



▶ *White Swan Fire News*  
Week of Compassion  
provides immediate  
support .....5



▶ *Ash Wednesday Service*  
March 9 at 6:30 pm ....4



▶ *A Holy Adventure!*  
Lenten Study begins  
week of March 6 .....4

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# First Christian *Chimes*

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

## Finding God in Lent

ANCIENT TRADITIONS OPEN UP SPACE TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

At its core Lent is a time of preparation. In the early centuries of Christianity the days leading up to Easter was the designated time in which candidates for baptism (*catechumens*) participated in lengthy instruction prior to their baptisms at the Easter Vigil. Those who had become estranged from the congregation walked through a time of repentance and reconciliation to rejoin the community. Repentance became the defining theme of Lent, practiced through the disciplines of almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

In our day, Lent is an invitation to the spiritual disciplines of emptying our lives of those things that keep us from God and filling our days with gratitude, forgiveness, and the fruits of the Spirit.

Consider creating your own Lenten path this year: join the congregation in worship; expand your personal practice of prayer; participate in our Lenten study; give of your time to others; take a step to repair a broken relationship.

May you find Lenten blessings at each step of your way.

# General Assembly to Gather in Nashville

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND DURING ASSEMBLY, JULY 9-13

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) offers a wide range of adult learning opportunities, with a special focus on equipping congregations for mission and ministry. These learning options follow two basic models, Learning Tracks and Resource Groups.

So, look around our congregation. Who has passion and a little energy? Who might benefit from rubbing elbows with a few other passionate, energetic people? Encourage them to attend—maybe it's you!

Here's a quick summary of what to expect:

**Resource Groups** offer one- to 2.5-hour workshops on a variety of topics: Justice, Leadership, Mission, Spiritual Disciplines and Vital Congregations. Choose from any combination of 50 different classes over two afternoons of offerings.

**Learning Tracks** engage one topic (such as "leading transformation"), and explore it in depth from a variety of angles over two days for a total of about five hours. These more intensive sessions offer participants the opportunity to learn not just from "specialists" but also from each other. Continuing Education Unit Credits will be offered. In Nashville, Disciples Learning Tracks will focus on these areas of interest:

### ***Who will lead the transformation?***

In times of change, leaders have a special call and challenge to coax communities into new places, sometimes frightening places, where God is about to do a new thing. What disciplines, skills and special insight can leaders cultivate in themselves and their faith communities to lead through change? Clergy and key leaders will especially benefit from this learning experience.

### ***What seeks to be born within us?***

As Christians experience the decline of institutional/organized church, a new ministry is emerging full of new possibilities—especially for Disciples. Will the emergent church movement, with its decentralization, its emphasis on an outward mission focus, and its ability to cross a wide variety of theological boundaries, take root with the Disciples of Christ movement for wholeness in a fragmented world?

### ***Youth Ministry is Missional Ministry***

How does your congregation seek to bare, or bear, God to the youth and children in your community? What training, support and resourcing do the volunteers and paid staff who work with this age group need? Network and learn with others who recognize youth ministry as "missional"—positioned at the frontier of transformation among Disciples.

A promotional poster for the 2011 General Assembly in Nashville, TN. The background is a light blue gradient. At the top, the text reads "2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY JULY 9-13, 2011 ★ NASHVILLE, TN". Below this is a central graphic of a group of diverse people in various poses, overlaid with a circular collage of biblical text and images. The text includes "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and strength and love the Lord your neighbor as yourself" and "Deut. 6:1-12". Below the graphic, the words "Tell It!" are written in a large, bold, black serif font. Underneath that, the phrase "Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!" is written in a smaller font. At the bottom, there is a red chalice icon followed by the text "REGISTER NOW!" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that, it says "Take advantage of deepest discounts on registration and housing until 4/1/2011" and provides the website "www.disciples.org/ga" in blue text.

2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JULY 9-13, 2011 ★ NASHVILLE, TN

**Tell It!**  
Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!

**REGISTER NOW!**

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[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)

# Interfaith Advocacy Day

FAITHFUL ACTION FOR THE COMMON GOOD IN OLYMPIA, MARCH 17

Looking for a way to express your concerns as a person of faith with your state legislature representatives? Join members of faith communities from around Washington on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Interfaith Advocacy Day.



The day will begin with a gathering at United Churches, 110 - 11th Ave. SE at 8:30 am and move to the Columbia Room in the State Capitol at noon. Appointments and meetings should be finished by 3:00 pm. All faith communities are welcome!

Participate in interfaith prayers, hear briefings and attend workshops on legislative issues and the state budget crisis, and meet your legislators to voice your concerns! Because of the diminishing tax revenues and continuing budget cuts, it will be very important for the moral voice of the faith community to be heard during this session of the legislature.

**Registration is \$20 before March 10<sup>th</sup> then \$25 up until the event.** Registration includes an information packet, continental breakfast, lunch, and legislative appointments. You may register online at [www.thewac.org](http://www.thewac.org) or contact our church office for printed registration forms. There are some funds available for those who need financial help to attend.

## 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 ..... Kelli Kays
- 9 ..... Thom Crabb
- 10 ..... Stephen Freeman
- 12 ..... Brent Goddard
- 21 ..... Dorian Scott
- 22 ..... Paul Cheek
- 22 ..... Lisa Peterson
- 25 ..... Jeanne Crabb
- 25 ..... Colleen O'Brien
- 26 ..... Barbara Stroud
- 27 ..... Leanne Blyth
- 28 ..... Larry Scott
- 31 ..... Phyllis Snider



## anniversaries

- 18 ..... Karrie & Mike Cheek
- 30 ..... Robin & Thom Crabb

## baptism dates

- March ??, 1931 ..... Letha Flansburg
- March 12, 1987 ..... Bonnie Goddard
- March 12, 1987 ..... Ron Goddard
- March 19, 1989 ..... Stephen Freeman
- March 24, 1946 ..... Rachel Schmidt
- March 25, 1956 ..... Nancy Freeman
- March 25, 1956 ..... Dorothy Davies
- March 26, 1967 ..... Sherman Squires

# Ash Wednesday

REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE, MARCH 9, 6:30 PM

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Gen. 3:19b

Those words will echo around the world on March 9<sup>th</sup> as Christians from many different traditions will join in Ash Wednesday worship services. While still a relatively new practice for many Protestants, the roots of Ash Wednesday worship reach back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century in Europe.

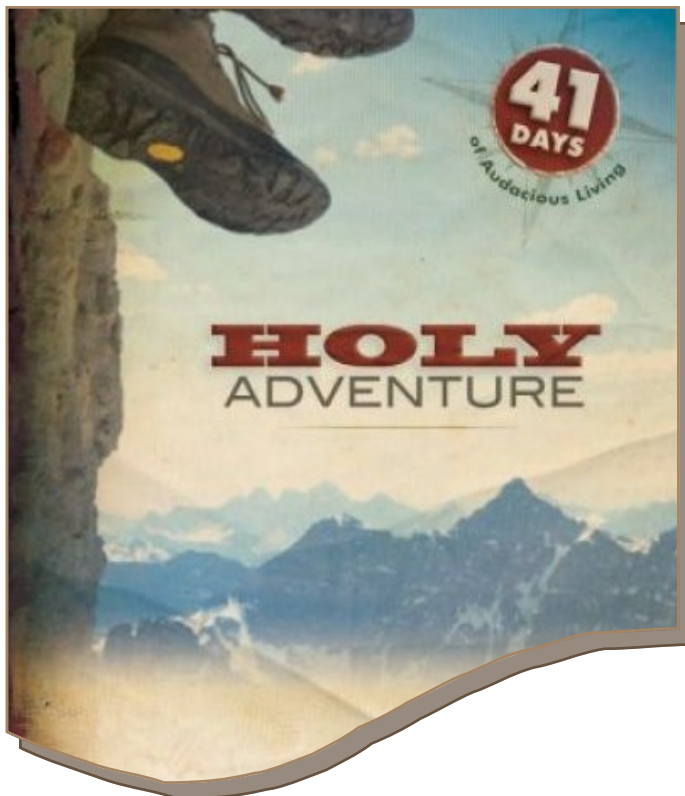
Ash Wednesday provide a space for us to acknowledge publicly our frailties and shortcomings. The prayers, rituals, and Scripture readings move us to confess our sinfulness and imperfections. We can set aside the pretenses and make room for God’s forgiveness.

In our Ash Wednesday worship we also come face to face with our own death. Our society shies away from the reality of death, but our faith does not flinch at the end. When our foreheads are marked with ashes in the sign of the cross, we hear the words spoken to Adam in the book of Genesis, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



In the midst of confession and ashes, Christians find the invitation to speak of life abundant, the fullness of life into which Christ calls us. On Ash Wednesday we recognize our need for God and rejoice in the grace of God in Christ.

## Join us on a Holy Adventure



Pick up a copy of Bruce Epperly’s book, *Holy Adventure: 41 Days of Audacious Living* and join us for a lively exploration of the Christian life.

Not your ordinary study book, *Holy Adventure* offers provocative theological reflections, spiritual affirmations, imaginative prayers, and adventurous actions. Each part of the book is designed to encourage transformation of you, your relationship to God, and your relationships to others.

Studies begin the week of March 6<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet for the small groups is in the narthex. Copies of the book are available at the church office, or you may purchase the book yourself.

### SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Mornings, 9:45 am .....Narthex/Coffee room

Sunday Evenings, 6:30 pm ..... (Site to be determined)

Tuesday Mornings, 7:30 am ..... THR3E Coffeehouse  
(across from Puyallup  
High School on 7<sup>th</sup> St. SW)

# Fire Sweeps Through White Swan, WA

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST & UNITED METHODISTS WORK TOGETHER  
TO MINISTER TO A COMMUNITY IN NEED

On February 12<sup>th</sup> fire swept through the small town of White Swan spreading across 230 acres and destroying 18 homes. Firefighters struggled to fight the fire that was fueled by 50 mph winds with gusts over 70 mph. Longtime residents of the community have lost everything.

In the days since the disaster the ministers of The Log Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wilbur Memorial (United Methodist) have brought their gifts and skills to be present with those who are suffering; Between the two small churches there are three pastors and a social worker to provide pastoral care. The support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and Disciples' Week of Compassion (WoC) will help undergird the hard work of bringing wholeness to the community.



David Bell writes, “Thanks to an emergency grant from [Week of Compassion, we are] in the process of helping families with housing. A family is currently in the process of moving into an apartment at the Mission and WoC funds are used to cover utilities, toiletries, food, etc. WoC funds are also covering gas and meals for visitations and conversations on how to process disaster with children and youth. WoC funds are also being used to enhance opportunities for conversation through hiking, fishing, and drum and talking circles.”



Clothing donations collected at the churches

“These opportunities of directly and indirectly providing pastoral support, bereavement counseling, and identifying folks unmet needs and helping fulfill those needs through providing resources and referrals are how WoC funds are used in the immediate aftermath of the fire.”

David Bell of the Log Church suggests two ways we might help in the intermediate and long-term recovery of White Swan. First is financial support. Because of denominational budget cuts the partnership between Wilbur Memorial and The Log Church is strained. Financial gifts help provide for ongoing pastoral care and support. You may give your checks to FCC Puyallup and designate it for the Log Church/White Swan Fire.

The second way to offer support is hands-on. Initial planning has begun for work trips. Help will be needed from Spring Break through the end of Autumn. The projects involved are yet to be fully developed, but may include working to replace a roof, volunteering at a homeless shelter in nearby Wapato, working with a children's program, or even helping out on a farm. All of the work will contribute to the healing of the community. You will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of White Swan residents and in your own life too.

# Regional Challenge!

## PLANNED GIVING BENEFITS REGIONAL WORK

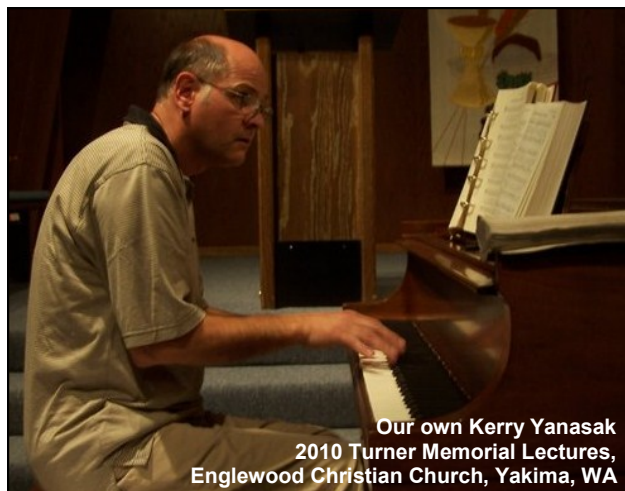
Last year the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was blessed to receive a significant gift from the Cliff and Donna Albright (Rhay) fund at the Christian Church Foundation. The Regional Board has designated \$12,500 of that gift to be used to help support the ongoing ministries of the regional church through the General Fund. With that generous gift comes a challenge—can individuals of the region match that gift?



2010 Regional Assembly Closing Worship  
North Hill Christian Church, Spokane, WA

Gifts to the region help support transforming congregations, new congregations, pastors and congregations in Search and Call, clergy and congregational assistance, camps, youth events, and much more. The gifts of congregations and individuals encourage the ongoing work of our region in times of transition, crisis, and innovation.

To make your gift to meet this challenge of \$12,500 you may send a check to the Northwest Regional Christian Church office (PO Box 23819, Federal Way, WA 98093) or by credit card online at [www.disciplesnw.org](http://www.disciplesnw.org).



Our own Kerry Yanasak  
2010 Turner Memorial Lectures,  
Englewood Christian Church, Yakima, WA



## THE WAY OF GIVING

“The Buddha said: ‘When you see someone practicing the Way of giving, aid him joyously, and you will obtain vast and great blessings.’ A shramana asked: ‘Is there an end to those blessings?’ The Buddha said: ‘Consider the flame of a single lamp. Though a hundred thousand people come and light their own lamps from it so that they can cook their food and ward off the darkness, the first lamp remains the same as before. Blessings are like this too.’” (Tripitaka Sutra 10)

Giving in all its forms, financial and otherwise, can be an act of worship by virtue of its unique power to remind us that life itself, with all its ups and downs, all its struggles and heartaches and victories, is fundamentally a gift from God.

*From Giving--The Sacred Art: Creating a Lifestyle of Generosity by Lauren Tyler Wright*

fcc giving

### January 30

General Fund\* .....\$ 794.45

### February 6

General Fund\* .....\$1825.00

### February 13

General Fund\* .....\$2061.00

### February 20

General Fund\* .....\$2192.00

Week of Compassion .....\$ 230.00

Freezing Nights .....\$ 100.00

\*To meet 2011's General Offering budgeted income, weekly General Fund giving must average \$1,346.15.

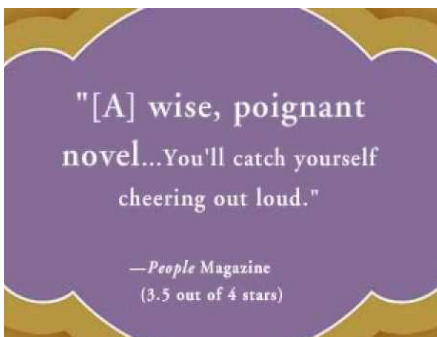
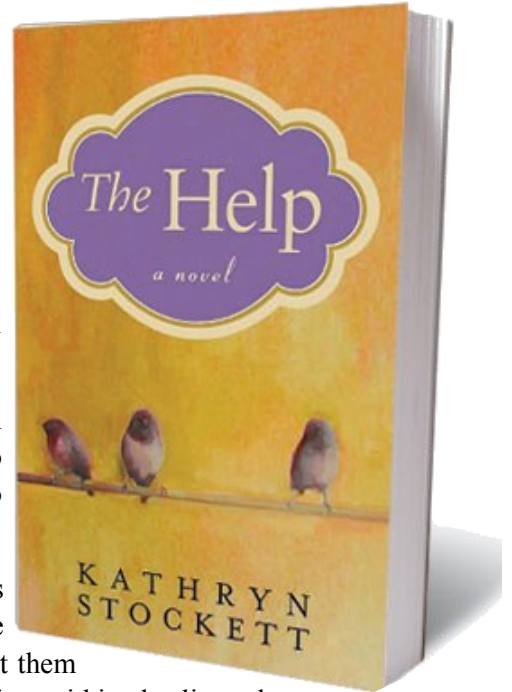
# Book Club Reads *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

## THREE ORDINARY WOMEN ARE ABOUT TO TAKE ONE EXTRAORDINARY STEP

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minny finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets too.



Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. Why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.

In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women—mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends—view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

—from [www.kathrynstockett.com](http://www.kathrynstockett.com)

Join the next Book Club conversation: 7 pm March 1st at Anastasia Peterson's home, 721 - 7th St. SW, 770-8591

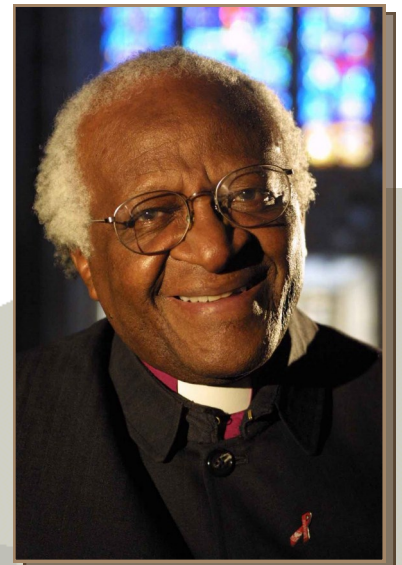
## Archbishop Desmond Tutu Visits Tacoma

### NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE TO SPEAK AT TACOMA DOME ON MAY 13

On May 13<sup>th</sup> the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation is bringing Desmond Tutu, the renowned “Ambassador for Peace” to the Tacoma Dome for his final U.S. public appearance. Along with Pacific Lutheran University, the University of Puget Sound, and other sponsors, the foundation envisions this event as “a way to inspire and unite the community around issues of hope, peace, and optimism.”

As part of its *Be the Spark* campaign, the Foundation seeks to encourage Pierce County residents to consider how they might make Pierce County better and then create their own unique *I pledge to Be the Spark* commitment in response to the question “What is the one thing you will do today to make Pierce County better?” You can learn more about the *Be the Spark* program and read other pledges on their website at [www.agreatertacoma.org](http://www.agreatertacoma.org).

Tickets for the event are available from Ticketmaster. Look for information on this and other related events soon.



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

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 6-8 PM**

Because the season of Lent is often observed with the serious disciplines of fasting and prayer, Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday) has developed its own more lighthearted traditions. While not as free-spirited as the revelries of Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday has historically involved communal celebration. Villages hold pancake tossing races, street football games, and of course, pancake dinners!

Join us this Shrove Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm as we share pancakes and all the fixings! Our elders will be flipping flapjacks and the diaconate will be organizing the feast. Bring a friend! You just might find yourself running in a pancake race! The pancakes are free; donations for White Swan Long-term Fire Recovery will be accepted.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race, London 2009**



## life of the church in march

Studies for all ages ..... Sundays - 9:45 am  
Service of Worship ..... Sundays - 11 am  
Puyallup Community Band rehearsals ..Tuesdays 7-9 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

Season of Lent ..... March 9 - April 23  
Lenten Study ..... groups begin week of March 6

1 ..... Book Club at Anastasia Peterson’s home - 7 pm  
8 ..... Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - 6 pm  
9 ..... Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30 pm  
13 ..... Daylight Saving Time begins, clocks ahead - 2 am  
16 ..... Elders Meeting (at Connie Robey’s) - 6 pm  
17 ..... St. Patrick’s Day  
17 ..... Council reports due  
19 ..... Lunch with a Friend - Peace Lutheran - 10 am  
19 ..... PVCNS Trike-a-thon - 10 am  
24 ..... Missional Council Meeting - 6 pm  
27 ..... Diaconate Meeting following Worship