

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

May 13, 2014

## ***Our Cup Overflows***

Dear Church Family,

The poet who gave voice to Psalm 23 knew of dark valleys and enemies close at hand. This same poet knew of gratitude, a gratitude so abundant that it spills and splashes over the cup's rim. "My cup overflows," says the poet. This summer we will experience what it is like to have a cup that overflows. Our theme for the coming months will be "A Summer of Gratitude." The original plan for this theme was to devote the months of June, July, and August to celebrating various persons, groups, committees, and ministries in our church. Each Sunday we would focus our thanksgiving upon particular members of our church. This is still our plan, but there is one change. As a list was developed of who inspired us to gratitude, it was discovered that our cup was almost literally overflowing. We needed more than three months to give thanks for everyone.

For this reason, we are beginning our "Summer of Gratitude" on May 18<sup>th</sup>! The high temperatures predicted for this week give us further justification for this slight expansion. As our starting point for our season of thanksgiving this Sunday, we will first celebrate our newest members of the 90-Something Club. We have five of these members to honor this upcoming Sunday. They include Mary Lou Duvall, Clarice Fossen, Cordelia Rush McBride, Connie Oppel, and Norma Lee Priel. Here is our list of those whom we will be celebrating on the four Sundays that follow our kick-off:

- May 25th: The Memorials Committee
- June 1st: The Nominations Committee
- June 8th: The Music Program
- June 15th: The Children of the Church

We are going all out for our Summer of Gratitude. Both children and adults can expect to see and experience a number of new elements to our Sunday mornings at church. Special summertime drinks after worship will be one of them. This summer everyone will be invited to come and fill their cup to the brim.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN MAY

### May 18, 2014

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: Cheryl and Will Lowe  
Worship Leader: Dwight Chapman  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

### May 25, 2014

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 Group this Sunday.

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Virginia Ebersole and Janet Hunter  
Worship Leader: Laurie Parafinczuk  
**Ushers:** David Macko and David Harrington  
Tom 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  
Gloria Ross  
Yahriel Harrigan  
Nancy Phelps

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline: **May 25, 2014**  
Link Mailed **May 28, 2014**

Link Deadline **June 8, 2014**  
Link Mailed **June 10, 2014**

## Organ News

Submitted by Jeff Osborne, Chair, Organ Committee



This week we have received photos from the Johannus company in The Netherlands showing "our" 3-keyboard Opus 370 organ at the end of the manufacturing line.

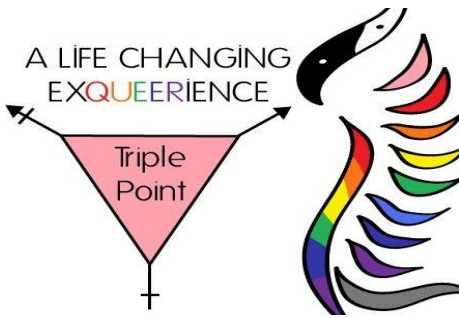
It is being tested and voiced now and will be shipped first to Chicago where it will have to clear both Homeland Security and Customs. Then we will make arrangements to have it shipped to the church. Once it arrives in Vancouver it will be installed and tuned for our sanctuary space.

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

## Teacher and Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 1

Please make sure you are in church for our annual Teacher Appreciation and Graduate Recognition Sunday. Besides recognizing them during the service, we will have special treats for our coffee hour.

If you have a graduate in your family, please let Kathy in the office know the graduate's name and plans after graduation so we can add him/her to the bulletin that day. You may drop off your announcement in the office until May 25th or email it to [kathy@vanucc.org](mailto:kathy@vanucc.org).



## **Mission & Outreach May 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.**

## **Mary Jo Ebel Circle 'Out to Lunch'**

Contributed by Beverly Crossman

The Circle will gather for lunch at **11:30 a.m.**, Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Cameo Café, 7703 NE 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave. All women are invited to join in.

Please contact Beverly Crossman, 694-3837 by Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to have a place set just for you.

## **A Quick Reminder**

The office will be closed on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day. As a result, the Link will be mailed out on Wednesday, May 28, one day later than usual.

Thanks,  
Kathy

## **Dessert of the Month for May**

Thank you to Opal Chapman and her Freezer Jam for the goodies in April. I know they are being enjoyed by many. The Dessert of the month for May is Doraine Kohler's famous German Chocolate Cake. Be sure to get your tickets for this delightful opportunity.

At this point we only have sign ups through June. If we do not receive more sign ups then June will be our last month for this fun fundraiser. We need your help if you want to keep this going.

Please see Susan Ross to sign up.

Thank you to all of you for your support of the Dessert of the month.

Teresa Everist

## **Lamb Dinner**

Submitted by Jeff Osborne

Special thanks to John and Carole Greenauer, Pam Osborne as well as those who helped with decorations, setup, serving and cleanup for this year's Maundy Thursday lamb dinner. We served about 80 dinners this year.

My apologies to any who missed out on the mint jelly – I've made a note that we'll need more next year. If you have any comments about the dinner that will help make next year's dinner even better, please contact me by email at [jeffo@pacifier.com](mailto:jeffo@pacifier.com) or by phone at 360.904.5910.

## Update from the Financial Secretary

Submitted by Jeff Osborne

Quarterly donation statements for the first quarter were handed out and mailed during April. These statements should accurately reflect each member's giving for the annual operating budget, the second capital campaign, per capita dues as well as other contributions for the year through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you write checks to the church, you can combine contributions to several accounts (annual budget, capital campaign, etc.) on a single check so 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.

