IUCC News & Notes
Editor: Tricia Aynes

July 2019 | www.iucc.org | Join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!
OPEN AND AFFIRMING · JUST PEACE · GLOBAL MISSION · CREATION JUSTICE/GREEN FAITH

IUCC was well represented at OC Pride on June 22!

Photos courtesy of Tricia Aynes, Felicity Figueroa, and Cindy O'Dell
Photos from the Choir Concert on June 9
(Photos from various Facebook contributors)
A Note from Pastor Dave

Howdy!

Our first month together has whizzed by, and there a couple of things I want to make sure you notice…

- I am writing a weekly column, Pastor Notes, for the newsletter, Story from Steve, sent to you on Fridays. Generally, it will give you a foretaste of the service and sermon for Sunday, with a suggestion of how I see them connected to what's going on in the world.

- I’m keeping regular office hours, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. I do my best to be flexible and available throughout the week, so call the church to set up a time with me that's convenient for you and, if you have an urgent need, please don't hesitate to call my cell phone, 773-255-8095.

I’ll be out of town twice in the month of July. Right after worship on the 7th through the 15th, I’ll be in Oregon, and July 24-30 I’ll be in Denver and Boulder. Pastor Sarah will be the preacher July 14 and July 28.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave

Moderator’s Column

Moderators have many tasks and duties. Some of them are clearly defined in the bylaws, some are prescribed by tradition, and some fall under the category of “other duties as assigned.” Some of the tasks are short term in their planning and impact, and others are far more long term in both the planning and impact. I want to give you an update on two of those long term and “impactful” tasks.

Last year, the Coordinating Council (myself as Moderator; Chair of the Administration Board, Daniel Blackburn; Chair of the Ministries Board, Felicity Figueroa; and Pastor Paul), in consultation and coordination with the members of both the Ministries and Administration Board, decided to move forward with several initiatives.

**Initiative One: A Diversity Task Force.** One initiative was the formation of a Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion. Under the leadership of Pastor Sarah, the Task Force, whose members included Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi, Lauren Louie, Matt Mirmak, Aidan Mitchell, Shanthi Nataraj, and Cheryl Schou, discussed current efforts within IUCC in regards to diversity and inclusion, examined what other faith institutions in the community are doing about diversity and inclusion, and how diversity and inclusion should be a driver for IUCC’s future.

At the June 2 Congregational meeting, a written report was presented regarding their efforts thus far. The full report is on page 27 of the meeting packet, which is posted here: http://iucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-SPRING-MEETING-Packet-6-2-19.pdf. Key task force efforts through May included:

- Giving input to the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Task Force to ensure that IUCC’s hiring practices reflect our values of diversity and inclusion;
- Recommending the integration of reading, music, poetry and other elements into worship that is authentic to the person sharing;
- Recommending the use of small groups as a way to increase diversity and inclusion;
- Creating a survey to be passed along to the Pastoral Search Committee for use in their search process.

The work of the Task Force is ongoing. Since his arrival, Pastor Dave has joined the group, adding his energy and
insights. The conversation continues, with a focus on this key question: how might IUCC become a more diverse and inclusive faith community?

**Initiative Two: A Hiring Practices Policy.** Another initiative was to encourage that IUCC write, adopt, and implement written guidelines regarding hiring practices. At the Administration Board’s request, the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedure Task Force (Chair Anne Rosse and members Keith Boyum and Ron Steiner) undertook the development of hiring practices that would reflect IUCC’s strong commitment to equal opportunity employment, and more broadly to diversity and inclusion. Drawing from UCC resources, the Task Force developed a policy statement together with a checklist that was reviewed by the Human Resources Chair, the Administrative Pastor, the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, the Child Care Committee, and the Ministry for Young People Staff. With those reviews and input in hand, the Administration Board approved the policy at its April 2019 meeting. The full policy is item 1.16 in the full listing that can be found here: [http://iucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/IUCC-Policies-Procedures-Handbook-May-2019.pdf](http://iucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/IUCC-Policies-Procedures-Handbook-May-2019.pdf). The goal behind this policy is to ensure transparency and thoroughness in the hiring practices of IUCC.

