

# THE BEACON

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AUGUST, 2011



**Sym-  
pathy  
to the  
Fami-**

**lies of:**

Shirley Blackburn, Norman Gill, Pauline Maton

**Special  
Prayer For:**

Betty Bam-  
brough, Ralph  
Blissett, Dante  
Contri, Anna  
Cuiffetalli, Wal-  
ter Davis, Ruth  
Ellington, Rich-  
ard Garfat, Jay  
Gobble, Sharon  
Goins, Lois  
Goleash, Vesta  
Harnett, Virgin-  
ia Hill, Robert  
Hubbard, , Lila  
Keiser, Eliza-  
beth Lowe,  
Julia Matheis,  
Marilyn  
Reichart, Ginny  
Schwarberg,  
Anna Simpson,  
Barbara Smith,  
Francis Spon-  
sky, Maurice  
Stille, Roy &  
Ruby Tilson,  
Marvin & Doro-  
thy VanDyke,  
Logan Webb,  
Those in the  
Military.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

When I was in seminary, one of the most interesting professors I had described himself as an “unabashed generalist.” (When I got home, I looked up the word “unabashed” and found out it meant 1) Not disconcerted or embarrassed; 2) Not concealed or disguised.) He went on to explain, without bragging or apology, that nearly everything interested him. He was thankful that his particular academic discipline gave him the opportunity to read broadly – unlike, for instance, a professor whose specialty was ancient Ugaritic Manuscripts from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. As it turned out, we were the beneficiaries of our professor’s hungry mind and eclectic interests. Each of his lectures was enlivened by a host of insights gleaned from many fields of study. In short, he was fascinating to listen to, a keen observer, and a careful thinker. And no one wanted to miss one of his classes.

The other thing that set his class apart from all the others was that he asked us to spend the first five minutes in class in total silence. He knew we would be running into class carrying the mental clutter of our crazy/busy lives. He wanted to give us the time to settle down, so we could think; so we could hear ourselves think. The Quakers call it “centering down”. And it worked. By the time he began his lecture, we had caught our breath; stilled the clamor of other intrusive agendas, and were ready to focus on the subject at hand. I’ll be honest, it wasn’t easy at first. Some of us fidgeted and drummed our fingers on our desk top; some used the time to scribble “laundry lists” of things that needed to be done; and a few wondered how much of our tuition money was being frittered away in this imposed quiet time.

But the fact is we grew to love it. For many of us, it was the only five minutes of rest and stillness in our entire day. And I suspect it was no accident that we got so much out of that class. In truth, we began to wish that every class in seminary would afford us the opportunity to set the clutter down and let the quiet in.

Of course, that class was wrapped-up over thirty-two years ago. That professor, God bless him, is no doubt long retired or has joined the Church Triumphant. But I call these old memories to your attention for two reasons. First of all, I realized early on in my pastoral calling that I would have to be an unabashed generalist. Very few pastors have the luxury of being able to focus on just one thing. I have only one pastoral friend whose sole responsibility is to prepare the Sunday sermon. To be sure, several other pastors on his staff take care of weddings and funerals, hospital and home visits, board meetings and committee nights, etc. etc. But this guy’s job description is to study real hard and produce a good sermon. I don’t usually envy him because his opportunities to have pastoral contact with his congregation are drastically limited. And it is hard to be a pastor to people you don’t know or love.

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So I'm glad that preaching isn't the only thing I do. And I'm blessed to have a colleague like Sandi, who is so willing and so able to labor at my side and can take the reins when I'm lying in a hospital bed or walking the beach in sunny Cal – i – forn – i – aay! But all that said, I realized early on that people would come to me with all kinds of questions about all manner of subjects. And I realized how much I don't know about, well, everything. Thus, it was after I graduated and was ordained that I became a serious student. I started studying, and I never intend to stop unless I die or my eyes give out. And what do I study? Well, everything that might be helpful. The Bible, theology, ethics, psychology, philosophy, histories of all kinds, biographies, poetry, politics, social critiques, missions, great works of antiquity, classic novels, early church fathers, and contemporary novels of all kinds. I won't live long enough to get to all the gems I've yet to touch. But I do it because I think I owe you my best effort.

Secondly, you might want to think about that five minutes of quiet, centering—own discipline. Try it before you read your Bible. Try it before you have an important conversation. Try it on Sunday morning before you leave for church or before worship begins. You will be surprised at the difference it will make.

~ Pastor Brent ~

### **Women's Fellowship**

Women's Fellowship will meet Tuesday, August 2 at 6:30 PM in fellowship hall. We will be having a salad supper, so please bring a favorite salad to share. Gerry Clanton will give the open devotion and Janet Kayma will provide dessert. This will be an evening of fellowship, so this would be a good evening for new members to join us. There will be a list of study books to think about for the next Bible study since we are almost through with the current study. Join us for an evening of devotion, prayer time, a salad supper, dessert, and great fellowship!

### **Cookies for Presbyterian Home**



The Small Group Sunday School Class are asked to provide cookies to the Presbyterian Home on Sunday, August 22, 2011. When asked to provide cookies please remember we need eleven dozen cookies to accommodate all the residents at the home.

### **The "1" Group**

On Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, the "1" Group will gather at 5:30 p.m. at MCL Cafeteria on West Wash. I would like to know if you are joining us by Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup>, so I can reserve space. Remember – if you are single, divorced, widowed – and don't like to eat alone, this group is for you. We meet for dinner once a month and have great fellowship together. So, if you are a "1", come join us on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please call or see Sandi.

### **Northside Children's Community Library**

A big THANK YOU to all who shopped at Barnes & Noble in June. It was a big success as we will be able to purchase almost \$600 in books because of your help. We also want to thank those who helped put the shelving up the past two Saturdays. We really feel as if it's going to happen, and very soon. We are hoping to open September 1, but it all depends on a few other factors, so watch your bulletins for the exact date.

If you are interested in finding out more information about this project, whether it be to donate time, books, \$'s, you can talk with Carole Holladay, Sally Hall, Julie Vanderwater, Phil & Bonnie Douglas, Judy Goin, Bob Colwell or Sandi Woodard. We will be more than happy to answer questions and bring you up to date! Also flyers will continue to be available in the Narthex.

## **CAROL'S CORNER REVISITED**

(Nov. 1985)

Disciple means one who follows in Christ's footsteps. A mental image is conjured up in my mind of a child vigorously stretching his short legs trying to place his feet in his father's footsteps – more often than not falling short of a perfect centeredness in the print – but nonetheless striving to place his feet firmly in the direction of those prints.

One cannot keep in step unless one is willing to move. Christ never wants us to remain "in one place." He intends for us to keep making an effort to know Him better; to enjoy Him more; to converse with Him more spontaneously and regularly; to grow in His wisdom.

Are you being discipled or are you discipling? Seek out another who can share his/her biblical insights with you, and vice versa. Become accountable to another for contracts you make between yourself and the Lord. Have an in-depth study of the Bible and Christian books with someone else. Share someone's burdens and concerns in prayer.

Christ sent the disciples out in twos. These pairs were mini-support systems to buoy each other up in times of doubt or trial. Christ will lead you to another person who is making an earnest effort to walk in "his/her father's footsteps."

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:07

Such a commitment to another person is not easy – but is there anything worth having that is?

~Carol Mitchell

### **WIBI Radio presents:**

Comedian Anita Renfroe in person at iWorship Center Springfield North Campus with video simulcast at White Oaks Mall. 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 14, 2011. Group tickets of 10 or more are \$12 a piece. If you would like to see Anita Renfroe, please see Sandi and make your reservation by Aug. 14.



**LADIES,** Registration forms and flyers are now available for the November 4 & 5 Retreat at the Chiara Center. The theme for this fall is "Sea Side Escape:

Where Women Bask in God's Presence. This is a time to slow down, wiggle your toes in the sand, and bask in the warmth of God's presence. We will all experience a meaningful Bible study and worship, connect with other women, and have time for personal quiet reflection and, as always – lots of laughter!! Please pick up a flyer and/or registration form in the Narthex or outside Sandi's office. Deadline to register is October 24<sup>th</sup>. Invite a friend to join you.

