

the spire

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Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



Give Thanks Anyway

By Jim Segaar

What a year!

That's the only way I can sum up 2017 thus far. It's been a time of great disappointment and fear for many of us, as we daily watch our society decay under a landslide of lies, greed and hate. But for me personally it has also been a very exciting - and exhausting - time. Jim Ginn and I are well on our way to completing a small vacation home in Methow Valley, and yes, we are doing virtually all the work ourselves. It's been the kind of year that challenges me as we enter the holiday season. In times like these, can we really be thankful, and share joy and good cheer?

The photo above was taken from our lot in the Methow in July of this year. It is my favorite of many sunset images I captured over the summer. Sunsets have been a special gift for me there. I recall wonderful sunsets when I was a child, and seeing them again has been a special surprise. I posted this photo on Facebook, garnering lots of oohs and ahhs. One friend commented, "Was some of that the result of BC fires?"

I was a bit taken aback by the comment. For a moment I felt guilty for finding such pleasure in the product of pollution. And BC was hardly the only fire news this year. A wildfire burned within 20 miles of our Methow home almost all summer, and we spent quite a few days breathing a mixture of soot, ash and air. Not to mention the

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devastation in California this fall. And elsewhere in this issue you can see evidence of another kind of devastation – hurricanes. With all that, how can I dare to consider this photo beautiful?

But I do. I remain deeply grateful that I got to see that sunset, and capture it on camera. It's become a symbol of sorts for me, a reminder that beauty and pain are often partners, that suffering and joy mix readily in this crazy world of ours. Seeing it, I am committed to give thanks anyway.

When I mentioned writing this article to Pastor Tim, he referred me to a small book titled Gratitude. It was written by Oliver Sacks, a neurologist and prolific author, and includes four essays that were written in his early 80s, beginning soon after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The final essay was first published two weeks after his death. In the book, Dr. Sacks writes:

I cannot pretend I am without fear. But my predominant feeling is one of gratitude. I have loved and been loved; I have been given much and I have given something in return; I have read and traveled and thought and written... Above all, I have been a sentient being, a thinking animal, on this beautiful planet, and that in itself has been an enormous privilege and adventure.

So what a year, indeed! On the political front I hope things get better soon. I'm relieved to hear of friends who are cleaning up and moving on after fires. So much work remains to be done in the aftermath of this year's hurricanes. With all that, I remain grateful, and each day I become more in awe of one of the greatest gifts that we humans ever receive: the ability to feel gratitude.

A Time to Honor David and Pat Kile

By Susan Dohrmann and Dick Miller

For 40 years, Pastor David Kile has blessed us at Seattle First Baptist Church with his wit, compassion, and dedication. David began his ministry at SFBC on the first Sunday in Advent in 1977 as Minister of Christian Education. Over the next four decades, he has served in various pastoral capacities, most recently as Pastor for Senior Adult Ministries.

David demonstrates those "salt of the earth" midwestern values that we all admire. He was born on November 26, 1941 in Kansas City, Missouri and grew up in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Active during his high school years in the Baptist Youth Fellowship at First Baptist Church in El Dorado, Kansas, he took the Fellowship's message of Christian service to heart, a commitment that has influenced his entire life and career. At age 23, he began his first full-time church position at First Baptist Church of Grand Junction, Colorado as Minister of Christian Education and Youth. He served there for eight years before accepting a position as Minister of Christian Education at First Baptist Church of Santa Ana, California. In 1977, after serving at First Baptist Church of Santa Ana for four and a half years, he accepted his present call to Seattle First Baptist Church.

David met Patricia Massey in September 1969 at church. Pat was the new French teacher at Grand Junction High School. The couple did not marry until July 1972, perhaps because David never learned how to speak French. They have a daughter, Kathryn Hunter Kile, born in 1984, who grew up at SFBC, graduated from Syracuse University, and now lives and works in New York City.

David has a BS degree in Social Science from Emporia State University and a Masters in Religious Education from Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas.

