

Judson Memorial Baptist Church Messenger

A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation

June 2011

From the Pastor: More Thoughts on Resurrection



There is no question that God is doing a new thing in the church and that new thing is also happening at Judson. God is always about resurrection and new life, but we aren't always so eager to receive it. We would rather stay in our comfortable and cozy tombs with the stone safely securing the entrance. Change is painful. Rising is risky. In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis writes:

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

We are all still rising. Change rarely happens unless there is a crisis and at the Annual Meeting on May 15, we all agreed that we had a crisis on our hands. The budget deficit is too large to sustain. There will be hard choices to make. Our committee structure is also changing because fewer people want to serve in that way. Someone asked me before the meeting how I was feeling about the situation and I said that in spite of everything I was hopeful and could see exciting possibilities and opportunities to think creatively about our future. God is at work in us for new life. It is not really up to us. Let us join hands and join hearts and pray for one another and for Judson as we begin this leg of the journey.

Keep rising!

Grace and peace, *Suzan*

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Thoughts on Community ~by Keith Ford



I love hymns. I especially love singing the hymns I absorbed in my childhood. I'm not sure how I absorbed them; we didn't go to church. Nevertheless, there they are, old favorites - probably from my father's Tennessee Ernie Ford records - The Old Rugged Cross. Just a Closer Walk to Thee. Nearer My God to Thee. Amazing Grace. And now some new ones learned at Judson.

As much as I enjoy them at home, singly loudly, forgetting whole verses, embarrassing my kids, hymns burrow deeper in me when I'm in church. I think it's has something to do with singing and worshipping together, with you.

We've been thinking a lot about community in the Interim Committee and you probably noticed that the survey we all took last month asked questions about how you saw community at Judson. When I was asked to write a piece on the church and community, I returned to a Liturgist's Reflection I did a couple of years ago. In it I mused on the meaningfulness of being part of a community of worship at Judson. I quoted liberally (which is to say I lifted whole passages) from a Diane Butler Bass essay in [The Life of Meaning](#).

She wrote about her busy life and how in church, she moves from chaos to connectedness. She wrote...

"I can't even begin to say how many times I have been in church, and I'll be sitting there with my family and my heart will sort of melt, and I'll realize that I have not been as intimately connected with my family and as gracious as I should be. So I begin to experience my family and my neighbors in a new way.

And then from that I begin to think about God. And that worship service is the one place where I have an hour and a half during the week that I am focused on what it means to be a Christian, and who God is, and how my relationship with God has an impact on the rest of my life. And so I move to this place that I do not have in the regular bits of my life, and I move there not by myself.

I really do not think it is possible to be a Christian without that larger community because as I get connected with God and myself internally, I am sitting there in a room where a hundred or two hundred or five hundred other people are doing the same thing. And in that movement of the community toward God there is something that happens that is very transcendent, and it becomes not just about me and my fragmented life, but it begins to be something about us, about being a community of people who are in this together. I understand that God has not just created us as individuals so we can go to church to feel better. God is creating a community of people who are on a journey together so that they can really move out into the world and enact their callings, their vocations, their jobs, their careers in ways that are transformative and that enlarge God's dream of peace and justice for all humanity."

I feel the same way. When we're singing in church, it's really important that you're next to me. Together we make a community. Who knows what miracles we as a worshipping community are capable of here on Earth? Who knows how we touched our neighbors' lives at the Street Fest? What miracle was in a child's laughter or in the memory of a son finding something loved at the silent auction? What miracles can we assist next, worshipping and working together.

In her essay, Diane Butler concludes...

"In this culture, where you have a lot of people talking about spirituality and their spiritual journeys, it's very easy for that to become a kind of self-centered quest. You know, you go and get your spiritual high, and then everything is sort of fixed for you. But it takes it to the next level to be part of a community that is experiencing God, because it's not just about me, it's really about the world."

May we in this Interim discern with clarity the Judson community experiencing God in the world.

