

WOODLAND PARK PRESS *MISSION*

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION

IN
MOTION

FEBRUARY – 2018

From the Pastor...

At our annual meeting on February 4, we'll do many of the things we do every year. The annual report will be available with reports from all the committees in the church about their activities in 2017, we'll receive a report on our finances, and the congregation will vote to approve my compensation (that's the one part of the budget that our *Book of Order* requires the congregation to approve instead of Session). One thing we won't do during the annual meeting this year is elect new officers. You may (or may not!) recall that, in the fall, we had a special congregational meeting in which the congregation voted to temporarily suspend the WPPC bylaws so that our current officers (both elders actively serving on Session and actively serving deacons) could continue to serve for up to six months beyond the normal transition time in order to accommodate a process of organizational assessment in which our Session, and now our Deacons as well, has been engaged. The reason for the delay was that, since reorganization was being considered, the chairs of the nominating committee felt they would have a hard time explaining to potential nominees what they would be doing if we're not sure yet!

Assessing if our organizational structure fits who we are and what we believe we are called to do at any point in time is the ongoing task of any Session but, every now and then, it comes time to consider a more significant change to how we are structured. I'm aware from listening to many of you who have served long and faithfully at WPPC that this church has been through many such periods of discernment and re-organization...which is actually a good sign, since that means this is a church that is aware that change is inevitable and necessary, if not always easy. Over the last couple of years, our Session has been engaged in a process of examining our mission as an organization and how our structure fits who we are at this time. We've done this by looking at who we are as a whole

and by looking at the work of our individual ministries. We noticed that a number of the issues and questions that we kept running into weren't fixable in isolation—to really address them, we'd have to be willing to consider some bigger changes.

Some of what we've discussed includes:

- A generational change and a cultural shift in attitudes and preferences when it comes to volunteerism (a need for more flexibility and shorter-term commitments with clear goals).
- A desire among many of our members for deeper relationship through small groups and teams that change in make-up over time so members can deepen a wider range of relationships more organically.
- A need to bring our small children's ministry more into the center of what we do and provide more support for the parents (rather than leaving it to the parents and a couple of faithful others to provide for all the staffing and programming for the kids).
- Greater collaboration and better communication among our different ministries and groups.
- A need to create a more systematic and welcoming way to invite new community members (especially those who aren't already familiar and comfortable with the Presbyterian way of things) into the fellowship and work of the church.
- A need to provide clear invitations, mentoring, and support so people can feel comfortable and welcome trying new roles.

(Continued on page 2)



A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

**Toward a Church as Generous
and Just as God's Grace**

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

HERE'S AN UPDATE about June Howard who fell in Church Sunday. She is home wearing a knee brace for a cracked kneecap and will see an orthopedist for further recovery plans. We wish her a very speedy recovery!

PLEASE NOTE THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held right after the service **Sunday**, February 4th. Copies of the Annual Report for 2017 are in the Narthex.

HOLY HOPS BATMAN! Join us for fellowship and discussion at the next Holy Hops, Monday, February 5, 6:00 p.m. at The Dane, 8000 15th Ave NW.

OUR CHURCH-WIDE LENTEN BOOK STUDY will begin Sunday, February 18. We are reading *This is My Body: Hearing the Theology of Transgender Christians* by Christina Beardsley, Lenten Small. Groups will meet every Sunday in Lent at 9:00 am in the Mural Room and 6 pm at various homes for those who wish to discuss the book together. A soup and bread supper will be served at the evening book study. If you plan to participate in a small group, please sign up on the counter outside the Sanctuary. Books are available for purchase (\$20 suggested) Sundays Please feel free to participate in discussions even if you have not read the book.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY GATHERING: Have you wondered about becoming a member of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church? Would you like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), and what it means to be a Presbyterian? Pastor Staci will lead a fun and informal gathering in February (actual date TBD based upon availability of those interested). You don't have to be sure that you want to join nor do you have to commit to joining if you attend. Gathering date(s) will likely be a weeknight evening over a light meal. If you'd like to participate, or if you have questions, please reach out to Michael Bronsdon at (206) 799-7614 or michael@bronsdon.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recovery: June Howard, Debbie Blane, Bethany Erickson, Evelyn Merritt, Salwa Nemr, Margaret Russell, and Ken Stover.

Bereavement: The family and friends of Anush Adamyan, who passed away January 19th at the age of 94.

Missionaries: Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer.

Our college students: Arthur Bale, Miki Bale, Lupita Barren, Colin Bronsdon, Jessica Cruz, Erin Emery, Kai Hirayama, Luke Luttrell, Myles Sproul Nelson, Ben Peterson, and Emily Peterson.

Presbytery Connections - February, 2018

By Roger Lee

At the January Stated meeting the Presbytery approved the per capita at \$40.

