



Candlelight Notes

A Prayer of Beginning

**Maker of the universe, fashioner of the stars,
Who dwells within time and beyond time, hear this prayer:**

**if I have failed to perceive you
when you have appeared
in the face of a friend,
if I have neglected to feed you
when you have come
with the hunger of a stranger,
if I have not embraced you
when you have sought me out of
a sister or brother's poverty,
if I have not laughed and played with you
when you have greeted me with the delight of a child,
forgive me**

**Open my eyes, my hands, my arms, my heart
to know your appearing and to celebrate
the flesh-shaped mystery of Emmanuel,
God with us
Make my heart a dwelling place ready to receive you
in even the bleakest spaces,
to delight at your appearing even as the animals
who made welcome for the birth of wonder.**

— Jan L. Richardson

**Love and Hugs to you and
yours this holiday season
and throughout the New
Year.**

Lynda

**May the Love of Christ be with
you and your family this
Advent and Christmas season.**

Pastor Bobbi

**Wishing you abundant
Blessings and Peace for
Christmas and the New Year!**

Robin

SUNDAYS
9 a.m. Meditation
9 a.m. Miracles Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

December Meetings
Congregational Care

Sunday, December 4th
at 11:45 a.m.

Board Meetings

Thursday, December 8th
at 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting

Thursday, December 8th
at 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING PEACE VIGILS

Sunday, December 18th, 5:30 p.m. at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, 510 East Sunset Drive, Bellingham

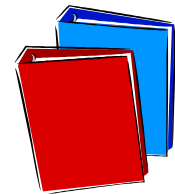
Wednesday, January 18th, 5:30 p.m. at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham



ASSISTANTS DURING CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Volunteers are needed to assist in Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings during worship. Kelly Harkleroad plans and leads the Children's worship, however, we need to have two non-related adults or high school students each Sunday to help. This is a requirement of our SAFE-CHURCH Policy. The sign-up sheet is passed around during worship each Sunday on the clipboard, or you may contact the church office to have your name added to the list. We are not looking for people to commit to every Sunday or for an entire month, but if everyone shares a Sunday here and there it would be helpful. This is a great opportunity to worship with the children of our church and see what they have to share. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Bennett, Pastor Bobbi, or Kelly Harkleroad.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT REMINDER



To all board and committee chairs:

Please submit your annual reports to Robin by December 15th at the latest. Because our Annual Meeting is a week earlier than usual, and Robin is compiling the annual report for the first time, it is important to have them turned in before Jan. 1. If there are numbers that need to be included after Jan. 1, they can be added later without changing the overall size of the report.





Volunteers needed to staff Interfaith Coalition's severe weather shelters



In anticipation of the colder days and nights ahead, Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County is gearing up to open its two severe weather shelters.

A training for new volunteers will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 7 – 8:30 PM.

The shelters, staffed by volunteers from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., open when weather conditions may be life threatening to some homeless individuals. Interested individuals and couples may volunteer for one of three shifts, including an overnight shift, during which volunteers take turn sleeping. Only female volunteers staff the women's shelter, but women may join male volunteers at the men's shelter during the evening and morning shifts.

A training for new volunteers will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 7 – 8:30 PM. The trainings will be offered at the two shelter sites. Please go to the site where you are interested in volunteering. The men's shelter is a Faith Lutheran Church, 2750 McLeod Road, and the women's and children's shelter is at Garden St. United Methodist Church, 1326 N. Garden St. in Bellingham. Please call Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County at **734-3983** for more information.

Congratulations to our swimming champion, Marissa Cruz (daughter of Marcy McKay). Marissa is on the Ferndale High School Swim Team and was featured in the Ferndale Record-Journal in October for her outstanding efforts.



Peace Builders Award for 2011

Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center have announced their Peace Builders award winners for 2011. The winner of the Innovative Approaches category was Animals as Natural Therapy and the work of Lorna Shepardson and Sonya Wingard. They have helped thousands of children and adults with Issues of self-esteem, confidence and healing by teaching skills of working with horses and other animals. The Peace Builders award winners were honored November 18th at the Majestic in Bellingham.





