



Christ Presbyterian Church Unfoldings

January 2009

I am sitting in my study this morning, early. I like this time; that is why I practice it, early morning solitude and quiet and ease. I usually begin with reading, something to open the pores of my spirit. Lately it's been Thomas Moore's *The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life*. I also like poetry and often wonder at a verse's power to bring me into the presence of mystery.

I may soon thereafter begin with some words of my own, writing, creating, trying to hold the thoughts loosely, give freedom to the flow of something emerging. It is an interplay with words and something wordless, or perhaps words and Word and something wordless. I guess the point is to tease out the awareness, to open up the spirit, to come into Presence.

That same presence happens on a walk in the woods. But there it is the images, the leaves and trees and rocks and lives that invite me in. I find that again the trick is to hold my thoughts loosely and let nature paint the picture in my awareness, and like a child in wonderland, Presence happens.

I find too, that such presence can be risky business. It pulls me out of my preconceived self and recreates me, merges me with the larger life and the Presence itself, and so there is much to lose, much to lose; that is why I practice.

My Better Self

Yesterday I went for
a slow walk and saw
my better self, stream
of water down
a stone wall, remnant
of a night's storm
pushed now toward
the bay.

Today, I remember
and am called again
to my better self
that trusts and is,
being, becoming
the water's flow
deconstructing
our worlds.

Peace be with you,
Pat Bailey

Vision Quest

Pat Bailey will be on a vision quest during the first two weeks of January to the Anza Borrego desert in Southern California. A vision quest is a re-enactment of ancient rites of passage that can be part of marking a new stage in life's journey. As such, it is a practice of discernment relating to one's calling and spiritual longing at a particular point in time in preparation to live one's gifts into the future. Pat asks your prayers for his quest, for Christ Church, and for his family.

Stewardship

Our stewardship campaign continues into January. Your participation in the future of Christ Presbyterian Church and its ministry to the Telluride community is most welcome and gratefully received.

Special January Events at Christ Church

Sunday, Jan. 4 - The Second Sunday after Christmas
Elder Scott Andrews preaching
Elder Ann Brady-Andrews assisting

Friday, Jan 9 - 12:00 Noon, Living the Questions begin and continue each Friday in January

Sunday Jan. 11 - The Baptism of the Lord
Elder Teresa Westman preaching
Elder Warner Paige assisting

Sunday, Jan. 18 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
*Congregational Meeting
Emma Reggianini Baptism

Thursday, Jan. 22 - 5:30 PM, Session Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 25 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The purpose for the Congregational Meeting on January 18 is to elect Elders for the Session and to present the Annual Report to the congregation.

To view a calendar that includes all our regularly scheduled events and special events go to our web site at www.telluridechristchurch.com.

Resources for the Spiritual Journey

Our adult education series *Living the Questions* will resume on Friday, January 9, at 12:00 noon. Friday topics for January will include "Practicing Resurrection," "Debunking the Rapture," "Reclaiming the World," and "A Kingdom without Walls." The lessons are video based; so you do not have to have attended any of the other classes to join us or to benefit. Bring a lunch if you desire and gather with us for this thought provoking and spiritually nurturing series.

Our new program in spiritual practice, *Ancient Practices*, will begin meeting in the month of February. Our plan is to meet each Thursday evening, 5:30-6:30. Each session will involve thirty minutes of instruction and thirty minutes of practice. The topic for February will be Centering Prayer as taught by Fr. Thomas Keating and the Contemplative Outreach, Ltd.

Please join our discernment process in developing a program in *Contemplative Youth Ministries*. If you are interested, please contact our Pastor, Pat Bailey, to get a copy of Mark Yaconelli's *Growing Souls: Experiments in Contemplative Youth Ministry*. Pat is asking a core group of adults to read the book and to gather in March to discuss it and to begin visioning how Christ Church can move toward a contemplative ministry with the Youth of our church and community.

Our *Women's Prayer Group* has been a remarkable gathering of women for prayer and spiritual nurture for several years now. Many persons and families in our church and community have been blessed through their prayers and by their concern and caring. They meet every Monday at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary.

Christ Church's Website

Our revision of the Christ Church Website finally went live late in December and we are already seeing many visits to the site and requests for our newsletters. Pat will begin his weekly blog after his return from his vision quest in January. Many of the pages that are still a bit sketchy will be filled in later in January or early February. Please check out the sight and give us any feedback you have.
www.telluridechristchurch.com.

Our Contact Information

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To contact our Pastor, Pat Bailey: he can be reached at the church from 9:00 to 12:00 AM weekdays except Tuesday.

