

Mid-March - Mid-April 2018

The Weathervane

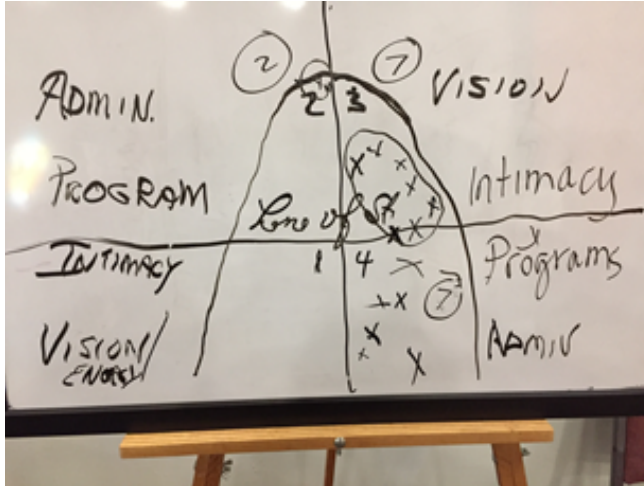
The Newsletter of United Christian Church, Renton, WA

Claudia Gillispie, Editor

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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.



DOES THIS DIAGRAM LOOK FAMILIAR?

At the February Congregation Meeting Pastor Dick explained the Life Cycle Theory (diagram above) as it relates to our church. The Theory was printed along with the Proposed Priorities of United Christian Church that was emailed to all members of the Congregation.

As explained and briefly summarized here by your editor, all organizations begin with a "vision" that taps the energy and passion of the people (our church in this case), as shown on the upward line on the left of the bell curve shown. The people begin to care about each other and develop "Intimacy." They go on to develop "Programs," such as classes and groups for their members. The more programs, the more need for an organizational structure, called "Administration" at the top of the curve.

If a congregation fails to "reinvent" itself, organization becomes most important. People begin to lose energy and even the original "Vision," and the people begin going down the line on the right. As energy is lost people are less concerned with each other and especially with new participants. Relationships dissolve and Loss of "Intimacy" happens. [See more at "Diagram" on page 2.]

EASTER Season Events (Intimacy/Vision?)

- March 17, Workday, making the church building shine! 9am
- March 25, Palm Sunday, with Rev. Sandy Messick (SS @ 9:15)
- March 29, Maundy Thurs. Remembrance, Pastor Dick, 7pm
- April 1, Easter Breakfast Potluck, (No Adult Bible Class), 9-10
- April 1, Easter Service & Choir Cantata, Baskets for children

More information inside

New Pianist Hired

Beginning Sunday, April 8th, our pianist will be **Cindy Dow**. She will replace **Lavon Bowman** who has asked to be released after Easter. Cindy auditioned after worship on March 5th. The listeners (Council and choir) were impressed and offered her the position before she left.

Bulletin Editor Needed

United Christian Church Renton is looking for a volunteer (or two) to put together the weekly bulletin for worship. Minister of Music **Chris Copley** has been volunteering to put together the bulletin for the past 14 months. He will hand over that responsibility in the middle of June.

Chris says it's a labor of love to assemble the bulletin. The bulletin editor assembles it after receiving music selections from the Minister of Music, and scriptures and liturgies from the pastor. The final product is (hopefully) a typo-free copy that is sent to **Leigh Lacey** and **Leona Hansen**, who print it at the church.

Chris says he will work with the new bulletin editor; the work can be done on your own computer at home using either Word or a similar program.

The task takes 2-3 hours a week, plus a desire to serve, a sense of humor, and a willingness to learn a little publishing technology. Training will be provided if needed.

Chris said an unexpected side-benefit of editing the bulletin was a closer relationship with the pastor, an opportunity to grow spiritually, and fulfillment at playing a key role in the worship life of the congregation.

Interested? Contact **Chris Copley** at 206-787-0363 or chriscopey56@gmail.com for more information.



TALLEY'S TOPICS

Greetings from Florida where it is sunny and bright, though we have had some rain and cloudy days. After today we are to be in the low 80's. But enough about the weather.

Before I left I met with all the Priority Task Forces, leaving them with an assignment. It was to answer three questions and to meet and discuss the answers. The three questions were: 1) to list three things that we are doing well in your task forces' priority, 2) list three things that we can do better in your priority, and 3) what would you like to see us accomplish in your priority in the next two years.

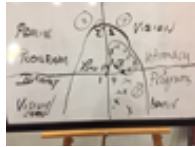
Upon my return each task force will meet to continue the discussion, and prepare a status report to give to the congregation on the 29th of April. Then each task force will decide the next step.

I feel this process gets us thinking and dreaming about what we can realistically do in Ministry at United Christian. It gets us out of thinking what we have done in the past and any limitation we may have had, and gets us looking to the future. I told each of the task forces that every idea is on the table and should be explored. We'll then go from there.

