
AUKE TALK

March 2010 Edition

THE PASTOR'S PEN

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KEEP ON RENEWING

"Renewal by the Lake, 2010" is now over – and what a grand experience it was! Dr. Marva Dawn called us to live with God at the center of our lives, and in so doing experience the joy of life in Christ even when confronted by disappointments, hardship, and challenges. We saw and discovered how Marva embodied Christ's joy and grace, even as she lives with several chronic physical limitations. We may give thanks to our great Savior for giving us the opportunity to learn and receive blessings from a wise and deep woman of God.

Moreover, many, many Chapel folks worked and served to make Renewal possible. Elsewhere in this Auke Talk Linda Sylvester expresses thanks for the numerous people who contributed to the event's success. Well, Linda herself, and Eric Taylor, deserve an extra measure of appreciation for the truly sacrificial efforts they contributed to Renewal. Eric led the Renewal planning team, and Linda provided an abundant amount of help. Renewal simply would not have happened without them. Thank you, Linda and Eric!

I began this article by observing that Renewal is "now over". We know that is not true. In the sense that the specific event called "Renewal by the Lake, 2010" has ended, a particular program is over. However, the process of renewal within our church and in our lives continues. Marva helped us gain a better understanding of the nature of God's grand and expansive love God for us. As she put it, "God's grace is even bigger than the ice fields that create the glaciers surrounding Juneau!" God's love is immense, truly eternal. Dr. Dawn reminded us that God always provides, even during the most difficult times. She urged us to keep Sabbath as a way to live in God's joy and blessings. Moreover, Marva encouraged us that the "principalities and powers" of this world and Satan are no match for God's passionate love for us. Finally, she expounded on the great adventure of living joyfully in the Lord by focusing on things that are true, noble, lovely, pure, and so forth. (Philippians 4: 4-9)

I pray God's Spirit uses Renewal 2010 to fill you with joy and an ever-growing awareness of God's extravagant grace. May this be true in your life.

If you did not get the chance to attend Renewal, or simply want to hear Dr. Dawn's teachings again, the office has copies of her main talks. They are also on the church website, www.chapelbythelake.org.



JOYFUL NOISE

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“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”
(1 Cor. 14:26)

GUIDANCE ON CRUCIAL DECISIONS

crucial (adj.)

- 1. Extremely significant or important; Vital to the resolution of a crisis; decisive**
- 2. Having the form of a cross; cross-shaped.**

[From New Latin (instantia) crucis, (experimentum) crucis, crossroads (case), crossroads (experiment), from Latin crux, cruc-, cross. Sense 2, French, from Old French, from Latin crux]
The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. 07 Mar. 2010.

Last week, I had the good fortune to attend a “webinar” (an online seminar) by David Gambrell, PCUSA Associate for Worship, on the topic of “Fresh Ideas for Holy Week.” Doug and I had been discussing some small, yet hopefully powerful changes to Holy Week services, and he’d run across an announcement for this session that we both thought sounded interesting.

The first substantial slide included the terms “egeria” and “Mystagogical Catechesis,” which almost prompted me to opt to fold laundry. I don’t know what those terms mean—and there were a lot of terms that made me wonder if perhaps I was the only person listening who hadn’t attended seminary.

One term stood out, though, both because I recognized it and—with a rush of clarity—finally understood what it meant after using it in conversation for perhaps the last 20 years: **Crucial**

How have you been using the word “crucial”? I have typically used it in the following situations:

To the babysitter: “Putting Jake to bed with a clean diaper is *crucial*.”

To my husband: “It is *crucial* that I understand what you are saying.”

In the kitchen: “The addition of baking powder is *crucial* to this recipe.”

I have accurately used it interchangeably with the terms “critical,” “necessary,” and “very important.” (See definition 1 in the box above.) However, “*crucial*” has an additional connotation that expands its meaning infinitely. That meaning can be found in definition 2 above. Things that are “*crucial*,” by definition, have the form of a cross.

As I think about these intertwined definitions, I feel both ecstatic and relieved. **Things that are truly important should be relevant to the cross.** Another way: The things that are important to us—whether we say they are or whether our actions, time, or energy show they are—should have a place in God’s plan for our lives. What is outside of Christ’s desire for us should also be outside our thoughts, words and actions.

Another definition indicates that the cross is "a guidepost that gives directions at a place where one road becomes two."¹ When we have *crucial* decisions to make, we should consult the cross. Christ died so that we may live. So, why do we neglect to turn to Him for guidance in our lives?

My struggle is discerning God's will in my decisions. I am impatient, and my spirit could hardly be called "gentle." I have strong beliefs, but in my determination to address a situation that I see as *crucial*, I often forget to first consult the ultimate guidepost—the cross. How silly. How foolish.

We each have our struggles, our sin, our worldliness to contend with. But in this Lenten season, especially, we are to highlight and magnify Christ's ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. Use the remainder of Lent to focus on Christ's will for you. What is Christ's plan for your life? What are the crossroads we must encounter in small, daily ways in order to reach the glorious outcome God has in mind for each of us?

If we come to a crossroads—if the concern is *crucial*—consult the cross.



ASSOCIATED REMARKS

Rev. Tracee Hackel, Associate Pastor
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Well, as many of you know by now I have been accepted into the New Testament PhD program at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA. Dr. Marianne Meye Thompson will be my supervisor. As of right now it looks like my last Sunday with you all here at Chapel by the Lake will be August 1st. I have to be in Pasadena for new student orientation by mid-September. I am very grateful to have been accepted to this program.

I hope to study the use of the Old Testament in the New. This is a fascinating aspect of biblical studies because it is full of implications for Biblical Theology, Biblical Interpretation, Christology, Trinitarian Doctrine, Scripture Translation, The Doctrine of the Inspiration of Scripture, and the reliability and sufficiency of Scripture for the Christian life. So, over the next few years I have my work cut out for me!

I am grateful to all of you for your support and encouragement in this process. I would be very thankful for your continued prayers as I transition out of this work here into being a student again, for housing there in Pasadena, and all the other details that need to be sorted out along the way. It is very hard to think about leaving Alaska and especially leaving Chapel by the Lake; at the same time, I know the Lord is leading me in this new direction and I look forward to what He has in store for me and for you next!





25,000 kids die every day – mostly from preventable causes like hunger. A \$1 a day can feed and care for one child in need, so every \$30 raised helps feed a child for an entire month. All the funds raised will be sent to world vision. More information at www.30hourfamine.org.

Overnighter

Friday, April 9 to Saturday, April 10
6pm to TBD
For Sr. High Youth

This year we are not going to fast as a group together for 30 hours, but we are going to fast on our own time and come together and talk about that experience. The week of the overnighter I am encouraging you to fast something. Take time to pray and ask God what he wants you to fast. Maybe it is TV for a week. Maybe it is lunch once, twice, or even three times. Maybe you need to fast music, facebook, or even your phone.

This is not your average overnighter

Be prepared to be challenged, enlightened, and live a little differently!

What to bring:

Money raised for children, sleeping bag, clothes that can get dirty, a good attitude!

Any Questions Contact: Jessica Reighard
907-723-0090 or jreighard@chapelbythelake.org

BUILDING THE CHURCH

Have you seen the rotten post barely holding up the walkway roof between the log chapel and Smith Hall? Two boards have been attached to the post (*pictured right*) to stave off a complete collapse. Nearly all the walkway posts here and at the sanctuary entrance contain some degree of wood rot. We also have a deteriorating roof and quite possibly a rusting fuel tank, each of which are not as readily seen, but their decay concerns us as well. The building project Chapel is planning to embark on this spring will address these building maintenance issues, and more.



Although the degree of decay we find in our facility doesn't prevent the building from continuing to function (at least not yet), a leaking roof or a collapsed walkway does hamper its effectiveness! Likewise, the sin in our lives doesn't disqualify us from being called Christian, but sin does hamper our effectiveness in the kingdom of God.

We read in 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God." What are the promises that the writer speaks of that should propel us to root out our sinful behaviors? Paul takes the word of God from Leviticus, Ezekiel, 2 Samuel, and Isaiah and presents it like this:

"I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
Then I will welcome you,
and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty."

(2 Corinthians 6:16b-18 ESV)

These are great words of encouragement to live lives of holiness and service! God welcomes us and walks with us, and makes us His sons and daughters! Paul implores us to have a sincere and vigorous response.

