

# *The Link*

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



Volume 36 No. 4

*God is Still Speaking,*

February 25, 2014

## **Sounding God's Bell**

Dear Church Family,

In her book *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Annie Dillard writes, "I had been my whole life a bell, and never knew it until at that moment I was lifted and struck." Dillard is speaking of an ecstatic experience of the divine she once had while on a walk through nature. I love the image of one day discovering that you yourself are an instrument that reverberates to the sound of God's music. Previously, you might have simply thought of yourself as being a plain, old piece of scrap metal, but then someone picks you up and shows you that you are so much more than that. You are a co-conspirator in God's plan to fill the world with song.

Imagine that today is the day you discover your inherent bell-ness. What hymns of love are reverberating within your soul? What notes might you be ready to raise yourself? Might you be the one who brings a joyful melody into someone else's life today? Can you play the chords that lift another's spirit? We can sound our notes in big and small ways. Like the lyrics to Pete Seeger's "If I Had a Hammer," we can be the bell that rings in the morning and evening. We can be the bell that rings out danger and warning. We can be the bell that rings out "love between, my brothers and my sisters, all over this land."

May this be a day in which you experience and affirm the bell-ness that is within us all.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN MARCH

### March 2, 2014

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 11:30 a.m.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Jean Matthews and Pat Degerstedt  
Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman  
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

### March 9, 2014 First Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Ed Martin preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 3 yrs. – Grade 7.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Ed and Ruby Frank  
Worship Leader: John Fite  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

### March 16, 2014 Second Sunday in Lent

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: Joy Gerlitz and Clarice Fossen  
Worship Leader: Lynn Renner  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

#### **Lenten Lunch Series and Potato Feed**

### March 23, 2014 Third Sunday in Lent

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: Ruth Hammer and Dorothea Johnson  
Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle  
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington  
Tom Renner

#### **Lenten Lunch Series**

### March 30, 2014 Fourth Sunday in Lent

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: Adina Tarpley and Carol Elizabeth  
Worship Leader: Sue Benson  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon

#### **Lenten Lunch Series**

## 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  
Yahriel Harrigan

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR “*The Link*”

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

March 9, 2014  
March 11, 2014

Link Deadline  
Link Mailed

March 23, 2014  
March 25, 2014

## Ash Wednesday Dinner and Worship

Before our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th, we will be gathering for a soup dinner in the Plymouth Room, the room on the first floor at the far end of the education wing. The dinner will begin at 5:45 pm. The Ash Wednesday service will begin at 6:30 pm. The service will feature an art display, a brief reflection period led by Pastor Brooks, flute music by Nancy Fite, and the imposition of ashes upon the forehead.

## Women’s Breakfast Group

The Women’s Breakfast Group continues to meet on the second Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay. Our next gathering will be Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. All women of the church are invited to celebrate sisterhood, fellowship, friendship and family.



**WE NEED YOU NOW!**

We still have 20 open spots to fill! Many of us have already signed up for 2-3 shifts, but we are missing **YOU!** There are 3 shifts every day: Greeting shift 6-10:30pm, Overnight shift 10:30pm-5:30am and Morning shift 5:30-8:30am. Youth 13-17 can volunteer with an adult and are strongly encouraged to do so. It's a great opportunity for youth needing community volunteer hours.

The work is easy and you can read details from the "host manual" here: <http://whoprogram.org/volunteer/volunteer-resources/> Just scroll down to the middle of the page and click on "Host manuals-St. Paul".

### **Sign up now for our WHO week March 16-22.**

Once again we are partnering with our friends at Kol Ami. Volunteering is easier than ever this year by using Volunteer Spot.

#### **Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:**

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on Volunteer Spot: <http://vols.pt/cbdRWF>. **Advance the calendar** to March to find the shifts available during our shared week shifts, March 16 – 22.
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on Volunteer Spot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots – Volunteer Spot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! Note: Volunteer Spot does not share your email address with anyone.

If you have any questions or problems with the sign up, contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774.

## **Baked Potatoes For Mazi**

Please join the teens of MAZI for the third annual Baked Potato Bar on March 16th and then stay for a great Lenten activity afterwards. Lunch is baked potatoes with all sorts of "fixings". The suggested donation for lunch is \$5 a person or \$20 for a family. Proceeds will help fund the teens' registration costs for the Western Regional Youth Event this June in Seattle. Thank you for all the support you have given our teens!

## **UCC to Host Local Environmental Conference**

*"If we don't act on climate change now, every sermon we give in ten to 15 years will be on grief."*

—Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference Minister, July 2013.

The Central Pacific Conference of the UCC will have the opportunity to hear what else the inspiring Massachusetts Conference Minister and climate activist has to share when we gather at Camp Adams, March 7-9, 2014. The desire of this gathering is that the CPC can become a nexus of leadership and activism in responding effectively to our changing climate. Register for the gathering by clicking on the red CPC Registration tab on the left side of the Central Pacific Conference website: [www.cpcucc.org](http://www.cpcucc.org).

## **For Your Information**

After the memorial service for Kathleen New and the beautiful tributes to her life and art, I have another memory of special interest to our church family.

