

The Full Circle

July 22, 2009



The Dance

Remember what it was like? Your school was going to have a dance. Did you feel the fear and anxiety begin to flow, and flow more and more as the time got closer and closer? Who am I going to invite? Who is going to invite me? What am I going to wear? What will the other kids wear? (Today it would probably be which jeans am I going to wear; how many holes do they have where; and how low should I wear them?) Perhaps begging your parents not to chaperone. They were too strict or too square and fuddy-duddy. Fights with mom or dad about what clothing was acceptable and how you wore your clothes?

I remember my first dance. The prep work of making sure my hair was cut and combed just right, in this case the hair was styled in the bowl cut of the early "Beatles." Trying to make my old ties and jackets look like the Beatles' clothing wasn't easy. Arriving at the dance, with mom not parking too close, was hard, because mom wanted to come in with me.

Not having a date to take, but hanging out with my friends, was ok but not the way I wanted to spend my time. Seeing the person I wanted to dance with and working up a sweat trying to find the courage to ask her. While making sure the guys didn't see me asking. Then dancing the evening away, losing all concept of time, as the music seemed to take over.

Holding hot sweaty hands to "I Want to Hold Your Hand" was particularly interesting. But only a fleeting memory as the music carried us away.

Music has been carrying people away for centuries. In the time of "King David" it was common to use dance and music as a way to induce trance and religious ecstatic states. Even today, many people in many cultures use music and movement as a way to enter that mysterious communion with the divine.

Dance with its ebbs and flows is a good metaphor for life and the life of the church. Ecstatic leaps and slow rhythmic motion. Mirrored movements with one's partner, days whirling into other days as seasons change; with new beats as liturgical seasons come and go. Spring flowers fade in summer heat making way for summer flowers and vegetables, and fruit beginning to reach for harvest time.

The Mission, Justice and Social Concerns board is listening and dancing in new ways. You'll be hearing exciting things from them concerning what a "Just Peace Church" is. The Membership Board has one or two new steps in their dance too.

Keep listening for the sacred music that flows through all creation as spirit, the word and music of God, for it is the power of creation. (John 1:1) Come to the dance and be whisked away and we shall see what new thing God does. The music of love will guide us through the new steps and motions. Hear the music calling you?

Pastor Savage



STAFF & OFFICE SCHEDULES

DENISE will be returning to work on **Tuesday, July 28th**.

KATHRYN will be on vacation from **July 25 to August 1st**. She will be back in the office **August 3rd**.



NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

We are now sending the Full Circle by email. If you signed up to receive it by email and you aren't getting it or you would like to start receiving the Full Circle by email please contact our secretary, Kathryn, at office@fccb.net.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

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

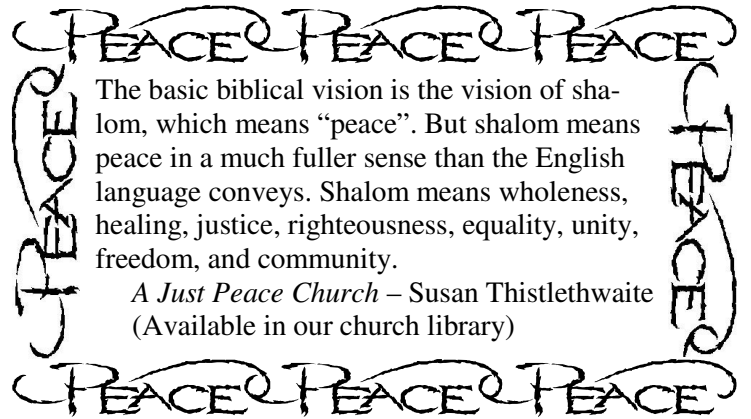
If you would like to receive the Full Circle by email please contact the office at 734-3720 or at office@fccb.net and let us know!

SEARCH AND CALL UPDATE

The Search and Call Committee has worked since October 2008, reading 70 profiles, conducting 9 phone interviews and selecting five finalists. During this time the committee has learned a great deal about the process and has felt a profound humbleness in our task. Three of our finalists accepted calls to other churches before we could conclude their candidacy with us. Those churches had started their process months ahead of us. The committee met with two finalists.

