ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR THANKS!

Well, we did it! Our first annual West Seattle Alternative Giving Fair was so wonderful. I think the 16 non-profits who attended were looking forward to this early Christmas gift as much as we were. They loved the idea of giving in this different way, they loved that they were getting some time to really connect with people about their good work, and they LOVED our Fauntleroy hospitality and welcome.

Here are some of their thanks:

- “I love this idea of providing for an alternative to the commercialism of the season!”
- “This was the neatest event! Tucker and I met so many nice people.”
- “Thanks so much for the vision and opportunity!”
- “I am so moved by the generosity of the donors—and impressed by the organization of the event…It was a joy to be there, and especially to meet everyone at Fauntleroy UCC.”

And here are some of mine:

Thank you to the Service and Outreach Ministry for supporting and shepherding this new ministry of service this Christmas season. Many people who came to the fair said they’d been searching for a way to positively respond to the anxiousness and anticipation in the air this year. They were looking for a way to give differently and hope-fully. When we were talking about this event way back in September, how could we have imagined it would so perfectly intersect this heartfelt searching of others?

Thank you to Maria Groen, Bill Zoellner, Molly Seaverns, Juliet Jones, Judy Pickens, and Pat Gedney for being the first group to light up about this project. Pat Gedney (God bless her) helped us take her Art and Gift Fair template of graciousness and turn it into the Alternative Giving Fair. A good thing created out of another good thing. Then Maria, Bill, Molly, Judy and Juliet added graciousness on graciousness with creative conversation about giving plans, inspired artwork for posters and articles, a children’s craft center and community outreach.

And graciousness was contagious! Soon both the Christian Ed and Parish Life Ministries joined heart and hands with Service and Outreach. Thanks to Bill Zoellner, Chris Mahar, and Kristen Almgren for sustainable craft ideas, Paul Johnson and Greg Dirks for coordinating set up/clean up, and for being go-to resources for those occasional glitches. Thanks to Billy McElroy for doing the heavy work of preparing the hall. Thanks to Kari Holsberry, Baiba Morris and JoAnn Anderson for warm soup, amazing hot chocolate and sweet holiday treats for the volunteers and community. Thanks to Steve Garret who talked to so many of his networks about the fair that groups kept calling to participate! Thanks to all of you, the Christmas angels behind the scenes. Thanks to Mary Code, Liann Sundquist, Allison Wetzel, Kathy Thornton, Vera Holte, Zoe Zoellner, Bron Edwards, Cathy and Ella Friis-Alfers, Cate Sawyer and friends, and everyone else who greeted, baked, and volunteered wherever they were needed.

And especially, thanks to young and older who gave from the heart. The gifts from our first West Seattle Alternative Giving Fair totaled almost $9,000(!), which is really priceless amounts of love, food, emergency support, companionship, care for creation, and resources for a healthier, kinder world. And it really is a gift that could keep on giving. This March we’d like to go out of the sanctuary and into the community to serve others on Sunday. I told the agencies at the fair that we were grateful they came to our “house” and wondered if we could come to theirs in the spring. They said “YES! PLEASE!” So…..are we up for more neighbor love, care, companionship, and kinder world work, Fauntleroy Church? Of course, we are….stay tuned!

Karyn
January 1, 2017

Happy New Year

9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship – Guest Preacher Commination

Monday – January 2
Office Closed

Tuesday – January 3
LPS Classes Resume
8:30 Altar Guild
9:00 Fix-It Group

Wednesday – January 4
9:45 Staff Meeting – Fish Bowl
5:30 Parish Life Ministry - Library

Thursday – January 5
7:00 Personnel Com. – Fish Bowl
7:30 Choir

Friday-Sunday, January 6-8
Jr. High Mid-Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Firs Camp
Friday – Sunday, January 13-15
Sr. High Mid-Winter Retreat at Pilgrim Firs Camp

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.

Caring Ministry

THE GIFT OF LIFE
Mark your Calendars!

On Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 the Blood Works Northwest bus will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on 35th Avenue (7000 35th Avenue SW), from 1 PM to 7PM. This could be an opportunity to save someone’s life in our community. You can drop in or call the church to set up an appointment – 206-935-0358.

Blood Works Northwest was previously known, for 70 years, as the Puget Sound Blood Bank, but they have changed their name because they touch and save lives far beyond Puget Sound. They now serve almost 90 hospitals in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. This blood center provides our community with medical, lab and transfusion services and they are one of the few blood centers in our country doing research on blood biology, transfusion, thrombosis and blood disorders. They are “not-for-profit” and depend on our community support. This is our chance to come together with churches in West Seattle to support this vital resource.

Bobbie Reeves, Caring Ministry

Blood Drive

COME TO THE MENS’ RETREAT!
Dear Conference Folk,

This is a reminder to sign up for the Conference Men’s Retreat at Pilgrim Firs, which is being held Feb. 3-5, 2017. (With a day of silence opportunity on February 2).

The theme is “Finding the Wisdom We Need” with Program Leader, Rev. Mike Denton. Here are some words Mike uses to describe the theme: There is a difference between being an elder and being older. Every-one can get older but an elder is chosen by a community to share the stories, wisdom, faith, love and hope that has been shared with them for the sake of the community. Past systems of eldership were dismantled by self-perpetuating systems based on privilege as opposed to the needs of the community. They were dismantled by systems of power that were threatened by the foresight and hindsight of wisdom. This retreat will be a discussion about how we might choose the elders we need and be open to being the elders our communities need.

The retreat is an opportunity to engage with other men in meaningful discussion, worship and song, and reflection on life’s transitions. The schedule allows for sharing as well as solitude. Go to http://pilgrim-firs.org/ to register and click on Events in the banner. Then scroll down to the Men’s Retreat. Let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings, Rick Russell, member of the planning team of Prospect Congregational UCC.

NEW PEW PADS
The black folder pew pads, used to record Sunday worship attendance, are a thing of the past. The Visitor to Member Task Force, with the blessing of the Worship Ministry, had new pew pads created that do not require a folder. Fill them out and then pass them down the pew and back again to learn the names of those sitting next to you. We hope that the new, easy to spot, forms will allow us to connect with our visitors more quickly. Thanks to Jackie for creating the new forms!

Sarah for the Task Force

2017 FLOWER CALENDAR
Thank you to everyone who brought flowers for the narthex counter during 2016! What a simple way to make the entrance to our church beautiful and welcoming. The 2017 flower calendar is now available on a clipboard on the Get Involved Table. Please sign up to bring flowers for a Sunday when there will be blooms in your yard or for a date when you want to honor or remember someone special in your life.

Sarah

2017 FLOWER CALENDAR

COMING SOON

SUNDAY MORNINGS

F Y I FOR YOUR INFO
CHURCH FINANCES

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

As we near the end of the calendar year, it might be time for you to review your tax-year giving to Fauntleroy Church. Your contribution should be postmarked, or be in our hands, by Dec. 31 (which is a Saturday, office closed) for you to be credited with the contribution in 2016.

Giving reports will be run in January for your tax return. Email me at treasurer@fauntleoryucc.org if you would like to know where you stand on your pledge or need other information.

Jeff VanGilder, Treasurer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JANUARY ADULT ED CLASS--
THE NEW TESTAMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

Rev. Bob Atkinson, Leah’s dad and a UCC minister, will be teaching an introductory course on the New Testament from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on five consecutive Saturday mornings, starting Jan. 21. We will read the biblical text and a book entitled, *An Introduction to the New Testament* by Raymond Brown, focusing on the following aspects each week:

- **Jan. 21:** Introductory material, Jesus and the prophetic heritage, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the canonization of the New Testament.
- **Feb. 4:** New Testament letters, Paul’s life and thought, and seven letters believed to have been written by Paul.
- **Feb. 11:** Pseudonymity and the Deutero-Pauline writings including Hebrews.
- **Feb. 18:** Catholic Epistles and Revelation, the historical Jesus, and Jewish and Christian writings pertinent to the New Testament.

Through the readings, questions, and group discussion, we will enhance our understanding and use of the New Testament for faith development and service to God, neighbor, and creation and explore its applications to current issues.

