

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

February 2017

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A Sense of Perspective

Last week I had dinner with a former poet laureate of the United States. I didn't mean to. He sat down next to me at a gala dinner I was attending in Delray Beach, Florida. Okay, it was part of a national poetry festival, so it wasn't entirely by accident. His name is Charles Simic and I admire his work very much. The man who introduced him to the festival after the gala said that as a poet, Simic was somewhere between a comedian and an undertaker. There is no doubt his poetry has a dark comic edge to it.

Anyway, he sat down next to me and grabbed the fork to his right, my fork, as it happened. His was placed, in formal fashion, on the left. Friends to my right noticed this and chuckled as I searched for a way to figure out how to address the situation. After a couple of moments I just looked over and said, "Charlie, you've got my fork." And that's when our conversation began.

Frankly, I only vaguely knew a couple of things about him. One was that he was born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia shortly before World War II. The other was that during the war, another poet, Richard Hugo, dropped bombs on him. So I asked him if that was true. Yes, he said, it was true.

He and Hugo met in an Italian restaurant in San Francisco in the 1970s. Knowing Simic was from Belgrade, Hugo drew a rough map of the city of Belgrade for him on the butcher paper tablecloth, complete with river and bridges. Simic said, "You've been to Belgrade?" "No", said Hugo, "I only bombed it a couple of times in 1943." As it turned out, Simic had been a light casualty of one of those bombings. It blew out his bedroom window while he was sleeping and threw him (age 5) onto the floor. Whether the bomb was from Hugo or another member of the squadron, no one knows. In any case, Simic told me that Hugo was mortified, reduced to tears. Simic had no animosity at all and told the older poet this.

Hugo said that Belgrade was a tertiary target. They had bombed Germany, then, on the way home, they were told to drop any left overs on the bridges of Belgrade, but the bomber pilots refused to fly low enough to do the job, not wanting to take any chances on such low grade targets. So they just let them go over the city.

I knew immediately then where the darkness in Charles Simic's dark humor had come from. Shortly after the war, Simic's family was allowed to settle in Chicago and he grew up there. But he hasn't forgotten the war years. He told me that he believed that few Americans who have been born since the war have any idea what life is really about. I was all ears. In that spirit, let me conclude with an extract of a letter from the bombardier, Hugo, to the boy, Simic. It's for the ages . . .

I remember Belgrade opened like a rose when we came in. Not much flak. I didn't know about the daily hangings, the 80,000 Slavs who dangled from German ropes in the city, lessons to the rest. I was interested mainly in staying alive, that moment the plane jumped free from the weight of bombs and we went home.

I don't apologize for the war or what I was. I was willingly confused by the times. I think I even believed in heroics (for others, not for me). I believed the necessity of that suffering world, hoping it would learn not to do it again. But I was young. The world never learns. History has a way of making the past palatable, the dead a dream. Dear Charles, I'm glad you avoided the bombs, that you live with us now and write poems. I must tell you though, I felt funny that day in San Francisco. I kept saying to myself, he was on the ground that day, the sky eerie mustard and our engines roaring everything out of the way. And the world comes clean in moments like that for survivors. The world comes clean as clouds in Summer, the pure puffed white, soft birds careening in and out, our lives with a chance to drift on slow over the world, our bomb bays empty, the target forgotten, the enemy ignored. Nice to meet you finally after all the mindless hate. Next time, if you want to be sure you survive, sit on the bridge I'm trying to hit and wave. I'm coming in on course but nervous and my cross hairs flutter. Wherever you are on earth, you are safe. I'm aiming but my bombs are candy and I've lost the lead plane. Your friend, Dick.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Scott

Children's Ministry



A special thank you to the Children's Ministry volunteers who kept the program afloat during January, as we weathered a period without a Children's Ministry Director. Sunday school teachers pitched in to coordinate teaching schedules and classroom needs, and others jumped in to help with communication. A very special thank you to Marian Florence who took the lead in developing lesson plans, including adding some great new ideas and creativity to the process.

We are happy to announce that the transition period has come to a close, as we have a new Children's Ministry Director! We were fortunate to have had several very strong applicants for the role, which made for a hard decision. Effective early February, Hilary Lambert will be taking on this role. Hilary first came to Wasatch several years back and even sang in the choir, before marriage, work, a move, a new baby, etc. detoured her for a while. We are excited to welcome her back to Wasatch and we are excited for what she has offer to Children's Ministry. Between her Presbyterian background, her experience as an elementary school teacher, and her general enthusiasm and energy, we believe she will help the Children's Ministry program grow and thrive. Hilary, her husband Patrick, and their baby James live in Salt Lake City.

