A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAN:
By this time, most of you have had the pleasure, at one
time or another during the past three years, to have met
and/or worked with Mary Mackenzie, Broadview’s
faithful Office Administrator. As most of you know, Mary
grew up in the UCC and knows UCC ins and outs,
strengths and weaknesses intimately (her father, Rev Don
Mackenzie, is one of the ministers at University
Congregational UCC). She is gifted in her web design and
computer abilities, and has consistently juggled the
myriad tasks of keeping an organized church office with
grace and aplomb.

This month, I asked her to do the ‘lead article’ for Steeple
News, detailing some of the usual activities (“a day in the
life of”) she gets involved with at the church office. I hope
it helps you get a sense of what she does for us all.

Do send her a card or word of encouragement when you
feel so led, and to Mary: Thanks so very much for all that you
do! -Pastor Dan

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
by Mary Mackenzie

When I arrive at work, I start the day by trying to clear off the
majority of the clutter on my desk. First, I sort the mail - this
includes our renters’ mail, former renters’ mail, office mail,
and Pastor Dan’s mail. Then I deliver the mail to the correct
locations. I then must check phone messages and make the
necessary phone calls of the day. Once this is done, if it’s a
Monday, I must attempt to straighten up the Narthex and
Sanctuary, write visitor’s letters, and check in with Pastor Dan
on the weeks agenda.

On any given day after that, I might be working on the Steeple
News. First, I must type or edit any submissions given to me,
so that it is all cohesive. Next, I must put them all into the
Steeple News format along with all the regular running items
i.e. Birthday List, Readings etc. Then the fun begins, I must
copy/ fold/ staple the newsletter. Then finally I must create the
labels for the mailing and sort them for bulk mailings.

Often I need to update the website. This includes making
changes/ additions within FrontPage, and then uploading the
new pages/ files to the website. Occasionally this also means
creating a new page within the website, which is substantially
more time consuming.

By Thursday every week, things become busy due to the push
to get everything ready for Sunday. Pastor Dan usually gives
me the bulletin information, from which I format a draft of the
bulletin, and change/ add any announcements that need to be
changed. After this, I give it to Pastor Dan to look over and
change/ edit to his liking. Then, usually on Friday, I make the
changes Dan wants, and format it for printing. Except for on
major holidays I make 66 regular print bulletins and 5 large
print bulletins. I then fold and stuff all the bulletins, fold the
children’s bulletins, and staple the large print bulletins. On
Friday, I also (when I remember) stick out the pew pads or put
them in Pastor Dan’s office depending on building usage before
Sunday. I usually also prepare the weekly email to send out to
the email list on Friday.

Occasionally I also have to do special Bulletins, or
correspondence. These would include the occasional wedding,
memorial service or ordination. Extra correspondence might
include sending out New Members class mailings, or
Stewardship Campaign letters.
Rev. Mike Denton was ordained in 1999 after graduating from Chicago Theological Seminary. He has been working in churches and religiously affiliated institutions for 20 years. His positions have included working as a street-based outreach worker for youth, a housing rights activist and a local pastor. Before coming here, he was one of two Association Co-Managers for the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. CMA is one of the largest and most diverse associations of the UCC with 107 churches and six related or affiliated UCC institutions within its boundaries. CMA's ministry includes approximately 350 clergy and 70 persons in-care.

Mike grew up in Northeast Ohio. His father is a retired United Methodist minister and his mother works for the community mental health system of Summit County. He has one sister (a teacher) who lives with her husband (a musician), a daughter and two sons just outside of Cleveland.

The neighborhood Mike grew up in East Cleveland was part of a community that, due to "white flight," was changing from a predominantly European-American community to a predominantly African-American community. The church Mike's father was assigned to serve was a European-American congregation that most of its members commuted to. Part of Mike's father's charge was to work to integrate this congregation. During this same time, Mike's mother taught at the elementary school down the street (the same school he and his sister attended) while it went through its own demographic transition.

In many ways, it was in this experience where Mike's faith-based social consciousness found roots. In this setting the dividing lines between church-life, community-life and social-life were blurry, at best and most often intertwined. It's been out of these roots that he has continued to work through, with, within and, occasionally, in spite of the Church on issues including race relations, reproductive freedom, gay rights, labor organizing for low income workers and violence reduction.

