

JULY
2008

Church of the Beatitudes
United Church of Christ

The Grapevine

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Church of the Beatitudes United Church of Christ is a community of faith-keeping and faith-seeking people grounded in stories and truths contained in the scriptures. We are open to insights and interpretations of God revealed to us through new experiences, different faiths, and diverse cultures.

Our purpose is to provide opportunities for the formation of Christian disciples through worship and spiritual enrichment, to offer the education and training for this discipleship and to encourage the practice of this discipleship in the world.

A Few Short Moments

Everything I learned in life I learned from playing pinochle.

That's not really true, but on vacation last month, I played a lot of pinochle. When the Nelson-Elsenheimer clan gathers, we talk, work, eat, and play cards, and not necessarily in that order.

We play 4-handed, double deck, no nines, auction bid, 4 cards in the 'kitty' pinochle. (6-handed is triple deck, no nines, 6 in the 'kitty'.)

Here's some of what I learned:

1. You play the hand you are dealt. Each player gets the same number of cards. Sometimes they are fabulous. Sometimes you have nothing. Sometimes you have a series of hands with absolutely nothing. You keep playing.
2. You don't cheat at cards. You'll get caught, sooner or later. People won't want to be your partner. Sooner or later, they won't even want you to play. You play fair.
3. You learn what to keep and what to discard. You can strengthen your hand by letting go of the right cards.
4. You have a partner. Sometimes, your partner has cards to help you, cards that support your hand and can help take the tricks that you would lose if you were playing by yourself. Learn to play with partners.
5. Sometimes your partner's cards just aren't there. That's why they passed in the first place. Love them anyway. You may need them on the next hand.
6. You can overbid your hand. That card you need may not be in the 'kitty'. There is a difference between risk and recklessness.
7. You win some; you lose some. It is a game. Winning is fun and winning is the most fun when everyone goes away from the table saying, "I love playing pinochle with you. Let's play again."



~Pastor Nancy

ADMINISTRATION

Church Emergency Fund

The very word “emergency” implies something surprising and unplanned. In the current economic climate, there are a greater number of people who need emergency financial assistance for basic living necessities. The Ministry of Administration (MOA) approved the establishment of an Emergency Fund to help individuals and families in the Church community. Seed money for the fund will come from undesignated memorials, and \$10,000 will be transferred into the fund. This will be a permanent fund and we hope that our people will contribute to the fund so that we

always have adequate resources to help our brothers and sisters in need.

The fund will be used to make loans and grants to our people. Pastors Ted and Nancy, along with Ken Porter, have the authority to disburse funds. Each month, a report will be made to the MOA regarding the types of needs that we were able to meet with the grants and loans and how much money was distributed. All requests for assistance will be handled in strictest confidence, and we urge those in need not be embarrassed to ask for help from their church.

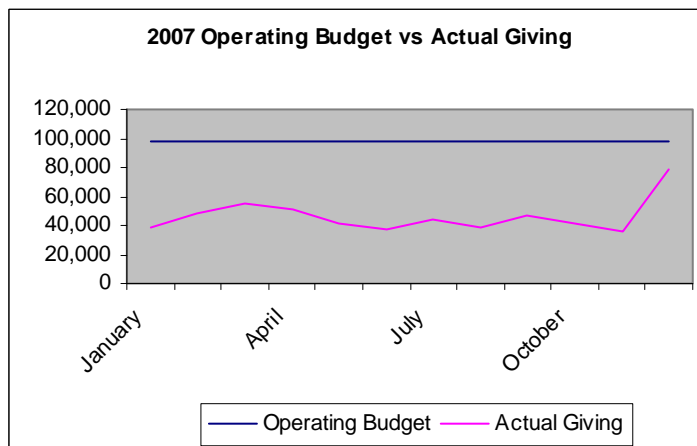
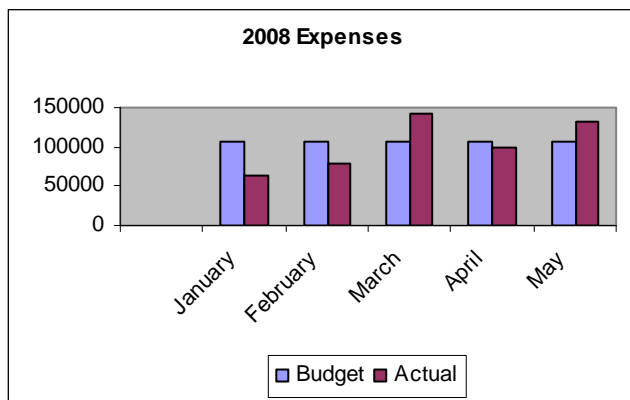
New Fiscal Year

At the June Ministry of Administration meeting, the congregation’s fiscal budget year was changed to run from October to September. The proposal was brought by Jack Marks, treasurer, and Ken Porter, director of operations.

