

Good News of Great Joy!

2011 Christmas Offering
for Regional Ministries



Northwest Regional Christian Church

Your Regional Partner in Ministry: Yakama Mission

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...” – Luke 2:10

I don't know where I picked it up, but I've never let it go. Every person is a created being and as a creature of Creation, we are naturally creative. Yet somewhere along the way to adulthood, many of us lose our belief that I am creative. Instead, we relegate our art off to the “artist.” I don't know how many times I've heard teachers say everyone in kindergarten class sings as if they are a singer and then, by the time these same children graduate high school, most every one of them do not believe themselves singers. Parents know the same truth. What parent has not experienced (and what child does not remember) their child radically focused and engaged with paper and crayons creating a drawing. It is as if they reside in sacred space and nothing in the world matters other than expressing a deep gift welling up from a profound Godding space within. When they are done with their creation they run and hold up a piece of paper, smile, and say something like “Look! Look at what I made!” Yet many parents, knowing the reality of their creative child was once their own do not believe themselves a creative adult.

We need to encourage, reclaim, support, and advance creativity. We and our community are the better for a bit more singing, painting, guitar picking, dancing across the kitchen floor, clever humor, glass-blowing, and sculpture! My Future, an after-school program of the Yakama Christian Mission, believes art matters. As school ends each day, My Future begins. As students enter the Art (and Band) room, art begins to bubble up and alongside life. Soon, distinguishing between art and life becomes difficult as emotions, events, and spirit meld

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with paint, wood, and fire. And always... always... as life leaves the confines of body and moves artfully into the world, mystery fills the room. The experience for the observer is like, well, you remember the very first time you saw a rabbit pulled from a top hat or when you first seriously engaged with the idea of a virgin birth? It's like that—a feeling lying somewhere between wonderment and bewilderment.

We are creative artful people and each of us need, not want, but need to experience our creative center! Ten percent of your Christmas Offering supports the creative wellbeing of youth each afternoon at the Yakama Christian Mission.

David B. Bell
Mission Director

You can find My Future Art at <http://wp.me/PPOIE-jW>.

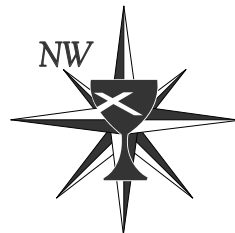
For Reflection

1. How did you express your creative spirit as a child? What was your favorite form of self expression? Drawing, finger painting, singing, dancing, or running as fast as you could just because you could?
2. How do you express that creative spirit today? If you are having trouble answering this question, imagine for a moment, “What would you do to express yourself if you knew that no one, not even yourself, would stand in judgment?”

For Response

Imagine the Christmas story through your present day eyes. Now draw, write, paint or dance that story. Keep it to yourself if you must, but share it if you can. The world will be blessed by your gifts.

“Thank you, for your generous support of the 2011 Christmas Offering for Regional Ministries.”



Doing together that which by God's Design cannot be done apart.

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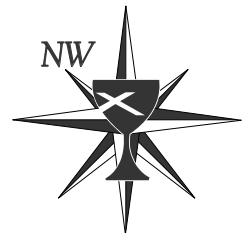
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