



▶ *Change of weather*
Homeless sheltering
ministry returns3



▶ *Remembering saints*
Grateful for those who
came before8



▶ *Sunday Studies resume*
Adult & youth studies
start October 2nd7

• ISSUE 10 • VOLUME 18 • OCTOBER 2011

First Christian *Chimes*

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

BEST VOLUNTEERS AWARD WINNERS!

2011'S FAIR PARKING SEASON AT FCC PUYALLUP A STELLAR DISPLAY OF VOLUNTEERISM AT ITS BEST

So many thanks are owed to FCC Puyallup's dedicated and hard working volunteers! Because of all of YOU, First Christian Church of Puyallup continues to be able to sustain, cultivate and grow its many ministries, programs, and the life of the congregation.

During each Western Washington Fair since the early 1960s, FCC Puyallup volunteers have worked together to perpetuate God's plan for the little church in the valley, providentially located a stone's throw from the huge fairgrounds. The seasons have always begun with unknowns: Will enough folks sign up to staff the schedule? Will the budget be fed or will we have to cut back? What's the weather going to do over the next 17 days? But... by the work of the Spirit and the tenacity of FCC's finest, the job gets done and God's intent is continued!

Pastor Nancy summed it up in her sermon on the last day of the 2011 Puyallup Fair, "I've been amazed this week at how many people go to the Fair, and how many people park in our lot to go to the Fair. Are you amazed by that? Every day! I'm just amazed at the number of cars that come in. And over the years I've come to realize that I think the Fair parking we are able to do is a sign from God—not that we need to keep the status quo—but that God isn't done with us yet. That there is work here that God wants to keep doing. Because, if we didn't have Fair Parking, our church would look very different, wouldn't it? Our budget would look... [descending thumb gesture];

our ability to do things would be... [descending thumb gesture]. But I'm convinced that God has done a good work in us, and that Fair Parking is one of those ways in which God has opened up an opportunity for us to live out that emptying of ourselves. That we can provide a sanctuary space here for folks who have no place to stay during Freezing Nights... That we can open up two other rooms in our building as a place to hang out during the summer for those who have no home... God's not done with us yet. And that gives me hope, and that gives me joy. That God is still at work here, with us... *with us.*"

Whether you helped with setup or clean-up, provided supplies, flagged, parked or cashiered, took one shift or a dozen, parked in the FCC lot, told a friend about us, or prayed for the process and the people... *we simply can't thank you enough for being a part of the future life and ministries of First Christian Church!*



Helping Hand House—Transforming Local Families

AS HOMELESSNESS IN PUYALLUP INCREASES, HHH STEPS IN

During Worship on Sunday, October 16th, FCC's special guest speaker, Lisa Heintz, Director of Volunteer Services at Helping Hand House, will share information about the important work that HHH does in our community. First Christian has worked with HHH in the past through donations of money and household items, most recently providing backpacks and school supplies to children under HHH's wing. The following is an overview of their programs.



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

We help families who have eviction or utility shut-off notices by paying their rent or utilities. As soon as adults in the family complete a budgeting class at our office, payment is sent directly to the utility company or landlord.

Results: In 2010, we helped to prevent 213 families (1,100 people) from becoming homeless. Follow-up indicates that most families are in the same homes 3 months later. We assisted 139 families with rent and 74 families with utility assistance.

EMERGENCY HOUSING

We provide emergency shelter for up to 90 days in seven fully-furnished single family homes and apartments in Puyallup and Sumner. Homeless families work closely with a case manager to develop goals and strategies to gain housing stability. Adults in the program work and develop budgets and savings plans. When their stay in Emergency Housing is over, families have the savings they need for their move to an apartment or home.

Results: In 2010, we assisted 31 families (117 people) through our Emergency Housing program.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

We provide housing for up to 24 months in 23 fully furnished single-family homes in Bonney Lake, Buckley, Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup, and Sumner. Families work closely with their case manager to address the causes of their homelessness and make long-term changes to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient. Families are connected with community resources, attend monthly life skill classes, finish education, and learn new trades.

