



# The BRIDGE

## October 2009

Congregational Church on Mercer Island  
United Church of Christ



### Dear friends,

*O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.* *Psalm 63:1-4*

I am extremely excited that September has arrived! Fall is my favorite time of the year when the weather starts to cool down, the trees start to change their colors and pumpkin pie is the pie of the season. It is hard for me to believe that a year has passed since we first met. My word to you on that first Sunday was that it would take some time to learn each other's lexicon. It would take time to learn each other's history and gain each other's trust. In the past year we have together renewed the energy and vitality of this church.



We are having wonderful worship experiences; at least, I am. We have seen attendance grow and new souls have joined us as members. We have repainted and reclaimed some of the meeting and gathering rooms. We have laid new carpet in one of several rooms that are in need of carpet renewal. Under Erich's leadership, we have not only been touched by God through song, but Erich has purchased a new synthesizer that is adding texture to our worship services as well. We even brushed off the leaves and had worship services outside! None of this could have been accomplished without your zeal and love for this place. We all come here to seek something of the divine, through worship, nature, and good friends. We all come through these doors wanting to be touched by Christ.

Another reason why September is my favorite month is because it follows a period of two months when the church slows down and folks fly off to mountain trails, ocean blues and adventures in far-off lands. September becomes a time when we regroup and look forward to a new year together. This fall season I want to encourage each of you to carefully, intentionally, prayerfully and actively engage in the Covenant season. As you have read in the past two articles we will vote on whether or not to separate our membership from the covenanting process. If you have questions and thoughts, please write them down and participate in the next three meetings (September 20<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> and voting on October 11<sup>th</sup>). No matter how the congregation votes, we will have our Covenant season and Covenanting Sunday. There are so many things we want and need to do this year and your excitement and participation are the only ways they will get accomplished.

Thank you all for your commitment, hard work, for your laughter and shared stories. Thank you for your trust in me.

May God continue to bless our ministry here at CCMI.

Pastor Mark

## More from Pastor Mark

Several months ago Mike and I put our house on the market and began an exhaustive search for a home we would love and could afford on Mercer Island. Sadly, even in this market, we could not find one. In time we were lucky to sell our home and our search led us to a house on Bainbridge Island. My work schedule is roughly the same as before with just a few minor changes. It begins with a ferry commute that allows me time to work on my sermon, read, make phone calls, etc. I arrive at the church by 10:30 a.m. and will leave by 5:00 p.m. I would like to set up "Have the Pastor Over for Dinner" on the nights I have meetings here at the church. Those evenings will be: 1<sup>st</sup> week Wednesday night, 2<sup>nd</sup> week and 3<sup>rd</sup> week Monday nights, the 4th week Wednesday night. On these days, I will arrive at the church around 1:00 p.m. Thursdays will continue to be my sermon-writing days at home.

The new home address is 4420 Rockaway Bluff Rd NE, Bainbridge Island 98110. My cell phone has excellent reception there: 206-902-8542.

Peace to you all, Mark

## Children's and youth ministries

By Jessica Howard



Dear Brothers and Sisters—September was such a fun month! With the Back to Church picnic, receiving Mark back on the 13<sup>th</sup>, starting our youth groups up again and getting reunited with old friends after the summer break I've been really busy! The AIDS Walk and overnighter at the end of September proved to be a fun way for us to get to know the other UCC youth in our area and to make our mark on the search for a cure. Last year's AIDS Walk was a lot of fun and we looked forward to a larger turnout from our church this year.

Here are some fun bits of news from our youth programs: Timothy Malcham has started a website [www.savedinloves.com](http://www.savedinloves.com) where he publishes comic books about unlikely heroes battling some of the big causes of sadness in our world, such as child soldiers and hunger. Forty percent of the profits from each comic book sold will go to benefit the cause talked about in each of the four books in the series. Check out the website and order yourself and your family one of Timothy's comics. I did and I'm so excited about what this will do for our world. Timothy is showing us that we all have gifts that can be put to use to make a huge difference.

We will do a scrip program with the local grocery stores on Mercer Island. If you like, you can sign up and scan your card when you make purchases, which will put money in our youth fund for outreach, youth mission trips and activities. More info on how to sign up for this program will be provided later this month.

Our Haunted House—a primary fundraiser for our programming—will be open this year on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Our sign should be going up soon. Usually this is a really fun and busy time for our church. We will need assistance setting up, conducting the hauntings during the weekend and cleaning up afterward. We'll have a sign-up on the main bulletin board for those who wish to participate.

Finally, please, please, please sign up to teach Sunday school. We have been averaging 6–8 kids each Sunday and the more the program grows, the more help we need from other adults. Thank you for all of your support during our Youth Sunday in August and a shout out to the CE Committee who helped provide the snacks for our Marshmallow Roast on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout with approximately 15 students in attendance!

## Council highlights

Submitted by Suzanne Sanderson

Pledges and contributions are higher than expected for this time of year, as are building use fees.

