

The Full Circle

August 26, 2009



JUST TOO IMPORTANT

That's what I think. Some things are just too important to be kept to one's self. They really need to be shared. The Smile is one of those things. Have you every noticed that the more you smile or even get people to laugh, the more smiles and laughter you get back? Love is another one of those things: The more love you give the more you are loved in return. I call it "Sacred Economy." Justice and Peace are also part of the sacred economy. They are so important I decided to share "From the Pastor" this month with the Mission, Justice, and Social Concerns board.

- Pastor Savage

Dear Congregation,

Your Mission, Justice, and Social Concerns board is excited to share that we are exploring ways to become a Just Peace Church.

You may be asking, 'What is a Just Peace Church'?

The General Synod defined "Just Peace" as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence. Over the years, the Just Peace Church identity has become an important symbol for many UCC congregations, as both a means of shaping congregational identity and as a framework for practicing justice-based theological reflection.

For many Just Peace congregations, this identity has helped to underscore their ministries of direct service, legislative advocacy, and courageous witness. The approach has differed from place to place. "Just Peace" is defined in our study guide as "Shalom." Shalom is a vision of all people whole, well, and one, and of all nature whole, well, and one. The MJSC board is excited to work on this vision with you. We believe our church is already on its way to becoming a Just Peace congregation through many of the things we already participate in such as our Open and Affirming status, Mission trips, Habitat for Humanity, helping the Food Bank, working at the Community Meal, and many other great gifts we share. However, we believe there are still more issues we can tackle. We look forward to becoming one of the first Just Peace churches in our area and are excited to be part of a congregation involved in making this happen.

Peace and Blessings,
MSJC Board

World Peace Prayer:

Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our
world, our universe.

The MJSC will be showing the movie *Peace One Day* on Sept 20th

The Mission Justice and Social Concerns board invites you to come and watch this inspiring documentary about Jeremy Gilley a man who is on a mission to persuade the United Nations to create a global cease-fire day. This day is now known as the International Day of Peace, held annually on September 21st. Please join us and see a moving testament to the notion that one individual truly can change the world. The movie will be shown in the Chapel after church services on Sept. 20th. We hope to have child care available.

STAFF SCHEDULES

SHARRY will be out of the office on vacation **August 30 - September 7th.**

SAVAGE will be out of the office from **September 5 - 22.**



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!



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LABYRINTH WALK: : The labyrinth is generally in the Chapel available for walking during church office hours (Monday - Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 to 1:00 p.m.) Please join us for our next facilitated walk the first Thursday of the month on **September 3** when our theme will be "Nourished by Prayer."

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 1** will be "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet" by Jamie Ford.

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is taking a break and on hiatus as we enjoy the warm days of summer. We will gather once again beginning **September 9th**.



Stephen Ministry

Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?... Going through a tough time emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down? Consider letting a Stephen Minister help.

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



CLASSES STARTING IN THE FALL

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: The Adult Study Group offering the Living the Questions studies will resume its 2nd and 4th Tuesday night meetings in Room 11 at **7 p.m. on September 8th**. These approximately one hour long meetings consist of 20 minute video presentations by well known religious scholars on faith journey questions and are followed by group discussion on the presentation content. Seven sessions have already been covered and there are 14 more sessions scheduled.

The group welcomes new attendees. Contact Bob and Pat Styer at 360-676-2585 to express interest.

FAITH AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: Are you interested in dialoging with others about your Christian faith and its relationship to issues in the news every day? Please join us on **September 15 at 7 p.m.** to discuss what a dialog might look like and what your needs might be. Future meeting topics and times will be determined by the group. Please contact Pastor Jane at 734-3720 or jane@fccb.net or Sharon 715-0933, camblins@comcast.net if you would like to be a part of such a group but can't make the first date.

