



BROADVIEW COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE NEWS

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Steeple News
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Edited by Mary Mackenzie

THE SUMMERTIME DRUNKENNESS OF THINGS BEING VARIOUS

by Pastor Dan Stern

Praise God, sun and moon, and all you shining stars! Praise God, all heights, and all waters above the heights! Praise God from the earth, mountains and all hills, fruit trees and cedars! Wild animals and cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Let them all praise the name of the Lord, whose glory is above earth and heaven. Praise God! – Psalm 148

Welcome to a church that considers the birds of the air and lilies of the field, and doesn't worry a whit about what anybody wears when they come to worship!

Welcome to a church that loves to sing songs in the great outdoors! **Please join us at 10AM for our Annual Summertime Outdoor Worship Service, Sunday morning, July 12.**

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and all who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord." – Psalm 98

In the delightful poetry of Psalm 98, the whole earth is viewed as one giant singing organism. Ancient psalmists and 21st Century physicists agree about this. Today's physicists say that "the entire complex earth system behaves in a manner characteristic of something (very much) alive; and that critical components of the earth's life support systems manage to remain in perfect balance over eons of time". (James Lovelock): "The air, the ocean, and the soil are much more than a mere environment for life; they are a part of life itself. The air is to life just as is the fur to a cat or the nest for a bird."

Check out the Noah story in Genesis 6-9 too. God's rainbow covenant was never only with Noah and his human descendants, but with "every living creature of all flesh upon the whole earth!" The story could well be restated in modern form this way: "Thou shalt preserve bio-diversity."

Welcome to a church that celebrates and works to preserve diversity! Religious background, sexual orientation, race, age, and abilities are no hindrance here! You belong! And in a very real sense, so do the myriad varieties of plants and animals! In God's rainbow covenant, all living things belong! The whole

earth's rich diversity is an amazingly generous outpouring of God's grandeur and beauty and glory.

Therefore: "glory be to God for dappled things – For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; fresh-firecoal chestnut falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced-fold, fallow and plow; And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim. All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him." – *Pied Beauty* by Gerald Manly Hopkins

Physicist Brian Swimme calls this rich abundance of living, teeming things "cosmic generosity". Planets, stars, solar systems, and life itself came about because of the cosmic generosity of a supernova which, in exploding, brought all of this into existence. Our atoms, our blood, our bones, and our tissues are made of the same "star stuff". And God, or "The Ground of our Being," says Swimme, "is generosity (itself). The ultimate source of all that is. All being comes forth and shines, glimmers and glistens, because the root reality of the universe is generosity."

Our own part in this grand drama is still being fine tuned. It is we humans who are not so good at keeping the rainbow covenant with God and all living creatures. We seem to have a tendency as a species to fear, abhor, destroy or at least feel ill at ease around many of the things God created especially things counter, original, spare, and strange, fickle and freckled, odd or queer. But this wild diversity, all of it, is exactly what we are given of God to protect – this whole chaos of "cosmic generosity", this "magnificent abundance," this "extravagance of biological systems" we call life.

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Seattle biologist and researcher Bruce Bagemihl: "Biological exuberance is available...at our fingertips, everywhere we turn, in the fibers and textures that surround us, in the spices that fill our nostrils as we walk past the corner store, in the cloud formations above us and the dandelion seeds strewn by the wind about us, in the embrace of a friend and the kiss of a beloved – in all the colors and patterns and sensations that fill our lives. How many of us haven't, at one time or another, been overcome by this variety, this feeling of what poet Louis MacNeice describes as 'the drunkenness of things being various,' the world as 'incorrigibly plural'? We needn't be living in material wealth or in an isolated wilderness to experience this lavishness, either. The weeds struggling through a sidewalk crack or choking an abandoned urban plot are every bit as sumptuous as the most refined of rose gardens, the most magnificent of mountain forests – if not more so. gifted with this (kind of) heightened understanding, we can now find the intoxication contained in a glass of water, where before even the most sophisticated wine seemed flavorless."

