

The VISITOR



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

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Volume XLIX Number 22

An Open and Affirming Congregation

November 20, 2007



Coming Attractions

Sunday mornings in November and December

The Learning Task Group promised FUN and along with the Evangelism Task Group, here it is:

• November 25
"Sing Along" with Chuck Simrell and Leon Seaman

• December 16
Christmas Breakfast (9 am in the Social Hall)

*Holiday Preparations, Celebrations and Meditations:
December 2, 9, and 23:*

Bible Study with Dr. Thomas McCormick
"The Teachings of Jesus" This seminar series investigates some of the important teachings of Jesus, how these connect to the formation of our personal ethic in the current age, and implications for the development of community and a communitarian ethic. We begin with a careful look at the times and conditions in which Jesus taught, major sources of information about his life, and reflect on the current applicability of his words nearly 2,000 years later.

Issues: Experiencing the Advent Season

- December 2
"The Story of Advent" with Loren Arnett
- December 9
"Family Contretemps, Clashes and Conflicts" with Barbara Kidder
- December 23
"Standing Apart from the Manger Scene" with Nancy Gruber

Coffee and Conversations

led by Rosemary Blakemore

The Group will enjoy "Advent Adventures" which includes assisting the Learning Community Children with their projects.

Youth are invited to join adults in the Forum and Electives. On December 2, Youth will learn about

Coming Attractions continued in next column

The Worship Corner

November 25, 2007

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16
The sermon will be a video from General Assembly: Boston Women featuring Elizabeth Myer Boulton, Belva Brown Jordan, Stephanie Paulsell	

December 2, 2007

1st Sunday of Advent Hope

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:36-44
Sermon	<i>Getting Ready</i>
Preacher	Rev. Sandy Messick

There is a self-led worship service in the Chapel at 8:45 am on Sundays.

Share your Tradition

For the next few weeks beginning the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, the display case in the Lounge will be available for you to bring a creche, or a particular ornament that is a tradition in your family Christmas celebration.



If you have questions, call June Arnett, 206-363-0448, or email at earnett526@comcast.net. The case will be locked to protect your precious treasures.

Coming Attractions continued...

Hymn Stories with Chuck Simrell and the spiritual discipline of yoga with Debbie Giles.

Children in the Learning Community will be exploring the meaning of Advent and will be making Advent calendars.

Note: The Learning Task Group plans to distribute the winter quarter brochure at the Christmas Breakfast.

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Change Service Requested

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**Your articles are due in the office
by November 27 for the next issue
of "The Visitor."**

Hanging of the Greens

This Sunday, November 25, after worship you are invited to help decorate the church for the upcoming Advent Season. Soup and bread will be provided to give you strength for the task. With plenty of willing hands it shouldn't take long to hang the wreaths and the garland and set up the other decorations. Please plan to join us for the time of fellowship and preparation.



Special Holiday Events at a Glance

December 7

CWF Bazaar 10 am to 6:30 pm in the Social Hall
Christmas Dinner 6:30 pm in the Social Hall

December 16

Christmas Breakfast 9 am in the Social Hall

December 22

Longest Night Service 6 pm in the Chapel

December 24

Candlelight Service 11 pm in the Sanctuary
Wassail after the service 12 midnight in the Lounge

Our Life Together

- Niki's computer was "saved" thanks to **Harriet Koscho**. The computer had been shutting off suddenly. Harriet replaced the fan with one she had at home. Problem solved!
- **Del Elliott** has been having some heart problems and will be undergoing tests after Thanksgiving. He is resting at home this week.
- Howard, a friend of the **Elliotts** has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.
- Adam, **Judy Lightfoot's** future son-in-law, is recovering after heart surgery.
- **Monica Shuman** and **Inge Wood** both recently had their pictures in local newspapers.
- It was good to see **Jeff Andrienas** in worship this past Sunday.
- David Blakemore recently celebrated his 80th birthday.
- The youth of our congregation led a wonderful Youth Sunday Worship Service on November 11. Thanks to Daisy Shangrow and Sarah Messick for their creative leadership.
- Thank you to all who helped me celebrate my birthday at a recent coffee hour. Special thanks to **Jack Robinson** and **Barbara Kidder** for the beautiful music, and to **Pat Thomas** and **DeEtte Wood** for the beautiful cake, and to **Chuck Simrell** for the beautiful speech, and to all who helped out behind the scenes. You brought joy to my life and to my birthday. With much love, Sandy

Ecumenical Parish Celebration

Come and join the "**Celebration of Our Diverse Gifts in Unity**" at the University District Ecumenical Parish Celebration on **Saturday, December 1**. Beginning at **9:30 am**, people will gather in the Social Hall for a continental breakfast and speak about the gifts that their congregations bring to the Ecumenical Parish.

After a service of thanksgiving, people will have the opportunity to discuss how these gifts will guide the Ecumenical Parish into the future. Everyone is urged to participate in this festive occasion that will conclude at 12 noon.

We look forward to discussing, sharing, worshiping, celebrating, and envisioning our future together with everyone on December 1.

You don't need to have attended a previous session. All are welcome!

