



▶ *Generous People*  
Intentional giving—  
faithful living ..... 3



▶ *Epiphany Greetings*  
Welcoming the  
stranger ..... 1



▶ *Learning Community*  
Quenching a thirst  
for knowledge ..... 2, 4

• ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 17 • JANUARY 2010

# First Christian *Chimes*

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

## May Christ Bless this Dwelling

### BLESSING YOUR HOME AS A PLACE OF WELCOME

The twelfth night of Christmastide, January 6<sup>th</sup>, is known as Epiphany. Connected to the visitation of the Magi, Epiphany marks the revelation of Christ to the world. The Magi represent people of all nations seeking God. Central themes are light, baptism and the spread of the gospel throughout the earth. In some parts of the world, on or before the Epiphany, Christians celebrate with the tradition of Chalking the Door. Family and friends may join in blessing a home as a place of welcome.

Here is a sample Chalking the Door liturgy for home use, adapted from [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com).

*Persons may take turns reading the Leader's parts:*

**L:** Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

**L:** A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

**L:** Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

**All: Amen.**

Using chalk, inscribe the frame of the door with the inscription shown here:



The letters C M B come from the traditional (9<sup>th</sup> century) names for the "three kings," Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, meaning "May Christ bless this dwelling." The numbers stand for the year 2010. Each person takes a turn to make one or more of the marks: 20 + C + M + B + 10.

**L:** From Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places."

*People may join hands or extend hands outward and upward (orans) during prayer.*

**L:** Let us pray: Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray.

**All: Amen.**

**L:** Lord, remember your children and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...**

**L:** May the Lord watch over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

**All: Amen.**

# Book of the Month Club—Going Strong!

*THE PIANO SHOP ON THE LEFT BANK: DISCOVERING A FORGOTTEN PASSION IN A PARIS ATELIER*  
BY THAD CARHART—JANUARY'S PICK

"Thad Carhart, an American expatriate who has lived for many years in Paris, grew curious about a shop in his neighborhood called Desforges Pianos. In the first pages of *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*, the former executive for Apple Computer is drawn to this tiny establishment, which he senses is more than it appears to be.

He is right. The dark, modest storefront turns out to be little more than a narrow passageway to the glass-ceilinged atelier beyond, where pianos are refurbished before being sold. But Carhart is not allowed back there, at least not at first.



...Carhart weaves together the story of the daily comings and goings in the atelier with his own rediscovery, as a middle-aged man, of his love for the piano, which he had played as a boy. The tale he tells is a refreshingly quiet one, satisfying not only the aural but the visual senses."

--Katie Hafner, *Circuits*, *New York Times*

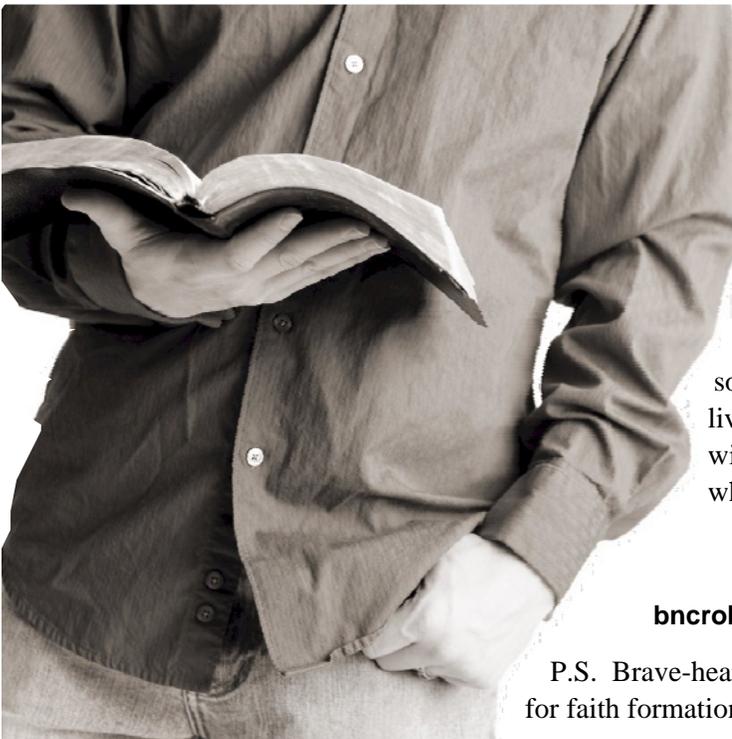
**Book Club conversations are held the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome!**

Discussion on December's read, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, will be held January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Karshner Museum (309 - 4th Street NE). The museum has a display on Camp Harmony, the Japanese-American internment camp which operated in the 1940s on the site that is now the Western Washington Fairgrounds.

## Sunday Morning Men's Study Offered

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**HEY MEN...** how about participating in a Sunday morning study designed just for the guys? **Starting at 9:30 am on January 10<sup>th</sup>**, Bill Robey will facilitate a ten-session study of Walter Wink's book *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium* that also incorporates the PBS video series *A Force More Powerful*.