In a presentation at a recent Presbyterian Mission Agency board meeting, Nancy Ramsay, a professor of pastoral theology at Brite Divinity School, and Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, presented "Intersectionality: A Resource for the Continuing Reverberations of Colonialism." Ramsay said colonialism began with the blessing of the mid-15th-century church under the leadership of Pope Nicholas V. Citing the papal Doctrine of Discovery as authorizing colonial imperialism, she pointed out the Church used the name of Jesus while being complicit in the greed of future empires and entangling God in those empires. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/intersectionality-21st-century-colonialism/>

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is encouraging Presbyterians to protest the Wendy's Restaurant chain's refusal to join the Fair Food Program. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/national-faith-leaders-join-day-fasting-protest-wendys-restaurant-chain/>

Nearly 30 spiritual leaders, including Presbyterian, recently gathered in New Mexico to support protection for Bears Ears lands, sacred to Native Americans. For more information, see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/January-22-2018/>



Notes from January's Presbytery Meeting

Abby Brockway

On Tuesday January 16th, Seattle Presbytery voted **yes** on two fossil fuel divestment overtures [008](#) and [006](#) (created by Fossil Free PC(USA)), these two Overtures will be going to General Assembly in June. Abby Brockway brought overture 006 with WPPC being the concurring congregation! Jannette Plunkett of Bethany brought overture 008.

Abby Brockway was elected the overture advocate for 006 which means going to St. Louis to comment at the hearing to the committee. There are 20 advocates so far with 20 Presbyteries concurring with more joining each week.

The breakdown of divestment in fossil fuels show faith communities leading the movement at 28% the largest sector of divestment of the almost 6 trillion divested.

[OVT-006] On Directing the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation to Divest from Fossil Fuel and Actively Invest in Securities That Focus on Renewable Energy

[OVT-008] On Adding to the GA Divestment List All Companies That Meet Specific Listed Criteria

There will be a walk for fossil fuel divestment for overture 006. <https://pcusawalk.org/>

The walk will take place **June 1-16, 2018**. The walk will take us from Louisville, Kentucky (the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church (USA)) to St. Louis, Missouri, in time for the PC(USA)'s 223rd General Assembly.

The walk will ask members and friends of the PC(USA) to put their bodies on a journey for environmental justice—and to call on the PC(USA) to divest from the fossil fuel industry. We're taking the dramatic action of walking 260 miles because the effects of climate change on our world and its people are dramatic.

Nancy's Retirement from Witness Committee and Soup Kitchen

Nancy Horman has retired from the Witness Committee. She has been a cherished member of the Committee for over 50 years. There are many acts of justice that Nancy has pursued and is an inspiration to us all. Here are just a few reminiscing of the things she has been involved in.

Nancy started a woman's homeless shelter working with Noel House's overflow satellite church spaces which happened in the late 1990's and lasted for 12 years. She coordinated volunteers who spent every weeknight with homeless women, sleeping on mats on the floor of our old social hall downstairs.

Nancy's recap of WPPC's efforts for assisting immigrant families shows the long history and she worked on the committees that supported many families. Nancy recalls Ma and Pa, a couple from Laos, who stayed in Amy Peterson's basement. Amy taught them how to use a stove.

Then, WPPC walked with Sokun and Sovouth, Cambodian refugees. Sokun had health problems, but with support from friends, mainly Mary Lou Knox, she was able to raise a fine son, John, who is now working and attending Bellevue College.

There was also the family of 5 Ethiopians, who came from a refugee camp in Sudan. The three sons stayed with Nancy and Harry for a few days, and the Mother and daughter stayed with Jane and Jack Plantinga Pauw. We got them to the Health Dept, DSHS, the school district, and finally settled.

Nancy is delighted that WPPC is continuing the support of refugees with the latest family - Soriano/Ramirez.

In 1998, Nancy and Harry joined the Fourniers to spend two July weeks helping to build a "Peace Park" in Tashkent, a sister city of Seattle and the capital of Uzbekistan, a predominantly Muslim province of the then USSR, organized under the auspices of Plowshares, a Seattle-based, peace-oriented organization. They helped to make sift dirt ultimately making walk ways for the park.

Nancy also recalls the Care Team WPPC formed, part of the MAPS program started by Gwen Beighle, to support people with HIV. Nancy and others painted rooms and cleaned up houses for MAPS residents. The Care Team sponsored Danae, a mom with HIV, several of her kids and a young daughter, born with HIV, The care team cleaned up Danae's back yard filled with blackberry vines and took Danae places, had celebrations, and when she died, we held a small Memorial at WPPC.

Nancy felt that - using up the global stamps WPPC had to write for Amnesty's "Write for Rights", was a good way for her to end her Witness activities.

Nancy strongly believes that social justice is the main work of the church. We are all inspired by her faithfulness to live out the Gospel.

