

The VISITOR



University Christian Church
4731 15th Ave NE
Seattle WA 98105-4404

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Volume XLIX Number 14

An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 17, 2007



In the last issue of *The Visitor*, Hubert Locke, Chair of the Transformation Mission, announced the extensive and exciting work being done by seven Transformation Task Groups. We are pleased to offer this first report of the WORSHIP TASK GROUP.

On September 9 we will celebrate a new Service of Worship. Actually, the order of the Service will be very familiar. The change will be in the use of space. Chair seating will replace pews in the front of the Sanctuary. The Chancel will remain as it is now; and a different communion table will be placed in the center of the worship space on the main floor. In presentations made to the congregation in February and March drawings were distributed showing how the space will be changed. An enlarged drawing is posted in the main hall.

We are encouraged in our work by a 2005 survey of 14,301 local churches, synagogues, parishes, temples and mosques. From this study it is quite clear that congregations "willing to change to meet new challenges... have experienced the highest level of attendance growth." Moreover, the Survey revealed that "congregations that changed their worship services moderately or a lot were more likely to experience substantial growth..." (From: *Facts on Growth* by The Hartford Institute for Religion Research; Hartford Seminary)

The Transformation has begun and, with you, we are challenged to experience God's presence in a new day.

Task Group: Donna Neumann, Secretary, Lynne Armstrong, Rosemary Blakemore, Dorothy Spencer-Fritch, Bunny Harrold, Nancy Irwin, Rev. Sandy Messick, Jim Stockdale, Chair.

The Worship Corner

July 22, 2007

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	10 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	Psalm 8 , Psalm 84 John 7:43-51, John 8:12-19
Sermon	<i>Paradise Always</i>
Guest Preacher	George Shangrow

July 29, 2007

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	10 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	TBA
Sermon	TBA
Guest Preacher	Dick Cunningham

Annual Report Deadline

If you head up any commission or other group, you need to know that **your reports are now due in the office.** If you need a copy of last year's report, please contact Niki or just look it up in your Annual Report from last year.



Ella R. Morris

December 19, 1919 – July 6, 2007

Ella was a member of University Christian Church since April 6, 1952.

A gravesidel service was be held at Washelli Cemetery on July 14, 2007.



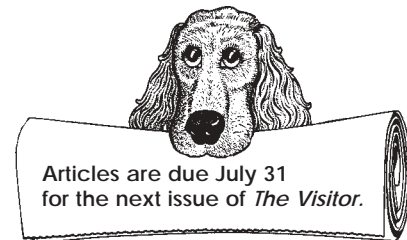
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Change Service Requested

July 17, 2007

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Articles are due July 31
for the next issue of *The Visitor*.



Your pledge envelopes for
2007–2008 are ready to be
picked up in the church office.

Looking Ahead:

Turner Memorial Lectures

October 8–10, 2007

Englewood Christian Church in Yakima
Jesus, Judaism & Jewish-Christian Relations
Brochures available in the church office.

NWRCC All Region Visioning Retreat

November 9–10, 2007

Ellensburg

Our Life Together

• Congratulations to **Darnell Webb** who was baptized during our morning worship on Sunday, July 15. We welcome Darnell to the life of this congregation along with his girlfriend, Sarah Blurton, and their children, Jasmine and Trinity.

• Eight members of University Christian Church will be traveling to Ft. Worth this week for the General Assembly. Voting representatives for our congregation are **Laura Bailey** and **Mary Jane Elliott**. Also attending are **Tom Quigley**, **Loren Arnett**, **Bill Bailey**, **Del Elliott**, **Donna Rhay** and **Sandy Messick**.

• **Rosemary Blakemore** thanks the congregation for her surprise retirement party, cake, balloons, flowers, and the many well-wishes she has received. This is, indeed, a special community!

• In addition to Bosco, the flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 15 were in honor of Neener, Jack, Cookie, and all animals who care for humans.

Save the date:

September 21-23 for the Northwest Regional Women's Retreat at Gwinwood



Watch for the Registration forms soon! Port Angeles FCC women are hard at work planning a great retreat filled with inspiration and celebration of all the good God is doing and invites us to do!

All that's needed now is for you and your friends to make plans for a great getaway from Friday night to Sunday noon at Gwinwood Conference Grounds in Lacey.



Interim Insights

Just as University Christian Church is undergoing a transformation process, so the region is also engaged in transformation. The Regional Transformation process is called RISE and symbolizes the hopes for a new and transformed ministry within the region and among congregations. The first part of this process involved coming to a common understanding of the challenges we face as a region. Interviews were conducted across the region, a report was prepared, and challenges were identified. In four area gatherings and in numerous smaller gatherings among clergy and within congregations, Disciples engaged these challenges and attempted to identify the top two or three key issues that must be addressed if we are to live faithfully and courageously as a region in this time and place. Here at University Christian Church, the elders engaged in a discussion of some of these key issues and identified several that seemed key for the region to address. Among these were: a) a loss of community within the region and between churches, b) a rebuilding of a climate of trust, and c) changing circumstances in the context of where we serve and to whom we are called to serve.

