



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

October 2008

A SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

Since the beginning of this year, individuals within our community have felt the need to discuss the issue of race. You may think it a coincidence that several people sense the same need. I prefer to think of it as God's Spirit in action. We are told that the Holy Spirit is sensitive to our groans "too deep for words" and that the Holy Spirit acts on our behalf as intercessor. So too may we be sensitive to the groans of God's Spirit. And so too may we be called to act on God's behalf. I think such was the case of the individuals who heard the call to talk about race at UBC. The matter reached the Stewardship Council as early as the April 17 meeting. I'm pleased to say that the idea of discussing race at UBC was well received. Taking our cue from the United Church of Christ, we too have begun a "Sacred Conversation on Race."

My hopes for our Sacred Conversation on Race have both an internal and an external aspect. I hope this conversation provides us with a time for self-examination and introspection – as individuals and as a community. Likewise, I hope that the conversation will spur us to form new relationships with sister churches in the Evergreen Association that are not predominantly white.

If you were at our Fall Retreat at Camp Burton, these hopes won't surprise you; they come from our Saturday morning devotions. Tim had invited Rick Barlow, our representative from the American Baptist Foundation, to lead our devotional time using the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" – often called the "Black National Anthem" – as the text. Rick quickly turned his devotions into an opportunity for conversation. We read the hymn one line at a time. Rick invited those gathered to share the thoughts and experiences that came to them through the imagery of the hymn. There were stories of racism in national and personal history. There was the awareness of "white privilege" – a corollary of racism; the advantages of being white. There were stories of the healing power of being in relationship. The Sacred Conversation on Race in the wider UBC community had begun!

And the conversation will keep going... The Sacred Conversation on Race will "officially" begin with a team sermon by Diane Schmitz and Bev Spears on September 28. We will show the film *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* on October 18. After that, we hope to start a program for small group conversations.

Friends, the Spirit of God is groaning with hurt that is too deep for words. Centuries of thinking in terms of "superior" and "inferior" cannot be undone in a few decades. Our Sacred Conversation on Race is one step we can take, one step closer to the "Beloved Community." I hope that, in taking this one step, the next step will become clear. And then the next step and the next... Let it be so, for we journey in hope.

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Deadline for the November
issue is Sunday, October 19..



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY:

- 10/5 Xaviera Ortiz
- 10/7 Lori Taylor;
- 10/18 Linwood Carlson;
- 10/20 Jim Paynton; Kwasi Tay
- 10/22 David Katterman;
- 10/29 Walt Pulliam;

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

OUR OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERING

supports the American Baptist World Missions. AB international missions offer faith-based life-giving support to people on all six continents. Relief work, resources for children's ministry, training volunteers and full time instructors for education and sort term loan programs to help the poor help themselves are just a few of the important works that our donation support through this agency.

AMONG OURSELVES

Thanks to all those who helped make the 2008 Fall Retreat at Camp Burton a resounding success – thanks especially to **Eric Brown, Patrick Green, Margie Paynton, Rick Barlow** (of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the American Baptist Foundation), and roundtable leaders: **Elizabeth Patrick, Mary Clare Benson, Aaron Burkhalter, and Brooke Rolston**; you will hear more from their work in the days to come ... **Carol Guthrie** sends her greetings from home as her doctors make a plan for addressing her neck and knee concerns – from home she continues to send cards and make phone calls to others who are in need of prayer ... **Ginny Bishop** is at home where she is being cared for by 24-hour health-care 'angels' who are working to increase her physical strength ... We continue to keep **Charles & Alethea Putnam** in our prayers as they both face health concerns ... We also remember our former interim minister **Walt Pulliam** and his wife **Marilyn** as Walt nears the end of his life ... On Sept. 21, with our sisters and brothers at Olympic View Church of the Brethren and her large family, we celebrated the life of **Margaret James**, longtime UBC church secretary – and saint – and we mourn the passing of **Rudy Russell**, a longtime volunteer with Saturday Kitchen, on Sept. 7 ... **Doris Brevoort** asks for continued prayers for her friend Richard who was one of the folks injured in the shootings in Skagit County – **Aaron Burkhalter** was a reporter covering that story and wrote a great piece about pastoral care for those