On December 3, we will honor David, thanking him for all the gifts he has given us these 40 years, at a luncheon after church. David will begin his well-earned retirement on December 4. He and Pat will enjoy a three-month transitional sabbatical starting on December 4 during which he will no longer have any pastoral team responsibilities. We're trusting that he and Pat will continue to join us in worship and programs.

The Personnel Commission and the Associate Pastor Search Committee are discussing plans to continue a vibrant Senior Adult Ministries program at Seattle First Baptist. During this transition period, Pastor Tim Phillips will be overseeing the Senior Adult Ministries program and, along with other members of the pastoral team, providing pastoral care to our senior adult members.



Pastor David and Pat Kile served communion together last September.

Welcome Our New Choral Director

By Margaret Norton-Arnold



Ben Luedcke

As chair of the choral director search committee, I am so pleased to announce that we have selected Ben Luedcke (Lid-Key) as our new director. We conducted a nationwide search for Ben and spent many hours evaluating both resumes and the various perspectives of choir members, our congregation, and our pastoral team. Please take a few minutes to say thanks to the search committee: April Kuhr, Belle Chenault, Darla O'Brian, Kimberly Thiesen, Larry Green, Sterling Morris, and Tim Phillips.

Coming to us from the Midwest, this last academic year Ben Luedcke was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Monmouth College where he conducted the Monmouth Chorale and Chamber Choir, and taught music theory and voice. Ben has also served as faculty at Grinnell College, where he conducted both the Grinnell Singers and the Grinnell Oratorio Society, and taught an introduction to music theory and voice. Ben completed his Masters of Arts in choral conducting at the University of Iowa and this fall he began his Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Washington. Ben is currently the director of Voces Aestatis, a Madison, Wisconsin-based professional summer choir that specializes in the a cappella repertoire of the sixteenth century. Additionally, he is the founder and artistic director of Madison Summer Choir, a large chorus that performs choral orchestral works each summer.

Ben will begin his position at SFBC in the next few weeks. Please be sure to welcome him!

Are You IN?



Thank you to everyone who has responded to our 2018 pledge campaign, I'm IN! We've received a number of pledges already, and are in the process of tabulating results. If you have not yet pledged, please do so in one of the following ways:

- On Line (<http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/pledge-form.html>)
- Via mail – mail a pledge form to the office, c/o Darren Hochstedler
- By phone – give Darren a call.

Our goal is 100% participation. We are all IN this together.

Hurricane Relief Update

By Samara Hoag and Paul Roby, Outreach Commission co-chairs

Safe in Seattle, it is hard to imagine the total destruction of 175-290 mph winds in Puerto Rico or flooded homes in Houston. Physical, financial and emotional recovery from these crises is years in the future. Please continue to pray for our neighbors in Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico impacted by this chaos. In response to Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria, SFBC has made the following gifts:

- \$1,336.40 to Covenant Church of Houston Hurricane Benevolent Fund.(www.covenanthouston.org). Covenant, a Welcome and Affirming congregation, hosted Companis worker Paul Roby during Post Hurricane Katrina victim resettlement efforts.
- \$350.00 to the Montrose Center in Houston (www.montrosecenter.org) for disaster relief for LGBTQ community.
- \$500 to ABC-USA One Great Hour of Sharing:Puerto Rico (www.abc-Oghs. org)
- \$350 seed money to purchase a chain saw or generator for a church in Puerto Rico. If there are members of the congregation with expertise with these machines and give advice to a Outreach Commission, please contact Sami Hoagskhoag@gmail.com.

We are still looking for a personal connection to a church in Florida to send a gift for Hurricane Irma relief. If you have an idea please let us know.

Our friends at a University Baptist Church have extended a challenge to us. They are in process of dispersing their remaining funds. They will match your gifts up to a total of \$5,000 if your gift for Puerto Rico assistance is made before December 15. Make checks payable to ABC-USA: Attn OGHs:Puerto Rico. Send them to Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches 409 Third Ave S, Kent, WA 98032. Make a note to ask for UBC matching funds.



