



BETHANY

LIVING, BREATHING, GROWING, BEING

MAY—JULY 2009

Reflections by Pastor Angela L. Ying

How do you keep the Sabbath every week? Is it a spiritual practice in your every day life? For the Hebrew people who walked with God, keeping the Sabbath was so sacred to the community of faith that it is in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, as one of the commandments recorded in both the book of Exodus and the book of Deuteronomy.

Though the words in Exodus state that the people are called to keep the Sabbath, as God created and then rested, the words in Deuteronomy take keeping the Sabbath a step further. "Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God – you shall not do any work ... remember ... that God brought you out from bondage with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm."

As in all spiritual practices, keeping the Sabbath takes time, a lot of practice and a good amount of discipline. For you can easily find one more thing to do, one more thing to concern yourself with, one more task to complete.

And yet, in keeping the Sabbath, God cuts through all our nervous and neurotic energy and kindly reminds us to take a moment to breathe and to rest in God.

In other words, cut yourself some slack and open yourself to God's grace that does not come to you because you have worked so hard at something – rather grace abounds because grace as the Sabbath is a gift – a gift from God.

The community says a sabbatical is every seven years. Leave it to God and Bethany Church to make ministry so full of life, growth and deep joy, amidst

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**At Bethany United Church of Christ, Our Purpose Is
To Do Justice, Love Kindness,
And Walk Humbly With Your God**

Bethany United Church of Christ
is a living, breathing, growing, being community of people of
faith who come from different walks of life, yet have a
common vision to be a multiracial, multicultural,
intergenerational, open and affirming church.

“Sabbath Practice..” continued from cover

the great challenges to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God, that you and I waited an extra two years before we were ready!

Yes, beginning on Tuesday, June 16 (my last Sunday with you before going on sabbatical will be Sunday, June 14th) to Sunday, October 25, I, as your pastor, will be taking a four and a half month sabbatical. What will I be doing? Good question. The Board and Ministry Team Leads asked me the same question. I am going to do what the Scriptures and God’s Word share that I am supposed to do – REST!

For Bethany Church, as well as for my family and me, this sabbatical and national sabbatical grant could not come at a better time. My father and mother will be joining John, Anne and me to visit my parents’ and ancestors’ homeland of Taiwan. There, I can further learn and fully embrace who I am and whose I am in being a person of faith with Taiwanese roots.

In this way, I can return in late October ready to lead Bethany more fully as a multiracial, multicultural, intergenerational, open and affirming church. I will have the opportunity to visit my parents’ hometowns, my grandparents’ gravesites, the places my parents went to college, the church my mother and father actually met and attended together, along with connecting with family and friends, who saw me in Taiwan, the last time my family visited when I was eleven years old.

When the Lilly Foundation announced to pastors and congregations nationally about their \$45,000 sabbatical grant entitled “What Makes Your Heart Sing,” a team from Bethany Church worked diligently and prayerfully with me to write our proposal. By the grace of God, Bethany received word that from the hundreds of applications, our proposal was one that had indeed been accepted. I couldn’t believe it! The Bethany Board couldn’t believe it! My sabbatical as your pastor would not cost Bethany Church a penny (okay, I’m always looking out for you, Bethany!) in our every day operating budget. In fact, the Lilly Foundation national grant covers not only the pastor’s sabbatical costs while on sabbatical, but also covers the costs for Bethany’s sabbatical pastor, the remarkable Tony Robinson, who sowed the seeds way back in January of 1999 for Bethany Church to be a new United Church of Christ church in South Seattle that opened in December of 2000.

While I am on sabbatical, Bethany Church is in for a treat as you experience ministry with a friend and colleague and an amazing pastor and teacher, Tony Robinson and his lovely wife, Linda Jambor Robinson, who not only grew the children's ministries at Plymouth Church, but is the new Principal at Whittier Elementary School. If you are not out of town, come out and worship every Sunday at Bethany giving Tony and Linda your support with your own special one-of-a-kind Bethany love and hospitality!

Our own Tony Robinson is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and has served in four congregations including as Senior Pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church, downtown Seattle. Most recently, he taught this past year at Emmanuel College in the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto. Tony is the author of nine books including the best-selling *Transforming Congregational Culture* and its sequel *Changing the Conversation: Third Way Congregations*, not to mention *Common Grace: How to Be a Person and Other Spiritual Matters* and *Leadership for Vital Congregations*. He is also President of Congregational Leadership Northwest.

