

MIDWEEK MESSAGE

April 24, 2013

Words to Consider: *"God's glory is at work in all things. Everything that exists, exists because it is held, sustained, enlivened by God's wisdom and God's power. The Word of God who is God, God expressing himself towards his creation, wills at all times to work the mystery of his embodiment."*

A. M. Allchin

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH** on **Thursday, April 25 at 10 AM**. All women of our church community are invited to meet in the Patio Room at Country Gourmet Restaurant, 2098 West El Camino Real (at Rengstorff) in Mountain View. Please join us.
- ❖ **CHOIR REHEARSAL** this **Thursday, April 25**, in the Parlor.
- ❖ **SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 10 AM** Worship, *"What's on the Menu?"* and Sunday School for children and youth. **11:30 AM, Adult Spiritual Formation will be a report from the American Baptist Seminary of the West**, featuring the Reverend **Robert A. Wilkins** President and Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA of the East Bay. Rev. Wilkins graduated from ABSW (Covina Campus) in 1988 and currently serves as a trustee of the ABSW and Chair of the Committee on Seminary Relations. In addition, he is a trustee of the Graduate Theological Union. He is a noted lecturer on non-profits and educator in contemporary religion and biblical literature. He is also a member of the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church in Oakland.



Our **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR APRIL** will raise funds for **scholarship aid for students at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley**. ABSW has been nurturing and inspiring generations of men and women to respond to their call to Christian ministry. Our goal of **\$750** for a student scholarship will assist a needy student to complete his/her education with a minimum of debt. The American Baptist Home Mission Society matches these funds. Please give generously. To date we have received **\$738** toward our goal.

- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, April 30**, at the home of Thelma Parodi, 543 South El Monte Avenue, Los Altos, at **10:30 AM**. Let Pastor Rick know if you need a ride.

- ❖ **MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8:00 AM, Wednesday, May 1,** at Hobe's Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. All the men from our Church family are welcome.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

International Maritime Center; 4001 — 7th Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2013 Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"Take a Closer Look...and see the Interfaith family practicing 'sacred hospitality' at The International Maritime Center: SCI-Bay Area – Episcopalian, AOS-Roman Catholic, SMGG-American Baptist, ELCA, Korean Presbyterian"

RSVP: Adrienne Yee (510) 844-1130 by Monday, April 29th

PCBA Spring Conference 2013

The Promises and Perils of Leadership: Strengthening and Sustaining Those Who Lead

Saturday, May 11, 2013

8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church

3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA

Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Executive Director, American Baptist Churches Ministers Council,
Conference Leader

Workshops –

Fostering Effective Leaders, *Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson*, Executive Director, American Baptist Churches Ministers Council

Leadership from the Pulpit, *Rev. Dr. Allison Tanner*, Minister of Christian Formation, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist

Challenges to Ministerial Leadership, *Rev. Dr. Paul Martin*, President, American Baptist Seminary of the West

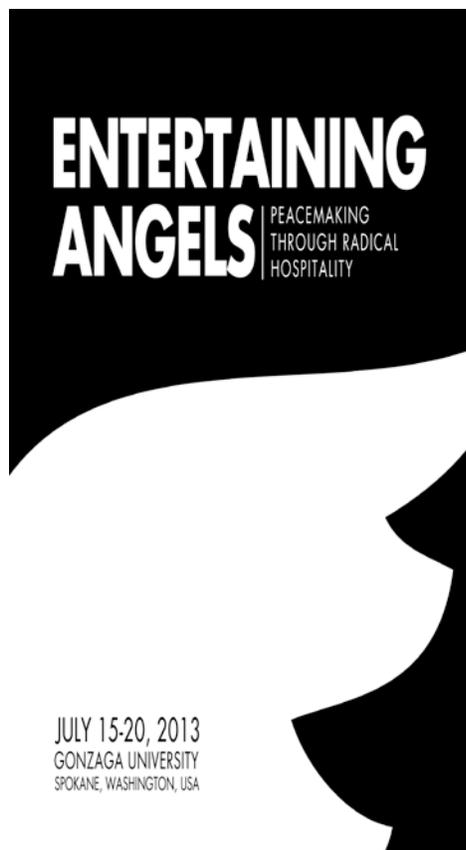
Mission Summit – Setting ABC Priorities, *Rev. Donald Ng*, Senior Pastor, First Chinese Baptist, San Francisco, Vice-President, ABC/USA

Practicing Shared Leadership: Consensus as a Shared Leadership Practice, *Rev. Michelle Holmes*, Vice President/CFO, American Baptist Seminary of the West

Resolving Conflict among Church Leaders, *Rev. Dr. Dayle Scott*, Former Pastor, Regional and National Education Leader

Nurturing Leadership, *Rev. Karen Yee*, Associate Pastor, New Life Christian Fellowship; English-speaking Pastor, Iu-Mienh Friendship Baptist Church

Registration: \$ 25 by April 30; \$30 on or after May 1



Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

Summer Conference 2013

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" Hebrews 13:2

July 15-20, 2013 I Gonzaga University I Spokane, WA USA

The word hospitality often brings to mind images of domestic tidiness but the gospel calls us to be radical in our welcome: to welcome the least of these as we would Christ; to seek the outcasts, the marginalized, the disempowered, the overlooked, the other; and to create community together. This year at summer conference you can look forward to exciting speakers and dynamic workshops that explore topics of hospitality, inclusion and justice. We look forward to sharing spirit-filled worship with hundreds of peacemakers as we look for ways to grow, support, and encourage each other. Participants of all ages will have opportunities for learning and for playing in community. We hope you will join us!

