



Admiral Tidings

May
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 – at the church, at your home, over coffee somewhere, or whatever might work for you. Please give him a call or e-mail, to arrange a time.

Pastor's Column

Easter continues

There's a not-so-great joke about a Sunday School teacher asking the class if anyone could tell what happened at Easter.

"Yes," said one child. "It's when Jesus rose from the tomb."

The teacher was very pleased; then the child continued: "And he saw his shadow and went back in again."

I warned you it wasn't the best joke out there. Yet, I fear it has some profound theological implications for many folks.

As my friend – and former professor – Tom Wright puts it in his commentary on Luke:

"Ask people around the world what they think is the biggest day of the year for Christians. Most will say 'Christmas.' That's what our society has achieved: a romantic mid-winter festival...from which most of the things that really matter (the danger, the politics) are carefully excluded. The true answer...is Easter. This is the moment of new creation. If it hadn't been for Easter, nobody would ever have dreamed of celebrating Christmas. This is the first day of God's new week. The darkness has gone, and the sun is shining."

Tom's right. Easter is the day that crowns all the rest of the year and beyond. It makes God's point, that there is meaning to life; that there is hope; that there is newness; that there is a risen Christ to follow, who transforms our lives.

Easter is so important that it isn't just a day, it's a whole season of 50 days (this year it goes until June 12). During this time, look for signs of resurrection – not just flowers, but stories of hope and new life around the world.

Allow some time for God to work new creation within you.

Blessings,

Donald



Wisdom: Artist and Child

Proverbs 8 is an intriguing reading. Wisdom begins by pointing out that she speaks in the city streets, calling people to lives of justice. Later (v. 22) she declares she was the first thing God created. Later still (v. 30) she describes herself as a “skilled artisan” working at God’s side in the act of creating. It’s an amazing image, to think God had an “assistant” in the act of creating. Yet the verse has another curiosity as well.

The word translated “artisan” could also be translated as “little child;” most translations include this as an option or footnote.

Imagine it – God creating with a little child underfoot. If you’ve ever tried to work with a child in the room, you know how they can demand your attention. Yet they can also invite you into laughter and freshness. Imagine God that way – creating not in a serious and regal mood, but light, and humored, and pleased.

Scripture for April

May 1, 2011 – *Easter 2*

*Torah** – Luke 15:1-10

Writing – 1 John 1:5–2:2

Prophet – Jeremiah 31:31-34

Gospel – John 20:11-18

This week we read the second half of John’s Easter Sunday story, where Mary Magdalene meets the risen Christ. In one vital moment – when Jesus calls Mary by name – she realizes that he is risen and with her, not just then but forever. Jesus then sends Mary forth as an apostle, indeed the first apostle of the risen Christ. When do you hear Christ call you by name?

May 8, 2011 – *Easter 3*

Torah – Luke 15:11-32

Writing – 1 John 3:19-24

Prophet – Jonah

Gospel – John 20:19-23

The story of Jonah teaches us much about God, and our response. When Jonah decides to ignore God and runs away, things do not go well. When the city of Nineveh hears that God is displeased, they repent and God relents. When Jonah sulks because he wanted to watch the city get destroyed, God asks rhetorically – and wonderfully – “Shouldn’t I care about all my creatures?” Of course the answer is “yes.” How does God care for you each day?

May 15, 2011 – *Easter 4*

Torah – Luke 18:9-14

Writing – Ephesians 2:1-10

Prophet – Acts 9:1-19

Gospel – John 20:24-29

When Thomas does not believe that Christ is risen, Jesus appears and invites him to seek his own proof. Jesus then praises Thomas and others who need to see in order to believe, and also praises those who do not need to see. We are reminded that belief – faith – comes to all of us in different ways, and that that is okay. The reading from Ephesians contains the wonderful line in verse 10

sometimes translated “We are God’s work of art.” How do you see yourself – and others – as God’s works of art?

May 22, 2011 – *Easter 5*

Torah – Luke 10:25-37

Writing – Galatians 5:1-6

Prophet – Acts 11:1-18

Gospel – Luke 24:13-35

On Easter Sunday afternoon two disciples are walking along the road, feeling lost and dejected now that Jesus has been killed. A stranger (Jesus, but they don’t realize it) comes and walks with them. Patiently the stranger explains, by quoting scripture, about God’s love – about how God’s promise of unconditional love and forgiveness for all people did not die with Jesus, but in fact is still with them. Slowly, the disciples come to realize that Christ is indeed risen, and journeys with us. When have you experienced Jesus traveling with you?

