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Editors' Notes

Stuart Love
slope@pepperdine.edu

D'Esta Love

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Editors' Notes

D'ESTA LOVE AND STUART LOVE

Unforeseen circumstances can be blessings. Our usual practice is to plan an issue of *Leaven* two years in advance. This issue, however, was developed quickly and out of necessity. Ira Jolivet Jr., guest editor of a forthcoming issue on Hebrews, had to delay his guest editorial work due to illness. We are most grateful that Ira continues to mend and we look forward to the time when he will once more teach at Pepperdine and be able to complete his work on the *Leaven* issue devoted to the book of Hebrews.

But what happened rapidly and out of necessity proved to be an opportunity. During the months of January through May 2010, the University Church of Christ located at Pepperdine University developed some very special worship services. These services also arose out of necessity. Ken Durham, the preaching minister of the congregation for over a decade, resigned to take the position as the Batsell Barrett Baxter Chair of Homiletics at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee. The congregation was in search mode for a new preaching minister. This, however, would take time. What we needed was a series of worship services that brought glory to God, enriched the congregation and helped prepare everyone for the coming of our new preaching minister, Rich Little.

The University Church is blessed with a number of gifted persons in the service of Christ. A small *ad hoc* group gathered to plan the worship services from January through May. The theme decided upon was *Things that Matter*. Those who proclaimed the word during this period included Randall D. Chesnutt, Ron Highfield, Stuart Love, Dan Rodriguez and John Wilson. Each delivered at least two sermons. We asked each of them to submit one of their sermons for publication in *Leaven*.

However, many in the congregation believed the highlight of this interim period was two worship services dedicated to the reading of scripture. D'Esta Love was chosen to plan and organize these services. The first service featured major aspects of Jesus' ministry—his teachings, preaching and healing activity. The second service was devoted to reading passages from the four Gospels pertaining to the suffering, rejection, death and resurrection of Christ. In this service, a special emphasis and place was given to the observance of the Lord's Supper. Your editors have included both of these services. We believe that their edifying power was due primarily because the congregation heard the word of God. Your editors also believed it would be good for our readers to see the names of those who read and/or had parts in these two services. We encourage churches to use these services as models for the use of scripture in worship.

What took place through the sermons and services devoted wholly to the reading of the Bible is an example for others to consider and possibly emulate. The uncertain period between the loss of a beloved preacher and the coming of another need not be a time of congregational decline. Rather, it can be an opportunity for renewal and preparation for what lies ahead.

This issue also includes three book reviews presented at the Christian Scholars' Conference at Lipscomb University, June 3–5, 2010. The first is a book entitled *Dating Jesus: A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl* by Susan Campbell, reporter and columnist at the *Hartford Courant*. Campbell's book is reviewed by Kathy J. Pulley. The second book is entitled *Jesus and Marginal Women: The Gospel of Matthew in Social-Scientific Perspective* by Stuart L. Love. Love's book is reviewed by Kindy Pfremer

De Long. The final review is a book by Ronald Highfield entitled *Great is the Lord: Theology for the Praise of God*. Highfield's book is reviewed by Thomas H. Olbricht. To conclude this issue we have once again included a liturgical piece from Lee Magness.

Our final issue of the year is on the book of Acts and grows out of presentations made at the Pepperdine University Bible Lectures in May 2010. Our emphasis in 2011 will be on the Synoptic Gospels, with issues on the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. Continue to pray for *Leaven*.

