

Mid-November - Mid-December 2017

# The *Weather*vane

The Newsletter of United Christian Church, Renton, WA

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Find Direction at  
United Christian Church,  
An Open and Affirming  
Congregation.  
No matter where you are on  
life's journey, you are  
welcome here.



United Christian Church's Chancel Choir presented the anthem during worship on November 5th, despite missing some members, including Michael, almost hidden behind the piano, who was called that morning to fill in for regular pianist, Lavon Bowman. We apologize that we caught Director Chris Copley's hand obscuring Cameron's face. [Our choir is indeed a wonderful amazing choir! Claudia]

## CONGREGATION'S MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

**On October 22** The Congregation met to elect the officers and Elders for 2018, which were printed in last month's *Weather*vane. They are listed again on page 5

**An outdoor sign** was also on the agenda. The design for the Church's name, presented the previous Sunday, was unanimously approved and Terry Kimsey, who has been in touch with the sign company, was given permission to order it. Tom Reimer has made arrangements for the installation when the sign arrives. It should be here in early January.

**For November**, emphasis is on our Ministry. A letter was mailed to members that includes this statement:

*"Ministry is about making choices as a church and as individuals. It is about being faithful disciples; caring for and being responsible for all that God has entrusted to us. We are God's hands and heart. It is our responsibility to demonstrate, with our time, our talents and our resources, our commitment to 'This Service of Love.'" A Proposed Budget and a Covenant Card were enclosed with the letter.*

**On November 19**, Commitment Sunday, the Covenant Cards will be taken up during the worship service. The budget for 2018 will depend on the results of these financial commitments.

### December Dates

**Dec. 2: Hanging of the Greens**, Saturday, 10:00 am. Come help decorate the church and enjoy the fellowship.

**Dec. 10: Congregational Meeting** following worship, to approve the 2018 Budget.

**Dec. 10: All Church Christmas Dinner**, (catered by The Apogee) in the Ed. Building following the Congregation Meeting. Sign up sheet on the Cookie table. More at right.

**Dec. 17: Christmas Musical** from our Choir, during worship. More information to come.



## Search Committee Chosen

Caroline Bacon, Moderator of the Congregation, presented the following names to the Church Council for approval to be members of the Pastoral Search Committee: **Barb Chapman, Lannette Sargent, Peter Dunn, Floyd Hillman, Sue Hunt and Ian DeJesus**. All were contacted before their names were presented to the council and acknowledge their willingness to serve. The council unanimously confirmed the nominations.

The committee will begin the process of searching for a settled pastor by electing a chair and working with the Disciples Region and UCC Conference. The first meeting has been set for Sunday, December 3. The process of calling a settled pastor can take up to a year to eighteen months. One of the important tasks of the Search Committee is to keep the Congregation informed on their progress. Please keep this very important committee in your prayers, as well as our congregation.

**All Church Christmas Dinner cost is \$17 per adult, free for children.**

Give payments to **Joyce Bruner, Pastor Dick** or put in the offering plate marked "Christmas Dinner."

The menu is Pork Loin, Twice baked potatoes, Green beans, Green Salad, Applesauce and Rolls.

Those attending are requested to bring their favorite dessert to share if they can.



## TALLEY'S TOPICS

A couple weeks ago you received a letter from **Caroline Bacon**, our moderator, **Linda Becker**, our financial secretary and myself outlining the 2018 Proposed Budget, along with an Estimate of Giving Card. We used the theme *“This Service of Love,”* a phrase that the Apostle Paul uses when he teaches the early church about commitment, ministry and giving. Paul states in his writing that ministry is *A Service of Love* that we share in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The proposed 2018 Budget represents that ministry and what we hope to do this next year here at the United Christian Church of Renton. And to do that it takes a commitment of time, talent, and our monetary resources. This Sunday we have the opportunity to make a choice about the way in which we will support and commit ourselves to that Ministry. This Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be receiving and dedicating our Estimate of Giving Cards during the Worship Service. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this exercise because it represents our ministry, our faithfulness and how we respond to what God has given to us.

It is our Ministry!! It is *“This Service of Love”* that we share. Prayerfully consider your giving to our ministry this next year. Make your offering this week.

See you Sunday...Dick

P.S. Additional Giving Cards are available in the narthex.

**NOTE:** *If needed, Pastor Dick can be reached on his cell phone: 310-387-8854. [Cards with his phone numbers are in the window sill by the “cookie table” in the narthex.*

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO GO TO REGION/CONFERENCE

Christmas is just around the corner and we are all starting to think about what we are doing for the holidays, what we are going to get the grandkids, or the husband/wife and all the other things that go on around Christmas. One more thing that you can think about is the Special Christmas Offering that we will take on December 17 and 24. This year’s Special Offering will be going to our two denominations’ Northwest Offices. The money that is placed in the Special Offering envelopes on those two Sundays will be divided equally between the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples). The offering will go into the general budget of the Conference/Region for program support.

*Advent devotional booklets will be available on the “cookie table” this next week. A \$2.00 per book donation is suggested.*

A sign-up form to bring “cookies” is also on the table. They are always appreciated, especially the no sugar ones.



## Moderator's Musing from Caroline Bacon

Here we are the middle of November. The year is drawing to a close and with it, my tenure as Moderator. I cannot believe that it’s been four years!

I came into this position knowing not much and I leave it feeling like I still have more to learn. At the same time I’m happy to have a little of my life back.

I promised Van that I’d cut back on my commitments for at least a year—I’ll still do choir and communion preparation and worship committee and ActoFaith—wait! That’s still quite a lot!

You know they say that the only constant in life is change and changes abound here and everywhere. We continue to look at our vision and mission. Our budget is coming together. Our new slate of officers will assume their duties in just six weeks. Our settled pastor search committee has been selected and will start the process of looking in earnest for a new pastor in the next few months.

Meanwhile, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are right around the corner. How time flies.

Peace of Christ! Caroline



*A Sunday arrangement by Mary Kimsey Helen and Jim Bidman have also volunteered to provide an arrangement on a regular schedule. Thank you to all of you.*

## *Blessing When the World is Ending*

Look, the world is always ending somewhere.  
Somewhere the sun has come crashing down.  
Somewhere it has gone completely dark.  
Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the knife, the fist.  
Somewhere it has ended with the slammed door,  
the shattered hope.  
Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows  
the news from the phone, the television,  
the hospital room.  
Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness  
that will break your heart.

But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose.  
It has not come to cause despair.  
It is simply here because there is nothing a blessing  
is better suited for than an ending.  
Nothing that cries out more for a blessing  
than when a world is falling apart.

This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you,  
will not give you false comfort;  
it will not talk to you about one door opening  
when another one closes.

It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards  
and gently turn your face  
toward the direction from which the light will come,  
gathering itself about you as the world begins again.

—Jan Richardson

*Contributed by Linda Becker, who found it in a 2014 Advent book.  
She and your editor found it too beautiful not to share.*



## *Something to think about*

*When we have been wounded by the Church, our temptation is to reject it. But when we reject the Church it becomes very hard for us to keep in touch with the living Christ. When we say, "I love Jesus, but I hate the Church," we end up losing not only the Church but Jesus too. The challenge is to forgive the Church. This challenge is especially great because the Church seldom asks us for forgiveness, at least not officially. But the Church as an often fallible human organization needs our forgiveness, while the Church as the living Christ among us continues to offer us forgiveness.*

*It is important to think about the Church not as "over there" but as a community of struggling, weak people of whom we are part and in whom we meet our Lord and Redeemer. —Henri Nouwen*

*Contributed by Tom Reimer for the Sunday Adult Bible Study.*

Below: Collected on Nov. 10th.



## **BRING FOR OTHERS**

*from Pat Auten*

I had a couple of people ask me on Sunday, "When is Advent?" Advent is December 3 through December 24. It won't be long till it is time to decorate the church and I hope we will have a good turn out when we do.

This is the time of year when the Salvation Army worries about how they are going to be able to fill the Thanksgiving baskets for those in need. As you all know, the shelves have been very low and if you can donate food items it will be sincerely appreciated.

A list of suggested food items from the Food Bank is posted in the narthex but we list them here also. Check your donations for expiration dates. They will be discarded if past the expiration date.

**Proteins:** tuna, chicken, chili, Spam, beans, canned soup.

**Fruits:** Canned, including peaches, applesauce

**Vegetables:** peas, corn, carrots, mixed veggies, tomatoes, green beans.

**Breakfast:** cold cereal, oatmeal.

**In January,** cereal collection will continue along with food items of your choice. The shelves will need to be filled again after the holidays. Hunger never goes away. Thank you for all you do to make our community better and for your concern for those less fortunate.

## **Hurricane Relief Check Sent**

The Special Hurricane Relief Offering that was taken in October amounted to \$752. An offering check was sent to the Disciples' Week of Compassion and UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing. By giving to these two organizations we are represented in the relief efforts across the world. We also received \$70 for the Salvation Army Food Bank, plus food and cereal. Thank you for your gifts.

## Dates & Times to Remember

**Sundays:** Lectionary Bible Study, 9:30-10:20 am, Office Bldg.

**Sundays:** Worship, 10:45; includes Children's Sunday School.

**2nd & 4th Mondays:** Monday Munchers lunches, 12:30, details below

**Thursdays:** Choir Practice, 7pm. New members welcome.

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out Somewhere), 12:00 noon  
(Talk to Carl Keever, Ed Gillispie or Terry Kimsey for location.)

### Other Groups Use Our Campus

**Monday through Friday:** Montessori School in Ed. Bldg., 7 am -5 pm

**Mondays:** Hula Group Practices, 11:00 am-1:00 pm in Narthex

**2nd & 4th Fridays:** SCA group uses our buildings, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

**Saturdays:** AA meets in the Ed. Bldg. basement.- 10:30 am

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Nov. 15, ActoFaith Team Mtg @ 6:30pm

Nov. 19, Stewardship Sunday, Pledges turned in for 2018

Nov. 27, Monday Munchers, 12:30 @ Alki Bakery, Kent

Dec. 2, Sat.- Decorating the church for Christmas, 10:00am

Dec. 3, Worship Committee Mtg. following worship

Dec. 4, Pastor Relations Com. Mtg, 6:30pm (1st Monday)

Dec. 5, Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Conference Rm (1st Tues.)

Dec. 10, Congregational Meeting to approve 2018 Budget

Dec. 10, All Church Catered Christmas Dinner, about 12:30pm

Dec. 11, Monday Munchers, 12:30, Plum Delicious (dessert  
afterward @ the Kimsey home (only mtg in Dec.)

Dec. 11, Elders Mtg, 6:30 pm (2nd Monday)

Dec. 13, ActoFaith Team Mtg @ 6:30pm

Dec. 15, Email Newsletter sent. Items to Editor by the 14th.

Dec. 17, Special Christmas Choir Presentation

## Looking Ahead

Dec. 24, Sun., Worship @ 10:45am as usual

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service, @ 5:00pm

Jan. 6, Sat., Un-decorating 10:00am.



Come help put away decorations and enjoy fellowship and the shared left over Christmas goodies!

**All committee and church meetings should be put on the church calendar in the Office.**

## Lectionary Scriptures for Sunday Bible Study

Nov. 19, 23rd Sun. after Pentecost: Psalm 123 or Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11),12,

Judges 4:1-7 or Zephaniah 1:7,12-18, 1Thessa. 5:1-11, Matt 25:14-30

Nov. 26, 24th Sun. after Pentecost: Hebrew Bible: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24;

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23; Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Dec. 3, 1st Sunday of Advent: Hebrew Bible:- Isaiah 64:1-9;

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Dec. 10, 2nd Sunday of Advent; Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 40: 1-11;

Epistle: 2Peter 3:8-15a; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent: Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11;

Epistle: 1Thessalonians 5-16-24; Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec. 24, 4th Sunday of Advent, Hebrew Bible: 2Samuel 7:1-11,16;

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27; Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 31, 1st Sunday of Christmas, Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 61:10 62:3;

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7; Gospel: Luke2:22-40

The 2018 Cleaning Schedule is now posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Be first to sign up and get the dates that work best for you to clean our campus. Thanks to all those who have chosen this as their ministry.

## Directory Additions

Peter Dunn has a new phone number: 253-797-5527 (cell)

**CORRECTION:** Virginia Serwold's new apartment number is #429. The wrong number was printed in last month's *Weathervane*.

## Among the Congregation

Several of our members who have been in our prayers are now improving. Among them is **Leroy V.**, with a severe case of Shingles. **Phil J.** is also recovering after a serious infection that required antibiotic infusions for some weeks. **Cari M.** is healing after surgery. **Dick T.** and **Pat A.** are healing after cataract removal.

**Lavon Bowman**, our pianist, has taken a leave of absence to help Bill. Our former music director, **Tom Winger**, will take over the accompanist responsibilities.

It was noted at a recent *Monday Muncher* lunch that all the places they've been lately were rated "Good" by the health department. However, we've learned the Highlands Dairy Queen, managed by our **Brian Tzeng**, was rated, "Excellent." We would expect nothing less from Brian! Very good, Brian!

**Note:** Because of privacy concerns *The Weathervane* no longer prints a prayer list. It is printed in the Sunday Bulletins. Take one home with you.

