



# THE SPIRE

JULY 2013

## MIXON MUSES

Sometime toward the middle of the last century a novel was published posthumously from the writings of Thomas Wolfe. It was entitled, *You Can't Go Home Again*. Since then that phrase has become a part of American culture. The novel is about a young writer who creates a work of fiction that uses his hometown as the backdrop. Unfortunately, his work is not appreciated by its citizens, who condemn and threaten him.

Well, the truth is that you can go home again, or at least you can return to the place of your origin. The question is, to quote another famous line from a different twentieth century writer, will "there be any there there." Over the years people have misinterpreted Gertrude Stein's quip to dismiss Oakland, California, the place where she was raised. It is more likely that she was saying something similar to what Thomas Wolfe's fictional character discovered. You can go back to the place from which you came but it is likely to be nothing like the "home" that you hold in your memory.

I am reflecting here because I made a little pilgrimage while I was in Kansas City for the American Baptist Mission Summit. I went looking for the home in which our family lived from 1950 to 1953. As many of you know, my father became the founding pastor of Prairie Baptist Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, in 1950. He left a large, established church to do this mission work in a rapidly expanding suburb of Kansas City.

Some of my earliest memories come from this time. All these years later I can still remember the address of the little tract house in which we lived in Overland Park, the next suburb over from Prairie Village. I remember my father preaching from the top of a television set in someone's living room. I have an indelible im-

age of him working, with other church members, on the church's first building – a house which was used for worship and education until the congregation outgrew it and it became the parsonage. I can see him up on the roof in his work clothes and grey fedora. A gentleman, especially a balding one, always wore a hat in those days.

There's no videotape of these memories, though there is photographic evidence somewhere. Anyway, being in Overland Park for the American Baptist meetings, there was a tug on me to see if I could find the old house and to visit Prairie Baptist Church. I'm quite certain that the house at that address is the same one in which we lived, but it's a different color now and the neighborhood around is well landscaped with mature trees and lawns that were only seedlings back then. The other house, which was the church's first structure, is gone. On the site is a handsome red-brick, high-steeped church building with all the most modern accoutrements.

You can go home again but there may not be any there there. That is, your sacred memories may have been superseded – sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. What you hold dear about another place and time may exist only in your memory and, perhaps, in the shared memories of those who experienced with you that same place and time. Even then, their memories and perspective will not be exactly yours.

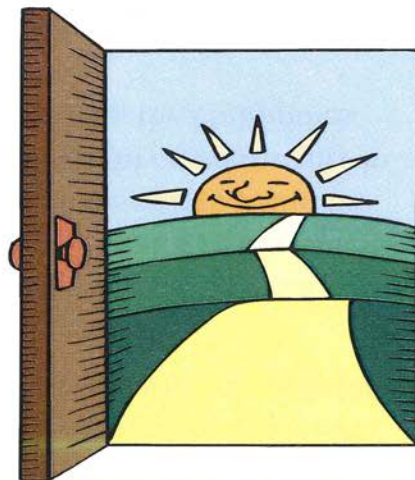
I believe that each of us feels some tug to go back. We live with a longing to return home. At the very least, we are curious to see if the place from which we came is as real as it is in our imagination. I also believe that this desire to go home again is vital to our faith tradition. Another familiar saying, from a much earlier time, is Augustine's proclamation, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." I hear a longing to come home in Augustine's words. It is a home that lives deep in our imagination, buried in our sacred memory. We come from God, we return to God. Along the way, the longing for home can serve to shape our journey. Surely, we encounter places and times that look and feel nothing like that remembering of what it is like to be thoroughly centered in the God who made

us and deeply desires to be in communion with us. These become a challenge to keeping on.

In this journey home, it is undoubtedly true that the “there” we find will not be the “there” of our imagination. In this case, it will be so much more. As Paul and the psalmist remind us, “no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God.” The home which we instinctively know as the goal of our longing is still beyond our human imagining. It is better than anything we could ever dream.

