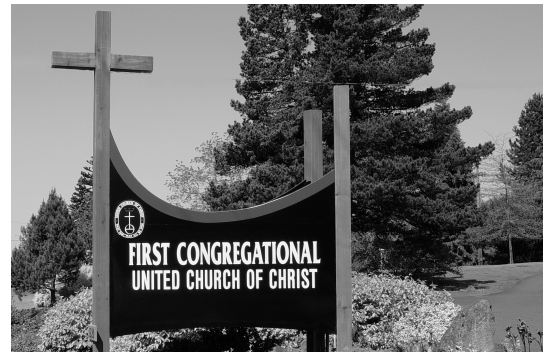


# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Vancouver, WA 98665-0508  
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Volume 34 No. 9

*God is Still Speaking,*

May 8, 2012

## **Move over Easter Bunny, There Is Now an Easter Doggie**

Dear Church Family,

About a month ago, Eunita and I made a delightful discovery: our dog Joey makes Danalyn laugh—uncontrollably so. When Joey pounces on a toy, shakes a stuffed animal in his mouth, or chases his tail—these are all occasions for bursts of guttural guffaws. As you might expect, Danalyn's entertainment makes for our entertainment. An additional benefit is that Joey has also proven himself to be a good distraction amid bouts of fussing and crying—Danalyn's that is. When all else fails, I try Joey, and the results are almost always good.

I asked Eunita why she thinks Joey inspires Danalyn's laughter, and I am in agreement with her assessment. Through the eyes of Danalyn, Joey is full of the unexpected. His antics are unpredictable. He is the unwitting clown of our household. I was recently reminded of Joey's role in our family while reading a reflection on the Easter season that extends to Pentecost. The Easter season is a time to celebrate the unexpected and unpredictable even when the world thinks you are a fool. When one reads the headlines of violence in Middle East or in our own communities, it might seem foolish to hold out any hope for peace. Yet Easter ushers in a faith that unsettles notions of fixed realities. It allows us to think that the impossible might still be possible.

In our house, Joey is our Easter Doggie. Even when we might want to fuss with unhappiness, he keeps us on our toes with a gladness in our hearts.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks



## WORSHIP IN MAY

### May 13, 2012 Mother's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.  
10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. No Youth this Sunday.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Connie Oppel, Marcie, Kelsey and Kramer Ramberg  
Worship Leader: Bert Martin  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### May 20, 2012

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching.. Infant and Toddler Care available.  
10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Norma Lee Priel and Joan Blair  
Worship Leader: Tom Renner  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

### May 27, 2012

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Richard Trefren preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.  
10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Jean Matthews and Doraine Kohler  
Worship Leader: Trent Corey  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon  
Tom and Josiah Renner

### **Forward Together: Shining Our Light**

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be the dedication of Commitment Cards during Worship followed by a Celebration Meal and a Bunco Fundraiser

Please note that we would like all the congregation to attend the celebration meal on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Participation in the Bunco game is optional.

Your Capital Campaign Committee

## REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

**Our sons and daughters overseas, and the people of the Middle East;**

CONTINUING PRAYER  
REQUESTS FOR:

Yahriel Harrigan                      Clarice Fossen  
Chad Laskey                              Gloria Ross

### **UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"**

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>May 20, 2012</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>May 22, 2012</u>

### **Thank You**

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers you sent to Al when he was so ill. Also the cards sent to me since Al passed away.

Thanks to Pastor Brooks and the deacons for their visits to Al and for their help in planning the Memorial Service. What a blessing it is to be a member of this church and know all the caring and wonderful people who attend.

Thanks again to all of you.

Virginia Ebersole and son, Ron Ebersole

### **Strengthen the Church**

Contributed by Marnie Wright

Each year the UCC has a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called **Strengthen the Church**, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders.

Your gift during the last two Sundays in May, will help send our "God is still speaking..." message of extravagant welcome into the waiting world.

## Want to Learn Something New?

Ever wonder what goes into bringing Pastor Brooks' voice or the sound of a vocal soloist to the congregation? FCC is fortunate to have a sound system for ensuring everyone can hear what's going on. Making that system work requires someone to run it, though. For a routine Sunday, it's really easy. Gwen Moscoe, our lead sound technician, is looking for volunteers to add to the rotation for running sound. Technical experience isn't required at all as witnessed by 12 year old Nikki Moscoe successfully running the system during recent services. Training would be provided over the course of two or three Sundays, one shadowing and the next with Gwen supporting. If you are interested, or even just curious, please email Gwen at [gbmoscoe@gmail.com](mailto:gbmoscoe@gmail.com) or call 360-514-2208 (work phone- its okay to leave a message)."

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### Evening Recital - May 25

Christopher will present his current piano recital program in the Sanctuary on Friday, May 25th, at 7 PM. Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" and the "Dante Sonata" by Liszt will be featured along with other selections. Admission is complimentary but a free will offering and/or donation of non-perishable food items (for FISH) will be accepted.

