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• ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 15 • NOVEMBER 2008

First Christian *Chimes*

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

A warm, safe place to sleep

FCC PUYALLUP'S THIRD YEAR IN THE FREEZING NIGHTS SHELTERING MINISTRY BEGINS

Freezing Nights, a Puyallup-based coalition of churches sheltering and feeding the homeless when temperatures drop, is beginning a new season. Starting with three churches in 2005, the program expanded to eight churches in 2007. The churches open their facilities to give shelter, and trained volunteers provide care and friendship.



In October 2007 the Tacoma News Tribune reported, “In January, Pierce County conducted what likely was its most accurate count ever of people without homes.

“In the 24 hours from early morning on Jan. 27 to early morning on the 28th, 1,824 people agreed to be counted.”

The TNT reported that the number was up from the three previous counts (1,138 people in 2003, 1,167 people in 2000, and 1,589 in 1996).

The article continued, “The count found 239 homeless families – 692 people in all, including 453 kids.”

Of those people, 423 were living in transitional housing, the step between emergency shelter and stable housing, which the article noted is an improvement due to better counts, and in turn, better funding of programs. But it goes on to say that there were still 256 “chronically homeless” persons in the county, and that’s where programs like Freezing Nights can come in.

FCC will welcome guests on Friday nights whenever the prior day’s forecast predicts 37° or below for 98371. To maintain the success of this ministry, your help is needed. Ways to contribute include set up, clean up, breakfast/lunch prep, baking, greeting, financial support, donations supply, mentoring, staying part or all night, and prayer.

Contact site coordinators Terry Forslund and Bonnie Goddard or take a look at the signup sheet in the foyer to see how you can be a part of this important ministry of caring for those in need of a meal and a place to sleep.

Giving with your IRA

LAW GIVES TAX RELIEF TO SENIORS WISHING TO INCREASE CHARITABLE GIVING

Have you ever wished you could stretch your dollars a little farther, or find a way to do more for the people and causes you love? If you are fortunate enough to be over 70½ and have an IRA, our government has again opened a window of opportunity for 2008 and 2009 to allow you to easily make your wish happen.

Building on the success of the IRA charitable rollover legislation introduced in 2007, the 2008 law allows senior citizens, who are at least 70½ on the day the distribution is made, to request their IRA administrators make distributions directly to their favorite charities, including our congregation. This distribution can be counted against your required minimum distribution if you choose; it will *not be counted as a taxable distribution* to you; and you are allowed to make distributions to charity of up to \$100,000 in any given year. In some states, making your charitable gifts through your IRA will save you state taxes, since this income will not be included in your Adjusted Gross Income. The combined impact of saving state, local and federal taxes is most dramatic for non-itemizers, who are now able to give tax-free dollars to charity – stretching their dollars by 25, 30, or even 35 percent! This opportunity can allow people to give more to our congregation at the same or reduced “out-of-pocket



cost” to them.

You might consider fulfilling your normal support of our operating budget with a gift from your IRA, or use this opportunity to stretch your gift to a capital campaign.

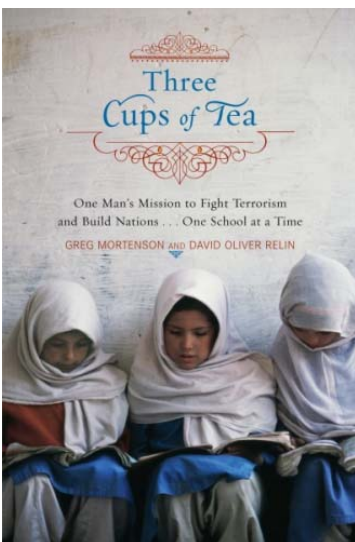
If you are over 70½, or will be before December 31, 2009, we encourage you to be in touch with [Christian Church Foundation] for more information. [They] have sample request letters for your IRA administrator and more information on how this act can benefit you, and all of the charitable causes you love, in the months ahead.

For more information, contact the Christian Church Foundation at (800) 668-8016.

~www.disciples.org

New small group is born

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB READS *THREE CUPS OF TEA* BY GREG MORTENSON AND DAVID OLIVER RELIN



A congregational Book of the Month Club has formed and November's selected reading is *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*.

"*Three Cups of Tea* is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world." ~Tom Brokaw

Book club members will gather on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm to discuss the book they have read and to learn of the selection for the next month, chosen by the next meeting's host. The group will meet at various readers' homes and in the church building, with light refreshments served.

All are welcome to join this small group—check the location schedule posted at the www.fccpuyallup.com book club page or contact Kerry Yanasak. Each month's book will be listed on FCC Puyallup website's Amazon storefront page, which will raise funds for FCC Puyallup with each order (to date over \$80 has been returned to the church's general operating fund through your Amazon.com orders!).



What King?

CONTRIBUTED BY KERRY YANASAK

Let the multitudes know that Advent will come again followed shortly after by Christmas. We will decorate, have a tree, plenty of hot buttered rums, dancing, partying, singing, merry making, and cookie eating. Shopping till we're dropping, racking up the credit card bills beyond our control and buying junk that costs too much despite the incredible sales. Some old, fat guy dressed up in a red outfit will stumble in, pretending for the kids he could not get down the chimney for some ridiculous reason which the kids ignore, because despite the reason, Santa has arrived—yes, finally, the reason for the season! After the kids hit the sack he will return—this time through the chimney—to scare the heck out of the kids, should they be awake at that time, eat their food, and leave tons of dollar store goodies in a two dollar stocking that cost \$40—but looks real festive. We will give gifts that cost more to wrap than most of the world has to eat in a month. We will have the usual discussion of how much we hope it snows this year on Christmas and then be disappointed when it rains—again. After the kids destroy the house we will put it back together and burn the wrappings (after the cat has its fun with them) even though the paper rolls say to not do that. We will prepare a meal fit for a king and then eat it ourselves. Kids will complain because they don't like sweet potatoes and most likely hold out for the dessert. Jellied or regular cranberries anyone? Tough decisions to be made that day. Who forgot to buy the olives—darn it, I hate when that happens. Someone's dad will again bring up the story of their kid 40 years ago tearing open a gift and breaking it in the process, and we will all pretend it is still a matter to get angry over. After all is said and done for that wonderful day, we might even ask ourselves why we made a meal for a King, decorated for a King, celebrated for a King, but by and large most of us won't acknowledge we have a King to celebrate. What King?

Silent Night.

We wait with them

The frenetic overindulgence that has come to be known as the pre-Christmas season can sometimes be just... too... much. Too much spending, too much food, too much to do. Too much! But this harried pace is not in keeping with the origin of Advent, the season leading up to Christmas Day on the Christian calendar.

Wikipedia defines the word Advent as a derivative of the Latin *adventus*, meaning 'coming,' as well as a season of the Christian church, a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

In his article "Advent Reflections: We're All Waiting for Something," David Bennett writes, "...I am speaking here of the ancient Hebrew Patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, who waited expectantly for the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah expresses this hope: 'It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it... For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'

"Then, hundreds of years later, born in Bethlehem, a small town in the Roman Empire, their hope is finally realized... During the Advent season we symbolically participate in the waiting of the patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, as we await Christ's final and glorious return. Through prayer, liturgy, Eucharist, and the signs and symbols of Advent, we groan with Isaiah for a day when weapons will be turned into agricultural instruments." (www.ancient-future.net/waiting.html)

**Join us Sunday, Nov. 9th after Worship
to plan our Advent Festival,
and again on
Saturday, Nov. 29th at 9:30 am
to prepare our sanctuary for Advent.
A potluck meal will be shared.**

Pentecost offering donations increase

DENOMINATIONAL GROWTH ON THE RISE AS WELL

Dear Friends:

Disciples are growing again thanks to your support of the Pentecost Offering! On behalf of New Church Ministry and the 33 Regions across the United States and Canada we want to thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering this year. Your church increased their giving support from last year.

Your church is in a special growing group of congregations that have increased their giving to this important offering. We want to applaud your efforts to support our new congregations in your Region and the United States. This places your congregation in the elite tier of giving churches.

Again, we want to thank you for your sacrifice and ask that as you worship each week to pray for our new church planters that are starting these new faith communities. Our more than 550 new churches with their more than 40,000 new participants makes the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) one of the fastest growing mainline churches in North America.



Your congregation is an important part of our denomination wide effort to start churches. May the Lord bless your church and its ministry!

Shalom,
Charlie Wallace
Minster Congregational Relations
New Church Ministry
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Exploring core congregational ministries

SUNDAY STUDIES EXAMINE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

Our Sunday Study groups have taken on a temporary new look. Three of the PaTH design teams met through August and September and are now gathering during the Sunday School hour, from 9:30 to 10:30 am. During the same Sunday morning timeframe, anyone not part of a design team has the opportunity to study lectionary Bible texts with Pastor Nancy, focusing on the same basic themes as those studied by the teams. From time to time all the groups are meeting together to disclose their findings in the areas of discussion: Resources (cultivation, utilization, and stewardship of our many resources), Common Life (shaping the dynamics of our relationships), and Formation (cultivating basic Christian practices). All are welcome to join in the study of these basics of Christian life.



Calling All Disciples –

RECORD YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY FOR FUTURE DISCIPLES

Your memories are important... to you... and to your church community. You are invited to take a few moments to remember and record what it was like growing up in your church. Those memories are precious... and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society is giving you the opportunity to share those stories and record them for history.

Journeys In Faith is the online oral history project of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. They are collecting memories of those who want to share their personal faith history. Your recollections become part of the permanent collection of the History Society helping us keep our collective church history alive. No memories are too small or too unimportant to be recorded. To participate go to www.discipleshistory.org/online/journeys.htm.

www.disciplesnw.org



All are welcome at Christ's table!

CONGREGATIONS URGED TO BEGIN PLANNING BICENTENNIAL COMMUNION CELEBRATION

Congregations across the United States and Canada and around the world who are associated with the Stone-Campbell movement are encouraged to begin planning to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address." The thesis of Campbell's 1809 document is "the church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one."

A task force, appointed by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society Board of Trustee, is comprised of people representing all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement. The task force is calling on churches to gather in their communities on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2009, to share in communion and remember our common heritage. A wide variety of resources that can be used for the celebration can found at www.greatcommunion.org

www.disciples.org



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Pastor Nancy Gowler Johnson
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P.O. Box 516
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-6232

life of the church in november

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| All-age Studies | Sundays - 9:30 am | 4..... | Book of the Month Club - 7 pm |
| Service of Worship | Sundays - 11 am | 9..... | Advent Festival Meeting - after Worship |
| Women's Study (BRB) | Wednesdays - 10 am | 11..... | Veterans Day |
| Choir Practice..... | Wednesdays - 7 pm | 11..... | Board Meeting - 7:30 pm |
| Crafters Group | Thursdays - 10 am | 15..... | Lunch with a Friend - 10 am |
| Freezing Nights (if <37°).... | Fridays (<i>begins 11/21</i>) | 16..... | PaTH Coord. Team Mtg. - after Worship |
| Adult Study..... | Saturdays - 8 am | 21..... | Freezing Nights (Fridays if <37°) |
| | | 25..... | Diaconate Meeting - 7 pm |
| | | 27..... | Thanksgiving |
| | | 29..... | Advent Festival |
| | | 30..... | Advent begins |
| | | 30... Youth Fundraiser Chili Cookoff | after Worship |

november birthdays

- 5..... Marcy Durrant
- 6..... Scott Durrant
- 6..... Jerry Rouse
- 9..... Ed Durrant
- 9..... Bryan Forslund
- 10..... Noah Eckerman
- 11..... Ken Forslund
- 13..... Grant Duckett
- 14..... Mark Dimond
- 15..... Penny Bangert

- 20..... Fisher Patterson
- 24..... Kay Van Pevanage
- 26..... Tiffany Eckerman
- 27..... Merrill Barker
- 28..... Ericka Yanasak

& anniversaries

- 17..... Herb & Eva Crabtree
- 20..... Dave & Penny Bangert
- 21..... Doris & Don Turner
- 24..... Juanita & Laverne Cimmer