



# THE SPIRE

*MAY 2013*

## MIXON MUSES

The church and the gospel are not the same thing. I doubt they ever were, though there may have been times when they were more closely aligned than today. With acknowledgement of its ancient roots, the church that most of us have known and loved in this country was the product of the post-war “boom” of the 1950s and 60s. I am a relatively early boomer (1947) so my experience of church life was thoroughly steeped in that tradition. The church was often the center of the community, a place where traditional, nuclear family life was idealized, where you went to make significant business contacts and your name known in the neighborhood. Denominations strategized church planting throughout suburbia, “silk-stocking” downtown churches thrived.

The church my father served from 1945 to 1950 was in a small Kansas railroad town of 14,000 people. First Baptist, Newton, had a thousand members when he left to start one of the American Baptist “Churches for New Frontiers.” The denomination had purchased a large, well-situated plot of land on which to build. He started out preaching to 13 people in the Borel’s living room, using the top of the TV as his pulpit. When he left that congregation in 1953, it had grown significantly and had built a parsonage on the site that was used as the church building for worship and Sunday School. He lived (1964) long enough to see Prairie Baptist Church, in the suburbs of Kansas City, Kansas, grow to several hundred members and become the largest American Baptist mission giving church in Kansas.

My point is not to brag, though I hold my father and his ministry in high esteem. The point is to give you a taste of the times, not that many of you don’t have your own stories to tell from that glorious period in the life of the church. None of this is new to you. You’ve heard it all before. Now the church of the 50s and 60s is in rapid decline and I would guess will largely disappear in the next 50 years. Some church people are caught up in mourning what is passing, some are dedicated to moving back to the future, some are in despair of what

can be done to save the church. One problem is that all of these folk have taken the burden on themselves. Either they are stuck in grief and guilt, they are busily replicating the methods of 50 years ago, or they are writing blogs, columns (like this one!) or books recounting the downward spiral, the reasons for it and myriad untested ideas about what the church should be and do next. Our congregation has a mixture of all these, but for now we have voted to work toward renewal.

Dan Cudworth has raised a question as to whether or not “renewal” is the right word to describe what some of us are looking toward. Renewal implies a resurrection of that which is dead or dying. Should we let it go? Should we instead look for God’s new thing, for an outcome that we have yet to image, for transformation in service of the Gospel? You see the church as we know it may be disappearing but there is no reason that God’s good news should disappear with it. The Jesus movement has weathered the coming and going of any number of institutional forms that have attempted to encapsulate it. Still the gospel lives. The promised reign of God still looms on the horizon and trickles down into contemporary culture all the time.

I met today with Eric Swanson, pastor of Westhope Presbyterian Church and director of The Contemplative Center of Silicon Valley. Eric is working to turn around a congregation that was pretty much on its last leg. He has challenged that community to turn from more traditional church life to a congregational life that is centered in the Spirit. They are not growing by leaps and bounds – not in numbers, that is – but they are clearly growing in the Spirit. One thing they do very deliberately is to ground everything they do in prayer and contemplation. They look to discern rather than dictate God’s will and way for them. Is that something we might explore as means of transformation rather than renewal?

There’s been whole lot of discussion in recent times about the SBNR (Spiritual But Not Religious) and how they have either turned their backs on the church or else have never darkened its doors. Amy Butler, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC, in her latest blog, writes an open letter to the SBNR. She says to them, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, “I want to tell you that

despite our collective panic attacks here on the Spiritual And Also Religious side of things, I am increasingly finding myself less and less interested in trying to find just the right song and dance to make you wake up one day and want to be part of a faith community.

It's not you. It's me. I just think that finding a way to be popular again may not be the most pressing work of the church these days."

