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The Beacon

University Baptist Church

November 2008

OF HALLOWEEN & HARVEST

In the Church calendar, there are a lot of options for celebrating this season: Reformation Day (Oct. 31); All Saints (Nov. 1); and you may have noticed churches doing various 'Harvest Festivals' on the way to Thanksgiving (Nov. 27 – an American national holiday and *not* an historic celebration of the Church). Given these options and the

guilt-by-association of Halloween, it may seem odd that we celebrate Halloween at UBC with our Festival of the Spirit. I've had to explain this aberration over the years but I've decided that the best defense is an offense: Halloween, like the celebration of the Day of the Dead in Mexico, reminds us that life is fragile and that the monstrous evils of hatred and violence are real. Scary costumes unmask a truth about our world and ourselves.



Rebecca Ann Parker in her *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now* reports the testimony of the daughter of a religious educator:

I was taught to not be judgmental, not to observe or report on the bad behavior of others. Consequently, because of my education, I grew up ignorant about bad human behavior, incompetent to observe it accurately, unskilled in how to respond to it, and ashamed of talking about evil.

Celebrating Halloween is one moment in our life together when we admit the truth – we are surrounded by spirits that would rather harm than heal and those spirits, sometimes, live in our own hearts. Sometimes costumes and makeup can be more revealing than our own skin. Sometimes 'make believe' can be a window into our hopes and dreams.

So I'm not making any apologies for our celebration of Halloween. *And* I am also inviting us to a Harvest Festival this November. Using the lectionary texts from Matthew and the harvest poems of Susan Palo Cherwien, we will be invited to think

about how we are investing our lives and what that investment is producing. In a letter to pastors about the economic crisis, Paul Raushenbush (Walter's great-grandson) reminded us that the good news of the gospel is always related to human well-being. He quotes Gwendolyn Brooks:

We are each other's business
We are each other's *harvest*
We are each other's magnitude and bond

Halloween and Harvest are really part of the same agenda – acknowledging the truth that destruction and death are part of life and investing our hopes and our dreams in each other. We are each other's harvest. And that may be the deepest and most sincere form of 'belief-making' ever.

Blessings all!

Tim



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY:

11/4 Diane Paynton, Violy DeGuzeman Reyes; 11/6 Bret Peterson, Shari Peterson; 11/9 Charles Putnam; 11/16 Laura Robb; 11/22 Jeff Doty; 11/24 Clarence Bishop; 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.

AMONG OURSELVES

We celebrate with Brooke Rolston the legacy of his brother whose work for justice and peace was memorialized in a mural that was dedicated in September in northern California ... Congratulations to **Mary Clare Benson** who completed a walking marathon in Portland in October – please keep her brother and his family in prayer as he faces continued health challenges ... Congrats also to **Patrick Green** who was a featured speaker at this year's AIDS Walk and, with an energetic team of high school students from Newport, raised over \$44,000 -- even more than Microsoft! ... We celebrate **Bev Spears** – and pray for her – as she begins a new job advocating for healthcare and immigrant issues in Olympia ... Thanks to **Lin Carlson** who visited the Nickelsville encampment in the parking lot of University Christian Church and provided some sleeping bags for folks there – thanks to Lin and **David Bloom** for helping us support this effort to end homelessness in Seattle ... And thanks to all those who helped us create a wonderful joint World Communion worship service with University Christian on October 5, especially our dedicated and talented Minister of Music, **Margie Paynton** – it was also wonderful to see our former choral director, **Ann Erickson**, who was filling in to lead our combined choirs that Sunday ... Thanks to all of you for your generous support of the AIDS Walk and to those who gave at the Oct. 18 *Traces of the Trade* film benefit for the **Martin Luther King Memorial Baptist Church** “Rites of Passage” program that mentors

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.

young African-American men (\$350) and those who gave at the Oct. 19 tamale benefit for the children of El Salvador hosted by **Carlos Amaya** (\$400) – Carlos asks us to pray for him as he travels to El Salvador where poverty and violence still ravage the country ... **Mike & Carol Stern** are off to India to visit daughter **Amy** who is studying there ... We hold in our hearts **Megan Walker & Aaron Burkhalter** in the loss of Megan's grandfather, **Bob (Scotty) Walker**, who was an American Baptist minister, a peace activist who studied theology in prison having refused to go to war in WWII, and a loving father and grandfather -- the memorial service for Bob was on Sunday, Oct. 26, at Seattle First Baptist Church ... We have received greetings from our former office manager **Jeff Moses** and partner **John Westerfield** in Minnesota who were also sending their prayers for **Walt & Marilyn Pulliam** as Walt continues his treatment for cancer ... We hold in our hearts and prayers: **Carol Guthrie** who, thanks to **Rhonda Hue**, was able to join us for worship on Oct. 19; **Ginny Bishop** who continues to be cared for at home; **Charles & Alethea Putnam** as they continue to face health challenges; and **Enid Griswold** whose strength is improving and plans to join us again in Seattle at Christmas!



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 jb Lamont@mindspring.com If you could help by making a meal, visiting or writing a card please contact Jackie.



From the Moderator

The husky, rusty rassel of the tossels of the corn,
And the raspin' of the tangled leaves, as golden as the morn;
The stubble in the furries—kindo' lonesome-like, but still
A-preachin' sermons to us of the barns they growed to fill
The strawstack in the medder, and the reaper in the shed;
The hosses in theyr stalls below—the clover overhead!—
O, it sets my hart a-clickin' like the tickin' of a clock,
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock!

It's autumn. I'm from Indiana. I wouldn't be the son my parents raised if my thoughts didn't turn to James Whitcomb Riley. Riley (1849 – 1916) was an American writer and poet. Starting his career in 1875 writing articles and verse for the *Indianapolis Journal*, Riley became a bestselling author in the early 1900's and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His down-to-earth verse tends to be humorous and sentimental. Riley wrote over one thousand poems – over half of them in Indiana dialect. (We don't have an accent; we just have poor grammar.) So, to folks from Indiana, he's our poet – the Hoosier poet.

Riley's "When the Frost Is on the Punkin" is a classic. A farmer steps out of his home at sunrise. As he walks through the cool autumn air on his way to feed his livestock, he takes in the sights and sounds around him. He celebrates the season; he celebrates the harvest.

As I read the poem this year, thinking about the harvest and our life at UBC, I was drawn to the third stanza:

The stubble in the furries—kindo' lonesome-like, but still
A-preachin' sermons to us of the barns they growed to fill

I love that image. The cut stalks, left in the field after the grain has been harvested, preach! They call out with pride at what they have accomplished! But this is no mere boast. This is a sermon – a lesson – for those that will hear. It makes me think. How are we preparing for the harvest at UBC? Are we growing to fill the barns? Do we preach?

- Seeking the House God Has for Us – I'm happy to report that we have signed a listing agreement with Colliers International. In my interactions with our Colliers team, I have been impressed by their professionalism and their spirit of teamwork (with each other and with us). Our new listing price of \$3.3 million will, I hope, make us more attractive to potential buyers (and we have already seen new interest). Yes, even in this current economic crisis, I have hope of a good harvest. And when we sell our building and property, it will indeed be a time of harvest. Let us remember the members of UBC over the past century and the barns that they grew to fill. They preach to us! With their harvest, it becomes our responsibility to plant a new crop. What barns will we grow to fill? What will we preach when we sell our building?
- UBC 2009 – This is the time when we look forward to the coming year. We craft our budget. We draw up our slate of officers and team leads. The seeds of 2009 are being planted right now. What will your pledge be? What will your role be? What barns will we grow to fill? What will we preach in 2009?
- The Sacred Conversation on Race – In planned and unplanned ways, we are opening ourselves and our community to this most timely discussion. I hope you have experienced some of our Sacred Conversation on Race – our conversation with Rick Barlow at the Fall Retreat, the challenging call of Bev Spears and Diane Schmitz in their September 28 joint sermon, our October 18 screening of the film *Traces of the Trade*. There are more events on the way in the coming months. The Sacred Conversation on Race is developing in ways that we couldn't have imagined. And this is only the beginning! What barns will we grow to fill? What will we preach?

Friends, we reap the harvest of workers who have come before us. We plant the harvest of workers who will come after us. In this way, each generation is dependent on another. Each generation is called to do its own work. And in this way, God-Seed-Sower and God-Harvest-Gatherer are with us always, challenging us to think ahead and blessing us with abundance in the here-and-now. That is what we shall preach! Thanks be to God!

