



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

September 2008

Footprints in the Sand

"I could see only one set of footprints." Mary Stevenson

What is it about faith and feet? In one of the most climactic moments in the biblical tradition as Moses stands before the burning bush to receive his commission as liberator and bearer of the divine name, he is instructed: "remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3.5). This story is at the center of both the Jewish and Christian tradition and, in Islam, worshippers still remove their shoes and wash their feet as a sign of faithful respect when entering a mosque. In the prophetic tradition, Isaiah says: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news" (Isaiah 52.7) – a sentiment repeated by the apostle Paul in Romans 10. One of the early rituals of the Church was foot-washing and it probably says something about us that we seem so reluctant to continue it. Clearly, however, there is something about faith and feet.

One of the most popular cultural expressions of spirituality is the famous poem, "Footprints in the Sand," now attributed to Mary Stevenson via 1984 copyright. I've never been a big fan of the poem – too sentimental, too easy, too cliché. But there it is again, that connection between faith and feet. And I am re-thinking my dismissal of the poem having read the story of Mary Stevenson's life – born in 1922; lost her mother at age 6; lived through the economic suffering of the Great Depression; escaped an abusive marriage at 16 by fleeing to an Indian reservation in Oklahoma; tried to make a living as a stage performer and dancer and lost custody of her son in the process; and lost a beloved second husband to heart disease in 1980. Dismissing the poem without knowing the story probably says something about me.

Taking a second look at the poem, I especially noticed the line, "I could see only one set of footprints." This is central to the point of the poem, of course, because it was during those difficult times in Mary's life that she believed she

was being carried by the Lord. But it also indicates a problem we often have – that we see only one set of footprints when there are always two; the ones in which we are following and the ones we are leaving behind. We can focus on the ones ahead of us and forget that we are leaving our own in the sand behind. Or we can keep looking behind us and never bother to look at those that are leading us forward. Seeing both sets of footprints is also part of our faith. And, as we prepare for our Fall Retreat "*A Place for Weary Feet*" at Camp Burton, September 19-21, we will be asking you to think about these sets of footprints because there is, of course, a connection between feet and faith. We hope yours will lead you to UBC soon!

Blessings ... Tim

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DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER
ISSUE IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER
21.



HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY:

9/1 Lori Joubert
9/2 David Nielsen, Beverly Spears
9/8 Jaque Kirstein;
9/12 Ashley Smith;
9/13 Don Bell;
9/16 Martha Bean; Nick Caruso;
9/18 David Spears
9/19 Miriam Caruso;
9/22 Ross Dimm, Bill Badgeley;
9/25 Kim Gordon;
9/26 Peggy Lockman;
9/28 Doris Brevoort;
9/30 Neil Johnson;

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

AMONG OURSELVES

Weddings in July-August! We celebrate the marriage of **Sadie Robertson & Peter Cunningham** on July 26; the wedding of **Carol Guthrie's** niece **Margaret & Aaron Gilbride** in Yelm on August 23; and **Enid Griswold's** daughter **Joan** to her partner of 25 years, **Gail Shahbaghlian** in Ukiah, CA also on August 23 ... Congrats all! **Peggy Lockman** just returned from a visit to Enid and reports that the Enid's health seems to be improving – Peggy also reports that she was able to see her grandson **Adam** who was home briefly on leave from the military ... **Suzan Blais Wilkerson** has returned from a cross-country road trip with her daughter ... **Hilary Pittenger** was traveling with her family in France ... **Paula Eisenrich** traveled to Nevada to see her mother be ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church ... **Dan & Shari Peterson** spent 14 days on the road to their granddaughter's wedding in California and had a chance