From June 16 to July 22, Reverend Jennifer Jenkins, also known as Ann and Don's daughter, will be the Bethany chaplain on-call for pastoral emergencies and visitations. From July 23 to October 25, Tony Robinson will be the Bethany pastor on-call for pastoral emergencies and visitations. Tony and Jennifer can be reached by calling Joanne Alcantara, our office manager in the church office at 206-725-7535.

Don Jenkins, Angie Wolle (Methodist), Stephen Gituma Guantai, Angela Miksovsky (Presbyterian), Silversity Madrazo and possibly Patricia Hunter (Baptist) are scheduled to be guest preachers and/or co-celebrants as Tony Robinson begins his first Sunday as Bethany's sabbatical pastor on Sunday, July 26th following two family graduations and Tony and Linda's second son, Nick Robinson's wedding earlier in July.

Save the Dates in Your Calendar Now:

My last Sunday before going on sabbatical, June 14, 2009

Tony Robinson's first Sunday as a Bethany Pastor, July 26, 2009

Tony, with the Bethany congregation, prays for all our children, parents, teachers, and administrators in worship on Sunday, September 6, before school starts

All Church Retreat "God's Word and God's Justice in Faithful Community" on September 11-13, 2009 at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard

Worldwide Communion Sunday and the Bethany Drumfest, October 4, 2009

THANK YOU Bethany Church for this Sabbath time to rest and be with my family as well as be a full time mother to Anne, while she still thinks it is cool to hang out with her mom! Thank you for keeping on keeping on! I will miss you deeply, and yet know that you will be on an incredible journey of faith with Tony and Linda Robinson in continuing to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

Love,
Angela

Questions and Answers About the Bethany House Ministry

What is Bethany House?

Bethany House is the yellow dwelling on the north side of the Bethany UCC campus. It was formerly a parsonage.

What did the Bethany UCC community vote to do?

In June 2008, we voted as a congregation to:

- (1) commit to turning Bethany House into a main social justice ministry, providing transitional housing to immigrants affected by the immigration detention system;
- (2) direct the Bethany UCC Board to appoint a task force/ advisory board to move forward with Bethany House;
- (3) commit church financial and other resources towards this ministry; and
- (4) encourage individual members to support the Bethany House ministry, as much as they are willing and able, through providing hospitality, time, expertise, financial support, and other resources.

What led the congregation to committing to turning Bethany House into a ministry for immigrants?

Prior to the vote, our congregation went through a yearlong discernment process, learning about

our own immigrant stories and the difficult realities of US immigration policy, and meeting with immigrant rights and housing organizations to shape the ministry.

What has happened since the vote?

Afterwards, we set up the Bethany House Advisory Board to make it happen. The Board includes Julie Krippner, Jim Taylor, Bing Tso, Janet Gwilym, Glenn Chinn, Paul Binneboese, Linda Gasparovic, Bruce Jackson, Dana Steege-Jackson, and Angela Ying. We've met monthly, communicated extensively with our community partners (including HomeStep, the Northwest Leadership Foundation, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice, and OneAmerica), held work parties to fix up the house, collected home furnishings, and worked out budget and program details.

Since last summer, many Bethany members, through World Relief, have also helped hosting refugee families from Burma, Bhutan, Iraq, Eritrea, and Vietnam. This has helped us to learn how to welcome our new immigrant neighbors and shown us firsthand of the challenges immigrants and refugees face.

How has the economic turmoil and shifting affected our initiative?

By last fall, we'd worked out key program details. Our goal was to move our current immigrant family into new housing and start the transitional housing program for formerly detained immigrant men by the end of the year. However, economic troubles hit with brutal effect. Grant funding for two of our key partners, HomeStep and NW Leadership Foundation, disappeared. Also, state budget cuts axed new housing for our current family. Finally, federal housing rules changed, making certain types of immigrant families ineligible for federally subsidized housing.

Where do we go from here?

Bethany remains true to its Biblical commitment to welcome and serve immigrants. The Advisory Board recommended continuing to provide stable transitional housing and support for the immigrant family now living at Bethany House so that they can get a firm foundation to build their lives in this country. HomeStep has secured funding to, and can provide them with case management, transitional housing services, and help cover rent and utilities. Through this partnership, we can walk with this immigrant family to a more hopeful future.

In addition, we can commit to immigrant ministries in additional ways. The Advisory Board is exploring a number of ideas:

(1) working in a limited way to provide temporary housing in our homes to folks coming out of immigration detention, such as setting up a listserve of folks willing to host an immigrant just released from the detention center;

(2) continuing to host newly arrived refugees through World Relief and providing longer term companionship to the families we have already hosted; and

(3) exploring how to best make our voices heard as the renewed national debate on comprehensive immigration reform proceeds.

How much is Bethany going to pay for this ministry, especially with this change in the resident plan?

HomeStep has secured funding that will cover the case management, minimal rent, and utility costs of the house. Bethany UCC will cover the maintenance and insurance costs of the house, which will be paid partially through rent and partially via the Bethany budget. In the past, as part of our social justice ministry, we have covered all expenses and case management costs for the house and its residents. This year's budget includes \$6,200 for this ministry.

Will Bethany House be able to provide transitional housing for folks from by the immigration detention system in the future?

The Bethany House Advisory Board

will continue to review the funding situation and immigrant community needs for the house as we go forward. We may yet return to the original intention of the house serving immigrants affected by the immigration detention system in the future.

How can I find out more?

This is a lot to process, and the Advisory Board would like to continue the dialogue with you. There are a number of ways you can participate in this dialogue:

- (1) On Sunday, May 10th, at 9:15 am, members of the Bethany House Advisory Board will hold a discussion on this Peace and Justice ministry in the Olivet Room at the church. Anyone interested in learning more and/or providing us with feedback is invited to come.
- (2) During Sunday May 31st, HomeStep Co-Directors Trina Thompson and Arika Patneaud will be participating in our worship service and will then be available during the hospitality time to discuss the new direction.
- (3) Bethany House Advisory Board members encourage you to contact them to get your feedback and answer your questions (see list above).
- (4) On June 6th, we will have a volunteer training session with HomeStep staff from 10:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch.

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist the immigrants through the Bethany House Immigrant Ministry is invited to attend.

How can I get involved?

There are numerous ways you can be involved with the Bethany House Social Justice Ministry including:

- (1) Volunteer at a house work party;
- (2) Provide companionship and assistance to the current Bethany House family members or to one of the recently resettled refugee families (attend the volunteer training on June 6th!);
- (3) Continue to support the immigrant and refugee families we walk with through your financial and household item donations;
- (4) Participate in the Bethany House Advisory Board meetings to help explore additional ways our community can commit to immigrant ministries;
- (5) Help educate people in our community about the challenges immigrants face, the amazing contributions they make to our community, and our Biblical calling for justice for our immigrant neighbors.



When was the last time you ...

flew a kite?

prayed in the garden?

danced with joy?

built a sukkah?

built a birds nest?

marched for gay pride?

created a stepping stone?



Want to learn how you can help? Contact Janey McBride at
206-244-8589 or janmcb2000@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events at Bethany Church May 2009—June 2009

Sunday, May 17th Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Ps 98, John 15:9-17

◆ 10:30am Worship. Special Music with the Samoan Choir. Bethany welcomes Fatima Morales from Washington Community Action Network!

◆ 1:00-3:00pm Organic Gardening Class at Bethany UCC sponsored by the Bethany Garden's Advisory Team. The teacher will be Betsey Widdick from the Laughing Crow Farm on Bainbridge Island. Open to the community. Free of charge. For more details, contact Carole Claassen at ckcgals@gmail.com. Class will meet in the Yellow House.

Tuesday, May 19th

◆ 7:00pm Children's Faith Formation. Our Growing Tweens Planning Meeting in the Olivet Room.

Friday, May 22nd

◆ 7:00pm Peace and Justice Movie and Discussion Night "This is What Democracy Looks Like" (2005) about the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle. This film includes footage of Carroll Jackson, John Boonstra, Vicky Stifter, John Ruhland and Pastor Angela L. Ying. Olivet Room. Free Professional Childcare Provided Onsite.

Sunday, May 24th Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, Ps 1, John 7:6-19

◆ 10:30am Worship. Special Music with Dan Kramlich and the Frank Clayton Jazz Ensemble.

Thursday, May 28th

◆ 7:00pm Children's Faith Formation Meeting in the Olivet Room.

◆ 7:00pm Celebrate with Abby Wong as she launches her non-profit Firelight Project. Green Bean Coffee House 210 N 85th St Seattle, WA. Join us for an evening of live jazz music, wine, dessert, photography, and conversation about 25 stunning Ugandan children.

To learn more visit their website: www.firelightproject.com

Saturday, May 30th

Health Care for All in 2009- Mothers Leading the Way! Peace & Justice Event

◆ 12:30pm at Pratt Park in the Central District at 20th Ave S and E Yesler Way. Over 140 organizations have signed onto this important march being organized by Washington Community Action Network. The event ends at 3:30pm at Westlake Plaza. Pastor Angela L. Ying will be giving the call to action at Westlake.

Sunday, May 31st Pentecost
Sunday Acts 2:1-21

◆ 10:30am Intergenerational Worship. Special Music with Thione Diop. Preachers Angela L. Ying and Angie Wolle. During worship and hospitality, we welcome Trina Thompson and Arika Patneaude from Home Step!

Saturday, June 6th

◆ 10:00am-12:00pm Volunteer training session with HomeStep staff, followed by lunch. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist the immigrants through the Bethany House Immigrant Ministry is invited to attend. Please contact Janet Gwilym at gwilymtso@msn.com for more information.

◆ 12:00pm Bethany sponsors LELO's luncheon! Celebrating a 37-Year Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing. At Garfield Community Center, 2323 E Cherry St. Featuring an exceptional luau luncheon and exciting South Pacific youth entertainment. Presenting LELO's DVJ Community Award to an outstanding progressive organization, the John Coughlin Award to an extraordinary youth organizer, and a tribute to some of LELO's early women activists. Visit www.lelo.org for tickets.

◆ 1:30-3:30pm Women's Prayer and Support Group

Sunday, June 7th Trinity Sunday
Isa 6:1-8; John 3:1-17

◆ 10:30am Intergenerational Worship with Special Music from the Bethany Ensemble.

Sunday, June 7th
1:00-4:00pm
FREE Resource Fair

Are you worried about your household financial situation? Mortgage assistance, refinancing, foreclosure prevention, first-time home-buying, utility assistance, basic food, tax help, resources for rental assistance, and more. Bethany UCC is hosting a **FREE Resource Fair**

in collaboration with the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Community partners and organizations will also be present to share about their programs!

For info or to get involved, contact office@bethanyseattle.org

Saturday, June 13th
Northwest Immigrant Rights
Project Presents: An Evening at
Wing Luke, Celebrating 25 Years of
Reuniting Families

\$55 Ticket/\$75 VIP Ticket
www.nwirp.org. At 719 S King St.

Bethany is a sponsor of this event.

◆ 5:00pm Appetizers and wine at the Wing Luke Asian Museum

◆ 6:00pm Short program and award presentation

**Sunday, June 14th Eleventh
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1 Sam 15:34-16:13; Mark 4:26-34

◆ 10:30am Worship with a Surprise for Special Music. Celebrating Pastor Angela L. Ying's last Sunday at Bethany before her Sabbatical.

Saturday, June 20th

◆ 1:30-3:30pm Women's Prayer and Support Group

**Sunday, June 21st Men's and
Father's Day and Twelfth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49;
Mark 4:35-41

◆ 10:30am Worship with Special Music from the Bethany Men's Ensemble. Don Jenkins providing reflections.

**Sunday, June 28th Thirteenth
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Sam 1:1, 17-27; Mark 5:21-43

◆ 10:30am Worship with Guest Preacher Angie Wolle. Special Music with Val Thomas Matson and Frank Clayton.

**Sunday, July 5th Fourteenth
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13

◆ 10:30am Worship with Congregational Hymn Sing... When you sing, you pray twice! Special Music with Bethany Ensemble.

**Sunday, July 12th Fifteenth
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 6:14-29

◆ 10:30am Worship with Guest Preacher Angela Miksovsky. Special Music with Bruce Hanson.

**Sunday, July 19th Sixteenth
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Sam 7:1-14a; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

◆ 10:30am Worship with Guest Preacher Angie Wolle. Special Music with Ann Jenkins and Suzanne Simmons.

**Sunday, July 26th Seventeenth
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Sam 11:1-15; John 6:1-21

◆ 10:30am Worship with Tony Robinson, Sabbatical Pastor, preaching. Special Music with the Miho and Diego Duo.

**SAVE THE DATE!
September 11-13, 2009**

**God's Word and God's Justice
in Faithful Community**

**Bethany All Church Retreat
At Pilgrim Firs
Conference and Retreat Center**

**Retreat and Fun for Kids and
Adults! Featuring Tony Robinson
with Miho Takekawa and Diego Coy
of the Miho and Diego Duo**

Health Care for all in 2009

The following organizations have officially endorsed the May 30th health care march as of April 27th, 09:

32nd LD Democrats • 43rd District Democrats • 65th Street Change Gang
 AARP Washington • Allyship • Alternative Healing Network
 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587
 American Federation of Teachers, Seattle
 American Federation of Television & Radio Artists - Seattle Chapter
 American Friends Service Committee • Campana Quetzal
 Casa Latina • Children's Alliance • Chinese Information and Service Center
 Coalition of Labor Union Women • Community Health Network of Washington
 Consejo Counseling and Referral Service
 Dunshee House - Home of Seattle AIDS Support Group • El Centro de la Raza
 El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social
 Entre Hermanos • Freedom Socialist Party, Seattle
 Fremont Community Therapy Project • Greenwood Senior Center
 Health Care for America Now - WA • Healthy Washington Coalition
 International Community Health Services
 International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers
 Islamic Civic Engagement Coalition
 Issues Committee of the First District Democrats
 Jobs with Justice • Justice Works! • Khmer In Action • Latino HEAT
 Leadership Academy • League of Women Voters of Washington
 Legal Voice • Lifelong AIDS Alliance
 Lutheran Public Policy Office for Washington State • MAMAs Unidas
 Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Midwives' Association of Washington State
 National Council of Jewish Women Seattle Section
 National Physicians Alliance, Puget Sound • Nonprofit Assistance Center
 Northwest Federation of Community Organizations
 Northwest Health Law Advocates
 Odessa Brown Children's Clinic • Older Women's League • OneAmerica
 Para Los Niños • People Of Color Against Aids Network
 Phinney Neighborhood Association
 Physicians for a National Health Program, Western WA Chapter
 Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO



Pinay sa Seattle • Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington
 Rabbi David Fine, Regional Director, Union for Reform Judaism
 Radical Women • Rainier Valley Unitarian-Universalist Congregation
 Social Justice Committee • Raising Women's Voices • Retired Public
 Employees of Washington, Chapter 3 • Sahngnoksoo
 Seamar Community Health Center • SEAPAX
 Seattle Chapter of the National Organization for Women
 Seattle Senior Housing Program Advocates • Seattle Young People's Project
 Service Employees International Union Healthcare 1199NW
 Service Employees International Union Healthcare 775NW
 Service Employees International Union Local 925
 Service Employees International Union Local 6
 Snohomish County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Social Justice Fund • Sound Alliance • Statewide Poverty Action Network
 Trusted Advocates Association • UNITE HERE! Local 8
 United Food & Commercial Workers Local 141
 United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1439
 United Food & Commercial Workers Local 21
 United Food & Commercial Workers Local 365
 United Food & Commercial Workers Local 367
 United Food & Commercial Workers Local 81
 Washington Association of Churches
 Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers
 Washington Bus • Washington CAN
 Washington Federation of State Employees
 Washington Health Security Coalition
 Washington Small Business for Secure Health Care Coalition
 Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans
 Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Washington State Nurses Association
 Washington State Senior Citizen's Lobby
 Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work
 Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice
 Women's Funding Alliance for Clinical Social Work
 Women's Funding Alliance

Mothers Leading the Way!

"Health Care Reform cannot wait, it must not wait & it will not wait another year." -- President Barack Obama

Let's show the
 public demand for change.
 Health care problems affect all our
 communities and families. Change
 is needed now. March on...with
 Mothers leading the way.

May 30th March

Starts at Pratt Park
 20th Ave S. & E. Yesler Way,
 Seattle, WA 98144 in the
 Central District @ 12:30PM

www.may30march.org

WELCOME!

Malomalam
Welkome Aloha
Vanakkam
Tuloy Po Kayo
Karibu
Wilkommen
Bienvenue
Maligayang Pagdating



Selamat
Datang
Talofa Lava
Salaam
Alaykum
JAMBO
Bonjour
BIENVENIDO

Bethany is a community of people of faith who come from different walks of life, yet have a common vision to grow a multiracial, multicultural, intergenerational church

The Reverend Angela L. Ying, Pastor

If you would like a pastoral visit during the week, know of someone who would like a visit, or if you are interested in joining Bethany UCC, please contact the church office 206-725-7535 or by e-mail bethanyucc@earthlink.net

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