After much discussion in this discerning phase, the committee realized that, as wonderful as these two candidates are, they do not fulfill the needs of the church. Your Search and Call committee represents a wide diversity of priorities, attitudes, and lives within the church, and we were commissioned to bring a pastor who brings our church together to carry forward the vision set by the congregation. Therefore, the Search & Call Committee is re-opening the search for our Lead Pastor, as we continue this amazing journey you have set us on. We have a humble faith that the right candidate is out there and that God will continue to guide us to our next Lead Pastor.

Every member of Search and Call is grateful for the steadfast support and faith of the congregation. You have provided, and continue to provide the love, vision and feedback which keep us listening to our Still Speaking God. There are wonderful UCC pastors looking for wonderful churches, and we will make the connection.



The basic biblical vision is the vision of shalom, which means "peace". But shalom means peace in a much fuller sense than the English language conveys. Shalom means wholeness, healing, justice, righteousness, equality, unity, freedom, and community.

A Just Peace Church – Susan Thistlethwaite
(Available in our church library)

TRUSTEES MAKE APPEAL FOR TREASURER

The church has an urgent need for a Treasurer. Max Legg will soon be retiring from this post. The volunteer position will require a person interested in and familiar with book-keeping and accounting practices to oversee the financial affairs of the congregation. Please help us to meet our duty to be fiscally responsible, satisfy State rules of incorporation, and meet a requirement of the church constitution. Please contact the church office if you have questions at office@fccb.net.

WHAT ABOUT MY STUFF?

Our first gathering of What To Do About Stuff happened on July 15. If you'd like to join us and strategize about how to deal with things and the emotions that swirl around them, we next meet on **Wednesday, August 19 at 7 p.m.** You are welcome to come and share your own concerns...together we'll find a good path. Questions? Please contact Pastor Jane at 734-3720.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB: Do you enjoy reading? Why not plan to join the daytime book club which meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room (September – May) for conversation and refreshments, followed by a discussion of the book for the month. The book we will be discussing at our **next meeting on September 4** will be "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet" by Jamie Ford.

NO LABYRINTH WALK ON AUGUST 6: There will not be a labyrinth walk the first Thursday in August. As you enjoy the beautiful summer weather please remember the labyrinth is available for walking in the Chapel during church office hours Monday – Thursday from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. Join facilitators Sharry Nyberg, Brenda Nicholson and Bobbi Virta at our next facilitated walk **Thursday, September 3** when our theme will be "Nourished by Prayer."



Stephen Ministry

Are you struggling with feelings of frustration, anger, loneliness, confusion, or hopelessness in the course of a difficult life experience? A Stephen Minister is ready and willing to listen as you seek a way toward clarity and healing.

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

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: It takes a congregation to nurture our children and youth on their faith journey. During baptism we commit and promise to be grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles and brothers and sisters to the children of our church family. At this time the Board of Christian Education is currently in need of church school teachers. Opportunities are available to team teach in the **Second/Third grade class, or Fourth/Fifth grade class** for the 2009-2010 church school year. Are you called to be a team teacher sharing your gifts, planting the seeds of faith? For more information contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.

SAVE THE DATE YOUTH SUNDAY: The Middle School and High School Youth will be leading the worship service at 10:00 a.m. on **Sunday, August 2**. Please plan to join us as the youth share their gifts, prayers and reflections from their recent mission trip to San Francisco.

During this service we will also say **"THANK YOU"** to **Jen Dickinson**, our Youth Coordinator, and wish her well as she prepares to move to Hawaii and begin graduate school. You are invited to bring a card of thanks and well wishes for Jen and place it in the basket in the Narthex.

