

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Bainbridge Island, WA
Permit #1870

Eagle Harbor Congregational Church
105 Winslow Way West
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-842-4657

Return Service Requested



The Communicator

Published by Eagle Harbor
Congregational Church, UCC

Rev. Dr. Dee Eisenhauer, Pastor
Jennifer Merrill, Editor
Mary Waterson, Circulation

**The deadline for the February, 2018
issue of *The Communicator* is
Monday, January 22.**

To Contact Us:

Church Office:
office@eagleharborchurch.org

We're on the web
www.eagleharborchurch.org
Like us on Facebook!

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am - 1pm

The Communicator

All the (Church) News That's Fit to Print
Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, UCC
January, 2018



A Winter Ride

Who shall declare the joy of the running!
Who shall tell of the pleasures of flight!
Springing and spurning the tufts of wild heather,
Sweeping, wide-winged, through the blue dome of light.
Everything mortal has moments immortal,
Swift and God-gifted, immeasurably bright.
So with the stretch of the white road before me,
Shining snow crystals rainbowed by the sun,
Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shadows,
Strong with the strength of my horse as we run.
Joy in the touch of the wind and the sunlight!
Joy! With the vigorous earth I am one.

—Amy Lowell

Religious Status: It's Complicated!

I was talking to an islander I don't know well one day, and she said something about EHCC having a "known presence" in the community without filling in the specifics. Our very brief conversation got me wondering about what we as a church might be KNOWN for. As I get acquainted with this neighbor on another occasion, I will have to ask her about her impression. What do you think we are known for? What are you known for as an individual? Are what you are known for and what you wish you were known for the same things?

During the early part of this year, we're going to be exploring some stories about how Jesus came to be known, what he was known for, and what the disciples of Jesus were known for. After the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we move into a season of hearing the stories of people discovering and recognizing the identity of Jesus. In the time from Epiphany to the beginning of Lent, we too will discover the depth of who Jesus is, and by extension who we are called to be as his followers. How are we known as followers? What identifies us in such a way that others see an unmistakable likeness in us?

It's complicated these days to be known as a Christian because of the enormous variety of expressions of

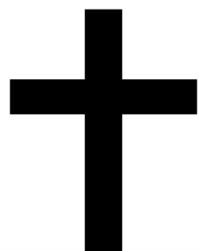
Christianity in this country and worldwide. Perhaps we'd rather not be known as Christians when we see stories of expressions of Christianity with which we vehemently disagree.

I read an editorial published in *Christianity Today* after Alabama's special election that suggested that the biggest loser in that election was not a political party but the Christian faith. Author Mark Galli wrote, "When it comes to either matters of life and death or personal commitments of the human heart, no one will believe a word we say, perhaps for a generation. Christianity's integrity is severely tarnished." He was critical of Christians on both the Left and the Right for their tactics and for their inability to be humble and respectful of others.

If the integrity of Christianity is tarnished—and he may be right—it's up to current generations of Christians to shine it up again. If we're not pleased with the media image of Christianity or Christians, how will we impact what Christians are known for? What might we do more of or less of, or what might we do differently?

I hope you'll join us in worship as we consider our identity and that of the Christ we follow.

—Peace, Dee



Lynn Stone

Why should we pass on the Christian faith/why is Christianity (as you understand and practice it) relevant today?

Christianity should be passed on because at its heart it is a radical, all-encompassing faith which focuses on sharing love and kindness. Our society would be much better off if it followed one of the basic tenets of Christianity which is "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

How would/do you describe EHCC to someone who doesn't attend our church?

I would describe EHCC as a wonderfully musical and welcoming church which focuses on social justice.

January Caring Coins: Reading Partners Seattle

Reading Partners is a National Tutoring Program that started in California in 2001 for elementary students from K-4 grades. Their mission is to help children become lifelong readers by empowering communities to provide individualized instruction with measurable results. Since that time, Reading Partners has spread to cities and towns in 10 states throughout the country, including Seattle in 2014.

The Seattle-based Reading Partners program currently has an interim executive director, Cassy Charyn, who is a BHS '08 alum. Last November, Cassy held an information gathering at Eagle Harbor Books to share her passionate beliefs in the quality of the program and the results that Reading Partners creates for students; she is determined to help expand the reach of Reading Partners to more Seattle students. She shared that 77% of low-income fourth graders in Washington are reading below grade level. Research shows that students who read at grade level by fourth grade have a greater opportunity to succeed in school and in life. Reading Partners has a proven program model that helps students more than double their rate of learning.

