

the spire

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November 2014

Liberating the Heart, Engaging the Mind, Embracing the World



November: Psalms of Gratitude

by Pastor Tim Phillips

During this fall's Psalm Series, we have moved from the songs that ground us in a sense of home to the lamentable moments when we feel like we are living in exile. There is a psalm for just about anything which reminds me of that pesky instruction in I Thessalonians 5.18: "in everything give thanks." It was pointed out to me once that prepositions matter and that there is a difference between giving thanks "in" every circumstance and giving thanks "for" every situation. The truth is, we can look for moments of grace and gratitude in the worst of circumstances even as we find it impossible to be grateful for those situations themselves.

And so it is with the Psalms. Gratitude runs through the highest praise and the deepest despair. No matter how dire the situation and how angry the rant, the psalmist comes to this moment of revelation when thanksgiving breaks through.

Anne Lamott, who will be with us again on November 12 (see page 4) and is really good at naming despair, writes that: "The movement of grace toward gratitude brings us from the package of self-obsessed madness to a spiritual awakening." Gratitude may not change a situation but it is a change of perception that has the potential for shaping our experience of the most difficult and delightful circumstances of our lives. In difficulty we can find peace. In delight we can multiply the experience of grace by giving it away.

It is no coincidence that we would be singing the psalms of gratitude during the season of stewardship. Gratitude energizes generosity. As Anne Lamott says:

Saying and meaning "Thanks" leads to a crazy thought: What more can I give? We take the action first, by giving — and then the insight follows, that this fills us. Sin is not the adult bookstore on the corner. It is the hard heart, the lack of generosity, and all the isms, racism and sexism and so forth. But is there a crack where a ribbon of light might get in, might sneak past all the roadblocks and piles of stones, mental and emotional and cultural? (From Help Thanks Wow, pages 62-63)

It is this question that presents itself when we open ourselves to gratitude. It's the light that can seep into our souls when all seems dark. It's the perception that softens our hearts and extends our hands.

So, as sings the Psalms of gratitude in this season, pay attention, be open, and, as I say, if on any given day you hear God's voice, do not harden your hearts.

Create Your Own Psalm

by Peach Jack

Last month, Tim Phillips taught on the Revolutionary Psalms, which give us a means to consider our challenges, in light of faith. These Psalms follow a certain format, of Orientation, Disorientation and Reorientation. Psalm 23 is one of these we examined to see the format. A. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" is a demonstration of having enough, being oriented. B. "...though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..." is an example of disorientation, and C. "He restoreth my soul"... "though annointest my head with oil..." and, ..."goodness and mercy shall follow me..." are samples of reorientation.

Suggestions for writing your own Psalm:

1. Be present to your life—pay attention to your experience without ignoring or denying the circumstances.
2. Remember that perspective matters—how you see things can shape your experience.
3. Trust the power that is already at work in you to accomplish far more than you can ask or imagine. Listen for ways to name that power that are suggested by your honest expression of your life and perspectives.

The following are some examples from his Wednesday night class participants.

A Quiet Gardener: A Psalm

by Peach Jack

The Lord is a quiet gardener, bringing forth notes of color, texture and sound.

From death in the fall of leaves, through winter chill and freeze and rain, spring reeds and greens, bursting buds and birdsong.

The Lord is a loud summer band, a cacophony of stimulation, too much too little time, long days and over stimulated senses! Good food, harvest of fruits, vegetables and days at the shore.

Mountain meadows, streams and lakes.

Then fading, sadness and melancholy end to frenzied days, to rest, to slow the angle of the sun, the cooling of the night, the coming rains, the coming storms. Life brings events, experiences, comfort, challenges, calamity and change.

Do we ever learn? Have courage! Change is life and living.

We are ever-expanding, ever growing, and ever dying, only to make room for the new, the young, the next...So we begin again, watching, trusting, having faith in a personal Gardener, who is consistent and true.

We go home, inside, make harvest wine, pie and jam. Game meat, fish spawning, returning to routine and to our tables. Tables celebrate bounty and seeds hold promise.