Note that these hiring practices are to be used for the recruitment of all employees (both IUCC and our Child Care Center) with the exception of positions designated by the United Church of Christ as “Search and Call” - that is, the process we are using to find our new “settled” senior pastor here at IUCC. But the exception proves the rule, as they sometimes say. The Search Committee is certainly committed to the principles that comprise the foundations for the congregational policy, even if some of the postings and other local requirements may not literally apply (because other, similar and more elaborate, postings and procedures from the United Church of Christ are in play). Highlights of IUCC’s policy include these:

- Job descriptions must include: required, desired and minimal qualifications, and essential duties
- Job descriptions should be reviewed by the Chair of the Human Resources Committee and must be approved by the Administration Board
- Job postings should succinctly describes the job opening, essential duties, required qualifications and salary information
- Job postings must be posted on iucc.org. When appropriate, job openings should also be posed with the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- Postings must be publicly disseminated for no fewer than three (3) weeks unless the Administration Board grants an exception.
- For positions that are supervisory in nature, typically a Search Committee will be formed to manage the recruitment process. For non-supervisory positions, the recruitment process will be handled by a Hiring Manager.
- When a single individual (Hiring Manager) is managing a recruitment, a second, separate interview with a different individual is required.
- All Search Committees should be inclusive and diverse bodies, seeking to represent key IUCC stakeholders.
- Hiring Managers and Search Committees should exercise conscientious and rigorous efforts to attract and broad and inclusive pool of candidates.
- Guidelines for Interviews questions and interviewing are described, as are guidelines for Offers of Employment.

The steps taken with the formation of a task force and the adoption of new policy amount to steps in a continuing journey. During that journey, there will be many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us.

As always, we will undertake that journey in faith and community.

**Renae Boyum**
Three years ago, this congregation undertook a capital campaign to fund much-needed new indoor and outdoor spaces. Thank you, IUCC, for your generosity! Because of it, we've been able to breathe new life into our aging church campus. As we wrap up that capital campaign, we reflect on why folks gave so generously to the campaign.

“In faith and for community -- those words resonated with us as we contemplated our gift for the capital campaign,” reflected Renae Boyum. “That is why we gave and why our new spaces make a remarkable difference for IUCC and the greater community! We see the new spaces filled with light and with the spirit -- we see our community coming together in faith and reaching out to all no matter where they are on their journey of faith.”

Tommie Kozlov observed that “Giving to the capital campaign was a no-brainer for me. IUCC is such a vibrant and loving congregation, always striving to become the church God is calling us to be - to care for others as God has given to us. We are so grateful to Anne and all the committees for their endless dedication and resolute commitment. We have purpose and we have meaning and can now better serve our community and continue fighting for a just world for all.”

For Bill Lawrence and Jeff Stuckhardt, enabling programs was important: “The ministries of IUCC are the avenue by which we engage and work to improve the social and spiritual values in the community. Our new building provides the space for us to more fully engage with our neighbors and meet the missions of IUCC. Our new facilities are very attractive, functional, inviting, and promote fellowship.”

The three-year term to fulfill capital campaign pledges will end on July 31. We graciously request that you complete all pledges by that date. If you have any questions, need additional information, or have concerns about meeting your pledge or this deadline, please contact me confidentially at capitalcampaign@iucc.org. Thank you!
Thank you to the generous folks who have already volunteered to provide hospitality to our guests from Family Promise of Orange County! The families will be with us in Plumer Hall each evening from Sunday evening, Aug 11 until Sunday, Aug 18.

Volunteers are still needed to:

- Stay overnight in the church with the participants
- Provide a side dish on Sun, Mon or Tues
- Shop for breakfast items and lunch items

Would anyone like to grill hot dogs & hamburgers on Fri or Sat evening?

Would you or your Comma Group like to fix eggs and pancakes on the grill for a Big Saturday Breakfast??

Board games, puzzles, simple toys are needed for the kids.

Please sign up after Sunday services OR email Sharon Lynn to volunteer (Sharon.lynn15@outlook.com).

This is your opportunity to directly help these struggling families. Love and kindness always make a difference.

For more information about Family Promise, go to www.familypromiseorangecounty.org

IUCC Mission & Service Ministry
Good grief, how time flies! Example 1: Mary and I just returned from my 40th (!) college reunion. How can it have been that long since graduation? (It was loads of fun, by the way.)

