THE VOTES ARE IN!

It was a big day at Fauntleroy Church on Sunday, December 15. We had a Congregational Meeting that began during the worship service, two Congregational votes, and a few other items of note that took place. First, Fauntleroy Church has a settled Associate Pastor! I am pleased to announce that Karyn Frazier was voted into this position with an overwhelming YES! on Sunday, Dec. 15. After a thorough and thoughtful search, the search committee knew that a call for Karyn to this position was a part of God’s plan. Lovely words from the search committee were shared, celebratory songs were sung, applause and shouts of joy were heard throughout the sanctuary and beyond, and hugs were plentiful. Karyn brings so much passion, commitment and love to our congregation. It is exciting news to have her fill this position in an official capacity.

And, with the vote to call Karyn as our Associate Pastor, we also decommissioned the Associate Pastor Search Committee. Thanks to Jenny Mandt, Carolyn Tucker, Terry Burgess, Sarah Bjornson, Cindy Lavoie, Bob Embrey and Clayton Hamill for their dedicated work, their time and their talent. It is with much gratitude that we released this committee of their duties.

Additionally, a second overwhelming YES! vote was the approval to host an asylum-seeking family to be referred to Fauntleroy Church by the Church Council of Greater Seattle. This is a pivotal moment for our congregation and the Immigration Task Force (ITF), as we take this important step to live out a core expression of our faith: to extend welcome and hospitality to the immigrant and to bring about justice and fullness of life in a way that embodies our love of God and neighbor (Deut. 10:19, Matt. 25:25). We know the asylum process offers legal protections, but also incredible challenges for families. Asylum-seekers not only have to navigate a different culture after traumatic experiences and journeys, but also must recreate support systems, find financial resources, find care and schools for their children, learn a new language. In short, they need to rebuild their lives. The Church Council of Greater Seattle helped ITF understand that a family’s success in winning their asylum claim often can depend on whether they receive a stable, safe, caring “home” where they can catch their breath and see their way forward with the help of legal counsel and compassionate allies. We committed to offering a family this kind of stability and compassionate support. We also learned that the original plan to house a family in the lower level of the parsonage might be pushed out as remodeling needs are re-evaluated because of some recent safety concerns. This part of the conversation will be explored through Facilities, Finance and Council; however, with the congregation’s unanimous vote of its heartfelt support, ITF will continue to lead efforts to find other options to host and assist a family until room at the parsonage becomes available.

These are exciting times for Fauntleroy Church!
We are so blessed.

Jenn Casillas, Moderator
CALENDAR

Sunday – December 29
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship

Monday – December 30
8:30  Altar Guild

Wednesday – January 1, 2020
Office Closed – Happy New Year!

2020

Thursday – January 2
10:00  Knitters/Crafters – Library
7:30  Choir

Sunday – January 5
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00  Worship-Communion
10:30  Children’s Chapel
12:00  Worship Ministry – Library
4:45  SOAR Youth Group

Monday – January 6
8:30  Altar Guild
7:00  Service & Outreach Min-Lib.

Tuesday – January 7
7:00  Personnel Com. – Library
7:00  Stewardship Com. – F.B.

Wednesday – January 8
9:45  Staff – Fish Bowl
6:30  Christian Ed Min. - Library

Thursday – January 9
10:00  Knitters/Crafters – Library
10:00  Sisters – Lidman home
6:30  Bells
7:30  Choir

Saturday – January 11
8:30  Soul of Aging – Narthex

Sunday – January 12
9:00  Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00  Worship

Monday – January 13
8:30  Altar Guild
6:30  Sisters – tbd

Tuesday – January 14
6:30  Seaside Sisters – Room 416
7:00  Finance Min. – 4th Flr C.R.
7:00  LPS Standing Com. – Library

Wednesday – January 15
9:00  LPS Picture Day
9:45  Staff Meeting – Fish Bowl

Thursday – January 16
9:00  LPS Picture Day
10:00  Knitters/Crafters - Library
6:30  Ukulele
7:30  Choir

As an open and affirming congregation, the members and staff of Fauntleroy Church are committed to fostering community among people of all races, cultures and sexual orientations.

