

## MIDWEEK MESSAGE

October 21, 2009

Words to Consider: *"True repentance...is not an expression of fear, self-hate or of a neurotic sense of guilt, but an ordinary simple, natural way of loving God. It is a meeting with God, who has loved us infinitely, whom we love and whose beauty and perfection we long to see."*

Irma Zaleski, *The Way of Repentance*

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

**NO CHOIR REHEARSAL on Thursday, October 22.**

### **SENIOR CHAT**

Please join us every second and fourth Fridays in the Fireside Room at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. All are welcome.

#### **October 23: What Are Your Spiritual Practices?**

Rudy Dyck will lead us in a discussion of the power, scope and blessing that our individual practices can be for us in our day-by-day living. We invite you to look at yourself, be a little introspective and to ask what it is that blesses, feeds and encourages you along your spiritual journey. Perhaps this has changed through the years, and we would ask you to share, if you're willing. For more information, call: The Reverend Dona Smith-Powers, 650.494.3093

**"THE BALANCING ACT: HOLY REST, GOOD WORK, GODLY PLAY"** Stone Presbyterian Church, 1937 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, presents the Rev. Dr. **Barbara Brown Taylor**, noted author and Professor of Religion at Piedmont College, **October 23-24.**

**ADULT FORUM, Sunday, October 25** from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. – **Energy: The Nuclear Challenge: Part One**, Preside: Bryce Johnson

"**A TIME TO MOURN: A COMMUNITY VIGIL FOR HOPE**" is planned in part in response to the local teen suicides, and offers us all an opportunity to mark the losses that touch our lives. **On Sunday, October 25, from 4-5pm**, everyone is welcome to this gathering of reflection, remembrance, and meditation. You may light a candle, walk the labyrinth, write a memory, say a prayer, or simply sit in silence. We will open with a brief ritual and close with a blessing, but most of the hour will be filled with quiet music for you to listen to your heart. You may come and go as you wish, or stay for the full hour. As we approach the growing darkness of the season, All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and Dia de los Muertos, it seems fitting that we gather as people from all spiritual paths and walks of life to acknowledge our grief and experience the healing of community, ritual and spirit. Join us at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Chapel, 330 Ravenswood in Menlo Park. Spiritual leaders from diverse traditions will be available if you wish to speak to one.

**SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT 16<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary dinner and program, 4:00 PM, Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, 1985 Louis Road (at Embarcadero), PA. Delicious Salvadoran dinner and crafts sale; Roddy Hughes Executive Director of Voices on the Border will speak.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY on Tuesday, October 27** at 10:30 AM in the Parlor. We study the lectionary texts for the following Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join us for this lively exploration of biblical texts.



**OCTOBER MISSION OFFERING** is the annual **World Mission Offering** for the American Baptist Board of International Ministries. BIM is supported solely by the generosity of churches and individuals. This offering is their primary fund-raising vehicle. Donors may give to the support of individual missionaries; undesignated funds go to those missionaries and ministries which most urgently need support. We have directed half of the World Mission Offering to Sam and Sarah Chetti in Lebanon and half where most needed.

Be sure to check out the World Mission Offering display in the church entryway. There is a map that shows where our missionaries are working. BIM has identified 7 focus areas for mission work. The map shows who works in various areas. Listed below are the numbers of long-term missionaries who serve in each focus area:

1. Leading people to faith and starting new churches: 17 missionaries
2. Training future church leaders: 36 missionaries
3. Abolishing human trafficking: 18 missionaries
4. Promoting health in an HIV/AIDS world: 14 missionaries
5. Creating economic opportunity and building futures: 10 missionaries
6. Education: opening the mind and empowering the heart: 17 missionaries
7. Seeking peace and offering refuge: 3 missionaries

We have received **\$593** to date toward our goal of **\$1200**.

### UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

**ORCHESTRATING POWERFUL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE:** A workshop for Community Leaders; City, County and Government Staff; and Civic and Religious Leaders

**Thursday, October 29, 2009, 8:30am–4:30pm**, YWCA of Silicon Valley, 375 S. Third St., SJ.

Cost: \$75.00 including lunch. All participants will receive a complimentary Public Dialogue Resource Guide. Facilitated by: Shawn Spano, PhD, Professor of Communications Studies, SJSU and Jennifer Mair M.A., Professor of Communications, Skyline College.

**“FINDING THE SONG IN OUR FAITH” - Robert McAfee Brown Lectures, November 6-8, 1<sup>st</sup>**



Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper, Palo Alto, featuring **Alice Parker**, noted composer, arranger and collaborator with Robert Shaw will lead in exploring, learning and appreciating many songs together...thinking about creating, performing and celebrating music in ways new and old.

**SPIRIDON LUNCHEON, Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**, in the Fellowship Hall from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please respond by October 25<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Call Nana Spiridon with questions at (650) 483-6983.

### PASTOR'S NOTE

For those of you who were not there Sunday, I'd like to introduce the other member of our staff team, the Reverend Dr. Linda Pickens-Jones. Pastor Linda is an ordained Methodist minister. She most recently served as co-pastor with her husband, the Reverend Alan Jones, at Campbell United Methodist Church. She holds both the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Claremont School of Theology. She has written educational curriculum and has worked hands on with children, youth and adults. She has two children in college/graduate school and I'm sure she'd be happy to tell you all about them.

We are very blessed to have someone with Pastor Linda's skill and experience join our staff. I am sure you will find her warm and engaging and she has a great laugh. Please give her a warm FBCPA welcome. Also, if she asks for your help, I hope you will willingly say "yes." As the old African proverb says, "It takes a whole village to raise our children. It takes a whole village to raise one child. We all must share the burden. We all will share the joy." (That's the way song writer, Joan Szymko, puts it in her wonderful anthem.) We are a remarkable "village" here at FBCPA. We have many gifts, vast experience and deep love to share with our children and one another. It takes all of us working together to make our "village life" as rich and meaningful as it can be. Thanks be to God for the many, many ways we are blessed. Let's spread the good news everywhere.

Pastor Rick

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### **Joys:**

- ✚ Carolyn Shephard for the opportunity to hear Maya Angleou speak on finding the rainbow in the Clouds
- ✚ Ruth Owen for her upcoming move at Pilgrim Haven to a larger unit with a kitchen and more closet space
- ✚ Lynn Hunwick for a virtual hug to the congregation from Dilvan Moreira in Brazil
- ✚ Melanie Ramirez for seeing the face of God in others, such as 5 year old Ivan who in drawing things he liked created a mass of blue and said “I like to smell fresh air”
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for a visit from her youngest granddaughter

### **Concerns:**

- ✚ For Alex Spiridon who is at home recovering from a broken hip; and for the family as they mourn the loss of their “guardian rabbit”
- ✚ For Sachiko Berry whose companion cat of the past 18.5 years was killed
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for her sister-in-law, Carolyn , as she tries to adjust to a new living situation
- ✚ Mary Granholm for the family, friends and associates of her friend and colleague from UNA, Dr. Paul Miller, who died last week
- ✚ For Dona Smith-Powers suffering from foot pain
- ✚ Mary Martin for those affected by tropical storms in Baja California as she and Ron travel there next week for a grandchild’s wedding
- ✚ Marilyn Hunwick for Pearl Pe traveling to Singapore and Burma (Myanmar)
- ✚ For Virginia Herbert recovering at home from a broken hip
- ✚ For Ruth Anderson recovering from a broken hip at home and minor surgery last Friday
- ✚ For Betsy Anderson as she travels to Nashville for a chorus competition; and for the family and friends of her friend Heidi (with ALS) as they make decisions about her care
- ✚ Laura Garcia for ongoing health concerns for Janice
- ✚ For David Kurtzman in Vacaville and his mother, Sally
- ✚ For the life and health of our congregation; for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and our future
- ✚ For our Educational Ministries and the search for a new staff person
- ✚ 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, OCTOBER 25, 2009

### **“TAKE HEART”**

Lectionary Readings: Job 42:1–6, 10–17; Psalm 34:1–8, (19–22); **MARK 10:46–52**; Hebrews 7:23–28.  
(The highlighted reading is the focus scripture for the day.)

Faith and hope will not be silenced in the face of need, whether our own or other’s. When we risk speaking and acting with persistence for the sake of mercy, we may take heart. God listens to our cries and acts with saving power to bring wholeness. We who experience God’s power for good may spring up and shout out as we follow Christ on the way.

We take heart in the God who hears us and exercises power for good. So encouraged, let us call upon God for ourselves and others in need. Who are the ones that others try to “shush” into silence; why? For whose sake might we risk persistent words and actions, in the pursuit of mercy or justice?

Prayer: *We bless you, Holy One, for we know we may cry out to you. We cry out to you, Christ among us, for we trust you to hear. We trust in you, Blessed Spirit, for providing the power to do good, the grace to heal, and the call to follow on the way. Amen.*