



March 2011

FROM THE PASTORS



Kent French

It is encouraging and exciting to hear reports of the many conversations this month about Anthony Robinson's book, *Transforming Congregational Culture*.

We are so grateful to Sharon Camblin for her excellent preparation in helping these groups happen and run smoothly, as well as all of the hosts, facilitators and participants in these rich discussions. There is at least one more conversation happening on March 3, hosted by Meril Davenport. It is possible to host still more discussions.

Sharon, along with Janet Ott, Andrew Holcom, Krista Hunter, Doug Shepherd, Stacey Nordtvedt and Randy Flowers have been diligently planning our all-congregation retreat for this Saturday, February 26, when we will discuss our church's purpose and our vision for going forward. The retreat will be facilitated by Karyn Frazier, a strong, gentle, listening presence. She is the former Moderator of our Pacific Northwest Conference and a member of North Shore UCC Church in Woodinville. Even if you have not yet signed up, you can come join the conversation between 9am to 6pm at the church.

It is important for all of us to be in discussion together. Before coming here, I heard that one of the strengths of this congregation was its willingness to keep talking to one another. No matter how hard things got, no matter how much grief there was, people were willing to be in dialogue and to work things out. This is strong, healthy behavior and vital to the overall health of any congregation.

This is also the important work of discernment, of moving beyond the question of "what do we as a church want to be?" to "what and who is God calling us to be?" The shift in the subject from "we" to "God" is essential for a Christian community. The enterprise of church is about much more than community, worship and working for social justice, it is about having a larger sense of God in our lives and in our worlds - finding ourselves caught up in something that is much bigger than ourselves.

Two words have bubbled up from these most recent discussion groups: excitement and pride. Excitement about where we are in the life of this church: that there are finally two settled pastors, that there is energy and joy, that new programs and ministries are emerging, that people are joining. Pride in how this congregation has come through the last five years, in our history, in our commitment to social justice, in how we make things happen.

Continued on Page 2

The month of March brings with it many things- the Ides of March, the coming of Spring, warmer weather (maybe) and Lent.

Lent with its various Lenten preparations. Lent is one of the longest seasons of the church year.

For some of us, it can signify 40 days in solidarity with Jesus as he prepared to die on the cross.

Lent is a tough time for us to get our brains around. It is a time to stop and pay attention to the inner movements of our souls. It is supposed to be a time when we reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We begin with Ash Wednesday and continue on through until Easter Sunday. Holy week usually receives all of the attention in our fast paced Christian lives and we are lucky if we take note of the passion going on during the week- usually the focus for us is on the celebration of Palm Sunday and then the miracle of Easter. We often cheat ourselves out of recognizing the fullness of the season of Lent.

This March, I encourage you to carve out a little time in each day to read a bit of the Bible and reflect on where you are on your journey with God. I suggest starting with the Psalms and just read one a day. They are powerful, joyful, and reach to the depths of our humanness. The Psalms can help us uncover the many layers of the season of Lent and thus the many layers of our souls that we have not paid attention to for quite some time.

Suggested Psalms for Reflection throughout Lent:
18, 22, 24, 26, 32, 33, 50, 90, 94, 102, 115, 125, 129, 136.

I would also encourage you to attend the Lenten Series on prayer here at FCCB on Wednesday evenings. This series could help reach those layers of the soul that have not been tapped into for a while.

I wish you a grace-filled season of Lent.

Blessings on the journey,

Tara



Tara Olsen Allen

From the Pastors: Cont'd. from page 1

As we go forward, it is important to step back from the excitement and pride and just listen, to pause and take some time to rest, to remember that all the good things come from God. It's essential not only to be in conversation with one another, but also to be in conversation with God, no matter how strange or mystical or uncertain that may feel. Lent is a perfect opportunity to find ways to explore this conversation with God.

We will begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm on March 9. If you have never been to an Ash Wednesday service, this is a good time to start. It is a moment to remember our humanity and commit to deepening our relationship to God.

We will also have a Lenten Series on Prayer, which begins March 16 and promises to be invigorating in unexpected ways. We will explore what it means to pray in color, to pray through writing, to pray through reading scripture and listening to music, to pray with our bodies. Come with curiosity and an open spirit as we expand our prayer horizons.

Figuring out our next steps, our purpose, where God is calling us, is exciting work. It requires patience, good listening, and an openness to new ways of being, paying attention to how God is working among us. I am grateful that we are all engaging in this important work and look forward to our Lenten season of rich conversations, those we have with one another and those we have in prayer with God.

In faith,
Kent

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!

FULL CIRCLE SCHEDULE

Deadline	Mailing Date
March 16	March 23

We continue to hold Nancy and David Fayram in our prayers who have now returned to Cairo.

DIAPER MINISTRY LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Our diaper ministry is getting close to its first anniversary and is looking for new energy to keep it going. We have all the pieces in place - positive visibility in the community, a website, a great storage space, promotional materials, established partners, etc., etc. There are even people in the community who are interested in branching out into cloth diapering. What we need now are new volunteers to keep up our momentum.

What we need most at this point is people to coordinate new and recurring diaper drives around Whatcom County. You could also contribute by coordinating diaper deliveries, keeping up our website and Facebook page, and coordinating community events.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and creativity to help homeless and low income families in need, please email Stacey Nordtvedt at staceynord@yahoo.com or bellinghamdiaperbank@gmail.com or phone 714-8387.



Stephen Ministry

With their care receivers, Stephen Ministers listen, explore feelings, pray, share Christ's love, maintain confidentiality, attend to the care giving process, and leave the results to God. If you, or anyone you know, is trying to deal with a moment in your life where some of these needs could be met with a Stephen Minister, please feel free to contact one of the Leaders listed below.

Libby Weiss (756-2062) Donna Romjue (752-1747) Kathleen McGuinness (733-1251)
Tim Shepherd (738-0981) Kent French (734-3720) Bob Styer (676-2585) Pat Styer (676-2585)



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND PROGRAM

Exploring Prayer Practices

This year's Lenten series allows us time to pause and reflect how we experience God's presence in the life of our church and on the Christian practices that enable us to live joyfully in ways that enrich our lives and the lives of others. We will focus on different prayer practices each Wednesday night - praying with colors, praying with scripture text and music, journaling prayer and body prayer. The series begins on Wednesday evening, **March 16**, and continues on **March 23, 30 and April 13**. The schedule for the evenings are as follows:

- 6:00 p.m.** Fellowship soup and salad supper
- 6:45 p.m.** Worship
- 7:00 p.m.** Prayer Presentation
- 7:40 p.m.** Break-out Discussion and Experiential prayer groups
- 8:30 p.m.** Adjourn

There will be a poster to sign up if you can bring a homemade soup and/or help prepare, serve or clean up. Contact Joyce Moseley-Sweeney at 734-0469 or email jampls@comcast.net

Activities will be available each evening for children in the Creative Classroom Kindergarten - Middle School. We will talk about the ways we pray, create a labyrinth with canned goods, color prayers, and paint silk prayer flags. Nursery care will be available for children 5 and under. For more information contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.

NURSES OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

We invite you to join us in the Parish Nurse program at FCCB. In our program we attempt to provide support for wellness, health and healing to family and friends of our faith community, as well as access to community health resources. There is a well-established Parish Nurse coalition allied with Peace Health St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham and Whatcom County with support mechanisms for new and experienced parish nurses.

A Basic Parish Nurse Preparation Course is offered each year. This year it will be offered this coming fall. This basic course is offered to prepare registered nurses to function in this ministry.

We encourage the nurses of our faith community to talk with us and find out more about our congregational ministry. Call our church office to contact us at 734-3720

Brenda Nicholson and Maridel Johnson
Your parish nurses.

HEALING PRAYER: On the first Sunday of each month, we hold a healing prayer service in the Chapel directly after the worship service. You are welcome to enter this time of quiet and music to pray silently or to write a prayer. A pastor will be available to pray with you and, if you wish, offer an anointing with oil. The next Healing Service will be **March 6**.

THE ARTWORK

The three panels of art bring into our Sanctuary some of the incredible colors in nature that make our daily lives alive. The art flows through a beginning, the present and the future in a visual continuum using successively, the basic colors of the rainbow. The stream flowing through each of the panels suggests the importance of water to our earthly existence and Christian life.

