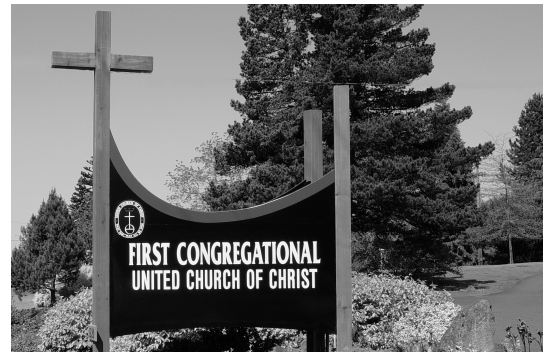


The Link

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



Volume 35 No. 20

God is Still Speaking,

October 22, 2013

You Are Invited...To Two Book Events!

Dear Church Family,

I am delighted to announce two upcoming book events. On Sunday, November 10th at 11:15 am, the Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., will be joining me for a book signing as we present our book *Sounding the Trumpet: How Churches Can Answer God's Call to Justice*. To accompany our signing, there will be a special homemade treat that involves melted marshmallows. We have had this treat before in our church. Bonus points will be given to anyone who can remember its name. A hint: these cookies will set you aflame in a state of ecstasy.

The meaning for this event is heightened for me because in an extraordinary act of generosity the Leadership Institute of Smith's church has paid for his airfare and his hotel so that he can be with us. I hope all of you can be present to meet a man who Al Sharpton has described as the "Black Pope." He is a person whose words are full of wisdom and hope.

The second book event to which I would like to invite each of you is the inaugural meeting of the Spiritual Growth Audio Book Club. This is a book club for people who don't have time for books! To participate in this book club, you do not have to set aside any extra time in your busy schedule to read. As you drive around town, fold your laundry, and cook in the kitchen, you can listen to an audio book designed to spur your spiritual growth. The only extra thing you will have to do each month is arrive at Little Italy in downtown Vancouver to enjoy dinner while we discuss the book. As you can see, this is a very demanding group.

Each participant will be responsible for acquiring the audio book either at a library, a store, or online. (Of course, you can also get the paperback version of the book instead if you prefer doing books the old fashioned way). Our first book will be arguably one of the most important books ever written for those who describe themselves as progressive Christians. It is Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. As an audio book, one can complete this book in eight hours. My personal experience is that eight hours of listening is easy to accomplish in a month.

The first meeting of the Spiritual Growth Audio Book Club will be Tuesday, December 3rd at 6 pm. Be prepared to enjoy good food and good conversation. Please let me know if you would like to attend by signing up in the narthex or sending me an email.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

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
David Harrington and David Macko

NOVEMBER

November 3, 2013 Communion

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. in the Triangle Room Stewardship Potluck following Worship.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Carole Elizabeth and Adina Tarpley
Worship Leader: Natalie Cantrell
Ushers: Trent Corey, Rory Martindale
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

November 10, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. Dialogue Sermon; Rev. Brooks Berndt and Rev. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Jeanne Stolle and Daryl DeSilva
Worship Leader:
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

**Book Event in Bradford Hall
with Pastor Brooks and Rev. Smith following
Worship**

November 17, 2013

10 a.m. Worship Service. John Fite, Pam Osborne and Richard Trefren preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7. Youth Group meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Triangle Room

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Jim and Beverly Crossman
Worship Leader: John Hannon
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

**New Member Orientation Dinner
5:00 in Bradford Hall**

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

Celebration of the Life of Mary Craford

A gathering to celebrate the life of **Dr. Mary Craford**, longtime member of our church family, will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>November 10, 2013</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>November 12, 2013</u>

<u>Link Deadline</u>	<u>November 24, 2013</u>
<u>Link Mailed</u>	<u>November 26, 2013</u>

November 27, 2013 Stewardship 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: Don and Judy Walter
Worship Leader: Tom Yates
Ushers: Tom and Josiah Renner
David Harrington and David Macko

Warm Coat Drive



Sponsored by Martha's Pantry

**Saturday, November 9th
10:00 AM until 4:00 PM**

at

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1220 NE 68th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665**

**We will be accepting new and gently
used coats for all ages.**

WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow Shelter) OCTOBER UPDATES

The WHO overnight shelters will open for the season on November 1st. **New this year will be a Day Shelter for St. Andrew WHO guests!** Through an exciting partnership with [The Giving Closet](#) and the WHO, a day shelter will be provided to the guests of the St. Andrew WHO. The day shelter will be open Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

We are looking for volunteers who would staff the day shelter for 4 hr shifts. There will be an orientation at The Giving Closet on Tuesday, October 22nd, at 10 am (2804 NE 65th Ave). The location is behind the Goodwill on 4th Plain.

Come and hear about the Day Shelter and see the great space at the Giving Closet. Can't make the orientation, but still want to help? Don't worry, just contact Kevin Hiebert at 360-699-5106 ext 103 or email at: who@councilforthehomeless.org.

We continue to collect your warm sox, gloves, caps, thermals, etc in the big yellow basket in the narthex. Thank you!

