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*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

## happy is good! SEPTEMBER 7 - 23

The Puyallup Fair is back so put on a happy face! Our church will once again take on the mighty task of greeting the public and parking hundreds of cars each day during the 17 day stretch of the Fair. Have you signed up for you favorite shift and position?

**This year there are FIVE shifts to choose from:**  
 8-11:30 am; 11:30 am-3 pm; 3-5 pm; 5-7 pm; 7-9 pm

**Positions to be filled (per shift) remain the same:**  
 Cashier (1); Flagger (1); Parker (2-4; depending on attendance)

Your help is crucial to the success of this endeavor - sign up now! Bring a friend! (Under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.) If the shifts still don't work for you - we're easy! - try sharing a split shift.

**Then join us Friday, Sept. 28 at 6 pm for An After-Fair Affair.** Bring your own supper; dessert's on us. We'll invite our church's neighbors to celebrate along with us another great year of parking (and surviving the Fair)!

## jumpstart your spiritual development

Join us starting Wed., Sept. 26th for a number of opportunities for study as the school year begins.

Small group studies for all ages and backgrounds will be offered. All are invited as we continue our spiritual journeys together. Keep on learning! No experience necessary - Drop-ins welcome.

Wednesday: Back Row Broads - 10:00 am  
 Saturday: Adults - 8:00 am  
 Sunday: Adults - 9:30 am  
 Study: *God Was Here & I was Out to Lunch*  
 Adults - 9:45 am  
 Study: *The Power of a Focused Heart*  
 Faith Trek 1 (Grades K-5) - 9:45 am  
 Faith Trek 2 (Grades 6-12) - 9:45 am

## birthdays

3.....Marge Sperring  
 6.....Eva Crabtree  
 9.....Leslie Dickson  
 10.....Jackson Rice  
 16.....Robert Dickson  
 18.....David Patterson  
 24.....Kyle Markum

## anniversaries

15.....Mary & Karl Raup  
 17.....Wilma & Merrill Barker  
 18.....Jeanne & Bob Crabb  
 19.....Karen & Jesse Stumpf

## life of the church

Sept./Oct. Mission..... Barnyard of Animals  
 7-23.....Fair Parking  
**9.....Pastor Nancy's back in the pulpit**  
 15.....Lunch with a Friend - 10 am  
 28.....An After-Fair Affair - 6 pm  
**30.....Sunday School resumes - 9:30 am**  
**30.....Fall Worship Schedule - 11 am**  
 30.....Blessing of the Animals - 3 pm



▶ **Week in Mission:**  
~~IM~~POSSIBLE; report on our week of outreach .....3



▶ 11 am Worship schedule resumes September 30<sup>th</sup> ..... 4



▶ Church school for all ages starts on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am .....4

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# First Christian Chimes

A WELCOMING, COMPASSIONATE, SPIRIT-LED PEOPLE OF FAITH SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

## a summer to remember CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

Three months ago FCC Puyallup faced with anticipation and some trepidation a wonderful opportunity for the personal and spiritual growth of our pastor as she embarked on a sabbatical journey. We met the mystery man who would fill in for her. We wished Pastor Nancy safe and fruitful travels and welcomed Pastor Rod warmly, but was there really a one of us who did not wonder just a bit what the summer held in store for FCC Puyallup? Some of us may have even inwardly wondered, "What's in it for us?"

Looking back on this summer of sabbatical, it is very clear what was in it for us. Opportunities presented themselves over and over for us to take leaps of faith and test our many gifts. Not only did we face each challenge with a can-do attitude, we did some good work and accomplished several really important things, and had some fun too, as we learned to stretch our wings.

The mysterious stranger quickly became one of us, and Pastor Rod and Janice fit into the FCC Puyallup community like old friends.

Time and time again Pastor Rod displayed his genuine compassion for others and his caring for God's church through his active support of our congregation. We are so grateful for his shepherding to us in so many ways.

This month the tables are turned as we welcome back Pastor Nancy to the pulpit (*September 9*) and send off Pastor Rod with Godspeed. Our prayer is that *he'll* know what he has meant to us and that *she'll* return to us with renewed spirit and energy for our journey, but also that *we'll* not lose the sense of proficiency and momentum we've found, because *that's* what was in it for us. Wow, what a summer!



*Pastor Nancy did not take lightly her gift of sabbatical time, described in the Bible as a time for renewal and learning. Here Nancy takes advantage of the view from her apartment in Greece.*

*Pastor Rod didn't shirk any duties while filling in as interim pastor. Here Rod is leading a devotion at our PaTH Vision Retreat.*

# Share the Feast

## A report from the 2007 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Thousands gather biennially to attend the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 2007 Disciples from all over the globe descended upon Fort Worth, Tex. to worship together, learn about one another and the larger denomination, and vote on denominational policies for issues facing the church and the world today.

Based on Matthew's account of Jesus feeding 5000+, the assembly's theme *Share the Feast* claims God's abundant grace and providence in the face of apparent adversity.