“Currently, we are creating and approving the budget during the Christmas season, one of the busiest times of the year,” said Jack and Ken. “People also tend to give most of their pledged gifts to the church in the fall months. With the fiscal year beginning in October, we begin with our strongest income months and will have a better idea about where we stand when we get to January and February and can make adjustments to the budget.”

Currently, all the ministries are projecting their budgets for 2009. With the exciting goals being set in the Appreciative Inquiry process, cost projections are also being calculated. The budget will come to the congregation for approval in September rather than in February. Currently, when we approve the budget in February, we are already two months into the fiscal year.

“Our expenses are not ‘budget divided evenly by 12 months,’” says Ken Porter, “so we will also begin month-by-month budgeting. This will give us a much more accurate picture of how we are doing each month and greatly enhance our cash flow planning.”



ADMINISTRATION

Introducing the PRC Members

The Ministry of Administration (MOA) recently authorized the establishment of a Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC), which serves in two primary ways: as an advisory group to the pastors and as support for the pastors' leadership. Our goals are the professional growth and well being of the pastors and the promotion of mutual ministry between the pastors and the congregation. An active PRC allows a congregation to care personally for its pastoral staff.

The Pastoral Relations Committee is composed of six members of the congregation. Since the current committee all started at the same time, each member was assigned a term. Beginning next May, two members will rotate off the committee. To fill the vacancies created each year, the Pastors and President will work together to choose new members to continue the sacred trust needed within the PRC. New members will serve a three-year term.

Cathy Cook Bonnell grew up in Church of the Beatitudes (COB) and has been active as an adult since 1980 when she and her late husband John returned from 4 years of teaching school in Saudi Arabia. She is currently on the Age Link board and has served on Ministries of Nurture and Service in the past, as well as the wedding guild. She works as a teacher/librarian at Ocotillo Elementary School in the Washington School District.

Jim Hartley is a retired pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who, with his wife, Suellen, joined Church of the Beatitudes in December 2006. He served four Disciples congregations in Ohio, Arizona (Mesa) and Tennessee, and spent nearly half of his career on Conference staffs in Kansas and Texas.

Lou Jennings attended Encanto UCC as a teenager and has many fond memories of activities

with COB youth. Returning to his roots, Lou joined Church of the Beatitudes in 2001. Lou has been active with the Stewardship committee, Ministry of Service and volunteering his expertise in the keeping the church HVAC system running smoothly. Lou is current Past President of the Congregation.

Sherri Shea came to Church of the Beatitudes in search of a great choir. She and her husband Brian joined the Church in 1982. Since that time, Sherri helped establish Parents with Young Children and Family Focus, served on the Center DOAR board of directors, co-chaired Center DOAR's Benefit Concert and Auction, was a member of three search committees and served as President of the Congregation.

Carol Ann Vaughan joined the church in November 1972. Since that time Carol has served on the Lay Life and Work Commission, helped establish a singles group, served as Financial Secretary and on the Ministry of Administration as well as on the Ministry of Nurture. She is certified as a Gallup Strengths Coach and teaches classes on the Gallup Strengths for the congregation and staff. Carol is currently serving as President of the Congregation.

Ann Wheat was baptized at Church of the Beatitudes in 1957, making her a "Lifer." Her Church service has included serving on the board of directors for Beatitudes Center DOAR and serving as Chair of the Human Sexuality Task Force. Ann also chaired COB's open and affirming (ONA) process and helped other Valley UCC churches start their ONA journey. In 2001, Ann responded to a request in the Grapevine for volunteers to help refugee war orphans from Sudan settle in to life in Phoenix. Meeting the young men motivated her to found AZ Lost Boys Center to support our community's 600 "Lost Boys" and help them achieve their dreams for a better life.

