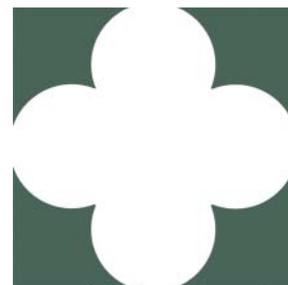


the spire

Volume 81 / Number 10

October 2017

Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



seattle first baptist



Organized Religion

By Pastor Tim Phillips

At a reception following a poetry reading at a university, author Kathleen Norris describes feeling the awkward *détente* between the English and Religion departments hosting the event. Amid the strained conversations, she writes:

A man who teaches comparative literature remarked that he had nothing against "personal spirituality"; it was organized religion he couldn't stand. "Ah," I said, "if you think that religion is organized, you don't know the Benedictines." (They are notoriously de-centralized, so much so that the Pope once labeled them "an order without order.")

Sounds like Benedictines and Baptists have a lot in common.

When it comes down to it, "organized religion" is really just another way of talking about institutions. And it has become fashionable in our spiritual-but-not-religious world to be suspicious of them. That suspicion is part of the culture we call "postmodernity" and it has good reasons for its skepticism. After all, the institutions of "organized religion" are responsible for a host of injustices they have either perpetrated directly or blessed indirectly.

Nonetheless, as Norris points out, in a number of places, religious institutions are the only outposts of justice and service in the neighborhood. And more than that, churches provide a time and a place for people to gather. They are places where people are "are encouraged to sing, whether they can or not ... they receive a blessing just for showing up."

In this last week, I have been reflecting on religious institutions because two of the most important ones in my life have undergone deep challenges. Both have powerful legacies. Both can tell beautiful stories. Both have shaped me more than I could ever have shaped them.

One is Grace Baptist Church in Chicago. I am just back from preaching there. It's hard to believe it was 30 years ago a group of eight idealistic young people organized an alternative community bent on being a different kind of church. We welcomed LGBTQ members and ministers. We were at the center of AIDS ministry. We called women as pastors. We marched for peace, worked in food pantries, and showed up for each other. It can be said – it has been said – that the little band at Grace Baptist changed the nature of American Baptists in Chicago and had a hand in changing the future of American Baptists in the country.

The other is University Baptist Church here in Seattle. After 116 years of proud and effective ministry, their last service was held on September 24. My heart breaks writing these words. It too helped to change the world. It was the second Sanctuary Church in the nation, housing refugees from Central America in the 1980s. Along with Seattle First Baptist, it stood for the inclusion of LGBTQ folks when it was decidedly unpopular. It marched for peace, ordained women, served food to folks who were unhoused and sheltered teens living on the streets. It instigated conversations on race when others really didn't want to talk about it. It freely opened its doors to organizations of all kinds that were doing good work in the world. It took a chance on me when I wasn't sure that I ever could – or should – be a pastor again. And they kept showing up for each other.

Like any institution, neither of these were perfect. But they were strong and powerful communities of love and justice. Their legacies live on in many ways – Grace in a new more flexible institutional form and University Baptist in the generosity of their targeted financial gifts and in the giftedness of their people and their vision for the world.

In both cases, they have taught me that the value of any institution is the community it creates. And Grace and University Baptist are masters of that value. Institutions are not an end in themselves. But they do create the possibility of community through shared stories, resources, relationships, history, identity, and place. So, all those less than thrilling meetings, those line items in the budget, those tedious announcements, those mundane tasks, those invitations to serve on committees are all part of something bigger and ultimately more important. They are the spiritual disciplines of institutions that make community possible.

Baptists, like Benedictines, know about disorganized religion. We carry in our own denominational DNA a wariness about institutions for their own sake. But what is at stake in our institutional life is ultimately not the survival of an institution but the enduring value of community and its potential for belonging and beloved-ness that, we believe, can – and has – changed the world.

Thank God for the beloved communities of Grace and University Baptist. The world is better place because of them.

Celebrating David Kile

Pastor David Kile has announced that he is retiring in December, on the 40th Anniversary of his ministry with us. We are grateful for the 40 years of ministry David has generously, faithfully, and effectively provided to us. David and Pat have been integral to our life together and we look forward to celebrating with them at a lunch in David's honor following worship on Sunday, December 3. More details about the celebration will follow.

David's retirement will commence on December 4 with a three-month transitional sabbatical during which he and Pat are free to join us for worship and programs. He will, however, no longer have any pastoral team responsibilities beyond that date. The Personnel Commission and the Associate Pastor Search Committee will coordinate conversation about ways to continue the vibrant Senior Adult Ministries program here at SFBC. During that time, Lead Pastor, Tim Phillips, will oversee those programs and provide pastoral care with the help of other members of the pastoral team.

