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First Christian *Chimes*

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

Nancy's Notes: a new year epiphany

BY PASTOR NANCY

In the recent film, *The Simpsons Movie*, Homer Simpson is saved by an Inuit shaman. She leads him in ritual chanting and dancing. "How long are we doing this?" Homer asks. "Until you have an epiphany," comes the reply. More chanting. "What's an epiphany?" Homer wonders. "Sudden realization of great truth," she answers. Under pressure, Homer tries hard. "Epiphany, epiphany, epiphany," he mutters, "Ooh! Bananas are an excellent source of potassium... Americans will never embrace soccer..."

Poor Homer. At times we may feel a kinship with his plight, as we try desperately to discover some deeper meaning. In our fast paced world it is difficult to take time to open ourselves up to the ways God is present.

Our worship allows us space to seek God. In the seasons of the church year, Epiphany is the time in which we reflect on God's revelation to us in Christ. January 6th, as the Twelfth Day of Christmas is the traditional day of Epiphany.

On Epiphany Sunday we remember the visit of the Magi, who having followed the star, come to worship the young child Jesus in Bethlehem. Familiar stories such as this invite us to seek God's direction in our lives, individually and communally. In what ways have we been following the leading of God in our lives over this past year? What is holding us back from seeking God? What gifts do we carry with us that God might use to change our world?

Join us in worship during the season of Epiphany.

FCC Creates Prayer Journal for Army Chaplain and Troops

LIVING OUT OUR VISION OF BEING A CONGREGATION THAT REFLECTS THE WELCOME OF GOD "IN OUR ACTS OF ACCEPTANCE, FORGIVENESS, GENEROSITY, JUSTICE AND PEACEMAKING."

With the words of our new guiding vision statement as inspiration, in January we will be creating a prayer journal for peace and hope to send to military personnel serving overseas. Individuals may write prayers, poems, favorite lines of Scripture, greetings or drawings that reflect prayers for peace and well-being for military servicemen and women.

The prayers will be collected into one prayer journal which will be sent to U.S. Army Major Steven George, a Disciples of Christ chaplain who will be serving with troops in Afghanistan. Major George grew up in Bremerton, WA, and most recently has been stationed at Fort Lewis. In early 2008 Major George will travel with his Fort Hood, Texas unit to serve in Afghanistan.

Materials for writing the prayers are available in the church narthex and office. For more information, please contact Pastor Nancy.

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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

Chapman University Concert Choir

The highly acclaimed 118-member Chapman University Choir will perform at Tacoma First Christian Church on **Sunday, January 6th at 7 pm**. The choir has performed in Europe, Asia and the U.S. Recent concert highlights include performing the Berlioz "Requiem" at the Sydney Opera House as well as the west coast premiere of Howard Shore's epic "The Lord of the Rings Symphony" with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. The choir has been featured on film soundtracks and can be seen in the movie *Sister Act II*. In May 2008 the choir will travel to Italy and as part of their tour will sing High Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Chapman is a Disciples of Christ-affiliated university in CA. Originally founded as Hesperian College in 1861, it offered educational opportunities for men and women of all races, and today has a student body of 5,700.

Outreach Opportunities Expand

In order to broaden the work we can accomplish, and at the same time more carefully examine the needs we feel called to address, our formerly one-a-month missions will now span three months.

Our first three-month mission will focus on hunger issues, and our goal is \$500, 500 food items, and 50 food-and-hunger-related volunteer hours. We'll partner with other groups and agencies to continue our fight against hunger.

Look and listen for more information as our January-February-March mission focus unfolds!

Our Outreach Committee is seeking your assistance. Do you have an idea for reaching out or want to be a part of the solution to a particular issue in our world? Drop a note in the box in the foyer or contact Katie Peterson or the church office.

life of the church

- Worship with usSundays - 11 am
- Studies for all agesSundays - 9:45 am
- Freezing Nights (if 37°) Friday nights
- 13..... Youth (5th-12th) - after Worship
- 15.....Elders Meeting - 7 pm
- 19..... Lunch with a Friend -10 am
- 20..... Potluck & Talent Show - 12:30 pm
- 26.....Journey of Discovery Cluster - 11 am
- 27Laity Sunday Worship Service
- 27 Youth (1st-4th) - after Worship

birthdays

- 2..... Joyce Wolff
- 6..... Shannon Dexter
- 8.....Laurie Stanhope
- 10.....Tony Ackerman
- 11..... Cary Stanhope
- 12..... Donna Larsen
- 16..... Herb Crabtree
- 18.....Dick Best
- 18..... Tina Blevins
- 18.....Curtis Yanasak

- 20RoseMarie Howard
- 28 June Armstrong
- 28 Anna Mae Blevins
- 31David Dimond

anniversaries

- 16 Nancy & Ed Durrant
- 19 Ben & Alana Duckett