

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

May 22, 2012

## Holiness→Joy

Pastor Brooks is on study leave this week, but he has provided an excerpt from James Martin's most recent book *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life*. Some of you may know Martin as the Jesuit priest who appears regularly on *The Colbert Report*. About the origins of his book, Martin writes:

This book had its genesis a few years ago when I began to give talks based on a book called *My Life with the Saints*, a memoir telling the story of twenty saints who had been influential in my spiritual life. In a short while I noticed something surprising. Wherever I spoke—whether in parishes, colleges, conferences, or retreat centers—what people wanted to hear about *most* was the way the saints were joyful people, enjoyed lives full of laughter, and how their holiness led inevitably to joy. To a degree that astonished me, people seemed fascinated by joy. It was almost as if they'd been waiting to be told that it's okay to be religious *and* enjoy themselves, to be joyful believers.

For Martin, religion and enjoyment are not incongruous. Instead, he finds the opposite is true. He contends, "Holy people are joyful. Why? Because holiness brings us closer to God, the source of all joy."

## WORSHIP IN MAY AND JUNE

**May 27, 2012 Pentecost**

**The congregation is encouraged to wear red today.**

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 Mathews and Doraine Kohler  
Worship Leader: Trent Corey  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon  
Josiah Renner

## **JUNE**

**June 3, 2012 Communion**

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: Judy Dahlen and June Lasher  
Worship Leader: Leslie Wu  
Ushers: Aaron Cushing and Rory Martindale  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

**June 10, 2012**

### **Graduate and Teacher Recognition Sunday,**

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pam Osborne, 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: John and Norma Priel  
Worship Leader: Pam Osborne  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

**June 17, 2012 Father'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. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Dwight and Opal Chapman  
Worship Leader: Rory and Olivia Martindale  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

**June 24, 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: John and Ellie Bradley  
Worship Leader: Joy Gerlitz  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon  
Tom and Josiah Renner

## 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  
Tyler Corey

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

**Link Deadline                      June 10, 2012**  
**Link Mailed                      June 12, 2012**

## Thank You

Thank you dear church family for your prayers and many cards which included words of comfort, strength, grace and peace for the coming days without Emma.

I was able to take her back to Texas to be buried next to her husband, Charles, which was what she wanted for her final resting place.

Gratefully,  
Tina Wright and Family

## June Birthdays

June 1	Ruth Craford
June 3	Bert Martin
June 4	Elias Martin
June 7	John Hennessey
June 7	Claude Blair
June 12	Virginia Dunbar
June 12	Al Duvall
June 12	Cindy M <sup>c</sup> Nally
June 14	Rory Martindale
June 15	Nikki Moscoe
June 16	Anne Kamp
June 17	Doraine Kohler
June 18	Alicia King
June 19	JoAnn Kersavage
June 20	Marcie Ramberg
June 20	Hayden Beckman
June 22	Jim Warren
June 26	Lynn Renner
June 28	Haydn Chapman

## Bunco Was A Blast!!!

Contributed by Joan Blair

The neighbors were complaining about the noise coming from Bradford Hall Sunday afternoon so the next time we play Bunco we'll have to wear duck tape--NOT!!! We raised the roof with our screaming, laughing and cheering while raising about \$800.00 for the youth group. Approximately 70 members and friends ate 20 pizzas generously provided by Kim and Jeff McNally. They came early to cook the pizzas, and donated three pizza cutters to our kitchen. Thanks Kim and Jeff for jumping right in as new members and contributing.

The event was hosted by another new member Teresa Everist, our pro player, who explained the rules, donated 2 beautiful raffle baskets won by Dorothy Mathews and Virginia Ebersole and kept order. Thanks Teresa for your great help!

The youth group, under the watchful eyes of Kristina Martin and Lynn Renner, set up, sold tickets, and dutifully cleaned up the hall spic and span. Thanks youth group!

Thanks to the 12 cookie bakers who baked over 400 cookies for our cookie bar. They were JoAnn K., Troy H., Doraine K., Barbara, Dorothy M., Mary Ellis H., Opal C., Alice R., Kathleen W., Charlotte W., Joanie N., and Barb H.,

It was a unanimous decision to make this an annual event for many years to come because of the intergenerational feel of the party with Annalin King and Amelia Martin taking home top prizes. Be watching for the 2nd annual Bunco Party next year and join in the FUN!!!

