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• ISSUE 2 • VOLUME 19 • FEBRUARY 2012

First Christian *Chimes*

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

Welcome Jeff, FCC's new custodian!

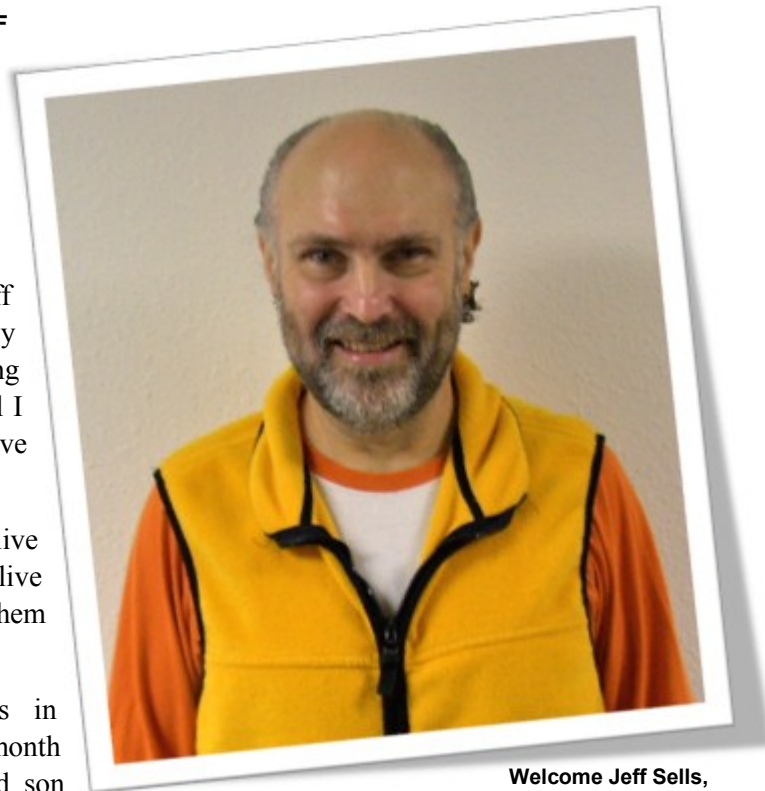
EXPERIENCED CUSTODIAN JOINS FCC PUYALLUP STAFF

Introducing FCC Puyallup's new custodian, Jeffrey Sells! Jeff brings with him to the position over 18 years of custodial experience in a wide variety of arenas; from business, retail, commercial and medical settings to caregiving.

Born in Southern California and raised in Oregon, Jeff recently settled in Washington, where his new wife Molly hails from. He also lived in Alabama for three years during a stint in the Army. Said Jeff, "Right out of high school I served three years active duty and three years inactive reserve."

"I got married last May and promised my wife we could live up here since this is where she is from. Plus, I wanted to live closer to my daughter and grandkids so I could see them more often than a short visit two or three times a year."

Jeff's stepdaughter from a previous marriage lives in Washington with her children, Isaac, 2½ years, and four month old Annabella. Jeff's wife Molly has a nine year old son named Gabe. Jeff also has a ten year old Chihuahua named Momo!



Welcome Jeff Sells,
FCC's new custodian

Asked about free-time activities, Jeff said, "My interests, besides my wife and son, are the outdoors, camping, fishing, and I love to go out target shooting. I also love to just pack a lunch and go out for a nice drive and enjoy the outdoors."

Jeff is eager and qualified to fill the varied and dynamic needs of the life of the church. If you see him around the building, take a moment to introduce yourself and make him feel welcome! We hope this is just the beginning of a long and happy relationship! Welcome, Jeff!

Living Faithfully in the Season of Lent

WORSHIP, STUDY, GENEROSITY AND PRAYER PRACTICES OPEN UP A TIME OF REFLECTION

Lent is a season of invitation. "Return to me with your whole heart," the reading from the prophet Joel invites us into a deepening relationship with the Holy. This divine call beckons us in ways that touch the core of our humanity. For so many of us, we hold a longing for a more meaningful faith journey and yet we never know quite where to begin. In Lent, we find the openness to begin where we are, venturing into the marvelous adventure that is faith.

