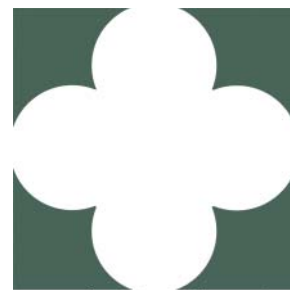


the spire

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May 2017

Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



seattle first baptist



Belle Chenault and the children and families helped us Rise Up! this Easter

Are You Christian?

By Heather Dodge

Christian... After reading some of my friends' Facebook posts over the past several months and years, I am still struck by how much angst this one word can cause. In all reality, it causes me to pause when I hear it used outside of church. I would have to say that I have a measure of prejudice when it comes to this particular word.

I realized how I was affected not long after I started working with my current employer. One of my coworkers, who is a young man (under 30), had asked me conversationally about my weekend. I mentioned the things I was doing and in there said something about church. He immediately became a bit more animated and commented how nice it was to meet a fellow Christian.

At his words, I heard alarm bells and a myriad of questions in my head...what does this mean? What is he assuming about me? What does he know about me? I don't know that I wanted to be publicly labeled as one of "those" – you know – "Christians". Now my co-worker is a very nice and genuine young man. From what I know of him, he is conservative in his views, and enjoys very conservative talk radio programs. He is a very kind person and will lend a hand to anyone who needs it. He does not "preach" his faith, he practices through his actions. I would guess based on conversation, his church is also very conservative in their views. Despite all of these statements and observations, he does not seem to pass judgement on those that are outside of his personal views.

I was hesitant at first to talk about my partner and my life with my co-workers. It's not so much that I wanted to be closeted, but more that I would rather they get to know me before giving them something to pass immediate judgement against me. My co-worker has never said anything negative about my relationship. He has even

gone so far as to say that in his eyes, a committed relationship and marriage is acceptable to him. He treats me no different than other co-workers. Yet, somewhere in the back of my head – 2 years later – I still struggle with that first statement about meeting a fellow Christian.

Why should I want to withdraw when those words are said? I follow the teachings of Christ, well, mostly. I also find myself inspired by meditation and teachings from other faiths and beliefs as well. I learn from what I read, my friends, people I meet. I observe how people interact with one another. Yet, the broad term Christian will cause me to recoil from the label.

I saw very recently a statement about one of my friends, who knows the bible probably better than many clergy, oh weren't you Mormon (as though that means you weren't Christian). In reality, this friend was raised Catholic, was a Baptist, then Mormon and due to his coming out and divorce was then excommunicated and practices no religion at this time. He understands the teachings of the bible and can debate biblical law and passage in a very educated and non-biased way. Yet – there was another sort of assumption of label – being Mormon somehow made him less of a Christian. Which as I write this, I recall other self-proclaimed Christians viewing Mormons as being non-Christian – they were really more of a cult religion.

*See the church fresh courage taking
In proclaiming human worth,
Breaking chains of its own making,
Caring for our Mother Earth.
From the bondage of its prison,
From its stultifying creeds,
Now behold the church is risen
To new life of Christ-like deeds.*

—Rodney R. Romney in *Celebrate the Joy of Easter*

Is it a judgement thing then? Is it because somehow being labeled a Christian gives you a secondary sort of label that makes people who do not attend church or find themselves marginalized by religious doctrine throw up their own barriers and assumptions? We have truly politicized religion to the point that we see different types of Christians and you hear the statements – “oh, I'm not that kind of Christian.”

So what is “that kind of Christian”? Is it one who is judgmental in the name of God? Is it one who “loves the sinner and hates the sin”? Is it my best friend when I was growing up (we were inseparable) who, after a divorce, found faith and became born again announced she could not attend my commitment ceremony? Her reason was that it was against God and if she were there then that might mean she supported my relationship. Mind you, prior to finding her faith, she never had any issues with me and my relationship. Is that kind of Christian the one who hurts in the name of God?

Is it no wonder that I don't want to wear that label? I see being Christian as something to strive toward. I strive toward being less judgmental toward the people I see and encounter. I work toward educating myself about similarities and differences in our humanness. I may not always understand another person's point of view, yet I try to not let it affect my relationship with them. Who am I to tell another what to believe? My friends are from all different faiths. I don't question them about whether or not they are Christian. I accept them for who they are and what they bring to the relationship we have.

Am I a “good” Christian? It all depends on what I and others think a good Christian is. I'm a work in progress. I am human before anything else. I recognize that while it is not my job to judge others, sometimes I do anyway. Do I agree with everything that is in the Bible? No. It is a good book, but it is also just a book. Do I agree with everything that pastors/ministers/clergy say? No. They are good people but that does not mean I must blindly agree with and follow what they teach me.

My path and my way and my labels are my own. I may be Christian (as opposed to Muslim or Jewish or Buddhist or any other religious faith), however being Christian should not come with a default set of assumptions about me. I am many different labels and none of them have an iron clad definition about who I am or should be. In the end, I hope to be judged on my actions, my character, how I treat others and the Earth I live on. I hope that as I pass on to another consciousness that there will be peace there that is not often found here. I believe that we are all equal in the eyes of the universe. I hope for a day that I will not cringe when someone calls me a Christian because it will simply be a word that defines my faith in Jesus as opposed to a myriad of other assumptions about what I believe.

Oh how I hope...

Affirming and Living Our Values

At the March meeting the Diaconate endorsed the following Affirmation of Values. Our Social Justice group led an effort to create the affirmation based on one recently developed for St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral.

The affirmation is intended to work in conjunction with and expand on our Mission Statement. It can be a guiding document and source of inspiration as we make decisions as a congregation. It can tell visitors more of what SFBC is about, and it can challenge members and friends to live our lives in harmony with these values.

As Pastor Tim Phillips stressed at the Diaconate meeting, statements such as this are valuable only when they affect our behavior, what we do as individuals and as a church, how we become living representatives of our every day. The goal

is not to create a set of "perfect" documents, but to live our lives in accordance with following the way of Jesus Christ. What do you think of these values? Do they resonate with you? Are they appropriate for SFBC? How will you implement them in your daily life? Are there things we should do differently as a church? We would like to hear your comments. Please send email to president@seattlefirstbaptist.org, or talk to a member of the Diaconate.

Seattle First Baptist Church Affirmation of Values

Faithful to our Baptist heritage, we strive for a world where people are welcomed regardless of, and with respect for, their religious beliefs; where the separation of church and state is vigorously defended; where freedom is a fundamental right that values the dignity of all persons without regard to their race, country of birth, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, or disabilities; and where compassion is the measure of our actions.

1. **We will go deeper in faith** as we do justice, love mercy, work for peace and walk humbly with God.
2. **We will be present** to one another and our neighbors in our personal relationships and by creating venues for engagement where we can learn about viewpoints different from our own.
3. **We will respect all religions** by learning about the beliefs, values and struggles of our neighbors and by demonstrating support for them.
4. **We will welcome the stranger**, including immigrants and refugees, as our Scriptures instruct. We will explore how to support their causes and advocate for justice, remembering that many of us are the children of immigrants and refugees.
5. **We will actively work to recognize and change our own biases** and to fight racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, ageism and other systemic prejudices.
6. **We will protect our environment** and support preservation programs that are based on scientific data designed to improve our resources, enhance biodiversity, and reverse human-caused climate change.

We affirm these commitments as we continue to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

Join us for a Weekend of Rumi, Gooch, and Raushenbush

Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 14 at 11 a.m.



Paul Raushenbush, Brad Gooch, and their son.

Thanks to funding from the Romney Legacy, we are hosting a very special weekend featuring the author of a new work about the Sufi mystic, Rumi. Praised by scholars Karen Armstrong, Reza Aslan, and Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the recently-published *Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love*, will be presented by author Brad Gooch in a program co-sponsored with Elliot Bay Books on Friday, May 12, at 7 p.m. Following the presentation, Imam Jamal Rahman will offer a response.

Brad is the husband of Paul Raushenbush, who was on the pastoral staff at Seattle First Baptist and is an author and speaker who has worked at Riverside Church, Princeton, and as the religion editor for the Huffington Post. Paul will be preaching at the 11 a.m. service on May 14. Please plan to join us for this fascinating and inspiring weekend. No tickets are required for Friday night but books will be available for sale

This event is made possible by the Romney Endowment Fund, which honors Rev. Dr. Rodney R. Romney, a long-time pastor at Seattle First Baptist. The endowment aims to continue the work and ministry of Rod, who was known

as a peacemaker and contemplative who reached out to those who society often ignored.

Praise for Rumi's Secret

"Extraordinary... Brad Gooch's fine, searching biography, "Rumi's Secret," will fascinate his subject's many admirers. We will never fully know Rumi, but thanks to Mr. Gooch, we know him better." —Wall Street Journal

"An excellent and accessible introduction to the profound and generous mystical vision of Rumi that will give Western readers a much needed insight into the true spirituality of Islam. " —Karen Armstrong, author of *A History of God*

"The poetic words of Rumi have long been an inspiration, though few know much about his life. Brad Gooch has undertaken a meticulously researched labor of love to place Rumi back into his tumultuous time and place in the medieval Islamic world, marking his journey from mystical poet to Sufi saint, and articulating his "religion for lovers" with an interfaith message that speaks across the centuries. Rumi's life in this telling is as compelling as his poetry. Rumi's Secret is a beautiful and relevant book." —Reza Aslan, author of *No God but God and Zealot*

Music Sunday

Love is Love is Love is Love is Love



A musical celebration of sacred love

Sunday, May 21 • 11:00 a.m.

Seattle First Baptist Church • 1111 Harvard Ave. • 206.325.6051

Childcare • Free parking • Freewill offering • www.seattlefirstbaptist.org

Love is Love is Love is Love is Love....

Music Sunday, May 21 at 11:00 worship

By Vicky Thomas

When you think about it, love is pretty much all we sing about in church.

During Lent the choir sang two favorite compositions about God's love for us: *God so Loved the World* and *Greater Love Has No One than This*. On Music Sunday, May 21st, we continue to explore the musical "love connection" between God and humankind and how that connection inspires us and calls us to love others.

Two anthems arranged in the African-American tradition express our love for Jesus: a bluesy setting of *Here's One* and a medley that packs in five wonderful hymns. The text of *Set Me as a Seal* from the Song of Solomon assures us that love is as strong as death. Composer John Rutter's setting of 1 Cor. 13 reminds us that love must be the prime motivator for all our actions: "Though I might give all I possessed to the poor, without love no change is made to what they lacked before."

Two of the "hottest" choral composers working today contribute lush, lyrical pieces. Norwegian Ola Gjeilo uses the inspiration of ancient chant in a composition about love in community. And in three movements from Jake Runestad's *The Hope of Loving*, the choir and string quartet take us on a mystical journey about love to poetry by St. John of the Cross, 8th C. Sufi poetess Rabiya, and 13th C. German theologian Meister Eckhart.

The choir goes on break early this year to accommodate preparation for singing at the American Baptist Churches Biennial in Portland, so make sure to join us for this Music Sunday worship service. And after food for the soul and the ear, there will be food for the body at a luncheon following worship to celebrate my (Vicky Thomas') eleven seasons of service at SFBC.

Invite your friends and come and be inspired to LOVE at a service filled with music!

Celebrating Vicky Thomas

By Jim Ginn



This month we celebrate Vicky Thomas' eleven years as our Director of Choral Music. She is the second longest serving member of the current ministerial and program staff. Thanks to Vicky's vision and tireless leadership our music program continues to be vital and dynamic at a time when choral music is on the wane in many American churches. Throughout the choir season the Sanctuary Choir represents 20 to 30 percent of Sunday worship attendance. But more importantly Vicky's music selections often help provide the spiritual heart of worship. Vicky has inspired and stretched us with a rich diversity of music ranging from renaissance motets to rhythmic world music.

In addition to weekly worship and special services, Vicky has conducted over thirty creative choral concerts accompanied by orchestra and featuring stirring compositions from the old masters to rising star contemporary composers. Our church is known throughout the region for annual concerts devoted to social justice causes. This concert series is one of Vicky's greatest SFBC legacies.

During Vicky's hiring process one of her glowing references confessed that we might sometimes have a hard time keeping up with her driving energy. That has been true from day one, and we have all been richer for it.

Please take a moment to congratulate and thank Vicky for her music ministry. "How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound alleluia." Thank you, Vicky!

Senior Luncheon: Ten Days That Have Changed My Thinking

Sunday, June 4 after worship – Peggy Newsom and Jan Anderson present

By Peggy Newsom

I had always thought of myself as not "prejudiced" and certainly not "racist," but I have recently learned that my culture has imbued me with assumptions that I need to examine. My Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi with a group of 35 interracial and intergenerational companions began with two months of reading assignments and two full days plus 4 evenings of perspective-altering training. By the time we flew to Nashville, we had learned to appreciate and enjoy each other, and by the time we returned to Seattle ten days later we were bonded into a cohesive group. And we are continuing to meet!

In Nashville we learned of the lunch counter sit-ins; at the Highlander Center in eastern Tennessee we experienced the

training where hundreds of Civil Rights workers—white and black—had learned nonviolence techniques in preparation for years of marches and resistance to Jim Crow Laws. Rosa Parks, prior to her 1955 bus ride, had been trained there. Bernard Lafayette and Bob Zellner, who accompanied us on parts of our bus travels, were instrumental in the training of nonviolence. And they both began their resistance activities when they were 20/21, just out of school in about 1960, and they are still actively confronting “white supremacy” and teaching nonviolence. Bernard (who is a minister and has a doctorate from Harvard) has been in jail at least 27 times, and Bob (who is white) was so severely beaten that he almost died on his very first march.



In Montgomery, Alabama, we saw where the slaves were marched in chains to the slave market in the center of town. We also visited the Equal Justice Initiative where a group of lawyers are working to free, or reduce sentences of prisoners for crimes they didn't commit, many on death row. And they have volunteers who are locating lynching sites of the 4,000+ men and women who have been lynched over the years.

In Birmingham we saw the church where four little girls were killed in a bombing, and heard a very descriptive story. We were taken to a wooded lynching site and were told of the tortured murders of three Freedom Summer workers. We learned a lot about the Ku Klux Klan. We visited four universities (Fisk University, U of Mississippi, Jackson State U. and the U of Alabama) and had tours or speakers about racism at each place. We heard the details of Medger Evers' murder and saw his home where he was shot. We visited a Safe House Museum, where Martin Luther King was protected as he rested between his travels; yet he was murdered in Memphis just two weeks after he last stayed there. Our final visiting site was Selma, Alabama on the 52nd anniversary of “Bloody Sunday”, where marchers were severely beaten as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Our group had an early morning Silent March across the bridge and gathered to sing “We Shall Overcome,” before traveling to the airport and home to Seattle.

Note: Cost for lunch is \$5. Please contact the church office to reserve your space.

Rise Up!

Here are a few photos from our *Reimagined* Easter. It was a truly special day, a great finish to our Lenten and Holy Week activities.



Diverse Harmony Joins Us on May 7



Diverse Harmony, the nation's first Queer-Straight Alliance Youth Chorus, will be our special guests on Sunday, May 7. During worship at 11 a.m., Diverse Harmony will sing during the service. They will perform on their own and combined with our Sanctuary Choir.

At 12:30 p.m. that day Diverse Harmony invites you to their annual Recognition Luncheon in Fellowship hall. Join the members of Diverse Harmony to learn more about the chorus, its mission, and the current season. The chorus will sing.

RSVP for the luncheon to Info@diverseharmony.org or (206) 389-5858. There is no charge for the luncheon but the chorus will be asking for donations.

Thoughts on Kathleen Southwick's Retirement

By Richard Lunt

A good showing of church members attended Kathleen's retirement party on April 6. As her husband, I wanted to say a few words and spoke about how lucky I felt to be married to such a wonderful person, also how much Kathleen loved children, and that we had ten grandchildren to now devote more time to, spread from here to France in our extended families.

I was remiss in not adding how lucky I felt by Kathleen's introduction to Seattle First Baptist Church for me in 1998, where through the years I have met so many wonderful people and been heartened and inspired by so many wonderful sermons.

Being a member of this church has changed my life and given me the feeling of belonging to a community of faith and social justice so vital to a meaningful existence. God Bless you all!

A Note from Roxana Harper

Dear SFBC-ers —Your calls, cards and emails during my recovery from knee surgery have meant a lot to me. My surgeon told me at my 6-week checkup on April 18 that I was six weeks ahead of schedule in recovering and that I did not need to see him again until March, 2018! I'll take it! The caveat, of course, is many more weeks of exercises until full recovery, but nonetheless, good news. Thank you all for your continuing presence in my life. Peace, Roxanna Harper

A Dramatic "Thank You"

By Joanne Hjort and Dennis Raymond

From the bottom of our hearts, Dennis and I want to thank Darren Hochstedler, Nancy Roberts-Brown, Patricia Kile, Stephanie Jones, Sandra Jones, Vicky Thomas, Richard Hansen, Arthur Thomas, Chayce Cayenne, Tim Dean, Judy Scott, Paul Felner and all of the SFBC community for the absolutely amazing Retirement Party the evening of April 8.



"I can no other answer make
But thanks
And thanks
And ever thanks!" —W. Shakespeare

Thanks to the performers Karin Besaw, Belle Chenault, Kathy Cooper, Rose Combs, Paul Felner, David Greenhow, Cassia Herman, Darren Hochstedler, Ethan Jones, Sandra Jones, Stephanie Jones, David Kile, Pat Kile, Wendy-Susan Lovejoy, Price Norman, Jean Mattson, Jennifer Nagel, Jaime Patneau, Tim Phillips, Nancy Roberts-Brown, Jack Simpson, Kimberly Thiesen, Glenn Wilhite, Rae Wu and the Zaugg Family. Every single play excerpt and song brought back a flood of laughter, tears and love.

Remembering Clinton McNair and Jerry Keppler

We will be remembering two of our own in the first week of May.

Dr. Clinton McNair, an emeritus professor at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry and a member of the Search Committee that brought Tim Phillips to our pulpit, died on March 16 at his home in Charlotte, North Carolina. A joint service with the STM family and with SFBC will be held on **Wednesday, May 3, at 4:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Attendees are invited to stay for dinner following the service.

Jerry Keppler, founder of a prominent financial services firm, retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel, and avid mountain climber, was seriously injured in tragic bike accident in the city several years ago. He has been cared for by his wife, and our former Parish Nurse, Ann since then. Jerry died of a stroke on April 17. A service honoring Jerry's life will be held on **Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m.** A reception will follow the service.

Civil Discourse: How to Have Meaningful Conversations

By Sandra Jones

In our increasingly polarized political environment, how can we have civil discussions with those with whom we have profound disagreements? On Sunday, May 14, at the 9:30 a.m. Adult Education hour in the Parlor at Seattle First Baptist we will learn from Dr. David E. Smith how to have meaningful, civil conversations with others, by building bridges and not walls between ourselves and those with whom we disagree.

Dr. Smith grew up in the world of fundamentalist religion. As an adult he gradually moved away from that paradigm and became a religious progressive/skeptic. Today his mission is to boldly and respectfully empower people to think for themselves about things that matter.

After earning an M.A. in philosophy of religion, he received a second M.A. and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Formerly a full-time faculty member at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA, he now teaches for the



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Washington and offers independent seminars and non-credit courses in comparative religion and philosophy.

As Baptists there are many values that we hold dear. How do we honor our beliefs and build bridges rather than walls between ourselves and those with whom we strongly differ?

As always, the event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Adult Education Commission and Social Justice Ministries.

More Adult Learning in May

On **May 7**, the final session of the series *Answering the Call: Faithful Service to a Livable Earth* is titled *Faithful in the World: Speaking up for Future Generations*. The program features Michael Foster (Climate Change for Families/Plant-for-the-Planet Tar-sands pipeline valve turner) and Abby Brockway (Faith and Action Climate Team, Delta 5 Oil Train Blockader).

On **May 21**, we will celebrate Music Sunday with a special program about Music in our Lives. It features a guest singer, Gabreilla Mehlman from Joyful! Noise.

On **May 28**, our own Paul Fellner will share his personal story about dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

All sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Parlor.

Young Adult Bible Study

Aaron Burkhalter is hosting a Bible study for Young Adults each month. Please join us in the parlor on the fourth Sunday of the month. In May, we will meet May 28 after church in the Parlor. For questions, please contact Aaron at [aaron.burkhalter@gmail.com].

Children's Library Book Drive Continues

Thank you to everyone for your amazing response to the book drive! Please visit the Children's Library in the parlor to see the new collection of books. We still have books on the wish list to be purchased for the library. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/SFBCbooks> to see what is still available for purchase. Contact Aaron Burkhalter at aaron.burkhalter@gmail.com to let him know what you ordered. Please bring or ship the books to Attn: Children's Library, Seattle First Baptist, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle, WA, 98122.

Holy Rollers, Batman!

Once each month over the years, helping hands from SFBC, Bet Alef, Living Interfaith Church and MAPS have made thousands of burritos - averaging between 400-600 each month. And then taken them into the streets, parks, shelters and encampments to feed hungry people.

May 20, 2017 will be the 48th burrito roll. Four years of filling empty tummies every month. A celebration seems in order.

What better way to celebrate than to roll 1,000 burritos on our anniversary?