DONATION OPPORTUNITY: Flat Panel LCD Monitors

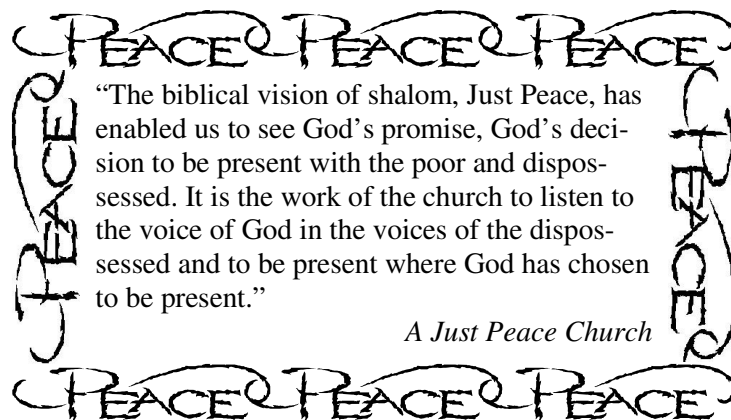
Have you recently replaced your computer system and are wondering what to do with that extra flat panel LCD monitor? We have the perfect answer...put it to work for the church. The church office is in need of two (2) LCD monitors to replace our aging CRT monitors currently used by our staff. Please contact the church office if you are able to help.

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 or if you are interested in serving at office@fccb.net.

NOTE: Communion will be celebrated on **August 30** rather than September 6, as we dedicate our new communion ware.

PRAYER SHAWLS REQUESTED: Arts in Worship asks those who have prayer shawls to consider loaning them to the church for display in the Sanctuary in September. Please bring them to the office before September 4, and please make sure to pin a tag with your name and phone number to your shawl.



PRAYER CONCERNS: It's good for all of us to remember: some among us are very private and choose not to share with the congregation when we are ill or in grief or otherwise burdened. If you know someone who is sick or grieving or otherwise needs a friendly greeting, please let the pastors know. (It is good to hear such news many times rather than not at all.) But please understand if that person chooses to keep their concern or illness private. You can still include them in your prayers: widen your words to encompass the concerns you do not know, or the details you only suspect, and trust that the Holy Spirit will, as Paul wrote, "intercede with sighs too deep for words."

--Pastor Jane



FROM THE LIBRARY

Visit our  Library Orientation: Resources for the Study of the Bible

Are you interested in books *about* the Bible? How do you make sense of all the different books? What are the major themes? Why is John's Gospel different from the other three? What is the Lost Gospel of Q? How do you put it all together? These are all questions about understanding the nature of the Biblical literature.

We invite you to explore the Biblical literature available in your FCCB library. The Library Committee has provided a series of orientations that highlight the resources available that offer an analytical approach to understanding the Bible. We will look at the "big picture" texts as well as texts that provide analysis of individual passages, including a method for Bible Study.

The last session will be held **September 13th at 11:30 a.m.** following worship. Since the library is small, the session is limited to a maximum of six people. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet posted on the Bulletin Board for Committees.

Robin & Neal

SEARCH AND CALL UPDATE

At our last Search & Call meeting, we assessed where we are in the Search & Call process. Since we have reopened our search a few weeks ago, we have received 40 profiles. You need to know that this church has attracted a lot of attention within the broader United Church of Christ. We have diligently read and evaluated nearly all of the profiles received and currently have the latest four profiles awaiting review.

We've also conducted three phone interviews and one follow up phone interview. We have three more phone interviews scheduled over the next two weeks and we are working on arranging a neutral pulpit visit for one of our candidates. Profiles continue to pour in as we continue to sift through the information we already have received and listen to or read sermons and contact references. Lately the committee feels like we've enrolled in a juggler's convention as we try to get all this work done.

We are also grieving the loss of one of our members, David Fayram, as he and Nancy have left for teaching positions in Cairo, Egypt. David was the spark for many of our discussions and we miss him greatly.

This is a busy and exciting time for the Search and Call committee. Although it was an incredibly difficult decision to make, we feel we made the right choice in reopening the search. And judging by the deluge of quality candidate profiles we've received and continue to receive, we are very confident that we are on the right track.

We are also grateful for the words of encouragement and prayers of support we have received from all of you. And we continue to feel great humility that you have entrusted to us such an important task in the life of our church.

For that amazing gift you have given to us, we give you thanks.

FURTHER MUSINGS ON STUFF

Why do we collect things? Why is it so hard to let some things go? If you ever ask these questions, or if you have other perplexities around the "stuff" in your life, please join us for conversation on Wednesday, **September 23 at 7 p.m.** in Room 11
New voices always welcome!

A NOTE FROM THE ACCOUNTANT

Giving statements were sent out recently. Please take the time to review them for accuracy. It's much easier to correct errors as soon as they happen rather than at the end of the year during tax time. I am in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays or leave a message on ext. 4. Be sure to include your envelope # with your message.
Thank you. Denise Hoffman.

"Love has many fruits: kindness, patience, generosity, courage, self-sacrifice. Love will produce these fruits, and these fruits will engender Love. This is a two-way street. An apple contains the tree."