Supplies for Nicaragua Mission Trip

When Church of the Beatitudes team heads for Chacraseca, Nicaragua, at the end of July, they will be taking with them a suitcase full of supplies, which are badly needed in this little village. Chacraseca is a 49-square-mile rural farming community of 8,000 people just outside the city of Leon on Nicaragua's west coast. The average income in Chacraseca is \$1 per day per family. One of the main goals of the JustHope project is to help the community become self-sustaining at a higher level, and education, of course, is a major component. Here are some of the items you can donate: spiral notebooks, pencils and pens, pencil sharpeners (not electric), markers, crayons, scissors, and rulers with metric measurements.



The needs are great in this town. Other items you can donate are children's clothes and shoes, eyeglasses, soccer balls, baseballs and bats, Frisbees, baseball caps (for sun protection for the people working in the fields all day), towels, plastic tableware and cutlery (for losses from Hurricane Alma), sheets, plastic clothesline cord. The group also will be taking Fiesta supplies, like hard candy, hair barrettes, bands, toy cars and the like.

You can bring your donations to the Church office by Sunday, July 20. If you want more information on this life-enriching project, please visit the JustHope website at www.justhope.org.

Summertime

During the last eight months, I have been privileged to preach three times—on the Campus and at Church of the Palms United Church of Christ in Sun City. This summer, I have a much fuller schedule. I'll be preaching again at Church of the Palms, the Campus, and Encanto UCC has indicated an interest in asking me after their own pastor retires in June.

Also terribly exciting is the fact that Pastors Ted and Nancy have graciously invited me to preach at Church at all three services on the weekend of July 26-27. This is an incredible and exciting moment for me. I've been attending Beatitudes since I was a kid. The idea of standing at that historic and sacred pulpit and

actually preaching is breathtaking and a terrific honor.

I hope that those of you who are in town this summer will consider coming to hear me. And, since I know that our congregation is not shy, I would very much welcome your comments, suggestions, and ideas. Ours is a congregation of thinkers, faithful people, and people with good hearts. I know that your feedback will be wise, loving, and faithful. I'll most certainly learn a great deal from what you have to say. See you this summer!

~Judy Green-Davis

ADMINISTRATION

Children for Education School

Children for Education, the school that is supported by the Church's "Cereal Ministry" will begin a new six-month term in July. Already, 41 children are registered, and it is expected that the full complement of 48 children will be reached when the school re-opens. These children come from disadvantaged families and some have gotten into trouble and just need some tender, loving care. The school allows them to learn and get on the right track to go further in school and life.

Church of the Beatitudes collects cereal the first weekend of every month and gives it to Children for Education. The school feeds the students every morning, so that they can start their day off with a good, nutritious meal. Pick up some cereal at the grocery store when it's on sale and bring it to the Church office. The kids at the school thank you!

School days at Maryland School

July is hot – no getting around it – and August will be hot too, but Maryland School will be back in session nevertheless, with youngsters and teachers beginning the year with eagerness and some anxiety. For students some of the anxiety relates to not having a backpack to carry schoolwork the way everyone else does or having the necessary supplies (3-ring binders, 2-3 inches thick and folders to fit 3-ring binders, markers, colored pencils, pencils, glue sticks, child scissors), and incidentals like socks, underwear and shoes (gift cards for Payless Shoes). Our tradition at Church of the Beatitudes is to help these children be prepared for learning. Please join in the effort by bringing in some of these items to Church between now and August 10th, or to the church office.

Children everywhere need an education. Our Mission Team to Nicaragua is hoping to take several suitcases of school supplies (see accompanying article on page 4).

As children open a new notebook, use a clean piece of paper and a brand new pencil to write an assignment, cut, paste and draw for a school project, play soccer with properly fitting shoes, remember that you are there with them as partners in education. Thank you for your generosity.

SAVE THE DATE

It's ~~Not~~ Easy Being **GREEN**

Church of the Beatitudes

Open House

Sunday, September 7, 2008

Watch for more details!

The View from Castle Rock

by Alice Munro

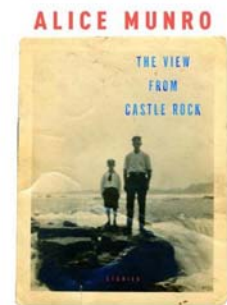
Please join us on Thursday, July 31, at 7 pm in the Lounge to discuss this collection of Alice Munro stories.

What “they’re” saying (from *The Washington Post’s Book World*):

The View from Castle Rock is, in some important ways, a departure for this masterful Canadian writer. Half of the collection is more or less historical fiction, written at a considerable distance from the probing investigations of contemporary psyches for which Munro is so celebrated. She tells us she has been collecting information about a branch of her family that came from a valley in 18th century Scotland; a set of five connected stories that transport her forebears from their village to a new world that provides little of

the glory or prosperity they might have expected from such a bold leap.