We will have more information about the celebration, and about David's ministry among us, in the November Spire.

2018 Stewardship Campaign – "I'm IN"

By John Benner

Each fall, Seattle First Baptist Church invites our members and friends to participate in sustaining the well-being of our community of faith through our annual pledge campaign. October 1 marks the kick-off date for the 2018 campaign, and our theme is "I'm IN".

One benefit of being part of a church community is the feeling that we are all IN this together and we're part of something bigger than ourselves. As good stewards of this community, its operations, and its staff and facilities, we ask that each of us step forward with faith and commitment to ensure the financial well-being of our church. During our 4-week pledge campaign, we talk together, study the scriptures, hear how our financial commitments matter and reflect on the many ways



that SFBC benefits each of us as well as our community.

You will soon receive a letter and pledge card from the Stewardship Commission. Please bring the card to church on Pledge Sunday, October 22, when we will ask everyone to submit a pledge. We are counting on 100% participation and even if you cannot make a financial commitment, we ask that you nevertheless submit the card. Of course, you can always mail or bring the card to the church office.

Why is this important? As an organization, the church makes budgetary plans for next year based on income estimates. Knowing the amount of pledge income for the year helps us plan financially responsible expenditures for the church itself and our community.

Are you renewing your pledge? First of all, thank you for your generous participation. The coming year is a new opportunity for our church to grow and serve in many exciting ways. Your renewed pledge is truly important and will make a difference.

Haven't pledged before? Please consider doing so, regardless of the amount. Pledging is the number one way your elected church leadership can make informed decisions to match resources with priorities of the congregation.

How do I give? Of course, the collection plate is the traditional way. But consider electronic giving. If you are already doing this, no need to fill out the information. If you would like to start, please fill out that section. Your gift can be made from your checking account, credit card or debit card. The data is kept secure and only one person, our church administrator, has access to it.

Are you IN? Then please return your pledge card and remember, we are all IN this together. Thank you!

Sanctuary and SFBC

By Jim Singletary, president of the congregation

"We will welcome the stranger, including immigrants and refugees, as our Scriptures instruct. We will explore how to support their causes and advocate for justice, remembering that many of us are the children of immigrants and refugees." —from the Seattle First Baptist Church Affirmation of Values, adopted 2017.

You may recall an article in the April issue of *The Spire* in which I told you that the Diaconate had begun consideration of Sanctuary and the role SFBC might play in aiding immigrants and refugees in our community facing deportation. The Diaconate has decided that we are ready to expand the discussion congregation-wide, so we have scheduled a special evening discussion on Wednesday, October 11, directly following our regular Wednesday evening dinner at 6 p.m. In order to assure maximum possible participation, other events will be curtailed that evening and child care will be provided. (The choir will have an abbreviated rehearsal that evening.)

We feel the timing is appropriate, not only because the current presidential administration's about-face on President Obama's policy of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has heightened the nation's attention to the plight of immigrants, but also because our current worship series focuses on our recently adopted Affirmation of Values, such as the one prefacing this article. Each of the values included in the Affirmation has both personal and communal implications for us, and this discussion will provide an opportunity for bold exploration of both aspects.

Our guest presenters will include Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle and others who are working locally with the CCGS-led sanctuary movement. A condensed version of CCGS's "Upholding Sanctuary" is available at seattlefirstbaptist.org and copies will also be available at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. When I read this document, I was impressed by how it covers questions I didn't even realize I had, so I hope you will take the opportunity to read through it in preparation for our discussion.

As I said, the focus of this meeting will be education and discussion, and let me emphasize that *NO decision regarding SFBC's potential participation in the sanctuary movement will result directly from this event*. However, we do hope to discover who among us has a passion for further explorations of the role SFBC can and should play in this movement, be it hosting a family or individual, financial support, or other yet unimagined ways to live out our commitment to 'welcoming the stranger'. If you are unable to attend the event on October 11, but would still like to be a part of ongoing discussions, please don't hesitate to message me: [president@seattlefirstbaptist.org].

Hilltop House Turns 50

By Jim Segaar, Hilltop House Board of Trustees president

It's hard to imagine how much rents have increased in Seattle in the past 50 years, but even in the 1960s people at Seattle First Baptist were concerned that rent was too expensive for some of our elderly residents. That is when Gus Hintz, pastor of SFBC at the time, led an effort that led to the construction of Hilltop House, and this year Hilltop celebrates half a century of providing safe, affordable retirement housing.

