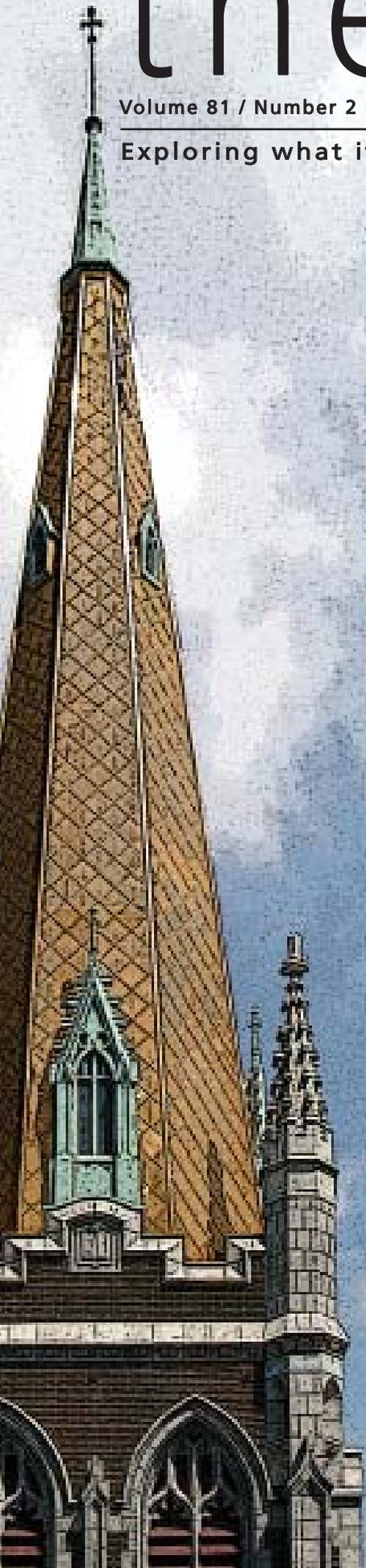


the spire

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Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



The Rev. Sam Townsend (insert below) led a mass choir including many members of the SFBC Sanctuary Choir for the service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One of the choir rehearsals took place in our sanctuary.

Personal Growth On MLK Weekend

By Jim Ginn

"This could not be more different than Seattle First Baptist Church." That was my thought, as I stood alone for the first time in the vast sanctuary of New Beginnings Christian Fellowship with its neutral color scheme and stark design. That moment confirmed what I already knew was becoming a personal growth experience.

On Monday, January 16, members of our sanctuary choir joined with singers from Evergreen Association churches in a 100-voice interracial choir for a worship service celebrating the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Over the previous three weeks the combined choir had rehearsed with the Rev. Sam Townsend. We sang. We laughed. We prayed. We learned. Never once did we look at a sheet of music. Rev. Sam taught us the music one line at a time in the African American call and response style. That challenge was just the beginning of my growth experience.



At the conclusion of the second rehearsal Rev. Sam informed us that we would memorize all three verses of the Black American

National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing". When you memorize a poem, you can't help but take the words to heart. And powerful words they are. "Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died..." Such pain! "Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray." Such hope and devotion. More growth.

After rehearsal the Saturday before the service, many of us participated in an event called "Tough Talks". A talented young drama group shared a short play that offered a symbolic look at how our culture neglects and dismisses whole groups within our society. Following the presentation we broke into small discussion groups to dig deeper. Through dialog we began to see and hear each other at a more meaningful level. Yet more growth.

As the crowds gathered for the MLK service, the choir began to sing over and over, "Holy Spirit, You are welcome in this place". We swayed. We gestured with open hands. Our voices were shouts of joy. The energy level increased as the service progressed. Then the Rev. Dr. Leslie David Braxton got up to bring the message. He began so softly that I had to strain to hear him even though he stood less than ten feet away. Over the course of an hour, in a steady crescendo, Dr. Braxton reminded us of the long, painful struggle for civil rights, and he challenged us to recommit ourselves to the cause of social justice in this politically precarious time as forces of bigotry appear to be regaining strength. For the first time in my life, this introverted preacher's son found myself calling out in response to Dr. Braxton's thundering words, "We shall overcome, not someday, but today. Fight on! Fight on! Fight on!"

The service concluded as we sang these hopeful words, "When your light touches my light, That's enough light, To take away the darkness of the world." And there it is. Yes, we are beautifully, wonderfully different. And we are called to join together to bring about hope, peace and justice in the world. May it be so!

