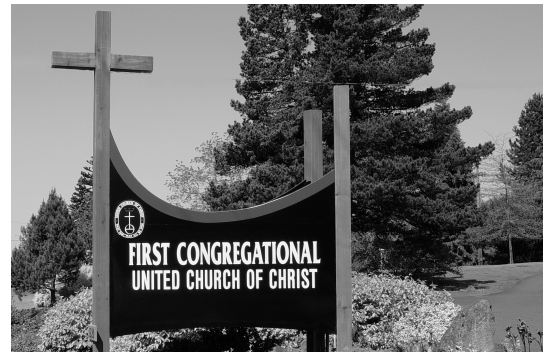


The Link

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



Volume 35 No. 9

God is Still Speaking,

May 16, 2013

Sabbatical Plans

Dear Church Family,

On Sunday, June 2nd, I will enjoy the choir's end-of-the-year concert before beginning my three-month sabbatical. For parts of the sabbatical, I will be gone with Eunita and Danalyn while a house-sitter tends to our home. For other parts, my mother will be with us in Vancouver as she shares in the joys of Danalyn's toddler development and occasionally joins us on exploratory adventures into the wonders of the Northwest.

My sabbatical will have some notable highlights. For part of it, I will travel with Eunita and Danalyn to Europe where we will split our time between London, Cornwall, Paris, and Nice. During this time, I will focus my attention on gardens, playgrounds, and churches as I develop a theological photo journal that I intend to share with the congregation upon my return.

For another part of my sabbatical, we will visit my parents in Illinois. Fortunately, this visit will encompass my parent's 50th anniversary. During this trip, I will additionally partake in various renewing and rejuvenating activities that will range from cooking with my mother to running a 10K in Chicago with one of my best friends.

While I am in the United States, a good share of my time will be devoted to various reading and writing endeavors. In addition to turning my photo journal into a presentable format, I have a list of other creative projects I am considering. They range from a children's book about a magical garden constructed in our front yard to a suspense novel that explores issues related to Christianity and atheism.

As much as I am looking forward to my sabbatical, part of me wishes I could be at two places at once. I love my life as a member of our church family, and I am especially excited about what our ministries and task forces have planned for the coming year. After having been at our church for nearly six years, I can now see better than ever before how much potential we have.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 19, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt and Brian Wilson preaching.. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Harriet Anani and Marnie Wright

Worship Leader: Kelli Waldo

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

May 26, 2013 Memorial Day Observance

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt and Slim Moon preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Carol Pendergraft and Joy Gerlitz

Worship Leader: Rachel Corey

Ushers: Tom and Josiah Renner

Thank You Very, Very Much

To Everyone in Barb's UCC Family –

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your support and efforts in our behalf during this difficult time.

Our Mom loved her church family so very much and we felt your love during this challenging period in our lives.

We will always miss our Mom, but take comfort in the stories of the lives she touched and the fun she had.

Thank You again

Richard Edwards

Elizabeth Holmes

Alissa Fencsik

and all the grandkids!

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

May 26, 2013
May 28, 2013

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
Farley Maxwell
Judith Dahlen

Mary Craford
Bev Boydston
Randy Rock

Thank You

Thank You for your care and concern. Every bit helps.

My Love to you all!

Kathleen New

New Info for Kathleen New

Felida Lodge

1104 NW 109th St.

Vancouver, WA 98686

360-573-6269

Kathleen would love to have visitors.

The Berndt Family Send-Off

Contributed by Joan Blair

As you may know Pastor Brooks and his family are taking a sabbatical leave for 3 months from June 3rd - September 3rd. Our congregation wants to send him off in style so a little presentation will be made directly after church on June 2nd in the sanctuary. If you would stay seated for just 10 minutes then you will be welcome to enjoy coffee hour.

A money tree, as a gift, will be available if you wish to contribute in the narthex starting May 19th. You can write a message on the envelope then pin it on the tree.

Be watching for a calendar of exciting events happening this summer while Brooks is on sabbatical.

Apologies

Our humblest apologies for the late "Link" this week. Our internet and e-mail has been down since last Saturday so it was impossible to receive articles.