### **Movie Night ----**

On Sunday evening, August 7 @ 5 p.m. a potluck will held, followed @ 6 p.m. with the movie "Soul Surfer." Bring your favorite potluck dish and the family/friend to enjoy a meal together, then watch this inspiring movie.

### **MUSIC**

Wednesday, August 3, Adult /Bells and Chancel Choir will resume:

Bells 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Please see Sandi, prior to the 4<sup>th</sup>, if you are interested, but haven't rang or sung before.

### **Congregational Life invites everyone to a**



### **Fish Fry:**

Friday, August 26, 2011 4:00 PM—7:00 PM. Dine in or take out available. Tickets are \$7:00 a person and are available at: A Believers Hair Design 8:00 AM—4:00 PM Tuesday—Friday or Third Presbyterian Church Sunday, July 24—August 21, 8 AM—Noon.

Menu: Fish, Cole Slaw, Cookies,  
Drink (Dine in Only)

**A MISSION IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - VBS (By: Lisa Colwell & Noni Pope)** We have another successful vacation bible school tucked safely into the VBS closet. This year's theme was "Shake It Up Café" where all of our little chefs learned recipes for living God's will. When Noni Pope and I started planning for VBS, we were scared and nervous, wondering why someone had asked us to coordinate VBS. Kudos to all of the coordinators that have come before us for all of their hard work, we didn't know what were getting ourselves into. We were thrilled with the response that we got from the neighborhood, our church children and their friends. Every time a bright new face came in the door and each time they came back, it warmed our hearts. Our little chefs cooked up a lot of fun and learned more about God. The first night of VBS, the kitchen crew prepared 60 meals, we ran out of food and that's with no seconds. The second night of VBS, the kitchen crew planned for more meals and we still ran out of food. From that point on, the kitchen crew made sure that there was always plenty of food; there was always bread and meat in the freezer as a backup. No one left VBS hungry, we were feeding their stomachs and their souls. Each year a mission is selected for the VBS children to focus on so they understand that you are never too young to make a difference. This year the North End Community Children's Library was selected as our mission so the children knew that they could make a difference in their community. We took nightly offerings and the children brought in books to donate to the library, the response was terrific. A \$155 was collected from the offerings and 122 books were collected for the Children's Library. It was amazing to see how the children's faces lite up when they heard the total amount of money and books that they had collected. They were thrilled that could help in such an important project. Noni and I wanted to send out a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this years VBS such a success. We want to make sure that all of our volunteers know how much we appreciated their hard work in making our "Shake It Up Café" such a success. All of your hard work has been our mission trip in our own backyard. Thanks to everyone for the prayers and support throughout VBS. All things are possible in God's name.



### **Northside Children's Community Library**

An update on what's happening. We are excited to report that that shelving is finally up and ready to have books put in place. Now the biggy: You have all been so helpful with your book donations, but now the works begins. We need volunteers to assist in sorting all the books we have received and this will take some time! The first step is to go through all these books, deciding what we can use. Then there will be a second sorting by age and categories; then by authors. So you can see there's a lot to be done. If you have some free time on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday afternoons, or any time on Thursday, we would love to have your help. We'll be sorting downstairs in the library area. If you have been holding books at your home just waiting for the word, you can go ahead and bring them in. But PLEASE, make sure the books are for CHILDREN! We have been getting some "how to" books definitely designed for adults, adult novels, etc. While we appreciate that a lot of people are looking for places to send their used books, please understand that the more books we receive that are obviously for adults, just adds to the sorting time. Then we also have to dispose

of them. We are not your recycling place.

Also, if you have been waiting to sign up to volunteer working at the library, now is the time. We will have a volunteer training session very soon and hopefully you'll be one of those attending. As things look right now, once we open, So if you're interested in volunteering, please give Carole Holladay a call and sign up.

The reality of this project is getting so close to opening and it's very exciting. We hope you are feeling it as well. Keep watching the bulletin and Beacon for further updates.