The seasonal altar cloths you see on Communion Sundays are decorated with our church and Communion symbols and are also the artistry of Kathleen. The fabric for the cloths is in loving memory of Rev. Anne Smith so these memorials honor two very special ladies.

Charlotte Warren.

## **Mary Jo Ebel Circle to Meet**

The Mary Jo Ebel Circle will meet Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM, at the home of Charlotte Warren.

All women are invited to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Charlotte at 360-576-8935. You may also contact her for more information.

## Organ News

Submitted by Jeff Osborne, Chair, Organ Committee



You may have noticed that the small white electric piano is in the "organ" spot in the sanctuary. The Allen L227e organ from Rose City Organ Builders (RCOB) in Portland was returned on 2/13 after giving us the gift of organ music throughout

the Christmas season. We are grateful to Chris Nord and Michael Rutter for the loan of this fine instrument

The Organ Committee has been busy viewing organs near Olympia and in Portland. A proposal for purchasing an organ will be presented to the Property & Finance ministry this Wednesday and to Council on Thursday. Tune in to the next Link for details.

Please direct any questions or comments to the Organ committee through me at [jeffo@vanucc.org](mailto:jeffo@vanucc.org).

## Spiritual Growth Audio Book Club

This month we are listening to a book by Peter Rollins entitled *The Idolatry of God: Our Addiction to Certainty and Satisfaction*. According to the publisher, this book shows that we must lay down our certainties and honestly admit our doubts to identify with Jesus. Rollins purposely upsets fundamentalist certainty in order to open listeners up to a more loving, active manifestation of Christ's love. In contrast to the understanding of the "Good News" as a message offering satisfaction and certainty, Rollins argues for a radical and shattering alternative. We will be meeting at Tommy O's in downtown Vancouver on March 4th at 6 pm to discuss this book. Call or email Pastor Brooks if you would like to join us!

---

## Mission and Outreach Focus for March

Contributed by Alison Kocher

**We Are One.** This statement is the powerful theme of our One Great Hour of Sharing. The basic premise is if any of us have a need, then ALL of us have a need. The need is greater than our neighbor down the block that needs help. This need reaches across the world. Our offering has helped the UCC in supporting disaster relief, refugee and development all over the world. Some of the projects have been assisting with the Aizu Radiation Center in Japan, Typhoon assistance in the Philippines, helping high school graduates in Haiti start businesses and much, much more. You may make out your check to First Congregational UCC and put OGHS in the memo line or use one of the OGHS envelopes in the pews.

---

## SOLV Beach Clean-up

Kristina Martin and the MAZI teens will be in Lincoln City, Oregon on March 22nd for the annual Beach Clean-up effort sponsored by SOLV. If you are interested in participating, there are location all up and down the Oregon coast that still needs volunteers. Simply go to the website, <http://solveoregon.org>, and click on the "Get Involved" tab. You can scroll through the volunteer opportunities and find one that looks interesting to you. Cleaning up our beaches is a great way to get involved and make a difference!

---

## Call for Photos!

For this year's Ash Wednesday art display, we are inviting church members to submit photos that represent how they do not conform to a particular stereotype that others might often have of them. Please submit your photo to the main office along with a paragraph explaining the photograph and the stereotype to which you do not conform by Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

---

## New Member Orientation Luncheon Set

If you have decided that we are the church family for you, you can attend this two-hour orientation class and luncheon from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in attending, let Pastor Brooks know at [brooks@vanucc.org](mailto:brooks@vanucc.org). Childcare will be provided.

---

## Dixieland Jazz This Sunday

We will be getting into the Mardi Gras spirit this Sunday with a special selection of Dixieland jazz songs. A brass ensemble from Battle Ground will put some swing into our worship. Come and enjoy an array of Southern melodies that will lift your spirits!

# March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>3</b> 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>4</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 1:30 Seeking God 6:30 CE CL2 7:30 Seeking God	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 4:00 WW BRD 5:45 AW Supper PLY 6:00 ESW CL2 6:30 Service SAN 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>6</b> 4:00 Martha's Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 6:30 Sierra Board CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 Women's Bkfst Grp Quay 9:30 HuffnerWedding
<b>9</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL Lenten Luncheon Brd 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>10</b> 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>11 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 5:30 Parish Life NFL 6:00 Audio Book offsite	<b>12</b> 4:00 WW BRD 7:00 PCusers Brd. NFL 7:00 Coal Free PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>13</b> 10:00 Prayer Sh. NFL 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Membership PLY 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30 Men's Bkfst BRD CCMTA Recitals SAN
<b>16 Potato Bake</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11:15 MAZI TRI 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>17 WHO</b> 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>18 WHO</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 6:30 PCUsers BRD	<b>19 WHO</b> 10:30 Ebel Circle PLY 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 M&O CL2 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>20 WHO</b> 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Evening Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>21 WHO</b> 6:00 Kestner Recital	<b>22 WHO</b> 8:30 VANUSA
<b>23</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 2:00 Honors Recit SAN 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>24</b> 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>25 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible Study PLY 11:00 Martha's Pantry 6:00 Communicat. CL2	<b>26</b> 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>27</b> 1:00 Art Group PLY 4:00 Martha's Pantry 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 10:20 Bible Adv. CL 11 & 1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>31</b> 2:00 Scrabble PLY 6:30 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY					