

MIDWEEK MESSAGE

June 19, 2013

Words to Consider: *“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”*

Elie Wiesel

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **MEN’S BREAKFAST, 8:00 AM, Wednesday, June 19**, at Hobee’s Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All the men from our Church family are welcome.

The first ABC **"Mission Summit"** will coincide with our **2013 ABC-USA Biennial** on **June 21-23**, in **Kansas City/Overland Park, Kansas**. The Summit’s goal is to open space for creative and meaningful conversation to advance the mission and ministry of ABC among the various American Baptist constituents. Pastor Rick will be attending and representing our congregation.



- ❖ **CHURCH CHOIR** is on vacation until the fall. We’re grateful to Jan and the choir for all the lovely music they provide.
- ❖ **SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 10:00 AM**, Worship: **Wally Bryen, guest preacher** & Sunday School for Children and Youth; 11:30 AM, Adult Spiritual Formation: *The Newspaper in One Hand*...an occasional discussion of what’s happening in the world, facilitated by Naomi Schulz.
- ❖ **NO BIBLE STUDY**, this **Tuesday, June 25**. We will resume on Tuesday, July 2.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

- ❖ **WOMEN’S BRUNCH, Thursday, June 27, 10:00 AM** at Hobee’s Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, in the “Wine Room.” All women of the congregation welcome.
- ❖ **BAPTISTS LUNCHING TOGETHER, Thursday, June 27, Noon** – a panel of those who attended, including Pastor Rick, will bring a report on the first biennial Mission Summit. Grand Lake Gardens in Oakland. Lunch is \$8.00. For reservations contact Joan Thatcher, (510) 350-7008. If you would like a ride let Pastor Rick know.



SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH PICNIC, Sunday July 7, immediately following worship. Come to church in picnic attire and stay for fun, food and fellowship. Watch for sign up sheets this coming Sunday

The **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JUNE** is for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This annual offering goes through the American Baptist World Relief Office to assist those affected by disasters in the USA and throughout the world. This year's theme is **"Sharing Brings Joy to God."** Together with 8 other denominations, our gifts nurture stronger futures... through health care, education, job training, and



tools for livelihoods. Together, our gifts bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable. Together, our gifts build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in (places) devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty." A gift of \$5000 has already gone from American Baptists for tornado relief in Oklahoma. Please give generously to help those in need. We have received **\$677** toward our goal of **\$1000**.

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

ENTERTAINING ANGELS PEACEMAKING THROUGH RADICAL HOSPITALITY

JULY 15-20, 2013
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, 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

This is part of a very moving letter from our missionary, **Dan Buttry**, who is **in the Republic of Georgia** working with a group of young adults (the IGNITE team) from the US and Georgia:

"Friday was an incredible day. Because the Orthodox radicals had blocked Muslims in a village in eastern Georgia from praying and the government had done nothing in response, the religious minorities and other civil society groups decided to take to the streets for a demonstration for the right to pray. Once again, the Baptists were in the lead. There were Catholics present, Jews, Yizedis (a Kurdish monotheistic faith that traces its roots back to Ur), Pentecostals, and young folks who have left the Orthodox Church in disgust with the bigotry and violence that is being tolerated. But only the Baptist bishops (Merab, Rusudan and Iliia--Malkhaz was in the UK getting his doctorate degree from Oxford) came clearly dressed as religious leaders--each of them wearing striking purple robes. I was dressed in my black clergy robe and white Eastertide stole (the Baptists here follow the Eastern calendar). Everyone else, even as they do come to the streets shows some timidity, but the Baptist leaders courageously stand forth for religious freedom for everyone and human rights being respected for everyone.

I gave our IGNITE team members freedom to decide what to do about the invitation by the Georgian Baptists to join them in this public demonstration. Everyone eagerly wanted to do it, even though I was the only one, Georgian or U.S. American, who had ever been in a demonstration. We made signs with Rusudan and her children. Rusudan and I held up a simple sign that said, "Love your neighbor"--it's so awful that Christians are the ones disregarding the simplest and clearest teachings of Jesus.

Eventually we processed from the square where the demonstration started to the nearby Tbilisi mosque, Rusudan and me leading the way. We gathered around the mosque with our signs held up to the surrounding community as the mosque let out after prayers. Interestingly, the imam who had a strong relationship with the Baptists, felt intimidated and didn't even come out or tell the men at prayer what was happening. So I stood at the door of the mosque, greeting people with peace as they came out. Many are foreign workers from the Middle East and Africa and can speak English (more than the average Georgia), so I struck up conversations with them, telling them that we were standing in solidarity with the right of everyone, including Muslims, to pray. Once they realized what was happening, the men got very excited. One young fellow from Egypt closed out the demonstration with a beautiful speech of appreciation for what we were doing.

Our team members, especially our two Georgians Ina and Tamuna, were so proud to have stood up for what was right. They are among the religious minorities, but inspired by their leaders they joined in finding their voice and raising it clearly for justice and liberty."

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Bob Towner and Jamie Shi (June 25)
- ✚ For the presence of the Berrys and Paul Tuan in worship
- ✚ For the presence in worship and Sunday School of one of our interns, Naomi Schulz, who is filling for Pastor Tripp while he is teaching in Virginia

Concerns:

- ✚ For Jin Chinn who is recovering at home from outpatient surgery
- ✚ For Mary Martin who fainted in church last Sunday and is recovering at home
- ✚ For Kathy Gillam and her husband as they travel in France and Italy
- ✚ Bob and Lucille Towner as Bob recovers from surgery at Manor Care in Sunnyvale
- ✚ Laura Garcia for Janice and other family members with Health concerns; for herself as she faces shoulder surgery the end of the month
- ✚ Pastor Rick for his sister, Joan, who is suffering from gout
- ✚ For Joanne Jones who is suffering from back pain
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she lives with terminal cancer
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✚ 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 refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✚ 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
- ✚ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2013

Wally Bryen, Guest Preacher

Reading for the Week: 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalms 42 & 43; LUKE 8:26-39; GALATIANS 3:23-29.

Prayer: Most holy and eternal God, you dwell in the heights of heaven, yet you walk among those who refuse to see you. Hold out your hand to those who rebel against you, and free us from the chains that bind us, that we may be healed by Christ and proclaim his saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

An abbreviated Midweek Message this week as I am heading off to Kansas City to represent us at the first biennial Mission Summit of the ABC-USA. I am going one day early to attend the pre-biennial theology conference and I will be staying for a couple of days after to attend the board meeting of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. We are grateful that Naomi Schulz, one of our seminary interns for the coming year is able to fill in for Pastor Tripp while he is teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary for three weeks. Naomi will be available for pastoral emergencies while I'm gone. Wally Bryen will be preaching this Sunday and Naomi is working with him and Jan on the service. The Cudworths will be doing coffee hour in celebration of their anniversary before they head off to Hawaii for vacation. Please support all them in any way you can.

Big thank yous to Jan and the choir for all their hard work and beautiful music. Also, kudos to everyone who helped make our first cook-out of the season a rousing good time

Come this Sunday at 10 AM and bring someone along to share the morning with you.

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

Pastor Rick

