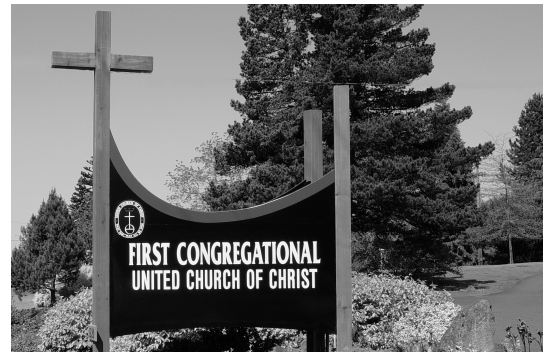


# *The Link*

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*God is Still Speaking,*

June 26, 2012

## **A New Spiritual Inspiration**

Dear Church Family,

Last week I had a conversation with a Christian who I would characterize as not having an open mind. I could hardly begin to express my own beliefs without it eliciting exasperated condescension. Apparently, I was veering from the Word of God (or at least this person's perception of the Word of God). It quickly became clear that logical argumentation in defense of my views was not going to win the day. It is hard to compete with someone who already feels like they hold the answer to everything.

It can be tempting to respond to self-righteous certainty with an equal dose of self-righteous certainty. I knew this was not the route I wanted to go, but this realization by itself left me feeling rather defeated. How can a Christianity that embraces critical thinking ever compete with the confidence and conviction of the Pure Bible Patriots (PBPs)? It would seem our questioning minds inherently keep us out of the race. On a certain emotional level, we are at best doomed to a second place finish to the PBPs.

I was in the doldrums over this until I considered the example of a true racing champion: my daughter Danalyn. Ever since she began to crawl a month ago, she has been zipping around our house with a fully charged battery. For me, the best part is the expression on her face as she heads toward a destination. The most accurate description I can give is to say that it is a look of excited curiosity.

As I reflected upon this, I realized at once that Danalyn is my new spiritual inspiration. Whereas the PBPs have biblical zeal, I like to think that I have an excited curiosity. I want to explore every room in the house. I want to look under every doormat and peer into every cabinet drawer. There is a whole world waiting for me, and I want to crawl, walk, and run to greet it. This is part of the great joy of my faith, and I would not want it any other way.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks



## WORSHIP IN JULY

### July 1, 2012      Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Joan Blair and Norma Lee Priel  
Worship Leader: Ken Rowe  
Ushers: Aaron Cushing, Rory Martindale  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

### July 8, 2012      Danalyn Berndt's Baptism

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pam Osborne preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Dorothy Mathews and Vince Bowman  
Worship Leader: Barbara Harlan  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### July 17, 2011

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Ed and Claudia Martin  
Worship Leader: Claudia Martin  
Ushers: Ken Rowe, Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King, Duke Charpentier

### July 24, 2011

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Wayne and Doris Fletcher  
Worship Leader: Joan Blair  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon  
Tom and Lynn Renner

### July 31, 2011

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care Available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg  
Worship Leader: Ellie Bradley  
Ushers:

## Pastor Brooks Office Hours

My weekly office hours are at the following times:

Tuesday 11 am to 1 pm  
Wednesday 4 pm to 6 pm  
Saturday 3 pm to 5 pm

If possible, please contact me before visiting. I occasionally have irregular meetings, events, and emergencies that take me away from the office at these times.

## 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

## Thank You

I want to thank all those thoughtful people in our church family who visited us at the hospital and at home; those who sent cards with encouraging messages, and those who brought flowers, cookies, etc. It was pretty overwhelming for this 'ol' fellow.

Ruby and I were again pleasantly surprised when Connie Oppel and Joanie Nelson presented us with pretty shawls from the shawl-makers, a group started by Joanie. My shawl was in the shape of a boat sail, which reminds me of my sailboat adventures over many years.

Care among our church family has many leaders and is a very high priority.  
Ed and Ruby Frank

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

July 8, 2012  
July 10, 2012

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

## Bible Adventures Is On Hiatus for the Summer

The CE ministry, after getting feedback from families and teachers, has decided that Sunday, June 16th is the last Sunday of Bible Adventures before we break for the summer. During the summer, all children preschool through high school will stay in the service with their families. Nursery care for children birth - age four is still provided as usual. Bible Adventures will resume on September 9th for Fall Kick-Off. There will be some activity sheets and pencils available in the narthex for children to complete during the service if they want one.

## Doug Smith Preview & Concert:

Contributed by Nancy Fite

On **Sunday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>**, you will get a **preview** of the Doug Smith concert when Doug will play guitar at our Sunday church service. But the **big concert** is on **Saturday, October 20, 2012**. It will be a finger-pickin' great time with Doug and **Three Together**. Doug is a Grammy-award winning artist, and amazingly talented. Everyone who buys a ticket will have a chance to win an airplane ride around Mt St Helen's for 3 people with pilot John Fite. Tickets are \$15.00 each and will be available soon. Doug and **Three Together** are not charging us anything. They only ask that we sell their CD's at the October concert. It will be a good fund-raiser for our church!! Be there or be square!! Any questions? Ask Jean Beary Stolle or Nancy Fite.

## SATURDAY IN THE PARK – JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> VANCOUVER PRIDE CELEBRATION Esther Short Park 11 AM – 5 PM



Saturday In The Park, Vancouver's annual Pride celebration will take place on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Our church will once again have an informational booth at the event. A sign up sheet for volunteers is available in the narthex or you can contact Greg Saum at 360-904-8431 or [gzaam@comcast.net](mailto:gzaam@comcast.net).

This is a fun, family friendly day in the park with entertainment, music and plenty of room for picnics with foods chosen from the adjacent Farmer's Market. This is another chance to be a witness in our community for LGBT rights and for equality. Our witness will be especially important this year as opponents of marriage equality are trying to overturn our historic marriage equality bill by placing it on the November ballot. We can educate people that our church supports marriage equality and urges people to approve the marriage equality law by approving Ref. 74.



## Update on Marriage Equality Signs

Over the past few Sundays, some of you have maybe met the visitors who have come as a result of our marriage equality signs. You may have also heard the positive stories about conversations people have had with neighbors who have seen the signs. If you would like a sign, we still have some available to take on Sunday morning in the narthex. We are also inviting those with signs to send us a picture of their sign. It could be simply a picture of the sign in front of your house or a picture of you and any family members holding the sign. Email your picture to Pastor Brooks ([brooks@vanucc.org](mailto:brooks@vanucc.org)), and he will post the collected pictures on both our website and our church's Facebook page.

## To the Loving Community at First Congregational UCC,

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and care from this wonderful congregation during Carole's recent illness which resulted in our being temporarily stranded in Vancouver. After August 10<sup>th</sup>, follow our trip across country on Carole Elizabeth's Facebook account.

God bless each of you,  
Adena Tarpley and Carole Elizabeth

## July Birthdays

July 1	Ken Boydstun
July 2	Joan Blair
July 7	Launa Schriock
July 8	Tom Yates
July 11	Jeff McNally
July 12	Kim McNally
July 15	Daniel Harrigan
July 15	Tom Renner
July 18	Teresa Schwark-Everist
July 26	Russ Schriock
July 28	Sam King
July 30	Lilian Beckman

# Happy Birthday!

## Good News for Worker Justice!

Last year during a moment for mission on Sunday morning we heard about the plight of workers at the Vancouver Hilton who were suffering from low wages and poor benefits. Last month we were informed that the workers won a great victory in their new contract. Here are a few of the details: Over the course of two years, they will get a \$1 wage increase. The hotel had previously proposed a pay increase of 27 cents. The minimum number of hours needed for health care eligibility was reduced from 32 hours to 24 hours. House keepers only have to check out 10 rooms in 8 hours rather than the 15 rooms previously required of them. For Christmas and Thanksgiving, they now get double time. Previously, they got nothing extra.

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## A BIG THANK YOU!!!

The Youth Group's final fund-raiser on June 24 was a wonderful success! Greg Saum-Blystone headed up the Potato Bake fundraiser and by all accounts it was a great time for everybody who came and had a baked potato with the fixings of their choice. Tim Ralph, Josiah Renner, and Malthe Barrett served up potatoes and smiles to the people who came through the line, giving everyone a chance to say goodbye to Malthe.

Tim and Josiah will be representing First Congregational UCC Vancouver at National Youth Event and we are happy to announce that all our transportation and registration costs have been covered as well as our conference tee-shirts which we will wear to give our dear Central Pacific Conference a shout-out during NYE.

Thank you again for all the support you have given the youth group in general and these two young men especially. I am touched again and again at your generosity.

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## Recital Rescheduled!

Christopher will perform his recital on Sunday, July 8 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary. His program includes the Beethoven Sonata Op. 27 no. 2 ("Moonlight") and Liszt's "Dante Sonata". There will also be works by Chopin, Smetana and Debussy.

Admission is by free-will offering and/or non perishable food donation (for F.I.S.H.).

## THE MISSION AND OUTREACH FOCUS FOR JULY IS: HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Contributed by David Slocum

Imagine giving a person living in poverty the means to earn an income and feed his or her family. That's a huge gift! *Heifer* gifts are also unique because they make funny sounds like "quack, buk-buk or bzzz".

For many people, economic salvation is a pregnant goat; it will breed and provide milk – enough to drink and sell.

Part of the Heifer tradition is "Passing On the Gift." Recipients are expected to pass on the first female offspring of their animal; along with the training they received, to another person in need, helping to share the wealth. Since 1944, more than 4 million families in 120 countries have been given this gift of self-reliance.

More than a million animals have been passed on as gifts by recipients in China. Just \$700 in animals and training can help lift a family out of poverty and on the average, another 6 families are eventually helped by each animal donation through passing on the gift.

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## Women's Saturday Breakfast

Contributed by Connie Oppel

Remember ladies, our Saturday Breakfast Group will be meeting through the summer. Our tables will be ready for us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay.

