

RELIGION

The Portland Observer

The Risks Of Ministry

BY SAMUEL K. ATCHINSON

One of the attractions that prison chaplaincy holds for me is that it provides an opportunity to serve on the "front lines" of Christian ministry; to assist and gain the respect of those who otherwise would have no regard for the church.

However, acceding to this appeal is not without its risks. I received a phone call at my home last weekend from a former inmate. This event alone caused my heart to race, for I never give client access to my family.

By its nature, prison ministry can be dangerous, particularly in the inner-city. Most of the people I serve have extensive drug histories, either as users, dealers, or both. Moreover, many lack the education and employment skills necessary to earn a decent living upon their release. As a result, most of them are destined to return, albeit reluctantly, to the streets.

As a result, my approach to serving such persons upon their release has been to direct to a neutral site (normally my church) and use that as my base of operations. In that way, I am able to remain accessible to my flock, while simultaneously protect-

ing my wife and children.

However, in the case of the man who called my home, such a provision was impossible to arrange. He had been shipped to another facility several months earlier, and I had lost track of him until last Saturday.

Sensing my concern over the fact that he had called my home, he explained that he had run across my name in the telephone book, while looking for someone else's number. He believed this to be a godsend, because, as he put it, he and I "were cool" while he was in prison.

He claimed that, following his transfer, he had gotten out on bail, but had been unable to secure a job. In order to earn money, he subsequently got involved in a drug trafficking scheme in which his accomplices were arrested. Now, out on bail themselves, they had lodged threats against his life and those of his family members, believing that he had "dimed" on them. Would I, he asked, loan him some money to help him get out of town?

Listening to his story, I was plagued by conflicting emotions: shock and betrayal, because he had

invaded my family life, thus violating a sacred but unwritten rule; concern, because I wondered whether my family was now at risk; skepticism, because the tale he wove didn't add up; disappointment, because, in contrast to many of his colleagues, this man is articulate and well-read; and loyalty, because, as he pointed out, we had developed an excellent rapport during his incarceration.

After whispering a prayer for guidance, I told my friend that I would only help him if I could buy him a bus or train ticket and remain at the station until he departed. I made it clear that under no circumstances would I give him cash. As is typical of street people who have been caught lying, he sputtered, stammered, attempted to use guilt and invoked sympathy in an attempt to change my mind. I was unmoved.

Finally, after nearly 40 minutes on the phone, he agreed to meet me at the train station. First, however, he had to arrange to get a ride, because it wasn't safe for him to walk the street. He promised to call me back within an hour.

I'm still waiting.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Announces A Retreat:

"Being Christian And Being Gay"

On Friday evening, August 5 and Saturday, August 6, The Cathedral will be offering a retreat for Gays, Lesbians and others who wish to focus on what it means to be a Christian as well as a homosexual person. The Friday evening session will be held at Trinity, 147 N. W. 19th Avenue at Everett Street, and the Saturday sessions will be held at The Bishop's Close Chapel and Gardens at 11800 S. W. Military Lane in Portland.

The retreat conductor will be The Rev. Paul Wessinger, former Superior and current member of The Society Of St. John The Evangelist, A Monastic Community Of The Episcopal Church, in Cambridge, Mass. Fr. Paul is a nationally known Episcopal Monk who has initiated many new retreat programs for a variety of people.

The fee of \$30.00 will cover the cost of supper on Friday evening, and a continental breakfast, as well as lunch, on Saturday.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling the Cathedral office at 222-9811. Spaces are limited to 20 retreatants.

A Celebration For Pastor Johnny Pack IV

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating their Pastor's Seventh Pastoral Anniversary on Friday, July 15 at 7:00 P.M. with Guest Speaker, Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor of the St Mark Baptist Church. And on Saturday, July 16 at 6:30 P.M. a Banquet will be held in honor of Pastor Johnny Pack IV, with Guest speaker, Sis. O.B. Williams of the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church. And on Sunday, July 17 at 3:00 P.M. the "Crowning of the Celebration" will be held with Guest speaker, Reverend Dorsey McCullough, Pastor of The Bethel AME Church. All are cordially invited to join us for this grand celebration. For Banquet ticket information or any other information, please contact the Church Secretary, Sis. Maretha K. Hart at (503) 249-0377 or (503) 252-2901.

"Saints And Sinners"

The Maude Kerns Art Center presents an exhibit titled "Saints and Sinners" from June 10 to July 23. Douglas Anderson, Laurie Balmuth, Jane Grimm and Mary Catherine Lamb will be featured artists. While using very different media and styles, their work intersects in the playful use of themes that relate to icons and sacred imagery as well as concepts of good and evil.

Douglas Kerr Anderson is an Assistant Professor and Gallery Director at the Eastern State College in La Grande, Oregon. His work has been exhibited nationally and he has been the recipient of numerous awards. Using the medium of egg tempera and resembling medieval frescoes, this body of work is "an exploration into the precarious nature of living in a dynamic and ever-changing world."

Laurie Balmuth currently resides in Portland, Oregon. Her work has been exhibited across the country and has appeared in several publications. This current work incorporates photography and photo process, fabricated metal, and consumer products, which highlight her conceptual use of appropriation, nontraditional materials and found objects in art making. For Balmuth, making art with these objects opens a window of insight into the truth of living in a world almost wholly formed by human intervention.

Jane Grimm is a California native and ceramic artist. The cupid series of ceramic columns was created with the idea of monumentalizing duality within human nature and experience. External beauty can mask the ugliness of entrapment, pain, and isolation. The symbol of the cupid is used because of its associations to the viewers, and it is known as the deliverer of pain and pleasure. The column represents a precarious strength and permanence.

