

Hilltop Highlights

FEBRUARY 2010

Laurie Rudel, Pastor
Jeremiah Oliver, Editor



Mission is revealing to others
their fundamental beauty, value and
importance in the universe,
their capacity to love, to grow
and to do beautiful things
and to meet God.

Mission is transmitting to people
a new inner freedom and hope;
it is unlocking the doors of their being
so that new energies can flow;
it is taking away from their shoulders
the terrible yoke of fear and guilt.

To give life to people
is to reveal to them that they are loved
just as they are by God,
with the mixture of good and evil,
light and darkness that is in them:
that the stone in front of their tomb
in which all the dirt of their lives
has been hidden can be rolled away.

They are forgiven;
they can live in freedom.

—Jean Vanier

Who will offer the dance of their own life, as a creation of devotion and beauty?
Only those who have come through the darkness and now walk in the Light
can offer their lives in service to build the new world,
where justice and freedom will truly flourish
—Psalm 109, *Psalms for Praying*

WOVEN TOGETHER IN LOVE

Dear Friends,

Lent begins Ash Wednesday,
February 17, and ushers in a season of
reflection that takes us through Holy
Week to Easter.

During this time we are invited to
move in two directions—in and out—
kind of like breathing.

On the one hand we might choose to
do things a little differently. Traditional
Lenten activities often involve such
practices as dedicating time for prayer
each day, or we might fast and then offer
the money from our meals to our food
bank. We could begin a practice of taking
a walk each day or visiting someone who
is lonely.

All these kind of practices could be
described as “breathing out,” showing up
in the world in a slightly different way.

On the other hand we might choose
a “breathing in” kind of practice. We
might take time each night before sleep to
notice where our lives seemed strained
that day or out of balance. We might also
notice what was particularly life-giving.

We could begin a simple journal
where we make a list of just those two
things: what was life-giving, what was
life-draining.

We might want to search our
heart for places of tension where we
need to offer the gift of grace and
forgiveness, not only to others, but
also to ourselves.

We might also reflect on the
nature of our thoughts: how often do
we respond reflexively to someone.
Are we really listening to what the
other is saying or do we already know
what we will say next?

The capacity to focus our
attention deeply on ourselves might
seem, at first glance, a little self-
serving. But these are the very kinds
of practices that begin to open us up
to the leading of God, to free our
hearts and minds for the mission of
God’s work in the world.

In this regard I urge you to
contemplate the quote from Jean
Vanier to the left.

Truly God is always at work
seeking to do new things in, with and
through us. Our part is to reduce the
interference within us, to be clear
channels of God’s grace.

Blessings + Peace,

Jamie



queen anne christian church

(disciples of christ)

1316 third avenue west • seattle, washington 98119-3312

phone: 206-282-8062

email: qacc@seanet.com

web: www.qaccweb.org

THANK YOU!

- Evan and Rocky Hrachovec have added their drumming skills to worship.
- Each Sunday after worship Vera Baumgartner has been offering a wide variety of crafts for the children. Over the last few weeks Lori Hutchings has stepped in to offer her gifts as well.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Bowles Family will be assisting with the ***Help Haiti Rummage Sale*** on **Sunday, February 7**, from 10AM-3PM at COE Elementary. The sale is sponsored by John Hay and COE Elementary along with McClure Middle School. You can drop off donations on Saturday, February 6, between 10AM and 3PM at COE Elementary School Gym, **2424 7th Avenue West**. Bring books, clothes, toys and household goods. Do not bring electronics. Proceeds benefit the American Red Cross, Partners In Health, and Project Hope.
- Lara (Maxwell) & Cyrus Freeman are expecting a baby in August! *They have a new address:* 9116 Sunningdale Road, Peyton, CO 80831. Lara is taking pre-med classes and enjoying them very much.
- Pastor Laurie will be away twice in February for continuing education events. The first is the Northwest Association for Theological Discussion, February 8-10 in Oregon. She serves as president of the Association this year. The second event is a Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation *Walking on Holy Ground: Journeying of Pilgrimage & Discovery*. The retreat, held at Palisades Retreat Center in Federal Way, begins Sunday evening February 21 and ends Friday, February 26. Featured speakers are: Robert Benson, writer of *The Echo Within: Finding Your True Calling*, and Elizabeth Canham, an Episcopal priest, whose particular focus is centered around celtic spirituality.
- The AdMinistry Team approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by the U.S. Census Bureau as a testing site for those seeking part-time jobs as census takers. They will be in the building in the afternoons, once a week, for about five weeks during February and early March.