Plan for the Interim

By Pastor Tim Phillips

With the leaving of Ned Allyn Parker at the beginning of January 2017, there has been much discussion about a ministry plan for the interim pastor. It is clear that an interim will be required for the continued smooth operation of the church, since otherwise our pastoral team will be critically reduced from two full-time and one quarter-time staff to only one full-time and one quarter-time pastoral staff. While there has been money budgeted for a full-time interim member of the pastoral team, it seems overwhelming to take on yet another search (even for temporary staff) and to introduce and coordinate the work of a new staff pastor.

In conversation with the Personnel Commission and with the Diaconate, we have created a plan that combines volunteer and part-time interim staffing for what we hope will be a five-month process of hiring a new full-time member of the pastoral team. This plan identifies general tasks that relate to Ned's job description and envisions some of the possible responsibilities of the new job description. This is, in other words, an interim *plan* rather than an interim *person* that will, we hope, position us for work with a new Associate Pastor in ministry with Women and Families.

Learn More about Racism during February

We have a number of opportunities to learn more about race and racism during the month of February.

In Adult Learning, we will engage in Sacred Conversations on Race at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays in the Parlor throughout the month. Joanne Wright and Lynn Gaertner-Johnston will lead the sessions. They have participated in and led sacred conversations on race in the past, and have attended anti-racist training programs and have committed themselves to anti-racist work. Topics for the month are as follows:

- February 5: Defining Race and Racism.
- February 12: Identifying Racial Stereotypes That Perpetuate Institutional (Systemic) Racism.
- February 19: Deconstructing Racial Slights and Insults.
- February 26: Determining Next Steps in Dismantling Racism.

See our website for more information: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/adult-learning.html>

Our partners at Bet Alef Learning Institute are presenting another program: What Does It Mean To Be White? Seeing the Water; Whiteness in Daily Life. This will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 26 in the SFBC Sanctuary. The session will ask: "What does it mean to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless yet is deeply divided by race?"

Dr. Robin DiAngelo will describe the way race shapes the lives of White people, explain why racism is so hard for White people to see, and identify White racial patterns that prevent us from moving toward racial equity. Weaving information, analysis, stories, images, and familiar examples, Dr. DiAngelo provides the framework needed to develop white racial literacy. Although the focus is on white racial identity development, people of color may also find the analysis valuable as it is one that is rarely affirmed or provided in mainstream society.

Bet Alef requests a minimum donation of \$18 to cover expenses for the program. Scholarships are available for SFBC members – contact the SFBC office if you wish to have a scholarship.

For more information and to register for the event, visit the Bet Alef website at: <http://www.betalef.org/learn/bali/seeing-the-water-whiteness-in-daily-life/>

CHILDREN, FAMILY & YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Our commitment is that the outstanding work Ned has done will continue and deepen during this interim period. With the leadership of the Children, Family, and Young Adult Commission, volunteers are ready to step in.

Coordinating Children's Programming: Patrick Green is volunteering temporarily to coordinate this. There is already a schedule of Times with Children in worship and Patrick – and others – will work with our two paid staff working with the children in Sunday School. This coordination will also include making decisions about when nursery staffing is necessary. Belle Chenault will continue our growing children's music program. Susan Blythe-Goodman will continue working with our youth. There is an ongoing possibility that we may find someone on a very part-time basis to lead Sunday School using the Godly Play model and there is room in the personnel budget to do so if that becomes a reality.

Family Fellowship Hour on Sundays before worship: Megan Walker and Russ Kaake will help coordinate this.

First Sunday Young Adult Lunch following worship: Danny Wilks will help to coordinate lunches.

Young Adult and Family connections: Linda and Mike Zaugg will help keep these connections and the young adults and families are working together to stay in contact.

PASTORAL CARE

David Kile (focusing on Seniors) will continue to share responsibilities for pastoral care and Harriet Platts (see related article) will join the pastoral team as a part-time Interim Pastor during this interim period. Her background in chaplaincy and her participation in our life together will be a very good fit for us. Others have offered to help in this area as well and the pastoral team will call on them as needed.