-Children's Ministry Committee

Youth Ministry

The Wasatch Youth leapt into the new year with a youth Trampoline Night and the ever-popular Night Games! We also switched up our Sunday school routine a bit by sprucing up Room 301 (above the Loft)



for our classroom space. In February, we're excited to begin a new project: interviewing long-standing members of the Wasatch community to learn more about the people that have made WPC what it is today!

We'll also be hosting a fun dance party during the all-church Mardi Gras party on February 28th. We hope to see you there!

- Annalise Ford, Interim Youth Director, aford@wpcslc.org



Christmas Generosity

The last two months of 2016, you were asked to go over and above your regular gifts to Wasatch and contribute to other causes. The Service Committee thought you would like to know what we achieved as a Congregation.

* **The Christmas Joy Offering** has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s and it is distributed 50/50 to two programs of the PCUSA. Half goes to retired or needy pastors and church workers and half to minority students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. It has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years to provide education and spiritual development to nurture racial and ethnic heritage. We donated \$1,620 in December.

* **Royal Kids** is an organization that works with foster children, providing camping opportunities and Christmas gifts. This was our first year to support the Christmas gifts and the local Foster Children Foundation was delighted to receive over 150 gifts from this congregation.

* **Alternative Gifts International** gives us the opportunity to designate a donation to any of their 30 projects as Christmas Gifts to family or friends. We are sending in \$6,043 this year to be divided as indicated by your order forms. There is a summary on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall of the projects we gave to in 2015 and we expect to have the 2016 summary available soon.

* You also gave over \$800 in **Christmas Gift cards** for our Sudanese families.

Thanks to all who donated, You make a difference!

- Sue Marquardt, Service Committee, sraym@aol.com

Save the Date for a "Royal Celebration"

Royal Family KIDS invites you to a "Royal Celebration"
Saturday, March 18th at Hidden Valley Country Club

This is our annual fundraising banquet and auction which provides Summer camp for Utah foster children. Royal Family KIDS is a wonderful opportunity for children who have experienced abuse and neglect to experience God's love in action, in the cathedral of the mountains. Because there is no cost to foster parents or other caregivers for this camp, this Banquet with both live and silent auctions will hopefully fund the entire 5-day camp.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased beginning February 24th between services at the Royal Family KIDS table in the Fellowship Hall or online at www.rfk-gslc.org.

The **RFK Fundraising Committee** needs volunteers to help package the silent auction items and set-up on the day of the banquet. If you have a few extra hours in March, please join us. **We need you!**

Please visit our website to learn more about Royal Family KIDS. Contact Rick Franklin at (801) 793-9147 or rick-franklin777@yahoo.com to hear about volunteer opportunities and to make donations for the live and silent auctions. Your support makes a difference.

- Shelley Horel, Service Committee, rochellehorel@gmail.com



Wasatch 101



Are you new to Wasatch and have questions about how things at Wasatch Presbyterian Church work? Do you know who the staff members are? Do you know what the Session is and how it works? How about the Deacons, who are they and what do they do? Maybe you have some questions about how the Presbyterian church is organized. Or maybe you have some other questions about how you can get involved in the life of Wasatch. If so, then this class is for you. We will meet for three consecutive Sundays, starting **February 26, at 10:10 am** in the Wortley conference room 116. Led by the Pastor and Elder Doug Howe we will answer these questions and more. This will be a great chance to connect with other people, improve your Wasatch church IQ and have some fun.

- Doug Howe, Adult Education, doughowedds@gmail.com

Status of the Operating Fund as on 12/31/2016

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledged/Loose Income	499,500	501,082	1,582
Other Income	156,957	152,429	(4,528)
Totals	656,457	653,511	(2,946)
Expenses	660,098	619,730	(40,368)
NET DIFFERENCE	(3,641)	33,781	37,422



February 2017

FEBRUARY 9 MARTHA CIRCLE
 Thursday 10:00am (Library)
 Janet Wortley 801-733-4490

FEBRUARY 13 EVE BOOK CLUB
 Monday 6:30pm (away)
 Janet Wortley 801-733-4490

Adult Education

We're off to a great start for the New Year! Here are the classes being offered.