And while we are “on our way home,” it wouldn’t hurt for those of us who have caught a glimpse of glory to spread the good news along the way. We are all God’s children. We share this journey. Can we not then do whatever is in our power to make the load lighter and the journey smoother for sisters and brothers who travel with us? Can we commit ourselves to living out our vision, as best we know how, so that the love of God, in which we are rooted and grounded, and the love of neighbor, which is the inevitable result of loving God, become our way of life? Friend, neighbor, long-lost sisters and brothers, estranged siblings whom we have failed to recognize, come and go with us to that land where we’re bound. As the old journey song invites, “Come fathers and mothers, come sisters and brothers. Come join me in singing the praises of Zion,” of that land to which we’re bound, of the home to which you can return and find yourself blessed.

Sharing with you the homeward way,  
Pastor Rick



## Educational Ministries and Family Life

(We are re-running this letter for those who missed it last month!)

Rev. Tripp Hudgins

Friends of God,

Summer is here! Summer is here! Memorial Day weekend has come and gone. It's official. You may now wear your summer togs. Now, I know this seems a strange thing to say in California where it may well be possible to wear your summer togs all year long *except* in the summer months when the marine layer rolls in and the coldest winter we'll spend is summer in San Francisco. Fortunately, we're a little south of The City and can enjoy the heat. I hope you all have some summer fun planned!

My summer has shaped up to be a full one. I know some of you have heard. I'll be in and out some this summer teaching and delivering a paper (the woes of Ph.D. studenthood). One of our seminary interns, Naomi Schulz, will be filling in for me while I am away a couple of weeks in June and the first weekend of August. She is a talented pastor and will be a great addition to our community this fall. This will be your chance to get to know her a head of time and show her some of our awesome hospitality.

There's lots going on this summer!

- \* Friday, June 14 - Pot Luck Cook-out!
- \* Sunday, July 7 - All-Church Cook-out and Celebration!
- \* Friday, August 16, - Pot Luck Cook-out!

More events are in the works. We're contemplating a baseball game. There are many summer camps with room left as well. If you would like to attend summer camp, please let me know. We can help you with a scholarship. **(Talk to Naomi or Pastor Rick for help with this.)**

The summer is a great time for family, friends, and (it would seem) cook-outs. We hope you will join us in times of fellowship.

Peace and All Good Things,

Pastor Tripp

## Summer Camp Opportunities:

Friends of God, what are your plans for the summer? Parents, are you looking for some fun for your children? Children and Youth, are you looking for some summer fun? Are you all looking for something everyone can do together? Here is a list of options for you all! There's so much to do in the Bay area and beyond in the summers. These are four options that are local and far afield. I hope that you will take advantage of one of them this year. ~ Pastor Tripp

**Redwood Glen** has many offerings for children, youth, and families all summer long. Camping, music, drama, spiritual formation. It's all here! (And it's close!) <http://www.redwoodglen.com/>

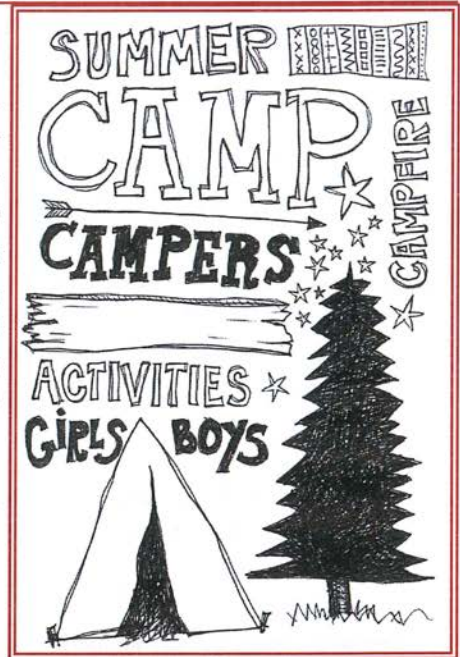
**Camp Galilee** is located in Tahoe. Is it a summer camp or a resort destination? You tell us! All are welcome. Liz Tichnor says, "Pay no attention to the word, 'Episcopalian.' All kinds of people come and have a great time. It's Tahoe!" <http://www.galileetahoe.org/programs/youth-camps/>

**Baptist Peace Fellowship: Peace Camp:** Pastor Rick has made it a tradition to attend every year for the last several years. You would find other familiar faces as well. All are welcome and there are a lot of activities for kids and families. <http://www.bpfna.org/conference> This year let's see if we can all go be peace campers together!