Results: In 2010, we assisted 32 families (112 people) through our Transitional Housing programs.

PERMANENT HOUSING

We provide long-term rental subsidies and supportive case management for 25 families in Sumner and Tacoma. Families are referred to our program through the homeless liaison in two elementary schools. We collaborate with the schools to chart the effect of long-term stability on children's attendance, behavior, and academic performance. For the adults, the focus is on improving family financial resources through education, training, and employment progression support. Working with numerous community partners such as Washington Women's Education and Employment, Bates Technical College, Tacoma Housing Authority, and both Sumner and Tacoma Public Schools, these families find the support they need.

Results: In 2010, we assisted 25 families (93 people) through our Permanent Supportive Housing program.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

We provide families with children temporary, tailored financial and housing stabilization services that will enable families to quickly locate and become self-sufficient in their own housing. This program is for families who will quickly be able to get a job, but need a short period of assistance to bridge the gap while the housing lease is in their name. Rapid Re-housing Program families can receive support for moving costs, security deposits, rental and utility assistance, and case management. As with all our other programs, payments are made directly to landlords, utility companies or other vendors, not to the participants.

Results: In 2010, we assisted 24 families (65 people) through our Rapid Re-Housing Housing program.

fcc giving

September 4

General Fund* \$2691.00

September 11

General Fund* \$ 1676.00

Freezing Nights..... \$ 100.00

September 18

General Fund* \$1776.00

September 25

General Fund* \$1241.00

*To meet 2011's budgeted General Offering income, weekly General Fund giving must average \$1346.15.

**"We are looking ahead,
as is one of the first mandates
given us as chiefs,
to make sure every decision we make
relates to the welfare and well-being
of the seventh generation to come..."
"What about the seventh generation?
Where are you taking them?
What will they have?"**

—Oren Lyons, Chief of the Onondaga Nation



Hiawatha's belt—the tree of peace. The belt represents five Nations who buried their weapons to live in peace.

Cold Weather Blessings

PUYALLUP SHELTERING MINISTRY FOR HOMELESS ADULTS STARTS ANOTHER SEASON IN NOVEMBER

As cold, wet weather approaches, several Puyallup churches will once again join together to do what they can to shelter, feed and befriend homeless adults through winter nights. Freezing Nights, which runs at various churches through the week, will begin at FCC on Friday, November 4th and continue each Friday night through March.



The ministry's success is due only to its generous volunteers and donors. There is a variety of ways to help. Look for more information as the season unfolds, Contact Bonnie Goddard or Terry Forslund for information.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

- stack chairs & set up tables in the sanctuary
- greet & visit with guests
- prepare snacks
- play games with guests
- spend the night—we sleep in shifts

SATURDAY MORNING

- help prepare breakfast
- help with cleanup
- visit & listen

DONATE SUPPLIES

- sack lunch supplies, cheese (brick, sliced or shredded), breakfast meats, chips & crackers, popcorn, bottled water, Bingo prizes, gift cards for groceries & supplies.

World Food Sunday is October 16th

HUNGER & POVERTY FACTS—REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY:

Since 1990:

- Number of people living on \$1.25/day fell 400 million.
- The rate of chronically hungry people in developing countries fell from 20% to 16%.
- The mortality rate for children under 5 fell by 40 percent or more in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Niger.

But the world suffered a setback starting in 2007 with the food price crisis and global recession. As a result:

- 1.5 billion people are in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- Even though there has been an overall percentage decrease, 925 million people still suffer from chronic hunger worldwide, 90 million higher than in 2000.
- More than 350,000 women die every year from complications during pregnancy, childbirth, or in the six weeks after delivery.
- 24,000 children die every day from poverty, hunger, and preventable diseases. That's one every 3.6 seconds.