MORE THAN GIVING UP CHOCOLATE

What are you giving up for Lent? Folks who are not part of a faith community are often still aware of the practice of fasting during Lent. Abstaining from caffeine, chocolate, or meat on Fridays have been common practices in the Christian tradition.



The reason for abstaining from foods or activities during Lent is to use the lack of such things as an opportunity for spiritual reflection. For example, if one gives up caffeine for Lent, each time one thinks about having a cup of coffee or a soda provides an occasion for meditating on what is truly important to us. When we abstain from a coffee, we are reminded to keep prayer as part of our everyday living. When we say no to a tempting piece of chocolate we are reminded to consider the things in our lives which often take priority over our spiritual wellbeing.

INTENTIONAL WORSHIP

Lent is more than abstaining from things. Try focusing more intently on activities in which you are already engaged. When you are in worship on Sunday, begin worship with a moment of quiet reflection. Ask for God's spirit to speak to you. Light a candle at the prayer station by the window. Pay extra attention to the words of the hymns or prayers. The practice of mindfulness helps to enrich our experiences of corporate worship.

You may also wish to participate in our weekly Lenten Vespers on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. Vespers will be a quiet, contemplative service, lasting around 30 minutes. Midweek evening worship can be a welcome respite and a chance to refocus one's mind on the pilgrimage of Lent.

ENGAGING STUDY

If you aren't already a part of a small group, try joining one of our current group studies for the six weeks of Lent.

- Sundays 9:45 am: Two groups meet each week
- Wednesdays 10 am: Back Row Broads meet for discussion and fellowship
- Thursdays 7 pm: Men's study group take on challenging topics

In addition to our regular small groups, we will have a special Lenten study discussing Peter Rollins' book, *The Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales*. This study begins Sunday, February 26th at 6:30 pm, location to be announced.

PRACTICING GENEROSITY

Is this not the fast I choose?...

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry?

(Isaiah 58:6a, 7a)

In addition to fasting, the practice of almsgiving has ancient roots in the observance of Lent. It can be as simple as fasting from soda or coffee, for example, and giving the money not spent on those items to a charity or cause. Or you may wish to practice generosity in other tangible ways. Volunteer once a week with a ministry such as Freezing Nights, St. Francis House, the Food Bank, or a local school. As we cultivate the habit of generosity with our time, talents and financial resources we learn that everything we have is a gift from God.

PRACTICING PRAYER

For many, Lent is a time to focus on prayer. For six weeks try exploring a new prayer practice. The prayer of Examen is a way of prayer which helps focus one's attention on the events of the day. *Sleeping with Bread: Holding What Gives You Life* by Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn provides an accessible introduction to the Examen. You can find a link to this book and other helpful resources on our website, www.fccpuyallup.com.

How Can I Pray?

THE PRAYER OF EXAMEN

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.** Ask for the Holy Spirit to help you think back over the events of the day.
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.** Take note of times of joy and gratitude. Focus on the day's gifts. Remember the work you did, the people you met. What did you receive? What did you give? Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly little pleasures. God is in the details.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.** St. Ignatius developed this prayer practice, recognizing that we can detect the presence of the Spirit of God in our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings?

There will be times in which you fell short, and you may have regrets. Do not dwell too deeply on your faults. Acknowledge these. Look for other implications. Does a feeling of frustration perhaps mean that you might need to consider a new direction in some area of your life? Are you concerned about someone? Perhaps you should reach out to her in some way.

4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it. Ask God to direct your thoughts toward one part of the day. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

5. Look toward tomorrow. Ask God to give you light for tomorrow. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you consider upcoming events. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Turn these feelings into prayer. Seek God's guidance.

End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus. Where you have fallen short, ask for forgiveness. Ask for wisdom about questions you have or problems you face. Offer your thanks to God for all the gifts of life.

