

May 16, 2012

(** indicates new or updated information)

From Pastor Wahhab

Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. –Acts 1:24-26

One of this Sunday's lectionary readings describes how the early Christian community drew straws to see which of two candidates would take Judas' place as the twelfth apostle. I do not think this is how LWCC will choose its next pastor. Instead, the Search Committee has been meeting diligently, spending long hours in interviews, and is deep in discernment.

I have intentionally stayed uninvolved in the search process, because this is your pastor whom you are choosing, and I do not believe it is appropriate for an interim pastor to influence you in choosing what will be right for you. But I do feel called to respond to the announcement that was made last Sunday, that of the handful of remaining potential candidates, one speaks English as a second language, and although his command of the language is excellent, he has a strong accent so that there is some effort involved in understanding him, and that a second candidate is a lesbian in a committed relationship. We were assured that these are both highly qualified Disciples ministers, but that if any members of the congregation felt these were disqualifying characteristics, or that they would not be able to accept such a candidate, they should contact their elder, Kipp, or leave a message anonymously through the office. We were invited to pray about this decision.

This announcement confronts us with a number of thorny issues, but I wish to speak only from a Christian perspective. The most crucial part of the announcement is that we should pray. Choosing a pastor is not like choosing an employee or a date or a golf buddy. This is a person we trust to guide us on our collective spiritual journey. This is the person who will take our collective vision, as expressed in our Guiding Vision Statement, and help us turn it into a reality. So the key question is not so much what do we want, but what does God want—want for us, and want for the community we will be serving.

This is a community with a strong focus on welcome and inclusivity, based on God's hospitality as shown in the Bible, and we certainly want to continue to honor that. The problem with having people described to us only by a single characteristic (she's a lesbian—he's Korean—she's black) is that we have only a blank screen for our projections, rather than encountering a whole person, a child of God, a dedicated servant of Christ, who has many characteristics (she's funny—she likes gardening—she's in a committed relationship with another woman—she is a vegetarian—she has teenaged kids and loves children). We certainly don't want to exclude people based just on our fears or imaginations.

At the same time, good communication skills are an important part of the job of being a pastor. A feeling of empathy with the community, and being a person who will attract new members, and inspire us, and lead us to be more faithful Christians, are important.

So let's pray. Pray for our search committee. Pray for the candidates. Pray for our church. Pray that God's Realm will come, and that God's will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven. And that Lake Washington Christian church may be a part of that—a sign and foretaste of God's realm.

Glad to be your pastor, Wahhab

****Out of the Office:**

- Pastor Wahhab will be out of the office from 5/16 through 5/22. He will be attending a Clergy meeting and the NW Regional Assembly.
- Martha will be out of the office from 5/19 through 5/28. Sandy will be filling in.

****May is Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) Awareness Month****

Governor Gregoire has proclaimed May to be MCS Awareness month.

What's in "fragrance"? Most people with MCS react strongly to fragrance. The word "fragrance" or "perfume" no longer means a plant extract, but a soup of chemicals. The International Fragrance Association lists 3,163 ingredients that can be hidden behind the term "fragrance". While not all 3,163 are toxic, many are. Did you know that just one perfume can contain more than 500 chemicals?

- 95% of chemicals used in fragrances are synthetic compounds derived from petroleum.
- Over 80% of the chemicals in fragrance have not been tested for human toxicity.
- Some of the chemicals found in fragranced products are on the EPA hazardous waste list.
- The perfume industry is not regulated by any government agency and is not required to disclose the ingredients in "fragrance."

What Can I Do? At LWCC we have members and visitors who are chemically sensitive. You can help us in our goal of being open and accommodating to all who wish to worship with us by being scent aware. As a scent sensitive community, we request that members of and visitors to LWCC refrain from wearing perfume/cologne, after-shave, scented lotion and body powder inside the building as a first step in achieving a fragrance-free environment.

CROP WALK – Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of CROP Walk by walking, sponsoring a walker, working at Hopelink, or sponsoring a worker. This KIN sponsored event helps fight hunger and poverty locally and around the world. This year's event includes several work/walk options. It will be held on Saturday, May 19, starting with a 2 hour work party at the Hopelink Center (11011—102nd Ave NE, Kirkland). At 11:30 the walkers will take off for a 2 mile (easy) walk to Holy Spirit Lutheran (10021 NE 124th St, Kirkland) for a lunch and celebration. You can work, walk, both, or you can sponsor a worker/walker. More information and the sign-ups are on the card table in the foyer or you can donate directly by going to www.churchworldservice.org/CROP and follow the prompts.

****Sew Busy** – The LWCC Piecemakers will meet on Saturday, 5/19, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. A generous donation of fabric has been made to the group and will be available for the group. They will also continue to work on the 2012 Raffle Quilt (blocks are not due until 6/16). Anyone with an interest in quilting, sewing, outreach, and fun are invited to join this group.

****Wise Women/Smart Girls Meeting** – The book club meeting of the Wise Women/Smart Girls is on May 20 at 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This group focuses on reading levels from 4th through 8th grade. All women/girl duos are invited.

