

On the Way

March 14, 2009

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE * UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Extravagant Grace * Generous Hearts * Renewed World*

This is the last installment of the *will-i-am* Trilogy. I never expected to come to this place when I began writing about the rapper and lead-man for the group *Black Eyed Peas* in the January 22nd issue of *On the Way*. This recent encounter was an innocent one. I opened an article on nominees for the 2009 Grammy Awards, when “what to my wondering eyes should appear” but a quirky photograph and interview with *will-i-am*! He had been nominated for producer of the year (he didn’t win). Freelance journalist Melinda Newman asked him to reflect on his election influencing video remix of Obama’s *Yes We Can* speech, and the powerful intertwining of art and technology.

Newman: How did it change you when you realized the impact that one idea could have?

will.i.am: When you think of FOX and NBC and CBS, these big, huge networks, and the millions of dollars they spent on content and then [the content] goes and sits in this thing called the Internet graveyard. It's a heavy brick that doesn't move. And when it comes to that, I'm just as powerful as an individual as all of CBS. [Smiles.] Melissa who lives in Idaho is just as powerful as NBC because of these new tools of technology and engaging. If she makes something, she has the opportunity, with no finances, to reach millions of people. Fortunately for me and unfortunately for them, the traditional networks don't understand the culture, they don't get it. It's the concept of power to the people actually exists now, it's not an idea.

His words reminded me of the popular quote attributed to anthropologist Margaret Mead:

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

I thought about Jesus and his ministry. The 5,000 “loaves and fishes” number wasn’t an average Sunday attendance. There was just Jesus, and the twelve, and the circle of women that financed the mission. Fifty? One hundred? Not very many people at the core of the ministry.

I’ve been encouraged by the 12 or so in worship when I went to Astoria, OR. I gathered with another dozen for potluck at St. John’s UCC in Payette, Idaho. *A small group of committed people...* I’ve been inspired by Chuck Currie (interim at Parkrose UCC, Portland, OR) and his UCC blog and his sermon podcasts. I’ve been thrilled as the decision of our Ashland, OR clergy to refuse to sign Oregon marriage licenses made the news around the country. We are making a difference.

The point of the church is not numbers. It is not membership and it is not dollars. The point of the church is ministry. We have to change our understandings. We have to change the way we speak the truth and share God’s love. We may even have to change the way we do things. In this time and place, the United Church of Christ is called to be a prophetic church, celebrating the sacredness of life, witnessing for justice, and extending the extravagant welcome of Jesus to all people.

Together, we are called to use art and technology to share the Gospel. Together, whatever our numbers, we follow Jesus *On the Way*.

Spring Assembly set for May 1st & 2nd in Eugene, OR

The Spring Assembly of the Central Pacific Conference will be held at Eugene First Congregational UCC on May 1-2. The theme is: "*Holy Habits: Faith Practices for Transformation.*" Registration packets were mailed from the CPC offices this week.

News from our Wider Church Ministry Team ~ Jean Doane Opportunity for Preferred Seating at Desmond Tutu Event

On Monday, May 4, 2009, Archbishop Desmond Tutu will deliver the Collins Lecture at The Chiles Center at the University of Portland. Archbishop Tutu's talk is entitled "The Transformative Power of Reconciliation in Society." He'll speak at 7:30 pm after a multicultural concert beginning at 6:30 pm.

This is the 40th annual Collins Lecture sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. This year EMO has given member denominations the opportunity to support the event with a contribution of \$1000 or more toward the expense of bringing Archbishop Tutu into our midst. A contribution of \$1000 (the lowest level) carries with it the privilege of mention in pre-event publicity and in the event brochure. In addition, the contributing judicatory receives 6 preferred seating tickets to the event and the opportunity to attend a reception for the Archbishop.

To insure that the CPC-UCC is among the named contributors to this event, Wider Church Ministries Team and Justice and Witness Ministries Team have each provided \$250 from their respective annual allotment to EMO. These two Ministry Teams are giving YOU the opportunity to participate in raising the remaining \$500.

We are offering all 6 preferred seat tickets as an incentive for contributions. These tickets will be given to the first churches or individuals to promise to purchase them at \$85 per ticket. The names of those purchasing tickets will be eligible for a drawing to determine who will attend the reception with Archbishop Tutu as the representative of the CPC.

