



The Full Circle

December 30, 2009



A Time of Renewal

I believe it was Mircea Eliade who, in talking of the beliefs of ancient peoples, talks of the myth of the eternal return. At every major religious festival, which would include harvest festivals, solstice festivals, and equinox festivals, there was created sacred space and time.

This sacred space and time would return the participants, spiritually at least, to the primordial and paradigmatic event the festival was created to celebrate. Ancient believers would have the sense of really being at the beginning times, and they would know with every fiber of their beings why they celebrated.

We are not, thank goodness, primitive people with primitive beliefs. But I think we still have some sense of the eternal return and sacred space as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the death and birth of the year. It is no accident after all that the Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah; Christmas Celebration; and New Year's Eve all happen at the same time of the year. It is the time of the longest darkness and shortest light. A time when we need the renewal that comes with remembering the light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness cannot overcome. (Gospel of John, Ch. 1)

Our society has been going through difficult times financially and politically. Our church has gone through difficult transitional times. Many of our members have gone or are going through difficult times. We know, deep within our beings, the need for renewal.

As we celebrate the Lights of Christmas and the light of the reborn year, may we each, as individuals and as a community, experience the renewal of God's light in our hearts. We have come full circle, one by one and together, so now let the light of our love shine even brighter in the renewing year.

Grace, Peace, and Joy!

Pastor Savage

Start Practicing! The FCCB Talents Show is scheduled for **Friday, February 5, 2010**. We want to encourage any and all to begin preparing your talent presentation. Whether it is singing with your Ukulele or Guitar, demonstrating your latest dance steps, exhibiting your artistic creations or polishing up that rap song! Start preparing now for this fun evening. We also want to see lots of examples from visual artists! We have a very talented congregation, but not all get to see our great works.

Back by Popular Demand: we are going to couple this event with a "Comfort Foods" potluck, so dig out the recipe for that old favorite. More information will follow from the Membership Board.

CLASSES

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: This on-going class **meets from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings** of each month in Room 11. Each class session relates to one of a series of 21 Christian faith issues. Each session consists of (after a pre-reading at home of 2-3 pages) a 20 minute CD presentation of commentary on the designated issue by 6 or 7 out of 16 well respected religious scholars, including several UCC persons, followed by a class discussion relating to the commentaries and sharing of personal viewpoints.

As each class session is complete within itself, it does not require an interested person to attend each and every session. For this reason, the class wishes to welcome any interested newcomers to any and all of the 8 remaining sessions commencing on January 12, 2010.

The titles of the remaining sessions of this series are as follows:

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| #14—Reclaiming the World | #18—Prayer: Intimacy With God |
| #15—A Kingdom Without Walls | #19—Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry |
| #16—Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision | #20—Creative Transformation |
| #17—Incarnation: Divinely Human | #21—Embracing Mystery |

For additional information and/or copies of the pre-session reading material, contact Bob or Pat Styer at 676-2585.

REMINDER: the next meeting of the "Stuff" Group will be at 7 PM on January 6. Come join this interesting wrestling with what we own and how we live with what we have.

FAITH AND (CONTEMPORARY) ISSUES next meets on **Tuesday, January 19 at 7 p.m.** at in Room 11.

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!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: As of **December 29**, we have received 205 pledges totaling \$403,486. \$10,834 is from pledge increases from 35 members. Please remember to turn your pledge card in. Thank you!

***SAVE THE DATE:** Mother Daughter Retreat 2010
***February 26-27, 2010** Watch for details in an upcoming Full Circle.

PNC NEWS

The latest edition of the Pacific NW Conference News is online: You can find it at the Conference's website or at <http://www.thefigtree.org/pncnews/pncnews.html>.

MEN'S RETREAT

Join with other men of the PNW Conference UCC and beyond for a weekend of inspiration, music, laughter, interactive creativity, worship, discussion & reflection with resource leader Michael Stern, **February 19 to 21, 2010** at Pilgrim Firs. For registration information, go to www.PNWmen.org.

