



# STEEPLE NEWS

325 N. 125TH ST., SEATTLE WA 98133  
206-363-8060, FAX: 206-363-4791  
HTTP://WWW.BROADVIEWUCC.ORG

Steeple News  
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## REFLECTIONS ON EASTER

By Gail Crouch

"Hurry up Gail! It's time to get dressed for the Easter Sunrise service." My mother's voice is insistent. I don't usually dawdle over dressing but I am resisting this morning. All the pictures I see in catalogues and magazines show girls my age (10) going to church on Easter dressed in frilly pastel dresses with shiny black patent-leather shoes and wonderful bonnets. I want to dress like that!

Most of the time I am delighted to live in Yosemite National Park but this is not one of those times. So with a sigh, I pull on my snow boots, ski pants and jacket, warm wool hat and gloves and we go to our Easter service. We crunch our way over deep, icy snow until we stand at Mirror Lake under the shadow of mighty, mile-high Half Dome. I am feeling very grumpy! I want to be all dressed up in a warm church full of lilies while trumpets blare and many people sing. Instead, I am sitting on a freezing cold granite rock with others all dressed as if we were expecting a blizzard. This is not how Easter should be celebrated.

But suddenly things begin to happen. My father, the pastor, walks to the end of a small island in the lake and begins to read the Easter story from the Bible and a college choir sings a joyous anthem. The rock on which I am sitting no longer feels so cold and the people around me are smiling, singing, looking happy. They are good friends, people I know and can trust. And now, making a grand entrance, the sun bursts over the top of Half Dome and shines brilliantly on us all.

I am only ten, and words like incarnation and resurrection are beyond my understanding. I do not really comprehend that God came in Jesus and that Jesus moved beyond death to be with us all. But I feel something special moving within me. What I feel is surprise and joy and somehow the sense of all that is happening translates into the word love. Nearly sixty years later, I remember with great clarity that overwhelming certainty that I was loved.

Looking back, I would now describe that time as a moment of grace, for grace is that thing we do not anticipate, those times that come as an unexpected gift. It is the gift of God's love given to us so freely and joyfully, filling our lives and conquering even death. I received that unexpected gift of grace so many years ago and many times since then. But each

time I hear again the Easter story, and sing the Easter hymns, I feel the sun and the rock and know that I am a beloved daughter of God.

That moment of discovery – when God calls us by name and reaches out to link us with life and love is an Easter morn. May you find such a moment this year and may the grace of Easter fill each one of you so completely, that you will know without a doubt, you are deeply and extravagantly loved by our God. Blessed Easter!

## PASTOR DAN'S REFLECTIONS ON HIS SABBATICAL SOJOURN to CENTRAL AMERICA

"It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and turns it to radiance- for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with fire, or light. (And yet) the Lord is more constant and far more extravagant . . . Where you turn your eyes, the world can shine like transfiguration. . . There is more beauty than our eyes can bear. . . precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm."

-- from UCC writer Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel, *Gilead*

My Spanish language tutorial and base camp for traveling during the March portion of my sabbatical was the Casa Ave Maria in Managua, Nicaragua ghetto. In this impoverished city, Padre Grant Maricio Gallup (officially retired) lives an active life of service and hospitality with church service

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workers, peace activists, teachers, and the many international guests who make up his ecumenical extended family. The Casa is also known as that of Los Mangos Callendos (The House of the Falling Mangos), because every so often, day or night, one can hear the falling mangos from a large tree loudly banging on the tin roof. It houses the school (which teaches free English, computer skills, and music classes), a Liberation Theology based Episcopal Chapel, and the only Metropolitan Community Church in Central America (with its primary outreach to gay/lesbian folks).