To receive a preferred seat ticket and enter the drawing to attend the reception with Archbishop Tutu, simply call Jean Doane at 503-642-1701 with your pledge of \$85 or more on or before Monday, March 30, 2009. The tickets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis, so if you leave a message for Jean, please be sure to say you are buying Collins Lecture tickets, how many, and note the date and time. Please make your checks payable to the Central Pacific Conference – UCC. DON'T DELAY! Help support this great opportunity and have a preferred seat to hear from one of the most influential peacemakers of our time, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. CALL JEAN TODAY!

CPC Board Member George Gunn in the News ~ Ginni Neil

If you have a minute or two on your computer, check out the Monday, March 9, 2009 Idaho Statesman front page story ""50 years of saving lives" about our own George Gunn and his wife Charlotte. We all knew what a great guy he is and this helps confirm our views. Good picture of you, George!

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/273/story/691843.html>

Long-time Bethel Beaverton UCC member Barbara Peck in the News ~ Jean Doane

What a phenomenal person!

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/02/volunteer_extraordinaire_barba.html

News from our Justice and Witness Ministry Team ~ Karen Kulm

Crisis in Columbia: Days of Prayer & Action

Colombia has just surpassed Sudan as having the worst internal displacement crisis in the world. Over 4 million Columbians have been violently forced from their homes. While the war responsible for this crisis has raged for decades, the pace of displacement has intensified in recent years. Last year, 1500 Colombians fled their homes every day.

Get your Faith Community on Board

The Plan: On the weekend of April 19 faith communities across the US will be incorporating Colombia into the worship service to raise awareness of the spiraling violence and pray for peace. Many will then send postcards calling on President Obama to take concrete steps towards change.

What you can do now: This weekend, talk to a leader in your faith community about this opportunity to pray and act for peace. Ask them to set aside April 17-19 to focus on Colombia during the worship service. Colombia-focused elements could include a sermon, prayer, and/or special presentation. We can provide a packet that presents sample sermons and prayers, bulletin inserts, and background info on the conflict in Colombia. Please contact Beth Poteet to let her know that you are interested and she'll send on the materials (wfpnw@witnessforpeace.org, 503.287.7847).

Host a Doll-Making Party

The Plan: On April 20, people in a half-dozen cities across the US will creatively and publicly present 4000 paper cut-out dolls, each one representing 1000 of Colombia's 4 million displaced people, to governmental representatives. These symbolic actions, intended to raise the profile of Colombia's crisis, will take place in Portland, New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. In preparation, we're calling on university groups, community organizations, and congregations to host doll-making parties in February and March. These parties are an opportunity to learn more about Colombia's crisis, send faxes to President Obama, and make dolls to be used in the public actions.

What you can do now: Ask your student club, faith community, or community organization to consider doing a doll-making party within the next two months. Contact Beth Poteet to let her know that you're interested (wfpnw@witnessforpeace.org, 503.287.7847). She'll send you a packet to help set up the party, including a displacement fact-sheet, a doll-making guide, and a compelling video on Colombia's crisis.

For more information go to www.witenssforpeace.org.

Ecclesiastical Council for Mark Roberts – March 29th, 2:00 pm

You are invited to attend an Ecclesiastical Council for Mark Roberts, hosted by Hillsdale Community UCC, 6948 S.W. Capitol Highway, Portland, OR. Mark is a student at Eden Seminary, in St. Louis, and is under the care of the Central Pacific Conference. Mark was approved for this next step in his faith journey after his interview with the Covenants Ministry Team.

Are You Going to Synod? Grand Rapids, MI – June 26th-30th, 2009

The Central Pacific Conference has four delegates elected to General Synod. I know that some of you attend Synod as representatives of National boards, and others attend as visitors. If you are going to be at Synod in Grand Rapids, please let me know so we can include you in our plans.

Dennis Alger, pastor of our Gresham, OR church, has a room reserved for Synod and is looking for a roommate. Interested? Give Dennis a call.

Covenants Ministry Team offers Boundaries Training Event – April 30th, Eugene, OR

All authorized clergy in the Central Pacific Conference are invited to participate in a Boundaries Training Event, Thursday, April 30th, in Eugene, OR. This workshop is conveniently scheduled the day before our CPC Spring Assembly, May 1st & 2nd, at Eugene First Congregational UCC. The event is scheduled from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Registration is \$25.00, which includes lunch.

