



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

March 2009

We Journey in Hope

Many of us are old enough to remember Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'." If one put that title with Lennon's "Imagine" we would have a pretty good picture of the state of our congregation. As we accept that the times are changing in the life of this church, we also have agreed to imagine the future we want.

Last month, we voted to accept an offer on our building. And, at our Stewardship Council meeting the council voted to accept the recommendation of an interim minister brought by the Pastoral and Staff Relations Team (PSRT). We are delighted to have Rev. Nancy Darnell coming to share our ministry, beginning March 22. Nancy has been in ministry for about 20 years, much of it in co-pastoring with her husband, Stan Smith. Stan became pastor at Panther Lake Baptist in Kent. Nancy has also been serving as in interim in Gillette, Wyoming.

The PSRT had a face-to-face interview with Nancy that was exciting, energizing, full of imagining, and we found someone we believe can help us through the change we must face to move forward. Nancy is excited about coming to this place as she knows of us (we have a reputation!) and wants to be part of this incredible community. We believe she has the skill set, and understands well her role as an interim. This was borne out in the conversations I had with her references from Gillette.

Nancy will be $\frac{3}{4}$ time and will be preaching, initially 3 times a month. She will visit people, be at Stewardship Council meetings, and other team meetings. She prefers to work collaboratively with people, loves worship and enjoys planning it with other people. The Council has asked that I continue to be involved in the worship planning with Nancy and Margie and I will work to make the request happen. We will plan a special welcome for Nancy to allow people to get to meet her. Please do not hesitate to call me or other members of the PSRT (Eric Brown, CoraLea Doty, Kathryn Jans, Joy Smith) with questions.

On March 8, we will welcome to our pulpit Rev. Naomi Kirstein, Nate Kirstein's mother. She is to be here visiting family and we were able to convince her to come and share with us about her experience as the leader of a "missional" church. Her church was featured in an ABC National Ministries newsletter. Naomi will also speak with us at a forum following the worship service. As we have been looking at scriptures from Mark, we find Jesus so often saying... "Come and see." May we hear God's voice inviting us to "Come and hear."

– Elizabeth Patrick

Pastoral Intern

Bruce Chittick

Minister of Music

Margaret Paynton

Office Manager

Meesh Cobban

UBC Moderator

Joy Smith

UBCC Director

Sandra Blood

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submissions to Meesh at:
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Happy March Birthday:



3/1 Mary Clare Benson
3/4 Brooke Rolston
3/9 Sarah Reed
3/11 Heartie Anne Brewer
3/12 Sharon Johnson
3/16 Paula Eisenrich
3/16 Paul Wilkerson
3/19 Joy Smith
3/22 Rich Gile
3/22 Spencer Kaake-Chittick
3.26 Bruce Chittick
3/26 Sue Doty
3/27 Valerie Foster
3/30 Mary Rolston

Happy Belated Birthdays to:

1/22 Savar Mashhudi
2/1 Russ Kaake
2/13 Lisa Nordlander

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

March Special Offering: America for Christ

The America for Christ Offering supports the ABC National Ministries' mission work in the United States. America for Christ gifts support ministries that transform lives, churches and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico – bringing hope to children living in poverty, supporting youth and campus ministries, discipleship and resource development, evangelism training, missional church ministries, and the church planting team. For more information see www.abc-afc.org.

Among Ourselves...

Our prayers are with **Ed Myer**, whose father, Everett, passed away on January 24 . . . We hold in our hearts **Mary Jeffers Schroder**, as she mourns the violent death of Tyrone Love. Mary worked with Tyrone's mother and knew him since he was very young ... **John Doty, Dan Peterson, and Eric Brown** attended the American Baptist Men's retreat at Camp Burton on February 14, while 28 others gathered at Cascade Meadows for the Snow Retreat, some for a day and some for the whole weekend. Huge thanks to **Lin Carlson** for coordination, **Michael Vaughan** for food hauling, and **Gail Foster and Eva Gaertner-Johnston** for crafts ... As we go to press, we send travel blessings to **Joy Smith** and **Rhonda Hue**, who are in New Orleans celebrating Mardi Gras; **Tosten Haugerud**, who has been biking from Spain to France (next stop, Tunisia); and **Peter Haugerud**, who is camping in the wilderness ... We welcomed home **Rosie Yee** from travels in Europe and California ... **Zandi Carlson** was at home for a few days in February, where she auditioned at the Theatre Puget Sound. **Zandi** graduates on May 9 ... **Kendra Kehl-Fie** is considering three graduate schools for a program in clinical psychology. We pray for her as she figures out how to visit all three schools at the same time! ... **David Bloom** is grateful for the contributions of UBC members and friends to his campaign for a seat on the Seattle City Council. In January, David raised more money than any of the other 11 candidates! ... **Mary Rolston** continues to exercise her new knee after a successful surgery on February 9; **Brooke and Mary** send abundant thanks for prayers, cards, visits, and gifts of food ... We rejoice that **Hilary Pittenger's** boyfriend, Liam, has begun a rewarding job at the Social Security office, and we pray for **Hilary's** father, who will undergo surgery for prostate cancer on Good Friday. **Gail Foster** looks ahead to her role as musical director of the Mountaineers production of "Seussical," which opens Memorial Day weekend ... **Carol Guthrie** is at home in her new assisted-living apartment with a nice view of tall evergreens at Aegis Lodge, Room 113, 12629 -116th Avenue NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. Carol's phone number in her room is 425-821-1199, and she encourages cards, calls, and visits. We look forward to seeing **Priscilla Chong Jue** in worship again soon ... We hold in prayer all who will be affected by the

