



“From Jesus’ fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”

All are invited to attend the Stewardship Supper on Saturday, October 17, at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Guest Speaker:
The Rev. Gail Crouch

Pastor’s Message



Greetings in the Spirit of Christ! Here is the opening to the pastoral prayer given at my (and Jennifer’s) ordination, 25 years ago this month.

Our God and Creator – our voices join in a great chorus of celebration and thanksgiving to you this day. For you reached out to us in a special way and bid us follow you to this new purpose. And in our wisdom and foolishness we followed – eager and reluctant, trusting and fearful, dreading the unknown and yet longing to be home again, and now we are – for our home is in your midst and you

have placed us there.

My, the time has flown by quickly. It was just yesterday, it seems, when Jennifer and I said our ordination vows. We were asked the question: *Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and are you ready with the help of God to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?* (I am very glad the phrase “with the help of God” was included in the question.) We answered, each of us, with the words: “I am.”

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude and humility. I see the people who were present there, many of whom are still in our lives, especially our family and ministerial colleagues. I also see many church folk; the people in Wakefield, New Hampshire, for example, where Jennifer and I served our first settled pastorate. We stay in touch with them and celebrate their ministry.

In looking back, I also see many of the ways God has been helping me to fulfill my ordination vows. I see people and churches; causes and crusades; movements and grace-filled surprises. I recognize the growth of ministry, how the roots of faith go deep and spread broadly. I recognize the changing of the seasons. In some times of my ministry I have been a crusader for stewardship, at other times for mission, at other times for men’s ministry, at other times for spiritual growth and Christian formation. Meanwhile, God has been with me all along the journey.

I also recognize the changing of the Church and how, in the words of Tony Robinson, “It’s a Whole New World.” When I went into ministry I saw myself entering a “role” recognized by society, a position of authority and respect, as well as responsibility. The responsibility of my calling and my role are still clear, but there is now a greater need for me to draw upon an “inner” authority rather than lean upon the culture for my ministerial identity. I suppose it was always thus.

Please excuse my reminiscing. I only wanted to share a milestone with some of my dear fellow sojourners. Thank you for walking with me along the Jesus Way. I pray that your reflections may bring you peace and comfort as mine have for me.

Yours in Christian love, Pastor Rick

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Summer vacations have come and gone, and most of us who have been away are back in town. Because of time away it is common that projects have sat over the summer, without a lot happening. I know that is true in my life! It is time to remember our projects here at Eastgate and begin to move forward on them.

Several years ago now we started our Action Plan. We developed our Church Purpose statement. Remember it?

We are a community called to
Worship God,
Be servants with Christ,
Grow in faith, love and Spirit.

Next we got together to discern where God was asking us to put our energy and we came up with our vision. These 5 goals became our four working groups. Most of the groups took a break over the summer, but are starting to get into the swing as we move into fall. I encourage any of you who find you are interested in one of the groups to get involved!

Financial Stability group is hard at work with discussions of our landlord status and figuring out how to do a maintenance fund - contact Marti for further information.

Spirituality working group is beginning to arrange times for people to experience various spiritual practices. Contact Carol R. for further information.

Governance working group will be restarting soon and will work on discerning if any changes need to be made to our governance structure, and revise the Handbook. Contact Karen for more information.

Growing Young Families working group will be reviewing the survey results. This group needs more interested persons, so I encourage anyone with a passion for children and young families to get involved. Contact Carolyn O. for more information.

The Nominating Committee is also coming together, speaking with the members of the various boards. I encourage everyone to look at our website and fill out the nomination form with your ideas of who you think would be great on the various boards and offices. This will help us to do our work as we ask who is being called to what position.

Blessings of Christ on all,

Karen. J.

As Summer disappears and fall approaches, there many reasons to REJOICE! Children are back in School (“Do I hear a Hooray?”) The choir will be singing again on Sundays, and appreciation is extended to those who stepped in to provide our special music during the Summer.

The kitchen is completed—BIG REJOICE! There and thanks to all who contributed their time and talents—especially Isabel & George Rostykus. They truly enjoyed their trip to Paradise.

We hear Betty Stansbery has taken 25 or more steps on her new prosthesis. REJOICES! That is wonderful. Keep up the good work. Betty is currently residing at the Life Center of Kirkland (10101 N.E. 12th St) and I’m sure she would enjoy visitors.

Carrol Juenke is doing better. REJOICE with him and Evenelle but let’s continue keep them in our prayers. What fun to be able to celebrate your Golden Wedding Anniversary in Italy. REJOICE! With Jill and Gerry who are there now. Hope they take lots of pictures for us to see.

Joyce and Mike Bashey celebrated their 50th by taking their entire family on a cruise to Mexico. Their two girls, their husband, and the grandchildren. I’m sure thee was lots of REJOICING and Ole-ing on that trip, too! Carolyn + Howard Osborn celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in their home and beautiful back-yard. Strolling balladeers sung love songs and vows were exchanged. REJOICE and congratulations to all of them.

We REJOICE each time Jennifer is able to come to church on Sundays. A blessing to be sure.

WITS—AND BEYOND

After long hiatus, WITS has resumed with some slight variations. We shall now be meeting once a month (only) on the 3rd Wednesday. The time and location of the meeting will be determined by the program. Those on the calling tree will be advised of the details.

And exactly what is WITS? The question still comes up. It is Not a committee. It is Not a board and rarely is anything asked of those who attend. It is a gathering of the women in this church who believe in the power of being together with other women, enjoying their friendship, learning about the world around them, and sharing their life experience in a safe and comfortable environment.

Each Program is different. Many varied topics are presented and I’m sure you will be please if you attended.

So if you are not on the calling tree, and want to be, please contact me, Bobbie Royalty 425-392-4280.

We began again with a speaker from Bellevue Congregational Church by the name of Helen Leuzzi. She is the founder and facilitator of the “The Sophia Way.” It is a new and fast growing group providing a path for single homeless women in East King County to find a home of their own. And Yes, there are such gals, some spending the nights huddling in the doorways of the new Bravern Complex. You may be hearing more about this later.

Thank the gals who attended on Wednesday last and encouraged me during the previous months to continue this WITS group.

Here we go again. Won’t you join us?

Bobbie Royalty

Present: Moderator Karen Jones, Carol Ready, Marti Oien, Isabel Rostykus, Howard Osborn, Carolyn Osborn

Karen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Council members shared joys and concerns of the past month.

Minutes: The meetings of the August meeting were approved as written.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick was absent from the meeting to stay with Jennifer. Karen called him and he gave his report to the group over the speakerphone. Jennifer is safe and comfortable and both of them are appreciative of the support they are receiving from the church and others. Rick is happy to be back in the pulpit. He will be working with the Stewardship Board on the upcoming financial campaign and will have a coaching consultation with Tony Robinson later this week. He recently finished a leadership development program with San Francisco Theological Seminary. Parker Jones will be helping with the upcoming confirmation class.

Working Group Reports

- Financial Stability—Marti reported on the Endowment and Maintenance Funds and connecting these with the fall Stewardship Campaign. The rental task force has been put on hold for the time being. The Stewardship Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 17 @ 5:00. It is planned that there will be a guest speaker.
 - Spiritual Growth—Karen reported that this group is planning several field trips: labyrinth walk, Taize service, and Jewish mystical service. Karen and Bill will introduce some Christian Liturgical Music. The Marcus Borg book study group has begun.
- Young Family and Governance groups have nothing new to report at this time.

Moderator's Report—No news to report.

Financial Secretary Report:

- Renters are current.
- Quarterly reports will be out in early October.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Council Minute Continue...

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: Still checking on chairs for the sanctuary.
- **Christian Education:** No report
- **Christian Outreach**—Carol: Outreach would appreciate congregational support for the Mayors' Day of Concern for the Hungry coming up on September 26.
- **Parish Care**—Isabel: Isabel met with the Russian Church Secretary. New kitchen signs will be translated into Russian. They are working hard to keep food out of the sanctuary and narthex.
- **Stewardship**—Marti: See above Financial Stability working group report.
- **Trustees:** No report. It was suggested that perhaps we could partner with members from the Russian and Korean churches to help with some maintenance and the changing of the light bulbs in the sanctuary.

Old Business: Karen asked for permission to gather more information about cost and expertise of getting outside help with the ECC website to make it more inviting to visitors.

New Business:

- Karen will be out of town for the next meeting. Gerry will be asked to lead the meeting.
- Karen will ask Sherryl Davey to take a look at our first-aid kits and update them if necessary.

A grateful thank you to George and Isabel Rostykus for their many hours of hard work on updating the Eastgate kitchen. They enjoyed the church's thank-you gift certificate to Paradise Lodge

Next meeting will be Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ready

We will be receiving the 2009 NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) Offering on Sunday, October 4. NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Our annual TOGETHER WE BUILD project for Habitat for Humanity will take place October 9-11 and 15-17. Please support this project by signing up to work at the build site, work in the kitchen at Bellevue Christian Church, or bake cookies. The Youth Build day at the work site is October 11. Also, please consider attending the interfaith worship service after the build on October 11. This year's service will be held in Kirkland at IMAN, the Muslim Center.

The Outreach Board has decided that this year our Christmas offering will be divided between the UCC CHRISTMAS FUND and THE SOPHIA WAY, which is currently the only social service agency in East King County that serves single homeless women. They work with the day shelter at Bellevue 1st Congregational Church. The mission of The Sophia Way is to help end homelessness in East King County by providing supportive services, overnight shelter, and one-bedroom apartments to women as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing and an independent, stable life. Currently, we are the only staffed overnight shelter for single adult women on the Eastside.

Financial Stability Team

Marti Oien

"From Jesus' fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16

We can truly be thankful for the loving "grace upon grace" that has been bestowed upon us, and it is a fitting theme for this fall's Annual Pledge Drive. The Financial Stability Team is working on details for coordinating a new Maintenance Fund and the Endowment Fund with the yearly fall pledge campaign. This means the message will be different even though many of the events leading to **Stewardship Sunday on November 8** will be familiar. We will welcome all members and friends to our **Stewardship Dinner on October 17, 5 pm**, where our speaker will be our friend **Gail Crouch**. Make plans now to be present for these events.

Financial Stability Team

1. Coffee Hour

Thank you all for supporting our coffee hours by serving coffee and offering goodies to the church family and our guests. Please remember to check the coffee sign up sheet frequently and keep on volunteering. Instructions for making coffee are on the inside of the cupboard door above the coffee pots. Parish Care is providing paper cups, paper plates and napkins for those who wish to use them. The white cups and plates are available for use for the coffee hour. Thanks, Parish Care Board

2. THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY from George and Isabel,

We enjoyed two great days at Mt. Rainier and a comfortable night and delicious dinner and breakfast at Paradise Inn. It was the first time we had stayed there and was a great place to relax after a summer of work on the church kitchen. While Tuesday was overcast at Sunrise, Wednesday at Paradise was sunny and warm. We ventured outside after breakfast and were greeted by a spectacular view of the mountain topped with a lenticular cloud. A beautiful sight and one George was able to capture with his camera.

Our heartfelt thanks to our church family for such a generous gift; one we will always remember

Prayer Concerns

Betty Stansbery	For healing after an injury.	Marvin & Linda Hild	For support and strength.
Jim Hoganson	For strength and healing.	Carrol Juenke	For strength and healing.
Mary Lee Hoover	For peace and comfort.	Jytte Bischofberger	For strength and healing.
Rev. Mike Denton	For wisdom and strength.	Jennifer Russell	For peace and comfort.
Virginia Fulkerson	For strength and healing.	Susan Shimp	For strength and healing.
Mary Morgan	For strength and healing.	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



Eastgate
Congregational
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

15318 SE Newport Way
Bellevue, WA 98006
Phone: (425) 746-2411

eastgateucc@hotmail.com
www.EastgateUCC.org



**God
is still
speaking,**

Prepared Especially for

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 4, 7 pm—**Spiritual Field Trip** to the Taizé Service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way, Bellevue.

Mondays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26, 10 am, **Bible Study** with the Pastor in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, October 7, **Faith Forum** class in Fellowship Hall. Current topic of study—Marcus Borg's book, *The God We Never Knew*, Chapter Three.

October 9-11 and 15-16, **Together We Build**, Habitat for Humanity project. See the article on page 6 for more details.

Saturday, October 17, 5 pm, **Stewardship Supper** in Fellowship Hall, with guest speaker, the Rev. Gail Crouch.

Wed., October 21, 6 pm, **Men's Meeting** with men from Wayside UCC in Federal Way.