

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

January 2017

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Open Hearts

For my editorial this month I want to use the end of my January 1st sermon. I've been thinking hard about the state of our nation as we enter the year 2017. I think there are some things we need to be aware of about our public discourse today - these things can help us at least be more thoughtful about how we deal with one another as we move forward as a community of seekers who welcome other seekers in our Christian context. The sermon was from Luke 4 where Jesus says some things that get him in trouble with the people in his small town who don't like his wide embrace of humanity outside of his hometown, Nazareth . . .

The polarization in this country is so great these days. I think it has to do with how walled off we are from each other when it comes to our sources of news, and the communities (online and off) where we share information about the things we care about most.

Our problem is that no matter how we see things, we all of us know we are right. We have our opinion and that's that. Other people who disagree with us – they must be dupes.

In 1859, the philosopher, John Stuart Mill, said, "He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that. His reasons may be good, and no one may have been able to refute them. But if he is equally unable to refute the reasons on the opposite side, if he does not so much as know what they are, he has no ground for preferring either opinion."

Over a year ago I was asked by the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Magna to debate him on the question: "Is Homosexuality Compatible with Christianity?" He had booked a room at the university here and was looking for an opponent; someone who believed that Jesus had no beef with gay people. After a day or two I said yes. I did so, not because I thought I was any great debater or thought I could even win the day. I did it because 1) I knew I would learn a lot by just having to get ready for such a thing, and 2) I knew I would learn a lot from Rev. Wallace in the course of the debate since we disagreed so completely on subjects like God and the Bible..

I was right, preparing helped me figure out what I believed and why. I hadn't had to assemble an argument about the topic since the early 1990s when I was serving a group of people who mostly disagreed with me on the topic. Steven Colbert said recently that what is wrong with America today is that we are too good at choosing sides. He said, we shouldn't choose sides. We should only choose ideas. And I think he is right. A lot of people, left and right, have chosen a side today, who have no ideas. They just have a hunch about the direction the country is going today. Or maybe all they have is a bias they're parents or professors drilled into them.

Again, when we choose sides, we shut ourselves off from hearing what other people are really saying. Here's how that works. A liberal will tweet a video of members of an Alt Right group at a meeting following the election standing up with a right arm extended repeating the words "Heil Trump." That goes viral immediately. And an Alt-Right supporter, in turn, will tweet a picture of a sign at an outdoor demonstration being held up by a liberal that says, "Patriotism is Racism." Same result.

Each side picks the most inflammatory thing someone on the other side is saying, and it just makes millions of his fellows angry as can be. This is not helping. But it's the world we currently live in. Someone has said, "Better to debate a question without settling it than settle a question without debating it" (*Joseph Joubert*).

Neither I nor Rev. Jason Wallace settled the debate about Christianity and homosexuality, but I'm happy to say that we did, I think, inform the hundred or so people who came that the issue was not as cut and dried as they maybe believed when they walked in that evening. I hoped also that they saw that while we were each passionate about our ideas, we were never going to say that people who did not hold our ideas were not Christians.

I guess what I am saying is that we here in Salt Lake City need to hear what the folks in Nazareth (and all the other small towns out there) are saying these days. Most of us only hear what the folks in the city are saying; maybe we only hear what people in *this* part of the city are saying. God help us to open our hearts in 2017.

Grace and Peace for a New Year
Pastor Scott



Update on Staffing Changes

As all are aware, we have had many staffing changes in recent months, resulting in a bit of a transition period for everyone. We're not yet done with all of the transitions, but we have made great progress and believe we are in a good place starting 2017. Read below to learn more about where things currently stand with the various staffing changes and where we're heading in the months to come.

Interim Pastoral Associate - We are excited to welcome Teresa Newport, beginning January 16th. Teresa comes to us from Lakeview Hospital, and also the Salt Lake YWCA, where she has served as a chaplain. She joins the Wasatch staff on an interim basis as a full-time employee combining the positions previously held by Donna Henry and Heather Monkmeyer. Teresa will be in charge of critical care pastoral needs, she will staff our Deacons, she will direct the 9:00am i believe service, and she will offer spiritual direction for individuals and groups. Teresa is currently a second year student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

Executive Director – Rebecca Sandulli transitioned into this role from Children's Ministry Director as of January 1st. Executive Director is a new position at Wasatch, with a dual role of providing oversight of the administration of the Church, as well as helping provide oversight of, and support for, program staff and Session.

Youth Director – We were fortunate that Annalise Ford enjoyed her role leading the Youth this fall so much that she is happy to continue in the role through June 2017. At some point this Spring, an official search for a new Youth Director will begin. Until then, we are thankful for her talents and the energy she is infusing into the program.

Children's Ministry Director – The job posting for the Children's Ministry Director position closes on January 15th, with interviews starting soon thereafter. We hope to have a new Director in place in early February. Until then, the Children's Ministry Committee will collectively keep the program going, with help from Rebecca Sandulli. For more information, see the posting on page 5 of the Bridge Builder as well as online at www.wpcslc.org.

Office Assistant – We are excited to announce that, effective January 1st, the Office Assistant role will be filled via a job-share arrangement between Courtney Raines, Marian Florence, and Susie Brass. The job-share began as a temporary solution during the transition period, but it ended up working so well that folks wanted to retain their enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication. Look out for a hand-out available soon at church and online explaining lots more about how the job-share will work.

Assistant Custodian - We are looking to hire an Assistant Custodian to work Monday-Thursday from 5-9pm, to help provide additional coverage during the busy evening hours at the church. Look for a job posting available in the office and on the website beginning the week of January 9th.

No doubt 2017 will be a year of lots of change and adjustment. But at the end of the day, we are thankful for, and excited by, the opportunities that have arisen out of this transition. The energy around Wasatch is palpable these days and we are excited to see what the future will bring. Thanks to all who have helped with these changes and thanks to the Congregation for being supportive of our new staff!

-Personnel Committee

Children's Ministry



Children's Ministry ended the year with a joyous Christmas Program at both the 9am and 11:15am worship services. Watching the children up front was such a wonderful addition to the wonder of the Advent season, antics and mishaps included. Arguably the antics and mishaps are what make it most memorable. The casual nature of the Wasatch Christmas Program results in a certain element of creative interpretation, including more than three Wise Men and a disproportionate number of angels. But who are we to say that wasn't how things really played out on that starry night in Bethlehem so long ago? A hearty thanks to the small army of volunteers who helped manage the chaos before, during, and after each performance. Another hearty thank you to the children for their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to stick out a long morning with two performances. And a very, very special thank you to the Club 56'ers who did a beautiful job as narrators – Andy Murphy, Alex Sandulli, Fischer Jones, AJ Raines, Sam Lembcke, Noah Leinberger, and Samantha Kiburtz. We know public speaking isn't easy and your hard work paid off. Happy New Year to all and here's to another year of fun and fellowship for CM!



-Children's Ministry Committee



Youth Ministry



December was a fantastic month for the Youth! Aside from our Greenery and Bake Sale fundraiser, we had a great time in Sunday school compiling messages of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love for our Van Gogh-inspired *Starry Night* collage displayed in Fellowship Hall.

We are kicking off January with a pizza and trampoline night on the 11th followed by our first Night Games of the year on the 20th. Youth Sunday school will resume January 15th in the Loft.

- Annalise Ford, Youth Coordinator, aford@wpcslc.org

Adult Education

2017 is the 500th year of the Protestant Reformation.

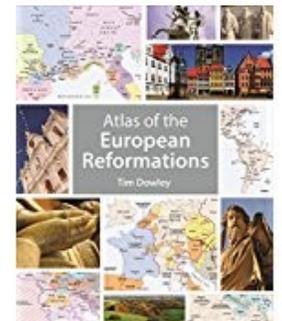
We plan to bring you information about what the Reformation was (and is).

- ◇ The Wasatch congregation includes Mary Jane Chase whose scholarly interests have focused on the Reformation and she will conduct a class at the beginning of the year. She will be teaching on Jan 22, 29, all February Sundays and March 5. She will also teach a fall class, closer to the Oct. 31 anniversary of Luther's posting of the 95 statements on the church door.
- ◇ One of the largest issues in the Reformation was being allowed and encouraged to read the Bible. We will continue the Lectionary classes for Bible study at the 10:10 time. We use one person to act as facilitator and there should be no great burden on any person to be a teacher to prepare a class, but use of the techniques of *Lectio Divina* and *Visio Divina* used by Heather Monkmeier.
- ◇ Tom Mullin will start a 5-week class in January - *Creating Meaning and Purpose in Life After Trauma*. Tom is a Wasatch member and Veteran's Hospital psychologist who has specialized in treatment of PTSD. His class will focus on how to come through the trauma in a life-enhancing way.
- ◇ You should know that Beth Phillips, as Wasatch Librarian, continues to review Wasatch historical material for archiving with the Special Collections of the University of Utah Library. The initial work was largely collected by Shirley Atkinson and a group of members working together to present a 50 year history of Wasatch for the 50th Year Anniversary. A compilation of that information is contained in the book authored by Charlotte Romney Howe, *Commemorate, Celebrate, Anticipate*. Beth is prepared to submit updated material to the Marriott Library. If you are looking for Wasatch history, this is the place to go.

We've had a year with many changes and have come through those stronger for the self-assessments. In Reformation terms, we are Reformed and always Reforming. We are looking forward to many blessings in the coming year.

Library Book Notes

Editor and writer **Tim Dowley** has produced a fine new edition of *Atlas of European Reformations*, published by Fortress Press in 2015 for this year's 500th anniversary of the reforming movement. The maps visually remind us that Luther's posting of those famous 95 theses had the same effect on the 16th century as a Facebook posting in this world - they went viral. Ideas swarmed over the European world in a remarkably short time and no internet! Printing played a key role of course, but one of the maps in his first section reminds us of the intellectual curiosity previously aroused by universities spread all over Europe. The ground work for inquiry had been well established, providing a basic context for what became a theological reformation. The section dedicated to the world after Luther reminds us just how much impact that "only theology" had on the social, cultural and economic world in the century following, its impact still felt today as we seem to be undergoing another time of radical change. Key word in the title is "Reformations," plural - we sometimes forget that rethinking ideas was in the wind in Luther's time and produced deep changes in the Catholicism of the day - think Loyola and Xavier- as well as producing new branches of Christianity now lumped together as Protestant, from Calvinists, to Mennonites, Anabaptists, and a score of others. This is a handy book as background for the upcoming adult education class on the Reformation as well as simply a fascinating look in its own right at the world of the 16th century -- not so different in terms of the deep, and often frightening changes in our own 21st.



Find several more excellent books on the reformation period on the January shelf in the library.

- Beth Phillips, Librarian, bethphillips416@gmail.com

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Pastor's Book Choice for January - A Short Story. . .



The Pastor's Book Group choice for January is a short story by Eudora Welty called, "Death of the Traveling Salesman."

It was the first story Ms. Welty ever wrote and it is a zinger. It is a story that comes out of the hills of Mississippi in a world that was changing but only gradually. I've chosen the story for its poignancy, but also because the story of the writing of it is so interesting.

If you have ever wanted to write something -- a story, a memoir, a vignette, a poem, you will find this discussion meaningful and helpful, too.

You don't need to go anywhere to find the story -- a very readable version is online.

All you need do is enter the web address.

<http://isu.indstate.edu/jakaitis/Welty's%20Death%20of%20the%20Traveling%20Salesman.pdf>

Pastor Scott will lead the discussion twice. Once at 11:00am on Tuesday January 17, and 7:00pm that same day.

Job Opening

Wasatch is currently seeking applications for the position of **Children's Ministry Director**. This is a part-time 20 hour per week position. For additional information regarding the position, go to www.wpcslc.org and click employment opportunity. The recruitment for this position will close January 15, 2017. For any additional questions or to submit a resume, contact Bill Brass at bbrasslc@gmail.com. To submit a resume via mail, use Wasatch Presbyterian Church, 1626 South 1700 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84108, Attention: Bill Brass, Re: Children's Ministry Director.



Annual Congregational Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**

Mark your calendar, on February 12th we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting between services from 10AM to 11AM with a fun look back at 2016, exciting look forward for 2017 and of course delicious food.

Details to come!



JANUARY 2017

JANUARY 9 EVE BOOK CLUB

Monday 6:30pm (away)
Janet Wortley 801-733-4490

JANUARY 12 MARTHA CIRCLE

Thursday 10:00am (Library)
Janet Wortley 801-733-4490

*Note: The Eve Book Club will now be meeting the second Mon-

lost + **FOUND**

Have you forgotten a glass dish? What about a small crock pot from the Advent Festival? Gloves? A floppy hat or pink coat? 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

Have a loved one you would like to remember? A special occasion? The 2017 flower chart is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Enhance the environment of our sanctuary at the same time as honoring a loved one or occasion.

After the Sunday services you will be able to take the flowers home or have the Deacons take them to someone. Contact Mary Beth for more information.

- Mary Beth, 414-550-3295, marybeth-keidl@icloud.com

Flower Orders



Sandwich Making



All are welcome to come help make sandwiches this month on January 24th from 7-9pm at Wasatch. If you are available to serve on January 25th from 4:30-6:30 at St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall / Weigand Homeless Resource Center, 437 W 200 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 they are always in need of help.

- Jerry Richardson , Service Committee



Wasatch is a proud member of Family Promise, an interfaith shelter for homeless families in our area. Our first of four annual hosting weeks is coming up **January 22 through January 29**. There are many opportunities to volunteer and help serve our guest families (setting up, hosting, cooking a meal, even staying overnight). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Allison or see the Family Promise page on the church website: <http://www.wpcslc.org/family-promise/>

Allison Clements, Family Promise Coordinator, allisonclements@gmail.com.

Sudanese Connection Village to Village ~ Youth to Youth

“I love you all the way to South Sudan and Back Again!”

Many of you, as members and friends of the Wasatch Presbyterian congregation are familiar with this greeting that developed as the result of Philip coming home safely from his visit to his homeland in 2014; but, something NEW has developed as the result of Philip returning! Philip and I are sharing with you that his vision of bringing education to his own Mabaan village still lives and we want to tell you about it.

Philip and I recently developed a new non-profit called, Village to Village ~ Youth to Youth, for the express purpose of facilitating education and culture support and exchange between the South Sudanese youth in the U.S. and South Sudan. Wasatch congregation member, Adam Raines, owner of Apeiron Solar, is partnering with us to provide tablets and solar power for students in South Sudan, so that youth here and youth in South Sudan can video chat on a weekly basis, providing ESL, Math, and geography support, in addition to cultural exchange. We are working on a prototype tablet loaded with educational software to test in the village of Terekeka, where nearly 300 Mundari youth attend a school there, directed by my sister and her husband, Joy and Steve Wiley. Fifty-three of their students are orphans cared for by their orphanage at Terekeka, and the rest walk up to three miles to attend school.

Once we have the prototype honed, we can supply more tablets to the school. When we have a record of success, we can seek approval from South Sudan’s Minister of General Education to connect with the youth in Philip’s Mabaan village, and the other rural villages of South Sudan, where more than 90% of the population have received no education. To borrow from Dr. Seuss and The Lorax, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” A lot needs to get better in South Sudan. Educating the youth is something that we can do, with strength of vision, community will, and funding.

Education is changing everything for the youth of South Sudan. One dynamic Sudanese gentleman, Tino Nyawelo, of the University of Utah, who oversees REFUGES, an afterschool program for supporting refugees here is helping. ESL instructors from Hartland Community Center and from Salt Lake Community College will help. Those of us who are helping understand the power and significance of education and of youth connecting to youth.

We are in hopes that the children of our own diaspora here in Salt Lake and at Wasatch Presbyterian, and the youth group of WPC will want to learn ESL teaching skills and participate in this exciting life-changing project. You can learn more about us by visiting our website, village2villageyouth2youth.org and by visiting with Ashtora or Philip. You are invited to talk to us about how you can help us change lives with funding, resources, and education. “We love you, all the way to South Sudan and back again!”

- Ashtora

Terekeka Orphanage—South Sudan

Joy and Steve Wiley
Directors of Terekeka
Orphanage, School, and
Church



Wasatch Presbyterian Church
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January 2017 Bridge Builder

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
Annalise Ford	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

Sunday Schedule

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.