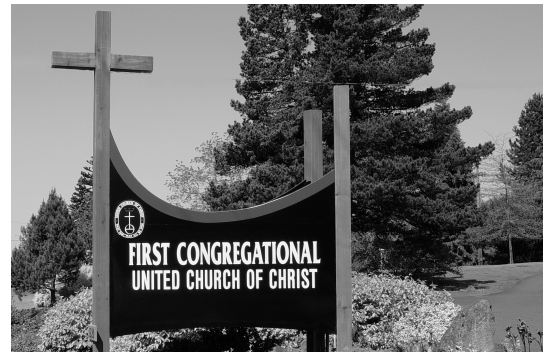


The Link

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



Volume 35 No. 8

God is Still Speaking,

April 23 , 2013

A Warm Welcome to Our New Neighbors!

Dear Church Family,

I am delighted to share with you the news that our church is now renting part of our space to a wonderful food bank called Martha's Pantry as well as a terrific faith community called Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of the Gentle Shepherd. Martha's Pantry has already moved into the "cricket rooms" on the first floor of our building. Next month Gentle Shepherd will begin worshipping in the Plymouth Room on Sundays.

At a later point, a more formal introduction to Gentle Shepherd will be given. In this letter, I would like to share with you information about Martha's Pantry in words that the pantry itself has provided:

Founded in 1986 as an outreach of MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Martha's Pantry is the only non-government agency in southwest Washington serving those living with HIV and AIDS. These individuals and families are referred to us by a Clark County case manager. Martha's Pantry provides food for 60 to 80 client families each month and distributes personal hygiene items, household cleaning supplies, pet food, food preparation, and storage items, as well as clothing and household items donated to the pantry. The pantry is an all-volunteer organization funded entirely by donations and grants. If you would like to be a part by volunteering and really making a difference in your community, please ask for an application. We have training on the second Tuesday of every month. For more information on Martha's Pantry, call the pantry at 360-695-1480.

If you should see the volunteers at Martha's Pantry or the members of Gentle Shepherd, please extend to them a warm welcome. It is a blessing to have their important and much needed ministries located within our church.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN APRIL AND MAY

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 4yrs. - Grade 8. Youth Group Meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Virginia Ebersole and Clarice Fossen
Worship Leader: The Women of the Church
Ushers: Tom and Josiah Renner

MAY

May 5, 2013 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt 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: Duke Charpentier and Tom Renner
Worship Leader: Marnie Wright
Ushers: Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

May 12, 2013 Mother's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. No Youth this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Joanie Nelson and Irma Slocum
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

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

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

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 Boydstun	

To Our Fellow Church Members

Thank you for the outpouring of sympathy at our time of sorrow.
We appreciate your acts of kindness so very much.

Love,
Lynn and Pat Degerstedt

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>May 12, 2013</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>May 14, 2013</u>

Birthdays in May

May 1	Kristin Martindale
May 5	Isaac Martin
May 7	Jim Crossman
May 7	Lynn Degerstedt
May 22	Jean Matthews
May 24	Gregory Ralph
May 25	Ruby Frank
May 29	Kathy Woolley
May 31	Boean Marquardt
May 31	Joe Eckroth



Indoor Spring Cleaning to be Re-Scheduled

Contributed by Shirl Zent

We have decided to move the **Indoor Work Day/Spring Cleaning** to a future date.

Be sure to keep an eye on *The Link* for further news.

MAY PIANO RECITAL

Dr. Schindler will perform a piano recital on Sunday, May 12 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

On the program is music by Chopin, Dvořák, Maciejewski, Medtner, Rachmaninoff and Szymanowski.

Admission is \$ 10 at the door (\$ 5 with non-perishable food donation). A reception will follow the program.

First Congregational Choir End-of-Year Concert June 2, 2013 at 7:00pm

Mark your calendars for a night of music and fun! The First Congregational Choir will be hosting the annual end-of-year concert on Sunday, June 2nd at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. This year's concert will be based around an old-time radio show, featuring songs from many decades past. The concert will feature many ensemble and solo performances, with many songs never having been performed before by our choir! Bring your family and friends and prepare for a show that will make you laugh and have a grand time! The show will be preceded with a potluck at 6:00pm in Bradford Hall.

*You can never
do a kindness too soon.*

*For you never know how soon
it will be too late.*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Proposed Constitutional Changes

Section 2-6-4 Job description-Treasurer

Present wording: Proposed wording:

Term: One Year

Limitation: No limit

Limitation: **THREE**
successive terms

Section 2-6-5 Job description-Financial Secretary

Term: One Year

Limitation: No Limit

Limitation: **THREE**
successive terms.

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

Social Groups Update

There are new ways to get information about our Social Groups now year round. First, we have a Social Groups Directory available in the Narthex and the Church Office including information regarding group leaders, group members and contact information. There is also a Social Groups Calendar up in the Narthex that will be updated monthly with what is happening with our regular groups and any other special social events. If you feel there are any necessary updates to the directory or you would like to add something to the calendar, please contact Rachel Corey at 630-947-6179 or rachel_landstrom@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Panel from Neighboring Mosque this Sunday

As a church located only 300 yards away from a mosque, we have a tremendous opportunity for interfaith dialogue and interaction. On Sunday, April 28th, we will begin to cultivate a stronger relationship with our neighbors when members of the Islamic Society of Southwest Washington come to our church after worship for a panel on "A Portrait of Islam in Vancouver." We will begin with a salad potluck of fruit and vegetable dishes before beginning our program.

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!

Adult Education on Christian Meditation

On May 5th, 19th, and 26th along with June 2nd, Gary Spanovich will be leading an adult education course after worship on Christian Meditation in Bradford Hall from 11:15 AM until 12:15 PM.

Gary is the husband of Nancy Olmsted, and he has taught on Christian Meditation at Marylhurst University as well as numerous retreat centers. Using simple methods that include acquiring inner quiet and actively choosing to open ourselves for a conversation with God, Gary presents ways to organize one's life and allow for a focus on hearing God's voice. Nancy will provide music to accompany the meditations Gary leads. Stay tuned for more details about this Adult Ed offering.

Dessert of the Month

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL THE
DESSERT OF THE MONTH WILL BE:

Double Espresso Death By Chocolate Brownies

Made by Patty Yates

Don't forget to buy your tickets the drawing will be the last Sunday of the month, April 28th: \$1.00 per ticket or 6 Tickets for \$5.00, you can't win if you don't buy.

Thank you all for supporting our Church in all that we do.

Teresa Everist
360-921-0611

Central Pacific Conference Women Annual Meeting Saturday, May 4, 2013

Clackamas United Church of Christ
15303 SE Webster Rd.
Milwaukie, OR 97267

Registration	10:00 AM
Luncheon (\$10.00)	12:00 noon
Please make luncheon reservations by April 26 th with Clackamas UCC, 1-503-654-0741. You may pay upon arrival	
Opening Worship	1:00 PM
Presented by the women from Waverly Heights UCC. Includes offering for the Loan/Grand Fund. Since the Education Fund began in 1979, under the leadership of Women's Board President Rev. Anne Smith, the Scholarship Committee has given loans for seminary students. Grants were added in 1984, for continuing education. The continued support of our churches and women's group for this fund is much appreciated.	
Program:	1:14 PM
<i>Trafficking Humans: What does that have to do with us?</i>	
Business Meeting	2:45 PM

Camp Adams

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Any kids who've finished grades 2-12 are encouraged to think about going to Camp Adams this summer. In fact, there are family camps, young adult camps, a survival camp, and even a new Taller & Smaller camp for kindergartners/1st graders with a parent.

The dates for Camp Adams this summer are:

Family Camp: 6/30-7/6

Survival Camp: 6/30-7/6

3 Day Family Camp: 7/3-7/6

Genesis/Seekers (completed grades 2 & 3):
7/7-7/13

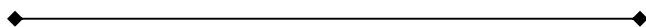
Taller & Smaller (completed K & 1st w/a parent):
7/10-7/13

Sojourners (completed 6-8): 7/14-7/20

Discoverers (completed 4-5) 7/21-7/27

Exodus (completed 9-12): 7/28-8/3

Go to campadams.org and click on "Register For Camp Today" to go to on-line registration form.