The second part of the book, “Home,” offers six stories that seem more Munroesque. A young girl is at their center. She is the girl who becomes the woman who leaves, who has an intellectual and sexual existence far beyond the parameters of her hometown’s mores, and who, when she returns, must account for the losses as well as the gains her choices have brought her. We have met this girl/woman many times in Munro’s stories; the writer’s genius has been to find so many rich permutations within this familiar narrative arc.



Being nourished through art

This summer Church of the Beatitudes is showcasing artists with a connection to the Church. In the Narthex, Howard King’s art is featured. Howard and his wife Marion joined Church of the Beatitudes in the mid-1950s. Howard studied art at Case Western and was a commercial artist. He was fascinated with watercolors, and his work was shown at numerous galleries in Scottsdale and California. The works hanging in the narthex are part of the Church’s permanent art collection or are on loan from Church members.

The Library Art Exhibit features the art of three of the “Watercolorists Evolving” group that meets every week at Church of the Beatitudes. Lynette Jamison, a Church member, is an aquatic therapist, and recently began painting watercolors. Lisa Grobe grew up at the Church, but moved out of state following college graduation. After 25 years, she is back at the Church. She took up watercolor painting about four years ago. Diane Kardestuncer began painting after she retired. She thinks watercolors work well to express her love of nature.

Third Thursday Movie Nights — ONCE

Join us for Movie Night on July 17 at 6 pm in the Lounge. Bring your own snack or meal, watch the movie and join your friends in a good discussion. This month’s movie night is on July 17, and we will be watching and discussing *ONCE*, about an Irish guitarist who meets a Czech girl while singing on the streets of Dublin. She’s a

pianist and they work on a few songs together. The movie isn’t the traditional musical, but rather a more optimistic *Brief Encounter*, which captures the real city of Dublin — in all its affluence and poverty — rather than the postcard version. Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova won an Academy Award (2008) for their song.

HAPPENINGS

Build your communication muscles and lose your fear of public speaking

The Valley Toastmasters Club is affiliated with Toastmasters International (TI), a worldwide, non-profit educational organization that has helped thousands of people improve their speaking skills. The Valley Toastmasters hold their weekly meetings in the Patio Room on Thursday mornings at 6:15 am. The meetings are about an hour and a half long and include formal speeches by members as well as opportunities for impromptu speaking – and networking and fellowship abounds.

The mission of Valley Toastmasters is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth. For more information, please call Liz Bebo at 602-943-3449.

National Youth Event

The UCC National Youth Event (NYE), held every four years, provides an opportunity for more than 3,000 youth (ages 13 to 18) to gather for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. This year, it will be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Eleven of our Senior High Youth will be attending, as well as Pastor Ted and Michele Mellott.. They will be part of a larger Southwest Conference UCC contingent. Church of the Beatitudes will be commissioning them on July 19-20 at the worship services.

Green Tip

Enough energy is saved by recycling one aluminum can per day to operate a television set for three hours.

Parish Staff

Senior Co-Pastors

Rev. Dr. Theodore Elsenheimer

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Rev. Dr. Nancy Nelson Elsenheimer

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Associate Pastor

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Gilbert Escalante, Custodian

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Change Service Requested

**We're on the web at
www.beatitudeschurch.org**

Feel the Spirit

A Woman's Retreat

The Women's Retreat is a time to gift yourself with spiritual understanding through experiencing the **SPIRIT** of love. For two days, we will nourish our bodies, minds and spirits with **JOY** and **COMPASSION** from a feminine perspective. We will allow time to explore what we believe and how what we believe affects our lives. The retreat will be spent journaling, meditating, paper cutting, practicing yoga and Tai Chi, listening to beautiful music, worshiping and learning and sharing. (Journals will be given as a gift to use throughout the weekend.) Please bring something to share about your spiritual practices and stories of faith.

When? Friday, October 10, 2008 (3-5 pm registration and check in) to Sunday, October 12, 2008
(10 am—12 noon checkout)

Where? Spirit in the Desert Retreat in Carefree

Cost? Registration fee, \$50; total retreat cost, \$200 for 5 meals and 2 nights lodging.

Scholarships are available.



Please RSVP by October 1 to Rev. Joyce Buekers at 602-717-7001 or to Pastor Nancy or Sandy Marion at 602-264-1221.