Community Announcements

Coordinator, Loaves & Fishes

After many years of coordinating volunteers for Loaves & Fishes, May 23 marks the end of my commitment. I am looking for a volunteer to coordinate the six times a year that Judson helps out at Loaves & Fishes. It involves making sure we have people to turn out and help on the designated day. The next date will be in July. I will be happy to work with you on all the information needed. Please consider this great opportunity to help out in the community. Contact me, Eileen McLaughlin at 612-819-7969 or at maceileen@aol.com. Thank you.



Summer Music



Would you like to sing or play an instrument on a Sunday during June, July or August? We're looking for volunteers to provide music for summer worship services. You can do a solo, duet or group. You can sing, play and instrument, or do both. There is a sign up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary (list your name, phone number and email address). Please consider signing up to do music one Sunday during the summer. You don't have to know what you are going to do right now. Thanks for your gift of music!

THINK THREE SUNDAY IS JUNE 19

Please bring three (3) items for Joyce Food Shelf on Sunday, June 19. There is a list of items needed on the box in the foyer. They have requested a need for cereal, juice, coffee and tea. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Put the Money in an offering envelope and designate that it is for Joyce Food Shelf. Thank you for your past support and your continued support.



THINK THREE SUNDAY, June 19!

REMINDER—SCHEDULE CHANGE BEGINS JUNE 12

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship

June 5

Join us for the final day of Adult Education!

Enjoy great food and a chance to shape next year's adult education plan with your valued feedback.

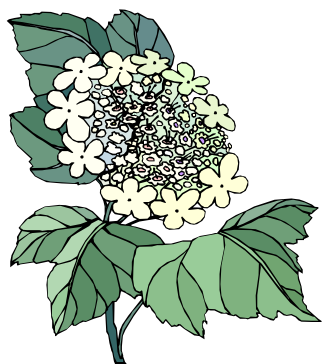


Starfish Ministry

Our requests continue to increase monthly. We are facing some challenges. With the deficit we're facing at Judson, how can our ministry become self-sufficient? How many people can we help with smaller amounts of money as opposed to helping fewer clients with their full need? We continue to pray for guidance as we take baby steps in our new mission!! We thank you again for your prayers. God bless you.

Diane Clark, Starfish Ministry Coordinator

Your Executive Council Wants You to Know ~ Pam Joern, Moderator



I'm writing this the day before Street Fest, with a prediction of an inch of rain. Although, there's also a prediction that the world will end, so we may not have to be concerned. About rain, that is. Nevertheless, rain or shine, we will show up, we'll have fun, we'll be a witness to the neighborhood, and we may even make some money. Because at Judson, we are a faithful and faith-filled lot, and for that I am grateful.

At our May 15 congregational business meeting, we found out that a few storm clouds are hanging over us. It's yet to be determined exactly what form these clouds will take or what we will need to do to protect ourselves, but I trust we'll hang together and show up during the period of discernment, because we at Judson are a faithful and faith-filled lot.

There were two orders of business at the meeting. One item of business concerned the slate of officers for next year. Lots of people are involved in many different areas of service. However, it has been difficult this year to find people willing to serve as Chairs of our standing committees. Jim presented the new slate, talked about various creative alternatives, assured us that the work will get done, and pointed out that this is an opportunity for us to reexamine the committee mandates of our constitution and think hard about what works for us and what doesn't. By unanimous vote we passed two motions: 1) to approve the current slate and 2) to suspend the committee structure mandates of our constitution for this one year.

