



The Full Circle

June 6, 2010

The Reverend Pamela Werntz, Rector of Emmanuel Church in Boston, gave the following charge to the congregation of First Congregational Church of Bellingham for Pastor Kent's installation on May 28, 2010.

Thank you Kent, for inviting me to be with you all for this wonderful celebration. It is thrilling for me to see what a good match has been made here. And thank you for trusting me to give the charge to this congregation as you celebrate your new ministry together. If you are a member of First Congregational Church please stand for my charge to you. If you are not able, then please assume your most attentive posture! My charge for you is three-fold.

First: Love your pastor – it's not about feelings (although I hope that you will continue to feel good that you have chosen Kent for your Lead Pastor). It's about engaging with him in acts of compassion, of challenge, of forgiveness, and of accountability in spite of whatever grief or fear or uncertainty threatens your spirit. And take the risk of letting Kent love you. Know that Kent is not good at everything – even though it might seem like he is. Value what he's really good at and find ways to assist in important areas that are not his strong suits whenever or wherever you discover them.

Second: Say your prayers – and then get out there to do your various ministries. Say your prayers and then go out and find people who are hungry and thirsty and show them where some nourishment is. Go out and find people who are hurting and show them where some healing is. Go out and find people who are guilty and show them where some forgiveness is. Go out and find people who are stuck in narrow places and show them where some freedom is. Evangelism is not about one person with the answers telling them to another person. Evangelism is about one beggar showing another beggar where some bread is. Evangelism is about one wounded person showing another wounded person where some balm is. Evangelism is about one miserable offender showing another miserable offender where some redemption is. Evangelism is about one prisoner showing another prisoner where some liberation is.

And Third: Have fun. I know you already know how to do this. My charge to you is to increase the joy in your lives together. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once said that "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." I'm sure that he was right about that. Ask yourself, get in the habit of asking one another about the experience of joy in the ways that you are offering your gifts in this community. Where do you find joy? When do you experience joy? Tell others about what brings you joy. You all have been working very hard. Transition is such hard work. If you are experiencing joy, wonderful! If you are not experiencing joy, stop what you are doing. Put whatever it is down; it's not yours to carry. Put it down. Someone else may experience joy by picking it up. If no one does, just let whatever it is rest. Allow yourselves rest.

That reminds me to say something to you about keeping Sabbath. Regular rest and refreshment are essential to experiencing joy. You may know that of the ten commandments, there are actually only two which employ verbs in a command form and one of those is the command to keep Sabbath. I don't know about you, but back East, we have a very hard time keeping Sabbath. We persuade ourselves that our work is so important, so pressing, we are so busy that stopping for a day a week would be impossible. It doesn't matter if it's work for wages or volunteer work or the work of homemaking, or usually a combination. The command is to take a break once a week for refreshment. If this sounds ridiculous or absurd to you, I recommend starting with a half-day and working your way up to a full day! But do not let Kent get away with less than a full day of time off from work. It will be very tempting for him not to rest, but you must insist that he model keeping Sabbath for you. There is too much at stake to let him work without regular refreshment and rest so that he can think clearly and creatively, serve you energetically, and cultivate a church that will enliven your faith and grow your spirit.

I know that you know some things about darkness and sorrow. So my prayer for you comes from the 13th century poet Rumi who wrote "Be a full bucket pulled up the dark way of a well, then lifted out into the light." My prayer for you is that you go forth from this place, again and again, spilling over with love for God and God's creation, that you may better serve God and God's creation from this day forward and forever more.



