

Worship Committee Year End Report

Congregational Meeting - 29 January 2012

Committee Members: Karin Alfaro - Faith Education Committee Chair Elect, Mark Birge Anderson, Alli Baker - Youth and Young Adult Minister, TJ Bigbee - Intern, Clint Collins, Rev. Dan Dale - Pastor, Deb Derylak, Brenda Friedman, Michael Gabbard - Intern, Amy Green - Faith Education Committee Chair, Denise Grossman, Chris Inserra and Rhapsody Snyder - Music Directors, Elaine Klemen - Music Liaison, Loren McGrail, Daniel Romero, Kristan Schimdt - Faith Education Coordinator, John-Michael Schuh, Susan Soric, Yuki Schwartz, John Volkening - Liturgist Coordinator, Worship Environment Coordinator, Committee Chair

Our year was marked by the tragic death of our Worship Committee Chair, our beloved Polly Ullrich, who passed away in July. We are very thankful for her recent year and a half as Worship Committee Chair and Church Council member, as well as her long time service to our committee and this community of faith. Gifted, gracious and tenacious, our Polly will be missed. She leaves a hole in our hearts and an empty place at the Table that can never be filled.

John Volkening stepped back into the role of Worship Committee Chair for the past 6 months and Elaine Klemen will be taking over as Worship Committee Chair, pending today's vote by the congregation.

Even in these dark, cold days of winter as the world groans under the weight of so much trouble and pain this feels to be a continued time of renewal for our community and we are grateful to experience the Spirit moving this congregation forward. Many thanks to Pastor Dan for bringing us the word of God, and for his hard work and very positive energy in faithfully shepherding our community of faith, as he continues to lead, inspire, challenge and nudge us along the path to growth and faithful action. We feel blessed in our work and our journey together.

We are very grateful, as well, for the enthusiasm, talent, flexibility and kindness of our Music Directors, Rhapsody Snyder and Chris Inserra, and a great thanks to all the guest preachers, liturgists, soloists, musicians, artists and others that have given so generously of their time and talent ensuring that our worship together remains strong and vibrant. All involved in worship have helped us hear and respond to the call of God, brought inspiration, enlightenment, and hope, and strengthened our connection to God and our connection with each other. Many thanks, as well, to the members of this Committee for the continued work in coordinating this great effort.

This past year I have had a few questions about how our liturgist program works, so I thought to address it here. We have made a commitment at Wellington to the strong involvement of our laity in worship. Our liturgists go through a liturgist training and often apprentice with other liturgists. Once scheduled, the liturgist and Dan, or the scheduled preacher, meet early in the week of the service to reflect on the lectionary (the scripture reading for the day). It is then that the spiritual journey that culminates in worship begins. The liturgist is responsible for writing the first part of the service - the call to worship, call to confession, prayer of confession, words of assurance and passing of the peace, as well as choosing the hymns and co-celebrating communion on communion Sundays. The preacher, liturgist, and the music directors are all in dialogue, working together for a unified and meaningful service.

Please take a few moments to review the many special services we have had here at Wellington over the past year:

Worship Schedule for 2011 - 1/29/2012

- 1/2/11 - New Years, Communion, Sally Doubet King (liturgist), Randall Doubet King (preaching)
- 1/9 - Epiphany or Baptism of Christ, New Members, Moment for Mission, Michael McConnell (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 1/16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Pantry Offering, Dan Dale, (liturgist), Rev. Dr. Melbalenia Evans (preaching), Installation of Marilyn Pagán-Banks as Associate Minister, Worship Committee meeting following worship
- 1/23 - Ecumenical Sunday, Earth/Eco Justice focus, Lan Richart (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 1/30 - Semiannual Congregational Meeting (no liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 2/5 - New liturgist workshop 9AM to 12 noon
- 2/6 - Communion, John Volkening (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 2/13 - Racial Justice Sunday, Valentines Day, Moment for Mission, Brenda Friedman (liturgist), Rev. David Schoen (preaching)
- 2/19 - Lenten Liturgist Workshop 9AM to 12 noon at Wellington
- 2/20 - Pantry Offering, John Volkening (liturgist), Kathy Kelly (preaching)
- 2/27 - Elaine Klemen (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 3/6 - Transfiguration, Communion, New Liturgists, Dan Dale (preaching)

