

MIDWEEK MESSAGE

April 17, 2013

Words to Consider: *"In the act of repentance there is the hope of new thinking, new acting, and new life which you simply don't get when you still think you are right about something. Don't listen when people say that following Christ means being right. To follow the crucified and resurrected one is to live as a people who get to be wrong –and be re-born to new life in Christ. So I hope you are often wrong...so that you might drink deeply from this grace of God which makes all things new."*

Nadia Bolz-Weber

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, Thursday, April 18, 5:00PM**, in the Parlor.
- ❖ **CHOIR REHEARSAL** will resume this **Thursday, April 18**, in the Parlor.
- ❖ **INTERGENERATIONAL POTLUCK and SCAVENGER HUNT, Friday, April 19, 6:00 PM** 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!
- ❖ **SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 10 AM** Worship, *"Saints Alive!"* and Sunday School for children and youth. **11:30 AM, QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**, in the Parlor.
- ❖ **SPIRE DEADLINE, Monday, April 22**
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, April 23**, 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 **\$350** toward our goal.

- ❖ **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.



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 | Gonzaga University | 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

Economic growth buoys sub-Saharan: Several African economies south of the Sahara are growing strongly, according to reports from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. But "worries remain over governments' failure to tackle poverty and inequality," writes David Smith. The Guardian (London) (4/17)

Talking about rape trauma as a means of healing: "Victims must talk about their trauma in order to be healed," says Thérèse Mema Mapenzi, who works with rape victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Only by actively listening to people's problems can one understand them or know what kind of assistance to provide," she adds. Inter Press Service (4/17)

UNICEF: 25% of children stunted by malnutrition: A UNICEF report says that 25% of children younger than 5 are permanently stunted from malnutrition, writes Shawn Pogatchnik. Such a child "will learn less in school, will earn less later, is more vulnerable to disease," says Anthony Lake of UNICEF. Separately, IRIN discusses six African countries that are grappling with stunted children. MedicalXpress.com/The Associated Press (4/16)

Ethiopia to capitalize on bamboo's versatility: Fast-growing bamboo may rescue Ethiopia from poverty and help it reduce greenhouse emissions, writes Ed McKenna. J. Coosje Hoogendoorn of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan says, "If properly managed, this highly versatile resource could spur economic growth in a world export market, valued at \$2 billion in 2011, reduce deforestation and cut carbon emissions." Inter Press Service (4/8)

Children especially at risk in war zones: Children in war zones face an appalling rate of rape and abuse, writes Li-mei Hoang. Over 70% of victims in Liberia and Sierra Leone are children, according to a report from Save the Children. Reuters (4/10)

BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Coleen Watson (April 18)
- ✚ Sachiko Berry for prayers and concerns over her recent illness (still not feeling 100%)
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for birthday greetings and for the party last Wednesday; for her daughter, Lee, who been having back problems but is responding to acupuncture

Concerns:

- ✚ Ron Fredlund for the family and friends of the Rev. Huffstetler who died last week
- ✚ For all those affected by the tragic bombing at the Boston Marathon
- ✚ For peace among North Korea and their enemies, real and perceived

- ✚ Pastor Rick for his friend, Michael, facing surgery for melanoma; for his nephew, Max, who is going through a rough patch; for the family and friends of Dudley Lockett who died recently; for the family and friends of his aunt, Mattie Chelette, who died Tuesday in Joplin. MO
- ✚ For the health and well-being of the Laharty family, especially Joseph, Matthew, Maureen and Michael
- ✚ 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 21, 2013

Good Shepherd Sunday

Saints Alive!

Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 23; John 10:22-30; Acts 9:36-43; **REVELATION 7:9-17**. (The focus scripture is in bold.)

“...in the throng worshipping the one on the throne and the Lamb, all the boundaries and lines and divisions that separate people from one another are torn down. Now, we must acknowledge at the outset that this vision is contrary to the way of the world. The world in which we live says that only members are allowed; it says you must have on shoes and a shirt to receive service; it reinforces the notion that differences in color and culture constitute absolute boundaries that must be upheld against all threats. This world wants clear boundaries and fences—and laws that reinforce them!

In the Kingdom of God, however, the standard operating procedure is “neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither slave nor free” (Gal 3:28); it is neither white nor black nor brown nor yellow nor red, neither rich or poor, neither employed or unemployed, neither native born citizen or illegal alien, but all are included in God’s vision for humankind.” (Alan Brehm, *Not Mending Fences*, April 28, 2010, thewakingdreamer.blogspot.com).

Prayer: Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, you stand among us in the shadows of our time. As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

FROM PASTOR TRIPP

Friends of God,

Thank you all for your kindness and support. I'm off to Virginia for the weekend (I fly out Thursday night and return on Monday) to celebrate the life of Ann Watlington, my aunt. Please continue to keep my family in your prayers especially Carson, Ann's daughter.

Have fun on Friday evening at the pot luck! Chip and Rick are going to organize a great scavenger hunt. Play well. Enjoy one another's company. I will see you all when I return. When I get back, let's get together and talk about the trip this summer to Peace Camp. We'll do some fundraising. We'll talk about how we'll all travel together. Please be in contact with me or with Rick to let us know if you are interested in attending.

Peace and All Good Things,

Pastor Tripp

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

I have to say that I am appalled and deeply disappointed with the choke hold that the gun lobby has on the US Congress. It is shameful in a nation in which over 90 percent of our citizens are looking for some sort of sanity around guns that we cannot even get a vote on a relatively tame proposal on gun control. Pray with me and take whatever other action you are able that our legislative branch come to its senses and represent the people rather than a ridiculously powerful special interest group.

We are still looking for folk to attend Peace Camp this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity that does not come west that often. I know there is expense involved. We are hopeful of engaging in fundraising and scholarships to enable everyone to go would like to. Please let Pastor Tripp or me know if you have any interest at all. I can testify personally as to what a wonderful experience it is.

Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. The lectionary gives us the 23rd Psalm and a passage from the shepherding discourse in John 10, but I was struck by the passage from Revelation, which also has a shepherd reference, so we will focus on that week. I think it fits into the exploration in which we've been engaged of how the Resurrection of the Christ brings in the reign of God. Revelation speaks a vision of saints alive, gathered in glory, in the heavenly realm. I know we don't want to direct our attention too much to what lies beyond when there is so much yet to be attended to in our present reality. Still, the passage from Revelation points us toward the rich inclusiveness of God's heavenly realm and calls us to work toward such community here and now. See you on Sunday at 10 as we join in community. Bring someone along to share.

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

Pastor Rick

