



# Admiral Tidings

November  
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](mailto: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 – *Meddling*

A woman was attending a tent revival meeting. Every time the preacher said something she agreed with she would shout out “Amen, brother, amen!”

“I believe that drinking demon liquor is a sin,” railed the preacher, and the woman offered her resounding “Amen, brother, amen!”

“I believe that using tobacco is a sin,” he offered.

“Amen, brother, amen!” she replied.

“I believe that gossip is a sin,” he shouted.

This time the woman said nothing. Someone leaned over and asked, “is something wrong?” to which she replied, “he done quit preaching and he started into meddling.”

We all have thresholds. Until we reach them we are in agreement, but once they are crossed the hairs on the back of our neck start to bristle.

This happens in church. While I don't think my style of preaching is anything like a tent revival preacher (!) I know that I'm just as capable at ruffling feathers. I apologize in advance if I offend anyone, but let's face it – over the years, there's a good chance that I'll say something “wrong” in everyone's book. After all, I cannot be a preacher and not share my thoughts.

Years ago, at another pastor's urging, I began to note on a calendar how often I preached on certain, potentially controversial topics. One

year at Waiola Church someone made the comment that I preached on homosexuality “all the time.” A quick look at the calendar showed that I had in fact preached on the topic – once, in fact. It was in response to General Synod's endorsement of same sex marriage. One other time, in the context of human rights I included gays in a list of several other groups. That was it. But for this one individual, apparently that was “all the time.”

There is no aspect of our living where our faith should not be relevant, and thus no issue to which our faith does not provide insight. That includes in the realm of politics. While I seldom agree with the views of those politicians who loudly wear their Christian faith on their sleeves, I applaud them for doing so.

Those of us who are Christian *should* have strong opinions on a wide range of moral issues, and that includes “political” ones. That does not mean – ever – that we as a church ought to be endorsing candidates, or telling people how to vote on an issue. But it *does* mean that sometimes we are called upon to make decisions and question realities based on our faith.

When those situations arise, I hope we will all have the courage to declare our faith, and the positions we take because of it.

*Donald*

## Christmas is Coming!

Time to get our donations ready for Christmas at the Adult and Family Center. We need men's and women's hats, gloves, underwear, stockings, scarves, and hygiene needs. If you want to give a money donation Laverne will shop.

Youth and other volunteers will be wrapping the packages of clothing in early December.



I am not willing to accept a reading of the Bible that considers an obscure line in Romans to be more defining of Christianity than the Sermon of the Mount.

- Barack Obama

Always try to do the right thing, unless your conscience tells you otherwise.

- Forrest Gump

## Scripture for November

**November 6, 2011**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

We are challenged to be at the ready to shine as agents of God's love, mercy, and compassion. In what ways do we encourage one another to be intentional about grounding our lives in Christian living? What does it mean to be ready to shine with the light of Christ?

**November 13, 2011**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7

Psalms 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

God's life-giving power let loose in the world unleashes abundant possibilities for justice, love, and compassion. How do you imagine you and the church are being called to take part in God's reign? How will you use God's gifts to you in faithful and extravagant service to God and neighbor?

**November 20, 2011**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

As this Season after Pentecost draws to a close, we celebrate God's love for the community of creation. We embrace the call of Christ to share the love of God, opening ourselves to

encountering Christ as we live out God's great compassion. What is God's call to you and the church through this week's scriptures? How might Christ's reign of justice, peace, and love become more visible through you?

**November 27, 2011**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

The readings for this week challenge us to remember how the Creator has worked in the world in the past and what God's promises for the future hold for us. While acknowledging our longing for signs of God's presence we are challenged to wait expectantly and to live with the knowledge that God's restorative presence comes in and through people. What brings us from despair to trust?



Adapted from *SeasonsFUSION - Season of Creation, Season after Pentecost 2, 2011* and *SeasonsFUSION - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2011-2012* © 2011 Wood Lake Publishing.



We have a lot of exciting things coming up for the youth groups! Between lunches together and awesome youth group nights, we're planning a lock-in on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. The youth group is also going to be helping out with the clothing drive for Christmas, so start stocking up on socks, underwear, and scarves (cause we're going to be wrapping machines!!) We're also planning a lunch fundraiser for the wrapping, once we've collected all of our gifts so

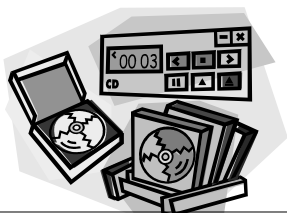
we can send the youth to Pilgrim First Midwinter camps (and hopefully the National Youth Event over the summer!) And of course we have to have a Christmas Party to celebrate the end of the year!

Hate to wrap your own presents? The youth are going to be hosting another wrapping presents and for a donation the youth will wrap them for you while you hang out, watch Christmas movies and drink hot chocolate and cider! What could be more relaxing right?

*Kristen Almgren, Youth Group leader*

### 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](http://www.admiralchurch.org). Click on the "Sermons" tab and follow the prompts.



### November Birthdays

- 1 Marilynn M.
- 7 Ann B.
- 8 Karin M.
- 9 Dale S.
- 12 Mark W. & Maryl B.
- 16 Doreen D.
- 27 Laura S.
- 30 Peggy R.

### Admiral Calendar and Other News

Remember to check [www.admiralchurch.org](http://www.admiralchurch.org) regularly for changes and updates to the calendar, as well as other news.



### Early worship

Are you an early bird? Do you have the occasional Sunday when you have things you want or need to do? Maybe you like worship in a small and intimate setting.

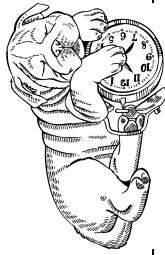
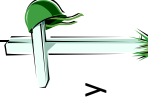

Whatever your reason, come and check out the 8:30a.m. worship service.



# November 2011

## Admiral Congregational Church

Please check the calendar at [www.admiralchurch.org](http://www.admiralchurch.org) for updates and changes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. Worship 4:30 & 7 Youth	7 6:30p.m. Lecture series—Laura Sutkus on Family Law	1 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney 7p.m. Book Group at Sandi Hanson's	2 7p.m. Choir	3 7p.m. Bible Study	4 Pastor Donald's day off	5 Pastor Donald's day off
13 8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. Worship 4:30 & 7 Youth	14 6p.m. Parish Care 6:30p.m. Teams 7:30p.m. Council	8 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	9 7p.m. Choir	10 7p.m. Bible Study	11 Pastor Donald's day off Veteran's Day	12  18 Pastor Donald's day off Youth Lock-in
20 <b>Food Bank Sunday</b> 8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. Worship NO Youth group	21 7p.m. Women's book group at home of Laura Sutkus	15 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney 7p.m. Men's Book	16 6p.m. Mission Potluck at Fauntleroy Church 7p.m. Choir	17 7p.m. Bible Study	25 Pastor Donald's day off	26 Pastor Donald's day off
27 8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. Worship Lunch & Advent "fair" after church	28 7p.m. Women's book group at home of Laura Sutkus	22 10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	23 7p.m. Choir	24 <b>Thanksgiving</b> 	25 Pastor Donald's day off	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

## Advent Fair

November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent, and we're going to celebrate with lunch and some fun activities.

The youth will be serving lunch, as a fund-raiser for their plans to go camping and/or to National Youth Event next summer. After lunch those who would like can make an Advent wreath or other crafts.



## Come and meet Douglas and Elizabeth Searles

Since 1997 Doug and Liz Searles have ministered in India, China, and Poland. Their work in Poland supports evangelism, ecumenical relations, reconciliation, and outreach in a land where Protestant believers are a marginalized minority.

A key aspect of their work is with the Roma people (formerly known as Gypsies), who have resided in Europe for over 500 years. Stigmatized, loathed and persecuted, these people face enormous human rights challenges. Doug and Liz have begun to build relations that will encourage capacity-building, advocacy, and other ecumenical efforts towards Roman acceptance, access, and inclusion.

Doug and Liz will be giving a presentation at Fautleroy UCC on **Wednesday, November 16 at 6p.m.** It's a potluck, so if you can bring a dish to share that would be great. But plan to come and hear this dynamic couple share about the ministries they are able to be a part of behalf of the United Church of Christ.

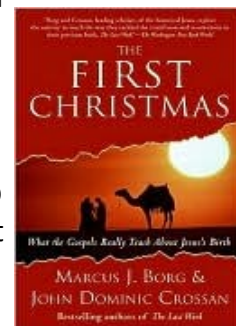


I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.

- Sir Winston Churchill

## Bible Study

New Bible study books are in. We will be reading and exploring *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The study starts November 3 and will run through January (it's a 9 chapter book, so we're starting early!) If you are interested in joining the group (we meet Thursdays at 7p.m.) you are very welcome. You need not attend every week - just come when you can. And, if you can't make it on Thursdays, but would like to read the book, you are welcome to pick up a copy. The cost is \$13 each; see Pastor Donald.



## Winter Art

We'd like to follow the popular theme of "creation" images in Hurst Lounge with a variety of winter scenes. So...find those paintings, photographs, sketches, etc. that depict winter in all its forms. Please bring these to Hurst Lounge by November 20th.



## 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!



"He follows your 'tweets.' That's how God always knows what you're doing."

# CHURCH COUNCIL

October 10, 2011

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

**Financial Secretary:** Dorothy reported that 41 Sundays are gone (78% of the year); we have received \$108,404 in pledges (86%) and \$8,189 unpledged (47%). \$10,148 has been deposited from the auction; still to come around \$8,113.50 from credit card sales.