EHCC can help Cassy expand the reach of Reading Partners to more Seattle students with financial support through our January Caring Coins. For more information check out their website at www.readingpartners.org.



Focus on Faith:



What brought you to church (initially; not specifically to EHCC)?

Curiosity and the feeling that I was missing out on something incredibly important brought me to church initially. My parents had decided very early in my life that they did not want to impose a spiritual tradition on me, so

they waited for me to choose my own spiritual path. They did, however, hedge their bets by sending me to the same Christian summer camp (Mt. Hermon) that my mother had attended when she was in middle school and high school. I became a Christian while I attended summer camp at Mt. Hermon when I was in middle school.

Tell us about a specific time when participating in church was especially meaningful (not necessarily a time at EHCC).

Church became especially meaningful to me after I got married. I think that in order for a marriage to be successful both people must develop meaningful rituals which they then participate in together. Church is our primary ritual!

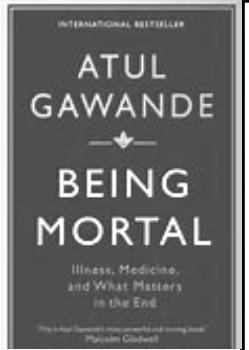
What makes your on-going relationship with church meaningful or worthwhile/ how has participation at EHCC positively affected your life?

I love seeing my children participate in a kind, positive and welcoming spiritual tradition. I was very quiet as a teen and no one thought that I had any leadership capabilities. My boys get to participate in any number of activities at EHCC that help build their leadership skills as well as their confidence.

How would you/please describe the evolution of your Christian faith so far?

I have moved from a pretty conservative faith (I used to believe that one has to invite Jesus into one's heart in order to eventually go to heaven) to a more understanding, mature, all inclusive faith. *(cont. on pg. 11)*

Being Mortal



EHCC's book group, Hungry Readers, will meet in our fellowship hall on **Monday, January 22** (note change to **4th Monday** to avoid the ML King holiday) **from noon to 1:30 to discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End.***

Here is Amazon's book blurb: "In *Being Mortal*, bestselling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending.

"Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

"Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families.

"Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting

the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified.

"Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end."

Those of us who have already read the book appreciate its focus on clarifying values before we are coerced into medical procedures we may not want. What matters most as we come to our inevitable end? Join us as we talk about life and death. And please feel free to bring a sack lunch to eat as we talk—because lunch matters! —Dee

Prayer Chain

Call any one of us with your prayer requests and concerns:

Linda Swolgaard, 842-3338

Ann Lovejoy, 842-0108

Jennifer Merrill, 780-6937

Tonya Keaton, 852-4817

Eileen Nicol, 842-1245

Dianne Speers, 855-9446

Marian Rees, 842-4621



Jeremiah (the Prophet, not the Bullfrog)

The **Wednesday Bible study**, which **meets in Pastor Dee's office from 7-8pm most Wednesdays**, has decided to tackle one of the epic prophets, **Jeremiah, beginning in January 2018**. To whet your appetite for this study, here is a summary of Walter Bruggemann's book on Jeremiah's theology which hints at some touch stones:

"[Jeremiah's] theology revolves around themes familiar from Israel's covenantal faith, especially the sovereignty of YHWH expressed in judgment and promise. The outcome of this theological nexus of context, person, and tradition is a book that moves into the abyss and out of the abyss in unexpected ways. It does so, in part, by asserting that God continues to be generatively and disturbingly operative in the affairs of the

world, up to and including our contemporary abysses (such as 9/11). The God attested in the Book of Jeremiah invites its readers into and through any and all such dislocations to new futures that combine divine agency and human inventiveness rooted in faithfulness."

All are welcome to join our "read together" study and discussion. Bring your sense of wonder and your sense of humor, since we take the Bible seriously but we don't take ourselves all that seriously.

(**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** meets from **9:30-11:00 most Tuesdays in Pastor Dee's office**. In this group, we mainly focus on the texts that will be read and preached the following Sunday. **All are welcome!**)

Ometepe Scholarship Liaison Needed

It has been a longstanding practice of Eagle Harbor Church each year to provide a scholarship to a college student on our sister island of Ometepe. We are looking for someone to be our church's contact person for this scholarship program: to receive communications from the organizers and make sure the EHCC Treasurer's Action form is filled out once a year to provide the funds. We have several letters of gratitude from our student which are written in Spanish, so it would be great if the liaison either spoke Spanish or could find someone to translate the letters so they could be shared with the congregation. **If you are interested in taking on this small volunteer job, let us know! Gracias!**

for Christian Faith

It is incumbent upon me, a guy who wakes up each day still trying to figure out what on earth my identity as a "Christian" is, to also take Boy George's wisdom out into the world.