LIBRARY CORNER

Several books have been added to the library recently. If you attended the forum on November 6th with the Interfaith Amigos, you may have purchased their new book, *Religion Gone Astray*, but if not we have a copy available for checking out. Thanks to Mary Lodge two more books and a CD of sermons by the Rev. Dale Turner have been received: *Imperfect Alternatives* and *Grateful Living*. Turner was a longtime pastor at UCC in Seattle and wrote a weekly column for the Seattle Times. Other new books to the library are: *Miracle Food Cures from the Bible* by Reese Dubin, *House of Secrets* by Tracie Peterson, and for junior readers *The Mandie Collection, Vol. 2*, which contains five novels in one volume. We'd love to see more books being checked out and read, so come on in and browse before or after church. *Stephanie Belanger*

October Treasurer's Report



October was another close month as the expenditures in the General Fund exceeded the income by \$339.99. The General Fund Equity balance at the end of the month was \$9,718.08 and the check-book balance was \$16,093.97. A summary of the various funds for October is as follows:

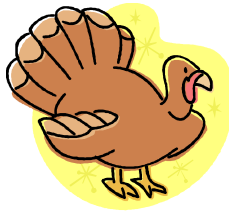
Fund	Income	Expenses	Net
General Fund	\$ 9,477.74	\$ 9,817.73	\$ -339.99
Special Funds	123.00	211.76	-88.76
Pass Through Funds	490.00	275.00	215.00
Restricted Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Improvement Fund	25.00	869.74	-844.74
Investment Fund	<u>679.47</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>679.47</u>
	\$10,795.21	\$11,174.23	\$ -379.02

The Special Funds income was \$116.00 to the Kitchen Fund from soup and roll for Camping and \$7.00 for the Seasonal Flowers. The expenditures were \$111.76 for Kitchen supplies and \$100.00 from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

The Pass Through Fund income was \$240.00 for Heart of Interfaith, \$230.00 for the Ferndale Food Bank, and \$20.00 for Our House. The expenditures were \$255.00 to the Ferndale Food Bank and \$20.00 for Our House. The Capital Improvement Fund income was \$25.00 for the Playground. The expenditures were \$679.47 for the pea gravel and supplies for the installation.

The 2012 Pledge Drive is underway and the Budget Committee is working on next year's budget. The economic times are difficult for many, but I hope that everyone is as generous as possible when sending in your pledge for the support of our church. *John Ivary, Treasurer*

FERNDALE FOOD BANK TURKEY CHALLENGE



The Ferndale Food Bank is asking our congregation to pledge 10 turkeys during this holiday season. If you would like to pledge a turkey, make a check out to the United Church and note "Food Bank Turkey" in the memo line. **Thank you** to all who have generously contributed; a total of \$545 has already been donated to the Ferndale Food Bank this year.



Reminder: *Aluminum cans are still being collected for recycling as a fundraiser for our new playground. Cans may be left in the designated containers located in the alcove off of the kitchen.*

Christmas Light Recycle Collection

In addition to the aluminum can collection, we are also gathering strings of Christmas lights. Please bring in your used lights and place them on the back porch off the kitchen area, next to the aluminum cans. Thank you !



Living the Questions Group

LTQ meets Monday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 in the meeting room. In the month of December they are finishing the series *Justice: What's The Right Thing To Do?* You are invited to join this thought-provoking conversation.

Looking ahead.....

New Year's Day is on a Sunday this year. Bring your favorite bell and let's ring in the New Year at 10:30 a.m.



Epiphany Sunday will be January 8th. Remember a non-perishable item for the Ferndale Food Bank to be collected by the Wise Ones, the Angels and the Shepherds.



SOUP AND ROLLS - The Soup and Roll Lunch will "take an Advent break" in December. Thank you to all the cooks for your years of ministry. We can look forward to the next luncheon on Sunday, January 8th following the worship service. Please join us in the Friendship Hall and help us pack up the Christmas decorations. Cost for the lunch is a donation the kitchen fund. Hope to see you there!

