

# Admiral Tidings

September  
2011

Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ

## Inside this issue:

Scriptures for April	2
Celebrate with Creation	2
Worship DVD's	3
Early Worship Schedule	3
Worship Report	3
Calendar Notice	3
Outreach Report	3
Bible Study	3
September Calendar	4
Letters to the Church	5
Council Minutes	6
Nude	7
Auction News	7
Book Group	7
Men's Book Group	7

back  
cover

## 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

Whether we have kids at home or not it's "back to school" time and time to think about the learning opportunities at our church.

### Children...

We're using a great new resource this year, from *Seasons of the Spirit*. Education and worship will be closely integrated, and children will be invited into Hurst Lounge during the second part of the worship service for a time of learning and integrating the morning scripture.

Please, invite your friends and family to come



to come and experience this exciting time of learning and worshipping together.

### Youth...

One of the huge strengths of this church are our youth. You may not always see them Sunday mornings, but they are a dedicated bunch who attend youth group, go to camp, help out with church activities, and share their lives and their faith together. Their dedication and numbers have grown to the point where we need to hire a youth leader. No, won't be full-time or anything like that, but someone who can devote their time and en-

ergy to leading this important part of our congregation. The council and personnel committee have been working together on this, along with representatives from the youth, and we hope to hire someone during September.

### Adults

This past year saw lots of people being a part of Bible study. The Tuesday morning group at the Kenney looks at the lectionary readings each week.

The Thursday night group (7p.m.) digs into a variety of topics and short-term studies. This year we will be looking at the lectionary readings for the Season of Creation, studying the book of Amos, exploring the use of storytelling in the Bible, and doing some other things. Please come and join us. And is there something you'd like to study? Let pastor Donald know.

Come, and learn, and be a part of it all!

*Pastor Donald*



## Celebrate with

### Creation

New and exciting things are coming to Hurst Lounge this fall. There will be opportunities for everyone to participate in creating. To get started we need your help. When you are outside, look for small natural items that you could gather and bring to church like pine cones, twigs, acorns, seed pods, branches, shells, feathers, leaves, or stones. When you are inside, look for items such as yarn, cloth scraps, string, paper scraps (both colored and textured), or small pieces of wood. A bowl or a bag on a counter might be a good reminder. We will begin creating on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Items may be put in a large box in the lounge throughout the month marked 'Celebrate With Creation.' Have fun!



-Dale

## Scripture for September

For September 2011 we are celebrating the Season of Creation. The four Sundays of the month will each celebrate Forest, Land, Wilderness, and River. In addition to opening the sacred text of our tradition – the Bible – we are invited to open ourselves to the sacred text of creation, trusting that God may be known to us as much in one small leaf as in one dotted “i” in the text.

### September 4 – Forest Sunday

Genesis 2:4b-22  
 Psalm 139:13-16  
 Acts 17:22-28  
 John 3:1-16

God is the one in whom all creation lives and moves and has its being. When have you had a sense of sacred presence in the forests of creation? When have you experienced an understanding of yourself as “intricately woven in the depths of the earth” (Psalm 139:15)? What practices help us remain connected to the community of creation that God so loves?

### September 11 – Land Sunday

Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16  
 Psalm 139:7-12  
 Romans 5:12-17  
 Matthew 12:38-40

The psalmist stood on the land, looked up to the heavens, and saw a great dome covering the land. We stand on the land, look up, and see a dot of light where the Hubble Telescope is searching into deep space. We stand on the land with the psalmist across several thousand years of human story and affirm a divine reality from which there is no hiding. When we truly listen in the presence of God’s Spirit, might we

also hear the land crying out for justice?

### September 18 – Wilderness Sunday

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20  
 Psalm 18:6-19  
 Romans 8:18-27  
 Matthew 3:13—4:2

Wilderness is a place that lies beyond human control. In the Hebrew Scriptures, it is called *midbar*; in Australia, *outback*. Here, humans experience a challenge to their capacity for survival and turn to a power beyond themselves. In Jesus’ relationship with God and in Paul’s teaching, wilderness – the place of desolation, barrenness, isolation – becomes the place where hope is alive and comfort is a gift of God. What does wilderness have to say about the good things God has in mind for all creation?

### September 25, 2011 – River Sunday

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17  
 Psalm 104:27-33  
 Revelation 22:1-5  
 Matthew 28:1-10

Step into John’s vision in Revelation: put your foot into the water of life and feel refreshing coolness; pluck fruit from the tree of life and taste the healing goodness; open your ears and hear the sound of the river singing us into renewed relationship with all creation. How do we live into that vision so that all may put a foot in, reach up, be healed, and eat? What restoration might be made possible by cooperating with the community of creation? What might we offer to God that says, “Let this be a new time with us and with your creation”?

Adapted from *SeasonsFUSION – Season of Creation, Season after Pentecost 2, 2011* © 2011 Wood Lake Publishing.

### Worship News

It's all about aqua! Welcome to worship in September when we will celebrate Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence. The Sundays of the month will focus on forests, land, wilderness/outback, and rivers. Aqua, the blue-green color of the planet Earth sets a tone and mood for a season of discovery and growth in relationship with the Creator and with each other. The liturgy will concentrate of the long journey of the Hebrew people through the Wilderness toward a new land, and a new life. Nature will adorn the Sanctuary, and Hurst Lounge will exhibit artworks from congregation members that celebrate Earth's richness and harmony. Come and discover and enjoy!

*David Pelton, worship chair*



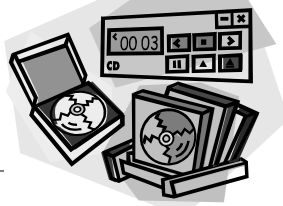
### Outreach Report

We will assist Alki UCC with Family Promise at the end of September. I will have sign up sheets for parts of two dinners and overnight hosts. The first two families have found housing, so we are serving new families.

*Marilynn, outreach chair*

### 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.



### 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.



### Youth News

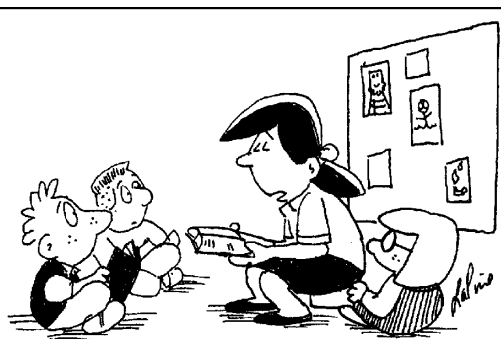
With summer behind us it's time to start the Youth Group again. The first gathering will be **September 11** at 7p.m. at the church.

We also have plans to go canoeing after worship on September 18.

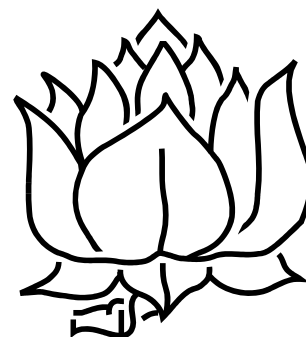
Plans are underway to hire a youth leader; please keep the search process in your prayers! We hope to hire someone by October 1.

### Bible Study

Thursday evening Bible Study begins September 1 at 7p.m. Anyone and everyone is invited. For the first 4 weeks this year we will look at the lectionary passages for upcoming Sundays in the Season of Creation. After that...well, come and find out!




"No, Henry. 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' is not another one of the pastor's fish stories."



# September 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
<b>Ongoing groups at Admiral:</b>						
Sunday 8-9p.m. AA	Thursday 7-8p.m. NA			1	2	3
Monday 6:30-7:30a.m. SAA	Friday 7-9p.m. Lucky Ladies AA			7p.m. Bible Study	Pastor Donald's day off	Pastor Donald's day off
2nd Tuesday 7p.m. Admiral Neighborhood Ass'n	Saturday 8:30-10:30a.m. Al-Anon					
Wednesday 8-9p.m. AA	Saturday 7-8:30p.m. NA					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. worship	 12 6p.m. Parish Care 6:30p.m. Teams 7:30p.m. Council	10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	7p.m. Choir	7p.m. Bible Study	Pastor Donald's day off	Pastor Donald's day off
11	13	14	15	16	17	17
8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. worship 7p.m. Youth group	10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	7p.m. Choir	7p.m. Bible Study	Pastor Donald's day off	Pastor Donald's day off	Pastor Donald's day off
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. worship Youth canoe trip after	10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney	7p.m. Choir	7p.m. Bible Study	Pastor Donald's day off	Pastor Donald's day off
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m. worship	7p.m. 1st book group 7p.m. 2nd book group at Hurst Lounge	10a.m. Bible Study at the Kenney			<b>30 AUCTION</b> Doors open 5:30 Dinner at 6:30	

**As part of our study of Marcus J. Borg's *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, the Bible study group wrote letters to the church, imagining they were from God...**

**Dear Admiral Church:** Where to begin? You are such a strong church, and you have so much potential. Sometimes, I fear, you miss that. Your history is full of ups and downs. If nothing else that probably means I'm not done with you yet! There is a ministry to be done by you, so DO IT! You will probably never be rich in money, but Oh! how rich you can be in things that count: community and caring and welcoming. I notice that many of you have been coming to Bible Study. I take my hat off to you. Never stop exploring my word, questioning and wondering and dreaming! Have faith to move mountains of injustice, just a spoonful at a time. Be the best of who you can be, and know that I will *never* give up on you.

*love, God*

**To the Church**

People of God –  
but who are those who compose my church?  
Enter the door being held open for you:  
the smile is returned,  
the greetings warm and welcoming.  
Another quietly passes by papers in hand  
not seeing, preoccupied,  
focused on someone across the room.  
A hand is extended  
words of friendly inquiry;  
which one is the church?  
Another time, another place –  
but still the church, the people,  
the church.

Sharing the title of one book:  
men, women, generations divided  
but interest in truth  
joins pursuit of more  
inquiring - smiling,  
but always seeking.  
Which of you is my church?  
What describes the majority?  
Each one different – unique –  
content and disturbed –  
quiet and garrulous –  
but, ALL belong - ALL past and  
future - ALL beloved.

*love, God*

**Dear Admiral Church:** I am delighted about your sign outside the church, that you do not reject anyone. It could be billboard size, but nevertheless I'm pleased that more people know who you are. I am not delighted that the choir stopped singing; I'm never tired of angelic tunes from this angel chorus playing around me all day. I am delighted to see you growing. I have some angels hovering over your church that whisper "grow, grow, 24/7." How many members do you want?

*yours, God*

**To Admiral Church:** Continue to discern and discover my love for you. Be open to new forms of communities that seek to do justice, as I have shared with you and not that of the empires of the world. My love is everlasting and beyond comprehension. I embrace all of you and I ask that you do the same. Everyone's needs are similar: food, shelter, clothing, but most importantly love and kindness.

*love, God*

**Admiral Church,** hear me speak to you in love. I know you fall short of being perfect, but I know you are trying, thinking of those who are ill and depressed. I will be there in your prayers.

Open your doors to those who need me. I will give you strength to care for them. I give you tolerance for those who need it.

*love, God*

**To travelers and seekers of my truth at Admiral Church:**

Know that I am with you and my love for you endures all things. Have courage and faith in your journey as a community of followers. I have blessed your community for over 100 years because I am pleased with your fortitude and obedience, yet there is more to do and greater depths to your journey together. Use your hospitality to bring others to my table, serve with an open heart and create fairness and a sense of justice as you walk together.

*love, God*

**Dear Admiral Church:**

You represent what I wish for my chosen, reflecting a vision of my church worldwide, encompassing what Jesus preached when he was with you: to love and be loved, lifting hearts, welcoming all, soothing the spirit of those in need and sharing my love, bringing the joy of knowing ME.

*love, God*

## First Book Group

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

Next meeting will be September 26, 7p.m., at Sonia Baker's, where we will discuss books read over the summer and make plans will be made for the coming year.



## Second Book Group

The 2nd book study group will be discussing *Blind Your Ponies* by Stanley Gordon West, a wonderful telling of human struggle for meaning and joy in spite of loss, a vision of living deeply in the midst of Montana's love for all things basketball.

Come September 26 at 7p.m. in Hurst Lounge for lively conversation and fellowship.



### ADMIRAL CONGREGATIONAL UCC

#### Church Council Minutes

August 8, 2011

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

August meeting was held along with a barbecue at Donald and Don's. We had a shorter meeting, but did discuss three main items:

#### Youth Leader

Pastor Donald discussed the growing need to hire a leader for the church's vibrant youth group. He proposed an eight hours per week position at \$15 per hour. Laura moved "that we direct the Personnel and Christian Education teams along with a couple youth to develop a job description and define the duties of youth leader, to be brought to Council for approval, and to inform the congregation before hiring." The motion passed.

