

**Some familiar IUCC faces were spotted in the crowd
at the Women’s March OC on January 20!**

Special kudos to event volunteers Felicity Figueroa, Judy Curry, and Ken Wyant!



Photos by Tricia Aynes, Cindy O'Dell, Glenda Wyant, Sharon Lynn, & via Facebook

Winter Congregational Meeting January 28



Photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes

On Sunday, January 28, IUCC held its Winter Congregational Meeting. We ratified the appointment of Cindy O'Dell as Chair of Communications Ministry and Cheryl Trobiani as Chair of Deacons Ministry. We reviewed and approved the 2018 Budget. Anne Rosse reported for the Building Committee, Keith Boyum reported for the Community-Building Task Force, and Pastor Paul and John St. Marie reported for of the Worship Renewal Task Force. The meeting was only 45 minutes long.

Many thanks to the IUCC staff and our tireless leaders for a very well organized, informative, and efficient meeting!

From The Pastor

by The Rev. Dr. Paul Tellstrom



I had the privilege of being a delegate from the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ at our General Synod last summer, and I learned a little more about a new theme that is slowly bubbling to the surface. It is called, “A Just World for All.” In addition to a Vision and Mission statement, the United Church of Christ now adds a “Purpose” Statement.

The UCC purpose statement comes from the Gospel of Matthew: ***To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.***

The vision: ***United in Christ’s love, a just world for all.***

The Mission statement: ***United in Spirit and inspired by God’s grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.***

At our Winter Meeting, I heard Keith Boyum, representing the *Community Building Task Force*, echoing some of the language of this new theme. We heard it in a recent welcome from Cindy O’Dell as worship leader. You will be hearing more about this theme as time goes on, beginning in this Lenten season.

In a cosmic clash of metaphors, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Valentine’s Day. There will be an Ash Wednesday service and you will go home with ashes. Whether roses or chocolates are included is still under consideration.

This year, we will have a Lenten theme. It is called, “A Just World for All: Lent at IUCC in 2018.” Steve and I put this together, and I think it will give you a lot to chew on.

At each General Synod, we come together to do the business of the church. A lot of this is done through the process of resolutions. I know that a good handful of you watched me as I covered the resolutions from the floor in real time on Facebook for the last two General Synods. I know, because you weighed in as I was typing.

A lot is going to happen in the next two months! Bob Chase is arriving on February 11th. He is one of the architects of the “Comma” branding for the UCC, and he will speak in worship and afterwards. His theme is about, “After the Comma,” and his work is very much centered in interfaith relations.

On February 18th, we will honor our Boy Scouts for Scouting Sunday, and talk about the Inclusive Scouting resolution that went to General Synod, and that IUCC endorsed.

On the 25th, the resolution “On Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency” will be the focus of the sermon.

March 4th will feature a concentration on the resolution, “On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.”

March 11th is different. Internationally known scholar Amy-Jill Levine will be with us (and on Friday the 9th as well) speaking on “The Pearl of Great Price.” Members of University Synagogue will be with us, and Rabbi Arnie and I will have a short dialogue before the meal.

On March 18th, we will unpack the “Resolution of Witness in Support of Legislation Authorizing Aid in Dying.” The Rev. Ken Wyant and I will have a dialogue on the issue at both services that day.

Wednesday nights during Lent will feature the same theme. Dr. Gudrun Magnusdottir, Professor, Earth System Science, School of Physical Sciences, UCI, will speak on the themes raised in the resolution called, “The Earth is the Lord’s-Not Ours to Wreck.”

Other Wednesday evenings will take shape soon.

Steve’s Adult Ed classes will be discussions on the previous Sunday/Wednesday resolutions.

See You in Church!

Pastor Paul



Moderator's Column

by Renae Boyum



On Sunday, January 28, IUCC held its Winter Congregational Meeting. Over 100 members were in attendance, with the major item of discussion and decision the 2018 budget (which was approved unanimously). We also heard reports, including updates about our construction project.

There are actually two congregational meetings each year. Where the January meeting is centrally about the annual budget, the Spring meeting focuses on programs and activities of the Ministries and Committees. We elect officers, committee chairs and ministry chairs at the Spring meeting.