Just as we have taken stock of our building and are proceeding to "cleanse every defilement", we should also look internally, confess the sin that separates us from God, and pray for the Holy Spirit to "bring holiness to completion in the fear of God". This is something we can do both as a church and as individuals. How have we allowed darkness to overshadow the light of Christ within us?

In our attitudes?
In our relationships?
In our spending?
In our thoughts?
In our actions?

(continued on next page)

Yes, we have the confidence that in Christ our trespasses are not counted against us, but we must also keep in mind that one day we will each appear before the judgment seat of Christ and receive what is due for what we have done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:19; 5:10) In this we can also thank God for His grace that shores up our feeble efforts at being sturdy posts!

God willing, in a few months we will have a church building that is bigger, brighter, and more useful! May it be a symbol for our church body that is purer, Brighter in Jesus, and more grace-full!

In Him,
Rick Thibodeau
Building Committee Chair

Please pray for the following:

- Wisdom for the building committee in the decisions that need to be made
- Timely processing for all the necessary paperwork
- Generous giving to provide for ALL of Chapel's ministry

ISRAEL REPORT

Sunday, March 28th at 6:00pm in the View Room
Dave and Dona Eley will be presenting a report from Israel and the West Bank. Bring your questions and join us as we take a look at Mission work in the Middle East.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee on Sunday, March 21st. Meeting to begin in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:15am worship service.

NOTES FROM SESSION:

Session met for the regular meeting Feb. 10 with 9 elders present, 2 absent and Rev. Dr. Dye, Rev. Hackel and Harvey Knuth present.

Devotions were from Joshua 23:14-16. Minutes of the Jan. 21st meeting were approved. 299 persons received communion on Feb. 7th. Harvey Knuth reported for the Trustees, the Finance Committee and his Administrator's report. A line item "Building Fund" added to the budget was discussed thoroughly and will be pursued at the March meeting. He also reported on the progress made toward the start of the remodel in April. Rev. Dr. Dye in his report, spoke on the challenges we face as we grow – a great problem to have. Rev. Hackel gave her report and asked for prayers for Angoon.

CDMT – the position description for a Children's Ministry Director was presented and discussed, was asked to keep in prayer. Fellowship & Care – approved "Who's Coming to Dinner" on March 13th and the Resurrection Romp on April 10th. Nominating – Approved a 9-11 member APNC and called a Special Congregational Meeting, for the purpose of electing an APNC on March 21st immediately following the 11:15 service. Old/New Business – approved removing 9 persons from the rolls – moved out-of-town or deceased. Session adjourned at 8:50 pm and Rev. Hackel led in prayer.

BROWN BAG & BIBLE NOTICE

Brown Bag & Bible is a Prayer and Bible Study group that meets at 12:30pm in the Corner Room here at Chapel. We are just starting a study on the letters of 1 & 2 Peter. You are welcome to bring your lunch and join us anytime.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NOTICE

There will be no regular Wednesday Night dinner or classes or youth groups on March 24th. Enjoy your Spring Break!

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS!

Evangelism training

Are you concerned that there are many in your community who don't really know the Good News of Christ's wonderful love for them? The Presbytery of Alaska is hosting an Evangelism training event, April 13th – 16th. Event will be held at the Shrine of St. Therese in Juneau. Transportation, lodging and food will be provided.

Instructor – Ray Jones

Contact Harriet Schirmer, (907) 874-3830 or schirmer@aptalaska.net, for more information.

Funding is through a Grant from Synod, and funding for the instructor is from the General Assembly.

INQUIRERS/NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sundays, March 14th, 21st, & 28th and April 11th, 18th, & 25th.

Meet in the Corner room from 12:30—1:45pm. Lunch is included! If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office, 789-7592.

KEENAGER'S SENIOR LUNCHEON

Friday, March 19th

Faith and Begora! It's time for the monthly Keenager's luncheon. This month, we'll be serving up corned-beef and cabbage! So, come a little early to help with set-up, clean-up, and a some extra visiting. Bring an Irish joke or story to share. RSVP please! Charlotte Heard, 789-9126, or Beth Belflower, 789-2595.

SUNDAY SERMONS ONLINE

Visit our website, www.chapelbythelake.org, to download this week's sermon! Check out the resources page to find messages from previous weeks. You can also find an ever-growing collection of newsletters, messages, and print materials. If you have any trouble downloading our files, please contact Donovan in the church office, 789-7592.

