

MIDWEEK MESSAGE

April 10, 2013

Words to Consider: *"The difficulty of conversion is a difficulty of choosing. A choice must be made to enter life and share in each other's search for life...Conversion is a gift of God because it shows us the way and invites us to enter the world of freedom, the world of life. But at the same time conversion is a human task, because it demands of us an individual and collective commitment to the building of that world."*

Elsa Tamez, *Bible of the Oppressed*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

NOTE FROM OLETA: Dear FBC, I will be in and out, mostly out, of the church office through this week while I follow the medical trail to address a health issue. If you need anything from me directly, please call ahead to make sure that I am here before coming and being disappointed. It is a good thing for us that our Pastor Rick is even better able than I to handle anything that you might need!

- ❖ **NO CHOIR REHEARSAL** this week. We will resume on **Thursday April 18.**

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/organization (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.

- ❖ **SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 10 AM** Worship, *"The Care and Feeding of..."* 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.
- ❖ **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, Sunday, April 14, 12:30 PM** in the Parlor.
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, April 16**, 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 **\$750** 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 **\$145** toward our goal.

- ❖ **BAPTISTS LUNCHING TOGETHER, Wednesday, April 17, Noon, - J. Alfred Smith, Jr.** Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist will be the guest on "Expanding Ministries." Grand Lake Gardens in Oakland. Lunch is \$8.00. For reservations contact Joan Thatcher, (510) 350-7008.
- ❖ **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, Thursday, April 18, 5:00PM,** in the Parlor.
- ❖ **INTERGENERATIONAL POTLUCK and SCAVENGER HUNT, Friday, April 19, 6:00 PM**
- ❖ **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING, Sunday, April 21, 11:30 AM.**
- ❖ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH:** meets again on **Thursday, April 25 at 10 AM.** All women of our church community are invited to meet in the Patio Room at Country Gourmet Restaurant, 2098 West El Camino Real (at Rengstorff) in Mountain View. Please join us.

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

"Branching Out, Growing Deep"

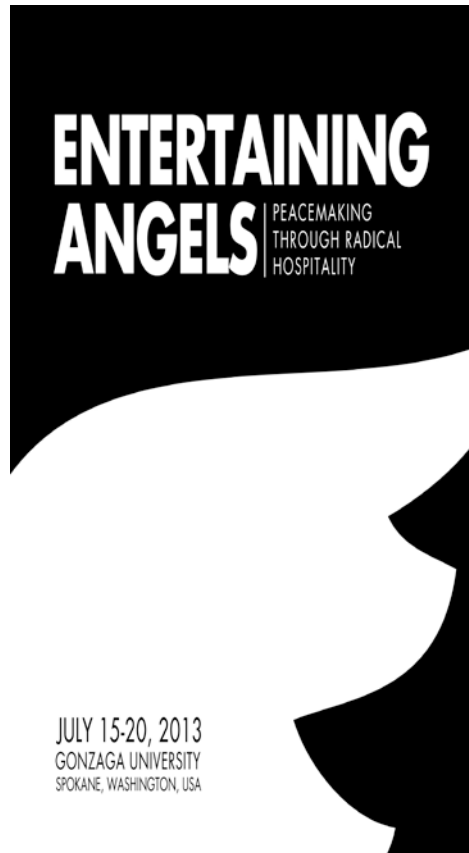
April 19-20th - Allen Temple Baptist Church

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

Turning the tide for child protection in Indonesia: Efforts to prevent child abuse in Indonesia must overcome challenges including social stigma and financial barriers to crime reporting, writes IRIN. Many Indonesians believe child abuse needn't be reported to the police. "We'll only solve this problem by going to its source and promoting good parenting skills, and through creating child-friendly cities," says Usman Basuni, a government official. IRINNews.org (4/8)

Nepal looks to off-grid power: Nearly 80% of Nepal's population lives in rural areas, and only one-third of rural residents receive electricity. The government is hoping that off-grid energy technologies will be able to improve electricity access and is offering subsidies for renewable energy sources. IRINNews.org (4/5)

Syrian refugees stretch aid agency budgets: Humanitarian aid agencies are being swamped by ever-increasing numbers of Syrian refugees, and funding is largely depleted. "This is the type of crisis that humanitarian agencies at some point cannot handle any more," said Filippo Grandi of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. "The needs are rising exponentially, and we are broke," UNICEF's Marixie Mercado said. The New York Times (4/4)

Malala Fund issues grant to educate Pakistani girls: The Malala Fund, named after Malala Yousafzai, is awarding its first grant for \$45,000 to fund the education of 40 girls in Pakistan. "I invite all of you to support the Malala Fund and let us turn the education of 40 girls into 40 million girls," Yousafzai says. Meanwhile, Angelina Jolie, a United Nations special envoy, is pledging \$200,000 for the Malala Fund. The Guardian (London) (4/5)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Laura Garcia (April 13), Peggy Johnson (April 15)
- ✚ For the presence of Mike and Linda Socia in worship (Mike is the ED of Redwood Glen)
- ✚ Kathy Gillam for a short but nice visit from her daughter, Julia
- ✚ Carolyn Shepard reports that June Lee is back in her apartment and doing much better
- ✚ Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick for the Brancalhone-Moreira family who sent pictures of recent birthday celebrations in Brazil (see the bulletin board)
- ✚ Michael Holmes for his cousin, Kristen, who recently adopted a little boy, Russell
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for a wonderful birthday with thanks for cards and good wishes

