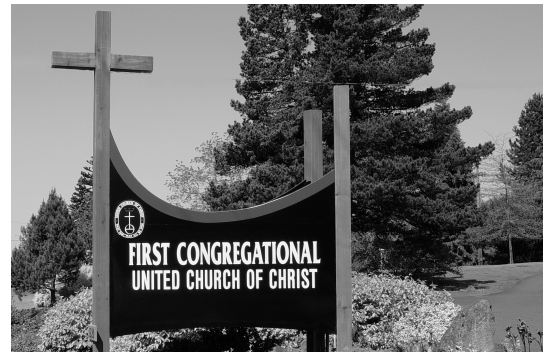


# *The Link*

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



Volume 35 No. 6

*God is Still Speaking,*

March 26 , 2013

## **A Reflection for Good Friday**

Dear Church Family,

For me, Good Friday is one of the most significant days of the Christian liturgical year as we remember the crucifixion of Jesus. Because we hold only one weekday service during Holy Week, our Thursday evening service combines elements of worship that can be associated with both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Remembrance of Good Friday can be seen in the conclusion of the service as we read the seven last words of Jesus while extinguishing the seven candles on the altar. Nevertheless, I frequently find myself wanting to do something on Good Friday itself. For this reason, I am offering a quote for reflection on that day.

I had discovered the quote in a collection of Lenten and Easter writings a few years ago while preparing for our Maundy Thursday service. At the time, I knew nothing of its author Hans Iwand. In returning to the quote this year, I researched who he was. As it turns out, he was a German theologian known for his criticism of the Nazis. As a result of his views, he lost his faculty position at a seminary and then directed an illegal seminary for training pastors. One book notes that he “was repeatedly arrested by the SS.” This biographical information led me to read his quote in a whole new light. May it serve as a source of meaningful reflection this Good Friday.

“Our faith begins at the point where atheists suppose it must be at an end. Our faith begins with the bleakness and power which is the night of the cross, abandonment, temptation and doubt about everything that exists! Our faith must be born where it is abandoned by all tangible reality; it must be born of nothingness, it must taste this nothingness and be given it to taste in a way that no philosophy of nihilism can imagine.”

—Hans Iwand

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN MARCH AND APRIL

### March 28, 2013 Maundy Thursday

6:00 Lamb Dinner in Bradford Hall followed by  
Worship at 7:00 in the Sanctuary.  
Childcare will be available in the Nursery  
at 6:45 after the dinner.

### March 31, 2013 Easter Sunday

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.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Jeff and Kimberly McNally  
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

## APRIL

### April 7, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Carole Elizabeth  
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: Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg  
Worship Leader: Charlie Ross  
Ushers: Rory Martindale  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

### April 14, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt and  
Cager Clabaugh 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: Judith Dahlen and Connie Oppel  
Worship Leader: Tom Yates  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### April 21, 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: Michael, Alicia, Annalin and Sam King  
Worship Leader: Rory Martindale  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

## 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	Mary Craford
Farley Maxwell	Yahriel Harrigan
Bev Boydston	Jean Matthews

Please keep **Lynn and Pat Degerstedt** in  
your thoughts and prayers following the death  
of their son, **Bruce Degerstedt** on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Also our thoughts and prayers go to **Kathleen  
New and her family** following the passing of  
her husband, **Daniel** on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>April 7, 2013</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>April 9, 2013</u>

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## Welcome Esther Rose

John and Nancy Fite are delighted to  
announce the arrival of Esther Rose Fite, their  
first grandchild on March 19, 2013. She  
weighed in at 7lb. 15oz. and measured 21.5"  
long. Lawson Fite and Kate Sharaf are the  
proud parents.

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### April 28 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: Virginia Ebersole and Clarice Fossen  
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis  
**Ushers:** Tom and Josiah Renner  
John and Joe Eckroth



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bunco Party!  
Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 AM in Bradford Hall**

Contributed by Joan Blair

Come join in the most fun you'll ever have. We'll have pizza, drinks and cookies then play Bunco.

