



The Clarendon Connection

August and September 2010

www.clarendonhillchurch.org

Clarendon Hill welcomes all people to our church

Young or old, gay or straight,
Faithful or seeking,
You are welcome to join us on
our shared journey of faith.

We are a small but growing
congregation seeking to serve
God, our community, and our
world.

Our resources may be limited,
but our imaginations and
desires are not. We are
constantly seeking ways to
serve others and to work for a
more just world.

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Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00a.m. Worship
10:15a.m. Children's
education
11:00a.m. Refreshments &
fellowship

Communion will be celebrated
on August 1.

Minister: Rev. Karl Gustafson
Music Director: John Adams
Saxton: Arnie James

Thoughts from the back office: July/August 2010

I attended a workshop several months ago about some of the new models for being a church that are sprouting up all over the country. It seems that lots of churches are having difficulties with traditional systems and structures and as membership and money continues to decline all over the church world there are many faithful and creative people who are looking for different ways to be the church.

The speaker made a comment that I have been thinking about ever since. His suggestion to churches who find themselves with reduced resources was to suspend all programs no matter how good they might be and concentrate all of their energy on gathering for worship at least once a week. Make worship not just the focus of the life of the church, but the only thing it did. Take a few months, or longer, and worship together. No more committee meetings, no more mission or education programs, no more stewardship campaigns. Just worship. It was his contention that a community that gathered intentionally for worship would find itself being led in many new directions with renewed energy and sense of purpose.

That was a radical idea, and it was not given too much time to discuss more fully, but it has been on my mind ever since.

I am not going to say anything more about it now either, but I would be interested to hear back from you in a while after you have had some time to ponder that idea. I am not proposing that we do that, but I am proposing that worship is and should be the beginning and the end of everything this or any church should do. What if we put all our time and energy into worship? What would our life together be like? What might we become?

Leaves and branches?

Interesting idea, this one. Think about it for a while and tell me what it feels like to you.

Blessings for a good summer,

Karl

Letters From Friends

Barbara Lawson wrote to Katherine Gustafson:

I do believe that I have landed in the right spot. Portland works for me in many ways. I look out my front window or porch and see a snow covered volcano, Mt, St. Helens in the distance

I do not miss the cold or the snow. Spring has been beautiful here. At the beginning of February the snow drops and crocuses started blooming. Now, everywhere you look you see some sort of flowering tree. In fact some of them have started to lose their petals. There are pink blooming trees, white ones and purple ones. Camelias are blooming all over the place.

I very much like it here. In fact, I am most likely to settle here. As I walk about town I cannot believe the affinity I have for the area, my part of town particularly.

As I write this I realize how much I miss Clarendon Hill. I really enjoyed my time there and while I have found a church, I have not developed the same feeling about it.

It sounds like the church is going through some evolutionary times. I do think of you all and pray for you.

Sara Chambers sent us this piece by Glenn Burleigh:

Order My Steps

1. Order my steps in your word dear lord
Lead me, guide me, every day
Send your anointing, Father, I pray
Order my steps in your word.
Please order my steps in your word.
2. Humbly I ask Thee, teach me your will
While you are working, help me be still
Though Satan is busy, God is real
Order my steps in your word.
Please order my steps in your word.
3. Bridle my tongue, let my words edify
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight
Take charge of my thoughts, both day and night

Order my steps in your word.
Please order my steps in your word.

Horizon's Bible Study

The Horizon's Bible Study for the women of Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church takes place the second Friday of each month at Salam Lebbos house. It starts at 3:30 and goes on till 5:30, unless some of the ladies would like to stay and chat.

This October will be the fourth year we are doing it. The first year Gusti led us in studying women of the bible. The second year, Liz led us in studying . This last year Katherine led us in a very interesting Bible Study series called "Landscapes of Faith". Each time we take a form of landscape, mountain, vineyard, river. We read verses from the bible that mentions that specific landscape and we discuss its significance in its context and then try to connect it to our own personal experience.

All of us enjoyed this series. We learned a lot from it and it enforced our appreciation to nature as a gift of our God.

All are welcome to join our bible study. Our next session will be the second Friday of October, the 8th.

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Presbyterian Coffee Project

Orders will be taken for Equal Exchange COFFEE (drip or whole bean), TEA (English Breakfast, Earl Grey or Green), COCOA MIX (12 oz. cans) and CHOCOLATE BARS at church on August 1st. You can send orders to Katherine no later than Tuesday, August 1st by phone (617-628-6716) or email (kgkg@gis.net). Katherine has tea and cocoa, and chocolate bars on hand for anyone needing some before the next delivery. What is EQUAL EXCHANGE? In 1991, Equal Exchange became the first U.S. Company to adopt international fair trade standards as guiding principles on 100% of their products. By working with democratic farmer cooperatives around the world and paying a fair price, Equal Exchange supports efforts to improve local communities, putting more control and greater income in the hands of impoverished, small-scale farmers in developing nations.

We also serve freshly made Equal Exchange coffee at Clarendon Hill's coffee hours!

The Nave Gallery

The Nave Gallery is a project of ARTSomerville and CHPC.

Lectionary Texts

<u>August 2010</u>	<u>September 2010</u>
August 1 (18th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Colossians 3: 1-11 Luke 12:13-21	September 5 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33
August 8 (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40	September 12 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15: 1-10
August 15 (20th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56	September 19 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Psalm 79: 1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13
August 22(21st Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29	September 26 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31
August 29 (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14	

Church Assignments

Date	Coffee Hour	Scripture	Mission	Greeter	Nursery
8/1/12	Siggers	Auger	Liberace	Schemerhorn	Gustafson
8/8/12	Augers	Bray	Milanese	Cavano	V. Donovan
8/15/12	Milanese/Kumpa	Rantisi	S.Donovan	Milanese	Schmerhorn
8/22/12	Camelio/Braga	Liberace	V. Donovan	Auger	Gustafson
8/29/12	Reynolds/ Bartin	Cavano	Kumpa	V. Donovan	V. Donovan
9/5/12	Cavano/Gustafson	Winchester	Camelio	Schemehorn	Schmerhorn
9/12/12	Ruth Allen	Milanese	Winchester	Cavano	Gustafson
9/19/12	Schemerhorn	Beran	Beran	Milanese	V. Donovan
9/26/12	Donovan	Auger	Cavano	Auger	Schmerhorn
10/3/12	Siggers	Bray	Auger	V. Donovan	Gustafson
10/10/12	Augers	Rantisi	Jirmanus	Schmerhorn	V. Donovan
10/17/12	Milanese/Kumpa	Liberace	Milanese	Cavano	Schmerhorn
10/24/12	Camelio/Braga	Cavano	Liberace	Milanese	Gustafson
10/31/12	Reynolds/Bartin	Winchester	S. Donovan	Auger	V. Donovan

The Clarendon Connection is edited by Salam Lebbos.

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