I think she's on to something. I think there was a time when we were popular and some of us long to be popular again. I think that's more the name of the game than we're willing to admit. We want to be popular, well-liked, influential, just like Jesus was(n't). Oops! Have we been on the wrong road, barking up the wrong tree, looking for love in all the wrong places? Maybe so. Amy continues writing to the SNBR, "I hear you when you say the church is irrelevant. I get that you don't care what we're doing to catch your attention. If we're smart, we'll listen to what you're saying to us and believe that you mean what you say. And then we'll stop trying to package the institution to make it palatable and just get busy leading the church to faithfully do its work in the world." If we're smart we'll listen, we'll pay attention – not only to the witness of the SNBR but also to the witness of the Spirit.

What is the Spirit whispering to us? Where is God leading us? What does Jesus have to offer us today? The Gospel is not the church but the Gospel can and must surely shape any meaningful future we have. Amy concludes with an image of the body of Christ that may not be comfortable but is surely challenging. "I suggest to my angst-ridden colleagues [SAAR] that your [SNBR] blatant rejection of the church, rather than a challenge to us to scramble for new ideas and back peddle when churches screw up, is actually a glimpse of what the church of the future will be: less attractive, more alternative, kind of edgy, largely inconvenient and a little strange."

Less attractive, more alternative, kind of edgy, largely inconvenient and a little strange! Can you hear God calling us to such a reality? Can you feel the Spirit moving us in that direction? Does it seem like that's exactly the way Jesus walked? Uncomfortable, challenging, and still, good news, the Gospel that

draws all creation into holy communion with God, leads us in the Jesus Way and empowers us with the Spirit. May we learn to pray, to discern and then say, "yes."

Pastor Rick



### MEET OUR INTERNS

As most of you know, Pastor Tripp will be finishing up his course work this month and will be working on his comprehensive examinations in the coming year. This, plus some needs of his family in Virginia, means he will be working fewer hours at FBCPA. We are delighted that he will continue to be our Minister for Faith Formation and Family Life. We are equally delighted that we have two outstanding seminary students coming to work with us in the coming year, both to fulfill their field work requirements and to help with Pastor Tripp's responsibilities. Tripp and I have dreamed of having multiple interns working as a team ever since he started working with us. I had an opportunity like this in Granville where I was privileged to work for a year to work with three wonderful women – two interns and a pastoral associate. Everyone benefited from the project, especially the congregation. Let me introduce you to our interns.



Doug Davidson will be a second-year M.Div. student at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley. Before beginning seminary, Doug worked for more than two decades as an editor for religious publications, including thirteen years as coeditor of the late, great Christian peace-and-justice magazine *The Other Side*. Since moving to California in 2003, Doug has worked full-time as a freelance editor and writer for a wide variety of faith-based book publishers and nonprofit organizations. A life-long American Baptist who is the son and grandson of ABC pas-

tors, Doug has served on the General Board of the ABC-USA and the board of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. Doug is passionate about criminal justice reform, issues of social and economic justice, and creating worship communities that welcome all people. A native of the Philadelphia area, Doug is a cheesesteak connoisseur who loves the Phillies and still travels to the East coast each year to spend a week with his extended family on the Jersey shore. ("It's not like the TV show, really," he assures us.) He is married to Dr. Jennifer Wilkins Davidson, assistant professor of worship and theology at American Baptist Seminary of the West. Doug and Jen have a 15-year-old son, Elliot, who's completing his freshman year of high school and enjoys playing baseball for College Park High in Pleasant Hill.



Naomi Schulz will be a third year student at the Pacific School of Religion. Many of us met Naomi when she came to our worship retreat with Brad Berglund. She is currently completing her primary internship at Skyline Community Church in Oakland, and will be joining us for advanced field-education study next year. At Skyline Church, Naomi assisted Rev. Laurie Manning in developing an adult spiritual education program, created a Christmas pageant, and explored drama and liturgical dance in worship and spiritual practice. In the spring of 2012, Naomi completed her first 5-month internship at an inter-denominational church in Berea, Kentucky, and then received a fellowship to be the UCC Seminarian at the Chautauqua Institution over the summer. Naomi brings a rich background to her work in the church. She was born in Zambia to Catholic missionary parents, and raised in rural Ireland where her parents were handweavers. She came to the U.S. in 1993 to begin undergraduate studies at Berea College in Kentucky, and went on to receive her BA from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. Naomi worked in the field of environmental justice before starting a PhD in cultural geography at UC Berkeley, and then entering seminary. At

seminary, Naomi applies her skills in textile and visual arts to sacred space design for her seminary's chapel. She also leads and designs alternative worship services, and started an academic writing group for students. She has traveled widely in Europe, China, Thailand, Mexico and Ireland. Her areas of academic interest include: Theologies and Best Practices of Christian Parish Ministry; Theologies of Embodiment and Care related to Disability and Illness; Intersections of Art and Spirituality; and, Faith-based organizing. Naomi has a five-year-old son - Finn - who lives with his Dad in Berea, Kentucky, and who will be visiting us from time-to-time during the year.

Of course there is much more to both Doug and Naomi but I wanted you to know something about them before they started. I hope you will take every opportunity to get to know them better as they serve our community in the coming year.

## PCBA Spring Conference 2013

***The Promises and Perils of Leadership: Strengthening and Sustaining Those Who Lead***  
**Saturday, May 11, 2013 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA

Workshops:

- Fostering Effective Leaders, Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Exec. Director, ABC Ministers Council. Dr. Jackson is also the Keynote Speaker and Conference Chair
- Leadership from the Pulpit, Rev. Dr. Allison Tanner, Minister of Christian Formation, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist
- Challenges to Ministerial Leadership, Rev. Dr. Paul Martin, President, ABSW
- Mission Summit – Setting ABC Priorities, Rev. Donald Ng, Senior Pastor, First Chinese Baptist, San Francisco, Vice-President, ABC/USA
- Practicing Shared Leadership: Consensus as a Shared Leadership Practice, Rev. Michelle Holmes, Vice President/CFO, American Baptist Seminary of the West
- Resolving Conflict among Church Leaders, Rev. Dr. Dayle Scott, Former Pastor, Regional and National Education Leader
- Nurturing Leadership, Rev. Karen Yee, Associate Pastor, New Life Christian Fellowship; English-speaking Pastor, Iu-Mienh Friendship Baptist Church

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH



- ◆ **TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY** is held on **Tuesdays at 10:30 AM** at **the home of Thelma Parodi, 543 South El Monte Avenue, Los Altos**. Anyone interested in studying the lectionary texts for the following Sunday is welcome to attend. Let Pastor Rick know if you need a ride
- ◆ **CHURCH CHOIR REHEARSAL** is held **each Thursday at 7:30 PM** in the parlor. New voices are always welcome to join.
- ◆ **MEN'S BREAKFAST, Every first and third Wednesday at 8 AM**, at **Hobee's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto**. All the men from our Church family are welcome.
- ◆ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH** meets on **Thursday, May 30th at 10 AM**. All women of our church community are invited. Please join us at **Country Gourmet Restaurant**, corner of Fremont and Mary Ave. in Sunnyvale.



### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE** meeting on **Friday, May 3 at 2:00 PM** in the parlor.
- **CONCERT TO BENEFIT FAITH IN ACTION**, the rotating homeless shelter of Silicon Valley, featuring The Choral Project (the choir in which Dan Cudworth and Pastor Rick sing) **May 4, 7:30 PM**, Sunnyvale Community Congregational Church, 1112 South Bernardo, Sunnyvale. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information see the church bulletin boards or go to [faithinactionsv.org](http://faithinactionsv.org)
- **Sunday, May 5, 4:00 PM, THE SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT** presents "**Liberation through Education: Inspiring Highlights from our El Salvador Delegation**" at First Presbyterian, 1140 Cowper Street, including a pupusa and enchilada dinner for a suggested donation of \$20 for adults or \$5 for students (no one turned away for lack of funds.) For reservations call (650) 494-8340.

## MOTHER'S DAY POTLUCK:



Join us at 6:00 PM on Friday May 10 for our Mother's Day Potluck. Bring flowers to decorate the tables. Bring pictures of your mother or people who have mothered you over the years to share with your friends. We will share a meal, share memories, and enjoy a belated scavenger hunt. Bring a friend! All are welcome.

- CHURCH COUNCIL meeting, Thursday, May 23, 1:30 PM in the Parlor.

**CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY ON MONDAY, MAY 27.**

### **A note from the Church Office:**

Please allow me to express my appreciation and say how touching it has been to receive the words of comfort and the assistance offered to me by church and staff as I face the prospects of ovarian cancer. And though I do intend to work for you as normally as possible over the following months of treatment, there will probably be times when you arrive and discover a note posted on my door indicating a doctor's appointment or followup therapy. To minimize the disappointment on your part if you should come but miss me, especially if you have some task that requires my assistance, I strongly urge you to consider calling ahead or making an appointment with me beforehand .

To make this easy for you, I have reprinted the office hours on the next page.

Thank you for your cooperation and your support,

Oleta



# FBCPA SPRING OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays thru Fridays

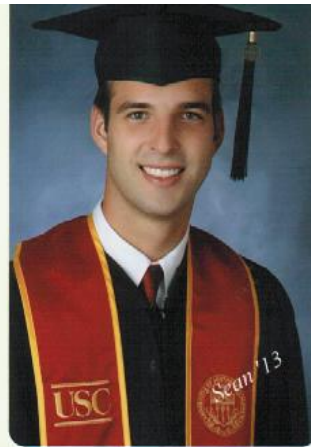
1:00 PM to 5:30 PM

(with 2 hours flex to supervise evening and Saturday rentals, etc)

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



*The University of Southern California  
announces that  
Sean Patrick Bell  
will receive the degree of  
Bachelor of Arts  
with a major in  
Public Relations  
with a Business Administration minor  
on  
Friday morning, May seventeenth  
Two Thousand and Thirteen  
at ten forty-five  
at  
Argue Plaza*

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION IN MAY

(11:30 in the Parlor)

### May 12 – 19 – 26: Sin Boldly

**Cathleen Falsani:** Join us on **June 2** as we welcome author and religion journalist Cathleen Falsani. She will be with us in worship and following worship during the Spiritual Formation hour. She is an award-winning religion journalist and the new Faith & Values columnist for the [Orange County Register](#) in Southern California. She is author of the critically acclaimed [The God Factor: Inside the Spiritual Lives of Public People](#), [Sin Boldly: A Field Guide for Grace](#), [The Dude Abides: The Gospel According to the Coen Brothers](#), [BELIEBER: Fame, Faith and the Heart of Justin Bieber](#), and the forthcoming [Disquiet Time: A Devotional for Ordinary Skeptics](#) (edited with co-author [Jennifer Grant](#) and published by [Jericho Books](#), fall 2014.)





## **SENIOR CHAT in MAY**

*At Covenant Presbyterian Church  
670 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto*



Senior Chat will meet on Friday, May 10 in the Fireside Room. This is a unique ecumenical event. We gather at 10:00 and enjoy catching up with each other over light snacks. I will teach some easy exercises that I learned during my recovery from total knee replacement. These exercises will strengthen and make anyone more mobile, with or without a new knee! Bring your friends - no RSVP is necessary. Call Rev. Dona Smith-Powers for more information 650-494-3093

**May 10 - "Physical Issues of Aging"** will be considered with a physical therapist, Janis Thomas. She is an in home therapist working with Kaiser. Jan will give us some information about how diet, exercise, and fluid intake affects urinary incontinence, daily endurance level, and mood. We will all learn something helpful.

