

The Full Circle

September 9, 2009



As my husband Tom and I grieve his dad's passing – and deal with his dad's stuff – we walk a path that is familiar to many. We see chipped plates or nicked glasses and think, “why did they keep this?” We start going through paperwork of various types and think, “what do we have to keep? What's important here?” (all the while knowing that what is important, or not important, to us may not hold the same value for others such as the IRS or the probate attorney.)

My father-in-law was a historian, by training and by practice, and one of the delightful things we have uncovered is his correspondence. For long letters of meaty stuff – not just about the weather, or how the camellias fared this Spring but prose about ideas, poetry, religion or science – he kept copies of the letters he received *and* his responses. In one, he remarked to an old friend, “I shan't write my autobiography...it would hold little of interest for my children, grand or otherwise...” (at this point I'm arguing with him as I read, “Oh yes it would, too!”) “...but mine has been a life of the mind, of ideas...” and he goes on, in words that bring him so clearly to mind and heart. These letters are a gift to us.

He also saved some emails. He printed out strings of grandparent musings to his grandchildren, where you can follow the voices back and forth through bits of family history...and what a great gift this is! *And we can all do it, too.* You may not be much of a letter writer any more. Many of us have given up the pen and the post office. But before you hit “delete” and clean up your inbox, think about printing out one or two that hold significance for you. Put them aside for your children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews to muse over or laugh over. They will appreciate the chance to hear your “voice” one more time.

--Pastor Jane

PASTORAL CARE IN SEPTEMBER

Due to family crises – Pastor Jane's father-in-law who died and whose memorial service is in mid-September, and Pastor Savage's father who is experiencing health challenges – there will be a few times in September when neither pastor is in town. Fortunately for us, the Stephen Ministers have willingly taken up the challenge of either volunteering to cover the evening “on call” for pastoral care, or to be available for pastoral care calls during the days when both pastors are gone. Kathryn will have that schedule, so whenever you experience a need for pastoral presence and concern, you will be able to get the aid you need. From the pastors: a heartfelt “thank you” for this help, as it eases our concern as we care for our family members.

STAFF SCHEDULES

PASTOR SAVAGE will be out of the office **September 6 – 22**, dealing with a family concern in Pennsylvania.

PASTOR JANE will be out of the office **September 16 – 19**, for her father-in-law's memorial service in Oregon.



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!

NEW COMMUNION WARE DEDICATED

On August 30, Pastors Savage and Jane together with the Diaconate and the congregation dedicated new communion ware. Created by local artist Sylvia Holmstrom, these beautiful pieces coordinate with our older communion set and incorporate small chalices and plates for the wheat-free elements. Each piece includes colors from the liturgical calendar (blue, purple, green, red and white) to remind us of the seasons and the cycle of how we tell our (Christian) story each year. Great thanks to the Diaconate for expanding our communion celebrations to include those with wheat allergies, and special thanks to Mal Kennell for seeing the project through to such a lovely conclusion.



MEN'S BREAKFAST: Please join us for a time of fellowship **8:30 a.m. Friday, September 18th** at Bob's Burger and Brew in Barkley Square.

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 on a mission to persuade the United Nations to create a global ceasefire 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. Child care will be available.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Please join us each **Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room.

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 **October 1** when our theme will be "Go Outside."

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 **October 6** will be "Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbury.



Stephen Ministry

A friend in need... In times of trouble, we look to caring Christian friends to listen to us. A Stephen minister can listen and care while you or someone you know works through their feelings. Our Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training and have continuing education so they can provide Christian care for others.

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 22nd**. 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. Joining us "mid stream" is welcome as each video and discussion can stand alone. Contact Bob and Pat Styer at 360-676-2585 to express interest.

FAITH AND (CONTEMPORARY) ISSUES: Have you wanted to explore what your faith has to say to the issues of our day? Join us on **September 15 at 7 p.m.** in Room 11 for conversation with others around how what we believe influences what we say and what we do, and what we might say and what we might do. The group that gathers will determine the shape of future conversations. If you have questions, or if you are interested but are unable to make this first gathering time, please contact Sharon Camblin at 715-0933 or Pastor Jane at 734-3720.

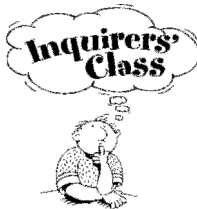
BOX MYSTERIES

Do you have Mystery Boxes or Bags in your home? Parcels sitting in closets or under the stairs....and you just haven't the heart to drag them out, sort through them and weigh what to keep and what to toss? Do you wonder why stuff tugs at us so, weighs us down or clogs our thinking? Come share your ponderings, your puzzles and your successes with us on **September 23 at 7 p.m.** For questions, please contact Pastor Jane.

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.

INQUIRER'S CLASS



Looking for a church home? The next Inquirers' Classes are on **September 27th and October 4th**, with being accepted into the membership on **October 18th**. Please plan on attending both of these sessions to be held in the Fireplace Room from **11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.** on those two Sunday mornings. Please contact one of the pastors, Bruce Camblin, or Kate Eifrig to make your interest known.