The visual effect may evoke key Biblical passages, such as:

- In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep . . . then God said, 'let there be light' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good . . . (Gen 1:1)
- For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Eccl 3:1)
- I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God who is and who was and who is to come - - the Almighty. (Rev 1:8)

The artist is Lynn Mehta from Alexandria, Virginia. With her children now growing into adulthood, she is again using her art education from San Diego State. Lynn agreed to do the project for the price of the materials as a gift to our church. We hope the artwork adds to our weekly worship experience.

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

Church Photo Directory



The new FCCB picture directory will be published through Olan Mills. Reserve your appointment time after church **Feb. 28 and March 6 & 13**. Each family or household that comes for photography and portrait viewing at the church will receive a free directory and a free 8 x 10 color portrait. You will be able to view and select your portraits electronically from a variety of poses. Additional Olan Mills portraits will be available for purchase in time for Mother's Day. Your entire appointment will normally take less than one hour. Photography will take place **March 29, 30, and 31 and April 2, 13, 14, 15, 16** at the church.

**MISSION AND JUSTICE APPROVES
FCCB APOSTLE'S BUILD PROJECT**

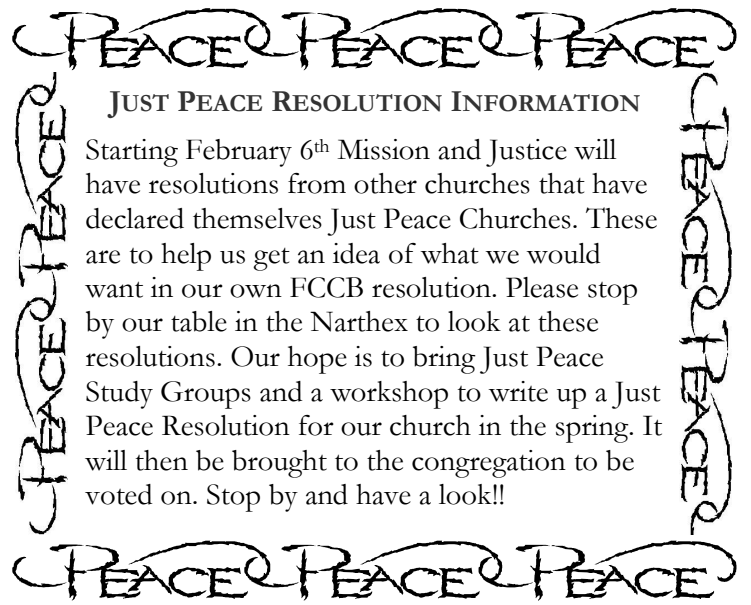
We had a great turnout for our first Habitat for Humanity Apostle's Build group meeting on Feb. 8.

The Apostle's Build project will bring together 12 or more area churches to fund and build a Habitat for Humanity home in Ferndale for Theresa Schenck, a single working mother of two young daughters, aged nine and twelve.

The fourteen people who attended the recent meeting were all very excited about the build, which is scheduled to break ground next month. The board of Mission and Justice voted unanimously to support the project at their meeting on Feb. 14.

As an "Apostle Church," FCCB would need to raise about \$5,000 in cash and/or in kind donations of services and materials toward the build. We would also be responsible for staffing a work party to side the Schenck's home over one weekend in June. Look for a special offering coming up in May to support Habitat.

We will hold another meeting at the church on Tuesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. to discuss the project in further detail and begin planning our work. All who are interested are welcome and encouraged to attend - including those who may not be able to assist with the physical labor. There will be lots to do for this project and only some of it involves hammers. Please contact Emily Wagnitz-Tracy for more information at emily_wagnitz@hotmail.com or 360.380.0473. We hope to see you there!



JUST PEACE RESOLUTION INFORMATION

Starting February 6th Mission and Justice will have resolutions from other churches that have declared themselves Just Peace Churches. These are to help us get an idea of what we would want in our own FCCB resolution. Please stop by our table in the Narthex to look at these resolutions. Our hope is to bring Just Peace Study Groups and a workshop to write up a Just Peace Resolution for our church in the spring. It will then be brought to the congregation to be voted on. Stop by and have a look!!

**INTERFAITH AUCTION BICYCLE
AND AUCTION TICKETS**

Once again, FCCB is donating a bicycle to the Interfaith Coalition Auction on **Saturday, March 26**. To help us pay for this gift, please come check out the bike in the Narthex. It has price tags with dollar amounts on various parts. You simply choose a tag, write a check for the amount to FCCB and mark it "For Interfaith Auction Item". Your generous support offers an environmentally friendly gift to the auction and helps Interfaith with their great work. **If you are interested in purchasing tickets for the auction**, stop by the Just Peace Table and a member of Mission and Justice will assist you.

TIME FOR MISSION: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, MARCH 13TH.

One Great Hour of Sharing is part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) . It is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) the UCC works with international partners to build sustainable communities, respond to disasters, and minister to refugees.

By building sustainable communities we support self-help programs that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity. In the event of a natural disaster or human caused tragedy they provide emergency and long-term assistance to those affected.



On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days. OGHS helps minister to refugees by responding with advocacy, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

On **March 13th** please remember this important cause and give generously. If you would like more information about OGHS please go to the UCC website at www.ucc.org/oghs .

Thank you for sharing and bringing love and hope to so many.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT is on **Thursday, March 3rd**. We are grateful for all the generous donations for the Project Homeless Connect Supplies Drive. Please keep them coming through **February 27**. We have enough towels but could still use more of the following: Tents, Backpacks, Sleeping bags, Boots, Blankets, Underwear - both long and regular. We need a wrap-up volunteer to transport the remaining items on February 27th to the downtown distribution sites. Contact Margie Kimberley at 671-3698.

SHALOM CIRCLE

What are you doing Monday mornings from 9 am – 10 am? Would you like to participate in a circle of prayer? Each Monday, Shalom Circle gathers in the Fireplace Room for one hour of sharing, caring and prayer. You are welcome to join this circle any time. For further information call Cheryll Blair (733-0966).

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, January 23rd, we gratefully received 7 new members into the life of our congregation.

Matt and Sarah Greenstreet

Matt Greenstreet is an engineer with a BS in Industrial Technology from WWU. He has an interest in "cars in general" and likes skiing. Born in Connecticut, he lived in Duvall, WA before coming to B'ham. Both Matt and Sarah are eager and willing to get into community service. Both Matt and Sarah were recruited for our Talent Show once we found out that Matt plays the trumpet and Sarah plays the piano. Sarah was born in Portland, OR, and grew up in Woodland, WA. She came to B'ham in 2003 to earn her B.S. in Physics. She is currently earning her M.A. in Astronomy at UBC. She squeezes in time to enjoy cooking!

Pete and Elizabeth Beglin moved to Bellingham 11 years old. They have very busy 2 1/2 year old son, Jack. Pete is a cardiologist and Elizabeth runs her own Yoga studio. Both were educated in North Carolina. Pete and Elizabeth both love being outdoors, especially cross-country skiing. Pete also rides a mountain bike and surfs. Elizabeth adds yoga to her list. She also enjoyed singing in the past and hiking with friends. Both Beglins have been intensely involved with public service here. Pete serves with the Slum Doctor Program, Elizabeth has run fund-raising efforts for non-profit concerns. She has also been involved in women's issues and served with the Opportunity Council, St. Luke's Foundation, B'ham Food Bank and the Community Foundation. Elizabeth has been an active part of our labyrinth ministry at FCCB and hopes to find the opportunity for spiritual growth and expression.

Don Reinke recently moved to Bellingham. He was born in 1944 in Key West Florida. Don considers himself a hobbit. He loves reading *Lord of the Rings* and began reading it to his first son when he was 6 years old. Don raised 5 kids, 4 were adopted, 3 boys and 2 girls. Don is the son of a Christian minister living in the deep south. Don got his BA in mathematics and music. Lately Don has started inventing things like a method for energy storage on a massive scale using off-the-shelf technology, 2 non-medical modalities for helping victims of depression, and a method for teaching basic math facts using rhythm, dance, structured melody and art. Don is interested in experiences and insights into spirituality.