Photos provided by ABC-USA

More News from Puerto Rico

By Marcia Patten, Executive Minister of Evergreen Association

Here is a report from a colleague about the current situation in Puerto Rico as reported by them in conference call with ABHMS. Regarding ABC churches, as of October 16:

- 90% are still without electric power.
- 40 % still do not have water, and those that do are not sure if it is contaminated or not.
- 22 Baptist churches were totally destroyed.
- 26 churches had significant damage.
- 5 Baptist schools were badly damaged.
- The seminary was badly damaged. The chapel and classrooms were destroyed, and the library and administrative offices were badly damaged.
- The region office had \$80,000 worth of damage.
- The Las Cruces office had \$60,000 in damages.
- There is trouble filing with FEMA because it has to be done online, and many have no power or internet.

Good News: So far \$80,000 of goods and money have been sent to Puerto Rico from ABHMS. A container ship with 500 tarps, 22,500 hygiene kits, 2,550 school kits and 1,800 tubes of toothpaste departed on the October 17. So far about \$122,000 has been given to OGHs.

Please keep the churches, pastors and leaders of the region of Puerto Rico in your prayers. We will keep you updated as we get more information.

Special Worship Services in November

By Pastor Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko

All Saints Day, November 5

As in the past, we will remember those of our community who have died in the last year with a reading of names and ringing a bell. We also are adding a new element this year. Before and at the beginning of the service we'll be providing ribbons and markers for you to write down the names of beloved ones who have passed. The remembrance ribbons will then be gathered and hung in the sanctuary during the service.

Youth Sunday, November 19

Belonging, Solidarity, Communion. Join us for our annual Youth Sunday Worship service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 19, as the next generations at Seattle First Baptist offers a glimpse of how we interpret and are living out our church's values. We'll be highlighting Value #5 "We will actively work to recognize and change our own biases" as it relates particularly to our engagement with racial justice.



11.19.17 | #solidarity | #NextGenSFBC

Socks Needed!



Donate socks: American Baptist Women's Ministry and our Youth Group are teaming up to collect socks for Operation Nightwatch's "Sock It to Homelessness" sock drive from now until Sunday, November 12. Please bring new men's athletic socks for our homeless friends and neighbors. Our "Large Boot" collection box was designed by our church's youth and will be located outside sanctuary by the Wiggle (Brawley) Room during worship service. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, Operation Nightwatch is a local grass-roots group dedicated to reducing the impact of poverty and homelessness, in keeping with Jesus' teaching to love our neighbors. www.seattlenightwatch.org

Adult Learning in November

We have a variety of learning opportunities on Sunday mornings in November. Adult Learning meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

November 5: SASG: Supporting the LGBTQ Community

Meet Josh Wallace, executive director for Seattle Area Support Group, a "non-profit corporation that cultivates powerful, healthy lives by providing peer emotional support and development services to the LGBTQ community and their allies embracing issues of mental health, chemical and behavioral addiction, and chronic illness."

November 12: A Companis Workers Panel

Three Companis Workers who are part of the SFBC community share their personal take on the values and what they do, or have done, in their placements. Moderated by Lynn Gaertner-Johnston.

November 19: A TED talk discussion

Local churches use TED talks to initiate discussions about ethics and social justice issues. Steve Smith will lead a discussion after viewing a 20-minute TED talk.

November 26: Gratitude

Gretchen Gundrum will lead a session on Gratitude.

Coming in December: Advent: Sundays Dec. 3, 10 and 17

Cherry Johnson will lead a series named "What Are You Waiting For?" More details will be available soon.

Nurse's Corner

Time for Your Flu Vaccination

By Sue Ross, Faith Community Nurse

Vaccinations – What do cows have to do with it?

The first vaccination to be developed was for smallpox. In the late 1700's it was noticed that milkmaids did not develop smallpox. From this discovery it was determined that the milkmaids exposure to cowpox while milking cows made the milk maids immune to smallpox, a virus very similar to cowpox. This discovery led to the development of the smallpox vaccination. The next big breakthrough was the polio vaccine in 1954, which was literally life sparing for hundreds of thousands of children.

When vaccines were first developed and doctors had the ability to prevent deadly diseases it seemed to be sort of a miracle. Now we take them for granted, see them as a nuisance or worse.

What is a vaccine? Vaccines are made from a small amount of a germ that has been altered so that it can't cause an infection or disease but when injected into the body will cause the body to develop antibodies against that specific germ. Once the body develops these antibodies it has the ability to fight off the actual or real infection if and when it is ever exposed to the germ in the future. The antibodies prevent the germ from causing severe damage or death.

Because vaccinations have become so successful many of us have no memory of how damaging and deadly these diseases can be. We forget that polio causes paralysis, that measles contracted during pregnancy can cause severe birth defects and that mumps in boys can cause infertility and that all of these diseases can cause death.

So why is there a controversy surrounding vaccinations.? Many of the controversies began when people started to try and understand the cause of Autism. Because many babies with Autism seem normal at birth and it wasn't until they are a little older that the Autism would become apparent that some questioned if there was an event after birth that caused Autism. The idea that vaccines caused Autism was suggested and this false assumption spread. A famous study that was published asserting that vaccinations caused Autisms has been disproven. Unfortunately there is still a lot of misinformation being passed around despite that fact that there is no evidence that vaccines cause Autism. Additionally, some parents are concerned about the number of vaccines that are given to infants and children but a brief amount of pain from a needle stick is nothing compared to being harmed or dying from an illness that could have been prevented.

Some people worry about the safety of the vaccinations. Vaccination production in the US is tightly controlled under rigorous conditions to prevent contaminations and other problems.

It is important that every child be vaccinated and stick to the recommended vaccination schedule. It is rare that a child should not receive a vaccination due to specific health concern. According to the Center for Disease Control's website the Advisory committee on Immunization Practices, a group of medical and public health experts that develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States, designs the vaccination schedule. The schedules are designed to protect young children before they are likely to be exposed to potentially serious diseases and when they are the most vulnerable to serious infections. Some parents advocate for spreading vaccination out over fear that the vaccines will overload their child's immune system. This should not be a concern. Every day a healthy baby's immune system is exposed to thousands of germs and its body successfully fights off these infections.

Vaccines can have some side effects but most are mild. The side effects are usually minor such as redness. Swelling and redness where the shot was given can be treated by placing a cool rag on the site. Rarely a child can have a severe allergic reaction. It is always a good idea to keep an eye on your child after they've received their immunizations and if you have any concerns let your child's doctor know.

Some children with specific illness may be unable to get vaccinated. These children rely on the rest of us to get vaccinated so that we will not pass an infection on to them. Many pediatricians offer vaccines for free for eligible children through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Even adults need vaccinations.

Vaccinations are not something that occurs in childhood and never again. Young adults should be vaccinated against meningitis. People over 60 should be vaccinated against shingles and those over 65 should be vaccinated against pneumonia. Everyone should get the flu vaccination every year. Some people argue against getting the flu vaccination for different reasons and some believe the flu vaccination doesn't work. It is true that sometimes the wrong strain is used in the vaccination because the virus changes constantly and the experts have to make their best educated guess about which strain will be an issue each year when the vaccine is being developed. However, these arguments should not stop anyone from getting the flu vaccine. Obtaining these vaccinations is not difficult. Most pharmacies can administer these vaccines.

Vaccinations are the best way to keep from becoming severely ill or dying from certain illness

As a nurse and mother I strongly advocate being vaccinated. Every year I make sure to get my influenza vaccination. Not only for myself but to protect those who I care for who may have compromised immunity.

Join Us at Bengali Gala 2017

By Paul Roby



All are invited, as Interfaith Community Sanctuary and Seattle First Baptist Church host a gala fundraising dinner, in our own Fellowship Hall, on Saturday, November 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. The event is held every year to raise funds for the Suraiya Ataur Medical Clinic, in Bangladesh. The clinic is a special project, in the ancestral village of our dear friend Jamal Rahman, and his family.

Ten days before the event, our friends from the Interfaith Sanctuary, and the large community of Bengali expatriates here in Seattle, will join us for our weekly congregational dinner, on Wednesday, November 8, as guests of the SFBC Congregation. Please join us that night, as we get to know friends from another community, of a faith and culture different from our own, by eating together. We'll hear more information about the clinic

in Bangladesh, and learn how our love can touch people half a world away.