YOUTH NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, July 26: 6p.m.-8 p.m.—Worship Planning
The youth will be leading worship on August 2nd. We will spend this time forming and planning worship.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sunday, July 26: 4 p.m.-6 p.m.—Worship Planning
The youth will be leading worship on August 2nd. We will spend this time forming and planning worship.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS

As you prepare to head off to school please call the church 734-3720 or email Sharry at (sharry@fccb.net) and let us know your new address. This way we will be able to keep you connected to your church family while you are away. Remember to visit the church website www.fccb.net to keep updated on what is happening and to listen to recent sermons.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Trustees have awarded a \$2,500.00 scholarship from the Deb Pehrson Scholarship Endowment Fund to Karen Harris. Karen's life in our church began when she was in sixth grade. She participated in confirmation classes with Cindy Bauleke and Donel McClellan, our famous Joy Jesters, and went on our youth mission trips. She attended the National Youth Event in Knoxville, TN.

This fall Karen will begin her senior year at WWU and will graduate with a BA degree in Communication Science Disorders and a minor in Audiology. She will then continue her education working toward a Doctorate in Audiology. Ultimately, Karen wants to put her skills to work helping children and adults in a hospital setting, or in private clinical practice.

Our church has been blessed with the scholarships made available through the Deb Pehrson Scholarship Endowment Fund. This fund will ultimately close when the present capital is exhausted. A gift to this Fund will prolong its life and assist other worthy students from our church.

AROUND THE CHURCH

FOOD FIRST SUNDAY: Food First Sunday is **August 2nd**. Please bring your food or monetary donations on Sunday. A cash donation allows the Food Bank to purchase perishable food items.

CALLING ALL KEYS! If you have an outdoor or inside key for the church and are no longer using it please return it to the office. Thank you!

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.

FAMILY CAMPOUT on Friday August 14th at the group site at Larrabee State Park. Come for overnight, come for s'mores on Friday night. Coffee will be delivered Saturday morning! Sign up at church or just come—5 p.m. Friday to 11 a.m. Saturday. For more information contact Amelia Bacon at 319-6111.

CALLING ALL FLUTE PLAYERS : The Flute Choir will share their talent again in worship on **August 30th**. All levels of experience are welcome. We will rehearse on **Thursday, August 27th** and again on **Sunday, August 30th** before the worship service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sharon Camblin (715-0933) or Jerry Couchman (366-5169). As soon as we have an approximate number of flute choir members, we will send out music.

TRY OUT FOR VARIETY SHOW TO BENEFIT INTERFAITH COALITION

Has your family become a weary audience, no longer appreciative of the sheer talent before their eyes? Are you tired of performing in front of a mirror? Maybe it's time to hit the big stage. Imagine the Mount Baker Theatre, a full house of performing arts aficionados applauding your spellbinding performance. You graciously take your bows.

You're not dreaming. Your name could be in the playbill for "Sounds of the Season," a Christmas-themed variety show to benefit Interfaith Coalition.

Buchanan Productions is seeking actors, singers, musicians, dancers, magicians and other talented performers for this production to be staged at the Mount Baker Theatre on Friday, Dec. 18. **Tryouts are Saturday, Oct. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 119 Texas St. in Bellingham.** The show will have live orchestration, so orchestra members are needed, as well.

Getting stage fright now? Well, how about performing as part of a small group? Maybe you sing with members of your congregation. Round them up and try out as a group. Or bring the other musicians in the combo you play with or the dancers from the troupe you dance with. You get the idea, so don't let this opportunity pass you by.

For more information, contact Judy or Barry Buchanan at 360-734-6639.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

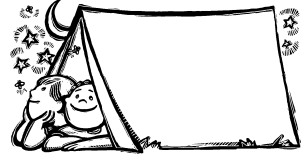
Here are a few events the church will be participating in over the summer. We hope to see you all there! Check upcoming Full Circles for detailed information on these events!

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

July 27

9:00 AM *Shalom Circle*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
7:00 PM *Board Meetings*

July 29

5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

July 31—OFFICE CLOSED

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

August 2

10:00 AM *Worship/Summer Church School*

August 3

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

August 5

5:00 PM *Exercise Group*

August 6

7:00 PM *Jesus Seminar*

August 7

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

August 9

10:00 AM *Worship/ Summer Church School*