In *The Powers That Be*, theologian and biblical scholar Walter Wink helps us look at many of our ancient religious concepts—such as God and Satan, angels and demons, principalities and powers—in light of what we now know. *A Force More Powerful* provides an intense look at five of the most significant historical events of the last century that directly relate to Wink's material.

This study is not for the faint of heart as participants will be asked to wrestle with their own worldviews as well as some of the cultural norms that have shaped their lives. There are no pre-set outcomes expected as together we will examine and discuss Wink's challenging theses and see what happens.

**To take part, sign up in the foyer no later than Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> or contact Bill Robey at [bncrobey@comcast.net](mailto:bncrobey@comcast.net) or 253-845-2739 for information.**

P.S. Brave-hearted women are welcome as well! See more opportunities for faith formation on page 4.

# Making Change

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GENEROSITY IN KIND

Usually when Jesus got to people's hearts they responded with acts of generosity. The results were in cash, a mite from one (a couple of dollars today), and half a sizeable fortune from the other. It seems that Jesus was convinced that a change of heart was clearly marked by a change in giving.

"Martin Luther said that three conversions were necessary: the head, the heart and the purse. The scriptures recognize this in the importance attached to idolatry. People are often surprised to find little uneasiness about atheism in the Bible, but a great deal of agitation over idolatry." [56 Devotions On Short Notice, Robert A. Wallace]



Pocket Full of Money  Nathan Jenne, nathan.floorsix.com

This is one of the primary reasons we need to talk about money in church and give money in church worship services. It protects us from the idolatry that keeps our heart locked out of connecting with God and living a life of meaning and purpose.

--Herb Miller, *Stewardship Nuggets*

## january birthdays

- 2 ..... Joyce Wolff
- 8 ..... Laurie Stanhope
- 10 ..... Tony Ackerman
- 11 ..... Cary Stanhope
- 12 ..... Donna Larsen
- 16 ..... Herb Crabtree
- 18 ..... Dick Best
- 18 ..... Tina Blevins
- 18 ..... Curtis Yanasak
- 20 ..... Rose Marie Howard
- 28 ..... June Armstrong
- 28 ..... Anna Mae Blevins
- 31 ..... David Dimond

## anniversaries

- 16 ..... Nancy & Ed Durrant

## baptism dates

- 1934 ..... Dorris Rickert
- 1950 ..... Joyce Wolff
- January 10, 1971 ..... Charles Raup
- January 20, 1946 ..... Eunice Squires (re-baptized)
- January 23, 1972 ..... Thom Crabb
- January 23, 1977 ..... John Schmidt

giving totals:

<b>November 22</b>	
General Fund	\$ 986.00
<b>November 29</b>	
General Fund	\$ 471.00
<b>December 6</b>	
General Fund	\$ 1623.00
<b>December 13</b>	
General Fund	\$ 1201.00
Giving Tree	\$ 20.00
<b>December 20</b>	
General Fund	\$ 1519.00

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Puyallup WA 98371  
Permit #28

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

# Learning... a Lifelong Process

**“WE ARE A VIBRANT LEARNING COMMUNITY”**

In 2009, as part of our PaTH transformation process, three design teams formed ideals and hopes of the congregation into action plans, and a writing team then shaped those action plans into a comprehensive Ministry Plan. Currently in the review and feedback stage, the draft Plan dreams for our congregation’s future that “all individuals are proactively engaged in a lifelong process of learning and growing as followers of Christ” and “we are a vibrant learning community.” Learning is important to this congregation—find a group that fits you! Drop-ins are always welcome!

*Listen for news about special studies which take place throughout the year—there’s something for everyone!*

## Sundays

New—Men’s Book Study (Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>) ..... 9:30 am  
Adult Book Study..... 9:45 am  
Adult Bible Study ..... 9:45 am  
Kids: FaithTrek (K-12) ..... 9:45 am

## Wednesdays

Women’s Book Study..... 10 am

## Thursdays

Adult Bible study ..... 10 am

## Saturdays

Adult Lectionary Study ..... 8 am

# life of the church in january

**New Men’s Study** ..... starts Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 am  
**Studies for all ages** ..... Sundays - 9:45 am  
**Service of Worship** ..... Sundays - 11 am  
**Women’s Study (BRB)** ..... Wednesdays - 10 am  
**SO & SEW Study & Ministry**..... Thursdays - 10 am  
**Freezing Nights** ..... Fridays - 7 pm  
**Adult Lectionary Study** ..... Saturdays - 8 am

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**2010**

1	..... New Year’s Day
5	..... Book Club - Karshner Museum - 7 pm
14	..... Elders Meeting - Pastor Nancy’s - 6 pm
16	..... Lunch with a Friend - Peace Lutheran - 10 am
31	.... Guest preacher Regional Minister Sandy Messick