## A Summer Reading List:

**Mysticism**, by Evelyn Underhill. This one hundred year old book is experiencing a bit of a revival as Christians are once again diving into the deep water of our tradition. The Gospel is not just Social; it is also Mystical.

**Sin Boldly: A Field Guide for Grace**, by Cathleen Falsani. Ranging from Chicago to Kenya, New Orleans to Ireland, Big Sky to Graceland, Falsani dons her investigative cap and scouts for grace. This religion columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times is a charming guide to places and people who reveal "grace when and where it happens."



# FBCPA ANNUAL PICNIC

## INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT

**Sunday, July 7**

: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The Outreach Team has planned a great event for us. They will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments and beverages. You are invited to bring whatever else you'd like to make the perfect picnic. There will be fun games to go with the fabulous food. Feel free to wear your picnic clothes to worship. Invite friends, colleagues, family members, neighbors or strangers off the street to join the festivities.



## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH



◆ **FBC 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 the **last Thursday of the month at 10 AM**. All women of our church community are invited. Please join us at **Hobee's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto**, in the "Wine Room." All women of the congregation welcome.



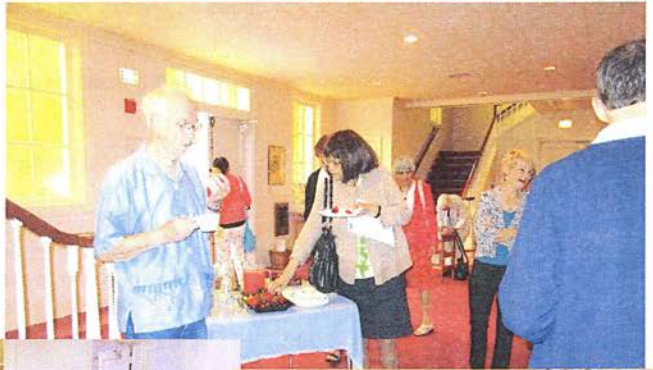
# ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION DATES AND TOPICS

Meetings are on hiatus until the fall.

## words of WORSHIP

### WORSHIP THEMES FOR JULY 2013

7/7	Oh, Freedom!	Galatians 5
7/14	Neighbors in Need	Luke 10:25-37
7/21	Pastor Tripp preaching	
7/28	Give Us Bread	Luke 11:1-13



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday* this month to:

Anthia Lee	July 2
Betsy Anderson	July 8
Nana Spiridon	July 14
Lionel Kirton	July 15
Daniel Ramirez	July 16
John Poffenroth	July 28
Richard Barry	July 31

### SENIOR CHAT

Senior Chat welcomes you in the Fireside Room at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Your mind, body, and spirit will be challenged, soothed and invigorated by the presentations. As we age, neurologists stress that it's important for us to consider new ideas and to try new activities. Adult children of elders are welcome to join us at 10:00 a.m. - no RSVP is necessary. We will also have light refreshments and light exercise. For more information call Rev. Dona Smith-Powers 650-494-3093

#### **July 12 "How an Artist Views Life"**

Have you ever wondered about how artists can come up with their ideas and how they can be so creative? Do they "see" or "hear" things that the rest of us don't sense? David Grady, a docent from San Francisco MOMA will be with us and help us to explore the mind of an artist.



## FAMILY NEWS TO SHARE

Hi all,

Just a note from proud parents that might be of interest. Our son, Mark Hillier, is on the faculty at the Foster School of Business, Univ. of Washington. The PACCAR award is given each year for Excellence in Teaching at the Univ. of Washington Foster School of Business. Mark won the award in 2007. At graduation on Saturday it was announced that he had won the award again. He was stunned. When asked by Fred what they had said about him, he said they said nice things, but he really hadn't heard them since he knew he then had to give an acceptance speech and was trying to concentrate on that.

There have been just two winners of the award that have won twice (and the other one also got her PhD at Stanford). After they win they are ineligible to win for 5 years. The students select the winner of the award. It comes with a very nice cash award, too.

Anyway it was a complete surprise, kind of a nice Fathers Day plus for both Mark and Fred!

We are doing OK. Fred, who is a fit and fast walker was struck by a sudden onset of a balance problem. After many tests and a short stay in hospital, they have ruled out the most serious diagnoses, and have tentatively guessed he has vestibular neuritis.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MINIS

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	July 1	2	
	9:00am 12:00pm The HAPPY BODY Weekly Workshop ( )	10:30am 12:00pm Bible Study (Los Altos)	8:00am 9:30am
	9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite)	7:00pm 11:00pm TNT - Tuesday Tango (FH)	8:00pm 10:00pm
	11:30am 8:00pm Macrobiotic Dinner (FH/K)		
	6:30pm 9:30pm PPJC Board Meeting		
7	8	9	
Church Picnic and Outdoor Patio Hour (Pa	9:00am 12:00pm The HAPPY BODY Weekly Workshop (FH)	10:30am 12:00pm Bible Study (Los Altos)	8:00pm 10:00pm
10:00am 11:30am Sunday School (Y)		7:00pm 11:00pm TNT - Tuesday Tango (FH)	
10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (S)	9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite)	7:00pm 9:30pm Huntington's Support Group (P)	
11:30am 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Formation (P)	11:30am 8:00pm Macrobiotic Dinner (FH/K)		
3:30pm 6:30pm Church of the New Jerusalem (Parlor)			
14	15	16	
10:00am 11:30am Sunday School (Y)	9:00am 12:00pm The HAPPY BODY Weekly Workshop ( )	10:30am 12:00pm Bible Study (Los Altos)	8:00am 9:30am
10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (S)	9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite)	7:00pm 11:00pm TNT - Tuesday Tango (FH)	8:00pm 10:00pm
11:30am 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Formation (P)	11:30am 8:00pm Macrobiotic Dinner (FH/K)		
21	22	23	
10:00am 11:30am Sunday School (Y)	SPIRE DEADLINE		
10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (S)	9:00am 12:00pm The HAPPY BODY Weekly Workshop ( )	10:30am 12:00pm Bible Study (Los Altos)	
11:30am 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Formation (P)	9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite)	7:00pm 11:00pm TNT - Tuesday Tango (FH)	
3:30pm 6:30pm Church of the New Jerusalem (Parlor)	11:30am 8:00pm Macrobiotic Dinner (FH/K)		
28	29	30	
10:00am 11:30am Sunday School (Y)	9:00am 12:00pm The HAPPY BODY Weekly Workshop (FH)	10:30am 12:00pm Bible Study (Los Altos)	8:00pm 10:00pm
10:00am 11:00am Worship Service (S)	9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite)	7:00pm 11:00pm TNT - Tuesday Tango (FH)	
11:30am 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Formation (P)	11:30am 8:00pm Macrobiotic Dinner (FH/K)		

# TRY & FACILITY-BASED EVENTS

July 2013								August 2013							
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27		1	2	3	4	5	6	27					1	2	3
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	28	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	29	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	30	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
31	28	29	30	31				31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Men's Breakfast (FBD) PA Student Practice (FH)	4 Independence Day - Church Offices Close	5 9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite) 8:00pm 11:00pm Stanford Folklore Dancers (FH)	6 Lieber Group meeting (P) 10:00am 11:00am Mindfulness and Meditation Class (Parlor)
10 PA Student Practice (FH)	11 5:00pm 8:00pm Church Council Meeting (P) 7:30pm 10:00pm PPJC Meeting (P)	12 9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite) 10:00am 12:00pm Senior Chat (Covenant) 2:00pm 5:00pm Congregational Life Meeting 8:00pm 11:00pm Stanford Folklore	13
17 Peace Camp - Spokane, WA	18	19	20
24 Men's Breakfast (Hobbee's) PA Student Practice (FH)	25 9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite) 8:00pm 11:00pm Stanford Folklore Dancers (FH)	26 10:00am 12:00pm PA Philharmonic Mtg (Church School Room) 10:00am 11:00am Mindfulness and Meditation Class (Parlor)	27
Children's Choral Music Camp (FH / S)			
Children's Choral Music Camp (FH / S)			
31 PA Student Practice (FH)	31 PPJC - "The War on Whistleblowers." (S) 10:00am 12:30pm Women's Brunch (Country Gourmet Restaurant, Mountain View)	31 9:00am 11:00am Walking Group (Offsite) 10:00am 12:00pm Senior Chat 6:00pm 8:30pm Church Potluck to 8:00pm 11:00pm Stanford Folklore	

He is not dizzy (that doesn't fit) and is doing OK — if walking down to my speed can be considered OK.

Our prayers are with all of you. So many of our friends are suffering from many ailments. We really appreciate the mid-week message.

Ann

### MORE FAMILY NEWS TO SHARE



A Happy and proud Thelma Parodi & Grand-daughter, Lindsey, who graduated with a BA in Justice Studies on 5-22-2013. Lindsey starts her MA this coming September!



## InnVision Shelter Network



### Volunteers and Donations Needed for IVSN Summer Camp

IVSN is kicking off Summer Adventure Camp, an on-site summer camp for children at our shelters. Summer Adventure Camp is staffed completely by volunteer student counselors and funded solely through [private donations](#).

#### Volunteer Counselors Needed

High school and college-age volunteers are needed throughout the summer to staff IVSN's Summer Adventure Camp. Counselors can volunteer for one week at a time, or throughout the duration of camp. To sign up to volunteer, visit [www.ivsn.org/volunteer](http://www.ivsn.org/volunteer).

#### Donation Wish List

- Gift certificates to Target, Walmart, Safeway
- Swimsuits, goggles, flip flops
- Towels, sunscreen, bug spray
- Sports equipment, game balls, frisbees, jump ropes
- Bags, small backpacks
- Reusable water bottles, first aid kits
- Arts and crafts materials, markers, paper, washable paint
- Glue sticks, children's scissors, composition books, stickers
- Water balloons, bubbles, chalk
- Kites, parachutes, hula hoops, sand toys

#### Where to Donate

Donations can be dropped off at any IVSN family shelter. [View all donation locations](#).

#### Donate Funds

Summer Adventure Camp is only made possible by private donations from the community. [Donate online](#) to support Summer Camp, or contact Kimberly Hines at [khines@ivsn.org](mailto:khines@ivsn.org) / 650-685-5880 ext 148.

InnVision Shelter Network (IVSN) is the leading provider of shelter/housing and supportive services across Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula, serving thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to self-sufficiency.

[www.ivsn.org](http://www.ivsn.org) | 650-685-5880

### Volunteers and Donations Needed for InnVision Summer Camp

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Council Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2013**

Moderator Carolyn Shepard opened the meeting at 5:10 PM.

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

Carolyn got the meeting going by serving Council members each a delicious slice of boysenberry pie with ice cream, made with berries from her berry patch.

Rick read from a piece by Malcolm Boyd called Simple Grace calling us to avoid pre-conceived notions about stereotypes.

Rick reported on the health of Patrice Heath, Eileen Conover, Joanne Jones, Ruth Owen, and Bob Towner and Oleta Proctor.