YOU ARE INVITED: You are invited to celebrate with us our 60th wedding anniversary at the coffee hour after worship on Sunday, January 3rd. Along with the usual coffee and tea there will be a celebration cake for everyone to enjoy. The actual wedding date is Saturday, January 2nd, and all four of our adult children and their families will be with us that day. Please join us on Sunday the 3rd for a happy celebration.

Lois and Lad Anderson

FULL CIRCLE DATES FOR JANUARY

Deadline Date	Mailing Date
January 6	January 13
January 20	January 27

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NEW YEAR'S EVE LABYRINTH WALK: Please join us as we "Ring in the New Year" walking the labyrinth with hand bells **December 31 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The labyrinth is also 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.)



NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME NIGHT: All ages are invited to join us on **New Year's Eve from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.** in the Social Hall for games, food, fun and fellowship in the Social Hall. Please bring your favorite game and a potluck dish to share. Questions contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.

BOOK CLUB: The book we will be discussing at our **next meeting on January 5** will be *My Life in France* by Julia Child. The group will gather at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireplace room for fellowship followed by a book discussion. For more information contact Kathleen McGuinness at 733-1251.



Stephen Ministry

Who will know...about my problem if I talk to a Stephen Minister? This is something many people ask or wonder about. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. No one knows what is talked about in a caring relationship except the person and the Stephen Minister. If you have a burden you need to share, perhaps a Stephen Minister can help.

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

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, 22-year-old Amanda Knox, a college student from Seattle, was convicted of murdering her British roommate, Meredith Kercher in their apartment in Perugia, Italy. For more reasons than I have space to explain here, I believe Amanda is innocent and did not receive a fair trial. The Italian court sentenced her to 26 years in prison for a crime that I feel she did not commit. She and her family are fighting the sentence, but the appeal process could take up to two years, and the family is now bankrupt. This case has really struck me hard and I want to do something to show support for Amanda and her family. So, I have decided to collect encouragement cards and mail them to Amanda in prison in Italy. I want to send as many cards as possible, so I need your help! Please consider making or buying a card and writing Amanda a note of encouragement. The cards will be a powerful message for Amanda that people at home care about her and are fighting for her. Please get your card to me as soon as possible and we can mail them all together. (Cards can be placed in the black mailbox outside my office.)

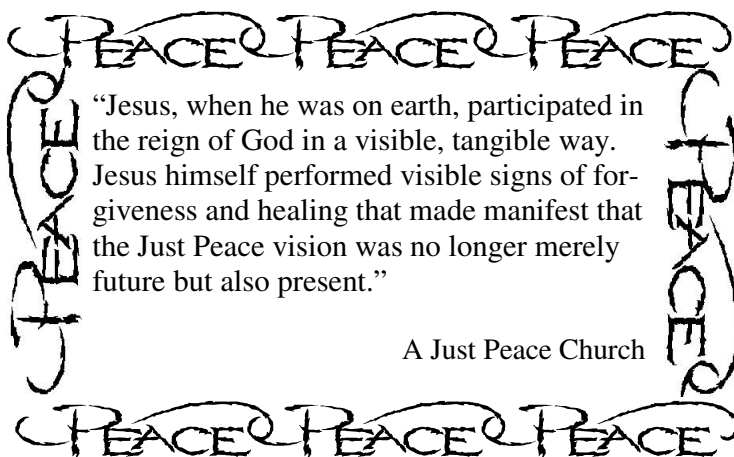
Thanks for your support,
Angela Pahlow, Youth Coordinator

WANTED: Ushers and Greeters

Something new!



Sign up for ushering and greeting in the coming months by going to the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Diaconate members will send reminders and instructions to those who request them. Look for our display!



“Jesus, when he was on earth, participated in the reign of God in a visible, tangible way. Jesus himself performed visible signs of forgiveness and healing that made manifest that the Just Peace vision was no longer merely future but also present.”

A Just Peace Church

If you would like more information about “A Just Peace Church” please check out a copy from our library or visit the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/justice/peacemaking/a-just-peace-church-1.html>.