FEbruary BIRTHDAYS

Monday, 1st – Peter Drury
Thursday, 4th – Andy Phillips
Tuesday, 9th – Devin Kitchel
Saturday, 13th – Alina Rossano
Monday, 15th – Cal Heinen
Tuesday, 23rd – Paulina Montiel
Saturday, 27th – Carys Dimmers-King
Saturday, 27th – Martha Dimmers

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Deacons: Virginia Coester, Mary Closson, Wayne & Gloria Dykstra, Laura Kitchel

February 7 - The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 138, Luke 5:1-11

Elder: Maria Drury

Coffee Hosts: Dimmers-King, Scamman-Rudel

February 14 - The Last Sunday after Epiphany
Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, Luke 9:28-36

Elder: Devin Kitchel

Coffee Hosts: Bowles, Hutchings

February 21 - The First Sunday in Lent
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Luke 4:1-13

Elder: Juanita Kirkland

Coffee Hosts: Kitchels, Gillespies

February 28 - The Second Sunday in Lent
Psalm 27, Luke 13:31-35

Elder: Marietta Tower

Coffee Hosts: Alina Rossano, Drury

SPIRIT CENTERED LIVING

Praying the Body with Cynthia Winton-Henry
Friday evening, February 26th & Saturday, 27th

Too many words? Seeking peace? Want a practice that aims for joy? Wondering about body and soul?

This workshop offers a soulful place to discover, discern, and welcome the wisdom of the body through practices that develop ease in movement, voice, stillness, and sharing stories.

InterPlay opens paths of connection between people of all sorts—in prison, schools, between cultures and faiths. It's great for spiritual directors, therapists, clergy, anyone interested in reintegrating body mind heart and spirit in an elegant, creative manner.

Location: University Unitarian Church,
6556 35th NE, Seattle, WA 98155

Cost: \$175 before February 12th or \$200 after

To Register: Call 510/465-2797

More: www.interplay.org/eventDesc.asp?event=1086

Cynthia Winton-Henry is one of the founders of InterPlay. She is a teacher, performer, writer, and organizer. Her interest lies in the use of InterPlay for individual and group healing, fostering freedom, and innovating down to earth strategies for playing with life issues. Her latest book is *Dance – The Sacred Art*.

DINNER AND/OR A SHOW

QACC takes a Field Trip
on **Saturday, February 27, 7:30pm** to

Shorecrest Performing Arts Center
15343 25th Ave NE, Shoreline

for an evening of family entertainment from
Lelavision



Leah Mann and Ela Lamblin—founders of **Lelavision**—are dear friends of Alina Rossano, Pastor Laurie and Barb and we want to invite you to join us for this fun evening of entertainment for all ages.

Lelavision's performances combine art forms (sculpture, music, choreography, etc.) in a unique way. Physical Music is the term coined by **Lelavision** to describe what they do. To create physical music the performers play on sculpture, play with music, and play through space. Thus Physical Music is play cubed.

...a beguiling treat for eye and ear, a body-mind riff in the spirit of Pilobolus and Mummenschanz. It should enthrall children as well as adults. The Seattle Times

Tickets: \$18 Adults, \$15 Seniors/Students,
\$12 Children 12 & under

www.shorelinearts.net/index.php/Tickets/tickets.html

For those who wish, please join us for dinner before the performance at around 5:45pm at Third Place Books. The Third Place Food Court features a large variety of food. **Location:** upper level of Lake Forest Park Towne Center at the corner of Ballinger Way and Lake City/Bothell Way; take Exit #177 (Lake Forest Park) from I-5.

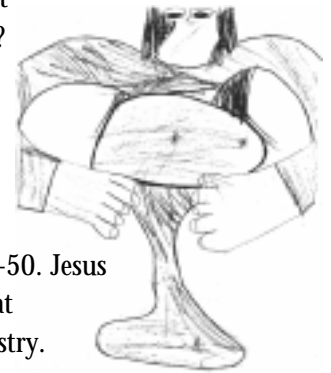
You can view Lelavision's work here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8OLH2-SCLE

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Have you noticed the art work in the Fellowship Hall??

On the bulletin board are sand painting created by the class of 6 to 8 year olds. We were learning about sharing in God's work. Our story for the day was from Mark 9:38 -50. Jesus was teaching His disciples that many could share in his ministry.