Eric Brown

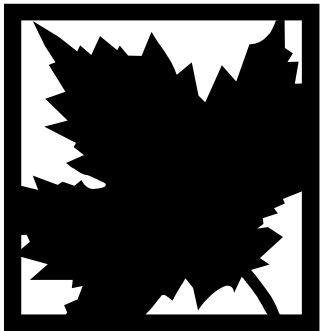
ON GRATEFUL GIVING

Money! Our parents, and we as parents, and now even our pledge forms, have said it: “Money doesn’t grow on trees!” Well, if it doesn’t grow on trees, what does it grow on? In recent weeks newspapers, radio and television have been saying it grows on confidence, and shrinks (or sinks!) on the lack of it. Confidence! What’s confidence? Direct from the Latin, it’s “faith in” or “faith held with” someone or something. Faith! What’s that? It is trusting. For me, it’s trusting that God hasn’t brought us this far – in our caring for each other, in our ministries of compassion, in our search for the house God has for us, in our lives to this moment (this very breathing instant!) – God hasn’t brought us this far to leave us on our own now.

In our home, Mary and I have much to be grateful for. And our gratitude always seems to flow toward this congregation. And isn’t it true for many of us here? Yes, when trials weigh us down, where do we find solace and support? When our hearts are overflowing with joy, where do we come to find company in our rejoicing? Here! Here!

Dear friends, for years Mary and I have sought adequate ways to show what this fellowship means to us. One of the ways we find – and one way that rewards our hearts – is to pledge to the ministry of this church at least a tenth of our income. Now it took some years to get to this place, and I can still remember the year (not long ago) when we first reached five percent. And so once we could give five, and now we’re able to give ten. And we’ve found that, even in hard years, our determination to make a strong pledge – to put our money where our hearts are – has fit our need for thanksgiving.

Money! Doesn’t grow on trees? Grows on trust and faith! And supports a church where our labors are focused, our minds are challenged, and our hearts are healed. Amen? Amen!



In the next weeks, each of us is invited, and I’ll be first, to take one of the leaves provided at the front of the sanctuary, and, for Mary and me, to write our names as an indication that for the year 2009 we are pledging our money and our time to support the life and ministries of our church. Please, take time, consider, and then take a leaf, write your name as a sign of your pledge of time and money, and add it to this tree. And, as you make that decision, also take the pledge (with the wonderful “Tree of Life” drawings on it), fill it out, sign it and give it to Mary or Marilee Nielsen or the offering plate about to be passed... or mail it into the church office. So, money may not grow on trees, but as this tree grows to reflect our faith, I promise you: it will grow on us. Brooke Rolston

HELP FOR NICKELSVILLE

The encampment at University Christian Church protesting the city's treatment of homeless folks is looking for these items: Blankets; Food; Charcoal; Lysol Disinfectant Spray; Pallets and plywood; Batteries; Flashlights; 2 ABC fire extinguishers and Cold medicine – cough drops, tylenol, etc. Also, they could use cash donations which help with paying for their Porta-Potties. Nickelsville is in the parking lot at NE 50th & 15th Ave NE.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT FAITH AND MENTAL ILLNESS

THREE SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

David Bloom will be leading a 3-week discussion of the book *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God* on the first three Sundays in November. *Souls* is a recently released book by Craig Rennebohm, director of Seattle’s Mental Health Chaplaincy. Craig tells of his encounters with people with mental illness on the streets of Seattle and his attempts to assist them on the road to recovery from their illness and from their estrangement from friends, family, and God. The book discussions will follow worship at Noon in the UBC Parlor on **November 2, 9, and 16**. The books are \$10 apiece and may be ordered through David.

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

Saturday, November 8 - For the next event in our congregational Sacred Conversation on Race, Brooke Rolston is organizing a visit to the Northwest African American Museum, at S. Massachusetts St. and 23rd Ave. S (just South of I-90). Plan to leave the church building at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students, and free for children under 5. For more information, contact Brooke at 425.408.1944 or at brooke42@comcast.net. Also, a study series called *Troubling the Waters*, begins in December on Thursday evenings with an introduction by one of the study's authors on the First Sunday in Advent, **Nov. 30**. See the November Dates page.

OUR YOUTH IN NOVEMBER

At the church's Fall Retreat, our youth were strongly interested in the political movements apparent in the national presidential campaign. And they asked for a post-election opportunity to discuss what they had seen and what, after November 4, they now hoped for.

So we're doing it! Following worship on **Sunday, November 9**, we'll gather in the Upstairs Parlor for an earth-friendly lunch and a spirit-rousing conversation about where they see their-lives-and-the-nation going from here. Because they've heard the promise from Acts, that they are "our sons and daughters who will proclaim God's message, our young ones who will see visions."

Looking forward to that time with our precious youth,
Brooke Rolston and Sadie Cunningham, Youth Leaders



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY STUDENT BEGINS INTERNSHIP

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. I am Bruce Chittick, a seminarian in his sixth and final year at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University. My immediate family consists of my husband of 8 ½ years Russ, and our 19 month old son Spencer. I am excited about being with you here at University Baptist Church over the next several months. This is my third major career.

