

Vol. XLIX • Issue 2

Inside

"Expectation"	1
Parish Paper	2-3
Youth Advisor	4
Side-Door Projects	
The Quilt Lady	5
Annual Conference	
Web Links	6
EQI - Emotional Intelligence	
NOAC	
San Diego's Move-In	7
Church Renewal & Revitalization	
Paperless Ideas	
Modesto Youth	
Youth at D Conf.	8

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"EXPECTATION"

A message from your District Executive Minister

ex·pec·ta·tion (ek-,spek-'tā-shən)
noun

1. a looking forward to; anticipation
2. a looking for as due, proper, or necessary
3. a thing looked forward to
4. a reason or warrant for looking forward to something; prospect for the future, as of advancement or prosperity
5. the probability of the occurrence, duration, etc. of something, esp. as indicated by statistics

At the time of this writing, I am in the midst of preparations for the 2012 Annual Conference to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The closer I get to departure, the more phone calls I receive asking me what to expect from Annual Conference. It is not an easy question to answer. And it seems like everyone has a different answer.

Someone said that motivation is driven by expectation. Several months ago, I walked into an ecumenical meeting and the United Methodist bishop said, "Don, so glad you made our meeting, we have been expecting you." Needless to say, this one comment motivated me to return to subsequent meetings. Not too long ago I was watching the opening for the Dr Oz television show. I don't usually watch the show but the first words Dr. Oz said were, "I have been looking forward to this show for quite some time."

To put these experiences into a different context... "Does what we expect motivate us to attend worship and participate in the life of the church?"

I suppose it is not an easy question to answer. And it seems to me that everyone has a different answer.

Don Booz

ex·pec·ta·tion (ek-,spek-'tā-shən)



THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Co-editors: Herb Miller, Lyle E. Schaller, Cynthia Woolever – www.TheParishPaper.com

January 2011 - Volume 19, Number 1

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What Is Your Unconscious Intent?

Alex Cross, chief detective in the movie, *Along Came a Spider*, says to his assistant, “People do what they are!” Trying to agree with Cross, the assistant replies, “Life experiences mold your thinking and behavior. You are what you do.”

“No,” the chief detective says, “You do what you are! What you are on the inside always comes out!”

The technical term for Cross’s adage is “unconscious intent.” This phenomenon operates in every sphere of human life. For example, why does a new pastor try to move the congregation toward a new set of priorities? A fresh eye often sees reality more clearly. But the new pastor also has a different *unconscious intent* than did the previous pastor.

Do churches as a whole have unconscious intent as well? Yes, and that makes developing a compatible pastor-congregation leadership team incredibly complicated!

The unconscious intent of pastor and people inevitably differs!

Every congregation has unconscious intent. This invisible guidance system exerts more power than the bylaws, the mission statement, or any other document. Across the decades, congregations do what they are. What they are on the inside always comes out.

The core lay-leadership group is the custodian of that unconscious intent (that small group of influential elected and unelected laypersons who call the shots and can veto any new idea). This core lay-leadership group is a filter for truth, determining what the congregation believes and disbelieves, and controlling “how we do things around here.”

Unconscious intent sometimes causes the core layleadership group to neglect the truth by focusing on the truth. Example: Some core lay-leadership groups retain a focus on ministries essential to the congregation’s effectiveness three decades ago—and fail to provide ministries essential to today’s circumstances.

Ancient “marks of the church” call for five ministries in every congregation:

- *Kerygma* (proclamation)
- *Koinonia* (community/fellowship)
- *Diaconia* (service)
- *Didache* (teaching)
- *Leiturgia* (worship/communal prayer).

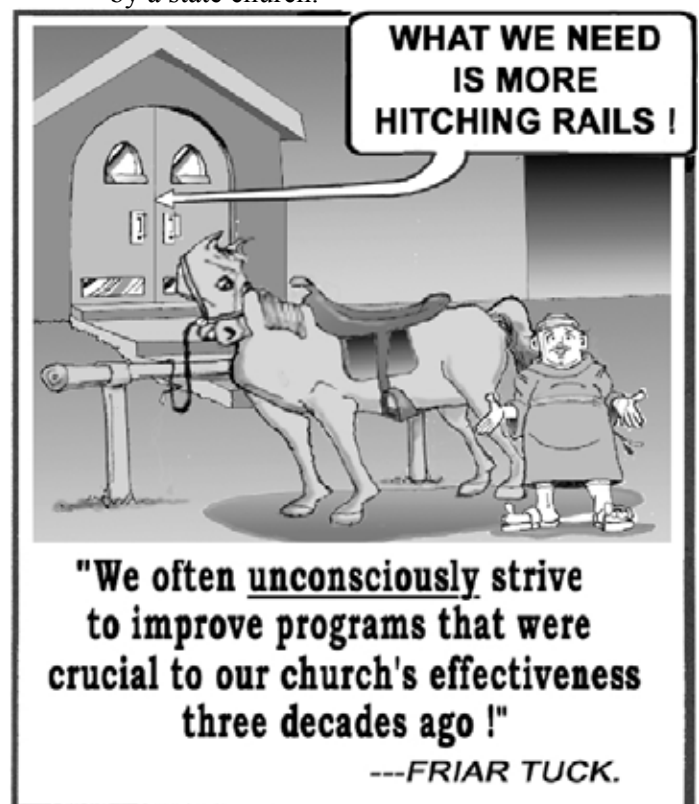
Yet, one of those five is often more crucial to a church’s ministry effectiveness than the other four *in a particular decade*—while another of the five is crucial to ministry effectiveness three decades later.

What if unconscious intent blinds the core lay leadership to that fact? They confidently lead the congregation forward to mediocrity or extinction.

This temptation to neglect the truth by focusing on the truth is more obvious in the hindsight of a congregation’s history than in a congregation’s present-day circumstances.

Examples:

- Prior to the Protestant Reformation, the 15th century Roman Catholic Church neglected the truth of Bible study by focusing on the truth of church traditions.
- The 18th century Church of England neglected the truth of Bible Study, personal experience with God, and caring about hurting people by focusing on the truth of church traditions enforced by a state church.



- Every renewal movement in history—from Martin Luther to John Wesley to current efforts in mainline denominations—sings a different verse of the same song: the tendency to neglect today’s truth by focusing on yesterday’s truth.

Every pastor has unconscious intent. Across the decades, pastors do what they are. What they are on the inside always comes out.

Some pastors focus primary energies on community-service (*Diaconia*)—while paying attention to the other four to a lesser extent. Some pastors focus primary energies on preaching (*Kerygma*). Some pastors focus on caring for members (*Koinonia*). Some pastors focus on ministries with children and youth (*Didache*). Some pastors focus on *Leiturgia* (worship/communal prayer).

The big question: which of these five most helps the pastor’s congregation connect people with Christ in this community at this point in history? Answered wrongly, the pastor neglects the truth by focusing on the truth.

The congregation and pastor blend their unconscious intents to create ministries in their community. A few months or a year after a new pastor arrives, the “honeymoon phase” ends. Then, the “getting to know you” phase begins. During the next two-to-six years (the larger the church, the more years in this phase), the core lay-leadership group begins learning the pastor’s unconscious intent, and vice-versa.

In a good pastor-congregation match, compatibility emerges as the hopes and dreams of the two unconscious intents learn to live together.

In a bad pastor-congregation match, the incompatibility of those two unconscious intents results in growing estrangement and eventual divorce (the pastor relocates to another congregation).

The following seven sources of conflict are among the most common during these two to six years: (1) how to ask for and spend financial contributions, (2) sex and sexuality, (3) worship styles, (4) clergy leadership style—over-controlling, laissez faire, etc., (5) old versus new organizational structures, (6) a membership-growth attitude versus a church-survival attitude, and (7) internally focused ministries (taking care of our own) versus externally focused ministries (enthusiastically reaching out to the unchurched).