The next phase of the process involves identifying a guiding vision for our region. A Vision Panel has been appointed to lead the process of naming and writing a vision for ministry for our region. I will be serving on this Vision Panel. A key part of this phase will be an all-church region-wide Vision Retreat scheduled for November 9-10 in Ellensburg. You'll be hearing more about this as I will be encouraging as many as possible from University Christian to attend. Following the writing of the Guiding Vision, the panel will work to define our mission and goals for the next 5-7 years. This is where the previously identified key issues will be joined with the guiding vision to mark our way forward as a region. The Guiding Vision, Mission and Goals will be presented to the region at our next Regional Assembly in May, 2008.

University Christian has traditionally been a strong participant in the ministries of the Northwest Regional Church, and I am confident that this will continue. I encourage you to consider attending the region-wide retreat in November and the Regional Assembly next May. In addition, I encourage you to pray regularly for the region, its leaders and our Interim Transitional Regional Minister, Rebecca Hale. Keep an eye and ear out for more information on how this process is progressing and don't hesitate to ask me if you have questions.

Peace,

Sandy

Peacemaking conference at Seattle U

Pax Christi USA is pleased to announce this year's conference, *The Pursuit of Peace in a Culture of Violence: A National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking*, to be held **August 10-12** at Seattle University. The conference is being co-sponsored by Seattle University's Department of Theological and Religious Studies, Office of the Vice President for Mission and Ministry, and the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.

The keynote presenter for the conference is Jack Jezreel of JustFaith Ministries. Seminar presenters include:

- Camilo Mejia, the first US soldier to publically refuse to fight in the Iraq War and author of *Road from ar-Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia*
- Ray McGovern, former CIA analyst and co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity
- Dr. Jamie Phelps, OP, theologian at Xavier University and director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies in New Orleans
- Rev. Charles Morris, global warming activist and director of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light
- Drs. Jeanette Rodriguez and Ted Fortier, professors at Seattle University and authors of *Cultural Memory: Resistance, Faith and Identity*
- Members of the Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team

On Friday, at a pre-conference gathering, Pax Christi USA will host a very special event, A National Grassroots Discernment for the Peoples' Peace Initiative, to gather the voices and experiences from every level of the national Catholic peace and justice movement to articulate the challenges of Catholic peacemaking in the 21st century.

For more information go to www.paxchristiusa.org.

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Toast for Jesus

Carla Bailey, our daughter who is an adult with Down Syndrome, loves ritual, predictability, and participating in things that are familiar. She is also a keen observer of social patterns and customs. So I was not surprised when she first apparently connected two rituals with which she is familiar: people joining in to toast a significant occasion and communion. In both cases, people are holding small cups of "wine." In both cases something significant is being affirmed by the community. In both cases words are spoken before the drink is consumed in unity. So Carla has added the piece that might be seen to be missing from our worship ritual: the "toast" or the touching of glasses.

Persons who have sat around Carla in worship have experienced her persistent offer to "toast" and have graciously learned to participate with her. Persons who experience this for the first time are predictably initially mystified as to her intentions.

When this began a couple of years ago, I was initially amused and a little embarrassed. I confess that now I have come to appreciate it as an added element to the ritual of communion. It speaks to me of celebration, community, and deeply felt acknowledgment of the importance of what we are doing. Christ is once again being made real in our very midst.

Come sit with Carla for worship. Share in a new aspect of the celebration of communion.

Laura Bailey, Carla's mother

Learn about the New Sanctuary Movement at Ecumenical Parish potluck

University Lutheran and University Christian invite you and your congregation to an "ultimate potluck" on **July 22** to learn more about the New Sanctuary Movement. Michael Ramos of the Church Council of Greater Seattle will bring information on the topic, "Immigration and Sanctuary: Building a Faith-based Movement." **The potluck will begin at 11:30 am at University Lutheran, 1604 NE 50th in Seattle, and will continue as congregations arrive.** Michael will address the group from noon to 12:45, followed by questions and answers.

In the wake of the collapse of the Senate bill for comprehensive immigration reform, the faith community in general, and the Ecumenical Parish in particular, need to consider where we go from here. Michael will discuss current issues on immigration reform and the New Sanctuary Movement, which provides a proactive response to the struggle of immigrants in our midst. Following this meeting, he and others will be available to lead discussions in individual congregations using a curriculum which the Rauschenbusch Center at the Church Council is developing.