The Diaconate discussed the input that Mark had given them from the UCC Pastors meeting where H1N1 flu was discussed as well as the regular flu. Pastors discussed how to serve Communion during the highly contagious time this fall, and they decided that they would not do Intinction. The elements will be passed with the bread already cut up.

### SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

They have begun our monthly support of The Sophia Way, the homeless shelter at First Congregational of Bellevue. They are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. **Elta Loy** and friends supplied the first meals for September, and there is a sign-up sheet on the office bulletin board for volunteers going forward. A printed packet for each volunteer group will give them the information they need to provide the two dinners plus breakfast items.

This month, **Linda Fielder** will give a short presentation to the congregation on Oikocredit as they feel clarity is needed for the congregation on this organization and our participation in it.

The October project is Nightwatch, for which we will collect white athletic socks for Seattle's homeless men. This project was originated by the area's clergy who walk the streets at night and minister to this population. **Mike Gibbons** is chairing this effort.

## Eastside Domestic Violence Program

By Kim Bennett

The Eastside Domestic Violence Program exists to provide services in East and North King County to people, usually women and children, who have experienced physical, emotional or sexual abuse. It also provides

advocacy, education and support aimed at preventing domestic violence.

The organization runs a number of programs\* including My Friend's Place, which provides confidential, transitional housing for people in lethal situations involving domestic violence and substance abuse.

My Friend's Place recently moved to a new location with more spacious and pleasant surroundings, and things are settling from the move, all except the very large, very disorganized store room. The store room contains food, clothing, housewares, bedding, all the things someone arriving—sometimes in the middle of the night, perhaps in pajamas, and perhaps with young children—needs to help restore some sense of order and control and comfort.

When the Social Outreach committee asked how we could help EDVP, there was an instant and unanimous reply: *Organize our store room!* So shelving and storage bins were purchased and transported, carried up several flights of stairs and then put together (thank you, **Peter Laylin** and **Tom Bennett** and Peter's van **Leviathan**).

**Elta Loy, Donna Ellis, Ginger Reeves, Mary Kilmartin** (Admiral UCC) and I then spent a day organizing!—filling up the new shelves and bins, making beautiful, legible labels (thank you, Elta), and generally making it possible to walk in and find things immediately. It will free up the time and energy of the advocates to do what they are trained to do: help frightened, confused people find a footing again.

This project was underwritten and organized as a memorial to Kim's mother, Roberta Dunlap, and was supported by CCM and Social Outreach. Thank you to all who responded so immediately, with no hesitation, when I asked for help. I love this church.

\*There is an informational brochure about EDVP and its many programs in the church entryway.

## All in the family

By Carole Taylor

Many thanks to all the people who helped the Fellowship Committee set up for the picnic after church on September 13<sup>th</sup>. It would have taken our small committee 15 minutes longer without your help. It always amazes me how quickly we can go from sanctuary to dining room because everyone knows the drill so well!!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the **Jorgenson family**. Ralph's mother, Thelma Jorgenson, passed away peacefully in September. She was 101 years old. She had lived independently in her own home in Provo, UT.

The Prayer Chain team invites you to join us in praying for recovery and God's peace for the following members of our faith family:

- **Pastor Mark**—pray for continued healing of mind, body, and spirit.
- **Patty Gerard**—pray for health during chemotherapy.
- **Sammy Greenwood**, former longtime member of CCMI had open heart surgery September 16<sup>th</sup>. The surgery was successful and they were able to repair the valve. Pray for speedy recovery.
- **Sally Jorgenson**—knee replacement September 25<sup>th</sup>. Pray for successful surgery and speedy recovery.
- **Jane Koning**—pray for a kidney donor for her. She is doing very well with the overnight dialysis procedure.
- **Kim Ramuta**, daughter-in-law of Ron and Louise, has been diagnosed with pelvic cancer that has spread to the lymph nodes. Pray for peace for the whole family.

- **Lois Robertson** fell and broke several ankle bones in early September. She is also being treated for severe anemia. Pray for complete recovery.
- **Elinor Smith**—pray for healing and relief from severe back pain.

If you have any requests for prayers please call or email Carole Taylor, 425-827-3906, [tayloraskiers@comcast.net](mailto:tayloraskiers@comcast.net). We are now using email for those who have it and telephone for those who don't. We have 3 teams of 5 members each and would love to add more to the chain.

## Other news you can use

On Sunday, **October 18<sup>th</sup>**, our **Congregational Lunches** will resume immediately following worship. Jeanne Eggebrecht and her helpers are our hostesses.

Sunday, **October 25<sup>th</sup>** will be **Youth Sunday**. Everyone is invited to be here at our 10:30 a.m. worship time to support and celebrate our growing population of young people.

Visiting Nurses will offer **flu shots** again this year in the sanctuary on Wednesday, **October 14<sup>th</sup>** and Monday, **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Make an appointment by calling the Mercer View Community Center at 206-275-7609. Immunization costs are covered by Medicare Part B. Otherwise, the cost is \$30, payable in cash or by check. Sorry, no credit cards.

