

February 2011

# The Church of Steadfast Love



A mission/development congregation of the ELCA located within Compass Housing Alliance

Volume 5, Issue 1

## Special points of interest:

- John Parker
- Service of Remembrance
- Christmas Letter Writing

## John Parker-a brother in Christ remembered

John's mother called me on February 2nd with the sad news that her son John had been found dead on the streets and asking if I could attend his full military funeral. I was deeply saddened, and still am to hear of his death. I hadn't heard from John in a few months, but he did call to check in on a regular basis. He struggled mightily against the demons in his life, and I am happy to say that this congregation and his participation in it are days he looked

To with pride and happiness of what life could be like even when struggling. John came to the Compass Center after literally sitting under a tree in a park for two years and then deciding he needed to make a change. With help from the Veterans Administration he was able to enroll in a rehab program in Oregon that he had his heart set on for the location. He wanted to be in God's creation, among the trees and in the mountains. He sent some beautiful pictures from hikes he was able to take and glowing, close written commentary. I think he felt freedom and possibility, feelings that he had forgotten.



**Above-A light shines in the darkness.**

**Left-Ornaments made by the congregation.**

Here John knew himself to be a forgiven, beloved, and valuable Child of God. He went forth strengthened in that belief. Thanks be to God.



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## Christmas Ornaments

Every single last one of our Christmas ornaments has been sold! Thank you for supporting our ministry and congregation. Along with the ornaments we also sold and gave away a flock of chickens (pincushions). We have found that the chickens are good for stress relief, as well as for holding small, sharp, pointy objects that other wise end up poking in things we don't want them to like our-

elves. We cleared over \$300 on the project which is more than enough to get us back to Lutherwood for Join Hands day in May, our favorite Servant Project, with a pizza dinner afterwards! With pleasure we look forward to another day of fun, friendship, and giving back.



**Lutherwood, here we come!**

**Service of Remembrance**

Friday, January 7th, we once again held the Service of Remembrance, honoring and remembering those who died last year on the streets or as a result of being homeless. We also recognized those who have

died in the larger community who were friends to the community. The congregation helps set up and prepare for the service. This year we were blessed with a sermon from Rev. David Mesenbring and beautiful music from Mel Butler, Canon Musician, both of Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle. We honored 87 individuals this year and look forward to the day when not one person will need to be remembered in this way.



**Service of Remembrance candles**



**Jorge reading the names of those honored**

**Pruning Party**



On Saturday, February 26th, we travelled to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Bellevue to help with pruning their orchard. Pr. Gary and the Earth Ministry crew were there along with others for a fun, and rather cold day. The cold was tempered by the warm and welcoming personalities and the hot food. The day started with a lecture and demonstration on pruning practices followed by scaling ladders, loping limbs, totting branches and wisecracking. After a wonderful lunch we had the option to learn about grafting or to continue to work.

We continued to work and at the close of the Day, David challenged Holy Cross to a Pie Eating contest after the harvest, putting forward our candidate, Patu. Pr. Gary agreed, and so since we are sure of victory we shall begin to plan our celebration!



**Mark pruning**



**Jeff hauling cut debris**

**Patu**



**Letters Home for Christmas**

Every year we take the time a few weeks before Christmas to write letters to loved ones. The holidays are an especially hard time of year for those living on the streets and in the shelters, and those far from home without resources to call or visit. Your contributions made it possible for us to buy postage for the cards that were donated. With your help more than 50 Christmas cards were sent.

Everyone likes to hear from loved ones and what a wonderful opportunity to be able to give the gift of communication, joy and love, some of the very things we celebrate at Christmas, to those who appreciate it most.



**Patu pondering what to write.**

**Walk Through the Old Testament**



**Jonathan, Pr. Kristy, Pr. Stime, David, Larry and Dean**

On Saturday, February 12th, we loaded up the van and headed off to St. Andrews Lutheran in Bellevue to listen to Pr. Lowell Stime present on the Old Testament. We took a few wrong turns, no one's fault, but ended up at our destination in time to take the seats in front, of course, that's what happens when you are late. It was great. We had fun and got a workout too as we were making hand signs and flexing our muscles to help remember major events in the scriptures. There is already talk of trying to find a class on the New Testament. We had different roles to play, and we were fortunate to have the Sea of Galilee (Jonathan and David) with us and were quite relieved to not be the stinky dead sea. Thank you St. Andrews Lutheran for hosting!