Roger and Dorothy Shimer moved from central California to Bellingham upon their respective retirements. Both are ardent mountain climbers, having climbed many peaks in CA, OR and WA. Roger received a BS in Entomology at San Francisco State and went on to be a science teacher and entomologist. He enjoys hiking, gardening, woodworking, camping, and plays a guitar. Dorothy received an MS in Food Science from University of California at Davis and worked in air pollution control in CA. She enjoys gardening, hiking, camping, and sewing. Both were active in church work in CA and are becoming active at FCCB. They have two daughters both of whom are living in Seattle.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

CHURCH SCHOOL GATHERS: On **Sunday March 6**, following "Time with Children" the church school community will gather in the Social Hall to work on a special art project. We will rejoin our families in the Sanctuary for communion.

CAMPERSHIP BREAKFAST: It's time again for the Annual Campership Breakfast! Come enjoy fresh baked cinnamon rolls before and after church on **Sunday, March 6**. Breakfast will be served from **9:00-9:50 a.m.** Money raised will support scholarships for our youth and families attending camp.

MISSION PROJECT: In the coming weeks the church school children will be collecting canned goods which will be used to create a walking labyrinth (all will be invited to help create and walk during Lent) The food will then be donated to the Bellingham Food Bank. Please bring canned food donations to the box in the Narthex.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

If you are interested in knowing more about joining our church, we welcome you to our next Inquirers' Class, after church on **March 27, from 11:30 to 1 p.m.** in Room 12/14, located downstairs. The next joining will be **Sunday, April 17**, in worship.

YOUTH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Youth group in March is looking like it will be a lot of fun! Here's a quick look at what we're planning!

March 6: Kent will join us for a discussion in exploring our faith. Of course, there will be a few games and snacks as well.

March 13: Progressive Dinner! Each course is at a different house! Join us for a tasty, fun filled evening!

March 20: - Craft time with Andrew and Angela! Bring your crafty side and be ready to learn some crafts.

March 27: Come help out with the Community Meal. Meet at the gym at Assumption Church (just down the street from FCCB). The meal will be served from 12:45-3:00 pm.

YOUTH WANTED TO SERVE AS ACOLYTES:

Middle and High School students are invited to serve as an acolyte on Sunday mornings to light the Candle of Life. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the office door. It's a simple yet important way to participate in worship. The head usher will show you exactly what to do. Questions? Call Julia Ritchie 676-0791 (Diaconate member).

Drumming Circle

Our Drumming Circle continues to be a rousing, spirit-filled, contemplative time together.

Please join us to experience the ancient ritual of drumming again on Thursday evening, March 10 at 7 pm.

You don't need any experience, you don't even need a drum. You just need the curiosity, and the courage to try!

We meet the second Thursday of each month.

If you are interested please contact Tara at tara@fccb.net or call 734-3720.

Please come join us!

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.



WANTED: Ushers and Greeters



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!

PNC NEWS

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

THANKS FROM THE BELLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY

For thirty years, local children and families have benefited from the First Congregational Church's willingness to house some Bellingham Technical College (BTC) Child and Families Studies courses. Since 1981, thousands of local families and their children have participated in childbirth and parenting courses held at the church site for expectant parents, teen parents, and parents of young children.

It all started in the winter of 1981 when several local agencies worked together to start up a Teen Parent Program in Bellingham. At that time, Bellingham Child Care was renting space in the basement of the church where they provided full and part time child care for toddlers and preschoolers. Bellingham Child Care had an interest in beginning to provide infant care—and BTC needed infant care for the young parents participating in the new Teen Parent Program. So collaboration occurred and the Teen Parent Program moved into the basement of the church with BTC offering the educational component for the pregnant and parenting teens—and Bellingham Child Care offering care for their babies. The next school year the Teen Parent Program moved to the BTC campus where it was housed for many years before moving to Bellingham School District space and becoming what is now known as the GRADs program.

Soon after, Bellingham Child Care moved out of the church site and some of the BTC Parenting classes moved in. During the late 1980s and 1990s, hundreds of expectant parents took their childbirth education classes at the church site. A few nights a week the church basement was full of pregnant women and their partners preparing for birth and parenthood. These classes eventually moved out of the church to some of the hospital teaching rooms but the space provided for these classes by the church

resulted in many happy and healthy births and informed families.

If you visit the church now on weekdays, you may see families coming and going from the downstairs classrooms. They are participating in a program that has been housed at the church site for close to 30 years and is still going strong! The "Parents and Kids Together" program is housed at the church site and on campus at BTC and is where parents and their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers attend class once a week in an instructional program that focuses on child development. Developmentally appropriate activities are planned for parents and their children to do together in class and time is built in for parents to learn from a parenting educator and each other. More information and a video on this program is on the BTC web site at <http://www.btc.ctc.edu/DegreesCertificates/Programs/PRG-ProgramMain.asp?Program=91>.

Many families in the church have participated in these BTC courses and others have visited the church after being introduced to it by attending BTC classes. For thirty years the First Congregation Church of Bellingham has worked with BTC to support local children and families and help children start life with a solid foundation for success. Children are born learning—and early learning programs like the ones housed at the church help the youngest learners be successful in school and in life and help their parents and caregivers have the information and resources needed to be their children's first and most important teacher. Thanks to the First Congregational Church of Bellingham for sharing your space to improve the lives of children and families in our community.

Linda Crawford, Program Coordinator, BTC

AROUND THE CHURCH

FOOD BANK FOOD FIRST SUNDAY: Food First Sunday is **Sunday, March 6th**. Please bring your non-perishable food or monetary donations on Sunday. A cash donation allows the Food Bank to purchase perishable food items like milk.

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP 2011: Our adult mission group will be traveling to New Orleans **April 30 – May 7** this year to once again work with the UCC Disaster, Recovery and Relief and the South Central Conference. We will have the opportunity to be “Bearers of Hope” and a presence that demonstrates God’s companionship as the people and communities of New Orleans are empowered to rebuild their lives and move back into their homes. If you are interested in joining our group this year please contact Sharry Nyberg (sharry@fccb.net, 734-3720 ext.102) to sign up or for more information and plan to join us following worship in the Mt. Baker Room at **11:30 am on February 27** as we share stories of last springs trip, make plans to participate in a local mission.

HYGIENE SUPPLIES NEEDED: The youth group is collecting sample size personal hygiene items to help with Interfaith's Project Homeless Connect. If you have been to a hotel or the dentist recently and have any samples, we would greatly appreciate them. Items such as shampoo, soap, tooth brushes, toothpaste, razors, tampons, and combs are needed. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONISTS: Would you like to help out in the church office? We are currently looking for volunteers to answer phones & help with projects on a regular basis. If you would like to fill in a 4 hour shift during the week please contact Kathryn, our secretary at 734-3720 or office@fccb.net.

COMMUNITY MEAL: Our next Community Meal will be on **March 27**. Our shift runs from **1:00 - 3:15 pm**. Duties will include serving the food and the beverages as well as clearing, resetting and wiping down the tables. Sign up on the Bulletin Board under Community Meal or see Donna Romjue to volunteer or for more information.

NEED A NAMETAG? If you are a frequent visitor, friend of the church or lost your name tag, you can sign up for a name tag at our Welcome Table in the Narthex. A Membership Board member will be available after church to obtain your info and your name tag will be ready the following week. Please remember to wear your name tag for both worship and coffee hour.

PARKING ON SUNDAYS: As a courtesy to members and visitors for whom walking has become more difficult, please avoid parking in the disability lot east of the sanctuary and those spots near the front doors in the lot west of the sanctuary. If you are willing to stretch your legs on a Sunday morning, please remember that you are welcome to park in the Bunk's Medical Center lot on Cornwall. Thank you for your help in extending this form of welcome!

HANDBELLS: We are excited about the *four-octave set of handbells* we bought on eBay in November. We are so grateful for gifts received. We still have a number of \$25 and \$50 envelopes. Please see the donation board in the Narthex and help us pay off our balance on these bells.

WE WANT YOUR QUILTS! We will be changing the quilts in the towards the end of March. If you would like to share a quilt with us for 3 or 4 months please bring them in to the office before then or contact Joan Roley at 734-8041 or Marijo Fox at 734-7092.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK CLUB: All women who enjoy reading are invited to join the Daytime Book Club which meets the first Tuesday of each month at **9:30 a.m.** (Sept. – May) in the Fireplace Room for fellowship and refreshments, followed by a discussion of the book for the month. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 1st** when the book topic will be *Let the Great World Spin* by **Colum McCann**. Please plan to join the group and pick up a list of current book selections for the year in the office book club mailbox.



