



BETHANY

LIVING, BREATHING, GROWING, BEING

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2009

Reflections by Pastor Anthony B. Robinson, Your Sabbatical Interim Minister or "SIM-Guy"

I have been with you about six weeks now. And we have about another six weeks to go together. Pastor Angela Ying will return to Bethany at the end of October and be in the pulpit again on November 1.

I am really enjoying my time with you. You're a great community! You pitch in and help out willingly. You don't seem to sweat the small stuff. You are willing to try new things. You are real. Beyond that, here are some other impressions and observations thus far.

Summer worship attendance and spirit seemed to me quite good. I hope that some who have been around less in the summer will renew a regular pattern of worship now as autumn comes. Church School gets underway again on September 20. I will be away that Sunday, speaking in Massachusetts. Sarah Murphy-Kangas will preach here at Bethany. The next Sunday, September 27, we will welcome the choir from the Samoan congregation. On October 4 we will celebrate World-Wide Communion Sunday and Bethany's annual Drum Fest!

Scripture readings this fall continue to come from the Gospel of the year, Mark, where the emphasis is on "discipleship." What does it mean to follow this Jesus? A book I enjoyed this summer offered the following observation:

*"God didn't go to all the trouble of becoming human in order to make us religious. God became human to make us truly and fully human."
Michael Jinkins, Called to be Human: Letter to my Children on Living a Christian Life*

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Tony Robinson's Reflections
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We're trying a new Adult Faith Formation experience on Sunday's this fall, "Hot off the Press." The idea is to take a "hot" story from the news of the previous week and reflect on it as people of faith. Years ago, theologian Karl Barth encouraged preachers to prepare their sermons with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. "Hot off the Press" has that image in mind (even though finding a newspaper is getting to be a bit of a challenge these days!). Those who want to take part in HOP should watch the Friday "Upcoming Events at Bethany" email, which will have links to the story/ stories of the week. We will also have printed copies for those who don't catch the links. HOP meets 9:30 to 10:15 each week. If HOP seems to be working, I've offered to continue it after Angela returns on Sundays in November and December.

Our fall focus on stewardship will be developing in October. Two things are important when we work on stewardship. One is our core mission. Bethany's mission is to help people grow in a faith that "does justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly with God." We seek to do

that in and as a congregation that is multi-cultural, multi-racial, intergenerational and open and affirming. Keeping that mission clear and telling our story is important. Equally important is stewardship as a personal spiritual practice. By that I mean that part of what we try to do here is grow in the spiritual practices of generosity and sharing. Because none of these things (staying on mission and growing in generosity and sharing) happens without continual attention, we will give them fresh focus this fall.

A couple other thoughts and observations: Bethany has capable and committed lay leaders. Your Moderator, members of the Governing Board, and your ministry team leaders are effective and reliable. While most successful new church starts tend to be led by a charismatic pastor, it's also important to see lay leadership develop. This is a strength at Bethany. Another asset at Bethany is our capable and gracious office manager, Joanne Alcantara. It's been fun to work with Joanne. BTW, the meetings of the Governing Board, the last Tuesday of each month, are of course open. Feel free to sit in. *(Continued on next)*



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.

In an August sermon, I mentioned that personnel issues are often very hard for churches. We feel badly when there are problems with staff and really bad when we have to let people go. Bethany has experienced some of that this year. Here are a couple things to keep in mind. Personnel management and decisions are necessarily limited to a relatively small number of people who have been given responsibility for them. It's not a good idea, and actually against the law, to have too many cooks in the kitchen, so to speak, on personnel matters. Where members of a congregation play a role is in the election and selection of the Governing Board and the Personnel Committee. Members of the church also have a role in review of Personnel policies. The Personnel Committee, under Rebecca Cate's leadership, is proposing several changes to Bethany's personnel policy to ensure clarity as well as full and adequate processes of supervision, evaluation and grievance procedures. These are good moves.