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

*Happy Birthday* this month to:

E.Y. Fung	May 2
Virginia Knechtel	May 6
Pamela Sullivan	May 15
Carole Low	May 16
Lois Ville	May 17
Melanie Ramirez	May 21
Bryce Johnson	May 28

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes, April 18, 2013**

Moderator Carolyn Shepard opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Present: Dan Cudworth, Jane and Jin Chin, Marilyn Hunwick, Pastor Rick Mixon, Eleanor and Hugh Satterlee, and Moderator Carolyn Shepard.

To open the meeting, Rick read from a piece by Virginia Sabella about the gift of life that we should use and enjoy.

The Council discussed staffing issues at considerable length. Rick spoke more about Tripp's academic and personal situation, indicating that he will be spending one Sunday a month next year with a church in Berkeley as part of his PhD program. He will also have to spend some time in Virginia as he and his wife, because of his aunt's death, may become the guardian of his niece, Carson. The use of seminary interns is under discussion to fill in the parts of Tripp's duties that he will not be able to perform. Scheduling will, of course, be critical.

Because of Oleta Proctor's continuing requirements for expensive medical care, the Council, after a lengthy discussion, decided that the church's best approach to help would be to provide a one-time gift of about \$3,750 from Special Funds. An affirmation from the church will be sought at the Quarterly Business Meeting on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jin reviewed the Treasurer's report. No funds from Special Funds have been needed. Income from rentals is higher than expectations, principally because of new renters.

A written Finance Report was distributed. Jane indicated that we are still waiting response from the Palo Alto Community Child Care regarding finalizing sale of the Annex.

The Church's Renewal project was discussed. Much of the program is underway. A report will be distributed at the QBM. The current approach, with the lack of interest by the Chinese First Baptist Church in San Francisco in establishing a plant, is to work through the Evergreen Association. Rick has contacted Marcia Patton at Evergreen, and meetings are scheduled.

Marilyn agreed to inquire the status of a mission gift for Haiti sent through International Missions at Valley Forge.

Rick reported substantial progress on the Patio project. Several proposals have

been obtained. The final project price will be high, but the project can be segmented, reducing initial expenses. A meeting with a promising contractor is scheduled.

Chip Clark and Rick met with a sound engineer, who has agreed to submit proposals for low, medium, and high cost approaches to beneficial upgrades to the sound system in the church sanctuary.

Carolyn noted that she had assembled a list of volunteers who will do flowers for the church for the remainder of the year.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23, at 5:00 PM. The first Quarterly Business meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2013.

After a discussion regarding the content of the Quarterly Business Meeting, Carolyn closed the meeting with a short prayer at 7:13 PM.

Submitted: Hugh Satterlee, Clerk

## **Quarterly Business Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2013**

Moderator Carolyn Shepard opened the meeting at 11:30 AM with a prayer for wisdom to help us with our meeting and for comfort to those suffering from the violence in the world. Nineteen voting members were present. She thanked Joanne Jones for assembling the snacks for us to enjoy

Carolyn then reviewed the report of the Renewal Task Team which met in Early April. She noted that in worship we have exercised openness to change in space and the use of body motions in the service. The church has had two weekend workshops, one with Jennifer Davidson last fall and another in February with Bred Berglund. The women's brunch on the last Thursday of each month is a hit.

The attempt to work with the Chinese Baptist Church of San Francisco in establishing a church plant was not successful; the pastor of that church indicates there is insufficient energy in his church to support this concept. Pastor Rick has contacted Marsha Patton of the Evergreen Association to explore other approaches. There will be a meeting in the near future.

Other approaches include hosting a local girls' choir now forming, and working closely with the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center to take advantage of common

interests.