impacted by the violence ... We celebrate a successful surgery for **Tom Nielsen** who says he can see clearly now ... **Bev & David Spears** took son **Aaron** off to Western Washington U on Sept. 20 and **Martha Bean & Ralph Haugerud** saw son **Tosten** off for a year in France on Sept. 21 ... **Lynn & Michael Gaertner Johnston** are celebrating the opening of an office for their business outside their home ... **David Bloom** continues his work on homelessness and has been part of the 'Nickelsville' camp effort... **Lin Carlson** was part of a conference on micro lending for Kenyans and is looking forward to sharing that information with us soon ... We are proud that our American Baptist General Secretary, **Dr. A. Roy Medley** was co-chair of the Baptist/Muslim taskforce held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Islamic Society of North America – prayers for that work toward understanding and peace.

YOUNG DOC'S ON THE MOVE...

While Xaviera Ortiz and Sarah Reed are doing their rotations they will be moving around a lot. Sarah said at the retreat that remembering where she is can be challenging because of the moves, not to mention the lack of sleep. Keeping track of their addresses may not be easy but many of you have expressed the desire to stay connected. Both Xavi and Sarah's email addresses are staying the same so this is the best way to track them down. If you need an address for cards or packages email them for a current "best mailing address. xaviera.ortiz@gmail.com & sareed@u.washington.edu

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY STUDENT BEGINS INTERNSHIP

Beginning **Sunday, Sept. 28**, Bruce Chittick, a member of Seattle First Baptist Church and a student at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry, will serve as a student pastoral intern with us at UBC. Bruce will be with us at least through March 15, 2009 and will be working in various pastoral capacities as part of his training. Tim will meet with him each week for reflection and planning. Please welcome Bruce and his partner, Russ, and their toddler Spencer as they begin their time with us. Welcome Bruce, Russ, and Spencer!



FROM THE UBC OFFICE...

Hello everyone! Many of you know that I've been working in the office in addition to my building duties the last two months, and the Stewardship Council has approved extending this arrangement permanently. My current office hours are Tuesday – Friday from Noon until 4pm, but if you need to reach me at other times please call my cell phone – 206-913-7271. I really appreciate the support and positive feedback I've gotten; thank you to everyone in the UBC community for being so wonderful! Now, a couple of updates:

Every month the Beacon is posted to our website – if you would like to read it online, and help us save mailing and paper costs, we would appreciate it! I'll include a link to the online Beacon in our weekly UBC emails, and we always have a few copies in the office. If you would like to switch to the “paperless” Beacon, or pick it up at church instead of having it mailed to you, please let me know at office@ubcseattle.org or 206-632-5188.

We also are using a new service provider for our UBC email list – hopefully the new format is working for everyone. You should be getting our “This Week at UBC” emails every Sunday morning. If you aren't on the list, we have a signup form available on our website, or you can email me at office@ubcseattle.org.

Finally, as we use up our current stock of paper (most of which is 35% recycled) I'll be switching over to Grays Harbor Paper. Their Harbor 100 line is 100% recycled, with 100% post-consumer content; it's produced in Hoquiam, WA with 100% biomass renewable energy and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. If any of you in the UBC community would like a ream of letter-size paper for your own use, just let me know – a donation of \$5 would cover one ream.

Have a great fall!
Meesh



Remember.... We have an *active Congregational Care Team* at UBC. If you or someone you know at church is sick, needs pastoral care or has prayer concerns, please contact Jackie Lamont, our Congregational Care Team Coordinator, at 206-985-7927 or jlamont@iopener.net
If you could help by making a meal, visiting or writing a card please contact Jackie.

