



BROADVIEW COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE NEWS

325 N. 125TH ST., SEATTLE WA 98133
206-363-8060, FAX: 206-363-4791
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Steeple News
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Edited by Mary Mackenzie

POWER TO DO – See Mark 1:21-28 (Excerpts from a Sermon) by Rev. Dan Stern

Powerful things happening here at Broadview! Do you realize it? It's hard for me to believe and yet true: over half of our most actively contributing members have joined us within the last few years. We've acquired our long-sought-after electronic sign, and the visibility it's providing, along with increasing hits on our website and Facebook page, have begun to greatly increase the numbers of people who are hearing our message – including young people. Its starting to create some buzz, and bringing people inside our doors. We're now in the process of organizing another newcomer inquiry group scheduled to meet Mondays in March. We're getting ready for our big fundraising theatrical event – Jeff Stilwell's one-act comedy, *A Voice Broken*, taking place here March 27 (we want a very full house, so be sure to call or email the church office soon to purchase your tickets!). We're doing well with our movie nights; we're considering several musical concert fundraiser options this year as well.

Powerful things are happening! One problem though: I have pretty much always been of the opinion, and still tend to believe that power corrupts, and that absolute power corrupts absolutely. And though I've given lip service to more appropriate use of and types of power, the greater emphasis of my earlier-career has been to focus, especially in my sermons, on critiquing power's misuse. I don't think this was a particularly off-base emphasis; it's necessary to have our guard up against abuses of power. The founders of this nation, as well as our UCC congregational forebears, knew that well-developed, well-maintained systems of checks and balances need to continue functioning at all levels of our lives.

It's only been in more recent years I've also started to appreciate a more positive take on power. I've gotten more fully-aware of the kinds of authority that are valid, and styles of assertive leadership that are helpful and good. More and more, I've realized that power, like money, can either be hoarded or shared, either utilized for good or for ill. With this, I've come to believe that acknowledging one another's gifts and abilities to take on various powerful leadership roles may be the thing progressive communities of faith need most today.

UCC Pastor Tony Robinson, formerly of Plymouth Church in downtown Seattle, says that there is a power outage going on in many mainline Protestant churches today. Robinson asks us to consider what it costs to see power as inherently suspect and even evil. Lacking leadership, we accomplish next to nothing of substance. (All organizations, including churches) "are reliant on the responsible use of power to fulfill their goals and mission.

Maybe some of us have, as Robinson suggests, too frequently abdicated our responsibility to lead, to utilize our appropriate share of power. Maybe we cause greater harm than we realize when we negate, deny, or allow powerful gifts we've been given to go unused or under-utilized. When it comes to the church, is power somehow and always a bad thing? "Are leaders supposed to lead, or aren't they? Leaders who exercise power may in fact be servants and not simply in it for themselves..." (Robinson).

In addition to this implied leadership vacuum, Robinson notes another disturbing trend: both newspapers, or "mainstream media" and mainline Protestant churches are facing hard times. Many are going out of business altogether. Tony Robinson should know – he's both a UCC pastor without a congregation and a Seattle PI columnist (in case you haven't heard, the PI, after over a century and a half of publication, is expected to go out of business this month!). Similar things are happening to some of Seattle's oldest most venerable Protestant churches.

On the other hand: there are motivated, flexible and creative progressive congregations in Seattle and elsewhere who are successfully bucking this trend. There are also a number of lively, often Open and Affirming churches currently affiliated with more theologically conservative denominations, who are

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literally waiting in line to discuss affiliation with the United Church of Christ! Our incredibly-gifted 40-year old Conference Minister, Mike Denton, with the backing and help of the Pacific NW Conference Committee on which I now serve, the one that granted seed money to us to jump-start funding for our current choir director and children and youth coordinator, is now entering into preliminary conversations with these existing congregations who are eager to be considered for adoption into the UCC.