The children engaged in a demonstration of co operative effort by using glue and colored sand. Each child moved one way around the table adding s different color sand on a glue design they made on each sheet of paper. The paintings are a creation of all. TOGETHER they made beautiful pictures. We all share God's work! The lesson for the day was:

When you love one another, *you show God's love.*

When you help a little child, *you show God's love.*

When you give a thirsty person water, *you show God's love.*

When you help someone feel better, *you show God's love.*

When you pray for all God's children, *you show God's love.*

When you share your gifts with others, *you show God's love.*

When you help bring peace to others, *you show God's love.*

—Juanita Kirkland

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Jan Eckstedt — seeking new ministerial work
- Joan Dennehy — safe travel to Palestine/Israel

BOOKFEST AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY



On Saturday, February 13, 2010, the second annual *Search for Meaning: Pacific Northwest Spirituality Book Festival* at Seattle University will bring together the best regional authors and works on issues of spirituality, faith, church-state matters, and theology.

The event will feature the likes of Kathleen Norris, Gustav Niebuhr and Anthony Robinson. Read all about it at:

www.seattleu.edu/stm/searchformeaning.aspx

IN THE MAIL

Dear Laurie and friends at Queen Anne—

I just finished reading your last newsletter and wanted to write a personal note. I am so excited for you in the ways the Holy Spirit is at work at Queen Anne and in each of you. The Spirit at the Christmas Eve service was beautiful and what a joy to see the sanctuary overflowing! And to read about the way your core values are taking on life within your ministry! May God's bountiful spirit continue to bless and guide you through this journey.

Always, Sandy Messick

Dearest Friends at Queen Anne Christian Church—

Wow! You filled our Christmas season with love, grace, warmth and acceptance. Your gifts of shoes were deeply valued and sorely needed. Your passion to put shoes on the feet of those who have none is being the hands of Jesus to us. There is no greater gift! You are a congregation full of heart, support and acceptance! God blessed us royally when He partnered us with you!

We love you! Big hugs! Love,
Marty and all your sisters at Mary Magdalene

ELDERS' MEDITATIONS

As most of you know my son Jacob turned 13 a little over a week ago. On Friday night, he had his best friend Benj sleep over to celebrate his birthday. Benj is 7 months older than Jacob, and lived in the house next door to us from the time Jacob was born until he was seven. As I sat across the table from Benj and Jacob during dinner I had the oddest feeling of disorientation because while, with my eyes I was looking at two tall, gangly teenagers, in my mind I was seeing two little four-year-old boys happily drinking from the Elmo sprinkler in the front yard of our old house. I have a similar experience whenever Jacob leaves the house for school on a rainy day, usually dressed in shorts and a t-shirt and maybe a sweatshirt if I'm lucky, and in my mind I see him dressed in his little yellow rain slicker and bright green frog boots excited to be able to use his beloved "lellow brella" (yellow umbrella).

How did my baby already turn thirteen? Where did all those years go to? (How did I become 43?!) I'm sure all of you who are currently raising kids or have raised kids in the past can relate to this feeling. When I talk to Wayne and Gloria and see how excited they are preparing for the birth of their first child it doesn't feel like 13 years since I was in their position. Instead of being sad about how fast Jacob is growing up or scared about how little time I have left with him before he leaves for college, I'm trying to use these feelings as a reminder that we shouldn't put things off until tomorrow, because tomorrow is often

gone before we know it. All too often I put off things-I'm-drawn-to-do for those things-I-feel-I-need-to-get-done in my daily life, and then many times I don't get back to what my heart was telling me to do in the first place. I've been thinking about my mother for weeks now, yet there always seems to be something I need to get done before I pick up the phone and call her, and now I haven't talked to her in 3 weeks. I've wanted to go on a bike ride with my kids on a day when there isn't any rain, but the bikes are still locked away in the shed where they've been since early fall, despite our recent mild weather.

My advice to you (and admittedly to me) this morning is to act on the yearnings of your heart immediately and to not put them off for a day in the future that may never come. If you're thinking of someone...call them that day, or send them a letter or an email. If you want to play a game with your family...do it now, not after the house is clean. If you want to give money to help the people in Haiti...do it now, either here in church or online. Let the metamorphosis of Jacob from a baby, to a toddler, to a boy, and now to a young man in front of all of our eyes serve as a reminder to us of how fleeting life truly is.

—Marietta Tower
January 24, 2010



ELDERS' MEDITATIONS, CONTINUED

On the “75% off” table at Barnes & Noble there was a calendar titled: **Church Signs – Little Sayings to Help You on Your Way**. It was a tablet of post-it-note-size pages, one for each day of the year. “These quotes have been spotted on church billboards and bumper stickers far and wide,” it said on the box—so as a church secretary always on the lookout for newsletter filler, I bought it. After reading the 365 entries, 90% were rejected and the remainder sorted into categories called **Corny, Clever, Calls to Action, and Wise**.