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- 3/9 – Ash Wednesday, Communion, John Michael Schuh & John Volkening (liturgists), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 3/13 – 1st Sunday in Lent, Daylight Savings Time begins, Moment for Mission, Polly Ullrich (liturgist),
Dan Dale (preaching), Commissioning of John Volkening to go to Afghanistan
- 3/20 – 2nd Sunday in Lent, Pantry Offering, Mark Birge-Anderson (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 3/27 – 3rd Sunday in Lent, Jeni Fabian (liturgist), Craig Mousin (preaching)
- 4/2 – Concert for Immigrant Justice / Betty Benson Award
- 4/3 – 4th Sunday in Lent (no Communion) One Great Hour of Sharing, Amy Green (liturgist),
Dan Dale (preaching)
- 4/10 – 5th Sunday in Lent, Moment for Mission, Karen Stockwell (liturgist), Clinton Stockwell (preaching)
- 4/17 – Palm / Passion Sunday, Pantry Offering, Elaine Klemen (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 4/21 – Maundy Thursday, Communion, Brenda Friedman (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 4/24 – Easter Sunday, Communion, John Volkening (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 5/1 – May Day, Communion, Rev. Craig Mousin (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 5/8 – Mother’s Day, Moment for Mission, Jenny Dale (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 5/15 – Communion, New Members, Pantry Offering, Brenda Friedman (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 5/22 – Focus on Torture, Gerald Paoli (liturgist), Kathy Kelly, preaching
- 5/29 – Memorial Day, David Safeblade (liturgist), Tracy Hughes, preaching
- 6/5 – Church School Closing/Teacher Recognition, Youth Sunday,
Communion, Amy Green (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 6/12 – Pentecost, Moment for Mission, Semiannual Congregational Meeting,
Dan Dale (liturgist & preaching)
- 6/19 – Father’s Day, Pantry Offering, Cory Pagán-Banks (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 6/26 – 10 AM Worship, GLBTQ Solidarity Sunday, Dan Dale (liturgist), Susan Soric (preaching)
- 7/3 – 4th of July, Communion, Loren McGrail (liturgist), Michael McConnell (preaching)
- 7/10 – John Volkening (liturgist), Loren McGrail (preaching), Commissioning of John Volkening to lead a
CPT delegation to Colombia
- 7/17 – Worship Outdoors in Lincoln Park , Pantry Offering, Yuki Schwartz (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 7/24 – Karen Stockwell (liturgist), Clinton Stockwell (preaching)
- 7/31 – Deb Derylak & Alli Baker (liturgy & preaching)
- 8/7 – Communion, John Volkening (liturgist), Susan Soric (preaching)
- 8/14 – Cory Pagán-Banks (liturgist), Marilyn Pagán-Banks (preaching)
- 8/21 – New Members, Pantry Offering, John Volkening (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 8/28 – Partners in Mission Sunday, Mark Birge-Anderson (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 9/4 – Labor Day Sunday, Communion, Daniel Romero (liturgist), Dan Dale, (preaching)
- 9/11 – Church Retreat, Brenda Friedman (liturgist), Craig Mousin (preaching)
- 9/18 * – Church School Rally Day, Pantry Offering – Outreach for All Pantries, Amy Green (liturgist),
Dan Dale (preaching)
- 9/24 – New Liturgist Workshop at Wellington, 9AM to 12:30PM
- 9/25 – Partners in Mission Sunday, Jason Green (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 10/1 – Pedal for Peace Bike-a-thon, www.crln.org
- 10/2 – World Communion, Neighbors in Need, Communion, Tracy Hughes and new liturgists (liturgists),
Dan Dale (preaching)
- 10/9 * – Access Sunday, Indigenous Peoples Day, Alli Baker (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching),
Commissioning of Gerald Paoli to lead a CPT delegation to Iraq
- 10/16 – Pantry Offering – Greening TF for St. Thomas of Canterbury Soup Kitchen,
Brenda Friedman (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 10/23 * – Centennial Conclusion, Deborah Derylak (liturgist),
Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt, President of Chicago Theological Seminary (preaching)
- 10/29 – Liturgist Advent Workshop
- 10/30 – Partners in Mission Sunday, Reformation/Reconciliation Day,
Earth/Eco Justice focus, Pam Richart (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 11/6 – All Saints, Communion, DST ends, John Volkening (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 11/13 * – Wellington Way, SOA Commissioning, Jeni Fabian (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
- 11/20 – SOA Rally & Vigil Solidarity, Pantry Offering – Faith Education for A Just Harvest,
Gerald Paoli (liturgist), Tracy Hughes (preaching)
- 11/27 * – 1st Sunday in Advent, Partners in Mission Sunday, Barb England (liturgist),
Dan Dale (preaching)