The realization of how these issues were shaped and enforced by the larger culture and its institutions lead Mike to begin to study more about how human systems work, generally, and of the theological and psycho-social system understandings, specifically. It was while he served a local church that he began to do a lot of thinking about how what happened within that local setting was related to the wider church and how the wider church was shaped by the local settings of ministry. It was this understanding that lead him to an interest in judicatory work.

During his time in CMA, Mike has both celebrated the interconnectedness between the local church and the wider church and named the ways that the health and wholeness of each depends on the other. He frequently calls his vocation "administry" in recognition that he is called to work in which pastoral and administrative sensibilities are equally important.

Recognizing that the health and wholeness of the church is strongly interrelated with the health and wholeness of its pastors, he strongly advocates for pastors taking the time they need to strengthen their relationships with God, their families, their friends and themselves. During his time within the Illinois Conference, he also staffed a program called "A Day Away" that, last year, hosted a workshop with Parker Palmer and, this year, will be bringing in John Bell from the Iona Community.

With his own time off, Mike reads, writes, takes a bike ride, calls a friend or sees a movie. He's teaching himself to play guitar and occasionally plays music with others. But most of all he loves sitting in the company of friends and family with a table full of tasty food having a good conversation that lasts late in to the night.

Note: Rev. Mike Denton made Broadview one of his very first preaching appointments January 20. We did a blessing of him in his new ministerial calling.

LETTER FROM HOLLIS BREDEWIG

Dear Friends,

The calendar shows that we have reached January 2nd, a day we've awaited for many months. Mike Denton arrived in Seattle to begin his process of settling in. With Mike's arrival we have reached an important milestone in the transition we began in the PNC over 2 years ago. It is tempting to say that the transition is over, but then, even though we pray for a long, happy tenure for a Conference Minister, we know that Mike's effective leadership will bring continued change and renewal.

This day does, however, signal an end to another phase of the transition: My time as Acting Conference Minister is at an end. Starting at about 10:30, many of the questions and issues that have been aimed in my direction for the past 6 months should now appropriately be aimed in his. Don't worry. If you forget and call me, I'll steer you in his direction.

It has been a privilege to serve among you, and to be the recipient of so much wonderful support. I know that Mike will have the same experience. But as monumental as this day is, I remind you that the Pacific Northwest Conference is not in an office on Beacon Avenue South. The PNC is 80 congregations - 10,000 or so members - across this wonderful part of the world. This Conference is strong, and vital, and challenging because that's who you, your congregations, and we are together. Just as our churches cannot succeed without the full involvement and support of their members, so too the Conference and the United Church of Christ are only as strong as we make them.

Lead on, O fiery pillar, we follow yet with fears, But we shall come rejoicing, Though joy be born of tears.

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We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come, and we
are still God’s people, the journey is our home.
(Ruth Duck, Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh, in Everflowing
Streams)

The January nights are long and the days short and gray in the
Pacific Northwest. But I sense a brightness breaking forth in
our midst… a most welcome brightness…

Please accept my gratitude for your support of my ministry,
and my sincere best wishes to you and yours as we begin a new
adventure.

Hollis
Hollis Bredeweg
Pacific Northwest Conference UCC
(509) 270-5213 work/cell

GUEST PREACHER IN FEBRUARY

Rev. Angela Farrar is a social worker long committed to
people living with HIV/AIDS, and an ordained minister in the
American Baptist Churches. She earned her MSW from Our
Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, and her
M.Div from Seattle University in 2004. Currently, she is a
Housing Support Specialist at Multifaith Works, and a trainer
and consultant to area churches in lay leadership development,
congregational renewal, and diversity.

Note: Rev. Angela Farrar will be preaching Sunday,
February 17, while Pastor Dan is on vacation.

BIRTHDAY LIST JAN/ FEB

January
Bob Squaglia ½
Maureen Tverberg 1/10
Ruth Hylander 1/10
Craig Swanson 1/12
David Ladwig 1/17
Brittany English 1/20

February
Mary Ann Smith 2/2
Christy Qualin 2/4
Rita Slenning 2/7
Brooks Ladwig 2/8
Scott Pinegar 2/21
Jan Studyvin 2/27

OBITUARY FOR GUY VERNON WORK
Seattle, August 6, 1915-January 7, 2008

Guy Vernon Work of Seattle, died Jan. 7th, at 92, following a
brief illness. He had recently moved from the family home to
Daystar Retirement apartments where he enjoyed the activities
and new friends. He was born Aug. 6, 1915, in Fresno, Calif.,
to Walter and Ruby Work. Vernon remembered the hardships
of the Depression, but as time went by, he often said his
strongest recollection was of how generous people were to one
another. After a one-day stint at picking cotton, he and his
brother decided instead to open a roadside produce stand.
During the Depression, Vernon worked at various times as a
truck driver, Fuller Brush salesman, and Hoover vacuum
salesman.