Reformation Class-500th year anniversary

Feb. 19 and 24, March 5

Mary Jane Chase has been teaching a reformation class for the first part of the year. Her classes will give us the background of the people and ideas making this Reformation. An excellent computer site she recommended is <http://www.projectwittenberg.org/pub/resources/test/wittenberg/luther/web/ninetyfive.html>

Lectionary Classes

Ongoing each Sunday

The Lectionary classes are a planned Bible study. This will be a more or less informal discussion group meeting to discuss the day's Bible text used in the worship service and held as the day's Lectionary item.

Spiritual Formation Workshop

April 20 and 21 (Evening) and April 21 (Morning)

We are preparing a spiritual formation workshop with Marjorie Thompson. Consider this a save-the-date while we work out the details.

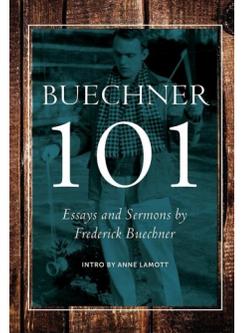
As before, if you have suggestions for classes, teacher recommendations, please contact committee members Jan Bartlett, Elizabeth Harald, Bob Dow, Linda Griffen or staff resource Scott Dalgarno.

- Linda Griffen, Adult Education Chair, lmackgriffen@gmail.com

Library Book Notes

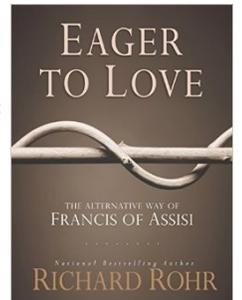
Buechner 101: Essays and Sermons by Frederick Buechner. Introduced by **Anne Lamott**, this collection of excerpts from Buechner's writings provides an introduction to both his life and to the breadth of his work. For those who know and enjoy his books, you will find a wide overview, from his theology to his fiction, and possibly discover some writing you've missed. For those new to Buechner, the book serves up a fancy buffet table of writing styles – help yourself to the delicacies and feel free to look for seconds on the library shelves. You'll find his books in the theology, biography, and fiction sections.

"Theology is the study of God and his ways. For all we know, dung beetles may study man and his ways and call it humanology. If so, we would probably be more touched and amused than irritated. One hopes that God feels likewise." – a sample.



Eager to Love: The Alternate Way of Francis of Assisi. The spirituality of **Richard Rohr** is connected to St. Francis by a tether that stretches over 800 years without a hint of snapping. A fascinating life of a 13th century saint in the context of Rohr's own spirituality, the book is both enjoyable to read in its own right and reassurance in a world where trust in the efficacy of love, spelled in small letters or caps, is hard to maintain. This love is never dated. The book is an open door to the 'alternate way' of Francis -- and of Rohr.

- Beth Phillips, Librarian, bethphillips416@gmail.com



lost + **FOUND**

Have you forgotten a glass dish? What about a small crock pot from the Advent Festival? Gloves? A book? Thermos? The Lost and Found at Wasatch is located beside the front office on the main floor. Anything left unclaimed for more than a month will be offered to the Sudanese or donated.

- Front Office Staff



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday February 12th from 10:10-11:00

All are invited to join us in looking back at 2016 and looking ahead to 2017. There will not be Sunday School or Adult Education, but childcare will be available for children under 10.

Schedule for the day:

Worship Service 9-10

Congregational Meeting 10:10-11

Light Refreshments 11-11:15

Worship Service 11:15-12:15

Wasatch Thanks You!

iBelieve Projectionists – Shantel Mullin, Adam Raines, and Matt Doane - who generously and graciously manage the slides during the 9am worship service. They show up early, handle set-up, and skillfully navigate the difficult task of running the slides. Their quiet efforts contribute greatly to our worship experience and we so appreciate them!

Family Promise Coordinator – Allison Clements – for bravely taking on this role after only a short time at Wasatch, and as a busy working mom of two small girls. Her organization, savvy, and cheerfulness have already proven a huge benefit to the program. And we look forward to many successful hosting sessions to come!

Pastor's Book Choice for February

And Live Rejoicing: Chapters from a Charmed Life — Personal Encounters with Spiritual Mavericks, Remarkable Seekers, and the World's Great Religious Leaders by Huston Smith

Spiritual trailblazer Huston Smith has written comprehensive books about religion and a memoir of his own life, but nowhere has he merged the two elements of seeking and experience with such storytelling flair as he has in these pages. Few have done as much as Smith to explore and illuminate the world's religions and spiritual traditions, and none have done it with such accessibility, wonder, and delight. In this joyous volume, he looks back on his extraordinary life, describing riveting scenes with unforgettable characters in India, Africa, Tibet, and Japan. Having known him well, I can say that Huston Smith's charm and exuberance come through on every page.