Please review your statement and contact me if anything seems incorrect.

Jeff Osborne, Financial Secretary

email: [jeffo@vanucc.org](mailto:jeffo@vanucc.org)

phone: 360.904.5910.

## 2014 PROPHETIC ACTION

Contributed by Karen Kulm

At our recent Congregational Meeting we passed a resolution related to our Year of the Prophet series. The resolution reads: "In 2014, we will commit as a congregation to continued dialogue, discussion, and education about the proposed Vancouver Oil terminal. We affirm that there are differences of opinion in our congregation on this issue, and we affirm the right of those who feel called to public action to do so. As with past actions, it is not assumed that any public action represents the church body."

Under the auspices of the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team we will be forming a task force to help implement this resolution. Please contact Karen Kulm, Chair at 360-991-5774 if you would like to be on the task force.

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## All-Committee and Ministry Potluck

Many of our church committees and ministries will not be meeting at their regular time this month. Instead, they will be meeting on the night of our All-Committee and Ministry Potluck. This will be on May 27th at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided. After sharing food, fellowship, and a time of joint reflection, committees and ministries will meet on their own.

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## Camp Adams Camperships and Forms

Thank you to all of you who donated to the M&O's special offering for Camp Adams Camperships. Your donations will help ensure our church's Bible Adventures children are able to attend Camp Adams.

If you have registered a Bible Adventures child for Camp Adams, campership applications will be available on the CE board in the narthex by June 1st. This is a two-part application so please follow directions carefully.



**SAVE THE DATE: September 26 -28**  
**Central Pacific Conference UCC Annual Meeting in**  
**Pendleton, Oregon**

The theme for the CPC Annual Meeting is "**Time to Lead: Call to Action on the Climate Crisis.**" How are we being called to bring forth quantum change in our world and our communities?

One of the resolutions that will be submitted for the assembly to vote on is: "Opposing the Construction of Coal, Oil and Natural Gas Export Terminals and Transport of Coal, Oil and Natural Gas through the Pacific Northwest".

We will have a keynote speaker, workshops, music, fun, reconnecting with friends from across the conference and meeting new friends. To keep up to date visit our Face Book page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CPCUCCAnnualMeeting> You can also sign up to volunteer for the event from the Face Book page or speak to Karen Kulm 360-991-5774.



**PRIDE SEASON IS ALMOST HERE  
HELP US CELEBRATE!**

The Portland Pride Festival & Parade will be June 14-15. All of the local UCC churches are signed up to march together in the parade on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Step off time is 11:00 AM, but we will start line-up in the North Park Blocks with an outdoor worship service at 10 AM led by Parkrose UCC Pastor Don Frueh. Exact details of our line-up location will be available in June.

We will also have a table at the festival at Waterfront Park on June 14-15. Tabling at this event is an incredible experience as we share our radical welcome and love with the public. There is a federal court hearing on April 22 in Oregon on the constitutionality of Oregon's marriage ban on same sex couples, and it's possible we will have the results by June, so it is especially important this year to be out and proud as people of faith who support marriage equality!

Stay tuned for further details. Questions? Please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or email at [lk.kulm@gmail.com](mailto:lk.kulm@gmail.com).

## Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Congregation Kol Ami will be hosting an interfaith prayer breakfast on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:30 am. Pastor Brooks will be the main speaker as he discusses his recent book and the pursuit of social justice. An interfaith panel will respond. Kol Ami is located at 7800 NE 119<sup>th</sup> Street in Vancouver.

### Meditation:

#### Another Form of Prayer

Have you experienced meditation in some form? Have you felt you would like to meditate? Come join us to understand how meditation is another form of prayer and to experience some different kinds of meditation. This is a 3 part series but feel free to join us at any point. Led by Arlene Arnold, a Certified Spiritual Guide and Healing Facilitator since 1995, these sessions will be held on Sundays May 18, June 1, and June 15, from 8:30-9:30 am in Clawson Corner on the upper level.

May 18: Introduction to Meditation  
(Connecting to the Spirit Within)

June 1: De-stress Through Meditation

June 15: Inner Guidance through Meditation

## Adult Ed: Activism Expo, May 18th

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Please join the Christian Education ministry on May 18th after the service for some finger-food snacks and a sneak-peak into places our members volunteer outside of our church. As the culmination of a closer look at UCC: Who We Are, this final adult ed offering is a chance for us to celebrate the many ways we live our faith as people of justice and action.

If you want to share information about an organization, please let Kristina Martin know so there will be enough tables set up. Also, if you'd like to bring a plate of cookies to add to the festivities, please feel free to do so. There will be a cookie table set up in Bradford. You can email Kristina at [kristina@vanucc.org](mailto:kristina@vanucc.org) or leave her a message at (360) 695-4545.

This is sure to be a fun gathering and a great way to celebrate our church and church members!

## Estate Planning

David Avison is the Planned Giving Director for the UCC's Central Pacific Conference. His offers a number of important suggestions for churches:

- 1) Remind members that it is important to both have a will and occasionally update it. He recommended checking one's will every 10 years or at key moments of change or transition in one's life.
- 2) Ask members to consider their church when they make their will.

When it came to ways in which church members can include their church in their will, Avison listed a couple of unique options such as (1) including a provision to ensure the payment of any outstanding pledges, (2) establishing an endowed pledge whereby a gift that multiplies one's pledge by 50 will ensure that the pledge is endowed forever, or (3) leaving a percentage of the residue of one's estate to the church.