We hope we have included everything originally sent for this Link. If we inadvertently left you out, again deep apologies. Please let us know and we'll be sure to get it in next time.

Thank you for your patience.

Kathy

Strengthen the Church

Contributed by Marnie Wright

Each year the UCC receives a special offering called Strengthen the Church, which invests in God's vision for the UCC. Your gift helps to plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking."

One More Time

Many thanks to all who helped with the work on the azaleas and the back deck. What a great work crew! We got a lot done and it was very hard work. We need to have at least one more day to get everything ready for the summer, but it should be a little lighter work load.

Please join us on Saturday, May 18 at about 9:30, following the men's breakfast. If we have enough volunteers, we should be able to finish up by noon. Bring appropriate tools for weeding, raking and pruning.

Thanks,
Ed Martin

All Church Retreat At Camp Adams

Please mark your calendars to attend our 4th annual All Church Retreat on June 22-23 at Camp Adams in beautiful Mollala, Oregon. The Retreat is from 1pm on Saturday through 3pm on Sunday and will include a 10am service, followed by lunch and then an intergenerational activity. Costs for the Retreat are \$45 for adults, \$35 for children and include dinner, breakfast, lunch and accommodations. For members who want to come on Sunday just for the service, lunch, and activity, the cost is \$8. Please sign-up in the Narthex. (There will still be a traditional service at church that Sunday for members who do not wish to attend the Retreat.)

SNACKS AND SCRIPTURE

Bible Study This Summer

Beginning June 5th, a SNACKS AND SCRIPTURE bible study class will be offered on Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm. Bring your bible and a snack to share as we study scripture and its role in our lives today. We will meet in the Classroom 2, (the "cloud" room). The Tuesday morning bible study at 9:30 am will continue during Brooks' sabbatical as well. Both classes will follow the lectionary calendar. Please contact Kristina Martin if you have any questions.

Deacons' Prayer Chain Update

If you would like to be on the list of people who are called when the prayer chain is activated, please notify Ellie Bradley (360-944-7838) or ellie28@gmail.com and I will add your name.

If you are currently on the list and no longer want to be called, please let me know and I will remove your name.

Youth Group Spring Lock-In

The spring youth group lock-in is scheduled for May 31st from 6pm until 9am on Saturday. Friends are welcome but will need a signed permission slip, so plan ahead and get some slips from Kristina by May 19th. Teens should bring either a snack or soda to share with the group, as well as their sleeping bags, clothes, et cetera. If you have questions, please call Kristina at (360) 635-1075.



Pride Season Is Here Help Us Celebrate!

The Portland Pride Festival & Parade will be June 15-16. All of the local UCC churches are signed up to march together in the parade on June 16th. Step off time is 11:00 AM, but we will start line-up in the North Park Blocks with an outdoor worship service at 10 AM led by Parkrose UCC Pastor Don Frueh. Exact details of our line-up location will be available in June.

We will also have a table at the festival at Waterfront Park on June 15-16. Tabling at this event is an incredible experience as we share our radical welcome and love with the public. Oregon will be voting on the freedom to marry in 2014, and as we know, the opposition will be loud and negative, so it is especially important this year to be out and proud as people of faith who support marriage equality! Time slots are for 2 hour blocks from 2-6 PM on Saturday and 1-6 PM on Sunday. If not marching in the parade, consider tabling on Sunday 11 AM-1PM. Our booth spot is D-10. More details are at: www.pridenw.org. To participate please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or email at lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Graduates and Teacher Recognition Sunday

On June 9th we will recognize the importance of education by celebrating both our graduates as well as our volunteer teachers who give so much to the children of our church. If you are a graduate, please make sure you have let both Kathy and Kristina know by May 26th. **Also, on June 9th, would all Bible Study teachers sit in the front rows of the church to be recognized during the children's sermon?** Thank you!!!!

Thank You to June Lasher

Contributed by Irma Slocum

June Lasher has donated a blueberry bush in honor of Kathleen New and her late husband Dan. Thanks also to Ed Martin who has planted it in the Agerter Garden on the upper grounds level.

If you haven't visited the Agerter Garden, it a lovely place for quiet and a bit of meditation. It is located just to the south of the community garden.