—adapted from www.ignatianspirituality.com

Lenten Pub Conversations

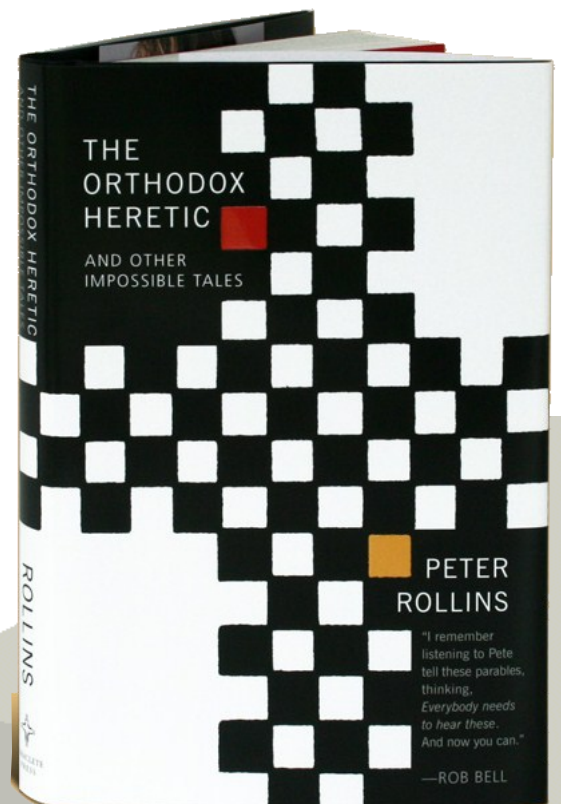
WEEKLY DISCUSSION ON THEOLOGY, SPIRITUALITY & FAITH

The Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales by Peter Rollins will be the launching point for weekly conversations during Lent. Each week we will consider a selection of Rollins' parables and what issues they raise with contemporary Christianity.

Rollins has been called one of the most provocative and thoughtful theological voices of our day. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, he is the founder of ikon, a faith group that has gained an international reputation for blending live music, visual imagery, soundscapes, theatre, ritual and reflection to create “transformance art.”

Prepare to have your thinking stretched, your faith challenged, and your heart inspired. Rollins pushes Christians beyond the easy answers to the gritty reality that is human existence.

Lenten Pub Conversations will begin Sunday, February 26th, at 6:30 pm. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church office, and books will be ordered within a few weeks. The FCC website Amazon storefront has a link to the Kindle edition of the book.



Week of Compassion—Sharing Brings Joy!

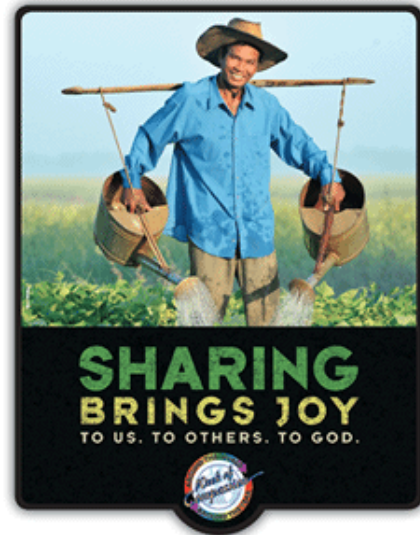
**SHARING
BRINGS JOY**
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.

2012 Special Offering

February 19-26

...the one who sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully
will also reap bountifully.

(2 Corinthians 9-6b)



Week of Compassion continues to focus on the ways “Sharing Brings Joy,” this year specifically on how “Sharing Brings Joy to Others.” Much of the time, our gifts bring joy to others through the tangible results of our sharing:

- A family displaced by natural disaster or political unrest is grateful to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives.
- A woman who has had to walk miles to carry potable water for her family smiles as she draws water from a clean well near her home.
- A child excitedly arrives for the first day of class at her village’s new school.

Of course, when we “sow bountifully” by giving to others, we reap bountifully by sharing in the joy that our gifts bring to those whose basic needs are met through the important work of all our partners in service.

“It is every man's obligation
to put back into the world
at least the equivalent
of what he takes out of it.”
—Albert Einstein

**SHARING
BRINGS JOY**
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.



When we become aware of the needs of our extended global family, we are rescued from the fearful sense of scarcity our competitive culture of consumption can instill. We are awakened from the daydream of our isolation and reminded of all those around the world with whom, in the Spirit, we are one. Then we see others in need, not as recipients of our charity, but as sisters and brothers with whom we are called to share abundantly.

And the joy they experience from sharing in God’s abundance extends beyond the tangible expressions they receive. Knowing there are those who would share willingly with them, they are reminded of who they are: beloved children of the Creator, sisters and brothers of us all, each one a person of sacred worth.


This year, as you share your tithes and offerings with Week of Compassion, remember all the ways your gifts bring joy to others. Sow bountifully and share abundantly, knowing that you are not only helping change the statistics, you are also helping change lives. May we all give cheerfully and multiply the joy!

