



STEEPLE NEWS

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Steeple News
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Edited by Mary Mackenzie

A LENTEN MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAN

Lent is a journey that has a purpose,
that goes in a direction from death to life.
And yet...

**In gardens of the Spirit, we have to dig deep;
in deserts of the Spirit, we have to venture far.**

The vocation of a Christian during Lent
is to be both a traveler and a digger-

*to dig down in the depths of our innermost being and to
venture out along edges of the outermost places to which God
calls us.*

**As we venture into deep earth inner gardens
of the Spirit,**

we sweat and get calloused, but our
labor bears fruit.

And **as we venture outward,** we see the desert, the Spirit
wilderness.

There, **the trail winds & gets quite
narrow,**

but we eventually come back to things green and
glorious.

**Individual persons, tribes, and cultures have
always encountered desert times: difficulties to
overcome, temptations to conquer.** Rituals have been
created and assigned to make such times more meaningful,
times, usually, for wondering about in some fashion. Native
Americans called it 'going on a Vision Quest.' Australian
Aborigines called it "Going Walkabout." It can take place in the
desert, on a mountain, or inside a cave, sweat lodge, or even
nursing home cell.

That's really what Jesus did too. **When he went
out into the wilderness and was tempted, Jesus went
out on a kind of Vision Quest.** He did it to get himself, to
get us all, back to the garden.

Joanie Mitchell sang at Woodstock that "We are
stardust, we are golden, and we've got to get ourselves back to
the garden." Well we do! It's true. It's what the Lenten
journey is all about.

Lent is a pathway from one garden to another,
and then at Easter to yet
another:

From the Garden of Eden to the Garden of
Gethsemane,

and eventually, to the garden which
contained the empty tomb, an
angel, and a risen Christ.

The Bible itself begins and ends in a garden,
starting in Genesis, and ending in revelations of Resurrection.
It is **the universal longing of all Creation** to get back to
the garden. By the time Easter arrives and our gardens are
green and blooming again, so are we! See you along the way
there.

- Pastor Dan

EDITORIAL ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When I first heard news reports of a plan to give tax payers
\$600 to "stimulate the economy", I was so insulted! Do they
really think I am so short-sighted and greedy? I heard several
different "experts" say if Americans march down to the nearest
big box store and spend their \$600 on goods, it will help stop
the downward spiral of the economy.

I have to wonder, how is more money spent on products made
in China going to help the American economy? How does a
one time expenditure really make a difference? I even heard
analysts concerned that Americans might save the money or
use it to pay down our ever increasing debt and that would not
have the desired effect.

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The more I thought about it, I was interested in the timing. It looks to me like an attempt to boost the economy right before an election. That really made me mad! I wanted to do something about it and not be a pawn in a political game. If my efforts to get my representatives to vote against the \$600 folly did not work, what could I do? How could that money truly make a difference? Then I was inspired. I will give it to the church. I know the church uses its money to truly make a difference. I know because it makes a difference in my life every day.

How will you use your \$600 to truly make a difference?

Submitted by Jane Witmer

Note: *If even half our members added their \$600 rebate to their pledge as an "economic stimulus package" for Broadview Church, we would more than adequately meet the challenge of our current projected deficit. Please consider doing so when you receive your check!*

LETTER FROM GARY LAW & DAN CLARK

Hello all or as we say down here hey ya'll! We are doing OK, winter is finally here and we have had some cold nights down into the teens and twenties. The days warm up to the 30's and 40's and most days are sunny. We are still suffering from not enough rainfall, last year we ended about 12 in. below the norm and so far this year we are still below normal. This is fine for Dan and I as we do like the sun.

Sadly we had to cut our vacation to Key West short as Danny's birth mother passed away two days before Thanksgiving. We ended up leaving the warm sun of south FL. and went to Kansas where it was very cold to bury her. Our holidays were spent busy with PartyLite candle shows and parties as well as time with the adopted family that brought us here to Chattanooga.

All in all we have found this to be a good move for us, this is a very beautiful part of the country and we are so close to so many fun places. We head off to Atlanta at least once a month and have been up to Nashville a couple of times as well as Memphis and even New Orleans as well as to visit my good friend Becky in Boca Raton, Fl.

We do miss all of our friends back there, I have started to attend the Pilgrim Congregational U.C.C. near downtown. The people are so very friendly and welcoming, just as you were, we have a new minister starting next Sunday. So this will be exciting. I am heading to a town mtg. tomorrow to hear John Edwards speak at the local IBEW which just happens to be less than a mile from where we live.

Hope all are well there, we enjoy keeping up on ya'll. Drop an email or send us a line 4715 Bonny Oaks Dr. #406 Chattanooga, TN. 37416.