I am looking forward to a couple more weeks of sunshine before getting back to the Northwest. See you on the 29th.Dick

DIAGRAM (Continued from pg 1)

Congregations begin to reach a tipping point as relationships break down and there are no longer people willing to volunteer. The volunteer core gets smaller and smaller; the church begins to burn out its faithful. There is Loss of "Programs."



In the final stages people fight over who can vote at congregational meetings, corporate matters are most important. The last thing to go in a church is its legal structures, by-laws, constitution, etc. Finally at the bottom right of the bell curve is Loss of "Administration." Those attending the February meeting were asked to put an "X" at the stage they believed UCC Renton is at on the bell curve.

The Life Cycle Theory suggests there is a need for congregations to reinvent themselves every 5-7 years, no matter its size or health. Without doing this a congregation will have a life span of 80-85 years.

Pastor Dick said UCC Renton is in a unique position, with its interim, its openness, its willingness to take an honest and objective look at itself, to move ahead and be a vital congregation for years to come. While our future is not secure, we need to intentionally revisit the congregation's vision, goal and mission. The ActoFaith Committee has done much of this and the Search Committee continues to do it.



Moderator's Musings from Pat Auten

As many of you know, the last few months have not been good for me health wise. I want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes. I am hoping in the near future I can put this all behind me.

Thank you Leona, for seeing that the cereal was delivered every two weeks to the breakfast for the homeless. Outreach is for all to participate in and to step forward when a there is a need.

The Pastoral Search Committee tells me that they are making progress and I gave them names of people to write references about our Outreach activities. **Pastor Dick** will be happy to see the progress they have made upon his return.

Thank you to all the Elders who are available to the congregation while Pastor Dick is enjoying the sunshine in Florida. Your work is sincerely appreciated by all.

Thank you to all of you for signing up for **cleaning the church on March 17**. And don't forget to sign up for Easter Breakfast and bring your favorite breakfast dish with you to share. Hope to see you there.

Don't forget to stay after church for a cup of coffee and a cookie or two, to **visit at the round tables**, and get to know everyone who has attended church that day. Also remember to **wear your name pin** so newcomers will know who you are.

The REACH Board of Directors recently appointed a new Executive Director (announced in last month's Weathervane) who has since resigned. However, the other finalist is excited to accept the position as of March 1.

The Reverend Bianca Davis-Lovelace was most recently a Pastor at Eastgate Congregational United Church of Christ in Bellevue, WA. Her background is in education and community services. She has a Bachelor's degree from Jackson State, Her M.Div. from Chicago Theological Seminary, and a Master of Arts Management from Columbia College, Chicago.

Watch for more information.

The St. Francis' Peace Prayer

*Lord, make me
an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

from the devotional booklet in the narthex,
Finding Peace in Lent, by James E. Adams
"Reflections on the Saint Francis Peace Prayer"
[Good reflections. I recommend it. ~CG~]

Activities At the Church

The Spring workday to clean and shine our building will begin around 10 am on Saturday, March 17. Several items are listed on a signup page in the Narthex. These are things that only need doing once or twice a year. Many hands make short work!

This year's **Maundy Thursday service** will be highlighted by the events of Holy Week from the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, until the time of his arrest in the Garden. We will come together to celebrate in scripture and song those events that Jesus went through that final week. We will share around the table the Lord's Supper as we continue our journey toward Easter. I hope you will be able to be there at 7 PM, March 29. —Pastor Dick—

The **Easter Morning Potluck Breakfast** is scheduled from 9-10 am. There will be no Adult Bible Class so everyone may attend the breakfast. Sign up for what you will bring so there can be variety. Some folks just say "Something." [Good surprises?]



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.

Canned goods (fruits, veggies, meat) are appreciated by the Salvation Army **Food Bank**. Be sure to check that they are not past their expiration dates.

Communities In **Schools** 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.

[If many of us can bring just a few of these items it will make a difference in many people's lives, even our own. Think: bring an item whenever you come to church.~C~]

Waving May Start Again

Elder Randy C.

has been offered another job he can do along with the one he just began in Pasco.



His schedule will change so he is hoping to be able to squeeze

in time for the Thursday morning coffee and waving ministry again.

Kentwood High School ROTC Notable

Julia S. won

the individual Division Championship, as did her Team. She is holding their

medal. Really sharp looking, Julia!



(Left) Congregation gathering for the Ash Wednesday service on February 14.

Dates & Times to Remember

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

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

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

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

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

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out Somewhere), 12:00

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

Mar. 15, Email Newsletter sent out.

Mar. 17, Workday, to clean the church, 10 am

Mar. 18, Search Committee Mtg, before worship

Mar. 18, Rev. Courtney Stang-Tregear preaching

Mar. 25, Palm Sunday, Rev. Sandy Messick, preaching

Mar. 26, Mon. Munchers, 12:30, Jay Berry's, Renton (May Vly)

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

Apr. 1, Easter Potluck Breakfast, 9:00 - 10:00 am

Apr. 1, EASTER Sunday Service and Choir Cantata

Apr. 3, REACH mtg, 12:00, (1st Tuesday)

Apr. 3, Council Meeting, 6:30pm, Office Bldg. Conference Rm

Apr. 8, Fellowship & Outreach Task Force, following worship

Apr. 9, Mon. Munchers, 12:30, Little Peking, Renton Hilands

Apr. 15, Email Newsletter sent out



Looking Ahead

Apr. 22, Elders Meet following worship

Apr. 22, Worship Comm. Mtg, following worship

Apr. 23, Mon. Munchers, Mitzels, Kent

Apr. 29, Called Congregation Meeting, following worship

Anniversaries

Apr 15, Brad & Noreen Johnson-Latour

(Notify the Editor if you have a notable anniversary.)



Among the Congregation

"After years of working on and off on my first quilts, they are finally finished!" **Mary K.**



Great News

We want to pass on Fantastic News about **Annie B.**, who was diagnosed with brain cancer a few months ago, and additionally suffered a brain bleed when nicked during surgery. Her last scan shows her brain is now NORMAL! The doctor is amazed. We give thanks to God who loves us and answers our prayers.

Becker Cabin

"This is where we've been most weekends for the last five years. We bought the lot in Oct. 2012 and got the final occupancy permit in Jan. 2018. The cabin is 400 sq. ft. with a 200 sq. ft. loft.

Now, we will take weekends off to relax and enjoy our little piece of paradise. There is still a lot of detail work to finish.

Linda and Diane B."

Keeping Up With What's Going On

Dee W. discovered the church phones couldn't send outgoing communications a couple of weeks ago. It is unknown how long the situation lasted. **Tom R.** "fixed" it by unplugging something and plugging it back in! Thank you, Tom!

Dee W. reminds us all to be mindful to **see that doors are locked** when leaving a building. One morning a member found a homeless man had pitched a tent under cover next to the sanctuary front door and plugged his phone into the outlet there. Also, the office door was found unlocked this past Sunday morning. Remember when locking up the Office building to be sure to turn the **wall heaters** in the front office and conference room to the designated settings.



We are told the **new church sign** will be installed before Easter. The underground wiring has been completed and the torn up grass has been replaced. We thank **Diane B.** for covering that ditch so nicely.

Nancy O. has been leading the **Adult Bible Class** in Pastor Dick's absence. The class is looking at "favorite" Bible passages and is finding unexpected meanings they hadn't noticed before. New attendees are welcome any time. The class goes from 9:15-to 10 am.

The Fellowship Committee (**Joyce B.**) has just sent out the latest **Church Directory via email**. And it's in alphabetical order by first names! Yay! That is how we mainly know each other! If you have additions or corrections email her with the subject line "UCC Renton Directory." [Thank you Joyce! Keeping the Directory up to date is a never ending task. ~Claudia~]

The Fellowship and Outreach **Task Forces report** they met on March 10. The February Congregation Meeting was a baked potato lunch prior to the business part. For the April Congregation Meeting their plans are to have a sandwich and salad luncheon catered by Panera Bread. Watch for more information.

The New Pastor Search Committee began meeting every other Sunday morning before worship services, but have now begun meeting every Sunday. Be sure to keep these dedicated members in your prayers: **Lannette S. (Ch)**, **Sue H.**, **Peter D.**, **Jolynn K.**, and **Barb C.** It is a time consuming and stressful task the congregation is asking of them.

"Leadership is about stewardship, not ownership."
—Kaizen Hospital, the First Gastroenterology Super Specialty Hospital of Gujarat, India, via our Bulletin—



Have you wondered if anyone eats the leftover blessed Communion bread? Here is one who does.

Ed and Claudia G. registered with the Washington State Department of Wildlife several years ago, and agreed to provide natural vegetation for shelter, food and water. With no lake or creek in their tiny back yard they put out a shallow pool. All kinds of birds and animals visit their yard.



Continuing comments

on the poem beginning:

*"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 and received one, so your editor added her comment last month. Here is another one since received.

"Not a fan of the anonymous poem. ;-) Prayer is allowed in public schools if it's youth led. I think it's appropriate that school staff, which are state secular employees, not be the ones leading Prayer. Our issues today have absolutely nothing to do with God (not being in schools. Power and privilege take that award. Jolynn K.

Your editor would love to hear from readers, whether about this poem or on another subject. How about letters to the Editor about your thoughts about our church?

We try hard to make *The Weathervane* worth your time to read. Apparently some folks have read to the very end!

Thank you. ~Claudia~ 😊