

Faith Forum

Class

Beginning Sept. 9 at 7 pm at church there will be a class on the Marcus Borg book:

The God I Never Knew.

The class will meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. Call the office for information about attending.

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Pastor's Message



The peace and joy of Christ is with you!

Welcome to September. This is a time of change and renewal, don't you think? Just take a look at all the young people headed back to school, or the weather beginning to cool off. This time of change gives us an opportunity to reflect on what has gone by and to recommit ourselves to what is coming down the way. God is with us as we travel through change. God helps

us to traverse the obstacles of life, including those of our own making. God continues to welcome us home, like the father of the prodigal son and his elder brother. Our part in this sacred dance is to be open to God's lead. How are we called to move and be and do in the coming days and months at this time in our lives?

At this writing I am aware of how God is present with me and with Jennifer in our journey together. The words of support and love that are coming our way testify to God's presence. This support and love also serve as a guide in how to live forward. I can imagine the Spirit of Christ guiding the early believers in this way as they had their eyes opened to God's abiding love shown through Jesus.

This past month the guest preacher chose one of my favorite hymns, *Forward Through the Ages*. It was just the right song and message for me. "Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine; Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord, manifold in service, one the sure reward. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line, Move the faithful spirits at the call divine."

September is a time of change, of reflection and recommitment. But so is every month, and every year of our discerning lives. God is still speaking to us, in our sorrow as well as in our joy. God brings us together and carries us forward. I thank God for this Eastgate community of faith as we recommit ourselves to justice, compassionate service, and walking humbly with our God whom we know in Jesus.

Yours in Christian love, Pastor Rick

Change....

I went hiking the other day and noticed leaves starting to turn colors, and the particular smell that I associate with fall. Even though it is still warm if not hot during the day the temperatures at night are starting to drop below 50 degrees. And it is getting dark earlier. All these things speak to me, telling me fall is coming. I begin to dream of falling leaves, bare branches, colder weather, Indian summer days and rain.

I love it that the seasons change. Yet at the same time part of me wants to put on the brakes. "Wait, I haven't gotten enough of spring, or of summer". But inexorably the time the sun rises and sets changes. I can't hold it back. What I had yesterday slips through my fingers and I don't have it today. And this external change in the seasons reminds me of what goes on internally. My body, mind, emotions and spirit are also changing. That change is sometimes what I would call for the better, and sometimes what I would call for the worse.

Our relationship with change can be a problem at times. Sometimes we greet change with interest, curiosity, enthusiasm, or relief. Other times it brings up feelings of regret, despair, emotional pain, loss, anger or just plain crankiness. "Why did that have to happen," we say. Yet without change, which is a form of movement or motion, there is stagnation. At least with change there is a possibility of growth, of increasing understanding, learning acceptance, and deepening our ability to love and feel compassion for ourselves and others.

Our spiritual life changes too. Consider, how has your relationship with Christ, with God, with Spirit changed in the last year? Has it changed in the direction of growth – more love, more trust, more and harder questions to God? Or has the change been in the direction of constricted growth – ignoring the relationship with Spirit, turning away from active participation with God? Does this relationship stretch you, make you uncomfortable at times, and cause you to question God, yourself, your community? Or is it something you don't need to pay attention to? Is it "fine", which may be another word for stagnating, or that it doesn't really mean much in your life? Is this how you want it to be?

Enjoy considering these questions and change.

Blessings of Christ,

Karen J.

REJOICE! Over and over because Jennifer was in Church with us on Sunday. What a joy to see her looking quite well!

Jim Hoganson was recently acknowledged as an outstanding volunteer fro his work with the Issaquah Historical Society a reason to REJOICE and tell him—"a job well done, Jim."

Congratulations and REJOICE with Virginia and Charles Fulkerson who recently became great (yes, that's "great") grandparents –thanks to oldest daughter's daughter. Baby girl name Quinn. She lives in Ballard. That's close enough to enjoy.

Gone but were forgotten, June and Cec Allison had the fun of having both son, Scott and granddaughter, Maddie in Seattle's production of "The Ring". Scott was part of the set-up crew and front end of the dragon. Maddie appears briefly on stage as a "little creature," who screams and runs off again. They are REJOCING and telling everyone who will listen.

REJOICE and best wishes to Evenelle and Carrol Juenke who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. How special to see them and their whole family in church to commemorate this event. Love must be in the air!

Following close behind are Carolyn and Howard Osborn and Jill and Gerry Lakin celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries the end of last month. REJOICE, dear friends, and you are wished many more.

REJOICE! Chrissy Rittenhouse became Mrs. Steve Holt in a July wedding. Much happiness in your new life together. They, with the twins Noelle and Ashley, now reside in Tacoma.

Making history and surely a reason to REJOICE, Carol and Lee Ready and Aunt Agnes Miller will have the honor of being the first folks to make coffee in our new kitchen on August. Oh, it will taste so-o-o good.

Choir Announcement

Come one, come all! Choir begins its fall journey towards Advent and Christmas with a first rehearsal Thursday evening, September 10, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. If you have thought about joining but aren't sure, just give it a try, or talk with me or with a choir member. There are no auditions, only a wish to join the worship service in song. You know you'll like it! And for all returning members, welcome back everyone, and let's sing together again.

Our first service will be the following Sunday morning, September 13, with practice at 9:45 am, service at 10:30 am. And do call me with any questions.

In Christ's name,

Bill Stanley
Choir Director

[August 10, 2009 at 7 pm]

Present: Moderator Karen Jones, Carol Ready, Sally Montgomery, Tom Montgomery and Gerry Lakin, Treasurer

Karen introduced a "prayer" for us to read in unison.

Council members shared joys and concerns of the past month.

Minutes: accepted as printed in June. No July meeting

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick was absent from the meeting. Jennifer was ill and he was staying by her side.

Moderator's Report: Karen: Discussed and answered questions on her Iran trek. Went well and was very successful. Discussed giving Rick the time he needs to take care of Jennifer, and to offer what support we can in any form. Isabel has organized some food to go over to the Russell's' home. . Gary Southerton has served in the pulpit, Reverend Mike Denton will be here on August 16, (addendum Gail Crouch filled the pulpit on Aug. 23 and Pastor Rick hopes to be back on August 30).

Financial Secretary Report: No report. Carol R did take care of offerings and banking while CO was absent.

Treasurer's Report: Gerry L: Pledges are \$1200 in arrears. Loose offering is behind budget \$1400. Building use income is \$1600 behind, delayed rental payments may be the cause, this will have to be resolved with Carolyn O. Other miscellaneous income is behind \$500.

Expenses are \$1963 over budget, mainly due to \$730 overage in advertising and \$1191 in gas heat.

Bottom line is we currently show a \$7598 deficit. Our approved budget has an \$882 deficit. Some of this will equalize as the end of summer and beginning of new program year starts up again. Gerry will ask Carolyn O to pursue the pledge deficits.

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: No report.

Christian Education: No report. However, Day Camp was one day and was successful.

Christian Outreach: Carol R: Delivered school supplies from ECC to Stevenson Elementary where they will be sorted and backed this coming week. Cong. For Kids is the only organization doing this in Bellevue.

Neighbors in Need is October 4.

Parish Care: Isabel: No report. Kitchen is in the process of cabinet renewal. *Stewardship:* Marti: No report

Trustees: Tom: At this time 3 of 4 renters had signed contracts. Tom will pursue the other to see why they haven't. Michael C. sealed the window mullions and Paul J. will guide Mike on how to do the inside ones.

Old Business: Karen reported on the Spirituality Working Group and that they will begin some of the various types of spiritual disciplines that were discussed during the Lenten series.

New Business: Great discussion on concerns in the church around many issues. No notes were taken for this. Not a discussion for decisions but gathering ideas.

Next meeting will be September 14, 2009 at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Montgomery/Acting Church Clerk

A Summer Success

Energy ran very high when the on day activity packed Eastgate Church Day Camp took place. 9 am to 2 pm. There was something or some things to do every moment. A “Green Theme” with emphasis on Stewardship and Friendship prevailed.

Starting at 9 am making name tags, the children were involved in picking up litter from the church property and making a letter collage with colorful wool. They created “God’s Eyes”, played a Hat Game, sang songs and heard stories.

At noon, they made their own lunches of P&J sandwiches, grilled cheese and fruit salad. They packed good tags fro needy families and back pack with school supplies. In the afternoon, they tie-dyed shirts and planted rosemary. Each child went home with their own “Me Place Mat” - laminated with their photo and pictures of their favorite things. This, they carried in their own decorated shopping tag along with their other goodies! Phew! All in one day?

Yes!

Those who came and were involved were Elizabeth and Christopher, Noelle and Ashley, Michael and Sophia, Roamie Seymore, Danielle, Janelle, Kristine, Lois, Carol, Isabel, Bobbie and Pastor Rick. A great time was had by all!



Outreach has been busy this summer. Thanks to all who have participated in various endeavors over the past few months.

\$2860.00 was raised by Eastgate members, friends, and guests at the **Habitat for Humanity of East King County** Fundraising Breakfast in April. **Habitat** credits this money as a donation from Eastgate UCC toward the October 2009 **Together We Build** project.

- The 2009 **Together We Build** Interfaith Project for Habitat for Humanity will be finishing up the last **Habitat** houses at Snoqualmie Ridge.
 - o Dates: October 9-11 and October 15-17
 - o Youth Build date: Sunday, October 11
 - o Interfaith Service: At IMAN (Islamic Center) in Kirkland after the build on October 11. Please consider attending.

Volunteers are needed to build, cook, and deliver food. Please sign up.

\$155.00 is the estimated value of Eastgate's **Kid-Friendly Food** donations to the **Emergency Feeding Program**.

\$507.00 is the value of school supplies and cash donations to **Congregations for Kids**. At Church Day camp we packed some of the donated supplies into four backpacks for students in grades 1-3.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, September 26th to help with the **Mayors' Day of Concern for the Hungry** to help collect food and donations at a local grocery store. Teams of 2-4 are asked to sign up for 2-1/4 hour shifts. There is a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, October 4 is the date for the annual **UCC Neighbors in Need Offering**.

There is an ongoing need for travel-size toiletries and gently used women's clothing for the Church of Mary Magdalene and for new or gently used twin-size blankets for Congregations for the Homeless. Look for donation boxes in the hallway that leads to the office.

Submitted by Carol Ready

Hooray for the newly renovated kitchen. Thanks to help from lots of people this job was accomplished. Check out the new counter tops, tile backsplash, new color on walls and refinished cabinets.



Prayer Concerns

Betty Stansbery For healing after an injury.
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.
Jytte Bischofberger For strength and healing.
Jennifer Russell For peace and comfort.

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**

Please come join us today!

The fall potluck for wonderful food and fellowship after the church service.



~~~Parish Care~~~