As they blend their unconscious intents, pastors and core lay-leadership groups that achieve compatibility learn to tolerate ambiguities. William McElvaney told a story from his experience as a student minister:

One of his duties was to visit convalescents and shut-ins. His list included two sisters who had lived together for many years—Ms. Godby and Ms. Godby.

During his November visit, one sister invited him into her room, quietly closed the door, and said in hushed tones, “I think my sister is trying to poison me.”

McElvaney’s first inclination was to protest. But he asked why she thought that. The reply: “She spends so much time in the kitchen, and I’ve never smelled those aromas before.” McElvaney offered a prayer for well-being and went on his way, hoping for the best.

When he visited in December, the other Ms. Godby came to the door and said, “I have a surprise for you. I’ve made some Christmas brownies, just for you.”

McElvaney replied that he wasn’t hungry right now.

But she insisted: “I made these especially for you, and you have never tasted any brownies like these before.”

He thought of three possibilities: If I don’t take one and they are poisoned, I save my life. If I do take one and they are not poisoned, I enjoy a delightful treat. If I do take one and they are poisoned, I may become one of the most undistinguished martyrs in Christian history.

McElvaney said, “I am happy to report that I took a brownie and lived to tell it.”

As clergy and core lay leaders attempt to mesh their unconscious intents toward a positive future for their congregation, they cannot escape months of ambiguity, complexity, uncertain outcomes, and the need for greater clarity. These are major construction components of the road to effective ministry in their community.

A variety of congregational planning tools are available to help facilitate this complex blending process, download free of charge a copy of a one such planning process (www.TheParishPaper.com).

Effective pastors and lay-leadership groups become as conscious as possible of their unconscious intents. Richard Dunagin tells the story of a Russian Rabbi who became discouraged. One evening he took a long, aimless walk. Without realizing where he was, he strolled into a military compound. A guard suddenly confronted him with, “Who are you and why are you here?”

The old Rabbi, startled by the stern questions, replied, “What?”

The guard said more loudly, “Who are you? Why are you here?”

The Rabbi blurted out, “How much do they pay you a month?”

After the guard asked why he wanted to know, the Rabbi replied, “Because I need someone to ask me those two questions every day! Who are you? Why are you here?”

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Dawna Welch District Youth Advisor

www.pswdcob.org/youth

Dawna began her ministry on May 1, 2011. Presently Dawna is the Director of Children and Young Families Ministries at the La Verne Church of the Brethren where she has held this position for seven years. Dawna will actively be contacting our district pastors and youth to help establish a District Youth Cabinet. The Youth Cabinet will help organize Junior and Senior High events for the district.

We welcome Dawna to the Youth Advisor position which, in her words, "From the day I learned of the position, I felt strongly called that this was the next step in my ministry journey. I am enthusiastic about working with the youth of our district."



Dawna's goal is to have the Youth Cabinet in place by the end of the summer with activities planned for the remainder of 2011 and into 2012. Dawna seeks to build relationships among our youth while developing church leaders who can grow as disciples of Christ and continue the work of Jesus in our communities and in our world.

Dawna is married to Jeff Stroger and together they have two sons, Digby and Ethan. Dawna is also a licensed minister in the TRIM program.

You can contact Dawna at Youth@pswdcob.org or on her district cell 909-267-5477

Dawna would love to hear from you.



The More Side-Doors A Church Has . . . The More People Will Come In

When I am consulting with churches, I like to look at their printed material to try and see what I can learn about their ministry priorities, including their "side-doors." (Such material is also how visitors will develop first impressions about your church.) Recently I was in northern California with the *Menlo Park Presbyterian Church*, a healthy and outward-focused congregation. Here were some of their creative side-doors, and the descriptive information I found. Perhaps it will give you some ideas about people in your church who might be encouraged to start a side-door around their passion.

