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

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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

The Communicator

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Rev. Dr. Dee Eisenhauer, Pastor

Jennifer Merrill, Editor

Mary Waterson, Circulation

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To Contact Us:

Church Office:

office@eagleharborchurch.org

We're on the web

www.eagleharborchurch.org

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

The Communicator

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

March, 2018

My Dead Friends

I have begun,
when I'm weary and can't decide an answer to a bewildering question

to ask my dead friends for their opinion
and the answer is often immediate and clear.

Should I take the job? Move to the city? Should I try to conceive a child
in my middle age?

They stand in unison shaking their heads and smiling—whatever leads
to joy, they always answer,

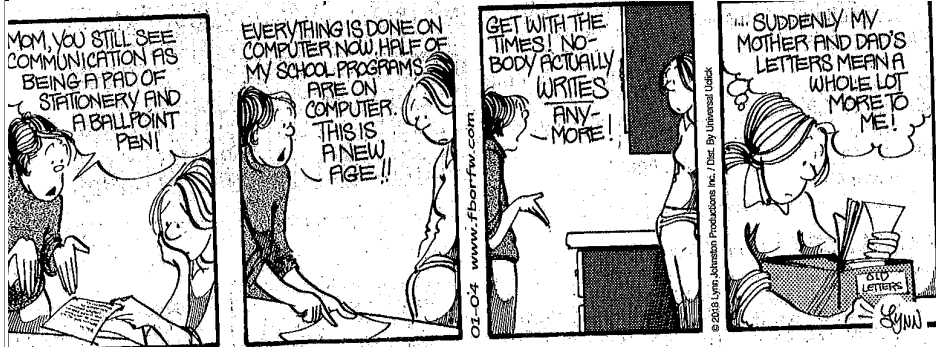
to more life and less worry. I look into the vase where Billy's ashes were—
it's green in there, a green vase,

and I ask Billy if I should return the difficult phone call, and he says, yes.
Billy's already gone through the frightening door,

whatever he says I'll do.

—Marie Howe

A Not-So-Lost Art



Our “Correspondence” Lenten series has inspired some of us to remember some of the letters besides scriptural epistles that have made an impact on our lives. We

The “For Better or Worse” comic strip pictured here catches Mom in reflective mood as she looks over the letters her parents wrote that she has saved for many years. Holding a letter is not the same as holding a person, but in the absence of that person it’s something tangible to connect us.

A great deal of our New Testament is in the form of letters (“epistles” being the fancy word). St. Paul sent letters to the new churches he was trying to build up because he couldn’t be everywhere at once. Some of his letters, we believe, were written from prison; he was sending a part of himself out that could fit between prison bars. He never imagined he was writing scripture; he was just trying to connect and do the work of evangelism to which he had been called. Paul’s letters teach, admonish, correct, inspire, and encourage the churches. They are an important part of our Christian Scriptures today, made holy by the authority the church has given them over generations. We can be grateful that Paul corresponded with the early Christians because we are still benefiting from them, reading them over the shoulders of the folk who received them first so long ago.

had some lovely small group conversation after supper on Ash Wednesday talking about letters and letter writers that have been important to us. Several of us recalled letters exchanged during our youth and young adulthood that were the fruit of important relationship—friendships, romances, letters from parents. Some of us have kept those letters and some have not, but the memory of what they meant for us remains regardless.

We’re inviting all and sundry to consider making a connection with someone you love during this Lenten season by writing letters. We’re intrigued with the potential of writing a “Forever Letter”—writing down some of what we believe and value, some of our core convictions and important memories to pass on to a loved one. I’m hoping to have written “Forever Letters” to my kids by Easter.

(cont. on pg. 3)

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Sharon Burris, Benjy Cunningham, Anna Edmonds, Peggy Houck, Tom Jorza, Joan Pratt, Linda Purdy, Marian Rees, Rene Zimmerman, regional and national political leaders

Focus on Faith: Fred McGinnis

What brought you to church (initially; not specifically to EHCC)? What’s been your faith journey since then? My mother was very religious, and my father was not. As a result, I was raised in a somewhat ambivalent circumstance. My mother, being Catholic, prevailed. I was baptized, and attended Catholic schools. My wife was also part of a very religious family, of the same faith. But over the ensuing years, there occurred a gradual waning in religious intensity, on the part of both myself, and my wife. It is difficult to ascribe any single reason for this. Certainly, extensive travel after retirement had something to do with it. Perhaps the repetitive nature of the religious ceremony, may have been a factor. But, most importantly, we were aware that little in the way of inspirational edification was forthcoming.



What makes your on-going relationship with church meaningful or worthwhile/how has participation at EHCC positively affected your life? The first service I attended at EHCC was a wake up call. It made me realize that it was still possible to be inspired by a message, a message well delivered and meaningful. I am not saying it was an epiphany, just a down-to-earth thought-provoking sermon. Subsequent attendance made me aware of the warm fellowship that prevailed at EHCC, something that definitely added to my interest in joining the church.

Why should we pass on the Christian faith/why is Christianity (as you understand and practice it) relevant today? We live in a time that begs for tolerance to be exercised, more now than I can ever remember in my long life. I cannot think of a more expeditious way of promoting universal tolerance than taking advantage of the religious adherence offered by established churches. Particularly churches headed by well informed and erudite pastors—pastors who can inspire the populace in ways that can lead to a peaceful co-existence on the part of all disparate cultures.

How would/do you describe EHCC to someone who doesn’t attend our church? I feel strongly that I have found, at EHCC, a church that has all of the attributes necessary to promote a path toward the attainment of the ideals necessary to achieve the goal I just described.

Thank You!

To those who made soup for Ash Wednesday: **Mary Brown, Madelyn Fox, Gerri Harrington, Jane Herman, and Ann Lovejoy, as well as to all those who brought bread.** We had a lovely post-service meal and conversation.



FAN Lobby Day

Nine of us—Mary Brown, Sheila Curwen, Jessica Star Rockers and Liam Flitter, Dick Goff, Greg Diamond, Jennifer Merrill, Madelyn Fox, and Dee Eisenhauer—journeyed to the state capitol on February 20 to learn about the Faith Action Network’s legislative priorities, network with other activists, and meet with decision makers who represent us. We joined an additional six people from the 23rd District and were able to share our convictions (ever so briefly) with Rep. Drew Hanson, legislative staff from the offices of the very busy Sen. Christine Rolfes and Rep. Sherry Appleton, and, as a bonus, our good neighbors Governor Jay and First Lady Trudi Inslee. It was a great day of faithful engagement

under a gentle snowfall that made us feel like we were inside a humungous snow globe.

It’s always good to see the number of very energetic and engaged people who are working toward the Common Good, representing a variety of faith communities. We each have our particular interests or passions; as we lift our voices we create a kind of symphony of compassion for our neighbors and our good earth.

It was a particular delight to have our pastoral intern Jessica’s ten year old son Liam with us this year. He got the first and last word in our meetings: “Thank you!” It’s so important to express thanks for those who work in governance, which is complicated, difficult, and exhausting work. Please pray for those who govern regularly; it matters.

March Caring Coins: Island Volunteer Caregivers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of IVC. They come from all walks of life and through their generous time they help allow the care receivers to live independently. Often many of our elderly and disabled adults don’t live near family and friends, which can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness. Having contact with IVC volunteers helps reduce this social isolation and allows for real human connection.

IVC Volunteers provide help in many ways from transportation to necessary appointments, phone reassurance, companionship through visits to help with pet care. Being a volunteer requires no long-term commitment; you can help as your schedule allows.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Robin at email address robin@ivcbainbridge.org. Every volunteer act makes a big difference in allowing seniors and others to maintain their independence and vitality. Our Caring Coin collection this month will help IVC continue to grow and help to sustain their services. **Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**



Maybe you would like to write to a friend or partner, a nephew, your spouse—giving them a thoughtful gift of your inner self put down on paper. Who knows what reconciliation, encouragement and love might be generated by such a gesture, not just in the present moment but perhaps down the road when someone takes your letter out of a shoebox on the shelf and reconnects with you?

It occurs to me that maybe what we have in the New Testament epistles are “Forever Letters” insofar as they pass on the key values and convictions of the authors. We’re not, of course, challenging anyone to attempt to write “scripture;” but let’s take an opportunity to express ourselves during this season in a meaning-full way that might last. —*Peace, Dee*

Hungry Readers

On **Monday, March 19 from 12-1:30pm in our fellowship hall**, we’ll discuss **The Forever Letter: Writing What We Believe for Those We Love** by Elana Zaiman. Here’s the book blurb: “A forever letter is a gift that will be read over and over again. Inspired by the centuries-old Jewish tradition of the ethical will, a forever letter is a perfect way to share your most precious possessions: your values, wisdom, and love with the people who matter to you most. And you don’t have to do it alone. Through empowering stories, sample letters, and writing tips, author Elana Zaiman serves as your companion on this journey of self-discovery and deepening relationships.” Bring a lunch if you’d like and join the conversation. Folks who have been working on a “Forever Letter” are welcome to bring bits and pieces to share with the group if you would like.