Traveling by bus, on foot and by kayak, I've gotten close to crater lakes and active volcanos, pre-Columbian ruins, frolicking white-faced and howler monkeys. I've fed fish bones to a snapping crocodile, watched three-toed sloths wake up at sunset, and . . . I learned how to surf! (got up on my feet twice riding the waves). And yet ironically, it is poverty that has slowed development, preserving a remarkable bio-diversity in jungles and mountains where roads are few. Some say Nicaragua has now surpassed Haiti as the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Again, from *Gilead*: "To me, it seems rather Christlike to be as unadorned as this place is, as little regarded. . . . The whole town does look like whatever hope becomes after it begins to weary a little, then weary a little more. But hope deferred is still hope. I love this town. I think sometimes of going into the ground here as a last wild gesture of love. I too will smolder away the time until the great and general incandescence."

A change of scenery: this weekend (start of April), Sam, Icy, and I leave for Montana, Minnesota, and Illinois, visiting family and friends, and celebrating Easter in Chicago. In early May, we leave for England, France and Italy. [Blessings to all of you!](#)

## READINGS

### April 9

#### Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms Become Passion

Palm Sunday:

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11

Passion Sunday:

Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-19

Phil 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 (Mark 15:1-39, (40-47))

### April 13

#### Maundy Thursday

Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Ps 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### April 14

#### Good Friday

Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22

Heb 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

### April 16

#### Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen!

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Cor 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 OR Mark 16:1-8

### April 23

#### Second Sunday of Easter

Open to Questions

Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133

1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

### April 30

#### Third Sunday

Growing Community

Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4

1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

### May 7

The Good Shepherd

Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23

1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

## BROADVIEW BANTER

### by Jennie Bloch-Garcia

Forget about the Mariner's this spring! Broadview is bursting with talented athletes playing for gifted teams that will provide you with a plethora of cheering opportunities.

First up, **Eli Bloch Garcia** and **Lucia Tucker** are playing for the North Seattle league Shetland t-ball team called the Blue Jays. With the coaching skill of **Todd Tucker** (Lucia's dad) the team is rapidly improving in their ability to hit the ball off the tee. Everyone looks smart in their blue t-shirts and, when fielding, often throws the ball somewhere close to where it is supposed to go.

**Noah Witmer** is playing coach pitch ball for the Northwest Seattle league team called the Minutemen. The youngest (and speediest?) Mr. Witmer stole home plate to score one of two runs in his second game.

**Andy Studyvin** is playing in the major leagues for North Seattle. His team, Lane Hardwoods, is having some difficulty winning games this season, but with some Broadview support they're sure to turn their losing streak around.

Speaking of the **youngest Mr. Studyvin, Andy** is currently in Washington D.C. on a school trip without his parents. Andy reported that he is one of only ten kids on the trip that will be allowed to tour the White House.

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The politically inclined Andy reported that he understands he will not be allowed to wear his "Impeach Bush" t-shirt while touring the home of our misguided monarch.

In more school news, next year McClure middle school in Queen Anne will be lucky enough to have **Andy Studyvin** for a student, and Nathan Hale high school will be welcoming **Jackson Witmer**. Jackson's attendance will continue the long line of Broadview members who have attended Nathan Hale, including Walter and Christian Thorn and Chris and Carrie Hylander.

Speaking of handsome and charming Broadview attendees, **Marc Hoffman**, who has been attending with that pixie blonde **Isabella**, is currently directing a children's production of *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* at Magnuson Community Center where he works. **Todd Tucker**, who attends with that sweet **Lucia**, recently broke his streak of fourth place finishes in his hobby of mountain bike racing to finish third in a race last Sunday.

Speaking of mountain bikes, **Jackson Witmer** has a new black one. Broadview drivers and residents are encouraged to look for Jackson tooling around the streets of our fair neighborhood.

Did anyone notice the attentive Broadview visitor the week that **Andrew Estep** was preaching? Andrew's long time friend and new boyfriend **Michael** attended church to hear his sweetie preach. When asked what Michael thought of Andrew's sermon, Andrew noted that Michael didn't leave and said that Andrew's sermon was "nice". Hmmmmm.

A reliable source recently spotted **Sam Wilson** downtown. When asked if Sam looked sad, disoriented and lonely due to Dan's absence, your humble columnist's source said, "Sure."

## WHAT OUR MOVIE NIGHT CAN MEAN

By Jeff Stilwell

There are so few places in this world that will help a wandering soul work her way back to God. I believe our church is just such a place. I also believe that our new ministry - Sunday Nights at the Broadview - can help our neighbors come to see that.

I know. Cute movies such as *Millions* (a delightful fable about a six year-old attempting to give away the bag of cash he finds in his backyard) or challenging documentaries such as *Gunner Palace* (detailing the life of a US artillery unit in war-torn Baghdad) might be diverting fare, but it is hardly the stuff of which a ministry of reconciliation is made. Or is it?

I believe that - should we build this ministry carefully - we shall create a sacred space in which the wandering soul may, indeed, draw closer to God. It will be a place where our neighbors on Phinney Avenue, our neighbors on Dayton Avenue, on 125th, on 122nd and other nearby streets, may stop by to visit for a time without promising anything. Without risking much at all. Where our neighbors may simply drop by, watch an entertaining movie and then...and then...the miracle happens:

For you see, the movies we show are only the icing. When it comes to Sunday Nights at the Broadview, the *discussion groups* are the cake. It is during the small group discussions - I have seen - that our neighbors realize how thoughtful we are, how conscientious we are, how daring in honesty, how compassionate in justice, how even-handed in thinking. In short, how impressive the congregation at Broadview Community United Church of Christ truly is. That, for me, is the miracle: At that point, greater community in our neighborhood is born.

On a neighborhood doorstep recently, as I stopped by to explain all about our Sunday Nights at the Broadview, I met a woman who was raised a Christian on the east side of Lake Washington, but hadn't ever made a connection with a church on this side of the water. "I have a kid now, though," she said, "So, this is good." Maybe we'll see her one of these Sunday nights. I certainly hope so. I hope to see her, I hope to see that friendly man so large that I had to crane my head all the way back to talk with him, I hope to see that young woman so bravely trying to push away her loneliness with a game face and some fast-food in front of her television set. I hope they all accept our invitation and visit - not only for them, but also for us. For when our church builds a greater sense of community within the neighborhood, I believe life becomes better - for all of us. When we shine our light forward as community leaders in this neighborhood, I believe the demons of alienation, loneliness, frustration and despair are all driven back. In these troubled times, when we step forward in this manner, I believe this world, our world - our corner of it - becomes a better place.

What's more, I believe that others will and do notice. I believe that they shall draw inspiration from our efforts and seek to effect the same change in their own neighborhoods. It begins with us, however. Let's build it. Let's build this ministry. Let's build Sunday Nights at the Broadview, together.

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What you can do...

- In these crucial beginning three months, invite one friend to one movie each month.
- If you like talking to people about BCUCC, the Renewal & Growth Committee is laying plans to visit the neighborhood - see Jeff Stilwell.

### CLEANER YARDS, DIRTIER AIR?

March 2006

Read Greentips online at:

[http://ucsaction.org/ct/Bp\\_Irv716X5G/](http://ucsaction.org/ct/Bp_Irv716X5G/)

Warmer weather is on the way and, for many people, this means the start of yard care season. Homeowners might not realize that lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, chain saws, and leaf blowers represent a significant source of carbon monoxide and smog-forming hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, but the average lawn mower emits as much smog-forming pollution in one hour as eight new cars traveling at 55 miles per hour.

By following a few simple steps, however, you can keep your yard looking its best with less environmental impact:

\* Perform routine maintenance as recommended in the owner's manual. Changing the motor oil, cleaning or replacing air filters, and getting periodic tune-ups will ensure your power tools run smoothly and efficiently.

\* Use the proper fuel/oil mixture (as indicated in the owner's manual) for equipment with two-stroke engines. An improper mixture will decrease efficiency and increase pollution.

(Four-stroke engines do not use a fuel-oil mixture.)

\* Maintain sharp blades on cutting tools so you spend less time running the motor.

\* Clean the underside of your lawn mower's deck to reduce resistance and maximize efficiency.

\* Avoid spilling gasoline, which contributes to air pollution when the gasoline evaporates. Use a funnel to pour gas into the tank, and be sure not to overfill.

When the time comes to buy new yard equipment, consider electric-powered models. They may have a higher price tag than their gasoline-powered counterparts, but they are up to 50 percent less expensive to operate over a 10-year life span because of lower fuel costs. Electric tools are also cleaner--even if the electricity they use is generated from fossil fuels, it is easier to control the pollution from a single power plant than from thousands of individual tools.

You can eliminate pollution entirely by using old-fashioned manual tools such as push mowers, pruning shears, and rakes or brooms. These are especially appropriate for small yards or lawn care projects.

If you need gasoline-powered equipment, however, choose models with a four-stroke engine rather than a two-stroke engine.

Generally speaking, four-stroke engines are far more efficient and generate fewer pollutants.

Related Links:

Environmental Protection Agency--Your Yard and Clean Air (pdf) [http://ucsaction.org/ct/X7\\_Irv716X5J/](http://ucsaction.org/ct/X7_Irv716X5J/)

Green Seal--Lawn Care Equipment (pdf)

[http://ucsaction.org/ct/4d\\_Irv716X5Z/](http://ucsaction.org/ct/4d_Irv716X5Z/)

Canyon River Outfitters Association--The Environmentally Friendly Four-Stroke

[http://ucsaction.org/ct/41\\_Irv716X5K/](http://ucsaction.org/ct/41_Irv716X5K/)

Environmental Protection Agency--Beneficial Landscaping

[http://ucsaction.org/ct/Xd\\_Irv716X5-/](http://ucsaction.org/ct/Xd_Irv716X5-/)

Environmental Protection Agency--Lawn and Garden (Small Gasoline) Equipment

[http://ucsaction.org/ct/Xp\\_Irv716X5D/](http://ucsaction.org/ct/Xp_Irv716X5D/)

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If you received this message from a friend, you can sign up for the Union of Concerned Scientists

[http://ucsaction.org/ucsaction/join.html?r=rp\\_Irv71tmreE&](http://ucsaction.org/ucsaction/join.html?r=rp_Irv71tmreE&)

### A WONDERFUL WAY TO HELP by Charles Cressey

Officially recognized, more than 100,000 civilians have been killed in "collateral damage" as it is called, and some reports say that number nears the 200,000 mark. Awful as that is, I wonder how large a number would it take to count the wounded. I submit the following letter as another way we Americans can show our grave concern.

Dear Friends,

The SNOW Coalition (Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War) is sponsoring a fundraising Walk for Peace and Healing at Green Lake on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. The goal is to raise at least \$ 50,000 in order to bring an Iraqi child in need of specialized medical treatment for war-related injuries to a northwest Hospital. This effort will be coordinated with No More Victims, an organization experienced in medical sponsorship and related issues.

This is an opportunity for you and your friends to do something constructive, healing for a child injured by war. Besides participating in the Walk yourself, you approach your friends and ask to-be-parents and other family members to

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sponsor your Walk-a-thon participation. If there is a youth group in your school or other groups you belong to ask them to help arrange discussions about the facts and moral issues involved in the Iraq war and the humanitarian crisis it has caused. Also, encourage them to participate in the Walk-a-thon.

For more information and answers to your questions call 206-364-4521, or e-mail gunnell1@w-link.net

Thank you.

SNOW Walk for Peace and Healing campaign committee

## BIRTHDAYS

### April

Jackson Witmer	4/3
Karen Aubin	4/8
Eli Bloch-Garcia	4/23
Andy Studyvin	4/25
Gisele Weiderheim	4/30

### May

Jane Witmer	5/2
Terri Toennesen	5/2
Donna Zion	5/2
Amy English	5/4
Melody Gowen	5/10
Ruth Allyn	5/18
Bonnie Thompson	5/20
Rose Bailey	5/26
Patty Haskell	5/31
Carrie Hylander	5/31
Jerry Watson	5/31

## PRIDE PARADE PLANNING

The Pride Parade, in case you have not heard, is not on Capital Hill this year. The parade starts down town on 4th avenue and goes out to the Seattle Center. There is a 2 day festival at the Seattle Center. The festival is June 24th and 25th. The parade is on the 25th. So let's celebrate the anniversary of the UCC by getting out there and telling Seattle that we are Open and Affirming, that God is Still Speaking!! **We're registered to walk as a UCC contingent of churches. And we will have a booth for the UCC at the festival!**