to see 2 plays in Ashland, OR on the way home ... **David Bloom** is making his annual August pilgrimage to Minnesota's Boundary Waters – before he left he was honored on July 13 at a dinner benefiting the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness ... **Jackie Lamont** visited New York state to celebrate the 50th anniversary of college friends ... **Rosie & Mona Han** had their family visiting from the East and from California as part of a memorial to distribute the ashes of **Mohan** – on August 10, son **David** joined us for worship & picnic in the park with his 2 young sons ... Also on August 10, we welcomed **Xaviera Ortiz & Sarah Reed** as the newest members of our community – **Xavi** will be traveling to Anchorage as part of her medical training rotation and **Sarah** will be staying in Seattle to do her surgery rotation ... **Audrey Smith** will be off to college soon at the University of Puget Sound ... **Valerie Foster** played several roles in the Mountaineers' rock & roll version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ... **Elizabeth Patrick** was preaching for two Sundays at our sister church, Burton Community, on Vashon Island – Elizabeth and **Margie Paynton** attended the July Hymn Society Conference in California and came back with new resources for worship – and greetings from **Ago & Violy** in the Bay area ... **Marilee Nielsen's** efforts on behalf of the program to provide shoes for people around the world, *Soles4Souls*, was featured on the Baptist Peace Fellowship on-line celebration of justice work being done by member churches ... Please continue to remember **Lin Carlson** as he does the difficult work of grief; **Charles & Alethea Putnam** as they both deal with cancer; **Matt & Diane Paynton** as Diane's chemo comes to an end; **Ginny Bishop** at home as she continues to work at regaining strength; **Carol Guthrie** who is struggling with a bad knee and a painful neck; and our former Office Manager, **Ryan Hagan**, as he continues to find his way.

THANKS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team extends thanks to Bob and Lori Taylor for the gift of a new computer and to Bret Nielsen (Tom & Marilee's son) for the gift of Microsoft Office software to keep records of contributions and other cash receipts to UBC. Both gifts are gratefully received after the old computer crashed.



From the Moderator

It's been a while since I last communicated to you through the newsletter. A lot has happened since then, so I'm afraid this article will be "newsy" by necessity. It's been a busy summer!

Seeking the House that God Has for Us

- Our first contract with our realtor, Service Realty, ended on July 6. There has been concern about the frequency and the quality of communication from Service Realty to UBC, so—with the consent of the Working Group Leads—I signed a shorter-term (90 days) contract with Service Realty. This second contract will end on October 6. If we see a marked improvement in communication by then, we will sign another 90-day contract to finish out the year.
- With this latest contract, we agreed to reduce the listing price of the building and property from \$4.645 million to \$3.9 million. The Working Group Leads were afraid that "sticker shock" was making it difficult for potential buyers to approach us with an offer. The UBC staff noticed an increase in tours of the building after the price reduction, but no offers have been made.

The Boiler – The story, as I heard it, was that our realtor discovered water in the boiler room as he was showing someone the building. I'm grateful that our realtor helped us catch the leaky boiler earlier than we would have, but what a time to find a PROBLEM! Oh well... Meesh was on the job in no time and got us a bid to repair the boiler for \$3,597. This cost includes repairing a leaking boiler tube (welding and some corrosion-control will be required), refilling, testing, and other items to get the boiler ready for service. On a totally unrelated subject, how are those pledges coming along?

The Office Manager – Our Building Manager Meesh Coban has agreed to be our interim Office Manager through September 30. Meesh will work an additional 16 hours per week in the role of Office Manager, working in the church office from noon to 4 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays. There will be an evaluation by the end of August to determine if this arrangement is working for Meesh and for UBC. Meesh also works 17 hours per week as the Building Manager.

I think that's all the news I know. Our next Quarterly Business Meeting will be Sunday, September 7, following the worship service. Remember, this is our time to discuss the regular business of the church. Obviously, there's a lot going on in our "regular business," so it's important that you be there. And while I'm at it, don't miss our Fall Retreat at Camp Burton. It's September 19 – 21. Tim and others are already preparing for this special time. Our Fall Retreat is an opportunity for fun, community-building, rest and relaxation, planning for our future, inspiration and empowerment – our kick-off event into Autumn and Advent.

Friends, I'm looking forward to the next few months. It's my favorite time of the year, and I look forward to spending it in community with you. God, be with us in our comings and our goings, in our hopes and our fears, in our joys and our sorrows, in our plenty and our want. God, be with us as we journey together.

Eric Brown

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

July 17, 2008

Present: Meesh Cobban, Joy Smith, Marilee Nielsen, Jackie Lamont, Eric Brown, Brooke Rolston, and Lin Carlson

Eric opened the meeting with prayer. The June 19th minutes were reviewed and approved as distributed.

Treasurers Report: Marilee reported for Mary Clare. We have enough cash to meet payroll. The pledges are at 95%. Our rental income is down to 75% of budget as some renters have left. Some expenses are up such as utilities and congregational care. We will be OK if pledges stay on target. The Council thanks the Taylors for donating a brand new computer.

Building: Meesh reported on the water usage concern. It appears that the water usage has decreased following a review of the system by Meesh and the “leak detective” company. We should get a rebate from the Seattle Public Utilities. We received a letter from the City about the need to remove graffiti from the brick on our building. Meesh is working on this. Because of the graffiti, the mural may need to be painted over. Another family is expected to be moving into the open apartment.

Church Life: Coffee hour volunteers are needed.

The Companis agreement for Ryan’s position was approved by the Council. Council agreed that we need to review at the beginning of the year who are the check signers and ensure that necessary paperwork is completed.

Seeking the House: On July 7th, the Seeking the House Working Group met with Brian Mangum, our real estate agent. Discussion occurred on how to improve communication with our agent. The contract with our agent will be renewed for 90 days. The concerns from potential buyers are the parking arrangement and condition of the building based on the price we are asking. An agreement was reached to reduce the asking price to from \$4.5 million to \$3.9 million.

Sacred Conversation on Race: At this time, Brooke Rolston is the lead and Jackie Lamont, Eric Brown, Diane Schmitz, David Spears, Joy Smith, Martha Bean, and Daniel Hannah are on the planning committee. Specific plans and a schedule will be developed.

Welcoming and Affirming Statement: A question was raised if it was time to review and consider updating the statement that is printed on the cover of our bulletin: “We are a welcoming and affirming congregation. We celebrate our diversity in religious background, sexual orientation, race, age, and abilities.” One suggestion is to add “gender.” It was noted that there may be other descriptions of diversity that we might want to consider. The consensus was that we talk about this at the retreat or sometime after church this fall.

The Quarterly Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 7th. The UBC retreat is scheduled for September 19-21st. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk.

YOUTH TAKE SAMBY STORM!

In mid-August our youth, Valerie Foster and Jessica Badgeley, and “honorary-for-the-summer-youth-who-is-also-a-college-student” Erica Badgeley, visited the Seattle Art Museum to see its special exhibit, *“Inspiring Impressionism,”* featuring French and American artists. Part of our “inspiration was the chance to have our art tour guided by Seattle Storm stars Sheryl Swoopes and Katie Gearlds. We even got a visit with Mimi Gardner Gates, SAM’s engaging director. Katie’s introduction to two particular works kept Jessica and Erica thoroughly engaged in the exhibit, while Valerie and Brooke went to visit Sheryl and spend enough time with her to invite her to worship at UBC! She said she and her partner have been looking for a church, so pay attention, y’all...



Left to Right: Valerie Foster, Jessica Badgeley, Seattle Storm player Katie Gearlds, Erica Badgeley and Brooke Rolston

UBC WORSHIP IN THE PARK

On August 10th UBC’ers gathered at Ravenna park for the annual Worship in the park and UBC picnic. Here are some of the photos of the service, picnic and games that followed. Photos are viewable online. Taken by Aaron Burkhalter at http://picasaweb.google.com/aaron_burkhalter and photos by Paul Wilkerson at <http://pawenterprises.homeip.net/~church>

**Worship
in the
park**



**Preparing
for the
three legged
race**



IF YOU HEAR GOD'S VOICE, LET GOD HEAR YOURS!