SEASONAL STUFF

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REFLECTIONS

I mentioned to several people that every Advent has special moments that always turn me toward Christmas. And, that first joyful turn always seems to be the Children’s Christmas Pageant. It was true again this year! And, it was particularly special because our pageant team chose a simple script that had this beautiful openness to it. All ages could be included in the joy of the story of “The Child of God.” Some wanted a speaking part, and some just loved creating and painting animals, stars and planets for our sets. Sadie Rubesch and Zoe Zoellner created a “container” of kind and patient support for the young ones by sitting in the wings and whispering lines. All learned songs. And, if you paid close attention on Pageant Sunday, you noticed that many children who had come to Fauntleroy Church for the first time felt welcomed enough to step right up on “stage” to add their voices to the carols, too! And you joined in! But how could you not? There’s something about hearing the Christmas story in children’s voices that helps us all lean into and turn toward the love of the season. My joyful thanks to the children of this church for their creativity and confidence to remind us what Christmas is all about: God’s love for all of us and all that we bring to Love’s story.

And, on behalf of the Christian Education Ministry, our love and thanks go out to some youth and adults, too. Thank you to Elizabeth Bacon, Kristen Warfield, Erick Bosquez, and our Sunday School teachers for gently guiding all the moving pieces of pageant practices. Thanks to Kristen Miller and generous youth like Rowen White, Addie Sparks and Vivian Gaither, who stayed after church to paint and assemble “heaven” and “earth.” (Sets and props, that is.) Thanks to Gordy Mandt who, in a moment’s notice, assembled a workbench for God—even got God’s measurements so that it would be the right height for her. Thanks to Michael Still for loaning us his creation-making tools. Thanks to Klem Daniels for moving all the right dials for the sound. Thanks to Bron, whose music always wraps this annual Christmas gift with a bow.

And, finally, thank you, Fauntleroy congregation. You brought a joyful, celebratory spirit with you to church that morning and it filled the sanctuary and held the children well. Your whole-hearted “Joy to the World” was a perfect finale!

Karyn Frazier

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

On January 5, 2020, we will have a service remembering the story of how the three wise ones followed the star to the Christ child. On this special day, we’ll celebrate communion together, listen to the stories of three people reflecting on how and where a simple word guided them this past year, and then receive a “star word” meant to invite us to our own epiphanies in the coming year.

Leah

FROM THE OFFICE

CHANGE IN CALENDARS

As of 1/1/20, the church office will go to an on-line calendar only. No more paper version! You’ll see a few outside building use events now, which is the only change. If you’d like access to this Google calendar, you can call the church office with your Google email address. The calendar is also on the church website with both church and community events.

Jackie
EPIPHANY STARS SHINE AGAIN

For a few years now, we’ve celebrated Epiphany by receiving “star words” to guide us through the year—words like patience, forgiveness, adventure, clarity... We’ll be doing that again at our worship on January 5! During communion, everyone will be encouraged to take a paper star home and hang it up where they are sure to see it every day. Yours might go on the bathroom mirror or next to the computer screen—somewhere where it will catch your eye and become a reminder of God’s presence in your life.

Epiphany, which means “manifestation” or “appearance,” brings an energy of optimism and renewal just as the calendar year turns. And it brings a sense of wonder. On Christmas, we celebrated that the presence of God appeared to us in human form in Jesus, who came to share God’s love with all people. The Gospel of Matthew records that even after that first Christmas morning, wise ones continued to look for the Light of God on Earth. Even now wise ones follow that Morning Star, never quite sure where it will lead or how they will be changed in their journeying.

During our Epiphany Sunday worship this Jan. 5, we’ll hear stories about where last year’s star words led some of our own wonder-filled wise ones. Then—just for the joy of it—we’ll all choose a new word to keep our eye on as we shine God’s radiance into the world and grow in our personal and communal expressions of faith here at Fauntleroy Church this new year.

Karyn

WREATH THANKS

Thank you to everyone who purchased a beautiful evergreen wreath from the church this season. We hope you are enjoying them! We sold 127 wreaths for a total of $1,329. Special thanks to Diana Hartwell for taking orders, Sarah Ackers for making the bows, our custodian, Michael Still, for receiving the wreath delivery, and to Terry and Klem Clements and Theresa and Don Althauser for passing them out, along with sweet treats and hot drinks. If you would like to help with any of these tasks next year, please let Sarah Ackers know!

