



# The Beacon

University Baptist Church

November 2007

## THE HARVEST

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers ...”* Luke 10.2

As a child, I used to hear this text from Luke 10 as an indictment – a statement of guilt about how much there was to do and how few of ‘us’ there were to do it. So many souls. So little time. The upshot of this seemed to be that we felt a kind of superiority warranted by our lonely struggle to do good while the rest of the world was either a bunch of slackers or in need of saving.

The truth is, the laborers *are* few. And the work of love and justice and peace is great. But I have come to realize that the “Lord of the harvest” has a lot more laborers than I had been taught to recognize. There is the labor of the Rev. Ann Holmes Redding who, as an Episcopal Christian, is praying with Muslim women. And the labor of Buddhist monks with whom we prayed the prayer of loving-kindness in an interfaith service for freedom and justice in Burma. The other day I ran into Rabbi Zari Weiss who spoke at one of the Rauschenbusch Center events a couple years ago and is now laboring to organize the Jewish community for specific justice work. The laborers may be few but there are far more at work out there than we may have been taught to see. It is, after all, *God’s* harvest – not mine; not limited to Christians alone; not the product of super-heroes with super-powers and super-egos. It is any one of us willing to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with the One whose promise is to gather and heal the world.

As we head toward Thanksgiving – and from there into Advent – there is a line from a hymn that keeps running through my mind. In our hymnal, its title is “Come, O Thankful People, Come” and its first line says: “... raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin.” I think

that’s the real harvest God is looking for – not winning the competition of faith claims or feeling the lonely superiority of our knowledge and power to save. This is God’s harvest – a ‘harvest home’ where all are safely gathered in as the winter storms begin.

So please be part of our gatherings this season. The harvest is plentiful. And you may discover that there are far more laborers at work then you knew.

Blessings,  
Tim



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Deadline for the  
December/January issue is  
Sunday, November 25th.



## HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY:

- 11/4 Diane Geary, Violy DeGuzeman Reyes, Diane Geary;
- 11/6 Bret Peterson, Shari Peterson;
- 11/9 Charles Putnam;
- 11/16 Laura Robb; 11/22 Jeff Doty;
- 11/24 Clarence Bishop;
- 11/25 Sue Koeller;
- 11/28 Harvey Doty, Mara Palmen;
- 11/29 Patrick Green, Matt Paynton;
- 11/30 Priscilla Chong-Jue

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

## OUR NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING:

Supports Covenant House: Campus Christian Ministry, our ecumenical ministry among students at the University of Washington. UBC's gifts support student programs such as worship services, gatherings for fellowship, volunteer efforts, Bible study, marriage preparation workshops, and staff salaries and upkeep of the center.

## AMONG OURSELVES...

We welcomed **Marilyn Marston** as a member of UBC on Sunday, Oct. 21 – Marilyn is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served campus ministries and, most recently, our sister Evergreen church, Panther Lake Community Church; she is also learning to do oil paintings ... We were inspired by the words of the Rev. Ann Holmes Redding on World Communion Sunday but also moved by the music of **Audrey Smith** and two other youth in her bagpipe and drum group – Audrey travels to Scotland later this year and could use your financial support for this trip ... We celebrated the 31 years of music ministry offered by **Margie Paynton** on Sunday, Oct. 14 – in honor of that commitment she was commissioned as Minister of Music ... **Brooke Rolston** has returned from a trip to El Salvador that remembered and celebrated the justice work of his brother there and also provided an opportunity to catch up with **Erica Badgeley** in San Francisco who is settling in at Dominican University and continuing her dance studies ... Our summer seminary intern, **Travis Winckler**, has returned to Princeton from Guatemala and is looking to do an internship next year in D.C. with Bread for the World ... **Dan Peterson** has returned from another cruise on the Columbia on which he serves as the ship's historian ... **David Bloom** returns to Seattle on Nov. 4, and will be leading a Soul Soup program on Walter Ruschenbusch's ground-breaking *Christianity & the Social Crisis* which led the way for the Social Gospel movement – this is the centennial year of the publishing of that book which will be celebrated with several events at the end of November (see announcements for November) ... **Doris Brevoort**, in addition to work and school (she is in a Ph.D. program), is running for

