

The VISITOR



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

Highlights in this issue

North Building Work Day Saturday	page 2
Interim Insights	page 3
Mission to Children	page 4
Keeping current	page 5
Spooky 4th Friday Fun Night	page 6

Volume XLIX Number 20

An Open and Affirming Congregation

October 16, 2007

Coming attractions

October 21, 28, November 4, 11

- **Bible Study** with Dick Cunningham
"Key Questions of Your Faith"
- **Issues of the Day:** "What is going on in the University District"

October 21

Judy Lightfoot will discuss Social Services in the District.

October 28

Sharon Lee will discuss the Low Income Housing Institute.

November 4

Karen Ko, Coordinator/Director, University Neighborhood Service Center will report on needs and observations from the city's point of view.

November 11

Ecumenical Parish representatives will report/discuss how the Parish responds, and can respond to needs.

- **Coffee and Conversation** will be led by Nancy Irvin.
- **The Group** will be studying "The Good Samaritan."
- **Youth**
Conversations with Sandy

The Worship Corner

October 21, 2007

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Psalm 119:97-107
Sermon	<i>Learning and Teaching</i>
Preacher	Rev. Sandy Messick

October 28, 2007

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	TBA
Sermon	TBA
Preacher	Rev. Sandy Messick

November 4, 2007

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Memorial Candle Lighting

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	Luke 19:1-10 Habakuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Sermon	<i>Without Vision</i>
Preacher	Rev. Sandy Messick

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

A rare opportunity

On **October 23**, Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry will present Dr. Jurgen Moltmann, one of Christianity's premier theologians, in a lecture titled "The Crucified Christ: A Modern Theology of the Cross." A long-time professor of Systematic Theology at the Tübingen School of Theology in Germany, he is best known for his seminal work, *The Theology of Hope*.

The lecture will be on the campus in **Piggott Auditorium at 7 pm** and a reception will follow. It is another offering in the School's Great Theologians Lecture Series and the public is cordially invited.

Calling all Youth!



The focus of the Youth Class (grades 6-12) for the next several weeks will be on planning and leading Youth Sunday (scheduled for November 11). **All youth are invited to join Pastor Sandy at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings** to brainstorm creative ways to present the Good News and lead the congregation in worship. We will meet **in the Upper Room** on the Lower Level (at the bottom of the ramp).

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Change Service Requested

October 16, 2007

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Congregational Meeting

November 18, 12:30 pm

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the budget. We will share a potluck meal with a thanksgiving theme.

North Building Work Day Saturday, October 21 at 9 am

Thanks to the work of the Building Use Group, there is the possibility and some certainty of several tenants for some of the spaces in the North Building. That's the good news. The bad news is that there is much work to be done to get the spaces ready. On the third floor of the North Building, we need a group of people to cut up and remove the carpeting (which is already loose), and others to clean up after that takes place. Subsequently, there will be painting (lots of it), and other tasks that may take some skill in electric work. We can do this and with your help, it will be done. **Come in your old clothes and bring a rug cutting knife, if possible. Drinks and other equipment will be provided. A big turnout would get the job done before noon.**

We have had a good response to other work parties with some of our regulars showing up every time. This time, let's have some others of you who are maybe considered among the younger members show up. There is work enough for all.



Our Life Together

- Eileen Cavenagh asks for prayers as she searches for a new job.
- **Ann Dempsey** is undergoing tests to identify a mass found in her abdominal area.
- **Judy Lightfoot's** future son-in-law will be having heart surgery soon.
- **Betty Koon** is at home recovering from a recent fall.
- **Mojuana Tolon and Del Lang** and family are both grieving the loss of four-legged family members who have died recently (Paco and Ginger respectively)
- Please remember that the Monday noon Prayer Team is praying for the congregation, search committee, and identified needs each week. All are welcome to join us, we meet in the Fireplace Room.
- We are thankful for recent visitors in our worship service.
- Tom Messick's father, Ralph, will be having aortic valve replacement surgery soon.
- **Libby Sandusky** had the lead part in the Duke Ellington's Harlem theme at the Mahler festival at Benaroya Hall on September 9.
- **Libby Sandusky** has moved. Her address is 2401 NE Blakely St Apt 156, Seattle WA 98105-3251. Her phone is the same (206-527-8772).
- **Julie Reed** and Daisy Shangrow have moved. Their new address is 8510 23rd Ave NE, Apt 2, Seattle WA 98105.
- **Nancy White** has moved. Her new address is 1415 E Republican St Apt 301, Seattle WA 98112-4551. Her cell is phone is 206-235-3008.