The choir season officially begins on Sunday, September 7, with rehearsal at 9:15 a.m. New folks with a desire to join in UBC's music ministry are especially encouraged to join current members. No prior experience is required -- only a love of music and community music making. We support and learn from one another with love, humor, and respect. Contact Minister of Music, Margie Paynton, if you have questions or need further encouragement at (206) 937-6211.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Labor Day Picnic, **Monday, Sept. 1**, gathering from 3-6 p.m. with food served at 4 at Tim & Patrick's, 16275 8th Avenue NE, Shoreline. Grilled chicken, drinks, and tableware provided. Your side dish or desert would be welcomed.

Choir resumes on Sunday September 7th with rehearsal beginning at 9:15. All are welcome.

UBC Team at Saturday Kitchen, **Saturday, Sept. 6**. Contact Daniel Hannah to volunteer at (206) 992-9453.

Quarterly Business Meeting follows worship on **Sunday, Sept. 7**. Please plan to stay after worship for an update on our property and other business.

Thursday evening, *Soul Soup*, program resumes on **Thursday, Sept. 11**, in the McAfee Parlor. Soup served at 6:00 p.m. and Bible Study at 6:30.

A Place for Weary Feet, UBC Fall Retreat, **Friday-Sunday, Sept. 19-21**. See program on following page.

Our *congregational Sacred Conversation on Race* will begin with worship on **Sunday, Sept. 28**, in a team sermon by Diane Schmitz and Bev Spears. Several members of the congregation have been working on plans to initiate and implement this conversation over several months. We encourage everyone to take part in this conversation as we continue to seek to be the community Christ calls us to be.

AND COMING IN OCTOBER

University Baptist Children's Center Dinner & Auction, **Saturday, Oct. 4**, at University Christian Church. Celebrate the work of our Children's Center with food from around the world and close to home and an auction to benefit their ongoing work.

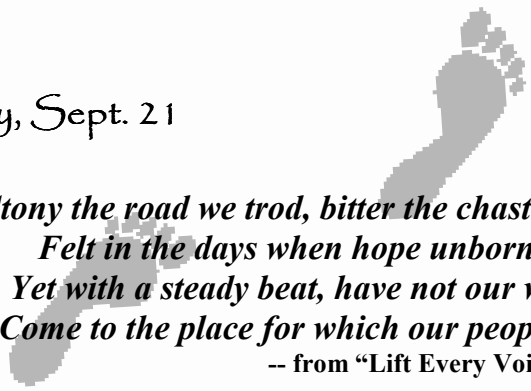
World Communion Sunday, **Oct. 5**, with special guest preaching on the question: "What in the world does it mean to be Christian?" Special music from around the world and Communion.

Evergreen American Baptist Annual Meeting, **Friday-Saturday, Oct. 10-11**, at New Hope Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome to attend; registrations are requested by Oct. 1.

Festival of the Spirit, **Sunday, Oct. 26**. Join us for our annual Halloween festival beginning with worship at 10:30 and including lunch, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, and The Great Pumpkin Hunt. Plan now to invite a family to join you. Costumes – for both children and adults – are welcome!

A Place for Weary Feet

2008 Fall Retreat, Friday, Sept. 19-Sunday, Sept. 21



*Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our people sighed?*
-- from "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Inspired by the words of this African-American national hymn by James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson, we will gather to consider the footprints we follow and the ones we are leaving behind. And we do so in the hope expressed by this hymn that a 'stony road' and 'weary feet' can still lead to 'the place for which our people sighed.' Join us for:

- Friday night (8 pm) snacks and a movie. Dinner will not be served at camp.
- Saturday, 9:30 am devotions on the text from "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
- Saturday afternoon roundtables:
 - "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news" – a conversation about strategies for introducing new folks to our community;
 - "How big is our community footprint?" – a conversation about finance and stewardship led by our Finance Team with budget considerations for 2009;
 - "At the feet of Jesus" – a conversation sharing ideas for worship from Fall through the Advent/Christmas season.
 - And also Saturday afternoon: a walking meditation; a craft project; recreation and relaxation time; 8 slots for 15-minute foot massage by licensed massage therapist, Deb Pierce; and a chance to try out the choir led by our Minister of Music, Margie Paynton.

