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First Christian *Chimes*

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

Christmas Where We Are

ADVENT OFFERS CHRISTIANS THE TIME TO PONDER THE MIRACLE OF THE INCARNATION...

Many of us will spend countless hours preparing for Christmas. Shopping for presents, baking cookies, cleaning the house, putting up Christmas lights, preparing special meals, hosting gatherings of family and friends, wrapping presents, decorating the Christmas tree. It's enough to make someone stop and throw up their hands saying, "Enough, already!"

Why do we put so much effort into such a short amount of time? For some it's the sheer joy of giving and spending time with loved ones. For others, it may be a long-standing tradition, evoking memories of Christmases long ago. Or, perhaps it's part of a never-ending search for that picture perfect Christmas often dreamed of, but never experienced.

For the church Advent is the four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas Day and the twelve days of Christmastide. While society frantically scurries about to create the biggest Christmas ever, Christians take pause during Advent. We focus our worship upon the promise that God comes to us in the person of Jesus now—even if the Christmas lights aren't up and the shopping list is still undone.

The good news of Advent is that God doesn't wait for us to get things right, but God comes to us in the middle of our messy lives. We don't have to get everything perfect first.

This Advent season give yourself time and space to reflect upon where God is already present in your life. How is Christ at work in the world around you? Where do you see Christ today? What are the parts of your life that Christ is waiting to transform?



(cc) Lin Pernille 2007

Board Approves Interim Provisional Structure

SIX MONTH INTERIM BOARD WILL OFFER LEADERSHIP

The church board worked through several issues in its November meeting. With consideration and prayer the board approved the church budget for the coming year. That budget will be submitted to the congregation at its annual meeting, Sunday, December 6th, following worship.

This summer current board members whose terms would have expired in July 2009 agreed to serve through December. The PaTH transformation team had previously reported that work was continuing on the new ministry, but that the progress was slower than expected.

The board discussed options for continuing the current board. A provisional board structure was proposed and adopted, consisting of current ministry and committee members. This interim structure will focus on the key ministries of our congregation for the first six months of 2010. The nominating committee will work to fill additional vacant positions as needed.

Please continue to pray for the members of the PaTH Coordinating Team as they continue their important tasks: Robin Crabb, Bonnie Goddard, Nancy Gowler Johnson, John Pasola, Luetta Patton and Katie Peterson.



Provisional Board Members and Their Ministry Areas

Robin Crabb	Worship
Terry Forslund	Education
Nancy Freeman	Finance
Bonita Goatz	Elders
Katie Peterson	Outreach

Please keep our provisional board members in your prayers.

Mark Your Calendars!

CONGREGATION TO CONSIDER 2010 BUDGET



All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend the annual budget meeting following Worship on Sunday, December 6th.

Giving Totals

November 1

General Fund \$ 2130.09

November 8

General Fund \$ 843.00

November 15

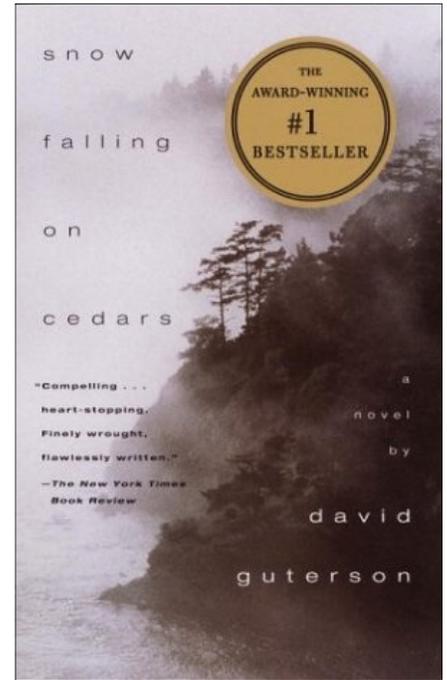
General Fund \$ 1473.00

Pacific NW featured in Book Club pick

DECEMBER'S READ: *SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS* BY DAVID GUTERSON

"A phenomenal West Coast bestseller, winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award, and an Abby Award nominee, this enthralling novel is at once a murder mystery, courtroom drama, story of a doomed love affair, and a stirring meditation on place, prejudice, and justice.

This is the kind of book where you can smell, hear, and see the fictional world the writer has created, so palpably does the atmosphere come through. Set on an island in the straits north of Puget Sound in Washington where everyone is either a fisherman or a berry farmer, the story is nominally about a murder trial, but since it's set in the 1950s, lingering memories of World War II, internment camps and racism helps fuel suspicion of a Japanese-American fisherman, a lifelong island resident. It's a great story, but the primary pleasure of the book is Guterson's renderings of the people and the place." ~www.abebooks.com



November's Book of the Month, *Holidays on Ice* will be discussed at the home of Anastasia Patterson, Tuesday, December 1st at 7 pm

Gifts Can Provide You with Payments for Life

If you've been experiencing the bumpy ride of the stock market, or trying to make ends meet while living off the interest of certificates of deposit that pay a fraction of what they did years ago, now may be the time for you to consider making a planned gift that will provide you with a stream of payments for life. That's right: You can make a charitable gift that will pay you for life.

There are two basic types of life-income gifts: the charitable gift annuity and the charitable remainder trust.

The gift annuity works like a commercial annuity, except part of your gift (of either cash or stock) qualifies for a charitable tax deduction. In exchange, you get a set amount of the original gift as a payment for life; the percent is determined by your age at the time the gift is made. Furthermore, part of the payments off the gift is free of tax.

A charitable remainder trust is a little more complicated, and can deal with stocks and bonds, real estate and other appreciated assets. The assets are donated into a charitable trust, with the trust making annual payouts based on the annual market value.

One of the best things about these types of planned gifts is that First Christian Puyallup can be the residual charitable beneficiary. The residual at the time of your death goes to the church in your name.

Because of the legal nature of these gifts, we recommend you contact the Christian Church Foundation, our denomination's general ministry devoted to planned giving, at (800) 668-8016. Foundation staff members are experts in this area and can, confidentially, help you make the kind of gift that is right for you and the church.



Why Did You Doubt?

GLOBAL MINISTRIES SPOTLIGHT: BOTSWANA

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught (Peter), saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31

We began our second term in Botswana with Global Ministries, and those words that Jesus spoke to Peter also spoke to me, as I sometimes found myself experiencing doubts. Am I doing what is in accordance to God's plan for me? Learning a new language at any time is never easy. Learning Setswana (one of the two official languages of the country) has been especially hard. Knowing Setswana has been made a necessity by the fact that I have recently been assigned a parish by the United Congregational Churches in Southern Africa. Worship services are in Setswana. I find myself struggling to read; build vocabulary and to be able to conduct a worship service (with some semblance that the people I have been called to serve might be able to understand). At times, it feels that for every three steps I take forward, I find myself taking two steps back.

Whatever clouds of uncertainty engulf me are lifted when I conduct a worship service in the village of Ramotswa, in a small room with 30 people in attendance; hear their praises to God through song, dance and prayer; and am made aware of their hopes and concerns in church meetings.

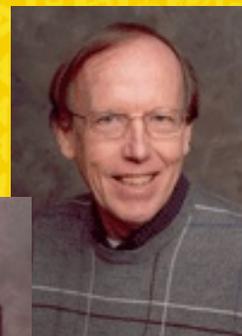
Although this congregation is small, they have tremendous hope anchored in God. Over a period of two years, they have built a new church building. Although they have been unable to roof it because of financial restraints, they have chosen, in the meantime, to start a new congregation in a village 15 kilometers away. They even have plans to erect a simple building as a place of worship there. Yes, I am reminded that our Jesus has a plan for each one of us, even when we ourselves are not certain.

In this season of hope and anticipation, we pray with the church in Botswana as we are reminded of their great faith which gives us strength in our faith which we share with others.

James & Jayanthi Wilson are missionaries with the Kgolagano Theological College in Gaborone, Botswana. Jim serves as an instructor at Kgolagano Theological College. Jayanthi serves as librarian.

Global Ministry Partners

James and
Jayantha Wilson



Botswana: Quick Facts

Botswana, population 1.4 million, is one of Africa's most enduring multi-party democracies. It is also one of sub-Saharan Africa's most prosperous countries with a per capita income of US \$2,790 annually. Nonetheless, the distribution of income is very uneven with large numbers of people living with AIDS and/or in poverty.

The traditional partner of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ is the Botswana Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, founded in 1816 by missionaries from the London Missionary Society. Until recently, the United Congregational Church was virtually the state church. Other partners in Botswana are the Botswana Council of Churches, the country's main ecumenical body, and Kgolagano College, an ecumenical, ministerial and lay-training facility.

Pray for: The HIV/AIDS training program of Kgolagano College for church leaders in rural parts of the country.

Gifts that Matter

HELPING FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS TIME

For several years, Bonita Goatz and her work with the FCC Puyallup Giving Tree ministry has prompted us to think about Christmas from the standpoint of families whose holidays could use a helping hand from friends.

This year the Giving Tree's featured family consists of grandparents raising two girls, aged six (size 8) and four (size 4). The girls are in need of coats, clothes, books, and art supplies. Gift cards and non-perishable foods are also helpful, and cash gifts will be used to purchase food for the family (or other families that may be added to the tree).

Simply pick a card off of the tree in the foyer (call the church office if you can't make it in), affix the card to the wrapped present, and place it under the tree. The last day to drop off gifts at church is December 20th.



And the Apron Goes to...

A neck and neck competition of five entrants included close runners up Terry Forslund (with Emma Forslund and Brianna Pedicone), Ron Isch, and defending titleholder Donna Sannes, but the coveted chili pepper apron went to TIED contestants—fledgling champ Kevin Kary and third time victor Ray Smith. Kevin went home with the apron (since Ray already has two!); our youth will create another one for Ray to add to his collection. Both men's names will be engraved on the Chill Cook-off Champions' plaque!

Our Youth raised over \$200 to add to their savings account for an as-yet-to-be-determined special event!



2009 Chili Cook-off Co-Champions: Kevin Kary and Ray Smith

Hands-on Ministry Opportunities in December

Freezing Nights

We will be hosting Freezing Nights each Friday night in December. Volunteers are always welcomed:

- Friday evening for a gathering social time
- Spending the night
- Saturday morning breakfast and cleanup time

Lunch with a Friend

Our longstanding support of Peace Lutheran Church's Saturday meal ministry continues to need assistance. You are welcome to join the joy-filled volunteers on December 19th at 10 am as they prepare lunch, serve guests, and clean up after the meal. Each Saturday between 15 and 35 individuals are provided a warm, nutritious lunch.

HomeTouch Newsletters

Each week we send one page devotions to members of our congregation who may be unable to regularly attend worship with us. Volunteers are welcome to write a short note, stuff envelopes, and prepare the weekly mailings. Many people have expressed their appreciation for this ministry.

Contact the church office to find out how you can help.

O Come All Ye Faithful

2009 CHRISTMAS OFFERING WILL AID NW REGION

The Gospel of Luke tells of the night the shepherds' routine was interrupted by an angelic announcement. They were doing their hard, often boring work not expecting anything new. Suddenly everything changed as they heard the wonderful news of God's gift to the world in a newborn child. They hurried to Bethlehem to discover for themselves what God had done.



At times the mission and ministry of local congregations seems like the work of the shepherds—hard, boring, exhausting... and even hopeless. How exciting when God is revealed to us in new ways that take our breath away and the work we do suddenly has new hope and vision.

With your Christmas Offering, you support our Region's ministry to enlist Disciples as members of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Across our region there are exciting stories of new congregations being established, existing congregations being renewed and transformed, and leaders equipped for ministry. Great things are taking place as we join God in God's mission for the sake of the world.

Adapted from www.disciplesmissionfund.org

Regional Minister to Visit Israel/Palestine

From November 29-December 11, our Regional Minister, Sandy Messick will travel with other Regional Ministers and Global Ministry staff to Palestine/Israel. This is part of a series of trips sponsored by Global Ministries to lift up the idea of becoming a Global Mission Partner Region. The Northwest Region voted to become a partner region at our Special Regional Assembly in May 2009 and are beginning work with the NW Conference of the United Church of Christ to identify our joint Global Mission Partner.

Please keep Sandy in prayer as she prepares for this trip, and remember her family while she is away. More information will be forthcoming about the itinerary and how you can follow the trip online.