In a July sermon on the feeding of the 5,000 I noted the number of people served on a monthly basis by the Food Bank here at Bethany is nearly 5,000. We can be grateful for that on-going ministry. To have a better feel for that ministry better I have helped out in the food a couple times this fall. It has been fun, and I've learned some things about life on the edges in a hard economic time. If you're interested in helping out, contact Food Bank manager Gretchen at sgtryon@juno.com

Again, thank you for the privilege and joy of serving as your sabbatical interim pastor. Grace and peace be with you all,

Tony Robinson
Aka "Sim-guy"

Bethany Children's Fall Program Starts September 20th

Great things are happening this fall and winter with Bethany children's program!

The theme this year is **"Tikkun Olam," repairing a broken world and fulfilling God's word through justice.**

We will be learning about servant hood and service, courage in a life of faith, a world changed by sharing, praise and thanks to God and preparing for God's surprises and much more. We will also study the stories of the Old Testament such as Queen Ester, Ruth and Naomi and from the New Testament, Bartimaeus.

Fun opportunities to deepen our faith and expand our sense of the world will include a visit to Theo's Chocolate Factory to learn about Fair Trade, building a Sukkah and visiting Temple B'Nai Torah in Bellevue.

Please join us! Parents may begin signing their children up for the fall program by filling out registration forms that will be available on September 20th. We also still need teachers.

If you are interested, please call Rebecca Cate at (206) 760-8078 or Janey McBride at (206) 244-8589.

A Few Tools from our All-Church Retreat. "Struggling Joyfully."



509.630.2608 Nash@rah.net

Feedback Principles

Receiving Feedback

PRINCIPLE: Take it like you take a gift
(hold it, open it, consider it, make a choice about it)



STEPS:

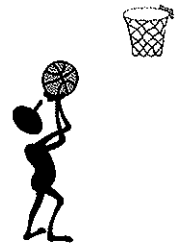
1. Listen
 - Don't talk. (really!)
 - Look like you're listening
 - This is the time to avoid the **three D's** - don't **deny, deflect, or defend.**
2. Ask questions - for two reasons:
 - Clarity and understanding
 - To show the other person that you truly want to "get it" - that you're truly listening. Buy yourself some time
3. The conversation - lots of choices:
 - Own none, some, or all of the content, OR
 - Don't commit either way (*I'll think about what you said.*)
4. Thank them

Giving Feedback

PRINCIPLE: Each step is designed to reduce the other person's defensiveness

STEPS:

1. Ask permission
2. Be aware of time (give yourself plenty)
3. Be aware of place (private!)
4. No appointments (don't make them wait!)



THE CONVERSATION

Don't

- Use anger, force, rudeness, etc.
- Talk in generalities (“*You don't treat me well.*”)
- Talk about character (“*You're rude*”) & what's in their head (“*You think you're special*”)
- Say “*always*” or “*never.*”
Don't exaggerate!
- Bring in the opinions of “others”
- Use notes & email
- Be too quick or wait too long
- Talk too much

Do

- Stay connected relationally
- Be specific
- Talk about behaviors & the impact those behaviors have on you
- Say “*sometimes*” or “*often*”
- Speak for yourself
- Talk person to person
- Be “moderately” immediate
- Ask questions, listen, be open

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For More Information, Please Contact Sarah Murphy-Kangas!
skmurphykangas@earthlink.net

New and Fresh Hospitality Ideas Sought! Let's Be the Change we want to see in the World!!!

Let's have a brainstorming potluck session at Bethany UCC, and share creative ideas for Bethany's Hospitality extensions to the community, the neighborhood, and wider world. What have you envisioned being a wonderful signature representation of our belief that Jesus came with good news for ALL of us?!

Bring a potluck dish, and join us at the table at 6 p.m. in the Olivet Room to take part in our sharing of ideas. Potential dates for this potluck/idea airing are October 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 or 24. Please call or email the church office and indicate a date handy for you! You'll be notified of the selection. And please be percolating your dreams about this! For questions, contact Lynn McGlocklin at 425-454-7183.

