



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

December 2007

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MEMORIAL

Betty Clayton, a longtime active member of this church, died on November 26th, 2007. Our prayers are with Cal and his family.

An obituary will follow in the next issue.

UMPQUA SINGERS CONCERT DEC. 9

Come enjoy a benefit concert by the **Umpqua Singers Jazz Ensemble**, conducted by Jason Heald, Virginia & Archie Heald's son, here at the Church on Sunday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Admission: A food donation for the Christmas Baskets.

The Umpqua Singers, from Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, are one of the premiere vocal jazz ensembles in the Pacific Northwest. This 12 member group performs a broad range of musical styles ranging from traditional swing to contemporary R & B. With 11 CD's to their credit, the group performs over 50 engagements per year. In addition to frequent radio and television broadcasts, the Umpqua Singers have been featured on FOX, C-SPAN, and XM Satellite Radio.

They are announcing their upcoming tour in Spain, and are celebrating their first overseas concerts with the release of their latest CD, *Canciones de Amistad*. The CD features a suite of traditional Spanish carols arranged in a contemporary vocal jazz style, and will also include jazz standards and original selections.

More information: Ph. 503-357-2689

BAKE SALE

The Wesleyans will hold a Bake Sale Dec. 9th at fellowship time. There will be Christmas cookies, rolls & breads, maybe candies, plus pies ready for you to bake.

If you want to order pies or rolls, call **Lois Oakberg**, 503-357-8129.

SOMETHING NEW AT FGUMC

This year, the children-youth's Christmas program will be presented on **Saturday**, December 15th, along with the December youth breakfast.

Participants will have a dress rehearsal at 9:30 and the program is at 10:30. Come anytime between 9:30 and 11 a.m. for breakfast. Watch for more details in the Sunday Announcements.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Christmas Baskets will be assembled on December 15, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the church (exact location TBA). I will post the basket information in the Fellowship Hall as soon as it is released to me.

I have signed us up for twenty-five baskets again this year, and have requested that the names be selected at random from the Forest Grove-Cornelius areas.

If you have any questions, please contact **Adam Hampton** at 503-992-8047 or:

mrajhampton@earthlink.net.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

You all know that moment when you're sitting in the theatre when the house lights go down and the stage lights come up. I love that great moment of anticipation.

That describes Advent. It's the time in the church year, the four Sundays before Christmas, when we wait, hope, and expect a promise (THE promise) to be fulfilled. It is a fallow season of waiting, anticipation, expectation.

But in our culture, Advent is such a full time. It's really meant to be an empty time. Ever since Halloween, some radio stations have been playing Christmas music. I sat down the other day to look through the newspaper inserts to see what Holiday events we could take in as a family. I was overwhelmed. There's too much! Add in the parties, the tree, the decorating, the shopping, the traditional meals, the travelling, the cards, and more, and you hardly know where to begin. Oh, it's exciting, but where's the room to wait? To stop? To clear the decks, clear the mind, clear the throat? How do we make room, so that The One who is promised to come, can come in?

I have a suggestion: worship. Pause for one hour each week to make room, open space, ponder and pray. Why not make a commitment to be in church each and every Sunday for the next four Sundays? We'll be learning about Elizabeth, Joseph, the Shepherds and Mary. Come meet them. Our Youth Group will teach us about the Shepherds on December 16. That will be a special service.

We'll begin Advent this Sunday, December 2nd, with a focus on what you hope for. We all hope for something. What is it you are hoping for most these days? We'll pin our hopes to a star that will rise (you'll want to see this!) in worship, and pray about those hopes all through Advent.

I hope that God's blessings will be abundant and clear to you this day, all the days of Advent, into all the days of your life.

In Hope and Expectation,



Pastor Dan

UNICEF REPORT

The Children's UNICEF collection from you and neighborhood friends amounted to about \$200. Way to go! Matching dollars from the Kimberly Clarke Corporation add bangs to your bucks! If the work of UNICEF tugs at your heart and you wish to do some alternative holiday giving, here are a couple of ideas.

UNICEF Inspired Gifts make incredible holiday presents for your friends and for children struggling to survive. It's simple: just pick your gift, tell us (UNICEF) who you're giving the present to, and we'll send your item from the UNICEF warehouse where it can help a child the most. Then we'll tell your friends you made an Inspired Gift in their name.

For just \$15, you can send two [Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Nets](#) to protect children from malaria carried by mosquitoes. For only \$30, you can send two cartons of [High-Energy Protein Biscuits](#) to nourish malnourished children. Or for \$176, you can send a [UNICEF School-in-a-Box Kit](#) (pencils, erasers, scissors) to set up temporary schools for up to 80 children in crisis situations.

You can Google UNICEF Inspired Gifts to connect to the gift-giving source. Information seems to indicate that Inspired Gifts are also matched by Kimberly Clarke.

FOOD, FOOD AND MORE FOOD

Wasn't the Thanksgiving Sunday collection of food items amazing! People streamed forth to the altar and the food piled high. All of this bounty will go to FGUMC's Christmas basket program for needy families. It's easy to get caught up in the spirit of Christmas giving, but please remember **Hunger takes no holiday**. Stomachs that are full on Christmas Day quickly become hungry again and Food Bank shelves are often depleted by the first of the year. Please give generously and give often every week, every month of the year.

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I spent 24 hours in retreat at Suttle Lake with my Order of Deacon colleagues recently. We come together once or twice a year to worship together, to study and to hold one another accountable to our ordination as deacons. What a privilege to be part of such a group. Our four times of worship during the 24 hours particularly supported the connectedness and these words would be my Holiday greeting to you – the translation of the holiness of our God to the holiness of our living.

This is holy ground; we're standing on holy ground, For God is present, and where God is, is holy.

This is holy ground; we're standing on holy ground, For God is present, and where God is, is holy.

These are holy minds; God's given us holy minds. God thinks through these minds, and so these minds are holy.

These are holy ears; God's given us holy ears, God hears through these ears, and so these ears are holy.

These are holy eyes; God's given us holy eyes. God sees through these eyes, and so these eyes are holy.

These are holy mouths; God's given us holy mouths. God speaks through these mouths, and so these mouths are holy.

These are holy hands; God's given us holy hands. God touches through these hands, and so these hands are holy.

These are holy feet; God's given us holy feet. God moves through these feet, and so these feet are holy.

These are holy hearts; God's given us holy hearts. God loves through these hearts, and so these hearts are holy.

These are holy hearts; God's given us holy hearts. God loves through these hearts, and so these hearts are holy.

(Christopher Beatty, adapted)

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon **Rhoda Markus**

CHURCH BUS FUND

As we are increasingly aware of the necessity for replacing our church bus, the Trustees would like to bring you an update on our bus fund and a reminder of the value of the church bus to our congregation.

Each Sunday this church out reach brings anywhere from 5 to 13 church members to our worship service. As one of these riders mentioned during a recent service, they are very thankful for this transportation service which allows them to be a part of our weekly congregation.

We are exploring a future bus purchase through Western Bus Sales located in Tigard. Western was also the



provider of our current bus. The new bus would include a lift in order to accommodate those members of our congregation who are wheelchair bound or unable to climb the steps leading into the bus. When the wheelchair section is either partially filled or not in use, seats fold down to accommodate two more seated passengers. This brings the complement of available passenger spaces to 15. Additionally, we hope to purchase a vehicle which is powered by environmentally friendly biodiesel.

Presently the bus fund is being held through the Trustees in an interest-bearing CD. The current fund balance is \$15,350.

We just want to keep this project before the congregation with the hope that some of you will be moved to include this fund in your contribution list as the year draws to a close. For more information, you are invited to speak with any member of the Trustees.

CAMPING SCHEDULE FOR 2008 (THRU FEBRUARY)

Name of Event	Location	Dates (2008)	Age	Cost	Registration for these events and more is available through our on-line registration at www.gocamping.org or by paper registration form which can be downloaded or requested from our camping office: Camp Registrar: 1505 SW 18 th Ave. Portland, OR 97201 Phone: 1-800-593-7539 x43 or email: camping@gocamping.org
Young Adult Retreat	Suttle Lake	Jan 11-13	18-30ish	\$65	
Winter Youth Retreat	Suttle Lake	Jan 19-21	Youth Groups	\$75 Youth \$50 Adult Chaperones	
Leaderpalooza!	Trinity UMC Salem	Jan 21	Leaders	No fee- Reg on-line	
Family Winter Retreat	Suttle Lake	Jan 25-27	All Ages	\$75 Adult \$60 Youth (13-18) \$45 Child (2-12)	
Magruder CIT Wknd	Magruder	Feb 8-10	Grades 10-12	\$120	
Adult Snowmobile Trip	Sawtooth	Feb 15-18	Adults	\$125* or \$225*	
Choir Camp	Magruder	Feb 15-18	Adults	\$175 or \$150 if reg by Dec 30 th	
Hammer Camp	Magruder	Feb 15-18	Adults	No fee- Reg on-line	

*\$125 if you provide your own machine, \$225 if you borrow a snowmobile.