Mayor of Mt. Vernon – strength to her! ... **Mike Stern** offered a benefit concert for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and several UBC folks were there to support him and this important justice organization ... **Jeff & Melissa Thirloway** are offering a recital at the Kirkland Women's Club on Sunday, Nov. 18, at 4:00 p.m. – several UBC folks are planning to attend ... **Bev Spears** celebrates the birth of her first grand-daughter, **Brooklyn Isla Montgomery** ... We keep **Lynn Gaertner Johnston** and **Eva & Michael** in our prayers in the loss of Lynn's mother in October; the family traveled to Florida for the memorial services on Oct. 22-23 ... We remember **Ginny Bishop** who continues to recover from a fractured collar bone ... Please keep **Carli MacColl** in your hearts as she cares for her step-mother – her step-brother Anton joined us in worship on Oct. 21 ... **The Homelessness Project (THP)** has announced that it is merging with The Self Managed Housing Program also of the Church Council of Greater Seattle – THP provides case management services for the families living in the transitional housing apartments on our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor; the new organization will cut operating costs and provide more funding for direct client needs ... Please keep all these 'laborers' in your hearts.

***A Note about Tim's November Schedule:*** Tim & Patrick will leave for the Thanksgiving holiday in the Midwest on Monday, November, 19, returning to Seattle – by train – on Wednesday, Nov. 28. During that time, administrative concerns can be referred to our Moderator, Martha Bean, and pastoral care concerns can be referred to Jackie Lamont and our Congregational Care team. For urgent matters, leave a message at Tim's home.



From the Moderator

## FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF UBC:

This year we've spent much time and energy to 'Seek the House God has for Us'. We've prayed and debated, we've researched and brought ideas to one another. We've learned new things, and our perspectives have duly evolved. What a gracious and strong group we are! As you read this article, we'll all be preparing for a congregational meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>,

where we will vote on a budget and a slate of candidates for 2008, and will consider the recommendation from the Stewardship Council 'The House God has for us'.\*

Recently someone asked me, "Are people despairing at your church right now?" I happily and emphatically said "no!" In fact, the mood seems to me to be anything but despairing. Contemplative at times, yes. One might also observe us being generous and opinionated, grieving and rejoicing all at the same time – all good things. But we are *not* despairing. We are full of hope. Have you noticed the new faces and families at UBC, coming to our church on a regular basis and as visitors? A despairing congregation does *not* attract new people. There is a sense of excitement among us right now. We can see the potential of our future – even though that future is, as yet, a promising mystery. Others are sensing this, and finding they may just join us in the journey to come.

Why, exactly, is this? Why have we at UBC been able to avoid the rancor and bone-deep sorrow that other churches sometimes experience when faced with battered but beloved buildings? Here's what I think:

We've continually focused on the premise that we are seeking whatever house *God* has for us. We ask – and receive – the help of the Spirit at every step.

We have *taken care with one another*: listening, asking, honoring. Working to make decisions by consensus, so that we can genuinely hear and use dissent and concern to build decisions that are durable and responsive.

We are re-connecting with *mission*. Many of us joined UBC because of its reputation for social activism and its work for peace and justice. We have joked that right now, our building is our mission: it takes energy, time and resources. And it also provides shelter, space and welcome to many. But now we are freeing ourselves to imagine mission beyond what our building can provide. And not just imagining; we are already 'doing'. Here are connections we've made *in the past year* even in the midst of our 'Seeking the House' work: We've joined the Center for Progressive Christianity, so that people will know how we hear Jesus calling us [www.tpc.org](http://www.tpc.org). We are actively supporting efforts to end the wars [www.oct27.org](http://www.oct27.org). We are hearing from and supporting our brothers and sisters in Burma [www.uscampaignforburma.org/](http://www.uscampaignforburma.org/) and in the Philippines.

We are part of the New Sanctuary Movement [www.newsanctuarymovement.org/press.html](http://www.newsanctuarymovement.org/press.html). We have heard from courageous Episcopal clergyperson Ann Holmes Redding about her commitment to *be* of those she prays for, in part by practicing Islam. We are becoming even more active in our Evergreen Association of Baptist Churches [www.evergreen-abc.org](http://www.evergreen-abc.org), a collection of churches that employ (not just talk about) a governance structure that *requires* parity among ethnic and cultural groups. Through Evergreen and *Suessical the Musical*, we are working for the hosts and guests of Tent City 4 [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tent\\_City\\_4](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tent_City_4). We are supporting individuals in our congregation who hear the call to mission, both near and far. What a rich array! As we move ahead, proud of where we've been and excited about what is ahead, let's continue exercising these three strengths: Keeping our Abba-God at the core of all we do; taking care of one another; and doing the work Jesus calls us to do.