All ages, beginners to experts are welcome. Buy your tickets after church or from Joan Blair at 360-573-6505.

**Cost:**  
**Adults: \$10.00**  
**Child: \$5.00**

**Free Pizza and Free Fun!!**

**Easter Flowers**

Please bring flowers on Easter Sunday from your own garden or wherever, that would work nicely in the big Easter wreath and give them to the people who are making the wreath, namely Daryl DeSilva and others. Thanks.

**Proposed Constitutional Changes**

Section 2-6-4 Job description-Treasurer

<u>Present wording:</u>	<u>Proposed wording:</u>
Term: One Year	
Limitation: No limit	<u>Limitation: <b>THREE</b></u>
	<u>successive terms</u>

Section 2-6-5 Job description-Financial Secretary

Term: One Year	
Limitation: No Limit	<u>Limitation: <b>THREE</b></u>
	<u>successive terms.</u>

**To be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for April 28.**

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

March is the month set aside by U.C.C. to highlight the good works of many throughout the world.

We ask for whatever financial assistance you can provide. Millions of people in this world survive from day to day without proper food, shelter or clean water. They have nothing left over from their meager incomes to rebuild a house after war or a natural calamity.

One great hour of sharing provides both disaster relief and education to help people be able to provide more abundantly for their families.

Thank you for your support.

Alice Rowe  
Mission & Outreach Committee

**Mission and Outreach Focus  
for April**



**Mission & Outreach April Special Offering  
CAMP ADAMS CAMBERSHIPS**

Camp Adams is a 210-acre, forested recreational retreat center located 35 miles south of Portland near Molalla. Camp Adams provides a spiritual haven from the hectic pace of everyday life. Many of you may have fond memories of summers spent at church camp, or at the wonderful all-church camp we had two summers ago. In addition to Youth & Family Camps, the facilities can be used for confirmation camps, group retreats, day camps, weddings, etc.

Summer camp applications are now open, so please help our youth get to camp! You can contribute to our campership fund by writing your check out to our church and designating "Camp Adams Campership" in the memo line. Thank you for helping to build memories and spiritual connections that will last a lifetime!

## A Message From Aaron And Lisa Cushing

A big hello to our Vancouver church family! Lisa and I have finally settled in to our new apartment here in Fredericksburg, VA and we wanted to share a few things with everyone. Aaron is settling into his new position and is already enjoying his role with his new employer at Solitude Lake Management. He has been very impressed since his first meeting at the attention given to each employee's personal and career growth and envisions being very happy with them for a LONG time. His new supervisor is also from central NY and they get along well. Lisa's job search has finally turned up several applications and possible opportunities. Our fingers are crossed she will soon find a fulfilling position where she is happy the same way Aaron has.

We decided moving cross country wasn't enough of a change so we also adopted a young dog from a local shelter who needed a home. He is a small pointer or beagle mix who came home shy and scared of everything (possibly abused or neglected) and after just 6 weeks has turned into a very happy, loving, and loyal companion for both of us! In honor of our happy memories with everyone in town, we named him Vancouver! He is becoming quite popular and has several pictures on our Facebook pages.

Finally, we miss you all dearly. Over four years for Aaron and two years for Lisa, First Congregational became much more than our church, you became our family and friends. We miss our Friday night dinners, Saturday hikes, Winterhawks games, and Sunday morning talks. We really miss seeing the kids smile and play every Sunday morning. We have visited the UCC of Fredericksburg a few times and plan on continuing to do so. It is special in its own way with a small congregation of about 30 active members who meet each week in the basement of a Masonic Lodge. Though few in number, their community activism and work for social justice is just as strong as First Congregational's.

We keep track of all the happenings through the LINK and many of you on Facebook and encourage anyone to call or email to catch up any time.

Remember when visiting the east coast to give us a heads up. We are only 45 minutes from DC and Richmond and have space for visitors! God bless everyone and First Congregational UCC.

Love,  
Aaron & Lisa

## Were You There?

On Maundy Thursday, a lamb dinner will be served after which the congregation will move to the sanctuary at 7:00 to participate in a moving service. The spiritual "Were You There?" will set the theme for a service featuring music and poetry. In addition to communion, the service will also include the seven last words of Christ and the extinguishing of seven Tenebrae candles.

## Birthdays in April

April 3	Trent Corey
April 7	Victoria Murchison
April 13	Shirl Zent
April 19	Leslie Bowyer
April 20	Jane Knuth
April 20	Carolyn Hatfield
April 20	Sam Wear
April 22	Anne McNally
April 25	Jim Oppel
April 26	Kelli Waldo
April 29	Daniel Moscoe
April 30	Megan Bowen

# Happy Birthday!

## Blessed Be the Soupmakers:

Thank you to the following women who made the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Lenten luncheons delicious, nutritious and welcoming:

***Patty Yates, Kim McNally,  
Carole Greenauer, Dorothy Mathews,  
Alice Rowe, Kathryn Golden,  
Rachel Corey, Virginia Dunbar,  
Tina Wright, Gail Schmitt, Sandy Mathis,  
Janessa Ortwine, Harriet Anani,  
Doris Fletcher, Judy Walter, Joan Blair,  
Doraine Kohler, Marilynn Jones,  
Mary Ellis Hannon, Opal Chapman,  
Barb Harlan, Alicia and Annalin King.***

## Youth Group Fundraising Efforts

Many, many thank yous to all of our church family who has so generously supported the Youth Group's "Youth Events" fundraising in March. We served 50 pounds of potatoes and "fixings" on St. Patrick's Day and nearly went through 10 pounds of pancake mix on Palm Sunday. Your support of the youth group is a wonderful thing and the teens, as well as myself, really appreciate it.

Plan on baked potatoes and pancakes again next year – we'll be sure to have sugar free syrup next year!



## Triple Point Youth Center & Equality SW Washington Fun-Raiser April 27<sup>th</sup> 5 – 8 PM Bradford Hall

Drinks and salad will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite board game. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, or \$20 per family. We will also have a basket raffle. Proceeds will benefit the wonderful youth of Triple Point Youth Center and Equality SW Washington. This will be a great chance to build community and support our LGBT youth and families. Please contact Karen Kulm at [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you want to volunteer at the event.

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## Kids Fun Night

All kids of the church, grades 1-12, are invited to come to an overnight "Fun Night" on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We will gather for dinner at 6 pm, break into games and activities for several hours, and then roll out our sleeping bags for the night. After breakfast, parents can pick-up their kids at 8:30 am. More information will be mailed to families. Sorry, this is not an opportunity to bring a friend. Instead, it's an opportunity to become better friends with the kids at church.

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## Looking Ahead – Notes from CE

As all church members are planning out their summers, be sure to have the following things on your calendars:

1. **Bible Adventures** will be on hiatus from June 23 – September 8<sup>th</sup>. Activity sheets will be available in the narthex for the kids. Also, preschoolers are welcome to visit the nursery if they get too wiggly to sit for the entire service. \*\*We will need 1-2 volunteers in the nursery to cover the extra needs in the nursery for the summer. If interested, please see Rachel or Kristina Martin.
2. **The Church Retreat** at Camp Adams' theme is "Kicking Summer Into Fun Gear" on June 22<sup>nd</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup>. More information will be coming. If you'd like to be on the planning team, please let Kristina Martin know.
3. **Camp Adams** outdoor ministry camps for kids on-line registration is now open. Please see [www.campadams.org](http://www.campadams.org) for more information or ask Kristina Martin.
4. **Vacation Bible School** will be August 14-16<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available soon.
5. **Kick-off** will be on September 15<sup>th</sup> and will include many children in the service.

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## Wood-Carving Class Begins

Ed Frank will conduct a beginners class in wood-carving starting Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 until 3:00 PM in the Plymouth Room of the church. Both men and women, young and older are welcome. The only thing necessary for the initial class is a pair of gloves, preferably of leather, for safety measures as you will be using knives and other carving tools on sample wood. Ed will go over the uses of various tools, safety procedures, expected costs and carving techniques.

