



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

December 2009

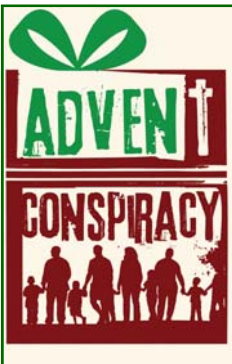
1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434
e-mail: fgumc@teleport.com

Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410
website: www.forestgroveumc.org

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love.

So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists.



And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas?

What if Christmas became a world-changing event again?

This Advent, your church is inviting you to make Christmas a time to:

**WORSHIP FULLY -- SPEND LESS --
GIVE MORE -- LOVE ALL**

Check it out at www.adventconspiracy.org

One way we are inviting you to give more and love all is by giving the amount of money you save on reduced spending for Christmas gifts this year to a special offering we will receive at both Christmas Eve services, dedicated to help others. Half of the offering will support WESTCO, an organization that provides funds those those who are in danger of losing their housing. The other half will go to Living Water International (www.water.cc), a partner organization of the Advent Conspiracy that helps communities around the world acquire desperately needed clean water. You may make your checks out to FGUMC.

Join us this year in a new way to make a difference in the world, in Jesus' name.

Submitted by **Pastor Dan**

WESLEYANS' MEETING

All women are invited to meet with us on Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 7 pm in the Garden Room. **Lela Baskins** will present a program on Advent. Refreshments, too! Please join us for an evening of fellowship.

Submitted by **Patty Davie**

BETHLEHEM MARKETPLACE

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Your presence is requested in Bethlehem on December 6th at 9 a.m. Census takers will be in place to record your presence. Late-comers welcome after worship. Market stalls will be available to tempt you with the best that Bethlehem has to offer. Join in the festive occasion.



Submitted by **Rhoda Pittman Markus**

CALLING ALL RECORDER PLAYERS

We would like to get a group of recorders to play Christmas music before the 11 pm Christmas Eve Service. Please let me know if you are interested and we will set up rehearsals. So far we have **Delva Johnson, Liz Swenson** and **Betty Pritchard**.

Submitted by: **Betty Pritchard**
503-359-9340

COOKIE DECORATING

Everyone is welcome to a Christmas cookie decorating party on December 12th in the Fellowship Hall from 2-4 pm. Please join us for a fun, family Saturday afternoon outing – cookies and decorations provided - Christmas cookie donations welcome. Questions? Contact **Janet Hummel** at: janet.hummel@verizon.net or 503.359.1799

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

There is a lot going on in the life of the church at the moment. I'll give you just a few snippets:

We're still surprised, in grief, and giving thanks for the life of **LeRoy Gamble**, who died unexpectedly November 3rd. He lived a good life, a full life, and gave of himself in so many ways. We miss him tremendously as we celebrate the life we had with him.

Patti Rose, Ian Rice, Ted Oakberg and I are named to bring a final draft of a new, more concise **mission statement** for the church. We'll be bringing a proposal to the December 16th Church Council meeting.

At the November 24th All-Church Conference, the Church Council presented a slightly adjusted church committee structure that creates **three new Ministry Focus Teams** that correspond to our 2010 goals of hospitality, spiritual growth, and mission. The proposal is to incorporate within them any tasks that the current worship, congregational care, outreach, scholarship, education and youth ministries committees do. Our intent is to adopt this change at the December 16th Church Council meeting. You can find information about this change on our church website: www.forestgroveumc.org

As a result of the changes described above, our annual **Stewardship Campaign**, normally conducted in November, will be delayed until January. We want to be clear about the direction we're headed when we engage in the campaign.

Our Advent preaching theme is ***There's a Light at the End***. As we walk through this time of preparing for something new, for the celebration of new birth by remembering Jesus' first birth, we'll walk with John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men, and all the other characters, including those characters of today, who keep looking up for the star, the light that shines in the darkness.

Concurrently with our search for light, we're inviting you to participate in the **Advent Conspiracy**, a movement to celebrate Christmas in a new and different way by worshiping fully, spending less, giving more, and loving all. Read more about this on page 1 and at the websites mentioned there. There are lots of ideas there for alternatives to Christmas shopping. What I'm most excited about is that again, as we've done in previous years, we will give away all of our Christmas Eve offering. This year, WESTCO will receive half the offering to help those at risk of homelessness, and the other half will go to *Living Water International* where \$1 will provide clean drinking water to one person for a year. This eliminates death from water-borne diseases, and carries out the work Christ asks of us in giving water to the thirsty.