AROUND THE CHURCH

DIRECTORY UPDATES: If you missed marking changes to your contact information while the directory was out you can still email changes to Kathryn at office@fccb.net

THE HISTORIANS SCRAPBOOK for 2006 and 2007 is in the library for viewing.

REMEMBER! Wash your hands! (It’s flu season.)

INTERFAITH COALITION’S ANNUAL MEETING OFFERS INSPIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP

Interfaith Coalition’s annual meeting provides an opportunity to hear first hand how the coalition’s programs, which we support and participate in, make a difference to homeless families and people unable to pay for needed health care. Plan to attend the meeting with friends on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Dr. in Bellingham, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Following the meeting will be a time for fellowship and refreshments.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: The local office for Habitat for Humanity is excited and proud to be building the 29th Habitat house for Whatcom County! If you would like to help with this project, or other projects connected with Habitat or to learn more about their ReStore, please contact Kayli Nielson at (360)715-9170.

ENDOWMENT Q & A

QUESTION:

ANSWER:

QUESTION:

ANSWER:

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

THANK YOU to all who shared readings and special music and dressed as Angels, Wise Ones, Shepherds and Holy Family for the **Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20.**

THANK YOU to **Lisa Morton, Eliza Davenport, Erin Jensen** and **Allegra Ritchie** for assisting with Parents Afternoon Out on Sunday, December 13.

CHURCH SCHOOL GATHERS: The church school community will gather in the Social Hall (instead of the Sanctuary) to dress as Wise Ones, Angels and Shepherds on **Sunday, January 3.** During worship they will collect the food for the food bank and present them as gifts to the Holy Family. They will return to the Social Hall for an art project and then return to the Sanctuary for communion with their families.

PENNIES FOR PEACE: Please continue to collect your pennies for this year's church school mission project "Pennies for Peace," which helps provide school supplies, teachers salaries and build new schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. You will find the penny jar in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. Every penny makes a difference! Thank you.

YOUTH NEWS

REMINDER: Contracts and deposit are due for the Mexico mission trip by **January 17.**

MID-WINTER RETREAT is just around the corner! Sign up online. See Angela if you need help. Grades 6-8 go January 8-10 and grades 9-12 go January 15-17.

ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS: I am trying to arrange carpooling for the mid-winter retreats. If your son/daughter is planning to attend the retreat, please let me know if you can help drive. I am hoping to have a few families drive down and then different people pick up. Please let me know if you can help out. Thanks! ~Angela

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated aluminum cans! We will continue collecting them through July. If you can please crush the cans, it would be very helpful.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please attend a brief congregational meeting after church on **January 3** to hear updates on our progress in building our 2010 church budget. (We will begin a little late, to give us all time to greet and congratulate the Andersons!)

Church Council Highlights December 21, 2009

A sub-committee of Council will conduct an exit interview with Pastor Jane on December 29.

Pastoral Relations Committee had a final meeting with Jane.

Budget Committee presented a proposed balanced budget for 2010 based on income of \$481,875.

Discussion resulted in offering guidelines to the Budget Committee for allocating current funds as well as additional funds that may be received.

Budget Committee will continue work and present an update to the congregation immediately after the worship service on January 3.

Sharon Camblin has organized a committee planning the January 10 celebration of Jane's ministry with us.

Jane read some of the children's "Why I Love My Church" responses that are displayed in the hall outside the Social Hall. They include: It's huge! It's not strict. My friends are here. It's cool. It's awesome. It's welcoming.

Year to Date Financial Report (November 30, 2009)

Income	\$434,529.70
Expenses	<u>\$431,515.76</u>
Difference	\$ 2,026.96

POINSETTIAS

Given by... In Memory of...

Cheryll & David Blair... their parents, Doug Blair, Marie Blair & June Murray

Bob & Ellie Chamberlain... Virginia & Ray Lund, Carol & Dick Satterberg

Donna & Charles Collier...their parents, Robert Collier, Helen & Joseph Patrick

Lynn Dager...Jim Dager

Kelly Follis...Kelly Ballinger, Frank & LaVon Knight

Carol & Dominic Garguile... Margaret & Lawrence Brewster & Todd Curran

Joyce Gienger... Elias (Ally) Gienger, Stan Erickson & Warner Erickson

Maryan & George Gleason... their parents, Glenn & Ila Breakley, John & Dorena Gleason

Janet Johnston...Judy & Ken Hoover

Malcolm & Nancy Kennell... Robert Robison, Jim & Bea Kennell

Bob & Kathi Matthes...Peter Conrad, Sr., Peter Conrad, Jr., Georgette & Robert Matthes

Joyce Moseley-Sweeney...Audrey Moseley

Alex Murray... June Murray

Mike & Linda Rawls...Al Rawls

Nettie Raber...Jack Raber

Brian & Shantel Rapp... Abigail Rosetta Rapp

Bonnie Rice... Bob Rice

The Scodeller Family... Calvin Failor, Ruth Failor, & Larry Scodeller

Judy Wahlborg... Quentin Wahlborg & Howard Haskell

Richard & Bonnie Wilson... Evelyn Rock

Linda Joy Wilton...Les & Ethel Wilton

Andy & Lynne Yurovchak...Alice Johnson & Marie Kegley

Given by.... In Recognition of...

Cheryll & David Blair...Search & Call Committee, Rev. Kent French

Julia & Evan Ritchie...Pastor Jane and Pastor Savage

Linda Joy Wilton...Esther Crane

Purchased as a gift to the church...

Irwin & Frances LeCogq

Alice Olson

Brian & Shantel Rapp

Jean Scribner



WELCOME SPRING AT INTERFAITH'S GARDEN OF HOPE AUCTION

Mark your calendars now for Interfaith Coalition's annual Spring Auction, this year on **Saturday, March 20.** Interfaith's largest fundraising event of the year raises one-third of the Coalition's budget, while building community among attendees from various faith communities whose support helps to pay for programs that provide housing to homeless families and health care for all in need. The auction begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Lakeway Inn & Conference Center in Bellingham. The ticket price is \$40 and includes a sit-down dinner.

You can help make the auction a success and fun for all not only by attending and bidding generously but also by donating a service or experience, such as a weekend getaway or a gourmet meal, for auctioning on March 20.

For more information or to share any ideas you may have about auction items, call the Interfaith Coalition office at 734-3983.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

January 1st—*The office will be closed for the holiday.*

January 3rd—*Epiphany Sunday, 10:00 a.m.*

Food First Sunday, make sure to bring your donations of canned goods and non-perishable food for the Food Bank and our Shepherds, Angels and Wise Ones will collect them.

Congregational Meeting after worship and Anderson Anniversary Celebration

January 10th—*Jane's last Sunday*



CELEBRATION OF JANE SORENSON'S MINISTRY

Please join with others to thank Jane for all that she has done these past 21 months. We are going to celebrate Jane's ministry and say goodbye on **Sunday, January 10th**. A program of laughter and tears will be held immediately after worship with a light lunch and reception to follow in the Social Hall.

If you are interested in serving on the committee planning this event or wish to be on the program, please contact Sharon Camblin, 715-0933 or camblins@comcast.net.

CHURCH CALENDAR

January 4

9:00 AM Shalom Circle
7:00 PM Board Meetings

January 5

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

January 6— Full Circle Deadline

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

January 7

7:00 PM Jesus Seminar

January 8

10:00 AM In Stitches
4:00 PM Exercise Group

January 10—Jane's Last Sunday

10:00 AM Worship/Church School Gathers
11:00 AM Celebration for Jane
11:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic

January 11

9:00 AM Shalom Circle
4:00 PM Exercise Group
7:00 PM Church Council

January 12

9:30 AM Discovery Circle
7:00 PM Living the Questions

January 13—Full Circle Mailing

4:00 PM Exercise Group
5:00 PM Prayer Shawl

January 14

1:00 PM Jesus Seminar
2:30 PM Parish Visitors
7:00 PM Centering Prayer

January 15

10:00 AM In Stitches
4:00 PM Exercise Group

January 17

10:00 AM Worship/Church School
11:00 AM Mission Trip Fundraiser

January 18—OFFICE CLOSED

Welcome
2010!

