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# AUKE TALK

February 2010 Edition

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## THE PASTOR'S PEN

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## LENT AND THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

In a few days, February 17 to be exact, the Christian season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. In a variety of ways, followers of Jesus Christ from different traditions – Baptists, Bible churches, Lutherans, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and others – will focus intentionally on Christ's journey to his crucifixion and resurrection on Easter.

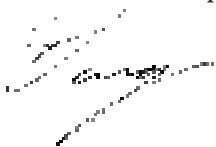
Historically, many Christians have observed this holy season by “giving up something for Lent.” The essential idea behind this practice is the notion that one lets go of a particular activity or habit in order to pay closer attention to God, and in so doing draw closer to Christ. I encourage you to “give something up”, or let go of something, so you can take hold of a new practice that will draw you closer to Jesus. For example, let go of one half hour of daily television so you can spend that time reading the Bible and other Christian literature.

The term “Lent” comes from the Anglo Saxon word, *lente*, meaning springtime. The association of Lent with spring creates a point of contact with those who do not follow Jesus Christ. All people long for the light and warmth of spring, especially those of us in the far north! Moreover, many long for light to break into their world and overcome the darkness that oppresses them and creation. Our Christian season of Lent offers a genuine expression of hope for those languishing in darkness.

During Lent, we will hear sermons from the gospel of Luke. Saint Luke, a Greek physician and historian, lived during the first century, not too many years after the earthly life of Christ. He highlighted at least two themes that are timely and relevant for us.

First, Luke emphasized the social-justice content of Jesus's message. He did so in a way that was practical and down-to-earth. Luke helps us understand Jesus's call to use responsibly the resources God has given us. According to Luke, Jesus is less concerned with a radical restructuring of society, and more focused on practical benevolence. The gospel writer tells us that God wants us to use our resources to help and care for those less fortunate than ourselves. Surely, with the cry of Haiti in our ears, Jesus's call to love in practical, tangible ways is a message we need to hear. Secondly, Luke accentuates Jesus's message of forgiveness – God's forgiveness of us, and His demand that we forgive one another. May this message resonate deep in our souls. We have all made mistakes. We have all harmed others. We have all been hurt. We need to receive – and extend – forgiveness.

Lent is God's gift to us. Darkness surrounds us and the holy season of Lent invites us to draw closer to Christ, the Light of the world. Practice Lent, so Christ's amazing love, forgiveness, and justice become more real and operative in your life.



## ASSOCIATED REMARKS

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This past January the Chapel Ladies put on a wonderful women's winter retreat with Martha Zimmerman as our main speaker. The theme of the event was "Closer to Our Father" and examined having a closer relationship with God through the biblical text of the Lord's Prayer. I was grateful to be able to participate in the retreat, especially the quiet times that were offered to reflect on what we heard. I wrote three things that week-end and shared two of them with the others who were there. Several of the women requested copies and so the Auke Talk seemed an obvious way to get them to folks and share them with those who were not on the retreat too.

### Opening Prayer

*(Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer and said, 'When you pray, pray in this way...' which can mean these words exactly or 'in this pattern'. This prayer is based on the pattern of the Lord's Prayer)*

Our Dear Heavenly Father, who lives in a pure relationship of love, joy and power with the Son and the Spirit: May your name be holy, set apart, throughout all creation, as the one God who is all knowing, all powerful and eternal.

We pray for the earth to be filled with justice and righteousness, but not without love and grace, so that you and your ways will rule among us. May we obey with all the purpose and speed of the angels in heaven. Please give us just what we need to make it through this day. Forgive us for our sins and do not let us be ungracious to others. We would be ungrateful for your grace if we held against others what you have forgiven them.

Keep us from any hardship, difficulty or distress that would not deepen our faith.

Free us from all the ways we are captive to the devil's lies and schemes. You rule over all that is, seen and unseen, and we know you are able to do more than we ask, expect or imagine. Your splendor awes our hearts and minds as it will for all the ages we enjoy in your presence. Amen.