Welcome to a church that nourishes our capacity as human beings to appreciate that which is of God in all created things. "Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) He fathers forth whose beauty is past change"...what can we do but praise God for this "incorrigibly plural" world, and for how God's steadfast love endures throughout it?

UPDATES FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

A New US Citizen: Naseem Sherjan

In June of 2002, **Naseem Sherjan** and his mother, Naik Bakht Murad arrived in Seattle from a refugee camp in Pakistan where they had lived since fleeing Afghanistan and the Taliban. As their sponsors, our congregation, along with St. Paul's UCC and Broadview UCC, had spent several months getting ready for their arrival – finding an apartment for them and furnishing it with all they would need. There followed many additional months of helping them to learn English, finding needed healthcare, getting Naseem into school, and finding employment for Naik Bakht. Now 7 years later, Naseem is working at Costco, continues to attend community college classes, and accompanied by several BCUCC members became a citizen on Monday, April 27. A grand Afghan celebratory feast prepared by Naik Bakht took place afterwards in the Bailey-Thorn home.

My Mother

by Judy Zibbell

My mother started developing the beginnings of dementia in 2002. My dad died in May of 2006. I moved west here from Seattle to spend quality time with mom; knowing mom was more important to me than my friends, or home in Seattle. My mother was my best friend. Whenever I came to see her, she would say, "Judy you are wonderful." Mom was sweet, loving,

affectionate and friendly. Everyone at Silverado loved her. Mom and I had great conversations, even with the Alzheimer's, mom was wise. Once when I told her I had trouble with overeating, she turned to me and said, "How does that make you feel?" And again, when I told her I wanted a dog, she said "There is something you can do about that." Mom and I often played cards together and later, we looked at magazines. I know it cheered her up, but it gave me great joy to be with her. There are no words to say how much I loved her.

A week before she passed, she went for nine days without eating or hardly drinking anything. When mom was near the end of her life here, she told me she was going home to Pittsburg where she grew up, and to Freida, her sister and to Charley, her beloved husband. I firmly believe that is exactly where she is, and I also believe she is happy.

Other News from Judy:

Some things seem to be getting better in my life (making some good woman friends, new Jewish Temple merger working--it feels like home). But I do still feel lonely at times, and ask for the prayers of the congregation.

From Brooks Ladwig

Hello Everyone!

We arrived safely, albeit very tired, a few days ago in sunny Los Angeles. We are working like crazy to find very light clothes, dishes, the dog leash, and the fly swatter! ;-)

This is my new email address (asiared@socal.rr.com) that just got up and running yesterday. Our home phone number, just in case you need it is 818-626-9102. You can still reach me on my old cell number for awhile at 206-919-9373. P.O. Box 3776, Chatsworth, CA 91311. I haven't a clue when I will get to change that.

Give us a chance to unpack and settle in and then know you are welcome to visit.

Take care and bless you all...and BTW, bring a good pair of sunglasses! - Brooks

Hi again!

We already miss everyone at church. Please give our best to everyone.

We will be checking out some of the UCC churches in the area. There are about 3 within 5 miles of us. Last Sunday we didn't go because we just arrived very late Saturday night and had to spend the night in a motel. The movers didn't come until the next morning.

Woody just chased her first jack rabbit across the side street! I had to run after her and she would not stop when I told her to. I knew Yorkies were originally bred to hunt rabbits and chase them down rabbit holes, but this was the first time I have seen genetics take over. Very interesting. - Brooks

Icy's Peaceful, Beautiful Dying

by Dan Stern

Wednesday, June 10

The time had come. We knew almost without speaking what we had to do.

Our little girl Icy had been diagnosed with rapid-growth lymphoma just over a month ago. She had been given an extra relatively pain-free 30-plus days on doggie hospice care and prednisone. Icy had stuck around that extra time period, we're convinced, not for her own sake, but for ours.

