

Body Builder

UNITING AND STRENGTHENING THE BODY OF CHRIST



January 2009

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Mail, lots of it!

United Welcomes Emily Williams

At the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting in October, several new members were received into fellowship at United. This month, new member Emily Williams recounts the journey that brought her to United EFC.

I was raised on a rural, quite isolated farm in southeastern Virginia as an only child in a family of much older individuals. Other than walking a mile-plus to a 2-lane road to be picked up by a school bus, a once-a-week trip to the nearest village grocery store, and occasional Sunday visits from neighboring adults, my life was full of reading and daydreaming of city life and traveling.

The summer of my 13th year, I walked to the same 2-lane road, flagged a Trailways bus down as it came by and off to the big city of Petersburg, VA I went. Upon arrival, I found a local newspaper and came upon an ad for a drive-in



Emily enjoying the 2008 WM Christmas Tea. She says the Tea reminds her of MPBC Tea parties in Virginia.

waitress. Although I knew nothing about waitressing, I was hired after fudging my age to 18. I was fortunate
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God's Perfect Gift Tea Party

Ann Chessman

Under the twinkling tree and large colored stars in each window, a multitude of women — friends, neighbors, wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers — gathered together for an enchanting Christmas Tea on December 6th at United.

In the wings were a crew of nattily dressed waiters, men with servant hearts. They wove with grace and style among the many tables, the towels over their arms showcasing dozens of gorgeous teapots lent for the occasion.

Trader Joe's generously provided the delicious Blackberry Infusion and Earl Grey teas. On the menu, were delicate cucumber and cream cheese, salmon, and egg salad sandwiches and chicken salad puffs. Dessert was a tasty array of Christmas cookies and tiny cheesecakes.

The Seattle Pacific University Players entertained us with the *Old Time Christmas Radio Hour*, sponsored by Red Rider B.B. Guns and Nellie's Nog. There were periodic Santa Watch geographic reports
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Sam Franklin skillfully fills Sue Beckman's teacup.

Emily Williams' Biography, cont.

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enough to find housing with a grandmotherly-type lady within walking distance of the restaurant. This continued every summer until I was out of school and on my own, when I vowed to leave farm life and not return.

Several years later, I was hired at an optical factory as a cafeteria assistant manager and it was here that I met Charlie, a newly hired executive who became my husband. We had three children: Susan, Tom and Gene. As a family we attended mostly Methodist churches since they were usually closest to where we were living.

We owned our own ophthalmic instrument sales and service business in the Washington, DC area. We retired to the beaches

of Delaware when we sold the business. It was there that Charlie passed away in January of 1995.

After visiting Seattle numerous times with Gene and his family, and their relocation here from Georgia in 2007, I began to think that Seattle might be right for me as well. The day before returning to my Virginia home in January 2008, I attended United Evangelical and was impressed by the similarity of this congregation to my Virginia church. That day I was welcomed by Donna Lepse. Imagine my surprise when I returned several months later and she remembered me! It was because of this warm welcome that I feel United is my new spiritual home.

To all the men of United who so graciously and joyfully helped serve the women during our Christmas tea, thank you so much! The event would have been impossible without



each of you!
—Women's

God's Perfect Gift Tea Party, cont.

cont. from page 1

following Santa's progress on Christmas Eve. The Tokyo correspondent reported Santa being challenged by Godzilla. The Bell Choir somehow made us forget that they had no actual bells.

Teams from *A Christmas Carol* (a rather temperamental Tiny Tim and Mr. Scrooge) and the main characters from *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* (Cindy Lou Who and Mr. Grinch) vied for iconic holiday stature. Aunt Gertrude and Uncle Ronald hawked and

crooned their holiday CD carols in Time/Life style.

"The Most Pathetic Christmas Pageant Ever" featured Charlie Brown, Rudolf, George Bailey, Frosty the Melted

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Cynthia Zylstra assists Head Waiter Jeff Zylstra in setting tables



God's Perfect Gift Tea Party, cont.

cont. from page 2

Snowman, the Little Drummer Boy who lamented with a “rump-a-pum-pum” that he wasn’t even from a real Bible story, and an unlikely aspiring Winter Bunny showed up and ate Frosty’s carrot nose. A particular highlight of the whole show was a melodramatic rendition of the ubiquitous “Christmas in the North West.”

This was an event bathed in prayer and care for the women who came. It was a warm and joyful time.

Michelle Wicks closed with the heart-felt, simple Good News for all.



Thanks to Tami Hanson for all these photos!

Center: Commercial for B.B. Rider Guns. Counterclockwise from top left: Invisible Bell Choir; Tricia Lepse, Nancy Hugaard and Jennifer Egaas; Sue Oreiro and her friend Mary Kay Fowler; Grand Finale for SPU Players; fellowship around the table; “The Most Pathetic Christmas Pageant Ever” contestants Rudolph, George Bailey, the Christmas Bunny and the remains of the a melted Frosty — hat, Ziploc bag of water, and carrot nose being nibbled by the Christmas Bunny.



January 25 is
International
Outreach
Sunday—Save
the Date!



Service to the Community with Men Of Ballard

Next breakfast and scheduled work day for random acts of kindness: Saturday, January 17, 2009. We meet at 8 am for breakfast and then off to do our random acts of kindness after the "hit list" is handed out. Breakfast will be hosted by Ballard Church (<<http://www.ballardchurch.org>>), 1460 NW 73rd st, Seattle WA 98117. RSVP to <<http://www.menofballard.org/8.html>> if you want to come, meet other guys, and do acts of service in our community.

—Gino (aka Ray Braun)

Outreach Committee Plans International Outreach Sunday for January 25

Thanks for your generous contributions to the "Christmas Gift For Missionaries" project. A total of \$ 1,580 was given and divided among the missionaries supported by our church.

Mark your calendar for United's Annual Outreach Sunday, January 25th. The theme for the day is, "The Next Generation." "One generation will commend your works to another."

The ABF hour, Worship Service and Evening Event will feature ministries for children in our church and in the community. A project called Global Fingerprints,

organized by the missions department of the Evangelical Free Church of America, will be presented. This project is involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and education as well as care for those affected and infected by HIV.

The evening event including a typical Wednesday evening club dinner, will be from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Sign up for the dinner at the information desk. Donations to cover expenses of the evening can be given at the dinner.

Becca Gillespy and Lukas Peter Wed December 13 at United

Congratulations to Becca and Lukas, who were married on Saturday, December 13, in a late morning ceremony at United.

Pastor Mark Performed the ceremony, and all at United were invited.

Lukas has been at United since he was born. He met Becca when she started attending in 2006. They have both been involved in the QFT, the College Age ABF, young adult study group, and have served in various ministries. here.



The Mailbox

The recipients of the “Christmas Gifts for Missionaries” project of the Outreach Committee have sent in many thanks. Below are some of them.

...from the Saukes

Dear Church Family,
Wow! What an encouragement it was to receive your generous gift at Christmas time! We are so grateful; it is helping so much to make Christmas at our house. Thank you for your love and the many ways you stand behind us. We feel blessed.

...from Dorothy Holzwarth

Thank you to my Church Family for the generous Christmas gift and beautiful card. I am blessed to be part of this family. Thank you too for your financial help.

...from the Vanderpoels

Dear United Family,
Thank you for your Christmas gift to us! May the Lord richly bless you guys in 2009.

Pray for us as we look forward to returning to Japan.

Love, Mike & Rina Vanderpoel,
Shani, Joy, Ty & Jenna

..from Eleanor Payne

Dear Friends at United,
Thank you a million times for the beautiful poinsettia, cookies and candy jar. .

May God give you a wonderful Christ-filled Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

...from Carolyn Ford

Dear Friends at United,
Thank you so much for the lovely card with all of your notes and signatures, and your generous Christmas gift. Above all, thank you for your prayers. I am truly blessed!

...from the Halstroms

Dear friends at United,
Thanks so much for your Christmas gift. We have put it towards this trip to the States. It has been a wonderful time with family and David, our future son-in-law. We are thankful to God for His blessings.

... from the Vermes

Special greetings to Pastor Mark and to the church family. It was so neat to get the beautiful Christmas card with so many signing on it. [We knew] it was from our home church because we recognized all of the names except for I think 2.

Bob Verme

Margaret Bloom, 1921- 2008

Margaret Bloom died on December 10, 2008, at CRISTA. A memorial service was held there on Tuesday, December 30.

Margaret is survived by her husband of 66 years, Richard Bloom, and her sisters Anne Marie Anderson and Ethel Sanders. Richard and Margaret were members and attended United EFC until they moved to CRISTA in 1999.

Monthly Financial Report

These figures will be in the newsletter monthly to keep the United family updated on the financial aspect of its ministry.

GENERAL FUND	ACTUAL GIVING	BUDGET PLAN	EXPENSES
December	\$37,729	\$37,951	\$37,688
FISCAL YR-TO-DATE (9 mos)	\$329,622	\$341,560	\$321,345



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Our vision at United is to be a joy-filled community of faith, whose very existence inspires individuals to experience and manifest a dynamic relationship with Christ.

We invite you...
to be a part of our growing circle of friends.

- Worship services with traditional and contemporary music
- Bible Study Groups
- Mom's Group
- Teen Program
- Children's Club
- Senior Lunches & Events and more!

Located on Crown Hill in the Ballard area of north Seattle
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STAFF

Mark Wheeler
Senior Pastor
Aaron Olson
Youth Pastor
Bruce Snider
Music Director

ELDERS:

Con Anderson
Dale Brinkman
Jim Brinkman
Ron Sauke
Frank Troth

DEACONS:

Doug & Helen Miller
Dale Anderson
John Bjorkstam
Sandy Brinkman
Joyce Butcher
Roy Petersen
Mary Ann Rhodes
Linda Sauke
Dale Wallin



Who are these men and why are they waving teapots? See cover story and pictures on the Women's Ministries Christmas Tea inside