### First Poem

We were asked to reflect on the following Scripture and then write what came to mind: (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7; Psalm 46:10; Psalm 62:1,2; Matthew 11:28; James 4:8; Psalm 42:1; Matthew 17:8; and Psalm 65:1-8)

I AM  
In the unwritten future—I AM  
In the tumultuous present—I AM  
In the unchangeable past—I AM  
With you—I AM  
With them—I AM  
Have no fear—I AM  
Wherever you go  
    Whenever you need  
    Whoever you are

I AM  
Here  
Able  
Faithful  
Ready  
Willing  
    To redeem  
    To comfort  
    To forgive  
    To make new  
    To work beyond your wildest  
    imagination

I AM  
    To be glorified  
    To be enjoyed

I AM

## ASSOCIATED REMARKS (CONTINUED)

### Second Poem

Later we were asked to look at a picture and respond to it. The picture was of what looked like a child leaning into a large hand carved out of stone. My first impression was that it was odd, and that leaning on a slab of granite would not be very comfortable, let alone comforting. How could one get from a rock-hand to the care of God our Father which is what I knew the image was supposed to represent? So my mind began to play with that progression:

*Stone Cold  
or so it seemed  
when Heaven slammed shut  
and the whole World screamed  
Fire Hot  
in fallen rages  
But Living Water  
poured out the Rock of Ages  
Blood Warm  
Ghost given up  
Redemption shines  
in Bread and Cup  
Crystal Cool  
the cleansing Font  
be still and know  
I AM your Rock, your Fortress  
You shall not want.*



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## WOMEN'S RETREAT RECORDINGS AND MATERIALS

If you missed the 2010 Women's Retreat with Martha Zimmerman, have no fear! The sessions were recorded and can be reproduced for those of you who would like a copy (unknown date of availability, as we're still editing the sound files). There are also copies of the booklet used in the publication rack in the Narthex. Call the church office if you're interested in a copy of the sessions, 789-7592.

## A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN:

February is the month in which we traditionally celebrate our love for others, so it is appropriate that we express our love for the children we are blessed to fellowship with here at Chapel by the Lake by reminding everyone of what we need to do to ensure their safety and security as far as we are able.

We want to remind you that children should always be under adult supervision when they are in the building. We cannot guarantee the safety and security of children throughout our public and well-used facility if they are unsupervised. It is the expectation at Chapel by the Lake that children will either participate in the program, class, or childcare provided for them or will be with their parents or person responsible for their care. On Sunday morning, children who are in classes on the first floor need to be picked up by a parent or responsible adult before they are released; the same is true for our Wednesday evening K-5th grade program in Room 201, R.O.O.S.T.E.R.

You can help the Sunday School Shepherds and R.O.O.S.T.E.R. leaders to ensure the safety of children by picking up children first thing after services and classes. In order to help with the safety and security of our young people and the care of our building we will be locking the doors to the education wing on Wednesday evenings during dinner. A Sunday school room key will open the doors for any adults who need to be in the wing before 6:15pm. Children should be in Smith Hall with their families or the friends who bring them until the Leaders can go to their rooms with them. We also need to remind everybody that it is important to walk in our building especially when there are a lot of people around so that no one gets hurt. We want Chapel by the Lake to be a safe and welcoming place and you can help us by remembering these few guidelines and taking time to explain them to your children or any other children you see who need a reminder.

Thank you!

## TERMS TO LEARN

*Note: While Christians should strive to communicate Gospel truth in everyday language (rather than “Christianese”) so that it can be understood, it is also true that our communication and understanding is diminished when we avoid learning and using some words that may not be in common use outside of their Christian context. And if we don’t learn them, how can we explain the concepts contained within these terms to our children and our neighbors? Each issue of Auke Talk, the Christian Discipleship Ministry Team (CDMT) will feature a term every month for you to learn, explain, discuss and share with your family, study group, friends, and neighbors.*

### **This Month: Regeneration**

(From *The Reformation Study Bible ESV*, Ligonier Ministries 2005, p. 1514)

Regeneration is the act of God alone, in which He renews the human heart, making it alive when it was dead. In regeneration, God acts at the origin and deepest point of the human person. This means that there is no preparation, no preceding disposition in a sinner that requests or contributes to the new life given by God.

Regeneration is necessary because all descendants of Adam and Eve have inherited their sin and are morally unable to do what is good. Paul wrote to the Ephesians (Eph 2:1) that people are by nature dead in trespasses and sins. In this state, they are without God and without hope in the world. Not in response to their merit, but freely and in love, God speaks the word that raises the dead.

The classic verses of John 3 that use the language “born again” or being “born from above” give the outlines of regeneration their sharpest edge. Jesus says that unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of heaven. Without the grace of God, sinners cannot find the door, let alone force their way in. Elsewhere Jesus said “apart from me, you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5); and in speaking about salvation, “with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Mt 19:26)

Jesus showed surprise that Nicodemus was puzzled by the demand to be born again. Nicodemus should have understood from the Old Testament that he was a sinner, and in need of new life; and he must have known the prophets, who promised that God would remove their hearts of flesh and replace them with hearts ready to do God’s will. God would raise the dead, give sight to the blind, and preach the good news to those who could not save themselves.