Example 2: It’s been a year since I began in this new/revised position, and we’ve been occupying our new office and meeting spaces for 9 months!

Thanks to those new spaces, IUCC has been able to expand its welcome to outside groups with similar interests and commitments – like the Criminal Justice Forum we hosted on June 19 and the Green New Deal Forum on June 30.

We’ve also had space to install Jenna McCarty’s interactive art exhibit in Plumer Hall (and still accommodate existing activities). The exhibit will close on Friday, July 5 – after a hands-on Workshop led by Jenna on Wednesday, July 3. Thank-You to Jenna for sharing her art and other creative gifts with us!

Ken Wyant is another gift-sharer, as he leads Tuesday Bible Study each week with equal doses of scholarship and humor. We’re still traveling through the New Testament book of Acts, the second volume by Gospel author “Luke.” Join him at 4 p.m., and follow the group to Square One Pizza afterwards!

We just finished the wrap-ups for Comma Groups, and already I’m planning sign-ups for next year. Comma Groups are IUCC’s small-groups program and run monthly from October through April. Groups meet over refreshments or a meal, share the needs and joys of their lives, and study a book or topic together.

In the coming year, Comma Groups will be an important way to help IUCC learn from the interim period and prepare for our next senior pastor. Right now, I’m asking all Comma Group Leaders – past and present – to seriously consider being a Leader next year. I want to be able to offer lots of groups! Please contact me soon.

Thank You to Bil Aulenbach and Jim Martin for leading Adult Sunday School during June! In July, we’ll begin viewing and discussing a brand new DVD series from Living The Questions, called “ProFuture Faith” featuring Rev. Michael Dowd, a leading environmental activist and teacher.

Bil Aulenbach is also offering a midweek adult study series on faith lessons he learned after a serious motorcycle accident in 1958. Bill will lead discussions at 9:30 a.m. or 7:15 p.m. (choose the most convenient for your schedule) on Wednesdays, beginning July 10. Sign up with Bil, so he’ll know how many to prepare for!

Of course, John Dominic Crossan is coming to IUCC on October 26 & 27! If you haven’t put that on your calendar already, do so now; this will be a well-attended event. Details will begin appearing next month.

Don’t forget Kelly Garrity’s Yoga at 7:30 each Sunday morning in Wisdom Room 108.

TED Talks with Al Gumb are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays – at 4:00 p.m. in July.
**END TIMES**  Based on a Motorcycle Accident 1958

4 Wednesdays in July at either 9:30-11 AM or 7:15-8:45 PM  
Casual dress  Cookies and coffee/decaf

**July 10**  THE ACCIDENT  Brad was killed. Bil wasn’t. Why?  
*Where was God? Where is Brad? Divine Plan? Death vs Near-Death.  
Is there life after death? Where is Heaven, Hell, Purgatory? Exact date of the Second Coming. When is the Apocalypse? Where will Armageddon be fought? (Irvine?) Learn how to spell and say eschatological and Parousia.

**July 17**  PASTORAL CARE 101  Death: sudden or long lasting.  


**July 31**  WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?  Who will be invited? What are the rules? Will Jesus be there? Will you be there? Will Hitler be there? Where is it? How do we get in? How does one get there? Does all of me go? Is it true that only those who can spell Tchaikovsky correctly can enter? If I don’t like it, can I leave? What’s A-G-A-P-E? Free Passes to the first 19 people.

---(TEAR HERE  Give to Bil  Put in Offering plate)---

Name(s) _____________________________ Phone __________

Email _____________________________ 9:30 AM  7:15 PM

Questions: Call Bil (949)240 2933 or bilaulenbach@yahoo.com
Pastoral Search Committee Report

Dear Congregation,

Following the advice of conference minister Dr. Felix Villanueva, the pastoral search committee wants to keep you abreast and engaged in a transparent process as we call our next settled pastor. Of course, much of our work is strictly confidential. However, we desire open communication wherever possible.

First, the committee has already met three times. Our first order of business was to elect Keith Boyum as chairperson, Aidan Mitchell as vice-chairperson, Ken Wyant as chaplain, Tricia Aynes as scribe, and Craig Tyrl as communication specialist. The full committee has in prayer and faithfulness accepted this sacred charge in a spirit of gratitude and service.

