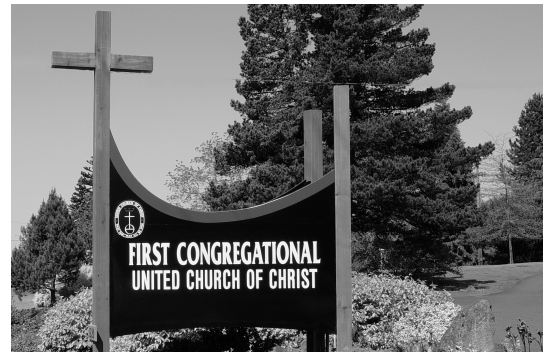


The Link

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Volume 35 No. 18

God is Still Speaking,

September 24, 2013

The Future of the Church Depends Upon...You (and Everyone Else Attending the All-Church Retreat)

On Sunday, we played a new game in worship. It was a fill-in-the-blank game. When reading a famous Bible verse, I asked the congregation to provide the omitted word. The verse I selected was Proverbs 29:18 which says, "Where there is no vision, the people_____." I think just about everyone knew the correct answer: perish. I suspect that part of the reason so many of us know this verse by heart is because the verse rings so true. How can you expect to have a prosperous and thriving future if you do not know where you are going or how you are going to get there? I don't believe our church is in danger of perishing anytime soon, but I believe having a vision is crucial to our future.

I further believe that a vision for our church cannot simply come from a sole individual or even a particular committee. It has to come from the people. To envision a future in which our church flourishes and thrives, we need the input of as many members as possible. Each of us has a unique perspective. Each of us can see something that others of us cannot. We all have insights that can add and contribute to the collective outlook of our church family.

This is why the future of our church depends upon you. It depends upon as many of our members attending the retreat as can come. I ask that you please make every effort to attend on the evening of October 18th and during the day on October 19th. Your presence would be a blessing.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September 29, 2013

10 AM Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt and Kevin Hiebert 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: Wayne and Doris Fletcher
Worship Leader: Alicia King
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

OCTOBER

October 6, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt and Jessie Dye preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Dwight and Opal Chapman
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Trent Corey, Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

October 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 11:15 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sue and Marvin Benson
Worship Leader: David Harrington
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

October 20, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Pulpit Guest. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: John and Mary Ellis Hannon
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

October 27, 2013 All Saints 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. Youth Group Meets at 11:15 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Ed and Ruby Frank
Worship Leader: Marilyn Jones
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:

Farley Maxwell
Joan Blair
Mary Craford

Special Prayers for Mary Craford

This past week Mary Craford moved into the Ray Hickey Hospice House on Mill Plain Blvd. Mary expresses her appreciation for the support of the church. Visitors are welcome but anticipate that your visit may need to be short. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

October 6, 2013
October 8, 2013

Prayer Vigil for Joan Blair

On September 26th, our beloved friend and church member Joan Blair will be having major surgery as she continues to fight cancer. We will be holding a 12-hour prayer vigil that day from 6 am to 6 pm. People can enter our sanctuary at any time during those hours to pray for Joan. In order to insure that someone is always present, Claudia Martin will have a sign up sheet in the narthex for those who can cover a particular time slot of 30 or more minutes.

A Taste of Britain and France

After worship on October 13th, we will be having a British and French themed potluck as Pastor Brooks presents a slide show of his family's month long trip to London, Cornwall, Paris, and Nice. Members are encouraged to bring foods that represent these places.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!! All Church Retreat Oct 18-19

Contributed by Trent Corey

What is our church about? What do you want people who visit our church to know about us? What can we do specifically today to make our church grow in the next decade and beyond?

Everyone in our congregation is invited to join in the discussions and activities that will help us move forward with a collective vision as a church. It will begin Friday evening on October 18th in preparation for a day of presentations and discussions on the 19th. It will be held at First Presbyterian Church, located at 45th and Main St, across from Kiggins Bowl.

The members of the Long Range Planning Committee have worked to put together a program involving church members, as well as a special guest speaker and facilitator. It should be a great time for us to come together as a church family with a common vision and purpose.

Mark your calendars, and RSVP Trent Corey at trentcorey@yahoo.com or 360-600-1086 by October 4th. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to help defray the costs.

WHO Needs Your Help

November 1st, WHO shelters will open for their eleventh season. Our church will once again share a week of service at the St. Paul Men's Shelter with our friends from Congregation Kol Ami **March 16-22. Please save the date** for our week of service.

WHO needs your help right now by donating socks, underwear, thermals, hats and gloves. Place them in the big yellow container in the narthex.

Queen top sheets are needed for a sewing project to reconfigure the shelter bed mats. You can bring gently used donations to the Housing Solutions Center at 2306 NE Andresen from 9am-5pm Monday –Friday.

Save the date for the Oct. 5th Flapjack Fundraiser 8-10am at Vancouver Applebee restaurants, and the Nov. 8th Night of Song and Praise Concert 7pm at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.



WHO Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser

Saturday, Oct 5th 8-10 am
At All 4 Local Vancouver Applebee's

Come enjoy a wonderful Applebee's breakfast and support the Winter Hospitality Overflow program. The WHO serves families and single men and women to provide emergency shelter during the coldest and wettest winter months.

Tickets are only \$8.00. For more information please contact Kevin at 360-699-5106 or who@councilforthehomeless.org.