And A Good Time  
Was Had by All



And the Winners Are:

Back:  
Kim McNally

Karen  
Bruechert

Joan Blair

Front:  
Amelia Martin

Annalin King



## Pastoral Relations Committee to Meet

On Tuesday, May 29th, the Pastoral Relations Committee will be meeting. We were elected by you to be your voice to the pastor and an avenue for him to use as a way of discussing and answering your questions, concerns, compliments and comments together in a neutral meeting. If you want to be heard, please contact any of the following members before that date: John Fite, Kay Kipp, Gertie Hettman, Darrell Brandenburg and Joan Blair.

Thank you- Pastoral Relations Committee

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## Choir Sings Broadway Tunes

Once again the choir will be performing songs from Broadway shows for their end-of-the-year program. You will hear music from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma*, *Mama Mia*, *South Pacific*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *My Fair Lady* and many more. Also on the program are individual numbers by soloists from the choir ranging from Gilbert & Sullivan to George Gershwin. It will be a fun-filled evening with some sing-a-long show tunes sung by the audience.

The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck supper in Bradford Hall. At 7:00 p.m. we will move upstairs for THE BIG SHOW! We are asking for donations to cover our expenses so call your neighbor and invite them for a wonderful time. You won't want to miss seeing Charlie Ross Dance!!

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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!

## Fun Ideas from Membership



### Hawaiian Sunday June 24, 2012

Join us for Hawaiian Sunday at worship on June 24th.

Wear your Hawaiian shirts, muumuus and flip flops and come join our fun trip to Hawaii.

There will be an array of treats and leis for all.



### Sports Sunday July 29, 2011

Join us for Sports Sunday at worship on July 29th.

Wear your sports shirt/jersey or logos and come root for your favorite team. It will also be Olympics time so red, white and blue are among the options.

Treats will reflect the sports theme.

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## Congratulations Graduates

**Jennifer Schaeffer**, daughter of Lori Schaeffer and grand-daughter of **Gertie Hettman** has graduated with honors from Charter College in Dental Assisting. She is now employed at New Image Dentistry.

**Amanda Slocum**, daughter of **John and Maggie Slocum** and granddaughter of **Irma Slocum** graduated from WSUV.

**Julia Broome Robinson** graduated from Pacific Lutheran University. Julia is the granddaughter of Julie Slocum.

**Curtis Nye** has graduated from Boot Camp at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Curtis is the son of **Beth Slocum Nye** and grandson of **Irma Slocum**.

**Valerie Fox** has graduated from WSUV. Valerie is the fiancé of **Tyler Slocum**.

**Victoria Murchison** is graduating from Kaiser Slaughter High School in Kaiser Slaughter, Germany. Victoria is the daughter of **Lucie Murchison**.

**Malthe Barrett**, the Danish exchange student of **Tom and Lynn Renner**, will be graduating from Woodland High School on June 8th. He has been in the United States since July 2011

**Leslie Wu** is graduating from Skyview High School/Science-Math –Technology Magnet. She will be attending University of WA this fall majoring in Biochemistry. **Leslie** is the daughter of **Karen Kulm and Nathen Wu**.

## Mission & Outreach June Special Offering **TRIPLE POINT YOUTH GROUP**

Contributed by Gwen Moscoe and Karen Kulm

Triple Point is a local youth group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and straight ally youth, ages 13-21 years old. They provide a safe space, support, education, and information and referral services through Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW.) Triple Point also provides youth with a meal and structured activities during each meeting. The Vancouver chapter currently meets at the CHSW building at 1112 Columbia St, downtown Vancouver, but they are actively looking for their own building where they will be able to provide expanded services and hours for the youth.

Triple Point meets every Tuesday from 3:00 – 6:00pm for Drop-In and the Support Group meets in the evening from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Volunteers provide a meal for the kids and mentoring. If you are interested in volunteering or helping to provide meals, please contact Gwen Moscoe, who is currently an active volunteer, or Spring Dowse, Triple Point Program Coordinator, at 360 695-1325.

You can also check out:

<http://childrenshomesociety.org/triplepoint.html>

Please consider making a donation to this wonderful group of youth by writing a check to our church and noting "Triple Point" in the memo line.

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## 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)."

## =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.*