

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 35 No. 11

God is Still Speaking,

June 11, 2013

Grief In The Church

By Kaye Kipp

When I was asked to write for the cover of the Link, it occurred to me that grief would be a fitting and timely subject, since we, as individuals and as a church community, have lost several people within the past year who were important in our lives.

We feel a void, remembering the roles these people played, both in our lives and within the functioning of the church. They will be sorely missed. The contributions they made and the impact on the church are a constant reminder that they were an integral part of our church community. They each left an invaluable legacy.

I believe there are as many ways to grieve as there are people. None of us go through the grief process in exactly the same way. Of course, we all feel a deep sense of loss, but our reactions to that loss are unique to each individual, as is the length of time it takes. We all walk our own grief steps, but we can take comfort in the fact that since we are a community, the paths we follow as we go through the grief process parallel in many ways. For example, we all miss people we no longer see in the congregation or in the choir but the loss effects us each differently, depending on the closeness of the relationship. We are drawn together by common memories of those who have left us, yet we each have different memories we treasure in different ways.

I wonder, sometimes, what those who were closest to us would say if they could. I am comforted by the thought that they would say, "I'm not really gone, you know. I am with you whenever you look at a photograph, laugh at a joke I told, thumb through your memories, or carry on a tradition I may have started. I'm still an influence in your life. Grieve for me if you need to, but remember, our physical separation is just a moment in time"

WORSHIP IN JUNE

June 16, 2013 Father's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service. Joy Gerlitz preaching.. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Ed and Claudia Martin

Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis

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

June 22 – June 23

All-Church Retreat at Camp Adams
1:00 pm June 22 until 3:00pm June 23

June 23, 2013 In Sanctuary

10 a.m. Worship Service. Richard Trefren 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: Tom and Patty Yates

Worship Leader: Ellie Bradley

Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon
Tom and Josiah Renner

June 30, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Patty Yates preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Linda Wear and Kaye Kipp

Worship Leader: Alice Rowe

Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon
Tom and Josiah Renner

Workday Scheduled

Please join us if you are able for a church grounds workday on Saturday morning, June 15. We will start immediately following men's breakfast at about 9:45 and work until noon. Bring gloves and weeding and pruning tools. We also need a couple of pump sprayers free of weed killer residue. Thanks,
Ed Martin

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

Mary Craford
Bev Boydston

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

June 23, 2013
June 25, 2013

Start Your Reading Now!

From mid-September to mid-November, our church will have book groups for three different books. We will start sign-ups for the book groups in August, but if you want to start reading, these are the books:

Beyond the Bullet: Personal Stories of Gun Violence Aftermath By Heidi Yewman

The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto by Tavis Smiley and Cornel West

Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet
By Bill McKibben

Each of these books relates to one of the three areas of focus for the Faith Action Network in the coming year.

Your Summer Flowers Are Needed:

If you have noticed, we need flowers from your gardens this summer on the altar. Sign your name on the flower chart in the narthex. Real flowers add to the service, do you agree?

---Parish Life thanks you .

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.

Dessert Of The Month For June

Our Dessert of the Month for June will be Strawberry Surprise made by Marilyn Jones. The drawing will be on Sunday 30th. Please see Marilyn after worship for tickets during the month of June.

We hope you are all enjoying these desserts and would love to hear your comments on the desserts.

As usual THANK YOU for supporting our church, we all appreciate each other.

Thank You from Brooks, Eunita, and Danalyn

Dear Church Family,

We were overcome with gratitude by the church's amazingly kind and generous send off. We are very thankful for the gift basket, the money tree, and wonderful notes that were written. Thanks to the congregation we are embarking on our three month adventure in high spirits! We love all of you!

Church Retreat At Camp Adams

The CE ministry sure hopes you are planning on attending our annual retreat under the pine trees in Mollala, Oregon on June 22nd at 1pm - June 23rd at 3pm. Costs to attend are \$45 for adults and \$35 for children and includes accommodations and 3 meals. If you want to come for only Sunday's worship service at 10am through 3pm, the cost is \$8 for your lunch. **Registration and your money are due to Kristina Martin or the church office no later than Monday, June 17th. We need a minimum of 35 people or we will have to cancel.**

Driving directions from Vancouver are:

- Take I-5 to 205 north.
 - Take exit 10 off 205, turn south (right) on Highway 213.
 - Continue south past Mulino about 1 mile to the Union Mills road turnoff; you can only turn left.
 - Continue 4 miles to the 4-way stop.
 - Go straight through the intersection—you are now on Highway 211
 - Drive about 3 miles to Camp Adams, located on the left side of the highway.
 - The camp is located between mile markers 18 and 19, ¾ mile past marker 18.
-

Doug Smith Concert:

Please put this date on your calendar: **October 12, 2013 (Saturday night)**

Yes, we are having Doug Smith return to give us a concert which is a big fund-raiser for First Congregational. This time Doug will be joined by Don Mitchell on guitar and Judy Koch on vocals and flute. The trio is called Three Together. They are wonderful musicians and very entertaining, especially with Don Mitchell's humor thrown in the mix. You will hear more about this concert as time goes on, so please mark your calendars so you won't miss out on this fabulous concert.

--Jean Beary Stolle and Nancy Fite
(concert co-chairs)



JOIN THE UCC AT PORTLAND PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE JUNE 15-16

Local UCC churches will have a booth at Portland Pride June 15-16. We could use more help any time between 2-6pm on June 16th. Our booth is D-10 located near the north end of the festival grounds at Tom McCall Waterfront Park
<http://pridenw.org/downloads/sitemapfinal.pdf>

The parade steps off at 11 AM on Sunday, June 16th. The UCC parade spot is #37 with line up on NW Everett St & NW Park Ave. We will start the morning with an outdoor worship service open to all at NW Flanders and NW Park Ave. at 10 AM.
<http://pridenw.org/downloads/paradesetup.pdf>

The parade route ends at the festival grounds:
<http://pridenw.org/downloads/paraderoute.pdf>
Clergy who are marching in the parade are invited to wear collar/stole, everyone else wear a UCC t-shirt or other comfortable clothes.

Also **save the date for Vancouver pride** "Saturday in the Park" on July 13th at Esther Short Park. Volunteers will be needed for our church booth. Questions: contact Karen Kulm 360-991-5774 or email at Lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Register Now for VBS

If you have a child in your life interested in attending our VBS this August (8/14-8/16, 9 am - noon), please register on-line at:
<http://2013.cokesburyvbs.com/firstcongregationaluccvancouver>

Pick a Party News

We are going to put the Pick A Party fundraiser on hold at this time. We may revisit this next year. We did not get enough response from the surveys to proceed further. We did get 8 surveys and I want to thank those 8 for responding. I would also like to thank Shari Lewis, Kimberly Kangas, Marilynn Jones, and Carole Greenauer for working on the committee and power point presentation.

Thank you,
Teresa Everist

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.

Evening Book Club

Contributed by Ed Martin

The Evening Book club will meet Wednesday, June 19 at 7 pm at the church and reading *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by Jose Saramago, a novel.

We will try to come up with a more permanent meeting night at our next gathering.

Summer Fun Schedule

Contributed by Joan Blair

Our summer at church is going to be filled with FUN, FUN, FUN!!

Listed below is what your Sabbatical *Fun* Committee has planned, but we're still open to other ideas. You may contact Joan Blair, 360-573-6505, Claudia Martin, 360-852-7602 or Alice Rowe, 360-576-0490 if you have suggestions.

1:00 PM, June 22 through 3:00 PM, June 23

Camp Adams Church Retreat
Contact Kristina Martin at
360-695-4545 or see the article on page 2
for how to register.

Traditional Sunday Worship will be held at the church at the regular time, 10:00 with Richard Trefren preaching.

July 28 Old-Fashioned All Church Picnic at Hazel Dell Park right after church. More information coming.

August 18

Outdoor Worship on the Labyrinth followed by Blessing of the Animals (weather permitting). Bring your treasured pets, but please keep dogs on a leash and cats and small critters in carriers.

August VBS Fun Festival.

A carnival is planned to culminate our Vacation Bible School days.

September 8 Welcome back reception for the Berndt Family. We'll be serving cake and good wishes during the coffee hour.

September 15 CE Kickoff Sunday

We look forward to building fellowship, friendship and making lots of memories during the summer of 2013.

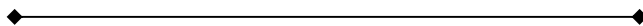
Come Join Us!

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.



New Post Office Box Information

Due to an incident during which our mailbox was broken in to last winter, First Congregational has rented a post office box for mail containing funds.

The address is:

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 65694
Vancouver, WA 98665**

While this incident was singular in nature, you might feel more secure sending your mail to this PO Box address. You may, however, continue to use the street address. The PO box will also be checked daily.