



BROADVIEW COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# STEEPLE NEWS

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Steeple News  
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## SERMON SMIDGEONS ABOUT THE ADVENT SEASON

By Dan Stern

### Day 1: On The Pre-Christmas Blues

Before we get ALL the bright and celebrative Christmas reds, whites, golds, and greens, the primary color is blue. Blue is most appropriate. Blue is a traditional color of penitential soul-searching, preparatory fasting, and middle-of-the night hushed expectancy. Blue is a dark sky color for a wet, wintery season. To be blue often means to be sad, and that is not unusual or abnormal, that it is, in fact, sort of RIGHT that it is so. After all, Advent is a season OF darkness, looking *toward* the light, yes, but dark nonetheless. We light candles in the darkness, and, as much as possible, we stay awake. Gradually, we welcome more light, letting brighter reds and golds spread out across the deep blue. But for the time being, we're appropriately a bit blue. Before we can sing the carols, we have to sing the blues.

### Day 2: On the Advent Adventure

We begin the holy Christian season of Advent with adventure. Advent is, in fact, the root word for adventure; and an adventure, according to my *Webster's Compact Dictionary*, is "a strange or exciting experience, a risky enterprise". To have an adventure, one must be prepared to meet strange beasts, see unusual things. Adventures may scare as much as they delight, but ultimately, they are the gateway to the new, and we need them. We need to cultivate a capacity for adventure and surprise. The season of Advent is tailor-made for just this.

### Day 3: On the Over-all Strangeness of the Season

In order to maintain attentiveness during the adventure we call Advent, John Shea says we need to learn to "ENTERTAIN STRANGENESS". "The proper Attitude," says Shea, "Toward the strange and the scandalous during the season of Advent is this: Do not be afraid to take it into your home."

### Day 4: On the Strange Comfort of John the Baptist

We know things are bad, says Kathleen Norris, when we turn to the likes of John the Baptist for comfort! It turns out that the fiery baptizer, that skuzzy wild desert Tarzan in camel hair loin cloth who eats wild bugs and has wild honey drooling down his beard and hasn't had a bath in years, attracts a surprisingly large following. John, like the lead singer in the rock band Radiohead, may have said to himself before finding his groove, before his 15 minutes of fame, "I'm a creep, I'm a weirdo, what am I doing here, I don't belong here." But somehow, rather amazingly, he DID belong. He belonged as messenger, as forerunner to one yet to be, and greater than he. Something totally new was brewing, and all those who hoped, who longed, who needed, who craved...the one more powerful, the time more, just the community more caring, the coming of God, the Christchild born, the whole new era, just couldn't stay away any longer. In their spiritual hunger, the people were flocking to John. ALL of Jerusalem. We are told, going out into the desert to meet this crazy baptizing beatnik.

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## **Advent Reflection, continued from pg. 1**

### **Day 5: My Advent John the Baptist Story**

I got acquainted recently with a homeless woman who reminded me of John the Baptist. In fact, her nickname was Johnie. She was thin, wearing dirty leather, standing with a steaming tin cup of coffee in her hand in front of a beat-up van. Johnie's van was parked between one belonging to a Latina Lesbian couple and another belonging to an Aurora Avenue hooker. My dog Icy, as usual, made the initial introductions. Johnie, I soon discovered, was college-educated, quite witty and intelligent, disabled, in recovery, and having recently separated from a man who had primary custody of their pet rat. The pet rat, not the man, is the one Johnie misses. She does have rat visitation rights, but she wants one of her own now. The only thing she asked of me was that I keep my ears open for someone who might be willing to give her a nice pet rat for Christmas. I told her I didn't know much about rats, but asked if she'd be interested in renting a room somewhere if I could find any for less than \$400 on Craig's List. She said yes; so I did, and took back the info to her later. I noticed how cold Johnie's hands looked. I gave her my gloves. A strange kind of peace came over me. My hands felt a little bit colder walking home without them, but my heart felt strangely warmed.

## **LITURGY AND THE CHURCH YEAR**

By Mary Mackenzie

It was brought to my attention that as the new church year starts, we might want to learn more about the way the church year is organized and the seasons of the church. The first Sunday of the church year is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation, looking towards the incarnation (God made flesh) – the birth of Jesus. It is a time during which we as Christians try to slow down life, and wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. Liturgical colors for Advent are either blue or violet – these colors are often seen in altar cloths and stoles.