As has become our tradition, we also invite those at the retreat to stay through Sunday morning and worship with our sister Evergreen church, Burton Community, just down the street from Camp Burton.

Things to bring: Sleeping bag; pillow; towel; soap; casual, warm, waterproof clothes; flashlight; board games; sports equipment; a good book and a pen.

Getting there: From Seattle take the Spokane St. exit from I-5, cross the West Seattle bridge and follow signs to Fauntleroy Way. Continue on Fauntleroy Way to ferry dock. After debarking the ferry follow the main highway (Vashon Island Hwy SW) for 10 miles southbound. At the 4th flashing red light, which is SW Burton Drive, turn left. Follow for 1/3 mile to SW Bayview Dr. and turn right. Follow for another 1/3 mile and watch for the Camp Burton sign on the left.

Ferries: The camp is a 15-minute drive from the North end of Vashon. Ferries leave Fauntleroy Friday evening at 5:00pm, 5:40, 6:00, 6:25, 7:05, 7:35, 7:55, 8:45, 9:20 and later. In order to make the Saturday morning program plan to take the 6:55am or the 7:35 ferries. There is also an 8:35 ferry but you would probably miss the introduction of the morning program. Carpooling is encouraged.

Registrations are due by Sunday September 14th so the camp can plan for meals. Registration forms are available in the church office, the narthex, and online from the UBC website or contact the church office and one can be emailed or mailed to you.

A Place for Weary Feet

UBC Fall Retreat Registration

Friday, Sept. 19, through Sunday, Sept. 21,
at Camp Burton on Vashon Island

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY SUNDAY September 14th

Return the forms to the UBC office or turn them in during worship.

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

of adults: _____ # of children/Young People: _____ Ages: _____

**Responsible adult if not w/parent: _____

**Make checks to UBC, designate Fall Retreat.
You may include checks with registration or pay at the retreat.
Scholarships are available**

_____ Full weekend including two nights, all meals and the retreat program \$90/person
attending Kids 12 & under \$60

_____ One night only, including either Friday or Saturday night, meals and program \$70/person
attending *circle which night you will be staying* Kids 12 and under \$50

_____ Saturday day rate including meals and program for Saturday only \$45/person.
attending Kids 12 and under \$35

Planning to have breakfast with us? _____

I want to help others attend by donating \$_____ to the scholarship fund.

TOTAL FEE \$_____ PAID: \$_____ Scholarship amt needed \$_____

Special dietary needs. _____

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP: *TELLING STORIES SERIES CONTINUES*

Choir practice resumes at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 7th.

Sept. 7: *Eucharist* (Communion Sunday)

Story from Luke 17.11-19 in which 10 lepers are healed and only one returns to say thanks; Tim Phillips preaching.

Sept. 14: *Hospitality*

Story from Genesis 19 & Luke 10.1-12 – the (in)famous Sodom & Gomorrah story – with Elizabeth Patrick preaching.

Sept. 21: *Sailing in the Storm*

(a devotional service at UBC at 10:30 and a joint service with Burton Community Church on Vashon Island for those who stay at the retreat). At UBC, the story from Mark 4.25-41 and Jesus calming the storm; Tim Phillips preaching at UBC.

Sept. 28: *A Sacred Conversation on Race*

Our congregational conversation begins with a team sermon by Diane Schmitz & Bev Spears.