Vernon married Gertrude Anna Fischer on Nov. 26, 1941. He
liked to tell the story of their chance meeting in a stairwell in
San Francisco. Shortly after that, he told his father, "I've found
the girl I'm going to marry," to which his father replied, "Son,
you've been out in the sun too long." Vernon joined the Army
Air Corps and served stateside during World War II. He was
stationed at Los Alamos, N.M., when the first atomic bomb
was being developed. He witnessed the flash and resulting
cloud from the first test from Albuquerque. He began his
career with Safeway Inc. in 1945 where he became a popular
and familiar face in the produce department working at
different locations. He was so happy when customers told him
they would come miles to shop at the store where he was
working.

His war service over, Vernon and Gertrude moved to Seattle
and settled in the Broadview community. Vernon would later
recall with amusement, when they bought their home in 1949
how very far it seemed from the city. They joined the
Broadview UCC church where they were active members for
over fifty years. After his retirement in 1981, Vernon and
Gertrude spent a lot of time with their family. They also
traveled far and wide, including two extensive trips to Europe.
Vernon visited Gertrude daily during the four years she was a
resident in a nearby nursing home. They were married 65
years when his beloved wife preceded him in death in 2006.
Vernon lived a life of great dignity, courage, compassion and
honor. His family will miss his impeccable manners, kindly
advice and numerous stories.

Vernon Work is survived by two daughters, Linda Hanson
(Richard), Sandra Jackson (George), five grandchildren, Scott
Hanson (Julie), Shelly Hanson (Brian Gix), Stacey Donion
(Paul), Karra Jackson and Kimberly Jackson, and six great-
grandchildren, Brooke and Kevin Hanson, Camille and
Christopher Gix, and Preston and Alexa Donion. He also
leaves two sisters, Maxine Hoge and Phyllis Martinez, and a
brother, Albert Chandler. His brother, Lloyd Work preceded
him in death. Vernon is also survived by his sister-in-law,
Thelma Dorris and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, Jan.
21st, at Broadway United Church of Christ, 325 N. 125th St.,
Seattle. Interment was at Evergreen-Washelli. The family
suggests memorial contributions be made to Broadview
UCC or Elizabeth Gregory Home @ P. O. Box 45310,
Seattle, WA 98145-0310.
EXCERPTS FROM A BIOGRAPHY OF VERNON WORK
By his daughter, Linda Hanson,
edited by Pastor Dan Stern

Guy Vernon Work was born in Fresno, California, August 6th, 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.

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 26th, 1941. Shortly after the outbreak of W orld War II, Vern entered military service in the U.S. Army-Air Force. He spent WW II as an airplane mechanic and flight inspector. 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. There in 1949 they purchased the home on Phinney just South of Broadview Community UCC (after Gertrude’s death, Vern continued to live here for some time before his recent move to be closer to Linda and family). Their second daughter, Sandra, was born in 1950.

Vernon and Gertrude, having joined Broadview Community UCC in 1957, had, for over a half century, celebrated many happy occasions, including their daughter’s confirmation and marriage and their 50th & 60th anniversaries. Just two years ago in August, Vernon was honored by many of his friends and relatives on his 90th birthday.

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 U.S. 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.

When for over three years, Gertrude was confined to care at Greenwood Park nursing home. The love they had for each other endured. Vernon visited Gertrude daily rain or shine. Vern and Gertrude were a true testimony to their vows: In sickness and in health till death do we part.

Thanks, Linda, for your beautiful tribute to your beautiful dad!

OBITUARY FOR MERLE BLACK
August 14, 1915 - December 22, 2007

Merle will be remembered by family and friends as a kind, loving, sincere, and gracious woman. She was a devoted mother and made countless volunteer contributions to community organizations. Several businesses and organizations benefited from her meticulous bookkeeping skills.

