

The VISITOR



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

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Volume XLIX Number 17

An Open and Affirming Congregation

September 4, 2007



On September 9 we begin what, to date, are the most visible elements of our transformation process. The Learning Task Group launches its efforts with the first Forum of the Fall Quarter. During the Forum, Learning will distribute a new brochure which describes in detail an exciting array of Sunday morning forums and electives, Adventures In Faith, A Reel Evening, and youth and children's educational programs.

The Worship Task Group will describe the new worship space and respond to your concerns and questions. Prior to the Forum, the 8:45 am self-led worship service will have met for the first time since last spring.

At the close of the Forum (10:45) the sounds of the bagpipe will be heard and we will follow the piper through the patio, up the street to the Narthex and into the Sanctuary. Before our arrival, the Sanctuary will be closed and we ask arriving worshipers to wait for the rest of us so we may enter together.

Although the service itself will remain the same as it has been for some time, the alteration of the space will undoubtedly require adjustments as the experience dictates. The Worship Task Group asks for your patience. We hope our worship will continue to be as time for encountering God. Also, we encourage you to pass the word: Invite family and friends to worship and to learning opportunities.

Unbinding the Gospel

A new Transformation book study will begin on **Tuesday, September 18** through October 30. You have a choice of two meeting times: **10:30 am** or **7 pm** with each group lasting one and a half hours. A sign-up sheet is in the office and you may also indicate if you need us to order a book for you. The cost of the book is \$15.

The Worship Corner

September 9, 2007

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	Isaiah 43:14-21 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Sermon	<i>A New Thing</i>
Preacher	Rev. Sandy Messick

September 16, 2007

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service	11 am in the Sanctuary
Scripture	I Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
Sermon	<i>Get Found, Kid!</i>
Preacher	Rev. Sandy Messick

There is a self-led worship service in the Chapel at 8:45 am starting September 9.

Upcoming Special Sunday Events

September 16

Congregational Meeting after worship in the Social Hall. Lunch will be served. We will have discussion of the proposed budget and a report from the Sharing Space Task Group.

September 23

Ecumenical Parish Dialog with Third Church of Christ, Scientist. We will meet in the Social Hall from 12:30-2:30 pm for a time of fellowship and conversation about the Ecumenical Parish. This gathering will be followed up with increasingly larger gatherings on October 21 and December 1. Look for more details as those dates approach.

September 30

University Baptist will be worshipping in our Chapel at 10:30 am. Hopefully, some of their members will join us for Coffee Hour in the Lounge. Their visit is a part of the ongoing conversations between our congregations about the possibility of sharing space in this building.

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Change Service Requested

September 4, 2007

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Articles are due September 11
for the next issue of *The Visitor*.

RISE

You are warmly invited...

Regional Transformation in the Northwest
2007 All-Region Visioning Retreat

November 9, 7 pm — November 10, 3 pm
Lazy F Retreat Center Thorp, Washington

Brochures and registration forms are available in the
church office and during coffee hour on Sunday.



Regular Schedule resumes this Sunday, September 9

- Self-led worship service in the Chapel at 8:45 am
- Education Hour at 9:30 am
- Worship service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am.

Our Life Together

- Congratulations to **Leon Seaman**. He recently asked for prayers for his job search and has just announced that he has been hired as Assistant to the Director at the National Alliance for Mental Illness in Greater Seattle, in the Greenwood-Ballard area. Please continue to keep him in your prayers as he begins in this position and seeks housing.

- **Lillian Hunt** has moved to Horizon House, 900 University St, Seattle, WA 98101.

- **Deborah House** and Lillian Furlong have moved: 15633 19th Ave SW, Burien WA 98166. Their phone is the same: 206-522-5317.

- Congratulations to **Jennifer Towner** who has begun an art internship in New York.

- Congratulations to Lisa Rubero (daughter of **Mary Jane Elliott**) and Donald Dell who were married this past Saturday in the Chapel at University Christian.

Discussions and Decisions

On behalf of the entire leadership of the congregation, thank you to the congregation for your support and prayers in these difficult times that are filled with both opportunity and danger. As we joyfully embrace the transformation of this congregation, we must also warn you that we face stormy waters ahead.

In the interest of full disclosure and open communication, we want the congregation to be aware of the difficulties of our current financial situation. Soon you will be receiving in the mail draft documents of the proposed budget for your consideration prior to



the upcoming congregational meeting on September 16. You will see that we are having great difficulty meeting the minimal budgetary requirements just "to keep the lights on and the doors open." This is largely because the

church has, in effect, been running a budget deficit for some years, but has been able to do so because of onetime financial windfalls that are not available this year. In addition, what small amount of financial reserves we had has been depleted. Be prepared for difficult discussions and painful decisions ahead. Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we have those discussions and make those decisions. Let us be open with one another, let us love one another, let us remember and be thankful for God's presence with us as we move ahead. God will be with us.

