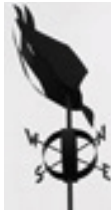


Mid-February - Mid-March 2018

The Weathervane

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.



CONGREGATION APPROVES PRIORITIES



On Sunday, February 11, the Congregation approved the recommendation from the Church Council that our church set the following five priorities:

1) Outreach and Community Service, 2) Administration, 3) Building and Grounds, 4) Spiritual Growth and 5) Fellowship. Following the approval of the five priorities, individuals signed up for task forces to brainstorm and define the priorities. If you didn't have a chance to sign up on the 11th, talk to Pastor Dick. Sign up sheets will be available Sunday.

Each task force will be meeting with Pastor Dick in the next two weeks. The schedule for the task force meetings are as follows: Spiritual Growth, Sunday, Feb. 18, at 12:30, Outreach and Fellowship, Monday, Feb. 19, 5:30, Building and Grounds, Sunday, Feb. 25, 12:30. The Administration Task Force time is TBA. Each of the task forces will report back to the congregation at a called Congregation meeting on April 29 following worship.

The ActoFaith and Fellowship committee will sponsor a TACO BAR. More details later.

Special Offering for Global Relief To Be Taken February 18 and 25.

Be sure to read page 3 for more information on this special offering.

Good, Not Good, Good News

Randy C. has been hired full-time by a firm in the Richland-Pasco area and will work there 4 days a week, with transportation and weekday housing provided. ("That's good news!") However, he will be unable to perform the duties of church Treasurer. (Not good news!) And must have knee surgery before he begins his new job. (Sort of good and not good!)

However, Randy and Vice Moderator, Linda B. are willing to exchange positions with Council approval (meeting on March 6). Randy will become Vice-Moderator and Linda, will be Treasurer. Both are already on the Finance Committee so that won't change. (Good News!) Keep Randy in prayers that his surgery will go well with no complications.



TALLEY'S TOPICS

By the time you read this we will have entered the season of Lent and begun our journey toward Easter. When I was growing up, we didn't acknowledge Lent. In my background, the focus was on Easter Sunday.

We did bring in the Palm Branches on Palm Sunday and had a communion Service on Maundy Thursday, but that was about all of our pre-Easter services.

As I entered ministry and learned more and more about other traditions, I reflected on the meaning and significance of the church year. In the churches that I served we started using the Advent Wreath and talked about our journey to Christmas. During Lent/Easter we would have an Ash Wednesday Service; during Holy Week we would acknowledge the different events of Jesus last days. Our Maundy Thursday Service expanded into more than just a communion service, but became a service which included the whole of that last Thursday of Jesus's life. We would extinguish the Christ candle on Thursday to be relit on Easter Sunday Morning. It became a meaningful journey to Easter. The Lent/Easter season is more than just Easter Sunday, it is a spiritual journey.

So what is Lent and what does it mean? In the Christian tradition the season of Lent—the six weeks preceding Easter plus the last four days of another week, begins on Ash Wednesday—is a time to make a special spiritual pilgrimage. It is a time of personal introspection and self-examination, when we probe deeply and respond honestly to how we are getting on with the process of transformation into a new person in Jesus Christ. It is a journey of repentance, a journey of new beginnings.

It is my prayer for you that your Lenten Journey will bring you and our church a new understanding about who you are and who we are as a congregation. Enjoy your journey. May God Bless...Pastor Dick

Lenten devotional booklets are available in the narthex for a suggested donation of \$2.

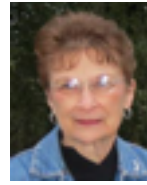
PASTOR ON VACATION-MONTH OF MARCH

Jimmie and I will be gone the month of March on Vacation in Florida. For the past several years we have traveled to the warmer climates for a month during our coldest part of winter. We have spent time in Florida, Arizona, and Texas, traveling with another couple who went through seminary with us. We leave on Monday, Feb. 26, and return Wednesday, March 28. Arrangement for pulpit supply has been arranged by **Nancy Osborn**, chair of the Pastor Relations Committee. In case of a Pastoral Care need, contact **Mary Kimsey**, chair of the Elders, or your personal elder.

Pastor Dick



Randy and Barb C. with Tom W. for communion meditation Feb. 11.



Moderator's Musings from Pat Auten

It was great to see so many turn out for the baked potato bar with all the trimmings. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. Also, the desserts were appreciated as well. The new oven [in the Ed Bldg.] did a great job of baking the potatoes.

Thank you, Pastor Dick, for explaining the Life Cycle Theory. This is food for thought for all of us. [This was included with the Priorities sent to those on the email newsletter list.]

The ActoFaith Team has worked very hard to put together the Priorities and Vision for UCC of Renton. Pastor Dick explained the Priorities, allowing questions, concerns and thoughts. Those attending were then asked to sign on to assist with one of the Priorities task forces that were discussed. Pastor Dick would like to meet with each of the task forces before he goes on vacation at the end of February. Talk to the Team or Pastor Dick if you haven't had a chance to sign up for one of the task forces.

The priorities established by the ActoFaith Team and approved by the Council, are Outreach/Community Service, Spiritual Growth (Worship & Education), Fellowship, Building and Land Use, and Administration. If you were not at the lunch, I am sure Dee Woods can give you a copy of the handouts we received.

We chatted about the fact that the by-laws need to be reviewed and re-written. I admit that I am over-whelmed by them. This is on my radar for late this summer.

At the March 6 Council meeting, we will be voting on a change in Treasurer and Vice Moderator. Randy Chapman has accepted a job in Richland and is having knee surgery before starting his new job.

Linda Becker will take over Randy's job as Treasurer and will be responsible for presenting a financial report to the Church Council each month. As Treasurer she will be a member of the Finance Committee.

Randy will take over Linda's job as Vice-Moderator and Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Thank you to both of you for being flexible in your Council duties.

Thank you to those working on getting our new sign in place. It is exciting to think that we are finally going to have a professional sign. From the sounds of things it won't be long. ~Pat~

Something to Think About

From Jean Gilbertson, Elder

"What God Expects You to Do"



Pastor Dick's sermon the last Sunday in January included a list of several practices God expects of us, gathered from I Thessalonians 5: 11-18.

- To "give encouragement to each other."
- To "be at peace among yourselves."
- To "give courage to those who are apprehensive."
- To "care for the weak."
- To "be patient with everyone."
- To "make sure that people do not try to take revenge."
- To "think of what is best for each other and for the community."

Or, as Jesus Christ said it: "Love one another as I have loved you." Or Micah: "To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Keep this list where you can refer to it the next time you wonder what God would have you to do.



One of our Four Special Offerings for Outreach reaches around the world to help people in need. One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC) and Week of Compassion (DOC) are offerings that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world, who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship; and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

Week of Compassion and One Great Hour of Sharing supports projects that break the cycles of poverty, hunger and thirst, as well as providing aid during times of crisis. The stories of relief efforts tell exactly how our offerings change lives and gives people a future filled with hope.

The bulk of our offering goes to support water, hunger, disaster relief and empowerment programs. Focusing on these four areas allows OGHS and WOC to address some of the root causes of suffering in our world. In the name of Christ our offerings gives relief to all. Your gifts make hope possible for people around the world. Offering envelopes will be in our bulletins each of the next two Sundays. The offering will be equally divided between OGHS and WOC.

From Outreach Chairman

Pat Auten

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring cereal for the breakfast for the homeless. It is appreciated by REACH. We will continue to collect cereal and deliver it as long as it is needed.

Occasionally we will split the load and give half of it to the Salvation Army. They are still experiencing empty shelves so canned goods are also appreciated.