Before each of the annual meetings, there are countless leadership meetings, decisions and discussions that take place largely behind the scenes. Let me share some of this from the Moderator's point of view.

The annual Leadership Retreat kicks things off. Elected leaders and committee chairs meet with the pastoral staff to share plans and ideas for the coming year. Obviously, all of those plans and ideas take resources - people, time, and money. In September, the leaders are asked to fill out an aspirational budget - what are all the items they would like for their ministry or committee. In addition, a goal for the Fall stewardship drive is determined. The treasurer, Mark Allen, takes all of these ideas and begins the process of formulating the upcoming budget. Much of this work he does by himself, but he also gets input from the Administration Board, the Child Care Committee, and the Finance Committee. By November, the annual Stewardship drive is underway and by the middle of December, decisions are being made by the Finance Committee and the Administration Board to determine what ideas and plans can actually be funded. As Treasurer, Mark plays a key role in all of this and continues to provide updated versions of the proposed budget.

In January, the final draft of the budget is presented to the Administration Board for discussion. The Bylaws require that the budget be submitted to the congregation 14 days prior to the Congregational meeting. With the recommendation of the Admin Board, the proposed budget is sent out electronically to all members. Prior to the

meeting and after receipt of the budget by the members, a budget forum is held to answer any questions and to receive comments. The final chapter of this months-long saga is the vote at the meeting.

But the budget and its preparation is just part of the planning for the meeting. In addition to the budget, an official notice of the upcoming meeting must be published 10 days prior to the meeting with the items to be voted on. As the Moderator, I prepare this notice and a proposed agenda. I get input from the other members of the Coordinating Council - the Chairs of the Administration and Ministries Board and Pastor Paul. I arrange for a Parliamentarian for the meeting (thank you, Don Bjorklund) and a recording secretary - either the Clerk of the Admin Board (Laura Palen) or the Clerk of the Ministries Board (Peggy Goetz). I write a report for the meeting packet, as does Pastor Paul. There are also special reports as needed for the Winter Meeting and reports from all of the Committee and Ministry Chairs for the Spring Meeting.

When all of items are in place, our exceptional office staff, Michael Spindle and Heidi Willcox, begin the task of putting all the pieces together. It is no small task as the packets for the meeting have many pages. The most recent meeting had 67! The copier hums along and finally..all is ready? But wait! There's more! Member sign-in sheets and voting cards must be readied. If there are materials that have to be displayed on the screens for the meeting, Michael works with Ben Allen, our tech expert.

Finally, all is really ready! Members sign in, a quorum is established (there must be at least 25% of the members present - at the last meeting the number was 81), and the meeting begins. The latest meeting lasted about 45 minutes, but as I've described it took many hours of expertise, effort and energy for the meeting to happen in a seamless way.

I look forward to the upcoming year and planning another Congregational meeting in the spring. Thanks to all of you who make our meetings successful and meaningful!

In faith and community,

Renae



Adult Education

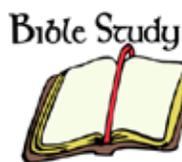
by the Rev. Steve Swope

February and March are going to be busy months for Adult Programs! We've got speaker events, special Adult Sunday School topics, and a Lenten series integrated with Sunday worship – and your participation makes it all work.



Adult Sunday School meets before each worship service at 8:45 & 10:00 a.m. On Feb. 4 & 11, Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi will finish his series on “Praying Without Ceasing,” exploring tools for regular prayer in the midst of busy daily lives.

Then on Feb. 18 & 25, historian Glenna Matthews will introduce us to the first woman ordained to ministry in the US, Antoinette Brown Blackwell (1825-1921). Ordained by New York Congregationalists in 1853, Brown Blackwell was a champion of women's rights and the abolition of slavery.



Bible Study meets at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in Plumer Hall. Ken Wyant leads us with a gentle hand (and a liberal dose of humor) as we discover the books of the New Testament in the order they were (probably) written. Right now, we're about a third of the way through the Gospel of Luke – but new participants are always welcome!

Thanks to Jim Martin for a thought-provoking **Midweek Salon** last month, on possibilities for traveling to the planet Mars! Midweek Salon will be back in April, so keep watching for information about our next guests.