Love will produce these fruits! The stewardship circle hanging in the Fellowship Hall is a celebration of all that happens when love is shared. So, let's finish 2009 strongly, filling this circle to overflowing, marking a congregation intent on celebrating fully the renewing energy of love. **One by one by one ... (everyone makes it) ... A Full Circle!**

- Board of Stewardship 2009

KEEPING UP WITH THE FAYRAMS

Here are the first few paragraphs of the first email sent from the Fayrams in Cairo. The rest of the email may be read on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

"Greetings from the land of camels, pyramids, opulence and deep poverty,

We have been in Cairo for a week, and we have yet to do a lot of exploring. Settling in and school have taken a lot of time. Also, we are now in Ramadan, the month in which Muslims (and anyone who wants to switch lifestyles for a while) fast during the day and celebrate big each night from 6-9. Stores are closed from 4-9 every day, which means it is difficult to get some things done ... like connecting to the internet. It will happen ... insha-allah.

I sit writing this in our new apartment on road number 277, unit 3. Most roads in Maadi, our neighborhood, are labeled by number - fortunately. "Neighborhood" is a loose term; it's more a region of Cairo. It takes about half an hour to walk across Maadi, sort of like one of the burrows of New York. Our apartment is also large. In fact, it is almost the largest apartment I have ever seen at 284 sq meters. Two and a half bathrooms, two bedrooms, a large dining/living room area, a separate sitting room, and an enclosed patio-sort-of-area with a view of the park across the street. Everything is pretty dry and dusty as I look out the window, as if it needs a thorough hosing. But we have green to look at, rather than just another building, as many other apartments we saw do. Well, not quite green - kind of a brownish green. But better than walls.

The 1:15 call to prayer just rolled through. We are close enough to hear it from two different mosques, but far enough from them that it is a gentle music.

When we were ready to leave the hotel, at 9:00 Thursday morning, hotel staff helped us haul our 9 large pieces of luggage and a sizable amount of stuff we bought at the local Carrefour (like Walmart). I only had to tip them five Egyptian pounds (EP) ... about 90 cents, and they were content. The "boab" (pronounced bo-ab), the maintenance man for the apartment building, carried nearly everything up the 3 flights of stairs himself - most weighing 50 pounds or more. No tip required. A lot of things are not cheap around this city, but service is."

(to read the rest of the email see the "AROUND THE CHURCH" section of the bulletin board in the Narthex.)

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

THANK YOU so much to our wonderful church school teachers **Lisa Vaughn, Emily Marsh and Irene Willis** who shared their gifts teaching our children this summer.

2009-10 CHURCH SCHOOL: On Sunday September 13 our fall church school schedule will begin for children in Pre School through Middle School. Children will report to church school following Time with Children. Please follow the footsteps on the walls downstairs to find your child's classrooms.

A BIG THANK YOU to **Larry Green , Bill Fox ,Dominic Garguile** and our custodian **Darlene Anderson** for painting the Pre School classroom. It looks wonderful!

HAVE YOU SEEN FRED? Fred, the turtle puppet, has disappeared from Sharry's office . Please return him to Sharry if you find him.

YOUTH NEWS

NEW YOUTH COORDINATOR HIRED... We welcome Angela Pahlow as our youth coordinator of the middle and high school youth groups. Angela was raised in the United Methodist Church and was very active in her church youth group and has participated in several mission trips. She is a graduate of Western Washington University with a BA in Spanish and a teaching certificate for grades K -12. She spent the last year in Spain teaching English and American culture to youth ages 11-16. In the fall Angela will be returning to Western to work on a Masters in Counseling. She has a passion for working with youth and a variety of experience. Angela brings many gifts to this position and is a welcome addition to our staff. **She will be in the office beginning September 8th.**

Mark your calendars and watch for details as we kick off youth group and welcome Angela on **Sunday, September 13th.**

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.

AROUND THE CHURCH

REMINDER: The International Day of Peace, featuring speaker John Dear, S.J. will be held **Monday, September 21.** Starting with a walk from Maritime Heritage Park to First Congregational Church.

COMMUNITY MEAL: Come help at the community meal at Assumption on **August 30th.** We have the 3 to 5 p.m. shift this month. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or with Donna Romjue after worship on Sundays.

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!