Pentecost Special Offering - For the last 12 years the Disciples Mission Fund Pentecost offering has been taken to support the planting of new Disciple churches. During that time more than 730 new churches have started. That is over 45,000 new Disciples! Ten years ago our founding and called pastor, Rick Morse, left LWCC to head up the New Church Ministry team in Indianapolis and the success of this ministry is over and above all projections. To help continue this great ministry our Pentecost offering will be taken on May 20 & 27. A "Special Offering" envelope will be in your Sunday bulletin or you can mail a check to the church w/ "Pentecost" written on the envelope or in the memo line.

LWCC Women's Spring Luncheon - June 2

Celebrate the wonderful women and women-to-be of LWCC. All ages are invited welcome to bring guests. The doors will open at noon. Enjoy a great program, delicious finger food, and warm fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the counter outside the office or call the office if you would like to attend. If you would like to help with this event, please see Erin, Judy, or Martha.

****CELEBRATION SUNDAY** – JUNE 3**

Welcome our Guests - Honor our Graduates – Recognize our Teachers
Join us for an all-church potluck following worship!

Final Call: Any Grads Out There? Please contact the office if you have a 2012 LWCC connected graduate. Our celebration to honor our Grads and Teachers will be 6/3. A reception and Potluck will follow worship.

Bring a Guest to LWCC Day – Please bring a guest with you to worship on Sunday, June 3. Spread the word about what LWCC has to offer your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We are an open-minded and caring faith community where service to others is a priority. There will be a potluck following worship to celebrate our graduates, teachers, and guests.

CHRP Workday – Our Community Habitat Restoration Project volunteers will meet on Saturday, June 9, for their monthly workday. If you are available to help that morning you are more than welcome. Come when you can and for as long as you can.

Book Club News - The LWCC Book Club is reading *Isaac's Storm*, by Erik Larson. It is an account of the Texas hurricane of 1900. It remains our country's deadliest natural disaster. Reviews: "A gripping account..." - NY Times, "Superb" - Wall Street Journal, and "Gripping" – Washington Post. The Book Club will meet 6/20 at the home of Mike and Toni.

All-Church Retreat - 7/27-29

Enjoy a weekend at beautiful Gwinwood on Lake Hicks in Lacey, WA. Spend time with your church family in fun, fellowship, and faith. Swim, Canoe, Read, Play Cards, Sing around the Camp Fire, Nap, etc. Space is limited so sign up NOW. The sign-up sheet is on the counter. The cost per person is \$60 and this includes 2 nights' accommodation, all meals, snacks, and lifeguard expense. A deposit of \$35 will hold your reservation. Can't make it for the weekend? Then come on down for the day on Saturday. Questions? Contact Rob, Erin, or Martha.

NW Region Summer Camps – It is time to start thinking about getting the camp schedule on your calendar. The registration forms are coming out in May. The Gwinwood Camps are:

Chi Rho/CYF: July 30 – August 4

Junior Camp: August 6 – 11

Kid's Camp: August 6 – 9

Scholarships are available through LWCC and the Region.

'B' Caring Card Benefits LWCC & Amazon Does Too - Earn up to 4% for LWCC with each purchase at Bartell Drugs. Registration forms are on the counter or pick one up at your local Bartell Drug Store. It's Free...It's Easy...Sign Up! Remember that if you are making purchases from Amazon to go through our "Fundraising" page on the LWCC website (www.lwchristian.org).

In the Community:

- **“Living in the Light”** – A one-day summer solstice retreat at George: Church for Community (2215 – 125th St., Seattle) will be Saturday, June 23, from 9:30 - 4. This event is hosted by Brigid’s Table and features “Machshla” (Stefan Waligur) and his musical compositions. Also included in the day’s program will be singing/chanting, silence, poetry and sharing of stories in an Irish/Celtic tradition. To register by June 10th contact Theresa at theresamgallant@gmail.com. There is a suggested donation of \$20. Bring a sack lunch.
- **Open Invitation from KCC** – The Rev. Vincent Lachina, WA State Chaplain for the Planned Parenthood affiliates of WA, AK, ID, and NW OR, and creator of a faith community network of progressive congregations, will be speaking at Kirkland Congregational Church (105 – 5th Ave) on Sunday, 5/27, at 12:15pm. The topic of Rev. Lachina’s presentation will be how faith communities can act in support of maintaining access to healthcare, including reproductive services, and support health organizations such a Planned Parenthood.
- **KITH News:**
 - **EAT BIG** at the Kirkland Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on May 26. Doors open from 7 am to noon. Proceeds support KITH’s work to help homeless families make lasting life changes. A \$7/person suggested donation.
 - **7 Hills of Kirkland** is on May 28. Invite your cycling friends to break the cycle of homelessness and participate in the 2012 7 Hills of Kirkland bike ride. There are 40, 60, and 100 mile routes. To register or for more information visit www.7hillskirkland.org.

Prayers:

- Continued prayers for Don and Bev. Bev is back in the hospital following a couple of setbacks. Contact the office for further contact information.
- Rick’s hospital stay continues. Please continue to keep Rick, Kitty, and their family in your prayers.