MUSICAL THANKS

The Chancel Choir would like to thank Bron for the many gifts she poured into the music for the Christmas Concert. The selections she made were beautiful. The instruments she included in each piece elevated our concert to a whole new level. She spent hours and hours and hours arranging and transposing music to make it fit each musician best. And, she met with small groups and individuals for rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the concert to ensure they were ready to go. The time, energy, soul, and love she put into this concert brought so much joy to us and to those who came to experience the concert. Thank you, Bron!

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Trivia Night @ Fauntleroy Church is coming up on Feb. 22, and table hosts are needed. Table hosts help encourage attendance by extending personal invitations to people to sit at their table, max is 8 people per table. The hosts also come up with a theme for the table, name for the team, and encourage team spirit. This can be in the form of table decorations, dress-up alike, and/or something else creative. If the hosts are unable to fill their table, then people who register without a table will fill in the seats. Registration opens Jan. 12, and we’d like to have all the table hosts identified by then. If you are interested in being a table host, please contact Jenn Casillas or Sarah Ackers.
Sunday Worship & Church School: 10 AM  
Office Hours: 8:30-3:30 PM Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-2:30 Fri.

Senior Minister: Rev. Leah Bilinski  
Acting Associate Pastor: Rev. Karyn Frazier  
Music Director: Bronwyn Edwards  
Little Pilgrim School Director: Jenny Romischer  
Wedding Coordinator: Neenah West  
Volunteer & Engagement Coor.: Sarah Ackers  
Youth Leader: Kristen Almgren  
Nursery Supervisor: Carol Smith  
Custodian: Michael Still  
Financial Assistant: Aimee Pinckney  
Financial Assistant: Pat Gedney  
Office Manager: Jackie Gould

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE: TUESDAYS, 1 PM

OVER THE FENCE
PRAYER CHAIN
Please pray for: Lauren Smith; Louisa Wagner; Marilyn Moore; Melissa Coudle; Mr. & Mrs. Muul; Laurie Whitford; Elaine Wilson; Kersti Muul; Theresa Rasmussen; Rick & Barbara Shaw; Kara Hill; Kathy Grainger’s daughter and son-in-law, Lily and Alan, Yvonne Miles; Carolyn’s grandsons, Rob & Connor Tucker; the Lane Family; Gen Storz; Nancy Barker; Houtz/Martinez family, Bill Zoellner Sr.; Layton Walters, Jettie Bryant Walters; Gloria Luna, Wyvona Barrett, Jill Harlow, Patty Bodziach’s friend, Roseann; Anne Douglas and Loy Smith, who fell and broke his hip, requiring surgery.

NOTE FROM A FRIEND
The following note was received in the office last week.
Dear Fauntleroy UCC Congregation,
I have been so moved and inspired to hear through my dear friend and UCC member, Julie Huff, about your commitment to Camp Second Chance.
These times we live in could be viewed as divisive and disheartening but through love and action, reaching out instead of pulling inward, you all change the very fabric of our society and give hope to us all.
Wishing you all peace and blessings. In Loving Community,
Nikki Roberg

TASTE & SEE INVITATION
Are you considering becoming a member Fauntleroy Church or would like to learn more about the congregation, while making connections with other members, visitors and friends of the church? Come “taste and see” what we’re all about! A progressive lunch is provided during the event. The next “Taste & See” will take place following worship on Jan. 26. Contact the church office if you’d like to participate. Childcare upon request.
Sarah

IN MEMORIAM
Lydia Shepherd
March 2, 1952 – December 15, 2019

Lydia Shepherd passed away on Dec. 15, after a 5-month illness. A service has not yet been scheduled. Lydia had challenges, but she was always positive and willing to help in any way she could. She will be missed. Please keep her mother, Wyvona Barrett, and her friends and family in your prayers at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Esme Reeves won 1st place for 4th graders and Katie Ackers won 2nd place for 5th graders in an essay writing contest for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2713 in West Seattle. Esme’s (about the American Flag) essay went on to compete in the District 2 Competition, which includes all the VFW posts in Seattle and Vashon. She got 4th place (honorable mention) in this competition. Esme is the daughter of Kurt & Hilary Reeves and granddaughter of Bobbie Reeves. Katie is the daughter of Ben & Sarah Ackers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Staff of Fauntleroy Church!