Holiday feasts bring good times with friends and family. We will eat again, some more.

Cold days, warm hearth, hearts and home, stories of hopefulness, truth and love.

The gardener works quietly and promises anew.

Oh Father-Mother Love

A Psalm by Jean Reges Burn

To whom all things are revealed.

Thank you for comforting the broken hearts.

Thank you for listening to my secret prayers.

Thank you for teaching me forgiveness.

Thank you for showing me calm in the midst of chaos.

Thank you for healing angel thoughts.

Thank you for healing my fear of the unknown future.

Thank you for healing my broken life.

Thank you for your surrounding love.

For all these things and more, I am thankful.

Giving Thanks

"This year, I'm really thankful for the wonderful youth, board, volunteers, and donors that make Diverse Harmony happen. Whenever I feel that Seattle is lonely or the world is too difficult, I'm reminded of the love I'm surrounded by and am reminded that this is home." — **J. Brayton Bollenbacher**, MSW, LICSW, Diverse Harmony Artistic Director

"I am thankful for the spiritual, emotional, and practical support of the SFBC family and staff, not just in good times, but when things are rough. Especially because I am not an official church member it is touching and inspiring to experience the principle of "knowing no circles of exclusion" in my daily life." — **Alyssa MacLachlan**

"At this special season of "thanks," our hearts are especially full of deep gratitude this year for our many SFBC friends, who have surrounded us with love and concern, during the losses of our brother, Patrick Roddy - our mother, Hilda Darling - and our dear friend, Fred Ketteman. PEACE LOVE & JOY to you all! " — **Craig and John Darling**

"I am grateful for my awesome son Basil whom is staying with me now and is enjoying his new school, for my beautiful fiancée who makes me laugh and happy, for my job at the Church and all the wonderful members and employees there. I give thanks for good health." — **Zane Sanderson**, Church Sexton

"In this time when we remember saints who have gone before us and the impact of their grace on our lives, it is easy to feel abundant gratitude. I give thanks for this church, this community, the endless blessings of new friendships, and the joining of hearts through music. Thank you, Seattle First Baptist Church, for being a vessel of inspiration and love." — **Michelle Horsley**, organist

"I/we continue to be grateful for finding a home for our Bet Alef community here at Seattle First Baptist...for the generosity, love and consideration that always welcomes and supports us, for the partnership that grows and deepens, and especially now, for the healing prayers and concern for Rabbi Olivier. And last Friday night, October 17, we were SO grateful for the awesome location; it may just have helped save his life...it was close proximity and quick response that has him at home on his way to complete healing. (well, the medics and doctors were also important, so we are very grateful for them too!)" — **Shellie Oakley** (for Rabbi Olivier and the Bet Alef Community)

"I am thankful for good health, a wonderful marriage, good friends, my family, the First Baptist community, and for meaningful, satisfying work to do. As I look back on my life so far, I know that I am blessed to be right here, right now. I love our church and the combination of spiritual peace and energy it brings me." — **Belle Chenault**, Children's Music

"First of all, I must give thanks to the Almighty for the blessings I have received throughout my life. I am grateful to my parents for having striven to give me a loving family and a good education. But more importantly, they showed me how important God was in their lives and how to serve Him. Finally, I am truly thankful to have had such a wonderful and loving mother: she lived an exemplary life of deep faith always in the service of and love for others, the epitome of empathy, encouragement and elegance." — **Brian Lew**, Member

"It was nearly a year ago, November 14, 2014, that I came just a few minutes from death. As I look back, I am thankful to so many people. I am thankful that I was in my doctor's office when my lungs became completely saturated with fluid and that he immediately called 911. I am thankful that the ambulance crew arrived in less than 5 minutes. I am thankful for the emergency room staff that kept me alive in those first crucial moments when I arrived at the hospital, and for the hospital staff that cared for me for the next month, especially the nurses and cardiologists in the Cardiac ICU at Swedish Cherry Hill. I am thankful for Pastor Tim Phillips and Patrick Green, who not only came to the hospital immediately that day, but also walked through a parking garage at my doctor's office building to find and retrieve our car. I am also thankful to Tim for visiting often and providing pastoral care and support to my family. I am thankful for the community at Seattle First Baptist Church who prayed for me and also cared for my family during this time. I am thankful for friends, family, and strangers across the globe who prayed for me and my family every day. I am thankful for my good friend, Rev. Eliana Maxim, who not only visited me every day, but arranged meals to be delivered to my family during this time. I am thankful for my mother, a nurse, who called the hospital twice a day from Michigan and translated the news for the rest of my siblings. I am thankful for Russ' family who helped take care of Spencer. Most of all, I am extremely thankful for my husband, Russ Kaake, who, every day, got our son up, ready, and off to school, went to work, picked our son up from school, made him dinner and brought him to the hospital nearly every evening, even during those first days when it was uncertain whether I would live or die. And I am thankful for each and every breath that I take and every beat of my heart. Grace and Peace" — **Rev. Bruce Chittick**

Food Needs

by Roxanne Fowler

Whenever you come to church, please don't forget to bring food for our many area food banks. We have several boxes located around the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Whenever there is a fair amount collected, we call the food distribution centers for pickup. The need is great! Also, a reminder that we continue to do burrito rolling along with Bet Alef congregation the 3rd Saturday of every month. Thank you on behalf of the less fortunate and the Social Justice Committee.

Wednesday Dinners in November

by Pastor Tim Phillips

After dinner at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, join us at 7 p.m. for programs that will offer you food for thought. On November 5th, graduate theological student, Ryan Hookland, leads a conversation, "Jean Valjean, Jeremiah, and Exile," an open-ended discussion through the lens of Jeremiah 29 of what exile means in today's world, how we're called to respond, and how we see it in the stories of our lives, location, and faith. We'll ask, "Where is God, Where are we?" On the following Wednesday, November 12th, Anne Lamott returns to speak about her new book, *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace*. This event will be held in the Sanctuary and requires tickets available at: elliottbaybook.com. Tickets are \$25 and include a copy of the book. On November 19th, Terra Morgan returns with a series on grief and the holidays. She will continue that series on December 3rd and 10th as well. On Thanksgiving Eve, November 26th, Pastor Tim Phillips will lead a brief service of gratitude in the Parlor.

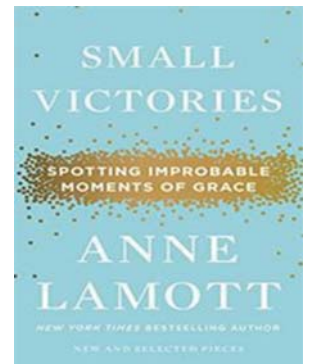
On the first three Wednesday evenings in December, Bill Malcomson, our Theologian-in-Residence, will be teaching a course on *From the Cradle to the Cross: Who Did Jesus Think He Was and Why I Should Care?* Though Jesus did not write a memoir, he evidently did communicate quite a bit with his followers concerning who he thought he was, and he responded to them when they told them who they thought he was. This information was handed down to the writers of the Christian scriptures. For good or ill, there was no one designation that was agreed upon: Prophet? Messiah? Wisdom teacher? Son of Man? Son of God? etc., etc. And what difference does it make to us? Should it make a difference? We will wrestle with these and related questions in an interactive format. Be prepared to be challenged.

ANNE LAMOTT

Wednesday, November 12th at 7 p.m. at Seattle First Baptist Church - \$25 admits one person to the event and includes a copy of her new book, *Small Victories*



Presented by Elliott Bay Book Company and Seattle First Baptist Church. Anne Lamott writes about faith, family, and community in essays that are both wise and irreverent. In her new book, *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace* (Riverhead), she offers a new message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Our victories over hardship and pain may seem small, she writes, but they change us—our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives. Anne Lamott writes of forgiveness, restoration, and transformation, how we can turn toward love even in the most hopeless situations, how we find the joy in getting lost and our amazement in finally being found. Profound and hilarious, honest and unexpected, the stories in *Small Victories* are proof that the human spirit is irrepressible. Anne Lamott's previous books include *Stitches*, *Help Thanks Wow*, *Imperfect Birds*, *Operating Instructions*, *Traveling Mercies* and *Bird By Bird*, to name just a few. Admission to this event is by ticket (\$25), which admits one person and includes a copy of Anne Lamott's new book, *Small Victories*. Ticket proceeds also help support the work of Seattle First Baptist Church.



Tickets available from October 10th at elliottbaybook.com, by phone 206.624.6600 or in person at Elliott Bay Book Company. Tickets will also be available for sale at the door on the night of the event. For more information, call Elliott Bay Book Company at 206.624.6600 or write to orders@elliottbaybook.com.

Gift Yourself the Present of Presence Holiday Workshops

Wednesdays, November 19th, December 3rd and 10th from 6:45 - 8:00 p.m.

The holidays are times of rich experiences and emotions. Join Chaplain Terra Morgan, M.Div., in a three Wednesday exploration of being present to God, yourself and others during this auspicious time. This workshop will educate and empower you to focus on wholeness, healing, transformation, and meaning as tools of self-discovery, self-understanding, and growth in a safe space of compassion and community.

Growth: Physical, Congregational, and Spiritual

by Rod Shutt

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." —John 15:1

The theme for this year's Pledge Drive is Growth: Physical, Congregational, and Spiritual. By Pledge Sunday, the Stewardship Commission will have demonstrated how our Church has grown in these three dimensions, and with God's guidance, will continue to grow in the upcoming year.

As we make investments into our physical church, we expand our abilities to serve our congregation's needs, to be a place of refuge, and to reach out to the community. The new space in the Minor Hospital building will allow Companis the room to grow (and serve even more in our community), let Project Access expand the services they offer, and allow the church to offer affordable space for other struggling non-profit organizations. While growing our physical presence, we are making sure to care for what we already have. Taking care of our church home is a foundational need, and a significant portion of our annual budget is devoted to that task.

As we are growing physically, our congregation continues to grow. With Pastor Ned's guidance, our Children, Families, and Young Adults Commission is welcoming more families and young adults into our community. We are actually experiencing growth across the age spectrum, with 26 individuals deciding to join our community this year. We make our building available to many organizations, and there is hardly a day that passes where we do not have wider community members being introduced to us. And, with community wide events, like welcoming our homeless neighbors to our 4th of July celebration and summer church picnic, we have firmly established our community as a welcoming place for our neighbors.

However, our primary focus is, of course, spiritual. We work hard to make sure our connections to one another and to God are always deepening. From Sunday Adult Education and Worship, to Wednesday night dinners and programs, and everything in-between, we reach out to one another and the world. Many of our commissions are exploring ways to expand and strengthen these connections.

All of this comes at a price, and none of it can happen without each of us making a commitment to our community. At Seattle First Baptist, we don't tell anyone what that commitment should be, that is a decision each person should prayerfully consider. We suggest that your gift should be significant enough to be felt, yet not cause suffering. It is that "sacrifice" that binds us in community.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." —Ephesians 2:20-22

All Saints Sunday

by Pastor David Kile

On this year's All Saints Sunday, November 2, we will be remembering the following members and friends of our church community. Also on that day, the Columbarium off the Parlor will be open during coffee hour. In the light of peace, we remember:

Joanne Henrickson
Richard Ice
Hilda Darling
David (Sky) Enroth
Sally Henry
Mickey Cooper

Francis Durkoop
Helen Griswold
Vaughn Buckmaster
Dean Thompson
Marjorie Nelson
Jan Stecher

Neil Lieurance
Natasha Priess
Carol Woodward
Eugene McDonald
Earl Sutherland
Robert Utter

ABW Bake Sale

by Shirley Wilkinson

The American Baptist Women's Ministries' annual Bake Sale is coming on November 23rd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Come and purchase goodies for dinner or for snacking on your way home from church while at the same time supporting our American Baptist missionaries through White Cross. You will be glad you did!

2015 SFBC Creativity Expo

Coming Your Way in May

by Nancy Roberts-Brown

Mark your calendars now for the May 16-17th, 2015 SFBC Creativity Expo. An event of both well-known and (to date) hidden originality sponsored by Creativity Connections, the Creativity Expo is the opportunity for you to share your own artistic expression with the rest of the SFBC community.

The Creativity Expo will include exhibits of visual art (painting, photography, pottery, collage, quilting, etc.), presentations of performance art (poetry reading, film, dance, music, story-telling, drama, etc.), and demonstrations of various crafts. And, of course, food. All members and friends of SFBC – most definitely including children and youth – are welcomed and encouraged to participate – as exhibitors, performers, spectators, and/or all. Whichever category or categories you find yourself in, we want you to feel warmly welcomed and encouraged to join in this exhibition of creativity and talent.

More details on how to be involved – and how to sign up – will be available from Creativity Connections soon. Meanwhile – begin to think about how you want to be involved. The more of us who share our creativity with one another, the richer- and more fun - the experience for our entire community. Stay tuned.

ADVENT Begins Sunday, November 30th

by Pastor Tim Phillips

One of my favorite things about Advent and Christmas is the music — both because of the music itself and the fact that it is one of the few times in our culture when people seem to enjoy singing together. Young and not-so-young join voices in solemn carols and silly songs. Communities celebrate their unique cultures with traditional songs. The religious and the non-religious alike find themselves humming the songs of the season. In that spirit, our worship together in the seasons of Advent and Christmas will feature the biblical songs that surround the birth of Jesus. **Advent** begins on November 30th with Pastor Catherine Fransson preaching on the angel's song to Zechariah about the birth of his son, John, in Luke 1.5-25. On **Advent II**, December 7th, Pastor Ned Allyn Parker helps us listen anew to Mary's Song in Luke 1.46-55. **Advent III and IV**, December 14th and 21st, offer a duet by Elizabeth and Zechariah in Luke 1.39-80 as they sing the story of grace that is being born in and through their lives. On **Christmas Eve**, we will be ready for the hushed reverence and the loud joy of the angel chorus that sends shepherds on their way to a new vision in the promise that there is nothing to fear. "Fear not," is one of the consistent refrains of these songs of the season and I trust this will be true as we work, rest, listen and, of course, SING! together in this season of love and light.



Heritage Hymns Old and New

by Pat Kile

Over an eight-month period, with the blessing of the SFBC worship team, the Music Commission has discussed the hymns we sing in our worship services—with the hope of fostering greater congregational engagement in singing. How could we become a church in which the whole congregation sings confidently to the Creator? We know that we sing best the songs that we know well. With input from members of the congregation, the Music Commission has assembled a short list of hymns that reflect our church's theology, have sing-able melodies, and represent different themes, meters, cultures, and styles. We hope to sing one of these hymns almost every week (and each one at least three times a year). It is our believe that with this frequency they will become, over time, the songline of our community—hymns that our congregation knows well and sings with confidence and joy. Note that this does not preclude the frequent use of other hymns that may be selected by worship leaders. The following is our list of Heritage Hymns:

Abide with Me
Bring Us Home
God of Grace and God of Glory
This is My Song (Finlandia)

All are Welcome
Bring Many Names
Love Divine All Loves Excelling
You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Amazing Grace
For the Beauty of the Earth
Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Come One... Come All... Play in Worship

Sunday, November 23rd

by Vicky Thomas

For the close of our fall focus on the Psalms, we invite EVERYONE (friends and visitors) who would like to play an instrument to come to the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 23rd to learn a part and play in worship at 11:00 a.m. Instrumentalists of all ages and abilities are welcome and even if you don't read music, there is a part for YOU! If you let Vicky know before November 16th, you can get the music in advance and have the part transposed into "your" key. Even if you can strum only one or two chords or keep the beat with a chime, there is a part for you. We will indeed make a joyful noise to the Lord (Psalm 100).

Christmas Concerts at SFBC

by Vicky Thomas

Invite family and friends to SFBC's **FREE** Christmas concert Saturday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 21st at 1:00 p.m. **SING NOEL!** is a program of joy and inspiration including British composer Andrew Carter's *Magnificat* with the 50-voice Sanctuary Choir and orchestra. Childcare is provided at both concerts. No tickets are required; a freewill donation will be taken.

November Adult Learning

Following Dr. Bill Malcomson's series on Islam which concludes on Sunday, November 2, join Rabbi Olivier BenHaim of Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue for Torah Study, November 9, 16, and 23rd. These engaging conversations on the Hebrew Bible from the perspective of kabbalistic Judaism will be offered at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor. All are welcome.



Rabbi Olivier BenHaim

Support Our Thrift Shop

by Rod Shutt

As many of you know, Seattle First Baptist, in partnership with Trinity Parish Episcopal Church, sponsors the Trinity Thrift Shop. They offer clothing, housewares, linens, and small gift items for sale. Both Trinity Parish and Seattle First Baptist distribute vouchers, which can be redeemed at the thrift shop, to those individuals in need. As we head into winter, the thrift shop especially needs the following items: towels and linens, housewares, children's clothing, and winter clothing for all ages.

The Thrift Shop is also looking for volunteers. Seattle First Baptist participation is critical for the continued success of this ministry. If you have a couple of hours a month that you can offer, please contact Carol Webb (Thrift Store manager) at 206.748.2435 or email masterdickens@gmail.com.

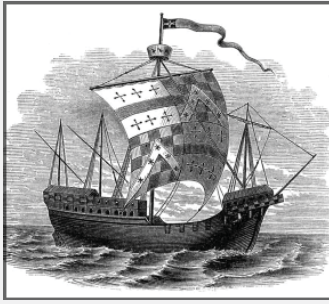
Don't miss the annual Thrift Shop Bazaar, held in the Trinity Parish Hall, on Friday, November 21nd from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday the 22nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday the 23th from 9 to 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 pm.

The Thrift Shop is located at just north of Trinity Parish Episcopal Church at 615 8th Ave. Regular hours are Mondays and Wednesdays thru Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner Basket Program

Trinity Episcopal Church invites you to join them in providing resources to "Deserving Families at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School." Information is as follows:

- 50 Thanksgiving dinner baskets will be given by Gatzert Family Support to neediest families with children in school on Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving. Complete ready-to-cook thanksgiving dinners.
- Community opportunity to support operation needs include:
 - Financial contributions to support the purchase of all ingredients for the meals. Checks payable to: AFE Gatzert Family Assistance, For: Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets. Average cost/family=\$65.
 - Home-Baked Pie contributions: Individuals and groups are invited to bring pies to Bailey Gatzert Elementary School or Trinity Episcopal church on the morning of Wednesday, November 26th.
 - Delivery assistance on Tuesday, November 25th and Wednesday, November 26th, from Costco to Bailey Gatzert. Pickup Trucks are needed with drivers.
- Contact: Deacon Brent Brentnall by email at brentnalls@earthlink.net or phone: 206.624.5337 ext #41 to arrange to assist him.



Come Explore! With SFBC

12:30 - 2 p.m., Sundays, November 9, 16, and 23rd

A Lunch will be served to all reserved guests.

We welcome all who are new to SFBC and want to learn about the church values, beliefs, and mission as well as discovering opportunities for engagement in our community in our community.

To R.S.V.P., contact Peach Jack at 206.325.6051 x111 or peach@seattlefirstbaptist.org for more information.

A Circle of Trust

by Autumn Franger

"Every practice that creates a circle of trust must keep the space between us open and free and yet focused on things of the soul."

If you are in need of a place to process your grief or you are living a life of physical or emotional challenges, the Circle of Trust may be a place for you.

What is a Circle of Trust?

A Circle of Trust, as defined by Parker Palmer in his book, *A Hidden Wholeness**, is a group of individuals who grow spiritually because of the trust that is built between them. The Circle begins with the belief that each individual already has the wisdom s/he needs, and is nourished by the trust of the circle, to find that wisdom for her or himself.

(*See Chapter V for more description)

How does it work?