You can join the celebration by offering a few hours of service this month. Put on one of the following hats for a few hours: Canny Cook, Hot Prepper, Super Set Up Elf, Holy Roller, Clean Machine and/or Dedicated Distributor. We promise, no rocket science required, just a few companionable hours.

For more details and information on when and how, contact burritoroll1@gmail.com or talk to Kimberly Thiesen, Dante Terminello or Rebecca Alder.



Map Your Neighborhood - A Disaster Preparedness Meeting

By Judy Scott

Thank you to all of you that have expressed a desire to attend a disaster preparedness meeting in response to the friendly reminder letter that was sent last month by Pastor Tim.

The next meeting will take place at:

Saturday, May 13 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mt. Baker Park Presbyterian Church, 3201 Hunter Blvd. South, Seattle, WA 98144

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) is a state-wide disaster preparedness program that empowers neighborhoods to prepare for emergencies and disaster situations. It is a wonderful resource that was designed with every neighborhood, community and individual in mind. MYN is designed to improve disaster readiness at the neighborhood level; urban homes; rural areas and in condos/apartment complexes, office buildings, etc.... MYN teaches neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police, or utility responders arrive.

The reality is that most neighborhoods will be on their own for the first hours following disaster, maybe for as long as three days or even longer! If people have been hurt, if there's a fire, if property has been damaged, the real first responders will be you and your neighbors. Fire, police, medical and 9-1-1 personnel will be overwhelmed dealing with immediate life-threatening demands. Come and Learn the first 9 Steps to take immediately following a Disaster to secure your home and protect your neighborhood. It is hard to think clearly following disaster. These steps will help you quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives. Work together as a team to evaluate your neighborhood after a disaster and take the necessary actions. In a disaster your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you!

I have been working faithfully to encourage preparedness for this imminent threat. It is my belief that it could be just around the corner and that what you do, do quickly. With this in mind, we would again like to urge everyone to please get ready and be prepared. There is no time to delay, get ready now!

MYN Presenters are: Scott & Susan Burbank of Bellevue Presbyterian Church & Chief Randy Krause-SeaTac Fire & Rescue
If you have any questions, please contact Judy Scott at the church office: 206.325.6051.

Save the Date for the Senior Retreat

Tuesday, July 11 – Thursday, July 13, 2017

This summer's Senior Adult Retreat has a theme of *Walking in the Light: Spiritual Disciplines*. As in previous years, it will take place at Rainbow Lodge in North Bend.

Presenters include Cherry Johnson, Bill Malcomson, and Harriet Platts. Watch for more information. Scholarships are available – contact David Kile.

Creativity Expo 2017 – Where Art and Spirit Meet

By Nancy Roberts-Brown

What is involved in the creative process? How do we think about the intersection of spirituality and creativity? These concepts will be explored in the 2017 Creativity Expo – Where Art and Spirit Meet. The expo will take place during the final weeks of October in Adult Ed. classes, Wednesday night activities, and a full weekend of creative expression on October 28 and 29.

This is where you come in. Our planning team eagerly invites the participation of all manner of creative folk. If you are a painter, a potter, a quilter, a cook, a fabric artist, a photographer, a poet, a writer, a singer, a musician, a wood worker, a story teller, a dancer, a jewelry maker, or..... a participant in any other activity through which you express your creative spirit, we encourage you to be involved. Participation would include displaying some of your visual art, performing some of your performance art, and potentially participating in a discussion of your creative process.

If this intrigues you, please email the church office to communicate your interest. Leave your name, your area(s) of creative interest, and your contact information. You may also talk with any member of the planning team, which includes Janet Hasselblad, Doug Beasley, Theresa Pruetz, Pat Kile, David Kile, Cherry Johnson, Dick Johnson, Sandra Jones, Atit Marmer and Nancy Roberts-Brown. Your involvement will contribute to this being a magnificent celebration of creativity within the SFBC community. We look forward to hearing from you!!!

- Theme – The intersection of spirituality and creativity – Where Art and Spirit Meet
- Regarding the intersection of spirituality and creativity: We will pursue this concept through the development of a video, panels at an adult ed. classes on Sundays October 22 and 29, and potentially through the worship service on October 29.

Wednesday Night Happenings in May

Our Community Dinners will go on summer break beginning in late May.

May 17 will be the last Wednesday dinner for this church year. We may have some special programs on Wednesdays over the summer – watch for details. Regular dinners will resume in September.

Before our break, we will have two more Wednesday program. At 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, Daryl de la Cruz will share A Trip to the Philippines.

