

**Sept. 18 Seminar on Church Transformation with Tony Robinson**

First, Berkeley, invites all NCNC congregations to a seminar with UCC pastor and author Tony Robinson on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Tony Robinson

His new book "Transforming Congregational Culture" is described on Amazon.com this way: "Writing from 25 years of experience in four congregations of differing size, location and ethnic makeup, Robinson prescribes concrete changes in the practice of ministry that have been tried, tested and lived out to great success.

"At the heart of his framework for church renewal is what he calls 'cultural change.' According to Robinson, technical or programmatic change is not sufficient to address the needs of the day.

"He argues for changing the very culture of mainline congregations, which involves recognizing and fostering their particular gifts and genius rather than trying to remake them into something they are not. His fruitful strategies for renewal touch every aspect of congregational life, from personal spiritual formation to church leadership."

There will be light refreshments included in the \$10-per-congregation fee. RSVP is required via email to <info@fccb.org> with participant names and emails as well as name of congregation. Put "Robinson RSVP" in subject line of email. Payment will be received day of event.

"This is a great seminar for churches seeking congregational transformation," said Shelly Dieterle, program assistant at First, Berkeley.

For more information, see <www.anthonymbrobinson.com>

**OUR FAMILY NEWS**

**All Belmont members get The Pacific!**

Congregational, Belmont, signed every one of its members up to have The Pacific and UC News delivered to their home. They knew how easy, and free, it is to receive news of NCNC and national churches and members 10 times a year. They just went to <www.ucc.org/ucnews/subscribe> or called 1-800-363-0575. Any other churches doing the same?

**Looking for stories of camp romances**

How many campers have met their future partner at Camp Tamarack or Cazadero? We know of at least two; Michal Broadbent met her husband, Eric Stachnik, at Caz, and that's also where Ben Broadbent met his wife, Brooke Bell. Proud parents are Matt and Barbara Broadbent. They and we are curious to know other stories of camp matchmaking. Contact <pacific@nncucc.org> or Barbara, who also happens to be the Camping and Outdoor Education Associate Conference Minister at <bbroadbent@nncucc.org>.

**Laymember facilitates FCC hearing**

Community, Petaluma's Belva Davis, a respected San Francisco television news anchor, was invited by the Federal Communications Commission to facilitate three hours of spirited public comment at the July 20 Monterey FCC hearing on local control and ownership of radio and television stations.

Hundreds of people testified in opposition to the recent FCC actions allowing one company to own multiple stations in one area. Speakers also advocated for more coverage of local news issues. By asking for Davis' calm presence on controversial issues, perhaps the commissioners knew of the UCC's long history of advocating on be-



Rev. Bill Chrystal and Clay Jenkinson, as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, debated war and peace at an event sponsored by Squaw Valley Chapel UCC, Olympic Valley, July 17.

half of the public trust and ownership of the airwaves.

Learn more about the UCC Office of Communications' 40 years of challenges to the FCC at <ocinc.ucc.org>.

**Reno minister portrays John Adams on war and peace**

Rev. Bill Chrystal of First, Reno, took on the persona of President John Adams July 17 in a staged debate with Thomas Jefferson, as portrayed by Clay Jenkinson, before a crowd of 150 at Squaw Valley Chapel, Olympic Valley.

Dressed in clothes and wigs in the style of the 18th Century, the men debated issues of war and peace. The topic was timely, said Jane Carlson, the church's events coordinator. "Being that we're in a state of war, we thought it would be interesting to hear these historical characters shed light on the situation of war and peace," she said.

Adams and Jefferson were political allies during the American Revolution, and they helped persuade colonists to fight for independence from Britain. They agreed on some issues and disagreed on others. Adams often saw violence and war as inevitable while Jefferson felt that in most cases, war was unnecessary.

"I do not think the president of the United States has the right to attack unless he is immediately

defending his own territory," said Jefferson, after which the audience erupted in applause.

Chrystal and Jenkins are both scholars, writers and public speakers who have a passion for historical impersonation.

After the debate, the men fielded questions about our electoral process, the state of violence in our society and theirs, the connections between religion and politics and the problems of corporate power over the voting public.

Eventually, the men removed their wigs and began answering questions in their own characters, shifting their tone from first person into third.

What advice did the men have for the upcoming presidential election in November? "Both [Jefferson and Adams] would say that we have the government we deserve," said Chrystal.

"If you're not pleased with the government, you need to be more involved and give your energy."

Jenkinson chimed in, adding, "I believe the upcoming election is the most important election of my lifetime. I'm being non-partisan here, but your vote matters more this time than it ever has before."

*Thanks to the Tahoe World and reporter Megan Michelson for permission to use the story and photo.*

**Sept. 1**  
Administration and Finance, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Conference office, David Bergman-Hill, 510-247-2028.

**Sept. 2**  
Committee on Ministry, Section D, 5:30 – 9 p.m. Conference Office, Deborah Streeter, 831-624-6072.

**Sept. 4-6**  
Cazadero Community Camp, Barbara Broadbent, 510-247-8996

**Sept. 11**  
Summer Camp Evaluation Meeting, location to be announced, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Barbara Broadbent, 510-247-8996.

**Sept. 17**  
Committee on Ministry, Sections A and B, Hillcrest UCC, Pleasant Hill. Section A: Penny Phillips, 408-626-9721, Scheduling: Mary Turner Gilliland, 650-321-9966. Section B: Melinda McLain, 415-970-8180, Kevin Manz, 916-446-7454, Scheduling: Iris Moran, 650-964-6899

**Sept. 19**  
Tony Robinson at First UCC, Berkeley, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.. See article this page.

**Sept. 25**  
Board of Directors, location TBD, Lora Pallatto, 510-247-8990

**Sept. 25**  
Overview Board for Justice & Witness Ministries, 10 a.m., First Congregational UCC, Santa Rosa, Drew Nettinga, 510-276-4808

**Oct. 6**  
Administration and Finance, See Sept. 1.

**Oct. 7**  
Committee on Ministry, Section D, 5:30 – 9 p.m., see Sept. 2.

**Save the date!  
Fall Youth Event**

Sat., Nov. 6 – Sun. Nov. 7  
location to be announced

This 24-hour event is for high school aged youth and their leaders. Contact Barbara Broadbent for information: 510-247-8996 or bbroadbent@nncucc.org

**Charles Betts**, a long-time NCNC camper, died August 10. Charles was a member of First UCC, Murphys and was 19 years old. (Look for a longer article about Charles in the October Pacific.)

**Stephanie Bingham** married Bryan Doss Aug. 14 at University Congregational, Seattle, where she was also baptized and ordained.

**SEASONS OF OUR LIVES**

**Gerry Brague** has been named senior pastor at Chalice Christian Church (DOC), San Carlos.  
**Bob Carlson** died July 10. He served NCNC

churches in Kensington, Campbell, Pleasant Hill and Sacramento. Condolences may be sent to his widow Marguerite at 1512 Bermuda Dunes Court, Lawrence KS 66047

**Amey Hitchens** was ordained by the Bay Association at First, Berkeley, July 18. She has been called as hospital chaplain in Des Moines, Wash.

**Speed Leas** was honored Aug. 29 in worship by his home church, First, Santa Cruz, on the 40th anniversary of his ordination.

**Grace Sasai Katagiri**, daughter of former NCNC Conference Minister Mineo Katagiri and Nobu Katagiri, died July 27. Condolences may be sent to her parents at 1550 Sutter #522, San Francisco CA 94109.

**Paul Smith-Telfer** was honored June 21 on the 40th anniversary of his ordination by Almaden Valley, San Jose, where he is interim minister.

**Rev. Glenn Van Vactor** died May 23, 2004. Condolences may be sent to his widow, Margaret Van Vactor, PO Box 12062, Pleasanton CA 94588.