe as my Inner Smurf—asked, “How much farther?” And the answer came back, “IT’S A LONG WAY!” There is a lot of work to do!

At first, this was disheartening. However, with the help of Tim’s sermon, I was able to curtail my woe-is-me thinking and realized that it is a matter of perspective. Of course it’s a long way! It’s a journey that never ends! Now, I am a human being, and as such I see my existence as rather finite. My time—as I know and understand it—has its limits. Therefore, I tend to think in finite, limited terms. Things have beginnings and endings. They’re like me. That makes them relatable, comprehensible. If I can understand, then I feel good. So, how does a finite human being handle an infinite journey?

We break the journey down into steps. We make peace with the reality that we weren’t there to take the first step and we won’t be there to take the last step. We just take our steps—the ones right in front of us.

What then are the steps in front of UBC? With regards to Seeking the House God Has for Us, there are several next steps. I’ll discuss them in terms of our working groups:

- Our Sale/Development Working Group was very active in 2007 as well as in January 2008. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to make the decision to sell our building and property and we have recruited a realtor. Now, we’re letting our realtor do his work. Several interested buyers have toured the building. Our next step is to wait for an offer!
- With the decision made at the Annual Meeting, the Shared Parish Working Group has been empowered to begin negotiations for leasing space. Their work has entered a new (and exciting) phase.

- The Spiritual Care of the Congregation Working Group will need to be more active. 2008 will be an emotional rollercoaster. There will be some days of loss and grief and some days of birth (or re-birth) and joy. There will be a de-commissioning of our building and a commissioning for our new space. Through it all, we need to be community for each other. If you are interested in joining this group, please let me know.

In addition to the next steps being taken by these working groups, there are more steps that we need to take. These steps don't fall within the scope of the existing working groups, so I propose that we form two new working groups to address them:

- The Personal Property Working Group will organize and manage UBC's personal property through the process of selling the building and property. Our personal property is the "stuff" that UBC owns—furniture, equipment, files, etc. This working group will establish criteria to determine which things we will take with us and which things we will not. To help with this work, the group will need to consult and interview the "experts" within our congregation—people who know specific aspects of our community, our history, or our building like the backs of their hands. The group will also need to develop recommendations about what we will do with the things that we will not take—discard them, sell them, give them away, etc. When it's time to do the actual physical labor of sorting and organizing, this group can organize work parties to get more people involved. This group needs to have a good mix of people. We certainly need creative people to come up with some imaginative solutions. We certainly need people with some history at UBC that can put our personal property into proper context. We also need to have a good balance between the pack-rats and the only-the-shirt-on-my-back types. I expect that this group will be active for 6 to 12 months.
- The Future Finances Working Group will develop a recommendation for a long-term strategy for handling monies gained from the sale of the building and property. Their primary work will be to solicit and catalog input from the congregation. The group will determine its own methods, but suggestions include congregational conversations, panel discussions, and surveys. The group will also need to work with the teams (esp., Finance Team, Mission Support/Peace and Justice Team, and Pastor/Staff Relations Team) in terms of gathering input from them and coordinating efforts with them. For example, a mission summit like the one held on February 23 would be beneficial to both the Mission Support/Peace and Justice Team and the Future Finances Working Group; it could be organized as a joint-venture. This group can use people with a variety of talents; it need not be a team of CPAs. I expect that this group will be active for 3 to 6 months.

Both of these new working groups need to be up and running as soon as possible, and I'm looking for volunteers! If you have an interest in helping with either one of these working groups, please let me know.

It's a long way, folks! And that's a good thing! Don't believe me? That's OK—just take one step.

Eric Brown

Remembering Jamie Robbins

Jamie Robbins was one of my best friends. We were classmates in seminary. I introduced him to his wife, was in his wedding party and he officiated at my and Tricia's wedding. He died in March 1988 at 33 years of age, of germ cell cancer. Jamie was a pastor at University Baptist Church in Seattle, a church with a long tradition of taking the teachings of Jesus very seriously. So seriously, that they declared themselves to be a 'sanctuary church' in the mid 1980's. Being a 'sanctuary church' meant publicly welcoming illegal immigrants from El Salvador, to literally make a home in their church building. The immigrants from El Salvador were fleeing a horrific civil war in their country, a war funded by tax dollars from the United States.

University Baptist drew upon an ancient tradition, that the vulnerable would enjoy 'safe refuge from violence' in any Christian church. Of course, what University Baptist did was illegal in the eyes of our government . . . but the members of the church believed, that they were responsible to a 'higher authority'.

University Baptist was a good fit for Jamie. Both the church and their pastor took Jesus seriously . . . and because they took Jesus seriously, it took them to places and positions they'd otherwise not go. Jesus took them in the 1980's to El Salvador and Nicaragua during the US sponsored war in both countries. They helped sponsor an orphanage and became a sister church to Galilee Baptist

Church in Managua. During that time, University Baptist challenged the U.S economic embargo against Nicaragua, bringing in humanitarian aid. Again, they believed they were responsible to a 'higher authority'.

In 1981 Jamie gave a sermon entitled: "Why Jesus Loves Homosexuals". Jamie mentioned that the sermon was met with mixed reviews and that worship attendance for that Sunday was cut in half. However with time and much reflection and study, University Baptist in the 1990's declared itself to be a welcoming place for gay folk. Again, taking the words of Jesus seriously took them to a new place.

I wish you had known Jamie. Because he took Jesus so seriously, he was blessed with a huge heart, a joyful nature and a courageous spirit. For me and so many others, Jamie Robbins was a reflection of the expansive nature of the One, who came to us from God so long ago.

Next month, marks the 20th anniversary of Jamie's passing. Yet, he lives on in me . . . and he lives on in all who strive to take Jesus seriously. For the life of Jamie Robbins, I give thanks to the Lord.

With you on the journey,
Kent



Kent Harrop is the pastor of First Baptist Church McMinnville Oregon.
This Article appeared in their February 2008 Newsletter. Reprinted with permission

LENT & EASTER 2008

Soul Soup continues in March on **Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** in the McAfee Parlor with soup at 6:00 and a *Lectio Divina* conversation about the text for the following Sunday from 6:30 – 7:00. See the special Holy Week/Maundy Thursday event below.

Creation Spirit, **Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.** Join an interview with Erin Lothes, Ph.D. of Columbia University, Earth Institute Fellow, as we talk about how care for the Earth impacts our spirituality and community. Be part of a national study on congregations and care of the Earth!

Peace Conference, remembering the 5th anniversary of the war in Iraq, will be hosted by UBC on **Palm Sunday afternoon**. Watch for more details as we support the effort for peace.

Holy Week, **Palm Sunday – Easter Sunday, March 16-23**

- **Palm Sunday, March 16**: We continue the Anointing Series with the text from John 12.12-19 – Jesus is anointed with praise! A U-District gathering of churches is planned for **9:40 a.m. on ‘The Ave’ between 45th and 47th**. Worship at **UBC at 10:30 a.m.** with music, poetry, and message by Tim. **Peace Conference** follows worship.
- **Maundy Thursday, March 20**, following a light dinner at **UBC at 6:00 p.m.**, we gather for a service of anointing, foot or hand washing, and reflection. We ‘do this in remembrance’ of the one who asks us to serve the world in the promise of peace.
- **Good Friday, March 21**, two opportunities to gather to remember the life and death of Jesus: **noon ecumenical gathering at University Congregational United Church of Christ** and **7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service with Wedgwood Community Church (ABC)** at Wedgwood – the choirs of both churches will lead us from the cradle to the grave with the promise of Emmanuel, God-with-us.
- **Easter Sunday, March 23**, the resurrection is celebrated at UBC with music, dance, and message by Tim at **10:30 a.m.** as the women come to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus – and discover a promise! Please bring a flower as we move into the future with the promise from Isaiah 61: “... to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning.” **Following the service, stay for Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt** in the Social Hall. Also, in celebration of the resurrection promise of **Jamie Mock-Robbins**, the Robbins Library on the second floor will be open for you to celebrate the promise of this remarkable young man. Please invite families of all kinds this Sunday!

EASTER SEASON DATES IN APRIL

Saturday April 5, the resurrection Jesus greets his disciples: “Peace be with you.” And join the **Seattle Peace Chorus for *Martin Remembered***, a world premier musical tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Seattle First Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. The Peace Chorus joins the Men’s Chorus of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the Praise Chorus of St. Therese Roman Catholic parish with a mix of gospel, hymns, jazz, Indian raga and European choral music. For more information see info@seattlepeacechorus.org, www.brownpapertickets.com/23276 or call (206) 264-5532. Remember that the rehearsal home of the Seattle Peace Chorus is UBC!

Sunday, April 6, **Easter Season Communion** from Luke 24 – the Road to Emmaus leads to UBC with special choral music and message by Tim.

Friday, April 18, **MultiFaith Works, Many Voices, One Song, 7:00 p.m.** benefit at Seattle First Baptist Church. Support the spiritual and practical work of this organization -- including our own **Rev. Angela Farrar** – on a night of Taiko drums, music from the Andes, Captain Smartypants from the Seattle Men’s Chorus, and a 6-member African-American women’s ensemble *Sankofa*. UBC is a sponsoring organization of this event. For more information, see their website at www.multifaithworks.org.

WORSHIP IN MARCH

Every Sunday

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearses in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Bible Study in the McAfee Parlor

10:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Program

Sunday, March 2

LENT IV, Worship and Communion

John 1.41: "We have found the Messiah (which is translated Anointed)."

Angela Farrar preaching.

Sunday, March 9

LENT V

John 12.3: "Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment."

Tim Phillips preaching.

Sunday, March 16

PALM SUNDAY

John 12.13: "... they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Tim Phillips preaching; peace conference follows worship.

Sunday, March 23

EASTER

Mark 16.1: "And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus."

Tim Phillips preaching; Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt follows worship.