Regeneration is the gift of God’s grace. It is the immediate, supernatural work of the Holy Spirit wrought in us. Its effect is to quicken us to spiritual life from spiritual death. It changes the disposition of our souls, inclining our hearts to God. The fruit of regeneration is faith. Regeneration precedes faith.

Infants can be born again, although the faith that they exercise cannot be as visible as that of adults. For many Christians, the moment that they were born again is clearly known; but for others, it may not be, especially if they received new life in childhood. We are responsible to know that we are spiritually alive, not the time and place we were born again.

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## ADDITIONAL TERMS TO LEARN

To read past “Terms to Learn” articles, please see our ever-growing archive of monthly newsletters on the church’s website at [www.chapelbythelake.org/resources.html](http://www.chapelbythelake.org/resources.html). You will also find digital (MP3) recordings of recent sermons, descriptions of the monthly devotionals that we have available (print & CD), and a series of articles entitled *Ten Ways Modern Culture is Different Because of John Calvin*. We are continually adding more materials for you to read and listen to, so check back often.

## **BUILDING THE CHURCH**

At the congregational meeting of Chapel by the Lake on Nov. 29, 2009, the congregation authorized the trustees of the church to “mortgage Chapel by the Lake to borrow money to build the Narthex/Smith Hall addition.” This was essentially the first step towards making the expansion of our church facility come to fruition. Since that time, members of the building committee have been working on getting financing in place, finishing up the building plans, determining finish materials, and getting a contractor on board.

I found it interesting that on the very Sunday that we approved proceeding with the addition, elder Adrian Slater, chair of the Missions committee, made an appeal from the pulpit to support our mission in Africa. Even as this building project commands a good deal of our time and treasure, we ought not let that endeavor sidetrack our ongoing mission of “Knowing Jesus, and making Him known.”

Some people have asked if we are going to have a special building fund drive to pay for the construction project. The monthly loan service for a new mortgage (Chapel is currently mortgage free) will be in the neighborhood of \$6,000\* per month. I am happy to report that there is no need for anyone to increase the standard 10% tithe that Chapel has encouraged its members to give for years.

Ah, but there is the rub. Chapel is not that much different from the rest of American Christian churches, where the average giving is less than 3% of income. Granted, giving 10% is not a requirement of our faith. As we read in Galatians, in Christ we are free from the Old Testament laws, and that is where the tithe is proscribed. But Jesus and the Epistles of the New Testament have a lot to say about money, not the least of which is to be generous, as God is generous to us.

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21). Jesus is encouraging us to lay up treasures in heaven, where they are preserved for eternity, rather than laying up treasures on earth, where they pass away. Certainly any building we erect here on earth will pass away, but the ministry to other people that we accomplish in the use of the building has the potential to be eternal. This should be our goal: to use the resources that God has provided to build His kingdom and to spread the Gospel.

Giving 10% of your income is challenging, which is why I believe God instructed us to give 10% and not 1% or 3% or 5%. To quote CS Lewis: “I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare...If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us,... they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.” The dollar amount is not important, but the impact on your life that giving 10% will have is important. For most people, it will require a change in priorities as to where their money goes. Because if your giving does not affect your heart, what does it profit you?

There is more to having a closer relationship with Jesus than simply giving more money. For that matter, there is more to having a closer relationship with Jesus than praying more, or reading the Bible more, or doing more works of service. Jesus doesn't want your treasure per se; he doesn't want you to do more stuff. He wants your heart! We don't buy favor from Jesus with our money; we respond to his grace to us with our very lives, which our treasure represents. Jesus wants more of us, to acknowledge him for who he is and for what he has done for us, and to make ourselves available to him! How will you make yourself more available to him?

In Him,  
Rick Thibodeau, Bldg. Com. Chair

\*A 20-year note for \$750,000 at 6.75% interest would have monthly payments of \$5,703.

## ARE YOU READY FOR MARVA DAWN?

*Renewal by the Lake Weekend is only 3 Weeks  
Away!*

Our featured speaker at Renewal 2010 is prolific author & Bible scholar Dr. Marva Dawn. Ms. Dawn is the author of over 20 books covering spiritual topics as far flung as Sabbath-keeping to spiritual warfare to sexual character. She asks questions that people wonder but won't utter out loud, like 'is it a lost cause teaching youth in today's church?' Spoiler alert: It's absolutely worth our best efforts! An observer of how society imposes itself on Christians, Marva reframes what has become common with vital and fresh illumination. Consider the notion of Christian worship: Marva states that all men and women are worshipers. The obvious question is "Who or what is the object of our worship? and how will I now lead my life?"