Stephen Ministry

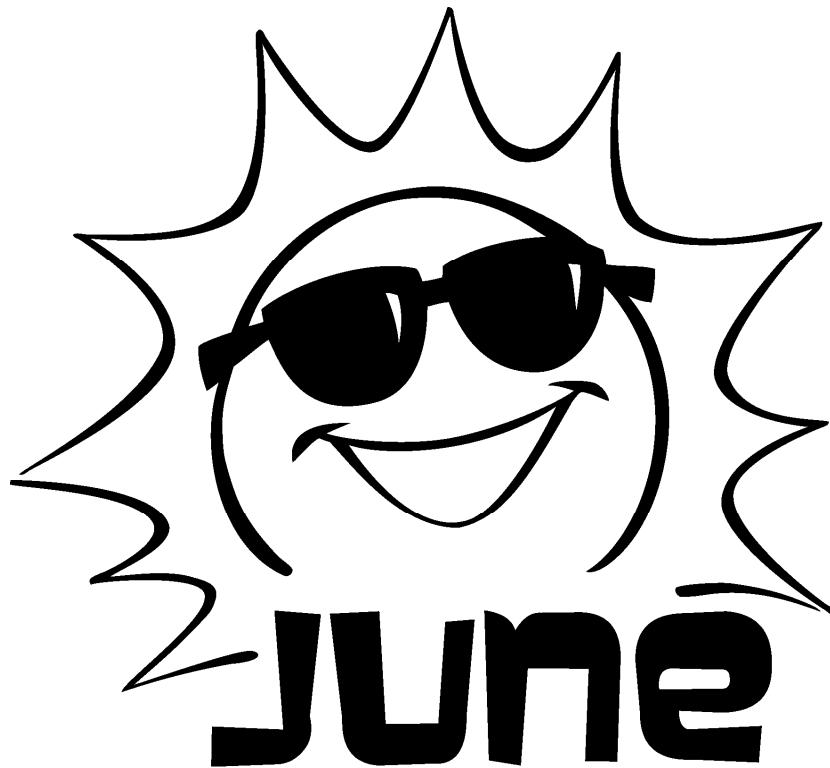
Think Stephen Ministry: Throughout the week, as you meet and greet those around you, think Stephen Ministry. You are the front lines of caring ministry in our congregation. If you see persons who are downcast or struggling through difficult times, think Stephen Ministry. Tell them about this special ministry where they can receive the extra love and care they may need to make it through the challenge or crisis they are facing. And all done in complete confidentiality.

If you or someone you know has need of this ministry contact one of our Stephen Leaders: *Donna Romjue* (752-1747) *Libby Weiss* (756-2062) *Kathleen McGuinness* (733-1251) *Pat & Bob Styer* (676-2585).

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!



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am deeply grateful for the installation service on Friday, May 28, and all of the heartfelt effort that went into making it possible.

First of all, many thanks to the members of our Search & Call Committee, who not only welcomed me into this joyful community, but were gracious and generous hosts to my out-of-town guests, both in their homes and for the service itself. Special thanks to Cheryll and David Blair, Margie and Steve Kimberley, Janet Johnston, Marilyn McClellan and Pete and Sue Rittmueller for their hospitality. I am especially thankful for all of those who helped make the evening's festive reception possible. It was a splendid dinner party!

I am grateful for our excellent musicians and all of the extra inspiration they brought to the worship: our amazing and indefatigable choir director Debbie Brown; our wondrously talented organist, Judy Widrig; our inspiring Chancel Choir; the heartwarming Chancel Quartet, led by John Tilley; Janet Jensen for her luminous solo; Brian Rapp and John Reay for their down-home musical greetings; and Susan Pendleton and David Zagelow for their beautiful instrumental accompaniment.

Without Carol Garguile, our dedicated and tried-and-true Head Usher, the service would not have gotten off the ground. Once again, Austin Lehn led us faithfully and gracefully in the opening of worship.

I am also deeply thankful for our staff and their patience, guidance and willingness to make the weekend possible: to Kathryn Taylor for all of her brilliant coordinating of clergy guests and the order of worship; to Darlene Anderson for always making the church spic and span and for uncomplainingly cleaning up left-over wax; and to Sharry Nyberg, for attending lovingly to so many details and special touches on the evening.