Thank you from Interfaith Coalition!

Thank you for your participation in the wonderful gospel concert at Custer United Methodist Church. This musical celebration raised \$1,095.60 for Our House in Ferndale, which provides shelter, support and hope to local homeless families. Wow – what a boost to our fundraising efforts! Last November, we purchased Our House in Ferndale and we are providing shelter and case management support to our fourth family in this home. Currently, a mother and her five children call Our House home while they work on becoming self-sufficient and move into permanent housing. I wish I could convey the gratitude of the families for this amazing gift. Our House is our ninth unit of housing for families in crisis.

The following are words of appreciation from a child living in one of our houses: *“Thank you for helping us when we were near homeless. It could have been rough with me and my dad living in a tiny Ford Festiva. This house gave us three more months to find a place to live which definitely paid off. Now we have a nice apartment. And if you ask me, that beats a car any day! Thank you for all your help and for caring enough to keep us from being homeless. I hope this house saves the next family like it saved us.”*

Thank you for being a partner with us in our work as we reach out with compassion and respect to our neighbors in need, whose numbers continue to grow with the mounting economic challenges many face today.

In God’s love,

Laura DeRoseHarker, Executive Director



Thank you notes

The Bazaar was a success! Thanks to all of the people who helped: the lunch crew, the quilting class, the ones with donations to the Attic Treasures, the bakers and jelly and jam makers, the other cooks, the book donors, the linen donors, the crafts people and the ones who came to help as well as those who bought our wares and anyone else that may have been left out. We earned approximately \$1800 which will be given to various charities who help women and children in the local and world wide community.



I want to thank the folks from the church for all the cards, letters, phone calls, visits and prayers, and those who brought me to church so lovingly. I am slowly healing and getting around again. The prayer shawl is so lovely. Thank you, Anne Riske

A special thank you to Jim Hawley and Gary Hand for creating the beautiful Advent wreaths for our children that will be treasured for many Advent seasons to come!



Please pray for:



Health, Healing, Peace and Hope:

*Dave Anderson, Ava Baker, Lucille Bailey,
Whitney Baumgartner, John Barger,
Cody Bennett, Maureen Boekenoogen,*

*Margo and Chuck Cadoret, Iva Mae Campfield, Kathleen
Campfield, Kelly Cissell, Virginia Clarenbach, Al & Mar-
garet Denton, Jill DeVries, Irene and Wayne Elledge,
Shirley Gardiner, Mike Gnipp, Bernice Graves, Allison
Hand, Claude & Mary Henry, Marilyn Horn, Lilla Ja-
cobs, Gail Kler, Annette Kraft, Patricia Lee, Carol
Lehwalder, Verla Maynes, Cora McCallum, Virginia Moi
Moi, Erline Nelson, Makayla Nicolaas, Lou Nordby, Can-
dice Nshimba, Amanda Portillo, Presley Salas,
Joyce Wyanski*

*Our brothers and sisters who are suffering
throughout our world and those who are homeless,
hungry or oppressed.*

*Those serving in the military—for mental well-being,
safety & return home to their families.*

Louisa House

*Priscilla Tanguy
Erline Nelson
Lucille Bailey*

Parkway Chateau

*Lucille Dougherty
Mary O'Bannon*

Merrill Gardens

Rosalie Hansen

Nursing & Convalescent Homes:

Earl Gibson at St. Francis Health Center



With Deepest Sympathy

*Our sympathy is extended to the family of Patricia
and Robert Moreno in the death of Patricia's sister
Frances Amuny. Please remember this family in
prayer.*

December Birthdays



- 1—Mike Ormiston
Lorena Harriman
4—Cleary Cone
Greg Hansen
7—Mary Lee Nelson
10—Elizabeth Gardiner
11—Virginia Kempinsky
13—Emily Harting
14--*Mac & Shirley Durham
16—Loretta Tedrow
18—Kathy Nix
19— Corey Russell
Adrianna Wagner
20—Jonathan Portillo
21—Susan Duncan
Ann Martinsen
22—Marcy McKay
26—Lisa Blum
27--*Richard & Marion
Bremer
28--*LaVerne & Jackie
King
30—Kathleen Rightmire
31—Kay Sutcliffe

*Anniversaries

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

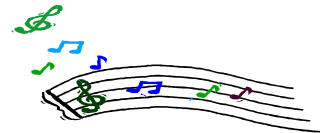
Sunday, December 4th– Longest Night Service, 2:00 p.m.

