

First Presbyterian  
Church of Kent  
Pastor Carol  
Kirkpatrick

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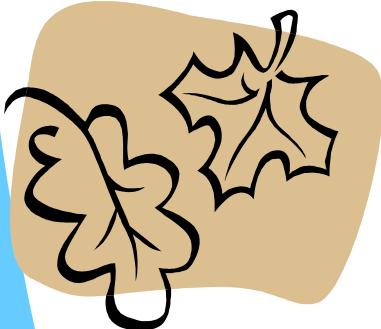
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We're on the web!

WWW.KENTFIRST.NET

#### MISSION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming and inclusive community worshipping in the reformed tradition. As we are empowered by God's grace we strive to educate, serve, and witness to members and friends of Kent First Presbyterian Church and to the people of Kent and surrounding communities, in, with, and through Christ's abiding love.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KENT

October 2011



In the next few newsletter articles I will share what I learned and encountered in my study and practice of Celtic Spirituality during my sabbatical.

My first learning was to pray with creation to our Triune God. Before the Celts converted to Christianity they were practicing pagans. They left behind worshipping various gods, but they kept the holy practice of praying with creation. Their belief was that God was not separated from creation; it was intermingled within all of creation. God was in every plant, human, and creature on this earth. What they practiced was not praying to the plants and animals but looking and sensing the presence of God all around them. They also noticed how creation was praising God through their lives. For instance trees standing tall and pointing to the sky were praising God just in their stance.

As Tom and I hiked we paid particular attention to how God would reveal God's self in creation. We saw trees standing tall praising God. We saw God's eyes in the eyes of rabbits, pheasants, deer, raccoons, and weasels. We saw God's presence in the sunlight and in starry moon lit skies of the evening. We experienced the freshness of Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit in the streams and lakes we hiked by. We encountered God's presence in the people we met on our hikes as well.

What I noticed within myself was seeing everything as sacred. My separateness from creation was reconciled you might say. Before this reconciliation I was quick to kill what I consider pests. Now, those creatures that would normally bring fear to me, like mice, I look upon as having life that is sacred to them as well. I notice more what is around me and want to preserve it, not just take it for granted. This ancient Celtic perspective and practice was a life giving and life changing experience.

Let me give you a recent example. On Sunday, we found a live bat in our sanctuary. Normally they would make me extremely uncomfortable. When I saw this live creature, I felt compassion for it. I saw it as a holy creature as we all are. I was thankful for Al Dermody and Bill Jones who treated it with care not to kill it, but to set it free. I privately said a prayer for it's life and was thankful that it had flown off by the time I was setting off for home.

Every day I say my morning prayers and pay attention to the sun rising, and the life stirring beginning a new day. It is restful and I encounter God each and every day as I take time to observe.

May you be blessed in seeing God's presence in the creation all around you and within each person you encounter.

Blessings,

Pastor Carol

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION**

New Series to Begin

On October 16 we will complete our current 6-week DVD video-discussion series by popular Presbyterian preacher-teacher Earl Palmer, *Acts-Gospel for a World that Waits*.

On October 23 we begin a new DVD video-discussion series: *Focus on Faith: Classic Interviews with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Leaders*. Each week features interviews with some of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's giants of faith as they reveal their hopes and beliefs in confronting age-old questions. Topics include life goals and accomplishments, the meaning of prayer, what happens after death, the meaning of life, the problem of evil, and the role of faith in daily life.

Using a TV newsmagazine style, our first six interviews feature Desmond Tutu, Parker Palmer, Adele Gonzales, Joan Chittister, Marcus Borg, and James Lawson.

Everyone is welcome! Come and invite a guest to join you! We meet downstairs in room #1.

For more information, see Nurture Ministry Team co-chair Jim Drinkwine or class facilitator Tom Kirkpatrick.

**CONVERSATIONS ON THE WAY ARE ON THE WAY**

Every faith journey is unique and we want to explore your path with you. Through Conversations On The Way, we examine what it means to be a Christian, a disciple of Christ – one who wants to learn more and share their experiences. This is an opportunity to grow in your faith.

While meeting for supper on Tuesdays, beginning in November, we explore the words and deeds of Jesus in the context of today's world. Through the Conversations, we hope to become better disciples of Christ and a strong community.

Scripture shows us the original apostles needed to ask questions. Struggling with Jesus' teaching was common for Peter, Thomas, and others. Through questioning, the early church leaders and members came to understand what being a Christian meant. With this understanding, they led a life in which both believing and living are centered in Jesus Christ.

Regardless of where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome to these Tuesday supper-discussions. It matters not if you've been a part of the Kent First family for weeks or years, all are welcome - all are encouraged to have Conversations On The Way.

For more information, contact your Nurture Ministry Team co-chairpersons, Jim Drinkwine or Marion Rosenbaum, or Pastor Carol.

**HIGHER POWER**

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is? One child blurted out, "Aces!"

**PLEASE REMEMBER! OCTOBER 2 IS WE CARE SUNDAY**

Please bring your gifts of nonperishable food and clothing to church. Outreach Division volunteers will deliver them to The Kent Community Service Center whose shelves are in constant need of our donations. All categories of food are needed, including baby food and infant formula. Donated clothing goes out quickly. All sizes, infant through adult, are welcome. Men's clothing is often scarce. Just remember that used clothing should be clean and ready to wear because the Service Center does not launder or mend donations. Other needed items include backpacks, bedding, towels, baby powder, lotion and diapers, especially sizes 4 – 6.