A couple examples from each....

Corny

“The Bedrock of Faith: Yabba dabba doo, God loves you!”

“Life stinks. We have a pew for you.”

Clever

“God doesn't question your existence...”

*“Jesus is the Bread of Life,
not the cake for special occasions.”*

Calls to Action

“Get out of Facebook and get into God's book.”

*“When you flee temptation,
don't leave a forwarding address.”*

Wise

*“Don't tell God how big your problems are,
tell your problems how big your God is.”*

And finally we have: **Two great truths:**

- 1. There is a God.**
- 2. You're not Him.**

That last one just happens to reinforce God's answer to prayer for my son: “You need to release that young man to me. Your interference interrupts what I have planned for him. He won't learn to rely on me with you constantly checking up, reminding and reprimanding. I have appointed others to influence him as well. Yes, I know you are his mother, but I am the Greater Parent, so stop all that worrying.” Praise the Lord.

Oh, and by the way, here's a proverb for the **Go ahead and shred** category: *“Old church musicians never die, they just de-compose.”*

—Lori Hutchings
January 31, 2010

GLOBAL MISSIONS

*... what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*
—Micah 6:8

Erin McKinney serves as a Global Mission Intern with *Caminante* in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic. She works with children in *Caminante's* Outreach Ministry. Let us pray and act with Erin to bring good things to our world.

Caminante, “To Walk One's Path,” is the organization I'm working with as a Global Ministries Intern. The name was created by the first children who participated in the program because it represented their main form of transportation, walking, and it is a symbol of various walks of life. I had the opportunity to visit the home of one of my students, a young girl, age 11. Her family makes candy in their home to sell to tourists on the beach. I recognize the importance for this young girl to learn English. I also am humbled by the fact that she walks an hour through the Caribbean heat to attend my English class. She bought breakfast with the 10 pesos she probably made selling sweets and was gracious enough to offer me her breakfast.

In a community that is predominantly dependent on tourism, speaking English is crucial especially to acquire one of the better paying jobs in the town. All of the children are required to learn English in school; however, more often than not there is no English teacher, so the regular classroom teacher is attempting to teach a language that they don't know themselves. I am proud to be teaching them English to help them have more opportunities in life. Yet, my students are giving much more to me, the gift of an example of how to live a life as Jesus has taught — to live in community filled with humble sharing. I continue to accompany the staff of *Caminante* to do as the Lord requires of us *to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God* alongside the children and youth of this community in hope of not necessarily changing a world of problems, but being a world of change for the youth with which I work.



Dear Friends,

In Jesus' last encounter with his disciples after his resurrection (*John 21:15-19*), the Good Shepherd tells Simon Peter to take care of his sheep. "Do you love me?" Jesus asks. "Yes," Peter replies. Then, "Feed my lambs," Jesus tells him. "Tend my sheep."

Three times, Jesus passionately repeated his instruction. In this last moment with his disciples, he pressed his followers to hear this call: If you love me, take care of the people I so deeply love. Live your love for me by actively tending these for whom I have sacrificed everything. Give food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, health care to the sick; welcome the refugee and the stranger (*Matthew 25:34-40*). Share your strength and refuge with the fearful (*Psalms 28:8-9*), rescue those in danger (*Ezekiel 34:10*), and bring justice to the oppressed (*Ezekiel 34:16*).

At the time of Jesus' plea to his disciples, the world held about 300 million people. Today, the earth is home to more than 6.7 billion. With so many people, how can we possibly care for Jesus' far-flung flock, whose needs run so deeply? We can join hands with our brothers and sisters of faith in support of Week of Compassion. Through this offering, we live our love for our Shepherd by bringing immediate material aid to disaster victims and refugees; helping build strong communities with safe water, education, medical care, and secure sources of food; and supporting the self-development of struggling peoples.

Because Jesus loved Peter, Jesus called him to a different future from what Peter had imagined. He was not to spend years crippled by guilt from having denied his Lord at a critical point in Jesus' life. No, Peter was to go out and tend Jesus' flock. Not only did Peter's future radically change, but an amazing future opened to all who were reached through his ministry.

Similarly, Jesus' call to us to tend his flock changes our future. We connect more deeply with human realities throughout the world and become part of the compassionate community that actively reaches out to care for people when they are in need. And our caring helps shape a new and brighter future of hope and health for all who are touched by Week of Compassion. Sharing resources, changing lives — including our own.

