



BROADVIEW COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# STEEPLE NEWS

325 N. 125TH ST., SEATTLE WA 98133  
206-363-8060, FAX: 206-363-4791  
HTTP://WWW.BROADVIEWUCC.ORG

Steeple News  
Volume 2: Issue 4  
May 2006

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE, UCC

By Gail Crouch

On May 5-7, 2006, the member churches of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ gathered for their Annual Meeting. This is approximately the 26<sup>th</sup> year I have gathered with other members of the UCC for this regional time together and one might think that after so many years I would be bored and have "Heard it all." Well, to be honest, there are occasionally times in the business plenary sessions when I find the endless questions a little too much! And as is true with any organization, we find ourselves discussing the same issues (budgets, stewardship, growth or lack of it, social justice issues, etc.) from year to year. And yet... I like to go to annual meeting! Here is why.

**Worship** – Each year the worship is inspiring, moving and thought-provoking as we hear the biblical texts and ponder their meanings for our life as a church in today's world. This year I was especially moved by Jim Hightower, pastor of the Little Farms UCC Church in New Orleans. The church was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and Jim and many of his parishioners also lost their homes. He gave a meditation based on the Old Testament book of Habakkuk quoting a verse "O Lord, you split the earth with rivers and a torrent of water swept by..." Though all is gone, Habakkuk still affirms that God is his salvation and strength. Jim said that Katrina "was the day the music died in New Orleans and they had to learn to sing a cappella. But we did and gradually the music is returning." And those of us in the congregation thought of when we have experienced the music dying in our lives and have needed to learn to sing a cappella. Our souls were fed with Jim and other inspiring preachers and speakers. (And we raised a fair amount of money to send to Little Farms UCC to help with their ongoing recovery efforts.)

**Workshops** – A variety of educational opportunities are available as we meet together. This year I sat in one led by Diane Darling, Pastor of Alki Church, on "Our Biblical Backpacks." Based on the idea of the ten essentials we need in our hiking backpacks, Diane asked us to consider which scriptures are "essential" to the story of our Christian faith. We had fun discussing and choosing those core stories from the bible that tell the larger story of who we are. And once again I realized how important bible study is and how we need to know those stories "by heart."

**Community** – Perhaps this is my favorite part of annual meeting. It's not just the chance to meet old friends and spend time with them, but also an opportunity to meet new folks. Where else would I sit with a farmer from Ritzville, a fisherman from Blaine, a teacher from Metaline Falls and a banker from Seattle and talk about our church? Here the connections are made and that scripture from John 15 about the vine and branches takes on new meaning. Here the diversity of the UCC is more in evidence than perhaps in our local churches. Here we pray and sing together, weep and laugh together, search for ways to embody the United Church of Christ that welcomes everyone. Here, in this Annual Meeting, the words of our now famous commercials come alive, "Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcomed in the UCC." The theme of this meeting was "Love and Truth in Action," and the UCC, both historically and today does try to follow a Jesus who calls us to love and put that love into actions of justice and truth.

Kristine Zakarison, Pastor at Pullman UCC, asked us to think about the "Church of our heart." I have no doubts that the UCC is the Church of my heart for it is the place where I believe and see both the hope and the challenge of Jesus' inclusive love lived out every day. Next year in Yakima! I hope you will join me.

## SHAREHOUSE

May – Deoderant and bar soap  
June – Laundry detergent and disposable diapers

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page #</b>
Pacific Northwest Conferece, UCC	Pg. 1
April News and Remarks	Pg. 2
Moonlit Market Auction Update	Pg. 2
A Trip to the Gulf Coast	Pp. 2-3
Birthday List May and June	Pg. 3
Weekly Readings	Pg. 3
Announcements	Pg. 3-4

## APRIL NEWS AND REMARKS

By Pastor Dan

During April, Sam and Dan had three weeks of road-tripping without a car problem or a speeding ticket. All in all, we drove over 4,800 miles through Western and Midwestern states.

