

The Trumpeter

First Baptist Church

SW 12th and Taylor

Portland, Oregon

Volume 72 - No. 7

April 14, 2010

35 years of Cambodian Ministry

In the 1970's, the disruption and violence in Southeast Asia attendant upon the Vietnam War spilled over into Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge regime, who ruled the country from 1975 until 1979, when they were overthrown by invaders from Vietnam, displaced hundreds of thousands of urban dwellers to the countryside for "re-education," imprisoned hundreds of thousands more, and murdered still more hundreds of thousands. Other hundreds of thousands starved in the countryside. Estimates of the total death toll in Cambodia in the Khmer Rouge years range to upwards of two million among a population of seven to eight million!

Our Cambodian Pastor, Peter Im, has shared with me his searing memories of forced evacuation from his boyhood home in Phnom Penh, separation from his family, escape to a refugee camp across the border in Thailand, and the eventual reunification of his family here in the United States. His father, who had been a Buddhist priest, embraced Christ when he witnessed the love of the Christians who had blessed his family here, and experienced the answer to his prayers that his family might be restored. Many members of

our present Cambodian congregation have similar stories to share.

Beginning in 1975, the congregation of First Baptist Church reached out to the Cambodian refugees who began streaming into Portland, torn away from all that they had known before, yet still full of hope for a new future. The church established a transition house for new arrivals, and helped with social services, school enrollments and job searches. Life-long friendships were begun. In return, our Cambodian brothers and sisters became loyal participants in our congregational life. Their children comprised a major portion of our Sunday School classes and youth group. Their potluck luncheons and dinners became love feasts for the entire congregation of First Baptist Church. And we were continually reminded that the love of Christ transcends all differences of language, culture and life experience. We became family, and these vital relationships have continued to this day.

In the ensuing years, First Baptist Church has become a center for Cambodian culture for greater Portland and the entire Pacific Northwest. We saw this again on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, when

some two hundred members and friends of ten Cambodian congregations in Oregon and Washington came together at First Baptist Church for a Holy week worship service and banquet.



This coming Sunday, April 18, we will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Cambodian ministry of First Baptist Church. Pastor Peter and the Cambodian congregation and their invited guests will join our English language worshippers in the sanctuary for the 11 AM service; then we will all be invited to their anniversary banquet following. When we contemplate these 35 years, we are moved to exclaim, along with the Apostle Peter, *"Truly I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him"* (Acts 10:34-35).

—Dr. David L. Wheeler—

Diaconate Meeting Minutes of March 10

The First Baptist Church Diaconate meeting Wednesday, March 10, opened with prayer. Moderator Karen Knauerhase introduced incoming Christian Education Committee Chair, Merica Fooks.

No financial reports were available for review. Pastor David Wheeler reported that 2010 giving thus far is approximately \$68,000.

Karen reported that Pastor David and the Executive/Personnel Committee continue to interview Business Administrator candidates. The burial vault at Portland Memorial remains available for sale; to make an offer, contact Keith Ponce or Karen Knauerhase. It is a companion vault and will hold two caskets.

FBC's by-laws were amended on February 28 to separate the functions of Treasurer and Stewardship Committee Chair. The current version of the by-laws will be posted on FBC's website. The Nominating Committee continues to search for capable, interested persons for these positions.

PASTOR MIRIAM Mendez reported there has been growth in attendance at Spanish-language programs. She informed the group that she is representing Oregon's pastors to ABC-USA as a Minister's Council Senator; in this position she will serve on the committee to select the new director of the ABC-USA Minister's Council.

See Column Two

Diaconate Meeting Minutes Continued

PASTOR SUZIE Gilmore reported that the youth participated in creating activity bags for visiting children to use during the 11 am service. The youth will be traveling to Los Angeles, CA, this summer for their mission trip. Jon Quesenberry, a music ministry student, is working as an intern with the youth group and Sunday School.

PASTOR DAVID reported for PASTOR PETER that members of three extended families, visiting in Cambodia, are ill. He reminded the group that FBC will host a NW-wide Cambodian Christian Easter celebration on Saturday, March 27. All are welcome.

Palm Sunday's 11 am service will include baptism; the Right Hand of Fellowship will be offered on Easter Sunday. On April 7, the pastoral and professional staff will participate in a one-day retreat.

MISSIONS OUTREACH committee reminds us that the America for Christ Offering is being taken through the month of March.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE is working to update all child and youth health and contact information.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE informed the group that banners welcoming visitors to worship with us Easter Sunday will be hung from the building's 11th and SW Taylor corner.

See Column Three



April 18, 2010
Cambodian 35th Anniversary
Isaiah 60:1-5
Revelation 5:11-14
"Lift Up Your Eyes and Look"

April 25 - Earth Day
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
"He Prepares a Table"

May 2
Psalm 148
Acts 11:1-18
"Who Do You Eat With?"

Worship Services at 9:00 am
and 11:00 am

Sunday school for all ages at 10:00am

11:00am worship also in Spanish and
Cambodian languages.