What else?

In addition to weddings, the following events are scheduled in our church building:

October 28

Seattle Home School Group
Fall Festival in the Social Hall

November 10

Benefit for Elizabeth Gregory Home
Fantasy Casino Night in the Social Hall

November 17

Benefit by Evergreen Association of Baptists
"Seussical" a Musical in the Sanctuary

November 30

Dinner for Rauschenbusch Center
sponsored by the Church Council of
Greater Seattle in the Social Hall

Interim Insights

Years ago I was privileged to be a member of the Roman Catholic-Disciples of Christ Dialogue Team in Louisville, KY. This group met regularly to discuss challenging issues that both Christian communities were facing. Over the history of this group, they had discussed different understandings of communion, women in ministry, and capital punishment. Each time they sought to produce some kind of document that highlighted areas of agreement. While I was a member of the team, we decided to tackle the highly sensitive and emotional issue of abortion. It quickly became apparent that writing a statement on our areas of agreement would not be particularly useful. Instead, we chose to produce a television segment that would air on a local cable channel. During the segment, we modeled the dialogue that we had been having and highlighted both our common beliefs in the value of human life, and the areas in which our opinions differed, both denominationally and as individuals. We believed that it was the modeling of open and honest dialogue that could best illustrate our ecumenical partnership and understanding, even if we couldn't reach agreement on particular issues or theological positions.

Today, University Christian Church is intimately engaged with other congregations in our neighborhood in an endeavor we call the University District Ecumenical Parish (UDEP). It is the hope of some (and I confess my hope too at times) that together we can speak on the common social issues of the day with one united voice and thus give witness to the unity of the whole church. But my greater hope is that the Ecumenical Parish can increasingly represent diverse voices, those on both the right and the left, conservative and liberal, mainline and evangelical, Catholic and Protestant, and that even when we cannot speak with one voice on a particular issue, we can model our unity in diversity through open dialogue, honest conversation and mutual respect. As Dr. Michael Kinnamon, nominee for General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, wrote in his book, *The Vision of the Ecumenical Movement and How It Has Been Impoverished by Its Friends*, "the unity of those who are alike—those who have common interests, backgrounds, and perspectives—is hardly a distinctive witness! ... The church shows that the Spirit is in it, the church serves as a sign of God's purposes, when it lives as a community of those who are not alike." (p. 53). It is my dream for the Ecumenical Parish that we will continue to broaden the membership of those who count themselves as part of the parish. It will no doubt cause us to struggle at times, even wonder what we have gotten ourselves into at times, but I believe that in the struggle we will be blessed and in the dialogue we will bear witness to the God who created each and welcomes all.

Grace and peace,

Sandy

Ecumenical Parish notes

Dialogue I with Third Church of Christ, Scientist and U Christian met here on September 23.

Dialogue II on Sunday, October 21 will be hosted by U Temple at 12:45 pm for U Christian, Third Church, Christ Scientist and Friends Meeting. Lunch will be served. Please sign up in the church office so they can plan for lunch.

On Saturday, December 1, Dialogue III will take place at U Christian, where all churches will gather from **9 am to 12 noon** for one dialogue and the sharing of "gifts" to the ecumenical parish.

Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Northwest Regional news

• First Christian Church of Olympia invites you to celebrate the **25th Anniversary of the Ordination to Christian Ministry of Mary Claire Olney-Loyd on Sunday, October 28**. Worship is at 10:45 am with a reception to follow. First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St SE, WA, 360-943-8025.

* Sunday, September 16 was the first worship service of Journey Christian Church in Rathdrum, Idaho. Pastors Karisa Rickard and Tracia Salzer report that the service went well. All but two in attendance were un-churched or had been away from a church for many years. They had posted flyers all around town and were also listed in the local newspaper.

Mission to Children...Why?

The Education Task Group has had a dual focus during the planning of events for our congregation and those we invite to attend our offerings. The adult program has been easy to observe. The forums and classes have excited our Group in the enthusiasm expressed to us individually and by the attendance in the classes. Coffee and Conversation has been an important vehicle for people coming late or dropping in. Some have moved from that gathering in the lounge to attend either Bible or Issues. You may have noticed that on most Sundays, two of our leaders have been joined by others for more casual discussion.