Good Friday

We’ll gather on **Friday, March 30 at 7pm in the sanctuary for a contemplative service** that will combine music, literary arts and visual arts commemorating Christ’s death. It’s one of the more beautiful things we do, year after year. Come and bring friends.

Easter

Easter falls on April 1 this year—April Fool’s Day! It may not be too far out of line to say that the Resurrection was a marvelous Cosmic Joke on all the forces of death who suppose they are all-powerful.

We’re planning our **“sunrise” service** jointly with our neighbors at Seabold United Methodist Church. “Sunrise” is in quotation marks because we are planning to worship **at Fay Bainbridge Park’s large picnic shelter at 7am** regardless of the actual time of the sunrise. Hope you can join us for heartwarming worship around the campfire, with bagels and cream cheese and coffee afterwards. We’d welcome contributions of Easter eggs for breakfast as well, if you have some to spare. Dress appropriately for the weather, and bring friends.

We’ll gather **in the sanctuary for a joyful service celebrating the Resurrection at 9:30am** Easter Sunday. We plan to have an Easter Egg Hunt for the youngsters in the back yard following the service.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

EHCC
March, 2018

Abbreviation Key:

FH: Fellowship Hall **K:** Kitchen **S:** Singer Room
AA: Alcoholics Anonymous **OA:** Overeaters Anonymous
SS: Sunday School *Birthdays in italics*
Church events in bold

1
Men's B'fast 7am FH
Choir Rehearsal
7pm sanctuary
Sheila Curwen

2
Madrona
1-3:30pm FH

3
OA 9:15am S
Steve Harrison

4 3rd Sunday in Lent
Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary
Worship/SS 9:30am
Youth Group 6:30-8pm FH
AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S

5
Madrona 8:45-11am FH

6
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Bible Study 9:30am
Dee's office

7
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Lent Study 7pm
Dee's office
AA (men's mtg.) 7pm S

8
Men's B'fast 7am FH
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Choir Rehearsal
7pm sanctuary

9
Madrona
8:45-11am FH
& 1-3:30pm FH

10 OA 9:15am S

11 4th Sunday in Lent
Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary
Worship/SS 9:30am
One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering
Youth Group 6:30-8pm FH
AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S

12
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Transfriending Group 7pm S

13
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Bible Study 9:30am
Dee's office
Peace Café 6-8pm FH

14
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Lent Study 7pm
Dee's office
AA (men's mtg.) 7pm S
Sharon Burris

15
Men's B'fast 7am FH
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Choir Rehearsal
7 pm sanctuary

16
Madrona
8:45-11am FH
& 1-3:30pm FH

17 OA 9:15am S
Climate Change Forum
10-11:30am FH
Mary Brown
Jim Tusler

18 5th Sunday in Lent
Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary
Worship/SS 9:30am
IFC Music Festival 5pm @ Grace Church
(featuring the EHCC choir!)
AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S

19
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Hungry Readers 12pm FH

20
Madrona 8:45-11am FH
Bible Study 9:30am
Dee's office
Madrona 6-9pm FH, K
Mission Council Mtg
7pm S

21
AA (men's mtg.) 7pm
Lent Study 7pm
Dee office
Communicator Deadline

22
Men's B'fast 7am FH
Super Supper 3-7pm FH, K
Choir Rehearsal
7pm sanctuary

23
Madrona
1-3:30pm FH
Madrona
6:30-8:30pm FH

24 OA 9:15am S

25 6th Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday
Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sanctuary
Worship/SS 9:30am
Super Supper 4-7pm FH, K (EHCC Hosts)
Youth Group 6:30-8pm FH
AA (women's mtg.) 7:30pm S

26
Super Supper 4-7pm FH, K

27
Bible Study 9:30am
Dee's office
Super Supper 4-7pm FH, K

28
AA (men's mtg.) 7pm
Lent Study 7pm
Dee's office

29
Maundy Thursday
Men's B'fast 7am FH
Super Supper 4-7pm FH, K
Choir Rehearsal
7pm sanctuary

30
Good Friday
Super Supper
4-7pm FH, K
Worship
Service 7pm

31
Holy Saturday
OA 9:15am S
Ed Cannard