Spanish: Candlelight Chapel
Cambodian: Community Center

"Time for the Children" during the
11:00 o'clock service

Children's Church for ages 3 through
Second Grade follows the Time for
Children at 11:00.

Worship and Praise Celebration at
5:30pm in the Candlelight Chapel.

Diaconate Meeting Minutes Continued:

IN OTHER BUSINESS, those present agreed by common consent to direct the Easter offering to ABC-USA's united missions; a portion of these funds are returned to the region to assist with local programs and ministries.

In May, the fellowship dinner will celebrate 155 years of First Baptist Church's ministries.

The meeting closed with prayer.

–Karen Knauerhase,
Moderator–

American Baptist Men's Spring Conference

Men's Spring
Conference



**April 16 & 17,
Friday and
Saturday**

The 2010 American Baptist Men's Spring Conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, at Sky Camp, just south of Springfield. **Pastor Emmett Wheatfall** will speak on the theme, **"The Hands and Feet of God."**

Vern Williford and Paul Doty will lead in worship. Wayne Bridges and Terry Waibel will present delectable dishes at all meals. Register now.

Conference brochures are at the Welcome Center.

American Baptist Women's Spring Conference



Women's Retreat
Women's Spring Conference

Saturday, April 24 at Cedar Hills Baptist Church. This is a combination State meeting and Willamette Assn. Spring Rally.

Cost is \$20.00, and includes lunch.

Prizes! Singing! Fellowship!

Speaker is Donna Turek, Western Section Coordinator for AB Women's Ministries.

ABWM Theme:
Twitter-Tweeter: Braving the Disconnect.

**Wednesday, April 21
REAL Youth meet in the
Youth Room at 6:00pm**
to go to the play, "Luv," at Warner Pacific College.

Time change: 6:00pm to 9:30pm

With Sympathy to Dave and Libby Ivins on the passing of their grandson, Curtis Ivins Hannum, son of their daughter Barbara. He was 21 years old. Cards of condolence may be sent to Dan and Libby at First Baptist Church, 75 N. Main Street, Providence, RI, 02903

With Sympathy
Angeline V. McMillan

*Born: February 19, 1918
Joined: April 27, 1997
Died: March 16, 2010*



**Sunday,
May 9
Food Barrel
Sunday**

Can you help with vinyl gloves from Cash and Carry for our Drop-in Center volunteers? Or breakfast cereal and/or cooking oil?

While we promote Food Barrel Sunday on the second Sunday of every month, we gladly accept donations every Sunday.

**Church World Service
CROP Hunger Walk
Saturday, May 15-10:00am
at Sellwood Riverfront Park**

The walk will be 2.5 miles along the Willamette River. Can't walk? Check out ways to Walk on the Web (W.O.W.) by raising funds online through emails to friends, Facebook, or creating your own webpage at the CROP Walk Participant Center.

Happy Birthday

- Apr 16 – Sean Paul
- Apr 17 – Darlene Nelson
Beth Thomas
- Apr 18 – Ruth Boughner
Laura Lee
Siri Schillios
- Apr 19 – Maria Gherasim
Cynthia Johnson
Karen Johnson
John Verdieck
- Apr 20 – Harry Russell
- Apr 21 – Mary Baker
Patty Marella
Rick Swenson
- Apr 22 - Glenna Kruger
- Apr 23 – Jeovany Refuerzo
- Apr 24 – Robert Enloe
- Apr 26 – Lorna Littleman
Jim Noyes
- Apr 28 – Norma Kennedy
Paul Sombatt
- Apr 29 – Craig Lawson
Julianna Montgomery
- Apr 30 – Sara Caballero
Alice Long

We don't wish to leave anyone out. If you are a member, have a birthday the last two weeks of April and it is not listed here, please call Genie at 503-228-7465 or email her at gbridwell@fbc-portland.org.

Quarterly Business Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 25, at 12:30pm. Members of all three congregations are encouraged to attend and to vote for new members.

Time Dated Material

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- Peter Im - Cambodian Ministries
- Miriam Mendez - Hispanic Ministries
- Suzie Gilmore - Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship
- Cathy Francis - Business Administrator
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Downtown Fellowship

Third Thursday

April 15

10:30am - 11:45am



**Monday
Musical Club
Chorus,**

a 106-year-old Portland fixture, will again entertain us with a blend of Stephen Foster favorites, spiritual classics, movie hit songs and some sing-a-longs.

After the program, you are invited to stay for a delicious hot lunch (\$3.00) served in the dining room at 11:45am.

The Rose Festival Court is coming to Downtown Fellowship on May 20. Invite a friend, meet the princesses and have lunch with them.



ដំណឹងពីសកម្មភាពនៃពួកជំនុំខ្មែរ
MESSAGE IN CAMBODIAN

On Sunday, April 18, after church, we will celebrate our 35th anniversary in the FBC dining room. The dinner and program will be free to everyone and will be sponsored by the Cambodian Ministry, giving thanks to God for His provision through the ministry of First Baptist Church.

Please mark your calendar to join this celebration.

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