May 29, 2011 – *Easter 6*

Torah – Matthew 25:31-46

Writing – James 2:1-13

Prophet – Esther 1:1-12

Gospel – John 21:1-19

The story from the Book of Esther of Queen Vashti defying her husband is not well known. This is a story of a woman who stands her ground and will *not* let herself be abused. Thus, it is a great story for us to read and absorb into our own lives. God has given us our identity and dignity and nothing – absolutely nothing – can take that from us. Reflect on who you are and where you are, and give thanks to God for making you to be a miracle.

* The titles *Torah*, *Writing*, *Prophet*, and *Gospel* do not follow normal biblical tradition but reflect ways in which the texts can be used. Readings and commentary adapted from *Emerging Word: a Creation Spirituality Lectionary* © 2009 Donald Schmidt. Used by permission.



Worship News

SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Admiral's Dinner/Auction,
Friday, September 30th!**

Start thinking about a fun evening of fellowship and fundraising. We have reserved the date to hold this year's dinner/auction on Friday, September 30th. Because of the positive feedback, we will once again be wined and dined by the accomplished culinary department at South Seattle Community College. The college venue was a hit last year because of the easy access, comfortable space, free parking, friendly staff and great food.

Align your mojo and start thinking about fabulous auction items that might be solicited or donated for the 2011 auction!



David, worship chair

Youth Group News



One of the things I like best about the Admiral UCC youth group are the flamingo flockings. I think the flockings are a lot like our youth group: fun, spontaneous and totally random. It's really funny when you go knock on the door and they don't know what the heck all these flamingos are doing in their yard! After I'm done flocking all I can do is smile, thinking about the look of utter shock on the person's face when they saw all the bright pink birds scattered in their yard. I think the flamingo flockings are fun, easy and a great fundraiser too! Who wouldn't want to pull a harmless prank and flock a neighbor's yard?

-Macey

Admiral Calendar and Other News

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



Early worship

May 15 we will start with an early morning worship service at 8:30a.m. This is in response to several folks wondering if we might go back to having this service.

The worship will be less formal than the 10:30 service, and will last for around a half hour or so.

It will continue through the summer, giving folks an option to worship at 8:30a.m. and have the rest of the day for playing in the sun, or to sleep in and have a more relaxed morning, worshipping at 10:30a.m.

Outreach Report

Hunger is a year round issue. Admiral Church has made the third Sunday of the month Food Bank Sunday.

You are encouraged to bring shopping bags and food items. Please place them in the basket next to Donald's Office.

Checks put into the Offering Plate for Food Banks along with checks from the markets honoring our grocery receipts are combined. These monies are then divided among the West Seattle, White Center and Senior Center of West Seattle for the purchase of bulk foods.

Leonette Carte graciously takes the food

gifts to the Senior Center of West Seattle most months. For the big food drive in November, The Murrays help deliver to White Center and West Seattle Food Banks.

Most needed items continue to be: peanut butter, canned meats, stews, soups, pastas, cereals, dessert mixes, Hamburger Helper, Rice-A-Roni, canned fruits, Ensure, and Boost.

Thank you for your continued support of these Food Banks.

Marilynn, outreach chair

May Birthdays:

- 1 Harold
- 2 Bernice & Laura
- 6 Frank
- 7 Leonette
- 8 Teri
- 10 Dorothy
- 14 Donald

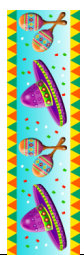

- 16 Julie
- 17 Janet
- 20 Ada
- 21 Stephanie
- 23 Lily
- 27 Janet
- 28 Kari
- 29 Andy

May 2011

Admiral Congregational Church

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

(please contact the office if you do not see your birthday listed correctly)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a.m. Worship - Holy Communion Jazz Sunday	2	3 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	4	5 Cinco de Mayo  7p.m. Bible Study	6 Pastor Donald's day off	7
8 10:30a.m. Worship	9	10 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	11 7p.m. Choir	12 7p.m. Bible Study	13 Pastor Donald's day off	14
15 10:30a.m. Worship	16 (NOTE DATE) 6p.m. Parish Care 6:30p.m. Teams 7:30p.m. Council	17 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	18 7p.m. Choir	19 7p.m. Bible Study	20 Pastor Donald's day off	21 Church Retreat at Pilgrim Firs
22 10:30a.m. Worship	23 7p.m. Women's book group at Karen's 7p.m. Men's book group at Hurst Lounge	24 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	25 7p.m. Choir	26 7p.m. Bible Study	27 Pastor Donald's day off	28
29 10:30a.m. Worship	30 Memorial Day 	31 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	Ongoing groups at Admiral: 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			
					Thursday 7-8p.m. NA Friday 7-9p.m. Lucky Ladies AA Saturday 8:30-10:30a.m. Al-Anon Saturday 7-8:30p.m. NA	

Fellowship Team

The Fellowship Team has been working on various projects, as was reported last month. The following is an update on our progress. We encourage your involvement in one or more of these activities.