Interim Insights

Ten reasons I am thankful this year for University Christian Church:

10. All the people I forgot to mention in the lists below. (My apologies)
9. The staff of this congregation as they remain flexible and upbeat in trying to adapt to the new challenges of life in the "Transformation Zone" and respond to the numerous requests of members of the congregation.
8. The members of the Transformation Task Groups as they explore, design, create, and introduce us to new ways of being in our life together.
7. The Northwest Regional Christian Church and the Ecumenical Parish that remind us that the church of Jesus Christ is much bigger and wider than our congregation alone.
6. Lynn Huff and the members of the Rezone Task Group who are working to have our property rezoned and explore options for developing the property on the east side of 15th.
5. Chuck Simrell and the leaders of this congregation for boldly addressing the challenges before us and remaining positive about the possibilities of God's future in this place.
4. Harriet Koscho, Lanny Shuman, Debbie Giles, and others for their tireless work in preparing a budget for the congregation to vote on last Sunday. And for the congregation for honoring their work and approving the budget..
3. The Group and the Learning Community who led us in collecting soup and crackers for the Food Bank
2. Eugene Collias and Del Lang for their cheerful willingness to work with me in setting up screens, hooking up projectors, and trouble-shooting sound systems; the deacons who are always willing to "go with the flow" never knowing what might happen in worship from one Sunday to the next; Sarah Messick, our tech support person who challenges me by asking "Why not?"; and the congregation who is willing to try new things. Who knows what I might come up with next?
1. That God is being praised through our worship, fellowship and life together.

Grace and Peace,

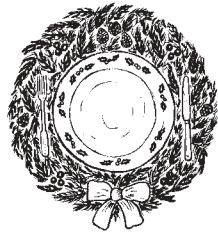
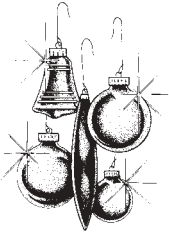
Sandy

A Holiday Happening

CWF will sponsor a Holiday Happening with a bazaar and dinner on Friday, December 7.

The bazaar will be held in the Social Hall from 10 am until our 6:30 pm

dinner. There will be a bakery booth, "Attic Treasures," crafts and jewelry, and a booth for Christmas items. The luncheon menu will be turkey or split pea soup, hearty breads, coffee, tea and pie.



Tickets for the dinner will be sold Sunday, November 25 and December 2 during the coffee hour. The cost is Adults-\$7.50, Children 12 and under-\$3.50 and Family-\$20.00.

Please contact Betty Odle, 206-525-8276, if you have items you

wish to donate or you are able to assist at the bazaar. Proceeds from the bazaar are used to support our various missions and outreach programs.

Talking Faith:

An 8-part study on Growing and Sharing Your Faith

Sandy will be leading an 8-week study of faith sharing on **Tuesday mornings from 10 to 12 noon beginning December 4 in the Lounge.** The classes will run December 4-18, take a 2-week break for Christmas and New Year's, and then resume January 8-February 5. Topics will include "How Do We Know Anything About God?", "What Does God Do?" and "Who's to Say What Is Right and Wrong?" This is not a book study, but a class that will engage you in conversation about what you believe and practice sharing those beliefs with others. The cost is \$5/person to cover the cost of materials. There is a sign-up sheet in the office for those interested. If the response is positive, Sandy will offer a second session in the evenings early in the new year.

Longest Night Service

Saturday, December 22, 6 pm

The holiday season is a joyous time of year for many people, but for some it's a painful reminder of loss; loved ones, jobs, families, etc. The tradition of a Longest Night Service recognizes the pain that some experience at this time of year and offers a worship service especially geared to naming those losses while also claiming the good news of God's presence in this season. You are invited to join us in the Chapel on the longest night of the year, December 22 at 6 pm for a brief worship service. Our time together will include prayers, readings, songs, and communion.

Messiah

Begin your Christmas Season with this inspirational musical event:

A Seattle Christmas tradition, the Orchestra Seattle Seattle Chamber Singers presentation of *Messiah*, featuring two harpsichords and George Shangrow's unique and wonderful interpretation of Handel's greatest oratorio, is not to be missed!

Sunday, December 2 at 3 pm

First Free Methodist Church (3200 Third Avenue W)
For more information, call OSSCS at 206-682-5208.

McCormick Lecture Series on Science and Religion

Lecture 1 January 27 at 7 pm U Christian Church
Reflections from Judaism, Christianity & Islam on the Stem Cell Debate

Lecture 2 January 28 at 7 pm UW Law School, 133
Religious Challenges to Alternative Methods of Obtaining Stem Cells for Research

The Dr. Thomas McCormick Lectureship Series on Science and Religion, is pleased to announce this year's speaker will be Dr. Suzanne Holland, Associate Professor of Ethics and Department Chair of Religion at the University of Puget Sound.

Dr. Holland teaches in the area of religious ethics and values, including bioethics, science and technology, religion, and Gender Studies. Her research interests range from the ethics of human genetics and stem cell research, biotechnology and commodification, to broader issues in religion, culture and public policy.

The series is sponsored by sponsored by Campus Ministry-Covenant House and University Christian Church. It will be two nights of rich lecture and conversation do not miss it! Our adult-education committee endorses this program as a part of our adult enrichment opportunities.

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