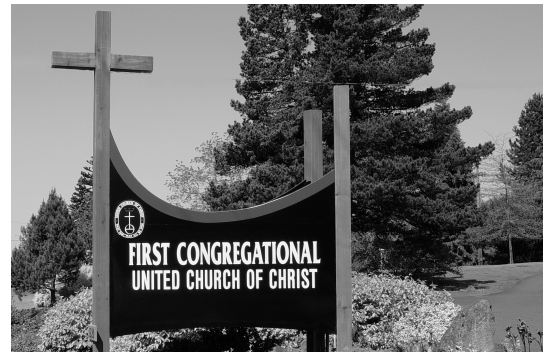


# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
1220 NE 68th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98665-0508  
360.693.1476  
Website: [www.vancouverucc.org](http://www.vancouverucc.org)



Volume 34 No. 13

*God is Still Speaking,*

July 10, 2012

## **Poetry as a Spiritual Exercise**

Dear Church Family,

The most recent issue of the UCC magazine tells the story of Robert Koepcke, Sr. Koepcke is 89-years old, and every day he writes a poem to keep his mental muscles in shape. He prefers doing this over doing crossword puzzles. Koepcke's practice was inspired by the daily devotionals that our denomination sends out via email. As a source of inspiration, I am including one of his poems here:

### Community Development

A crowd becomes a community,  
When they learn to share,  
Giving and receiving the bread,  
With love and community care.

This was Jesus' reason for the  
Multiplication of the seven,  
Teaching the individual that,  
Sharing was the gift from heaven.

No longer alone and wandering,  
The strength of community force,  
Working and sharing together,  
God's spirit setting the course.

May poetry keep all of our minds spiritually fit!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN JULY

### July 15, 2012

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 22, 2012

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 29, 2012

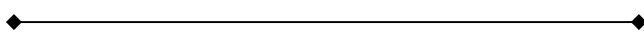
10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care Available.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

Worship Leader: Ellie Bradley

Ushers: John and Joe Eckroth



## 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.

## REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

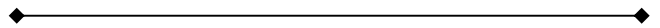
Prayer requests for:

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

CONTINUING PRAYER  
REQUESTS FOR:

Yahriel Harrigan  
Tyler Corey

Clarice Fossen



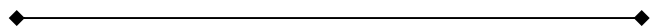
## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

July 22, 2012  
July 24, 2012

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

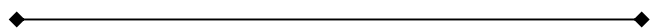
August 12, 2012  
August 14, 2012



## Thank You

Thank You for the beautiful flowers. We have each enjoyed our bouquets through the past weeks.

Daryl DeSilva and Marnie Wright



## Women's Saturday Breakfast

Contributed by Connie Opper

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>.***

**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 [gsaum@comcast.net](mailto:gsaum@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.



**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.

**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.

**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

**Bible Adventures on Hiatus**

The CE ministry, after getting feedback from families and teachers, has decided that Bible Adventures will 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.

## Christian Education

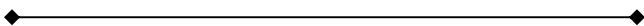
Contributed by Karen Owen

Being a participant in the Christian Education program of this church offers lifelong opportunities for spiritual and intellectual growth. This church community is a place for creative and critical thinking. This is a place where we can promote actions that work for common good of all people, especially the oppressed.

We welcome the challenge of a journey that leads us to learn to love not only our neighbors, not only strangers, but even our enemies. Our faith inspires us to share compassion even with those who annoy or persecute us. The way we behave toward one another and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe. We might not agree on all the details...but we agree that all voices need to be heard. We welcome all people to participate in this community without insisting that they become like us or think like us. We value diversity.

Ours is a journey where questions matter as much as answers. We do not claim to know the ultimate truth. We value questioning more than absolutes in our search for understanding. We embrace the elements of openness, creativity, intellectual rigor, honesty, courage, balance and respect as we journey together through our questions.

Please join us for the Adult Education series "Living the Question" beginning September 16<sup>th</sup> following worship. This DVD and discussion series focuses on what it means to be a Christian in today's world.



## Ted Hastings

The following was received Monday from the CPC.

*"We regret to inform you that the Rev. Ted. Hastings passed away on July 7, 2012".*

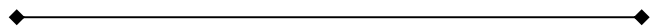
Rev. Hastings was pastor here at First Congregational UCC Vancouver from 1957 until 1964 and was instrumental in the building of our current building in 1961. He will be missed.