My heart is full of gratitude and it is my great joy to be officially in covenant with all of you.

In faith, Kent

TIME AND TALENTS SURVEY 2010
We Are Christ's Hands.

The Stewardship Board has developed a Time and Talents survey for 2010. This survey gives you the opportunity to share the areas in which you would like to share your gifts to be Christ's hands in our community and beyond. You will find the paper version of the survey below or you may access the online version by going to this address: www.surveymonkey.com/s/fccbtimeandtalents.

To complete the survey, you have two choices. You may either: 1. Fill out this form and drop it our survey box in the Narthex or give it to Kathryn, our secretary. OR 2. Complete the survey online (address above). Whichever method you choose, please complete the survey by **Sunday, June 27**. Thank you!

From the Stewardship Board

(detach here)

First Congregational Church of Bellingham (UCC)

Sharing Our Time & Talents - 2010

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Email: _____ Cell phone: _____

Preferred method of contact (email/phone - which one?) _____

Please indicate the areas in which you would be willing to offer your gifts of time and talents to help further God's work and the mission of our church.

Worship

- ___ Serve as a greeter
- ___ Serve as an usher
- ___ Read the liturgy
- ___ Provide flowers for the sanctuary
- ___ Give the children's message
- ___ Help with coffee hour

Arts - Activities

- ___ Sing in the chancel choir
- ___ Sing in the male chorus
- ___ Sing in the kid's choir
- ___ Provide special music
- ___ Help create sanctuary art
- ___ Help install sanctuary art
- ___ Photograph church events
- ___ Sewing/mending
- ___ Knit prayer shawls
- ___ Share a quilt to hang in the church

Arts Talents - (Indicate type or genre)

- ___ Play an instrument: _____
- ___ Dance: _____
- ___ Writing: _____
- ___ Visual art: _____
- ___ Fiber art: _____
- ___ Acting: _____

Education/Faith Formation

- ___ Teach church school
- ___ Help with vacation church school
- ___ Substitute for church school
- ___ Serve as advisor to youth group
- ___ Facilitate small group discussion
- ___ Teach an adult class about:

Serving Others

- ___ Provide meals for church members
- ___ Give a ride to worship
- ___ Give a ride to a medical appointment
- ___ Provide childcare for a specific event
- ___ Serve as a Stephen Minister
- ___ Serve as a Parish Visitor
- ___ Join a women's circle
- ___ Participate in men's breakfast group
- ___ Assist at a community meal
- ___ Assist with diaper ministry
- ___ Explore homelessness issues
- ___ Serve on a board or committee:

**Memorial Services/Special Events/
Receptions**

- ___ Bake cookies, breads, pies, etc.
- ___ Prepare soup or other main dishes
- ___ Setup and/or cleanup
- ___ Serve food
- ___ Serve as an usher at memorial services

Office Work

- ___ Help out in the office
- ___ Substitute for church secretary
- ___ General Computer Skills

Our Landscape - Occasionally help with:

- ___ Lawn mowing
- ___ Weeding
- ___ Pruning
- ___ Maintaining planters
- ___ Hauling away garden waste

(Please continue on the reverse side . . .)

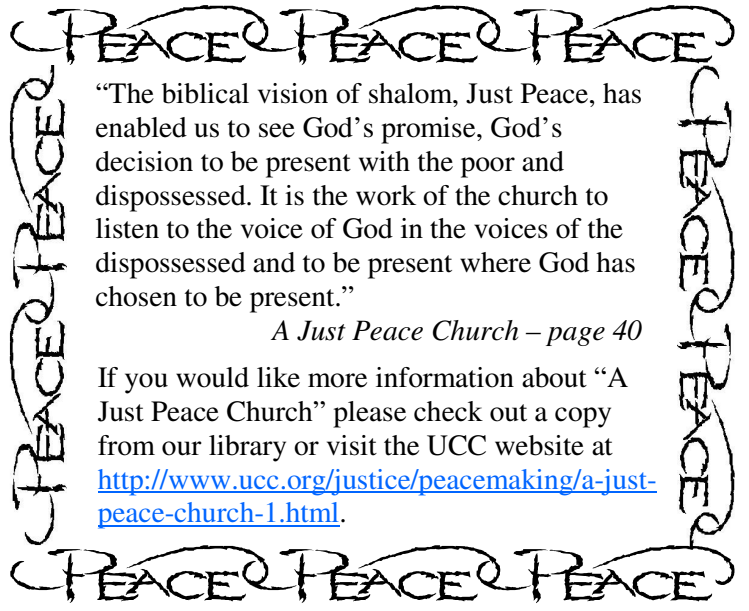
WORSHIP HELP

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY! Help brighten up the Sanctuary by providing flowers for Sunday worship. Please sign up on the Flower Calendar on the workroom door.

BELL RINGERS: Do you have a desire to ring the church bell? We invite those of all ages to sign up to ring the bell. The sign up sheet is on the workroom door.

FULL CIRCLE DATE FOR JUNE

Deadline Date	Mailing Date
June 16	June 23



“The biblical vision of shalom, Just Peace, has enabled us to see God’s promise, God’s decision to be present with the poor and dispossessed. It is the work of the church to listen to the voice of God in the voices of the dispossessed and to be present where God has chosen to be present.”

A Just Peace Church – page 40

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>.

Our Building - Willing to offer skills in:

- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Painting
- Electrical

Information Technology Skills/Experience

- Web development/design
- Network administration
- Running social media (FB, Twitter, etc.) campaigns for organizations
- Streaming video
- Video production and editing

Business-Related Skills/Experience

- Financial/investment management
- Advertising/marketing
- Development/fundraising

Language Skills/Experience

- Speak another language
Level of fluency: _____
- Know American Sign Language
Level of fluency: _____

Please list any other skills you could share:

Please list other opportunities you would like:

Thank you for completing this form.
Please return it to the box in the narthex or to the office.

**WE ARE CHRIST'S HANDS:
DIAPER MINISTRY KICK-OFF DRIVE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS!**

Thank you, FCCB community, for your generous donations to support homeless and low income children and ensure that all Whatcom County children have clean, dry diapers. FCCB's kick-off drive resulted in the distribution of more than 3000 diapers to children in need through our partner agencies, Interfaith Coalition, Opportunity Council and Hope House.

What happens now? You may continue to donate diapers and/or money (checks payable to FCCB with "diaper ministry" in the memo line) at any time. Our ministry is now working with local businesses and other organizations - including our own Vacation Church School - soliciting donations and putting together diaper drives. We will report back monthly on our progress.

The diaper ministry is one way we are acting as Christ's hands in our community. **If you would like to join the diaper ministry**, please call Stacey Nordtvedt (714-8387) or email bellinghamdiaperbank@gmail.com.

Thank you for your generosity and support of Whatcom County children in need!

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**
An Open & Affirming Congregation
2401 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-3414

Date: June 6, 2010

CHURCH CALENDAR

- June 14**
9:00 AM *Shalom Circle*
7:00 PM *Boards Meet*
- June 15**
5:15 PM *Book Club*
- June 16**
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
7:00 PM *Stephen Ministers*
- June 17**
7:00 PM *Jesus Seminar*
- June 18**
10:00 AM *In Stitches*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
- June 20—Father's Day**
10:00 AM *Worship/Summer Church School*
- June 21**
9:00 AM *Shalom Circle*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
- June 22**
7:00 PM *Living the Questions*
- June 23**
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
- June 24**
1:00 PM *Jesus Seminar*
- June 25**
10:00 AM *In Stitches*
5:00 PM *Exercise Group*
- June 27**
10:00 AM *Worship/Summer Church School*