At this time of year, the liturgical biblical cycle (known as the lectionary) also changes. The readings, if following the lectionary, are split up into three cycles — years A, B and C — that follow the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The Revised Common Lectionary is the lectionary that most mainstream Protestant Churches follow. The Roman Catholic Church

(RC) follows almost the same Lectionary, but since the RC Church includes the Deuteral-Canonical (Apocryphal) books, it differs slightly on some readings. The collection of readings for the RC Church are known as the Roman Missal. We just finished year "A" this November, which has an emphasis on Matthew. We are currently entering year "B", which has an emphasis on Mark. Throughout the year at special times, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter the Revised Common Lectionary uses the Gospel of John.

After Advent, Christmas is the next liturgical season. This is the period between the Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day and Epiphany (the visitation of the three magi). It is always 12 days long, although churches sometimes celebrate the Epiphany on a Sunday. In Christmas the liturgical color is white as is Epiphany Sunday. The rest of the season of Epiphany season (also known as Ordinary time if you grew up Catholic or in some Protestant Churches) is green.

The Epiphany season ends with Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is the day on which the imposition of Ashes occurs with words similar to, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Lent is a season of penitential preparation for the resurrected Christ through the Easter mysteries. The color of Lent is purple, which is a penitential color in the church. Lent lasts forty days. In this season, we often hear of people giving to the poor (alms), or giving up something. This comes from the Gospel, where Christ asks carry the cross and give up all to follow Him. We remember that it is Christ who saves us through his journey to the cross.

Holy Week officially ends Lent, with Palm/Passion Sunday when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem, to the crowds of people waving Palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!" (Mk 11:9b-10) Jesus, however, knew what was ahead of him. Palm/Passion Sunday is usually celebrated with the color red.

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## Liturgical Year, continued from pg. 2

The Holy Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil) is the heart of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday) is the day that Jesus sat down at table with his disciples and shared the last supper, which Holy Communion represents. Jesus broke bread and drank wine, which represent his body and blood. The color for Maundy Thursday is white.

Good Friday, the day that Jesus was put to death on a cross, it is often observed as a recreation of Jesus' last hours and death. The color is usually black, if there is any color at all. The Easter Vigil, which takes place on Saturday, leading up to Easter Sunday, takes place Saturday night, often timed to end at or after midnight. It is a time of prayer and expectation. In some churches it is the time when the new fire is lit, and the Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit. The color for Easter Vigil is white. If one reads all the readings for Easter Vigil, there are twelve.

Easter Sunday, of course, is when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus. This is arguably the most holy day in the Christian calendar year. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb where Jesus had been laid, and found it empty because Jesus had been raised. The color for Easter is white.

The season of Easter lasts sixty days, and ends with Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is the day the Spirit descended on the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire and filled them with the Holy Spirit, so that they could spread the Word of God. The color for Pentecost Sunday is red. The season of Pentecost (also known as Ordinary Time) is the longest in the church calendar year. During this season, Jesus begins his public teaching ministry. This is the time when we see the color green in liturgical stoles and altar cloths.

*A note from Pastor Dan: Our thanks goes out to our excellent – and knowledgeable administrator, Mary Mackenzie!*

### **MARDI GRAS AUCTION FUNdraiser:**

Broadview's 2nd annual FUNdraising auction will be held this year on Saturday, February 25th. We will be celebrating the start of Lent with a Mardi Gras themed celebration that will include mariachi music. It's not too early to begin thinking about auction items you could donate, or that you would be willing to solicit. Popular items last year included 4 hours of sailing, 6 months of homemade cookies, and garden weeding. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Andrew Estep, Chris Foss, or Kay Groves.

## **BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF VERNON AND GERTRUDE WORK**

By their daughter, Linda Hanson

Guy Vernon Work was born in Fresno, California, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915. His mother wanted him to be named Vernon, but her mother-in-law put the name SHE wanted on his birth certificate...Guy!! Vernon was the oldest of five children. His siblings call him Bud.

Gertrude Anna Fischer Work was born in her Grandmother's home in Lewistown, Montana, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Her father, Jake, exclaimed upon seeing her, "she's too small to live!" Gertrude has one sister, Thelma. They were raised in a sixteen room brick home built by her grandfather. Her mother died in 1931 at the age of forty-four, leaving her Dad to raise his teenaged daughters.