Rick noted that he will leave on Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> to attend the biennial in Kansas City, Kansas, and return on the 26<sup>th</sup>

A single joint service on August 4<sup>th</sup> with Covenant Presbyterian Church to be held outside in Mitchell Park is in the planning stage. The annual Habitat for Humanity workday will take place on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jin reviewed the distributed Treasurer's report. Pledges are approximately \$4,700 below budget so far. Income from tenants is ahead of schedule. No funds have been drawn from Special Funds to date because of the cushion provided by prepaid pledges, although funds will have to be called in to pay the large annual bill for insurance. Despite reduced income, there is still cash on hand because of prepaid pledges.

The sale of the Annex will be completed next week, hopefully, as minor record corrections have been cleared up by the County. The Council discussed the distribution of the near \$300,000 to be realized from this sale. Discussions started at the last Council meeting were reviewed and it was decided that some ideas would be presented at the next Quarterly business meeting, August 11<sup>th</sup>, and discussion invited from the church membership.

Rick reported that the designer working on the patio project will provide a plot plan as he finishes other projects. It can then be decided which segmented parts can be started first with funds on hand and available for this beautification project.

The Congregational Life Task Team plans for the first barbeque cookout of the season on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> were discussed. The next bi-monthly meeting of the Team will be on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.

Rick and Tripp met with interns Naomi Schultz and Doug Davidson on June 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss and plan for the coming church year beginning in September. The fall program will begin with an outdoor cookout on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Rick expressed the desire that the church's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary be celebrated at that time.

Rick indicated that Marsha Patton, Executive Minister of the Evergreen Association will visit the church on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM. The second Quarterly Business meeting is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Carolyn closed the meeting with a short prayer at 7:02 PM.

Submitted:

Hugh Satterlee, Clerk

## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** **Special Council Meeting Minutes, June 6, 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

There was extensive discussion about a one week music summer camp for girls, "iSing", to be held in the church from July 23 – 27. This will be considered a mission project, where no rent will be charged, and camp fees will be paid to the church and directed to "iSing" in the same manner as our regular special offerings. After much discussion of logistics, the project was approved by consensus. After evaluation of the success of the summer camp, Council will entertain continuing the project into the school year.

The meeting was closed at 6:00 by a prayer from the moderator.

### **A summary of the Mission Summit by Marilyn Hunwick**

*Mission Summit 2013: An American Baptist Biennial Gathering* in Overland Park/ Kansas City, Kansas, was held from June 21-23, 2013. The event featured dynamic speakers, powerful worship, and a new Mission Summit Conversations component, during which attendees engaged in dialogue about mission challenges faced by churches across the denomination.

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, general secretary of ABCUSA said, "Michelle Alexander opened our sessions with a challenge to us on Friday night to embrace a new issue, the mass incarceration of minorities and the poor, and the resulting creation of a new caste system in our society.

Saturday evening was rich as we celebrated the stirring history of the Judsons' mission to Burma, several mass choirs from Burma thrilled us and we were encouraged by General Secretary Yam Kho Pau from Burma and the strength of the Baptist Churches in Burma."

A key component to *Mission Summit 2013* was the Mission Summit conversations where attendees met in small groups during three separate sessions, focusing on self-selected topics in order to share learnings, surface insights, and suggest experiments related to those topics.

At the Sunday morning business session, ABCUSA voted to elect President, Rev. Dr. Donald Ng, of FBC Chinese Baptist Church, San Francisco, California. Ng said, "The 2013 Mission Summit will soon become history as we pack up and return to our places of discipleship and service. The places where you are returning are truly the places where you bring hope and joy to the lost, justice to the oppressed, new insights to the blind, and healing to the broken."

### **Future Missionaries Explore Their Spiritual Call at the Embrace the Cause Conference Aug. 9-12. Register Today.**

Individuals who are considering a call to global missionary service, or who are in the process of responding to such a call will be participating in the "Embrace



the Cause" conference August, 9-12 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. The conference is sponsored by American Baptist International Ministries (IM).