On Wednesday, **November 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will host an ecumenical **Thanksgiving worship** service at 7:00 p.m. This is a long-standing tradition on the Island, and we are honored to participate by offering hospitality.

## October birthdays

October 2	Jane Nelson	October 18	Marilyn Campbell
October 3	Jack Nelson	October 23	Elta Loy
October 9	Claude Layman	October 24	Jane Marich
October 13	Paul Romppanen	October 28	Terry Pottmeyer
October 17	Jim Marich & Katie Bell	October 29	John Edmonds

## Special groups at CCM

2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	7:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Library
Wednesdays	7:45 p.m.	Bible Study	Library
	6:30 p.m.	Middle School Youth	Downcenter
Thursdays	6:15 p.m.	Bible Study	U6
	7:30 p.m.	Choir	Sanctuary
	6:00 p.m.	High School Youth	Downcenter

## Stewardship thoughts for October 2009

- October 4** What does God want us to do with the stuff God has provided us?
- October 11** Practicing stewardship is preparation for the next stages of life.
- October 18** Good stewardship is a transforming experience.
- October 25** Everything we have is on loan for our use in serving God and humanity.

## October lectionaries

- October 4** Job 1:1,2:1–10 and Ps 26 or Gen 2:18–24 and Ps 8; Heb 1:1–4,2:5–12;  
**Mark 10:2–16**
- October 11** Job 23:1–9,16–17 and Ps 22:1–15 or Amos 5:6–7,10–15 and Ps 90:12–17;  
Heb 4:12–16; **Mark 10:17–31**
- October 18** Job 38:1–7 (34–41) and Ps 104:1–9,24,35c or Isa 53:4–12 and Ps 91:9–16;  
Heb 5:1–10; **Mark 10:35–45**
- October 25** Job 42:1–6,10–17 and Ps 34:1–8 (19–22) or Jer 31:7–9 and Ps 126; Heb 7:23–28;  
**Mark 10:46–52**



# October 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00-noon BCC  Bible Study 6:15 p.m. U6	2	3 Piano 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Hwy Exit 9 Cleanup 8 a.m.  Private Rental 4–10 p.m.
4 Communion and Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  <b>COVENANT CONVERSATION 2</b>  HS Youth 6:00 p.m.	5	6  Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m.	7 9:00-noon BCC  MS Youth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:45 p.m. (Library)	8 9:00-noon BCC  Voice lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. U6 PNWAS Rental (DC) 7–10 p.m.	9  Private Rental (Sanctuary) 4–9 p.m.	10 Piano 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Work Party 9 a.m. 10:00 a.m. HAAW (DC)  Private Rental (Sanctuary) 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
11 Worship and Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b>  HS Youth 6:00 p.m.	12  Committees meet 7:30 p.m.	13  Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m.	14 9:00-noon BCC <b>FLU SHOTS</b> <b>9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.</b> MS Youth 6:30 p.m. OSAT Rental U6 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:45 p.m. (Library)	15 9:00-noon BCC  Voice lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. U6	16	17 Piano 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  RSCDS Dance 5-11 p.m.
18 Worship and Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  <b>CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH</b>  HS Youth 6:00 p.m.	19  Council meets 7:00 p.m.	20  Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m.	21 9:00-noon BCC  <b>NOVEMBER BRIDGE DEADLINE</b> MS Youth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:45 p.m. (Library)	22 9:00-noon BCC  <b>HAUNTED HOUSE SETUP</b> Voice lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. U6	23  <b>HAUNTED HOUSE 7–11 p.m.</b>	24 Piano 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  <b>HAUNTED HOUSE 7–11 p.m.</b>
25 Worship and Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>  HS Youth 6:00 p.m.	26	27  Duplicate Bridge 7 p.m.	28 9:00-noon BCC  MS Youth 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:45 p.m. (Library)	29 9:00-noon BCC  MS Youth 6:30 p.m. Voice lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:15 p.m. U6	30	31 Piano 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  10:00 a.m. HAAW (DC)

*Church office hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to noon on Friday.*

Congregational Church on Mercer Island  
United Church of Christ  
4545 Island Crest Way  
Mercer Island, WA 98040-4443

#### **Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of the Congregational Church on Mercer Island is:  
to nurture all seekers on their paths to know and serve God.

#### **Congregational Church on Mercer Island Staff Directory**

Mark Travis, Pastor – 206-232-7800; mark@ucc-ccmi.org

Erich Parce, Director of Music Ministry – 425-271-7679; erichparce@aol.com

Jessica Howard, Coordinator of Children's & Youth Ministry – 206-232-7800; jessica@ucc-ccmi.org

Katelyn O'Keefe, Nursery Care Coordinator – 206-232-7800

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Web Site: [www.ucc-ccmi.org](http://www.ucc-ccmi.org)

Deadlines: Sunday Bulletin, Thursdays, noon • BRIDGE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 2:00 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • Other times by appointment

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Fridays 9:00 a.m. - noon

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