

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 34 No. 24

God is Still Speaking,

December 26, 2012

*Blessed Christmas to our
Church Family*

Brooks Berndt

Christina Schaller

*How silently
how silently
the wondrous gift is given.*

Richard

Virginia Dunbar

*I would be silent now,
Lord,
and expectant...*

Kathy Woolley

*That I may receive
the gift I need,*

Rachel Fulk

*so I may become
the gift others need.*

Richard

~Ted Loder~

**WORSHIP IN DECEMBER
AND JANUARY**

December 30, 2012

Holiday Brunch and Service

10:00 am

January 6, 2013 Epiphany

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

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Judy and Don Walter

Worship Leader: Harriet Anani

Ushers: Rory Martindale and Aaron Cushing
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

January 13, 2013

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: Joy Gerlitz and Sandy Mathis

Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis

Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

January 20, 2013

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: Rachel and Trent Corey

Worship Leader: Marilynn Jones

Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

January 27, 2013

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: Joan Blair and Norma Priel

Worship Leader: Barb Harlan

Ushers: Joe and John Eckroth
Tom and Josh Renner

Congregational Meeting on the Budget
Immediately Following Worship

**REMEMBERING
OUR FAMILY
IN PRAYER**

Prayer requests for:

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

CONTINUING PRAYER
REQUESTS FOR:

Kathleen New

**Sad News from
Ed and Carolyn Evans**

Carolyn's mother, Carmen, departed from this earthly life at 6:35 am this morning, Sunday, December 23. She died peacefully with her daughters, Carolyn and Barbara, at her bedside.

We are tentatively planning a memorial service and celebration of life at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Port Angeles Saturday, December 29 at 2 PM.

Blessings,
Ed and Carolyn

*Ed was Pastor here at First Congregational from
1996 until 2006.*

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

January 6, 2013

January 8, 2013

Link Deadline

Link Mailed

January Birthdays

January 03

Ken Rowe

January 07

Charlie Ross

January 16

Kathleen New

January 18

Allison Kocher

January 22

Danya Marquardt

January 24

Dorothy Mathews

January 28

Judith Dahlen

From Sundown to Sundown

Think of the Children

A 24-Hour Fast to Call for a Budget that Feeds Our Children

*Join us for fasting from sundown on February 19th to sundown on February 20th.
Wear a child handprint symbol on your lapel to draw attention to your fast.*



Last year our state cut in half a program that helped feed 12,500 children.

Learn more at www.facebook.com/fastforthechildren

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

—Isaiah 58:6

For more information, call (360) 693-1476 or email thinkofchildren@mail.com.

The Dessert of the Month

This new fundraiser will start in January and we will be selling tickets for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each month a special Dessert will be made and the ticket winner/winners will be drawn on the last Sunday of the month. The first dessert to be made will be Teresa's "Chocolate Peanut Clusters" there will be 6 dozens made and they will go to two winners of 3 dozen each. There will be another announcement in the Link for each month on what the dessert will be and who will be making it. So keep your eyes open and be ready to be a winner on one of these fun and great desserts made by our church members.

If you want to sign up to make a dessert, please see Teresa Everist or call her at 921-0611 or email teresa@nw4sale.com

Teresa Schwark-Everist

December 30th Brunch and Worship

Instead of our traditional worship service in our sanctuary, on December 30th at 10 am, we will have a special family worship and brunch in Bradford Hall. Please bring muffins, egg casseroles, fruit, or something "brunchy" to share.

Stewardship News

Thank you to all who have turned in their pledges for 2013. We are well on our way to being able to meet our budget needs for the year.

If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2013, it's not too late. We will need your information by Wednesday, January 16th in order to consider where we stand before the Congregational Meeting on the 27th.

So please, take the time to fill out your pledge card and either mail or turn it in to the office or place it in the offering plate during worship on the 6th or the 13th.

Thank You,
Dwight Chapman
Financial Secretary

Save The Date

For the Winter Hospitality Overflow Shelter (W.H.O.)



This year we are teaming up with Congregation Kol Ami Feb 24- March 2. Sign up sheets will be available soon.

We need YOU to volunteer at the men's shelter located at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The "work" is easy, but rewarding. Never volunteered before? No worries: "newbies" can be paired with veterans and you can read the orientation book, as well as receive on-site orientation nightly. You can also view the orientation book on-line at: <http://whoprogram.org/volunteer/volunteer-resources/> (click on "St. Paul" under Host Manual)

A SHARE social worker is on-site nightly to manage who is admitted and to assist the men with accessing services that will, hopefully, help them get off the streets. Our job is simple: to provide snacks, a friendly, caring environment, assist with showering, laundry, wake-up calls and help clean the facility in the morning. However, the men at the shelter are deeply appreciative of us sharing our time and hospitality with them.

If you are unable to volunteer at the shelter, we ask that you donate food, clothing, C-Tran tickets, etc. Place these items in the yellow container in the narthex marked "WHO." If you have any questions, please contact Karen Kulm 991-5774 or email at lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Improve Your Spiritual Health in the New Year

Sign up in the Narthex for a new small group series on Faith Formation. This program will introduce concepts and practices to enrich one's daily spiritual life. It will go for six-weeks. Meetings begin the week of January 13th.

Decision From Congregational Meeting

Contributed by Joan Blair, Moderator

At our November 18th Congregational Meeting, our attending members made a decision to aggressively pay off the mortgage which Option 1.

After informative presentations by our members and a question and answer session, the vote was taken. The results were: Option 1: 51 votes; Option 2: 10 votes; Option 3: 0 votes; Option 4: 3 votes. A copy of Option 1 is printed below for your files.

Since taking the vote, Property and Finance Ministry has taken action to reduce our interest rate with our lender, Cornerstone Fund of UCC. They have paid the principal reduction payment of \$110,000 from the first Capital Campaign and have gotten the heat pump bids for the Nettie Fries Lounge and Cricket rooms to be paid for by member donations and monies on hand. The front door was repaired from maintenance funds on hand also.

Property and Finance will continue to keep you informed as to the progress they're making in paying down the mortgage and other financial issues.

Thank you for giving this serious matter your utmost attention. Please continue to show your support because we are on the road to financial solutions for our church's future. Prayers are answered!

Best Regards,
Joan Blair, Moderator

OPTION ONE: AGGRESSIVELY PAY-OFF THE MORTGAGE

Payments from the Second Capital Campaign

1.	Three years of mortgage payments at the current payment amount	\$183,000
2.	Interior and Exterior Maintenance	57,000
	Total Payments from the Second Campaign	<u>\$240,000</u>

Expenditure of the Remaining Funds from the First Campaign:

1.	Mortgage Payments June-October 2012	\$26,122
2,	Principal Reduction Payment	110,000
	Total Payments from the First Campaign	<u>\$136,122</u>

Mortgage Principal Payments from the Operating Budget:

.	2013, \$3,000; 2014, \$6,000; 2015, \$9,000.	Total: <u>\$ 18,000</u>
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Projected Mortgage Balance November 1, 2015 **\$550,000**

IMPLICATIONS FOR LONG RANGE MORTGAGE PLANNING:

We will continue to make our monthly payments from the capital fund at the original amount, thereby making additional payments on the principal each month;

We will continue to increase the amount paid for principal payments from the operating budget by \$3,000 each year (\$12,000 in 2016, \$15,000 in 2017, etc).

We will continue to seek other ways to make principal reduction payments whenever we can.

We will need additional funding, such as from another capital campaign, by Fall 2015 and potentially again in 2018 and 2021.

Our goal is to pay off the mortgage as quickly as we can.