Second, our major task at hand is the compilation of our church profile. This is an extensive document that covers all aspects of IUCC: activities, demographics, financials, history, membership, et al. It is this document which will accompany a detailed job description once an official call for potential candidates is made. The scope of our church profile is extensive and will require the help of many, both on and off the committee.

Our attendance and engagement at the leadership retreat on July 20th is our immediate next step. This forum is ideal to help complete important sections of our church profile. We look forward to presenting this church profile to the congregation when complete.

Finally, you may ask how long this process will take. Dr. Villanueva reminded us that the process is different for each congregation, and he avoided the pressure of a fixed date.

Please know you have committed team working diligently and hard to fulfill our charge as timely as possible.

In a spirit of thanksgiving and hope!
-- the Pastoral Search Committee

Emergence:
Tour of Transformation

As part of its increased attention to the Arts, this month IUCC will host an art exhibit of one of our own artists.

Through her work, Jenna W. McCarty explores darkness and light, delves into the deep, exposes her own healing journey. Torn paper becomes her paint in a new modern exploratory art form.

For this exhibit, she will be creating a yurt to contain the primary work. Enter to be transformed, meet your own contained self to be set free.

Open Exhibit hours: Monday thru Friday, 6 to 9 p.m., from June 24 thru July 5.

July 3: 6-9 p.m. - A Night with the Arts
A Meditative and Creative Workshop.
We will collectively create together.

RSVP to ensure space and materials:
jenna@juvenation.com

July 5: Exhibit Closes
6 - 9 p.m. - Closing Celebration

Additional hours may be added, dependent on volunteer availability.

Hosted by IUCC as part of its increased attention to the Arts
Blessings to our graduates: Sofia, Nanna, Hunter, Dylan, Sara, Lauren, & Alaina! And congratulations to their families as well! Photos courtesy of Pastor Sarah Averette-Phillips

Alaina Haynes
B.A. from UCSB

Sara McComb
B.A. from Chapman

Lauren Fleming
PhD from UCI

Hunter Mirmak
University H.S.

Sofia Portillo
Laguna Hills H.S.

Dylan Trout
Huntington Beach H.S.

Nanna Gailiun
University H.S.
Rally for Justice for Scott Clark

There was a good IUCC turnout for a June 22 rally in Laguna Niguel to support justice for Scott Clark. Scott was killed in an auto accident two years ago while on a training run. The son-in-law of Iris and Don Bjorklund, Scott was a husband, father, teacher, and four-time Ironman triathlete. Family and community members were urging the District Attorney’s office to take action to protect citizens and make the streets safer.

Photos courtesy of Barb Carse
Green Tips from Miss Lily

Dear readers,

July is one of my favorite months in the Summertime. It's warm, the neighbors BBQ steaks, and the fireworks are next to my home.

The fireworks are magnificent! I sit on my patio and watch them, sipping a glass of wine. Neighbors and strangers line up to watch them. Some have to park at Ralph's.

During the day I water and tend the garden. The chives are doing well. Rabbits eat the tomatoes. I hope to plant celery.

With love,

Miss Lily

Keep the Green Faith! An Update on Community Choice Energy in Irvine

Friends and members of IUCC have been supporting a Community Choice Energy (CCE) plan for Irvine. The Green Faith Team hosted a well-attended community forum on the topic in April, and in June the Team collected signatures for a letter to Irvine Mayor Christina Shea, asking that the city move ahead with the plan.

Well, there is progress to report. A feasibility study was released in mid-June, with positive reviews. A June 14 memo from Irvine's Environmental Programs Administrator, Sona Coffee, sounded a positive note, based on a consultant's report. CCE amounts to a step:

- toward achieving 100% clean energy by 2035,
- toward cleaner air, and
- with stable or lower energy costs for consumers.

Savings could be in the range of 2%, all while representing action on climate change. More information is available at http://www.irvinequickrecords.com/sirepub/cache/2/

Keith Boyum

Green New Deal Forum

From Keith Boyum:

Our June 30 Green New Deal forum was sponsored by the Advocates for Peace and Justice, in cooperation with the Green Faith Team.

The principal speaker, a University of California Irvine lecturer, held the attention of the group with slides, questions and answers, and even a song at the end. Dr. Keith Danner let us know about the “Sunrise” movement that seeks to build an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America. We saw a terrific video, and even sang a song.