The $30 fee for the course covers the cost of the textbook, other materials, and a continental breakfast. If two people would like to share a book, the cost is $25/person ($50 total). As always, scholarships are available upon request. To ensure receipt of the textbooks on time, please sign-up and pay for the class no later than January 15th. There is a sign-up sheet at the Get Involved Table or call or email Mary Code to register and arrange for payment, codemary55@gmail.com; 206-932-6301. To honor Rev. Atkinson’s commitment of time, we ask that you strive to attend all five sessions, but understand if some absences are necessary due to prior commitments.

Everyone is welcome and childcare will be provided if needed!

Adult Education Committee

2017 CONFIRMATION

We’re excited to offer a Confirmation class for youth in 8th-9th grades (older youth are also welcome), beginning Jan. 22 - June 4th. Parents and youth, if you are interested in Confirmation, please plan to attend an orientation meeting after worship on Jan. 8th in the Fellowship Hall Lounge. We’ll talk about what Confirmation is and isn’t, mentors, the schedule through June, and any questions you might have.

Confirmation is a time when youth reflect about bigger faith themes: God, Jesus, Spirit, the UCC, worship and sacraments. The arch of the Confirmation journey moves towards having young people put words around what they believe about their faith at this time in their lives. Faith journeys are life-long, and beliefs change as we mature, face difficulties, celebrate milestones, and engage in mission and worship with others. Confirmation is one step on this journey when youth decide how they will take responsibility for keeping the promises parents offered at their baptisms. Faith journeys are also about relationships and happen in community. We will covenant as a congregation to offer spiritual support for each youth along the way and beyond.

Another meaningful piece of Confirmation is having a mentor. Youth and mentors keep the confirmation conversations and support going outside of class, as well. We hope many of you will say “Yes!” if asked to be a mentor and that all of you will pray for and cheer on our 8th and 9th grade confirmands this year!

Karyn

The Fauntleroy Church Staff would like to wish you a very

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
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

Volunteer & Engagement Coor.
Sarah Ackers

Youth Leader
Kristen Almgren

Nursery Supervisor
Carol Smith

Custodian
Bill McElroy

Financial Assistant
Bonnie Beerman

Financial Assistant
Pat Gedney

Office Manager
Jackie Gould

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

A NOTE FROM ENID HAVENS

Here are excerpts from a note received from Enid last week.

….My new church doesn’t worship until 11 AM, so I can pull last week’s Seattle sermon before I head out. You are so busy, so social a community, I feel I am still a part of all of you. I thrill at your powerful ministry!

I’m also becoming a part of this struggling little congregation, trying to grow with the help of a fine interim minister…….They are a lovely group of people and I’m enjoying them very much.

Blessings for your Advent Season, which sounds downright splendid, and I’d sure love to see the Best Worst Christmas Pageant Ever with the young Fauntleroy players.

In the struggle for justice love and peace.

With Love, Enid.

TABLECLOTHS MISSING!

Help!! We are missing several large table tablecloths (red, dark green, peach and white) that go on the 96” x 43” table. If you’ve taken any home to wash, would you please return them ASAP. We are really low. Thank you so much!

Marilyn Whittendale

ROXHILL SCHOOL VOLUNTEER TUTORS URGENTLY NEEDED

Can you help with basic math, reading, or writing? Roxhill Elementary School, on Roxbury Street near Safeway, needs volunteer tutors for Roxhill’s after-school program. From January through June 2017, Monday through Thursday, hours 2:30 to 3:30 PM, folks willing to routinely work with small groups of students and staff one day a week or more are welcome.

There is a high need for Math tutors on Tuesdays (Kindergarten) and Thursdays (1st grade). Small group activities are pre-planned by Roxhill Staff for each program. Tutors are asked to arrive a few minutes early to meet with the facilitators to learn about the activity the tutors will lead.

Groups will be 3-4 students per tutor. To learn more, contact Liz Cervantes at the school - 206.252.9576, elcervantes@seattleschools.org, or Fauntleroy Church member, Robb Menaul, 206.935.4136.

IN THE RANT AND RAVE SECTION OF THE SEATTLE TIMES ON 12/16/16

Rave: For the church congregations who organized an Alternative Giving Fair featuring mostly local organizations. What a wonderful way to discover, connect with and support non-profits who contribute so much to our community!

Congratulations to the Service & Outreach Ministry, Karyn Frazier and her great committee for putting this together. (See front page for more details.)