We arrived home and found Max, our cat, to have been well taken care of by members and friends of the church. (Thanks again for your help, folks!). Max meowed at us for about a half-an-hour – either telling us about his adventures with his caretakers or chastising us for being gone for so long. Probably a bit of both.

Our trip was great. We had a relaxing time at our cabin in Northwestern Illinois and then at our host's home in suburban Chicago, with whom we attended Easter services. Along the way, we saw friends of both Dan and Sam and Sam's sister and her husband. Our highlights included being at Mount Rushmore at night and being the only ones there besides one family. We also missed a blizzard at the Montana/North Dakota border by a day (lots of snow along the side of the road, but the road was clear and dry – it was a sunny and warm day, so the snow was steaming which made the area suddenly foggy). All the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota were right at the cusp of Springtime burstings of color and new life. We also traveled through almost all of the states that are currently experiencing an outbreak of the mumps (no symptoms yet!). Icy was a good sport – she was able to roll in the snow in several spots and chase deer and wild turkeys at the cabin.

A week from now (as of this writing), we will set out for our third and last chapter of sabbatical travel- to London, Paris, and northern Italy.

We've noted with approval the newly-redesigned website, the good sermons of Gail, Andrew, and others, and the messages detailing the latest range of projects and activities, including the movies nights, auction, and progress with signage. We hope none are getting too tired or overwhelmed by anything, and that all are generally doing quite well. We are most grateful to be receiving this gift of needed rest and renewal. Thank you for allowing it, and may continued blessings come to each and every one of you.

### **MOONLIT MARKET AUCTION UPDATE**

By The Auction Committee

Our 2nd FUNdraising auction was held on Saturday, April 29th. While the weather outside was cold and wet, the atmosphere inside was warm and sunny thanks to a team of amazing volunteers.

Kay and Jerry did a amazing job of decorating the Fellowship Hall, assembling the raffle basket, and coordinating entertainment. Deb and Gary worked tirelessly in the kitchen with help from Bob and Dan. Frances, Jenny, and Kay did a great job of arranging the

bid tables and boards. Andrew was wonderful as the MC, and his ticket and flyer designs were fantastic. Dennis was a terrific bartender. Charles and Scott were welcoming greeters. Mo did a great job with the layout of the auction booklet. Mo and Chris quickly organized bids for the bankers. Tom, Scott, Dennis, and Tracy were efficient bankers. Thanks also to Mary who helped with mailings and the auction booklet.

Many thanks to all who volunteered and participated!!!

The Auction Committee  
(Andrew, Chris, Jerry, Kay, and Mo)

### **A TRIP TO THE GULF COAST**

By Rose Bailey



In April, Pete and Meagan Thorn, Rose Bailey, and Sally Jo Gilbert de Vargas took a spring vacation to Slidell, Louisiana to work for Habitat for Humanity. We had the most deluxe accommodations of any of the volunteers - Rose's sister and family hosted us. We chose Slidell for the ease of accommodation as well as the dire need the town has. The west eye of Katrina went right over Slidell and 75% of the town was flooded.

Everyone asks us, "How was it?"

It was **gratifying** to come together with some 30 plus other volunteers to build shelter for a family in need. Some were from college in PA, a construction company in Michigan, a church in Fresno CA, retirees from FL, Seattle...

It was **overwhelming** to see how many people were still living in FEMA trailers. As we turned into a neighborhood I had been in before the storm and saw every house with a trailer in front my heart sank. And these people were lucky.

**Continued on Page 3**

**Continued from Page 2**

It was **sad** to think that all of those people who had lived

in rental units could not come back to their town, because unless you own your lot you are not eligible for a FEMA trailer. They have no place to live in Slidell.

It was **surprising** to see MacDonalds reader boards offering \$10/hr and \$120/week signing bonuses. There were help wanted signs every where. (If only, you have a place to live.)

It was **thrilling** to watch volunteers learn new skills and appreciation for what it takes to build a house. New owners shyly joined us in the inspiration circle in the morning. During one of these circles, Sally Jo gave an overview of her church, Multi Faith Church of Seattle. The existence of this church was an eye opener for many in the audience you can be sure.

