

MIDWEEK MESSAGE
August 21, 2013

Words to Consider: *“There is something profoundly hypocritical about praising God for God’s mighty deeds of salvation and cooperating at the same time with demons of destruction, whether by neglecting to do good or by actively doing evil... Without speaking the truth and without action in the world, the adoration of God is empty and hypocritical, degenerating into irresponsibly and quietism.”*

Miroslav Volf

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, Thursday, August 22, 5:00 PM in the Parlor.**
- ❖ **SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 10:00 AM: *Make New Friends, Keep the Old*, Hymn Sing and picnic “on the grounds”.**
- ❖ **LET FREEDOM RING!** There will be a wonderful **celebration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech on Monday, August 26** in Palo Alto. The event will take place at King Plaza (named after MLK and Coretta Scott King) in front of City Hall at 250 Hamilton Avenue. From **5-7pm** there will be a showing of "Soundtrack for a Revolution." The official program will be from **7-9pm**. For more detail, see the flyer on the bulletin boards.
- ❖ **BIBLE STUDY, Tuesday, August 27, 10:30 AM** at the Terraces of Los Altos at Janet Maxwell’s apartment. The address is 373 Pine Lane, #2106, Los Altos. Let Pastor Rick know if you need transportation.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING EVENTS

- ❖ **WOMEN'S BRUNCH** meets on the **Thursday, August 29 at 10 AM**. All women of our church community are invited. Please join us at Hobe’s Restaurant, 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, in the “Wine Room.” All women of the congregation welcome.
- ❖ **RALLY DAY, Sunday September 8, 10:00 AM**. We will worship, kick-off the church’s educational year, officially welcome our interns and share a potluck lunch in **celebration of our 120th anniversary** as a congregation. If you have photos or

memorabilia you would like to share or a story about what FBCPA has meant to you over the years, please tell one of the pastors or contact the church office.



Our August Special Mission Offering is for **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER SAN FRANCISCO**. The mission of the Greater San Francisco Habitat for Humanity is to make the dream of home ownership a reality for low-income families - a virtually unattainable dream for the majority of residents in San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula. We urge you to give generously to this offering. Thank you so much on behalf of the Habitat families. To date we have received \$355 toward our goal: \$600.

IN THE WORLD

Muslims protecting Catholic Christians during mass in Egypt.



GUN VIOLENCE: Last Friday a young Australian in the USA to play baseball was gunned down in Oklahoma by three teenagers in order to break the boredom of their summer and Tuesday another gunman was arrested at a school in Georgia before he can harm anyone, because a brave

woman of faith talked him down. Still we cannot overcome the power of the gun lobby in the USA. (Editorial comment by Pastor Rick on today's headlines, 8/20)

Violence, reproductive health are key issues for Latin American women: Latin American women haven't reaped the rewards of the improved quality of life because of the prevalence of gender-based violence and reproductive health issues, writes Barbara Crossette. Some Latin American governments are addressing the situation through special courts for femicide and by women-only transportation options. PassBlue (8/19)

Giving aid workers their due on World Humanitarian Day: Monday, August 19 was World Humanitarian Day, which honors the efforts made daily by humanitarian aid workers in challenging environments to improve people's lives. "The world needs to understand how peace is important; peace is one of the expressions of love. Peace is the key [to] development and happiness," says Eddy Mbuyi of Oxfam International. IRINNews.org (8/16),

Mental health services are key to overcoming emergencies, WHO report says: Emergencies are opportunities to strengthen mental health services or provide them in areas where they are nonexistent, says a World Health Organization report. "[S]ocieties that go through major emergencies need to recover, and mental health is essential for recovery of these events for the functioning of society, for the resilience of society," says Mark Van Ommeren of WHO. Voice of America (8/19)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys:

- ✚ Birthday joys: Paul Berry (August 24), Lorraine Barry (August 28)
- ✚ Carolyn Shepard for the joy of having her family here to celebrate Dorothy Aker's life
- ✚ Yin Xu-Moore with the thanks and an ongoing request for prayer for her father, Cephas Xu, living with Parkinson's
- ✚ Thelma Parodi for Time magazine's coverage of the 50th anniversary of the March (or Sacred Procession) on Washington and MLK, Jr.