First Project:

David Pelton and Lee Kramer have done a wonderful job gathering us together for feasts at various times this year. We thank them and those who helped them for some wonderful meals.

Second Project:

The second project involves the first draft of a phone tree that has been created so that news can get to everyone when the time lines are short or when we need input for decisions. I call this phone tree a "draft" because it may need to be changed. The phone tree includes only folks who did not have an email listed in the new picture directory. If you had an email listed but do not know how to use it or do not look at it frequently, you might want a phone call. We are trying to keep the phone tree manageable, so we would like as few additions as possible. If you really need to have your name added, please see me on Sunday or send me a note. My details are in the directory. Another reason for requesting to an addition to the phone tree, is if you are a new member and your name and picture are not in the directory.

Third Project:

We hope to form a Reception Committee. These people would need the support of the church members to set up, provide food for, and clean-up at wedding receptions, funerals or memorial services. These duties were accomplished in the past by Women's Fellowship which disbanded several years ago.

We have four individuals who have volunteered to be on the committee, yet still need a leader. If you are interested, please call Peggy. We hope everyone is able to help in some way when the committee calls, even if just financially.

Fourth Project:

The fourth and final project is a mentoring project for new members. Mentoring new members involves answering questions about how things are done, upcoming activities, where things are located, etc. The idea is to match members who have been around for a while to new members. We will try to pair those who might be in the same age bracket, might have children the same age, be single, or retired, etc. We will start off by giving the new member a business card with their mentor's name and phone number so that they will be able to make contact. Some may never use it; others may use it quite a lot. It is another way to make new members feel welcome.

We encourage all members and friends of Admiral Church to be involved in any number of these projects. The state of internal social life of Admiral Church is up to each of us. If we each help in some way, we move closer as a community. Join in.

Peggy, Fellowship Team leader

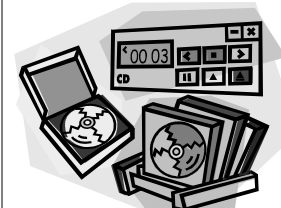


**Fun &
Fellowship**



We meet the last Monday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise announced. Anyone interested is welcome!

Our next meeting is on May 23rd at Karin's, 7124 47th Ave. SW, #301. The book is Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver. Please let Karin know you would like to come.



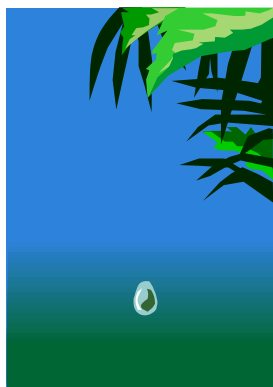
DVDs of Worship Services

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

If it's drama that you sigh for, plant a garden and you'll get it; you will know the thrill of battle fighting foes that will beset it. If you long for entertainment and for pageantry most glowing, plant a garden and this summer;

spend your time with green things growing. - Edward A. Guest, Plant a Garden



Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn, Hundreds of bees in the purple clover, Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn, But only one mother the wide world over. - George Cooper

ADMIRAL CONGREGATIONAL UCC

Church Council Minutes

April 12, 2011

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

Present: Pastor Donald Schmidt, Laura, Stephanie, Marilyn, Sonia, Peggy, Ron, Sharon

Laura called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Minutes

Sonia moved to approve the minutes of the March 14th meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

In Wayne's absence the report was distributed and will be posted with the minutes in the narthex.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Donald reported the following:

- The Youth Group has been busy with their "flocking" activity and it is becoming positive publicity for the church. Dale will not be working in the church office at this time. Laura suggested looking at high school work experience students for possible help. A membership committee has been formed including Mary, Barbara, Joan, and Uta. A lecture series for fall is being considered. Participation in the Seattle Pride Parade and/or the West Seattle Hi-

Yu Parade was discussed. It was suggested that the Youth Group would likely enjoy taking part in the in the Hi-Yu parade with a possible "flamingo" theme. This will be pursued.

- A reminder was given to e-mail Pastor to have items/events put on the church calendar. The new website is up and receiving positive reaction. Check it out.