Interim Insights

A resurrection story: Springhill Presbyterian Church near Bozeman, MT was started over 100 years ago. It is a white, wood-frame church, set in the middle of field with the mountains standing guard in the distance. Today it is a thriving congregation with a strong sense of mission and outreach but that was not always the case. In the 1950s the church closed its doors. The congregation couldn't sustain its life's work and the building sat unused and falling into disrepair. For 30 years the building stood alone in that field until a pastor came along in the 1980s. Then, resurrection happened. Worship services were begun. The building was cleaned, the field varminths evicted from the sanctuary, and life was restored. Today, the building has been enlarged. The congregation engages in an outreach ministry that brings youth from the inner-city of Chicago to experience life in rural Montana. Recently, the church began sending mission teams to Chicago to do hands-on outreach in some of the worst neighborhoods. Last year the church experienced flood damage to the tune of thousands of dollars. Still, the congregation continues to thrive and is currently engaged in a transformation process in connection with some of our Disciples congregations here in the Northwest. Resurrection can happen. Death is not the end of the story. Thanks be to God that Easter still happens!

See you Sunday,
Sandy

School Kits

Educating children is one of the most important development steps a community can take, and a CWS School Kit is a great way to jump-start a child's education. Church World Service provides large quantities of CWS School Kits to international partners. They need more kits right away.

The cost for one kit is \$15. This includes \$13 for the items in the kit plus a \$2 mailing fee. You may contribute any amount toward the purchase of one kit or you may wish to contribute an amount for one or more kits. Contributions may be mailed or delivered to the church office or placed in the Sunday offering. Please indicate on your check "School Kits" (or on your offering envelope the amount of your check that is for school kits).

We will be collecting funds for this outreach project until September 9. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Irvin at 206-783-2121.

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held in the Social Hall
after worship at 12:30 pm on September 16.

Let us pray

Starting **Monday, September 10**, you are invited to meet in the Fireplace Room (formerly the pastor's office) at **12 noon** for a time of sharing and praying together. We will meet weekly, for approximately



30–45 minutes. We will pray specifically for this congregation, for God's transforming power to work within and through us, for those who need to be touched by God, and for

the Search Committee as it seeks to call a new pastor for University Christian Church. Let's find out together what a difference prayer can make.

UCEF needs volunteers

Do you enjoy talking with people and have a desire to help those in need?

Are you available for 2-hour shifts, 2 to 3 times a month?

If you answered yes, then you may well have what it takes to be a volunteer at University Churches Emergency Fund. We are a growing agency dedicated to helping alleviate and eliminate homelessness in northeast Seattle. Currently we are open from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, but hope to add another day in the not too distant future. So, we need your help!

If you want the challenges and the rewards that go with really making a difference in someone's life, please contact Jo at 206-524-7885 for an appointment.

Gwinwood Work Day

On Saturday, September 15 there is a workday scheduled at Gwinwood Camp—all are welcome. Workdays help to accomplish some of the maintenance tasks that are part of operating a camping center. The day begins at 9 am. Please contact Donna and Ron Voss if you plan to attend: 360-491-0195 or gwinwood6015@aol.com

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University Christian Church: Proudly Serving the Community

by Judy Lightfoot

Our church is supporting with pride a feasibility study that is the first step in a unique project to revitalize the heart of the University District. The project would improve the District's urban core, encourage more of our neighbors to explore and grow in faith, and deliver coordinated human services to people who need them.

The study will determine whether this project—building an Ecumenical Campus within the District—is a feasible and faithful idea, and will be led by the University District Ecumenical Campus Coalition (UDECC), a group of worshiping communities seeking to improve the District and our neighbors' lives. Besides U Christian, member organizations are Campus Ministry in Higher Education, Christ Episcopal, U Baptist, U Christian, U Lutheran, and U Temple United Methodist; others may join the Coalition in the future. Julie Reed, Tom Quigley, and I have been appointed to UDECC's newly formed board of trustees.

Come join us at UDECC board meetings. They're currently held the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at U Lutheran, and except for occasional Executive Sessions are open to members of the congregation. Presently the board is deciding on the feasibility study's scope and benchmarks and seeking an Executive Director to fundraise and select a high-quality consultant team for the study. (We also eat donuts at these meetings - glad to share!)

Be sure to ask your reps Tom, Julie, and Judy the QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK: "Who are UDECC's officers?" "Is anyone from our church on a major committee?" "If an Ecumenical Campus is built, would paying tenants be 'shop-til-you-drop' businesses, or concerns with goals closer to our mission?"

Thanks to you, this project of service to our community is going forward! Watch for UDECC updates on the standing board in the Lounge.

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DisciplesWorld is a journal of news, opinion, and mission for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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