**We're having a planning meeting for the parade and for a festival booth on April 24th at 7PM at University Congregational Church, in the lounge.**

Linda Gasparovic and Paul Binneboese from Bethany have registered us for the Pride Parade - for the ONA churches to walk as a group. They've included that we'll have a vehicle -

either a float or a convertible for those who can't walk. A vehicle will give us options for sound. They're full of ideas as to how we can make our part in the parade more interesting! One is if we go with the bouncer theme, we could do a play on "Out is IN"... Northshore has a digital recording by our choir of the song God Is Still Speaking with band combo. Susan Towner-Larsen has suggested that everyone wear red and black and that we pass out "God Is Still Speaking" commas. Linda also suggested drummers. Linda and Paul are both musicians; Linda is an artist. But they can't pull this off by themselves! So, if you're willing to help work on this float/contingent - please contact Linda and Paul and let them know you'll help. They're new to the UCC and not real familiar with folks outside of Bethany. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to let folks know we're here.

Pass the word please to folks in your congregation who might be willing to help plan, to staff the booth, or to walk in the parade. Have them get in touch with me, Linda Gasparovic, or Paul Binneboese (who are cc'd on this email.)

**Hope we see you on the 24th of April, 7pm, at University Congregational.**

## LOVE AND TRUTH IN ACTION

**Pacific Northwest Conference  
United Church of Christ Annual Meeting  
Yakima Convention Center  
May 5-7, 2006**

Keynote Speakers:

**Ken Medema** – gifted singer/songwriter/worship leader  
**Edith Guffey** – Associate General Minister of the UCC  
**Hollis Bredeweg** - Associate Conference Minister  
PNCUCC

- Exciting Worship sessions on Friday and Saturday
- Worship experiences throughout the weekend
- Plenary Sessions
- Food and Fellowship

Contact Gail Crouch or Mary Mackenzie if you would like to be one of the Broadview Community UCC Delegates.

## CELEBRATE!

**Family & Adult Service Center** is celebrating their reopening and also 40 years of service to the less privileged, **Saturday, April 22, from 2pm – 5pm.** Please feel free to join them for their open house; ribbon cutting will take place at 3:00pm. The address is: 2013 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (between Virginia and Lenora) Street parking.

broadview community  
United Church of Christ

325 N. 125<sup>th</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98155

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#### **WEBSITE UPDATE:**

The Broadview Community United Church of Christ website has recently been completely overhauled. Check it regularly for updated information on the happenings here at BCUCC!

Some of the New features:

- PDF versions Selected Sermons from the past year – mostly recent ones, including Rev. Gail Crouch and Andrew Estep
- New and Seasoned Church members share their impressions of BCUCC.
- Church members and friends Art Work
- Weekly events/happenings – updated regularly
- Movie Night at the Broadview Movie Review Questions
- PDF versions of Steeple News

#### **FOOD/COMPOST COLLECTION**

We now have the capacity to recycle Food, Plant & Wood waste!

##### **Food Scraps:**

Fruit & veggies, Bread, pasta, grains, dough, Eggshells, nutshells, Coffee Grounds and filters, Tea Bags

##### **Special Handling Food Scraps:**

**You must put in paper bags, layered shredded paper or waxed cardboard boxes**

Raw & cooked meat, fish, chicken, bones, shells, solid dairy products, eggs & shells, table scraps, butcher area sawdust

##### **Food Soiled Paper**

Kitchen paper towels, paper plates, “ cups, “ napkins, Paper take-out cartons, pizza boxes, waxed cardboard, food soiled paper bags, shredded paper, dairy cartons (no plastic spouts or foil liners)

##### **Plant & Wood Scraps:**

Plants & flowers, Landscape vegetation, Holiday trees (no flocking, tinsel, ornaments, Limit 6’ long, 4” diameter), Untreated wood scrapes & sawdust.