Merle Frances Black was born August 14, 1915 in Stevensville, Montana to Perry and Mustetta Black. A Prosser H.S. graduate, she attended WA State College, where she met Richard Black (coincidentally of the same last name). They married January 7, 1940; settled in the East where Richard began his 35-year career with General Electric, and returned to Seattle after two years to make a home and raise four children.

Merle was a leader and an efficient organizer. Her volunteer work included Broadview Community Church, PTA, Scouts, Garden Club, Ryther Child Center, and Evergreen Safety Council. Her Children treasure her hand made projects and collections. Spending time with family, traveling near and far, and playing bridge were favorite activities.

Merle died Saturday at Evergreen Hospice Center, Kirkland, following a stroke at 92 years of age. A celebration of life is scheduled at Emerald Heights Retirement Community, Redmond. Final disposition arrangements are with Barton’s Family Funeral Service.

Merle is survived by daughters Kathleen Swanson, Auburn; Barbara Dougherty and husband David, Seattle; Estee Beard and husband Gary, Kona-Kailua, HI; son Robert Black and wife Diane, Newcastle; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Richard, her husband of 67 years, died on February 14, 2007.

Memorials may be made to The Emerald Heights Benevolence Fund, Evergreen Hospice Center, Broadview Community Church, or The Ryther Child Center.

DAN’S SUMMARY REFLECTIONS
OF MERLE BLACK

Merle (Frances Black), and her husband Richard spent the majority of their 67 happily married years together at 12529 1st Ave. NW in Seattle’s Broadview neighborhood, working, volunteering, and raising their four children, Kathy, Barbara, Bob, and Estee.

Both Merle and Dick were actively-involved members of Broadview Community United Church of Christ, the congregation just down the street from their family home, and the one I have served these past eight years as pastor. They joined Broadview Community Church on April 10, 1960. For nearly 47 years, Merle has continued to be a supportive contributing member of Broadview Community United Church of Christ, even after their move to Emerald Heights in...

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Redmond, WA some 12-plus years ago.

Merle served Broadview Community Church in a wide variety of leadership roles: she was the church treasurer for some time, counting up the offerings with the aid of a hand crank adding machine. Her children remember watching her do this task with careful focused attention at home each Sunday afternoon. She also volunteered as a Church Office Administrative Assistant, typing up bulletins and printing them out on an old-style mimeograph machine, coming home from the church with her hands covered in purple ink. Merle sang soprano in the Broadview Church choir for decades, she was a camp counselor at the Pilgrim Firs Church Camp, and being also as involved as she was with the Broadview Garden Club, often prepared beautiful floral arrangements for the altar of the sanctuary. Merle, in fact, won awards for her floral designs. She edited the annual directory of the Garden Club, participated in regional garden shows, made wonderfully-scented cedar and holly Christmas wreaths and sways each year in early December, and always had beautiful flowers bedecking their home as well.

From Charles Cressey:

Merle was a kind, loving, quietly strong person, who always tried to meet an existing need, or help in anyway she could. I think she occupied every chair in our church offices. If memory me rightly, she was our first, part-time, paid secretary at a minimal rate of pay. (She was the kind, knowing our financials, probably put it in the next Sunday’s offering plate.) A Christian, thru and thru! I regret not feeling well enough to attend.

- Charles Cressey

From Jeff Lundt:

Sorry I will be out of town and unable to join the gathering. Please pass on my condolences to all. Merle and I served as financial officers at BCUCC at the same time several years ago which is when I got to know her better. She the long time experienced officer; me the upstart do-it-differently guy. I appreciated her calm manner and grace, and her willingness to listen, to teach and to speak her mind. As with all the folks at Broadview I felt she was a good friend who could be called on to help me in all aspects of life.

God be with you all as you celebrate her life; we will take a moment at 2 PM to be with you in spirit.

- Jeff Lundt

Merle held offices with the Broadview Elementary School Parent Teacher Association during the 15 consecutive years her children attended that public school, and also served as the school’s volunteer librarian. She was a Cub Scout den mother, a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, and she often hosted meetings for the scouts in the basement of their own home.

