



The Full Circle

June 24, 2009



Gone Fishing

That's the sign I want to hang on my door. Just like in the old days when the barber and other shop owners might hang a sign on their doors and take off for the river for a few hours. I have visions of "A River Runs Through It" playing in my mind. The glistening wet fly line gracefully floating through the air and the fly landing in the sweet spot so that it settles in the still waters just behind a big rock in the river. That's it, the one almost in the middle, big and gray, almost big enough for two to picnic on, with the lichen growing above the water line. The big trout always seems to take over this one spot where the food flowing downstream slows to present itself and the river seems to be a conscientious waiter serving a gourmet meal.

I'm no Brad Pitt or Norman Maclean and I'm not sure if I remember how to cast or even roll cast, but I still like to go fishing once in a while. Sometimes I phish for information, sometimes for compliments and sometimes to let people talk about themselves. Recently I went to the Highland Games for an hour or so after church. While walking past the Boundary Bay beverage area, a man sitting with his wife caught my eye. He thought he knew me, I thought I knew him. In one of those awkward conversations seeking to discover a connection, there was none, or so we thought.

I walked past Boundary Bay's area 51, and turned back to go in. Sitting down next to the man's wife, across from him, my metaphorical fly rod came out and we started to talk. Each of us tried out different flies. Yes, Savage is my real first name I say self-consciously to the two Native Americans before me. I hear about their huge 3,000 member church which they may be outgrowing. I tell them, with a fair amount of pride, about being a minister at First Congregational. He tells me about being an artist, Native American story teller, trainer, speaker, and how he likes to organize multi-cultural events. We talk about native flute music and discover that we might have met at a booth at Folk Life in Seattle last year or the year before. We discovered several acquaintances we have in common. He and several friends may even visit our church. Gene's card is on my desk and I'll be checking out his website. Who knows where a chance encounter might lead?

Christians have been fishing for centuries. From the disciples, to early Christians drawing the ichthys in the sand to identify each other during times of persecution, to modern day evangelists, the followers of Christ have been fishers of people too. When we are open to new and different experiences with our neighbors and our neighborhood, we have the opportunity to fish simply by getting to know people and letting them know us.

You never know what you're going to catch when you go fishing. But it's always time well spent.

Pastor Savage



STAFF & OFFICE SCHEDULES

SHARRY'S SCHEDULE: Sharry will be out of the office **July 2-10**.

DENISE will be on vacation from **July 11th to July 27th**. Her last day for processing checks will be Friday July 10th. She will be returning to work on Tuesday, July 28th.

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on **Friday, July 3rd** for the holiday and again on **Friday, July 10th**.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

This section has been sent via email to those that receive the newsletter by email.

If you would like to receive the Full Circle by email please contact the office at 734-3720 or at office@fccb.net and let us know!

ENDOWMENT FUND RECEIVES GIFT

The Elizabeth Diehl Endowment Fund has received a gift of \$500.00 from the Crane family in memory of their father and mother, the Rev. Vincent and Esther Crane. Vince was a former beloved pastor of this church, and Esther's love and spirit put her in the heart of everyone she came in contact with, in the church and beyond. What a wonderful way for the Crane family to honor their parents, and the memory of their lives in this church.

ONE BY ONE BY ONE...A FULL CIRCLE

“We are here to open a space that Love can enter and be more known, more apparent, more understood.”

This quote from “The Knowing Heart, A Sufi Path of Transformation,” expresses the nature of stewardship. Building on the work of past stewards, the Stewardship Board has chosen as a theme for 2009, “**One by One by One...A Full Circle**”.

We have chosen a circle to illustrate the nature and necessity of stewardship to sustain our community through active compassion for self and for others. We will illustrate this activity by suspending a large hoop from the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall which will be used to memorialize, with individual markers, active compassion throughout the year.

We are recognizing some of the events that have already occurred this year by making appropriate markers. Staff, church boards, clubs, circles and individual congregants are invited to add markers on the hoop to reflect activities and events throughout the year which are done as the body of Christ. One by one by one we will place them on the hoop and come to see who we are. **Please stop by the rack outside the Social Hall to see the markers created so far and appreciate the creativity, as well as the compassion, encompassed in what we offer!**

By creating a visual display of the ministry of the church throughout the year, we hope members will celebrate the fruit of the current year and anticipate and seed the next, and accept the implication of One by One by One... A Full Circle.

The Board of Stewardship 2009

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CENTERING PRAYER: Please join us the **2nd and 4th Thursdays** of each month at **7 p.m.** in the Sanctuary for centering prayer.

SUMMER LABYRINTH WALKS: The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool, a walking meditation, a path of prayer. People come to the labyrinth to heal, to be spiritually enriched, to seek peace or insight. The labyrinth can be a transformational tool, opening us to change in our spirit, in our minds, in our bodies. You are invited to join Brenda Nicholson, Sharry Nyberg and Bobbi Virta, Certified Labyrinth Facilitators, the first Thursday of each month from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** to walk the labyrinth. Upcoming walks and themes include: **July 2** “Honoring the Fire Within,” **August 6** “A Pleasing Relationship,” and **September 3** “Nourished by Prayer.” Please join us, the labyrinth is waiting for you. For more information contact Sharry Nyberg at 734-3720.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is taking a break and on hiatus for the summer as we enjoy the warm days of summer. We will gather once again beginning in September.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are active among more than 100 Protestant denominations around the world, including more than 9,000 individual congregations in the United States alone. That's a great deal of “being there” and non-judgmental listening — and you can experience these too!

To learn more, contact one of our Stephen Leaders: *Donna Romjue* (752-1747) *Libby Weiss* (756-2062) and *Pat Styer* (676-2585).