Hilltop, which is located a short walk from SFBC at 1005 Terrace Street, is a non-profit corporation that rents 124



The garden at Hilltop House is a popular amenity among its residents. An ongoing project will renovate the space and make it more accessible to more residents.

studio and one-bedroom apartments through the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's 202 Program. Individuals 62 years of age and older are eligible to live at Hilltop, and many of the residents benefit from rental subsidy programs sponsored by HUD and the city of Seattle.

Connections between Hilltop and SFBC go back more than 50 years, and remain strong today. Darla O'Brian and Karen Carlos, both active members of SFBC, started working at Hilltop in 1993 and 1994, respectively. Darla has been the administrator since 1998. Karen began her career at Hilltop as one of the original Companis volunteers, and continues today in the role of service coordinator. Pastor David Kile has taught Bible study at Hilltop for many years, and today serves on the Board of Trustees. Hilltop's current board includes 10 members who are part of the SFBC community. The board seeks additional members from the broader community, but SFBC has always been a primary source of members. Several other Companis volunteers have also served at Hilltop over the years, and today residents include several retired and

active Companis volunteers. Over the years many residents of Hilltop have called SFBC their church home. SFBC continues to help fund programs at Hilltop as well, such as the yoga program. The choir and many others have performed at Hilltop over the years, and many volunteers come from SFBC.

Hilltop is looking to the future, as well as remembering its past. The entire facility was recently renovated, one floor at a time, and Hilltop is well-positioned to continue providing affordable, safe, quality senior housing for years to come.

Please help Hilltop turn 50 by attending an upcoming celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 7 at Hilltop. In addition to a party, the event is a fundraiser for a project to renovate Hilltop's garden area. Many residents enjoy gardening in small plots, and many more will be better served with a more accessible garden when the project is complete, hopefully in 2018.

Thank you to Darla, Karen, Gus, David, and countless other members of SFBC who have helped make Hilltop not just an apartment building but a supportive community for all these years. We looked forward to continuing to collaborate in the years to come.

SFBC Creativity Week is October 22 – 29

By Nancy Roberts-Brown

More than 60 SFBC members and friends will share their creativity with our congregation and community during the 2017 Creativity Expo – Where Art and Spirit Meet. The week's events include October 22 and 29 adult education panels (see the Adult Learning article in this Spire), interactive African drumming led by Darren Hochstedler's spouse John Bumanglag at the October 25 Wednesday night dinner, and an October 29 worship service featuring a video of seven SFBC members sharing on how spirituality and creativity intersect in their own lives. A video of children engaged in a Godly Play lesson will also be shown, and children will share in improvised dance. Amazingly intricate and beautiful paper-cut banners created by Dave Roberts will adorn the sanctuary.

The weekend of October 28 and 29 will showcase a remarkable range of visual and performance art. Beginning on Saturday afternoon and continuing through Sunday afternoon, Fellowship Hall and the Parlor will be filled with displays of painting, wood carving, hand-made jewelry, quilts and other fabric art, hand-made greeting cards and photography. Performances on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon will include stand-up comedy, singing, poetry reading, storytelling, dramatic presentations, and instrumental music. You will discover that we have a stunningly talented and creative congregation.

Please plan to share in this event. It is not too late to sign up to participate, and please feel welcomed and encouraged to do so. There are registration forms at the Welcome Table, or call the church office and let them know of your interest. And, above all, please plan to attend.

Sunday, October 22 – 9:30 - Adult Ed Panel

Wednesday, October 25 – 6:00 – Church Dinner and African Drumming

Saturday, October 28 – Creativity Expo

Free parking in the lot adjacent to the church

CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY WEEK



5:30 – Doors open; snack on expo-goodies
 5:30 – 8:30 – Visual Arts Galleries are Open
 6:30 – 7:15 Performance Arts Presentation
 Sunday, October 29 – 9:30 – Adult Ed Panel
 Sunday, October 29 – 11:00 – Worship Service celebrating the Creative Spirit
 Sunday, October 29 – Creativity Expo
 12:30 – Doors open; snack on expo-goodies
 12:30 – 3:00 – Visual Arts Galleries are Open
 1:00 – 1:45 – Performance Arts Presentation

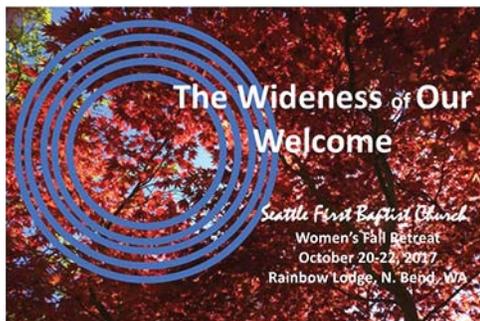
We are asking for a minimum \$5.00 per person contribution to cover our costs, with a maximum of \$10.00 per family to cover our costs. Individual artists may be selling some of their work, with 20% of the sales going to the church.

Please come! Have a great time, support your friends, and celebrate the spirit of creativity! We hope to see you there.

The Wideness of Our Welcome

Women's Fall Retreat, Oct. 20-22, 2017, Rainbow Lodge, N. Bend, WA.

By Pastor Harriet Platts



The topic of inclusion is an important one these days, both from the perspective of how we are tending to our own spirits...*Just how inclusive am I with parts of myself?* and with the idea of exploring if we have room as a part of a faith community like Seattle First Baptist to widen and deepen our welcome toward others.

What is the width of our inclusion as a faith community?
 What does inclusion look like in our daily living and in our spiritual practice?
 Do we have room to be BIGGER in our inclusion?

The Fall Women's Retreat is being created to nurture and deepen our connection with what it means to be *welcoming...affirming...and inclusive*

of ourselves, one another and the world, now! We will explore our personal and communal stories of being welcomed and affirmed for who we are and discover practices that reflect this shared value of inclusion in relationship to ourselves to others, and to the world.

Please consider joining us! Plans are being finalized. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall and in the church office.

Romney Legacy Presents: The Hymns of Rod Romney

Adult Learning, 9:30 a.m., Sunday, October 15, Fridell

By Pastor Tim Phillips

Continuing the legacy of Dr. Rod Romney, the Romney Legacy committee is bringing the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hall to Adult Learning to present "The Hymns of Rod Romney." Dr. Hall is Associate Professor of Ministry and Congregational Music and Director of Contextual Education at the American Baptist Seminary of the West. She is also the pastor of Berkeley First Baptist Church and is vice-president of the advisory board for the Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. She has served on the Executive Committee of The Hymn Society and this program was first presented at the Society's national gathering in 2016. It includes published materials by Dr. Romney and additional resources from Beverly Romney. The morning will include music and singing and some reflection on the work of another SFBC pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Skoglund, with whom Dr. Hall co-authored the 1993 revision of *A Manual of Worship*. Judson Press has just released her 2018 version.



Rev. Dr. Nancy Hall

About the program, Dr. Hall writes: "Perhaps the most notable facts about Rodney Romney have been his affirmation and inclusion of all people, his honoring of the various pathways by which people seek God, his commitment to peace and nonviolence, and his belief in the oneness of all creation." As we sing the hymns of Rod Romney, we re-commit ourselves to those values. It is fitting that, on the same morning in worship, we will be celebrating Companis and its work on behalf compassion and justice throughout our region. It was Dr. Romney's vision to create that organization 21 years ago. It embodies his lyrics to an old hymn tune, HYFRYDOL:

*Called a people by a vision of a world in Christ made free,
 Called a people to a mission, serving all humanity.*

May it be so.

Adult Learning in October

October includes a variety of opportunities for Adult Learning.

On Sunday, October 1, Curt Smith wraps up his series on *Three Phases of a Faith Journey*.

On Sunday, October 8, Mona Han of the Coalition for Refugees from Burma will speak about their work with refugees. CRB helps refugees get on their feet and learn the skills they need to become successful in an ever-changing world. A special program focused on the Hymns of Rod Romney is planned for Sunday, October 15. See the article about Nancy Hall and her work in this Spire.

As a part of the Creativity Expo this month, the Adult Learning will focus on the intersection of spirituality and the arts. October 22 will feature a panel of "Men With Paintbrushes" -- with four men from the congregation displaying a little of their work and having a conversation about it. The following week, October 29, four "Women With Pens" will discuss their writing and how it is impacted by and impacts their spiritual lives.

Programs begin each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. All sessions will be in the Parlor, except for Sunday, October 15, which will be in Fridell Lounge.

Wednesday Dinners in October

Be sure to join us on Wednesday, October 11 for dinner and an important conversation about SFBC and the Sanctuary movement. The conversation will begin at 6:45 p.m. and choir rehearsal will begin later that night so that choir members can be part of the conversation. See the article by Jim Singletary in this edition of the Spire for more information.

Other Wednesday programs will be announced as information becomes available.

Studying to become a Nurturing Presence

By John Malcomson

I am a Christian Buddhist in Seattle who has started a journey of study and service in order to serve as a chaplain in hospice and the community. I grew up the son of an American Baptist minister (Bill Malcomson) and have been part of the SFBC community since 1986 when I moved to Seattle. I am a longtime member of SFBC and Companis worker, and currently am studying to become a Nurturing Presence as an Interfaith Hospice Chaplain

My life has been and will continue to be one of service to God and consequently all beings, much like my father as a minister and academic, and my mother (Laurie) as a social worker. My experience traveling and living in Asia, and working alongside, and serving people from, a variety of backgrounds has improved my skills in cultural competency, openness, and sensitivity that will be great assets in this work. I am grateful to be supported by members of my spiritual communities (some of whom volunteer in hospice) and friends who are current or former chaplains, like the wonderful Harriet Platts!

This work appeals to me for many reasons including the experience of accompanying my mother while she was in hospice for two years, visiting every other week, often with my partner Heidi. We met with a hospice chaplain who gave us resources to make our visits sustainable for us and supportive for Mom. Through these visits I realized that being present and supportive was a great service to a person who is suffering. I would like my work to primarily consist of providing a nurturing presence. I aspire to help caregivers as well as patients to have a good quality of life. I can share practices for self-care when appropriate. I also see this as an exciting time to be involved in hospice as more people see the value of this option. My life experience supports this training by giving me a strong grounding in practice and service with my local Buddhist sangha/congregation learning and being supported to sit silently with the skills of deep listening, and loving speech. Another aspect is my aspiration to follow Thich Nhat Hanh's Mindfulness Trainings and the Bodhisattva Vows.

My planned journey of study includes Upaya Zen Center's Buddhist Social Justice Chaplaincy program and a two-year program with Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry to earn a Masters in Pastoral Studies. 4 Units of Clinical Pastoral Education will also be earned for training and credentialing purposes.

On Saturday Sept. 16th I was ordained as a lay member of the Order of Interbeing(OI), a community of Zen Buddhist practitioners committed to the integration of spiritual/mindfulness practice and social engagement. The OI was founded by Thich Nhat Hanh in 1966 as a way to respond to the sufferings of the Vietnam War. The commitment to OI is one of personal practice and building spiritual community. It involves a commitment to study and practice with



John Malcomson, center, at his recent ordination.

the 14 Mindfulness Trainings of the Order of Interbeing [<https://orderofinterbeing.org/about/our-history>]. We receive a “true” name in conjunction with our ordination. A group that ordains at the same time becomes an “ordination family.” Our family is the “Dwelling” family, and my new dharma name is “True Insightful Dwelling.” A dharma name speaks to who we already are, and it is an invitation to cultivate and embody the name even more deeply.

I cannot do this study and work without the support of my friends and family. I am entering this journey to devote my life to serving the community more directly in this focused way. For more info and to help me follow this path, please check out my website: <https://www.anurturingpresence.net>

Thank you for your support of my journey and service over the years! Blessings to my SFBC family!

Nurse's Corner

By Sue Ross

One of the great things about being a Faith Community Nurse is that I am tied into a wonderful group of Faith Community Nurses who meet on a regular basis. At our meetings speakers are brought in to talk about issues that a FCN may be involved with and want to learn more about. The meeting in September was held at Ida Culver retirement community in Ravenna. Our speaker was Tina Hall from ERA Living who shared her experience in working with Senior Housing. Below I have summarized some of the information she provided along with information of my own.

Communities for Seniors

Many people look forward to aging with apprehension and are concerned about where they will live as they age. Many people want to remain in their own homes. For some staying in their own home is an option and for others a community with resources and support as they age is best for them. In Seattle we are fortunate to have many senior living options available.

For people who want to remain in their home, new resources are being formed in communities called “Virtual Villages”. Currently there are about 120 virtual villages actively serving across the United States and many more in the works. One group in North Seattle is called NEST. Their website states that “NEST is a 501(c)3 non-profit grass-roots community in Northeast Seattle. By providing a strong support network through volunteers and trusted business referrals, older residents can stay in their homes, and stay engaged in the neighborhoods they love for as long as possible.”

For others moving into an older adult community is their best option. There are many housing communities available that provide services along a continuum. Senior housing can range from independent care to complete care. Some communities provide the full range of services and others provide one or two but not all of the options. For people who are choosing to move into a community it is important that they visit a number of places in their consideration of where to move.

ABHOW, American Baptist Homes of the West, which is now called HumanGood, sponsors a number of senior homes throughout western states. One of the homes is Judson Park in Des Moines Washington.

Senior housing can be very expensive and Medicare doesn't pay for it. Our church helped start Hilltop House to provide a place for seniors on limited income to live. Seattle Housing Authority also has some senior housing options available for limited income clients.