closing of the **Saturday Kitchen**, and we celebrate the contributions of **David Metzger, Angie Bartels, Daniel Hannah**, and so many others who have lived their faith by serving in this mission ... We are grateful for the gifts of those who have provided pastoral care and preached eloquently on recent Sundays: **Bruce Chittick, Bev Spears, Elizabeth Patrick, Marilyn Marston, Brooke Rolston and Tom Nielsen**.

– 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

“What’s going to happen to our little church?” one long-term member wondered. What’s going to happen is certainly open to our imagination. However, much is happening right now. Members of our little church have been keeping pretty busy. We’ve had a transition team step up to lead worship and provide pastoral care. We’ve been planning the “Big Sort” of our building possessions, planning for our future worship site, and selecting an interim minister. This is quite a lot of work for so few

people in such short time. Yet, we still have a feeling of uncertainty.

On January 20th I stood on the National Mall in freezing weather with two million Americans who were welcoming in change. The feeling of joy, pride and anticipation surrounded me. We stood listening to the swearing-in of our new president and then to his inauguration speech. I looked around to see many people with tears in their eyes. Were they proud that we elected an African-American, touched by his speech, or hungry for change? I think it was all three. We are living in scary times, and President Obama’s inauguration brought us joy and hope. But more than that, it brought us a sense of participation. We were invited to work together, to care about one another, and participate in shaping our future.

Bev Spears preached about “The Fierce Urgency of Now”. She challenged us to do more, to take action, to participate in shaping our future. Our little church has long been active in social justice. We chose to sell our building so we could focus our resources on our missions. Despite uncertainty, we are becoming energized to shape our future.

What’s happening to our little church? We are planning for a change of location. We will have worship space, meeting space and parking space. We have found a wonderful interim minister, Rev. Nancy Darnell, who is eager to meet us and help us on our journey. In her profile, she wrote “I see ministry as a partnership and a mutual responsibility.” Her style is not only participatory, but energetic and creative. She is outgoing and enthusiastic. She says that as an interim minister one has to jump in and trust and expect to be trusted immediately. She has experience and ideas for helping us through our next stage. She says we have much to offer her and she is excited about learning from us.

When I have faced uncertainty and fear in my life, I get busy. I can relate many of my home improvement projects to big events: a death in the family, a change of jobs. I feel comforted and hopeful when President Obama invites me to take action. I feel comforted and hopeful when Bev Spears invites me to take action. I’m ready, Pastor Nancy. Let’s take action to shape the future of our wonderful little church!

– Joy Smith

American Baptist Women Spring Rally

ABW Ministries Spring Rally is an annual event of the North Puget Sound/Evergreen Women. As long as I remember there has been a Spring Rally – we gather to celebrate the work and Missions of the American Baptist Women of the ABC/USA. We catch up on the works of the other area churches and learn of efforts local, national and worldwide to serve in God’s World. A Special Offering is taken to support the chosen work. Music, scripture, meditation, and time to get acquainted beyond our usual circles are included in the program.

Seattle First Baptist will host our group on April 4th 2009. Our church will be doing the table decorations and I hope several of you will want to be there. We can share rides; parking will be free that day at First Baptist. As it is a “nine to two-thirty” event, lunch is served and pre-registration is encouraged by **March 20**. Early arrivals can anticipate coffee and goodies before the opening.

The cost is \$10 and that includes lunch and registration. Call me, CoraLea Doty at 206-363-7181 to register and arrange transportation. – CoraLea Doty, UBC/ABW Rep

“THE BIG SORT” – Coming to a Church Near You!

“The Big Sort” is not a movie. But it has some of the characteristics of a movie: full of excitement and even drama (and a few slow spots too, I’m sure). The Big Sort is an *event* – actually a series of events – to ready our building for new owners.



Here are some things to know right now:

- As a result of the Big Sort, we expect to **take some items with us, store some items, sell some items, and give a lot away.**
- The Big Sort has to happen **soon**. We won’t know for sure whether or not we’ve sold the building for some time. Assuming the sale goes through, we only have a month between closing and vacating the building. So we need to get to work now. Much of the work needs to be **done by April 10.**
- **You** are needed: your ideas, your brawn and brains, your good spirits. See the list of Big Sort **jobs** below. Contact Martha Bean at mbean@nwlink.com or Lori Taylor at lori.mj.taylor@seattle.gov to tell us which job you’d like to have. If you don’t **contact us we are likely to contact you!** So go ahead and be proactive!
- Those participating in the Big Sort will have a short (I promise!) meeting right after the service on **March 8.** Hold the date! We’ll have detailed ‘job descriptions’, a calendar and a packet of materials for you. If you can’t come to the meeting, don’t worry. We still need your help!
- If you have an idea about a **specific item** in the Church, please let Martha or Lori know right away so we can take this into consideration. For instance, Virginia Nielsen noted that the crocheted communion table cloths are of particular importance to her, and she would like the opportunity to buy them.
- **Members** (and probably friends) of UBC will **be able to purchase** items we don’t take with us, most likely at an estate sale or an auction. We hope to make this a celebratory event!
- Items not sold to members will become part of an **estate sale** open to the public.
- We’ve been **working on a system** to help us with the Big Sort: criteria to use when making decisions, forms, etc. If you are interesting in seeing nuts and bolts of the system, contact Martha at mbean@nwlink.com; she’ll send it to you.
- We will ask our buyers to give us ‘**right of first refusal**’ on a number of items should they choose to sell or remove them. Items include the organ, the stained glass windows, among other things.

JOBS FOR THE BIG SORT

Big Sort Leads for the **Basement**, the **Ground Floor**, the **Sanctuary**, the **Second Floor** and the **Third Floor**: Use the ‘system’ we’ve developed to decide what to do with the ‘stuff’ in the building.

Book Maven: Go through the books, decide if certain collections or groups of books (e.g., the Robbins Library) should stay together, and how to disburse these (if not through the estate sale).

Charity Champion: During the Big Sort some items will be tagged to go directly to charity; figure out how to get these items to those who need them. Diane Schmitz will help with this – you can help too!

History Buff: Works with items of historical interest. Eric Brown and Margie Paynton have already volunteered to help; more people can join in!

Sell, Store and Go Guardian: Identify and interview estate sale professionals and movers; research storage unit costs and locations. Work with Finance Committee to get contract ready for signing.

Music Devotee: Margie Paynton is taking the lead in sorting all things musical: sheet music, hymnbooks, robes, etc. Check with her if you’d like to help.

Documents Docent: Meesh Cobban needs the help of one or two people to help her make decisions about what to keep and what to recycle.

Hazards Helper: Work with Meesh Cobban to collect and dispose of batteries, fluorescent bulbs and old computers.

New Space Aficionado: Decide about and make a list of furnishings UBC will take to our new space. So we don’t sell something crucial or give it away!

Thanks, we look forward to working together. – Martha Bean

Cascade Meadows 2009



Good food, beautiful Valentines, raucous game playing, falling snow, reports of coyotes, and the annual ping pong tournament were just a few of the highlights of this year's Winter Retreat at Cascade Meadows. A core group of about 16 were joined by several one-day visitors who participated in both outdoor and indoor fun.

There was no food shortage, thanks to Michael Vaughan who bought and hauled food for the third straight year. The Costco-sized Tabasco might last a while, but the brownies didn't.



Gail Foster and Eva Gaertner-Johnston brought crafts, which included Valentine-making for "Secret Sweethearts", tissue flowers, beads, and painting beautiful muslin squares for a quilt.



We enjoyed falling snow most of the weekend, with skiing, snowshoeing, inner-tubing and snowwoman building. Edith Glover celebrated her 65th birthday in great style by sliding down the hill at the gravel pit. Caught up in nostalgia for the days before the road was plowed, David and Olivia Gordon skied into camp with backpacks.