The Annual Bengali Gala Fundraising Dinner, on November 18, will feature a full-course dinner of authentic South Asian cuisine from the Shalimar Restaurant, music, and classical Bengali folk dancing. There will be an update from the Rahman family, about current activities and developments around the clinic in Bangladesh. Tickets for the Saturday dinner are \$30 in advance, through Brown Paper Tickets, at [<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3084513>]. Seating is limited, but any tickets that remain unsold will be available for \$35, at the door. Child care will be available. Children under 12 may enter for free. Dinner and door prize will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

All proceeds support the Suraiya Ataur Medical Clinic (SAMC) in Chondipur Village, Bangladesh. For more information about the clinic, visit their Facebook Page, at www.facebook.com/SAMCBangladesh/. If you cannot attend that evening but wish to help the clinic, you may donate at interfaithcommunitysanctuary.org.

Update: Outreach to Immigrants and Refugees.

By Jim Singletary, president of the congregation

On October 11, more than 60 SFBCers gathered for a presentation and discussion on the revived sanctuary movement in western Washington. We heard Michael Ramos, executive director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, talk about the new reality for many immigrants without citizenship or residential status under the current administration and how several congregations in our community are stepping up to address the needs of those most vulnerable to deportation. As he pointed out, sanctuary is about more than hosting and protecting individuals facing threats in their nations of origin, and/or at risk of seeing their families broken up by separation of parents from children. It is also about accompanying our neighbors in all aspects of these struggles, and about creating solidarity with other faith communities who are taking this prophetic stand for justice and compassion. A recent survey conducted by the SFBC Outreach Commission found that more than three quarters of us feel that Seattle First Baptist should play a role in this movement, as our recently adopted Affirmation of Values calls us to:

"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."

To that end, we are in the process of forming a working group to explore further what this role for our congregation should be. If you were unable to attend the discussion on October 11 but are interested in being a part of this group, please contact me at president@seattlefirstbaptist.org or by phone at 508-932-0551. We are looking to organize the first meeting by the middle of November. Whether or not you feel that you are able to join the group, I would welcome hearing from you if you have any contacts with immigrant and refugee communities on our area.

Evergreen Calls New Executive Minister

At the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, held October 14 at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Kent, Wash., the members of the Association agreed by consensus to call the Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal as their second Executive Minister. This action was taken following the search committee's nomination of Rev. Avilesbernal. He will begin his work with the region in January 2018.

Avilesbernal has been involved with intercultural and diversity work for over 15 years. He has been actively involved with American Baptist Churches USA's work in this regard since 1999, beginning with a program called the Xtreme Team, which sought to immerse young adults in different cultures around the world for one month at a time, allowing them to live alongside Christians different from themselves and to learn what their world was about. That work led to a continued focus for him within the American Baptist Churches denomination around the issue of intercultural engagement.

Among other assignments, Avilesbernal has led annual conferences for Missionary Children for American Baptist International Ministries, where issues pertaining to life in diversity are lived out in many different contexts.

He currently serves as lead pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Norristown, Penn., is a frequent speaker and workshop leader for regions and national conferences such as the "Orientation to American Baptist Life," and is a published author in various media outlets. In the local sphere, he has been a leading participant in helping the city where his church is located to engage with and struggle through its first immigrant wave since the late 1800's, as well as other efforts in the Philadelphia area. His work with diversity in the local church led him to be appointed by Montgomery County Commissioners to several local boards to advise and oversee the allocation of resources in ways that account for the diversity of the very large county where the church he pastors is located.

Rev. Avilesbernal holds a Bachelors of Music Performance degree from New Jersey City University, a Masters in Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and ABC recognized ordination. He is the author of the ABC Reads book for 2017-2018, "Welcoming Community: Diversity that Works," published by Judson Press in 2016. His recent TEDx talk: "Tolerance, the end of the beginning" can be found at the TED website or YouTube.

