



▶ *Volunteers take to the Streets*
Pierce County Hunger Walk, 10/10 3



▶ *Worship Transitions*
Music Ministry changes 2



▶ *Study Groups*
Small groups start Fall Schedule4-5

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First Christian *Chimes*

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

Freezing Nights Gears Up for NW Winter

The numbers keep climbing. In January 2009 the annual Pierce County homeless survey found 2,083 individuals willing to be counted. That's up nearly 20% from 2008.

"Freezing Nights is a ministry that has blessed us and touched our hearts. We look forward to helping our friends this fall and winter on those cold nights."

Terry & Bonnie, coordinators

The faces of the homeless are changing, too. Fifteen percent of the homeless count in 2009 were over the age of 55. Families are particularly vulnerable—398 families were counted in the survey, with the total number of individuals in families at 1,335. That's a 40% increase from 2008.

Unfortunately, such surveys find only a portion of the homeless population. For example, the 24-hour canvas tallied 100 homeless individuals in Puyallup, and yet at the end of the 2008-9 school year the Puyallup School District reported 318 registered homeless children living in the district. The actual number of homeless in our community is likely much higher than the survey suggests.

Freezing Nights is one way we can help. Beginning November 1st, seven different churches in the community

will provide a warm, dry place for the homeless to sleep when the weather is 40 degrees or colder. Our church will host again on Friday nights and Saturday breakfast.

Volunteers are encouraged to attend one of the training sessions:

- October 1, 7 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church
- October 19 (Time and place to be announced)

There are many ways to volunteer:

On Friday evening

- stack chairs and set up tables in the sanctuary
- greet and visit with the guests
- help prepare snacks
- play bingo with the guests

Friday Night

- spend the night--we sleep in shifts

Saturday Morning

- help prepare breakfast
- help with clean up
- visit...listen

Donate Supplies

supplies for sack lunches, popcorn, bottled water, bingo prizes, gift cards for groceries and needed supplies. In October there will be a list of needed supplies in the narthex.

2009 Fair Parking Hall of Fame

Mary Beth Baker
Jan Blankley
Ercie Borrowman
Karrie Cheek
Mike Cheek
Joy Clark
Sharol Cook
Bob Crabb
Jeanne Crabb
Robin Crabb
Thom Crabb
Herb Crabtree
Nancy Freeman
Pete Freeman
Elliot Forslund
Emma Forslund
Ken Forslund
Terry Forslund
Bonita Goatz
Cathy Hansen
Flora Hickenbottom
Aaron Hickenbottom
Jayne Isch
Nancy Johnson
Jonathan Kays
Kelli Kays
Breanna Kosakoski

Katheryn Kusick
Donna Larson
John Pasola
Anastasia Patterson
Luetta Patton
Denise Petryk
Darelee Phillips
Harold Phillips
Karl Raup
Terry Richardson
Joyce Riffe
Bill Robey
Connie Robey
Ray Smith
Vicki Smith
Eunice Squires
Sherm Squires
Del Stack
Peggy Stack
Bunnie Stanton
Laurie Turner
Don Turner
Doris Turner
Vi Wick
Carol Wilson
Joyce Wolff
Kerry Yanasak

Generous Spirits Grace Fair Parking

With nearly 272 shifts and untold numbers of extra hours, another fair parking season will have come and gone. Every volunteer counts, and each one helps to make our September parking project a success.

One recent visitor to our parking lot remarked, "The warmth of community was present with each of the volunteers...they waved, walked and biked in the sun and heat. They always had a smile and kind word." In very ordinary ways our interactions with fairgoers are a simple witness to our faith.

Thanks to everyone who helped out with this year's fair!

Music Transitions

Music is an integral part of congregational worship. Traditional hymns, contemporary worship songs, and global music help our church give voice to its faith. Our pianist, Kerry Yanasak, offers his musical gifts that inspire us. And for many years the choir has been an important part of leading worship.

After heart-felt deliberation at its August meeting, the church board decided not to hire a choir director for the Fall. Concerns about congregational giving and fair parking income informed the decision. Budget planning for 2010 begins this month, and the board will consider the choir director position as part of that process.

In the meantime, we will be looking to utilize the musical gifts of our congregation in other ways. If you would like to be a part of our music ministry, please contact Pastor Nancy or Robin Crabb.

Giving Totals:

August 30

General Fund \$ 1012.55
\$ 1012.55

September 6

General Fund \$ 1456.00
\$ 1456.00

September 13

General Fund \$ 1924.00
\$ 1924.00

September 20

General Fund \$ 862.00
Week of Compassion \$ 3.00
\$ 865.00

Summer Worship Team a Valuable Asset

SUMMER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS HELPED MAKE THE SEASON A SUCCESS

Our volunteers continue to be one of our most valuable assets! Many thanks to the helpful folks who signed up for the summer worship ministries of Greeting and Scripture Reading.

In all, eleven signed up to greet this summer:

Ercie Borrowman, Sharol Cook, Rosemarie Howard, Bre Kosakoski, Katheryn Kusick, Joyce Riffe, Bill Robey, Connie Robey, Donna Sannes, Bunnie Stanton, Vi Wick.

Blessings upon Katheryn Kusick, who agreed to remain in her role of Greeting Team Coordinator. Katheryn has rounded up some new faces to welcome Sunday morning guests alongside some loyal greeters from years past:

Ercie Borrowman, Elnore Hall, Joyce Riffe, Donna Sannes, Vicki & Ray Smith, Peggy & Del Stack, and Doris & Don Turner.

Others who have served for years in the ministry of hospitality in Worship are being given a chance to rest, renew, or focus on other ministries. Many thanks to longtime greeters, Thom Crabb and Darelee & Harold Phillips for their years of Sundays at the front door!

And eight signed up to read scripture this summer:

Joy Clark, Robin Crabb, Jayne Isch, Karl Raup, Bill Robey, Connie Robey, Eunice Squires, Kerry Yanasak.

As we begin our Fall Worship schedule on Sunday, October 4th at 11 am, please welcome a new team of scheduled scripture readers:

Karrie Cheek, Jayne Isch, Karl Raup, and Ray Smith.

Every fifth Sunday will be left open in order to allow a new face to read whenever possible! If you are interested in taking part in the ministry of scripture in Worship, please contact Worship Chair Robin Crabb.

Last year's scripture reader Katie Peterson is being released from her duties with great thanks to concentrate on the many other ministries she serves in our congregation.

Why Walk? Why Sponsor?

2009 PIERCE COUNTY HUNGER WALK IS SATURDAY, OCT. 10TH

WHY HELP? More than 140,000 children, seniors and adults seek help finding food in Pierce County. Of these individuals:

- 52% are children and seniors (38% are children under 19; 14% are individuals over 55)
- 98% fall below the national poverty line
- Almost half are families with at least one adult working
- During 2008 there were a total of 844,551 visits to Food banks and 833,230 visits to Hot Meal Sites in Pierce County.

The Hunger Walk starts at First Christian Church of Tacoma (NW corner of 6th Ave. & Orchard St.) at 8 am on Saturday, October 10th. Join more than 800 committed community members who will walk to fight hunger as part of the 29th annual Associated Ministries Hunger Walk in Pierce County. For registration and more information visit www.pchungerwalk.org or contact the church office.

Can't walk? Help sponsor one of our congregation's walkers.

Let's take steps to end hunger in our county!



A Small Group for Everyone

ARE YOU...*READY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH?*

LOOKING TO GROW IN YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?

WANTING TO CONNECT WITH OTHER FOLKS IN MEANINGFUL WAYS?

Kids Creating Worship

SUNDAYS 9:45 AM

Dig deep into a Bible study.
Hands on creativity.
Collaborate in worship ministry.

Our kids will do it all. Starting October 4, our combined kids and youth Sunday School class will explore a story from Scripture and work together to create a part for our congregational worship based on that Scripture.

It's a great way to learn more about the Bible, deepen their understanding of worship, and support our vision of being a truly intergenerational congregation.

Each month the group will take a "creative break" and engage in a variety of topics facing kids, using age-appropriate movie and TV clips.

Katie Peterson and Terry Forslund are this year's coordinators. Give them a call to become more involved in nurturing the spiritual lives of our kids.



Covenant Bible Study

SUNDAYS 9:45 AM

MYSTERY AND GLORY IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

"...these [things] are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name.—John 20:31

Our first 10-week session focuses on the Gospel of John. Designed to be group-led, this study opens up the fourth gospel in an accessible way. Whether you are a new pilgrim in the Christian faith or you have been on your faith journey for a long time, the gospel of John offers a challenge and invitation. *Who is this Jesus? And what does it mean for me to say that I will follow him?*

Adult Bible Study

SATURDAYS AT 8 AM

Come for coffee, bible study, and good conversation. Our Saturday study is the granddaddy of all our small groups. Looking for a good way to kick off your Saturday mornings? Contact Herb Crabtree or the church office for more information.



Faith Trek Kids Create Worship Banners (2008)

So & Sew Gatherings

STUDY OPPORTUNITY & SOW ENERGY WISELY!
THURSDAYS, 10 AM—2 PM

Want to join an in depth study of the bible during the week? The newly convened **So & Sew** group may be just right for you. The group will come together for Bible study from 10 AM to noon.

After the study, feel free to stay and share in a bring-your-own lunch time. Special ministry projects will be available for those who wish to be a part of FCC's sewing ministry . Or you can bring your own project and join the fun.

*Lunch time is open to all.
So grab a sandwich and come on down!*



Back Row Broads

WEDNESDAYS, 10 AM—NOON

For more than two years the self-named BRB's (Back Row Broads) have come together for sharing and spiritual growth. Originally the idea of Anita Smith, the group draws together women of the congregation for a time of support.

Members choose an inspirational book to read together, and each week a vibrant discussion ensues as faith stories are shared. The group's last book, *Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned: But I Have Several Excellent Excuses*, offered plenty of opportunities for laughter as well.

The BRB's first meeting of the Fall will be Sept. 30.

But Wait! There's More!
(con't. from page 4)



Adult Forum: *Everything Must Change*

SUNDAYS 9:45 AM

The world is in trouble. Author Brian D. McLaren describes four areas of crisis:

- **The prosperity crisis**—or crisis of the planet
- **The equity crisis**—or crisis of poverty
- **The security crisis**—or the crisis of peace
- **The spirituality crisis**—or the crisis of purpose/story

McLaren then asks, “*What would change if we applied the message of Jesus—the good news of the kingdom of God—to the world's greatest problems?*”

Join Pastor Nancy on Sunday mornings as we seek to discover how our faith calls us to live in a fragmented world. The book, *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope* is available on our FCC Amazon Bookstore page.

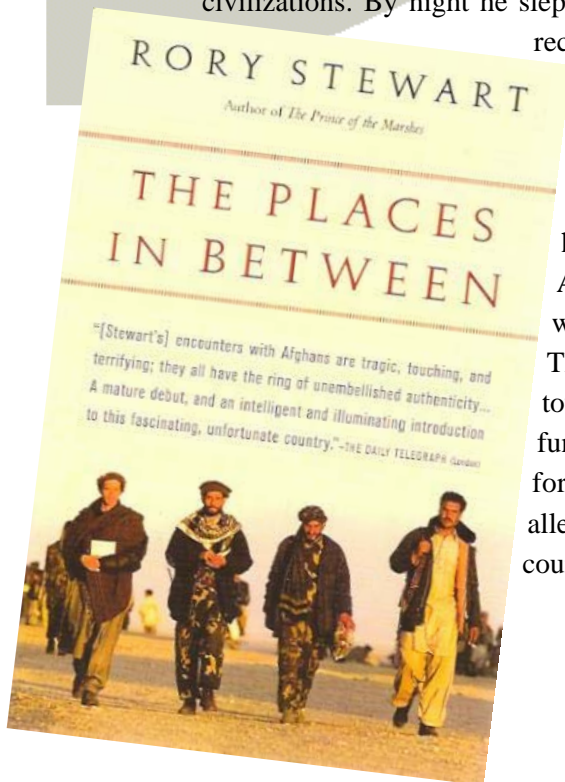
October's Book of the Month Club Selection

THE PLACES IN BETWEEN BY RORY STEWART

In January 2002 Rory Stewart walked across Afghanistan—surviving by his wits, his knowledge of Persian dialects and Muslim customs, and the kindness of strangers. By day he passed through mountains covered in nine feet of snow, hamlets burned and emptied by the Taliban, and communities thriving amid the remains of medieval civilizations. By night he slept on villagers' floors, shared their meals, and listened to their stories of the recent and ancient past. Along the way Stewart met heroes and rogues, tribal

elders and teenage soldiers, Taliban commanders and foreign-aid workers. He was also adopted by an unexpected companion -- a retired fighting mastiff he named Babur in honor of Afghanistan's first Mughal emperor, in whose footsteps the pair was following. Through these encounters -- by turns touching, confounding, surprising, and funny -- Stewart makes tangible the forces of tradition, ideology, and allegiance that shape life in the map's countless places in between.

—www.rorystewartbooks.com



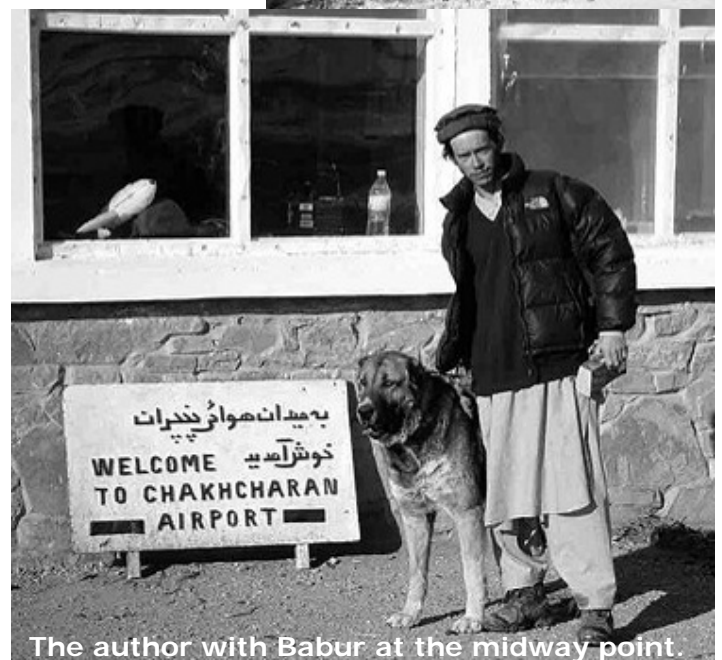
The Minaret of Jam

"... a striding, glorious book. But it's more than great journalism. It's a great travel narrative...He writes with a mystic's appreciation of the natural world, a novelist's sense of character and a comedian's sense of timing."

The New York Times Book Review

"Someone in Kabul told me that a crazy Scotsman had walked from Herat to Kabul right after the fall of the Taliban...I thought the story was an urban legend. I was wrong. The crazy Scotsman was called Rory Stewart, and the book he has written about his travels is wise, funny and marvelously humane."

— Michael Ignatieff



The author with Babur at the midway point.

THE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB MEETS THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 PM.

The October 6th meeting to discuss *Breakfast at Sally's* will be at the Salvation Army, 4009 - 9th SW. Remember all purchases made through FCC Puyallup's Amazon page helps support our ministries.



life of the church

- All-age Studies.....Sundays - 9:30 am
- Service of Worship Sundays - 11 am
- Women's Study (BRB)Wednesdays - 10 am
- SO & SEW Group.....Thursdays - 10 am
(Study Opportunity & Sow Energy Wisely)
- Adult Bible Study..... Saturdays - 8 am
 - 1Freezing Nights Training - 7 pm
(Immanuel Lutheran Church)
 - 3Marlene Hawley's Memorial Service - 2 pm
 - 6 Book of the Month Club - 7 pm
(Salvation Army, 4009 9th SW)
 - 10Pierce County Hunger Walk SIGN UP NOW!
 - 17Lunch with a Friend - Peace Lutheran - 10 am
 - 17 Installation of Rev. Sandy Messick - 2 pm
(First Christian Church, Tacoma)
 - 19Freezing Nights Training - 7 pm

october birthdays

- 2..... Robin Crabb
- 3..... Dorris Rickert
- 4..... Laura Vogel
- 10..... William Raup
- 11..... Debbie Meyer
- 17..... Gretchen Collins
- 18..... Virginia Thompson
- 21..... John Raup
- 24..... Carol Wilson

anniversaries

- 14..... Gail & Tony Ackerman
- 19..... Linda & Ron O'Gwin
- 24..... Lori & Ed Markum
- 27..... Leslie & Robert Dickson

baptism dates

- October 1, 1989..... Katie Peterson
- October 3, 1954..... Katheryn Kusick
- October 8, 1922..... Louis Sannes
- October 15, 1961..... Jeanne Crabb

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

**October 4—Worship Time
changes to 11 am**

9:30 am Sunday School

**New Sunday School Classes
for all age groups.**

**See pages 4 and 5 for
opportunities to deepen your
faith journey.**



All Saint's Day • November 1st

On Sunday, November 1st we will remember saints who have died this past year. If you would like a loved one included in this worship, you may call the church office or write their name below and return this form.

Name _____

Name _____