**Treasurer:** Wayne reported (posted in the entryway) that while the end of September showed we were in the red by \$7,076.14, the auction income of approx. \$18,000 offsets that well.

**Pastor:** Donald brought up that we have been asked to participate again in an ad in the programs for the Seattle Men's Chorus. This ad is sponsored by several UCC churches. Motion was carried that we advertise in the program (money to come from Fellowship; cost to be less than \$100).

**Personnel:** Sonia reported on the hiring of Kristen Almgren as youth leader; there had been concern regarding health insurance. This can be revisited at a later date and time.

**Outreach:** Marilyn reported there are many organizations we have supported in the past, but may not be able to support in future. It is a difficult decision, but we do not have enough money to support all the groups we have in the past. Outreach Team would like some direction on who we help, and by how much, etc. We need to ask ourselves: "What is the outreach ministry of Admiral Church?" It encompasses a number of things, not least of which is providing "subsidized" rent to groups such as the preschool and various 12-step groups that meet here. We give hats and socks, etc., and the youth do outreach. Sonia

suggested we use baskets to take an additional offering on communion Sundays to support the pastor's discretionary fund; also, the suggestion that in December we invite folks to give to one or more of several agencies we would like to support.

Donald will meet with outreach before our next meeting and bring some suggestions back to our next council meeting. Marilyn reported that the CROP walk was great – we had 8 people from our church. We would like to do the Salvation Army gift-giving tree again this year.

**Trustees:** One of our (Yeasting fund) CD's has come due, and so we will no longer be getting 4.5%, but a mere 1%. Ron also reminded us we were going to set up a Savings account at the bank to hold restricted funds (memorial, building, etc.).

**Fellowship:** We worked with the membership committee for Pie Share Sunday on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Stewardship:** Different letters have gone out, to tithers; members who have not pledged for a time; and new members. Letters were personally addressed and signed. Stewardship Sunday is November 13.

**Christian Education:** Lecture series started last week and was successful. Glad to have Kristen on board with the youth. Sunday School is small but dedicated.

**New business:** Dennis S. has agreed to be associate moderator next year.

**Water leak:** Todd C. is willing to do some digging up and exploring work; he believes he can fix it if it is simple. Plants need to be moved; Ron is willing to help him.

## CROP Walk

We had wonderful weather for the walk along Alki Beach on October 2nd. It was a 3 mile walk by members of many different churches in West Seattle, drawing attention to the need of feeding the hungry.

Pat Wright's Gospel Choir sang 5 songs of inspiration as we gathered at the Alki UCC .

Admiral had 2 runners, John M. and Laura S.. Two youth who walked were Chad C. and Ariadna R.. Other walkers were Donald, Don, Marilyn, and Valerie (with her dog Dino!). Our group turned in \$250—thank you to those who pledged during Coffee Hour.

Some people call this a "Talk Walk" because you get to walk and talk with friends from the other churches in the area. (Gordon and Jenny M. send their greetings.)

*Marilynn Mi., Outreach team leader*



Everyone who has ever taken a shower has had an idea. It's the person who gets out of the shower, dries off, and does something about it that makes a difference.

- Nolan Bushnell

## 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 Johnson 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.

## Auction Update



The " little church that could" had a fabulous celebration at our dinner/ auction on Sept. 30th. As Pastor Donald said, "it's a fun way to be church." Bids flew up in the air, lots of laughter and banter was exchanged, delicious food was consumed and all of you helped the gross proceeds reach 18K. Many thanks to everyone who made this special evening possible.

*-David P., event coordinator*

## Men's Book Group



The Men's Book Group will be reading Howard Frank Mosher's *Northern Borders* for our Tuesday, November 15 discussion (7pm). Please come join us. We will meet in Hurst Lounge. The book is readily available in paperback.

## Women's Book Group



Women's Book Group meets **twice** this month at 7:00p.m.

**November 1** *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein Host: Sandi H.

**November 28** *Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown. Host: Laura S.

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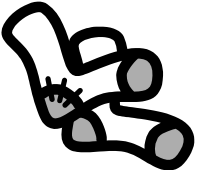
**We're on the Web!**  
[www.admiralchurch.org](http://www.admiralchurch.org)

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



# Keeping folks warm

It's time again to be thinking of folks who have it tougher than the rest of us in the coming winter weather. And it's time to share. For three weeks we invite you to bring some clean, new, clothing items to share with homeless people through the Adult and Family Center. Any and all items are welcome any time; cash gifts are also welcome.



**November 20: Undie Sunday** – underwear

**November 27: The Joy of Sox** – socks

**December 4: Topping It Off and Wrapping It Up** – scarves, hats, mittens

In addition, hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothbrush and tooth-paste) are welcome as well. Help make a difference in the coming winter months.



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Return Service Requested