Communities In Schools called to let me know they have an empty shelf for helping families. They need: full size shampoo, conditioner, body soap; toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouth wash, Chapstick; brushes and combs, deodorant, hand soap, lotion, laundry detergent, toilet paper, sanitary napkins.

I will be happy to see that these items are delivered if you bring them.

REACH Has New Executive Director

Michelle Hankinson



She writes about herself: "I am a Bay Area native, lived in Montreal, Quebec, for 6 1/2 years and am a current Renton resident.

My husband and I have 4 young adult sons and 2 dogs. We love to fish and volunteer together. I have over 25 years experience working in the non-profit world and am very passionate about making a positive difference for those without a strong voice and for marginalized populations.

My most recent role has been working as the Director of Homeless Services for Nexus Youth and Families, but also have worked in therapeutic foster care programming, juvenile justice reform and diversion, and early childhood education.

I believe in creating a strong sense of community because with a strong community, great things can happen. I feel very honored and blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve as REACH's Executive Director and am very committed to REACH's mission. I look forward to meeting all of the REACH community very soon."

Dates & Times to Remember

Sundays: New Adult Bible Study, 9:15-10:15 am, Office Bldg.

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

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

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

Sundays: Sermon on the Mount Study Grp: 6pm, AA room

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out Somewhere), 12:00 noon
(Talk to Carl Kever, 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

Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday. Beginning of Lent.

Feb. 25, Worship Committee Mtg, following worship

Feb. 26, Mon. Munchers @Hermanos, Renton Highlands, 12:30

Feb. 26 - Mar. 27, Pastor Dick on vacation

Mar. 4, Sunday, Rev. Rick Reynolds preaching

Mar. 6, REACH mtg, 6pm (only evening mtg of year)

Mar. 6, Council Meeting, 6:30pm, Office Bldg. Conference Rm

Mar. 11, Sunday, Rev. Mark Fredrickson preaching

Mar. 11, Elders Meeting after worship (noon)

Mar. 12, Mon. Munchers, 12:30 @The Golden Steer, Kent

Mar. 15, Email Newsletter sent out.

Looking Ahead



Mar. 17, Workday, to clean the church

Mar. 18, Rev. Courtney Stang-Tregear preaching

Mar. 25, Rev. Sandy Messick, preaching

Mar. 29, Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00pm (not a meal)

Apr. 1, Easter Sunday; Easter Breakfast; Cantata during worship

Keeping Up With What's Going On

Those filling our pulpit while Pastor Dick is on vacation will be the Reverends: **Rick Reynolds, Mark Fredrickson, Courtney Stang-Tregear and Sandy Messick.** See the calendar above for the dates they will be with us.

The Church was able to use the new stove in the Education Building kitchen for baking the potatoes for the meal on Feb. 11. We are told it worked very well. [The taters tasted good!] The Montessori School has been using both the stove and refrigerator.

The large coffee pot used for dinners and fellowship hour has been replaced by one easier to use with our paper cups.

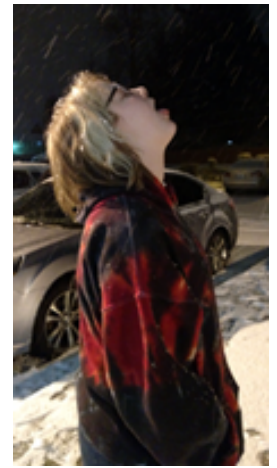
We are told the reason for the holdup on issuing a building permit for the new sign in front of the church was because the City had the church property line in the middle of the street. Once they corrected their records the problem was solved!

[When the church was built the street was a dirt road that ended in front of the church. The photo here shows the building shortly after it was completed in 1963. Later, the street was continued and widened, using a strip of the church property. -CG]



Among the Congregation

We couldn't resist showing this photo of **Julia S.** trying to catch snowflakes while standing in front of the church on Christmas Eve when it began snowing about the time of the service.



