

# The Beacon

University Baptist Church

March 2011

## OUR (HER)STORY

J. Manny Santiago

Perhaps you are aware that March is “Women’s History Month” in the United States. The National Women’s History Project (NWHF) is the organization that coordinates the different events that take place during the month of March recognizing the many achievements of more than half of our population, as well as the many things that need to improve. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Our History is Our Strength”.

Since it is WOMEN’S history, I found it ironic to use “his”-story in the theme, so, I decided to tweak it a bit and call it “Our HERstory is Our Strength.” As Congress tries to pass legislation to curtail the access that women have to health services and sexual education, it is now more than imperative to raise our voices as people of faith and stand in solidarity with each other in the women’s movement.

As many of you know, I grew up as a Baptist after transferring to this denomination at age 11 from the Roman Catholic tradition. The interesting thing about the Baptist faith community that I grew up in was that when the time came for us to call a pastor, the final candidate was a woman. Not only that, but while I lived in Puerto Rico and attended Baptist congregations, my Executive Minister was the wonderful Rev. Yamina Apolinaris, the first Hispanic woman to be called as an Executive Minister within the American Baptist Churches. More than that, the Sunday school superintendent at my local church was also a woman, and pretty much every ministerial position within the church and the Region was filled by a woman. In fact, people find interesting when I tell them that it wasn’t until I was in college that I realized that men could be pastors!

My faith has always been shaped by the witness of wonderful women. Some of these women had been religious (whether Christian, Spiritist, or Pagan) while others have been agnostic or atheist. In fact, the person who introduced me to Queer Christian theology was an atheist lesbian professor in college, who now I consider as my adoptive mom (and thankfully, she considers me as part of her own family, for which I feel blessed). The witness, the strength, the courage, and the example of the women who have surrounded me throughout my life have been instrumental in making me the person I am today. I too, can join the voice of these women in saying that our (her)story is our strength!

(Continued on page 2)

### In This Issue:

- P. 2: Birthdays  
Welcoming @ UBC
- P. 3: From the working group on race  
Letter from Ago & Violy
- P. 4: Moderator's Letter
- P. 5: Lent @ UBC  
Lenten Calendar
- P. 6-7: Winter Retreat
- P. 8: Justice in Hymnody, part 1
- P. 9: Stewardship Council Minutes
- P. 10: Among Ourselves  
Summer Mission
- P. 11: Where's the Pastor?
- P. 12: Conferences & Diversity Month
- P. 13: The New Jim Crow
- P. 14: Celebrate the Biennial
- P. 15: Adalia Gutierrez-Schellinger

*We are a welcoming and affirming congregation.*

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

[www.ubcseattle.org](http://www.ubcseattle.org)





## Happy Birthday!!!

### March

- 3/1 Mary Clare B.
- 3/4 Brooke R.
- 3/9 Sarah R.
- 3/11 Heartie Anne B.
- 3/16 Paul W.
- 3/19 Joy S.
- 3/22 Rich G.
- 3/26 Sue D.
- 3/27 Valerie F.
- 3/30 Mary R.

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

Your Worship Team is offering this question for us to reflect on individually and communally. We invite each team to reflect on this from their own purpose.

In the February committee meeting, we discussed "**welcome**" as accessibility. You are possibly thinking, "Well everyone can get into our worship space." Yes, most of the time this is true. Yet recently two visitors arrived after the service had begun and as they looked in, they saw no easily accessible seating and likely, not wanting to be conspicuous, they left. It was not **welcoming**!

So to answer the question the Team posed: try moving up a little closer to the front and fill in the rows, maybe not the front row if you are not comfortable, but there are three rows so two can be filled. If there is a specific reason that you don't like sitting on the front row, let us know. Perhaps we can do something to make it more appealing. Does this look more **welcoming**?

We are also working to have plenty of the large version of the bulletins with all of the hymns included so that those among us who are differently-abled do not have to manage hymnals. This is also for first time visitors so they can focus on the worship experience. Does this look more **welcoming** to you?

The Team wants to hear your ideas for how we can make UBC's worship space and experience **welcoming**, hospitable, and inviting! Contact team members: Margie Paynton, Team Lead, Jodi H-J, Gail F., Elizabeth P., Carol S. or Manny. We **welcome** your ideas. Let us become the **welcoming** beloved community God calls us to be.

*(Continued from page 1)*

This month of March, I invite you to bring forth the names of those women who have been instrumental in shaping your life and your faith. Who have been the female saints who have shaped the person you are today? How has their strength given you strength? How are you going to use that strength to continue working for gender equality in every aspect of life? God reveals God-self as a woman giving birth in Isaiah 42.14, which reads: "*For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant.*" Moreover, the image of Holy Wisdom that we find in the book of Proverbs is also another feminine image for God, not to mention that one of the two creation narratives in Genesis 1.27 tells us that God "*created human being in God's own image; male and female God created them.*"

Last month we celebrated and remembered the African American community, without leaving these celebrations behind, now we move on to celebrate **HERstory**, the story of women, the story of all of us! As for me, I want to mention some of those saints – both religious and non-religious – who have been instrumental in my own journey, in my own story of life: my mom **Marianita**, my grandmothers **Margot**, **Palmira**, and **Esther**, my first pastor **Migdalia**, my friends and mentors **Angela**, **Mindi**, **Valerie**, **Liliana**, **Yamina**, **Fela**, **Cindy**, **Vilma**, and all the women who are and will continue to make my life richer and better!