The other business item was the presentation of the budget for 2011-2012. The annual budget is put together by various committees submitting their proposed expenses to the Finance Committee and by assessing the pledges for the next fiscal year. At this point in time, our unadopted budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year shows a deficit of \$105,129. Brad walked us through the biggest changes from the 2010 actual budget (anyone who would like more information, please ask Brad for the full budget; it's also in the congregational meeting book in the library). Projected income is down by \$50,460. Pledging units have dropped from 73 to 62. Plus, we have lost rental income due to the closing of the Family Center. Expenses are up by \$37,503. This difference is due largely to our not paying for a Senior Pastor for the months after Diane's leaving. Other changes in expenses were: a 2% increase in staff salaries (Suzan's to begin on January 1), higher property expenses due to anticipated repairs and higher insurance costs, pastoral search expenses, and an increase in Outreach to reflect our current support of Trish and Joel's work in Thailand and Burma and Hrang Hlei's support.

The Executive Council did not recommend passing this large of deficit budget. Instead, we recommended that a Task Force be appointed to explore all budget aspects and report back to the congregation with a recommendation for action by the second Sunday in October. With discussion and refinement, the motions that passed unanimously were that the out-going

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Executive Council would appoint a Task Force to a) recommend an immediate austerity budget to the Executive Council for approval and implementation and b) bring a recommendation for a more long-term budget proposal back to the congregation by the second Sunday of October.

I'm delighted to report that the following people have agreed and been approved to serve on this Task Force: Bob Clague, Bill Clark, Joel Frederickson, Monica Lewis, and Kristine Revak. They are charged with gathering information about anything that bears on our financial situation, to consider all options (both for income and expenses), to stay open to ideas never before thought of, and to hold the good of the Judson community as their focus. We are grateful for their willingness, and they will need support from the rest of us. They will need information. They'll need creative input and ideas from any Judson member who wishes to weigh-in. They will need our prayers and, as Beth Waterhouse reminded us at the business meeting, our loving kindness.

I'm grateful for the Judson spirit that was displayed at the May 15 meeting. Without rancor or blame, sobered by the news, the group listened, worked together, and voted unanimously. We are a community, we love each other, and we will hold to that as we work through the coming months. We are also a Spirit-led community, and though it can be difficult to comprehend sometimes, I believe that God's Spirit is at work guiding us to new life.

It's either very challenging or an incredible opportunity (and likely both) that we will be doing our most intense interim work at roughly the same time. While this Task Force considers recommendations to bring back to the congregation in mid-October, we will be meeting in small groups to discern the future focus, ministries, and staff needs for our congregation. We are on the threshold of change—some of it imposed upon us and some that we haven't yet imagined. I don't know what those changes will be, but I trust that we will remember and reclaim who we are as the Judson community.

In closing this article and my year as Moderator, I want to remind you that the Annual Report is available. Please take the time to look at all the incredible work and accomplishments of the past year. Thank your friends and our gifted and dedicated staff who have given so much to making Judson a spiritually rich place that we love. Give your whole-hearted support to Jim Kuether (Moderator) and to Tanya Rynkiewich (our new Vice-Moderator) and all the committee chairs and lay workers entering into this next fiscal year.

On a personal note, I was touched by the gift of a hydrangea for our new rain garden. Like Judson, it will bloom and be beautiful, and I know that it will be a reminder to me and to Brad of all the people we love so deeply.

I'm grateful for all of you,
Pam Joern, Moderator



Street Fest 2011 ~ Wayne Urbaniak

The preliminary Street Fest report is that we met our 4 goals.

1. To build community. “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...varieties of services, but the same Lord...varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” (I Corinthians 12:4-6)

One person oversees the massive food effort, while other join her in shopping, preparing, serving, and cleaning up—efficiently, safely, economically, and healthily. Another runs electrical power out to the streets, never breaking a circuit. One person gets 170 silent auction donations, with others add 40 more. Another makes the music work, leading school choir directors to comment, "Wow, the sound system in this sanctuary is great.". One person—with help throughout the day—does her plant sale magic, as some of the same neighbors return year after year for their plants. Another produces collectibles—treasures which people appreciate and buy. Scores of volunteers leave no booth unattended. One person coordinates the vendors, making inside "Plan B" work when outside "Plan A" becomes untenable. Another paints kids' faces all day long. Others lift, haul, scrub, collect garbage, and vacuum into the evening.



