

***Have a Blessed
Summer!
“This is the day
the Lord has
made; We Will
Rejoice and Be
Glad in it.”
PS 118:24***



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Pastor’s Message



“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1 Peace and joy be with you. As I write this Pastor’s Page for the summer *Comment* I must admit I am mindful of my upcoming vacation. Jennifer and I will be traveling with her mother to our family house in Deer Isle, Maine. It will be good to rest, read, and reflect on my ministry and how God is working in my life. I hope and pray you may find some time to do the same.

Last week I met with the Nominating Committee and we all accepted our summer assignments in preparation for the fall Congregational Meeting when a slate of officers and board members will be presented to the church for its approval and blessing. My assignment is to remind folks why we do what we do. In other words, I want to emphasize the importance of our mission as a church of Jesus Christ. The Spirit of Christ is with us in this mission venture. We are not alone. We do not labor for ourselves but for God. It is God who empowers us for service. The author of Ephesians says it beautifully:

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Another way of putting the communal work of ministry is captured in the camp song, “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir.” The point is: the work of ministry is shared by all, for the common good and for God’s purposes. We at Eastgate have discerned our purpose in this time. **We are a community called to worship God, be servants with Christ, grow in faith, love and Spirit.** The task of the Nominating Committee, with the full support of the whole congregation, is to discern our gifts and the gifts of our sisters and brothers toward the living out of our purpose. The goal is not to fill slots or Board positions. Our ministry is served by an administrative structure, not governed by it.

This summer, as you are walking, swimming, boating, or spending time with family, I invite you to open yourselves to God’s Spirit and reflect on how God has blessed you with gifts and talents. I invite you to think about your sisters and brothers at Eastgate and how God has blessed us all through their gifts and talents. Consider the question, how might my gift or my neighbor’s talent be useful in serving God’s mission here at Eastgate? Thank you for your attention to these matters. You are all a blessing.

In Christian love, Pastor Rick

The Scriptures talk a lot about light. “You are the light of the world”. “If your eye is light then so is your whole body”. “Don’t hide your light under a basket”. We are told that Jesus is the light of the world, and that we are also. We sing about it in our hymns and anthems. So if Jesus is it and we are to be it, what is it to be light? What is light?

Much of the way we know light is by what it does for us. It illuminates. It allows us to see. We can see with our physical eyes with light, we see our path, we see obstructions that we can then choose to go around or more easily through. We talk about light in our minds and thoughts. In our minds light helps us to see the truth, it brings clarity. It is more difficult to hide or have secrets when there is light. It is easier to discern, to tell truth from falsehood, to notice the movement of Spirit and of synchronicity. So we often equate God/Christ/Spirit with light, and that with God in us there is the Light of God within us. So we are to be filled with light. The consequence of being filled with Light (or even having just a little light inside) is we see ourselves more clearly, we are more likely to notice the movement of Spirit in ourselves, in others and in our circumstances. We may have more clarity. But with this light in ourselves comes a responsibility – we are to show ourselves as light to and for others. As we stumble through what it means to be light for ourselves we are being asked to be a light for others, to be an example of what being a light is.

How do we nurture this light in ourselves? First we need to remember we are already light. We don’t have to make it come. It is there by virtue of each one of us being children of God. However often over the course of our lives we hide our light, we forget it is there, we forget to feed it. Have confidence that if Jesus is Light, we are also. So know we are Light and that this light is within us. We can pray for assistance in both building our light brighter and in cleaning the windows of our souls to allow this light to shine. Learning to be truthful with ourselves, to be authentic, to release anger and fear and to forgive helps us to be our light. We can nurture our light and feed it with spiritual practices, with being part of a community where we encourage each other.

As I finish I want to lift up ways in which we, the members of Eastgate, are being and sharing light. One way is by reflecting on and prayerfully filling out the “Nominate Someone” form as found on our website or in paper form at church. A way to be light is to see giftedness in ourselves or in a fellow member and lift that up. Another is to play with spiritual practices. The Spiritual Practices working group will begin introducing various practices starting in August. I encourage each of you to experience several of them and see what you enjoy. Be involved in what calls to you. There are multiple ways to be involved and give of yourself, such as through different opportunities that Christian Outreach has this summer and fall, in church get-togethers such as game night, and joining a working group.

Blessings to all in the Light of Christ,

Karen J.

Too modest to tell you herself, Lois Bauer was recently surprised with the 2008-2009 Golden Acorn Award from Chief Kanim Middle School in Fall City. The prestigious award is given to someone who has contributed much time, energy, and hard work to the school. Congratulations Lois and Rejoice with you.

REJOICE with the Rittenhouse family as they watch Noelle receive from her recent emergency trip to the hospital for an appendectomy. She is currently at home resting and getting stronger and would love to receive a card or two. Hurry back, Noelle, we miss you.

Lexi DeSant is graduated from 8th grade at Harbor Day School. She was awarded the highest award in the school—The Headmaster's Award for academics, citizenship and leadership. REJOICE with Grandma, Sylvia Sotelo.

We are all REJOCING with Robin Russell, author. Her first literary attempt is very successful and books are selling rapidly. Called "Summer Island - A Prince In Peril" written for "tweens," but enjoyable to all. Go to www.robinrussell.net for more info.

Council Minutes

May 12, 2009

Present: Howard Osborn, Tom Montgomery, Pastor Rick Russell, Moderator Karen Jones, Carol Ready, Carolyn Osborn, Marti Oien, Isabel Rostykus, Sally Montgomery and Gerry Lakin, Treasurer

The opening prayer was offered by Karen.

Council members shared joys and concerns of the past month.

Minutes accepted as corrected. m/s/p. *Corrections were understandings more than omissions. 1) Contracts are not to be signed in May, the negotiations will begin in May and signed in June. 2) It should be written into the minutes that the subject of the nominating committee's slate being pushed to September be a motion to the congregation for approval. The council voted upon it but it is a constitutional item that needs to be approved by the total congregation.*

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick is ready for his vacation to Maine. He has asked The Reverend Gary Southerton from Plymouth UCC to be our supply pastor. Gary works with the Plymouth Healing Communities. Check out their website at www.phoh.org. Gary can come in July except for July 19th. Al Wolfe is to find someone for that Sunday.

Jennifer is doing well and also looking forward to Maine. Robin's book was introduced and encouraged!! Go Robin. Rick is visiting our shut-ins.

Moderator's Report: Karen: How to introduce being a green church which was a vision goal. We will try to have the boards and groups start taking steps once we figure them out. Perhaps this can be an all church group rather than a long term small group. It should be doable and easy for boards and groups to start this. Working groups are ending their work. **There will be no meeting in July.**

Financial Secretary Report: Carolyn O: There was a large donation to the church Maintenance Fund. This will have its own line item.

Council Minutes (Continued)

Treasurer's Report: Gerry L.: Income at end of May is \$63,840, Expenses \$66,230 leaving a \$2,390 deficit. The deficit for the most part is the expense of winter and should even out by the end of summer. The Northwest Chinese School will NOT be using our church this summer which does leave us with a deficit budget of \$1662 rather than a budget with a \$1338 surplus as noted at our Jan. Budget meeting.

**In the discussion following these last two reports it was determined that we need to have restricted line items for the Strengthen the Church offering and for the Capital Maintenance Fund.

Board Reports: *We are trying the board reports by emailing all council members before the meeting so we can leave time to discuss issues in the life of Eastgate. So some of what is written here was not discussed at the meeting. This does also include what was discussed.*

Diaconate: Howard O: The Diaconate has changed their meeting to the third Monday of each month..

Christian Education: No report: Church Day Camp will be August 2-6, 9AM until 12 Noon. The format will be the same as last year. The registration form is available through our website. www.eastgateucc.org .

Christian Outreach: Carol R: Strengthen the Church \$325. Kid Friendly Food Drive June 21 – July 12. School Supplies for Congregations for Kids July 19 – August 9

Members at Large: No Report. Marti O. resigned from this position after Stewardship was returned to Board status.

Parish Care: Isabel: Kitchen Counters will be replaced the second two weeks of August. After Day Camp is finished, the kitchen will be out of order for that time.

Stewardship: Marti: *Nothing to report*

Trustees: Tom: The Trustees are seeking a bid for a new west side door to match those put in during the remodel in the front entry. The copy machine went kaput and is being replaced. The trustees have authorized Pastor Rick to buy an inexpensive copy machine if deemed necessary. Tom again reported that the Trustees need one more person who will have the position of "secretary" for the Board. They are in desperate need for someone to do the clerical reports.

Old Business: Pew arrangement-a work in progress. Buying Chairs is an idea in progress.

New Business: Katja asked about a raise in her salary. Karen explained that the budget meeting is in Dec/Jan and that is the time to budget a raise. The music committee will also talk to Katja and at the same time review Bill's salary. Carol Ready asked to nominate Alan Davey to the Outreach Board. It was m/s/p that Alan will take this position until we do the new nominating slate and then that will be reassessed.

Sally resigned as Clerk and in doing so thanked Karen for the good work she had done in her very busy position and in her efforts to bring spiritual discernment as the way of work on the Council.

Adjourned!!

NO MEETING IN JULY

Next meeting will be August 10, 2009 at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted

Sally Montgomery/Church Clerk

Minutes of the Fifty-Third Annual Meeting of Eastgate UCC

Karen Jones, Moderator, called the meeting to order in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

A quorum was established by the clerk.

Nominating Committee Report:

Karen Jones presented the recommendation of the nominating committee "that the present church boards remain in place until September 2009 when a meeting will be held to elect a new slate of officers and board members".

A nomination form is currently online on the church website and a paper copy will be made available to members in the near future.

Carol Stanley moved that the recommendation be accepted.

Barbara Rickey seconded the motion.

Discussion: Sally Montgomery encouraged members to prayerfully nominate others and/or themselves for board positions where they might utilize their gifts.

Motion passed.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Growing Young Families: Carolyn Osborn

Vision Statement: Grow Young Family Presence and Participation

Carolyn reported that a survey on "family friendliness" has been completed and that the results will be tabulated soon.

Spiritual Growth: Sherri Brown

Vision statement: Deepening our spiritual growth, through experience, spiritual practice and developing spiritual confidence.

Goal 1: Within the next two years, ECUCC will introduce and explore a variety of spiritual practices that may be used individually or in community.

Goal 2: During the next three years, participants in our faith community will incorporate one or more spiritual practices into their lives.

Sherri reiterated the vision and goal statements and stated that this group is exploring ways to continue introducing a variety of spiritual practices to the congregation. This team will present (anonymous) pre and post surveys of what spiritual practices people use and how regularly they use them.

Financial Stability: Rev. Rick Russell

Vision Statement: Strategizing for financial stability with emphasis on the landlord status and capital funds.

Rick reported that four cottage meetings have been held and that Bill Stanley will consolidate the information received at these meetings. This group has broken into three sub-groups that continue to meet separately and together on the following topics.

- Endowment Fund
- Maintenance Fund

Reducing our need for rental income

Minutes of the Fifty-Third Annual Meeting of Eastgate UCC

Governance: Karen Jones

Vision Statement: Updating church governance with streamlining the constitution & restructuring boards

Goal 1: Establish a method of governance for ECUCC that effectively functions and welcomes ideas and talents.

Goal 2: Review and revise as necessary the ECUCC Constitution and Handbook to be in line with our method of governance.

Karen stated the group's goals and said that they are moving forward toward accomplishing these goals. They have met with Conference Minister, Mike Denton, and are using discernment to help determine the best form of governance for Eastgate.

The meeting temporarily adjourned to Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

The meeting reconvened in Fellowship Hall at 12:05 to discuss the Book of Reports.

Discussion of the minutes of the 2008 meeting included Gerry Lakin's (Treasurer) correction to the Treasurer's Report in the minutes.

Howard Osborn moved that the minutes be approved as corrected.

Bobbie Royalty seconded the motion.

Motion passed

Pastor Rick stated that a 2008 Year-end budget needed to be included in the Book of Reports. Howard Osborn suggested that it be added to the church copy. Karen quickly walked the assembled group through the rest of the board and committee reports.

Pastor Rick thanked Caitlin Jones and Sloan Setiadikurnia for participating in today's worship service and thanked Bill Stanley for his work as choir director. A new confirmation class is planned for next year. Pastor Rick reported that Jennifer is doing well and that they will be on vacation in Maine for the month of July.

Pastor Rick closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Christian Outreach

Carol Ready

We will collect school Stationary Supplies (such as backpacks, Pencils, note books, etc) for the

Congregations—for— Kids drive to help needy students get the 2009-10 school off to a good start. Keep your eyes open for those BACK TO SCHOOL sales, which seem to begin about the time school is out.

We thank the Eastgate Congregation for your wonderful support.

Perhaps you have heard rumor of kitchen counter update. That rumor is now a work in progress. The contract has been signed with Lowe's for installation of new tops on the cupboards around the sink and the island.

With a small committee of women in the church, an attractive Formica pattern has been chosen. Alex Bokov from the Russian congregation has been hired to remove the old counter tops and paint the kitchen. Andrew Bokov, his son, who has a tile business, has given our church some beautiful tiles which he will install as backsplash on the south and west walls. Matching Formica will be installed behind the stoves and on the bottom of the island open space. We are so grateful to Andrew for this gift to the church.

The lower shelves of the cupboards will be cleaned out after ECC Vacation Bible Camp has ended on August 6th. If all goes well, George Rostykus will continue to work in the kitchen and it **will be closed for the month of August 2009**. Women in the church will reactivate the kitchen in the first part of the week of August 24th.

Hooray for the new look! Isabel Rostykus

Prayer Concerns

Betty Stansbery For healing after leg surgery.

Jim Hoganson For strength and healing.

Mary Lee Hoover For peace and comfort.

Rev. Mike Denton For wisdom and strength.

Virginia Fulkerson For strength and healing.

Mary Morgan For strength and healing.

Marvin & Linda Hild For support and strength.

Carrol Juenke For strength and healing.

Susan Shimp For strength and healing.

Carol Stanley For healing following surgery.

Please let Pastor Rick or Ruthee know of people who should be added to our prayers.

Nominating Committee

The Governance Task Force has called for the establishment of a Nominating Committee. The following people have enthusiastically agreed to do so. You will be hearing more from us later. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the members. There are exciting new ideas being shared, and we want to let all of you in on them.

Karen Jones	425-277-6314	Karen_wholeself@yahoo.com
Sally Montgomery	425-391-5695	montysm@comcast.net
Rick Russell	206-324-8777	myrtos@comcast.net
Carol Stanley	425-271-4202	drcarolstanley@earthlink.net



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God
is still
speaking,

Prepared Especially for

**Eastgate Congregational United Church of Christ
is an Open and Affirming Congregation.**

Upcoming Events

**SALAD AND DESSERT POTLUCK
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
11:30-1:00**

Mark your calendars now and come to the fall potluck for wonderful food and fellowship after the church service on September 13th.



~~~Parish Care~~~