





Community of Christ  
701 Monroe Ave. NE  
Renton, WA 98056

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### WEBSITES

Congregation: [www.rentoncofchrist.org](http://www.rentoncofchrist.org)  
Mission Center: [www.cofchrist-gpnw.org](http://www.cofchrist-gpnw.org)  
World Church: [www.cofchrist.org](http://www.cofchrist.org)

### STAFF

Pastor:	Steve Pomeroy	425-641-8876	nwinspect@aol.com
Pastoral Counselor:	Roger Fletcher	425-228-6122	fletch_bo2@hotmail.com
Pastoral Counselor:	Julie Lewis	425-255-1645	petusel@aol.com
Pastoral Counselor:	Todd Sargeant	425-432-5124	tochan8@comcast.net
Financial Officer:	Burt Sargeant	425-392-7253	burtsarg@hotmail.com
Financial Officer:	Lenore Hankey	425-394-1573	lehankey@comcast.net

# RENTON REFLECTIONS

March 2010

## LEAVE DISCOURAGEMENT ON THE SHELF

Steve Pomeroy, Pastor

Until recent years, our particular faith community did not pay a great deal of attention to the Lenten season. As we have begun to focus more on this 40 day period of preparation, like so many other things before us, we continue to seek for greater meaning and understanding. Lent is a time in which Christians all over the globe are called to reexamine their lives and struggle with the call to be God's people.

There is an old tale often told during Lent that comes from a far-off place... One day, the Devil decided to close up shop in a certain part of the world, and so he decided to hold a fire sale and an attitude auction. Some evil people were pleased to get his tools like fear, ignorance and prejudice and be able to play his infernal games at half price.

But one person, seeking to be more spiritual and caring, wandered into the shop. Intensely curious, he looked around at all the tricks of deception and the tools of malice, until he spotted the quality on the highest shelf that had the highest price. Boldly, he asked the devil what that quality was, and why was it so expensive. The devil replied, "That is discouragement. And why is it so expensive? That's simple. It's my favorite. With the tool of discouragement, I can pry into any person or any group and cause all kinds of havoc and damage."

How easy it is for us to let discouragement pry into our lives and cause damage. We look at conditions in the world, the economy, natural disasters, uncaring people, our daily problems and we often feel ourselves sliding into a "what's the use" spiral that can distract us mightily from that call to be God's people in the face of it all. Discouragement is not a tool that is only used during Lent; we have to constantly examine our lives and struggle to not let it pull us off course every single day.



## LENT

Of course, Lent is also the period when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from death and the birth of new life. It reminds us of the hope found in knowing the joy of the Risen Christ can overcome any amount of discouragement. The principles of the life he shared provide us with all of the tools we need to deal with any struggles that confront us.

As we move through this Lenten season, may we search in hope and compassion for the courage to open ourselves to God's desire for us to live in those ways that keep discouragement on the shelf and allow us to strive to live out recent counsel given to the church: "When your willingness to live in sacred community as Christ's new creation exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be."



## HAPPY Birthday



Best wishes to the following people celebrating their birthday in March!

- 2 — Joan Hoiland
- 2 — Brian Elworth
- 5 — Bob Smith
- 11 — Al Coleman
- 14 — Paul Crinzi
- 15 — Iris Smith
- 29 — Andrea Fletcher
- 31 — Brock Powell