#### Capital Improvement Projects

Laura described the large hole in the walkway pavement at the front of the church. She requested this be given high priority. Lee is looking at costs. Laura also recommended improvements to the restrooms be given high priority.

#### Personnel Committee Report

Regarding the \$62 per month increase in Keith Terhune's Group Health insurance policy, Sonia reported that the committee recommends splitting the additional expense equally between Keith and the church. This came as a motion from the Personnel Team and was approved. It will be retroactive to July 1st.

#### Auction

David said that early planning and preparations are going very well.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:50p.m.*

### We are Family – a community lecture series

...begins in October at Admiral Church. A joint effort with A Child Becomes Pre-school, the monthly lectures will be presented by respected, local professionals. Topics will include positive discipline, family law, brain dance (infant development), bullying, sex-drugs-kids, and family nutrition. The March event will showcase local youth summer programs and activities. Presented as an outreach in our community, each lecture falls on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Cost is minimal (mostly \$5) and anyone involved with youth and family would benefit from a wealth of information. Lecture series brochures are available at church. Thanks to Matt Trinneer for our colorful logo and to Patti Wunder for lots of work on our brochure. Contact Laura Sutkus, Jean Hindmarsh, David Pelton or Stephanie Trinneer for further information.

## Nude

Okay, I was a little reluctant to write this, because I don't want to inspire anyone to try their "corrective genius" on the readerboard and create any other fanciful flights. However, it's really hard not to pay a little attention to something that happened in July.

Our quiet readerboard was simply supposed to read "God loves you, and so do we." However, in the late hours of an evening or the wee hours of a morning someone(s) had some fun and changed it to read "God loves you nude, and so do we." Ah, what a difference one word can make!

I'm guessing it was just a neighborhood prankster or two, and the sign is back to its original state. But it did get me thinking, if just for a moment.

After all, God *does* love us nude. And clothed. God loves us young, old, tall, short, gay, straight, mar-

ried, divorced...and in every way we exist. It's a wonderful part of the extravagant welcome we try to practice in the United Church of Christ.

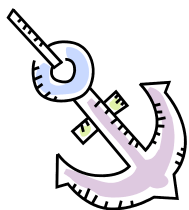
I kind of like the slightly "tamer" message we have now, but I also like being provoked sometimes to remember that God loves me every way I am.

Blessings,

Donald



## Dinner/Auction Party



Mark your calendars and buy your tickets to our "Float Your Boat" dinner/auction on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at South Seattle Community College. Doors open at 5:30p.m. with dinner at 6:30.

Auction items, to date, include accommodations at Kona in Hawaii, in South Africa, Palm Springs, and Tucson. Or, you can buy that perfect gift basket for your Aunt Freda! All congregation members are asked to use your donor sheets to solicit items for the auction. Gift cards for stores and restaurants are very popular. Businesses that you frequent are most likely to say yes to a request for a donated item. Just ask! (Also, Martha Stewart says it's appropriate to "re-gift" if the cause is non-profit. So if you've received something recently that you won't use, think about donating

it.) Small items or theme items are still needed for the gift baskets.

We've just heard that the sommelier at El Gaucho is donating some terrific wine.

We need your support to make this party a huge success. Donations will be received and tickets sold until September 25<sup>th</sup>. See Peggy, Sandi, David or Janet to purchase tickets, or call 206 932-8662.

See you there with your smile on!

David Pelton, event coordinator



Admiral Congregational  
United Church of Christ

4320 SW Hill St.  
Seattle WA 98116

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



## Upcoming news...

### Children

Christian education time for children begins September 4, during the 10:30a.m. worship time.

### Youth

Youth group begins September 11 at 7p.m., and there will be a canoe trip after the 10:30 worship service on September 18.

### Auction

Our annual church dinner and auction are on September 30 at 5:30p.m. (dinner at 6:30).

### Lecture series

Beginning on the first Monday of October we will be sponsoring a monthly lecture series with A Child Becomes preschool. Check out the website for more information.

**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.."



Admiral Congregational United Church of Christ  
4320 SW Hill St.  
Seattle, WA 98116

(206) 932-2928

[www.admiralchurch.org](http://www.admiralchurch.org)

Return Service Requested