Sam and I took Icy to Helen, her wonderful veterinarian yesterday morning. Helen made the necessary house call yesterday afternoon around 5:10 PM, going with us to the backyard where Icy was languishing, suffering valiantly with a large tumor that was pressing against her eye and brain.

Icy was ready. We were too, or as ready as we could be after having been so very well loved by her, every single day for nearly fourteen years. Every single day, greeted with gladness, always more wags than barks. Every single day by our side, 'man's best friend'.

We read poetry. We said our prayers. Helen put her to sleep, ever so gently. We carried her limp little body to the gravesite we'd prepared for her and laid her in a bed of willow branches. We covered her with peonies, honeysuckle, and roses. Now: we miss her so.

From Gary Law

We plan to be moving near the end of the summer as we think we have finally found a house very close to downtown that is going to work out for us. I am currently battling bronchitis though so far I have been at home unlike last yr. when it turned into an 8 day hospital stay and pneumonia. I'm trying my best to get well. Our church family here has been praying for me as well as us in the house search issue. If only \$ wasn't made from trees and actually grew on them! Oh well all I have to come up with is a mortgage of about \$64,000 less than half of what our condo out there was and for more than 1/3 more space and it's a house!! It's all on one level with a manageable yard and on the bus line. Hope you have been doing well, I think and speak of you often. Our church here is growing and we haven't even started the \$50,000 advertising campaign yet. The people here are great though we miss all of you. Tell Sam and everyone hello. Blessings, Gary

CONGRATULATIONS NEW MEMBERS:

Frances Gehrts, Jane & Bruce MacLean

Jane MacLean and her husband **Bruce MacLean** are Seattle natives who live in the Broadview neighborhood. They have been married since 1970 and have a nineteen year-old daughter, Alice who goes to Whitman College. They have a dog, two cats and three rabbits, like to garden and are both "Master Composters". Jane and Bruce met Kay, Charles, Ross and Dan thru North Seattle

Neighbors for Peace and Justice. Jane works for Seattle Public Schools. Bruce is a lawyer.

Frances Gehrts grew up in Snoqualmie then moved to California, and discovered SUNSHINE in her twenties. She moved back to Seattle four years ago to be near family. Being one of ten children, she's got a lot of family in this area; some of you may have met her mother at a recent church event.

She has an M.A. in Counseling and has counseled children in schools; and worked as a health educator at Kaiser, an HMO in California. She currently teaches psychology at Lake Washington Technical College, and is still trying to figure out what she wants to do when she grows up ☺.

For fun, she hikes, jogs dirt trails, and dances – both ballroom and freestyle. And, if and when the sun comes out – well, she's an entirely different person, finding any reason to be outdoors.

Frances had not been involved in organized religion in many years, and decided she needed to be around others who practice their religious and spiritual beliefs in community with others. An internet search led her here and she feels very blessed to have found such a loving and caring group of people. It's an incredible bonus that you all have such a fantastic sense of humor. She feels like she fits in already, as others are so accepting of her sense of humor; she realizes there is the possibility that they are just politely tolerating it ☺. What she appreciates the most, so far, about BCUCC is the respect shown for Questioning – a very different experience from her Catholic upbringing.

DONATION THANK YOU

Dear Broadview Congregation-

Thank you warmly for your recent donation to USM and The Homeless Youth we serve. We are considering expanding to 7 nights each week w/Teen Feed – seamlessly serving youth on the streets – and your support helps us reach out!

The youth believe in themselves because you believe in them.