And we've got dynamic **guest speakers** in February and March! First, **Rev. Bob Chase** will be with us on Sunday, Feb. 11. Bob led the UCC's Office of Communication, which developed the God Is Still Speaking campaign, and went on to found Intersections International, which seeks to bridge differences in service of social justice.

Bob will preach at both services on Sunday morning, and lead a conversation at 12:15 about how “God is still speaking” on issues of social justice through Resolutions from last summer's UCC General Synod. His new book,

Beyond the Comma, is available now! There will be a light lunch and child care for the 12:15 workshop.



Second, **Prof. Amy-Jill Levine** will be with us on Friday evening, March 9 and Sunday morning, March 11, and she's a speaker you won't want to miss! A New Testament scholar and Orthodox Jew, Prof. Levine has written a number of enlightening books including *Short Stories by Jesus* and *The Misunderstood Jew*.

She comes to us through the gracious cooperation of Chapman University, where she will be the featured Founders Day speaker on Saturday, March 10. (More information at <https://www.chapman.edu/about/church-relations/founders-day/index.aspx>.)

On Friday at 7:00 pm, Prof. Levine will speak about “Jesus and Judaism: The Connection Matters.” There will also be a dinner in Plumer Hall at 6:00 pm, and you can register for the lecture, the dinner, or both online at www.iucc.org/register.



Finally, the season of **Lent** begins with Ash Wednesday worship on Feb. 14. Lent traditionally includes personal “disciplines” like fasting and other forms of self-denial. But these were never intended as “punishments;” instead, they were meant to help remove the distractions of daily life so we could re-focus on things of ultimate meaning.

Pastor Paul and I are developing a Lenten series of Sunday services and Wednesday educational events exploring significant statements from last summer's UCC General Synod. The goal is to help re-orient and rededicate ourselves to the values at the heart of IUCC – especially, our commitment to social justice and full lives for all people.

Our Sunday worship and Wednesday discussions will look at UCC Resolutions (you can find them at <http://synod.uccpages.org/resolutions/>), and Adult Sunday school classes in March will offer opportunities for follow-up discussion. Together let's explore ways to build “A Just World for All.”

Building Project Update

by Anne Rosse, Chair of Building Task Force



Colossians 3:12 reminds us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Well, we certainly have needed that reminder to be patient recently! At the Winter Congregational Meeting (January 28), I described the Odyssean journey that we've been on with the City of Irvine to resolve an issue with the new building's sewer line. While it has brought construction to a halt, every effort is being made

to resolve it as soon as possible. Once construction restarts, we will finish utility trenching so the foundation can be laid.

With this delay, we now expect construction to be completed in June. To celebrate these new indoor and outdoor spaces, we will hold a building dedication on June 24. Please mark your calendars! We look forward to celebrating what your generosity and vision for the future has achieved.

Speaking of generosity, we have already received more than \$1,050,000, putting us well ahead of our collection schedule. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your speedy payment of campaign pledges is deeply appreciated and helps IUCC stay financially stable. We are still actively raising money so, if you haven't joined your church family in supporting this project, we invite you to do so today.

While sewer line approval has been a protracted process, the City did approve our new signage. Woodbridge Village Association also approved it. The new signage includes easily visible address numbers, along with our name, logo, UCC affiliation, and preschool.

We anticipate needing to vacate the Sanctuary April 2-21 (the two weeks following Easter) for sprinkler installation and painting, which will impact our April 8 and April 15 worship services. Please note that these dates may have to be adjusted due to project delays; any date changes will be announced.

IUCC is well represented by Pastor Paul, Mark Allen, Jim Raver, Anne Rosse and Michael Spindle at weekly OAC (Owner, Architect & Contractor) meetings. Our architect, Chris Balzano, will be moving out of state in mid-February so David Pfeifer will again assume responsibility for our project. Many thanks to Heidi Willcox for processing the endless paperwork associated with this project.

Your continued patience during this delay is greatly appreciated! We also appreciate your gracious cooperation as we navigate the temporary loss of parking spots and our main entrance. Kudos and gratitude to the many folks who are walking from our offsite parking or taking the Green Faith challenge by walking, biking and carpooling to church.

Please contact btfchair@iucc.org (for the Building Project) or capitalcampaign@iucc.org (for the Capital Campaign) with questions or for more information.

Thank you!