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2007

November							January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b style="color: red;">2 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship; Communion, Elizabeth 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 1:00 p.m. Outreach Committee 3:00 p.m. Habitat Concert @ UCC 6:00 p.m. Revelation Bible Study	<b style="color: red;">3 New office hours will begin today. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	<b style="color: red;">4 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans; All women welcome!	<b style="color: red;">5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:30-6:30 p.m. PLUNGE 7:00 p.m. Church Council	<b style="color: red;">6 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room 6:15 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b style="color: red;">7 Pastor's Day Off	<b style="color: red;">8 Pastor's Day Off Youth: Destination Unknown TBA
<b style="color: red;">9 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship; Joseph 11:00 a.m. Fellowship; Wesleyans Bake Sale 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. Youth, Christmas Shopping 7:00 p.m. Umpqua Singers	<b style="color: red;">10 6:30 p.m. Education Committee	<b style="color: red;">11	<b style="color: red;">12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:30-6:30 p.m. PLUNGE 7:00 p.m. SPRC	<b style="color: red;">13 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Open Room 6:00 Grant Committee 6:15 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b style="color: red;">14 Pastor's Day Off	<b style="color: red;">15 Pastor's Day Off 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Finance Committee 9:30-11:00 a.m. Youth Breakfast Club 10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Presentation 11:00 a.m. Christmas baskets!
<b style="color: red;">16 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship; Shepherds, Youth Sunday 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	<b style="color: red;">17 2:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/Pastor Dan	<b style="color: red;">18 7:00 p.m. Trustees <b style="color: red;">January Messenger articles due	<b style="color: red;">19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3:30-6:30 p.m. PLUNGE	<b style="color: red;">20 6:15 p.m. Chimes choir rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b style="color: red;">21 Pastor's Day Off	<b style="color: red;">22 Pastor's Day Off
<b style="color: red;">23 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship; Mary 11:00 a.m. Fellowship NO Youth Group	<b style="color: red;">24 11:00 a.m. Have committee minutes in office 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	<b style="color: red;">25 <b style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">Merry Christmas	<b style="color: red;">26 NO Bible Study NO School NO PLUNGE	<b style="color: red;">27 NO Chimes choir rehearsal NO Choir rehearsal	<b style="color: red;">28 Pastor's Day Off 2:00 p.m. UMW Friends	<b style="color: red;">29 Pastor's Day Off
<b style="color: red;">30 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Worship; guest preacher 11:00 a.m. Fellowship NO Youth Group	<b style="color: red;">31 New Year's Eve					
← Pastor Dan away thru 1/5/08 →						

GRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE

A grant in the amount of \$3,519 was approved in November to support the FGUMC *Askings* for the Annual Conference and the Western District. The details of grant requests are available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall (outside the Garden Room).

At the upcoming December 13th meeting, we will make a funding decision on the grant request below, in support of our church's annual Family Camp at Camp Magruder. If you have comments or concerns about this grant request, please let one of the committee members know, or drop a note in the Grant Committee box in the Fellowship Hall, before December 13th.

Family Camp Deposit: Grant request for \$1,600 to pay increased deposit for annual Family Camp at Camp Magruder. Deposit is required prior to fundraising for actual costs of the Family Camp. Grant will allow deposit to be pre-paid each year without running the account in a deficit.

Please note, we have changed our monthly meeting date/time to the 2nd Thursday of each month, at 6 p.m. If you want to submit a grant request, please pick up a new Grant Application form in the church office or send me an email at alisa.hampton@intel.com.

Thank you!

Alisa Hampton
Chair, Grant Committee

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

New guidelines have been developed for the granting of scholarships from our church to members and affiliates of FGUMC. The Nominations Committee solicits your suggestions for the five-member committee. If you have interest in serving on this committee or have a suggestion, please let Pastor Dan know.

Dan Wilson-Fey,
Committee Chair

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please be sure that the church office has your new address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Liz Swensen
Church Administrative Assistant

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group celebrated an exciting November. The month kicked off with Emily, Meagan and eight youth heading to Comedy Sports in Portland for a night of fun filled improv.

Two days later our monthly evening worship service centered on ...worship. Youth shared songs, scriptures, definitions, and devotions that symbolize what worship was to us.

Our Open Room time included pool, racing games, ping pong and some highly competitive Guitar Hero.

At Youth Group we decorated bulletin boards in the fellowship hall.

During Sunday School we looked into the Psalms as we reflected on our own relationship with God and others.

We raised over \$120 at our 3rd Saturday of the Month Breakfast Club and hosted our 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Eve Feast.

Finally, we attained a record eight Plungers at our Wednesday after school program.

As December rolls in and Christmas nears, I find myself eagerly awaiting our yearly Christmas Shopping Trip, another Breakfast Club, Youth Sunday, and another Destination Unknown. I also look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with our first son. May you find and share the Christmas spirit this season.

In Christ's Love,
Bobby Tabb

MESSENGER SCHEDULE

The cutoff date for the January Messenger is December 18th. Late items will be carried over to the following month's issue. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Patty Davie, editor

BUS DRIVERS

Volunteer drivers are needed for September and November 2008. Many members of our church family depend on the bus to come to worship. To serve in this very valuable way, please call Linda King at 503-522-1215.

SERMON SERIES FOR DECEMBER 2007

The Characters of Christmas.

We'll focus on some of the characters we don't always pay much attention to (except Mary) during the Advent Christmas season.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Name. Includes Elizabeth, Joseph, Shepherds, Mary, and a guest preacher.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Monday, December 3rd, the office will be open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Also, effective December 1st, my days off will be both Friday and Saturday.

Dan Wilson-Fey

BIRTHDAYS

Table with 2 columns: Name and Birthdate. Lists names like Shirley Gamble, Sally Green, Angela Horton Gapay, etc., with their respective birth dates in December.

ANNIVERSARIES

Table with 2 columns: Name and Anniversary Date. Lists couples like Buzz & Anne Brown, Chuck & Betty Pritchard, etc., with their anniversary dates.



SERVING IN DECEMBER

Liturgist	Katherine & Christina Cortez
Altar Guild	The Guild & Margaret Hoerber
Bus Coordinator	Linda King, cell: 503-522-1215
Bus Driver	Bill Gulacy
Ushers December	Morris & Jacquie Haney Craig & Winona MacKinnon
Greeters December	Wesleyans
Coffee Coordinator	Tracy Gulacy
Fellowship Time December 2 nd December 9 th December 16 th December 23 rd December 30 th	Dale & Carole Heun Volunteers needed Merrill & Betty Ludlam Volunteers needed Volunteers needed
Nursery Attendant	Lindsay Marsh
Childcare Coordinator	Delva Johnson
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Acolytes December	TBA
Kitchen Elves	Volunteers needed
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Tape Ministry	Media team
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

CHOIR CORNER—CAROLE HEUN

A dozen friends went with Carole from nursery through high school in El Segundo, CA. In her early teens she determined that life was more than her unbelieving family showed her. She became a Christian on her own, almost against family wishes.

Employed and working on her college degree, Carole turned back to look at the clock in a huge auditorium of U.S. history students and met eyes with Dale, fresh out of the Navy and getting his degree on the G.I. Bill. At the break, Dale had a cup of coffee for her. He knew immediately and proposed 5 times before she finally said yes, at the altar.

The wedding of these two history buffs was “Civil War” with Dale wearing gray and Carole in a full, Antebellum gown. The reception was held in a park with the jungle gym decorated like a Mississippi paddle boat.

Their son John joins Carole in the Bell Choir. After work with VW Credit doing bookkeeping on car loans, Carole loves wood carving and redecorating-remodeling their home.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Forest Grove United Methodist Church is to welcome all people, wherever they are on their journey of faith, into nurturing relationships with Jesus and with one another, through worship, small group fellowship and service to others.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Bobby & Emily Tabb	503-844-7694	Youth Pastors
Liz Swenson	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Patty Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Editor
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