In the Solidarity of Sophia/Wisdom,

*Pastor Manny*

As some of you may know, the office was a bit disorganized when UBC brought me in. In the chaos, some things were lost that should have been shared. Here is a letter from Ago & Violy - Better late than never!

—Beth

December, 2010

Friends!

We had no vacation days left during the Christmas holidays as we spent around two weeks at the start of 2010 in the Philippines. Violy finished her hospital training as a nurse and I decided to pick her up rather than waiting idly in the US ... perhaps I just missed her so much.

It has been two and a half years since we moved from Seattle. The rain in Seattle has prepared us to ignore and instead appreciate Daly City's fog-mainly caused by Asian residents deciding to cook rice all at the same time (joke only). A good family is renting our home in Seattle.

We now live in a small one bedroom apartment close to the main highway, I-280, and the train, and minutes away from major shopping malls. When the sun is up, we can drive to the Ocean beach to feel the breeze and witness the sunset. Nearby is the Golden Gate Park that shelters you for a moment from the fast city life. The ethnic restaurants and neat shops in the mission district in the north are something we always enjoy while strolling along Valencia Street. Proximity to the airport and the train station allows friends from different cities to visit us and spend the night like a camping ground.

Sometimes, I get to bear the inconvenience of acid reflux, when I forget to cut down on spicy foods. Violy sometimes catch the flu with sudden shift of rain, sun and fog in one day-oh, sometimes in an hour. But otherwise, we enjoy the new landscape, culture and the people in the San Francisco Bay area.

We keep ourselves busy assisting the Filipino WW veterans and families who live close to downtown. In the streets, courts and Congress, we intend to push for their full rights as American veterans. Violy was busy in the Free Clinics with the Lion's Club.

From Vancouver, Canada to Seattle, Washington and now San Francisco, California-we have always enjoyed the journey of meeting people and friends!

*Ago and Violy*

FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON RACE...

A few UBC members (an apostles' dozen on my e-mail list) have begun work against the racialization of our society. That word, "racialization," comes from the authors of a book we're circulating, Divided by Faith, which looks at how religious structures in our country *perpetuate* racism. The word signifies the fact that for every social ill - for example, lack of access to health care, lack of access to education, rates of infant mortality and economic deprivation - the single constant factor that determines who suffers most in this country is *always* race.

At a recent meeting we decided to be a "covenant group," that is, a cadre committed to persistent work, faithful attendance of meetings, and *open to new members* who want to join at any point. So far, some of us have worked to learn more. Rhonda H. and I attended the recent Seattle Public Schools' program, "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." We heard Michelle Alexander tell us: There are more African Americans in US jails today than were ever enslaved in this country; a black person in the US is six times more likely to serve prison time than a white, and a Latino/a is three times more likely. Linwood C. plans to attend (and share his learnings from) a program highlighting the racial inequities in cases referred to Child Protective Services in the state of Washington. Members of the group have brought Moments for Mission during February, reflections on our experiences of race and privilege.

We are far from clear how to focus our work: On racialization in the country, the city, Evergreen Association churches, the district where we gather? What should be our UBC-community priorities... to pay more close attention to the voices and passions of the people of color among us? to attempt to draw more people of color into our congregation? What do we do with our awareness that (though Manny met with us at our initial gathering) all now in the group are white?

We ask that all who care about these questions: share ideas with us, pray for us and our work, and consider joining us.

~Brooke R.

*“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”*

—Charles Dickens, from *Great Expectations*

Your moderator has been away due to other commitments this past month and I am looking forward to the month of March for so many reasons; one being, I’m back in the company of my family at UBC.

Nearly two months has gone by since I started my position of Moderator. It has been a learning journey as I navigate between the old ways of doing things and wanting to implement new ways of doing things. I learned quickly that you can’t please everyone and with that bit of wisdom came the knowledge that I didn’t have to and it will be okay. I don’t have to be “perfect” as the moderator, which is a big relief.

For several years, I came and went without the sense of the entire picture here in our community. Now, I’m learning so many new things that I have to wonder if I wasn’t paying good enough attention before. Being a newer member of the UBC family and not knowing the history as well as others who may have been here longer gives me the fresh perspective to ask “Why?” Sometimes, I feel like the new toddler who wants to know how everything surrounding me operates.

Yes, I feel like the toddler who needs to know everything to discover my surroundings. As an adult, I feel awkward asking the whys! Why, you ask (no pun intended)? Because as an adult you may feel like you should be “perfect” in a leadership position. It brings to mind our service at Winter Retreat with the scripture Matthew 5:48, *“You are to be perfect, as God is perfect.”* No mistakes, having all the right answers, not failing others, making the right choices, and just being the person everyone may look to for the final answer. Whew, you can see how trying to be “perfect” can wear a person out!

By the way, perfect as an adjective means: **1. without faults:** without errors, flaws, or faults; **2. complete and whole:** complete and lacking nothing essential; **3. excellent or ideal:** excellent or ideal in every way; **4. especially suitable:** having all the necessary or typical characteristics required for a given situation; **5. skilled:** very proficient, skilled, or talented in a particular area. **Does this resemble anyone you know?**

As a child, none of these thoughts occur because you have many mentors guiding you which brings me to my point. Do we really need to be “perfect”? Would we not be God-like if we should misstep along the way? Would our community turn away from us if we were constantly changing and growing instead of being the source of perfection? The answer, my friend, is NO!

This one verse brought up many mixed feelings at our service in the fireplace room at Cascade Meadows. It was refreshing to have so many opinions to ponder. Having our youth offer up so many of their opinions left me feeling like I don’t have to know it all. I don’t have to be “perfect.” I have already perfected being “perfect” in my own way. Thank you to the younger generation who has taught this old dog a new trick.

When I look into the eyes and hearts of my UBC family surrounding me, I feel that I am the one being nurtured and mentored in this position and I have to say it is a wonderful feeling being supported instead of viewed as being “perfect.” Yes, responsibility brings great rewards, the reward of being “perfect” in my own way.

## THE SEASON OF LENT AT UBC

*"Rabbi, teach us to pray..."*

LUKE 11.1B



In the gospel of Luke, we find the disciples eager to learn how to pray. They had seen how John the Baptizer taught his own disciples to pray, and now they want their own Teacher, Jesus, to teach them. Understandably, the disciples raised their need, and asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

Prayer is powerful; it transforms us and it transforms the situations in which we are. Even medical science has given the discipline of prayer legitimacy by showing how those patients who pray show improvement and are more willing to adhere to their prescribed medical regiments. True, prayer is not the panacea to heal every ill and cure every sickness, but to practice prayer – in any of its many forms – gives us the confidence that we are not alone in the journey. There are many ways of praying – meditation, extemporaneous, prescribed, or the repetition of a mantra – but the reason to pray is very much the same: to connect with the Holy One in whichever way we experience it. Through prayer, we also commit ourselves to join others in transforming their situations. Hence the part of the service where we share our joys and concerns... prayer is both individual and communal.

During the Season of Lent, we are going to focus our attention to one of the most powerful, radical, revolutionary, and transformative prayer in history: The Lord's Prayer. There are two versions of this prayer in the Christian Scriptures, one in Luke 11.1-4 and one in Matthew 6.9-13, which will be the focus for our Lenten Season sermon series. The Worship Team and I encourage you to read both versions, to reflect on them, to write your own version of the prayer, and to share with each other what this prayer means to you.

Blessings,

*Pastor Manny*

## LENTEN CALENDAR

### March 9<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

12:00 noon: Silent Prayer and imposition of ashes

6:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

### March 13<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday in Lent

10:30 am – *"Our Father in Heaven"*

### March 20<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday in Lent

10:30 am – *"Your Kingdom Come"*

### March 27<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 am – *"Give us this day..."*

### April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:30 am – *"Forgive us"* – Communion Sunday

### April 10<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:30 am – *"Rescue us..."*

### April 17<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday

10:15 am – Gathering for procession with palms

### April 21<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm – *Sharing the Meal*

### April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday

7:00 pm – *Tenebrae Service*

### April 24<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

10:30 am – *"Celebrating Life!"*

# Winter Retreat at

Our snow retreats to Cascade Meadows have been a part of the lives of many members and friends of UBC for years. This year Audrey S. returned after 4 years away due to school obligations. She started to go to the retreats when she was 4. She asked the group to introduce themselves to the new comers and state how long they've been coming to the snow retreats. Many have come for over 10 years and some are close to 30. It has been a part of the childhood for many of our youth and young adults.

Zion T., 10, came with Joy S. to Cascade Meadows for the second year. After his experience last year, he looked forward to returning this year. This is his report:



*When I was there the thing I look forward to doing is the ping pong tournament and if you're not at ping pong there's a piano and foosball. If you love quiet places to rest or read a book there is a fire place room. There is really good food every year. Rhonda is the best cook. There is also a gravel pit that is for everyone to use it is a 30 minute walk but is worth the walk or ski. Everyone is super nice especially Brooke and Rhonda. Jessica has been champion in ping pong for longer than 2 years. Sadie and I found a mini sledding hill that is super fun and is close to the lodge. I had a lot of fun sledding with everyone. Cascade Meadows is the awesomest place you will ever go to.*

*From Zion*

Zion also loves to help with announcements, ringing the dinner bell, and helping with the Sunday service.

We realized this year that Jessica will be graduating and going off to college next year and may not return to Cascade Meadows for a while. It is always sad to lose one of our regulars, but they always know they'll be welcomed back when they are able to come again. If you haven't experienced the magic of our snow retreats, plan now to come next year. And bring a guest, especially a child or youth, to share this wonderful family-oriented adventure.

# Cascade Meadows



Everyone had a blast at the 2011 Winter Retreat at Cascade Meadows.

Opposite, an assembly at the foot of the tubing hill (aka, "the gravel pit"). L to R, **Bill, Zion, Becca, Jasmin, Audrey, Jessica, Lianne, Brooke, Meg, Lin & Dave**. This page (clockwise from top): **Jasmin and Jessica** battle it out in the annual Ping Pong tournament, **Daniel** leads a discussion; **Joy and Brooke** amaze themselves with their cooking abilities; the UBC family poses for a group picture with their sock puppets; **Joy & Zion** pose at the end of the trail



## A Cry for Justice in Hymnody, part 1

---

From the Minister of Music. . .

*Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
And righteousness like an everflowing stream.*  
(Amos 5:23-24 NRSV)

My most recent copy of *The Hymn*, the journal of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, contains a fascinating reprint of an address given this last summer at the Hymn Society's Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. The conference theme was 'Sing of Justice - Sing of Peace', a most fitting focus for this location. Birmingham is located about 90 miles from Montgomery, Alabama, the site of the Civil Rights Memorial, created by Maya Lin and dedicated in 1989. On the wall of the Memorial are inscribed the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., taken from his 'I Have a Dream' speech, in which he quotes from the KJV version of the Bible, Amos 5:24. However, in his address, Dan Damon, a Methodist minister and hymnwriter, includes the previous verse, verse 23, in his words "a cry for justice in hymnody." This month I begin to share with you some of his message, in hopes of spawning thought and conversation about justice in hymnody.

Justice is not a peripheral issue in scripture. Justice is not in the margins. It is a central theme. The way we treat people, the planet, and ourselves is important. The words we sing inside and outside of our places of worship can be powerful agents of change. Early in his career, John Wesley was told, "Preach faith until you have it. Then, because you have it, you will preach faith." Can we sing ourselves to justice?

Dan Damon's research into justice in hymnody took in the following areas: for creation, for children, for the elderly, for women, for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons, for people with disabilities, for the poor and oppressed, and for people of other faith traditions. That in itself is a very thought-provoking list. This month I will speak briefly to justice for creation and for children. The next issue of *the Beacon* will include the others.

### JUSTICE FOR CREATION

Hymns on the theme of creation are very popular. In the hymnals he surveyed, many of our favorites are found throughout many denominations: "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee," "For the beauty of this earth," "All creatures of our God," "All things bright and beautiful," and "Morning has broken." Dan Damon has started calling these the 'happy earth' hymns because they portray an earth with no problems, no threats. We love these hymns and will keep singing them, but they convey no thought that earth's bounty could be exhausted. Our favorites in this category were written before overpopulation, nuclear warfare, and global warming threatened our existence. There has been a powerful theological shift in our writing and singing since the late 1960's. Modern ecology hymns show the earth in peril, vulnerable, and abused - an earth we do not own. Dominion, meaning dominance, has not worked, and our hymnody is starting to reflect this; we are learning to be caretakers of the earth. In our New Century hymnal, Damon's text 'Pray for the wilderness' and Shirley Murray's 'Touch the earth lightly' are examples of this new understanding.

### JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

Many hymnals contain a 'Hymns for children' section. Our children should definitely be taught the great hymns of our faith. For Damon's research, however, hymns *for* children were excluded, and instead, he searched for hymns that directly address the needs *of* children. In our world, many children are poor, hungry, dirty, homeless, and abused. There is power in our singing when the words allow us to sing about real kids with real gifts and real problems. His example comes from the familiar lines, "little ones to him belong/they are weak, but he is strong." While it is true that God is stronger than we are, Damon prefers not to portray children as weak. One hymnal committee revised the line to read 'in his love we shall be strong.' It is good to teach children that they are strong enough to say 'no' and strong enough to tell the painful truth when it needs to be told. It is hard to hear the crying. We need hymns to help us listen.

I welcome your comments and thoughts on this subject. Our look at hymns of justice will continue next month.

~Margie

# UBC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEETING NOTES -- FEBRUARY 9, 2011

**Present:** Rhonda Hue (Moderator and meeting chair), Eric Brown (Church Clerk and meeting secretary), Mary Clare Benson, Daniel Hannah, Marilyn Marston, Elizabeth Patrick, Margie Paynton, Manny Santiago, Lori Taylor

**Pastor:** Manny suggested that teams pick a regular meeting day each month (e.g., PSRT meets on the first Wednesday) and asked team leads to notify the office of meeting times so that meetings can be placed on the calendar and rooms can be reserved. Manny and Mary Rolston drafted a job description for the Office Manager position and submitted it to the Pastoral and Staff Relations Team. The average attendance at Sunday worship services in January was 49.6.

**Moderator:** Rhonda and Tom Nielsen will work on compiling the UBC Goals from the Stewardship Council retreat on 1/22.

**Church Clerk:** The council affirmed J. Manny Santiago as a member of University Baptist Church. Alethea Putnam (affirmed on January 28 in an online vote) and Manny are our newest members. Eric will add spaces for "Action Items for the Stewardship Council" and "Regular Meeting Schedule" to the team report template.

**Treasurer:** Mary Clare said that the monthly financial reports are not yet available. They will be e-mailed to the council.

**Building Team:** Elizabeth said that University Christian Church will join us for a post-worship gathering on March 6. This will be an opportunity for them to see the changes we have made to our worship space and to hear a history of UBC presented by Margie.

**Finance Team:** Mary Clare presented a recommendation from the Finance Team. UBC has two loans with the Baptist Union. The Finance Team recommended that we pay off one of these loans - one for \$50,000 - with funds that we currently have on-hand. This would allow us to carry the loan directly with University District Children's Center and earn extra income through the interest. The motion to accept this recommendation passed unanimously.

**Mission Support, Peace and Justice Team:** Daniel said that the team hopes to propose a corporate mission effort in March.

**Pastoral and Staff Relations Team:** Marilyn asked for feedback for use in Manny's 6-month review.

**Worship Team:** Eric is resigning as lead of the Worship Team. The team will meet to select a new lead.

## Discussion Items:

- Lori reported on our space improvements. There are new lights in the narthex, a newly-built, secure closet with refrigerator in the hallway, and new shelves and storage bins in the downstairs storage room. Upcoming work includes painting a portion of the storage room and creating a meeting space there. Lori, Margie, and Eric will sort and organize the historical documents and records.
- The annual UBC Winter Retreat will be held February 18 - 21 at Cascade Meadows. Lin Carlson informed Rhonda that there are only seven reservations so far. Rhonda will ask the office manager to send a reminder e-mail.
- The musical group Sin Fronteras has asked to use our space for their rehearsals. In exchange, the group would perform for UBC (however, they are unable to perform on Sunday mornings). After discussion, there was consensus - UBC will not offer rent-free use of our space to Sin Fronteras.
- A group of Thai Christian dancers/actors/artists will be in the Seattle area in March and April and is looking for congregations to host performances of their Easter production. The group asks its hosts for performance space, housing for its members, and an offering to cover their expenses. Manny will reach out to University Christian Church and University Congregational Church to see if they are interested in co-sponsoring a performance with UBC.
- The Stewardship Council discussed how UBC might be able to help with expenses for those attending the American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Convention in San Juan this summer. Manny will attempt to find more information on the proposal to restructure the ABC-USA organization (the major issue expected at the Biennial), confirm the number of delegates that UBC is permitted to send, and attempt to determine what other progressive churches are doing in response to the proposal to restructure. By the March 9 meeting, the council would like a more accurate count of people who intend to go to the Biennial; we will ask people to tell Manny.
- March 9 is Ash Wednesday. An Ash Wednesday service will be held 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. The Stewardship Council will meet 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

Please note that these notes have not been approved by the Stewardship Council as minutes of the meeting. The Stewardship Council meets regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Our next meeting is on March 9 at 7:00 PM (due to the Ash Wednesday service).

Respectfully submitted by Eric Brown, UBC Church Clerk

# Among Ourselves

Members of our community have been on the move. **Ask Edith G** about the terrific time she had traveling in Panama and Costa Rica. Her trip included a cruise through the Panama Canal and travels to volcanoes and a coffee plantation... **Kathryn J** and **Rhonda H** had a wonderful time on Maui and especially enjoyed snorkeling...

**Brooke and Mary R** enjoyed Maui with Eric, Sue, and granddaughter Grace. The highlight of the trip was watching Grace learn to swim splash by splash in the pool... **Tom** and **Marilee N** enjoyed the sights of San Diego, after Tom's conference there... **Carol S** spent two weeks in Oklahoma with her dear friend Emily, whose husband Orvie had just died. Please hold Carol and Emily in your prayers... **Joe W**, who is relatively new to our congregation, has traveled to California. We look forward to his safe return... **Lynn, Michael, and Eva G-J** traveled to Florida, where they visited the University of Miami's school of music and stopped to see Lynn's father in central Florida. Before the trip, they were pleased to have members of their UBC family at Eva's concert at Benaroya Hall with the Allstate Symphony Orchestra... **Sadie C** enjoyed a long week of work at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show... Mark your calendars for the next concert of the Joyful Noise, a choir whose members include **Gail and Walt F** and **Lori and Bob T**. The dates are May 7 in the evening and May 8 in the afternoon... **Jessica B** is waiting to hear from a few schools before deciding where to go to college in the fall... Keep **Bev S**, **Kathryn J**, and **Paul W** in your prayers, along with others who are looking for suitable work, and **Jodie H-J**, who is considering new job opportunities... We pray for healing for many among us: **Marilyn M**, who has been suffering from a kidney stone; **Shari and Dan P**, as they adjust to Shari's condition; **Sheri A**, who is looking forward to returning to UBC after an ankle injury; **Susan V**, who has been experiencing chronic back pain; **Megan W's** uncle **Marcus W**, who is now receiving only palliative care for cancer; **Ginny's caregiver John**, as he recovers from a car accident; **office manager Beth's husband, Scott**, who is suffering from a knee injury that has not healed; **Cass N**, who continues to be pained by problems with her foot tendons and back; **Joanne W's** cousin Jeff, who suffers from serious mental illness; and for **Joanne** herself, as she continues to grieve the loss of Larry... We rejoice that **Suzan B-W's** daughter **Jenny** is now cancer-free, and her thyroid is functioning properly. **Suzan's 15-month old granddaughter Rebecca** (daughter of Lisa) charmed us on a recent Sunday. We also rejoice with **Jodie H-J**, whose friends Lori and Sue just adopted an 18-month-old boy named Arnold. May their lives be filled with love and blessings.

*Submitted by Lynn G-J*



Save the date for the Youth Summer Mission trip - July 31-August 6.

Youth are invited to spend a week at the Campbell Farm a 40-acre working farm on the Yakama Indian Reservation.

A week at Campbell Farm includes morning and evening devotions, farm chores, and hosting children from the Yakama tribe and local migrant worker community for a Thursday evening fun night. Service opportunities include painting the homes of Yakama elders, preparing food and serving at the Union Gospel Mission, or picking or sorting food for Northwest Harvest food banks. There is also time to relax and play, including swimming in the community pool and rafting the Yakima River. The cost of the week at the Farm is about \$300.

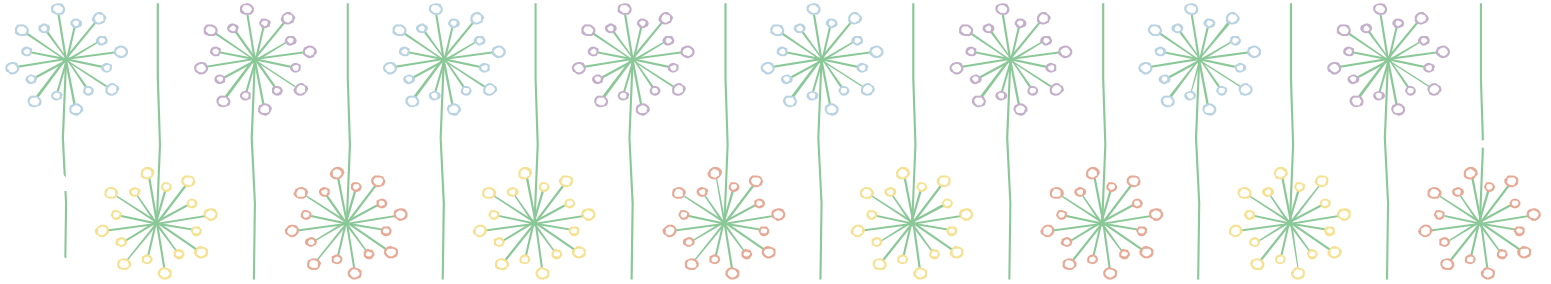
MORE INFO COMING SOON!

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP

# 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](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 shown in this calendar.)



## March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1 – Worship Team meeting	2 – PSRT meeting	3 – Office manager interviews	4 – Pastors’ covenant lunch	5 - Youth Ministry theater night	6 - Worship  - Coffee Hour with U Christ
<b>7</b> <b>DAY OFF</b>  - Comm Team meeting  • AWAB Board conf call	8 – Workers justice taskforce meeting  - Worship planning mtg	9 – Ash Wed noon service  - Ash Wed evening service  - Stewardship Council mtg	10	11	12	13 –Worship  <b>(Daylight saving time begins)</b>
<b>14</b> <b>DAY OFF</b>	15 – Peace, Just, Rec Team mtg	16 – Church Council luncheon	17 – BPFNA Board call	18	19	20 - Worship
<b>21</b> <b>DAY OFF</b>	22 – Equality Day Rally, Olympia	23	24 <b>DAY OFF</b>	25	26 – ABW of Puget Sound Rally	27 -Worship
<b>28</b> <b>DAY OFF</b>	29	30	31			

# Diversity Month

*March is Women's History Month.*

## March 7: Orthodox Lent

Observance of Great Lent is characterized by abstention from many foods, intensified private and public prayer, personal improvement, and almsgiving.

## March 8: Int'l Women's Day

In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements. Though it started as a Socialist political event, in many regions, the day lost its political flavor, and became simply an occasion for men to express their love for women. Elsewhere, the political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner.

## March 9: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance. The ashes used are typically gathered after the Palm Crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned.

## March 17: St. Patrick's Day

Originally a Catholic holiday, it became an official feast day in the early 17th century. It has gradually become a secular celebration of Ireland's culture.

## March 20: Nourouz

The Persian New Year Celebration which marks the first day of Spring and the first day of the year of the Persian Calendar. The holiest of Zoroastrian festivals, it is believed to have been invented by Zoroaster himself.

## March 21: Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

A UN-summonsed holiday to memorialize those killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, in the Sharpeville Massacre which led to the uprisings leading to the end of Apartheid.

## March 21: Ostara

A Pagan holiday celebrating the Spring Equinox, also called the Wheel of the Year in Neopagan ritual.

## March 31: César Chávez Day

A day to honor Immigrants'-Rights activist César Chávez. He called on his people to "Make a solemn promise: to enjoy our rightful part of the riches of this land, to throw off the yoke of being considered as agricultural implements or slaves. We are free men and we demand justice." His slogan "Sí, se puede" (Spanish for "Yes, it is possible" or, roughly, "Yes, it can be done") has been a rallying cry for justice.



a conference for peacemakers •

July 4-9, 2011

from the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America  
at Eastern Mennonite University - Harrisonburg, VA

Register online at [www.bpfna.org/conference](http://www.bpfna.org/conference)

## *The Welcome Beyond Forgiveness*



The biennial meeting of

The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Together with the Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Camp!