Thank you Nancy!

Announcing Our Love and Embracing Outwardly Visible Inclusion

Dustin Wilsor

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV). It is by this knowledge that we, as children of God, are empowered to choose welcome. Woodland Park Presbyterian Church has chosen welcome in so many ways, we have publicly announced that refugees are welcome and have chosen to walk with the Soriano-Ramirez family on their refugee journey. Over the summer, we experienced a guest preacher series while reading the book *Waking Up White* and focusing on issues of racial discrimination & white privilege. Many years ago WPPC joined the Covenant Network stating that we believe in strengthening the Church by *furthering the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) persons in the church; and by joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church* (Covenant Network of Presbyterians, 2018).

On Thursday, January 25, 2018, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLADD) released its Accelerating Acceptance report at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The reporting was disappointing; indicating that over the past year the number of people reporting that they were comfortable with the LGBTQ+ community had fallen from 53% to 49%, and cited issues such as rolling back protections for transgender Americans, scrubbing LGBT content from government websites & an 86% increase in the number of hate-related homicides on the LGBTQ+ community. With this in mind, the Witness Committee has decided that it is important to acknowledge that while most, if not all, churches claim that “All Are Welcome Here,” not all churches truly mean it. It requires more than a statement of “Come As You Are” to earn the trust of the broader LGBTQ+ community. If we are to be truly inclusive, we must make a point to outwardly express our faith beliefs and be prepared to welcome an increased number of LGBTQ+ visitors.

As a first step the Fellowship Committee has graciously allowed the Witness Committee to take over movie night in February. On February 16 at 7:00 p.m., we will be hosting a screening of the documentary [Free CeCe](#). Some background: On the evening of June 5, 2011 CeCe McDonald, a transgender woman, and a group of her friends were attacked outside a Minneapolis bar. While attempting to free herself from her attackers, CeCe inadvertently stabbed one of them with a pair of scissors. After a coercive interrogation, CeCe was charged with manslaughter and incarcerated in a men’s prison. Her conviction sparked outrage and was viewed by many as an act of transphobia and racism. *Free CeCe* follows CeCe’s story and the movement to allow her to receive her hormone therapy while in prison and then to have her released. It explores the roles that race, class, and gender played in her case.

The following Sunday, February 18, the Worship Committee will begin its church-wide Lenten book study on *This is My Body: Hearing the Theology of Transgender Christians*. This five-week discussion group will be offered every Sunday in Lent at 9:00 a.m. in the Mural Room led by Pastor Staci and at 6:00 p.m. at various homes led by Dustin Wilsor. This series of articles written from the perspective of Transgender Christians offers a grounded reflection on people’s experience of gender dissonance that involves negotiating the boundaries between one’s identity and religious faith. The discussions will be an open forum to discuss questions and observations from the group participants. Although the discussions will be encouraged to follow their own path, some of the topics that we hope to address in the small groups will be Gender, Sex, Sexuality and Spirit; Scripture and Story towards a Trans Theology; and Identities, Roles and Presentations. While participating in the movie night and reading the book will enhance your participation in these discussions, neither is required for participation in either the morning or evening gatherings.

In her hymn written in November 2016 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette writes:

*There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:
Women who’ve been told they’re worthless, refugees who feel distressed,
Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.
God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.*

The Witness and Worship Committees both hope that you will join us as we journey together increasing our room for love and preparing our hearts and minds toward loudly extending that welcome to all who would like to hear it.

A Book Review from the WPPC Librarian.

Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

...What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?



Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son — and readers — the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, re-imagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward. -- from Amazon.com.

"Everything changes when we read." --Neil Gaiman (author).

Jeri Lee
WPPC Librarian

Sojourner's Truth

Sojourners magazine:

February 2018

<https://sojo.net/about-us>

Is This a Bonhoeffer Moment?

Lesson for American Christians from the
Confessing Church in Germany

Lori Brandt Hale, Reggie L. Williams

When Seminary Becomes a Threat

In 1935, Dietrich Bonhoeffer found an
underground seminary of the Confessing
Church

Wes Granberg-Michaelson

Imperial Power is Bad for Your Health.

The gospel, peopled with sick folks, mirrors the
imperial world

Warren Carter

Reading Bonhoeffer in Our Times.