Vernon and Gertrude were living in San Francisco when they met on a stairwell in the apartment of mutual friends in 1940. Vernon knew right away that she was the girl for him and told his Dad that night, "I've met the woman I am going to marry today!" His dad replied, "Son you've been in the sun too long!" He was driving long haul trucks at that time and his kids love to hear the anecdotes about driving the California Grapevine. His scariest story tells about his brakes giving out and him stopping inches before his demise!!

Vernon and Gertrude were married November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, Vern entered military service in the U.S. Army-Air Force. He spent WWII as an airplane mechanic and flight inspector. Gertrude worked as a secretary while living with her sister in Seattle. During this time their daughter, Linda, was born. Like most service men, Vernon would not see his baby until she was four months old.

The war ended and Vernon joined Gertrude in Seattle. Where they purchased the home where Vern still lives, in 1949. Their second daughter, Sandra, was born in 1950.

They have been members of Broadview UCC for over half a century and have celebrated many happy occasions there, including their daughter's confirmation and marriage and their 50<sup>th</sup> & 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. This past August, Vernon was honored by many of his friends and relatives on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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### Work Family Bio, continued from pg. 3

Upon his retirement from Safeway, where he was Produce Manager, Vernon and Gertrude became world travelers, visiting: Europe, Canada, Mexico City, Alaska, Hawaii and the Continental US. They went to Rick Steeves' classes on independent Europe travel and in their late sixties traveled for several months on their own. Rick Steeves featured them in a short section on senior travel in one of his books.

In addition to their two children, Linda and Sandra, they are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Sadly, Gertrude has been living at Greenwood Park nursing home for the past three years. The love that they have had for each other has endured through all these years. Vernon visits Gertrude daily rain or shine. Vern and Gertrude are a true testimony to their vows, "In sickness and in health—till death do we part."

*Thanks, Linda, for this beautiful tribute to two beautiful BCUCC members!*

### BIRTHDAY 'S DECEMBER & JANUARY

#### December 2005

Thea Ward	12/3	
Tom Ward	12/3	
Chris Foss	12/8	
Sally Middendorf		12/10
Lin Takahashi	12/11	
Tracy Studyvin	12/13	
Bill Norton	12/15	
Lois Selmar	12/15	
Giovanni English		12/20
Dan Stern	12/29	

#### January 2006

Bob Squaglia	1/2	
Maureen Tverberg	1/10	
Ruth Hylander	1/10	
Craig Swanson	1/12	
Britney English	1/20	

### PASTOR'S INVITATIONS TO ENGAGE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

--Go with me to Bellevue sometime before Christmas to the Church Council sponsored daily lunchtime vigil on behalf of Tent City... **(Cont. in next column)**

### Cont. from previous column

--Almost 30 people, more than half of whom were newcomers and guests, crowded around the TV in the Fellowship Hall to see our matinee showing of *Wal-mart: The High Cost of Low Price*. Thanks to Deb Schumacher for coordinating a discussion with our neighbors and guests. A second showing in January is being planned if sufficient interest is shown.

--Conscientious Objector Workshop. Are you conscientiously opposed to war? Are you concerned that if the draft were reactivated you would have only ten days to prepare your case? Come to a Conscientious Objector Workshop on Thursday, December 29, to explore issues of conscience and learn how to build a C.O. file. Youth and persons of draft age, both men and women, are welcome, as are parents, guardians and friends. 7:00-8:30pm at University Lutheran Church, 1604 NE 50<sup>th</sup>, Seattle. Refreshments served. No admission charge. Sponsored by the University District Interfaith Alliance Sanctuary Task Force. RSVP to 206-525-7074 or [pastoranne@ulcseattle.org](mailto:pastoranne@ulcseattle.org).

--You're invited to join the First Annual Countywide Celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. in Seattle, sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle. The evening will include a sermon by Rev. George Regas of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, whose recent sermon raised the ire of the IRS and music by FAME Gospel Choir. Free childcare is available by calling 206-525-1213. For more information, go to [www.thechurchcouncil.org](http://www.thechurchcouncil.org).

### SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*by Graham Kendrick  
from "With One Voice" Hymnal*

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with love and mercy,  
Send forth your Word, Lord,  
And let there be light!