Our workshop leader is Dr. Karen A. McClintock. Karen holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and is licensed by the Oregon Board of Licensed Psychologists. She is a graduate of Pacific School of Religion with a Master of Divinity Degree, and the Union Institute and University of Cincinnati where she completed the Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Read more about her: www.healthycongregation.com

In April of 2008, the Covenants Ministry Team of the CPC approved a policy of requiring Boundaries Training for all its authorized ministers (ordained, licensed, commissioned, and retired) every four years. This policy was affirmed by the Conference Board of Directors the same weekend. All authorized ministers in the CPC have until the Spring Assembly of 2012 to complete the training requirement. The CPC is committed to offering a training event every other year. We are in conversation with the Disciples of Christ region in Oregon about offering training in alternating years, to provide more opportunities. We'll also talk with ecumenical partners in Idaho to offer additional events. If you are not able to complete training sponsored by the CPC, you can find a training venue and ask the Covenants Ministry Team in advance if the event will qualify.

Many UCC Conferences and sister denominations are now moving to require boundaries training for their authorized ministers. This is motivated both by insurance concerns and by a desire to support the health of both clergy and congregations.

Please send a check for \$25 (to: CPC-UCC) to the Conference office to register.

Exploring Progressive Christianity ~ Mary Sue Evers

Save the date: Saturday, March 21, 9 - noon: Hear **Fred Plumer, President of the Center for Progressive Christianity** (www.tcpc.org), discuss what it means to be a progressive Christian today. A lively, illuminating session is expected. **Cedar Hills United Church of Christ**, 11695 Park Way, Portland OR 97225, is sponsoring the session. Admission is free and good will donations will be accepted for the Youth Mission Trip to Biloxi. Child care will be provided if you let the church office know number and ages of children by March 19 (503-644-3838). Plumer will also preach in the worship service at Cedar Hills UCC on Sunday, March 22 at 10 am. More info: www.tcpc.org.

Hold in Your Prayers

Jay Sanderson, our pastor at St. John's UCC, Payette, ID, was challenged with a bout of whooping cough. He's now back on the job.

Gail McDougle, our pastor at First Congregational UCC, Salem, OR, suffered a sub-acute (relatively light) stroke last week. Gail is resting at home, recovering her strength before she returns to ministry.

Please hold these colleagues in your prayers.

Clergy Clusters

Portland Metro East/West – Thurs., March 19th, 12:00 – 1:30 pm, brown-bag, location TBA.

Opportunity for a Musician at Forest Grove UCC ~ Elena Parker

HELP WANTED: Progressive, inclusive church (that's us at FGUCC) seeks a part-time pianist/organist to vitalize our blended worship, through:

- *leading congregational singing
- * accompanying our choirs
- * providing service music
- * introducing new music that will enhance our spiritual growth working as a part of our music team

Contact the Forest Grove United Church of Christ via email, elena@fgucc.org. No phone calls please. Salary dependent on schedule and experience.

To Swim with the Salmon ~ Denise Andersen

Featuring Dr. John Hart and Native American Story Teller Elizabeth Woody

Spirituality and Ecojustice in the Pacific Northwest

Information and Registration at <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/swimwithsalmon2009/>

Date: April 25, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University

Address: 200 LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, OR 97331

Sponsors

The Philip N. Knutson Endowment * Oregon State University Department of Philosophy * Center for the Study of Religion, Cultures and Society at Pacific Lutheran University * Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University (Luther House) * St. Mary's Catholic Church, Corvallis * Grace Lutheran Church, Corvallis * Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Partners

Northwest House of Theological Studies, Salem * Mission of the Atonement Lutheran-Roman Catholic Parish, Beaverton * Central Lutheran Church, Portland * St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton * Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Thank you! ~ Lou Wargo

Members and friends of our United Church of Christ contributed nearly \$6 million to last year's Christmas Fund offering. Proceeds from this offering are used to provide financial assistance to clergy and clergy families who encounter emergency situations. Given the current financial climate, it is not surprising that requests for financial assistance almost tripled in January, 2009 from January, 2008. What is delightfully surprising that in that same financial climate, our UCC family **increased** its giving to the Christmas Fund!

On behalf of those who have already been helped and those who will be assisted in the coming months, a very large and heartfelt **THANK YOU!**

Face-to-Face Ministry Team Meetings

** please note that the Interchurch Center recently experienced flooding in the lower level. At the present time, damage is being repaired and carpets are being replaced. Check to see if you meeting is still scheduled at the listed location. Some meetings may need to move to alternative locations.