All Church Mardi Gras

Join us Tuesday February 28th at 6 pm for the 3rd annual All-Church Mardi Gras! (otherwise known as Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday or Carnival). Whatever the name, it is the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of the contemplative period of Lent. Throughout history, the beginning of Lent opens with celebrations of indulgence and revelry. WPC will prepare to enter Lent by enjoying an evening of celebration with a pancake and bacon dinner, dancing, music, and a shared Lent devotional. This is an all-ages event, with activities designed to serve everyone in our congregation. In order to help us plan, please RSVP at the table in Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 801-487-7576.



Ash Wednesday - Simple Soup Supper and Service



March 1st is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. To mark this day, we will have a simple soup dinner and a worship service for the Imposition of Ashes so as to enter into Lent with intentionality. Dinner is at 6:00 pm, Worship from 6:45-7:30 pm. Please come and bring your neighbors and friends to this traditional service of worship. All are welcome. Childcare available.

Prison Ministry at Wasatch

Yes, that means Wasatch Presbyterian Church's mission outreach to the inmates of the Oquirrh Facility at the Utah Department of Corrections Draper Prison. But, also an expansion of our ministry from Oquirrh into the Wasatch Facility. Both are Medium Security units. Our WPC friend Jason Thornton has made the decision to begin a new ministry there in the Wasatch facility. Assuming approval, it will be entitled "Unshackled." Plans are to minister there on the **2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** beginning in March or April. If ministry to those who are incarcerated poses a possible call to you to get involved and volunteer, we want to invite you to join our team. In our planning meeting with Wasatch's inmates a couple of weeks ago, here are some of the descriptive terms they offered up to describe what they are seeking: Love, Acceptance, Affirmation, Finding Freedom, Faith, Experiencing God, Empowerment, Prayerfulness, and Mindfulness. If you would you like to grow your faith, increase Biblical understanding, learn the best about other faith traditions, build friendships you'd never have expected, and always go home from a session feeling better than when you went, give us a try for two or three sessions, and see what you think. We'll facilitate and train you with the tools and curriculum needed, but you'll empower and train yourself from session to session as you give a day or two a month.

- Paul Hewitt 801-943-9228, pwhewitt@msn.com or Jason Thornton 801-518-1390, jasonhthornton@gmail.com.

Chiang Mai Christian School

Scholarship Fund

2017 marks 21 years that Wasatch Presbyterian Church has provided \$3,000.00 or more in a scholarship gift to the students of the Chiang Mai Christian School in Chiang Mai Thailand. The Service Committee will be designating a Sunday in March or April to receive this special offering. Please give it consideration in your extra giving to benefit a dozen or more children with a full year of education to include a hot meal at lunch each day. Each year, the faculty and staff of the school carefully screen their students in all grade levels K-12 to determine those most in need of financial assistance. Thanks for considering this opportunity to share.

Mission Trip Opportunity In 2018

In late January 2018, a mission trip to visit the Chiang Mai Christian School in Chiang Mai Thailand is being planned. We're hoping to take a nice delegation of Wasatch people to experience this incredible time of interaction with students and staff. You'll also learn about and tour the McKean Rehabilitation Center, the McCormick Hospital, and the McGilvary Theological Seminary, 100-year old Presbyterian Mission projects. Also, you'll visit cultural centers and museums, shop the "Night Market, worship in the Church of Christ in Thailand, and ride an Elephant. It's a good immersion in Thai culture. Following our week in Chiang Mai, two or three day consecutive visits to Bangkok Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), and Hong Kong will be included in the itinerary. For those desiring it, you could schedule a stop off in Honolulu Hawaii on the way home for R&R. The entire trip will be about three weeks in length at an approximate cost of \$5,000.00 a person. Put it into your long range plan for next year and start saving your dollars. Also, be sure your passport is up to date. As details solidify, we'll keep you informed.

- Paul & Leora Hewitt, 801-943-9228, leora_hewitt@msn.com



Volunteer for Coffee Hour

Congregational Life would like to thank all of our volunteers for donating refreshments for the weekly coffee hours. This may seem like a small gift but it has a large return for Wasatch. Coffee Hour offers us the time to chat with one another, catch up on the last week or hug someone we haven't seen in a long time. This purposeful cultivation of time is so valuable and appreciated. If you haven't had the chance to sign up, please do, the clipboards are hanging on the bulletin board.