Monetary contributions are also welcome. You may place your check or cash donation in the bank on the table. Make your check out to Kent First Presbyterian Church and write *Food Bank* in the memo area. Our treasurer will send your donations to the Community Service Center.

The response of our congregation to those who need help has been warmly received.

**Thank you for continuing to CARE.**

**CORNUCOPIA DAYS**

Thank you to all who helped with Cornucopia Days. This year we shared our booth with Kent Lutheran Church (Saturday) and St. James Episcopal Church (Sunday). This idea worked very well. We manned the booth on Friday, July 8 from 8:30am until 8:30pm. During our time, we greeted people, and handed out flyers describing our church. We also handed out invitations to the Summer Festival, pencils with our church name and jelly bean treats.

**SUMMER FESTIVAL**

The Summer Festival was a hit! The custom cars and trucks drew lots of attention, The children enjoyed blowing giant bubbles, making pine cone crafts, and bouncing in the Bouncy House. The ice cream sundaes were delicious. Justin and his friend provided very enjoyable music for the entire event.

Thank you to all who helped to make this event a success!

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

August was a busy month for the Building and Grounds Committee.

- Rod Parkinson started the month off by spraying the yard for weeds and Bill Jones sprayed the flower beds, checked the trailer roof and did some miscellaneous repairs inside the church.
- The downstairs floors were scrubbed and polished by Emil Drivdahl, Bill Jones, Rod Parkinson and Larry Millam.
- The Memorial Garden was weeded and raked by Bill Jones and Rod Parkinson.
- Ten 300 watt incandescent lights downstairs were replaced with ten 80 watt fluorescent light fixtures by John Akers, Bill Jones and Rod Parkinson.
- John Akers took on the job of cleaning up the southeast corner of the church property. The area was loaded with black berries, construction debris and lots of garbage.
- The biggest job of the summer season is mowing the lawn and John Akers has spent many hours riding the mower keeping our church grounds looking sharp.

Thanks to all the people who volunteered this summer helping keep our facility a great place to worship.

**The fall cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars and come help with tasks both outside and inside.**

**SMALL GROUPS**

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE**

Afternoon Circle will not meet in October. The next meeting will be November 3, 2011. Members please read Revelations 21 - 22 before the meeting.

**EXPLORER'S GROUP**

The Explorers group will meet October 14th at 6:30 at the home of Rod and Lois Parkinson. Please let Lois know if you plan on attending and what you are bringing. She is planning an "October fest evening".

**OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH**

Out to Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. We enjoy fellowship with each other over lunch at a local area restaurant. All are welcome to join us. Questions? - call Maureen Ludwig, 253-852-7532.

**KNITTING GROUP**

The group will meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3 in the afternoon. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 19th.

**PRIME TIME JOURNEY**

The Prime Time Book Group will meet October 3rd at the Church fireside room at 7:00. We will be finishing the book "House of Illusions" and picking our next book to read.

**EARLY EDITION ODYSSEY**

The Early Edition Odyssey meeting will be Tuesday October 25th.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Our church has two prayer chains, one telephone and one e-mail. If you are in need of prayers for your life or would like to be part of this ministry you may call the church office 253-852-3370, Maureen Ludwig, 253-852-7532 or e-mail Gene Sherwood at g12gesher@aol.com

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The **Men's Fellowship** group meets at 7:30 A.M. the first and third Saturday of each month at the Golden Steer restaurant in Kent, located at 240th and 104th

SAVE THE DATE

SPIRITUALITY BOOK FESTIVAL - SEATTLE U



**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

**Mary Oliver**, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet

**Fr. James Martin, SJ**, Best selling New York Times author and official chaplain to the Colbert Report

Over 40 authors celebrating the best works on issues of spirituality, faith, ethics, church-state relations, social justice and theology. Meet authors, hear them speak, purchase books and have fellowship with others who are searching for meaning in their lives. For more information visit [www.seattleu.edu/stm](http://www.seattleu.edu/stm).

OCTOBER 2011				
2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
LAY READER				
Tom Kirkpatrick	Janelle McCarty	Susan Doody	Marion Rosenbaum	Mike McCarty
USHERS				
Wendell Alexander	John Akers	Lud Ludwig	Rod Parkinson	Glen Sherwood
Jeanne Alexander	Diane Lee	Maureen Ludwig	Al Dermody	Sharon Drivdahl
GREETERS				
Marian Willhite	Marie Heft	Cheryl Drinkwine	John Akers	Nora Fisher

<b>\$\$\$ TREASURER'S REPORT \$\$\$</b> <b>FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2011</b>			
<u>GENERAL FUND SUMMARY</u>		<u>RECONCILIATION</u>	
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	
General Fund	\$106,575.40	Beginning Balance	\$16,591.00
Other Giving	\$2,552.33	Income	\$118,618.91
Building Use	\$9,256.00	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$132,059.17</u>
Reimbursements	\$847.68	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b><u>\$3,150.74</u></b>
Transfer from Reserve Fund	\$6,000.00	 	
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund	(\$12,000.00)	<b>Specified Funds *</b>	\$86,328.30
Transfer from Sabbatical Fund	\$5,387.50		
<u>Other</u>		<b>Gen/Spec Funds</b>	\$89,479.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$118,618.91</u></b>	<b>Bank/BECU Bal.</b>	\$89,479.04
Program	\$34,395.90		
Mission	\$7,287.84		
Payroll	\$89,422.75		
Reimbursable Expenses	<u>\$952.68</u>	* Specified Funds includes	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$132,059.17</u></b>	Reserve Fund of \$25,304.38	