Covenants Ministry Team – Saturday, March 21st, 9:00am-4:00pm, Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland

Wider Church Ministry Team – Friday, March 27th, 12:00-3:00pm, Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland

Justice and Witness Ministry Team Retreat -Saturday, April 4th, 8:30am-11:30pm, Kairos-Milwaukie UCC, 4790 Logus Road, Milwaukie

Conference Board of Directors – Saturday, April 18th, 9:00am-3:00pm, Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland

Local Church Ministry Team – Saturday, April 25th, 9:00am-2:00pm, Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft, Portland

New from the CPC Women's Board ~ Nancy Klingeman

When the UCC's General Synod gathers, one of the special observances is *Celebrating the Gifts of Laywomen*. Each Conference names women to be honored for their ministry in the church. This summer General Synod will be held in Grand Rapids, MI. Three women from the CPC will be honored: Ellen Albus, Boise 1st Congregational UCC; DeLona Campos-Davis, Bethel Congregational UCC, White Salmon, WA;& Elvira Hudson, Ainsworth UCC. When you see any of these women, tell them "congratulations! and thanks!"

This year's CPC Women's Annual Meeting will be on April 30 in Eugene (the day before the CPC Spring Assembly). The meeting begins with lunch at noon. Mary Maxwell will present the program after lunch and we will also honor the Laywomen then. Mary is a quilter and lover of fabric. She has collected banners and needlework from many countries. Her program topic is "Every Stitch Counts."

EFT ~ Lou Wargo

Have you considered EFT for your church? Those letters stand for *Electronic Funds Transfer*. It is the way many now pay their bills. In addition to eliminating the need for checks, envelopes and stamps, EFT helps churches avoid those "peaks and valleys" of giving which often cause church treasurers to lose sleep, especially during the summer months!

For more information about EFT you can contact Vanco, the company chosen by the United Church of Christ to administer such a program. You can access more information at Sales@VancoServices.com. Cedar Hills UCC, Portland, OR recently initiated the program. You can check with them and hear about their experience.

Y.E.S. Presents
(Youth Events Squad)
The Spring Fling

“Fear” **NOT**

April 3rd-5th. Camp Adams. Molalla Or

All High School youth are invited to participate. Event begins Friday evening with registration at 7:00pm. Program begins at 9:00 pm. Event ends on Sunday after Palm Sunday services.

All youth groups of 2 or more must be accompanied by an adult advisor. Advisors need to register and pay same fee as youth. Individual youth who need to come without an adult will be assigned to another group leader.

Cost: \$65 per camper or leader

Includes event t-shirt and all meals Saturday and one meal Sunday.

Mail registrations and check payable to: Central Pacific Conference UCC
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite E
Portland, Oregon 97239

What to Bring?

*An adult leader if you are a group of 2 or more

*Sleeping bag, pad for under, pillow, toiletries, fresh clothes, jacket & rain poncho or rain gear, garden or work gloves

*Snack to share for snack table, a great and positive attitude and your good intentions!

**** Registration materials are attached at the end of this issue of *On the Way*.****

Please send registration in by March 20th

*Your permission/release/covenant form signed appropriately

Central Pacific Conference Establishes Educational Partnership with The Center for Spiritual Development

Through our Local Church Ministry Team, the CPC is now a partner with The Center for Spiritual Development, a program of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, OR. Members of CPC churches can attend Center events at Trinity member rates. This is typically \$10 for lectures, \$35 for workshops and 10 – 15-percent off classes and retreats. Tickets for lectures and workshops and registrations for classes are available online at www.center-for-spiritual-development.org. Just enter coupon code “UCC” at checkout to receive the discounted rate.

In a welcome e-mail, associate director Ellen Yarnell says, “*We are delighted that the UCC has partnered with us in our effort to increase Biblical and spiritual literacy in our region. As one UCC pastor said of our Summer Seminars, ‘this has become my new PSR.’ Thank you for your support.*”

Use the discount mentioned above to hear Diana Butler Bass ***After Jesus: Enacting the Great Command*** **Weekend Presentation with Internationally Known Religion Scholar** **Diana Butler Bass**

Evening Lecture: *Spiritual Amnesia: How We Lost the Insights of Regular People*

Friday, March 27, 2009, 7:30 – 9:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

Cost: \$15 general, \$5 students

Saturday Workshop: *Remembering Anew: Becoming a Community of Memory, History and Story & Finding Hope: The Accumulated Human Experience of God*