PREACHING & WORSHIP

Tim Phillips will continue to have primary responsibility for planning worship and preaching. Patricia Hunter will continue in her role as Theologian-in-Residence and will preach, teach, and assist in worship as her time allows. Harriet will also be assisting in worship and preaching from time to time. We also plan to continue the pattern of inviting other members of the congregation to help lead us in worship.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

This time will provide an opportunity to explore possibilities for women's ministry and programming. With Harriet and Patricia on the pastoral team, we intend to continue conversations about this in conjunction with the search committee seeking our new pastor.

COMMISSIONS

Staff liaisons for the Commissions will generally remain as they are. Tim will stay connected to CFYA; Harriet and David are currently working with Adult Learning; Darren is staff liaison for Church Home Operations, Stewardship, and, with Tim, Personnel; Vicky, Belle, and the new organist are staff for Music Commission. Tim will remain the liaison for Outreach, Membership and Engagement, and Worship.

Questions or comments about this plan can be directed to the Personnel Commission: Co-chairs, Cynthia Per-Lee and Dick Miller. Members of the commission are Karen Carlos, Mark Jensen, Joyce Phillips, Sara Tollefson, and Leroy Johnson.

Introducing Harriet Platts

Harriet, who is beginning an interim role on our pastoral staff, has made the Pacific Northwest home since moving here in 1996 from N. Carolina where she grew up. She describes herself as a cradle Baptist, having been raised in a supportive Southern Baptist church, one that was ordaining women as deacons in the late 1970s. As she says, it was really only until she arrived at seminary in the early 1990s when the fundamentalist movement was well underway in the Southern Baptist denomination, that she became aware of rampant sexism in the church, and was faced squarely with explicit messaging from denominational leaders that women were not qualified to hold senior leadership roles in the church. Naturally, this was confusing, heart breaking and enraging, the suggestion that she and other women had misheard God's calling. She excelled in counseling and pastoral care, and pursued training as a healthcare chaplain. Following seminary, she did her chaplain residency at Duke University Medical Center before being hired by Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center as a staff chaplain in 1996. She has also served at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and most recently at Group Health Hospice.

Harriet works to nurture relationships and create spaces for personal/communal reflection. Her style of care and engagement reflects her energetic curiosity about life, ideas and how people make meaning of their experiences. She's a Certified InterPlay leader and enjoys engaging with photography and writing as she continues to nurture her connection with the natural world as an urban quester.



She cares about individuals and group bodies going through transition. As a chaplain she is practiced at providing a steadied presence, and supporting folks in remembering their sources of strength while accessing their inner resources to help them through their struggle.

In the last couple of years at Seattle First, she has volunteered on the Christian Education Commission, the Interfaith Climate Action Group, and has been singing in the choir.

She's married to Frederick Davis and claims her status proudly as step-mother and grand mum to 5 grand kids of the Davis clan. Her parents, Paul and Shirley Platts, reside in N. Carolina, along with her brother, Kingsley and his family.

Administrator's Corner

By Darren Hochstedler

The vast majority of *Spire* Newsletter subscribers receive their *Spire* electronically or read it on our web site. We still have about 160 people who receive the *Spire* through the mail. Those who receive it through the mail will be receiving a letter around the middle of February. This letter invites you to consider receiving it electronically. We are happy to continue to mail it to you if that is your preferred choice. There is a postage paid self-addressed envelope in the mailing. Please respond letting us know that you read it and would like to continue to get it through the mail, you would like to sign up to receive it electronically or no longer wish to receive it at all. This will help us make sure everyone who wants it continues to receive it while saving trees, postage and staff time sending mailings that are not read. Thank you for helping keep SFBC an environmentally responsible community.

How to Feel God's Presence with Us Always

By Jean Reges Burn

It once was popular to post a sign on your desk that read THINK! If that sign read KNOW, it would remind us that God's presence is always with us, in the midst of chaos, crowded subways, in war, and in the home.

I experienced rejection, displacement (losing a home, leaving a life work behind), poverty, homelessness, and was raising a family of six children. During that entire time, I never felt abandoned by God's presence. Later, people asked me "how did you get through it all? Did you stop and pray?" I didn't have time to stop and pray, I had to KNOW and trust.

There was one day as despair tried to take over my thoughts when I experienced something I can hardly find words to describe. A shaft of light burst through a window onto my face and I heard a voice telling me that all would be well. From that moment on, our circumstances improved and my children and I emerged from the depths to a better life.

I liked the TV show *Joan of Arcadia* because God often spoke to Joan through different people. Once it was a child, one time a school janitor, once a homeless person.