**Communion Bread with Rolando**

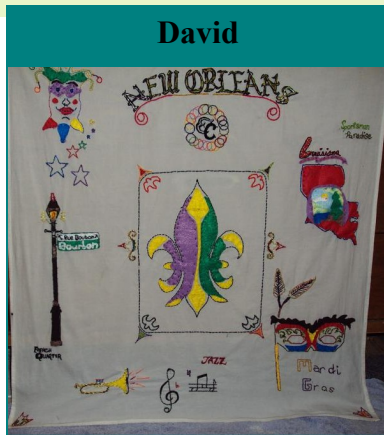
Rolando has not been able to worship with us as much as he would like, but he continues to be an active participant in other ways. One of the things he especially likes to do is to be in charge of baking the bread for communion. He does not believe in following the directions to closely and shapes each loaf to look exactly as he imagines it should.

"I feel like I receive the Body of Christ as I am making the bread, and sometimes when I'm making it I eat one, too"

**-Rolando.**



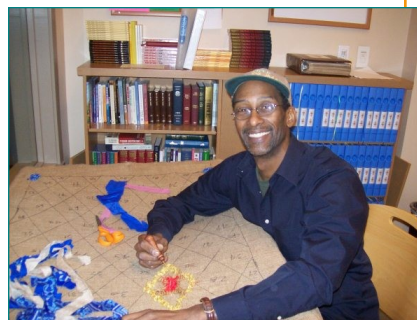
**Rolando making a batch of communion bread.**



David started this impressive piece of art when a tea towel was given to him. He had never done a project of this type before. As he worked on it for the 6 months that it took to complete, he began to really appreciate the amount of work that people put into their embroidery projects. He discovered that embroidery can be a demanding and intricate art form that required his own style and method to complete his vision of what the towel should ultimately portray. He developed the theme as he went along and when he decided who to send it to it seemed to design itself.

The patterns are hand drawn on the towel and then gone over with embroidery floss with felt added as he went along. The friend that he gave it to for Christmas has said that she will have it framed and hang it on her wall. David has already started on the second towel. (And surmises the garage wall :)

David learned how to embroider first by working on the Christmas ornaments that we sold to raise money for our trips. His interest was first piqued by learning to hook and to crochet.



David practicing another craft, working on the rug being hooked by the Congregation.



Jonathan enjoying the meeting.

"I feel like I receive the Body of Christ as I am making the *(communion)* bread,"

**-Rolando**

## The Church of Steadfast Love

### Mailing Address:

77 S. Washington St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

### Physical Address:

210 Alaskan Way S.

### Come Worship With Us!



Wednesdays and Sundays  
at 6:30

Dinner is at 5:30  
Dial '05' to attend  
*Pr. Kristy Daniels*

### Check it out:

#### Compass Housing Alliance

[www.compasshousingalliance.org](http://www.compasshousingalliance.org)

#### Lutheran Public Policy Office

[www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org)

#### Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center

<http://www.holdenvillage.org/>

## Opportunities to Serve and How You Can Help

Here are some ways that you can partner with our ministry:

1. Pray for us
2. Come and worship and learn more about our congregation and about the issues surrounding homelessness.
3. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kristi Weber to serve meals or volunteer in other ways (206) 357-3108.
4. Advocate with Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) for affordable housing, prison reform, immigration rights and many other things that effect our congregation and our community.
5. Invite Pr. Kristy to your congregation for Adult Education, to preach or lead worship.
6. Become a supporting member of our congregation. Call Pr. Kristy for more details. (206)357-3112.
7. Share the wonderful story of this congregation.
8. Organize a sock or hygiene drive at your church or school for the Compass Housing Alliance clients.
9. Share this newsletter with a friend.
10. Order a shirt !

## Thank you for your prayers and support!



Patu stopping in to give thanks for his new job.

**Phone: 206-357-3112**

**E-mail: [PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org](mailto:PastorKristy@compasshousingalliance.org)**

**[www.compasshousingalliance.org/get-involved-now/thechurch-of-steadfast-love/](http://www.compasshousingalliance.org/get-involved-now/thechurch-of-steadfast-love/)**