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First Christian *Chimes*

...CALLED BY GOD TO LIVE AS A BLESSING...

...in our own neighborhoods & in the world...

FAR-REACHING FCC PUYALLUP STEWARDSHIP A BLESSING TO MANY

First Christian Church works hard at being good caretakers of all the resources they have and all they are given. At times that translates to maintaining the building and grounds so as to provide a safe, inviting space for ministries and worship. Other times it plays out in the cultivation of the spiritual gifts of FCC's members and friends. But it *always* means giving 10% of the General Offering income and Fair Parking income to worthy recipients.



GENERAL OFFERING: In regular intervals throughout the year, checks totaling 10% of FCC's General Offering (the undesignated funds collected in Worship) are written to Disciples Mission Fund, the common funding system for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Founded in 1909, today DMF supports over 75 ministries, including the same special day offerings the congregation contributes to throughout the seasons. To learn more about DMF and where the funds they receive go, visit www.disciplesmissionfund.org.

FAIR PARKING: Volunteers work hard each fall to put on FCC's largest fundraiser, parking cars on FCC grounds for the Puyallup Fair. Participants give the huge project their all, anticipating not only the blessing that comes to the church, but also *from* the church to others. No questions asked, the first 10% of the income after minimal expenses goes straight to the FCC Outreach team to pass on to a carefully considered variety of ministries and organizations, in-house, locally, nationally, and globally.

In 2011, the Outreach Discipleship Team selected the following as benefactors of FCC's good fortune:

Associated Ministries	\$ 243
Bread for the World.....	\$ 250
Church World Service.....	\$ 400
Disciples Mission Fund	\$ 400
FCC Homeless Ministries	\$ 100
FCC Lunch with a Friend	\$ 100
Friends and Servants.....	\$ 500
Helping Hand House.....	\$ 300
Love INC (In the Name of Christ).	\$ 200
NW Region Christian Church (DoC).....	\$ 690
NW Region Youth—Outdoor Ministries	\$ 400
Open Hearth Emergency Housing.....	\$ 500
Puyallup FISH Food Bank	\$ 400
Salvation Army Puyallup.....	\$ 400
Week of Compassion.....	\$ 400
<u>Yakama Christian Mission</u>	<u>\$ 700</u>
	\$ 5983

Epiphany Practices: Home by Another Road

A ROAD LESS TRAVELED CAN BECOME A HOLY ADVENTURE WITH SURPRISES AND EPIPHANIES AROUND EACH CORNER

And the magi, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, left for their own country by another road.
—Matthew 2:12

These words capture the spirituality of Epiphany—“by another road.” Epiphany is about the unexpected: unexpected joys and synchronicities and unexpected challenges and tragedies. Epiphany is filled with unexpected revelations that change our minds and ways...

In Epiphany, the magi take another road home; Peter discovers that God's grace is wider than he ever imagined; the disciples experience Jesus as transfigured, like Moses, on the mountaintop and then to their chagrin, realize that beyond the transfiguration stands a cross on the horizon.

Eventually, we all take routes we never expected to travel; changes in employment, health, relational, or economic status. When life forces us from the familiar highway onto an uncharted path, we're challenged to encounter holiness. The path is seldom easy, but we may discover new possibilities for vocation, mission, and transformation.

Celtic pilgrims often went to sea in tiny boats, coracles, sailing forth without a rudder. They trusted that God would guide them to their “place of resurrection.” They believed that amid the winds and waves, there was a guiding force luring them toward holiness and wholeness. This is our hope too, as we journey on our own uncharted paths, often with nothing more than prayer to guide us.



Boy sits in a traditional Welsh coracle, 1865

While Christian wisdom affirms that God is omnipresent, most of us have never fully explored what it means to assert that God is everywhere. At a minimum, the doctrine of divine omnipresence means that God is present as our companion on every path—in certainty and uncertainty, in

celebration and grief. It means that as we face the call of new horizons...often as pilgrims without a map, there's a divine wisdom moving in our lives... Psalm 139 captures the spirit of divine presence in uncharted territories:

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.



The roads we're forced to take don't always relate to economics, employment, or health. We can be called by a dream to explore new theological ideas or sense of mission. We can hear the call of a new way of doing ministry that forces us to leave the familiar in order to be faithful to God. We may have to move our bodies (relocate), as well as our spirits, to follow the call of the unfamiliar.

But, a spirituality of Epiphany reminds us God is a fellow adventurer on every road we travel. Awakened to divine companionship, every path can become a holy adventure with surprises and epiphanies around every corner...God is the creative source of possibility and the companioning source of restlessness as new horizons beckon us. God's vision for each one of us is for a future and a hope.