I bring experiences from my previous careers in retail management and human services to this internship. In my many years in retail management, I learned to juggle several projects at once, while constantly maintaining a focus on the big picture. I also learned the value of investing time and energy into people, so that they might be able to do what I did and take those skills with them into other settings. I worked with hundreds of peoples from all walks of life – from high school students on their first job, to college students making their way in the world on their own for the first time, to part-time and full-time workers trying to juggle very full lives, to retired people wanting to share their time and knowledge with others. I found that each brought a unique story and unique skills to the job. Together, these people made a community that supported one another.

In my years in human services, I worked with adults with varying degrees of developmental disabilities. My first job was with 12 adults who struggled with the basic skills of daily living. From them, I learned the joy of simple things, whether it be a walk on a sunny afternoon or a visit to the local store to buy a bottle of soda. One of my joys from these years was helping to close a group living situation, allowing 10 individuals to find their own homes in the community. We provided ongoing support and these people experienced a high level of success.

I'm looking to build on these experiences to become a more effective minister. I look forward to working with young adults and families, with those desiring pastoral care, to your difficult yet vital ongoing conversation on race. I'm excited to see how all of these facets find their way into the worship and preaching life of the congregation, as well.

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 16

Present: Eric Brown, Daniel Hannah, Tim Phillips, Meesh Cobban, Brooke Rolston, Joy Smith, Elizabeth Patrick, Marilee Nielsen, Dan Peterson, David Bloom, Bev Spears, Bruce Chittick and Lin Carlson

Eric opened the meeting with prayer. The September 18th council minutes were approved as distributed.

Special Report on the University District Ecumenical Campus (UDECC):

Dan Peterson and David Bloom briefed the council on the developments and proposed timeline for decision making. Eric will arrange for a congregational conversation on the UDECC sometime between the Oct. 25th and our Nov. 23 quarterly business meeting. Topic will be on the Nov. 23rd quarterly business meeting.

UDECC Timeline:

- October 25 = Presentation of the proposed Ownership and Governance Plan by UDECC's attorneys.
- October 25 – December 12 = Churches are asked to review/discuss the proposed Ownership and Governance Plan with their membership and solicit questions and comments about the plan – through an internal process of their own making. December 12 is the deadline to submit questions and comments to UDECC.
- February 1, 2009 = Presentation of the Conceptual Plan by UDECC's architects. Final Feasibility Study Report posted on UDECC website.
- February – March, 2009 = UDECC's architects make Sunday lunchtime presentations to individual congregations.
- February – April = Churches deliberate.
- May 3, 2009 = Churches vote on collocation decision.

Special Report on Nickelsville: David Bloom provided an update on the situation. The City has issued a citation against those associated with Nickelsville. Tim commented on a recent University District pastors' discussion. Elizabeth moved that we send a letter of support to U Christian and Brooke seconded. The motion was approved.

Pastor's Report: Tim Phillips noted the list of building needs and the need for volunteer help. Tim has been accepted into Colgate Rochester Crozier D.Min. program. A proposal to ask the Portage Bay Big Band do a January benefit for Saturday Kitchen at UC was supported. Several folks will help with the Nov. 7th Seattle Baptist Union annual dinner meeting. Eric and Brooke are official UBC delegates.

Treasurer and Finance Reports: Marilee reported for Mary Clare. Our budget outlook has improved due to the blessings of additional contributions over the past month. At this time one team has submitted a budget request for 2009.

Mission Support, Peace and Justice Report: Daniel Hannah asked for assistance in seeking a few additional steady volunteers and help with coordination at Saturday Kitchen.

Seeking The House God Has For Us: Eric signed a 6 month agreement with Colliers International yesterday. The new listing price is \$3.3 million. We will be receiving monthly reports from our new realtor.

Business Meeting and "The Harvest Table": Our fourth quarter business meeting is set for Sunday, November 23rd. Each team is to bring a table decoration related to their team.

2009 Officers and Stewardship Council Members: The Council is seeking individuals to serve in several positions as well as to be part of teams. Joy Smith will be our Moderator for 2009. Several folks have volunteered to continue in their current positions. At this point positions are open for Moderator Elect, Church Clerk, Learning and Play, Church Life teams, and Congregational Ministries/Volunteer Coordinator. Elections will occur at the November 23rd business meeting.

The next council meeting is scheduled for November 20th.
Submitted by Lin Carlson, Church Clerk

NOVEMBER DATES...