Anne Rosse





GreenFaith Team



GREENfaith * Committed to Environmental Justice *
IUCC is a Creation Justice Church of the UCC

Five Actions in 2018



Confession time! Due to the numerous issues involved in environmental justice, I find it difficult to focus on one issue, or even a few, for this monthly article. Perhaps you relate to that “focus” conundrum.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a responsible justice organization worth supporting, suggests five actions to impact social justice in 2018. Their

suggestions aid me in organizing my thoughts, so I’ll use them as a springboard for environmental actions.

1. PLEDGE TO START A CONVERSATION

Who isn’t for clean air and water? This is not a difficult conversation to begin if we avoid using the terms climate change or climate warming. Start with the concern for sanitary water and clean air for our children. Plastic pollution is a serious problem. One excellent tactic is to pledge to purchase less plastic. That can be casually mentioned to friends and family and will hopefully lead to an interesting conversation. Some folks are pledging to live “One year without buying plastic.” Look that up on the web.

2. PLEDGE TO BE INFORMED

There are numerous issues to learn about. Regarding plastic pollution, the book *Junk Raft* by Marcus Eriksen is an excellent read. To learn how plastics are polluting our oceans and killing ocean life, look at the web under the topic “The Plastic Catastrophe.” Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote: “Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” Make a pledge to be informed in 2018.

3. PLEDGE TO STAY ENGAGED

Your GREENfaith committee is currently working with Karen Smith to plan and develop a workshop here at IUCC based on the material presented in

the book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken, Foreword by Tom Steyer. Watch for this workshop opportunity! You will hear a positive environmental message based around solutions. Plan to attend!

4. PLEDGE TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

A more just and tolerant society relies on the voices of many, not just a few. Get out and participate in local marches. Call your lawmakers about issues. Also, sign letters on our church patio written to lawmakers by the Advocacy and/or GREENfaith ministries. Always be civil and positive when contacting our lawmakers.

5. PLEDGE TO TAKE REAL-WORLD ACTION

As you no doubt know, the GREENfaith committee is inviting you to take part in a NO BUY CHALLENGE. You are asked to commit to buying only what is essential for the next 30 days, or for as long as you are willing to commit. By doing so you will reduce over-consumption and the harmful affects it has on our environment and health. (Watch “The Story of Stuff” on the web.) This is one positive real-world action you can take.

Every Day is Earth Day!

Vivian Johnson

(GREENfaith team: Judy Curry, Tony Dover, Nancy Dreckman, Howard Emery, Carol Getz, Martha Hansen, Bonnie Shaffstall, Eileen Vincent, and Vivian Johnson)



Music Ministry

by Joni Baker



Another year, another budget passed in the congregational style of church government. The music ministry is grateful to the congregation for voting to support our ministry for another year. As with all ministries at IUCC, our budget was cut for this year. You may think, "The choir is an almost entirely volunteer organization, how much could it really cost?" Well, just to give you an idea of the monetary and manpower, here is what it costs to

bring one anthem to you on an average Sunday morning:

Anthems cost as much as \$3.50 per piece x 60 choir members = \$210.00

Accompanist salary for seven hours per week

About 150 man/woman hours of rehearsal time for the choir

The cost of our choral interns, who add so much value to the rehearsal and worship experience

Music Director's salary which covers only a portion of the actual hours worked

I'm sure I've forgotten something, but you get the idea. Over the past few years these costs have only increased while our budget has remained nearly stagnant. The costs for guest musicians has risen over the years, but we have been unable to give raises to these individuals. We are fortunate that we have been able to find talented individuals who are willing to work with us. We do our best to provide musical excellence each week in worship, and for our concerts and special services. Thank you again for your continued support of the Music Ministry at IUCC.



2018 Altar Flowers Calendar



Would you like to dedicate and sponsor the altar flowers on a Sunday this year? It's a lovely way to honor, celebrate, commemorate or remember a special someone, a significant day or event.

The 2018 Altar Flowers Calendar is posted on the patio bulletin board. Most Sundays are still available! To sign up, write your name by the Sunday you choose. A few weeks before your Sunday, I'll mail you our "flower letter." The letter explains that the altar flowers cost \$40, and you may take the arrangement home after second service. There's space on the letter for you to write your dedication for the bulletin, which you'll return to the church with your payment.

That's it! The flowers are pre-ordered and delivered to the church, your name and dedication will be in the bulletin, and you'll have a colorful arrangement to take home.

Thank you!

Irene Shinoda Thornton



Meet Alyssa Wilkins

Ben Allen loves working with youth, and has asked to move from tech to youth work. He will still do tech for special events or when we need him most.



Alyssa Wilkins is now officially our Tech Assistant. She knows our system, having filled in on numerous occasions. She takes her responsibilities seriously, and goes the full mile in her work.

She is a producer, sound engineer, songwriter, and a musician from Newport Beach. Alyssa loves music, and has a band called, "The Joy Pond." She also loves the production side of music.

Click here to listen to a song she wrote:

<https://www.alyssawilkins.com/music>

The music is all Alyssa, and the voice is Jillian Allen, Ben's sister. Welcome, Alyssa!

News & Events



Women's Fellowship to attend "Mrs. Packard" on Feb. 7

All are welcome to join The Women's Fellowship in attending the February 7th performance of "Mrs. Packard" at the Claire Trevor Theatre at UCI. This story of a woman institutionalized as insane by her Calvinist preacher husband in the 19th century and her efforts to be freed and labeled sane, stars our own Angelica Rowell.

We will meet in Plumer at 6:30 p.m.

and carpool to the 7:30 performance, returning to Plumer around 10:00 p.m. Tickets for the evening are \$12.50. Sign up on the patio Sunday, February 4th, or see Pat Sauter for more information or to make your reservation.



We love our youth!

Photo courtesy of Sarah Fiske-Phillips



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Ah, coffee hour snacks! They're yummy, they're colorful, and they provide a wonderful backdrop of warmth and welcome to our patio after services. Happy IUCC people gather around the snack tables to visit, catch up with friends, and

meet interesting new people. It's our guilty pleasure, and we love it! Our coffee hour snacks are provided by volunteers. Won't you add your name to the list of volunteers? Sign up sheets are on the patio on Sunday mornings. If each of us committed to one Sunday each year, our calendar - and our tummies - would be full. Thank you!



Isaiah House

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers serving a meal at Isaiah House meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to provide a meal for the women at Isaiah House. Those who are not able to serve the meal can donate menu items. Call (949) 436-1946 for more info.



The Seeker's Women's Group

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m.

The Seekers meet on the third Tuesday of each month for theological and spiritual study and discussion. Newcomers are always welcome! Call Reefa for details - (949) 859-7091.



Save the date:

Women's Retreat May 4-6

Just a reminder that the Women's Retreat will be May 4-6 at Pilgrim Pines. Details to follow as the committee finalizes the program offerings.



2/06	Jim Aynes	2/25	Brian McComb
2/22	Iris Bjorklund	2/23	Kris Miaco
2/21	Cooper Campbell	2/02	Donna Picard
2/28	John Emerson	2/04	Elizabeth Rodriguez
2/03	Annika Evensen	2/03	Matthew Ruiz
2/25	Vernon Field	2/08	Rachel Selke
2/10	Greg Guth	2/15	Karen Smith
2/21	Jim Hamilton	2/15	Peggy Stalter
2/13	Kaytee Macdonald	2/21	Lynn Terry

Powerful Parenting

Dr. Lorraine Fox

Assisting with Assertiveness



Last month we clarified that “civility” has nothing to do with being so “polite” that we roll over when being bullied, harassed, or put into compromising or uncomfortable positions by others. While it is sometimes tempting to respond to rude or hostile behavior by becoming rude and hostile in return, this almost always results in the interaction becoming worse instead

of better. Thus we want to let children and young people know that while we understand the human tendency to respond to “like with like,” there is a better way to remain both civil and safe. When someone is attempting to make a “victim” of you, personal strength can be displayed by responding “assertively” – a way to show unwillingness to be treated badly without becoming belligerent or nasty. Assertive behavior almost always has to be taught, as it is not a natural response to being treated aggressively.

One of the reasons assertive behavior is often successful in “backing off” a rude bully is that it is unexpected and takes them off guard. Last month we discussed helping children and teens to be “armed and ready” for aggressive behavior that is meant to put them on the defensive, often resulting in not knowing how to stand up for oneself. Humans, like all living creatures, have an instinct to protect themselves from harm. But we’ve all seen dogs and cats and other animals respond to threat with a “fight” or “flight” response and that is not what we want for our children. Flight responses give away fear and thus embolden those who want to do physical or emotional harm. Fight responses usually end up with both participants getting hurt. It is the “flight” response that often causes the “freeze” behavior in the victims we’ve been hearing from, as well as the agonizing silence that often follows being taken advantage of. When the truth finally comes out we often witness the “fight” behavior in law suits and outbursts in court or to the press. Teaching assertive behavior as a response to unwanted aggressive or coercive behavior from others provides an alternative to either “fight” or “flight”. It provides a practiced response that will help a potential victim feel “ready.”

Teaching “assertiveness” involves teaching both a set of beliefs and a variety of specific behaviors designed to

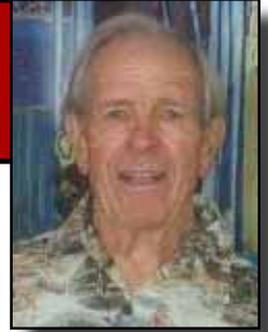
keep interactions safe, mutual, and as reasonably “civil” as possible, even in situations when there is a power imbalance. Assertive responses are a direct, honest and appropriate expression of one’s feelings and interests without unnecessary anxiety or guilt. It allows us to stand up for ourselves in constructive rather than destructive ways. In order for young people to learn how to express themselves in this way, they must **believe** in their own individual “right” to be treated in ways that are in their best interests. A sample of these “beliefs” that we want to instill in our children:

- They have the right to be treated with respect, no matter how old they are, how “big” they are, or what position they are in with regard to another person.
- They have the right to their feelings and opinions and they have the right to express both of these, in a “civil” way.
- They have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.
- They have the right to say “no” when what is being asked of them is not good for them.
- They have the right to make requests and ask for what they want, as long as they understand that asking for something doesn’t mean that they will automatically get it.
- They have the right to ask for information about matters that impact them directly.
- They have the right to make mistakes when they are learning new skills.
- They have the right to say “I don’t know” or “I don’t understand.”

Over the next few months we will explore specific behavioral responses that can be taught to children of all ages, although we must give time for maturity to develop in younger children before they can stand up for themselves alone. However, by the time children are ready to go to school we want to be sure we have instilled in them how they are entitled to be treated, and have begun practicing with them how they can take a stand with others who are treating them disrespectfully or aggressively. I find I sometimes have to remind myself of some of these lessons so the next months may be good both for the young ones and those reading these words.

PC at IUCC: “The Crucifixion”

by Bil Aulenbach, retired Episcopal priest



In the November 2017 IUCC newsletter, I discussed, through the eyes of a Progressive Christian, all the events leading up to the Crucifixion. The Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, John and Peter all tell a story of how Jesus died. Each tale is a little different. In Scriptures, readers can catch some of the pain of Jesus dying on a cross. Allow me to review the process of crucifixion, Roman style. It's gory, so I decided **not** to go into details during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Lent begins this month (14th) so perhaps it seems more appropriate to talk about the process.

Crucifixion was not a pretty sight, since onlookers watched victims suffocate to death. At dawn, the condemned were taken from the Fortress Antonio, inside the walled city of Jerusalem, and led to a place called Golgotha or “the skull.” It was outside the gates, near a main road for all to see what would happen to a person who committed a crime against The Empire. (History tells us that occasionally, as many as 3,000 were crucified in a single day.) If the two pieces of wood weren't already attached and in the ground, the prisoner then helped to construct it.

The next process was to attach the person to the wood, which could be done in one of two ways: (1) Tying the person to the cross; or (2) Nailing him on. Ouch! But the soldiers often gave the criminal wine mixed with myrrh to ease the pain. Sometimes a footrest was attached to ease the sagging. Sometimes not. The person was then left there, with a soldier close by, naked or barely clothed, exposed to the hot desert sun. Some folks suffocated quickly. Those who lasted until dusk were taken down, put back in prison overnight and reattached the next morning. They did this until the person died. Fortunately for Jesus, reportedly he died within three hours.

If the soldiers wanted to speed the process, they could do one or both of two things: 1. Jab them in the lung(s) with their spear so that breathing stopped almost immediately. 2. Take their spear handles and bash their lower legs so the prisoner had no leg support and was in excruciating pain. Jesus avoided those extremely painful processes.

There are two important things to remember here: (1) No one except soldiers could come close to the crucified person or they could be speared; (2) Once the soldier thought the victim was dead, he called the centurion (a non-commissioned officer warrior) to verify that the person was dead. If there was any question, he would spear him in the

heart. Every soldier knew that if the criminal escaped, the centurion could end up on a cross.

I bring these issues up because there are some folks who are into the “swoon” theory claiming that Jesus wasn't totally dead. He “swooned” and then escaped. Historically, that could have never happened.

We now have a dead Jesus, laying on the ground, guarded by a soldier who would allow no one to approach the body. They were waiting for the cart to come.

Next month, I'll share the rest of the story about the process of crucifixion and talk about “resurrection.”

PeaceLoveJoyHope Bil



The Eight Points of Progressive Christianity:

By calling ourselves Progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the path and the teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of the many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: * Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, * Believers and agnostics, * Women and men, * Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, * Those of all classes and abilities;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion and selfless love.

Noteworthy “Also-Rans” in Film Oscar History

by Keith Dillon



February is Oscar month. So I thought this month I'd take a look at some “also rans” from the first 30 years of Oscar history. Many of these films are worthy of our continued attention; some have proven to be better films than the winners were. The one film you will not see on this list, however, is *Citizen Kane*. It has seen more than its share of should-a-won-the-Oscar

lists in the past 50 years.

- 1) The 1932/33 season gave the Academy Award to *Cavalcade*. Can't comment; didn't see it. If history is right, however, the real winner that year was *42nd Street*. For storytelling, it was Bacon and Berkeley at their finest. It was also one of the best films of its generation.
- 2) 1939 was a bellweather year for Hollywood. At the Oscars, masterpieces like *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Stagecoach*, *Ninotchka* and *Wuthering Heights* all fell before a certain Civil War epic from Atlanta. But no film has made a greater impression on me personally than *The Wizard of Oz*. The Wizard's my choice for 1939.
- 3) 1942 gave the Oscar to William Wyler's Dunkirk story, *Mrs. Miniver*. For me, however, the winner that year was Jimmy Cagney's *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Cagney made this film simply to prove that he wasn't a Communist. He offered this proof to Martin Dies of the House Unamerican Activities Committee.
- 4) In 1944, the Academy Award went to *Going My Way*, a charming story about a priest named Bing who could swing on a star. That year, however, Oscar passed on two of the finest Noirs Hollywood ever produced: George Cukor's *Gaslight* & Billy Wilder's *Double Indemnity*.
- 5) 1948 gave the Oscar to Laurence Olivier's masterful reading of *Hamlet*. Powell & Pressburgers' *The Red Shoes* was, easily, as memorable. Powell & Pressburger turned a ballet based on Hans Christian Andersen into a disturbing tale of soul possession.
- 6) In 1949, the Academy Award went to Robert Rossen's *All the King's Men*. Vittorio DeSica's *The Bicycle Thief*, however, was honored with a Special Foreign Language Film Award. Take your pick; they're both worthy of your attention.
- 7) Vincente Minnelli's *An American in Paris* took home the brass in 1951. Delightful as it was, *An American in Paris* was outclassed by Elia Kazan's *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*. At least *Rashomon* got the Foreign Language honors.
- 8) In 1952, Cecil B. DeMille's *The Greatest Show on Earth* won the Academy Award. I'm one of the few I know who actually like this film, but Fred Zinneman's *High Noon*, one of the finest westerns ever made, was a much better choice.
- 9) In 1956, masterpieces like *Giant*, *The King and I* & *The Ten Commandments* fell before *Around the World in Eighty Days*; the mind boggles. At least the Foreign Film award was awarded to *La Strada*, giving us Yanks our first opportunity to experience the cinema of Federico Fellini.
- 10) 1964 was a year of musicals. The Oscar went to that George Cukor delight, *My Fair Lady*. *Mary Poppins* was also nominated and Jacques Demy's *Les Parapluis de Cherbourg* was nominated in the Foreign Film category. As much as I love musicals, it's hard to think of a bigger gut punch of a film that year than Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*.

