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First Christian *Chimes*

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

Still on the PaTH and finding our way

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY (PATH) PHASE V CLUSTER MEETING—FEBRUARY 21ST AT 10 AM

Practicing and Teaching Hope. It's what the acronym PaTH stands for. PaTH, our congregation's transformation process, is part of a process called Journey of Discovery in which ten other northwest region Disciples churches (along with Presbyterian churches from four presbyteries in Wash. and Montana) are also taking part.

For more than three years we've been on this course, and at each turn, our experience has lived up to those names. It's been a time of learning, putting vision into practice, listening and discerning, journeying and discovering. In a word... *transforming*. Some days the path seems rugged and slow moving. Other times the journey is exhilarating and fast paced. However you look at it, there's no doubt we're making progress as our mindsets and outlooks grow and expand.

The purpose of a transformation process is not merely to *change*, but to *transform*. It's been said, "things are going to change anyway, but this way we have control over the outcome of some of those changes." It makes sense that listening to God's voice in the midst of such uncertain times and taking hold

of and acting on God's whispers will continue to strengthen our congregation and steel our mission to be God's instrument and a vital force in the world.

We're rounding the bend of Phase IV, "Designing Congregational Life and Witness," and looking forward to Phase V, the final stage, "Living into a Missional Future." By nature of Phase V's title it is clear that

'living into' is an *ongoing and faithful action in which each person is a partner* in the dynamic life of the church. As we engage in ministry together, we give support and we receive even more than we give. In these moments we catch a glimpse of the church for today that God is calling us to be.



Come learn about PaTH and the future ministries of our congregation as we meet with other churches on the journey.

An overview of Phase V will be given at our site Saturday, Feb. 21st at 10 am. All are welcome at this insightful gathering on PaTH's final phase. Please RSVP to the church office or a PaTH team member; lunch provisions will be made according to expected attendance.

Congratulations are in order!

DISCIPLES GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT GIVES SERMON AT NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE

In early January, Reverend Sharon E. Watkins, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was asked by then President-elect Barack Obama to deliver the sermon at the National Prayer Service held at the Washington National Cathedral on the morning after his inauguration.



On January 21st, Rev. Watkins spoke to a gathering of 3,200 invitees that included President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden, former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Watkins was the first woman ever selected to give the historic address, a tradition dating back to President George Washington's inauguration in 1789. She was chosen to deliver the sermon by Obama, the nation's first African-American president.

Reverend Watkins' sermon, *Harmonies of Liberty*, touched on several themes relating to both our country's civic and religious life. Her sermon was drawn in part from Isaiah 58:6-12, where God declares to God's people that appropriate worship is through practicing justice. Watkins also quoted from Matthew 22:36-40, where Jesus gives the greatest commandments of all: to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and to love your neighbor as yourself.

She told Obama that the work of leading the nation "will tend to draw you away from your ethical center... In the days immediately before us, there will be much to draw us away from the grand work of loving God and the hard work of loving neighbor... We need you, Mr. President, to hold your ground. We need you, leaders of this nation, to stay centered on the values that have guided us in the past; values that empowered us to move through the perils of earlier times and can guide us now into a future of renewed promise."

In another portion of her sermon, Watkins also related a story attributed to Cherokee wisdom about the two wolves that struggle inside each one of us. "One wolf is vengefulness, anger, resentment, self-pity, fear..." she preached. "The other wolf is compassion, faithfulness, hope, truth, love." Looking directly at President Obama, who sat in the front pew, Watkins said, "We need you to feed the good wolf within you, to listen to the better angels of your nature, and by your example encourage us to do the same."

“ Even now
in these hard
times let us
*Lift every voice
and sing
Till earth and
heaven ring,
...with the
harmonies of
Liberty* ”

Among the presiding worship leaders were rabbis in yarmulkes, Catholic bishops in vestments, Protestant pastors in suits, and female Hindu and Muslim leaders in colorful garb—20 prominent religious leaders in all.

Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Decatur, Ga., read scripture at the service.

To read a transcript of the sermon or to see a video of the National Prayer Service, go to www.disciples.org.

~Portions adapted from washingtonpost.com & disciples.org



The Obamas react as Reverend Watkins began, "Mr. President.' Has kind of a nice ring to it, doesn't it? And what about this one: 'Madame First Lady?'"

Mission Week in White Swan

VOLUNTEER AT THE YAKAMA MISSION CENTER—FEBRUARY 19-25



Disciples Home Mission in cooperation with the Northwest Region of the Christian Church is sponsoring workdays at Yakama Christian Mission from Feb. 19-25. We will work with as few or as many volunteers for those days possible. Please pass this along and get registered ASAP!

It is with great joy that the NWRCC will be underwriting the costs of materials. Come for a day or the entire week! Scope of work to be completed:

- Friendship House: building porch overhangs, installing Hardie siding;
- Parsonage: tear off roof, remove/replace attic insulation, put on new roof;
- JustLiving House: paint, sheet vinyl, carpet, driveway, sidewalk, landscape.

Volunteers will be fed and housed. Donations to offset costs of food and building materials are appreciated. Submit donations to Disciples Volunteering or the NW Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

For info, contact Carl Zerweck 317-289-5061 ~ czerweck@dhm.disciples.org or Brenda Tyler 888-346-2631 ~ bt Tyler@dhm.disciples.org, or visit disciplesnw.org/2009YakamaMissionVolunteerWeekInfoReg.pdf

January Giving

January 4	
General Fund	\$ 1,008.00
Pentecost	\$ 3.00
\$ 1,011.00	
January 11	
General Fund	\$ 1,492.60
Pentecost	\$ 3.00
\$ 1,495.60	
January 18	
General Fund	\$ 1,291.00
Reconciliation	\$ 69.00
Pentecost	\$ 20.00
Christmas	\$ 3.00
Yakama	\$ 20.00
\$ 1,403.00	
January 25	
General Fund	\$ 1,293.25
Reconciliation	\$ 25.00
Christmas	\$ 3.00
\$ 1,321.25	



Employment opportunity

Part-time Custodian position now open.

Average 10 hours per week.

Must be able to lift 40 lbs.

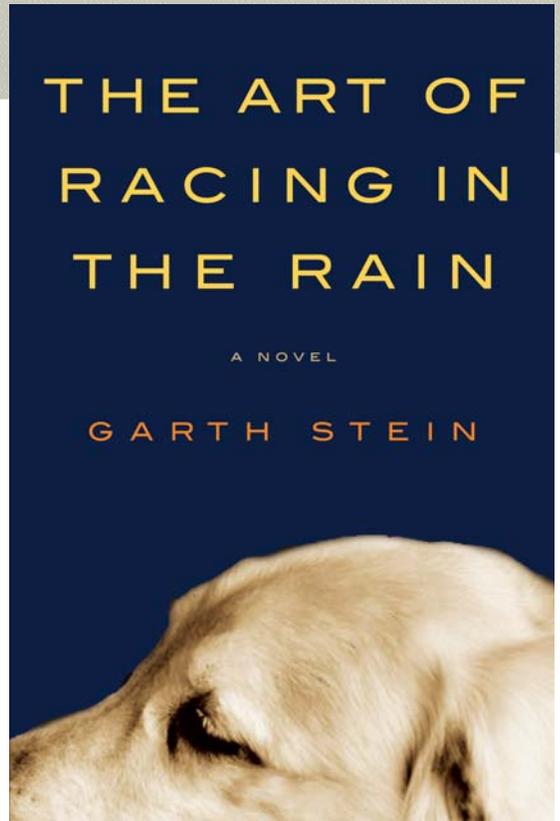
Knowledge of custodial equipment & supplies a plus.

To see the full job description and responsibilities:

- see the bulletin board outside the church office,
- visit www.fccpuyallup.com/custodian.pdf, or
- request a copy: e-mail webmaster@fccpuyallup.com, or in person in the church office.

Book Club Pick for February

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN BY GARTH STEIN



“If you've ever wondered what your dog is thinking, Stein's third novel offers an answer. Enzo is a lab terrier mix plucked from a farm outside Seattle to ride shotgun with race car driver Denny Swift as he pursues success on the track and off. Denny meets and marries Eve, has a daughter, Zoë, and risks his savings and his life to make it on the professional racing circuit. Enzo, frustrated by his inability to speak and his lack of opposable thumbs, watches Denny's old racing videos, coins koanlike aphorisms that apply to both driving and life, and hopes for the day when his life as a dog will be over and he can be reborn a man. When Denny hits an extended rough patch, Enzo remains his most steadfast if silent supporter.”

~*Publishers Weekly*

“Enzo ultimately teaches Denny and the reader that persistence and joie de vivre will see them through to the checkered flag. Stein... creates a patient, wise, and doggish narrator that is more than just fluff and collar.”

~*Library Journal*

Join book clubbers the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm for conversations over a new book. For locations and more information, visit the Book Club page at www.fccpuyallup.com.



shrove tuesday pancake supper

february 24th - 6 pm

Shrove Tuesday has its roots in the British Isles as a variation of the Mardi Gras celebrations. In church tradition Shrove Tuesday was a time to use up those items in the pantry that were off limits because of fasting during the season of Lent. Richer foods that contained fat, as well as butter and eggs, were excluded from meals during Lent. Rather than let perishable items go to waste, people came together to enjoy the festivities.

In England pancake races are an annual tradition. Contestants, who all must wear an apron and scarf, run the race while flipping a pancake in a frying pan.

Here in Puyallup, pancakes will be on the table on Tuesday, February 24th from 6-8 pm. Our pancake dinner includes a variety of pancakes: sourdough, buttermilk, and blueberry. Come, enjoy the fun of Shrove Tuesday!

Ash Wednesday service

ASHES OF TRUTH

Ash Wednesday is a time when we are invited to stay with the betrayals of our hopes for ourselves—the moments when we failed to hold to our commitment to the Christ who walks ahead of us on the way. We contrast the moments when we cheered on the godliness in the world as on Palm Sunday and the times when we failed to do that. We see and touch the ashes of those hopes as we acknowledge and grieve our profound humanness.

~Seasons of the Spirit Congregational Life

Our Ash Wednesday service, *Ashes of Truth* will take place on Wednesday, February 25th at 6 pm. Join us for this service which will include disposition of ashes.



Lenten opportunities

STRONG AT THE BROKEN PLACES

Henri Nouwen in this book, *The Wounded Healer*, offers insights on a life well spent even in light of brokenness. From Ernest Hemingway's 1929 novel, *A Farewell to Arms* came the phrase “The world breaks every one and afterward many are strong at the broken places.”

What if our life purpose was to recognize the brokenness and oppression of our time, in our own heart, and make that heart-felt recognition the starting point of our work and ministry? Realistically, our work will not be perceived as authentic unless it comes from a heart wounded by the brokenness and oppression about which we speak. Therefore, we will have to make our own wounds available as a source of healing. For one person needs another to live. Therefore the deeper we are willing to enter into the painful condition which we and others know, the more likely it is that we can be leaders, leading people out of the desert into the promised land.



Our annual Lenten discipline will take on a new look this year. Rather than reading a book or following a series we'll explore the art of worship through the healing and life-giving act of creating.

Join us at 6:30 pm Thursdays through Lent (this year Lent runs from Wednesday, February 25th through Saturday, April 11th).

Look and listen for more information soon for these and other Lenten opportunities.

Adapted from newpathcenter.blogspot.com

Week of Compassion: Where is your treasure?

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF SERVANTHOOD—SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

This year, in addition to our Week of Compassion offering we will have a special day of activities for everyone who wants to help serve our community and our world. Just *some* of the opportunities that will be available are cooking or baking, yard work, nursing home visits, sewing, letter writing and more! We will collect nonperishable foods to replenish our Blessing Box and for F.I.S.H. Food Bank. We also hope to have the Bloodmobile on site again to take blood donations.

To find out how you can help with our Week of Compassion activities please contact Outreach Chair Katie Peterson. For more information on Week of Compassion visit www.weekofcompassion.com.



We're going on a treasure hunt! We won't be digging holes around the church searching for buried gold, though. Instead, we're searching for God's treasure.

Scripture provides the map. For God, we are treasure: "You are children of the Lord your God. It is you the Lord has chosen... to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). Although those words were spoken long ago to people in another part of the world, Galatians 3:26 assures us we are included, too: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight" goes the children's song, voicing the truth that God treasures all people, the world over.

One of the gifts of being God's children is that sometimes we are called to be "treasure tenders" for God. We tend God's treasure in our congregation with the love and care

we show each other through special meals, visiting the sick and shut-in, teaching Christian discipleship, and praying for each other. We are also invited to tend God's treasures beyond our congregation by participating in Week of Compassion.