Fondly, Martha Bean moderator 2007

*\*For a full copy of the recommendation and the thinking behind it, please go to [ubcseattle.org](http://ubcseattle.org), click on 'Seeking the House' on the left, and then click on 'November 2007 Recommendation'. Or, call Sofia at the office and ask her to send you a copy).*

# STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES, OCTOBER 11, 2007

Present: Bev Spears, Daniel Hannah, Mary Clare Benson, Tim Phillips, Martha Bean, Eric Brown, Elizabeth Patrick, and Lin Carlson.

Martha opened the meeting. The September 20<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: Meesh is on board to provide us with 10 additional hours/week to her current 30 hours per month as Building Manager. The celebration for Margie is scheduled for this Sunday. The stewardship letter was sent out this week to the congregation. The Rauschenbusch dinner event will be on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. October 20<sup>th</sup> is the worship summit. Building will be closed on November 11<sup>th</sup> after Saturday Kitchen to be "bugged out."

Treasure's Report: Mary Clare distributed the financial report. She indicates that we are in pretty good shape with income and expenses.

PSRT: Eric provided a brief report.

MSPJ: Stewardship Council approved the MSPJ team motion to encourage other congregations to participate in the Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> End the War Rally and March. Letter will be sent out.

Learning and Play: Youth are invited to participate in upcoming events. Adult educational events were discussed.

Church Life: Elizabeth reported that worship summit will focus on Advent and Christmas.

Congregational Ministries: Bev reported on the status of candidates for officers and team leads in 2008. These include the following: Lin as Church Clerk, Mary Clare as Treasure, Mary Rolston as Financial secretary, Elizabeth as PSRT Lead and Evergreen representative, Daniel as MSPJ Lead, Brooke Rolston as Learning and Play Lead, Jackie as Congregational Care Lead, Aaron Burkhalter as communication Team Lead, and Bev Congregational Ministries Coordinator. Bev explained we need candidates for Moderator elect, Congregational Ministries and Welcoming. PSRT and Finance and MSPJ Teams are looking for members.

Evergreen Region: Elizabeth gave her report and asked us to remember those with health problems. A total of 62 tickets have been sold in our congregation for Seussical!

Moderator's Report: 'Seeking the House God has for Us'

Martha informed us that we did not receive any written proposals from developers by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Working Group Leads are recommending the motion below as our next step. The Council discussed the reasons for this action. The motion was approved by the council that *the Stewardship Council recommends the following to the congregation: University Baptist Church will offer our property (building and land) for sale as soon as feasible.*

The Stewardship Council will present this recommendation to the congregation at the October 21st special meeting for discussion and then for action at the November 18, 2007 business meeting. Opportunities for small group discussion will be offered between the two meetings. Lin moved and Eric seconded a motion to authorize Martha to retain counsel for upcoming plans. Motion was approved.

Meeting ended 9:10pm.

Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk

## NOVEMBER EVENTS



### SOUL SOUP ON THURSDAYS

We continue to gather for soup at 6:00 on Thursdays with conversation and study following at 6:30. The upcoming schedule of programs is:

- Nov. 1: A Report from El Salvador by Brooke Rolston – see the work that continues the legacy of Brooke’s brother and connects us to our historic commitment to Sanctuary.
- Nov. 8: *Christianity & the Social Crisis* (Part I) led by David Bloom – learn about this book that provided the impetus for the Social Gospel movement published 100 years ago by Walter Rauschenbusch. A new edition includes essays by Tony Campolo, Joan Chittister, James Forbes, Cornell West, and others. The book is edited by Walter’s great grandson, Paul, who will be speaking at UBC on Sunday, Dec. 2. See more details ...
- Nov. 15: *Christianity & the Social Crisis* (Part II) by David Bloom.
- Nov. 22: Thanksgiving – no Soul Soup.
- Nov. 29: Soul Soup resumes – program to be announced.

