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• ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 17 • SEPTEMBER 2010

First Christian *Chimes*

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

All Church Retreat: On Spiritual Practices

CAMP KOINONIA CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER, OCTOBER 1-3

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in spirituality. Christians around the world are rediscovering the power of spiritual disciplines in their daily lives. As we integrate spiritual practices we discover a life shaped by God's grace—one that reflects more fully God's love for us, for others, and for all people.

During our Fall Church Retreat we will consider the topic of spirituality and explore some of the classic spiritual practices: what they are and how in our observance of them, we may deepen our faith.

October 1-3, join us at Camp Koinonia Christian Retreat Center in Cle Elum, Wash. for a weekend of spiritual discovery. The cost is \$30 per person for the entire weekend with discounts for families with children. If you are interested, sign up in the narthex. Registration forms will be available soon and money will be due September 15th! For questions please contact Ray or Vicki Smith, Joyce Wolff, Kelli Goatz or Katie Peterson.



A cabin at Camp Koinonia

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

While not an exhaustive list, the following are traditional Christian spiritual practices.

- Prayer
- Honoring the body
- Hospitality
- Household economics
- Saying yes and saying no
- Pilgrimage
- Keeping Sabbath
- Testimony
- Discernment
- Celebration
- Shaping communities
- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Foot washing
- Dying well
- Singing and making music

Can't wait for the retreat to find out more? Visit www.practicingourfaith.org for an explanation of spiritual practices.

Giving Totals

August 1

General Fund*\$1690.00

August 8

General Fund*\$1080.00

Eva Crabtree Memorial.....\$ 150.00

Adopt-a-Child for School\$ 45.00

August 15

General Fund*\$1628.00

Eva Crabtree Memorial.....\$ 75.00

August 22

General Fund*\$1135.00

Eva Crabtree Memorial.....\$ 25.00

Carol Wilson Memorial\$ 25.00

*To meet 2010's General Offering budgeted income, weekly General Fund giving must average \$1,346.15.

Generous Living

TOO MUCH? ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

"IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE SO MUCH STUFF, you wouldn't need a house. You could just walk around all the time. A house is just a pile of stuff with a cover on it, and when you leave your house, you've got to lock it up. You wouldn't want somebody to come by and take some of your stuff. That's what your house is—a place to keep your stuff while you go out and get more stuff. Sometimes you've got to move—got to get a bigger house. Why? No room for your stuff anymore."

--Comedian George Carlin

OVERCOMING DANGEROUS OPTIONS

Due to three new factors, our generation grapples with the temptation to become addicted to acquisitive materialism in ways unknown during earlier centuries.

1. Mass advertising
2. A far greater variety of purchasing options
3. Easy credit through credit cards

While not as physically destructive as heroin, acquisitive materialism addiction can do enormous damage to our sense of personal contentment and quality of life.

The antidote is still the same as in previous generations—taking seriously Jesus' warning: "Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15).

excerpted from --Herb Miller, *Stewardship Nuggets*



A portion of the backpacks and school supplies donated by FCC folks to kids through Helping Hand House.

Children's ministry a huge success!

OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY AT FCC

Asked if there was interest in participating in an adopt-a-child program providing school supplies to local kids through Helping Hand House, the First Christian Puyallup congregation responded with a resounding "Yes!" Crediting in large part the humbling generosity of FCC, Helping Hand House ran out of children in need of supplies! In very short order FCC provided school supplies for:

- 18 kids (homeless or in transition from homelessness) in partnership with Helping Hand House;
- 2 neighborhood children;
- 14 school kits for global children through Church World Service; and
- \$600 of supplies for kids in the United States through World Vision.

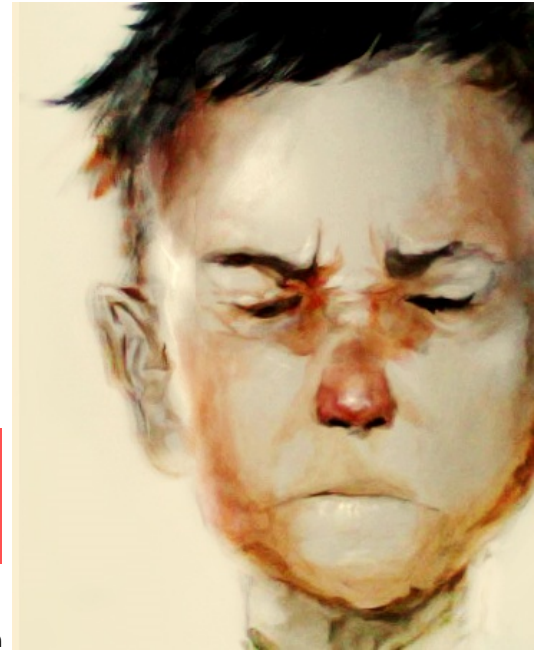
Many thanks to all those who contributed to the school year success of so many children!

Look Me in the Eye: My life with Asperger's

SEPTEMBER'S PICK TOUCHES ON ASPERGER'S SYNDROME IN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY JOHN ELDER ROBISON

“For best-selling author John Elder Robison, a diagnosis of Asperger’s Syndrome at the age of 40 was something of a revelation, explaining everything from the social isolation of his youth to his penchant for electronics. With this new insight into his life, Robison discovered that he could help others with the condition, an autism spectrum disorder. Writing his bestselling memoir *Look Me in the Eye* (with the sequel to come in April 2011) and speaking publicly about his own experiences has earned Robison international recognition and caught the attention of neurologist Alvaro Pascual-Leone, M.D., Ph.D.”

www.gratefulnation.org



Discussion on August’s book, *Different Seasons*, will be held Tuesday, September 7th at Sam’s Taqueria 506 N Meridian, meet at 6:30 pm for dinner or 7 pm for book discussion.

Look Me in the Eye, watercolor by Kirsten Lindsmith, © 2009, Used with permission

birthdays

- 3Marge Sperring
- 9 Leslie Dickson
- 10 Jackson Rice
- 16 Robert Dickson
- 18 Keeler Duckett
- 18 David Patterson
- 21 Ray Smith
- 24 Amy Hart
- 24 Kyle Markum
- 25 Michael Sperring

anniversaries

- 15 Mary & Karl Raup
- 18 Jeanne & Bob Crabb
- 19 Karen & Jesse Stumpf

baptism dates

- Sept. 13, 1964 Ken Forslund
- Sept. 20, 1959 Pat Todd

Hunger Walk

OCTOBER 3rd



The 30th annual Associated Ministries Hunger Walk is the largest walk for hunger in the Pacific Northwest and generates the most significant contribution to local food banks in Tacoma-Pierce County.

The Hunger Walk raises more than \$200,000 annually, which translates to \$2.4 million in food distributed to hungry children, families and seniors. All funds raised benefit hunger relief in our community and abroad.

This year’s Hunger Walk will be held Sunday, October 3 at Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood. Registration begins at 1 pm and the walk begins at 2 pm, followed by entertainment, food family fun until 5 pm. The walk is a fun, family event that does not include timing or placement awards.

Participants may choose from one of two walk/run routes:

- 5K (3.1 mile) path
- 10K (6.2 mile) path

Both routes begin and end in Fort Steilacoom Park, and are clearly marked along the course.

Commit to walk yourself or pledge your support to one of our FCC walkers. Help spread the word and support the vital work of food banks in our community and beyond. Contact Eracie Borrowman or the church office for more information. Registration and pledge forms can be found at www.associatedministries.org.

Northwest Disciples Women Gatherings

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH DISCIPLE WOMEN IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON

A hiatus of the Disciples Women's Ministry in the Northwest Region was announced at the 2010 Regional Assembly and DWM-NW graciously designated the majority of their funds to be used to support our Global Ministry Partnership as it develops. As a result, the annual DWM Fall Retreats are not being offered this year. However, there are options available for women seeking these connecting events in the Northwest.

On the eastside of Washington, the women of Opportunity Christian Church are planning a day long retreat on October 16 at Zephyr Conference Center on Liberty Lake. The theme will be: *Sing, Pray, Love: A closer walk through prayer and praise.* The \$25 registration fee covers lunch and materials. For more information, please contact: Opportunity Christian Church, (509) 926-3691.

The Oregon Region has invited all women to attend their Fall Women's Retreat: *Woven Together in Love*, featuring Sandhya Jha, pastor, Oakland First Christian Church. The retreat will be held at Murray Hills Christian Church in Beaverton, Ore., October 1-2. Information can be found at their website: www.oregondisciples.org.



Sandhya Jha

Oregon Fall Women's Retreat Workshops:

- Extended Conversation with Sandhya.
- Habitat Build in India with Susan Latham
- A Community Gardens Workshop with Susan Latham
- Book Group Discussion
- Book Discussion on Sandhya's book *Room at the Table*, an interracial story of Disciple's history.
- Weaving together—rugs, bracelets....

In addition you will experience wonderful worship;

New Friends and long time friends getting together in a pretty place with the changing colors of fall;

Sales of books and global handicrafts from 10,000 Villages;

Time for talking with friends in the free espresso bar and conversation area.

Yakama Christian Mission Week

SPONSORED BY DISCIPLES HOME MISSIONS—SEPTEMBER 4-11TH

Come for a day, or the entire eight days!

Scope of work to be completed:

Parsonage – tear off existing roof, clean out and replace attic insulation, put on new roof, gut the inside

Log Church – several repair projects, including log replacement and re-chinking

All volunteers for this project will be fed and housed at the Yakama Christian Mission. Cost: \$25 per person/per day or \$150 for entire project. (Registration fee covers the cost of food, insurance and project support.)



Making a Difference in the Lives of Pakistanis

WEEK OF COMPASSION SUPPORTS RELIEF EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

How much more can the people of Pakistan handle? I can practically hear them crying out, "How long, O Lord, how long?" The flooding in Pakistan has been absolutely devastating; beyond what anyone anticipated. The scope of the flooding, as illustrated by this online tool, is incredible, and the damage done by the rising waters will take years-if not decades-from which to recover. Our hearts ache for our sisters and brothers in Pakistan.

As always, Week of Compassion is there—thanks to you. Your gifts are already at work in Pakistan, channeled through our ecumenical partner organizations, Church World Service and the member agencies of the ACT Alliance, doing all we can to respond to this overwhelming disaster. And we will continue to work non-stop to provide aid to those in need.

We invite you to continue to help us make a difference in the lives of the people of Pakistan. Please partner with us to make a difference. 100% of your designated gift to Pakistan flood relief will be immediately directed to relief efforts there.

Pakistan faces a desperate situation. Your partnership, your faith, your **Courageous Compassion** go a long way in helping the healing begin. Thank you so much for your support!

—Amy Gopp, Week of Compassion



Rahim Gul walked for almost one day with his sick child on his back as he and his family moved down the mountains from their home.

Photo: Ghulam Rasool/CWS-ACT

Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference

SPONSORED BY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS COUNCIL OF PIERCE COUNTY—WED., SEPT. 22ND, 8-3 PM

Caregivers living and coping with Alzheimer's can spend a day learning from the experts.

The Pierce County Healthcare Providers Council, in conjunction with Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care, will present a free educational conference for families and caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

The event is Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 8 am to 3 pm at University Place Presbyterian Church, 8101 27th St. W. Please RSVP by calling 253-798-8787. A complimentary continental breakfast and boxed lunch will be included.

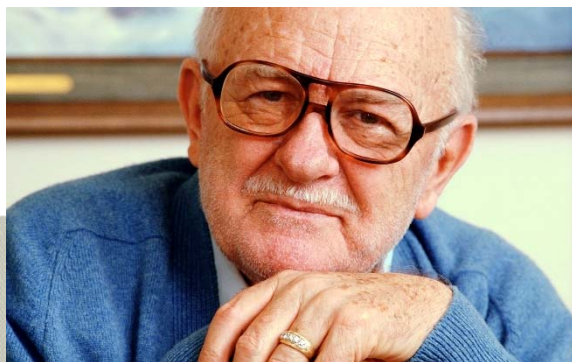
The Alzheimer's Caregiver Conference will provide information, support and resources for families, friends and care partners of people with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia.

Topics will include:

- What happens to the brain and behaviors are expected;
- How to deal with behaviors;
- Accepting the Diagnosis;
- Financial Issues and Care Options;
- Legal issues, and more.

Cascade Park Vista is graciously offering to provide free adult day health care during the conference. Caregivers who would like to attend but are usually unable to leave their loved ones with dementia, can take advantage of this free service by calling 253-627-9990.