Merle was an accomplished bookkeeper, both at home and in the work place, having done the books for several local businesses over the years. But clearly her main ‘job’ was that of being a mom and a community volunteer leader. For years, she volunteered with both the Bonnie Brae unit at Ryther Child Center, and with the Evergreen Safety Council. For Ryther, a community service organization for at-risk kids, Merle worked at the thrift shop and made thousands of tin bells to sell at Ryther’s annual fundraising bazaar – samples of her original homemade bells can be viewed at the photo and memento display table here today. With Evergreen Safety Council, a “Nader’s Raiders”-inspired downtown-Seattle-based organization, Merle got trained to be a Defensive Driving Instructor; she organized their annual fundraising dinners and auctions; she participated in and was given awards at national gatherings of the Council – a picture of her receiving an award in Chicago is among the photos here today – having been instrumental in helping to pass some important consumer safety legislation, including laws that require non-flammable children’s sleepwear and the WA State ‘implied consent’ law, which makes getting a driver’s license in WA State mean that one consents to taking a breathalyzer test if suspected of driving under the influence. Of 550-plus volunteers with the Evergreen safety Council, only 6 were women. Merle Black was one of those pioneering six.

Merle’s kids remember fondly what a trouper their mother was on all the wonderful family vacation outings they took, rain or shine, going camping, fishing, and boating. Merle knew how to pack everything just so – both efficiently and sufficiently. She accompanied the family as chief cook and bottle washer while camping out at Mt. Rainier, trolling for Salmon at La Push, water skiing, digging for clams, setting crabs traps in the mud, and having great family barbeques on various beaches and at mountain and forest camp sites. The kids had HEARD of people staying in motels, but never would have dreamed of taking a vacation anywhere but in the great outdoors – thanks, in large part, to Merle’s organizational savvy and patience.

Merle is remembered by all as a most reliable, dedicated, and generous individual. Perhaps more of us now realize in retrospect that she was also a leader-pioneer in key areas of community service outreach.

Merle and Dick’s children are, in order of their births, Kathy Swanson, Barbara (married to David) Dougherty, Robert (married to Diane) Black, and Estee (married to Gary) Beard.
READINGS JAN/FEB 2008

January 20, 2008
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Meeting Jesus
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 27, 2008
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Called to Follow
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

February 3, 2008
Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration
Holy Encounter
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 10, 2008
First Sunday in Lent
Wilderness Encounter
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

February 17, 2008
Second Sunday in Lent
Respect and Challenge
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

February 24, 2008
Third Sunday in Lent
Water, Word, Witness
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

LETTER FROM ALMA TURNER

December 2007
Greetings!
Many months ago, 26 to be exact, I bought eighty Christmas cards from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to send to my dear friends. However, life has moved me from the slow lane to the extra slow lane… stroke, back trouble, a fall, hospitalization, rehabilitation, and then an adult family home.

Now I have a studio apartment with superb meals at Foss Village. My new address is: 152 North 130th St. E-7, Seattle, WA 98133. My phone number is: 206-362-7229. There are six cottages with ten people in each. If this works out well for me, I shall sell my home which is three blocks away.

A super bonus is an impressive remodeled library across the street. My walker and Alma can visit on foot, fragile and fail as I am... I hope.

My family thrives and Paul Carmichael (Bruce’s son) is daddy to three year old Kristin. Oh joy! This is my first great grandchild.

I wish you and your families the very best for 2008 and beyond. I am sure you’ve all heard the phrase, “Remember the reason for the season.” For unto us a Savior is born.

Merry Christmas
Love, Alma

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 3: Annual Financial Meeting of the Congregation will be held after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, February 6: Joint Ash Wednesday Service with St. Paul’s, Luther Memorial & BCUCC. A joint choir will be singing. The service will be held here at BCUCC at 7:30pm.

Sunday, February 17: Guest preacher, Rev. Angela Farrar, Multifaith AIDS works, will be in worship.

Friday, February 22: Broadview Movie Night, will show Part 1 of 2, A Force More Powerful at 7pm. The second part of this documentary will be shown Friday, March 28.

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.

Sunday, February 24: Together in One Place - Caring for Creation 2-5pm at Congregational Church of Mercer Island – 4545 Island Crest W ay. This event includes, A vibrant intergenerational worship service (begins at 2:30pm), A presentation and open dialogue facilitated by LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director of Earth Ministry, care of the earth resource displays and green ideas, children’s earth activities and child care, food from around the world. More information, contact: Bing Tso 206-498-6224.

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 16: Palm/Passion Sunday

Thursday, March 20: Joint Maundy Thursday Service, here at Broadview. Details TBA

Friday, March 21: Good Friday

Sunday, March 23: Easter Sunday!