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.) and on Sunday mornings.

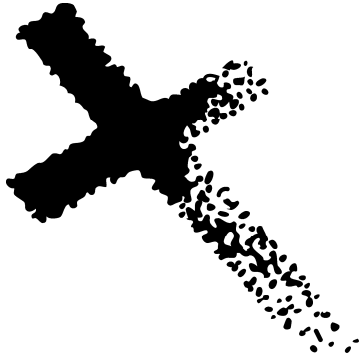
Please join us for our next facilitated walk on **Thursday, March 3** when our theme will be “Prayers for the World.”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION: An additional discussion group for *Transforming Congregational Culture* is scheduled for **March 3rd at 7 pm** at Meril Davenport's home at 2717 Superior Street in the Roosevelt area. Contact Meril at 756-1285 or meril@gallopingpictures.com.

CAMPERSHIP BREAKFAST RESCHEDULED: The breakfast has been rescheduled for **Sunday, March 6th**. Enjoy fresh baked cinnamon rolls before church. Breakfast will be served from **9:00-9:50 a.m.** Money raised will support scholarships for our youth and families attending camp.

ART APPRECIATION EVENING: The Arts in Worship Board invites everyone to join us to appreciate spiritual and religious art at our Arts Appreciation Dessert Potluck on **Sunday, March 6 at 7 pm**. Please bring your personal visual art pieces or collections of a religious or spiritual nature. We also ask that you bring a written story about your art, explaining its history, creation, genre, and why it is important to you. Please sign up in the Narthex to let us know the size and nature of your display. **And Dessert:** All those who attend are invited to bring and share a dessert with others. After dessert we will view, contemplate, and discuss what fellow participants have chosen to display in their homes of a religious or spiritual nature. For further information, please contact Fred Wepprecht at 733.4220 or bhamreconsultant@aol.com.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS: Come join us on **Saturday, March 12, from 10 am to 12pm** for a time of “Nurturing Your Creative Spirit.” We will join together for some craft fun, laughter and play while creating life masks with Carol Nall. For more information contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
 is **March 9th at 7 p.m.** Join us for a
 contemplative and intentional way to
 enter into the season of Lent.

First Congregational Church of Bellingham
United Church of Christ
 Open & Affirming Congregation
 2401 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225
 Phone: 360.734.3720 Email: office@fccb.net

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

Date: March 2011

CHURCH CALENDAR

February 28

- 9:00 AM Shalom Circle
- 4:00 PM Exercise Group

March 1

- 9:30 AM Book Club
- 7:00 PM Pilgrim Circle
- 7:00 PM Habitat for Humanity Meeting

March 2

- 4:00 PM Exercise Group
- 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl
- 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers

March 3

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

March 4

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

March 6

- 9:00 AM Campership Breakfast
- 10:00 AM Worship/Church School Gathers
- 11:00 AM Healing Service
- 6:30 PM High School & Middle School YG
- 7:00 PM Art Appreciation Potluck

March 7

- 9:00 AM Shalom Circle
- 4:00 PM Exercise Group

March 8

- 9:30 AM Discovery Circle
- 1:30 PM Living the Questions

March 9

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

March 10

- 1:00 PM Jesus Seminar
- 7:00 PM Drumming Circle

March 11

- 4:00 PM Exercise Group

March 12

- 10:00 AM Creative Connections

March 13

- 10:00AM High School CS
- 10:00 AM Worship/Church School
- 11:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic
- 6:30 PM High School & Middle School YG

March 14

- 9:00 AM Shalom Circle
- 4:00 PM Exercise Group
- 7:00 PM Board Meetings

March 15

- 7:00 PM Contemporary Issues

March 16

- 4:00 PM Exercise Group
- 5:00 PM Prayer Shawl
- 6:00 PM Homelessness Task Force
- 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers

March 17

- 7:00 PM Jesus Seminar

March 18

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
- 10:00 AM In Stitches
- 4:00 PM Exercise Group

March 20

- 10:00 AM Worship/Church School
- 6:30 PM High School & Middle School YG