Carolyn proposed, from the Council, that the church affirm a one-time gift from the church of \$3,750 to Oleta Proctor to help alleviate some of her recent medical expenses. Extensive inquiry indicated this is the most practical way to provide help. Lois Ville moved and Nana Spiridon seconded the Council's request that, "The church shall offer \$3,750 to Oleta Proctor to assist with current medical expenses such that the gift not be taxable income." The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Rick described Tripp's academic and personal situation, indicating that he must spend one Sunday a month next year with a church in Berkeley as part of his PhD program. He will also need to spend some time in Virginia as he and his wife, because of his aunt's death, may become the guardian of his niece, Carson. The use of seminary interns, Naomi Schultz at PSR and Doug Davison at ABSOW have shown interest in helping fill in the parts of Tripp's duties that he will not be able to perform. Scheduling will, of course, be critical.

Several proposals for patio improvements have been obtained. The final project price will be high, but the project can be segmented, reducing initial expenses. A meeting with a promising contractor is scheduled.

A sound engineer has met with Chip Clark and Rick to explore needed upgrades to the sound system in the church. A proposal with a range of options and prices is expected.

Rick urged everyone to consider traveling to Spokane in July 2013 to attend the Peace Camp.

Rick is designing a signup sheet for small jobs that need doing and that volunteers can easily do. An example is to refresh the pew racks once a month, weeding out old envelopes and putting new and timely ones in their place – a half-hour per month job.

For the Good of the Church: Joanne Jones recommended that the disreputable sink in the little bathroom near the kitchen be replaced by a new one. Thelma Parodi urged everyone to spend more time in prayer, indicating that she has started over

on the prayer list distributed during Lent.

At the end of the meeting, Rick took note of a book by Scott Dockter which the author had recently sent to the church. The book entitled, "Chip's Book of Prayers: A collection of letters from Scott," chronicles the Scott's daily prayers made in behalf of his young friend suffering from a serious illness. Scott describes the First Baptist Church of Palo Alto as a nice place to pray for his friend. Pictures are included in the book.

Submitted: Hugh Satterlee, Clerk

## AMERICAN BAPTIST NEWS

### **A RESPONSE TO THE BOSTON BOMBING,**

excerpts from a letter from Stan Slade & Dan Buttry, 4/19/2013:

IM's Dan Buttry serves as a global consultant for peace and justice. Dan was a pastor in Boston before engaging more broadly in conflict transformation ministries, first with American Baptist Home Mission Societies and then, globally, with IM (International Ministries).

**Asked by his co-workers at IM for his initial thoughts about the news coming from Boston today, Dan wrote:**

*"All of us are grieved by the bombing in Boston, and we are praying for the victims, family and friends, and the entire city. I felt a special connection having lived in Boston for 9 years. The neighborhood of slain 8-year old Martin Richard is the neighborhood where I used to pastor and walked the streets with my own children..."*

*As the reports come out about the bombers being from Chechnya, a part of Russia, and coming from a Muslim extremist ideology, what should we do as Christians? One of our mission partners at IM has been the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia—the Georgia that used to be part of the Soviet Union until 1991 when it became independent. Chechnya also wanted independence, and a terrible war raged between Chechen separatists and Russia, sending many Chechen refugees over the border into Georgia. Historically Chechens and Georgians have been bitter enemies, an enmity heightened by their religious difference as Muslims and Orthodox Christians respectively. When the refugees fled Russia during*

*the brutal cold of winter, the Georgian Baptists responded specifically in response to the teaching of Jesus to love our enemies. They carried emergency supplies to the refugees and cared for them over a long period of time. Instead of enmity and fear, friendship and love grew between the Georgian Baptists and the Chechens. ....Their actions can be a testimony and guide to us....*

*The Bible tells us "do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12.21). If part of the shock wave of the Boston bombing is to stir up hatred in our hearts, then we have been overcome by the evil perpetrated on Patriot's Day. But if we respond with courage, love, and compassion, especially to those who might be targeted in misguided fear and displaced anger, then we can be part of overcoming this evil with the good of Christ. We will also speed the healing from this awful assault."*

Dan Buttry is a "targeted missionary" whom FBC PA supports in our budget and through the World Mission Offering. Dan returned in April from a peacemaking trip to Kenya for conflict transformation training with Wilson Gothungu. They plan an intensive 10-day training in Kenya in September for "trainers" with more than 30 people from 8 African countries.