THE BIBLE IN ONE HAND, A NEWSPAPER (OR MOUSE, TV REMOTE) IN THE OTHER

Starts March 28th in the Upper Room
(above the kitchen, up the stairs in Smith Hall)

This Sunday morning class will explore appropriate Christian approaches or insights to current events. Each week an article from the secular news media will be reviewed along with relevant Scripture passages. Although we don't expect a class consensus, the hope is that the insights and discussions will build faith and allow us to better articulate a Christian worldview on important current issues. Topics for review and discussion include: (1) A Christian approach to health-care reform?, (2) America's and Hollywood's surprisingly conservative views on marriage and infidelity, (3) Did Christians cause the housing crisis and recession? (The actual cover story of a recent Atlantic Monthly!), (4) Why an atheist believes Africa truly needs God, (5) And others. For more info contact Dave Eley at capedec@alaska.com

WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!

Our "Children Beyond the Lake" – Celebrating Child Sponsorship

When: April 11th, following the 11:15 service.

Why: To build community among the chapel families and individuals who sponsor children throughout the world. To welcome those who wish to learn more about child sponsorship. There will be packets from World Vision available for those wishing to begin sponsoring a child or to sponsor an additional child.

What: Child sponsors, their families, and those wishing to learn more about sponsorship are invited. We will share a meal, learn what child sponsorship is all about, and exchange info about our sponsored children. It will be fun to discover where they live, and to share stories and pictures. We can exchange tips and ideas on how best to build and maintain a relationship with our sponsored children.

RENEWAL WEEKEND THANK YOUS!

The reviews are in and Renewal 2010 was wonderful! We fell in love with Marva Dawn for both her charm and the outstanding insights she held out for us to behold. In kind, both Marva and her husband, Myron thoroughly enjoyed their time with us!

The Renewal Committee would like to thank the many individuals gave their time and talents to make the weekend a success. We recognize that over 60 folks contributed but because we didn't make a note of everyone's name, we'd must speak generally. Thank you to the childcare workers, the soundboard and projector operators, the musicians, the kitchen workers, the folks who cleaned up late into the night, the hospitality team who helped with transportation & entertainment, those who shared their testimonies, the dinner set up team, the ushers, the folks who set up early, the sauce makers, the BBQ dinner hosts who assisted new people with seating, those who invited their friends and neighbors to come to Renewal, those who carried the garbage out to the dumpster. Thank you to everyone who brought desserts or snacks! Our congregation is filled to the rafters with wonderful people who give selflessly and for that we are so grateful!

Especially, we want to recognize the Men's Prayer Breakfast team for handling all aspects of the barbeque, Joe Orsi for his work as the kitchen coordinator, Renee Curtsinger for coordinating the childcare, Jessica Reighard for her coordination of the youth and the dining room set-up, and Josh Lockhart for helping lead worship during this event.

The Renewal Committee
Linda Sylvester,
Eric Taylor,
Sara Chambers,
Rev. Dr. Douglas Dye

A THANK YOU FROM MARVA DAWN

*The message below comes from this year's
Renewal by the Lake speaker Dr. Marva Dawn.*

Rev. Dr. Douglas Dye,

Thank you SO MUCH for the wonderful hospitality we received at Juneau by the Chapel by the Lake community. We are so grateful to you and your wife and family for our two lovely times together at your home and at the restaurant, for the delicious food and for the great conversations with the planning committee and with your extended family.

Please thank Andi for all the transportation, Eric for the great work of the committee and for taking us to the helicopter ride. Thank the committee for making that fantastic helicopter ride a possibility; that was the most amazing experience I have ever had on a speaking engagement!

Please also thank Cindy Gleason for the wonderful afternoon tour she gave us and all the parts of Juneau she showed us. And certainly thank Linda and Brian for letting us use his dad's condominium and for stocking it with groceries for our meals. We are most grateful for having been provided for so well.

There are so many people we need to thank who served in so many ways -- please thank the committee that made that wonderful barbecue dinner and all the hostesses and all the people that worked on the weekend. It was a most spectacular experience, and we are deeply grateful!

We wish you a blessed Lent
and a most Joyous Easter,
Marva Dawn and Myron Sandberg

RENEWAL RECORDINGS

We will have CDs available some time next week. If you would like to "reserve" a copy, please call the church office and leave your name and number with Donovan, 789-7592.