2. To raise some money. Totals are still to be determined and expenses to be subtracted. But as of the Monday after the Street Fest, we know that the silent auction brought in approximately \$4,000, and that the plant sale brought in over \$1,400. We know that 140 dozen donuts were sold. We know that the Youth Ambassadors raised some money for their summer mission trip. We'll give a full report about money next month.

3. To have fun together. “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

People show up on a rainy morning and don't even stop for the coffee and bagels before getting to work. A dozen people figure out the puzzle of the tents and get them set up in the rain—laughing and joking as they do it. All day long, another person gives the gift of 15 minutes of relaxation to tired workers with sore muscles. Throughout the drizzly and sometimes stormy morning, people smile, making the best of a drippy day. Then the clouds clear, the sun breaks through, and the Mouldy Figs top the day off on the street corner. We have fun together, rain or shine.

4. To introduce ourselves to the people in the neighborhood. Through the Street Fest, local organizations and schools and businesses introduce themselves to the community: nine talented groups of entertainers; InnerCity Tennis, Twin Town Guitar's Petting Zoo; ten vendors selling their creative wares. TRUST's Youth Ambassadors witness about their upcoming mission. Through the Meals on Wheels Service Project, children and adults package dog and cat food, and decorate hundreds of bags in which neighbors will receive their hot lunches. Through the Street Fest, we at Judson introduce ourselves to the community—as a church which reaches out, a church which opens its doors and invites people in, a church which has fun, a church which is a strong and powerful presence in our community.



TRUST Youth Update ~ Clay Gustafson

Preliminary numbers from the Street Fest show TRUST Youth netting over \$800 to help with expenses for their mission trip to Washington D.C. in late July. Thank you Judson! Thank you Street Fest leaders and workers for your help and support! This added source of revenue is very helpful as this mission trip is our most ambitious ~ financially speaking. Judson's progress toward our goal for our youth is over 2/3 achieved. We've raised close to \$4000, so far.

We hope to raise the rest through stock sales, the TRUST Youth car washes and coffee, tea, and cocoa sales. The car washes will take place on Saturday, June 4 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. They will be located at LCCR on the corner of 55th and Penn and at our big, friendly neighbor, Bethlehem Lutheran. (The Lutherans must have so much water that even we Baptists would be envious.) If the weather

fails to cooperate on June 4, we will hold them on Saturday, June 11: same times and locations.

Look for Judson youth in the back of the sanctuary before and after services. They will be selling stock, whole bean coffee, and organic tea and cocoa. Any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated.



Street Fest Debrief

A debrief meeting about this year's Street Fest will be held at 8:00 pm on Thursday, June 9, in the library at church. All are welcome to give feedback on Street Fests (this year and past ones) and to look ahead to future years.

Walker/TRUST Parish Nursing 5/10K



This is a big fundraiser to support the TRUST Parish Nursing program. Please consider taking part in this event on Saturday, June 11, beginning at 8 A.M. at the Lake Harriet bandshell. If you can't be there, you can help by sponsoring Clay or Emily Gustafson (two of, hopefully, many Judson participants). For more information, please contact Clay at 612-782-0449 and help support a valued and invaluable TRUST program.



Twin Cities Pride June 25-26

As Welcoming and Affirming Congregations, Judson Church and University Baptist Church have been a presence at the Twin Cities Pride Festival for the past few years. University Baptist has coordinated the spot and volunteers from both churches sign up to greet festival goers for a couple hours at a time. It is a fun and easy way to show support for our LGBT community as well as a chance to get to know our University Baptist friends. The Pride schedule is from 10:00 until 6:00 both Saturday and Sunday. People generally sign up for two hour slots, but that is flexible! Also, it's even more fun to sign up with a friend, so grab a buddy and sign up together! If you are interested in helping out for a couple of fun hours at Loring Park on Pride weekend, contact Déadra Moore at 651-278-4366.

The Messenger

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED