Like many of you, I had a hard time concentrating on Wednesday, Nov. 10th. Finally, at 4:30 PM, I gave up. I’d chucked my sermon out the window; I had tons of post-vacation emails to which to respond, but I knew the only conversation that was going to get me into any kind of better space was a focused, lengthy one with God. So, I made my way to the sanctuary to pray without distraction. Usually, when I do this, I sit facing the large window. This time, I sat on the steps, facing the pews, thinking about all of you and the variety of emotions swirling in our congregation, country and world.

For a few minutes, sitting in the quiet of a space, where we feel the Holy, worked. But then…I started looking at that large stone wall at the back of the sanctuary. You know – the one with all the glass blocks arranged into crosses. It’s a neat focal point in the sanctuary -- beautiful in a different way from our large window on the world.

Architectural design interests me, and so as I sat looking at it, my prayer was interrupted. First, I noticed that the arrangement of glass blocks isn’t vertically symmetrical. There is one horizontal row of crosses that has extra glass blocks in it. That let me to wonder why that was. Surely, it wasn’t a mistake. So I counted the blocks – 71 in all. “Is there some significance to that number?” I asked myself, thinking back to Judy Pickens’ book on our church. But I couldn’t recall anything. That’s when wonderment led to annoyance: “There has to be a reason for the pattern,” I thought. I crossed my eyes and tried to discover whether all the crosses formed some sort of picture together – a picture in which those extra glass blocks was essential. “If it’s there; I can’t see it,” I thought.

All of this occupied me for a good 15 minutes as I felt the anxiety in me increase. I like answers and reasons for why things are the way they are, for why things turn out the way they do. There’s satisfaction and comfort in answers. Answers tell us things we didn’t know; they lead us to be better informed in moving forward. They give us direction from which to reverse engineer solutions (or at least, what we hope will be solutions).

Of course, the anxiety I felt directed at that sanctuary wall wasn’t about the wall at all. It was about my inability to know the answers right now as to why our nation is so deeply divided, why fear and hatred have come to dominate not just one group of people but all of us, why Christianity has come to be dominated by those that would allow their principles to shape their faith rather than look for their faith to shape their principles (and I’m not just talking about one political party here, but all of us – in different ways). My anxiety was fueled by the worry I feel for and from LGBTQ friends, Muslim friends, immigrant friends, female friends, and so many more.

Nobody likes feeling like they’re in a state of chaos with their feet knocked out from under them. If you’re feeling this way, I’m sorry I don’t have any neatly packaged answers to hand to you.

What I do have to hand you right now, however, is this assurance: God’s awfully good at taking chaos and making something beautiful. “In the beginning,” the good book says, “the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind swept over the face of the waters. Then, God said, “Let there be Light”; and there was light.

Israel’s structure of government and way of being with one another was changing. Much anxiety was felt, and a world of assurance was needed. And so someone had the brilliant idea to retell the creation story – to remind the people of who God is and what can be created with God: order out of chaos, beauty, and blessing…incredible, smiling-to-your-ears blessing in the hand of God.

It’s a good story in which to dwell these days, trusting that answers and order will come, one day at a time, to those determined to together create blessing. “Oh, God, as one of your faithful in a desperate place once said, ‘I do believe, but help my unbelief’ (Mark 9:24). Take my eyes off the wall.

-Pastor Leah
**CALENDAR**

**Friday – November 18**  
7:00  Sweet, Sweet Music – F. Hall

**Saturday – November 19**  
3:00  Pastor Leah Bilinski’s Installation – Sanc./F. Hall

**Sunday – November 20**  
Wreaths Must Be Picked Up  
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library  
10:00  Worship  
11:30  Worship Ministry – Fish Bowl

**Monday – November 21**  
8:30  Altar Guild

**Tuesday – November 22**  
10:00  Caring Ministry – Library  
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library

**Wednesday – November 23**  
10:00  Pageant Practice – F. Hall

**Thursday – November 24**  
Office and LPS Closed

**Friday – November 25**  
Office and LPS Closed

**Sunday – November 27**  
First Sunday of Advent  
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library  
10:00  Worship  
11:30  Hanging of the Greens

**Monday – November 28**  
Congregator Mailed Out  
8:30  Altar Guild  
6:30  Sisters – Goldfine home

**Tuesday – November 29**  
9-12  Gingerbread cookies make and bake - kitchen

**Wednesday – November 30**  
9:45  Staff – Fish Bowl

**Thursday – December 1**  
6:15  Bells  
7:15  Choir

**Friday – December 2**  
5-9  Set up for Pageant – Sanc.

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**As an open and affirming congregation, the members and staff of Fauntleroy Church are committed to fostering community among people of all races, cultures and sexual orientations.**

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**WEST SEATTLE’S ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR**  
“Spend less. Give more. Love all.”

*Hosted by Fauntleroy Church  
Sponsored by Admiral, Alki, and Fauntleroy  
United Churches of Christ*

**December 10, 2016, 10 AM-2 PM**

*We’re doing a new thing this season! To live out our Advent Conspiracy theme to “Worship fully, Spend less, Give more, and Love All,” Fauntleroy will host its first Alternative Giving Fair! An Alternative Giving Fair offers a different way to celebrate and give at Christmas and during other holiday celebrations that will provide lasting joy well beyond the holiday season. It’s a community-wide invitation to make donations to local and international charities and nonprofits in honor or memory of friends, family, neighbors, coaches, teachers, caregivers—anyone!—during the holidays. It’s an event that encourages acts of compassion over conspicuous consumerism.*

**Alternative Giving Fairs** come in many shapes and sizes, but share some common goals:

- To create a central holiday “shopping” experience that celebrates community and offers a compassionate response to those most vulnerable in our area and the wider world,
- To provide critical awareness and support for local charities and nonprofits—the organizations and people working hard to end injustices and world suffering,
- To offer a fun alternative to the annual stress of holiday shopping and the accumulation of “stuff”,
- To support sustainable living and care for the earth.

**Our Invitation!** We’ll dress Fellowship Hall for the holidays then open our hearts and doors to the whole community on December 10 from 10am-2pm. Come give “gifts” that will keep on giving--donations to Westside Baby, local food banks, Heifer Project, West Seattle Helpline, Arts West, The Kenney, the YMCA, the historical society, animal rescue organizations, and more! Look for more details to come!  

**Karyn**

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**FREE COMMUNITY MEAL**  
The Hall @ Fauntleroy will be a lively place on Thanksgiving Day when Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes hosts its 18th annual free community meal. The sit-down dinner of turkey and all the trimmings will run noon until 3 PM and is open to anyone who needs a hot meal or just a warm and festive place to be on the holiday. You’re sure to find familiar faces in the room.

Volunteers can give a hand in one of three ways:

- Offer to help for an hour to welcome guests, pour coffee, or simply mingle with folks. Call 206-932-1059 or find the sign-up form at [http://signup.com/go/gDKr8V](http://signup.com/go/gDKr8V).
- Donate socks, blankets, or warm coats (child and adult sizes).
- Donate a dessert.

The hosts will welcome donated items 9 AM - 2 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at their office in Sodo (4101 Airport Way S.) or 10 AM - noon on Thanksgiving morning at the Hall @ Fauntleroy (south end of the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center).

**Judy Pickens**

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**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
Again this year, our Chancel Choir will perform two concerts in December with the Peace Lutheran Choir; on Sat., Dec. 17, 7:30 PM and Sun., Dec. 18, 4:00 PM. The choirs will be singing new arrangements of gorgeous songs such as “See, Amid the Winter’s Snow” by Dan Forrest and “Star of the Morning” by Gabriel Faure. They’ll also reprise some newly revised songs from the Wonder Cantata, which I composed in 2011. Instrumentalists will add to the soundscape with hand-bells, violin, percussion, flutes, guitars and drums. And, we’ll sing plenty of carols.

**Bron**
SAVE THE DATE! SWEET, SWEET MUSIC RETURNS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!

Ah, yes, Sweet, Sweet Music is back! For those of you who are new to Fauntleroy Church, Sweet, Sweet Music began in 2008 as a series of community concerts held in Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from the concerts contributed to the mission of the church. We featured music from local musicians, especially those from the church. Some shows had a musical theme (such as “The Man Show”) and others featured the Fauntleroy Fledglings (our kids) or a talent showcase, featuring many of our home-grown Fauntleroy Church singers, dancers and instrumentalists.

Music Director, Bronwyn Edwards, took a hiatus through 2015-2016 while she was in school, but Bron is feeling ready to bring Sweet, Sweet Music back for your entertainment pleasure!

The show’s duration is about 90 minutes and refreshments (usually home-backed desserts and coffee, tea and juice) are included in the admission.

Our first concert is coming up on Friday, Nov. 18. Not only is Sweet, Sweet Music back, but so is our own Fauntleroy Church gal-group “Trillium Soul!” Sarah Ackers, Betsy Boyer and Bronwyn Edwards are singing and playing together again after a couple of years’ break and we are very excited to be singing our favorite blues, gospel and contemporary music, joined by our special guest Irene Stewart on violin. We are all huge fans of the Wallin’ Jennys and love to sing some of the Jennys songs, as well as many other favorite songs by songwriters like Mary Chapin Carpenter and Emmylou Harris.

Our Nov. 18 concert is titled “Wine, Women and Song.” All are welcome, with a suggested donation of $10. Wine, coffee and tea will be served. All donations of desserts or finger foods are gladly accepted! We are hoping to entertain a large crowd, so we are pre-selling reserved seating for this concert. Tickets will be available in the church office (see Jackie), or you can email Bron at bron@sirensongweb.com to reserve your seats. Tickets will also be available at the door. We encourage you to bring your friends and family and help us to make this fundraising show a stellar success!

Our next Sweet, Sweet Music is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 10, 2017 and we will feature an all-church Talent Show.

LEAH’S INSTALLATION

COME ONE, COME ALL!

On Saturday, November 19, at 3:00 PM, we will gather in the sanctuary to officially install Pastor Leah as our senior pastor in a special worship service. Rev. Mike Denton, Conference Minister, will be preaching, and clergy from the Pacific Northwest Conference will join us to celebrate and rejoice in this long-awaited installation.

Childcare is provided during the service for children in kindergarten and younger.

A reception will be held in Fellowship Hall following the service. Come and celebrate! Sarah Ackers
Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 AM
Office Hours: 8:30-3:30 PM Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-2:30 Fri.
Senior Minister
Rev. Leah Bilinski
Music Director
Bronwyn Edwards
Christian Ed Director
Karyn Frazier
Little Pilgrim School Director
Lorrie Cook
Wedding Coordinator
Rosina Geary
Volunteer & Engagement Coor.
Sarah Ackers
Youth Leader
Kristen Almgren
Nursery Supervisor
Carol Smith
Custodian
Erin Vogelpohl
Financial Assistant
Bonnie Beerman
Financial Assistant
Pat Gedney
Office Manager
Jackie Gould

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

OVER THE FENCE

PEOPLE NEWS
Dorothy Talbert is now back at The Kenney, in skilled nursing after spending 2-1/2 weeks in the hospital. She is looking forward to returning to her apartment as soon as possible.
Lyn Kratz underwent an appendectomy on Nov. 4. She is recuperating at home.

THANKS FOR HELPING!
After the big rainout on Saturday, thank you to the following people for donating their time to clean up the church parking lot and grounds on Sunday, following worship: Marilynn & Al Bernahl, Kathy Thornton, Bob Code, Ken Beres, Terry Gaddis, Dick Finnie, Dean & Carolyn Tucker and Tami Schendel. The heavy fall harvest of leaves has a way of plugging our drainage system if not cleared out.

HOW ABOUT DOING AN EXTRA DOZEN?
As you’re doing your holiday baking, please consider putting aside a dozen or two to bring to church so that they can be served at the Advent Festival or at the holiday season coffee hours. Thank you! Carolyn

SPEAKING OF COOKIES...
Can you help make Gingerbread cookies? We need bakers to cut and bake cookies in the church kitchen on Tuesday, Nov. 29, from 9 AM to Noon. You can come for an hour or for 3 hours. Dough will be provided. We have cookie cutters but could use a few more rolling pins. If you can help, please contact Carolyn Tucker or Sarah Ackers.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY SERIES
Did you know that we have a Bible study at 9 AM on Sunday mornings in the Library? Mark Olson and Dick Finnie are currently holding that space with their hospitality and are keeping the conversation going. They would love to have you grab some coffee and join them!
And the timing’s perfect! Mark is about to roll out a study on Nov. 20 called: “Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation.” This DVD-formatted course is presented as “a comprehensive, book-by-book analysis of the Bible from the fascinating perspective of literature and narrative.” Each 30-minute segment is hosted by religious scholar and teacher, Craig R. Koester, who “guides you through ancient stories, filled with complex characters, hidden meanings, and powerful life lessons.” Mark and Dick hope to start each Sunday gathering with a different segment, beginning with the Hebrew Scriptures, and then enjoy some time for discussion.
And the timing is really perfect because in the New Year, we will have an Adult Ed. opportunity to study the gospels with Rev. Bob Atkinson (Pastor Leah’s dad) for a Saturday morning series! “Reading Biblical Literature” would be very timely preparation for and introduction to that course!
Thanks to Mark and Dick for their warm-hearted leadership of the Sunday Bible Study! Karyn