Indoor activities included several loud rounds of "Catch Phrase" and quiet reading. The fireplace room was converted into an office this year as laptops enabled campers to catch up on work.

The youth group led worship on Sunday with planning assistance from Brooke Rolston and Sadie Cunningham. In the evening there were many participants in the annual ping pong tournament. After the exciting final match between Rhonda Hue and Eva, Eva proved that she could not be defeated and won the 2009 championship.

– Joy Smith

Saturday Kitchen at UBC to Close March 29th

It is with great sadness and regret that we inform you that Saturday Kitchen plans to close after serving lunch on March 29th. Several factors motivate our decision: we have been unsuccessful in finding a new location in the U-District; a decline in the number of core volunteers; increases in costs; and increased complexity in preparing and serving food with an all volunteer crew. We close our program recognizing, praising and celebrating the dedication of the churches, agencies and volunteers from throughout the Seattle area that have helped feed 80 to 120 people a nutritious hot meal every single Saturday since 1983. – Angie Bartels, Daniel Hannah and David Metzger

The Sacred Conversation on Race Continues

Courage, persistence, doubt, vulnerability, curiosity, pain, determination: These words express some of my own feelings as our congregation has engaged in a sacred conversation of race over the last several months. We've utilized a Lutheran study guide entitled "Troubling the Waters for Healing the Church: A Journey for White Christians from Privilege to Partnership". Together we've viewed *Traces of the Trade* and *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible* and pondered how to understand our history and how through that God calls us to respond in the present. We've wrestled with questions about what it means to be white, realized how important it is to learn about the histories of other racial/ethnic groups, and listened to one of our members preach on her experience as an African American woman in a predominantly white congregation. I'm grateful to all the different ways in which many of you have participated.

God continues to call us forward in this journey. We invite you to engage in some of these opportunities; your presence, experience, and sharing does matter and will enrich our conversation.

The next series of sessions for the Troubling the Waters (TTW) study series will be combined in a one-day session on Saturday, May 2, from 9am-3pm. (This is a change from our earlier plan to do two sessions on March 14th and March 29th as several people who wanted to participate already have commitments for those dates.) This session will be most fruitful for those who have had some earlier participation in the Thursday night TTW sessions previously held. Please mark your calendars for this time together and confirm your attendance with Diane at dschmitz@seattleu.edu, 206-365-4392, so we can plan for appropriate number of materials.

We've enhanced our offerings leading up to that one-day session. Here are opportunities for you to be involved in the ongoing conversation:

First Thursday Soul Soups: March 5, April 2 and May 7 will be sessions offering discussion, movies, group activities, etc. to continue to deepen our understanding of race, racism and whiteness. These gatherings start at 6pm.

Table Talks: These are opportunities to gather for dinner and conversation in the home of someone within the congregation to share our experiences and questions about race and racism within our culture. The Table Talks will be held from 6-8:30; dinner is provided and there will be a facilitator for the conversation. We are planning two or three Table Talk dinners around the end of March; dates will be announced soon.

Resource Table: We will regularly be displaying materials in the narthex on Sunday mornings that you may find helpful in your own exploration and reflection. These will include book and movie lists, web resources, articles, and educational opportunities offered within the Seattle area.

Learning Trips: We are planning an outing to the Wing Luke Museum, the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival (April 17-19) and other locations of interest to expand our knowledge of other cultures. Watch for announcements of these as they are organized; let us know if you have suggestions.

Congregational Sharing: We are hoping to share a sermon time at the end of April or early May for you to hear from congregational members who have been participating in the Troubling the Waters study, what they've experienced, what questions they continue to ponder, and their hopes for our congregation in this area.

If you have questions, please contact Brooke Rolston or Diane Schmitz.

– Diane Schmitz

Stewardship Council Minutes – February 19, 2009

Present: Joy Smith, Daniel Hannah, Jackie Lamont, Brooke Rolston, Elizabeth Patrick, Bruce Chittick, and Joanne Wright

Joy opened the meeting with prayer. A motion was made to approve the January 15, 2009 SC Minutes. The minutes were approved. Brooke read a letter from Rev. Herbert Carey of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church, thanking UBC for contributions for the Rites of Passage Ministry. Joy stated that the Baptist Peace Fellowship sent a letter in solidarity with UBC during this time of transition.

Pastor Staff Relations (PSRT): Elizabeth presented the report and recommendation for an interim minister. PSRT enthusiastically recommended Rev. Nancy Darnell, currently serving as an interim minister at a church in Gillette, Wyoming. The PSRT vote was unanimous after a nearly 2-hour interview with Rev. Darnell on Monday Feb.15. After discussion, the SC approved the nomination. Rev. Darnell will start at UBC on March 22.