Fellowship Report

- Peggy discussed matching new members with mentors. In addition she suggested having new member packets with sponsor's name, pledge cards and other information included. A new team has been formed to help with church receptions. The group includes Janet, Joan, and Wayne. A coordinator has yet to be named. The telephone tree is complete. A related article will be in the Tidings. A back-to-church Lu'au is being planned for September.

New Business

- Ron announced a yard cleaning party this coming Saturday. He also requested we look at new outdoor lighting. Summer start time for Sunday services was discussed. There was no consensus. A survey of the congregation will be considered.

Stephanie moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:40pm. Motion passed.

Save Thriftway and Metropolitan Market Receipts

Did you know that your grocery dollars can help stock local food banks? Both Metropolitan Market and Thriftway will give not-for-profit organizations one percent of the receipts they collect and turn in. At Admiral, receipts may be put in the "Metropolitan Market, Morgan Street Thriftway



Grocery Receipts" box on the table in front of the office.

Margaret Vogel adds them all up and turns them in to each store. A few weeks later, a check arrives in the church office. The money is then divided between the West Seattle, Senior Center of West Seattle and White Center food banks. Thank you, Margaret for making this possible. If you haven't been saving your receipts, we invite you to begin doing so. Ask friends and family to save them, too!

Men's Book Group



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOURTH MONDAY BOOK STUDY -- MAY 23, 7:00p.m. at the church!

This is *not* the women's book study group meeting.

Hosted by Lee Kramer and Dale Hindmarsh, we meet to discuss a common book each "Fourth Monday" in Hurst Lounge at Admiral Church. Books are chosen by the participants, discussion is both lively and informal. Refreshment, fun, and good conversation are served at each meeting. Watch the Sunday bulletin and the Admiral web site for information on book titles.

Dale

People often talk about having a "church family", but sometimes that turns out to be a lot more than you might think!

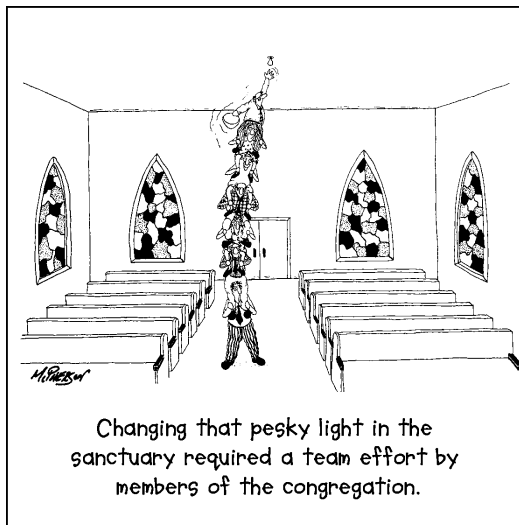
by Mary

I felt the closeness and warmth of the Admiral congregation the first time I came as a visitor. I was greeted at the door, during the service, and then again during coffee hour! I felt welcomed in a very heartfelt way, and that welcome stayed with me over the week. It made the choice to come to church the next time quite easy. I was looking for a church "home" in the West Seattle area, having just relocated from the East Coast. The warmth and hospitality of Admiral members as I met and got to know them, encouraged me to join the church as a member.

Then the axe fell! My "real" family members in West Seattle, who I had moved out here to be close to, had to return to Salt Lake City for work, seven months after I arrived. I was crushed, I was wobbly...what to do??? That is when the true value of the friendship and community of the Ad-

miral congregation was revealed to me. As part of this Body of Christ, I am not alone. With the support of Pastor Donald and all whom I have come to know and love here, I knew I could be strong enough to stay.

So thank you to all who have made me so welcome, and even more so, at HOME here at this wonderful church. I look forward to seeing the seasons round with all of you, hopefully for years to come.



Changing that pesky light in the sanctuary required a team effort by members of the congregation.

Jesus said, "And there is not a day when I will not be with you to the end of time."

- Matthew 28:20b, *The New Testament: a New Translation*, William Barclay (William Collins & Sons, 1968)

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.."



The Beat of the Spirit

Come to the Church Retreat, May 21 at Pilgrim Firs Camp, from 10a.m. -2:30 p.m. Of course you are welcome to come early or stay later, and enjoy the camp).

Our theme will be "The Beat of the Spirit" - Stephanie and Mary will lead us in a time of spiritual drumming. There will also be a time for basket-weaving (by popular demand!)

Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the entryway, or by calling the church office (206-932-2928). We need a final count of participants by May 4. (If you would like a ride, or can offer one, please note that on the sheet as well.)

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids, and maximum \$30 per family.



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(206) 932-2928

Return Service Requested