



The Beacon

University Baptist Church

January/February 2011

THE EPIPHANY CHALLENGE

J. Manny Santiago

Happy New Year!

This New Year brings a lot of great and exciting new opportunities for the UBC family. For starters, as we no longer have the burden of an aging building to hold us back, we can focus our energy, time, and talents on missions. These mission endeavors will be local as well as global. The Mission and Justice Team and I look forward to working with all the people from UBC – members and friends – to engage in mission work that transforms lives.

With the beginning of the New Year, the Church Universal also enters the season of Epiphany. Characterized with the visit of the wise men from the East to Jesus and his family, Epiphany is also the reminder that God reveals God-self to all of humanity. The Greek word *epiphaneia* can also be translated as “manifestation” or “striking appearance.” The visit of the Magi – also called the Three Kings – is celebrated by Christians worldwide, but is particularly important for the Hispanic culture.

Some of my fondest memories are from the Festival of the Three Kings, which is celebrated on January 6th of every year. During this time, in my home town, families got together at their grandparents’ homes and waited for the “three kings” to come by on their horses. As the procession went from one house to the next, people joined in, in their cars, or on horses or on foot. The whole town would process with the “three kings” to the baseball park – and later to the main plaza when this was finished – and join in the celebration. The kids would get presents from the “three kings” and food would be served. This was a community event, sponsored by the General Hospital of Castañer, my hometown.



A view of the main plaza in Castañer, where the Fiesta de los Tres Reyes Magos takes place every January 6th.

Reflecting on this festival, and what it could mean for our faith community at University Baptist Church, I came to the realization that we should celebrate the New Year and the season of Epiphany with an *Epiphany Challenge*. What if we start 2011 with the idea of sharing our faith, our goals, and our passion with others who are searching for a spiritual home? What if we go around gathering those who are

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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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Happy Birthday!!!

January

- 1/3 Kathryn J.
- 1/12 Pete D.
- 1/13 Carol Z.
- 1/13 Aaron B.
- 1/17 Gail F.
- 1/22 Savar M.
- 1/22 Hilary P.
- 1/24 Mona H.
- 1/31 Puspita B.

February

- 2/3 Eric B.
- 2/8 Daniel H.
- 2/13 Lisa N.
- 2/14 Bob J.
- 2/14 Margie P.
- 2/15 Edith G.

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

Recently, I have been re-reading some of the sociology books I read throughout college and seminary. A short essay titled "Racial Formations" by sociologists Michael Omi and Howard Winant caught my attention. The essay was published in a book called *Race, Class, and Gender in the United States*. I would like to share with you the paragraph that interested me the most.

Omi and Winant write: "One of the first things we notice about people when we meet them ...is their race. We utilize race to provide clues about *who* a person is. This fact is made painfully obvious when we encounter someone whom we cannot conveniently racially categorize... Such an encounter becomes a source of discomfort and momentarily a crisis of racial meaning. Without a racial identity, one is in danger of having no identity."

The church is not exempt from such reactions to diversity. However, more often than not, progressive faith communities react in a way that is not consistent with the faith we embrace. My reading of the biblical text tells me that God loves, celebrates, and welcomes people *because* of their differences. Oftentimes, however, the reaction from some people is to repeat the mantra that "we are all the same." In some instances this is true: we are the same in the sense of all being humans and therefore we all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. But at the same time, it is important to recognize and celebrate our differences.

In the Exodus story we read of the moment in which Moses meets God face to face. Exodus 3.13-14 reads: "*Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you', and they ask me, 'What is [this God's] name?' what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' God said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

The story of Moses' encounter with God reminds us that we are called to name ourselves. Our identity is ours to claim, nobody else's. The Holy One calls us to claim who we are without letting others define us. This is what identity is; the freedom to be ourselves and be proud of who we are.

This month of February at UBC, the community is celebrating "Black History Month" and with it, we are celebrating community in diversity. This will grant us the opportunity to look at our past and acknowledge those instances when we have failed to recognize diversity in order to move forward to a more accepting and welcoming community and society. The journey from Africa to the Americas was not an easy or pretty one. It was marked by pain and longing and tears. It is time for the church to reclaim this month in a liturgical fashion,

by acknowledging both the pain of separation from the Motherland and the hopes of building a new Reign of God here and now by reclaiming who we are and by celebrating our unity in diversity.

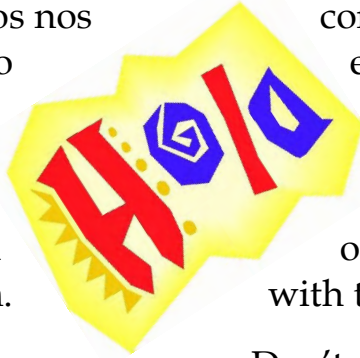
Come to worship on Sundays this month! Let us pray together and worship together and celebrate together the building of the new Reign of God where each individual is treated with dignity and respect and where differences are celebrated and welcomed!

In the Spirit of Solidarity and Celebration,

Pastor Manny

¿Hablas español?

¿Quieres hablar español mejor? Tenemos un nuevo grupo de conversación en español. Casi todos los domingos nos reuniremos después del servicio para practicar conversación por algunos minutos o una media hora larga. Ed M. es el mejor hablante en nuestro grupo, y a Ed le gusta ayudarnos con la lengua.



No te preocupes que no hables bien.
No te preocupes por ningún error.
Simplemente ven y habla.

Si tienes una pregunta, llama a Lynn G o a Brooke R por teléfono.

Vocabulario:

Una persona de Puerto Rico es un puertorriqueño o una puertorriqueña.

Do You Speak Spanish?

Do you want to speak Spanish better? We have a new group for Spanish conversation. We will meet almost every Sunday after worship to practice speaking for a few minutes or a good half hour. Ed M. is the best Spanish speaker in our group, and Ed enjoys helping us with the language.

Don't worry that you don't speak well.
Don't worry about any errors. Just come and speak.

If you have questions, phone Lynn G or Brooke R.

Vocabulary:

A person from Puerto Rico is a *puertorriqueño* or a *puertorriqueña*.

*Please note: the deadline for the March Beacon is
Monday, February 21*

(continued from Page 1) searching for a feast of service to change the world and encourage them to join our journey? What if each one of us – of every age, every ability, every orientation, every gender, and every economic situation – brings at least one more person to worship with them?

Often times, those of us who identify with Progressive Christianity – or progressive religion in general – are too afraid to share our views and to invite others in. The fear of being mistaken for the coercive proselytism of the religious right has stopped our more progressive faith communities from having something that many yearn for: a sense of community and the opportunity to serve alongside others in building a better society. The truth is that we should not be afraid of sharing our faith and how we experience the Divine Mystery. In fact, it might be very possible that others are eagerly waiting for us to tell them what our faith community is all about!

At the end, our community could have a spectacular celebration just like the ones I experienced for Three Kings Day when I was growing up. In 2011, let us take the challenge, and work for justice as we grow in spirituality, in mission, and in families of all sorts!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Manny

From the Moderator

My dearest brothers and sisters,

On behalf of my new role as Moderator, let me thank each one of you for your continued dedication to the support of our community, otherwise known as our UBC family, as we transition into our new home, our new pastor, and our newest group of ministry leads for 2011. Already, in these last few months, each one of you have shown your continuing high level of commitment to our life together and both I and others deeply appreciate it. As we thank Daniel H. for his year of service as the 2010 Moderator, I would like share with you that Daniel and our previous moderators had their hands full. I am most grateful that my year as Moderator will not hold all the difficulties of the past few years. I'm also happy that I can rely on all the skills and experiences of these most valuable resources, especially the Moderator-Elect Tom N. Looking to the future, given the importance of the funds from the sale of our building, church leads and others are taking the time to appropriately research and consider all options before determining what is best for these funds. Although various ministries are and will continue to be working on recommendations, the Mission, Peace, and Justice Ministry has met. I'm pleased to announce that with the good solid discernment they had, their recommendations will assist us in setting the mission goals our community asked for. I assure you that we will keep you informed of our progress on decisions and on Sunday, January 30th, you will be hearing more about the mission summits and the information that is being obtained at the worship service. The Stewardship Council's next regular meeting is on February 9th at 6:30 pm and anyone who would like to attend is invited. I encourage our UBC family to be involved in the meetings. When we met for a retreat on January 22, we discussed the current year's goals, and determined that we need an update to our current by-laws. We welcome everyone's thoughts and opinions as we move forward in updating them.

Please set aside Sunday, January 30th for our UBC Annual Meeting. It will be after the morning services and promises to be fun, informative, and an opportunity to meet and ask questions from the leads. We will be having a light meal in the sanctuary. I am grateful for your patience and hope it will be only a matter of a few weeks before we have greater clarity on how to organize our coming year together. Each of you should please feel free to contact me at any time with any of your cares, concerns, or questions. The best way to reach me is by email: compliancewiz@yahoo.com.

Salaam.

Rhonda H.



February 18th ~ 21st: Cascade Meadows Snow Retreat!

Join your UBC Family at camp near Leavenworth, WA. Everyone is invited to come to Cascade Meadows, where there are many opportunities to play in the snow, ski, snowshoe, sit by the fire, play games, and be in community with each other.

Registration is \$80 for Saturday-Monday lunch. Look for more registration details in an upcoming Email Announcement!

UBC Youth Green the Season

Our youth group had a lot to do with the color of Advent and the week of Christmas. Following Pastor Manny's idea of "growing" an Advent garden, and counting on Sadie C.'s horticultural skills, several young people helped create a garden of sorts in the front of our sanctuary. Beginning with plants, bringing fallen branches, adding more plants, decorating them all, and adding the signs of a children's Christmas, they put before us through the weeks of Advent a reminder of the life-giving Mystery that leads us through our time of waiting, hoping, loving.



From left to right: Kaj, Brooke, Sadie, Valerie, Jessica, Eva, Jasmin

On the last Sunday of Advent, several of our youth participated in the Pageant – as Mary, Joseph, badly misbehaving sheep, and nasty census takers – and then left worship to serve as volunteers on the Christmas tree lot of Dunshee House (formerly Seattle AIDS Support Group) now home to many groups gathering to support LGBT folks and, still, those living with AIDS. Remembering that Dunshee House was the recent victim of burglary, and that the tree lot is its main revenue building effort through the year, the young people decided to help a little more by buying a noble fir to take back to the church building for Christmas Eve. UBC youth have served as volunteers for Dunshee for many years, and it's a highlight of the year for our young people.

— *Brooke R.*

Co-Leader, UBC Youth Group

Do you have Time, Talent, Gifts, Ideas to Share?

Did you miss the Time and Talent pledge form that was mailed with the regular financial pledge form? Well, it's not too late – for either! Or to add something to either!

Do you know of something you would like to do with UBC, but don't know how to "plug in"? Call me, let's talk. I hope that every person who attends worship regularly will offer at least a little of their time and talent to our community.

There are many ways to get started:

1. Bring some treats for coffee hour (someone else will make the coffee and set up),
2. Lead a responsive reading or read scripture in worship,
3. Call a few people to remind them of a game night or a special event.

Watch the Beacon for some specific needs you might be able to fill.

~ Mary R., Coordinator of Volunteers
mlrolston37@comcast.net

Past time for review:

Your input is wanted for Manny's six-month review. (Yes, he's going on eight months!)

What's been great and good?
What could use improvement?

Please, e-mail or speak to a member of the PSRT: Ken, David, Ralph, Mary or Marilyn by Feb. 13.

Thanks!

A Personal Call to Service

When we talked about UBC missions at our Mission Summit this month, we also talked about the interests and missions of individuals in our congregation. But how much do we really know about what our friends are doing? How might we find opportunities to get involved ourselves? I wanted to find out about these personal missions.

This month I asked **Alethea P.**, who has a long history of volunteering, to talk about her recent work at a food bank in Phoenix. I asked her about her experience and how she finds volunteer opportunities:

Volunteering is not new to me as I have done it many times and always learned from the experiences. There was a time lapse in my volunteering and when I returned to seek a volunteer job this year I found age limits - something new to me. Some agencies would not accept people over 55. I find that ridiculous and wonder about the logic behind it. But I uncovered SOOP (Service Opportunities for Older People) -- just the ticket for me.

SOOP operates under Mennonite auspices on a philosophy of Christian service and accepts participants with a variety of skills and levels of education. There are currently about sixty locations for service in North America and usually a participant can choose the time of year and length of assignment. I was not accepted for my first choice assignment which was to dry and process food for hungry nations, so instead of weeding my way through the long list of opportunities I allowed SOOP to place me where they thought I was most needed. That happened to be Phoenix.

Phoenix provides several job opportunities: Glencraft Retirement Community (visitation, repairs, quilting, etc.); ESL (mainly to aid Spanish speakers); Goldensun Ministries (live-in opportunities in homes for adults with developmental disabilities); teacher's aid in public school classrooms, and the food banks (packing, sorting, delivering, etc.) November/December with their holidays meant lots of work for the food bank and they were in need of people, so that is where I was placed.

St. Mary's is the oldest (founded in 1967) and largest food bank in the U.S.; second- largest in the

world. Two days before Thanksgiving, we had over 2,000 recipients picking up bags of food for their families. The hours were fun and crazy: loading carts, slinging frozen chickens and turkeys, frozen foods, fresh foods such as celery, cabbage, greens, onions, fruits, etc. The available food seemed never to end. There was far too much pastry and soda as far as I was concerned but since pastry ages quickly, people got to enjoy pecan pies, cheesecakes and many other delicacies in abundance.

I would have appreciated a tour and explanation of the food bank and maybe people who arrive in slower periods do receive this. As for me it was in the door and to work, no breaks, work, and work. I confess being a clock watcher my first day. I am amazed that with all the lifting, bending, stretching, I never suffered a sore muscle. It was a great way to exercise and serve needy people at the same time!

Housing and food were included in my service and were excellent; best I have ever encountered in my volunteer experience. Sometimes volunteering can mean sleeping on the floor, cold showers, and eating cabbage and pork fat.

Arriving during holiday months there were few SOOP volunteers and I did not make as many new friends as I had wished and I suspect most volunteers are newly retired and in their late sixties and most are married couples. I was a loner and initially I felt very alone, especially on weekends, but then someone wised up and my remaining days were delightful, full of laughs, and memorable experiences.

Thank you for your good work and for sharing your experience with us, Alethea!

If you would like to share an experience with the congregation, or would like to learn more about what someone else is doing, please let me know and I'll write about it in a future *Beacon*.

~Joy S.

2010 Missions Team Lead,
2011 Communications Team Lead

Among Ourselves

It was wonderful to have babies and children in worship at UBC on Dec. 19, when members of the **Benson, Foster, Taylor, and Palmen** families stood witness at the dedication of **Logan Dale B**, born Nov. 16 to Aaron and Emily B. And **Norah Jean W** starred as Baby Jesus in her first Christmas pageant! Huge thanks to pageant director **Gail F** and all our adult and youth actors... It was terrific to have young adults **Ethan and Zandi C, Peter and Tosten H, Kendra K-F, Ashley S, and Katrina and Amy S** with us on Christmas Eve... Thanks to **Jessica B**, who volunteered in the church office the week before Christmas... **Kathryn J** visited her nephew's family in Kansas City and had a wonderful time with her great nieces, Macy, 9, the actor, and Maya, 4, the dancer... **Diane S** enjoyed a 9-day immersion experience in Mexico, where she learned about Mexican history and culture and joined with the Mexican people in the annual celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe... **Suzan B-W** spent Christmas in California, where she went to be with her daughter Jenny, who had surgery on her thyroid... **April R** enjoyed a 2-week visit with her brothers in Pennsylvania, including a week babysitting her 2-year-old nephew, Ben. Ask **April** what she will be doing on April 18 in Boston... **Eric B** spent time in Indiana visiting friends and family, including his nephews and niece... **Megan W** is returning to work after her stay at home with **baby Norah**... **Mona H** arranged a thrilling conference call between Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the student chapter of Amnesty International at Vashon High School ... This past fall **Shari P** donated her treasured viola to Music Center of the NW in memory of George Shangrow... **Erica B** is working on a solo dance piece to be performed at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue on Feb. 12 at 7:30 & Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. For info, go to www.chopshopdance.org... **Eva G-J** will perform at Benaroya Hall with the WA Music Educators Association All-State Symphony Orchestra on Sun., Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available on the Seattle Symphony website... **Audrey S** has left UPS and is planning to attend the Tacoma branch of Evergreen College. She has had surgery on her wrist and is recovering well... **Rhonda H's** son Matthew has moved to Stafford Creek Correctional Center in Aberdeen. We welcome **Rhonda's** friends **John R and Joe W**, who are joining us for worship... **Meredith E, Sadie's** friend who has begun to attend UBC, was in San Diego at a meeting on plant and animal genomes. Meredith is a salmon geneticist and post-doc research associate at UW... **Daniel H** underwent two surgeries to eliminate kidney stone problems and is doing well. **Elizabeth P** is feeling great and recovering beautifully from her Dec. 29 surgery. **Sheri A** is recovering from a broken ankle at Ida Culver House... We hold many in our thoughts and prayers, including **Gail, Walt, Valerie, Lori, and Bob**, as they mourn the passing of Gail and Lori's father; **Steve K**, who continues to struggle with leukemia; **Marcus W** in his fight with cancer; **Ginny B's** caregiver, **John**, who was in a serious car accident; and **Peter and Sadie C**, who have begun the first steps in the process of adopting a baby.

Compiled by Lynn G-J. If you have news to share, please contact her at lyngaertner-johnston@comcast.net or leave a message with the UBC office: 206-632-5188.

Updates from the Mission Support, Peace & Justice Team

On December 11th, the Mission Support, Peace & Justice Team held a Missions Summit at the Church. The purpose of this brainstorming session was to pick up the conversation which began over a year ago about what direction we, as a congregation, want to go in our mission work. Thirteen people participated in the conversation. Three others, who were unable to attend, submitted written comments. For two hours we engaged in a lively, thoughtful, energetic, free-ranging conversation. Joy Smith took notes and organized our conversation into four areas. Below are some highlights from our conversation.

OBJECTIVES FOR MISSIONS

We want our mission efforts to lead us to engage with each other, to engage our larger communities (city, nation, world), and to engage our hearts and minds as well as our money. We want to work for change, to be a “prophetic voice”, as well as meet immediate needs in our community. We want our missions to challenge us, to lead us to examine what we do in our other roles in life (employer/employee, parent, child, citizen, etc.) We want our missions to add to UBC’s identity and to bring us pride in what we do as a community.

PROCESS

The discussion on process focused on two questions:

- 1) how do we decide as a congregation what mission or missions will we devote our time and energy to?
- 2) Now that we have money from the sale of the building set aside for missions (\$27,500 budgeted for 2011), what process should we use for allocating these funds?

Some of the ideas put forth on the first question include: survey the congregation on their interest in missions and how they wish to engage with them; have more opportunities for discernment; review our mission and vision statements; and, define our relationship with Evergreen, ABC, UDEP, other ecumenical and even non-church mission efforts.

There was also discussion about using Naomi Kirstein’s “Church without Walls” model, where mission efforts have specific timeframes and end or are spun off into self supporting organizations. Establishing a cycle like a foundation’s grant cycle might be a way to regularly evaluate our mission efforts and ideas.

Utilizing a grant process was also one of the suggestions for allocating funds budgeted for missions. There was enthusiasm for using some of this money to support folks in our community who want to present their missions and lead us in action. We did this when we agreed to match money raised by Lin Carlson in his fundraiser for water harvesting in Nairobi.

MISSION IDEAS

We finished our conversation by going around the room and listing mission ideas we thought the congregation might want to consider. Joy listed 28 of them in her notes. Here are a few: working for racial justice; prison outreach; immigration reform; supporting Soipan in the creation of a library in Kenya; supporting Andover Newton Seminary as the only welcoming and affirming seminary producing progressive pastors; supporting local programs to meet needs such as Habitat for Humanity; Earth Ministries; local feeding program or soup kitchen; all-ages mission trips; mission trips to the Kona people in Panama, to the Seeds of Learning in Nicaragua or El Salvador, and to the Thai/Burma border; LGBT issues, especially in supporting youth, scholarships; engagement with high school and college students as a mission.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue our conversation on missions. Manny is planning the worship service on January 30 around this conversation. The Mission Support, Peace and Justice Team will meet on January 18th. All those interested are encouraged to attend.

2011 UBC Stewardship Council Begins the Year with a Planning Retreat

Introducing Beth Y-J, Interim Office Administrator

Hello from the office! I am enjoying helping UBC through your transition; though I am only with you temporarily, I am happy to share this time with you. My New Year's resolution was to spend more time working for the greater good, and I feel like being here definitely supports that! I've been in Seattle for over eleven years, and for the past seven of them, I've been writing



books for businesses, on subject matter as diverse as forestry, banking, community development, microcredit and trash collection, and I am passionate about learning new things. I serve on the board of Community Harvest of Southwest Seattle, a group committed to improving food access for lower income residents, and am a very active volunteer for a number of arts organizations. I live in West Seattle with my husband and two cats, and when I'm not working, I enjoy gardening, yoga, playing games, good conversations and good food

2011 UBC Moderator Rhonda H. gathered 14 Stewardship members, past UBC Clerk and UBC Bylaw expert Lin C, and Pastor Manny

together on Saturday, January 22 for 6-hour retreat to get better acquainted and plan for the year ahead.

Lin gave a presentation on our Bylaws, which we plan to rewrite this year. Members discussed the governing rules we have in place to

ensure that they are followed. They also identified areas that will require a change.

Mary R. presented position descriptions of the teams and Mary Clare B described the role of the Stewardship Council. Some of the jobs have been described in the Bylaws, but some have not and the descriptions will be available to the UBC community to understand the functions of the teams and team leaders.

A highlight for many in attendance was a presentation by Tom N. on the role of team leaders and volunteerism. Tom explained that in many cases team members needn't be required to go to regularly-scheduled meetings, or participate in all events. Some may take on an important task for a shorter duration. Tom explained how volunteerism has changed. With new technology. We now utilize the internet and phones in a way that permits people to participate and contribute remotely. We will have more information available about volunteering to enable all to volunteer as they are able.

The last part of the day was spent talking about organization, communication and setting goals for the 2011. Two goals that were not on the list were selling the building and finding a new pastor! With these two huge accomplishments complete, the 2011 Stewardship Council kicks off a new year with exciting new goals to help us meet the UBC Vision.

~Joy S

Diversity Month of February

African American History Month is a remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. Since 1976, it has been celebrated by the US and Canada in February. Its roots are in the 1926 celebration of Negro History Week, which was the second week of February, marking the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.

February and March Lenten Season The highlight of the year for Christians is Easter, the day when they believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for Easter. Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday. We commemorate the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness through fasting, prayer, temptation and repentance.

February 3 Lunar New Year (2011 Year of the Rabbit) (Celebrated in China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Singapore and Korea) refers to the beginning of the year in several calendars. The **Chinese New Year** or **Spring Festival** is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It is the longest and most important festivity in the Chinese Lunar Calendar. The origin of Chinese New Year is itself centuries old and is significant because of various myths and traditions. Ancient Chinese New Year is a reflection on how the people behaved and what they believed in the most.

February 14 Saint Valentine's Day, commonly shortened to Valentine's Day, is an annual commemoration held on February 14 celebrating love and affection between intimate companions. The day is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 AD. It was deleted from the Roman calendar of saints in 1969 by Pope Paul VI, but its religious observance is still permitted. It is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "*valentines*"). Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have largely given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

February 19 Day of Remembrance or Japanese-American Internment Day of Remembrance Recalling the seeds and impact of America's WWII concentration camps on the anniversary of EO 9066, which was the Executive Order authorizing the Secretary of War to prescribe certain areas as military zones. EO 9066 cleared the way for the relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps. Throughout WWII, 120,000 ethnic Japanese people were held in internment camps for the duration of the war. Well over 60% of them were American citizens.

February 21 President's Day Washington's Birthday is a United States federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. It is also commonly known as Presidents Day.

Submitted by Rhonda H., Moderator

UBC Worship Summit – Planning for Lent/Easter

Saturday, February 12, 10 – Noon

UBC Sanctuary

Please join us as we plan for Lent and Easter.

The UBC Worship Summits are a highlight of our community life. They are a time for everyone to participate in the development of our common worship experiences. Traditionally, we hold two worship summits each year to prepare for the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9 and ends with Easter on April 24. It's time to begin our preparations for Lent and Easter 2011!

In *The Liturgical Year*, Sister Joan Chittister writes, "Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps, by a life more marked by routine than by reflection. After a lifetime of mundane regularity or unconsidered adherence to the trappings of faith, Lent requires me, as a Christian, to stop for a while, to reflect again on what is going on in me.... Lent is not a ritual. It is time given to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out."

Like Sister Joan Chittister, we will consider what Lent and Easter mean to us. What are the "messages" of Lent and Easter? What role do they play in the church's liturgical year and in our own personal beliefs? What meaning do we find in them? How do they inspire us? How do they challenge us? Our discussions will guide our creativity, resulting in – we hope – meaningful experiences for us as a spiritual community.

Please plan to join us for the Lent/Easter Worship Summit on February 12 at 10:00 AM in the UBC Sanctuary. Bring your creativity and your passion! Please contact Eric B. (eribro@gmail.com) for more information or to share any ideas that may already be forming in your mind.

Where's the Pastor?

If you want to schedule a visit or a conversation, please make sure that you call the office or email me at 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 shown in this calendar.)



February

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2 – Pastor spiritual retreat	3 – Pastor spiritual retreat	4 – Pastor spiritual retreat - Pastors' Covenant group	5 – UBC Youth Ministry gathering: "Being Baptists"	6 - Worship - Installation service for Rev. Matt Smith
7 DAY OFF	8 – Faith task-force meeting - Worship planning meeting	9 – Stewardship Council meeting	10	11	12 - Worship Summit	13 -Worship
14 DAY OFF	15 – U District young clergy meeting	16 - PSRT meeting	17	18 - UBC Winter retreat	19 - UBC Winter retreat	20 - Worship - UBC Winter retreat
21 DAY OFF	22 - Worship planning meeting	23	24 – BPFNA Board meeting - UBC movie night	25 – BPFNA Board meeting	26 – BPFNA Board meeting	27 -Worship
28 DAY OFF						

January / February UBC Calendar

- ◆ Sunday January 30 - Worship
- ◆ Sunday January 30 - UBC Annual Meeting
- ◆ Sunday February 6 - Worship
- ◆ Sunday February 6 - Installation of Reverend Matt Smith
(at University Congregational, UCC)
- ◆ Saturday February 12 - Worship Summit Planning for Lent & Easter
- ◆ Sunday February 13 - Worship
- ◆ Friday February 18-Monday February 21 - Winter Retreat at Camp Burton
- ◆ Thursday February 24 - Movie Night & Q&A about Puerto Rico
- ◆ Sunday February 27 - Worship

The Beacon

University Baptist Church

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Minister of Music

Rev. Margaret Paynton

Interim Office Manager

Beth Yockey Jones

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Deadline for the March issue is Monday, February 21. Please send items for the *Beacon* to: office@ubcseattle.org

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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