To help the world's hungry and poor people, U.S. foreign assistance must be made more effective by changing the laws and policies governing aid:

A stronger focus on reducing poverty.

- For every 5% drop in income growth in a developing country, the likelihood of violent conflict or war within the next year increases by 10%.
- Poverty-focused development assistance accounted for just 0.6% of the entire U.S. budget in fiscal year 2010.
- Example: Ghana was the first African country to significantly cut the number of its people living in extreme poverty—from 37% in 1991 to about 16% in 2008. They achieved this through increased farm production by committing 10% of its budget to agriculture, and better coordination with aid donors.

Clearer accountability for how aid dollars are spent and their results.

- Currently, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, created under the Bush administration in 2004, is the only U.S. foreign assistance agency that publicly posts how its money is being spent, reports on its progress, and evaluates its impacts. The State Department and USAID are making efforts toward greater transparency.



- A recent Center for Global Development assessment of the quality of aid of 31 donor countries and agencies found that the United States scored in the bottom third on all evaluation indicators. This includes aid predictability, fragmentation across donor agencies, and use of recipient country systems.

A transformed U.S. development agency.

- USAID experienced a 38% decline in its workforce from 1990-2007, resulting in a diminished capacity to manage programs and resources.
- Downsizing at USAID over the past few decades has led to a dramatic loss of technical expertise. By 2010, the number of agricultural development officers decreased by 90% as compared to the mid-1980s.

Aid that meets the needs and wants of local people.

- Despite the U.S. government's comprehensive, multi-sectoral development and relief strategy for Ethiopia, 90% of U.S. assistance to that country in FY 2008 was spent on HIV/AIDS and food aid.
- In an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development study that included 55 countries, the United States scored well below its peers on its ability to promote country partnership.

To view sources, see www.bread.org/OL

october life of the church

- Sunday studies resume 10/2Sundays - 9:45 am
- Fall Worship resumes 10/2 Sundays - 11 am
- Puyallup Community Band practice Tuesdays - 5 pm
- Women's Study (BRB)Wednesdays - 10 am
- SO & SEW Study & Ministry.....Thursdays - 10 am
- Men's Study.....Thursdays - 7 pm
- 2.....Sunday studies resume - 9:45 am
- 2..... Fall Worship resumes - 11 am
- 2..... Pierce County Hunger Walk
- 2..... World Communion Sunday
- 4..... Book Club Discussion, *The Mermaid Chair* - 7 pm
Ericka Yanasak's home, 1914 - 7th St. SW
- 7-8 Oregon Women's Disciples Fall Retreat
- 10-12 Turner Lectures - Englewood Christian Church
- 10..... Columbus Day
- 15..... Lunch with a Friend at *Peace Lutheran* - 10 am
- 16.....World Food Day
- 21..... Friends in Fellowship (singles 21 & up) - 6 pm
Chinese Buffet restaurant on So. Hill
- 22..... Pumpkin Pick - 5:30 pm
Campfire (weather permitting) - 6:30 pm
Bill & Connie Robey's home, 15210 - 106th St. E
- 23..... Regional CYF Gathering - 4 pm
- 26..... Stewardship Ministry Team meeting - 7 pm
- 29..... Potluck Mystery Dinner - 6:30 pm
- 30..... All Saints Sunday
- 31..... Halloween

Pumpkin Pick & Campfire

Weather permitting, Bill & Connie Robey will host a Fall Campfire at their home on Saturday, October 22nd at 6:30 pm.

If you'd like pumpkins from their patch, come any time after 5:30 to pick them out before it gets dark.

The Robeys will provide hot dogs, condiments and makings for s'mores around the campfire!

Your favorite snacks, beverages and lawn chairs would be welcomed.