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

October begins our Stewardship season as we gather financial pledges and build our budget for 2009. And the old adage is true, money does not grow on trees. But it is also true that your financial commitments can grow into what the book of James calls 'a harvest of righteousness.' At the memorial service for long-time UBC member and church secretary, Margaret James, the pastor of Olympic View Church quoted this text as a testimony to the way Margaret invested her life. The full text says "... the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy – a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace" (James 3.18 & 18). So it's true that money does not grow on trees but the fruit of your investment in our life together could be a harvest of peace, mercy, and the right-relatedness we call justice. What kind of harvest is your money invested in?



Join us in making a financial pledge this October and help us celebrate those gifts at a special worship service on **All Saints Sunday, November 2**, as we remember the investment others have made in our own lives and in our life together as well. Pledge forms are being mailed or you can pick one up in the Narthex on Sunday. If you have questions, feel free to contact our Financial Secretary, Mary Rolston, at (425) 408-1944. Money does not grow on trees. But your money can help grow a harvest of peace, mercy, and justice in our community and in the world.



AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

Opportunity for All Church Project-ABW White Cross Quota

This year's White Cross requests have arrived! It has been duly noted that the economic downturn is making mission work even more difficult.

Our church has been assigned the following:

- For India....\$100 (goal \$90,169.00),
- For Panama...\$50 (goal \$2000.00)
- Our home mission project is in Kodiak, AK. We have the option of sending individual items, a Walmart gift card or a check. We have opted for the latter the last few years so that our dollars will go farther. Fifty dollars would cover their requests.

We invite anyone who would like to help with this project to give whatever amount works for you. Large or small, all donations will be gratefully received! (Checks may be made out to UBC, with ABW White Cross in the memo line) Together, I'm confident, we can meet the \$200 quota requested of us and at the same time extend a helping hand far beyond our borders.

Jackie Lamont, UBC White Cross Chair.

GRANDMOTHERS BIRTHDAY GROUP

A group of Grandmothers has been meeting for some time to celebrate their birthdays together. They meet on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday and celebrate the birthdays for that month. Carol Guthrie is the contact person and they would like to open it up to all women of the church whether they are grandmothers or not.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Present: Eric Brown, Joy Smith, Marilee Nielsen, Tim Phillips, Jackie Lamont, Brooke Rolston, Mary Clare Benson, Elizabeth Patrick, and Lin Carlson

Eric opened the meeting with prayer.

August meeting minutes were accepted.

Pastor's Report: Elizabeth stated that PSRT recommends that we continue with Meesh as office manager. Bruce Chittick will begin his Seattle University internship with us. He will be with us from September 28th to March 15th. Tim has a new email address: pastortimphillips@comcast.net. The following individuals are approved as UBC delegates at the Oct. 10-11 Evergreen Annual Meeting: Mary Clare, Brooke, Elizabeth, Eric, and Tim. November 23rd is set for the quarterly business meeting at which time the 2009 budget and new officers will be approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Clare distributed the August financial report. Our cash position is better this month than last. We are holding our own and expect pledge income to increase. Pledges currently at 92% of budget. The boiler expense is our largest outstanding bill. November 2nd, All Saints Sunday, was suggested as a time for offering pledges for 2009. A dessert auction was enthusiastically endorsed for Nov. 23rd.

Beacon Newsletter: Eric reported that Meesh provided information on how the newsletter costs could be reduced. We mail 290 newsletters each month. We could save \$250 per year if the newsletter is folded. We need 200 copies for bulk mailing rates. Reducing the number of copies printed and mailed is good stewardship for the earth. Short term goal is to try out the folding machine and also encourage folks to use the website.