ABW News

By Shirley Wilkinson

This is a busy time for American Baptist Women's Ministries and we need your help! We are continuing to help Mary's Place with their important ministry with homeless people. Please remember to put your coins (or bills) in the Penny Project jars on the coffee and punch tables during coffee hour and they will be sent to Mary's Place. Also we will be helping to support our American Baptist missionaries with our annual bake sale on November 19 in the Fellowship Hall after church. And this year we are helping the youth with their sock drive for Nightwatch. Nightwatch ministers to men and women who are homeless but predominantly men. Warm socks are hugely important to cold feet! Your support is much appreciated!!



This photo from Friendship Circle shows Janet Newell and Jean Burn rolling bandages for Congo. Meetings usually begin this way. Then we enjoyed listening to summer activities, After dinner Martha Hopler continued our lessons on Values, Welcoming the Stranger. We discussed respect we need to have for ourselves before we are able to respect and welcome the stranger. Make a note of the November 14 meeting - bandage rolling, dinner and an individual Faith Journey - 5:30 p.m. in Fridell. (Caption and photo by Imogene Williams)

Joyful! Noise presents: "Through The Eyes of a Child"

By Melissa Thirloway

Nature offers no purer lens through which to view life than through the eyes of a child. Each year during this brief, wintery epic we re-experience many of our most deeply cherished memories and rituals and, better still, give ourselves license to see and feel them once again as children.

Joyful! Noise's 40-voice choir and three-piece band includes SFBC community members Wendy Cohen, John Chenault, Belle Chenault, Nancy Roberts-Brown, Atit Marmer, Carla Granat, Kimberly Thiesen, Patrick Green, and Jeff and Melissa Thirloway.

Join in the fun as we remember holidays past, celebrate this year's magical season, and look forward with hope.

The concerts are in SFBC's sanctuary on Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. and Monday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. (and also at Mercer Island Congregational Church on Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m.). Tickets are available from Joyful! Noise members, Brown Paper Tickets or at the door. For more information: <http://www.joyfulnoiseseattle.org>

Support Our Neighbors in Recovery

By Samara Hoag

Tim Dean (our church caretaker) is very involved and well-known in the AA Recovery community. You may have seen him greeting visitors to our church on Sunday. He let us know of an opportunity to support Unity on Union, which provides meeting space, books and social involvement for people in recovery. Unity on Union has a lease that allows them to purchase at well below market value. They are having a fundraiser which Tim is involved in and he is asking the church to support it in whatever fashion we are able. Their website is www.unityonunion.org. They are a 501 c (3).

As we look in our neighborhood, we can see that the need is as great as ever for a thriving recovery community. SFBC has a long history of supporting recovery groups. We also have many members in these groups. Outreach Commission will make a gift towards this effort but we ask individuals who are interested to please donate.

The Wideness of Our Welcome

Photos and Story by Pastor Harriet Platts



Twenty-nine women gathered the weekend of October 22 for the Fall Women's Retreat, *The Wideness of Our Welcome*. Stepping into the circle of conversation, we risked sharing our own stories of welcome, and began a meaningful, engaging exploration of what inclusion looks like, in relationship with our self, with others and within the Seattle First community. We discovered that all our experience and wisdom is not so easily put into words, and that there is need for continued places for honest engagement when it comes to including and welcoming one another. The generosity of those gathered was heartening."

Congratulations to Bob Nicholson

Rev. Dr. Bob Nicholson, a member of the SFBC community, was recently profiled in the fall issue of 3rd Act Magazine. Bob, who lives in Seattle and regularly attends SFBC when he is in town, still travels extensively and preaches at various churches.

The article begins:

At 85, the Rev. Robert "Bob" Nicholson doesn't mind the word "older." But he's not so crazy about "retired."

"I have an advanced degree in getting older," he declares, as we enter his sunny corner apartment at Aljaya Thornton Place, which is full of books and papers and neatly labeled files for his many current projects. The walls are happily crowded with watercolors by his late wife, Betty; shelves and tables are filled with mementos and photos that hint at the full life they led together: Bob as a Presbyterian minister and Betty as a teacher, activist, artist, ordained church elder, and pioneering gerontologist.

Be sure to offer Bob your congratulations the next time you see him.

Here Come the Holidays

Through the magic of the Gregorian calendar, we have a somewhat condensed holiday season this year.