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL: began **Sunday, June 7** for children in Pre School through Fifth grade. The Pre School class will meet in Room 24 with Lisa Vaughn, Kindergarten – Second grade in Room 34 with Emily Marsh and Third –Fifth grade in Room 11 with Iren Willis. Middle School youth are invited to join their families in worship for the summer. Please greet and welcome our summer church school teachers when you see them.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS are needed to assist Erin Schick (our Nursery Attendant) in the Nursery/Toddler room on Sunday mornings during the summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with the babies and toddlers in our congregation. Please sign up for a Sunday outside Room 33.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: The Board of Christian Education is currently recruiting teachers for the 2009-10 church school year. Opportunities are available to teach and share your gifts with the children and youth of our congregation as a church school team teacher in the **Pre School class, Second/Third grade class, or Fourth/Fifth grade class.** The board invites you to explore the ways you are called to be involved in the exciting year to come. For more information contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.

YOUTH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, June 28: 6 p.m.-8 p.m.—Art Project

Have you seen that new circle thing hanging from the ceiling of the social hall? Do you want to know what it is all about? Even if you haven't seen it, come to youth group tonight and we will put together an art project for the whole congregation!

Wednesday, July 1: 3 p.m.-7 p.m.—Picnic Party at the Jensen Farm!

Mark your calendars. Details coming soon!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesday, July 1: 3 p.m.– 7 p.m.— Picnic Party at the Jensen Farm!

Mark your calendars. Details coming soon!



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★ **2009 Graduates:** Is someone in your family ★
graduating from a college or technical school ★
★ this year? If so, please contact the church of- ★
★ fice with the name of your family member, ★
★ school and degree earned so we recognize ★
★ them in an upcoming Full Circle. ★

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YOUTH COORDINATOR NEEDED

Do you like working with middle and high school youth? We currently have an opening for a youth coordinator beginning August 1. This person will plan and lead activities with both the middle and high school youth groups, as a part of supporting the youth as they explore their faith questions. They will also lead the youth on their annual summer mission trip and coordinate fund-raising efforts with the youth and their families for the trip. The job is salaried at 20 hours per week and is a one year commitment. A strong, supportive and fun staff along with a welcoming church community will help guide this experience. This position requires someone with skills in the areas of leadership, decision making, organization, and human relations, combined with a love for young people. If interested in finding out more about this position, please contact Sharry Nyberg at 734-3720 or sharry@fccb.net or Thirza Zage-low at 734-4977.

AROUND THE CHURCH

LIBRARY ORIENTATION: We invite you to explore the Biblical literature available in your FCCB library. The Library Committee will provide a series of orientations that will highlight the resources available that offer an analytical approach to understanding the Bible. We will offer three sessions. They will be on **July 12, August 9th and September 13th at 11:30 a.m.** following church services. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet posted on the Bulletin Board on Committees.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK HELP: Adult Ministries is seeking help/volunteers for Worship in the Park, **August 23rd**, at Cornwall Park. If you would like to help there are sign up sheets in the Narthex; cooking; tables; clean up; set-up; and/or games and activities.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE ON JULY 10-11, 2009: Many people in our congregation have been touched by a cancer diagnosis for themselves or a loved one. If this includes you, you may be interested in learning that the annual Relay for Life for Whatcom County will be held **July 10-11** to pay tribute to those who have been experienced cancer and to raise funds toward research for a cure. Teams and individuals will walk around the track continuously for 18 hours as part of the event. The “survivors’ lap” and the luminarias that line the course are poignant highlights for everyone who attends. If you would like to have a luminaria displayed in honor of someone you know who has been touched by cancer, please see Etta Kirk or Barbara Green after church to answer your questions and to complete the order forms. Luminarias may be designated “In memory of...”, “In celebration of...”, or “For the fight of...”. Suggested donation to American Cancer Society is \$5 per luminaria.

NAIFA GOLF TOURNEY - It's time for the 11th Annual NAIFA (*National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors*) Golf Tournament benefiting Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County! **Friday, August 28, 2009**, Avalon Golf Course, Burlington, 4 Person Scramble, 7:00am Check-in, 8:00am Shotgun Start, Putting contest to follow. For more information contact Neal Kloke @ 360.815.4170, kloken@hotmail.com.

INTERFAITH COALITION SEEKS PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT: Interfaith Coalition is seeking a part-time program assistant for its Friendly Visitors program, which provides outreach to isolated seniors through weekly visits from compassionate volunteers. The program supports these matches and provides participants with ongoing training and connection to community resources.

The program assistant serves as office manager for Friendly Visitors and assists the program coordinator in enrollments and matches. The successful candidate will have experience working with volunteers and the elderly, a desire to put your faith in action serving the community, and exceptional computer and administrative skills. The position is 8 to 10 hours per week. For a complete job description, please email friendlyvisitors@interfaith-coalition.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here are a few events the church will be participating in over the summer. We hope to see you all there! Check upcoming Full Circles for detailed information on these events!

Church Camp Out at Larabee State Park on August 14!

Worship in the Park – at Cornwall Park – on August 23!

Celebration Potluck on September 13th at 5:30 p.m.!

Bellingham CROP Walk is the afternoon of October 4!

CHURCH CALENDAR

June 29

9:00 AM *Shalom Circle*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 1

3:00 PM *Youth Group Picnic Party at the Jensen Farm*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 2

6:30 PM *Labyrinth Walk*
7:00 PM *Jesus Seminar*

July 3—OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM *In Stitches*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 5

10:00 AM *Worship/Summer Church School*

July 6

9:00 AM *Shalom Circle*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 8

5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 9

1:00 PM *Jesus Seminar*
7:00 PM *Centering Prayer*

July 10—OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 AM *In Stitches*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 12

10:00 AM *Worship/ Summer Church School*

