

MIDWEEK MESSAGE
April 3, 2013

Words to Consider: *"...I am convinced that, in every circumstance, where the Holy Spirit leads us, if we choose to follow, is to the place of the gospel, the good news. This is the place where the marks are visible, where people hear their names called with love, where people break open their lives to share them, where people bear witness. This is where Jesus finds us, knows us, heals us, sets us free and calls us to follow him. Furthermore, I am convinced that the place of the gospel is rarely inside a church. The place of the gospel is the world."*

Kathy Galloway, *"Put Your Hand in my Side"*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH



- ❖ **CHOIR REHEARSAL, Thursday April 4, 7:30 PM** in the Parlor.
- ❖ **RENEWAL TASK TEAM** meeting, **5:00 PM, Friday, April 5**, in the Parlor.
- ❖ **THE CIC MINISTRIES JAIL MINISTRY TRAINING** is **April 6, 2013, 9 AM -1 PM** at **Maranatha Christian Center, 1811 S. Seventh St, San Jose**. This is an informational meeting for anyone interested in doing ministry with adults or juveniles in the Santa Clara County correctional facilities. There is no need to register. Rev. Louann Roberts, Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy, 408-957-5822
- ❖ **SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 10 AM** Worship, *"The Devil Gets His Due,"* and Sunday School for Children and youth. **11:30 AM Adult Spiritual Formation, Notes from the Field: Sonic Theology**, Pastor Tripp will lead us as we delve into how music, the sound and the lyric, are a symbol no less than a Byzantine icon. We'll talk about how music is a kind of theological craft, even a form of theological thinking.

- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, April 9**, at the home of Thelma Parodi, 543 South El Monte Avenue, Los Altos, at **10:30 AM**. Let Pastor Rick know if you need a ride.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS



Our **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR APRIL** will raise funds for **scholarship aid for students at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley**. ABSW has been nurturing and inspiring generations of men and women to respond to their call to Christian ministry. Our goal of **\$1,000** for a student scholarship will assist a needy student to complete his/her education with a minimum of debt. The American Baptist Home Mission Society matches these funds. Please give generously.

To date we have received **\$937** toward our goal of **\$850** for the annual **AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING**.

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY OF THE WEST (ABSW)

invites you to

SEMINARY SATURDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 13

This will be a morning of workshops led by ABSW faculty and select alumni and students for Pastors, staff ministers, church leaders, laypersons, young adults, current and prospective seminarians. Choose up to three of nine workshops on topics related to biblical studies, social concerns, practical ministry skills, and more—all relevant to ministry in the 21st century. Only \$10 per person or \$60 per church/org. (for 6 people or more). Registration deadline is April 5. A full listing of workshops and descriptions, schedule, and registration information are available at www.absw.edu or call 510-841-1905 x229. ABSW is located at 2606 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA. or check in the church office.

YOU ARE INVITED - to learn and do the work of God....

"Branching Out, Growing Deep"

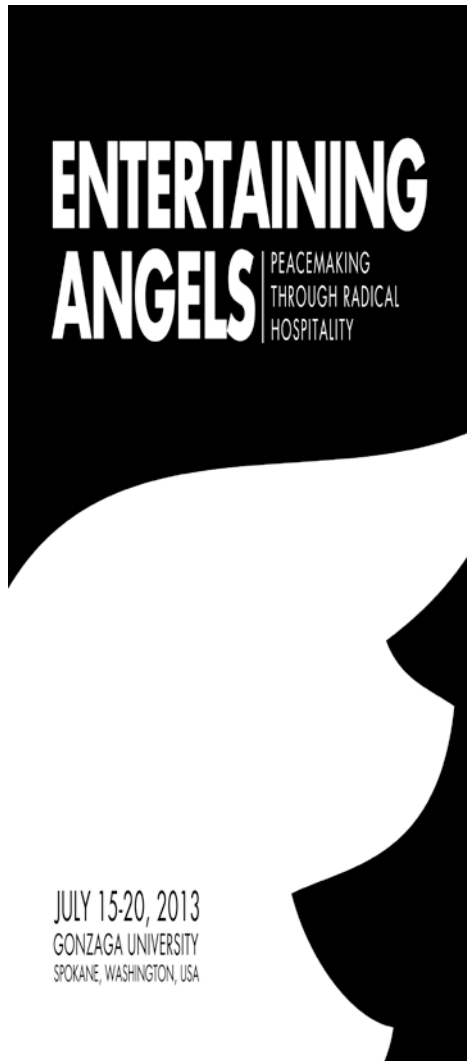
April 19-20th - Allen Temple Baptist Church

You don't want to miss this amazing Missions Conference of the new American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast, featuring:

Reid Trulson - Director of International Ministries; Vickie Goff - ABHMS - missions work in the US; Fela Barrueto - ABHMS - prisoner re-entry and aftercare; Ivy & Emerson Wu - Missionaries to Macau, China; Kent Harrop - FBC McMinnville; Carole Moore - ABW ministries; Rainbow Acres; Seafarers Ministries; Pre-tour of Allen Temple's mission ministries; Missionary Partnership Teams; and so much more!!!!

Childcare available! For Schedule & Registration, contact Pastor Rick or the church office.

Only \$35 - covers all programming and food.



Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

Summer Conference 2013

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares"
Hebrews 13:2

July 15-20, 2013 I Gonzaga University I Spokane, WA
USA

The word hospitality often brings to mind images of domestic tidiness but the gospel calls us to be radical in our welcome: to welcome the least of these as we would Christ; to seek the outcasts, the marginalized, the disempowered, the overlooked, the other; and to create community together. This year at summer conference you can look forward to exciting speakers and dynamic workshops that explore topics of hospitality, inclusion and justice. We look forward to sharing spirit-filled worship with hundreds of peacemakers as we look for ways to grow, support, and encourage each other. Participants of all ages will have opportunities for learning and for playing in community. We hope you will join us!