In Hope – Megan Gibbard, USM Director

CHANGE FOR REAL

by Paridon Williams, homeless world change agent
(reprinted with permission from a recent
issue of *The Real Change* Newspaper)

Everyone helps me, whether they buy the paper or not. The yeses are great and no's are accepted. Either way I get something from both. When I'm selling this paper I get in the zone, my zone. All my life, people have told me "You can't change the world," but when I sell my papers I do just that. Come into my zone and imagine. Do people function better when they're happy? Well, that's what I do. I smile, give compliments when I can and simply ask people to smile. Some may not smile right then. It may take a few steps or thoughts, then it happens. I know this because people have told me and in most cases thanked me. You're welcome, but it's your smile—thank you for sharing it with the world. Why do I say the world? Because your smile is extremely contagious: People caught it and took it back to work with them and the day became brighter. Lawyers, doctors, secretaries, officers, judges, brokers, teachers and all ordinary people and they spread it through their domains and it went around the world quicker than email and it started right there at my Real Change spot. **So don't let anyone tell you, "You can't change the world," and if they do, just look them in the eyes and smile.**

UPCOMING BROADVIEW EVENTS

Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, July 12: Annual Summertime Outdoor Worship Service – 10AM

Once a year, our 10 AM worship takes place on the front lawn. Tents will partially shade you, but bring sunglasses & hats, and friends who love the great outdoors!

Vacation Bible School

Saturday, August 22, 9:30am-2:30pm at Luther Memorial Church run jointly with Broadview Community Church. (13047 Greenwood Ave. N). More info? Contact EllenAnn Chiddix 206-363-0703.

Joint Labor Day Weekend Retreat: "Mission"

September 4-6 at Pilgrim Firs
Arrive anytime after 2pm on Friday – Check-in begins at 5pm.

Please pick up a registration form in the Narthex. The form needs to be returned to Broadview by Sunday, August 16!

For those unable to attend the retreat, Sunday 10AM worship at Broadville will take place led by guest preacher/author John Indermark – Sunday, September 6.

SUMMER & STEWARDSHIP!

Reflection by former BCUCC Member,
now Pastor of Benjamin's-Krider's UCC
near Baltimore, MD, Jen (Arrupton) Walters

Summer! Doesn't this image above (a person sitting on a float in the water) say a lot about the joys of summer? Time to relax, to enjoy the sun and the water! Time to enjoy all the fresh fruits and vegetables and flowers from the garden! Summer is certainly a season when we are invited to experience the abundance that God provides for us and that God intends for all to share to enjoy!

Stewardship! How does "stewardship" relate to summer? Well, appreciating all the good gifts around us, experiencing gratitude, is a HUGE part of what stewardship is all about. The next step is experience the abundance of good things: food, love, medical care, health, shelter, meaningful work, community and peace! Stewardship is about noticing the gifts and blessings in our lives and about sharing them with the world. Some explain stewardship by saying it's a way of giving back to God all that God gives us. Certainly stewardship is about our Sunday offerings to the work of the church, but it is so much more!

"Stewardship is everything you do after you say you believe" – Douglas John Hall

So, I leave you with a blessing for a safe summer full of love and beauty, as well as this list of questions for you to ponder during these "lazy days" of summer:

What if EVERYTHING you do matters?

What if EVERYTHING you have belongs to God?

What if EVERYTHING and EVERYONE are intricately connected and your way of living directly impacts others and the earth?

What if you were willing to give EVERYTHING away for what you believe in? (even to give your very life away, like Jesus!)

Birthdays List June/July

June

Norma Myers	6/4
June Bender	6/11
Henry Thompson	6/15
Kay Groves	6/17
JoAnne Conard	6/18
Mary Mackenzie	6/18
Marie Fortune	6/22
David Warfield	6/22
Eileen Elliott	6/25
David Anderson	6/27

July

Pete Thorn	7/5
Peter Kujac	7/7
Day Murti	7/14
Jeff Lundt	7/19
Frances Squaglia	7/19

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READINGS JUNE/JULY 2009

JUNE

June 21, 2009

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

In the Boat Together

1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20

2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

June 28, 2009

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Healing Powers

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

JULY

July 5, 2009

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Sent with Power

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 12, 2009

6th Sunday after Pentecost

God-inspired Joy

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 19, 2009

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Wherever you Are

2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26, 2009

8th Sunday after Pentecost

God's Abundant Presence

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21