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### Call for Dinnertime Prayers

Does your family have a prayer that you like to say at dinnertime? It could be a traditional prayer, a prayer that one of your family members composed, or a song like the Johnny Appleseed Song. We would love for you to share it with us for a small booklet that our office administrator Kathy will be putting together. Prayers that are designed to be recited or sung by children are especially encouraged. Even if your own children have left the nest, we would appreciate receiving a submission. When you make your submission, you can tell us any additional information about the prayer such as why it might have been especially meaningful, who composed it, or how your family would recite it (holding hands, singing, etc.) You can give your submissions to Pastor Brooks or email them to [brooks@vanucc.org](mailto:brooks@vanucc.org). Please make your submission by June 3rd. We will share the resulting booklets with the entire congregation!

## Camp Adams

The time is now to register your campers for summer camps at Camp Adams. **Camp is \$345 until 5/21 when the price goes up to \$385.** Sessions are as follows:

**Genesis/Seekers:** July 8 – 14, for students who have finished grades 2 & 3  
**Discovers:** July 15 – 21, for students who have finished grades 4 & 5  
**Sojourners:** July 22 – 28, for students who have finished grades 6, 7, 8  
**Exodus:** July 29 – August 4, for students who have finished grades 9 – 12.  
**Young Adult Camp:** July 4 – 7, for young people out of high school and under 30. (see website for prices)  
**Family Camp**, 6 day option: July 1 – 7 (see website for prices)  
**Family Camp**, 3 day option: July 1 – 4 (see website for prices)  
**Family Camp**, 3 day option: July 4 – 7 (see website for prices)  
**Work Camp:** July 1 – 4, free. See website for details.

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### New Greeter Recruiter:

Contributed by Nancy Fite, Parish Life

Kaye Kipp has agreed to be the new greeter recruiter. Just to give you some background on Kaye, she earned in B.A. in music from the College of Notre Dame in California. Her "forte" was piano. Kaye taught piano lessons for many years. More recently she earned an M.A. in counseling from City University and a certificate in chemical addiction counseling from Clark College. Currently, Kay is volunteering twice a week at the VA Hospice Unit, the Twilight Brigade. Kaye has a ferocious companion named Bronte who was 2 in February. She came from Guide Dogs for the Blind in Boring, Oregon. Bronte is pretty tolerant of singing from the church choir of which Kaye is a part. Please say "yes" when Kaye calls.....or Bronte may sniff you out when you try to hide.

Many thanks to Doraine Kohler who was our recruiter for 2 years.

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*When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength.  
Give thanks for your food and the joy of living.  
If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies in yourself.*

~Tecumseh

## Welcome New Members

Here is the information on our New Members who became a part of our church family on April 22. Please update your directories.

### Troy Haliwell and John Scougale

12302 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
360-892-6836  
Troy cell: 360-975-2788  
John cell: 360-771-2468  
[torvan@centurylink.net](mailto:torvan@centurylink.net)

### Kathryn Golden and John Eckroth

613 NW 151<sup>st</sup> St  
Vancouver, WA 98685  
360-576-2918  
Kathryn cell: 503-341-6793  
John cell: 503-341-8216  
[goldeneckroth@msn.com](mailto:goldeneckroth@msn.com)

### Jeff and Cindy Schnabel

901 SE 96th Ave  
Vancouver, WA 98664  
360-693-5210  
[schnab@teleport.com](mailto:schnab@teleport.com)

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## Remember!

The two round tables by the window are reserved for the **Women's Breakfast Group** on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay. Hope to see you there.

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## The Choir's Spring "Fun-Night"

The choir is working on a program of music that will satisfy most everyone's appetite.

On Sunday evening, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., we will begin with a potluck dinner in Bradford Hall. A musical production, featuring Broadway tunes and other types of music and dance, will follow at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The audience will be involved in a sing-a-long interspersed between numbers. You won't want to miss this once-a-year extravaganza, so come and be heartily entertained.

## The Mission and Outreach Focus for May Is: FRIENDS OF THE CARPENTER

**Friends of the Carpenter** is a ministry of building positive and productive relationships between the poor and homeless in the Community of Christ. Through a safe and supervised activity of simple woodcraft, people experience "sanctuary" where everyone is welcome, accepted and respected.

*Friends of the Carpenter  
Inviting the Homeless to:*

*C – ommunity*

*H – ope*

*R – enewal*

*I – nspiration*

*S – elf Esteem*

*T – ruth*

*Through Friendships*

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**Family Camp,** 3 day option: July 4 – 7 (see website for prices)

**Work Camp:** July 1 – 4, free. See website for details.

## Youth Group and NYE

Contributed by Kristina Martin

There are only 8 weeks remaining until members of the Youth Group and I travel to Purdue University to represent our church for the National Youth Event (NYE) 2012. We are super excited to take part in NYE and bring back lots of stories and excitement to share with you!