In the season of Epiphany, God calls us to wake up to revelations that stretch, surprise, and transfigure. Epiphanies can be found everywhere and in every situation, and they always call us to take another road, to become a new creation, and welcome adventure in the midst of challenge.

-adapted from an article by Bruce Epperly, patheos.com

FCC Giving Totals

December 4

General Fund*	\$1113.01
Freezing Nights	\$ 25.00

December 11

General Fund*	\$1916.60
Christmas Giving Tree	\$ 200.00
Disciples Christmas Offering (LKP Sale)	\$ 31.00

December 18

General Fund*	\$1456.00
Freezing Nights	\$ 20.00
Christmas Giving Tree	\$ 35.00
Disciples Christmas Offering	\$ 93.00

December 25

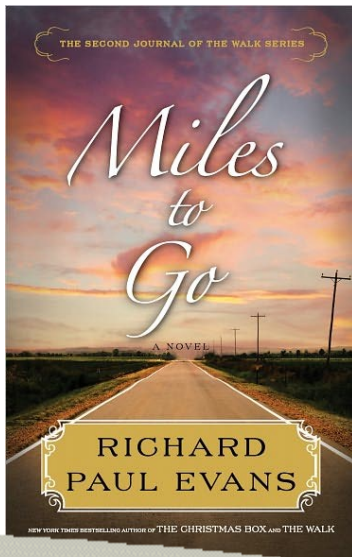
General Fund*	\$3074.00
Freezing Nights	\$ 50.00
Christmas Giving Tree	\$ 20.00
Disciples Christmas Offering (12/24 & 25)	\$ 111.00

*To meet 2012's budgeted General Offering income, weekly General Fund giving must average \$1442.31.

Book Pick in January

CLUB PICKS SEQUEL TO NOVEMBER'S BOOK

Miles to Go is the second installment of *The Walk Series* (the Book Club's November read), and continues to follow the physical and spiritual journey of Alan Christoffersen as he walks across the country.



“What I hope for most is *hope*. Walking helps. I wish I were walking again right now. I think I'd rather be anywhere right now than where I am.”

Book Clubbers meet first Tuesdays monthly at 7 pm. The 2/3/12 meeting to discuss *The God of Animals* will be at JoAnne Fowler's home, 15028 197th St. E, Orting. Picks may be found at the FCC website Amazon page.



Save the date!

Games! | Friendship! | Food! | Fun!

Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 5 pm

Bring a favorite game, a dish to share, your family & friends & let's have some fun!



Coming up in January: birthdays

2	Joyce Wolff
8	Laurie Stanhope
10	Tony Ackerman
11	Cary Stanhope
12	Donna Larsen
16	Herb Crabtree
18	Dick Best
18	Tina Blevins
18	Curtis Yanasak
20	Rose Marie Howard
28	June Armstrong
28	Anna Mae Blevins
31	David Dimond

anniversaries

16	Nancy & Ed Durrant
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remember your baptism

1934	Dorris Rickert
1950	Joyce Wolff
January 10, 1971	Charles Raup
January 20, 1946	Eunice Squires (re-baptized)
January 23, 1972	Thom Crabb

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Life of the Church in January

Sunday Studies..... Sundays - 9:45 am
 Worship Service..... Sundays - 11 am
 Cub Scouts Mondays - 6 pm
 Women's Study (BRB)..... Wednesdays - 10 am
 SO & SEW Study & Ministry..... Thursdays - 10 am
 Men's Study..... Thursdays - 7 pm
 Freezing Nights..... Fridays - 7 pm
 Building Cleaning Crews..... Saturdays - 9:30 am

1..... New Year's Day
 3..... Book Club Discussion - 7 pm
at JoAnne Fowler's home, 15028 197th St. E, Orting
 4..... Custodian interviews - 10 am-2 pm, 7-9 pm
 5..... Council reports due
 5..... Custodian interviews - 10 am-2 pm
 12..... Council meeting - 6:30 pm
 16..... Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 20..... Friends in Fellowship (Singles 21+) - 5 pm
at Puerto Vallarta Restaurant, Puyallup
 21..... Lunch with a Friend at *Peace Lutheran* - 10 am
 21..... Winter Frolic Game Night - 5 pm
 30..... Needle Arts Guild 2 classrooms - 9 am

Visit our official calendar for updates at
www.fccpuyallup.com/calendar
 & sign up for e-mail memos in the narthex.



It takes a village to Be the Church; many thanks to:
Linda & Ron O'Gwin for their generous response to the call for a new, safer crib for the nursery.
Dorothy Davies for donating the funds to purchase a safer, snug-fitting crib mattress.
Joyce Wolff who volunteered to recycle church-generated glass; a *huge* help!
All the folks who've put in hours (& hours!) to keep our building clean as we search for a custodian.
The capable volunteers who answered the call & made our holiday worship services beautiful.