Wood-carving is a very rewarding experience. Reasonable good work can be accomplished in a relatively short time, and the costs are mostly according to your desire for tools, as a simple knife with good steel is sufficient to do most work, although some additional tools can make the work easier,

## Mortgage Update

Submitted by Jeff Osborne

Following the Congregational meeting on 11/18/12 at which we voted to aggressively pay off the mortgage per Option One, I sent a proposal to Property & Finance suggesting that I serve as a special representative to Council to oversee issues related to the mortgage. At the Council meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the proposal was approved for a three year term. My responsibilities are to:

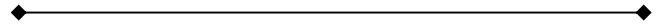
- monitor the mortgage payments, interest rates and Capital Campaign pledge fulfillments
- assemble, as needed, a panel of members whenever needed to draft proposals related to the mortgage; each panel will include a representative appointed by P&F.
- whenever action needs to be taken, a report and motion will be presented to the Property & Finance Ministry (P&F) for review. P&F will submit the proposed update to Council for either 1) adoption or 2) submission in the form of a motion at a Congregational Meeting for approval by the congregation.
- publish updates in the Link

As part of this first report, I am pleased to report that our Treasurer, Richard Trefren, has completed the refinancing of our mortgage with The Cornerstone Fund. Following the meeting in November, a principle reduction payment of **\$110,000** was made using funds from the first capital campaign. Another **\$10,000** principle payment was made before the refinancing was completed, making the balance to be refinanced **\$625,380**. The original loan was **\$776,000** which had been reduced to **\$749,133** at the time of the congregational meeting. The new mortgage carries an interest rate of **5.00%**, significantly lower than the original rate of **6.875%**. Per Option One, we are continuing to make monthly payments of **\$5,098** with a supplemental amount of **\$250** per month from the budget. We are on target to reduce the mortgage to about **\$520,000** over the next three years.

## Maundy Thursday Dinner Sold Out

The Maundy Thursday Lamb Dinner tickets have sold out and will not be available at the door.

Thank you for your support!



## Islam from Different Perspectives

On April 7th, 21st, and 28th, we will have an Adult Ed series on Islam as it is seen from various perspectives within the faith.

On April 7th after worship, we will watch a National Geographic documentary called "Inside Mecca." This hour long documentary offers a chance to learn about Mecca's historical significance in Islam and experience the powerful meaning of the hajj, as seen through the eyes of three pilgrims.

On April 21st, we will watch a documentary called "A Jihad for Love." This documentary illustrates the quandary of gay Muslims via the perspective of subjects from countries such as India, Iran and Turkey. Then, on April 28th, we will have a panel come from the Islamic Society of Southwest Washington come and offer "A Portrait of Islam in Vancouver." Each of these events will be accompanied by a salad potluck, so bring your favorite dish of fruits or vegetables to share.



## Ode to Irma

This is a limerick from Clark Co. Retired Teachers .org. Let's see...do we know this lady? How true, Irma, how true!

**Our talented pianist named Irma**

**A mother, a teacher and singer**

**She's verbal and spry**

**Her fingers do fly**

**As she leads us in song with charisma**

Written by Donna Quesnell

## THE SPRING SALE IS BACK

(In a Smaller Way)

After a hiatus last year, Women's Fellowship has decided to have a spring sale this year.

Date Saturday, April 20, 2013

Time: 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Place: Outside and Inside the  
Plymouth Room

We will be selling: Plants  
Paperback Books  
Baked Items  
Jewelry

Donations would be very much appreciated. Gardeners are asked to bring plantings from their yard or houseplants in containers. Baked items would be very welcome, as well as paperback books.

Please bring the above items to the church on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9:00 – 10:00 A.M if possible.