Week of Compassion is the relief and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and serves as a faithful and effective way for Disciples congregations, members and friends to channel their resources and concerns to the humanitarian needs of suffering people.

Life can be tough. Hurricanes, earthquakes, cyclones, and tsunamis smash communities to bits. Wars and ethnic conflicts shatter the very foundations of life, shoving people out of their homes and transforming them into frightened refugees. Hunger, drought, poverty, lack of education, and ill health shrivel the life and dry the spirit, leaving individuals to crumble from the inside out.

Through Week of Compassion, we gently, persistently, and strongly care for God's treasures. By sharing some of our earthly treasure—our money, our time, our energy—decisive aid can be sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives.

We help people help themselves through education, health care, tools, seeds, and resources to improve community infrastructure. And the sharing is mutual. When we care for people, we can be transformed by experiencing the presence of God. Seeing what others have lost, we are reminded what matters most in life.

Seeing what others live through, we are inspired to live courageously. Seeing new life is possible, our hope rises. Working with others, we realize God reaches out to all of us. Relying on God for the outcome, our faith increases.

First Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up... the treasure of a good foundation for the future." Our treasure is doing God's will, loving God, and loving God's treasured people, so we all "may take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19b).

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). May you find your treasure, and your heart, by sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to Week of Compassion.

life of the church

- 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 (Lunch Bunch) Thursdays - 10 am
- Freezing Nights (if <37°)..... Fridays - 7 pm
- Adult Bible Study Saturdays - 8 am

- 1 Souper Bowl of Caring
- 3 Book Club at Jeanne Crabb's - 7 pm
- 14 Valentines Day
- 15 PaTH Coordinating Team Mtg. after Worship
- 21 Presidents Day
- 19 - 25 Yakama Mission Volunteer Week
- 21 Journey of Discovery (PaTH)
Cluster Training Meeting - 10 am
- 22 Week of Compassion Servant Sunday
- 24 Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner - 6 pm
- 25 Ash Wednesday service - 6 pm
- 25 Lent through April 11
- 25 Lenten Art: Strong at the Broken Places - 6:30 pm
- 28 Lunch with a Friend - Peace Lutheran - 10 am

february birthdays

- 1 Katheryn Kusick
- 3 Vicki Smith
- 3 Ron Cook
- 7 Mary Raup
- 12 Jarad Scott
- 13 Becky Schilling
- 14 Luetta Patton
- 15 Jesse Stumpf
- 25 Elnore Hall
- 25 Kim Clark
- 27 Mitzie Turner
- 28 Don Turner

& anniversaries

- 6 Willette & Ed Wonsler
- 25 Terrie & Ken Maas
- 26 Lisa & Corky Peterson
- 28 Markay & Ward Archer

WORSHIP SERVICE CDs NOW AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Contact a member of the sound ministry team
or the church office to request a CD of our
worship or special services.

The cost to cover materials is \$1 per CD.



january birthdays

(CORRECTED—
WITH APOLOGIES)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Joyce Wolff | 16 Herb Crabtree | 20 Rosemarie Howard |
| 8 Laurie Stanhope | 18 Dick Best | 28 June Armstrong |
| 11 Cary Stanhope | 18 Tina Blevins | 28 Anna Mae Blevins |
| 12 Donna Larson | 18 Curtis Yanasak | 31 David Dimond |

Return Service Requested

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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

Special Gift

Noticed that even through wicked winter weather our grounds still look particularly inviting lately? In December our two dogwood and one maple trees were again professionally pruned by Pete's Spray & Pruning Service, and once again, Pete went above and beyond by donating his services.

Thanks to Bob Crabb for coordinating the pruning job with his longtime friend, and to Nancy and Pete Freeman for freshening the flower beds.

Pete's Spray Service has served Puyallup and surrounding areas for decades and can be reached at 922-9437.



hanks gain, ete!

WE'RE STILL COLLECTING BAPTISM DATES in order to honor and remember them in our worship services.

Please share yours with the church office so we can keep you in prayer on your special date.

If you'd like to tell the story of what your baptism meant, or has grown to mean to you, please contact Pastor Nancy or Worship Chair, Robin Crabb. To learn more about baptism, contact your elder or Pastor Nancy.

Baptismal Information

Name _____ Date _____

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

Name _____ Date _____

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

Name _____ Date _____

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