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## **TWO BOOKS BY DAN BUTTRY IN THE FBC CHURCH LIBRARY:**

Dan's most recent book, Peace Warrior: A Memoir from the Front is now in our church library. Dan began his work with the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA), this month's special offering. This new book concerns Dan's peacemaking journey and mission work including chapters on the Burma peace process and the Naga (India) reconciliation project. It has chapters on interfaith and urban peacemaking as well as an intimate look at the work of a peace trainer. It is a good read from a seemingly tireless peacemaker.

Blessed Are the Peacemakers was published in 2011 and this updated version also has the International Ministries Edition. This includes materials on *The Judsons: Pioneering Peacemaking Missionaries* as well as such peacemakers as Ruth Mooney, Gustavo Parajon, and Lauran Bethell. The regular edition has separate chapters on more than 100 peacemakers from around the globe. "Watch out! Reading about their lives may inspire you to step up into their courageous circle".



From the desk of:

## Daniel Buttry

Global Service Consultant for Peace and Justice  
International Ministries  
American Baptist Churches

Address: 2300 Neibel St.  
Hamtramck, MI 48212 USA  
e-mail: [dbuttry@comcast.net](mailto:dbuttry@comcast.net)  
phone: 1-586-879-8146  
April 19, 2013

First Baptist Church  
305 N. California Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Thank you so much for the \$187.50 you gave in March in support of my peacemaking work through International Ministries. When I go I am keenly aware that I am just the point person in a community of support and commitment of which you are a vital part. Thank you for this partnership in mission!

I just got back Monday from a peacemaking trip to Kenya. Over the past three years I've been working with Wilson Gathungu (at the right in the picture below), a student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary who went back home to work for peace at some of the hot spots that had erupted into violence during the previous election. On March 4 Kenyans voted, and for the first time in most people's memory there was no violence—as they said, “Victors without victims.” But peacemaking needs to go deeper if the culture of politicized tribalism is to be overcome.



So on this trip Wilson and I went to the village of Keriso, one of the most divided communities. He had pulled together a group drawn equally from Kikuyus, Kalenjins and Kisiis. I taught various aspects of conflict transformation on the first day. Then we began looking at some of the specific ways that they could build peace so as to address common community problems. We explored their dreams for their village and how to work positively with each other to make those dreams realities.

So many times people get locked into hopelessness, making them easy prey for those who stir up violence for their own advantage. As the training participants worked together across tribal lines you could see the energy grow as they realized they could accomplish more together than by working against each other.

I am so appreciative of all you do to make this peacemaking work possible. Thank you for your financial support, your prayers, and your encouragement to me. Together we can reignite hope for people whose lives have been shattered by violence. It makes the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ tangible in some of the harshest situations. Blessings on you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Buttry".



tively connect with peacemakers from other traditions, faith-based and secular, to build alliances and work together toward our common goal of a more just and peaceful world.”

Copies of BPFNA’s award winning magazine, *Baptist Peacemaker*, along with other literature, information on this summer’s “Peace Camp” and a brochure for individual membership is available in the church entry way or from the office. For further information, see the website at [bpfna.org](http://bpfna.org). FBC PA is a charter member congregation of BPFNA. We urge to you give generously. Our goal for this offering is \$500.



**Minister: Rev. Randle (Rick) Mixon**  
**650-327-0561; FAX 650-327-1562**  
**Email: [fbc-paloalto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbc-paloalto@sbcglobal.net)**  
**Web Site: [www.fbc-paloalto.org](http://www.fbc-paloalto.org)**

**The May 2013 Special Offering is for the**  
**Baptist Peace Fellowship**  
**Our Goal is \$500**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO  
305 N. California Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94302-4105

Address Correction Requested