For more information about the conference, call the Pierce County Aging and Disability Resource Center at 253-798-4600.



Priory Center Offers One-day Retreats

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER SCHEDULED EVENTS AT ST. PLACID PRIORY AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER
LACEY, WA

September 11

FINDING DAILY PATHWAYS TO THE DIVINE

Saturday 9:15 am - 3:00 pm

Our intense busy-ness often distracts us from seeing the deeper meaning and purpose in our lives. However, when we take time to stop and reflect, we can find paths of connection to the divine even in our most common everyday tasks from washing dishes to working in the garden. Taking inspiration from the writings of Gunilla Norris, John O'Donohue, Mary Oliver, Stanley Kunitz, and others, we'll learn to slow down and look beyond the surface of our routines to find the sacred in all we are and do. Participants will be encouraged to begin an active daily practice of observing reflective, prayerful pauses for recognizing the beauty, mystery, and bounty in their lives and by so doing, they will deepen their sense of spiritual belonging throughout the day.

Register by prior Friday - \$60. Bring a sack lunch and notebook.

September 18

INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER

Saturday 9:15 am - 3:00 pm

We need those times of prayer when we listen in silence, not just with our ears, our eyes, our minds, but more with our hearts, with our whole being. This is Contemplative Prayer or prayer of being. Our tradition has passed down to us simple ways of entering into this prayer. Today, one of these traditional ways is called Centering Prayer. This day long Introduction covers the basics of Centering Prayer with ample time for practicing Centering Prayer and opportunities to share experiences and ask questions.

Register by prior Friday - \$50. Bring a sack lunch.



October 9

MOVING WITH JESUS

Saturday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Join us for a day of tracing Jesus' life story through body gestures. We will adapt and modify yoga and tai chi movements to depict his life story from the nativity to the resurrection. Our intention for the day is to feel the Christ who lives in our body, in our breath, in our heart. No experience

necessary. All are welcome to the banquet of the Lord. Note that this program will also be offered February 12, 2011.

Facilitator is Roy DeLeon, an Oblate of St Placid. He trained as a spiritual director with the Priory Spirituality Center. A certified yoga instructor, he teaches Blessed Movements regularly at the Priory.

Register by prior Friday - \$50. Bring a sack lunch, sticky exercise mat, blanket, pillows and journal.



For more information and additional retreat offerings, visit www.stplacid.org

Turner Lectures Welcomes John Dominic Crossan

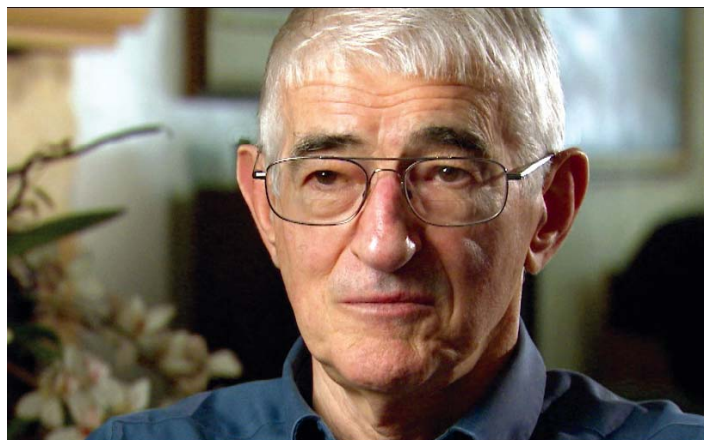
CELEBRATED AUTHOR TO HEADLINE 2010 LECTURE SERIES—OCTOBER 4-5

John Dominic Crossan remains one of the most prolific writers in the fields of the historical Jesus and early Christianity. The author of 25 books, including five national religious bestsellers.

Born in 1934, in Nenagh, County Tipperary, Ireland, Crossan was educated in Ireland and the United States, receiving a Doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College, Ireland, in 1959, and doing post-doctoral research in Rome, and later in Jerusalem. He was a member of the Servites, a thirteenth-century Roman Catholic religious order, from 1950 to 1969 and an ordained priest from 1957 to 1969. He joined DePaul University, Chicago, in 1969 and remained there until 1995. He is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies.