Small Spiritual Transformation Groups Starting Up

Pam Osborne will again be leading two small groups at church this year called "Seeking God Together." They are designed to help participants see and recognize the movement of God's Spirit in their day-to-day lives. We will focus this year on spiritual transformation through our desire for God, solitude and silence, *Lectio Devina* (a way of reading scripture), honoring the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, the *examen* or daily review, and the rule of life. Other content will come out of issues and experiences that individuals bring to the group when we will listen for God's voice and look for God's leading. Because of the depth of the sharing time, the groups are only open to new members once a year.

Each group will meet once a month (October to May) for two hours and be limited to eight participants so that each person has time to share. One group will meet in the evening and the other in the daytime. If you have questions or would like to sign up, talk to Pam in the Narthex after church, call her at 750-1353, or email posborne430@gmail.com. The deadline for committing is September 27th.

Mission & Outreach Special Offering for October is UCC Neighbors in Need

by Greg Saum-Blystone

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive through the month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. To support NIN, write your check out to the church and include "NIN" in the memo line. Thank you!

Beyond the Walls: A Community Engaged Church

For the next two Sundays, we will continue our special worship series that features dialogue sermons between Pastor Brooks and noted community advocates. Our guest next Sunday will be Kevin Hiebert, the Coordinator for the Winter Hospitality Overflow shelter. On Sunday, October 6th, Jessie Dye from Seattle's Earth Ministry will focus our attention on environmental concerns.

Heidi Yewman's Book Available in the Main Office

This Sunday at 12:30 pm will be the first meeting for the book group reading Heidi Yewman's book *Beyond the Bullet: Personal Stories of Gun Violence Aftermath*. Because some members have had trouble getting copies of the book, Heidi was kind of enough to provide some copies to our church for those who wish to purchase them. They are available in the main office for the discounted price of \$10 each.

Upcoming Intergenerational Events

In our church, we seek to intentionally foster and celebrate intergenerational relationships between our members. We strive to offer at least one intergenerational event each month. Mark your calendar now for the next three events:

- Bowling at Big Al's on October 26th at 5 pm
- Community Service Day at Columbia Springs on November 9th
- Advent Festival on December 1st from 3 to 5 pm

More information to come!

Summer Music Participants

We are so fortunate, to have so many musicians step-up in the summer and provide music for our worship services. Thank-you to the following:

Kit Stowell, Nancy Fite, Natalie Cantrell, Alice Rowe, Richard Trefren, Patty Yates, Ed Martin, Bert Martin, Tom Yates, Jerry Mathis, Jeff Osborne, Judy Dahlen, Linda Wear, and Kristen Trefren.

Kathleen New's Art

We have all enjoyed the beautiful art work of Kathleen New and the church would like to honor her talent by putting up a display of her work at the church. She currently has an art studio set up in her little room at the care center where she lives and she continues to paint. Many of you have some of her work and it would be great if you would considering loaning it for the exhibit. Contact Claudia Martin or Marilyn Jones if you have something to donate.

Social Groups Update

Contributed by Rachel Corey

Hello everyone! Now that summer has come to an end, it is time to start thinking about our annual sign ups for social groups. We will be having signs ups on 10/6, 10/13 and 10/20 at church, but of course you are welcome to join any time.

Listed below are all of our current groups. Start thinking about which one you might want to join. Also, if you are interested in starting a new group please contact me. Finally, we are looking for group leaders for the following groups: Running/Walking Group and Friday Night Movies. Please contact me if you are interested in leading any of those groups.

Thanks! Contact Rachel Corey at rachel_landstrom@yahoo.com or 630-947-6179.

Current Social Groups:

Word Weavers Scrabble Group

Women's Breakfast Group

Prayer Shawl Group

Arts and Crafts Group

Daytime Cards

Evening Book Club

Running/Walking Group *needs a leader

Friday Night Movies *needs a leader

Men's Breakfast Group

Spirituality Group

Sunday Brunch Group

Pinochle

October 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------|---|
| | | 1 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 5-9 CF Phones 3,4,5 7:00 CE CL2 | 2 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 ESW CL2 7:00 Choir SAN | 3 4:00 Martha's Pantry 5-9 CF phones 3,4,5 6:00 Planned Phd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY | 4 | 5 Church Tour |
| 6 Communion 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY | 7 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY | 8 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 5:00 Parish Life NFL | 9 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 PCUsers Brd. NFL 7:00 Sierra/Coal Free PLY 7:00 Choir SAN | 10 10:00 Prayer Sh. NFL 4:00 Martha's Pantry 6:15 Membership CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY | 11 | 12 9:30 Women's Bkfst Quay |
| 13 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC PLY 4:00 Fireside PLY 5-9 Coal Free 3, 4, 5 | 14 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY | 15 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 6:30 PCUsers BRD | 16 10:30 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 7:00 Choir SAN | 17 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Communicat. CL2 7:00 Evening Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY | 18 Church Retreat at | 19 1st Presbyterian 1-5 CCMTA Young Performers Recital SAN |
| 20 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY | 21 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY | 22 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry | 23 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN | 24 1:00 Art Group PLY 4:00 Martha's Pantry 5:00 CF phones 3,4,5 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY | 25 | 26 11:00 Walser-Clark wedding Bowling Night |
| 27 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC Worship PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY | 28 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY | 29 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Pastor Relations PLY | 30 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 Choir SAN | 31 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY | | |