



Admiral Tidings

December
2011

Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ

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Pastor Donald's schedule and contact information

Donald is often in the office Monday – Thursday and can be reached at 206-932-2928. At other times, don't hesitate to call him on his mobile at 425-591-7729.

You can also contact him by e-mail at pastor@admiralchurch.org.

Donald would love to visit with you. Please give him a call or e-mail to arrange a time.

Thanks...

I'm writing this the week of Thanksgiving, and so I'm mindful of a gazillion things I want to give thanks for: family, and a warm house, and more food than I need, and good friends, and a wonderful job (really!).

There's one more thing that keeps coming to mind in these last few days, and that's the amazing response we have had to our pledge campaign for 2012.

While there are still a few folks to hear back from, it's so exciting to look at the list of what we have received in commitments for the coming year, and see that we are going to surpass pledges for 2011. Thank you.

I try not to get too involved in the whole pledge thing. I do make my own pledge – and am proud that I can give 10% of my income. I was also glad to lead the fun song we sang each week (thanks, Anita!) that outlined several of the ministries our church participates in regularly.

Most of all, though, I try to stay in the background – I

never see the pledge cards that folks have filled out, and I don't know what the individual pledges are. It doesn't really matter to me.

What *does* matter is realizing the total commitment you have made to your church. Your investment in what we are doing helps proclaim to the community that we are a church that is alive with God's spirit, passionate about sharing God's concerns for justice, and eager to proclaim an extravagant welcome to **all** of God's children. Thank you.

As we move into Advent and, beyond that, to the wonderful Christmas season we can do so secure in the knowledge that the members of Admiral Church want to continue doing the ministry we have done in this place for over 110 years.

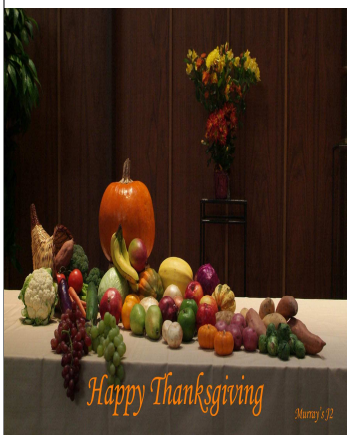
Once more, thank you.

Donald



In Memoriam

Jeff Thompson



It is with a great deal of sadness that we acknowledge the recent death of Jeff Thompson; Jeff died of a sudden heart attack on November 15.

Jeff was an active and dedicated member of our church for many years, most recently serving as treasurer. He and his wife Judy were frequent Sunday morning greeters and ushers as well. He will be greatly missed.

Cards can be sent to his wife Judy Thompson at 4521 SW Seattle St., Seattle, WA 98116.

They that wait upon our
God
shall renew their
strength.

They shall mount up with
wings like eagles;
they shall run
and not be weary;
they shall walk
and not faint.

Scripture for December

December 4, 2011 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

The readings for this Sunday invite reflection on the ways in which we are comforted by God and in which we are challenged to comfort one another. What evidence of God's steadfast love, faithfulness, and peace do you find in this chaotic world?

December 11, 2011 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Even the secular theme for this season is one of dreams to be fulfilled and hope to be satisfied. The challenge is one of being faith-filled – dreamers even when the world seems hopeless. What dreams bring us light and hope?

December 18, 2011 – 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

In this last week before Christmas we read of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she will give birth to a special baby. We are reminded that God is with us in many ways. We are invited to recognize that the God who did not want a structural house has chosen to live in humankind, exercising steadfast love. How can we be God's house – a place where God lives, and is born anew?

December 24, 2011 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

We may know Luke's version of the Christmas story like the back of our hands, and yet we long to hear it anew every Christmas. This simple story reminds us that God is not distant and removed from us, but has come to live right here among us. Pause and give thanks for the wondrous presence of God in our world.

December 25, 2011 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

The readings for today invite us to reflect on the nature and intensity of God's presence in the world. At a more personal level, they encourage us to consider how "the Word among us" influences the ways in which we interact with others and with creation. What might be the lyrics of our new songs of joy?

Adapted from *SeasonsFUSION – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2011-2012* © 2011 Wood Lake Publishing.





We will be having a sale of Christmas craft items on **December 4** and **11** after church (and during the reception for Admiral Sings Christmas). Any and all craft items are welcome. The proceeds from this sale will go to benefit our outreach programs.

If you have any items to donate, and/or can help in any other way, please contact Joan W. or Valerie P.

Admiral

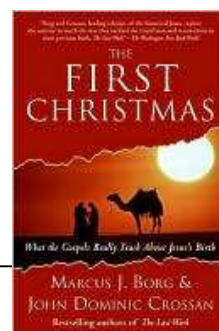
Calendar and Other News

Remember to check www.admiralchurch.org regularly for changes and updates to the calendar, as well as other news.



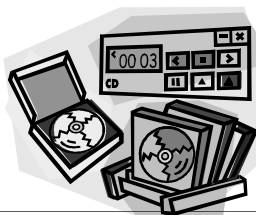
Bible Study

We are reading and exploring *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. If this topic intrigues you, come and join us Thursdays at 7p.m. You need not attend every week - just come when you can. You also do not need to read the book - just come for the conversation.