And as I said at the start powerful things are happening here too. Not flashy things, sometime under-the-radar kinds of things, and but nevertheless powerful. We sometimes say that we are, here at Broadview, a small but mighty bunch. Of course, we have no might, and we can never be even the slightest bit appropriately filled with power, apart from the loving, motivating power of God. As Carlo Carretto put it: We are the wire, but God is the current. Our only power is that of letting the current pass through us. We are the wire. The pipeline. The conduit. If a wire gets too hot, it will burn out. If a pipeline remains cold and empty for too long, it will crack. God is the current that has to flow through us. If we're going to continue to be a church with God's current flowing, our institutional viability is important. We need to care about our budget, take our priorities for renewal and growth seriously. Both as a church and as individuals we need to keep ourselves in the best of condition. Thus, the wisdom of weekly Sabbath rest, times for self-reflection and critique, times to warm ourselves up for the motivating challenges ahead, and also to cool down when we, like the man with the demons, may be vulnerable to getting driven into a state of anxious frenzy. (See Mark 1:21-28.)

I have confidence about us being an appropriately power-wielding church. What we do is important. Much good couldn't happen without us. We do wield power. But we're only the wire. It's not me nor any other human being who is the current, the current that empowers good things that happen in this community.

And of course this power, this kind of authority, the kind Jesus used to teach and live and heal with is never a thing to be had for its own sake. Jesus powerfully taught, lived, and healed in order that people might get free of anything at all that holds us back. So the hymn does say it well: "Christ, the demons still are thriving in the grey cells of the mind; tyrant voices, shrill and driving, twisted thoughts that grip and bind. Doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason's sight, guilt that makes our loving frantic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright... But Christ stills the unclean spirits in our mind and in our heart, speaks the word, that when we hear it, all our demons do depart; clears our thought and calms our feelings, stills the fractured, warring soul; by the power of God's healing, makes us faithful, true and whole." Let it be, let us help it to be so.

LATE-BREAKING "SMALL BUT MIGHTY" BROADVIEW NEWS

We are now in the process of arranging a Covenant with the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference to offer our soon-to-be vacated upstairs office space as our next UCC Pacific Northwest Conference Home! This will do much both to balance our deficit budget AND to be "the place to be in the UCC."

QUOTE

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure, wrote the poet Marianne Williams. Her words were mightily spoken by Nelson Mandela at the inauguration of the post-apartheid era in South Africa. So soon after the inauguration of another leader among us, we are being challenged to know this: "It is (often) our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God! Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

WE HOLD IN OUR MEMORY



Marguerita Slenning passed away on January 1, 2009. We will hold A Life Celebration in remembrance of Marguerita Slenning on March 15, 2009 immediately following the 10am Worship Service at Broadview Community United Church of Christ. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the brief service. You can come to church at 10am or come just for the remembrance at 11am.

**Weldon "Bub" Watson
Jerry Watson's father**

Weldon "Bub" Watson, age 90 of Oklahoma City, OK passed away at his home on Monday, Dec. 15, 2008. He was born July 7, 1918 in Fontana, KS to Frank E. and Gladys L. (White) Watson. He has lived in the Oklahoma City area since 1933 and is the last charter member of Mimosa Heights Christian Church. He served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. He retired from Tinker Air Force Base as a aircraft mover and also worked as a carpenter and farmer. He enjoyed raised cattle and chickens and all animals received an extra portion of feed on holidays! He loved to work in his garden and sold watermelons along the road side. He married his wife Arline on Dec. 24, 1943 and they had over 60 years together. He is survived by 2 sons: Neil Watson and wife Debbie of Woodward, OK and Jerry W. Watson of Seattle, WA; 3 daughters: Shelley Iles and husband Dan of St. George, Utah, Nancy Lewis and husband Derek of Luther, OK, and Welda Gennings and companion Debs of Oklahoma City, OK; 16 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Arline, 3 brothers, and 2 sisters. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a, Friday, December 19, 2008 at Mimosa Heights Christian Church in Oklahoma City, OK with burial to follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

BIRTHDAY LIST FEB/MAR 2009

February

MaryAnn Smith	2/2
Christy Qualin	2/4
Brooks Ladwig	2/8
Scott Pinegar	2/21
Jan Studyvin	2/27

March

Pepper Gowen-Swanson	3/4
Judy Zibbell	3/6
Marianne Vogel	3/7
Sam Wilson	3/10
Charles Cressey	3/11
John Selmar	3/19
Alma Turner	3/20
Walter Thorn	3/20
Christian Thorn	3/22
Ron Liddle	3/23
Luisa Bloch-Garcia	3/27
Jennie Bloch-Garcia	3/28

READINGS FEB/MAR 2009

February 2009

Sunday, February 8, 2009

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Source of Strength
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 15, 2009

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Compassionate Community
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-5

