



▶ *Answering God's call*  
Joining for Week of  
Compassion ..... 3



▶ *40 Days of Lent*  
A journey through the  
wilderness ..... 2



▶ *Lenten Discipline*  
Strength at the Broken  
Places ..... 1

• ISSUE 3 • VOLUME 16 • MARCH 2009

# First Christian *Chimes*

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

## Strong at the Broken Places

LENTEN FORUM, THURSDAYS AT 6:30-8 PM

*"The world breaks everyone and afterward  
many are strong at the broken places."*

-Ernest Hemingway,  
*A Farewell to Arms*

Ash Wednesday marks a transition for our congregation, moving into the spiritual journey of Lent. As individuals we may choose the tradition of giving up something for Lent, perhaps coffee or chocolate or even television. The practice of abstaining from a food or pastime is not simply a test to see if we can make it through the six weeks without indulging ourselves. The fasting discipline is designed to open up a portion of our time for reflection upon our faith journey.

Another spiritual practice of our congregation is the setting aside of time to gather weekly for study and reflection. In years past we have come together for book discussions; we've delved into church history; explored prayer practices and everyday spirituality. Many have found these gatherings an important part of their spiritual practices—engaging and challenging.

This year we will try a change of pace in our Lenten Forum. We will gather to reflect upon our common human condition of brokenness and the possibilities of God's healing. Drawing upon rich Christian tradition we will hear stories of faith from past centuries. As we listen to ancient stories and to the wisdom of one another, we will also tap into our collective imaginations.



There will be opportunities to channel our reflections and insights on the brokenness in our world into areas of creativity.

Come be a part of this longstanding spiritual practice—  
together we will celebrate the ways in which God gives us strength and opens up the possibilities of new beginnings.

# The Journey of Lent culminates in the days of Holy Week

ANCIENT TRADITIONS OPEN UP THE POSSIBILITIES OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The season of Lent ends with the week preceding Easter, commonly known as Holy Week. The week begins with the community worship on Palm Sunday. During the week Christians traditionally reflect upon the events leading up to Jesus' death:

- his triumphant entry into Jerusalem
- his betrayal by Judas
- the last supper shared with his disciples
- his arrest, crucifixion and death
- his burial.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY (HOLY THURSDAY)

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum* meaning "command." The observance of Maundy Thursday may be one of the earliest traditions of Holy Week.

The service remembers the command of Jesus given to his disciples in the gospel of John, "A new command I give



Photo by Peter Kim—(CC License)

you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34) In John's gospel Jesus gets up during the meal, wraps a towel around himself, and begins to wash the feet of the disciples. It is after this moving act of servanthood that Jesus gives the command to love one another.

Christians around the world commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus, traditionally understood as a Passover meal shared with his followers the night before his death.

Traditional elements of worship on Maundy Thursday include both foot washing and communion. Plan now to join us on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for this powerful worship experience.

## GOOD FRIDAY

We observe Good Friday as the day Jesus was crucified and died. Worship services and church gatherings on Good Friday are very somber. Some churches hang a black or dark red cloth on a cross in the sanctuary to depict the mournful nature of the day. The story of the last hours of Jesus' life are often read, or the Stations of the Cross are followed.

Our congregation often participates in an ecumenical Good Friday cross walk focusing on issues of justice in our world and reflecting on those situations in light of the life and death of Jesus.

## HOLY SATURDAY

Late on Saturday evening before Easter, the ancient church would gather to wait for the first dawning of Easter day.

In the darkness the church would celebrate the first lighting of the Paschal fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle bringing the light of Christ into the world.

The baptism of individuals who had been in preparation (catechumens) would be celebrated along with a renewal of baptism. It was a major celebration, on Holy Saturday

in 407 CE we know that over 3,000 catechumens were baptized in the church in Constantinople alone.

The Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican churches and others continue to observe the Easter vigil. Other churches moved to an early morning service, and still others did away with the practice altogether.

The Easter Vigil is a wonderful experience for all the senses. Join us on Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8 pm, for our Easter Vigil worship.