Thank You So Very Much

Many thanks to our church family and friends for making our 50th Anniversary Celebration such a wonderful occasion. Your presence at the reception after worship and the many beautiful cards filled us with joy.

Don and Judy Walter

Birthdays in November

November 4	Daryl DeSilva
November 9	Nancy Herr
November 17	Kelsey Ramberg
November 18	Opal Chapman
November 20	Shirley Brandenburg
November 29	David Harrington



Second Annual Bowling Night

Come Young! Come Old! To our church's second annual bowling night on Saturday, November 2nd at 5:00 PM at Big Al's Vancouver Bowling, 16615 SE 18th St. Vancouver, WA 98683. We had lots of fun last year, and this year is bound to be a great time! Please RSVP to Alice Rowe at 360-5760490 or at alicemrowe@gmail.com.

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 consider loaning it for the exhibit. Contact Claudia Martin or Marilyn Jones if you have something to donate.

Welcome New Members

Please add to your directory:

Kit and Trixie Stowell
722 NW 80th Street
Vancouver, WA 98665
360-576-2944

David Harrington and David Macko

1304 E 29th Street
Vancouver, WA 98663
360-241-3956

Jerry and Sandy Mathis

11501 NE 2nd Ave
Vancouver, WA 98685
360-574-6052

Don and Alona Steinke

Mailing Address: PO Box 822393
Vancouver, WA 98682
360-892-1589

Diane Ullom

11205 NE 111th Ct
Vancouver, WA 98662
360-721-1620

Corrections and Additions:

John and Carole Greenauer

11007 NW 18th Ave
Vancouver, WA 98685
John Cell: 360-608-3674
Carole Home: 360-314-6490

John and Bonnie Hennessey

346 "O" St.
Springfield, OR 97477

Patty Yates

New Phone: 503-757-3991

Adult Ed: Who Is The UCC?

On November 17th, the CE Ministry is thrilled to host the Rev. Kelly Burd from the national offices of the UCC in Cleveland for a CE sponsored Adult Ed session on who we are as members of the United Church of Christ. We will be learning more about what the national UCC is working on today and how those projects reflect who we are as a church. Please come on the 17th to hear Rev. Burd - she is a passionate leader in our national church. A light soup luncheon will be served. Please contact Kristina Martin for additional information on this wonderful opportunity.

Feminine Faith Formation & Fellowship

Are you looking for a group where you can further your faith and experience the fellowship that accompanies that pursuit? If so, please join a group of interested folks who want to further their faith formation through books and dialogue. Utilizing the unique aspects of a feminist lens, we will read and discuss books that further our faith formation. This group is open to anyone interested in attending, but is focused on the lives, issues, and perspectives of women in their "younger years" (definitions may vary). We will meet at interested member's homes at 7pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month to start, but we may add a second meeting per month if the group decides that is a better fit. If you have questions, please contact Kristina Martin at kristina@vanucc.org.

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT WITH MAZI AT COLUMBIA SPRINGS

Members of all ages are invited to join our youth for a day of community service at Columbia Springs, a 100-acre natural area that contains the historic Vancouver trout hatchery. We are volunteering as a church on Saturday, November 9th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Typical service work at Columbia Springs includes removal of invasive plant species, restoration of education stations, maintenance of trails, and many other fun physical activities. Snacks, coffee, tools, and gloves will be provided as we work. Afterwards, we will drive to Leonardo's Pizzeria (just north of the Mill Plain & 164th intersection in east Vancouver) for lunch. **If you want to volunteer, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the narthex. On the sign up sheet, mark whether you will join us for lunch so we can give the restaurant an estimate of how many to expect. Please sign up by November 3rd.**

This event was initiated and planned by the MAZI teen service group at First Congregational UCC Vancouver. If you would like to help this valuable part of our community and get your hands dirty with the teens of our church, please join us! More information about volunteering at Columbia Springs can be found on their website (<http://www.columbiasprings.org/get-involved/volunteer-at-columbia-springs/stewardship-saturdays/>).



THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

We will begin our annual Thanksgiving Food Basket collection on November 3rd. A table will be set up in the narthex with specific food items listed for each family. Dry goods can be brought in anytime. Perishable items and gift cards should be brought in on November 24th (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) when we will deliver the baskets.

These food baskets help provide a little extra love and support for folks within our congregation to ensure they have a stress free holiday. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Who Annual Fundraiser

Salmon Creek Kiwanis Presents the 15th Annual Benefit Concert

Night of Song and Praise

Friday 7:00 p.m.
November 8th, 2013

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

St. John's Catholic Praise Team
Salmon Creek Methodist Praise Team
Warner Pacific Bridgetown Vocal Group

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

8701 NE 119th St.
Vancouver, Washington

Admission is free but a free will offering will be accepted to benefit WHO.

Financial Statements Distributed/Mailed

Submitted by Jeff Osborne, Financial Secretary

Year-to-date statements (through the end of September) were distributed after church on Sunday, 10/20/13. The remaining statements will be mailed out on Monday. These statement cover pledges to this year's operating budget, the second Capital Campaign, as well as all other giving you may have made to the church.

There were no second quarter statements because I was just transitioning into my new position and the next statements will be the end-of-year statements covering all of 2013. It is really important to check this third quarter statement against your own records to make sure I have recorded your contributions in the right category and to ensure that everything is listed properly. Please contact me if you discover any discrepancies.

Your statement may have some hand-written updates because your giving for the operating budget was split between two "Pledging for operating" accounts. This happened because of a software update and I will be consolidating these entries before the end-of-year statements are produced.

This is also a good time to remind everyone about bringing pledges to the annual budget and the capital campaign up to date and to make a contribution to cover the annual per capita expense of \$13 per member.

If you write checks to the church, you can combine contributions to several accounts (annual budget, capital campaign, etc.) on a single check as long as you use the memo line to indicate how much goes to each account. This will save you some time and checks and does not make the accounting any harder at my end. If you haven't received your statement by Monday, October 28, please contact me at jeffo@vanucc.org or at 360-904-5910.

Thinking About Becoming A Member?

If you have decided that we are the church family for you, you can attend this two-hour orientation class and dinner from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Sunday, November 17th. If you are interested in attending, let Pastor Brooks know as you leave the sanctuary today. Childcare provided upon request.

Workday Scheduled

Join us Saturday, October 26, for our fall workday. We will put our church grounds to bed for the winter. We will begin immediately following the Men's Breakfast at about 9:30. Bring gloves, tools, something to drink, and perhaps a snack.

Also...we can use your leaves in the garden again this year. Spread them in between rows or leave them in bags along the side of the garden.

Thanks,
Ed Martin

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!

Chemo Caps

Contributed by Joanie Nelson

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is now making 'chemo caps' or 'Head Huggers' for anyone going through Chemotherapy or other medically related concerns. One of our members has already received a cap made by Mary Ellis Hannon. If you know of anyone who would benefit from such a head covering, please notify a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. A soft, warm cap can bring comfort to heads as well as souls, knowing others are caring about them during a difficult time.

We also have a good supply of prayer shawls which can be given to celebrate the joys in life as well as comfort and care during trying times.

Men's Breakfast Group to Hear About Port Oil Terminal

Contributed by Ed Frank

Katie Brooks, Port of Vancouver Representative will talk to us this Saturday morning about the Port's plan for an oil terminal. Their plan to store and transload oil from rail tank cars to ships at the Port has aroused considerable controversy with environmentalists which have been in the media news recently, so this should be of interest to us all regardless of your feelings about the matter. This discussion is to further enlighten us about the issues.

I hope that many men who have not regularly attended in the past will show up at Bradford Hall this coming Saturday at 8:30 am for a great breakfast prepared by Tom Renner and Kristina Martin, and served by the youth of the church. The proceeds go to the youth fund, so although this is a freewill offering, please consider what a comparable meal would cost in a restaurant.

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3 Communion 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>4 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>5 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 1:30 Seeking God 7:30 Seeking god</p>	<p>6 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 ESW CL2 7:00 Choir SAN</p>	<p>7 4:00 Martha's Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:30 Women's Bkfst Quay 9-1 Columbia Springs Workday</p>
<p>10 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:30 Book Event PLY 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>11 Office Closed 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY Veteran's Day</p>	<p>12 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 5:00 Parish Life NFL 7:00 Membership CL2</p>	<p>13 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 PCusers Brd. NFL 7:00 Sierra/Coal Free PLY 7:00 Choir SAN</p>	<p>14 10:00 Prayer Sh. NFL 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 8:30 Men's Bkfst BRD All day CCMTA Baroque Festival SAN</p>
<p>17 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:15 Adult Ed BRD 9&1 MCC PLY 1:00 CCMTA SAN 4:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>18 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>19 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 6:30 PCUsers BRD 7:00 Diaconate NFL</p>	<p>20 10:30 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN</p>	<p>21 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Communicat. CL2 7:00 Evening Book Club NFL 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Stewardship Sunday 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:00 MCC Mass PLY 1:00 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>25 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>26 LINK 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Choir SAN</p>	<p>27 4:00 WW BRD</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving Office Closed 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY</p>	<p>29 office closed</p>	<p>30</p>

Three Together Concert

Contributed by Nancy Fite

If you missed this concert, you definitely missed a joyful concert. The addition of Don Mitchell allowed Doug Smith and Judy Koch Smith to showcase their talents even more. It was a unique evening of wonderful entertainment.

Through the dedication and hard work of committee members **John and Carole Greenauer, Joan Blair, Marilyn and Scott Jones, Ellie and John Bradley, Jean Stolle, Virginia Dunbar, Pam and Jeff Osborne, and John and Nancy Fite**, the income from the concert reached approximately \$2300. One-third of the proceeds go to WHO, one-third to church interior improvements and one-third to the skylight/roof project. **Three Together** donated their time and talent, only asking return that they be allowed to market their CD's.

Thank you one and all for supporting this fundraiser whether by buying tickets, baking cookies, or performing all those tasks that made this wonderful event possible.

Nancy Fite and Jean Beary Stolle,
chairpersons