We should be knowing, expecting and receptive to God in whatever form it manifests itself to us.

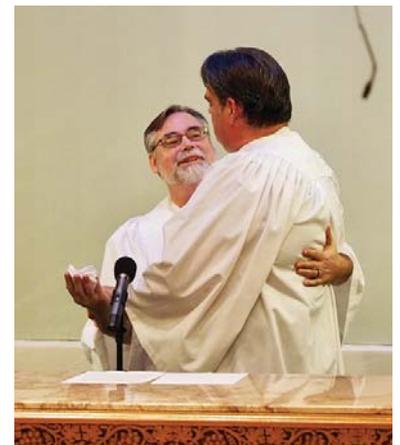
Reimagining Church

By Jim Segaar

Sometimes seemingly unrelated events conspire to take on a greater meaning than one might expect. Carl Jung called this "synchronicity." That was certainly the way I felt during the recent *Women's March on Seattle* when a pair of bald eagles leisurely soared over the crowd for several minutes. That moment amplified deep feelings of hope and community that the march expressed to many of us.

Another case of synchronicity is building up this winter and spring at Seattle First Baptist around the word "reimagining." Its roots are in Pastor Tim Phillips' work on Evolutionary Theology/Revolutionary Worship, and Cherry Johnson reinforced it by naming the Adult Learning Lenten Series she will lead "Reimagining Easter." That prompted the staff to make "Reimagining Lent" our Lenten theme. I heard more echoes of the same ideas on Sunday, January 22 when Paul Rohrbach shared his faith story during his baptism. He told us how his faith crumbled in the wake of the massacre of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, but was renewed when he found Seattle First Baptist.

Paul's words reminded me of a book I am reading, *Anatheism* by Richard Kearney. It is subtitled *Returning to God After God*. Kearney writes about "a second kind of faith, a faith beyond faith in a God beyond God." Sometimes God must "die," he writes, so that there is room for a new faith beyond the God that died, perhaps even faith in a new understanding of God. All this made me think of my own faith



Pastor Tim Phillips baptizes Paul Rohrbach on Annual Meeting Sunday.

journey. In the midst of the AIDS crisis, rejecting the omnipotent “Father God” I was raised with allowed me to make room for a suffering God that I first read about in Rabbi Harold Kushner’s book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*.

And all this synchronicity has me thinking about our church, Seattle First Baptist. Many of us have found a “church after church” here, a place where we can embrace our doubts and explore the mysteries of life together, a place where we are free to be who we could not be at other churches. What does it mean to find God after God, or to be a Church after Church? Perhaps one way to answer questions like these is to reimagine, to examine our beliefs and traditions anew, to discard some and question others, to come to a new understanding, a renewed faith, a tradition that makes sense for us and our world.

Now I don’t claim to know what Cherry means when she says “Reimagining Easter,” and I may not understand Paul’s faith story the way he intended it to be understood, and I’m not at all sure what the staff will come up with as we “Reimagine Lent.” But synchronicity has me hoping and praying that you will join us, and dare to reimagine faith and church in the coming months. Perhaps together we can develop a better understanding of what kind of church we need, what kind of church our world needs, what kind of church we are and will strive together to be. We might even be surprised where we find ourselves as we continue exploring together, doing our best to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

An Opportunity to Affirm Human and Environmental Rights in a Time of National Division

By Sandra Jones and Jeanne Dorn

Over the last year the deep divisions in our country have become evident, in part due to the presidential race. Given the many sexist, racist, anti-immigrant, anti-environmental and anti-public health statements by the Electorally-chosen President, many Americans fear for their basic human rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In this time, many here at Seattle First Baptist are speaking out in defense of marginalized citizens and the “voiceless” environment. Our history and Baptist Freedoms both urge us and empower us to draft a public Affirmation of Human and Environmental Rights statement for Seattle First Baptist Church.

If you wish to help draft this Affirmation for the congregation’s review and potential endorsement, join Sandra Jones, Samara Hoag, Paul Roby, Darla O’Brian, Phil Mortenson and Jeanne Dorn. Contact Sandra Jones (contact information available from the church office). We plan to begin our work by mid-February 2017.