November 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, is Youth Sunday. We will celebrate Thanksgiving as a faith community on Sunday, November 26.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, with a theme of "What are you waiting for?" We plan to have our Sanctuary Choir concert during the worship hour on the third Sunday of Advent, December 17, and the fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve! On that day we will have our Christmas breakfast, followed at 11 a.m. by a combined Intergenerational Worship Service and DIY Christmas Pageant. That evening, at 7 p.m., we will have a traditional Choral Christmas Eve Service.

Make plans now to join us for these services. Later in November we will send out information about all the seasonal events occurring at SFBC this year.

Happy 50th to the Tollefsons

Sue and Virg Tollefson are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, and the family is inviting SFBC to join in the celebration. There will be cake served in Fellowship Hall after church on Sunday, November 19 in their honor. Be sure to join us.

Seattle Jazz Vespers: "Families Who Do Music Together"

Sunday November 5 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Each year we feature a special concert of "Families Who Do Music Together." Our November SJV concert features local Pacific Northwest's artist and their family members that are also talented musicians. Showcasing: Beth and Jim Wulff; Nancy Erickson, Kayla Erickson and Trevor Erickson; Sheila Kay; Annie Eastwood and James Middlefield; Michael and Sylvia Rollins; Grace Holden, plus a few surprise artists.

During the interlude there will be a special reflection by local jazz legend Grace Holden.

This style of concert is unique and includes audience participation. Bring your children, bring your whole family.

Co-hosts: Janet Whitlock and Nancy Erickson

Creativity Expo

This weekend the Creativity Expo filled our church with art, performance, and spirit! Here are a few photos from Saturday evening's session. See more photos from the Creativity Expo, plus the Family Halloween Lunch and other recent events at SFBC on our website: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/recent-happenings.html>



More Creativity Expo photos on the back cover.

November Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Music Rehearsal - Brawley Room
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Nov. 5 All Saints Sunday - "Blessed are you..."

- Daylight Savings Time Ends - set clocks back 1 hour
- The Columbarium will be open today.
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - SASG - Supporting the LGBTQ Community - Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Music Rehearsal - Brawley Room
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Matthew 5.1-12 "Blessed are..."
Following Worship - Young Adult Luncheon at Megan Walker & Aaron Burkhalter's home. Contact Pastor Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko.
- 6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents: "Families Who Do Music Together" - Sanctuary

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Music Rehearsal - Brawley Room
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Nov. 12

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - A Panel of Companis Workers - Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Music Rehearsal - Brawley Room
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Matthew 25.1-13 "Keep your lamps trimmed and burning..."
- 12:30 p.m. Choir special rehearsal for Christmas concert
- 4 p.m. Labyrinth - Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 15

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Music Rehearsal - Brawley Room
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Nov. 16

- 7 p.m. Diaconate - Parlor

Sunday, Nov. 19 - Youth Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - A TED Talk Discussion - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship led by our Children, Youth, and Families
Following Worship - ABWM Bake Sale

Wednesday, Nov. 22

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (will let out early)

Thursday, Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Office Closed

Friday, Nov. 24

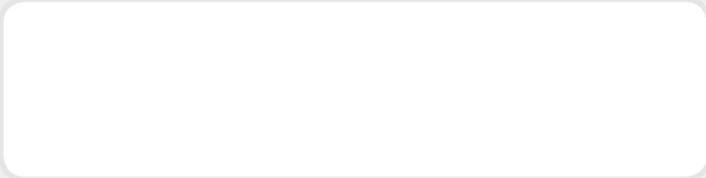
Office Closed

Sunday, Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Gretchen Gundrum on Gratitude - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching on Matthew 25.31-46 "Just as you did it to one of the least of these..."
Following Worship - Hanging of the Greens (decorating for Advent and Christmas) - contact Patrick Green for more information. Volunteers needed!

Wednesday, Nov. 29

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal



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Online Extras

This fall we explored our new Affirmation of Values through the *Living Our Values series*. Videos from the series are available on our website, as is a summary of the ideas for living our values that our community contributed: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/living-our-values.html>