To help offset the costs of attending NYE, the Youth Group has two more fund raisers planned before we leave on July 10.

1. **BUNCO PARTY and BASKET RAFFLE** on 5/20. Joan Blair and Teresa Everest have graciously offered to host a BUNCO party to benefit the Youth Group immediately following church on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, down in Bradford Hall. BUNCO is a fun and easy to learn dice game that the whole family can enjoy playing. Also at the BUNCO party, we will raffle off two baskets donated by Teresa. One basket is a "family movie night" theme, and the second is a wine and chocolate basket. There will be pizza, cookies and drinks and we are hoping to provide an "away space" for children who are too young to play. Please see Kristina Martin or one of the youth group teens to buy your tickets for both the BUNCO party and the basket raffle. BUNCO tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids and raffle tickets are \$1 per ticket, 6 for \$5.
2. **Potato Bar on 6/24.** Greg Saum is coordinating a Baked Potato Bar after church on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be baked potatoes with all kinds of tasty fixings. It is \$5 per person with a \$20 family max. This will also be our last day to celebrate our youth group member, Malthe Barrett as he heads back to Denmark after the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## Mary Jo Ebel Circle to Meet

The Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. at Ruth Hammer's home; 507 NE 99<sup>th</sup> St. Space 4. Our special guest, Lou Otelmeyer has quite a story to tell! Don't miss this. For more information and/or directions call either co-host, Ruth at 574-7359 or Connie at 573-8997.

## Application for Sabbatical Grant

Submitted by John Fite

The task force authorized by our church council to prepare an application for a Sabbatical Grant has completed its work. The application, based on pursuing renewal through the enjoyment of worship spaces, natural beauty and play, was forwarded to the Lilly Endowment the first week in May. I want to thank the members of this task force: Karen Kulm, Nancy Olmsted, Pam Osborne and Richard Trefren for meeting this task with enthusiasm and imagination. They have included many of the ideas submitted by the congregation and melded those creatively with Pastor Brook's plans. This is just a beginning. At the council meeting on 24 May the council will be asked to begin organizing to plan for and oversee the congregational activities outlined in our application. There will be continuing opportunities for congregational suggestions. Selection of worship speakers, design of artwork, plans for visits, selection of dramas will all require congregational input,

Again, thanks to our task force. I am hopeful we will be successful gaining the grant and certain we will be able to use it well.

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## Congratulations...

...and thanks to all who were elected, re-elected or just finished serving on a committee or ministry. Results from our meeting on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> are on the 'desk' in the narthex. Please pick up a copy if you missed the meeting. It's important to know who our elected leaders are.

Please think of opportunities to serve and contact your **new** Nominations Committee – Carol Pendergraft, Barbara Harlan, Ed Frank, Lucie Murchison or Nancy Phelps.

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## We've Got Mail! Our Ugandan Sister Church

Our Ugandan sister church has sent us another delightful correspondence full of pictures and information about their church. Those of you who receive the Link by email will see their correspondence attached. For others, you will find copies in the narthex. We will additionally post it on the bulletin board in the back of the narthex.



## =Marriage Equality Update=

You may remember that little 116 mile walk we took in February to support the Marriage Equality bill. We were all thrilled when it passed with bi-partisan support and Governor Gregoire signed it on February 13<sup>th</sup>; however, opponents of marriage equality are working to stop the bill from becoming law. They have until June 6<sup>th</sup> to file their referendum and they must have 120,577 valid registered voter signatures to put marriage equality up for vote in the November election. What can you do to help protect marriage equality.

### **Take the pledge to support Marriage Equality!**

Advocacy organizations, faith organizations, elected officials, and citizens across Washington will be joining Washington United for Marriage in their month-long sprint to show the state, the nation, and our opponents that the people of Washington support marriage equality. Washington United for Marriage has 53,875 pledge signers so far, and that's a good start. But to keep up with our opponents, we need 66,702 more.

Take the pledge at:

<http://washingtonunitedformarriage.org/>. If you don't have computer access, you can sign a pledge card on the table in the narthex and turn the card into the office, preferably by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, in WA State, a referendum to the people asks if a law already passed by the legislature should be approved or rejected, so if Referendum 74 makes it onto the November ballot, approving it will keep the Marriage Equality law intact. This is the text of the referendum as it would appear on the ballot:

*The legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6239 concerning marriage for same-sex couples, modified domestic-partnership law, and religious freedom, and voters have filed a sufficient referendum petition on this bill. This bill would allow same-sex couples to marry, preserve domestic partnerships only for seniors, and preserve the right of clergy or religious organizations to refuse to perform, recognize, or accommodate any marriage ceremony.*