Photo by Daniel Keding  
(C C License)

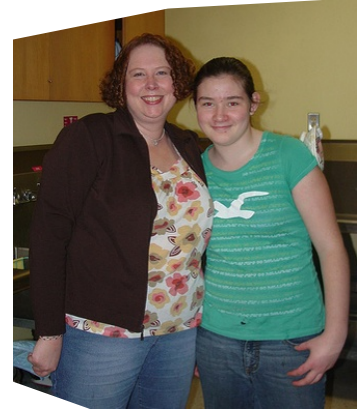
# Working Together for Week of Compassion



8 letters written to Wash. State senators for Bread for the World



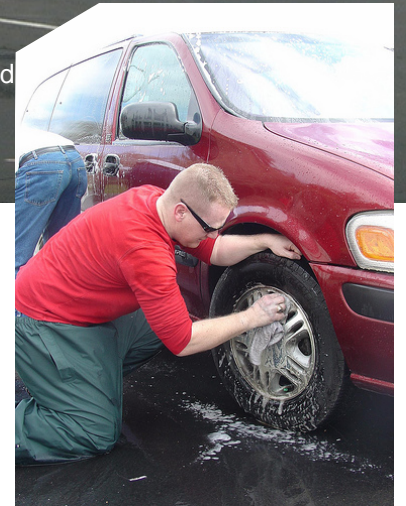
4 pans of frittatas prepared for Lunch with a Friend



3 no-sew fleece throws for nursing homes and hospital



Dozens of cars washed at free neighborhood car wash



*Not pictured:*

- FISH Food Bank & Blessing Box drive
- Caring visits made to friends
- \$316 Special offering for Week of Compassion



Baskets full of personal healthcare kits for Tacoma Rescue Mission



8 pints of blood donated

**“...called by God to live as a blessing in our own neighborhoods and in the world.”**

*~FCC Puyallup Guiding Vision*

# Friends & Servants Gives Hope to Local Teens

## PUYALLUP YOUTH INVESTMENT CENTER THE PLACE TO BE FOR LOCAL TEENS

The Puyallup Youth Investment Center at 115 - 2nd St. E provides local teens with opportunities to interact with positive adult role models and mentors. Through various programs and resources, teens are supported in becoming successful through opportunities for involvement in the community; participating in the Santa Parade, helping with Meeker Days, and assisting with downtown Christmas decorations, to name a few.

Teens come to the Youth Center because they love it, because it is a place where they can be themselves, be safe, and hang out with their friends. 514 teens from the Puyallup area came to the Center in 2008, logging over 15,000 hours in attendance; in the last four years the number of youth in the program has doubled and the hours they have completed are up 400%.

We are living in a time when teens need more positive influence in their lives than ever before. The Center is always looking for caring adults with a few free hours in their schedule to join their team.

First Christian Church has had the pleasure of supporting Friends & Servants through donations of Fair Parking income, funds from last summer's Week in Mission Nearly Free Parking Lot Sale, blueberries picked to sell at market, as well as Souper Bowl of Caring.

### Upcoming Events for Friends & Servants

- Open House - April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - 9am-5pm—Take a tour of Friend's & Servants Farm & Greenhouse at 6613 - 114th Ave. Ct. E in Puyallup. Have first pick of flowers the youth have grown to sell at the Farmer's Market.
- The teens will be at the Puyallup Farmer's Market Saturdays this summer starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Visit them at the Market, support local youth, and purchase flowers or fresh grown produce.

### Wish List (New Or Used)

*Liquid Bleach*  
*Garden twine*  
*Bamboo sticks*  
*Terrycloth towels*  
*Harvesting baskets*  
*Large Rubbermaid storage containers*  
*Trash cans*  
*Hoses/Hose nasals/Soaker hoses/Sprinklers*  
*Power strips/Extension cords*  
*Fans*  
*Work/Gardening gloves*  
*Hand tools/Pruners*  
*Rakes/Shovels/Hula Hoes*  
*Carpentry tools/Tape measure*  
*Usable lumber*  
*PVC pipe & joints*  
*Paint in various colors*  
*Paint brushes*  
*Straw bales*  
*Wheelbarrows/Garden carts*  
*Chipper/Shredder*

Bill Bowers  
Sr. Program Director  
(253) 606-9998  
bbowers@ymcatacoma.org

Check out Friends & Servants' new website at  
[www.ymcatacom.org/friendsandservants](http://www.ymcatacom.org/friendsandservants)

Matt Patterson  
Program Director  
(253) 840-8110  
mpatterson@ymcatacoma.org



# march birthdays

- 1 .....Bob Crabb
- 1 .....Darelee Phillips
- 2 .....Fred Docker
- 2 .....Flora Hickenbottom
- 4 .....Jared Patton
- 6 .....Mia Stroud
- 7 .....Chas Duckett
- 8 .....Elliot Forslund
- 8 .....Peggy Stack
- 9 .....Thom Crabb
- 9 .....Joyce Isch
- 9 .....Kelli Kays
- 11 .....Ward Archer
- 12 .....Brent Goddard
- 21 .....Dorian Scott
- 22 .....Lisa Peterson
- 25 .....Jeanne Crabb
- 25 .....Colleen O'Brien
- 26 .....Becky Burdett
- 26 .....Barbara Stroud
- 27 .....Leann Blyth
- 28 .....Larry Scott
- 31 .....Phyllis Snider



# anniversaries

- 30 .....Robin & Thom Crabb

# baptism anniversaries

- 19 .....Stephen Freeman
- 25 .....Nancy Freeman
- 25 .....Dorothy Davies
- 26 .....Sherman Squires
- 30 .....Andrea Freeman (rose ceremony)

# life of the church

- All-age Studies ..... Sundays - 9:30 am
- Service of Worship ..... Sundays - 11 am
- Women's Study (BRB) ..... Wednesdays - 10 am
- Choir Practice ..... Wednesdays - 7 pm
- Crafters Group (Lunch Bunch) ..... Thursdays - 10 am
- Freezing Nights (if <37°) ..... Fridays - 7 pm
- Adult Bible Study ..... Saturdays - 8 am
  - 1 ..... Chris Yanasak Travel Presentation - 12:30 pm
  - 3 ..... Book Club at the Squires' home - 7 pm
  - 5, 12, 19, 26 .....Lenten Forum (Study with a twist)
    - Strong at the Broken Places* - 6:30 pm
  - 8 .....Daylight Saving Time begins
  - 8 ..... Bowling Party (Paradise Bowl) - 1:30 pm
  - 10 .....Board Meeting - 7 pm
  - 15 .....Elders Meeting - 1 pm
  - 17 .....St. Patrick's Day
  - 21 .....Lunch with a Friend - Peace Lutheran - 10 am
  - 22 .....NW Region Ministry Design Gathering - 3 pm
  - 24 .....Diaconate Meeting - 7 pm

# March's Book of the Month Club Selection

*EAT, PRAY, LOVE* BY ELIZABETH GILBERT

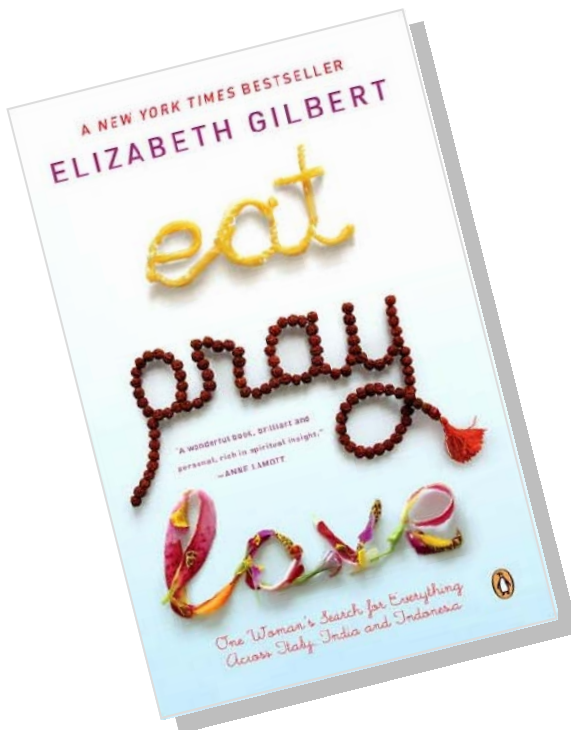
Emotionally wrung-out from her divorce, the painful ending of a subsequent love affair, and a general, long-standing feeling of malaise, novelist and journalist Elizabeth Gilbert decides to recharge herself through a year's worth of travel, believing that her return to happiness could be found through exploring both physical gratification and spiritual peace and then determining an appropriate balance between the two. She pursues the first part of her program (eating, drinking, and talking) in Italy, the second in India (joining an ashram), and the third in Bali (studying with a medicine man).

"...Gilbert fully engages readers in a cultural and emotional tapestry—conveying rapture with infectious brio, recalling anguish with touching candor—as she details her exotic tableau with history, anecdote and impression."

~starred review

"A wonderful book, brilliant and personal, rich in spiritual insight."

~Anne Lamott



Join book clubbers the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm for lively conversation and a reveal of the next month's book. **March's meeting will be at Eunice & Sherman Squires home.**

For more information or to buy the book, visit the Book Club page at [www.fccpuyallup.com](http://www.fccpuyallup.com).

Start at our Amazon storefront page and the church gets a percent of the total sale.

## February Giving

### February 1

General Fund	\$ 1,311.00
	\$ 1,311.00

### February 8

General Fund	\$ 2,140.00
Souper Bowl	\$ 92.42
Ben Smith Memorial	\$ 15.00
	\$ 2,247.42

### February 15

General Fund	\$ 1,140.00
Week of Compassion	\$ 90.00
	\$ 1,230.00

### February 22

General Fund	\$ 1,520.00
Week of Compassion	\$ 211.00
	\$ 1,731.00

# Regional Transformation in the Northwest

MINISTRY DESIGN GATHERINGS—YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!

As the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we have a new clarity about what God is calling us to do and be. As part of RISE, our region's transformation process, we have embraced a challenging and clear mission:

*Called by God and sent by the Living Christ, we the Northwest Regional Christian Church intentionally engage with one another rejoicing in our diversity and shared gifts, deepening our spiritual life, building true community, acting courageously in ministry and mission, and sharing God's good news with a fresh voice and new song. We seek to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)*

Now it is time to put some flesh and bone to that Mission. How are we going to participate in shaping and forming Disciples in the NWRCC? What work are we going to do together? What kind of Christian habits and practices will shape the way we interact and relate to one another? What kind of structure will allow our ministry to sing? What resources do we bring and how are we going to call forth new resources?



# RISE

Come to the RISE Ministry Design Gathering in your area and lend your voice to the emerging shape and ministry of the Northwest Regional Christian Church.

At the end of the session we will have tried on and interacted with the proposed Ministry Design Plan for the Northwest Regional Christian Church and listened to input and suggestions for revisions.

RSVP toll free: 1-866-938-1008 x100  
or e-mail [nwrcc@disciplesnw.org](mailto:nwrcc@disciplesnw.org)

For more information on our region's RISE transformation process and related documents, visit [www.disciplesnw.org/rise.htm](http://www.disciplesnw.org/rise.htm).

**“DOING TOGETHER THAT WHICH  
BY GOD’S DESIGN  
CANNOT BE DONE APART”**

**Ministry Design Gatherings 3 - 5:30 pm**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**North Hill Christian Church, Spokane  
First Christian Church, Tacoma**

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Edmonds Christian Church, Edmonds  
Othello Christian Church, Othello**

*Return Service Requested*

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Puyallup WA 98371  
Permit #28

The Facebook logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background. The logo is framed by a hand-drawn red border that has a slightly irregular, torn-paper-like appearance.

### ***We're on Facebook!***

All Facebook members are invited to join our new group—a group for members, former members, friends, and others interested in happenings at FCC Puyallup.

Simply go to Facebook.com, create a Facebook account, and search for “First Christian Church of Puyallup.”

See you on Facebook!

## **WORSHIP SERVICE CDs NOW AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

Contact a member of the sound team or the church office to request a CD of our worship or special services. The cost to cover materials is \$1 per CD.