Because of the distant location of the assembly and Pastor Nancy being on sabbatical, FCC Puyallup was fortunate to have a voting delegate this year. Long time member of the Disciple of Christ denomination and recent member by transfer to our congregation, Lynette Long agreed to make the journey on behalf of our congregation.

Lynette said, "My aunt, Donna Rhay of Seattle, invited me to attend the assembly with her. She was the very first vice moderator for Church Extension and knows so many of the church leaders! I did not know what the Assembly really was. This truly educated me and opened my eyes and lifted my spirit more! I have to say, 'Wow!' I was truly blessed to be invited and to meet so many special people and hear all that was spoken. I wish that all of you can attend an Assembly at least once in your lifetime.



Lynette Long and her aunt, Donna Rhay at the 2007 General Assembly

"It is with a heart full of appreciation that I thank you - Church - for paying for my registration."

Likewise, we are grateful to Lynette for representing us!

Lynette donated two CDs from the Assembly to our library. One features Cynthia Hale of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga. at the Church Extension dinner. Lynette says, "Everyone needs to listen to this."

The other is Stacy Spencer of New Direction Christian Church in Memphis, Tenn. and speaker at Sunday's worship. Lynette says, "Pure dynamic! She was all over the stage and in the audience." *Check them out!*

To learn more about the Assembly, ask Lynette, see her report in the foyer, and visit [www.disciples.org/ga/news](http://www.disciples.org/ga/news).

## parting is such sweet sorrow A FINAL WORD FROM PASTOR ROD

I never have liked goodbyes, but they are necessary and so the time has come for us to say thank you for your acceptance and hospitality during these past three months. You have made it very easy to be your interim while Pastor Nancy was on her sabbatical.

Janice and I have both found participating in your energizing and inspiring worship services to be helpful and hopeful for our own faith journey. I pray that you will continue to be creative and open to the Holy Spirit as you live out your discipleship in Puyallup and beyond.

I'm impressed by your desire to communicate within the congregation and your new Executive Team's desire to keep everyone informed. After forty years in ministry I'm

convinced we cannot do enough to communicate with our membership and community. Too often we depend on a single announcement in the newsletter or in Sunday worship and then we wonder why people don't respond. I believe the most effective communication is one that is as personal as possible and which always expects a response. Congratulations on the Week in Mission fighting hunger; this was one of the most effective and inclusive programs of education and outreach I've ever experienced.

Grateful for sharing these weeks with all of you, we shall carry many good memories away with us. We pray for your continued growth in every way.

Blessings, Rod

# WEEK IN MISSION: ~~IMPOSSIBLE~~

A Celtic tradition says heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in the thin places that distance is even smaller. *Thin places* are where only the thinnest of veils exists between oneself and God; places where the spiritual and natural worlds intersect and we experience a deep sense of God's presence in everyday life. They are places of presence, of wholeness, and of connectedness.

*A Week in Mission: Fighting Hunger* was just such a place. God was in our midst as each opportunity for worship, education and action against hunger unfolded through the weeklong outreach event.

As a church family we formed an even stronger community through robust participation. As neighbors we put into practice our stated desire to be more accessible and welcoming to those who live near us. As disciples we followed Jesus' example of providing for those in need.

A 60' labyrinth was meticulously mown into the grass for the week. Not only did church members walk it as an extension of their worship, but several friends, families and neighbors also made their way around the grassy path, stopping at five prayer stations focusing on hunger issues. "Deputized" neighbor kids kept a watchful guard over the goings on, and joined us to walk and pray.



Joyce, Carol & Thom experience the labyrinth



Ginny, Doris, Katheryn, Ercie & Mary Anne baking bread

## baa, moo, oink, bleat: september's mission

It's Fair time and we've got barnyard animals on our mind! What do you get when you give two pigs, two alpacas, two sheep, two cows, and two goats? The satisfaction of providing new hope and lasting impact for up to 10 families around the world!

These farm animals will bring smiles to the faces of parents who will be able to feed their children and increase their family incomes.

The next best thing to seeing a child milk, shear, or care for an animals is helping to make it happen through contributing to our September mission.

**Our outreach goal for September and October is to collect enough money to purchase shares of a farm through World Vision. Each share is \$100 - but all amounts are welcome!**

Some of the kids also joined us to paint our 77 papier mâché bowl creations. The bowls were used to serve bread at Lunch with a Friend (our regular meal for the hungry), communion to Board members and worshippers, lunch at the Empty Bowls Meal, and were passed in Worship for hunger prayers.



Home baked rolls & hand made bowls

Two prayer walks in town raised awareness of individuals and organizations serving those in need. Homemade breads, handpicked blue-berries-turned-desserts and home cooked stew became a meal at Lunch with a Friend where 11 FCC members ate with and got to know the guests.

Stories of our work and action moved more than one person outside of our church to contribute to our Empty Bowls fundraiser meal which raised \$592 for FISH Food Bank and Bread for the World, a nationwide Christian movement seeking justice for the world's hungry.