

The Beacon

March 10, 2010

11:00a.m. WORSHIP

9:45a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL

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REFLECTIONS

Trappist monk and author Thomas Merton suggests that each of us is a word spoken by God. I have been fascinated since coming across this image, wondering what each of us is speaking on God's behalf, what words we carry that are remaining unspoken, and what sort of message comes into being when two or more of us are together, each being a word spoken by God.

Given that each of us is a unique creation, and assuming that God would not bother to simply speak the same word over and over with each human that comes to birth, then it follows that each of us carries a word that only we can speak, that no one else can speak for us. What is it that I have to say, that you have to say, that God wants said to the world, that can only be said by each of us individually?

In traditional religious thinking, it is customary to refer to Jesus as the Word, as though Jesus alone carries a message from God. But Merton suggests differently, that all of us are God's words, bumping around here during our lifetimes, embodying divine speech. To discern what word we have been given, Merton recommends time in silence and reflection, listening deeply to one's innermost being, in order to be able to hear the word that one is.

The United Church of Christ chose, as its signature logo, the claim that "God is still speaking." We are God's speech, and God intended that we be heard. Listen to the words you utter each day, and be sure that among them you include the word God has given especially to you, and to you alone.

Faithfully,
Kathy

FROM THE MODERATOR

At the March 7th congregational meeting we had a chance to review the report from Rev. Eric Williams and Dr. Leslie Kern. This report was developed in response to our several opportunities to participate in a listening process. Observations were made by Eric and Leslie and in turn recommendations for a healing process. The congregational meeting was a chance to share our reflections on the report and process. One point that was shared was the desire to develop a congregational covenant. A covenant that would allow each of us to be a part of the whole, but still be encouraged to express our individuality. Another point was the need for some form of leadership training. First Baptist-Granville is a church full of strong leaders and a workshop on developing and effectively sharing those gifts was suggested. Now with our being dually affiliated with the UCC, we have a new well of resources to tap. Kathy, Judith Thomas and I will be working on a plan to implement the recommendations of Eric and Leslie as well as those shared by each of you. We will keep everyone apprised of upcoming opportunities for your encouraged participation.

I am continually encouraged after these meetings together. I sense a desire to move forward towards a new incarnation of FBCG. It is almost as if someone has opened a window and the fresh air is now filling the space. Little by little we are expelling the old musty air. Air that has been shut up and confined for a long time. Maybe it's my anticipation of spring. For me it really doesn't matter. I intend to fill my lungs to capacity for this is the air of life. This is the air of hope. This is the air that will be our future. I encourage each of you to throw out your cover-up air fresheners. Find your own window and throw it open wide and breathe as deeply as you can. Fill your whole self with the freshness of hope in the future of FBCG. I look forward to breathing with you!

Blessings, Tess Caley



LENTEN DISCUSSION SERIES
6:30pm, FBC Chapel

We'll gather in the West Parlor with a couple of big pots of soup and drinks. Come, bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share and after our meal, there will be a short presentation by Jon White, Christian Education Assistant and seminary student, followed by some discussion around the theme: *An Expanding Invitation: the History of Confronting Orthodoxy to Find God.*

- March 11:** Who Do You Say That I Am?
Jesus and the Christian Movement
- March 18:** We Know That His Witness is True:
The Bible, The Creeds and the Constantinian Revolution
- March 25:** There Am I Among Them:
The Protestant Reformation

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Tues., Mar. 9 Meditation group, West Parlor/Chapel, 7-9pm (each Tuesday)
- Thurs. Mar. 11 Lenten supper series, chapel, 6:30pm
- Sat., Mar 13 Farm Market, 10-12:00, CE bldg. gym
- Sun. Mar. 21 FBC Board meeting, after worship
Pipe Organs Up Close, 3-5pm
- Sun., Mar. 28 Lunches on the Square, after worship
- April 16-18 PeaceJam trip to Kalamazoo, MI

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:

Finances for First Baptist Church are as follows for the end of February 2010
Income = \$22,701.44, Expenses = \$13,695.56, therefore for the end of February 2010 income is greater than expenses by \$9005.88. Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$4,302.11.
SPECIAL NOTE: Louise issues checks every other Friday, so plan ahead for any reimbursements.

NOTES FROM WHATEVER WORKS

He was maybe 3 years old when I saw him climb up in one of our folding chairs so he could sit on his knees to work at the table. Right away he became extremely frustrated. There were paper, crayons, pencils, pens, paints, brushes, scissors, glues, glitters and stamps to be used to make homemade Christmas cards. He obviously did not know where to begin. His father bent down and began talking to him, showing him that he could use the stamp on paper to make a design. As I watched, this child slowly started very carefully pushing the stamp onto the paper. Than when he saw that he could do it, he started doing it a little faster. Before long he was stamping with something like GLEE. For me to see this child's behavior change like that was a miracle of growth. Watching him, transformed me and I had to say "I really like your card" and "aren't you having fun doing it?" (I said gleefully). This sweet child finished his card and offered it to me. I took it with gratitude. That happened last year at the Candlelight Walking tour.

Little miracles of growth have been happening at Whatever Works Art Space at FBC for the past 2 or 3 years. These days they are only open about 8 hours per week. Open Studio happens on Thursdays noon – to 3 p.m. and 6 – 9 p.m. and Fridays 3-7 p.m. Girls Night Out happens monthly and Birthday Parties for any age, any size crowd can be scheduled. Scout Meetings and Badges, Pottery Wheel Lessons - Private and/or Small Group are among the activities. Visit our website (www.whateverworksart.org) or call 740-587-7852 for further info.

MAKER'S MARKET opens June 5th and runs thru September 4th every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on our front lawn and features homemade crafts from local vendors. Look for advertising in your local newspaper.

Nancy Reeb, Interim Director
Whatever Works Art Space

Have you ever wondered how a pipe organ makes so many different sounds? Have you ever wondered what organ pipes look like? You can discover all these things on March 21 from 3-5:00pm at **Pipe Organs up Close: a Hands-on Afternoon of Discovery.** For young people who are nine and older (but, we are also eager to welcome curious adults and younger children accompanied by an adult) this AGO Pedals, Pipes & Pizza event will happen right here in Granville beginning at First Baptist Church and then crossing the street to First Presbyterian, Centenary United Methodist and St. Luke Episcopal Churches. Adult volunteers who are willing to escort the participants from church to church and/or help with refreshments are needed (you will not be responsible for any of the music activities). Please help us plan for refreshments and needed volunteers by pre-registering with Bob Wantz (rwantz@roadrunner.com). The name and age of the student participants will be sufficient information and most helpful. See Jackie Dawson or Stephen Trumbull if you have any questions.

First Baptist Church of Granville
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