Discussion Topics: Seattle Baptist Union dinner and annual meeting is scheduled for November 7th. We are hosting the event at UBC. The Seeking the House work group leads meeting is scheduled for September 30th. Elizabeth provided information on space at U Christian. This included the square footage of space we have explored. Our needs for space were reviewed. Thanks were expressed to Elizabeth for her ongoing work with U Christian. Work needs to begin soon on 2009 budget development and identification of officers and other Stewardship Council members. Teams need to identify their budget needs for next year and forward to the Finance Team. Brooke introduced a possible resource for our Sacred Conversation on Race: Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church (Leaders Guide).

Eric adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk

OCTOBER DATES

Soul Soup continues on **Thursdays** in October with soup served at 6:00 p.m. and Bible Study at 6:30. Also remember our *Gay Men's Spirituality Group* led by therapist and spiritual director, Dan Woodard, every **first Friday (Oct. 3)** at UBC.

And it will be a busy **Saturday, Oct. 4** ...

- **UBC TEAM at Saturday Kitchen.** To volunteer call Daniel Hannah at (206) 992-9453.
- Our local Evergreen Region of the American Baptist Churches is planning a **painting day at Fremont Baptist Church.** Contact our regional office if you can help at (253) 859-2226.
- Patrick Green will speak at the LifeLong AIDS Alliance **AIDS Walk** on Saturday morning – thanks to all those who have contributed this year!
- Sadie Robertson will host a **Brazilian Dinner Benefit at UBC** in the evening. For more information contact Sadie at (206) 330-6219.
- The **University Baptist Children's Center Dinner/Auction** will be held at University Christian Church also that evening. Contact the director, Sandra Blood, at (206) 632-5189 for more information.

World Communion Sunday, October 5, 11:00 a.m. A joint service of worship with University Christian Church at **University Christian** featuring the music of both choirs and **King County Executive, Ron Sims**, reflecting on the question: What in the world does it mean to be Christian? Ron is a person of faith, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and an elected official facing the questions we all are facing about faith and politics. Join both congregations and invite your friends to be part of this day celebrated by churches around the world.

Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches Annual Meeting, Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11 at New Hope Baptist Church. See the schedule information on a following page. Everyone is welcome as we continue to build relationships with our sister Asian-American, African-American, and Euro-American churches.

Traces of the Trade, Saturday, October 18, 6:00 p.m. The Sacred Conversation on Race group invites you to a showing in the McAfee Parlor of this powerful documentary tracing one family's journey to come face-to-face with its own history in the slave trade. There will be a conversation following this film and food will be provided.

Tamale Benefit for the Children of El Salvador, Sunday, October 19. Join us following worship as we hear from Carlos Amaya – one of our Sanctuary friends – who is traveling again to El Salvador with help for poor children there. You can continue this church's tradition of connection with Central America by joining us for this event.

2008 Festival of the Spirit – 'Them Bones' – Sunday, October 26. Our annual Halloween festival features the text from Ezekiel 37: "Can these bones live?" This is a day of worship and celebration for the whole family. Adults and children are invited to come in costume. Lunch follows worship and includes 'The Great Pumpkin Hunt' as well as Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. Invite a family to join you!



WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Note: Choir rehearses every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Oct. 5, World Communion

11:00 a.m. at University Christian Church, the corner of 15th Avenue NE and 50th Street. King County Ron Sims to address the question: "What in the world does it mean to be Christian?"

Oct. 12, 10:30 a.m. at UBC: *What does this mean?*

On this Evergreen Association Sunday, there will be greetings from Ken Curl of the Association Board and Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church. Tim preaches from the Annual Meeting text, Acts 2.12-21. This will also be the Sunday of our American Baptist World Mission Offering.

Oct. 19, *What shall we do?*

Tim preaches from Acts 2.36-47. Following worship Carlos Amaya hosts a tamale benefit for children in El Salvador.

Oct. 26, *Can these bones live?*

This pre-Halloween service considers the text from Ezekiel 37. Tim preaching with lunch and 'The Great Pumpkin Hunt' following worship.