I will give them a heart to know
that I am the Lord; and they shall be
my people and I will be their God,
for they shall return to me
with their whole heart.

(Jeremiah 24:7)

“Christianity is being concerned about your fellow [human], not building a million-dollar church while people are starving right around the corner. Christ was a revolutionary person, out there where it was happening. That's what God is all about, and that's where I get my strength.”
—Fannie Lou Hammer


SHARING BRINGS JOY
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.



- 925 million people do not have enough to eat—more than the populations of the U.S., Canada and the European Union.
- 65% of the world's hungry live in only 7 countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia
- About 2/3 of child deaths are preventable through access to practical, low-cost interventions, and effective primary care up to five years of age.

“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.”
—Elie Wiesel


SHARING BRINGS JOY
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.



- In Africa, 115 people die every hour from diseases linked to poor sanitation, poor hygiene and contaminated water.
- Water scarcity affects 1 in 3 people on every continent. The situation is worsening, as needs for water rise along with population growth, urbanization and increases in household and industrial uses.

“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.”
—Franklin D. Roosevelt

SHARING BRINGS JOY
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.



- Every US \$1 invested in improved sanitation translates into an average return of US \$9. Those benefits are experienced specifically by poor children and in the disadvantaged communities that need them most.

Coming up in February: birthdays

1	Katheryn Kusick
3	Vicki Smith
3	Ron Cook
7	Mary Raup
12	Jarad Scott
12	Becky Schilling
14	Luetta Patton
15	Jesse Stumpf
25	Elnore Hall
25	Kim Clark
28	Don Turner

anniversaries

6	Willette & Ed Wonser
25	Terrie & Ken Maas
26	Lisa & Corky Peterson

A Prayer for the Church in 2012

BY SHARON WATKINS, GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT, THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

O God of infinite creativity . . .

At the beginning of this New Year – winter for so many –
the rich brown earth is even now preparing to burst forth with a spring of possibilities and new life.
Though the human eye cannot see it, you continue to bless the earth with new beginnings.

We praise you!

Bless us with new beginnings, we pray.

Where we have lost sight of your Reign breaking in – even now at hand –

Renew our vision.

Where we have faltered in reaching out to our neighbor in love,
missing the moment to extend a hand of wholeness,

Renew our courage.

Where we have allowed cynicism to dry our bones & sinews,

Renew our hope.

At this beginning of a New Year, dear God,
our arms are still warm from cradling the Babe of Bethlehem.

Help us to keep that memory strong.

Strengthen our arms to welcome
your many children into communities of love.

Prepare our hearts to burst forth
with a spring of possibilities and new life.

Stir us to be and share your love with the same vulnerability,
the same humble expectation that brought you into the world in person.

Help us, your church, your disciples, to be harbingers of your reign of justice and of peace fully emerged.

O God of infinite creativity, at the beginning of this New Year, we know that you are about to do a new thing.

Help us to perceive it. And to join in.

In the name of Jesus, your greatest new beginning, we pray. **AMEN**



winter frolic



Snowmageddon 2012 may have interfered with FCC's January Winter Frolic Game Night, but have no fear, Winter Frolic will be back in February.

Join us at the church at 4:40 pm on February 11th. There we will divide into groups and carpool to three separate host sites for a progressive dinner. The festivities will conclude at the church with dessert.

Progressive Dinner!

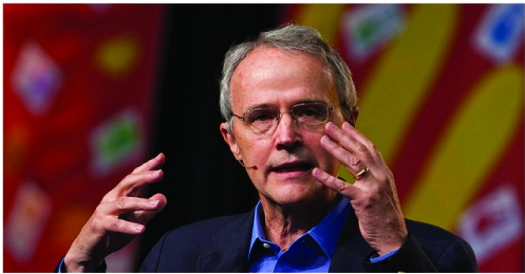
February 11th! | 4:40 to 7 pm



Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex or call the church office. Sign up separately to bring a dessert. For more information contact Karrie Cheek or the church office.

The March Winter Frolic event will feature the return of FCC's popular Chili Cook-off on Sunday, March 4th. Look for sign-up sheets and contest information to be posted soon.