Related to this proposed Affirmation, we provide food for thought in the form of some congregational history:

- In 1943, we protested the internment of Americans of Japanese descent, and during WWII continued to speak out against this from the pulpit.
- Beginning in the early 1980’s, our senior pastor led the congregation in welcoming and affirming the LGBT community, and when same sex marriage became legal in Washington State, we performed a mass wedding ceremony for dozens of same-sex couples.
- Beginning in the early 1990’s we called for and extended ourselves for our environment through education, action and concerts. The Earth Charter was signed in 2004 by dozens of congregation members. In 2015 we formed the Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill group.
- We have provided or funded food and resources to low-wage workers and homeless families and shelter for battered women.
- We have consistently defended those with mental health issues and needs.

St. Mark’s Cathedral Vestry created their own statement of commitment in defense of the rights of all Americans. You can see it here: [<http://www.saintmarks.org/serve/volunteer/governance/renewing-our-covenant>].

Welcome Erica Giegler Miles



Our newest member, Erica Giegler Miles (pictured right,) was introduced to the congregation by Linda Zaugg on Annual Meeting Sunday, January 22. Erica is a therapist and supervisor in the counseling department of Seattle Pacific University. She and her husband Tony are avid kayakers and she enjoys reading, jewelry making and traveling. She was attracted to SFBC because of our spirit of inclusion and our mission of social justice. She and Tony will be spending May and June in France on a sabbatical. Welcome, Erica!

Our 147th Annual Meeting

The Congregation of Seattle First Baptist had its Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 22. A wide range of business was conducted, and several awards and "thank yous" were presented.

Jane Herness and Phil Mortenson were presented Volunteer Recognition Awards this year. Both have long histories of involvement at SFBC. The congregation also thanked outgoing President Sue Ross, who received a standing ovation.

A complete slate of officers and church leaders was elected. Jim Singletary will be President and Don Phillips will be the new Treasurer. Marsha Ulmer will continue as Secretary, as will Sue Tollefson and Muriel Cashdollar as Members at Large of the Diaconate. Jeanne Dorn will serve as interim Vice President while Harriet Platts serves as an interim member of the pastoral team. Harriet will assume the vice presidency when her interim assignment is complete.

A Search Committee was elected to find a new Associate Pastor to replace Ned Allyn Parker. The nine members hope to have a candidate identified by June. The congregation approved a change to our bylaws so that Pastor Tim Phillips can serve as a member of the Search Committee.

Outgoing Treasurer Metta Williams reported that we ended 2016 with a small budget surplus of \$13, 579. The budget for 2017 was approved in the amount of \$1,136,500. The congregation thanked Metta for her many years of faithful service.

Thank you to all our church leaders for helping keep Seattle First Baptist running as a vital church, and thank you to all the members and friends who attended the Annual Meeting. The 2016 Annual Report is available on our website: http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/uploads/2/6/4/3/26431234/annual_report_2016.pdf



Outgoing President of the Congregation Sue Ross introduced Jim Singletary, the incoming President, at our Annual Meeting.

An Advent Thank You

By Stephanie Jones

The Worship Commission wants to express their gratitude to each of you who so willingly pitched in to put up and take down the Advent decorations and tidy up the sanctuary. A special thanks to Patrick Green for once again spearheading the Advent decorating, to Bob Sittig for constructing our very own little town of Bethlehem, and to Sterling Morris and Jim Ginn for filling the sky with stars.

ABW Happenings

By Imogene Williams

Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy.

Many of us loved "Little Women" and the books of Louisa May Alcott! It's not too late! You can pick them up in your closest library! On Tuesday, February 14 our Resident Historian Jean Burn will take Friendship Circle into the life and times of Louisa May Alcott. You are invited to dinner at 5:30 p.m. in Fridell Lounge. Come early to roll bandages at 4:15 p.m.

At the February meeting Catherine Fales showed slides of the trip to Israel. We saw the wall of the ancient temple where the Jews pray. We saw the Sea of Galilee and people lined up to be baptized in the Jordan River. We talked about Israel and Palestine. It was stimulating and inspiring. We also learned that Israel is on the flyway for 800 species of birds and there are protected areas where they rest.

On Sunday, March 5, blankets will be collected at church for distribution to those in need. Please plan now to contribute.

Organist Search Update

A search committee for an Organist to replace Michelle Horsley has been hard at work through the holidays and in January, and has identified three finalist candidates. Each of these musicians will play for a service at Seattle First Baptist in the coming weeks, and the search committee plans to make its selection in mid-February. Thank you to Margaret Norton-Arnold, who is the chair, and to the entire search committee for your hard work on our behalf.