The Memorial Service for **Bill Bowman** in January included an arrangement of flowers and Bill's fishing poles. The Ribbon said, "Gone Fishing."

Helen B. recently returned from visiting in The Philippines. She told us she picked up a sunburn. [Is she bragging or complaining, we wonder?] 😊



Linda B. sent us photos of her two "cabin" afghans she crocheted. The pattern is called wheatberry because the right side of the pattern looks like heads of wheat inside stalks of wheat. Linda also sent a picture of the cabin which we'll put in another issue of The Weathervane.

More Keeping Up With What's Going On



Three five-foot round white tables were purchased with money donated to the Designated Property Fund. The photo above shows the first one delivered and put to use immediately. Thank you to the folks who donated to the Fund to underwrite the cost. Two of the tables were found to have holes punched in the tops and had to be returned. They were replaced by ones described as, "adorably flawed" by one member. They all look nice!

Reported at the Council Meeting Property Committee

The Property Committee has had a new ADT security key pad installed in the Education Building basement for use by church members and other groups not with the Montessori school. Non-school people who want to use the basement door need to contact **Dee W.** or **Cameron M.** for the latest instructions on its use.

Tom R. replaced a ceiling fixture (T8) in the great room of the Education Building and replaced bulbs in the porch light on the front of the office building. The high pressure sodium bulb in the light outside the SE door of the Sanctuary Building is not working. Tom plans to refit the fixture to accommodate an LED bulb. Ed W. replaced bulbs in the porch light at the top of the ramp.

Members are reminded to consult the church calendar if they are contemplating using the church buildings, because four groups presently use the buildings each week.

Also, anyone who needs money for any church-related purchase must fill out a voucher

Search Committee

The committee is in the midst of filling out profiles required by the parent denominations. Members of the committee feel unqualified to declare specific figures related to the pastor's compensation package: salary/housing, pension, continuing education, Sabbatical, health insurance, vacation days, etc. Council discussed several points followed with guidance offered as to numbers to note in the profiles, even though most of the elements will come under negotiation once a candidate is determined.

Fellowship Committee

Joyce B. (Chair of Fellowship) would like to plan an Easter Breakfast before church on April 1. No Easter Egg Hunt is planned, but Baskets will be assembled for the children.

From Your Editor

Several months ago a member sent us the poem printed in last month's *Weathervane* whose first two verses said:

*"Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.*

*If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now..."*

We asked for comments. We received one e-mail and another person called to ask who sent it (which was not given). Before the issue went out three people "proofed" it. None of those three commented on the poem. Caroline B. has been the only person to comment and gave permission to print her words.

"I do not like the anonymous poem. There is a very good reason for the separation of church and state and anyone who turns on a TV can see what happens when we forget why the founding fathers opted to NOT make us a "Christian" nation. There are millions of school children who have different beliefs. I would recommend a disclaimer that the opinion expressed is not the opinion of the church (unless that IS the opinion of the church...)" **Caroline**

So your Editor asks: Is it the opinion of our church members? Or do you just not want to commit yourself?

[Your Editor will now take this space to also comment on the poem. I agree with Caroline and debated whether to print the poem at all but finally decided everyone is entitled to their opinion. Is the poem written to inflame passions? Prayer in schools is an issue many churches fervently believe is the answer to many of those ills referred to in the poem.

I believe it is necessary to keep organized religion and government separate, at all levels. We can teach right from wrong and show love without bringing in a Christian or Muslim or Jewish doctrine, etc. For Christians, Jesus specifically said to go off by oneself to pray. But we can also always pray silently and inconspicuously whenever and wherever we are. End of Editor comment.]

We value input from readers. We find nothing wrong with others who have different opinions. We try hard to make *The Weathervane* worth your time to read.

[And another thing, the poem was printed on the last page, in the last column, with a request for comments the very last word. How many have read this far?

~Claudia~ 😊]

No Anniversaries known for this month.