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• ISSUE 10 • VOLUME 15 • DECEMBER 2008

# First Christian *Chimes*

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

## Living Out Our Abundance—Giving from the Heart

FCC Puyallup has always shown extreme generosity during the Christmas holiday season. Here are a couple of ways to show gratitude for the abundance we've received this year:

### FREEZING NIGHTS:

During winter months we share our building and our many resources with those in need of shelter and a meal. You can support Freezing Nights in the following ways:

- Giving your time on nights we host guests
- Baking or cooking snacks and meals
- Preparing breakfasts or lunches
- Greeting guests as they arrive
- Setting up or cleaning up

#### Donating supplies:

- Case of Top Ramen or Cup o' Soup
- Coffee products (creamer, sugar)
- Box of hot chocolate packets
- Case of 16 oz. bottled water
- 9 oz. paper cold drink cups
- 9 oz. paper hot drink cups
- Face soap (travel size)
- Washcloths (new)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Toothbrushes



There are many ways for you to help. Please contact Bonnie Goddard or Terry Forslund to see how you can fit in to this caring and sheltering opportunity.

### GIVING TREE:

For years FCC has shown extreme generosity by giving gifts to families in need. This year's families' wishes are:

#### Family A - Two parents and 4 children

- Payton - 12 yrs. - Jeans size Jr.; Bratz dolls & accessories; Jewelry; Books (mysteries)
- Taylor - 9 yrs. - Chapter books; Shoes size 2-2½; Hannah Montana toys; Bratz dolls & accessories
- Ethan - 4 yrs. - Books; Shoes size 10; Clothes 4T; Anything Lightning McQueen from the Cars movie
- Jonathon - 6 mos. - Clothes size 9 mos.; Infant toys; Diapers size 3

#### Family B - Mom and two children

- Anthony - 4 yrs. - Clothes size 5T; Art supplies; Toys; Cars, building blocks, Duplos
- Mckenzie - 18 mos. - Clothes size 24 mos.; Books; Doll

#### Family C - Mom and three children

- 'Boy A' - Clothes size 8-10; Shoes size 3-4
- 'Girl B' - Clothes size 9/10 Juniors; Shoes size 10
- 'Boy C' - Clothes size S men's shirts; Shoes size 10½

*You may give unlisted gifts. Gift cards are also accepted. We are also collecting food for all of the families.*  
**DEADLINE FOR GIFT DROP OFF IS DEC. 18th.**

# Advent Conspiracy

CHRISTIANS RETHINKING CHRISTMAS



On the first Sunday of Advent Pastor Nancy spoke of a Christian movement called Advent Conspiracy. Several individuals asked for more information on the project and its goals.

Consider this statistic: Americans spend an average of \$450 billion a year each Christmas. That's more than \$900 per family. Is that what Christmas is all about?

In 2006 a few pastors decided to encourage their faith communities to make a change. They promoted a four-part approach to the holidays:

**WORSHIP FULLY** From beginning to end, enter into Advent and Christmas with the intention of celebrating Jesus.

**SPEND LESS** This is not a bah-humbug to Christmas, but an invitation. This year, buy one less gift. Give the gifts you want to give, but make one gift yourself. Or give the gift of your time to a friend or loved one.

**GIVE MORE** Not spend more, but give more. Write a letter, take the grandkids sledding, bake cookies, sing Christmas carols with friends or family. Make the love of the season visible through relational giving.

**LOVE ALL** Take the money you would have spent on an additional present, and give it away. Buy a goat for a family in need through Heifer International. Give money to the Puyallup Food Bank. Support disaster relief through a gift to Week of Compassion.

This year... **GIVE PRESENCE**

## Congregational Book Club December Reading

**JIM & CASPER GO TO CHURCH: FRANK CONVERSATION ABOUT FAITH, CHURCHES, AND WELL-MEANING CHRISTIANS**

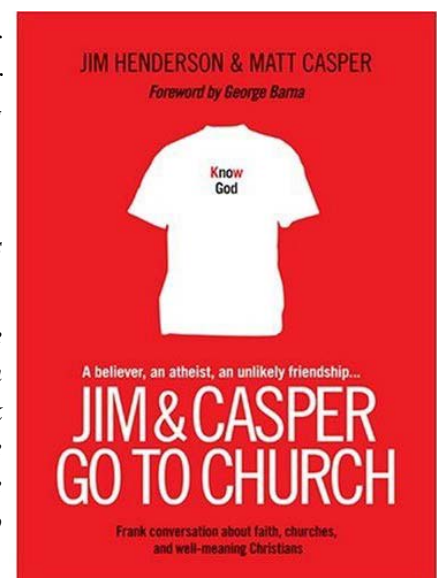
The Book Club met with great enthusiasm to discuss Connie Robey's November pick *Three Cups of Tea*. In December the Book Club chose to read *Jim and Casper Go to Church: Frank Conversation about Faith, Churches, and Well-Meaning Christians* by Jim Henderson and Matt Casper.