Saturday, March 28, 2009, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Trinity Cathedral – Kempton Hall

Cost: \$50 general, \$15 students (includes lunch)

Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. Her six books including the best-selling *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, *The Practicing Congregation: Imagining a New Old Church* and her most recent, *A People’s History of Christianity*, a history of Christian spirituality and social justice, scheduled for March 2009 release from Harper One. From 2002 to 2006, she was the Project Director of a national Lilly Endowment funded study of mainline Protestant vitality—a project featured in Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times. She serves on the board of directors of the Beatitudes Society, and participates as an advisor for Emergent Village and Synagogue 3000. She is part of Sojourner’s Red Letter Christians and is a regular contributor to the God’s Politics blog on Beliefnet.

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The Center for Spiritual Development is a program and ministry for learning and spiritual development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The mission of The Center is to offer ways to deepen relationships with God, explore issues of faith and practice rooted in the Christian tradition and in the world’s great faith traditions, encourage journeys of transformation that increase compassionate commitment to others, and open and inform our daily lives through the workings of the Spirit. We provide learning opportunities for five program areas: Public Lectures, Spirituality Courses, Spiritual Practice, the Ministry of Healing and Wholeness, and Pilgrimage.

A Personal Note . . .

Exactly one year ago, I interviewed with your Search Committee to be your Conference Minister. I was delighted to receive the call, and remain so! It has been a very busy eight months with you. I've preached in 16 of our churches (17 after Riverside in Hood River tomorrow), and have more Sundays scheduled. I've been in 42 of our churches for meetings of one kind or another.

After 29 years as a local church pastor, I love visiting all the churches of the CPC and experiencing the different ways they worship and the many paths they walk as followers of Jesus. I'm impressed with the commitment and gifts of the members and clergy of our churches. It is an honor to serve with you.

Yours in Christ, walter john

**The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris – Conference Minister
Central Pacific Conference * United Church of Christ
Interchurch Center
0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite E
Portland, OR 97239-4258**

wjboris@gmail.com (O) 503-228-3178 (M) 206-235-3801 (H) 360-314-2497

**Senior High "Spring Fling" at Camp Adam's
REGISTRATION/COVENANT (See back for Release Form)**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Phone _____

Hm Phone _____ Youth cell _____ youth email _____

Home church _____ Grade _____

T-shirt adult size (Sm, Med, Lg, XL, XXL) _____ (XXL is \$3.00 additional cost)

Vegetarian? Yes _____ No _____

Food Allergies _____

Other Allergies _____

COVENANT

I understand the "Spring Fling" is a church-sponsored event and that I will be expected, along with all other participants, to conduct myself accordingly. I will participate fully and cooperatively under the guidance of the adult leaders. I will treat others with kindness at all times and try as best I am able to live out Jesus' mandate of inclusiveness for everyone.

I understand that I should not bring i-pods, cell phones, etc, as these tend to separate, isolate and distract. If I do carry these items for travel, I understand they will be collected and put away for the duration of the event.

I further understand that there will be zero tolerance for smoking, alcohol, drugs and inappropriate sexual behavior. I understand that a serious violation will result in my being sent home at my own/parents' expense.

Youth _____ Parent _____

(signature)

(signature)

Cost: \$65 per camper or adults

Send registrations and check payable to:

Central Pacific Conference UCC
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite E
Portland, OR 97239

Please send registrations in by March 20th

“Spring Fling”
April 3-5, 2009

I hereby grant permission for my child/ward _____ to participate in the Spring Fling 2009, organized by the Central Pacific Conference UCC, which is to be held Camp Adams, Molalla, OR, April 3-5, 2009. In case of emergency and I cannot be reached, I hereby grant permission to a physician to hospitalize, administer treatment, order anesthesia, medication or surgery for my child/ward named above. In case of emergency I can be reached by phone at one of the following numbers:

Home _____ Daytime work _____
Cell phone _____

SIGNATURE _____ Date _____
Insurance company/policy number _____

Please note any health concerns (conditions, allergies, dietary needs, etc.) below:

Please send in registration by March 20th

Spring Fling

April 3-5, 2009
"Fear" not
GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Church _____

Name

Females

Yr in School

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Males

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Adults

1. _____
2. _____

Please return this group registration form along with Registration fees to:

Central Pacific Conference UCC
0245 SW Bancroft St., Suite E
Portland, OR 97239

Please send registrations in by March 20th