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- 12/4 – 2nd Sunday in Advent, Communion, Loren McGrail (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
12/11 * – 3rd Sunday in Advent, Human Rights Day, Brenda Friedman, (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
(Faith Ed will need sanctuary immediately after worship for pageant rehearsal)
12/18 * – 4th Sunday in Advent, Church School Pageant, Pantry Offering – Sanctuary and Immigration TF
for Lakeview Pantry, TJ Bigbee (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
12/24 – Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, Elaine Klemen (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
12/25 – Christmas, Michael Gabbard (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)

2012

- 1/1 – New Years, Communion, Sally Doubet King (liturgist), Randall Doubet King (preaching)
1/8 – Epiphany, Witness Against Torture, Susan Soric (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
1/15 – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Capital Campaign launch , David Safeblade, (liturgist),
Dan Dale (preaching)
1/22* – Ecumenical Sunday, Loren McGrail (liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)
1/28 – Wellington Presenté Liturgist Training at Wellington, 9am – 12noon
1/29 – Semiannual Congregational Meeting (no liturgist), Dan Dale (preaching)

* - Children and youth are generally in worship up to the hymn of assurance on the second and fourth Sundays, otherwise children and youth are not at worship in sanctuary, but in church school. On all Communion Sunday's children and youth join with the congregation for communion.

Other highlights include:

- Besides two new liturgist trainings and a Lenten and an Advent workshop for liturgists, we held our first Wellington Presenté training for liturgists on 1/28/12. Wellington has long been committed to and deeply involved in public action / witness as a part of “living our faith in action”. The Church Council has recently committed the church to 1 focused action / witness a month. This training helped participants in the development and implementation of effective public witness liturgies and actions.
- The relocation of the piano to the left side of the church to facilitate better communication between the pianist and the drummer. This relocation has also cleared the way as we move to making the sanctuary accessible.
- We continue to work to deepen our level of coordination with other committees and taskforces to include their areas of focus in worship.
- We all continue to be very thankful for the increased involvement in our worship life by our youth.

Upcoming events and goals:

- Along with our music directors the committee is committed to bringing more diversity in music to our worship services.
- A new liturgist workshop will be scheduled early in the year. If you are interested in becoming a liturgist please contact Elaine Klemen, John Volkening or Pastor Dan.
- Like to sing? Come early on Sunday mornings and join in the choir. We meet at 9:30AM. All are welcome!
- Have a musical talent you could share in worship? Please speak with Rhapsody Snyder or Chris Inserra.
- Upcoming special services and events include: Ash Wednesday 7PM on 2/22, Maundy Thursday 7PM on 4/5, the Good Friday Walk for Justice 12 noon on 4/6, Easter Sunrise at Montrose Harbor on 4/8, followed by our spectacular Easter Worship at Wellington.

We continue to strive to be more considerate of those in the congregation with hearing or vision problems by having liturgies and sermons available in advance in a large print format and we have a hearing assistance system connected to our sound system. If you would like to receive much of the service in large print prior to worship or use one of the hearing assistance sets contact an usher or Dan Dale.

We are still seeking art for the front of our bulletin and we are always on the lookout for new, easily sung introits. Please give music suggestions to Rhapsody Snyder or Chris Inserra and the drawings, prints, and art pieces to John Volkening.

With my deep and heartfelt thanks to this committee and the congregation,
John Volkening, departing Worship Committee Chair