What you may not have noticed is the program for children. You probably have seen children during their participation in the worship service. We would like for you to take an opportunity to think about why it is important to have a special program for our children, and what children's religious education might involve.

A few months ago Senator Barack Obama was quoted in a column by Bob Herbert in the *N.Y. Times*. In speaking to the Vernon Park Church of God in Chicago, Senator Obama deplored murderous violence in Chicago schools. "There is only so much government can do...there is a need for a change in attitude...We're not reading to them. We're not guiding them...We're not disciplining them," he said referring to the tough young gangs who are not growing up with attention from responsible adults.

Responsible adults. That is who we are. Being responsible adults is our mission. Children need role models. They need to know that there are adults who care about them and who they are. They need to know from contact with members in our church community that they can be counted on in a time of crisis.

Relationships with caring adults are critical to children. The more adults a child develops significant relationships with, the higher probability of that child growing into a successful adolescent and adult. The problem is that children in this day and age are generally experiencing fewer relationships with extended family members. Hired caretakers and especially teachers are cautioned and discouraged from developing a 1:1 relationship with a child. Where better can we remediate this void and support this potential than within the Church? This environment of stability and caring is ideal for nurturing children while they are seeking/developing faith, spirituality and an understanding of social justice.

The educational program for children and youth here at University Christian Church seeks to meet these needs while we are telling them stories from the Bible and the message of GOOD NEWS, and while they are participating in Sunday morning worship. During the first hour we emphasize their being part of a community...the Learning Community. During the second hour after leaving the Sanctuary, they continue in their own worship and indeed, in a snack time version of communion.

How can you help, participate, give to the Children's and Youth's programs? Contact any member of the Education Task Group. We have needs for adult help, for suggestions, and for items (like a clock) for the rooms. Thanks for your concern and your prayers. The Education Task Group includes DeEtte Woods, chair, Loren Arnett, Julie Reed, Debbie Shuman, Pat Stockdale and Bob Tanac.) Copies of the *N.Y. Times* article are available on request.

Your articles are due in the office by October 30 for the next issue of "The Visitor."

Michael Kinnamon nominee for NCC General Secretary

The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a long-time educator, ecumenical leader, and advocate for peace, justice, inclusivity and diversity, is the nominee for General Secretary of the National Council of Churches USA (NCC).

If affirmed by the NCC's Governing Board and General Assembly next month, Dr. Kinnamon will become the Council's ninth general secretary since its beginnings in 1950. He succeeds the Rev. Bob Edgar who resigned August 31 to become president and CEO of Common Cause.

It should be noted that Dr. Kinnamon is a member of the Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN), that he has served as co-chair of Protestant Justice Action (an informal network of multi-issue advocacy groups within the mainline Protestant denominations), and that he has been a frequent and popular speaker at events organized by DJAN and the Disciples Center for Public Witness, including General Assemblies and Ecumenical Advocacy Days.

A priceless gift

Many of you are aware that there has been work going on to preserve our past history. It began with the Archive Group who spent hours and days sorting mountains of old files, pictures and publications. In the process, Lynn Huff who was one of the workers



on this project, became enthused and excited about the possibilities this presented to him. He had already begun work on a historical and photographic compilation of the Jim Stockdale years at University

Christian and when he had completed that (see copy in Library), he kept on going and now has presented us with a beautiful book on the life and work of Robert Thomas, the minister who preceded Jim Stockdale. Bob Thomas' widow, Marge continues to be active in the life of the church and just this past Sunday was involved in teaching stained-glass work to our teenage students. Please take the time to look at this book and let Lynn know how grateful we are for this priceless gift. The book is now in the Lounge, but will be available in the Library later.

More gifts

And, speaking of gifts, we are also grateful for the gift of the conference table now in the Library given to us by Tom Stephenson. That new table now makes it possible to add the Library as another room to hold meetings for about 8 to 10 people.

Keeping current

Are you interested in keeping up with current news of U Christian Church and its future, and of the Regional Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)? Join one or all of these groups. You then will be able to view the group's content and participate in the group. Members must be approved before joining.

UCC (University Christian Church) group

This is the group for University Christian Church. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uccdisciples/>. Then click on the blue box that says "join this group" and follow the instructions. After you join you will be able to both send and receive messages of interest to U Christian people who have signed up for this group.