Concerns:

- ✚ For the family and friends of Margo Tenold, former co-director of the Santa Clara County Council of Christian Churches, who died today
- ✚ For Sachiko Berry who has been ill
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for her daughter, Lee, who came through recent bad storms in Texas
- ✚ Carolyn Shepard for the family and friends of Diana Barry (daughter of Dick and Lorraine) who died recently from a stroke
- ✚ For Jean Cole's mother in southern California who will have cancer surgery this week
- ✚ For Pastor Tripp and the family and friends of his aunt, Ann Watlington, as they mourn her death
- ✚ Pastor Rick for the family and friends of Phil Boomer, the father of his former partner, who died last week in Concord
- ✚ 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 the work of the American Baptist Seminary of the West in training students for ministry
- ✚ 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 14, 2013

The Care and Feeding of...

Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 30; **JOHN 21:1-19**; Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Revelation 5:11-14. (The focus scripture is in bold.)

John 21 presents twin feeding stories with a mystical overlay. There is no way we can domesticate the post-resurrection experiences, as understood by the early church. The crucified Jesus is alive, coming and going in their lives, providing guidance and companionship. It must have felt like a dream to the first followers of Jesus. By comparison, Pentecost's tongues of fire and blustery winds might have felt down to earth in relationship to days spent with the Risen One. In this passage, we find Jesus cooking breakfast for his followers – Jesus the “grill master” presents his followers with a lovely breakfast, providing for physical as well as spiritual needs. Resurrection is whole bodied and embraces the entirety of our lives. Jesus' resurrection is more rather than less in terms of his impact on his followers and our vision of God's aim for our lives must embrace all of our lives, fulfilling them not just spiritually but economically, emotionally, vocationally, and relationally.

Preachers often focus on the encounter with Peter. In some ways, this shares in the mysticism of Paul's Damascus Road experience. This is another “come to Jesus” moment in which Peter is challenged to embrace, similarly to Paul, the totality of his life. His failure of nerve on Good Friday does not disqualify him from apostleship, but may be one of the primary requisites for his future ministry. He can no longer think of himself as stronger and nobler than his companions or anyone to whom he ministers; he is mortal in every way, fearful, fallible, and fickle. But, his mortality and fallibility – the realities of the human condition – are the materials of grace through which God will transfigure his life. The divine artist works with real people with real limitations, presenting them with “impossible” possibilities, ideals that lure us to become greater than we can possibly imagine. God does not abandon us in our imperfection but awakens us to what we can be as God's partners in healing the earth. (Bruce Epperly, *The Adventurous Lectionary - The Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 2013*, patheos.com).

Prayer: *Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.*

Come to the Welcome Table



FROM PASTOR TRIPP

Sonic Theology Part 2: Eschatology, Desire, and Listening As An Act of Love The conversation continues. Join in. This week Pastor Tripp will talk about listening, desire, and what it means to hope for God. Can music be music a symbol of the Kingdom of God? How might we learn to listen for God?

Potluck Dinner April 19 at 6:00 Join us on Friday evening for a time for good food, some fun, and fellowship. We will have a scavenger hunt for all ages. Yes, all. How well do you know the church building and grounds? Do you know where we keep the Christmas wreaths? The flower vases? How about the flag poles? We'll divide into two teams and explore the grounds. Fun abounds!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

It feels like summer here in Palo Alto today. I hope you are enjoying some of the beauty of this springtime. Thanks to everyone for joining to make Holy Humor Sunday a joyous event. I know it's not the way we want to approach worship every Sunday, but it is good and healthy to laugh and to fill our service and ourselves with joy. So, on a day like today, "Sing a happy alleluia!"

This coming Sunday we will consider the added epilogue to John's gospel with its lovely stories of Jesus' tender care for the fishing apostles and the great reconciliation between Jesus and Peter. It seems that this Easter season is filled with "Amazing Grace." Lord knows we can never have too much of that. In a day and age in which fear – of neighbor, others, difference, insecurity, scarcity, destruction, death, you name it – seems to rule so much of our social structure, deeply affecting how we live our lives, it is challenging to give ourselves over to a God characterized by forgiveness and grace, joy and love. How can we engage in that countercultural way of letting love rule our minds, bodies, our interactions, as well as our hearts as we seek to serve the One who promises to save us from the bondage of conventional cultural expectation? Join us in worship as we consider "The Care and Feeding of..." How would you fill in the blank? See you Sunday at 10. Bring someone along to share.

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

Pastor Rick