People who have sat under Marva Dawn's teaching rave, "She knocks the wind out of me." Of her writings, one commentator notes, "Her books challenge the farthest reaches of the mind and the deepest yearnings of the soul." Dawn's rendering of the complex and often convoluted ethical, spiritual and Biblical issues is accessible to a wide audience, yet nuanced and thoughtful. The perfect antidote to Juneau in March!

To prepare for Marva's arrival, our Library is now stocked with five titles: [Keeping the Sabbath Wholly](#), [In the Beginning: God, Being Well When We're Ill](#), [Sense of the Call](#), and [Powers, Weaknesses and the Tabernacling of God](#). As well, each Sunday until Renewal Weekend begins, an article by Marva Dawn will be available in the Narthex. Be ready and prepare for a rich and fulfilling experience!

Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy this special weekend of renewal. As always, childcare is free and every event will be followed with time for discussion and fellowship.

## Renewal by the Lake Weekend Schedule

### Friday, March 5

**6:00pm:** Worship & Praise  
Teaching by Marva Dawn: **"In the Beginning... GOD!"**

### Saturday, March 6

**9:00am:** Continental Breakfast & Coffee

**9:30am:** Teaching by Marva Dawn: **A Sabbath for Ministry: Restoring Our Joy**  
A Saturday morning seminar designed for lay & pastoral servants. This session focuses on the spiritual demands of the vocation. Open to all but especially those involved in adult & children's ministries, youth leaders, worship teams, compassion ministries, and more.

### Saturday Evening, March 6

**5:30pm:** The Annual Barbeque Dinner featuring Spicy Barbeque Ribs & Thai Chicken Curry

**6:30pm:** Worship & Praise  
Teaching by Marva Dawn: **Keeping God at the Center: Against Powers & Illness**

### Sunday Morning, March 7

**9:00am:** Dr. Marva Dawn preaches: **Living by Grace: Isaiah 55:1-9**

**11:15am:** Dr. Marva Dawn preaches: **Living by Grace: Isaiah 55:1-9**

### Sunday Evening, March 7

**6:00pm:** Worship & Praise  
Teaching by Marva Dawn concludes: **Living Joyfully**

## NOTES FROM SESSION:

Session met on Jan. 21st with 10 Elders present and 2 excused. The meeting was opened at 7:10pm with prayer and devotions (from Psalm 61) led by Rev. Dr. Dye.

The minutes of the regular meeting on Dec. 17th were approved. 200 persons received communion on Jan. 2nd. Session approved the baptism of Logan Otto Dunayski, infant son of Michael and Elizabeth.

Reports were received from the Trustees, Finance Committee, Administrator, Sr. Pastor and Assoc. Pastor. Committees reporting were CDMT – renewal will be Mar. 5-7, they are working on Renewal 2011, and Kirstie Dye will serve as Director of VBS (she needs someone to work with her!); LRP – Construction will start April 1st and they have the Building Committee partially filled; Music/Worship – they are having trouble recruiting Lay Leaders; Nominating – working on APNC; Mission – planning a potluck for those that sponsor a child; Memorials – being activated. Session adjourned at 8:40pm; Rev. Hackel led prayer.

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## THANK YOU

We extend a huge thank you to Beth Belflower for all of her work in the handicap restroom on the lower level (which also is used as a wedding dressing room) cleaning, painting and sprucing up. It was not a small task; and what a tremendous improvement!

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## BUDGET UPDATE

For the month of January, the 2010 budget anticipated receiving \$58,958 in the general offering, and our actual receipts were \$57,385.

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## CANCELED: MOVIE NIGHT

Due to a scheduling conflict, the *Cinema by the Lake* movie night event has been canceled until further notice. We apologize if this has caused anyone any inconvenience.

## HOLY LAND TOUR

The Holy Land pilgrimage tour is set for Oct 26 - Nov 5, 2010, with Seattle as our departure and return point. We have tour brochures at church, which include all the details - itinerary, prices, policies, and more. We are also happy to email you a copy of the brochure. You can reserve your place NOW by making your down payment reservation. Please contact Pastor Dye if you have any questions. We hope you can join us.

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## JUNEAU COOPERATIVE CHURCH COUNSEL LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES

*"Living Lent with Heart, Mind, Body, and Soul"*  
Every Thursday, February 18th through March 25th at Northern Light United Church ~12-1pm.  
Freewill offering to benefit the Glory Hole.

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## SUMMER INTERN

Chapel by the Lake is recruiting for a summer intern. We would like someone who is currently enrolled in college. Parents, please let your college age students know about this opportunity for the summer. A job description and application can be found on the church website ([www.chapelbythelake.org](http://www.chapelbythelake.org)) and there are some printed copies in the Narthex.

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## CELEBRATING CHILD SPONSORSHIP

*Our Children Beyond the Lake*

If you or your family sponsor a child anywhere in the world or are interested in doing so, mark April 11th on your calendar. There will be a potluck luncheon after the 11:15 service on that day and a fun program to share ideas, encourage one another, write letters to your child, see film clips about sponsorship etc. More details will follow in the months ahead!

– The Mission Committee

## NEW TO YOUR LIBRARY

We have newbooks in the library. Included are a fewbooks by Marva Dawn (this year's Renewal by the Lake guest speaker) and the ones specifically recommended to parents by Youth Director Jessica Reighard. Come find them on the "New Books" cart.

### Written by Marva Dawn

- ▶ *In the Beginning GOD* (221.1 DAW)
- ▶ *The Hilarity of Community* (227.106 DAW)
- ▶ *Joy in Our Weakness* (228.07 DAW)
- ▶ *Talking the Walk* (230.01 DAW)
- ▶ *Sexual Character* (241.66 DAW)
- ▶ *Being Well When We're Ill* (248.8 DAW)
- ▶ *Is it a Lost Cause?* (261.8 DAW)
- ▶ *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly* (263.3 DAW)
- ▶ *A Royal "Waste" of Time* (264 DAW)

### Senior High & Parents Selection

- ▶ *Daring to Draw Near* by John White (248.3 WHI)
- ▶ *How to Stay Christian in College* by J. Budziszewski (248.8 BUD)
- ▶ *Christless Christianity* by Michael Horton (277.3 HOR)

### Other New Additions

- ▶ *The Knowledge of the Holy* by Aiden Tozer (231.4 TOR)
- ▶ *When God Doesn't Make Sense* by James Dobson (231.8 DOB)
- ▶ *The Truth War* by John MacArthur (239 MAC)
- ▶ *The End of Reason* by Ravi Zacharias (239.7 ZAC)
- ▶ *Hard to Believe* by John MacArthur (248.4 MAC)
- ▶ *The Gospel Driven Life* by Michael Horton (248.5 HOR)
- ▶ *Atheism Remix* by Albert Mohler (261.21 MOH)
- ▶ *Jesus Love the Little Children* by Daniel Hyde (265 HYD)
- ▶ *Infant Baptism* by John Sartelle (265 SAR)
- ▶ *Jesus Made in America* by Stephen Nichols (277.3 NIC)
- ▶ *John Calvin* by Burk Parson (284.2 PAR)
- ▶ *Blood Brothers* by Elias Chacour (956.94 CHA)

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us February 17th for the observance of Ash Wednesday. The service will be in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm following Wednesday night dinner. ROOSTER will meet as usual; however all older youth and adults are encouraged to attend the service in lieu of their usual classes.

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## FEBRUARY

### ANNIVERSARIES

John and Rebecca Clark (02/02)  
Joe and Karen Fanazick (02/08)  
Don and Tracy Kubley (02/28)

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### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Terra Hock (02/01)  
Carlynn Casperson (02/01)  
Dolores Smith (02/03)  
Rob Becker (02/05)  
Payton Dreisbach (02/05)  
Susan Macaulay (02/05)  
Tom Brice (02/06)  
Kathryn Price (02/06)  
Jim Quinto (02/06)  
Brooke Scott (02/06)  
John Clark (02/10)  
Geri McLeod (02/10)  
Margaret Meiners (02/10)  
Wayne Nicolls (02/11)  
Aaron Druyvestein (02/12)  
Nancy Norman (02/12)  
Myrna Allen (02/13)  
Paul Berg (02/14)  
Laraine Derr (02/15)  
Haley Mertz (02/17)  
Joanne Brindley (02/19)  
Josh Lockhart (02/20)  
Leila Robinson (02/22)  
Tracee Hackel (02/23)  
Brook Slater (02/23)  
Tim Kissner (02/24)  
Jirdes Baxter (02/25)  
Tisa Becker (02/26)  
Judy Leegard (02/27)  
Bill Lockhart (02/27)  
Charlotte Truitt (02/27)  
Robin Sylvester (02/29)

Birthdays and Anniversaries