If you are helping someone else try and find the best living arrangements or looking for yourself, one option is to use a service like Choice Advisory Services or Silver Age Housing and Care. These services are free of charge because they are paid for by the place where you move in. The client must live there for a period of time and be happy with the choice before the placement facility gets paid.

On a financial note it is always advisable to look into the financial health of the community you are looking to join to make sure they are in good financial standing.

My experience as a granddaughter and daughter of senior communities has been nothing but positive. My husband and I plan on moving into one within the next 10 years. I have found them to be vibrant fascinating communities with people from many different backgrounds and experiences. They can be places with opportunities for new experiences and lifelong learning, where close and meaningful friendships are developed. These are places where one can find support as one ages.

Welcome Choir Interns

By Jim Ginn

We welcome our four talented Choral Interns for the Sanctuary Choir's 2017-2018 season. Three of our interns are already familiar to you. Katie Kelley returns as our Soprano intern. Sarah Burkhardt returns to the Alto section. And Eric Jeffords continues as our Tenor intern. Welcome back, Katie, Sarah and Eric!



Our choral interns: Eric, Sarah, Katie, and DJ.

We are pleased to introduce our new Bass/Baritone intern, Darrell J. Jordan. Darrell (feel free to call him DJ) is thrilled to be a part of the Seattle First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir and community. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, he and his husband recently moved to Seattle. DJ will begin his doctoral studies at UW in vocal performance in the fall, while his husband (Max) has begun his dermatology residency at Virginia Mason/UW. When he is not preparing for a performance, DJ likes to spend his time at the gym, reading YA horror novels, and playing with his two cats: Dr. Kitty Fantastico and Xena, Warrior Kitten Princess. For more information on his professional music career, feel free to check out his website: [www.DarrellJJordan.com].

Please make an opportunity to introduce yourselves to DJ, and welcome back Katie, Sarah and Eric.

Heritage Room Photo Project Underway

By Stephanie Jones

Too many photos of SFBC Activities? Bring them home to the place of their belonging!

Would you like to find a permanent home for some of your treasured SFBC pictures? The Heritage Room would appreciate photographs of past church activities, trips, camps, etc. going back as many years as possible. Even the ones from Mom and Dad's box of mementos.

There is criteria though....

Please provide all, or at least some of the following information for each photograph:

1. The Activity [i.e. Jr. High camp, ABW tea, choir picnic, trip to..]
2. The Date [June 1953]
3. The Location if off-site [i.e. Ross Point, Czech Republic]
4. Identify people in the photo (can't ID folks? Why not ask for help...renew those ties that bind).

Print all available information either on the back of the picture [avoiding pressure marks & bleed thru...see below] or number the picture & print the information on a separate sheet (preferred method for photos where a significant number of people are identified).

If you write on the photo:

5. Light pressure & a soft lead, #2, pencil does the least damage
6. Do not use a ball point pen as ink can run, leave blotches & change color

Photographs only please...no copier images, no digital files, no CDs. NOTE: Photographs will NOT be returned.

Please include your name & contact data as we may have questions. Feel free to reach out to Diana James or Stephanie Jones with your questions. Contact information is available from the church office.

Please contact Stephanie when you have your pictures ready. NOTE: this is an ongoing project so take your time with the 'requested information' portion.

An Interfaith Conference On Climate Justice

By Keith Ervin

The Faith Action Climate Team (FACT) was founded last year by a diverse, interfaith group to develop ways for people of faith to address the climate crisis consistent with their spiritual grounding. Members of Seattle First Baptist Church and Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue helped make the first FACT conference last year a success in touching hearts as well as minds.

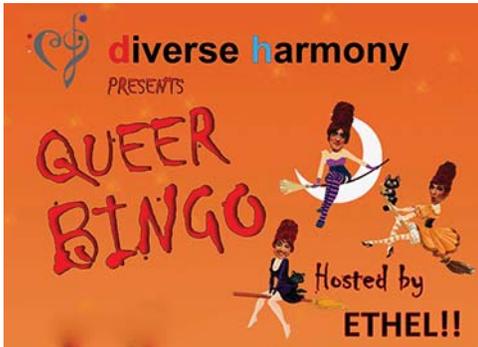
Don't miss FACT's second annual conference, "Love at the Crossroads: Climate and Social Justice," which takes place October 28 at Mount Zion Baptist Church from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

We will explore the intersection of the climate crisis with a range of social justice issues, from children's rights and health care to food, immigration, racism and corporate power. An interfaith panel will open the conference. Deborah Parker,

a Tulalip Tribes member and powerful activist for women's rights and climate justice, will deliver the keynote speech.