All are welcome for a great time of fellowship and good food. Just show up.

Questions? Call Connie at 573-8997 or 600-1098.

**Mark your calendars now for July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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## Vacation Schedule and Preaching in July

Pastor Brooks will be gone for vacation on the Monday through Saturday leading up to Sunday, July 8th, the day of Danalyn's baptism. Pam Osborne will be preaching that Sunday. On July 15th, 22nd, and 29th, Pastor Brooks will be preaching a sermon series on Christian ethics.

## Meet Tom and Patty Yates

Contributed by Alice Rowe

Two of our newest church members are Tom and Patty Yates.

Tom is a native Washingtonian, born in Spokane and raised in Alderwood Manor, a suburb of Seattle. Tom has had wide professional experience. He joined the Air Force during the Vietnam War after graduating High School and just before the Pueblo crisis. During his Air Force stint, he was stationed at McChord AFB in Tacoma and served as a Chaplain's Assistant.

Patty (Price) Yates was born in Philadelphia, PA. She grew up in Pittsburgh PA. Her family moved to West Los Angeles when she was a junior in high school.

Patty and Tom met in a professional Christian repertory theater company, *The Covenant Players*. By the end of their first year of touring, they liked each other and were married on January 2, 1977. They continued to work for the theater company and established a regional office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where their first son, Cyrus, was born. They were then transferred to Pittsburgh, PA, where they worked to establish another regional office. Their daughter, Abigail was born in Pennsylvania.

Tom worked for the theater group for 14 years, and Patty was with them for 9 years. At the end of this time, Tom decided to return to college at Cal State Northridge in Los Angeles where he received an undergraduate degree in Theater. He then went to Divinity School in Claremont, California where he earned both his Masters and his Doctorate of Divinity degrees. Patty continued to work as a professional actress while Tom was going to school.

Tom was called to be the pastor at 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church in Longview WA where they welcomed their son, Dylan. After six years in Longview, Tom was called to serve at 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church here in Vancouver where they've lived since 1993. During Tom's ministry in Longview, Patty was a Theater Major at Lower Columbia Community College. She enjoyed working there and noted that the school had her ***favorite director of all time!***

Tom began the transition from pastoring a church to working as a hospital chaplain in Longview. He returned to the military by joining the Army Reserves at Vancouver Barracks where he also joined the Army Reserve Band returning to playing the trombone after an absence of many years. Eventually, Tom became a chaplain in the Army Reserves and served one year of active duty in Afghanistan in 2004 and another year of active duty in Iraq in 2009.

During Tom's leave from Iraq in 2009, Patty was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Tom remained on active duty with the Army while Patty went through four months of chemotherapy. This was followed by having a full bone marrow transplant. Patty has had a long and slow recovery, but she and Tom have found out during this time just how many friends they have. Patty is now in remission.

Tom retired from the Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel. He has worked for the past five years as a chaplain at SWWMC, now known as PeaceHealth. Patty is working with a friend to start a women's theater company based in Portland. The vision is to provide more professional opportunities for women and girls to work in theater.

Patty and Tom have 4 adult children. Somehow we missed discussing where their third child Molly was born. My assignment to this congregation is to find out where Molly was born and what is keeping Tom and Patty active.

## CAMP EARTH WALKERS 2012

Please mark your calendars for this year's Camp Earth Walkers (VBS) on August 15 - 17, 9 am - 1 pm. The theme for Camp Earth Walkers this year is "Feeding the Body, Strengthening the Body" and is about health and wellness choices. Camp Earth Walkers is open to all children of our church ages 4 - 14. Grandchildren of members are welcome as well. Registration materials will be mailed to active families by mid July and will also be available in the church office. Please register so there will be enough materials for all children. The cost is \$15 per child and each child should bring a snack and sack lunch each day. If you have any questions or would like to register your children over the phone, please call Kristina Martin at (360) 695-4545.

## ALL CHURCH RETREAT

The fun and festivities we experienced the past two years at the All Church Retreat at Camp Adams will be held again this year but at our very beautiful church! The retreat will begin on Friday, August 17th with a potluck dinner, people can camp-out over night, have a pancake breakfast in the morning, activities all day and will end the evening of August 18th. Continue to look for information in the Link for specific scheduled events and activities. We hope that with travel not being a concern, all of our church family can come together for what will be a wonderful event! A huge thank-you to Lynn Renner and Greg Saum-Blystone for co-chairing this task force!

*"I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see."*

*John Burroughs*

## Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday church service, please sign up in the narthex (chart is on the wall.) Flowers from your own garden are perfect. Thank you from Parish Life.

## Fun Ideas from Membership

### Hawaiian Sunday July 1, 2012



Join us for Hawaiian Sunday at worship on July 1<sup>st</sup>..

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

## Calendar Information

We have a virtual calendar on the website. To view the calendar, go to [www.vancouverucc.org](http://www.vancouverucc.org) and click on the church calendar link. From the list version you may then click on Google Calendar and view the next few months.