Our Longest Night Service will be here at the United Church, led by Pastor Bobbi and Rev. Mary Lodge. Longest Night is when we take time to recognize and honor that everyone is not always in happy and celebratory moods. Some of us have lost loved ones or are missing family far away or facing illness or experiencing other troubles during the holidays. This is a service of reflection to help us name this reality. It is a quiet and moving service. Won't you join us as we offer up our cares and concerns in prayer.

Sunday, December 11th– Yule Sing at 6:00 p.m.

This musical presentation by the choir and friends will be followed by spiced cider, coffee and cake in the fellowship hall. Donations to the choir fund will be gratefully accepted.

Sunday, December 18th
Christmas Caroling, 11:45 a.m.



Following worship, we will share a time of fellowship (bring a sack lunch), and afterward we will go caroling in the neighborhood.

Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24th: two opportunities for worship
7:00 p.m. Family Service 11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols



Sunday, Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for worship as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.





The Ferndale School District's Holiday Giving Store

will be open again this year to provide low-income and homeless children in the district with holiday gifts. Families with students enrolled in the Ferndale School District who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch can get an application to shop at the store from their school's family community coordinator, the Lummi Schools family support coordinator or the family involvement coordinator for the Ferndale Head Start Program. Approved parents will be able to "shop" for their children Dec. 15-17 at the Holiday Giving Store.

The need is great. The number of children who qualify for this program is up 15% from last year to 48%. That means nearly half of the students enrolled in the Ferndale School District live at or near the poverty level. Look for the Angel Tree in the Narthex during Advent and bring your new, unwrapped gift back to the church **by December 11th** and let's stock this store!

If you feel the urge to sort items at the store or help the parents shop, call Lisa Blum at 318-3059

News from the Other Bank



Thanks to all of you who give so generously to the Other Bank. Our numbers continue to grow. As of November 16th, we had already helped 378 children and adults. **Supplies needed by The Other Bank: personal hygiene products, diapers, dish soap, laundry soap, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper and hairbrushes.**



Chimes Newsletter Deadline

Please have your articles, pictures or notes into the church office by Sunday, January 15th.
You can email articles to: office@unitedchurchofferndale.org.

Please Remember

If you would like a hard-copy of the Chimes, please remember to pick up your issue of the Chimes at church so we can save on postage. Your help with this is greatly appreciated. The Chimes is available the last Sunday of each month and may be picked up that day or during office hours in the week.

Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.—Noon & 12:30—3:30 p.m.
Thursday—Pastor's study & visitation day. Available by appointment
Friday—Pastor's day of rest



THE UNITED CHURCH CHIMES
The United Church of Ferndale



United Church of Christ & United Methodist

2034 Washington Street, P. O. Box 186
Ferndale, WA 98248
Phone: (360) 384-3302 or 384-3312 Fax: (360) 312-1853
Email: office@unitedchurchofferndale.org
Website: www.unitedchurchofferndale.org

Pastor: Rev. Bobbi Virta
Office Manager: Robin Ogmundson
Moderator: Stephanie Belanger Editor: Lynda Brillowsky

Worship Schedule: Meditation Service: 9:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Every Sunday
Nursery Available: 10:15-11:30 a.m.

Wheelchair Accessible

Visitors Welcome!!

Highlights for December 2011

Longest night Service December 4th, 2:00 p.m.
Yule Sing December 11th, 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Caroling December 18th, 11:45 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services, December 24th
Family service at 7:00 p.m.
Lessons and Carols at 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Worship 10:30 a.m.