UCC Futures group

This is the group that talks about the Transformation and Future of U Christian Church. To join, please go here: <http://groups.google.com/group/uccfutures/about?hl=en>

We have meeting minutes available for the transformation groups. Feel free to upload your own meeting minutes, sample web pages, etc. The group is private, so it should be okay to talk about confidential information such as dollar amounts. You must be signed in and a member of this group to view its content.

Northwest Regional Christian Church group

There are two ways to join the NWRCC Yahoo group.

1. Send an email to nwrcc:subscribe@yahoogroups.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line (no need for any specific message text)
2. Email Amber at the Regional Office: asaladino@disciplesnw.org and she will add you to the group directly.

Sunday, October 21

Seek the welfare of your neighborhood!
(Jeremiah 29:7)

Seek the welfare of your U District neighbors: for in their welfare you will find your own!

Our 9:30 am Forum on Sunday, October 21, draws its theme from Sandy's sermon last Sunday. Judy Lightfoot will try to answer your questions about some opportunities to help in the neighborhood:

- What organizations serve our needy neighbors in the U District?
- Which organizations need volunteers?
- Can they really use my very modest talents and interests?
- What are the best ways to get involved?
- If I tend to be shy or anxious in new situations, will I get help and training?



4th Friday Fun Night Spooky



Halloween is the theme: apples on strings, apple cider and donuts for desert... Wear a costume if you want. It's a potluck so bring a dish to share.

October 26 at 6:30 pm in the Lower Lounge.



Traffic Jam: A benefit concert focusing on human trafficking

Human trafficking is defined as modern day slavery in which people are recruited, transported, and harbored for the purpose of exploiting them through forced labor or prostitution. It is a global problem. Each year approximately 600,000 to 800,000 individuals are trafficked across international borders, and millions more are trafficked within their own countries. Human trafficking not only deprives basic human rights, it also presents a health risk and fuels organized crime. Since its inception in 1865, The Salvation Army has been combating human exploitation and slavery.

Consistent with The Salvation Army's tradition of working to abolish human trafficking, the Salvation Army Leadership Committee (SALC) is producing Traffic Jam: A Benefit Concert Focusing on Human Trafficking. **Traffic Jam starts at 7:30 pm October 20 at Mosaic Community Coffee House (4401 2nd Avenue NE, Seattle).** Performing artists include nationally recognized Lamont Hiebert, cofounder of Justice for Children, and his band Ten Shekel Shirt, and local band, Soulfill. Local officials involved in stopping human trafficking will also be available to answer questions and distribute materials regarding this horrific crime. \$10 suggested donation.

For more information call Madeline Froning at 206-217-1274 or email madeline.froning@usw.sarmy.org.

Fall Back on November 3

Daylight Savings Time ends the first Sunday in November. Remember to set your clocks back.

Halloween House at U Lutheran



The youth of University Lutheran Church invite all children to a Halloween House from **6-7:30 pm on Saturday, October 27.** Come to the church, 1604 NE 50th, Seattle, for Halloween fun: treats, games, scary stories,

bobbing for apples, fishing for trinkets, smashing a piñata, and more! This event is free, donations to the ULC youth fund accepted. We'll see you there!

Did you know?

The office keeps emergency contact records for our members so that we can be in contact with congregational family members in the case of an emergency. This is particularly important for our members who live alone. If you have not already done so, please let the office know of a family member or friend who can provide information about your whereabouts should you be hospitalized or in need of special care. Also, please let the emergency contact person know what information they can share with the church in case of emergency.



A Reel Evening

Wednesday, October 17

There's no mocking of this month's selection because it's about as good as they get. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, starring the impeccable Gregory Peck, tells the story of a widowed lawyer with two small children defending a black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman in 1932. All we can say is what one reviewer has noted: "If you have not read it, do so. If you have not seen the film, do so; and share it with others. It is an important film that stands the test of time..." No one can deny the power of this film, emerging in 1962 at the start of America's civil rights movement. Be there, be riveted, and by all means, bring treats! **A Reel Evening begins in the Lounge at 7 pm.**

When film and faith intersect:

Monthly movies and discussion
at Lake City Christian Church

November 2, 7 pm *An Inconvenient Truth*

Al Gore's sobering documentary about global warming. Discussion to follow focused on themes of environmental stewardship.

Child care, kid's movies, games and refreshments are available during the viewing of the film. Lake City CC is located at 1933 NE 125th St, Seattle.

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