Worship Service DVD's

DVDs of our weekly worship services are available. If you missed a Sunday, or want to hear the service again, or know of someone else who would like it, call the office. Sermons are also available online at www.admiralchurch.org. Click on the "Sermons" tab and follow the prompts.





December Birthdays!

5 Robert M.
9 Sandi H.
18 Dick M.
30 Carole C.
31 T.J. K.

December 2011

Admiral Congregational Church

Please check the calendar at www.admiralchurch.org for updates and changes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Ongoing groups at Admiral:</p> <p>Sunday 8-9p.m. AA Monday 6:30-7:30a.m. SAA 2nd Tuesday 7p.m. Admiral Neighborhood Ass'n Wednesday 8-9p.m. AA</p>						
4 8:30 & 10:30a.m. Worship Craft Sale 7p.m. Youth Group	5 7pm Lecture Series 'Brain Dance'	6 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	7 7p.m. Choir	8 7p.m. Bible Study	9 Pastor Donald's day off	10 10am Wrapping Gifts for Com- pass Center
11 8:30 & 10:30a.m. Wor- ship / Youth Group Craft Sale 4pm & 7pm Admiral Sings Christmas	12 6p.m. Parish Care 6:30p.m. Team Mtgs 7:30p.m. Council Mtg.	13 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	14 7p.m. Choir	15 7p.m. Bible Study	16 Pastor Donald's day off	17
18 8:30 & 10:30a.m. Worship 5pm "Blue Christmas" 7p.m. Youth Group	19	20 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	21 7p.m. Choir	22	23 Pastor Donald's day off	24 9p.m. Worship 
25 10:30a.m. Worship 	26	27	28	29	30 Pastor Donald's day off	31

Outreach

11-1-11 to 11-11-11

The national setting of the United Church of Christ held a drive called "MISSION I" for 11 powerful days in November to feed the hungry and to confront food-related injustices.

Rather than having another food drive in our already full calendar, Admiral Church reported our participation in CROP WALK, our average of food gifts on our 3rd Sunday food drives, our monetary gifts to the three food banks from checks and food receipts, and our NIN offering.

As you can see, all of the goals were close to being met and we were an important part of it all:

Goal 1. 1,111,111 items of healthy food donated. – Made **1,396,673**

Goal 2. 11,111 letters mailed to Congress. – Made **37,080**

Goal 3. \$111,111.00 donated to NIN and hunger related ministries. – Made **\$109,838.00**

Goal 4. \$111,111.00 donated to East Africa Relief. – Made **\$106,144.00**



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The price tag of the shopping list laid out in the classic holiday song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is sharply higher this year, hit by such modern-day woes as higher energy and gold prices and concerns about the avian flu, according to an annual survey.

PNC Advisors, which has charted the cost of the gifts laid out in the song for the last 27 years, put the price of the items this year at \$21,465 in 2011, a 6.1 percent increase over last year.

Some presents will be difficult to get at any price this year. The threat of avian flu has restricted the international shipment of birds, thus preventing the purchase of three French hens from France, although there are domestic breeders of French hens which helped keep that gift's cost in line. But all the fowl mentioned in the song cost substantially more this year due to the increased delivery costs from higher energy prices.

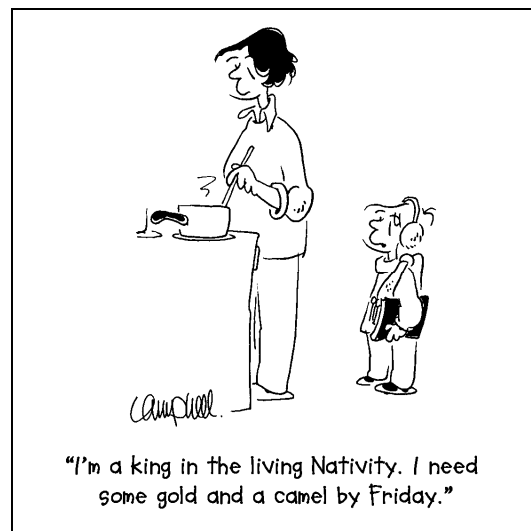
Oil isn't the only commodity raising the gift buying prices this year. The "five golden rings" given on the fifth day now cost \$1,125, up 27.5 percent due to rising gold prices.

Even the good news on pricing is a troubling sign for gift givers, as the salaries of most of the workers detailed in the song -- the maids-a-milking, lords-a-leaping, pipers piping and drummers drumming are the only gifts for which prices are holding steady. The maids-a-milking each got paid only the \$7.55 minimum wage, making an hour of their time the cheapest gift on the list.

The only workers in the song to see increased pay is a modest 4 percent gain for the "nine ladies dancing," based upon information given to PNC by Philadanco, the Philadelphia Dance Company. They also were the best-paid service providers on the list, earning \$608.46 each.