PEACE PEACE PEACE

"Because God is moving in the world, possibilities open up and change can take place. God is active where some who have had relatively more power and privilege have heard the cries of the poor and have experienced a conversion to the cause of the poor. They have begun to be converted to the view that they bear a great responsibility to end poverty, militarism, and imperialism."

"A Just Peace Church" – page 45

PEACE PEACE PEACE

SEARCH AND CALL UPDATE

The puffing and panting you may have heard emanating from the church walls the past month might be those of the Search and Call Committee members. We have been on the run!!!!

Since re-opening our search on August first, we have been inundated with a plethora of profiles - over fifty to date! FCCB is a sought after church! We will accept new profiles through the 30th of this month. Exciting candidates are behind many of these profiles, so we have conducted seven phone interviews in the past five weeks.

If, during the interview, we assess a possible fit, we ask that audio and video sermons be sent asap. As a result, we have been continually running to one another sharing the recorded CDs and DVDs that have arrived. Listening to a dozen sermons in a week can bring on a whole new level of holiness!

With all this input, data, and excitement, the discernment process has taken on a new level of intensity and weightiness for us. We ask for your continued prayers for clarity, as well as your loving patience. And if you can throw in some added energy, that will be appreciated too.

Please know that each of us continues to feel blessed by this opportunity you have given us.

STEPHEN MINISTERS AND STEPHEN LEADERS

Mark your calendars and plan to come to the potluck

September 30th 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

SEPTEMBER 13TH CELEBRATION

On **August 30th**, Pete Rittmueller asked everyone in worship to move close together to feel what it was like in the old sanctuary. He reminded us that ten years ago, when this congregation committed to raise money for a new sanctuary, the smaller sanctuary was very crowded. Seats were often hard folding chairs at the end of row or a place to stand in the back. He also reminded us that it was a risk for a congregation of this size to set out on an ambitious building program in order to house everyone in one space at one time.


On September 13th, we are going to have a very special potluck dinner party and program at the church. The congregation has already begun to respond to the call for funds to pay off the debt. In this last few days, we have the opportunity to **completely** pay off the last of the debt for the renovations to our church and finish the goal our church voted to embark on in 1999.

Here are some important details.

- Payments for our building renovations and on our building loan have never been paid out of our general budget.
- Capital Campaign III, which has been paying the current \$3100 monthly loan payments ended in May 2009. Although the church holds a reserve of CCIII funds, without additional funds there is no continuing income to completely pay off the debt.
- The congregation asked the Church Council to come up with a plan to raise the balance owing on the loan and voted not to use the general budget to pay off the loan when CCIII ended.
- Our Pay Off the Loan committee has created Share Cards for members and friends to consider and take and help raise the \$30K loan balance.
The Share Cards are on bulletin boards in the narthex. When all the cards have been taken and turned into the church with a check, we will have raised the \$30K.

This is a great opportunity for all of us to join together to realize a goal that has been diligently worked for by our church for over 10 years. Please join us for the All-Church Potluck at **5:30 p.m.** and the special program at **6:45 p.m.** (Please see further details below.)

ALL – CHURCH POTLUCK



Please sign up to bring a main dish, salad or dessert as we celebrate getting even closer to paying off the building loan. The potluck begins at **5:30 p.m. on September 13th** with a gratitude and joy program to follow at approximately **6:45 p.m.** Child care will be available for children 3 and under. Willing and able people to help set up and clean up are needed, contact Kathy Scodeller at 647-1132.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August 24, 2009

September 13 all-church potluck and celebration plans underway – letters mailed to congregation describing opportunity for giving to retire the debt

Options for paying off the building loan include:

- Continue making payments to the bank (one – two years)
- Pay off the balance now with modest penalty
- Re-finance the remaining debt with Key Bank

Job description for Church Treasurer in process

Search and Call reviewed 46 Profiles – telephone interviews continue

Organization and Constitution Committee formed and charged with presenting recommendations to the congregation at the 2010 Annual Meeting

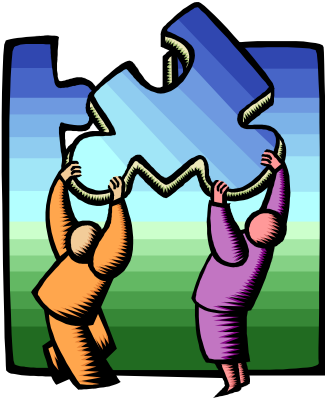
Financial Report July 31, 2009:

Year to Date Income	\$290,231.45
Year to Date Expenses	<u>\$279,254.61</u>
Difference	\$ 10,976.84

“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



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 balanced 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.

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

September 14

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

September 15

7:00 PM *Faith & Contemporary Issues*

September 16

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

September 17

7:00 PM *Jesus Seminar*

September 18

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

September 20

10:00 AM *Worship/Church School*

September 21

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

September 22

7:00 PM *Living the Questions*

September 23

5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
5:00 PM *Prayer Shawl*
7:00 PM *Stuff Group*

September 24

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

September 25

10:00 AM *In Stitches*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
6:00 PM *Brown Bag Game Night*

September 27

10:00 AM *Worship/Church School*
11:15 AM *Inquirer's Class*
11:30 AM *Adult Ministry—Community Service Class*

SEPTEMBER