Diverse Harmony Queer Bingo

Come and support the work of Diverse Harmony by joining the fun at Queer Bingo this coming Saturday, February 4

at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Hosted by the drag group ETHEL!!, this event promises to be great entertainment and you could win a prize as well. Tickets are available from Brown Paper Tickets or through a link on the Diverse Harmony website. Proceeds from this event benefit the youth of Diverse Harmony.

Lydia Flora Barlow to Preach at SFBC

Last year Seattle First Baptist had the honor of hosting a Commissioning Service by the American Baptist Home Mission Society of Lydia Flora Barlow, who works with those in prison and with families and communities impacted by incarceration. We now have another opportunity to hear her speak. Lydia will preach here on Sunday, February 19. Join us to be inspired by this dynamic woman who has dedicated her life to the service of others.



Rev. Susan Chorley Speaks at SFBC in February



Rev. Susan Chorley and Rev. Curtis Price at First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City. Photo courtesy of exhaleprovoice.org.

Rev. Susan Chorley will share her own story as a mother who has had an abortion when she speaks at Seattle First Baptist at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22. An ordained Baptist minister, Rev. Chorley has long connections with SFBC. She is the co-founder of Exhale, an organization that addresses the emotional health and wellbeing of women and men after abortion by providing and promoting emotional support across a dynamic landscape of private and public spaces, online and offline.

Susan, who recently shared her story in *Parents Magazine*, will speak about the experience of her family (son Franz and ex-husband Frank) and their feelings of being abandoned and shamed. She leads a movement beyond politics to share the stories of those who have had this experience in the hope that people will "feel they can bring their whole selves to church."

Rev. Chorley recently spoke at First Baptist Church in Salt Lake City. Pastor Curtis Price had these comments:

"Rev. Chorley's honest reflection and willingness to be vulnerable is a testament to her faith and to how much she believes that the church can and will be a place where women can turn to receive love, support, nurture and acceptance for women who have had abortions. She calls us in the church to live into our highest ideals by demonstrating to us what grace looks like and how it has been her salvation, but also how the church has, at times, failed to be there when needed the most. Susan's gift for preaching and powerful

message make a lasting impact on anyone who comes to hear what the spirit is saying through her."

More information about Exhale is available at their website: <https://exhaleprovoice.org>

Disaster Preparedness Meeting Opportunity

Saturday, February 18 - 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Mt. Calvary Christian Center, 1412 23rd & Union, Seattle, WA 98122

By Judie Scott

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!

World Interfaith Harmony Week

Seattle University invites us to a banquet as part of World Interfaith Harmony Week, which has a theme of "Can Silence Speak In a Noisy World?" The banquet is Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Student Center 160 at Seattle University. Tickets are \$10, free for all students. Registration is required for all attendees, and is available online at: <http://interfaithharmony2017.eventbrite.com>

Dinner conversation will feature speakers from four faith traditions:

- Ahlaam Ibraahim, an undergraduate student at the University of Washington and creator and founder of Global Islamophobia Awareness Day.
- Ashlee Williams, a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership Program at the School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University.
- Eve China, a high school student with Kids4Peace, and Student Leadership Board member at the Holocaust Center for Humanity, and
- Diana Tomhave, Program Coordinator at Seattle University's Indigenous Peoples Institute.

The event is sponsored by the Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry in partnership with Kids4Peace.

Companion Training with Kae Eaton

Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Training is free. Lunch is provided.

Seattle First Baptist Church will host a companion training workshop led by Kae Eaton of Seattle Mental Health Chaplaincy. The workshop is open to anyone wishing to serve homeless individuals, those experiencing mental illness and those with chemical dependency.

Companionship is designed to encourage compassionate awareness for people struggling within our neighborhoods and communities of faith. The training develops skills to listen consciously with openness, along with awareness of limits and boundaries. This helps to ease the isolation the people feel. Learn how to integrate Companionship into your faith community with your church officers, ushers, social justice teams, the SFBC Companion Ministry members and staff.

Kae Eaton is Chaplain and Executive Director of the Seattle Mental Health Chaplaincy. She works with individuals and families experiencing mental illness and/or homelessness throughout the Pacific Northwest. Kae's trainings support both faith-based and secular communities who interact with disadvantaged people through on-site hospitality and outreach. She holds a Master's Degree in Theology, Psychology Counseling and Spiritual Direction from the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. She is a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle.

