



# The Beacon

University Baptist Church

August 2011

## *A Summer of Unity in Diversity*

The psalmist wrote: "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133.1, Good News Translation) Truly, living in harmony when there are so many differences is a challenge. Yet, the psalmist reminds us how wonderful and pleasant it is. By celebrating our diversity, we also celebrate our unity. We need not be the same in order to get along and to work together for the well-being of humanity. This is the message that I took from my experiences this summer.

First, I took part of our denomination's Biennial meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Certainly there were many people with whom I disagree, just like there were many people with whom I completely agree. Yet, what I enjoy the most about the Biennials are not the worship services or the business meetings (although, to be honest, I prefer the business meetings to the worship services...) What I enjoy the most about these gatherings is the time I spend with my sisters and brothers. We come from every corner of the USA and Puerto Rico; we have diverse theological backgrounds; often times we can't agree on social issues; yet, we all come together to learn from each other, to listen to each other and to share in a celebratory spirit.

This Biennial celebration was even more meaningful for me since I had the chance to share a bit of my own home country with a few of UBC members, the Evergreen Association, and the larger American Baptist family. Here I want to share with you a few images of those moments of grace that I spent with people from our UBC family and the larger ABC-USA family. I hope that you enjoy these images as much as we enjoyed our time together!

In the unity of the Spirit,  
*Pastor Manny*

### In This Issue:

- P. 1 A Summer of Unity in Diversity
- P. 2 Birthdays and Getting to Know You
- P. 3: Among Ourselves
- P. 4-5 Biennial Reflections
- P. 6-7 Moderator Letter
- P. 8 Ministry Transitions for Diane Schmitz
- P. 8-9 UDCC Update
- P. 10 Water Harvesting Project in Kenya
- P. 11 Where's the Pastor?

*We are a welcoming and affirming congregation.*

*We celebrate our diversity in religious background, sexual orientation, race, age, gender and abilities.*

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*More Biennial pictures on pages 4-5*



## Happy Birthday:!!!

### August

- 8/5 Megan Walker
- 8/7 Joanne Wright
- 8/8 Tosten Haugerud
- 8/13 Kerry Taylor
- 8/15 Marilee Nielsen
- 8/18 Zandi Carlson
- 8/18 Audrey Smith
- 8/28 Ago Pedalizo
- 8/30 Peter Haugerud
- 8/31 Virginia Nielsen

If your birthday isn't listed here, please contact the office so we can add you to our list!

## WELCOMING YOUNG ADULTS TRAINING

The Congregational Care team is sponsoring a training event on **Saturday, August 6**, from **10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, to help us learn how to relate to young adults.



**Ned Allyn Parker**, of Seattle First Baptist Church pastoral staff, will lead the training.



*UW Returning Students by Charlene Po*

The timing of this is geared to the arrival in our neighborhood of a host of young adults coming to UW and other schools in the city in September. Come and improve your skills for the sake of people who want to be part of a faith community that understands their needs and particular life demands. We will have fun while we learn!

## THE SERMON'S NOT JUST ON SUNDAY ANYMORE



You can visit UBC's podcast channel at [ubcseattle.org/thisweek/sermons/sermons.html](http://ubcseattle.org/thisweek/sermons/sermons.html)

## WORSHIP, PICNIC AND GAMES IN RAVENNA PARK

August 21st from 10am - 2pm.

Come and join us for a service outdoors followed by yummy food and outdoor games!

*Picnic with Pocket Seed Library by Edible Office*

# Among Ourselves

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Kudos to **Valerie F**, who is performing as one of the stepsisters in the Mountaineers Players production of "Into the Woods" on July 30 and 31 and August 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21. All performances are at 2 p.m. in the Kitsap Forest Theater. For information and tickets, visit [www.foresttheater.com](http://www.foresttheater.com) or call 206-542-7815... **Bob and Lori T** and **Tom N** spent six days on a kayak trip to the San Juan Islands... **Ron N** enjoyed traveling to see friends in Massachusetts and relatives in Pennsylvania... After the biennial, **Pastor Manny** had a wonderful time with friends and relatives in Venezuela and loved all the steaks they ate... **CoraLea D** reported that **Jeff** and **Megumi** have returned to their home near Cowan Park. Jeff had surgery on his shoulder on July 28. Daughter **Sue D** spent a week in Chicago at the National Education Association convention. Sue's most memorable experience was a wild boat trip on Lake Michigan when the tour ran into severe winds. **John and CoraLea** had a delightful visit with cousins from Edmonton, Alberta, and especially liked meeting their 15-year-old cousin for the first time... As August begins, **Margie and Jim P** are traveling north in their boat for almost three weeks. **David B** is spending seven wonderful weeks in Minnesota. **Alethea P** is off to a service project in Guatemala. She will work with poor children in a school in Guatemala City and will live in Antigua. **Aaron, Megan, and Norah Jean** traveled to Peoria, Illinois, for a family wedding and reunion... Sadie and all of us wish **Meredith and Russell E** a happy sixth anniversary! **Lynn and Michael G-J** celebrate their 15-year anniversary this month too... It's been a pleasure seeing **Ginny B's daughter Marilyn** with us on Sundays. We enjoyed **Tom N's** family and friends at church on a recent Sunday, celebrating his preaching and a milestone birthday, along with **Mike S's** music. **Mike and Carol** rejoice that their **daughter Amy** will soon be married in a backyard ceremony... A wedding in Puerto Rico is planned for **Xaviera O and her fiancé Jose**. It was wonderful to welcome Jose recently in worship... We rejoice that **Rhonda's son Matthew** came home on July 28. **Heather S and Jackie L** welcomed a year-old shelter kitty named Roxanna to their home. All reports are that Roxanna has the women wrapped around her little paws... On July 31, **Suzan and Paul W** celebrated their daughter **Jennifer and son-in-law Michael's** blessing of their marriage, which took place in Iceland six years ago. The renewal of Jennifer and Michael's vows was officiated by **Pastor Manny**, his first wedding service in Washington State... We pray for **Paul W** as he continues to search for work. We pray for Rhonda's friend **Lisya N** in her personal journey of prison and domestic violence. We pray for **Joanne W and Annie and John M** as they remember Larry on the anniversary of his death. We celebrate the birth of **John and CoraLea's** two new great-granddaughters, Holly Anna and Allison Jean, and pray that their lives will be filled with joy and fulfillment.



*Cuddly Clouds by Jon Rawlinson*

# ABC-USA Biennial and Post-Convention Reflections From Puerto Rico

## Two personal reflections:

First: The opening speaker in the “Celebrate/Celebrad” biennial convention of ABC-USA in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was Glen Nelson of Canadian Baptist Ministries. As he reflected on churches in mission, he told the story of Jesus’ encounter with Zaccheus, a tax-collector hated by his neighbors. When Jesus asked to visit the house of Zaccheus, the crowd around saw an amazing thing – Jesus was “giving up ground” before them – yielding power and influence he might have built up in that place, surrendering any good reputation he had going among Zaccheus’ neighbors. I was struck at how we, as we follow the mission (and missions) we are called to as a church, are to give up advantage and privilege... to serve not for our good name, not to bolster our record as a congregation championing social justice, but to yield ourselves for the sake of neighbors near and far, to be happy serving simply as a beacon of the coming reign of God.



Second: The Evergreen Region tour of Puerto Rico (the group made up mostly of UBC folk and led by our Pastor Manny) took us beyond the large capital city of San Juan to see what Manny suggested would be more like “the real Puerto Rico.” At the heart of that experience was a day in Adjuntas, the town where our pastor went to school as a child, and where there is now a thriving community center called Casa Pueblo (“People’s House”). Casa Pueblo supports an unbelievable breadth of projects focused on just and sustainable use of land – a coffee producing effort, a “peoples’ forest” growing from grass-roots resistance of mining corporations, a hydroponic

agricultural experiment, a community radio station, and more.

But what most captured my (hopefully enduring) attention at Casa Pueblo was not a project but a person: our host Hernando. A bright and lively young man, Hernando interpreted the many facets of life and work at Casa Pueblo, yet not even that moved me as much as this: Hernando’s spirit mirrored the passionate spirit of our pastor, Manny. In Hernando’s desire to see the human development of his community I found a stunning reflection of Manny’s wish to see us develop



as people. And in Hernando's voice I heard an amazing echo of Manny's voice.

A confession: Even as I've grown to appreciate the gifts of Manny Santiago, too much of me has continued to see Manny as "exotic" - a product of a culture so different from mine (I've thought) that I could take delight in his "difference" without taking seriously the world(s) that shape him and his witness among us. No longer, I pray.



My time in Puerto Rico has forced me to open my eyes and ears, to begin to see one person more clearly, to be reshaped by a powerful culture whose wisdom and energy I need if I am to be a fuller human being. One afternoon in Adjuntas has, I hope, changed me forever.

Brooke R



Photos courtesy of Brooke R. and Manny S.

*"My life is like the summer rose  
that opens to the morning sky,  
But ere the shades of evening close  
is scattered on the ground - to die."  
- Richard Henry Wilde*

August brings back memories of school starting. Growing up in New Orleans, school started in the middle of August. It was hot and humid and I felt summer was never really over until after Labor Day. As a child I grew up under the Roman Catholic theology. As a young child attending Catholic school between the ages of 6-9, I questioned everything. Needless to say, the nuns and I didn't get along very well. I walked around with swollen knuckles for asking too many questions. Even worse, the priest thought it was best to pinch your ears if you were too unruly. I had a "sassy" mouth as the priest put it. I believe it was because the first thing I ever remembering learning was that God loves everyone. How can God then turn someone into salt?? I didn't feel taking the bible literally was a good thing, it felt wrong as a child, especially when no one could answer my probing questions. Over the years I have continued questioning my beliefs and faith. Today, I take the position of believing in individual soul liberty, which, to me, means that I can be opposed to the historic cardinal doctrines of the faith if I choose too.

Every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, has the liberty to choose what their conscience, spirit or soul decides is right in the religious realm. This also involves the personal and individual accountability of each person before God or no God if one does not believe in the "person in the sky". In other words, my community does not force anyone to accept or deny any doctrine. We do not coerce anyone to worship God against their will or to refrain from worshiping God as they believe they should. I (and others) do not believe in using imprisonment, confiscation of property, torture, humiliation or other coercive methods as punishment for rejecting Christianity. I may not agree with a person's decision on a religious matter or that person's beliefs may be totally different from mine or others around me. It's okay. Everyone is welcome in our community.

How can one be both an Atheist and a Christian?

According to [Paul van Buren](#), a "Death of God" theologian, the word "God" itself is "either meaningless or misleading." He contends that it is impossible to think about God. Van Buren says that "we cannot identify anything which will count for or against the truth of our statements concerning 'God.'" Most Christian Atheists believe that God never existed, but there are a few who believe in the death of God literally.

How does Jesus fit into this equation?



*Religious Diversity by Luke Muehlhauser*

Jesus, although not seen as divine, is still a central feature of Christian Atheism. Most Christian Atheists think of Jesus as a [wise](#) and good man, accepting his moral teachings but rejecting the idea of his divinity. William Hamilton, *A Quest for the Post-Historical Jesus*, said that to the Christian Atheist, Jesus is not really the foundation of faith; instead he is a “place to be, a standpoint.” Christian Atheists look to Jesus as an example of what a Christian should be, but they do not see him as a god. He wrote that following: “Jesus means being alongside the neighbor, being for him,” and that to follow Jesus means to be human, to help other humans, and to further mankind.

How do a Christian and an Atheist welcome themselves into a loving relationship?

Last year, I entered into a relationship that had me questioning my beliefs further and trying to understand how does one have a loving relationship with someone who believes that God does not exist? Growing up I would have probably run away in fear that someone who did not believe in God would change me. Today, I am different because no one can change me but myself. Being in friendship with people from all different beliefs and faith or lack of belief in God, I have decided that individuals are more important than the beliefs they hold. Not only have I gained an important person in my life, but he came with a wonderful family that supports me and my beliefs unconditionally. They love and accept me for the person that I am: a Christian. I guess the question is: do you love and fully accept a person because they believe one thing or another (e.g., if they believe in God or not), or do you love them for who they are? If your partner and/or friends changed her/his beliefs, would you still love and fully accept them?

The good thing is that I am not an extremist, nor is my boyfriend. We are both secure in our beliefs. It works because we do not hold fundamentalist beliefs. Both of us get frustrated with tele-evangelists and with aggressive Atheists who are highly disrespectful. Not being fanatical about what we believe has enabled us to meet in a shared space where our beliefs overlap. I think the most frightening thing in any intimate relationship is accepting that someone is different from you. The true strength of a relationship is not trying to be the same, but celebrating the difference, the diversity. Enjoy our last days of summer and see you all at our family picnic on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Rhonda Hue*

## Ministry Transitions for Rev. Diane Schmitz

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Some of you know that I have had a covenantal ministry relationship with University Baptist Church as a United Church of Christ (UCC) outreach minister since my ordination in 2006. My outreach ministry is a covenantal partnership with

UBC, University Congregational UCC (my “home” UCC church) and the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference. There are some changes occurring now and I wanted to update you about them.

I have been blessed to spend the last few years heavily involved with the UBC community as we sought ways to bring a specialized outreach ministry to life. This involved everything from preaching and liturgies focused on the Divine Feminine to the racial justice work we have done together. One of the things we learned is that we had work to do on racial justice issues internally in preparation for doing more outreach in the larger community.

As the transition to a new church building and a new pastor occurred for UBC, it was a natural time for me to revisit my current call to ministry and also to align with my UCC Northwest Conference’s desire to be more intentional about support of its specialized ministers like myself. That period of discernment has changed some things in my ministry.

I am now focused on an outreach racial

justice ministry to a wider range of church and other communities within the northwest and possibly beyond. This includes writing articles and creating training materials on these issues as well as working with others. I have also realized that to continue this ministry, I need to situate myself in a position where income is generated for leadership with these activities. Additionally, I have felt the call to be more involved with my own denomination and reconnect with minister colleagues in the UCC.

This means I am again worshipping regularly at my home UCC church, University Congregational UCC. While this is a common practice for specialized ministers involved in other places, it was easy to be enveloped by the warm and talented community at UBC to the extent that it often felt to others, and sometimes to me, as if I were a UBC member.

What this means in a practical way is that we will still have opportunities to interact and collaborate as I do this outreach ministry. One great example is the summer anti-racism institute I will be doing with a colleague at the beginning of August utilizing space granted to us by UBC. I also hope to attend some of the opportunities offered by the UBC Working Group on Race.

I am grateful for the support and engagement you have given me as we’ve done ministry together over the last 5 years and I look forward to the ways our paths may cross in the future!

*Diane S.*

## Mission Update: University District Children's Center

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University District Children's Center was originally founded as University Baptist Children’s Center in 1981, as a mission of UBC to provide quality, affordable childcare as its commitment to the health and welfare of young children in the university community. UBCC was housed in University Baptist Church and operated as a financially independent, secular childcare program. When UBC moved buildings in the fall of 2010, UBCC closed its doors and reopened a few short blocks away in Seattle’s historic University Heights

building as University District Children’s Center. When UDCC needed more financial resources to remodel the space in the University Heights building to make it licensed for childcare, UBC provided them with a low risk, low interest rate loan. UDCC continues to be an organization that UBC supports financially, with volunteers, and with prayers.

In addition to Mary Clare B. serving on the board for many years, I have been working as a teacher at the University District Children's Center since April of this year and it has been an amazing

experience. After I spent some time discerning my career path over the winter, it is very fulfilling to be settling into my calling. I am very committed to supporting children of all ages and UDCC is a very interactive introduction to professional work with children.

The difference between a daycare and a Children's Center is in the curriculum that a Children's Center provides. We create not only a safe, fun space, but also provide opportunities for children to actively learn. I began as an assistant who worked in all four classrooms and I learned all about age appropriate activities, problem solving, and social-emotional dynamics. Now, I am a lead teacher in the classroom for 2-3 year olds. One of the main focuses in this classroom is the development of self-help skills. Cultivating these abilities allows the children to feel competent and therefore confident. I'm learning how to document development, support each child's weaknesses, and create anti-bias curriculum.

Anti-bias means that we actively take a stand against bias in any form. Our mission statement says, "Our mission is to provide a nurturing environment that values diversity and builds community by honoring and respecting all children and families." For example, we teach our children that happy families look many different ways. There is a mixture of skin colors, genders, number of people, et cetera and each child can be proud of where they come from. The field of Early Childhood Education is way ahead of the K-12 grades in our anti-bias curriculum. The aspect we struggle with the most is inclusiveness for all abilities. What do you do with a child who cannot or will not participate in the regular activities



*Diversity by Visual Life*

because of their cognitive or physical differences? You are required to make your best effort to provide them with a similar activity that they can do with the whole group. This can be a great challenge even for the most well meaning teachers because we have so much on our plate to accomplish during the day. I know I am working in the right place when I never hear another staff member talk negatively about a child who takes more effort to manage and teach.

In addition to anti-bias and inclusive teaching, we also work very hard on social-emotional problem-solving. A person is never too young to begin learning how to interact peacefully. Since children begin physical dynamics before they learn to speak with articulation, my main calling is to facilitate social problem-solving without friends hurting friends. I am easily seeing how the children who don't go to preschool will enter kindergarten without the skills to peacefully resolve conflict within a larger social group. Studies are now showing that people who do not learn these social skills before age six have a very difficult time learning them due to the brain development that occurs before age six.

We are very happy to be back in our regular space after we had a flood in June. A water filter that was installed incorrectly burst in the night and covered the floors with a pond. We were closed for three days, and then in an alternate space for three weeks. I appreciate the concern many of you have voiced over the financial impact of the situation. Donations can be made directly to UDCC and further financial questions can be directed to Mary Clare B. Our most recent news is that one of our teachers just had a baby! All of the teachers, parents, and children have been very supportive in creating community for her and it's been a blessing to witness. She has been so inspired by her work here that she plans on moving back home to Texas and opening her own Children's Center, as there is nothing like it where she is from.

Thanks again to everyone who has supported the Children's Center with your time, money, and prayers. It's truly a very special place and I hope to see it continue for many decades to come.

*Sadie C.*

## Water Harvesting Project in Kenya



Our congregation is providing assistance to two schools in Kenya. A total of \$6,100 was raised at my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration last October which included a generous match of \$3,000 from UBC. The focus of the funding is to add gutters to the school building roofs and build a large reservoir to collect water during the rainy seasons for use during the dry ones. The school communities provide local funding and volunteer labor.

In 2009, I learned in my visits to a number of schools in rural Kenya that conditions exist that are seriously reducing their access to clean water. Recent news articles are highlighting the increasing problems associated with drought conditions in the East African region. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has dubbed the current drought situation in the Horn of Africa as the worst in 60 years.



UBC has sent \$4,000 to H2O for Life to support Kapsiongo Primary School. It is located in the Kericho area of Kenya and desperately needs water and proper sanitation. The school is building rainwater catchment tanks, guttering the school, adding bio-sand filters and building latrines for boys and girls. (The pictures are of kids in a classroom, women helping dig the pits for latrines, and the beginning of the foundation for the rainwater tank.) The project is lead by the non-profit H2O For Life in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. The organization supports projects in a number of countries. ( [www.h2oforliveschools.org](http://www.h2oforliveschools.org) )



We are also sending \$2,100 to Water for All to assist Ibeno Primary School near Kisii, Kenya. Water for All is a non-profit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya. James Onsare is our contact with WFO. I have worked with James on previous Kenya projects and he assisted me with travel arrangements and home stays. James is in a picture with a student and staff person from a school that we visited. ( [www.waterfao.org](http://www.waterfao.org) )

Our Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Team is supporting this project. In the coming months, we will have reports on the completion of these water harvesting projects. I hope some of us can visit these schools in the future.



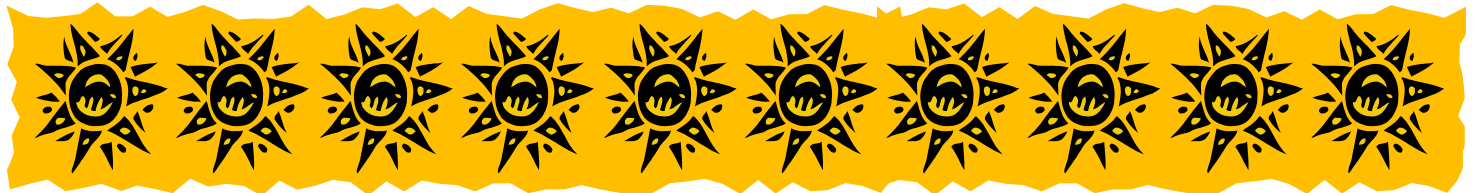
*Lin Carlson*

*Photos courtesy of Lin C.*

# Where's the Pastor?

If you want to schedule a visit or a conversation, please make sure that you call the office at (206) 632-5188 or email at [pastor@ubcseattle.org](mailto:pastor@ubcseattle.org).

*(The following calendar shows activities and meetings in which the pastor is participating. Please note that you can call the office to schedule appointments or visits at any time. The times of the meetings are not showing in this calendar.)*



## August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 DAY OFF	2- Worship Team Mtg.	3 - PSRT Mtg.	4- Book Group (Reading the Bible Again)	5 -Pastors Covenant Group Lunch	6- Welcom- ing Young Adults workshop	7 - Worship (Communion)
8 DAY OFF	9	10	11 - Comm Team Mtg.	12	13	14 - Worship
- Youth Ministry Mtg.						
15 DAY OFF	16 - Baptist Clergy Mtg. - PJR Team Mtg.	17 - SC mtg.	18- Book Group (Reading the Bible Again)	19	20 - Dead- line for <i>The Beacon</i>	21 - Worship at the Park!
22 DAY OFF	23 - Wor- ship Plan- ning Mtg.	24	25	26	27 - Teams Coordinat- ing Mtg. (proposed) -Seattle in Black and White	28 - Worship
29 DAY OFF	30	31				

# August UBC Calendar

- ◆ Tuesday, August 2 - Worship Team Meeting
- ◆ Wednesday, August 3 - PSRT Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, August 4 - Reading the Bible with Marcus Borg and Aaron B.
- ◆ Saturday, August 6 - Welcoming Young Adults Training
- ◆ Sunday, August 7 - Worship
- ◆ Monday, August 8 - Youth Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, August 11 - Communications Team Meeting
- ◆ Sunday, August 14 - Worship
- ◆ Tuesday, August 16 - Working Group on Race, PJR Team Meeting
- ◆ Wednesday, August 17 - Stewardship Council Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, August 18 - Reading the Bible with Marcus Borg and Aaron B.
- ◆ Friday, August 19 - Beacon Deadline
- ◆ Sunday, August 21 - Worship in the Park
- ◆ Saturday, August 27 - Seattle in Black and White Screening
- ◆ Sunday, August 28 - Worship, Finance Team Meeting

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## The Beacon

### University Baptist Church

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### Minister

*Rev. J. Manny Santiago*

### Minister of Music

*Rev. Margaret Paynton*

### Office Manager

*Ms. Jessica Day*

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**Deadline for the September issue is Friday, August 19.** Please send items for the *Beacon* to: [office@ubcseattle.org](mailto:office@ubcseattle.org)

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We are a welcoming and affirming congregation.  
We celebrate our diversity in religious background,  
sexual orientation, race, age, gender and abilities.



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