FOOD FIRST SUNDAY: Food First Sunday is **September 6th.** Please bring your food or monetary donations on Sunday. A cash donation allows the Food Bank to purchase perishable food items.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL meets Sunday, August 30th at 9 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL GLEANING! The ancient biblical practice of gleaning, or harvesting the crops that a farmer leaves behind, is still relevant today! Here in Bellingham, Small Potatoes Gleaning Project, now in its ninth season, works with farmers and homeowners to salvage fresh fruits and veggies that would otherwise go to waste. Small Potatoes volunteers pick the surplus produce and deliver it to almost 30 Whatcom County food banks and feeding programs. You can get involved in multiple ways to help Small Potatoes reach its goal of rescuing and distributing 70,000 pounds of food to the hungry of Whatcom County this season. Homeowners with fruit trees or extra garden produce can arrange for Small Potatoes volunteers to harvest the surplus, and Small Potatoes is always looking for new volunteers to help glean. Homeowners with fruits and vegetables to donate and those wishing to volunteer their time should contact Dorothy Mitchell, Small Potatoes Gleaning Project VISTA, at 367-1655 or [doro-thym@bellinghamfoodbank.org](mailto:dorothy@bellinghamfoodbank.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Whatcom Interfaith Group (TWIG), a project of the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center and Buddhist Peace Fellowship, will host the Three Interfaith Amigos on **Wednesday, September 2nd.** This event is co-sponsored by Village Books. Rabbi Ted Falcon, Sheikh Jamal Rahman, and Pastor Don Mackenzie are the authors of a new book entitled, 'Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-opening, Hope-filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi and a Sheikh.' They will speak at **7 p.m.** at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church. (Rev. Dr. Don Mackenzie is a UCC pastor, recently retired as Head of Staff from University UCC in Seattle.)

SUMMER GOSPEL JUBILEE - 'SINGING AT THE GARDEN': **September 12, 3:30pm** at Glen Echo Garden, 4390 "Y" Rd. Bellingham. Tickets-\$10.00 advanced; \$12.00 at the gate, (includes access to concert and garden) For reservations or information - Call 354-4815 or 371-1614. Enjoy an inspiring afternoon of gospel music in the beautiful surroundings of Glen Echo Garden.

STEPHEN MINISTERS AND STEPHEN LEADERS

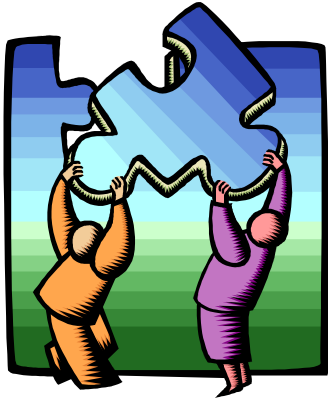
Mark your calendars and plan to come to the potluck

September 16th 6 to 8 pm
in FCCB Social Hall

Bring a dish to share and plan to renew friendships or make new friends

Questions? Call Pat 676-2585, Donna 752-1747 or Libby 756-2062

HELP FILL IN THE LAST PIECE!



Mark **September 13th** on your calendar for a joyous celebration of the completion of our building loan! The Capital Campaign III ended May 31st leaving us with an estimated balance of **\$30,000**. In 2008, the congregation voted to complete the loan as early as possible rather than carrying the balance into the yearly budget. Members and friends of this church are being asked to consider a **One Time Gift** to help fill in the last piece.

On September 13th, we will hold an all-church potluck in the Social Hall and Narthex beginning at **5:30 p.m.** to celebrate the gifts given to complete this part of our church life. Please sign-up for a main dish, salad or dessert in the Narthex. The potluck will be followed by a program of gratitude and joy in the sanctuary at approximately **6:45 p.m.** Childcare for babies and toddlers, 3 and under, will be provided in the Nursery.

The Celebrate Our Success Committee recognizes that everyone's circumstances are different in these challenging economic times. We hope that all will find a Share Card posted in the Narthex on August 30 and September 6 and 13 that fits your individual budget.

CHURCH CALENDAR

August 31

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

September 1

9:30 AM *Book Club*
7:00 PM *Pilgrim Circle*

September 2

5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
5:00 PM *Prayer Shawl*
7:00 PM *Stephen Ministers*

September 3

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

September 4

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

September 6

10:00 AM *Worship*

September 7—OFFICE CLOSED

September 8

9:30 AM *Discover Circle*

September 9

5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
5:00 PM *Prayer Shawl*

September 10

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

September 11

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

September 13

10:00 AM *Worship/Church School*
5:30 PM *Celebration Potluck*