Thank you for helping to change lives through this ministry we all share as Disciples — Week of Compassion.

Blessings be upon you!
Your Partner
in the Gospel,

Amy Gopp
*Executive Director,
Week of Compassion*



WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING: FEBRUARY 21 & 28

HEEDING THE CALL IN ALASKA

On May 5, 2009, the Yukon River exceeded its normal water level by 58 feet and hurled ice chunks as big as houses through Eagle and Eagle Village, Alaska. Homes, businesses, and community centers were destroyed. As people returned to assess the damage and plan their recovery, they knew they only had about four months to work before winter arrived. Their remote location was another factor to consider; the nearest hardware store is a five hour drive each way on an unpaved mountain road.

Despite these and many other obstacles, the people of Eagle and Eagle Village were not deterred. They developed a plan to meet their unique situation which included building log homes for those whose homes were destroyed by flood and ice. They scavenged, sorted, and stacked materials from the destroyed homes along the river bank, where anyone who had need could get to them. They got to work, and they asked for help.

With the support of Disciples Home Missions and a grant from Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering responded. For three weeks, nineteen Disciples volunteers worked with the people of Eagle and Eagle Village to set outhouses and build fuel tank stands, paint and stain, plumb and wire, and build one new log home. The only new materials used for building that log home were the logs, windows, and front door. Everything else, from the trusses, metal roofing, and insulation down to the log screws and nails, was scavenged from destroyed homes or contributed from materials left over from other homes.

When people of faith partner in mission with neighbors in need, no obstacle is insurmountable, no deadline is impossible, no isolation is impenetrable. Flexibility and hope are the gifts of willing volunteers. Whenever the call to respond is answered, God uses these gifts to bring healing and recovery.

IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN

As Darfur continues to be wracked by violence, camps continue to shelter uprooted families. Years into the crisis, some three million people have been affected by the conflict, and several hundred thousand have perished due to senseless fighting, hunger, and disease.

Week of Compassion is helping to make possible a wide range of programs that are assisting some 250,000 people in Darfur until peace is achieved — primary health care, water and sanitation programs, education, agricultural support, and much more.

Fiza Ahmad Ibrahim Mohammed, and her daughter

Omnia Ahmad Sidig, have lived in Derieg camp in the Darfur region of western Sudan since she fled the Janjaweed militia more than five years ago. The noise and clutter of the 22,000 homeless people in the camp is nothing compared to the fear of attack, rape or death for herself or her family. In the camp, she has finished a ten-month training course in tailoring, supported in part by Week of Compassion. As a tailor, she is able to earn some money and repair clothes for herself, her five children and her husband.

Until a resolution to the conflict can be reached, it is vital to continue walking in solidarity with, and in support of, the people of Darfur.

HELP FOR HAITI

It is during times such as these that we learn what it truly means to live in faith, hope, and love. Week of Compassion's partner agencies on the ground in Haiti and across the border in the Dominican Republic are responding to the crisis. Your generous gifts are making a significant difference in the relief efforts. There are challenges, but there have also been fantastic accomplishments in the immediate aid efforts in Haiti.

Our partners at Action by Churches Together (ACT International) have a rapid response team on the ground. Social Services of the Dominican Churches is providing staff support, office space, and logistical support to ecumenical responders. The response will not only include relief in Port-au-Prince and rural areas affected by the earthquake, but as displaced persons may soon migrate toward the Dominican border, the response may well include providing services to meet their needs.

Church World Service has thus far concentrated its efforts on helping distribute its disaster response kits, so Disciples Churches should keep those donations coming! CWS is also helping to support local partners that meet the needs of children by providing baby and hygiene kits and other support.

Please remember that we have many Haitian Disciple Churches here in the United States.

Pray for them. Send a card of support their way.

If they are in your community, organize with your church a time of fellowship and support with our fellow Disciples.

In the midst of this terrible disaster, we have seen great things from you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Keep up the amazing work, and let us know how we can be supportive.

www.weekofcompassion.org/

THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

Karen Armstrong, noted author and scholar, along with many others recently helped found the Charter for Compassion to seek common direction and understanding across all religious lines. Here is her call to the principle of compassion:

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others - even our enemies - is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings, even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

You can read more at:

www.charterforcompassion.org/

queen anne christian church (disciples of christ)

1316 third avenue west • seattle, washington 98119-3312



At times our own light
goes out and is rekindled
by a spark from
another person.
Each of us has cause
to think with deep
gratitude of those
who have lighted
the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer

We gather for worship
on Sunday at 10am.