Please join AWAB at the BPFNA Conference For Peacemakers as we explore The Welcome Beyond Forgiveness. We will be leading Thursday evening worship and offering several workshops on Friday morning. We will also be hosting a "Prom For ALL!" after worship on Thursday and a special AWAB luncheon on Friday. Our business meeting will take place on Friday afternoon where we will be discussing the long-range vision for AWAB as well as electing our newest class of Board members.

Jarvious Cotton's great-great-grandfather could not vote as a slave. His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Klu Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation; his father was barred by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the United States, has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole.

—FROM *THE NEW JIM CROW*

Last month, several of us attended the discussion on a new book by Michelle Alexander called, "The New Jim Crow, *Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Alexander's book takes a detailed and concise look into mass incarceration in America as legal segregation disproportionately targeting African-Americans. It is stunningly eye-opening and challenging to all who care deeply about justice. Her critique is informative and analysis brilliant. This was a bold and innovative argument that mass incarceration amounts to a devastating system of racial control. I was spellbound as Michelle talked about the people she met, the stories that were told, and how we as allies of the civil rights community to continue the movement for racial justice in our communities. She challenged us to seek out the answers and become the change.

As the United States celebrates the nation's "triumph over race" with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or have been labeled felons for life. Although Jim Crow laws have been wiped off the books, an astounding percentage of the African American community remains trapped in a subordinate status—much like their grandparents before them.

In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. Alexander shows that, by targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness. *The New Jim Crow* challenges the civil rights community—and all of us—to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.

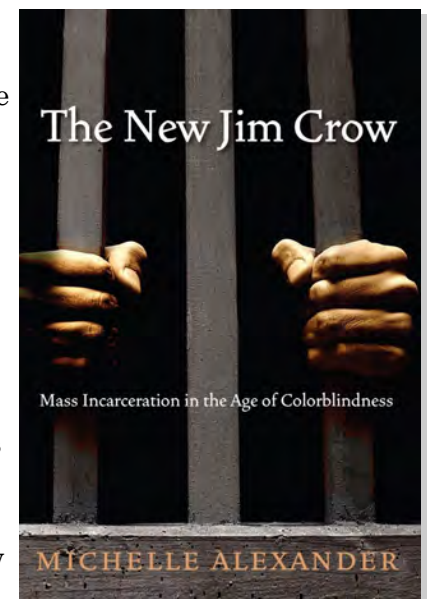
Did you know that the US imprisons a larger percentage of its black population than South Africa did at the height of apartheid? In Washington, D.C., three out of four young black men (and nearly all those in the poorest neighborhoods) can expect to serve time in prison. In some states, African Americans make up to 90 percent of drug prisoners and are up to 57 times more likely to be incarcerated for drug crimes than whites.

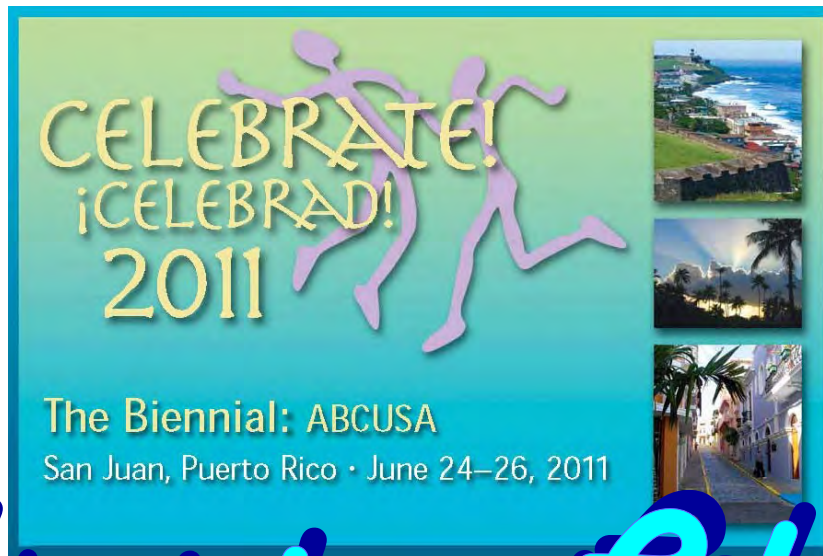
The book goes on to discuss current data from a wide selection of people across the United States, analyzing through six chapters how the system works to perpetuate the status quo. I found chapter 4 to be especially revealing and made me more aware of my own bias in the sub-chapter story, "Gangsta Love". I identify my own son in some of the paragraphs and I made the connection of the act of rebellion—an attempt to carve out a positive identity. Alexander concludes that if a movement emerges to confront mass incarceration, it will have to cure the underlying causes and ills in the society at large, which needs to "cultivate an ethic of genuine care" for every individual, regardless of ethnic, gender, class, immigration status, or any other consideration.

A longtime civil rights advocate and litigator, **Michelle Alexander** was a 2005 Soros Justice Fellow. She holds a joint appointment at the Moritz College of Law and the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in Columbus, Ohio, where she lives. *The New Jim Crow* is her first book.

Read the book and get a better understanding of what the author is sharing with us. Brooke and I discussed the possibility of having a book study later this year on the book and if you need to borrow one for reading, contact us.

~Rhonda H.





*Celebrate!*

*¡Celebrad!*

The last time that the American Baptist Churches held a Biennial in Puerto Rico was in the 1980s. This year, with “Celebrate!” as the theme for the Biennial, there is much for which to be thankful and to rejoice. In fact, the ABC of Puerto Rico – Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico – grew exponentially, now counting over 200 self-supporting congregations and over 50 mission stations throughout the Island. This alone is reason to celebrate! As our Evergreen Region plans to attend the 2011 Biennial from June 24th to 26th in San Juan, I invite you to stay a few more days to explore and celebrate more of the culture, cuisine, and folklore of my homeland. If you are coming to Puerto Rico for the Biennial, make sure to make your plans to return to Seattle on June 29th. As the Biennial gathers to a close on June 26th, the Evergreen family will leave San Juan and journey towards the south of the Island, to the city of Ponce, to experience more closely what Puerto Rico has to offer.

A colonial and a modern city, Ponce offers both a historical and a contemporary view of the people and the culture of Puerto Rico. The city was founded in 1692, and is named after the first governor of the Island, Don Juan Ponce de León. Ponce is also home to one of the few remaining indigenous ceremonial parks, Tibes Ceremonial Park, and the oldest Protestant church building in the Spanish-speaking Americas, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity, where many of the first baptists worshiped while the island was under Spaniard control. But Ponce has much more to offer: the Museo de Ponce houses the largest collection of art in all of the Caribbean; the iconic Fire House has a unique architecture with its red and black stripes; and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the first to be dedicated to this advocacy of Mary outside of Mexico. Sunday nights are bursting with activity at the La Guancha boardwalk, where you can not only experience the calm waters of the Caribbean Sea, but also taste some of the local cuisine and music.

Here is where our group will begin our tour on June 26th, and if time and energies allow, we will end our tour by visiting my parents’ farm in the mountains of the town of Adjuntas, where my mom and dad are already planning a traditional homecooked dinner for our group!

Ponce is about one and half hours away from San Juan through I-52 (Yes, just like Hawai’i, the island of Puerto Rico has Interstate roads).

So if you are planning to stay with the Evergreen group, plan to leave Puerto Rico on Wednesday, June 29th in the afternoon. Contact Clem at the Evergreen office (clemeba@comcast.net / 253.859.2226) and let her know how many people are staying after the Biennial so we may plan accordingly.

I look forward to sharing with you in Puerto Rico!

*Pastor Manny*

# Coming to UBC in April. . .

**Adalia Gutierrez-Schellinger** is a missionary from International Ministries who will be coming to speak to the UBC congregation on **April 16th at 6pm.** Adalia and her husband, Ray, work with the women of the "Dios Con Nosotros" Baptist Convention of Northern Baja California, Mexico. Together with the women of Tijuana, they have begun Deborah's House, a ministry to victims of domestic violence. Deborah's House brings together a diverse mix of services, including crisis intervention, healthcare, shelter for victims, counseling and education for both victims and abusers in these situations. Ray and Adalia also offer workshops to all churches in the region on alternatives to violence, self-esteem, relationship skills, and communication.



Adalia Gutierrez-Schellinger and her family

Deborah's House, in Tijuana, Mexico, provides shelter to women and children fleeing severe domestic violence. But when they're ready to leave, they face a harsh economy that pays less than \$1/hour, demands they work 50-60 hours per week, and offers no child care. Deborah's House alumni want to create a sewing business they run themselves. The women will earn a salary three times higher than factory rates which will allow them to spend more time with their young children.

Come hear Adalia speak about the amazing successes she's witnessed in Tijuana.

Deborah's House, pictured here as it neared the end of construction



Deborah's House, pictured here as it neared the end of construction

# March UBC Calendar

- ◆ Sunday, March 6 - Worship
  - ◆ Wednesday, March 9 - noon - Imposition of Ashes
  - ◆ Wednesday, March 9 - 6:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service
  - ◆ Sunday, March 13 - Worship
  - ◆ Sunday, March 20 - Worship
  - ◆ Tuesday, March 22 - Equality Day
  - ◆ Sunday, March 27 - Worship
- 

The Beacon

University Baptist Church

4731 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Seattle, WA 98105

206-632-5188

[www.ubcseattle.org](http://www.ubcseattle.org)

Minister

*Rev. J. Manny Santiago*

Minister of Music

*Rev. Margaret Paynton*

Interim Office Manager

*Beth Yockey Jones*

All original material © University Baptist Church – Seattle, WA

**Deadline for the April issue is Monday, March 21.** Please send items for the *Beacon* to: [office@ubcseattle.org](mailto:office@ubcseattle.org)

---

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



Printed on 100% recycled paper