Each Circle of Trust begins with a reading. Palmer believes that we can begin the path to hidden wholeness in the Circle with a poem or "a story, a piece of music, or a work of art." He calls this The Third Thing, because art is used as a metaphor that helps us access our spiritual knowing. Individuals, if they so choose, speak to what the poem elicits for them. "A Circle of Trust does not run headlong into topics like losing and finding true self." [Palmer] Therefore, each session begins with a copy of a reading distributed to each group member and in turn, each group member reads a portion of the reading.

"As our communal dialogue continues – as we learn that the space is focused, meaningful, revealing, and yet profoundly safe – we develop the trust to speak more directly about ourselves. The shy soul emerges more frequently and needs less protective cover to speak [Palmer]."

In the circle we do not challenge others' beliefs, nor make judgments of any kind. Palmer says, "No fixing, no advising, no setting each other's straight." "If your problem is soul deep, your soul alone knows what you need to do about it."

Why would someone commit to the group?

Having just gone through many changes in my life, I need a place to process this with like-minded folks. While at Lake Street Church in Evanston, Illinois, I was involved with a circle of trust. This group was a pathway to self-understanding and spiritual guidance, while undergoing some major health and life purpose challenges [Autumn].

When do they meet?

The group itself decides when to meet, how often and the length of time for each meeting. It could be once a week for a couple of hours, once a month for the better part of a day, or three times a year for a weekend – whatever works for the group. If you are interested in how you could be part of a group at Seattle First Baptist, I invite you to contact me or Peach Jack in the church office.

*I also invite you to pick up a copy of *Hidden Wholeness* to discover in more detail what Parker Palmer had in mind when he describes the spiritual depth that a circle of trust, when done with respect and humility, can bring to each person in the group: *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life* by Parker J. Palmer (Jun 2, 2009).

Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents: "Families Who Do Music Together"

Our November 2nd SJV concert features some of the Pacific Northwest's artist and their family members that are also talented musicians. On-tap for our November concert "Families Who Do Music Together" are Marlee Walker, Mercedes Nicole, the Wuff Family (Jim, Beth and Cassie), and the Swiggett Family plus many others. This style of concert is unique and includes audience participation. Bring your children, bring your whole family!

Our Companion Ministry Manager

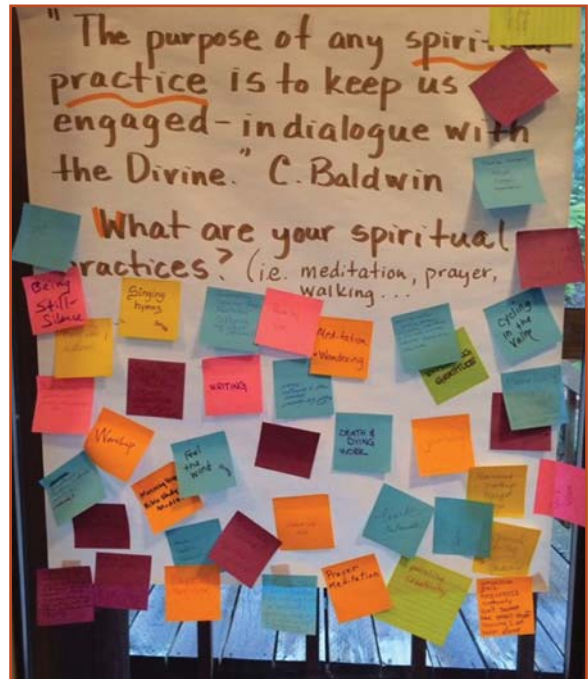
by Bob Sittig

Starting in October, David Delgado is managing our Companion Minister Program. David will be coordinating the schedule as well as being present on Sunday mornings to minister to those in need during our worship time.

Originally from New York City, David moved to Seattle in 1999. During his time in Seattle, David went to school to become a social worker and has been working with the homeless for the last 14 years. David feels very passionate about social justice and he is motivated by helping our un-housed community members. David's first experience with Seattle First Baptist Church was during a social justice event in late 2011. David has participated in a number of SFBC events since 2012 and he has enthusiastically accepted his position at Seattle



First Baptist as companion minister. Please welcome David when you see him on duty.