Concerns – New:

- ✚ For children, teachers and other school workers as a new school year begins
- ✚ Lynn Hunwick for Ramesh Kumar who's brain tumor has recurred as he makes decisions about treatment
- ✚ Chip Clark for the people of Egypt, especially the Coptic Christians
- ✚ For Pearl Pe as she prepares to return to Myanmar
- ✚ For Laura Garcia still recovering shoulder surgery and not yet able to drive
- ✚ For Melanie Ramirez who is recovering from foot surgery
- ✚ For the work of Greater San Francisco Habitat for Humanity

Ongoing:

- ✚ Bob and Lucille Towner as Bob continues at Manor Care in Sunnyvale
- ✚ Laura Garcia for Janice and other family members with health concerns

- ✚ For Joanne Jones who is recovering from back surgery
- ✚ For Patrice and Richard Heath as she lives with cancer
- ✚ For Oleta Proctor with ongoing health concerns
- ✚ For Don and Mary Granholm, Ruth Clark, Earl and Virginia Knechtel, Carl Schilling, June Lee
- ✚ 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 refugees and all victims of war and disaster everywhere
- ✚ 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
- ✚ For those affected by indiscriminate acts of violence and for the adoption of measures to heal our communities of all the many ways these make us less safe and less free

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2013

Make New Friends, Keep the Old: Hymn Sing
Psalm 150, Revelation 4:6-11

Lectionary reading for the Week: Psalm 71:1-6; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 13:10-17; Hebrews 12:18-29

Jesus cures a woman on the Sabbath. The religious leaders assume that only certain days are providential. Others are off limits to hospitality and healing. Jesus' healing acts invite us to see every place as a healing place and every moment as the right moment for creative transformation. Providence is broadcast everywhere without limits or exclusion. This is the day that God has made; this is the day of healing and transformation; and this day is every day.

Providence, the scriptures suggest, is always concrete. This moment in the synagogue, on a Sabbath, might have been the only time divine call and human response would be aligned in such a way that his woman would find a healing. The "now" of healing is always concrete.

God vision of Shalom, Wholeness, Love, and Justice, define God's eternal providence; but the working out of providence is always temporal, fresh, many-faceted, as it emerges from the interplay of God's vision and our need (Bruce Epperly, "God's Providence: Abstract or Concrete," The Adventurous Lectionary, 8-15-2013, patheos.com).

Prayer: *Merciful God, as we pour out the wealth you have entrusted to us, the parched places are watered; as we cease our evil talk, the rising light of peace dawns in the darkness. So lead us into faithful living that your promises may unfold in us as a woman's back, long bent, unfolds at Christ's command, to the praise of your holy name. Amen.*

DOROTHY AKER'S SERVICE



A NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

We had a rich, full day Sunday as we worshiped, shared community and celebrated the life of Dorothy Aker. I was particularly glad to listen as family and friends “fleshed” out Dorothy’s life through the sharing of memories. Having only known her in these last years, it was good to hear of all her contributions to her family, her church and her community. I knew she was a remarkable woman, but I didn’t fully realize how much so. The reception after the service was very lovely. I think Dorothy would have been pleased. We continue to hold Carolyn and the rest of Dorothy’s family in our prayers.

Sunday we are going to do something different in worship. We are going to focus on music and singing. I hesitate to call it an “old-fashioned hymn sing” because we will be doing a variety of music. I also hope it will be a worshipful experience that will be meaningful for young and old alike. We will also be saying farewell to Pearl Pe in Sunday’s service, as she is returning to Myanmar to be with family there. We will formally bless her on her way as well as saying our informal “good-byes” during the luncheon afterwards. Instead of patio hour, we will have “dinner on the grounds.” Everyone is invited to bring food to share and stay for a time of community.

You will note above that we will hold a kick-off Sunday or Rally Day for our church school year on September 8. We will worship together, formally introduce our interns, Doug and Naomi, talk about educational opportunities for the year and share another potluck lunch in celebration of the 120th anniversary of our congregation. If you have memorabilia or stories to share, please let me know, so we can include you in the program. This will not be a big, formal celebration but an important opportunity to remember where we come from as well as what we are about.

Join us at 10 AM for worship and stay for the fellowship of the Patio Hour. Bring someone along to share the day with you. See you then.

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

Pastor Rick