From Dave Smith:

Dr. Keith Danner (a writing instructor at UCI and a leader of the OC Sunrise Movement) did a wonderful presentation yesterday in the sanctuary on the Green New Deal. Keith explained what some of the key elements of the GND consist of, why it is important to view this problem in a holistic way (that includes retraining for former workers in carbon heavy industries, and a reduction of inequality that makes political action to combat climate change all but impossible). We had an audience of about 25 people -- and many of them were willing to weigh in with their views and their questions; so we had a very constructive discussion! One marvelous part of that program was a short video, shown near the end, narrated by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
FAMILIES FORWARD

BACK TO SCHOOL DONATIONS NEEDED

Low-Income students need our help with back to school supplies and clothing.

We invite IUCC to come together supporting Families Forward to give every student the same "Back to School" opportunity. Grade-appropriate school supplies, backpacks, and clothing will be distributed to low-income elementary, middle, and high school students in July and August, helping them to start on the same foot as their peers - building their confidence for the coming school year.

We will have a bin in the narthex throughout July and August to support these efforts.

A full listing is on their website:


- Backpacks 17" or larger
- Highlighters
- Pencil Boxes
- Colored Pencils
- Pencils
- college-ruled spiral notebooks
- Dividers
- erasers
- Pocket Folders
- rulers
- 3-Ring Binders
- zipper pencil pouches
- Scientific Calculators
- scissors
- Pens (red/black/blue)
- index cards

Thank you.

IUCC Mission & Service Ministry
With proud parents and families looking on, and with Pastor Dave representing the congregation, the IUCC Child Care Center celebrated a “graduation” in June. “Kindergarten, here we come!” may not have been literally spoken, but - well - you get the idea. Nurtured by IUCC preschool teachers, these children are ready!

Photos courtesy of Irma Rosales
News & Events

Yoga of 12-Step Recovery
For the summer, Kelly Garrity’s Yoga group will meet on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. in Wisdom Room 108 (closest to Alton).

Isaiah House
Wednesday, July 10, 4 p.m.
Volunteers serve a meal to homeless women at Isaiah House on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Call (949) 436-1946 for more info.

Northwest Boychoir
Saturday, July 13, 7:30 p.m.
You’ve heard them on movie soundtracks and on your favorite video games. Now you can hear the Seattle-based Northwest Boychoir live in concert as part of their 2019 Concert Tour in California. The Grammy-nominated Northwest Boychoir will present a concert on Saturday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. at IUCC as part of its two-week 2019 California Concert Tour. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit the IUCC General Fund. A reception on the patio will follow and we are seeking members to bring cookies or other desserts and/or assist with set up. A sign up sheet will be on the patio. Your attendance and support would be greatly appreciated!

The Seeker’s Women’s Group
Tuesday, July 16, 9:30 a.m.
The Seekers meet on the third Tuesday of each month for theological and spiritual discussion. Newcomers are welcome! Call Reefa for details - (949) 859-7091.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed
Summer is a lovely time to linger on the patio between services - catch up with old friends, get acquainted with visitors and new members. To take part in enhancing this experience, please consider hosting Coffee Hour during the summer. Go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f45acab2ca5f49-iucc to sign up online, or sign up on the sheet on the Coffee Hour table on Sunday mornings. As we finish our term as Hospitality Co-chairs, we wish to thank all of the great volunteers who hosted Coffee Hour over the past 12 months. Thanks for bringing nourishment for the body and heart to our congregation!

Jan Wilson & Sandy Exelby

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Implicit bias. Lack of money. Bonds. Fear. Mental illness. Unfair plea deals. These and other factors play into why people of color often find themselves receiving different treatment in the criminal justice system compared to whites. On June 18 at IUCC, the Peoples Coalition presented a forum focusing on what we can do to address such disparities and level the playing field.

Panelists included Paul Chrisopoulos (OC Senior Deputy District Attorney); Carline Hahn (Deputy Public Defender, Riverside County); Kimberly LaSalle (private attorney with both DA and Public Defender experience); Scott Sanders (OC Public Defender’s Office); Darren Thompson (Public Defender and Juvenile Court Supervisor); Sammy Martinez; and Johnathan Hernandez of Santa Ana Unidos (nonprofit program that combats incarceration). Together, they presented a fascinating look at the causes and possible solutions to the problem. Here are some highlights:

All agreed that money was a key factor. “The voices that speak loudest are the people with the most money,” said Scott Sanders. “The rich aren’t held accountable to the extent that other people are. We need to make good defense a priority.”