Mary Catherine Lamb was born in Oakland, California, and she currently resides in Portland, Oregon. She uses Christian iconography taken from the "holy cards" she received as a child in parochial school in the 1950's, and she recreates this imagery in fractured, disjointed depictions in the form of quilts for the wall. It is her intention that the aggressive splintering of a familiar sacred image and the joyous interplay of tactile and unexpected materials, will combine to convey her contradictory emotions about the icons of her youth.

Gallery hours for this exhibit are Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. The gallery will be closed on Sundays until September. A \$2 donation is requested at the door.

First Woman Called As Pastor Of First Congregational Church

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Atlanta, has called the Rev. Dr. Susan Newman, the first woman to serve as senior minister, exactly 100 years after calling its first African-American as pastor.

Dr. Newman, 37, leaves the position she has held since 1992 as religious coordinator for the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), a Washington, DC based non-profit research and child-advocacy organization. She served as CDF's liaison with the black religious community.

Like other urban churches nationwide, Dr. Newman and First Congregational face a range of challenges, such as expanding missions and outreach work and rejuvenating youth ministries.

"As historian John Franklin and others have warned us, the African-American community is facing the worst crisis since slavery," Dr. Newman said. "Black churches nationwide must reassert their traditional roles as catalysts for change in the African-American community -- and First Congregational is well-prepared to serve as such a catalyst."

Founded in 1867, First Congregational Church historically has played an influential role in metropolitan Atlanta and the city's African-American community. The congregation counts

among its 450 members a substantial number of prominent citizens, including former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who served as ambassador to the United Nations in the Carter Administration.

"Dr. Newman begins a new era for First Congregational," said Ambassador Young, a member of the ministerial team. "I am sure that, with God's guidance and our congregation's support, Dr. Newman will meet with the same success that our church's first black pastor enjoyed a century ago."

A minister for 19 years, Dr. Newman is in demand as a public speaker and has preached in more than 40 states. Her ecumenical background includes assignments as assistant minister at Peoples Congregational Church, UCC, and minister of education at Shiloh Baptist Church, both in Washington, DC. Dr. Newman has served also as a youth minister, hospital chaplain, and college chaplain. Her administrative experience includes positions with the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries in Cleveland, Ohio, with American Baptist Churches, Region of the South, in Valley Forge, Pa., as well as with CDF.

Dr. Newman earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and speech communications from George Washing-

ton University, and a masters of Divinity from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Her doctoral dissertation is entitled, "We Have a Story Too: The African Tradition in the United Church of Christ. She holds a certificate from the Ecumenical Institute Chateau de' Bossey in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Newman is a member of the advisory board of Pulpit Digest, and many of her sermons have been published in that journal. Her book, "With Heart and Soul: The Black Church Working to Save Black Children," will be published this year by Judson Press.

Dr. Newman, whose appointment is effective June 15, was selected after a 14 month, nationwide search. She succeeds Rev. George Thomas, who submitted his resignation in December 1992 after six years as pastor. The Rev. Dr. Norman Kates, professor of religion at Spelman College, has served as interim senior minister since April 1993.

The church, located at the corner of John Dobbs Avenue and Courtland Street in Atlanta, has plans underway to renovate its building which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The structure was built in 1908 under the leadership of Rev. Henry Hugh proctor, who in 1894 became the first African-American to serve as pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC Atlanta.

The Little Chapel Of The Chimes

Funeral Home
Cemetery - Memorial Garden

Lombard Chapel
3018 N. Lombard
Portland, Oregon 97217
503-283-0525

Killingsworth Chapel
430 N. Killingsworth
Portland, Oregon 97217
503-283-1976

St. Mark Baptist Church

103 NE Morris St., Portland, OR 97212

- Sunday School - 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00am
- Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Tues - 6:30pm
- Bible Study Wednesday 6:00pm
- Prayer Meeting Wednesday - 7:00pm

Church Phone Number
287-7457

We Invite You To Come And Worship With Us.
The Church Where Everybody is Somebody And Christ Is All.
Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

8101 N. Fiske Avenue • Portland Oregon 97203
Church Phone: 289-0147 • Study Phone: 289-1911

Sunday Service 10:45
Sunday School 9:30
Bible Study 6:00
Evening Service 7:00pm

Pastor, Re. James C.E. Faulkner



Mt Olivet Baptist Church

Has moved Sunday services to
Family Life Center, 8725 N.
Chautauqua Blvd., at Willis Blvd.

Worship Services 8:00am & 11:00am,
Church School 9:30 to 10:30am,
Bible Study, Wednesdays, 116 NE Schuyler, 10:30am & 7:00pm
Radio Ministry each Sunday, 8:00am on KBMS
A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry
Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor
Church Office 116 NE Schuyler St. • (503) 284-1954

Mallory Avenue Christian Church

"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden
and I will give you rest."

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Morning Worship
7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer

Inter-racial Congregation
126 NE Alberta Portland, OR 97211 (503) 288-5173
Denise Bell, Pastor

We Welcome You to The Greater Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church

"Serving The Lord With Gladness" Psalm 100:2

Sunday School 10am
Morning Worship 11:05
Wednesday

Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
Rev. G.L. Black I Pastor
3605 N.E. Mallory Ave.
(503) 281-8117 Portland, OR 97212

SHOOTOUT FOR CHRIST!

THREE-POINT SHOOT-OUT CONTEST

128 NE Russell,
Saturday, July 9, 1994
from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FREE Bar-b-Cue Chicken & Hamburgers

Speaker: Ron Bronski
Song of Hope Church

Trophies and Prizes

O.S.U. Football Movie

Come for a fun time
ages 9 - 20 plus

for info. call Danny at 249-3750
all participants must stay for
complete program for bar-b-cue

Sponsored by Grace Collins Memorial Community Center

Play It Safe On Independence Day, the Fourth of July!