
AUKE TALK

April 2010 Edition

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Rev. Dr. Douglas Dye, Pastor/Head of Staff
ddye@chapelbythelake.org
(907) 789-7592 x.222

EASTER... IT'S NOT JUST A DAY

With joy and passion we celebrated Easter Sunday – the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – a few weeks ago. Worship at the glacier, the Easter lilies, the unveiled, flower-draped cross, white paraments on the table and pulpit, exuberant music, the confident proclamation that Christ is risen – He is risen indeed... all punctuated the great festival of Easter.

The flower-clad cross, standing at the center of the chancel, will remain in place for the next several weeks; it proclaims that Easter is not simply a single day in the year. Easter is a season, which affirms that God brings the future into the present through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We live differently because of Easter. When Jesus rose from the dead God defeated decisively all that harms and corrupts God's creation. The resurrection previews the transformed life, which all creation and we will enjoy when God fully establishes his kingdom at the end of time. The truth that death is defeated and that we will live in God's perfect new world can bring us great hope and comfort, especially when we confront the challenges of life in the here and now. Through the resurrection, God guarantees that we shall one day live in a world of perfect beauty, harmony, and justice. Allow the resurrection of Jesus to sustain you and give you courage to live according to the values of God's kingdom.

During this Easter season, lose yourself in the magnificent, life-transforming truth that God's new creation has arrived. Because Jesus defeated death and is alive, all creation will one day know God's peace and justice, and one day all creation will worship God, the father of our Lord Jesus. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

Peace,



IN THIS ISSUE

What to know what Rev. Hackel's been up to and where she's headed now that she's been accepted at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA? Find out, and more, on page 2.

A quick update on Youth events and their upcoming Summer Events schedule on page 3.

Thank you Rick Thibodeau and the Building Committee for keeping us all up-to-date on the Chapel's expansion project. Read the latest on page 4.

Don't forget to send a card! Find our official listing of May anniversaries and birthdays on the back of the Auke Talk's cover.

If you don't see your name, it's because you didn't turn in your Personal Information Form (PIF). Make sure your name appears in future Auke Talks by turning in a PIF today!

If you have any questions or comments about the materials in this month's issue of the Auke Talk, please contact Donovan at the church office, 789-7592. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, call or email secretary@chapelbythelake.org.

ASSOCIATED REMARKS

Rev. Tracee Hackel, Associate Pastor
thackel@chapelbythelake.org
(907) 789-7592 x.225

...How long? ...What will you do when you are done? ...What will you study? ... Where will you live? ...What will happen to Mr. T? ...Will you come back to Alaska?

These are just a few of the questions folks have been asking about what I will be doing once I leave Chapel this August. As I announced in my last Auke Talk article, I have been accepted into a PhD program at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA and will begin my studies there this coming September. A couple folks suggested that I might take the opportunity in this Auke Talk article to explain some more specifics of the program.

...How long? : The PhD program at Fuller is a four year course, though it is possible that it could take up to five. The first year will be spent primarily in seminars, learning and improving languages, writing papers each week and piles and piles of reading. I will have to show the ability to read in two modern research languages by the beginning of the second year. Right now it looks like I will fulfill that requirement by improving my rusty Spanish and learning German. At the end of the first year, I will have to take an exam in New Testament (NT) Greek, which consists of four passages from anywhere in the NT that I will need to translate and comment upon; essentially I will need to know the entire NT in Greek. I have wanted to be able to do this for many years so I am looking forward to the time to concentrate on such study and the motivation the exam will provide! I have had several years of NT Greek throughout my education so I will be working on improving it by understanding the finer points of grammar and building vocabulary. It is also likely I will have to improve my Old Testament Hebrew, and possibly learn Aramaic or Latin as well. The second year is much the same as the first. At the end of the second year I will have to take a series of four Comprehensive Exams that will test to see if I know the material well enough to teach the subject at the undergraduate level and to advance to the research stage of the degree. The third year is spent in reading and forming a solid

Research Proposal for the final Dissertation. The Fourth year is spent writing and revising the Dissertation which is then examined at the end of this year. The Dissertation is 50,000 to 90,000 words in length, roughly 125 -250 pages.

...What will you do when you are done? : Celebrate!! As far as how I will use the degree, I hope, and several of my former professors and friends hope, I will teach in a college or seminary.

...What will you study? : You may have guessed from my language requirements that I will be earning a degree in New Testament Studies. More specifically at this point I hope to study the use of the Old Testament in the New, and possibly look at how that influenced the Early Church's development of theology. It is possible in the Fuller Program to have a "minor" field of study in the PhD and so I am considering either Old Testament or Church History as a possibility for that.

...Where will you live? : I don't know yet! I will look for a place that will take my dog, Mr. T, and fits into my budget when I get to Pasadena in Mid-September.

...What will happen to Mr. T? : I would like to take him with me, but if I cannot he will go to live in Colorado with my parents, who hope that by having him there they will be assured of seeing me from time to time! ☺

...Will you come back to Alaska? : I would love to! Alaska is an amazing place to live and work, but there is not much call for New Testament Professors up this direction. So, it seems unlikely that I will come back to live and work in our great state, but I hope to visit. Though I will cease to be your Associate Pastor as of August 1st, I will remain a member of the Presbytery of Alaska and finish my terms on the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

There is no doubt I will be well occupied in the next few years! I am looking forward to having this time to study and write and hope to make the most of the opportunity that Fuller is giving me to participate in their program. I asked the Lord to make it clear where and what I should study and He did! I applied to five programs and Fuller was the only acceptance I received. My Doctoral

Supervisor, The Rev. Dr. Marianne Meyer Thompson, told me that Fuller only admitted five New Testament students this year. I am very grateful for this opportunity to be immersed in study of God's Word and looking forward to professing that knowledge to the Glory of God and the benefit of the Church. I am certainly grateful for all I have learned in my eight years plus of ministry here at Chapel by the Lake. I am sure these years in pastoral ministry with the Church will contribute to this calling to teach in as yet unaccountable and wonderful ways. Thank you to all of you for your support and interest. I would certainly appreciate your prayers to make the most of this study and to become a great professor of our faith.