First Annual Conference
February 26-27, 2012



w/ **Keynote Speaker David Beckmann**,
President of Bread for the World

World Food Prize laureate David Beckmann is one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hunger related issues. He is an economist, Lutheran minister and has been president of Bread for the World since 1991. He has written several books - the most recent is *Exodus from Hunger: We are called to change the politics of Hunger.*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday February 26

PREACHING & WORSHIP

8:15am & 10:45am
Exodus from Hunger:
Theological Reflections with
David Beckmann

Mountain View Lutheran
Church 3505 122nd Ave. E.
Edgewood Wa. 98372

COMMUNITY ADDRESS & RECEPTION

6:30pm to 8:00pm
Exodus from Hunger: Ending
Hunger in God's World
David Beckmann

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by
the Narrows 6730 N 17th St.
Tacoma Wa. 98406

Monday February 27

DIALOGS, KEYNOTE & LUNCHEON

9:30am - 10:00am
Hospitality Check-in

10:00am - 12:00pm
More than Bread Alone:
Community-Driven Solutions
to Poverty Facilitated by world
renowned community organizer
Jim Diers.

12:00pm-1:30pm
Luncheon & Keynote Address.
David Beckmann. Ending Hunger
Locally: Hope for a way out.

1:30pm-2:00pm
Book Signing

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the
Narrows 6730 N 17th St. Tacoma
Wa. 98406

Register Now for Monday's event!
Register now by going to www.associatedministries.org to download a registration form or call Michele Cotton at 253-383-3056 ex. 107.

Ash Wednesday

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE, FEB. 22, 6 PM

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. From that point forward we will be journeying with Jesus toward the cross. In worship we acknowledge our sin and our mortality. In the midst of our awareness of human brokenness we also hear God's words of welcome and grace.



As part of our worship service we will offer the imposition of ashes. The ashes are from the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday service. The practice of marking believers with ashes dates back at least to the 10th century and has its roots in the biblical rituals of repentance and purification.

Begin your personal journey of Lent with this contemplative worship service. Discover the power of personal reflection and communal prayer as we close the first day of Lent with a reminder of who we are and God's promise of life fulfilled.

FCC GIVING	
<u>January 1</u>	
General Fund*	\$1394.00
<u>January 8</u>	
General Fund*	\$ 950.00
Freezing Nights.....	\$ 30.00
Coffee Funds	\$ 10.00
<u>January 15</u>	
General Fund*	\$ 605.00
Freezing Nights.....	\$ 450.00
<u>January 22</u>	
General Fund*	\$3131.07

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



First Christian Church of Puyallup (Disciples of Christ)
623 - 9th Ave. SW
P.O. Box 516
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-6232

Life of the Church in February

Sunday Studies.....	Sundays - 9:45 am	5.....	Diaconate Meeting - after Worship
Worship Service.....	Sundays - 11 am	7.....	Book Club Discussion - 7 pm
Lenten Pub Conversations	Sundays - 6:30 pm		<i>Kerry Yanasak's home, 2017 - 7th St. SW, Puyallup</i>
Cub Scouts	Mondays - 6 pm	11.....	Winter Frolic Progressive Dinner - 4:40 pm
Puyallup Valley Community Band.....	Tuesdays - 5 pm	12.....	PVC Band Scholarship Auditions - 1 pm
ARTG (at-risk youth).....	T, W, Th - 3 pm	16.....	Council reports due
Women's Study (BRB).....	Wednesdays - 10 am	18.....	Lunch with a Friend - 10 am
Lenten Vespers	Wednesdays - 6 pm		<i>Peace Lutheran Church, 214 E Pioneer</i>
SO & SEW Study & Ministry	Thursdays - 10 am	18.....	Friends in Fellowship (Singles 21+) - 5 pm
Men's Study	Thursdays - 7 pm		<i>Old Country Buffet, Puyallup</i>
Freezing Nights.....	Fridays - 7 pm	22.....	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
		23.....	Council meeting - 6:30 pm



FCC's Book of the Month Club meets first Tuesdays monthly at 7 pm. The February 7th dialogue on *Miles to Go* will be at Kerry Yanasak's home, 2017 - 7th Street SW, Puyallup, and a new book will be picked at that time.

Book Club picks (and millions of other items!) may be purchased from the FCC website Amazon page at www.fccpuyallup.com/amazon. The church gets a percent of each purchase started at the page!