**"IS THIS WHAT JESUS TOLD YOU GUYS TO DO?"**

*"Light shows, fog machines, worship bands, and offering plates—is this what Jesus intended? Atheist Matt Casper wants to know.*

*In 2006, [Seattle resident] Jim Henderson, veteran Christian and director of Off The Map, hired Casper to join him in visiting twelve of America's best- and least-known churches, including Rick Warren's Saddleback and Joel Osteen's Lakewood. Week after week, this spiritual odd couple attended services at churches all over the country and documented their experiences at and reactions to each one. Along the way, they found the real value of their journey in the open and authentic friendship that developed as they talked, questioned, joked, and—most importantly—listened.*

*Follow along with Jim and Casper on their visits, and eavesdrop as they discuss what they found. Jim and Casper's articulate, sometimes humorous, and always insightful dialogue offers Christians a new view of an environment in which we've become overly comfortable: the church. And it models an important transition from "defending the faith" to "defending the space"—relational space for authentic, respectful dialogue and friendship with nonbelievers."*



~Back cover of *Jim & Casper Go to Church*

# december birthdays

3..... Joyce Riffe  
 5..... Danae Rouse  
 5..... Gail Ackerman  
 5..... Harold Phillips  
 6..... Nancy Gowler Johnson  
 6..... Stephanie Stanhope  
 6..... Sandra Stroud  
 8..... Bonnie Goddard  
 10..... Tasha Parker  
 10..... Rachel Schmidt  
 11..... Jamie Sappington  
 11..... Jennifer Sappington  
 15..... Ercie Borrowman  
 17..... Wolfram Patton

19..... Del Stack  
 20..... Emma Forslund  
 22..... Sara Pasola  
 22..... Terri Maas  
 26..... Sherman Squires  
 27..... Mike Kereluck  
 27..... Ben Smith  
 28..... Betty O'Brien  
 29..... Corky Peterson  
 31..... Ginny Docker

## & anniversaries

12..... Bonnie & Ron Goddard  
 20..... Vicki & Ray Smith

The great church reformer Martin Luther encouraged all Christians to remember their baptism and be thankful. He wrote,

*If, then, the holy sacrament of baptism is a matter so great, gracious, and full of comfort, we should diligently see to it that we ceaselessly, joyfully, and from the heart thank, praise, and honor God for it... The whole world was, and still is, full of baptism and the grace of God.*  
 (Luther, *The Holy and Blessed Sacrament of Baptism*)

Our baptism marks a new stage in our spiritual journey, joining us with the communion of saints stretching throughout history. Baptism invites us to explore more deeply our lifelong walk with Christ. It reminds us that we belong to God.

In 2009 we are making a new beginning by encouraging everyone to celebrate their baptism. In our worship and prayers we hope to honor our baptismal birthdays as a church family, and we will share our stories of baptism.

Please take a moment and give us the date of your baptism and of those in your household. You may use the form below or call the church office with the information. Not sure of the date? Check your family bible or other records.

If you would like to learn more about baptism, please contact your elder or Pastor Nancy.



### Baptismal Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Date

- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.
- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.
- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.
- Yes, I would like to share the story of my baptism and/or what my baptism means to me in Worship.

*Return Service Requested*

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(253) 845-6232

## life of the church in december

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 .....	Thursdays - 10 am
Freezing Nights (if <37°).....	Fridays - 7 pm
Adult Study.....	Saturdays - 8 am
7 .....	Congregational Meeting - after Worship
20 .....	Lunch with a Friend at our church - 10 am
23 .....	Diaconate Meeting - 7 pm
24 ...	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4:30 pm
25 .....	Christmas Day



## Celebrate the Birth

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE—WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:30 PM**

Family, friends, scripture, song—these are the things that Christmas is made of. Join us on Christmas Eve as we hear anew the powerful story of a child who came to change the world. Through story and song we will spend the hour worshipping God and giving thanks for the coming of Christ on Earth.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus and his life spent demonstrating love for all, we will partake of Holy Communion together, sing hymns and carols, give thanks and praise, share the word of God, and collect a special offering for the Puyallup Animal Rescue.

Invite a friend or bring your family—all are welcome at this family-friendly candlelight service.