IN THE WORLD

Study: Fish catch underreported by China: China's fishing fleet reports less than one-tenth of its catch, a study says, leading to the decimation of the fish population, writes John Vidal. "Countries need to realise the importance of accurately recording and reporting their catches and step up to the plate, or there will be no fish left for our children," said Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia. The Guardian (London) (4/3)

Leaders, activists hail "landmark" UN arms treaty: The United Nations General Assembly's passage of the international arms trade treaty on Tuesday is being hailed as "a landmark agreement that will save lives and ease the immense human suffering caused by armed conflict around the world," says British Prime Minister David Cameron. The treaty requires ratification by 50 countries and would take effect three months after that time. Associated Press (4/2)

Cambodian housewives protest forced evictions: Cambodian housewives are using nonviolent protest as a means to counter forced evictions and police retaliation, writes Katherine Brickell. These women are "using their positions as wives and mothers to co-opt riot police through their songs of suffering and to morally shame them when they are publicly beaten," Brickell writes. The Guardian (London) (4/2)

Use of better cookstoves helps preserve Tanzania forests: The use of better cookstoves is lessening demand for firewood, helping preserve forests in the eastern part of Tanzania, writes Lucas Liganga. A plan to replace 1,000 stoves with more efficient models could save 1,716 metric tons of firewood annually, says a development official. AlertNet (3/29)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Thelma Parodi (April 5), Dylan Ha (April 9)
- ✚ Mary Martin grateful to be here and singing in the choir
- ✚ Melanie Ramirez happy to have families here including mother, Dona; for Daniel as he travels to Washington, DC, next week
- ✚ Dona Smith-Powers for the transformation and new beginning Easter offers; for her ongoing recovery from knee surgery
- ✚ Thelma Parodi in gratitude for a whole week full of love and joy and for her granddaughters who were present in worship; thanks and praise to God
- ✚ Virginia Herbert for the joy of having her daughter, Maurine, with her in worship; for the beauty of the flower cross

Concerns:

- ✚ For Pastor Tripp and the family and friends of his aunt, Ann Watlington, who died Tuesday
- ✚ Mary Martin for her daughter, Ann, who is having hip surgery
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she begins a new kind of chemotherapy for cancer
- ✚ For Don and Mary Granholm
- ✚ For Dan and Sarah Chetti and their mission work in Lebanon
- ✚ For Dan Buttry and his mission work as a global peace advocate
- ✚ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai, Japan
- ✚ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India
- ✚ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✚ For all those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways it makes us less safe and less free
- ✚ For the well-being of our church: wisdom and guidance for our leaders and its future
- ✚ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✚ For the care of the earth
- ✚ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✚ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2013

The Devil Gets His Due

Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 150; John 20:19-31; Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8.

Going Off the Rails

In 1980 Ozzy Osbourne released a song called "Crazy Train." The chorus of the song is ridiculously simple, but very evocative: "I'm going off the rails on a crazy train." What the apostles were doing must have seemed like this to much of the surrounding world. The Pharisees and leaders certainly seem to think this. Drawing attention to the public proclamation of Jesus as Lord was indeed crazy. This crazy train, Peter is clear to note, does not have a human conductor, and God is taking it right off of the rails. This is not to condone going off of the rails for its own sake or irresponsible witness to Jesus Christ. Much depends on how one evaluates the rails in the first place. What to the authorities of the time seemed like going off the rails was accurate. But that's because from the perspective of Acts, the current rails on which the human train journeyed were no longer bringing God's forgiveness and renewal, but actually hindering it. (Kyle Fever, *Commentary on Acts 5:27-32, April 7, 2013, workingpreacher.org*).

Prayer: Author of Salvation, You seek to lead us to the light, You seek to show us Your love in every way imaginable; You seek us when we are lost and wandering. We thank You for the prophets in our midst who guide and challenge us; for the sojourners of faith who do not give up. Write in our hearts the words of assurance when we have our doubts. Write in our lives the passages of hope when we feel hopeless. Write in us the promise of new life that flows in our blood and breath: the promise of life that lives in all creation. We know we can start again, we can make things new, and we live with the hope of the resurrection. We know this. Remind us of this again and again when we forget. In the name of Jesus, our constant companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

We're a little late with the Midweek Message this week. Seems it takes a longer to catch your breath after all the activities of Holy Week and Easter, plus Oleta is largely out over the next two weeks dealing with personal and health issues and Pastor Tripp has suffered a significant loss in his family. It's been quiet – and a little lonely around FBCPA this week. I hope you will continue to hold both Oleta and Tripp (and family) in your prayers.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Lenten season and the Easter celebration so lovely and meaningful. Special thanks to Jan for coordinating our music, to Pastor Tripp and the children/youth for the "Easter Pageant," to everyone who helped with the brunch and the sanctuary and to our friends at Covenant Presbyterian for sharing this time with us. It is good to have a colleague like Pastor Margaret Boles from CPC.

Sunday is "Holy Humor Sunday." We will engage in a tradition sometimes practiced on "Low Sunday" or the Sunday after Easter, in which we play a bit with the service in recognition of "the devil's defeat" in the Resurrection. We'll focus on a rather funny story about Peter and the apostles in conflict with religious leaders found in the fifth chapter of Acts. In the end, Peter makes his famous proclamation that, as a follower of the risen Christ, he "must obey God, rather than humans" but the circumstances preceding are kind of comical.

See you Sunday at 10. Bring someone with you and plan to stay as Pastor Tripp unfolds some of the mysteries of his PhD program.

May God's new thing flourish within us and among us.

Pastor Rick