Ordering the gifts over the Internet will cost true love shoppers a premium, again due to the increased delivery costs this year. The overall Internet cost is estimated at \$32,439.80, up 5.7 percent from last year and a premium of \$10,973.93, or nearly 60 percent, from shopping in the more traditional manner.

For the gift giver who goes all out and gives the repeated gifts for each day as detailed in the verses of the song will pay \$72,608 for all 364 items, up 9.5 percent from the \$66,334 price tag in 2004. That's a much bigger increase than the 1.6 percent increase last year.



Easy Money

Bartell's Drugs is offering rewards to non-profit organizations. It's called the B Caring Card. All you have to do is sign up once at Bartell's. For recipient, where it says "other" on the sheet simply put in "Admiral UCC."

Every time you shop at Bartell's you show your card and up to 4% of your purchase is then credited to the organization you selected when you signed up – it's that simple!



Staying in Touch

The Parish Care Team continues to search for ways we can stay in touch with members who cannot attend services on Sunday, or who have difficulty getting to services. Dorothy J. will send weekly church bulletins by mail, if you call the church office. And if you are able to offer rides to and from the Sunday service, especially from the Kenney, please contact Leonette C. at 206 938-5017.

CHURCH COUNCIL

ADMIRAL CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Church Council Minutes

November 14, 2011

(abbreviated to save space; the complete minutes are on the notice board at church, when you walk in the door).

Financial report: At 46 weeks (88%) of the year pledges are at 94% (\$118,045) and non-pledged at 53% (\$9,317).

Treasurer's report: Wayne was pleased to report that we are in a positive "plus" position.

Pastor's report. Donald went over the calendar with everyone present. He reported that the Youth Group is doing great under Kristen's leadership.

A discussion was had regarding the projection screens in the sanctuary. Some donations have come in already toward replacing these with high-quality screens which, while smaller, will provide much better resolution. It was agreed we would move forward in asking the congregation for donations in the hopes of getting these in place by Admiral Sings Christmas.

Worship Team. David reported on plans for Advent.

Outreach Team. The Metropolitan Market receipt program is ending at the end of December. The Team is also dropping food donations to the Senior Center as it appears donations to the other food banks (West

Seattle and White Center) are a better use of our resources.

Stewardship report: Peggy reported that \$123,904 has already been pledged. There are 5 new pledges, 6 reduced pledges, 18 increased pledges, and 12 people yet to be heard from. So far we are a mere \$15 less than next year's projected budget. Peggy and Anita were enthusiastically commended for their good work.

Youth group report: There will be a lock-in November 17-18th. They are also planning a luncheon and Advent Fair of make and take crafts for November 27, and a fund-raiser where they will wrap Christmas gifts for parishioners on a donation basis, December 18 after church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

~ * ~

People can't concentrate properly on blowing other people to pieces if their minds are poisoned by thoughts suitable to the twenty-fifth of December.

- Ogden Nash

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

- Ebenezer Scrooge (Charles Dickens),
A Christmas Carol

Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white.'

- Bing Crosby

Christmas, my child, is love in action.

- Dale Evans

Join us for an evening filled with music & singing, fun & refreshments and most of all the Spirit of Christmas.

ADMIRAL SINGS CHRISTMAS

A Festive Community Sing-Along of Favorite Christmas Songs and Carols!

featuring

Keith Terhune & Overton Berry

with

The Admiral Choir



Sunday, December 11th at 4PM & 7PM

Come Early! Refreshments served 30 minutes before each performance.

Free Admission.

Donations may be given to support this fine program.

In addition, non perishable food items will be collected for local food banks.



Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ

4320 SW Hill Street (Corner of Hill & California)

206-932-2928

www.AdmiralChurch.org



Women's Book Group

Women's Book Group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00p.m.

December Schedule:

Bonus Read, no meeting: *Made for Goodness* by Desmond & Mpho Tutu (now in paperback).

If you don't like to wrap your Christmas presents – or if you just don't have the time – the Youth Group have the answer for you: let them do it!

Sunday, December 18 after church the youth group will be glad to wrap all your gifts for you. Just bring the gifts and tags saying "to" and "from" and let the youth do the rest.



Donations welcome, of course!

Admiral Congregational
United Church of Christ

4320 SW Hill St.
Seattle WA 98116

Phone: 206-932-2928
E-mail: officemgr@admiralchurch.org

We're on the Web!
www.admiralchurch.org

"No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey
you are welcome here.."



Upcoming events...

Admiral Sings Christmas – our annual Christmas music and sing-along extravaganza, **December 11** at **4p.m.** and **7p.m.**

Blue Christmas – a worship service for those who get a little overwhelmed by the Christmas season, and who need to “step back” for a moment. Perhaps you are far from home, or are missing someone special, or just need a break. Come and enjoy a simple and gentle worship service, **December 18** at **5p.m.**

Christmas Eve (December 24) – our traditional candlelight worship service with lots of carols, at **9p.m.**

Christmas Day (December 25) – one worship service this morning, at **10:30a.m.**



Merry Christmas

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(206) 932-2928

Return Service Requested