Registration is required for materials and lunch planning. Call the church office at 206-325-6051 to register.

Seattle Jazz Vespers - "Cup of Joe"

The Steve Griggs Ensemble will perform this tribute to Joe Brazil on February 5, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Reprinted from The Seattle Times, Paul de Barros, Seattle Times Jazz Critic

"For the past three years, Seattle jazz saxophonist Steve Griggs has been combining his considerable skills as a musician, journalist and historian to produce "Songs of Unsung Seattle," which mix original music with historical exposition."

"Past inspirations have been the Chinatown International District's Panama Hotel, Chief Seattle and sculptor James Washington."

"The latest "Unsung Seattle" installment illuminates the life and work of the late saxophonist and teacher Joe Brazil, a popular activist whose failure to earn tenure at the University of Washington in 1974 sparked student protests and whose Black Academy of Music had a profound effect on many Central Area musicians." Joining Steve Griggs on sax are trumpeter Jay Thomas, vibraphonist Susan Pascal, bassist Phil Sparks and drummer Milo Petersen.

February Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Feb. 1

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Feb. 4

- 7 p.m. Queer Bingo fundraiser sponsored by Diverse Harmony. At Seattle First Baptist. Visit www.DiverseHarmony.org for information and a link to tickets on Brown Paper Tickets.

Sunday, Feb. 5 **Fifth Sunday in Epiphany**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Sacred Conversations on Race with Lynn Gaertner-Johnston and Joanne Wright - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Matthew 5.13-20 (light of the world)
Following Worship - Young Adult Super Bowl Party
- 6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers - "Cup of Joe Brazil" - Tribute by the Steve Griggs Ensemble - Sanctuary

Wednesday, Feb. 8

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Feb. 11

- 2 p.m. Memorial Service for Autumn Franger - Sanctuary. Reception to follow.

Sunday, Feb. 12 **Sixth Sunday in Epiphany**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Sacred Conversations on Race with Lynn Gaertner-Johnston and Joanne Wright - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching
Following Worship – Quarterly Lunch and Meeting Time for all Commissions
- 12:45 p.m. Young Adult Women's Lunch - meet at the church office and go to Jimmy's
- 4 - 6 p.m. Labyrinth - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 15

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 16

- 7 p.m. Diaconate meets in the Parlor

Sunday, Feb. 19 **Seventh Sunday in Epiphany**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Sacred Conversations on Race with Lynn Gaertner-Johnston and Joanne Wright - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, Feb. 22

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Program - Rev. Susan Chorley, who has long connections to Seattle First Baptist and is co-founder of Exhale, will share her story from Parents Magazine as a mother who has had an abortion.
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Feb. 26 **Transfiguration Sunday**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Sacred Conversations on Race with Lynn Gaertner-Johnston and Joanne Wright - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Matthew 17.1-9 and the dedication of John Mason Beasley

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Leaders Retreat on Vashon Island

By Jim Segaar

About 20 lay leaders and staff of Seattle First Baptist Church gathered at Camp Burton on Vashon Island on January 27 and 28 for our annual Leadership Retreat. Jim Singletary, president of the congregation, and team led the participants through a meaningful time of sharing, discussion, meditation, singing and worship.

Participants gathered in the comfortable, cozy Retreat Center and shared delicious meals in the dining hall. The program started on Friday night with participants getting to know each other and sharing highlights of the 2016 Annual Report. Time was also allotted to fun and snacks.

Saturday's agenda included discussion about the Plan for the Interim worked out by Pastor Tim Phillips and the Personnel Commission. See the related story in this issue of the Spire for details of that plan. A group exercise and follow-on discussion also focused on the Postcard for the Future, which was put together by a strategic planning group two years ago. Leaders indicated which items they think we have yet to start, which are underway, and which are finished.

The gathering was not all about business. Harriet Platts and Jim Ginn led the group in music, including songs of meditation and some favorite hymns. Harriet also led a walking, standing, and leaning meditation. The closing worship featured lighting candles and sharing gifts and needs.

Thank you to Jim Singletary and team for planning a meaningful, relaxed retreat, and to all the participants who will help guide our church in the coming year.



Online Extras

Annual Meeting Sunday was very active at Seattle First Baptist. We have lots of photos from the event on our website, as well as the Year In Review video that was part of the meeting.

We also have photos of several members of our community at the Women's March on Seattle. Check it out! <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/recent-happenings.html>