Church Life: Discussion included developing a plan to welcome new members, and planning a special event to welcome Rev. Nancy Darnell on her first day in church on March 22.

Interim Team: Elizabeth reported that on March 8, Naomi Kirstein of Wellspring Community Church (Iowa) would be preaching. Her church may be of special interest to UBC since their bylaws do not allow the church to own property. Their church may be a model for UBC to consider. She suggested that UBC have an extended coffee hour after church to invite people to visit with Rev. Kirstein in the McAfee Lounge. Jackie suggested that several people assist with food for that day.

Building Team: Martha sent a report for the “Big UBC Sort”. The report includes a suggested list of items UBC would like to consider personal property, a list of tasks to be done, timelines, and a flow chart for the entire process. The Big Sort needs volunteers for many activities.

Learning and Play Team: Brooke presented a report that included: Adult L&P included the spirited send off for Tim Phillips; Young Adult Fellowship would like to re-start the Third Sunday Out gathering; Youth L&P events have included worship leadership at the Cascade Meadows retreat, and ongoing get-togethers after church on Communion Sundays; for Children’s L&P, Hilary Pittenger met with Sadie Robertson and Brooke to discuss how to hold regular monthly classes for children during worship.

The report also included a discussion on Soul Soup, and what team should be responsible for planning it. Joanne suggested that Rev. Darnell may want to continue the lectionary studies on Thursday nights once she arrives (excluding Sacred Conversation on Race discussions). Soul Soup is the only Bible study offered by UBC, and is an important component of church life. Elizabeth suggested that if a minister is not available to lead discussion on the lectionary, there are DVDs on religious topics available for use at that time.

Mission Support, Peace and Justice: Daniel reported that a letter had been sent out notifying agencies, churches and other communities that Saturday Kitchen would be closing. The last Saturday Kitchen will be March 29th. Elizabeth suggested that UBC acknowledge the contributions of David Metzger and Angela Bartels and other regular volunteers during a church service on March 22. A special offering could be collected to benefit similar programs such as Food Lifeline. Daniel also made a motion to approve a fundraising event to raise money for a legal defense fund for Ashley Smith and her friend Seth. The event will be a viewing of “To Kill A Mockingbird” on Feb. 28 at 7:00 pm. The motion was approved.

University Christian Church (UCC)/Moving UBC

The lease agreement with UCC will continue to be developed. The congregation will have to vote on the lease before it is final. Joy reported that UCC leadership is interested in meeting informally for a visit with the UBC Executive Committee (Joy, Daniel, Joanne and Mary Clare). A dinner is planned for March 22. The entire SC would get together with UCC leadership at a later time. The SC discussed ways to make the transition from the current building to our space at UCC, including a procession from UBC to UCC, having a party, decorating the space. In addition, UCC will need to ready the space for our use.

Next SC Meeting: March 12, 2009 – Submitted by Joanne Wright, Church Clerk

MARCH AT UBC

Every Sunday ...

9:15 Choir rehearses in the Sanctuary

10:30 Worship & Children's Program

- ☼ **Sunday March 1st • First Sunday of Lent** Communion Sunday; Rev Tom Nielsen preaching.
- ☼ **Thursday March 5th • Soul Soup** at 6:00pm – Sacred Conversation on Race.
- ☼ Saturday March 7th • **UBC Team at Saturday Kitchen.**
- ☼ **Sunday March 8th • Second Sunday of Lent**; Rev. Naomi Kirstein preaching; Special Offering for America for Christ. Conversation following worship to discuss with Naomi the “Missional Church.”
- ☼ **Thursday March 12th • Soul Soup** at 6:00pm – Discussion on Lectionary with Bruce Chittick; **Stewardship Council at 7:00pm.**
- ☼ **Sunday March 15th • Third Sunday of Lent**; Bruce Chittick preaching. Reception for Bruce following the service as we thank him for his service to UBC during his internship.
- ☼ **Thursday March 19th • Soul Soup** at 6:00pm – Discussion topic TBA
- ☼ **Sunday March 22nd • Fourth Sunday of Lent**; Honoring Saturday Kitchen; Welcoming Reverend Nancy Darnell as our Interim Minister.
- ☼ **Thursday March 26th • Soul Soup** at 6:00pm – Discussion topic TBA
- ☼ **Sunday March 29th • Fifth Sunday of Lent**; Rev. Nancy Darnell preaching.