The vaneer of ethics and moral behavior in the
public square can be surprisingly thin



Victoria J. Barnett

"Yes to Life, No to Mining"

Last spring, El Salvador banned the mining of
gold and other metals - thanks in no small part to
the work of the Catholic Church

Jeff Abbott

Commentary

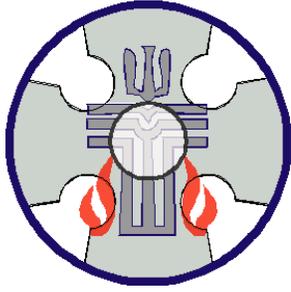
'A Terrorist War Against Women'
Fake News in the Garden of Eden
Beyond Teaching Tolerance

The Heresy of Ideological Religion

Theological integrity more than political
partisanship must govern churches' response
Jim Wallis

Looking Ahead to the Lenten Season:

- Ash Wednesday service: Wednesday, February 14, 7:15 a.m. (Imposition of ashes available until 10:00 a.m.)
- Palm/Passion Sunday: Sunday, March 25, 10:30 am
- Good Friday service with Northwest Firelight Chorale: Friday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. chant instruction, 7:30 pm service
- Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 1, 10:30 am

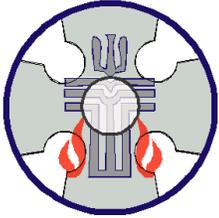


FEBRUARY 2018

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON

**MISSION
IN
MOTION**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Each Sunday 9:15 Sunday School for All Ages</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>RAC Coffee</p> | <p>Please let us know your (Birthday) so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p>JBC = Just Before Church RAC = Right After Church</p> | <p>NAC = Neighborhood Action Coalition</p> | | <p>1</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>2 (Judy Andrews)</p> | <p>3</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p> |
| <p>4</p> <p>RAC Annual Meeting</p> <p>Right After Annual Meeting Fellowship Committee</p> | <p>5 (Carolyn Merritt)</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>6:00 Holy Hops (The Dane on 15th)</p> | <p>6 (Finley Young)</p> <p>6:00 – NAC #6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>6:30 Worship Committee</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>9</p> <p>6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night!</p>  | <p>10</p> <p>9:00–4:00 Annual Church Leaders Retreat</p> |
| <p>11</p> <p>RAC—Deacons</p> | <p>12 (Ashlee Lipczynski)</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> | <p>13</p> <p>7:30 - Stewardship Committee</p> | <p>14 7:15–7:45 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Imposition of ashes available until 10:00 a.m.)</p> | <p>15 (Emily Peterson)</p> <p>6:00 – NAC #6</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>16 (Ken Doak)</p> <p>7:00 Movie Night <i>Special Screening of "Free CeCe" (New Time!)</i></p> | <p>17 (Susie Fish)</p> |
| <p>18 <i>First Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>Birthday Cake Sunday</p> <p>6:30 F.O.R. meeting</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>President's Day</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 (Karen Smith)</p> | <p>22</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24 (Ben Peterson)</p> |
| <p>25 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i></p> | <p>26 (Abby Brockway) (Ian MacInnes-Green)</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>7:00 Session</p> <p><i>Happy 42nd Anniversary!</i></p> | | | |

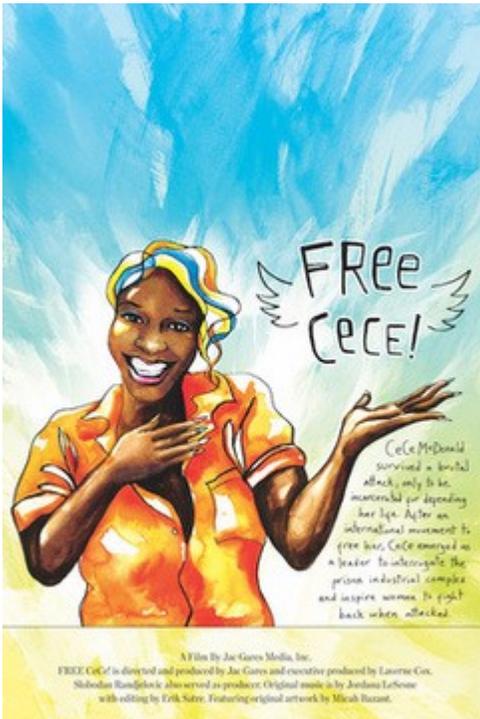


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MISSION IN MOTION



Special Screening of the Movie [“Free CeCe”](#) Friday—February 16, 7:00 p.m.

THE WITNESS COMMITTEE will host the February movie night on February 16th at 7:00 p.m.. A documentary film called “Free CeCe” will be shown.

About Free CeCe:

On her way to the store with a group of friends, Chrishaun Reed “CeCe” McDonald was brutally attacked. While defending her life, a man was killed. After a coercive interrogation, CeCe was incarcerated in a men’s prison in Minnesota. This documentary explores the role race, class, and gender played in CeCe’s case. In the end, CeCe emerged not only as a survivor, but also as a leader. Documentarian Jac Gares pushed past the everyday narratives of victimhood surrounding the lives of transgender people, to spotlight the way CeCe and other trans people are leading a growing movement fighting for the rights of transgender people everywhere. CeCe’s powerful story highlights the groundswell of voices questioning the prison industrial complex and calling for its disassembly.