### **Seussical** *The Musical*

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, actors from the Lakewood Playhouse will do a benefit performance of the Broadway musical, *Seussical!* at University Christian Church. **Sponsored by The Evergreen Association** one half of all proceeds from *Seussical!* will be donated to SHARE/WHEEL, Tent Cities. The other half will come to Evergreen Association to help support the social justice ministries and missions of its member churches. This is a one night only performance! Tickets are available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or by calling 1-800-838-3006.



### Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action

**Rauschenbusch Center for Spirit and Action**  
*Seventh Annual Rauschenbusch Dinner and Lecture*

**Friday evening, November the 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**  
**University Christian Church**  
**4731 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE.**

The Rauschenbusch Center invites you to join us in celebrating our spiritual heritage and the centennial anniversary of Walter Rauschenbusch’s seminal work, *Christianity and the Social Crisis*. **Paul Raushenbush**, Walter’s grandson, a scholar and activist in his own right, will be with us that evening to recount the historical impact of Walter’s ministry as well as its relevance for the mission of the Church in our day.

We promise you a good meal and good fellowship with other Seattle area progressive Christians. **To register please call Joshua Liljenstolpe at (206) 525-1213 x3037 or go to our website, [www.rauschenbusch.org](http://www.rauschenbusch.org).**

## **ADVENT WORSHIP: *The Fabric of Christmas***

At this year's Fall Retreat (thanks to CoraLea Doty & Jackie Lamont), we began the creation of two new banners for this coming Advent / Christmas / Epiphany season. Collecting materials from our various celebrations, these pieces of cloth are being cut and sown into an image that reminds us of the various layers of this season. Since we experience each layer simultaneously, we may presume that these 'holy days' are all 'of a piece.' In fact, there are several pieces ...

- The **birth stories of Matthew & Luke** come down to us through several historical layers ...
- **Culture / tradition / community** – for good and/or bad -- creates another layer that often pits the commercialism of the culture against the values of our community ...
- Our own **families** create a layer – also for good or bad – through which we experience the holidays in our own ways ...
- And we expect that this season will offer us something that will over-lay the season with a **sense of hope** for the world in which we live.

We probably can't extricate ourselves from all these layers but we can acknowledge them and, having named them, shape them for our celebration of this season. From the work of our Worship Summit, we plan to do this with ...

### **ADVENT I, Sunday, Dec. 2, *The Promise of Advent***

Paul Raushenbush will be preaching about the ancient and ever-new layer of the promise of the coming reign of God -- especially as it has been envisioned in the Social Gospel movement of which Paul's great-grandfather was a leading exponent.

### **ADVENT II, Sunday, Dec. 9, *The Family of Advent***

Using the story from Matthew 1.18-25, Tim will preach about the family layer of the season and the pitfalls of the 'Holy Family' syndrome.

### **ADVENT III, Sunday, Dec. 16, *The Community of Advent***

This service is based on the story of Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1.39-57 as these two women form a Spirit-filled community that pre-figures the Church.

### **ADVENT IV, Sunday, Dec. 23, *Youth Christmas Pageant***



*God restores my soul ...  
God leads me in the paths of  
justice ...  
My cup overflows.*

*Psalm 23*

## **2008 Pledge Commitment**

You've noticed the waterfall in the baptistery. You've seen the ceramic cups decorated at the retreat. You've heard the words from this familiar Psalm. It all points to a commitment you will make – and are making – to live in the confidence that your life will overflow with goodness and mercy. The flow in Psalm 23 is that a restored soul moves in the direction of justice and that leads to a life overflowing with goodness and mercy. Sustaining that flow is stewardship. If you have not yet made your 2008 pledge of energy and finances, please do so today using the form on the next page and returning it to the office. Your pledge helps us to be good stewards of our resources for the coming year. Thank you for being the gift you are!

# NOVEMBER WORSHIP

Choir at 9:00 a.m. / study group in Dotson Lounge at 9:15 a.m. Worship at 10:30

**November 4 (All Saints Sunday & Communion): *The Harvest – Roots***

NOTE: Daylight Savings Time ends – Fall Back!

Tim preaching from Jeremiah 17.5-8

**November 11: *The Harvest – Trees***

Tim preaching from Isaiah 61.1-4

**November 18: *The Harvest – Leaves***

Tim preaching from Revelation 22.1-2

End of year business meeting follows worship. Agenda items include 2008 Budget, election of officers and the proposal by the Stewardship Council about our property.

**November 25: *Harvest Sunday***

A Thanksgiving Service led by Minister of Music, Margaret Paynton.