Please remember our regular monthly events:

- **UBC Team serves at Saturday Kitchen on first Saturdays** – contact Daniel Hannah (206-992-9453) if you can help this week or can volunteer for other Saturdays as well.
- ***Soul Soup*** continues on **Thursdays** in November at 6:00 p.m. with Marilyn Marston leading a conversation on the Psalms.

Sunday, Nov. 2, the conversation on ***Faith and Mental Illness*** begins and continues following worship on Nov. 9 & 16. See previous article.

Friday, Nov. 7, UBC hosts the **Seattle Baptist Union** dinner in the Social Hall – volunteers needed! Call the office if you can help.

Saturday, Nov. 8, UBC visit to the **Northwest African American Museum** – see page 5 for details.

Friday, Nov. 14, ***Social Gospel Benefit Dinner*** at University Christian Church featuring Church Council of Great Seattle Executive Director, *Michael Ramos*, speaking on “Dangerous Bread.” 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

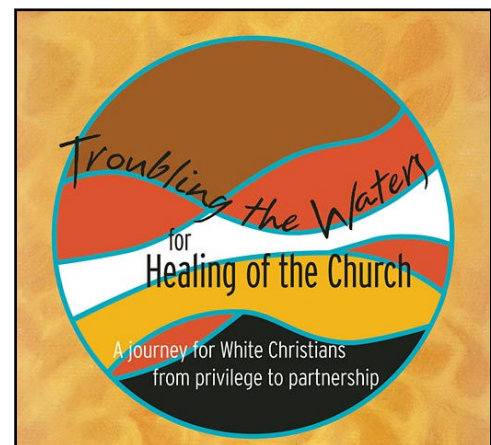
Saturday, Nov. 16, ***Chanting the Psalms***: a one day workshop at the Priory in Lacey that compliments our *Soul Soup* conversations on the Psalms. Musical settings will include Western, Eastern, Protestant, and Taize traditions. Singing experience is helpful but not necessary. There will also be a simple but creative mandala calligraphy project. Cost for the day \$65. Lunch not included. To register, call (360) 438-2595.

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 21 & 22, ***Godspell***: a musical performance benefitting the Evergreen Association & Tent Cities at Seattle First Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m. Our own **Gail Foster** will be performing! Tickets available in the UBC office and on Sundays.

Sunday, Nov. 23, ***A Harvest Table***: Following worship, join us for lunch and our end-of-year Quarterly Business meeting where we will review the proposed budget and elect officers for 2009. There will also be a dessert auction to help defray the cost of our boiler repair. Teams will be decorating tables to say thank you for your support over this year and invite your participation in this next year. Members and friends are strongly encouraged to attend. We need you!

Wednesday, Nov. 26, ***U District Thanksgiving Eve Service*** at University Lutheran beginning with a simple supper at 6:00 p.m. and service at 7.

Sunday, Nov. 30: ADVENT begins ... With all the electric – sometimes glaring – lights of the season, we will pause in this busy season to consider the natural light of Christmas. As we prepare for a series of sacred conversations on race, ***Troubling the Waters***, we will hear from one of the study’s authors, the Rev. **Paul Benz**, Lutheran pastor and public policy director. Paul will preach in worship and then lead a conversation about the study following worship in the McAfee Parlor. Help us ‘shed a little light’ in this season!



NOVEMBER WORSHIP - *A HARVEST OF DAYS*

“We are each other’s harvest ...” Gwendolyn Brooks

Every Sunday:

- Choir rehearses in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.
- Childcare provided at the beginning of worship and the One Room Sunday School program begins as indicated during worship.

November 2, All Saints Sunday – *A Harvest of Days*

(Daylight Savings ends – fall back) A celebration of your pledges for 2009 and worship led by Elizabeth Patrick and Tim Phillips from the Beatitude text of Matthew 5.1-12.

November 9, *A Harvest of Deeds*

This is the Sunday of our Covenant House special offering and Seminary Intern, Bruce Chittick, will be preaching from Matthew 25.1-13.

November 16, *A Harvest of Talents*

Tim Phillips preaching from Matthew 25.14-29.

November 23, *A Harvest Table*

Tim Phillips preaching from Matthew 25.31-45. Luncheon and end-of-year Quarterly Business meeting follows worship.

November 30, ADVENT begins – *The Season in a Natural Light*

The Rev. Paul Benz, co-author of *Troubling the Waters* study on racism and white privilege, is preaching from Mark 13.32-37. An initial conversation about this study follows worship in the McAfee Parlor