New Project For The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Contributed by Claudia Martin

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has taken on a new project for the upcoming General Synod. The Rev. Marja Coons-Torn from Pennsylvania has created the UCC Scarf Project with a goal of crafting 3,000 rainbow colored scarves in time for the UCC General Synod in July. Her goal is to bring attention to the bullying that takes place every day in schools and in the work place. Each Synod attendee will receive a scarf in the hope that it will start the conversation about what we can all do to take action against this violence. To learn more about the project go to the UCC website and search for scarf project.

So far we have knitted and crocheted about 20 scarves and we continue to work on more. The scarves will be dedicated one Sunday during worship, before they are sent to Synod.

Dessert of the Month for May

We have a wonderful dessert of the month for May; Tina Wright will be making Caramel Rolls for our drawing the last Sunday in May. We will all have an opportunity to win with 3 winners for this month. Tina has graciously decided to make 3 batches so more of us can win.

Buy your tickets early and thank you for supporting our church. We made another \$121.00 for the month of April thanks to the "Death by Chocolate" supplied by Patti Yates. Thanks so much Patti.

Dialogue Sermon with Noted Music Pioneer on May 26th

Before Nirvana became one of the biggest names in rock music in the 1990s, Slim Moon organized concerts for them and loaned them his fourtrack player to record demo versions of their songs. With Nirvana's help, Moon later started his own music label to release CDs from underground performers, many of them local. Some of them eventually became international music stars. Among the talented acts produced by his label are the Decemberists (a chart topping folk rock group) and Elliott Smith (a top 20 performer known for his songs on the Goodwill Hunting soundtrack). Moon is also a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver and will be attending Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago next fall. He has been serving as a volunteer at our church this past year as part of his studies at Evergreen State College. Moon will join Pastor Brooks for a dialogue sermon at our 10 am worship service on May 26th.

Run/Walk for Lylesmyles July 13, 2013

This is not your run-of-the-mill 5K!! Come out for a cause. Proceeds collected for Lyles Myles will be split among three non-profits working for a world without HIV/AIDS.

Here's what you need to do...form a team and use your creativity: pick a theme, costumes, T-shirts, colors, skills and/or whatever tickles your team's fancy. You can make it a 'drag' race, sack race, 3-legged race, or egg relay. Juggle, cheer, knit, sashay, unicycle, twirl a baton or just parade your way through the route, from Esther Short Park, down the Riverwalk to Beaches and back. You decide! Just get to the finish line to claim your team's Audience Appreciation Award".

Lyle Smith decided it was time for a change after finishing runs at the back of the pack, so at age 60, he devised a race that would guarantee a win by adding one extra rule – anyone who crosses the finish line before he does is disqualified! So of course, the event will conclude with the award of trophies for the "Fastest Disqualified" in each age group.

Mission & Outreach June Special Offering TRIPLE POINT YOUTH GROUP

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, 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 in the process of planning and fundraising for their own building.

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, please contact 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.

Conference Dues Reminder

Contributed by Charlie Ross

Remember, you can give our budget a little boost by making an extra contribution of \$13.00 that offsets the per capita charge we pay on our active membership base to the Central Pacific Conference each year. We support our local conference because of our connection to it and the other area UCC churches; and we receive the support and resources that come out of the conference. You can make this voluntary donation by writing a separate check for \$13.00, adding it to one of your regular offering checks, or putting some cash in an envelope. However, it is very important to mark in the memo line or on the envelope that it is for "conference dues" so that it may be tracked appropriately in our accounting.

Thank You

Save the Date
**The UCC Northwest Regional Women's
Conference**

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 workshops will be offered.

Go to nrwr.wordpress.com for workshop descriptions, price and online registration or contact the registrar at 541-554-8501 (nrwrregistrar@gmail.com).

Vancouver UCC Women's Fellowship has three scholarships available of \$75 each. For more information, contact Beverly Crossman 694-3837 or Ellie Bradley 944-7838.

Scholarships are also available through the Central Pacific Conference Women, through *The Rev. Anne Smith Educational Loan/Grant Fund*. Forms are available in the office.