"**Embracing My Call**" will be the topic of two morning sessions led by the **Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer**, executive minister and senior regional pastor of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. Author of books on discipleship and the spiritual journey, Spitzer has preached the gospel and taught on spirituality in the former Soviet Union, Estonia, Japan, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, Brazil, Egypt, the Congo, Zambia, Uganda and Haiti.

Part 1 of Spitzer's two-session workshop will focus on "Embracing My Call – A Spiritual Journey Perspective."

Part 2 "Embracing My Call – A Friendship Circles Perspective,"

In addition to the workshops, participants will take part in worship, inspirational messages, interactive sessions and personal reflection time. They will combine to make this a powerful discernment experience. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of next steps.

To see the full schedule, read biographies on the speakers and to register, go to <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/47661-embrace-the-cause-retreat>.

The cost for the three-day conference is \$80, plus meals and housing. Limited scholarship help is available from International Ministries. Write to [recruitment@internationalministries.org](mailto:recruitment@internationalministries.org) or call 800 222-3872 ext. 2245.

For more information, contact Jim Bell: [jim.bell@abc-usa.org](mailto:jim.bell@abc-usa.org).

## **BOBBCA APPOINTS WOMEN PASTORS**

The Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Churches Association (BOBBCA) in India is made up of Baptist churches historically related to American Baptists, and is observing 175 years of life and ministry. More than 120 churches are located in districts (counties) in an area where 3 states come together, West Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar (in an area now called Jharkhand). Established by ABCUSA mission-

aries in 1838, it has been growing under the leadership of the Rev. Samaresh Nayak, General Secretary, who recently reported that in an historical action BOBBCA appointed women pastors. He wrote,

*"For the first time, the BOBBCA appoints two women pastors, namely Miss Aparna Soren and Miss Panamani Hansda, as pastors in the rural churches of West Bengal under the Association. Both have been theologically trained and earlier served as 'Bible Women'."*

The Balasore Technical School which we support in our budget, is sponsored by BOBBCA. The association of churches cooperate in Mission & Evangelism, Leadership Development, Rural Life Development, Stewardship Promotion, Tribal Welfare, Women Empowerment, Education and Health Care, Relief and Disaster Management, and Human Rights & Social Justice.

### ***The Organization:***

This organization is a reformed structure of earlier native mission namely Christian Service Society. This Association was originally founded by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, who began the work in 1836 in Balasore, in the state of Orissa, India. Today, the Association has 95 affiliated churches with total membership over 45,000. Up to 35 new churches have been added with the BOBBCA within the last seven years of ministry. Few educational institutions with one hospital and a technical institute are managed and governed by the BOBBCA.

**Service:** The BOBBCA caters the ministerial needs on the following areas in the states of West Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand:

- Evangelism and Church Planting
- Leadership development
- Education and Health care
- Mission Training
- Social transformation of oppressed groups and women





## July Special Offering

For the July Special Offering, the Mission Task Team has decided to raise funds to help support the Ecumenical Hunger Program's Summer Food Program and Back to School program. We have set \$500 as our goal.

Summer means the end of free and reduced-priced lunch programs for many of the children in our area. Families who are already struggling financially face the additional challenge of providing food for their young families during these summer months. EHP is providing nutritious lunches for children ages 4 – 18 who attend their weekly Summer Food Program. The kids participate in a program of arts and crafts, hands-on learning in the vegetable and fruit gardens, and a reading program. EHP expects more than 50 children will participate.

In addition to the summer program, EHP begins their Back to School program with the commitment to provide all children in their client families with the tools they need to succeed. They provide new backpacks, school supplies, and clothing, including school uniforms. For children, starting a new school year with a new pair of shoes and clothing goes a long way to promote self-esteem and readiness for learning.

We will continue our annual EHP food and fund raising in November, but hope you will generously support this special summer program. Please watch for other ways to support this program during the month of July.

Carolyn Shepard

**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 July 2013 Special Offering is for**  
**The Ecumenical Hunger Program**  
**Our Goal is \$ 500**

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

Address Correction Requested