*Submitted by, Linda Sorenson*

## READINGS DEC 2005 – JAN 2006

### December 18, 2005

God's Purpose

2 Sam 7: 1-11, 16; Ps 89:1-4, 19-26

Rom 16: 25-27; Luke 1:26-38

### December 25, 2005

Joy to the World

Christmas Day

Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98

Heb 1:1-4, 5-12; John 1:1-14

### January 1, 2006

Child of Hope

Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148

Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

### January 8, 2006

Beloved Child

Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29

Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

### January 15, 2006

Speak God, I'm Listening

1 Sam 3:1-10; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

### January 22, 2006

Turning Around

Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12

1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

### January 29, 2006

Amazing Teacher

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111

1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

## GOD WILL GIVE US ALL THE STRENGTH WE NEED

*by, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor/Theologian  
from "Letters and Papers from Prison"*

*writing from Tegel Prison, Germany*

*Executed April 9, 1945 for his part in the Resistance*

"I believe that God can and will bring good out of evil, even out of the greatest evil. For that purpose he needs men who make the best use of everything. I believe that God will give us all the strength we need to help us to resist in all time of distress. But he never gives it in

advance, lest we should rely on ourselves and not on him alone. A faith such as this should allay all our fears for the future." New Year, 1943

"From the Christian point of view, there is no special problem about Christmas in a prison cell. For many people in this building, it will probably be a more sincere and genuine occasion than in places where nothing but the name is kept. That misery, suffering, poverty, loneliness, helplessness, and guilt mean something quite different in the eyes of God from what they mean in the judgment of man, that God will approach where men turn away, that Christ was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn - these are things that a prisoner can understand better than other people; for him they really are glad tidings, and that faith gives him a part in the communion of saints, a Christian fellowship breaking the bounds of time and space." December 17, 1943  
*Submitted by, Linda Sorenson*

## YOU CALL OUR HEARTS

*Author Unknown, a choral piece*

The silent stars shine down on us with bright, but  
sightless eye,  
Unmindful of our little earth, of us who live and die.  
Are we but grains of stranded sand beside a cosmic sea -  
That lie unvalued and unseen in such immensity?

Creator of all stars, you came  
To grace our transient race.  
In Christ you spoke a word that broke  
The silences of space.

Still through that word you call our hearts  
To know that we are known,  
To trust we do not walk through time,  
Unvalued and alone.

*Submitted by, Linda Sorenson*

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## **BROADVIEW BANTER**

By Jennie Bloch-Garcia

If you happen to see **Deb Schumacher, Jan Studyvin, Joanne Conard, or Jane Witmer** wearing a handmade, ethnic looking scarf this winter, it was probably purchased at the Fair Trade/Sustainable Lifestyle/Alternative Craft Fair at Keystone UCC. The group of lovely, global-minded ladies dined famously on black bean soup and pecan pie while shopping for holiday gifts that would make a minimal impact on the Earth.

Speaking of global-minded ladies, the lovely **Francis Squalia** and the charming **Mo Pomietto**, accompanied by their fabulous husbands, **Bob** and **Scott**, recently ditched church to travel to Portland. These four grandparents (we should all look so great when we're grandparents) had a wild time enjoying fabulous food, drink, and rapid transit.

Speaking of lovely couples, **Ruth and Dennis Hylander** are currently celebrating their **25<sup>th</sup>** anniversary (we should all look so great after twenty five years of marriage) in Maui. Curiously,

they have chosen to leave their two gifted and musically talented children in Seattle with a close friend. **Chris and Carrie** deny that they're planning any wild parties and claim that they're going to spend their time studying. Ruth and Dennis deny that they're going to sunbathe on a beach drinking fancy cocktails out of coconuts and claim that they're going to spend their time hiking.

Speaking of a wild time, the adorable **Christian Thorn** will be spending some of his winter break crashing at the collegiate home of the brilliant **Sara Qualin**. I'm sure Sara would be happy to let any other interested Broadview members sleep on her floor during this holiday season.

Speaking of the never ending saga that is the life of **Christy Qualin**, Broadview's favorite former inhabitant has quit her job to attend school full time. Christy's church-phobic boyfriend of several decades, **Ron**, has been invited to share any interesting news that may or may not occur during this holiday season. Ron has remained mute on the topic but Broadview church members are encouraged to stay tuned.