15210 - 106th Street E in Puyallup
253-845-2739



october birthdays

- 2..... Robin Crabb
- 3..... Dorris Rickert
- 4..... Laura Vogel
- 10..... William Raup
- 11..... Debbie Meyer

anniversaries

- 19Linda & Ron O'Gwin
- 24Loni & Ed Markum
- 27Leslie & Robert Dickson

baptism dates

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

Reflections on the Journey

ENERGIZING EXISTING CONGREGATIONS BY NW REGIONAL MINISTER SANDY MESSICK

Every so often I take the time to re-read the mission plan we [as a region] developed and adopted two years ago. I ask myself, "How are we doing?" "What should be our next focus area?" Recently, the executive committee of the Mission Council did the same thing and named "Energizing Existing Congregations" as a focus area for the next year. At our Mission Council meeting in August we spent some time dreaming, imagining, and listening to God and each other about how we could encourage and support transformation among our congregations. Some wonderful and creative ideas were suggested and shared. We all agreed that transformation is happening. We also agreed that though there are things we can do, it is God who transforms, it is God who gives the growth.

I want to share some things that are happening to encourage transformation within our region. First, we have formed a Transformation Team that will support and offer resources to congregations seeking to engage in transformation whether they are using one of our regionally supported processes such as New Beginnings or Journey of Discovery or if they need to follow a different path. This team, led by Bill and Connie Robey, met recently for a daylong visioning event and came away with some specific goals for 2012 to provide opportunities for congregations to engage in the conversation around transformation.

Another team is working on forming Clergy Support Groups that would invite our congregational pastors into small covenant groups to support and resource each other as they walk alongside their congregations. We are also engaged with the HOPE Partnership from the General Church about offerings they have for encouraging transformation, and with other Western Regions to partner together to energize existing congregations. Finally, we have designated money for Transformation Grants to be offered to congregations; seed money for new missional initiatives and opportunities. Information on these grants can be found by clicking the link on our website at www.disciplesnw.org



In considering how to support transforming congregations, I am drawn to the image found in the parable of the sower and the seeds. Many seeds are tossed out, not all will bear fruit, but those that fall on good soil produce a hundredfold. In a spirit of experimentation and provisional try, our region seeks to offer many ways (many seeds) for congregations and pastors to receive support as they intentionally seek to follow a new path in a new time. Throughout we trust and celebrate that in God's hands, all things are possible.

Blessings, Sandy Messick

Drop-ins are welcome—come join the discussion!

A DOG'S PURPOSE: A NOVEL FOR HUMANS—THE BOOK CLUB'S CHOICE FOR OCTOBER

A DOG'S PURPOSE



A Dog's Purpose - A Novel for Humans tells the story of a dog who finds himself reincarnated and decides there must be a reason, a purpose he must fulfill, and until he does so, he'll continue to be reborn.

—*A Dog's Purpose*

The FCC Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss the previous month's pick. Discuss *The Mermaid Chair* on Tuesday, Oct. 4th at 7 pm at Ericka Yanasak's home, 1914—7th St. SW (678-7541).

Book Club selections are always available at the FCC website's Amazon.com storefront where every shopping trip results in cash back for FCC Puyallup.

Women's Retreat Invitation

FEATURING PASTOR NANCY GOWLER JOHNSON AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Women's Circle of the Christian Church in Oregon invites Washington Disciples women to their 2011 Fall Women's Retreat, *From Trashed to Treasured*, October 7-8 at Murray Hills Christian Church in Beaverton. Pastor Nancy Gowler Johnson will be the featured keynote speaker.

Highlights of the retreat include:

- Wonderful worship
- 10,000 Villages global handicrafts and books
- Book discussion: *Bud, Not Buddy*, by Christopher Paul Harris
- Free espresso bar

Workshop topics include:

- Energy stewardship in church facilities
- Reconciling broken relationships globally
- Reconciling broken relationships in personal life
- Community Gardens Build information session
- News from Ecuador
- Extended conversation with Nancy
- Creative candle votive holders

Registration costs:

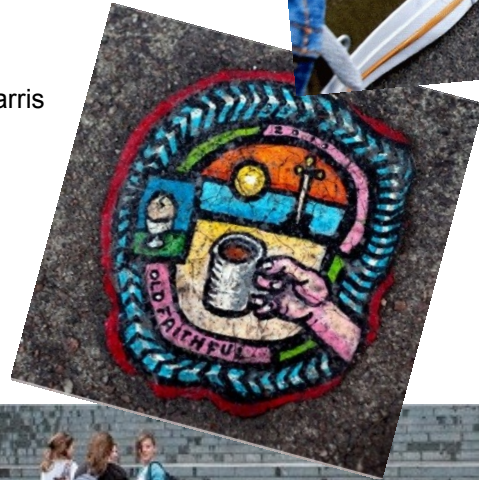
Regular (Fri. dinner through Sat. afternoon): \$60

Saturday only (includes lunch): \$50

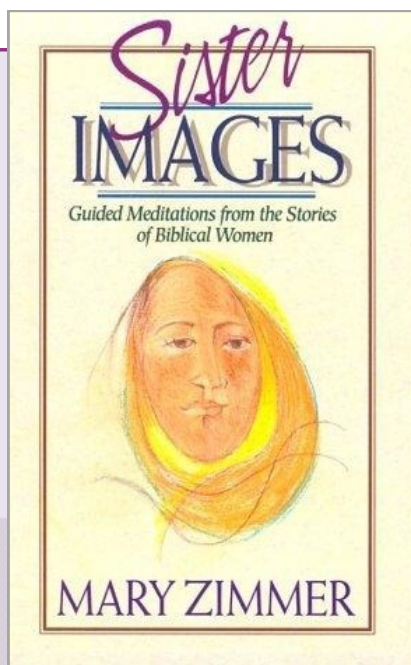
\$15 discount for first time attendees

Youth: \$30 full retreat; \$25 Saturday only

For info and registration forms contact the church office.



UK artist Ben Wilson gets stares as he transforms trash to treasure by painting artwork on discarded gum on streets and sidewalks



Growing in Faith

SUNDAY STUDIES RESUME OCTOBER 2ND AT 9:45 AM

Want to learn more about women in the Bible and how their stories connect with our lives today? Join one of our two Sunday morning adult faith formation classes starting October 2nd at 9:45 am. Using the book *Sister Images* by Mary Zimmer, participants will be introduced to familiar and not so familiar stories of women in Scripture. It's not enough simply to hear the stories, we'll find points of connection between these ancient women and modern day women of faith. Each lesson includes time for a guided imagery meditation, allowing participants to reflect individually on how God may speak through these old stories to their own situations. Order a book at our website Amazon.com page or contact the church office.

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

Mystery Dinner Returns!

POTLUCK DINNER, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH AT 6:30 PM
CONTACT JAYNE ISCH OR KARRIE CHEEK FOR INFORMATION

Called Evil-Eyed Emil, when he looked at folks with his infamous right eye, bad things invariably happened. Townsfolk covered their faces as he neared, not daring to look into his eye.

On Halloween 100 years ago, as he was driven out of Reaper Junction, Emil vowed to get revenge on the mob and its progeny. The curse was all but forgotten by today's generation who laughed at such nonsense. But, last night, a local staggered into the town square and announced that Evil-Eyed Emil had been sighted in the woods, and true to his century-old proclamation, someone had been the victim of his anger.



2010's Mystery Dinner featured a golf tourney gone bad!

JOIN THE FUN AS WE GATHER FOR A POTLUCK AND TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE DEATH IN REAPER JUNCTION IN "EVIL NEVER DIES!" BRING A DISH TO SHARE—SEE YOU THERE!



All Saints Sunday ♦ October 30th

On Sunday, October 30th we will remember saints who died in the past year.
Contact the church office if you'd like someone included in the service
or write a name below and return this form by October 27th.

Name _____

Name _____