To explore how you can be part of this interfaith movement for climate justice, register for the conference at [<http://factconference.brownpapertickets.com>]. A locally sourced vegan lunch will be served. For a full description of the 24 workshops: [http://www.eatingforahealthyplanet.org/conference-program_2017.pdf].

Play Bingo, Support Diverse Harmony



Diverse Harmony is hosting another session of Queer Bingo. The fundraiser will be hosted by Ethel, and will take place on Saturday, October 21 at SFBC. Spectrum will perform at 7 p.m. and bingo begins at 7:30.

Admission of \$25 includes the concert and a Bingo basic game pack. Players must be at least 18 years old. Proceeds benefit the work of Diverse Harmony.

Tickets are available from Brown Paper Tickets. See www.DiverseHarmony.org for a link to Brown Paper Tickets.

Evergreen Annual Meeting: October 13 and 14

Our American Baptist region meets for its annual meeting on Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14. The Friday events will be held at Panther Lake Church in Kent and will include a Sacred Conversation, a workshop with Rev. Tom Wiles, dinner, and worship at 7 p.m. Saturday's activities will be held at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Kent and include an important question-answer session with the candidate being presented for the role of Executive Minister. That name has not yet been announced but it will be an important time for our life together. Business sessions will continue through the late morning and early afternoon with worship at 3 p.m. followed by a dinner honoring retiring Executive Minister, Marcia Patton. Registrations are available in the office or online at [<http://www.evergreen-abc.org>].

ABW Happenings

By Imogene Williams

Friendship Circle started the Fall Season with a blitz on bandage rolling! Many sheets were given to us by a Mercer Island church, and Donna Waite sews the torn strips into ten - foot lengths, ready to roll. We have six of the mechanical winders but some were rolled on a pencil. We wound 24 rolls! all working together! Janet Newell mails them to ABW out east and they are sent to Congo.

We all signed a card for Ellie Smith, who is caring for her sister in her illness; and for Attorney General, Bob Ferguson in appreciation for his suit on behalf of Dreamers.

Shirley Wilkinson provided a directory for each of us, and information about the ABW Fall Rally in Anacortes on September 30. The speaker will be Sarah Nash, Global Servant to Bolivia.

Shirley reported that we will continue the Penny Drive, proceeds go to Mary's Place, shelter for homeless women and children. We will have the Bake Sale before Thanksgiving, the proceeds go to White Cross A B W projects. We will have a sock drive to benefit Operation Nightwatch and Mary's Place. And, we will have a Blanket Sunday.

Our next meeting on Tuesday, October 9, will be on Living Our Values: welcoming the stranger.

Seattle Sings at SFBC

By Darren Hochstedler

Seattle First Baptist Church is proud to be the home of the Greater Seattle Choral Consortium and the Seattle Sings Choral Festival to be held on October 12, 13 and 14, 2017 in our sanctuary. The festival will consist of 35 of Seattle's most prestigious choral groups in a three-day event of public performances.

The first of the 35 choirs will begin performing on Thursday night at 7 p.m., with opening ceremonies including a candle lighting. Friday night performances begin again at 7 p.m., and Saturday performances begin at 10 a.m. and finish at 9 p.m.

There is no cost for admission to the festival! We invite the public to attend part or all of the festival, to come and go as you please, and to simply enjoy the wide range of choral music you will be able to experience. For more

information and a complete listing of participating choirs, please visit www.SeattleSings.org or you can email them at [gscsfestival@seattlesings.org].

This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation and community to experience beautiful sacred and secular music in our Sanctuary.

Burritos Roll On

Hunger continues. As a church community, we are dedicated to serving those in need. That's why the burrito rolls - a joint effort by SFBC, Free Food For All, Bet Alef and other area groups - keeps producing healthy, vegan burritos on the third Saturday of every month in the Fridell meeting room. The burritos are distributed to the homeless throughout the city.

Consider helping. Mark your calendars: October 21, November 18 at 1:45 p.m.

For more details please contact [BurritoRoll1@gmail.com]. If you want to be notified in advance of the rolls, you can ask to be put on the email list.

Seattle Jazz Vespers - Trish, Hans, and Phil with John Anderson

Sunday, October 1, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We kick-off our sixteenth season with Trish Hatley on vocals, Hans Brehmer on piano and vocals, Phil Demaree on vocals and bass, and John Anderson on sax. This very talented group has a refreshing concept — three voices, tight harmonies, and great jazz interpretations of The American Songbook. Trish, Hans and Phil are one of the most innovative and entertaining groups in the Northwest today. In addition to their unique and superb musicianship, they convey a joyous and exhilarating sense of showmanship. They bring their novel approach to the classics, from Cole Porter and the Gershwins to Lennon and McCartney. With the story-line lyrics of Hans, the sultry tones of Trish, and Phil's dry wit, this exciting group combines their soaring, swinging vocals for a sound that is truly their own.

October Calendar of Events

Sunday, Oct. 1 **World Communion Sunday** - "We will respect all religions." Week 4 of the Living Our Values series about our Affirmation of Values. I'm In, our Stewardship drive begins.

9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Parlor - Curt Smith leads discussion on Three Phases of a Faith Journey

10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor

11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching. Ephesians 2.14-22, "creating one new humanity."

Hilltop House - we will recognize its 50th anniversary of the facility and many years of service of Darla O'Brian and Karen Carlos

Following Worship - Senior Adult Luncheon. Joanne Horn will speak about Managing Life Transitions. Cost for lunch is \$5

3 p.m. Memorial Service for Amber Joy. Reception to follow.

6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers - Sanctuary

Wednesday, Oct. 4

6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Oct. 7

5 p.m. 50th Anniversary celebration at Hilltop House, which was started by SFBC and has been providing affordable senior housing for 50 years!

Sunday, Oct. 8 "We will welcome the stranger, including immigrants and refugees, as our Scriptures instruct." Week 5 of the Living Our Values series about our Affirmation of Values

9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Mona Han of the Coalition for Refugees from Burma will speak about their work with refugees - Parlor

10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor

11 a.m. Worship with Theologian in Residence Patricia Hunter preaching. Leviticus 19.33-34, "you shall love the alien as yourself."

4 p.m. Labyrinth - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 - 8 p.m. Conversation about Sanctuary and SFBC's role in this important movement
- 8 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (note later start, rehearsal will be shorter than usual)

Thursday, Oct. 12 - Saturday, Oct. 14

Seattle Sings - A Festival of the Greater Seattle Choral Consortium <http://seattlesings.org/festival/2017>

Friday, Oct. 13 - Sunday, Oct. 15

Evergreen Association Annual Meeting. Register online at <http://www.evergreen-abc.org> or get a form from the church office.

On Oct. 13, Rev. Dr. Marcia Patton will be recognized for her many years of ministry to Evergreen - New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Renton.

Sunday, Oct. 15 Companis Sunday - "We will go deeper in faith as we do justice, love mercy, work for peace, and walk humbly with God." Week 6 of the Living Our Values series about our Affirmation of Values

9:30 a.m. ADULT LEARNING - Nancy Hall will make a presentation on the Hymns of Rod Romney - Fridell (note location change for this event only)

10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor

11 a.m. Worship led by members of Companis. Micah 6.8, "What does the Lord require of you?"

Wednesday, Oct. 18

6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall

7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Oct. 19

7 p.m. Diaconate - Parlor

Friday, Oct. 20 - Sunday, Oct. 22

Women's Retreat - Rainbow Lodge. The Wideness of Our Welcome

Saturday, Oct. 21

7 p.m. Diverse Harmony Bingo - Fellowship Hall. Tickets at BrownPaperTickets.com

Sunday, Oct. 22 Pledge Sunday - "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Parlor - Creativity Connections panel - "Men with Paintbrushes"

10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor

11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Matthew 22.15-22

Wednesday, Oct. 25

6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall

6:45 p.m. Program - African Drumming as part of Creativity Week

7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, Oct. 28

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Climate and Social Justice Conference at Mt. Zion

5:30 p.m. Creativity Expo - see story in this issue for details. Free parking in the lot adjacent to the church.

Sunday, Oct. 29

9:30 a.m. Adult Learning- Parlor - Creativity Connections panel - "Women with Pens"

10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor

11 a.m. Worship featuring a team from the Creativity Expo.

Following worship - CFYA Halloween Lunch for families and children - Gym

12:30 p.m. Creativity Expo - see story in this issue for details.

Periodicals
Postage Paid
Seattle, WA
USPS
194-940

Editors

Tim Phillips
Jim Segaar

**Publisher and
Graphic Artist**

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**Photography
Contributor**

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Article

Deadline

20th of each
month

Email

Delivery

Sign up for
email delivery
of *The Spire* by
registering on
our website.
SeattleFirstBaptist.org

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Online Extras

We are blessed with a wealth of great preaching and great music at Seattle First Baptist. Many people enjoy part of our worship services via our website. Recent services include some wonderful sermons from our own pastoral team and guests such as Rev. Allyson Robinson. Take a look: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/recent-services.html>