Church Retreat At Camp Adams

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Our church will kick off the summer season on Saturday, June 22 through Sunday, June 23rd at Camp Adams. The theme of this year's retreat is "Kick Your Summer into Fun Gear" and will give church members an opportunity to gather together in community and fellowship in God's greatest cathedral. A sign-up and more information will be on the CE board in the narthex soon. Hope to see you there! (There will still be a service here at the church for members not attending the retreat.)



VBS This Summer

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Families! We will be running a VBS this summer on August 14-16 from 9 am - noon. More information will be coming! If any parents or grandparents are interested in helping with VBS, please let Kristina Martin know. The more the merrier!

Spirituality Group

Contributed by Bonnie Hennessey

On first Monday evening in May, the *Spirituality Group* will begin study of Phyllis Tickle's amazing book: The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2008), 172pp.

Phyllis Tickle notes that every 500 years the church has been rocked by massive transitions, from the church's birth to the reign of St. Gregory the great, to the Great Schism and through the Reformation, Remarkably enough, Tickle suggests to us that we live in such a time right now. The Great Emergence Examines history, social upheaval, and current events, showing how a new form of Christianity is rising within postmodern culture. Anyone interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what their personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.

FIVE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM BONNIE HENNESSEY @ \$12.50 EACH - reserve your copy now from Bonnie by return E-Mail.

Yours in future exploration,

Bonnie



Vancouver Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

The Vancouver Interfaith Clergy group along with the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland is hosting a prayer breakfast on Wednesday, April 24th from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. The breakfast is at Congregation Kol Ami (7800 NE 119th Street Vancouver, Washington 98662). There will be three featured speakers. Heidi Yeman of the National Gun Victims Action Council will be speaking on gun violence. David Leslie, the Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will be speaking on Diversity and Inclusion. Charlene Welch of the Council for the Homeless will be speaking on homelessness.

Memorial Service for Barb Harlan



Sadly, Barb Harlan passed away this past Sunday morning. Her memorial service will be here at our church on Saturday, April 27th at 1:30pm. One of Barb's passions was reading books and sharing them with others. As a way to commemorate her, please bring a book(s) to share with someone else, and plan to take one or more with you that someone else has brought. There will be a table outside of Bradford Hall set up for this purpose. In addition, Barb wanted people to wear lavender to her service, so do that if you have something that qualifies. There will be a reception following the service in Bradford Hall.

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 and click on the church calendar link. From the list version you may then click on Google Calendar and view the next few months.

Hold on to what is good even if it is a handful of earth.

Hold on to what you believe even if it is a tree which stands by itself.

Hold on to what you must do even if it is a long way from here.

Hold on to life even when it is easier letting go.

Hold on to my hand even when I have gone away from you."

~Pueblo Blessing

Summit to Decide on Social Action Focus for the Coming Year

Contributed by Pastor Brooks

On Sunday, May 19th from 3 pm to 5 pm, there will be a Faith Action Network Summit for Southwest Washington. One of the core goals of the summit will be to allow for members of the Faith Action Network to vote on what they would like to see as the legislative focus for the next year. Will it be sensible gun laws, child hunger, immigrant rights, or one of many other issues? It would be wonderful if the passions of our church's members were represented at this summit so that the work of our church and the work of FAN can be mutually reinforced in the coming year. The Summit is tentatively scheduled to take place at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (12513 SE Mill Plain Blvd.) Stay tuned for more details.

You're Invited

Carole Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley are delighted to announce our plans to be legally married - after 23 years together.

Our wedding will be on Sunday, April 28 at 4pm. We would be honored if you would join us for our celebration and for a little party afterwards. Informal attire is appropriate if you prefer. Rather than a gift that needs to be dusted, we'd love it if you gave us a poem that you like or writing. We'd love to know more about this church's journey to become O&A and the work you did to make justice the law of the land. If any of you would like to bring a plate of finger food, see us after church.

Time To Celebrate Our Graduates!

If you have a graduate you would like recognized at our Graduates and Teacher Appreciation service in June, please submit to the office his/her names and graduation information.