But don’t assume that a public defender won’t provide good representation. “I would be willing to put up our office against any private firm when it comes to representing indigents,” said Public Defender Darren Thompson. “We have lots of experience, and there are people in the office who can provide specialized advice.”

“You’ve got to work hard and be committed (to be a public defender),” agreed fellow Public Defender Scott Sanders. “You need to care about indigent work. Yes, there are some bad ones. But most of us care deeply.”

The type of bond requested by the judge can make a huge difference. “The federal system has two bonds – there’s the unsecured bond and there’s the secured bond,” said Caroline Hahn. “You see the disparity in people with money versus people without it. Judges often order secured bonds, which are based on property ownership. Poor people, especially those living here, rarely own homes. Two defendants committing the same crime can be treated very differently – those who lack funds and property tend to lose out. When you have money, you have opportunities – it matters when you’re arguing before the court.”

“There should be a uniform bail schedule – one that is color blind, where it doesn’t matter about your background,” added Paul Chrisopoulos.

Panelists agreed that there was a lot of implicit bias in the criminal justice system. “There are so many policies and decisions that are extremely damaging and will strip people of their rights,” said Kimberly LaSalle. “We are not being honest about racism. We need to talk about color and race. There is so much implicit bias. We masculinize and militarize our police. We burden them with these things.”

Fear plays an important role as well, said Caroline Hahn. “There’s a lot of fear in the criminal justice system: Fear in my clients who don’t understand the system, who feel they have no control; Fear from judges who are up for election every six years; Fear from DAs and Public Defenders who want to keep their jobs. These are societal issues – poverty, racial disparity, and lack of opportunity. We need to start thinking about how we can help people. We need to vote, to get more representation. We need a global resolution, not one isolated to just the criminal justice system.”

What about mental health? “We are dealing with a mental health crisis, and we need to start treating it that way,” said Johnathan Hernandez. “Look at what incarceration – especially wrongful incarceration - does to somebody.”

“Mental health programs need to be centralized so resources are more available,” said Kimberly LaSalle. “We
need more education about mental illness so court officials
can open their minds to things like PTSD and realize ‘this is
what PTSD looks like’ – to learn what the symptomology is
so they can recognize it …. Also, people with developmental
disabilities are falling through the cracks. We need people
in the criminal justice system who are willing to step out of
their comfort zones and take a few risks. I want probation
officers and judges to see what's happening. There's a saying
that ‘Today's defendant was yesterday's victim' and I agree.”

“I believe that judges in juvenile court understand that
juveniles need rehabilitation – they are trying to provide
alternatives,” offered Caroline Hahn. “There are divergent
programs not involving the courts. I think we need a lot
of mental health help, because there's a lot of mental illness
out there. There's a stigma in Asian-American culture
against mental illness, for example. Children often don't get
help until it's too late. If they get treatment early, they can
be evaluated and get the services they need. Plus there's a
paper trail to show the judge that there's a history of mental
illness that needs to be considered.”

What can be done to eliminate wrongful convictions?
Scott Sanders, who was involved in uncovering the recent
informant scandal in the OC DA’s office, believes the
DA’s office needs to do a better job of disclosing pertinent
information. “None of the law enforcement personnel
running the informant program were held accountable
for their lack of disclosure. The real issue is what's it going
to take to see a change? The DA needs to stand up to law
enforcement. We have an immense problem and we need
people (who are withholding information) to pay a price.
30 years of terrible consequences and not one person has
been punished. It's an enormous problem and we need to
keep fighting it one by one.”

Is there a solution? Panelists were asked about their views
on alternative sentences that would avoid the collateral
consequences of a criminal conviction. “There's a lot more
collaboration between the DAs and public defenders to
make sure that kids are not just being locked up,” says
Darren Thompson. “They need more help getting GEDs,
getting jobs, getting into college. It's a lot better than it used
to be, but we still have a long way to go.”

All agreed that the public needs to take an interest and get
involved. “We have 60 people here, we should have 600,”
said Scott Sanders. “The press will be here when we're so
crowded we're out the door. We need more people to deeply
care. No one in law enforcement is scared because no one
has held them accountable. There's a real lack of outrage.”
The Bard Reimagined

by Keith Dillon

Last month we looked at Shakespeare turned into movies. This month, we look at films adapted freely from Shakespeare.

1) *Kiss Me, Kate* (George Sidney - 1953) – Given the FX mini-series *Fosse/Verdon*, I couldn’t skip this one. Mr. Fosse appears for the first time as a choreographer. The film also features Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel and the rapid fire tapping of Ann Miller.


3) *Throne of Blood* (Akira Kurosawa – 1957) - The first of three Shakespeare adaptations by Kurosawa. This one is taken from *Macbeth*. Toshiro Mifune as Mac and Isuzu Yamada as Lady Mac deliver classic performances.


5) *West Side Story* (Jerome Robbins & Robert Wise - 1961) I can't say anything about this film that I haven't already said many times. If you haven't seen it yet, get busy. In December of 2020, you'll have Spielberg's rendition to contend with.

6) *Ran* (Akira Kurosawa - 1985) – My favorite of Kurosawa’s Shakespeare. It’s based on *King Lear*, my favorite of Shakespeare’s plays. Some images from this film are so beautifully difficult, they cannot be unseen.

7) *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Tom Stoppard – 1990) – Gary Oldman and Tim Roth play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (or is it the other way around?) in this adaptation of Tom Stoppard’s play. The film is directed by the author.

8) *Prospero’s Books* (Peter Greenaway - 1991) – A strangely beautiful take on *The Tempest*. John Gielgud was dangerous in this film in ways he usually was not. Not for kids, though.


10) *The Lion King* (Rogers Allers & Rob Minkoff – 1994) – Animated *Hamlet* with James Earl Jones, Jeremy Irons, Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick. Had to include this one.


12) *O* (Tim Blake Nelson - 2001) – This *Othello*, set against the racism of a 21st Century high school, delivers its shocks with the force of Hitchcock. Mekhi Phifer, Mandy Moore and Josh Hartnett are superb in the three leads.
As we've been considering using concepts of “discipline” rather than punishment when responding to behavior we don't approve of from children or teens, it has become clear that it cannot be done without a lot of thought. Once clear about the distinctions between discipline (which we have defined as an intervention designed to teach a new behavior or way of thinking), and punishment (which we've defined as interventions designed merely to impose penalties or discomfort), we can move into a consideration of the purposes or goals for adult intervention (sometimes interference) with unacceptable behavior.

One goal: Teaching Values. It is important for parents and all adults working with children to wrap our minds around the fact that we don't need an intention to teach to teach. One might argue that we cannot avoid teaching, even when administering punishment. In a sense, it is true that a child learns something from every interaction, even if what s/he learns are lessons such as: adults can be cruel, might often triumphs over right(s), children “deserve” to be hurt when adults are angry, we can do something to you to deliberately cause you (emotional) pain and call it “for your own good.” It is a sobering reality to acknowledge that every time we interact with a child or teen we are teaching something! If we can keep this in our minds we can avoid teaching “lessons” that we really don't want our children to learn. Mistreated children have already learned some very unfortunately “lessons” that can take years to correct.

Apart from mistreatment by abuse or neglect, even well-tended children and teens can be exposed to influences that make it difficult to anticipate realistic consequences from their actions. Television, movies, and video games teach some very confusing messages about how to solve problems. Inconsistent responses from various adults in their lives can make it hard for young minds to sort through what is “acceptable” and what is not. Parents owe it to their children to clarify what, exactly, they want to teach them about life, values, the world and relationships. In homes committed to providing safety for their children, we want to teach them that all behaviors have certain real consequences, and teach them, at the same time, about the possibilities of fairness, available warmth and caring while they are learning, and that skill in anything, including managing behavior takes time to develop.

Before administering any consequence for behavior, a parent wants to ask him or herself: “What am I hoping to teach this child at this moment from the consequence I am thinking of? What is s/he learning from my behavior in response to her/his behavior? What can I do that will truly be helpful to them in getting better control over their thoughts or behavior, or that will help them to make better choices next time?” We want our children to learn, even when we are angry or upset with them, that they are valuable to us, and worth our time and effort to think, to plan, and to care for them.

Values are not “things” but are ideas. A value is a belief, a standard we create for ourselves. A value is an idea about what we regard as desirable, worthy, “right.” When we value something, we regard it highly and prize it. Values don't grow in children like their arms and legs: Values are taught. Every time we respond to the behavior of a child or teen we are first of all teaching them whether we value them. Our “standards” for behavior are the “do's and don'ts,” the shoulds and should nots in our family. They should be the same for the adults in the family as for the children. The primary way that values are taught is by modeling. Parents are always showing their children what they really value. And you know from all of your reading on parenting that whenever there is a conflict between what children see and what they hear, they always believe what they see!

As we thought about when we began this discussion, we are always teaching. There is no way to avoid teaching values!

And so one of our most important goals in giving children a consequence for their behavior is to try to instill why certain ways of acting are important. It starts from the minute they can walk when we tell them not to pull the dog’s ear! It continues until they leave the house for the world when we tell them why certain ways of talking to us are not okay.

There is a verse in Proverbs that says: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). There may be times when a person “departs” from their training in terms of behavior, but repentance (turning around) will come from remembering the values that are lodged in their head. Your relentless and persistent nagging, preaching, explaining, modeling, will pay off! And the Bible tells you so! So examine the values that underlie your consequences and be sure they understand them, whether or not they agree with them.
“How are you?” I ask my widowed friend over the phone.

“I had a terrible week,” she replies in a voice dripping with unspoken sighs.

“Would you like me to come over?” I offer.

“Not necessary, but thanks.” She explains why my presence isn’t necessary: “Last night I was so disturbed, but thanks to my dogs, I’m fine now. I plopped into my favorite leather chair and my little dog jumped in my lap. The big one spread out over my feet. It was so comforting. Thanks to them, all is right with the world.”

Touch. Touch is one of our senses, our tactile sense. Usually both the giver and the receiver appreciate appropriate touch. Some people say that they miss being touched in their old age. Like my friend, their dog’s warm and soft body helps to alleviate that. Others look forward to having a haircut, a pedicure, or a manicure, not only because they look better, but also because it is nice to be touched. While living in Sweden we learned that our Swedish friends viewed a weekly massage not as a luxury but as a necessary part of healthy living.

Remember how the touch of a soft, cool hand on your fevered brow brought a promise of healing? How about when a warm hand grasps your freezing one on a cold journey and removes the chill from your hand but also from your heart? Do you recall times when you were attracted to someone? Just a casual touch on the shoulder, arm, or hand sent pleasing electrical tingles throughout your body.

For several years I was privileged to work with cancer patients and their family members at the American Cancer Society. No matter the gravity of the illness, patients appreciate when a visitor holds their hand. That simple touch expresses, “I care. I am with you. You are not alone.” Words may seem useless, inadequate, or even inappropriate. Gentle touch carries a depth of feeling through the finger tips and into the very center of one’s being.

A friend told me of her method of dealing with her children, both when they were young and now in their adult years. When she has a disagreement and is angry with one of them, she gently puts her hand on their arm or shoulder. The touch calms both of them and reminds them of their relationship. They become more open to each other and show civility as they continue their discussion. Of course, they must be physically present to do so. I wonder if I were on the phone could I say, “If we were together, I’d put my arms around you to remind you of my love.” Maybe I’m thinking outside the reality box, but it’s worth a try.

Both the withholding of touch and abusive, inappropriate touch have serious negative effects. We’ve all read studies where babies are deprived of touch and have problems relating to people the rest of their lives. Angry “Don’t touch me!” words have a sharp force like a punch to the gut. Those who use touch in anger or abuse deny their recipients an important part of being human.

When our son was a little guy, sometimes he came with tears and complaints from playing with his friends. Some injustice had upset him. He’d climb into my lap and I’d encircle his little body with my arms. Often, I sang the following words to him: “Children of the heavenly father, safely in his bosom gather.” The words, plus my lap and arms, settled him. Soon, off he went, comforted and ready again to face the complex world of a toddler. He referred to the song as “the bosom song.” While he liked the song, “Sing me the bosom song, Mama,” I think that my lap and the touch of my arms had much to do with his recovery.

Whether age five or eighty-five, the touch of another may give us the courage to face our day.