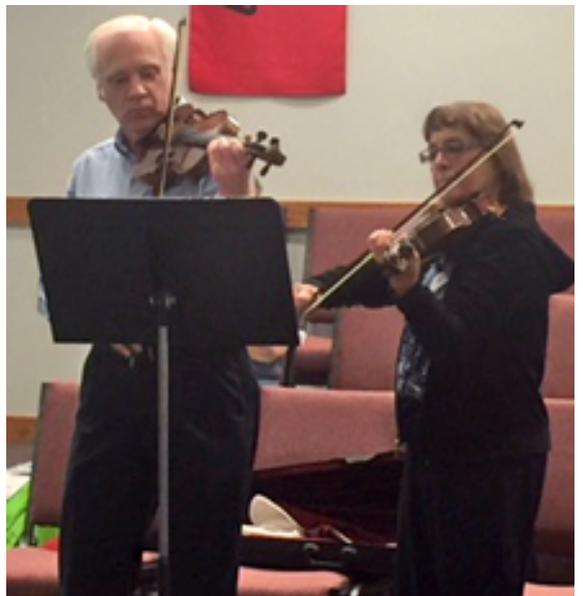
## Anniversaries

Nov. 25, **Kathy Humphries and**

**Debbie Norris, 2001**

Dec. 6, **Caroline & Van Bacon, 1990**

Dec. 8, **Rev. Bill Bergman Ordained 1968**



Randy and Barb Chapman played during worship recently. We appreciate their contribution of talent and time.

## *Odds 'n' Ends Around the Church*

As has been noted in previous newsletters the **Montessori School has asked for an alarm system** and is willing to pay the monthly costs. After research and talk with ADT, the church's company, it was decided hooking into the church's alarm would not work. The Ed. Building with the School needs it's own alarm and a separate contract.

The Council voted to pay \$1,000 toward the cost of the system. It will have its own keypad, six motion detectors and four doors alarmed. The total cost was a little over \$1,700. The Education Building will have separate passcodes, so those needing into the building will need the code, as well as a key.

**Lannette Sargent** volunteered and was appointed by the Council to help keep United Christian Church's Facebook page information updated. She will collaborate with **Jolynn Kenny** and **Pastor Dick**. They will also talk to **James Bruner** about how they can keep the church's website updated. The church website posts our monthly newsletter, which in the past wasn't always current.

The congregation is encouraged to check out these two social media sites. They are how others learn about our congregation. And be sure to "Like" us, as it will broaden our readership. Talk to Lannette or Jolynn or Pastor Dick for more information.

**Michael Moser** often goes home from work on Sunday mornings, then comes to church and makes the coffee. The other morning he cleaned out the cupboard where the coffee makings are stored and discovered ants had been making themselves at home. He cleaned the shelves and sorted the supplies. It looks good and there is a place for cups and lids.

He will also be playing sometimes for morning worship while Lavon is on leave.

### Balloon Festival in New Mexico, October 2017



## Officers & Elders Elected For 2018

Moderator: **Pat Auten**

Vice Moderator: **Linda Becker**

Recording Secretary: see note below

Corresponding Secretary; **Sue Hunt**

Financial Secretary: **Peter Dunn**

Treasurer: **Randy Chapman**

Nominations: **Carl & Donna Kever**

Elders: **Randy Chapman** (continuing)

**Nancy Osborn** (continuing)

**Mary Kimsey** (continuing)

**Leona Hansen** (continuing)

**Jean Gilbertson** (new)

*Note: Barb Chapman was elected an officer before she was asked to serve on the Search Committee, then had to choose just one position. A new Recording Secretary will be appointed.*

## Amazon Link Helps our Church

To Church Members:

If you are making Christmas (or any time) purchases from Amazon, you can donate .5% of the purchase price to the church. You may be asking - How do I do that? It's easy. You start by logging in to AmazonSmile (instead of Amazon), select United Christian Church as your 501c(3) organization, and make your purchases from there, exactly as if you were on the Amazon Site. AmazonSmile is Amazon's Foundation to provide funds to non-profit organizations.

Here is the link that makes it even easier to connect to AmazonSmile.

[smile.amazon.com/ch/91-6190339](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-6190339) Shop at that link and Amazon donates to United Christian Church. If you have more questions, contact Linda Becker and she can help.

## REACH Dinner

The community is invited to the REACH annual free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23) at Luther's Table (419 South Second St #1) from 12 to 2 pm.

Photo at left:

In early October, **Chris Copley**, his wife **Yolanda**, and their daughter and son-in-law traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the balloon festival. At the same time **Terry and Mary Kimsey** also traveled to the festival, but it was so large they never ran into each other. "It was a wonderful show."

*Contributed by Mary and Terry Kimsey*