Upcoming Events at Bethany Church September—October 2009

Sunday, September 20th **Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary** **Time**

Prov 31: 10-31; Ps 1;
Wis. Of Sol 1:16-2:1, 12-22;
Jer 11:18-20; Ps 54; James 3:13-4:3,
7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

- ◆ 9:30am "Hot Off The Press" Adult Faith Formation Series in the Olivet Room. Childcare provided in the Learning Center.
- ◆ 10:30am Worship with Sarah Murphy-Kangas Preaching. Special music with Linda Gasparovic and Paul Binneboese. Sunday School Kick Off focusing on "First in Caring."

Tuesday, September 22nd

- ◆ 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting, Olivet Room

Wednesday, September 23rd

- ◆ 7:00pm Children's Christian Faith Formation Meeting at Bethany.

Friday, September 25th **7:00pm Peace and Justice** **Movie and Discussion**

Night Presents:

The Corporation (2003).

About the film: Since the late 18th century American legal decision that the business corporation organizational model is legally a person, it has become a dominant



economic, political and social force around the globe. This film takes an in-depth psychological examination of the organization model through various case studies. What the study illustrates is that in its behaviour, this type of "person" typically acts like a dangerously destructive psychopath without conscience. Furthermore, we see the profound threat this psychopath has for our world and our future, but also how the people with courage, intelligence and determination can do to stop it. Olivet Room. Free Professional Childcare Provided in the Learning Center.

Sunday, September 27th **Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary** **Time**

Est 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Num 11:4-6,
10-16, 24-29; James 5:13-20; Mark
9:38-50

- ◆ 9:30am "Hot Off The Press" Adult Faith Formation Series in the Olivet Room. Childcare provided in the Learning Center.
- ◆ 10:30am Worship with Rev. Tony Robinson. Special Music with the Samoan Choir. Sunday School will focus on "Courage for Community."
- ◆ Stewardship Team Meeting following Worship

Saturday, October 3rd

- ◆ 1:30pm Women's Prayer and Support Group, Olivet Room

**Sunday, October 4th
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Ps 26 or Gen 2:18-24, Ps 8; Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16.

- ◆ 9:30am "Hot Off The Press" Adult Faith Formation Series in the Olivet Room. Childcare provided in the Learning Center.
- ◆ 10:30am Worship with Tony Robinson. **Drum Fest with Adefua!** This will be an intergenerational worship service.

**Sunday, October 11th
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps 22:1-15 or Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31.

- ◆ 9:30am "Hot Off The Press" Adult Faith Formation Series in the Olivet Room. Childcare provided in the Learning Center.
- ◆ 10:30am Worship with Tony Robinson. Church School will focus on "What Must I Do?" and Celebrating the Harvest.
- ◆ Ministry Fair to follow worship.

Saturday, October 17th

- ◆ 1:30pm Women's Prayer and Support Group, Olivet Room

**Sunday, October 18th
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c or Isa 53:4-12; Ps 91:9-16; Heb 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

- ◆ 9:30am "Hot Off The Press" Adult Faith Formation Series in the Olivet Room. Childcare provided in the Learning Center.
- ◆ 10:30am Worship with Tony Robinson. Church School will focus on "Great Service." Special Music with the Miho and Diego Duo.
- ◆ 1:30pm Ping An Class to tour Theo's Chocolate Factory.

**Sunday, October 25th
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps 34:1-8, 19-22 or Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126; Heb 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52.

- ◆ 9:30am "Hot Off The Press" Adult Faith Formation Series in the Olivet Room. Childcare provided in the Learning Center.
- ◆ 10:30am Worship with Tony Robinson. Church School will focus on "Taking Heart." Special Music with Val Thomas-Matson.

Tuesday, October 27th

- ◆ 6:30pm Governing Board Meeting, Olivet Room

Sunday, November 1st

Bethany welcomes Pastor Angela L. Ying back from her Sabbatical!

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 be a multiracial, multicultural, intergenerational church.

The Reverend Angela L. Ying, Pastor
The Reverend Anthony B. Robinson, Sabbatical 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 at 206-725-7535 or by e-mail office@bethanyseattle.org

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