Questions on Plants: Call Gertie Hettman  
608-8009

General Questions: Call Beverly Crossman  
694-3837  
Ellie Bradley  
944-7838

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## SAVE THE DATE

The UCC Northwest Regional Women's Conference X will be held

**NOVEMBER 1, 2 and 3, 2013**

At Kah-Nee-Ta in Warm Springs, Oregon

Theme: Celebrate the Joyful Journey

Keynote Speaker: Rev. DaVita McAlister

A Variety of Workshop Offerings in:

Changes/Stages in Life Journey

Spirituality

Social Justice/Earth Stewardship

Movement

Arts/Crafts

More information will come at a later time regarding registration and cost.

## Welcome New Members

On Palm Sunday we welcomed the following people into our church family. Please update your current directory.

**Rev. Carol Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley**

7210 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Ct.

Vancouver, WA 98665

360-904-6753

[pastorcarolee@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarolee@gmail.com)

**Kelli Waldo and Jacqueline Vane (Jackie)**

407 NW 68<sup>th</sup> St

Vancouver, WA 98665

971-506-9594

360-213-5155

[waldokel@gmail.com](mailto:waldokel@gmail.com)

[vjackiec@gmail.com](mailto:vjackiec@gmail.com)

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## Cans for Zambia

Thank you for continuing to bring your aluminum cans and redeemable bottles (Oregon okay) for Zambia. The monies go to paying teacher salaries which in Zambia is around \$100 per month. Please don't crush the cans, just rinse them.

The collection bin is in the downstairs entrance or give them to Dave Slocum. Thank you, Dave, for all you do for this ministry.

Parish Life

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## Easter Sunrise Walk and Run

Join us for a six-mile run or a three mile walk Easter morning on the Salmon Creek trail. We will gather at 5:50 am and begin our run at 6 am as we head out into the darkness wearing headlamps or using flashlights. We will start at the end of the trail at the parking lot that is accessible from NE 117<sup>th</sup> Street and that is adjacent to the Klineline Pond. At the end of our walk and run, we will have a potluck of orange juice, hot cross buns, cinnamon rolls,

## Camp Adams Outdoor Ministry

By Kristina Martin

The Mission and Outreach's focus for the month of April is Camp Adams/the Camp Adams Campership Fund. For many years, campers from FCUCC headed off to Camp Adams in Molalla, Oregon for a week of outdoor ministry and fellowship. If you were a conference youth, you may have even been one of those campers.

We are blessed to have a growing children's population, which means we also have a growing population of children able to worship and grow in fellowship at Camp Adams. The current cost for a week of outdoor ministry camp, per child, is \$350 (early-bird price). When you support the M&O's Camp Adams Special Offering during the month of April, you are doing much more than simply helping to offset the cost of a child's registration fee. You are helping support a ministry that research shows us changes lives and is responsible for many young adults staying involved in church.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Camp Adams' new Co-Director, Natalie Becker, will be speaking briefly about Camp Adams and her experiences there for the M&O's Mission Moment. It will be a great experience to have Natalie with us that day.

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## Calendar Information

It's really easy to keep up with what's happening at First Congregational, Vancouver. 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.

## Natalie Becker to Give Mission Moment April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Natalie and her husband Bob are the Co-Directors of Outdoor Ministries and resident camp managers for the Central Pacific Conference at Camp Adams outside of Molalla, Oregon. Natalie brought her background as a classroom teacher and educational researcher to the position that she and her husband assumed in January of 2012. Deeply interested in and committed to science education and its intersection with religion, Natalie is currently working to weave together a professional written forest stewardship plan for Camp Adams with the UCC's Eco-Justice initiatives and a curriculum that she is developing for Camp Adams that focuses on reconnecting youth with nature and their place in the vital and fragile ecosystems of our earth.

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## Report from Long Range Financial Planning Task Force

Submitted by Trent Corey

The Long Range Financial Planning Task Force is operating under the Property and Finance Committee to come up with ideas to grow the church long term. Many of our ideas have revolved around making our church more noticeable online and through social media, growing the youth program, as well as have an All-Church Retreat on Church Growth this coming October.

Our task force will have its next meeting on April 17th at 6pm. We will be planning for a dinner in May for recent new members and others to give input as to what makes people come to our church and stay at our church. We are excited to implement some meaningful ideas to make our church stronger for the years and decades to come.