Sunday, February 22, 2009

Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration

Sense of the Sacred
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:16-21

March 2009

Sunday, March 1, 2009

1st Sunday in Lent

God's Loving Paths
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, March 8, 2009

2nd Sunday in Lent

Always Close
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, March 15, 2009

3rd Sunday in Lent

Beautiful Law
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 22, 2009

4th Sunday in Lent

No Matter What
Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 29, 2009

5th Sunday in Lent

Deep in Our Hearts
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

SHAREHOUSE FEB/MAR

February Disposable razors and laundry detergent

March Disposable diapers

2009 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Even As We Hope: Blooming in Uncertain Times

February 27-March 1, 2009 7pm Friday – 12pm Sunday

Register online at www.pilgrimfirs.org

\$89 for Retreat, limited scholarships available

Questions – Contact:

Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel – rev.emilyjoy@gmail.com or

Rev. Tara Barber – barbertara@hotmail.com

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

by Alice Walker

submitted by Gail Williams

The World Has Changed:

Wake up and smell

The possibility.

The World Has Changed:

It did not change

Without your prayers

Without your faith

Without your determination

To Believe in liberation and kindness;

Without your dancing

Through the years

That had no beat.

The World Has Changed:

This does not mean

You were never hurt.

The World Has Changed:

Rise! Yes and shine!

Resist the siren

Call of disbelief.

The World Has Changed:

Don't let yourself

Remain asleep to it.

SEVEN-PART PRESCRIPTION FOR LIVING IN ANXIOUS TIMES

by Anthony B. Robinson

Taken from Seattle PI Column

Anxious times in which we live, eh? (I threw in the eh so that you'd know I am learning the language up here in Canada.)

If anxiety seems to be running higher than usual right now for a lot of reasons that don't bear repeating, it is also our human lot to be anxious. That's because we're finite creatures able to think beyond our finite circumstances. "Rational animals," Aquinas said. Makes us anxious.

If anxiety comes with the territory but is surging now, the challenge is not to let anxiety get the best of us, thus causing us to hurt ourselves and others.

Here's my seven-part prescription, drawn from spiritual wisdom and personal experience, for living amid anxious times:

1. Remember past hard times and times of crisis, and remember that you emerged on the other side. There have been times before when things have been really dark and desperate, but you made it through. "Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come..." Remember that.
2. Gratitude. Count 'em – your blessings, that is. Anxiety magnifies our deficiencies, deficits and inadequacies. Gratitude, where the spiritual life begins, is the antidote. Hold out your hands, palms up. For the shortest time, place the deficits in one hand. In the other, pile up the blessings, the people and things you're grateful for, the personal strengths you have, and the good that surrounds you.
3. Think on the things that last, like, say, love. "Love never faileth," reads the King James. That could mean love wins in the end. Or it may mean that while we can run out of oil, we can't run out of love. Either way, there are lots of things that are temporal, things that don't last. Getting too focused on those leaves you empty in the end.

There are other things that are lasting, that won't go away. Focus there. Lately, the opening words of the 90th Psalm have been on my mind and heart.

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all the generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the Earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

4. Anxious times are times to remember the truly vulnerable among us: the poor, the refugees, children and the aged. Extend a hand in their direction. Make sure your local food bank is stocked up for the coming winter. Think now about someone who is likely to be alone at Thanksgiving and whom you may include at your family table. There are churches and other groups that regularly send care packages to soldiers overseas. Join them.
5. Celebrate the simple pleasures, such as dogs. I stayed this week with a family that had a black Lab, Raven, Petting black Labs is good. Also good is taking a walk

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and kicking up fall leaves. At the farmers markets, it's time for all those glorious root things: parsnips, carrots, beets and sweet potatoes.
7. Here's a tough one: Remember the difference between reaction and response. When anxiety runs high we're tempted to be reactive – firing back when fired upon. Take a few deep breaths, count to 10 and instead of just reacting, respond.
- It's what Jesus was talking about when he said, "Turn the other cheek" and "Go the extra mile." He didn't mean being a doormat. He did mean we don't have to get caught in cycles of reaction. Instead of letting someone else's anger or fear control us, we can be in charge of ourselves and how we respond. It's not easy, I know, but in anxious times, reactivity runs wild unless we stop it.
8. Laugh. When grim threatens to overwhelm, I sometimes duck into the bathroom, close the door, look into the mirror, make a funny face at the guy I see and laugh. Forced at first, it can actually become pretty hilarious. Rent an old, funny movie. Ask everyone to bring a joke to dinner. Doesn't mean there aren't real problems. It does mean that taking yourself too seriously can be fatal.

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE POINTERS

Presented by Christy Qualin at a recent Sunday Club Parents and Teachers Potluck.

- ❖ Mutual Respect - model respect & kindness—for yourself, your partner, your children, others
- ❖ Understand Behavior – what's behind the behavior—remember HALT—hungry, angry, lonely, tired—for children this can include feelings of frustration and/or a need for attention
- ❖ Communicate – listen and use a respectful tone and words with children
- ❖ Learn about Developmental stages – internet, books, classes, workshops, community health, friends, other parents—your children's friends' parents, family members you respect and trust, your faith community, others
- ❖ Employ Discipline Techniques that Teach – help children form social and life skills, punishment teaches nothing positive
- ❖ Focus on the Solution – fit the consequence to the challenge, never blame, shame or compare children
- ❖ Encourage Children – build confidence, praise must be sincere and connected to behavior
- ❖ Teach Cooperation – help children learn new skills

- ❖ Empower Children – all of us need to feel connected, empowered and protected
- ❖ The Golden Rule – treat children the way you would like them to treat you –with respect, affection and compassion.

JOKE

Submitted by Kay Groves

Understanding Engineers – Take 1

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Understanding Engineers – Take 2

The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?"
The graduate with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with an arts degree asks, "Do you want any fries with that?"

Understanding Engineers – Take 3

Three engineering students were gathered together discussing the possible designers of the human body. One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints." Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections." The last one said, "No, actually it had to have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

Understanding Engineers – Take 4

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it.
Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.

Pastor Moves

A pastor places his order at the pet store: "I need at least 50 mice, 2000 ants and as many of those little silverfish you can get." The clerk replies, "We can probably do that, but it might take some time. Mind if I ask why you are placing such an unusual order?" The pastor replies, "I've accepted a call to another church and the congregation council told me to leave the parsonage the way I found it."

Communion

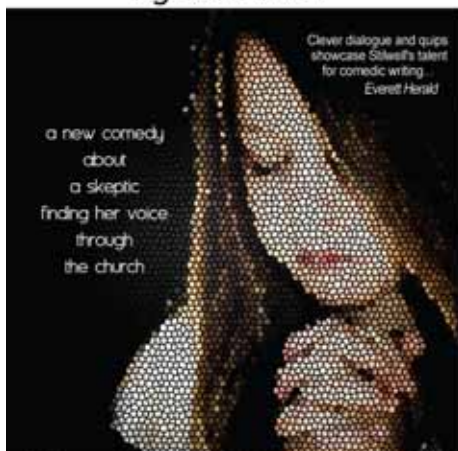
One communion Sunday, my communion steward prepared communion with a twist. When it came time to uncover the elements the grape juice looked darker than usual. I thought nothing of it and began to serve the communion. Promptly upon receiving the cup, each recipient's face had a peculiar, stunned look. When it came time for me to receive I discovered why the stange looks...the juice was prune juice! One parishoner stated, "Perhaps this is a Divine commentary on our spirituality...we need a little loosening up!"

broadview community
United Church of Christ

325 N. 125th St.
Seattle, WA 98155

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A VOICE BROKEN by Jeff Stilwell



March 27, 2009 · 8 pm
Broadview Community United Church of Christ
Tickets \$10 · (206) 363-8060

Broadview Community Church United Church of Christ is presenting NW Dramatist Jeff Stilwell's latest one act comedy, ***A VOICE BROKEN***, on **Friday March 27th, 2009 at 8 pm**. **Tickets, \$10, are available at (206) 363-8060.**

A VOICE BROKEN is the tenth play of Stilwell's to be produced. His credits include the Everett Herald judgment, "Clever dialogue and quips showcase Stilwell's talent for comedic writing..." for his *PENNY UPSTART AND THE WIDGET WAR* and the Enterprise Newspapers call that his *TRAFFIC STOP* is "...funny, sad, bitter and sweet..." which won two awards at the Kaleidoscope 2007 competition.

A VOICE BROKEN is the story of a young woman, a skeptic, who finds her voice, to her considerable surprise, through the church. Along her quest, she recruits a snarky barista, a fiercely secular activist, and a quirky homeless wisdom figure to help her search.