There will be a celebration of Rev. Hastings' life at The United Churches of Olympia on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

## 3rd Annual Outdoor Movie Night

Contributed by Greg Saum

The Christian Education ministry is excited to announce our third outdoor film night, coming this summer! One of my favorite memories as a child was of being gathered with my family, watching Star Wars at a drive-in theater in Longview. Sadly, the days of drive in movies are gone, but at last year's movie night I got a chance to relive some of that magic when we presented the film "The Iron Giant" in the Labyrinth. You, too, can relive the magic of watching movies under the stars! All families are invited to join us in the Labyrinth on **Saturday, July 21 at 8:00pm** for an outdoor hot dog dinner and fellowship to discuss their favorite movie memories. This will be followed by a showing of Disney Pixar's "**Wall-E**" at around 8:45 (or a few minutes later if it's not dark enough!) Audiences young and young-at-heart are guaranteed to be entertained and moved by this film, a story about a small robot left behind on a deserted Earth, who encounters and falls in love with another robot named Eve. The film is just over 90 minutes long. This event is free and Christian Education will be accepting donations to cover the costs of the dinner. So grab your favorite outdoor blanket or lawn chair, your favorite movie snack, and we'll see you at the movies!



## New Running Group and Walking Group

Our new running and walking groups are off to a great start! Both groups meet at 9 am on Saturdays near the entrance to the Salmon Creek greenway next to the Felida Bridge and NW 36th Avenue. Some of our runners who do distances over 6 miles in length will start earlier in the morning and then join the others when they arrive.

Let Pastor Brooks know if you are interested in joining either the runners or the walkers.

## Capital Campaign 2 Underway

Contributed by Dwight Chapman, Financial Secretary

The second Capital Campaign to pay for the roof and skylight repairs began on June 3, 2012 and will run until the end of May, 2015.

Although we had hoped to reach a \$400,000 goal, we were unable to do that. At the end of the first month we have pledges from 49 families who contributed to the first campaign and nine families new to the church. These pledges total \$236,610. We are hoping to eventually raise at least \$250,000.

In the first month we have raised \$21,327 in pledges and contributions for the new campaign, a very respectable beginning. Four persons have actually completed their entire campaign pledges.

The Property and Finance Ministry and the Council are actively working on how to best use the money we will have come available for covering the monthly mortgage payments, paying down some of the outstanding balance, and paying for costs to projects such as painting the outside of the building, replacing broken heat pumps, etc.

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## Inspiring Ministries

The most recent issue of the UCC magazine StillSpeaking includes the stories of two inspiring ministries. One story is about a UCC church in Philadelphia that sponsored the creation of a non-profit organization that blends art and spirituality. Over 25,000 youth have participated in one of its programs over the 10-years it has existed. One of its offerings helps children to "heal and recover from trauma via the power of art." Another inspiring ministry featured in the magazine is that of a LGBT Asylum Support Task Force at Hadwen Park UCC in Worcester, Massachusetts. This ministry assists LGBT persons who have fled other countries due to threats of violence. Often these persons are unable to find support in their own immigrant communities. This story can be downloaded at:

[www.ucc.org/spring2012/asylum.html](http://www.ucc.org/spring2012/asylum.html)

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*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away*

~Anon

## Social Groups at First Congregational UCC

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Hiking Group</b>          | <u>Aaron Cushing</u><br>716-864-1789             |
| <b>Women's Sat Breakfast</b> | <u>Connie Oppel</u><br>573-8997                  |
| <b>Friday Night Movies</b>   | <u>Barb Harlan</u><br>574-5870                   |
| <b>Men's Breakfast</b>       | <u>Ed Frank</u><br>573-3848                      |
| <b>Sunday Brunch</b>         | <u>Carol Pendergraft</u><br>993-0483             |
| <b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> | <u>Joanie Nelson</u><br>254-5419                 |
| <b>Spirituality Group</b>    | <u>Kathleen New</u><br>694-3682                  |
| <b>Daytime Cards</b>         | <u>Joan Blair</u><br>573-6505                    |
| <b>Pinochle</b>              | <u>Darrell</u><br><u>Brandenburg</u><br>693-7981 |
| <b>Pinochle Subs</b>         | <u>Nancy Phelps</u><br>576-0302                  |
| <b>Evening Book Club</b>     | <u>Ed Martin</u><br>624-0038                     |
| <b>Running Group</b>         | <u>Pastor Brooks</u><br>693-1476                 |



## Sports Sunday July 29, 2012

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.