- Courtney Raines, CLC Chair, courtney.raines@yahoo.com



Sudanese Connection

Members of the South Sudanese Task Force met with twenty members of the Mabaan tribe on the afternoon of Sunday January 15th for brief presentations on how to successfully navigate some of the hurdles presented in their lives .

Car Seats & Driver's Licenses

Jane Hereim presented on requirements for all passengers to wear seat belts and for children to be safely secured in child car seats. She also shared information on resources for reduced pricing. A great discussion followed about how to get everyone to wear their seatbelts!

Education

Ashtora presented on education. Members had shared that their lack of English reading skills prevented them from being able to take the test to qualify for their driver's license. Ash shared that soon she would be offering ESL courses and would help them with specific things like this. With improved language skills, more adults will be able to take courses at SLCC to help them improve their ability to qualify for higher paying jobs.

Utilities

Jan Bartlett used poster-sized diagrams to illustrate where water comes from, how it enters our residences, how it is diverted to our faucets and hot water heaters--where it becomes either "cheaper water" or "expensive water." He talked about ways to control how much water is used in our households, how to reduce the use of hot water, how to recognize signs of water being wasted, and how to reduce energy consumption. Comments from the community were breathtaking, "We all work hard, we all live frugally so we can send money back to South Sudan to support our families there, and no one in more than sixteen years has ever explained this to us before!"

Taxes

Nancy Saxton used shoe boxes in various sizes, shapes, and colors to illustrate that keeping our receipts all together in one place helps us locate them. Nancy offered to come to their homes and help them order and file their receipts once they had them all collected in one box.

Budget

Phil Purdom provided the perfect budgeting forms for every household. The forms itemized by expenditure categories, projected expense and actual expense columns. Phil will be able to help families complete their budget forms which will allow them to track their income and expenses then make necessary adjustments.

Soup

Afterwards, we all shared homemade soups and bread, sat around tables and chatted with the youth and children, who are very excited about participating in the Village to Village project. The Mabaan went home with refrigerator magnets printed with the names and phone numbers of the task force and asked that we continue to offer regular workshops. If you have a talent to share, we welcome your participation on the South Sudanese Task Force.

- Ashtora, Sudanese Taskforce, ashtora@village2villageyouth2youth.org



Sudanese Task Force Events

February 12th: Sudanese Consecration Service

The tribe is celebrating their commitment of Youth and Adults to their education.

February 21st: Jima and Ash will be presenting with Amnesty International in Ogden at Weber State University.

Special Announcement

Its Official ! On February 1st, Esiah Owda received his United States Citizenship. The last of his 9 siblings, he wasn't eligible until turning 18 and now his mother is the only member of the family left to receive citizenship. Congratulations Esiah! May you embrace all the rights afforded to you and this new chapter in life. God Bless!

Wasatch Presbyterian Church
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Salt Lake City, UT 84108-2662

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February 2017 Bridge Builder

Sunday Schedule

Wasatch Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Scott Dalgarno	Pastor/Head of Staff, sdalgarno@wpcslc.org
Terresa Newport	Interim Pastoral Associate, tnewport@wpcslc.org
Rebecca Sandulli	Executive Director, rsandulli@wpcslc.org
Hilary Lambert	Children's Ministry Director, hlambert@wpcslc.org
Annalise Ford	Interim Youth Director, aford@wpcslc.org
Dr. Kenneth Udy	Director of Music, kennethudy@centurylink.net
Carol Rugg	Financial Secretary, crugg@wpcslc.org
Todd Wheeler	Director of "i believe" band, Todd_wheeler2560@msn.com
Susie Brass	Office Assistant, reception@wpcslc.org
Marian Florence	Office Assistant, communications@wpcslc.org
Courtney Raines	Office Assistant, facilities@wpcslc.org

9:00 am	Worship
10:00 am	Coffee Hour
10:10/15 am	Sunday School
10:45 am	Choir
11:15 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
2:00 pm	Sudanese Worship

*Communion on the First Sunday of every month in both worship services.

Deadline for next BridgeBuilder (March) = February 27th

Have something (or someone) you'd like to see in the next Bridge Builder?
Send content or suggestions to communications@wpcslc.org