Dan and Gary

READINGS FEBRUARY 24/MARCH

February 24, 2008

Third Sunday in Lent

Water, Word, Witness
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday in Lent

No Limits on Love
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 9, 2008

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Out of the Depths
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

March 16, 2008

Palm/Passion Sunday

To the Cross
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27

March 20, 2008

Maundy Thursday service at St. Paul's UCC

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 21, 2008

Good Friday service at Luther Memorial Church

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

March 23, 2008

Easter Sunday

Alleluia!
Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18

March 30, 2008

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:1-14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

SHAREHOUSE MARCH

In March Sharehouse is asking for **Disposable razors**. There is a basket in the Narthex for any donations. For more information contact, Lin Takahashi.

UPDATE ON GAIL WILLIAMS

Gail has moved up to Angel's Camp, CA where her sister and family live, has joined a Community Chorus in Senora, and continues to often accompany music at nearby Union UCC. She is now taking a break from chaplaincy work, which has been her mainstay recently.

BIRTHDAY LIST MARCH/APRIL

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

April

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

MEDIA HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT OBAMA, CLINTON ALSO ARE RELIGIOUS

by **Anthony B. Robinson**

(Permission given to re-print Seattle PI article)

It's telling that we've heard so much about the religious faith of Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney, and so little about the faith and religion of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Huckabee's Southern Baptist commitment and belonging have been made much of, as was former candidate Romney's Mormon faith.

Article upon article, news show and radio broadcast have debated and dissected the faith of these two Republicans. How many articles or op-eds do you remember exploring Clinton's Methodism or Obama's active participation in the United Church of Christ? I can only remember one, on Obama, and I wrote it.

When it comes to religion, the media and the conversation that dominate the public square operate from a script that prefers to see all religion as conservative, right wing and slightly retrograde.

If religion is moderate or progressive, it seems to be invisible to the pundits and the media and in national conversation. Or to put it another way, America's media and intelligentsia operate with a deceptively simplistic script that identifies religion with reaction and secularism with enlightenment. If something cannot be forced to fit that hoary and trite story line, it doesn't exist. Hence, the absence of serious attention to the faith and religious traditions of Democrats Clinton and Obama.

United Methodism and the United Church of Christ have a long history in America. The latter traces its roots to the New England Pilgrims, while Methodism was part of the camp-meeting tradition of the American frontier.

Both branches of Protestant Christianity have wedded personal piety and social justice. Both played important roles in the movement to abolish slavery in the 19th century, and to advance civil rights in the 20th. Both denominations have incredible records of accomplishment in the areas of health, welfare and higher education. Both have advocated the cause of women's rights and of peace. Both also have their sorrier moments and chapters, too.

Despite the commonalities, there are notable differences between the Methodists and the United Church of Christ. The differences between the two are also evident in the contrasting styles and emphases of Clinton and Obama. The two religious traditions provide a revealing lens on the candidates.

Methodism, which traces its roots to John Wesley and 18th-century England, places a strong emphasis on a practical Christianity, social uplift and good works, and on specific and down-to-earth efforts to improve human lives and societies. It's not a stretch at all to say that Clinton exhibits the distinctively Methodist impulse toward practical, step-by-step social improvement.

The United Church of Christ, which traces its roots to several predecessor denominations, including the New England Congregationalists, has tended toward great visions, such as the notion of their Massachusetts Bay Colony as "a city set upon a hill," a beacon of freedom and hope and change that may sometimes seem a tad short on details.

Clinton's zeal for social betterment with attention to policy detail and practical application is wonderfully Methodist. Obama's visionary idealism, tempered with a Christian realism regarding the possible, is straight from the playbook of one of the greatest theologians of the United Church of Christ, Reinhold Niebuhr.

Someday the media may tell us a more complex, richer and more accurate story of religion in America than the current simplistic framing of all Christians as reactionary, which is, by the way, not even fair to many evangelicals and conservatives. Until then, you read it here first.

CALENDER OF EVENTS FEBRUARY/MARCH

Singers! Join the joint choir of Broadview, St. Paul's and Luther Memorial to sing on Maundy Thursday! Tuesday, 7pm, Broadview Choir Practices each week. Join us!

Tuesday, March 11: The Spiritual Practice of Prayer 6-9pm Rosary Heights, Woodway, WA.

Facilitator: Marcia McLaughlin, spiritual director, Richmond Beach Congregational UCC Suggested Donation \$15, For more information contact: Marcia 206-228-4354 or email: marciamclaughlin@msn.com

Friday, March 28: Broadview Movie Night, will show Part 2 of 2, *A Force More Powerful* at 7pm.

Waging moral combat against an immoral war is examined in a new documentary by York-Zimmerman Films. This long needed film explores not the wars of one nation against another, not even of a nation against itself, but the warfare of the ruling elite against those who make up the vital backbone and even rightful center of a society. In *A Force More Powerful: A Century of Non-violent Combat*, the methods successfully used to fight back are examined and shown to be carefully crafted and excellently executed.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 20: Joint Maundy Thursday Service @ St. Paul's UCC, 7:30PM. (6512 12th NW)

Friday, March 21: Joint Good Friday Service @ Luther Memorial Church, 7PM. (13047 Greenwood Avenue North)

Sunday, March 23: Easter Sunday 10AM here at BCUCC

PRAYER JOKE

Submitted by Marianne Vogel

Dear Lord,

So far today, I'm – doing all right.

I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and then I think that I will really need your help then.

Amen.

UPDATE FROM PETER DONEY

Hello friends,

I hope you all are well. For some, it may have been a while since you last heard from me and that's why I wanted to send this little update out. For those of you who didn't know, last October my team at Alltel in Bellevue was consolidated down to Little Rock, AR. But because I had almost 10 years with the company I was very fortunate to receive a severance package that allowed me to take some time off. I have thoroughly enjoyed this time to relax, reflect and retune. I was able to get back to Hawai'i, do some work on the house, shake up my usual yoga and gym routines but honestly, the most fulfilling part of this time has come from working on a few areas of my life - I guess I could generalize them all as Personal Development. What I have learned has literally been life changing.

That being said, I am so excited to begin on this journey of searching for new work in which my talents would truly be an asset to an employer as well as providing me with work that I enjoy and appreciation from the people that it serves. I'm all about the balance now.

This is my reason for writing to you today. I realize that my greatest resource for finding such a role lays within the people who already know me and what I am about. They know what I have accomplished in the past and know what I am capable of achieving of in the future.

What kind of work am I searching for you may ask. Well, I'm leaving that completely open for discussion at the moment. You could look at my past experience here (<http://www.linkedin.com/in/peterdoney>) which would show my 10+ years in the Wireless and Internet industry and then another 10+ years in Retail/Project Management. You could also look at my Honors and Awards but I think what I am most proud of are the recommendations that I have received from my own colleagues (thanks again to those who contributed).

Here are a few characteristics that are most important to me to find in my next working environment.

- One in which I am part of a team but am free to work on my own the majority of the time. This would translate into meeting or conferring with other team members several times a week but for

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the most part would consist of processing/creating/working on my own pieces of the team's larger picture of objectives or mission. This might also include some travel and the possibility to telecommute on occasions.

- Ideally, there would be the ability to use a balance of my technical and analytical skills, the creativity of my design, form, function and organizing talents as well as my marketing, retail, and project management experience.
- One in which the end product or service I can personally and enthusiastically identify with. A few of those that I am currently passionate about are as follows:

Electronics/Wireless - Apple/Mac, Sony-Ericsson, Nokia, Siemens, T-Mobile, AT&T.

Health/Fitness - Nike, Chiropractic, Acupuncture, Naturopathic Medicine, Yoga, Health Clubs.

Auto - Audi, VW, Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, BMW.

Interior Design - Residential, Commercial, Ultramodern, Lighting, Feng-Shui.

Personal Development - Motivational, New Age, Spiritual.

Travel - Vacation Ownership, Resort Management/Operations, Expedia.

New Business Startup - Planning, Designing, Marketing, Management.

Real-estate - Property Management/Leasing.

So now that I have updated you, I wonder if you could simply keep me in mind over the next few weeks and see if anything crosses your path that you think may be of interest to me. Maybe it's a position that is currently open where you work, something that you heard about from another friend, or maybe it's simply a contact that is in one of my areas of passion.

Please feel free to pass on my profile from linkedIN.com or let me know if I can forward a .pdf of my resume to someone. Thanks so much for your time and support.

Peter Doney
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206.218.9064

PAINTER JOKE

Jock, the painter, often would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the Church decided to do some deferred maintenance, Jock was able to put in the low bid, and got the job. As always, he thinned his paint way down with turpentine.

One day while he was up on the scaffolding -- the job almost finished -- he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened.

The downpour washed the thinned paint off the church and knocked Jock off his scaffold and onto the lawn among the gravestones and puddles of thinned and worthless paint.

Jock knew this was a warning from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice: "REPAINT! REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"

EXCUSES GIVEN BY GUARDS AT THE EMPTY TOMB OF JESUS

- "I thought he was the pizza delivery guy leaving. No wondered he smiled when I tried to give him a tip!"

- "I was putting another denarius in the chariot meter!"

- "With the earth shakin' and all the bright lights, we figured we was abducted by aliens!"

- "Since the tomb was already empty when the stone was rolled away, I'm afraid you're speaking to the wrong department. Let me give you a BR#245-A-Res form and direct you to Burial Services."

- "As we've already stated several times before, according to the legal definition of "escape," we emphatically deny any wrong doing in this matter!"

- "We was HYPNO-TIZED! Centurion Bobicus is still clucking like a chicken!"

- "You told us to secure the tomb as best as we know how (Mat. 27:65). We did! May I suggest an assessment of our current training program?"

- "All I know is, this better not mess up my early retirement package!"

- "Hey! What'd you expect? Did you tell us we were guarding the Son of God? NOOOOOOOO!"

- "What's the big deal? He said He'd be back!"

broadview community
United Church of Christ

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