We also have a program opportunity on May 17. Wider Horizons is having an informational meeting in the Parlor and all are invited to attend. Wider Horizons Village has 75 members who live in Central Seattle. It is a group designed to help Seattle residents age in place. Members range in age from mid-50's to mid-90's and all are fascinating, independent people who want to age in community. Many joined as an extension of a lifetime of citizen activism. Please join them to learn more about this valuable resource [<http://widerhorizonsvillage.org>]. Be sure to join us for both of these programs.

Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents: Eugenie Jones Jazz

May 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Nominee 2017, NW 2016 Vocalist of the Year - Winner 2013 NW Recording of the Year | Vocalist/Composer: classic straight-ahead, original straight-ahead, jazzed-soul, and blues.

Eugenie Jones is described as a performer that makes audiences feel jazz. Vocally described as possessing, "A voice that covers words like pieces of silk covering precious stones," Jones is an emotive, engaging song stylist that entertains, dazzles and decisively wins over audiences. (Charles Mudede)

Reminiscent in style and sophistication of iconic vocalists of the past, Jones sings and scats her way vivaciously through mainstream jazz, but also draws listeners inside contemporary storylines, sharing original tunes that have earned her... recognition as a cleverly gifted lyricist.

Joining Eugenie on vocals are Darrius Willrich on piano, Greg Finegold on bass, D'Vonne Lewis on drums, and Ernesto Padiangco on percussions.

May Calendar of Events

Wednesday, May 3

- 4:30 p.m. Memorial service for Clinton McNair
- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 6

- 2 p.m. Memorial service for Jerry Keppler

Sunday, May 7 Diverse Harmony joins us during worship today

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - *Faithful in the World: Speaking Up for Future Generations* with Michael Foster and Abby Brockway - Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. *Explore!* - Session One - Fridell. This is an opportunity for those who are new to us to learn more about our congregation and to ask those burning questions: Baptist? What? Where? When? How?
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching. Featuring music from Diverse Harmony and our Sanctuary Choir
- 12:30 p.m. Recognition Luncheon and Fundraiser for Diverse Harmony - Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. American Baptist Women's Ministries board meeting - Peacemakers
- 6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents: Eugenie Jones Jazz - Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 10

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Program - *A Trip to the Philippines* with Daryl de la Cruz
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

May 12 and 14 Romney Legacy Weekend with Brad Gooch and Paul Raushenbush, in cooperation with Elliott Bay Books

Friday, May 12

- 7 p.m. Author Brad Gooch will discuss his recent book *Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love*. Imam Jamal Rahman will participate in the program.

Sunday, May 14 Mother's Day

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Mona Hahn from CRB regarding Immigration - Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. *Explore!* - Session Two - Fridell. This is an opportunity for those who are new to us to learn more about our congregation and to ask those burning questions: Baptist? What? Where? When? How?
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Rev. Paul Raushenbush preaching as part of the Romney Legacy Weekend - John 14: 1-14, *Knowing the Way Home*.

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Wednesday, May 17

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall (Note: this is the last Wednesday night dinner for the summer. Activities resume in the fall.)
- 7 p.m. Program - Tentative - Wider Horizons is a group that seniors belong to and they basically help each other live independently as long as possible. The group is having an informational meeting in the Parlor, and anyone may attend. More information is available on their website: <http://widerhorizonsvillage.org>
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - last Wednesday rehearsal for the year

Thursday, May 18

- 7 p.m. Diaconate meets in the Parlor

Sunday, May 21 **Music Sunday: Love**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - a representative from International Rescue Mission - Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Explore! - Session Three - Fridell. This is an opportunity for those who are new to us to learn more about our congregation and to ask those burning questions: Baptist? What? Where? When? How?
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship featuring our musicians and instrumentalists
Following Worship - Lunch for everyone to honor Vicky Thomas and her 10+ years of service as SFBC director of choral music - Fellowship Hall
- 12:45 p.m. Quarterly Meeting Time for all Commissions

Wednesday, May 24

NOTE: No dinner or choir rehearsal on Wednesday night. They resume in the fall.

Sunday, May 28 **Memorial Day Weekend, Ascension Sunday**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Paul Fellner shares his story of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Luke 24.44-53

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

Online Extras

You can still share in the excitement of Holy Week, 2017. *Reimagine! Rise Up!!*

<http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/good-friday-april-14.html>

<http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/easter-sunday-april-16.html>