- **Bravehearts:** "A Christian support group for parents of special needs children. Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:45 to 9 p.m."
- **The GATE:** "A spiritual 12-step recovery program. Thursday evenings at 6:55 p.m."
- **H.E.L.P.** "A Christian support group for those coping with a mental illness and/or those in a supporting role. Thursdays at 6 p.m..."
- **Peace in Sharing:** "A support ministry for families and friends in the homosexually oriented community. Last Wednesday of each month."
- **Widows and Widowers Grief Recovery:** "Open to widows/widowers of all ages who have had a recent bereavement or who wish to complete their grieving for loss of a spouse in the past. Tuesdays 7 - 9 p.m."
- **Women Together Living With Cancer:** "Come for prayer and support with other women living with cancer or who are cancer survivors. 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m."
- **Pediatric Cancer Support:** "Provides comfort, encouragement and hope to families affected by childhood cancer."
- **Witness and Faith:** "Women's dance aerobics with Christian music and prayer support."
- **Job Search Boot Camp:** "For those looking for employment or change in career. 8 weeks, \$5 per session."

A month earlier I happened to be with the *Pendleton Center United Methodist Church* in North Tonawanda, NY, and picked up a brochure on their side-doors. Here are a few.

- **Sit & Sip & Sew**
- **Travel Club**
- **Book Club**
- **Christian Red Hat Society**
- **Christian Line Dancing**
- **Watercolor Painting Workshops**
- **Softball and Volleyball**

The church's brochure that listed these and other events concluded with: "New groups are forming all the time. If you would like to start a new group, please contact the church office."

Side-Door groups have many benefits: 1) they provide more places for church members to invite friends, 2) they involve more members in starting activities that they really care about, 3) they keep the overall church focused outward on the people and needs in their community.



by [Chip Arn](#)

If I can provide any ideas, feedback, or support as you build side-doors into your church, please be in touch Charles.Arn@ChurchGrowth.net or 626-305-1280.

Marilyn Walters the "Quilt Lady"

& the PSWD Comforter for Annual Conference

In January 1011, Annual Conference Moderator Robert E. Alley asked each district to send three things to Annual Conference: 1) A comforter made by someone in your district, 2) Loaves of bread., 3) A bread basket. Glendale Church of the Brethren is bringing the bread and basket. Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren is bringing the comforter. Here is the story of the PSWD comforter.

Marilyn Walters

Photo from www.allianceforamericanquilts.org interview with Marilyn Walters 2010-01-12 by Lenna DeMarco



I was born on November 1, 1918 in Union, Nebraska. My father and his brother married sisters. In 1920 the two families chose to move to Arriba, CO, where they had purchased two homesteads about 15 miles north of town. This is where I lived, in a "homestead shack," as the houses were called. They were across the road from each other with a windmill and large water tank, both shared. A barn and chicken house were also shared. We each had a huge garden and because the wind blew everyday on the prairie of eastern Colorado, we always had water.



Original drawing from SunSch Paper

When I was about five years old, I began having unstoppable nose bleeds and couldn't play out in the wind and dust. My mother taught me how to cook and embroider. In January, 1929, our Church of the Brethren Sunday School paper called "Our Boys and Girls" had one full page of patterns to embroider a quilt called, "Audubon Birds," designed by Ruby Short McKim. One pattern came in each week's paper. My mother got the material, cut it into blocks, and helped me copy these onto the cloth. I embroidered all 24.

My mother was not a quilt maker. So the blocks I made laid in a drawer until 1936. I was planning to get married and my boyfriend's mother quilted them. She told me if I would get the quilt made, she would quilt it for us. My mother and I got the blocks made into a quilt and she

quilted it for us. We were married in August of 1937. I've actually made hundreds of quilts since, even up to this day.

Arizona was getting ready to celebrate 100 years of statehood in 1912. I was with a group of quilters studying old quilts and I said, "I have an old quilt. I embroidered it in 1929." They immediately wanted to see it and were shocked that I still had it. They soon had me interviewed and took pictures. The interview and photos are now in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. I understand it was the second quilting interview from Arizona.