"Christian." It gets more and more difficult to define that term. But isn't it still, even after all this time, merely a descriptor of an imitator of Jesus? Someone

who regards mercy as a virtue? Someone who refuses to see people as only tragic and f****d up? Someone who thinks that the world is worth trying to redeem?

—*David A. Shaw* is the Senior Minister of Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Montclair, New Jersey. Reprinted from the UCC blog: newsacred.org

Thank You!

- **Our church was especially lovely** during Advent and Christmas! Thank you very much to **Alice Tawresey** for the feather art; to Alice and **John Tawresey** and **Dianne Speers** and **Ian Forbes** for the decorated Christmas tree; to **Ann Lovejoy**, **Sherri Wilson**, **Leona Mackay**, and **Becky and Dave Beemer** for the wreaths; and to **Anne Hopkins** and **Marian Rees** for the outside lit tree. And to **all of you** for the angels!
- **Summer Land Trust Waterers to Be Honored:** The Bainbridge Island Land Trust is awarding the EHCC summer watering crew with the "**Jo Schaffer Volunteers of the Year**" award, which will be presented at the Land Trust's Annual Membership Meeting on **Friday, January 26, from 6-9pm**. Several EHCCers spent hours this past summer watering newly planted native foliage at the Land Trust's recently acquired Agate Passage property.
- **Mary's Place Santa shouts out a big "Thank you!" to EHCC.** Mary's Place served twice as many people in 2017 as in 2016, including at their annual Holly Jolly Holiday Party this past December. Therefore, "Santa" was extremely grateful not only for our contributions to the Santa Shop filled with toys and gifts-for-moms, but also for the **\$800(!) we contributed to the fund for shoe gift certificates!** We helped bring smiles and happy feet to many in need of both!

Boy George and the Quest

A recent road trip took me through Pennsylvania. As I put Allentown in the rear-view mirror, I decided to go retro and turn on the radio. To my delight, I heard a tune I hadn't heard in years: "Karma Chameleon" by *Culture Club*.

A smile, a few taps on the steering wheel, and a gentle hum. A good day became a great day. How could my day not be fantastic after hearing this?

[But] A few moments later and my mind traveled back about thirty years. I grew up in England in the 1980s, and my family and I religiously watched "Top of the Pops," a Top 40, half-hour, weekly TV show.

"What a poofter!" "What a weirdo!" "Bloody hell! What's he up to?" Not surprisingly, I heard all of those things when Boy George appeared on television. People I love said some of those things. Those same people were undoubtedly shocked by the seeming brazenness of this man in makeup, singing gently and freely about love and relationships, heartache, and being true to yourself. As a seven-year-old, I was shocked too.

Culture Club and Boy George didn't hang around in my consciousness for long. (They broke up, and I went through an extremely predictable Michael Jackson phase.) But 30 years after words like

"poofter" and "weirdo" filled my living room, I still remember them clearly. Sometimes, even when you're seven, you know deep down that some of the things adults have to say are complete and utter nonsense.

Boy George is a man who battled with many addiction demons. His relationships were lived in a public way and were not always harmonious. But he's a hero to many for his willingness to be true to himself, his identity, and his music, even as others belittled his appearance and music.

Yet, he's also a hero to me for offering the following quote in 2007: "People have this idea of Boy George now, particularly the media: that I'm tragic, f****d up. I mean, I'm all those things, but I'm also lots of other things. Yes, I've had my dark periods, but that isn't all I am."

"I mean, I'm all those things, but I'm also lots of other things." What a line! As a pastor, I find great blessing in hearing, "I'm tragic, I'm f****d up...but I'm also lots of other things." In fact, my experience as a pastor has only helped me appreciate the complexities of humanity.

People cheat. People lie. People say ridiculous things about celebrities on TV. Those same people love, laugh, and pray. You likely know this already.

(cont. on pg. 9)

Make a Note of It!