Grace and peace be yours in abundance,



YOUTH UPDATE:

The youth had a successful overnigher April 9. We participated in World Vision's *30 Hour Famine* and raised awareness of hunger in our world. Our youth raised over \$360 for World Vision.

Summer Events:

Summer is just around the corner! Here is what is coming up for our youth at Chapel by the Lake:

June 14-18: Junior High Camp at Echo Ranch

June 21-26: Junior High Camp at Rainbow Glacier

June 28-July 2: Sr. High Camp at Rainbow Glacier

July 11: Youth Sunday

July 12-16: Sr. High Camp at Echo Ranch

July 12-17: Junior High Camp at Rainbow Glacier

July 20-25: Youth Triennium

July 26-30: Junior High Camp at Echo Ranch

August 13-15: Sr. High Retreat

NOTES FROM SESSION:

Session held their regular meeting on March 18 at 7:03pm in the Corner Room with 9 elders present, 3 excused, Rev. Dr. Dye, Rev. Hackel and Harvey Knuth present. Rev. Dr. Dye read Psalm 46 – a song of praise and thanksgiving – and led in the opening prayer. Session approved the minutes of the regular meeting on Feb. 18 and the regular winter meeting of the Congregation on Jan. 31. 260 persons received communion on Mar. 7. Logan Dunayski was baptized on Feb. 21. A thank you letter was received from the Board of Pensions for our contribution to the Joy Offering.

Harvey Knuth reported for the Trustees, Finance Committee and spoke to his Administrator's report.

Rev. Dr. Dye spoke to his written report. Session approved the following study leave and vacation dates – June 28-July 4 (study), July 5-19 (1 week study, 1 week vacation), Oct. 25-Nov. 7 (Holy Land Tour) and Nov. 15-22 (PCUSA seminar).

Rev. Hackel spoke to her written report of joys, challenges and other interesting stuff. Session approved her absence from April 29-May 4 (ministry outside our area and 3 days vacation).

These committees presented reports – Christian Discipleship, Nominating, and Stewardship. After much discussion, Session approved adding a line item to the 2010 budget – "Building Project" with \$45,000 cost. Session approved \$250 from undesignated funds (local mission) to give to the Governor's Prayer Breakfast.

Don Phelps was appointed to the Nominating Committee. Session is in the process of forming an Interim Associate Pastor Task Force. Session voted to adjourn at 8:10pm and Rev. Hackel led in prayer. The next meeting will be April 15 at 7pm.

BUILDING THE CHURCH

Have you noticed the signs of growth lately? Spring is here! Within a matter of weeks we should start seeing some building growth at Chapel with our remodel of the Narthex and the expansion of Smith Hall! This follows over 2 years of planning and preparation. We have now hired a general contractor, Bruce Denton; the Synod Mission Development program has approved our loan of \$750,000; and our building permit is in the final stages of approval at the city. All of this behind-the-scenes activity has laid the groundwork for the actual ground-breaking and subsequent construction activity.

This is the normal process by which building projects come about. Before any hammers are raised or boards are cut, the church had to plan the expansion. We had to commit ourselves to paying for it. We had to secure a contractor to help and guide us. We engaged architects and engineers to make sure that our plan met all the applicable building codes. All of this prep work will ensure that our building growth is done responsibly, and will meet the needs of the congregation and our ministry objectives.

There are some similarities with this building process to the process of spiritual growth in our lives. For God's will to be made manifest in our daily life, we need to yield our desires to His. We have to count the cost, and commit ourselves to the cost of persevering in the faith. We have to rely on the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. And to know that what we are doing is really God's will, we have to study the scriptures to know His heart and His plan.

We may attempt to generate the fruit of the Spirit ourselves by religiously following a formula of spiritual practices. Ephesians 2:8-10 counters this thinking: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Or maybe we think we can coast through life, confident that our belief in Christ is sufficient for salvation, regardless of how we actually live. But I

don't think that this path will really accomplish what I believe God asks of us: to be faithful. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Faith is belief put into practice.

When God directed the prophet Samuel to anoint David as the next king of Israel, he had to set Samuel straight in his observations. God said to Samuel, "For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." When people see the new and expanded Chapel by the Lake building, will they be impressed? I am not ashamed to say I hope they are, but I also hope that there is more here than just the superficial. Certainly when God looks at us, He will see what our heart is about. Will we be ashamed? Not if we truly believe the blood of Christ covers us, and we live in thankful obedience as our response to Christ's gift!

As the signs of spring remind us of how life-giving growth can be, it is exciting to think that growth in the church is eternal-life-giving! But only if that growth is internal and by the Spirit, and not superficial and by human effort. How is the Lord working behind the scenes to engender spiritual growth in your life?

In Him,
Rick Thibodeau
Building Committee Chair

Please pray for the following:

- Issuance of our building permit
- Good weather for safe and efficient construction
- Internal spiritual growth that overshadows our external building growth