December birthdays

3.....	Joyce Riffe
5.....	Gail Ackerman
5.....	Harold Phillips
5.....	Danae Rouse
6.....	Nancy Johnson
6.....	Stephanie Stanhope
6.....	Sandra Stroud
8.....	Bonnie Goddard
10.....	Tasha Parker
10.....	Rachel Schmidt
15.....	Ercie Borrowman
17.....	Wolfram Patton
19.....	Delbert Stack
20.....	Emma Forslund
22.....	Sara Pasola
22.....	Terrie Maas
26.....	Sherman Squires
28.....	Betty O'Brien
29.....	Corky Peterson
31.....	Ginny Docker

anniversaries

12.....	Bonnie & Ron Goddard
20.....	Vicki & Ray Smith

baptism dates

Dec. 5, 1954.....	Vicki Pearson
Dec.13,1959.....	Don Turner
Dec.13,1959.....	Doris Turner
Dec.15, 2002.....	Emma Forslund
Dec.18, 2005.....	Megan Stanhope
Dec. 20,1981.....	June Armstrong
Dec. 21, 2003.....	Tyler Pasola



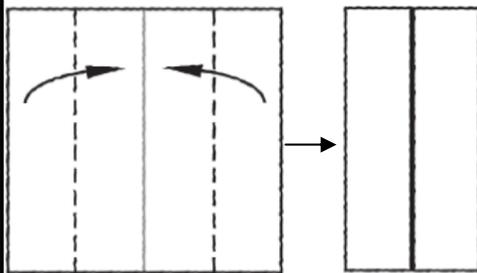
Stars of Wonder Instruction Sheet

We need your help!

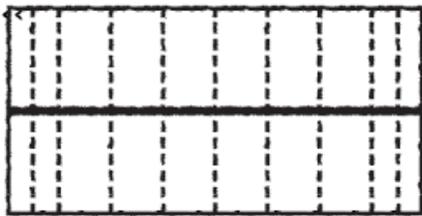
Together we can create beautiful visuals for this year's Advent worship services. It's easy and fun, and perfection isn't a requirement!

Here's what needs to be done:

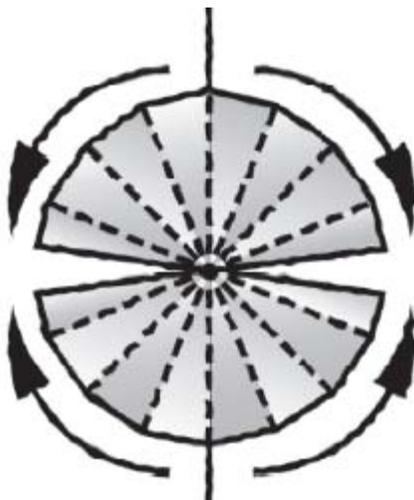
1. Cut twenty (or as many as you can!) 8.5 x 8.5 inch squares of Christmas wrapping paper or other fun paper. Choose any paper you like that's easy for you to fold and holds a crease.
2. Follow the diagrams below to create round stars. Take care to make sure the tape holds tightly and will stay put for a long time.
3. Once completed, drop your stars in the basket marked "Advent Stars." If you can, finish them in time for our Advent Festival on November 28th, but if you can't make that, hand them in when you can all the way up to Christmas. We'll hang them in our worship space through Advent. Look for yours!



Step 1: With printed side of the paper face down, fold in half to determine center. Unfold, then fold in sides to center line to create a double-thick piece with the pattern on both sides.



Step 2: Fold the strip accordion-like starting at one of the short ends until you have eight panels—as if making a paper fan. Add an extra fold to the end panels. These reinforced ends will be taped together in the next step.



Step 3: Collapse the fan and fold in half to determine the center. Holding the fan at the center point, carefully bring the top and bottom edges toward each other (see illustration at right). Tape the short folds together to hold the shape.

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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



life of the church

All-age Studies..... Sundays - 9:45 am
Service of Worship.....Sundays - 11 am
 Women's Study (BRB)..... Wednesdays - 10 am
 SO & SEW Group..... next meeting Jan. 7th - 10 am
 (Study Opportunity & Sow Energy Wisely)
 Freezing Nights Fridays -7 pm
 Adult Lectionary Study.....Saturdays - 8 am

Dec. 1..... Book of the Month Club - 7 pm
 2..... Elders Meeting - 6 pm
 6..... Congregational Meeting after worship
 19..... Lunch with a Friend - 10 am
 24..... Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 4 pm