Dr. Crossan was co-founder and Co-Chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996 as it met in twice-annual meetings to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels. He was Chair of the Parables Seminar from 1972 to 1976, Editor of *Semeia: An Experimental Journal for Biblical Criticism* from 1980 to 1986, and Chair of the Historical Jesus Section from 1993 to 1998, within the Society of Biblical Literature.

He has lectured to lay and scholarly audiences across the United States as well as in Ireland and England, Scandinavia and Finland, Australia and New Zealand, Brazil, Japan, and South Africa. He has been interviewed on 200 radio stations, including four times on NPR's "Fresh Air" with Terry Gross. He has also been interviewed on television networks such as ABC's *PrimeTime*, *Peter Jennings Reporting*,



and *Nightline*, CBS' *Early Show* and *48 Hours*, NBC's *Dateline*, and Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor*, and on cable programs such as A&E, History, Discovery, and the National Geographic Channel.

In three lectures over two days, Crossan will explore the relationship between the historical Jesus and the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. The 2010 lecture series will close with worship on Tuesday evening with Dr. Crossan as preacher.

Begun in 1964 the Turner Lectures hold an important place in the life of the Northwest Region of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. Scholars from across the world and from varying disciplines have headlined the Lectures, including Fred Craddock, John Cobb, William Sloane Coffin, Marcus Borg, Rita Nakishima Brock, and Diana Butler Bass.

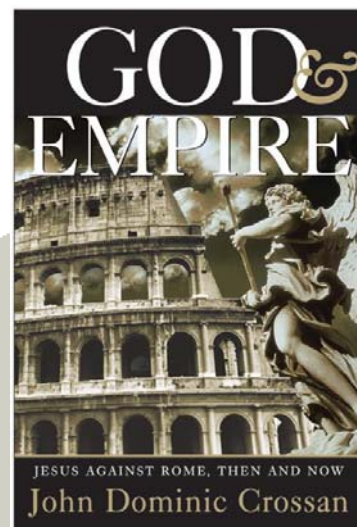
For registration and hotel information visit www.disciplesnw.org.

God and Empire

MEN'S GROUP READS BOOK BY TURNER LECTURER, JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN

Join our Thursday night study group at 7 pm as we read and discuss John Dominic Crossan's book, *God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now*.

Crossan finds throughout Scripture a moral imperative to fight against unjust powers—from the ancient empires of Babylon to Rome to today's superpowers. In the stories of promise in Genesis, the words of the prophets, on the messages of Jesus and Paul, Crossan traces interwoven themes of justice and peace as they relate to issues of land, economy, violence, and retribution. Jesus proclaimed the nonviolent way of the Kingdom of God, over and against the empire of Rome, founded on violence and force. Crossan challenges the Church to rediscover its roots and become a strong voice for the way of the Kingdom.



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

life of the church in september

Summer Worship.....Sundays - 10 am
 Men's Study.....Thursdays - 7 pm
 6..... Labor Day
 7..... Book Club Gathering (see page 3) - 7 pm
 8..... Fair Parking Setup - 9 am to 1 pm
Helpers needed to prepare to welcome Fair-goers!
 9..... Provisional Council Meeting - 6 pm
 10-26 Puyallup Fair Parking - 8 am to 8:30 pm
 12..... Axis of Friendship
Remember global friendships with a candle & prayer
 18..... Lunch with a Friend - 10 am
Peace Lutheran Church, 214 E Pioneer



Sign up for your favorite shifts and positions! Call the office if you can't make it in to see the schedule. If the times aren't perfect for you, consider sharing a shift!

- 8 am to 11:30 am
- 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
- 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- 5:30 pm to Closing (depends on crowds—typically 8-8:15; never past 9)

Pre-order Hand-crafted FCC Christmas Ornaments



Hand painted on recycled light bulbs, Lisa Peterson's holiday creations have long been a popular gift item in Puyallup. Now, Lisa is generously providing FCC with specially painted bulbs ornaments with our very own Disciples logo.

Suggested donation per bulb is \$5.00. All the proceeds from these beautiful bulbs will go to the Disciples Christmas Offering. Contact the church office today to order your ornament and support the work of our Northwest Region.

You can find more of Lisa's handcrafted pieces year-round at Ma's Place or at area holiday craft shows including Spanaway Lake High School, Kent Commons, and the Meeker Mansion Cider Squeeze.