We also took the opportunity to drive into Mississippi with Ralph Singleton (brother in law) as a tour guide. If you have ever been to Bay St. Louis, the two blocks that ran along the water are gone. The stairs to, and the mansions' slab foundations are about all that is left. The police department, jail, and schools are all housed in trailers.

We went into New Orleans to eat and listen to live music in the French Quarter. That section was relatively unharmed. They don't have much business though because other sections of the city are not functioning. The convention center is one of those. You can still see many apartment buildings with blue tarps covering their roofs as you drive along the freeway. Those buildings have no people living in them. The New Orleans Ninth Ward is entirely uninhabited, with little work in progress.

A lot of work has been done in the area, but a tremendous amount (years worth) still needs to be done. The Slidell Habitat for Humanity built two houses the year before Katrina. This year their goal is to build 100 houses. While we were there, they were in the middle of seven rebuilds, and eight new builds. The volunteer needs are enormous.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### May Birthdays

Jane Witmer	5/2
Terri Toennesen	5/2
Donna Zion	5/2
Amy English	5/4
Melody Gowen	5/10
Ruth Allyn	5/18
Bonnie Thompson	5/20
Rose Bailey	5/26
Patty Haskell	5/31
Carrie Hylander	5/31
Jerry Watson	5/31

### June Birthdays

Jessie Paterson	6/3
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

## WEEKLY READINGS

### May 21: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus Calls Us Friends

Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98

1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

### May 28: Seventh Week of Easter

Prayerful Discernment

Acts: 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps 1

1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

### June 4: Pentecost Sunday

#### Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering

Pentecost People

Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b

Rom 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### June 11: Trinity Sunday

Presence and Call

Isa 6:1-8; Ps 29

Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

### June 18: Second Sunday after Pentecost

#### Father's Day

Anointed One

1 Sam 15:34-16:13; Ps 20

2 Cor 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

### June 25: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Faithful Courage

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Bonnie Thompson's son** is running in the "Beat the Bridge" on May 21 to benefit Juvenile Diabetes. **Bonnie** is "walking" in the Susan K. "5k Race for the Cure" on June 17. **Donations would be appreciated** please make checks out for either "Beat the Bridge" or "Race for the Cure" and send them onto Bonnie. Contact the Church Office for her Address if needed.

broadview community  
United Church of Christ

325 N. 125<sup>th</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98155

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SEATTLE WA  
PERMIT NO. 602

### **CROSSWALK AMERICA/CROSSWALK SEATTLE**

By Gail Crouch

You have heard and read of the group of moderate and progressive Christians who are walking across America to reclaim the core values of our Christian faith and talk with people about the importance of progressive Christians getting out the message of love and inclusivity preached by Jesus. Those beliefs are articulated in the Phoenix Affirmations. More information is available on the web at Crosswalk America.

There is a local walk that will support those national walkers and the same theological convictions. **On June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**, the 7.2 mile walk begins at the Congregational Church of Mercer Island, UCC and ends at Seattle First United Methodist Church. There will be an Ecumenical Worship Service with UCC Pastor Rev. Tony Robinson preaching.

You may walk the entire distance or just a portion. For more information and to register, call 206-232-7800 or e-mail [crosswalkseattle@comcast.net](mailto:crosswalkseattle@comcast.net).

### **JOANNE CONARD HONORED**

By Gail Crouch

At the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference, UCC, in Yakima, our own **JoAnne Conard** was honored for her many years of volunteer service as the coordinator of the Conference Resource Center. For fifteen years JoAnne has ordered and organized books, videos and curriculum, publicized what was new and generally helped all of our churches and clergy access those resources. When the conference office moved from its large home on Capitol Hill to our present office on Beacon Avenue South, JoAnne packed and unpacked and reorganized all that material. Delegates to the annual meeting gave JoAnne a standing ovation and a wooden plaque with thanks for her many years of service.