The quilters had heard about the bird patterns used in quilts like mine, but had never been able to get them. They asked me where I got the patterns and I said in my Church of the Brethren Sunday School papers. They asked if I had them or could get them so I called a kind woman in Elgin who takes care of the church archives. She produced the Audubon or Bird Life Quilt Patterns. I have enclosed a copy of that publication. The quilting ladies posted the pattern on their website and displayed my quilt in their quilt museum.

I used to do all my quilting until arthritis of my thumb joint stopped me. I have the big ones quilted on a machine and we, The Papago Buttes CoB Women's Fellowship, tie all the giveaways I make for children taken from their parents by authorities.

I have 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 7 great, great, grandchildren. Everyone in my family has a quilt I made. I also crochet afghans for all high school graduates in my family.

When the Annual Conference Moderator requested a comforter from each district, I was asked to make that comforter. Many others also helped with it. Our Pacific Southwest District Executive, Don Booz, suggested something bright and colorful, so that is what we have created. He also asked for my story to accompany the comforter.
by Marilyn Walters



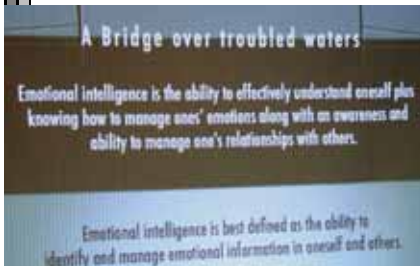
Papago Buttes Quilters (left-right) Sherry Meppelink, Mae Belle Olden, Shirley Downhour, Marilyn Walters, Minerva Williams, Jean Raschke, Helen Lemmons

Web Links of Interest

For newsletters and personal learning

- FBI Bulletins on computer crime and other areas:
 - www.fbi.gov/news/stories/story-index/cyber-crimes
- IRS mileage rates for volunteer & work reimbursement. July 1 the rate goes up 4.5 cents to 55.5 cents per mile.
 - www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=240903,00.html
- Sometimes “live” and at the bottom of the page, recorded webcasts.
 - www.brethren.org/webcasts
- Judy Minnich Stout, Peace Corps Volunteer from San Diego Church of the Brethren.
 - www.fraumadame2003.blog.com
- Modesto CoB is putting together a cookbook. Email Diana Messamer cmessamer@comcast.net or Luella Cole at luellacole@sbcglobal.net for more information.
- District Youth Advisor’s “blog” i.e. short items about coming events. Start looking forward!
 - www.pswdcob.org/youth
- District Conference information for November 11-13, 2011 will be appearing here:
 - www.pswdcob.org/distconf

Emotional Intelligence - EQi



A new Church of the Brethren webinar led by Pacific Southwest District executive minister Don Booz focused on the importance of emotional intelligence for pastors and church leaders on both June 21 and 23.

“We all have emotions but some of us do not have emotional intelligence,” said an announcement. “This webinar begins to help people understand what tools they need to build and to sustain meaningful relationships” and “will illustrate how emotional intelligence makes a difference in effective leadership.”

The district also uses the use of the Emotional Intelligence Inventory (EQi) for all licensed minister in the future. Don explained how the EQi would be used along with the “Style Material” and the ethics training as part of the readiness for ministry.

In addition to serving as executive for Pacific Southwest District, Booz is a trained marriage and family therapist and has helped pastors and lay people understand church dynamics and systems for over 30 years. He is certified in Emotional Intelligence (EQi), Emotional Intelligence 360 (EQ360), and the Team Emotional and Social Intelligence (TESI), and is most interested in helping church leaders and ministers to develop better skills for effective communication. (*Adapted from www.brethren.org's Newslines 6/16/11*) This “Emotional Intelligence webinar” was recorded and is available at: www.brethren.org/webcasts



NOAC: National Older Adult Conf.

September 5 - 9, 2011 — Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

www.brethren.org/noac

Passion and Purpose in a Changing World: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2 NRSV



The passion and purpose at the heart of the National Older Adult Conference reflects the desire of older adults to be aware of, involved in, and connected to the dynamic world in which we live.



San Diego CoB Friends Center Move-In

www.sdbrethrenchurch.org

The church newsletter (on their web-site) reports that the city conditional use permit should let their partner organizations begin moving into the new facility in the beginning of July 2011. . . Right Now!

This is a “green” facility with many money saving features. The conditional use permit for the Friends Center building includes a plan to deal with rainwater run-off from the building and parking lot. A rainwater storage system is being installed that can hold 30,000 gallons of rainwater for use in watering the landscaping. Water will be raised from the primary tank to an elevated secondary tank by a windmill driven pump. The irrigation lines will have gravity feed pressure. The center continues to raise funds with concerts and special events.

Church Renewal and Revitalization Committee

At the June meeting of the District Board of Administration, a new committee was designed.

Purpose: The Church Renewal and Revitalization Committee encourages and promotes individuals and congregations to consider and provide the necessary resources to revitalize and launch new churches and mission points.

Responsibility:

1. Actively evaluates congregations for renewal or revitalization.
2. Assesses church vitality and makes recommendations for future ministry.
3. Studies possibilities for areas within the Pacific Southwest District where a Church of the Brethren might be planted;
4. Develop policies for the establishment and development of new fellowships/congregations in the District;
5. Provide coaching, supervision, counsel and accountability to all new church starts;
6. Encourage congregations to reach out to their communities, seeking to offer God’s love and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reportability: All policies, reports, and recommendations will be brought to the Executive Board.

Paper-less Newsletters via Email & Web-Post

Churches, districts, even our national offices are becoming more accessible to you by adding new computer based communication avenues. The district office continues to mail paper copies of our quarterly newsletter “New Life” which is also available on the web at:

www.pswdcob.org tab: PUBL (publications)

The same district web page has subscription links to our various publications for ministers, youth, offices & more!

The National Office, BBT, On Earth Peace, and Bethany Seminary have similar resources at:

- www.brethren.org/ebrethren
- www.brethrenbenefittrust.org/news
- www.onearthpeace.org/resources
- www.bethanyseminary.edu/news
- www.bethanyseminary.edu/academy/newsletters

These email and web-site formats enable churches to “publish” in full color, with very little cost to church or readers. These PSWD churches are working on email newsletters: **Circle of Peace, Papago Buttes, Empire.** These PSWD churches post their newsletters on their web-sites: **Bakersfield, La Verne, Modesto, San Diego.**

You will find phone, email and web page contacts for our district congregations on our web page:

www.pswdcob.org tab: CHURCHES

tab: CONGREGATIONS IN AZ & CA

If you find problems or obsolete information, please notify the web contact, often listed at the bottom of the screen. Or, tell the district office and we’ll pass it on. All of us, church, district, national, welcome your help maintaining the excellence of our email and web communications.

If you want to stop your paper copy of “New Life” and read it on our web-site, email Joe Vecchio Frontdesk@pswdcob.org or call 909-392-4054.

Modesto Youth Attend Puerto Rico Work Camp

A pre-work camp snapshot from their “[Chimes](#)” web-letter.



New Life

Pacific Southwest District of the
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District Conference Youth Event

Youth Event (grades 6-12)

Come and enjoy a great weekend of fellowship, worship, and activities with other youth from the PSWD! To sign up for Youth Events you need to register for the conference (\$30) and the Youth Activities (\$30). Snacks, some meals and transportation to an off campus activity are included with your fees.

Highlights of our time together will include catching up with friends from Christian Citizenship Seminar or summer camps, special events just the youth and, of course **CHILLAXIN'** time in the **YOUTH LOUNGE !**

Youth Housing is under consideration . . . so stay tuned!

If there are more than 3 youth from a congregation, your church needs to register an adult advisor who will be present at all youth events through the weekend, (including, potentially, an overnight sleep over).

Updates on the blog: www.pswdcob.org/youth

Contact Dawna Welch at: Youth@pswdcob.org or 909-267-5477