- **Jessica attends seminary classes in January:** As many of you know, I will be gone for most of the month of January, attending seminary classes in Chicago. They are week-long intensives and, just as described, they are intense. It's always fun (even if a little exhausting) to be surrounded by seminary students, studying and discussing theology and social justice. I look forward to returning the last week of January filled with new thoughts and ideas and energy. In my absence, the youth group will be meeting in one another's homes, having a little close-knit family time. Then **we will reconvene our regular youth group on February 4**. I am deeply grateful for the wonderful season we've had together so far, and I look forward eagerly to the second half of my internship. Thank you again for welcoming me into your community so completely. I am well and truly blessed to be among you.
—*Jessica Star Rockers*
- **PNC-UCC Conference Minister to visit EHCC: Rev. Mike Denton**, our Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC Conference Minister, plans to visit us on **Sunday, January 7**. What an excellent way to begin the new year! We will set up a conversation with Mike following worship, so plan to stick around to hear about the wider church and our place in it.
- **EHCC Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 28, 11am in the sanctuary. Join us** as we review and plan ahead: gratitude, budget, mission priorities, etc.
- **\$ Matters:** If you've not yet indicated your financial pledge to EHCC for 2018, we highly encourage you to do so soon. And, we remind you that **automatic withdrawals** from your bank account can help make meeting that pledge easier. **Talk with Becky Beemer** for more information about how to set that up.

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Leslie Amendt, Sharon Burris, Benjy Cunningham, Peggy Houck, Tom Jorza,
Joan Pratt, Linda Purdy, Marian Rees, Rene Zimmerman

Including the those grieving:

Family and friends of Nita Klein, who died on 11/24/2017
Family and friends of Keith Thackray, who died on 12/11/2017
Family and friends of Stephen Soderland, who died on 12/12/2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>EHCC</p> <p><u>January, 2018</u></p>	<p>1 Happy New Year! (office closed) <i>Barbara Minster</i></p>	<p>2 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office</p>	<p>3 Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7pm S</p>	<p>4 Men's B'fast 7am FH IFC 6:30pm FH, K Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary</p>	<p>5 <i>Thomas Kratzer</i> <i>Liam Kratzer</i> <i>Evan Price</i></p>	<p>6 Epiphany OA 9:15am S</p>
<p>7 1st Sunday after Epiphany Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary Worship/SS 9:30am (Visit from Mike Denton; see pg. 5) Youth Group 6:30-8pm; location TBA AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>8 Transfriending Group 7pm S</p>	<p>9 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office Peace Café 6-8pm FH <i>Ailish Wilson</i></p>	<p>10 Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7pm S</p>	<p>11 Men's B'fast 7am FH Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary <i>Barbara Chrisman</i> <i>Melanie Elliott</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 OA 9:15am S Keith Thackray Memorial Service 2pm sanctuary, FH</p>
<p>14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary Worship/SS 9:30am Youth Group 6:30-8pm; location TBA AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (office closed)</p>	<p>16 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office Mission Council Mtg 7pm S <i>Nicolas Pecora</i> <i>Kinam Sohn</i></p>	<p>17 Climate Change Forum 7-8:30pm FH Bible Study 7pm Dee's office AA (men's mtg.) 7pm S</p>	<p>18 Men's B'fast 7am FH Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary</p>	<p>19 <i>Erin Miller</i></p>	<p>20 OA 9:15am S</p>
<p>21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary Worship/SS 9:30am Music Recital 2-4pm Sanctuary Youth Group 6:30-8pm; location TBA AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>22 Hungry Readers 12pm FH Communicator Deadline</p>	<p>23 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office Madrone Village mtg. 6:30- 8:30pm FH <i>Ann Brown</i></p>	<p>24 AA (men's mtg.) 7pm Bible Study 7pm Dee's office <i>Stephen Wilson</i></p>	<p>25 Men's B'fast 7am FH Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K Choir Rehearsal 7pm sanctuary</p>	<p>26 Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K</p>	<p>27 OA 9:15am S</p>
<p>28 4th Sunday after Epiphany Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary Worship/SS 9:30am EHCC Annual Mtg. 11am Sanctuary Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K (EHCC Hosts) Youth Group 6:30-8pm; location TBA AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S</p>	<p>29 Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K <i>Carl Herman</i></p>	<p>30 Bible Study 9:30am Dee's office Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K <i>Teita Reveley</i></p>	<p>31 AA (men's mtg.) 7pm Bible Study 7pm Dee's office</p>	<p>Abbreviation Key: FH: Fellowship Hall K: Kitchen S: Singer Room AA: Alcoholics Anonymous OA: Overeaters Anonymous SS: Sunday School <i>Birthdays in italics</i> Church events in bold</p>		