IN THE WORLD

Dear Faith Communities, blessings on this sunny day! Below is a list of emergency needs for our appointment closet at EHP. As you may know, our volunteers take several appointments per day with EHP clients to provide clothing, footwear, house wares, and linens. The appointment closet is almost out of, or totally out of the following items:

Linens

- Queen Sheet sets
- Queen/Full/King blankets

Toddler Clothing

- Girls - all clothing sizes 2x - 6x

Youth Clothing

- Girls and Boys - pants sizes 7-14 especially boys size 7

Men's Clothing

- Jeans - all sizes (especially 34, 36, 38)
- Shirts - long sleeve and short sleeve sizes 2x, 3x

Shoes

- Childrens' sizes 1-13.5
- Any and all sizes of tennis shoe

Although these are our emergency needs, any and all contributions are welcome. As you do your spring cleaning and closet purging, please keep EHP in mind! We take new and gently used items. Donations may be left at our collection center outside Pastor Rick's office.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Ruth Owen and Wai Han Lee (April 29)
- ✚ Lois Ville for successful cataract surgery; for Thelma Tuttle's providing flowers for April

Concerns:

- ✚ For all those affected by the tragic bombing at the Boston Marathon and its aftermath
- ✚ For those affected by the explosion and fire in West, Texas
- ✚ For those affected by the earthquake in China and flooding in the Midwest
- ✚ For peace among North Korea and their enemies, real and perceived
- ✚ For Pastor Greg Ledbetter, his wife, Jan, and the people of Shellridge Community Church in Walnut Creek as he resigns from a long and meaningful pastorate
- ✚ For the congregation of First Baptist Church, Alameda, searching for a pastor
- ✚ Pastor Rick for his friend, Michael, facing surgery for melanoma; for his nephew, Max, who is going through a rough patch; for the family and friends of his aunt, Mattie, who died recently
- ✚ For Pastor Tripp and the family and friends of his aunt, Ann Watlington, as they mourn
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she begins a new kind of chemotherapy for cancer
- ✚ For Don and Mary Granholm
- ✚ For the work of the American Baptist Seminary of the West in training students for ministry
- ✚ For Dan and Sarah Chetti and their mission work in Lebanon
- ✚ For Dan Buttry and his mission work as a global peace advocate
- ✚ For Ruriko Uda's congregation, Izumi Parktown Church, in Sendai, Japan
- ✚ For Ramesh Kumar and the ministry of Balasore Technical School in India
- ✚ For our sister church in Corinto, Nicaragua
- ✚ For all those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways it makes us less safe and less free
- ✚ For the well-being of our church: wisdom and guidance for our leaders and its future
- ✚ For the economies of which we are a part (global, national, state, local)
- ✚ For the care of the earth
- ✚ For the peoples of the world striving for freedom and dignity
- ✚ For peace in a war-torn world, food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, justice for the abused and oppressed, and hope for the future

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2013

What's on the Menu?

Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 148; John 13:31-35; Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6.
(The focus scripture is in bold.)

“Indeed, in a world in which Christianity too often finds itself beset against itself in wars over scriptural authority, denominationalism, separation of church and state, and the like, the advice of the Johannine Jesus continues to be excellent advice – setting aside all our differences, as disciples of Jesus, we are called to *love one another*. In today’s culture, such a command can be read as a cry for ecumenism. But, at the same time, in a world in which Christianity finds itself entrenched in the culture rather than beset by it (even in the face of the growing secularism in Western nations), to stop here, looking only inward at ourselves and our churches, would be to miss the point.

The reason for the conflict experienced by John’s church was *because* it was a missional church – because it was making itself known and felt in a world hostile to it. In this regard, if not in many others, it was not all that different from Luke’s church described in Acts. In other words, the mission of the church, in the various forms and the various circumstances in which it’s found itself, has from the beginning been grounded in a vision larger than itself. For John’s Jesus, this was showing the world the Light – what it meant to be a follower of Christ. For Luke’s Jesus, this was showing the world aid and concern – helping the victims, eating with those different from you, and baptizing whole households, even slaves, women, and children. Being a disciple of Jesus in these circumstances meant loving *into* community the whole people of God – not simply loving those with whom one was already in communion.” (Amy Allen, “*The Politics of the Beloved Community Read through Acts 11:1-18 and John 13:31-35,*” politicaltheology.com).

Prayer Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

After a particularly trying week last week, this week has seemed calmer. Beautiful weather helps, as do the many words of affirmation and hope that people have penned. As followers of Jesus, we are caught up in the very specific challenge to love one another, in particular, our enemies. This is never easy and the closer, more real, more evil our enemies seem, the more difficult the challenge. I want to focus on two of the lectionary texts this week. The first is Jesus "new commandment" as recorded in John 13, to "love one another as I (Jesus) have loved you." That little qualifier at the end of the sentence throws the challenge of love into an entirely different dimension. We know something of love from our individual collective experiences, but to love as Jesus loved? With the same compassion, forgiveness, grace? That is going to take some work!

I see the story of Peter and Cornelius, as recounted in Acts 11, as a very specific illustration of what "loving as Jesus loved" might look like. Peter is challenged to grow far beyond his comfort zone in the service of a God who is much more inclusive than Peter had ever imagined. "You just keep bringing the good news, Peter. God will make sure there is room at the table for everyone who hears and desires to join in the feast."

We also have the privilege of having Robert Wilkins with us Sunday to share an update on the American Baptist Seminary of the West. Robert, who heads the YMCA of the East Bay is a delightful person. I hope you will all stay to hear him in the Adult Spiritual Formation hour.

See you on Sunday at 10 as we as we gather as Christ's beloved community. Invite someone to come with you.

May God's new thing flourish within us and among us.

Pastor Rick