Women's Retreat

On October 24th thru the 26th, women from SFBC and others gathered at Rainbow Lodge for an inspired time of learning, fun and worship.

NOVEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

Psalms of Gratitude

*Please note: Dates and times are subject to change. Please be sure to check the website for up-to-date information at SeattleFirstBaptist.org. Additional information about these events may be found in the previous pages of the *The Spire*.*

SUN NOV 2

All Saints Communion Sunday (Daylight Savings Time ends- fall back)
Stewardship focus continues

9:15 **Adult Learning:**

- Islam series with Dr. Bill Malcomson in the Parlor
- Life Transitions Group with Peach Jack in Fridell

10:15 Family Fellowship Hour in the Youth Lounge – 3rd floor

11:00 "The Grateful Dead," Tim Phillips preaching on Psalm 107

6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers: "Families Who Do Music Together"

WED NOV 5

6 p.m. Dinner / 7 p.m. program: "Jean Valjean, Jeremiah, and Exile" through the lens of Jeremiah 29 - a conversation with Ryan Hookland in the Parlor

7 p.m. Choir rehearsal in Choir Room.

FRI NOV 7

Bet Alef Shabbat in Sanctuary / Oneg in the Parlor

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SUN NOV 9

Worship: Stewardship Focus Pledge Sunday

9:15 **Adult Learning: Hebrew Bible study with Rabbi Olivier in the Parlor**

10:15 **Family Fellowship Hour in the Youth Lounge – 3rd floor**

11:00 **“Generous Gratitude,” Tim Phillips preaching from Psalm 78.1-25;
receiving your 2015 pledges.**

12:30-2 p.m. **Explore I (with lunch). Contact Peach Jack.**

4-6 p.m. **Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall**

WED NOV 12

6 p.m. **Dinner / 7 p.m. program in the Sanctuary: Anne Lamott (ticketed event),
\$25 includes a copy of Anne’s new book, *Small Victories*.
(see article on page 4)**

7 p.m. **Choir rehearsal in Choir Room.**

SAT NOV 15

**Evergreen’s Got Talent at SFBC: A musical review benefitting the
Evergreen Association.**

SUN NOV 16

Worship

9:15 **Adult Learning: Hebrew Bible study with Rabbi Olivier in the Parlor**

10:15 **Family Fellowship Hour in the Youth Lounge – 3rd floor**

11:00 **Craig Darling preaching; Psalm 118.**

12:30-2 p.m. **Explore II (lunch)**

WED NOV 19

6 p.m. **Dinner / 7 p.m. program: “Gift Yourself the Present of Presence”
as you prepare for the Holidays. Terra Morgan leads a conversation
on grief and the holidays.**

7 p.m. **Choir rehearsal in Choir Room.**

THU NOV 20

6 p.m. **Diaconate meeting and Thanksgiving meal. Members of the Diaconate
are asked to r.s.v.p.**

FRI NOV 21

Bet Alef Shabbat in the Sanctuary / Oneg in the Parlor

SUN NOV 23

Thanksgiving Worship

9:15 **Adult Learning: Hebrew Bible study with Rabbi Olivier in the Parlor**

10:15 **Family Fellowship Hour in the Youth Lounge – 3rd floor**

11:00 **David Bloom preaching from Psalm 100. David will be introducing a series
on Walter Rauschenbusch for Adult Learning.**

12:30-2 p.m. **Explore III (lunch)**

WED NOV 26

6 p.m. **Thanksgiving Eve Dinner / 7 p.m. program: A Gathering of Gratitude
led by Tim Phillips; 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal in Choir Room.**

THU NOV 27

THANKSGIVING

SUN NOV 30

Advent I ... Songs of the Season

9:15 **Adult Learning: David Bloom on Walter Rauschenbusch and the
Social Gospel in the Parlor**

10:15 **Family Fellowship Hour in the Youth Lounge – 3rd floor**

11:00 **Cathy Fransson preaching on the Song to Zechariah (Luke 1.5-17 ... 25)**