The third Sunday in Advent, December 13, our **youth group** will be leading us in worship. And on **Christmas Eve**, we'll have two worship opportunities: one at 4:00 p.m. and another at 11:00 p.m. I look forward to greeting you at one or the other, and I pray you have a blessed Advent filled with expectation, hope, generosity, and renewed life.

In Advent expectation of Christ's coming yet again,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Who do you anticipate coming to the manger this Advent and Christmas season? I know a delightful book called The Gospel of Gabriel: A Life of Jesus the Christ. It tells the Gospel story from the view point of the angel Gabriel. It is written in beautiful lyrical language and makes your heart sing!

The familiar birth narrative is told in four parts: The Savior's Birth and the Shepherd Apostles, The Apostles of Bethlehem, The Manger Parade, and The Adoration of the Poor. The shepherds just can't believe the message brought to them by Gabriel "*Shepherds, you are the chosen of God, who are to announce the fullness of time.*" They are sure the angel is mistaken – the long awaited message is not for the ears of common folks like them. Gabriel assures them that his orders are precise. Soon, still with great uncertainty they begin their journey to find the infant Messiah. They are worried about what gift to bring and who will help them find their way. They choose gifts of music and the choicest lamb they were saving to sell at Passover time.

In Bethlehem the first response to their announcement of the Messiah's birth was full of derision. You shouldn't be surprised that it was the response of the Innkeeper. Soon, however, quite an entourage joined the parade, along with their gifts, eager to find the infant King – two prostitutes, four lame beggars, a couple of Greek travelers and two Samaritan merchants, a dozen children from the poorest shacks and their parents. To their sadness, all other doors remained tightly closed to them and to their message.

With great dignity the smallest shepherd laid the tiny white lamb in the mother's lap. The prostitute with her tambourine began to dance with more passion, grace and love than she had every possessed. The two Samaritans performed magic tricks for the child, and finally the third shepherd played his harp with angel-like skill and great devotion, singing sweet songs of love and heartbreak, fascination and desire. In the midst of the humble gift giving Gabriel tells us that "*the winter night held its breath in profound silence as all of heaven was awed by the music of the poor ascending from the little town of Bethlehem, **as history itself stopped and started over again.***"

"*As history itself stopped and started over again*" – that is the opportunity that comes to each one of us each year and somehow it seems all wrapped up in the question of who we go to the manger with. Mary understood even before Jesus was born. Remember these words of her song of praise:

"*He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. He has brought down the princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.*" (Luke 1:51-53) In the birth of the infant King the whole order of the world is changed!

Be blessed in holy wonder!

Your servant in Jesus Christ,
Rhoda Pittman Markus

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our church will be giving out 30 Christmas Baskets this year and there are several ways you can help!

- 1) **Food** Donate non- perishable food items, including, but not limited to stuffing, potatoes, flour, sugar, rice, masa harina, yams, canned vegetables, canned fruits etc. and place them into the Christmas Basket container.
- 2) **Money** Donate money. You can write a check to the church and designate it for Christmas Baskets. The sooner checks come in the sooner we will know how much money we have to spend on baskets.
- 3) **Adopt a Family.** Paper ornaments with information on families that are available to adopt will be posted. You may pick the size family you are able to help and then register the family on the sign-in sheet. Please record which family you have chosen, and if you want to supply all the items in your basket or if you want to use some items from the church, i.e. turkey, ham, chicken, side dishes etc. If you do a basket all on your own, plan with the family what they want and when to deliver your basket. The last date to adopt a family will be December 12th.
- 4) **Come to the Party!** Saturday, December 19th, at 9 a.m., we will have food items available for Christmas Baskets, and we will need help filling baskets and delivering them. We hope to begin delivering by 11 a.m. and to be all cleaned up and out the door by 1 p.m.

Want to be an Elf on the Christmas Basket Team? Please call Chuck and Betty at 503-359-9340.

Questions? Contact

Ken and/or **Elizabeth Larsen** 360-421-0819

Chuck and/or **Betty Pritchard** 503-359-9340

Submitted by **Betty Pritchard**

HOLIDAY SALE OF BAKED GOODS AND MORE

The Wesleyans will hold a sale of baked goods and other items on Sunday, December 20th, immediately after the church service. Get your baked goodies and simple gifts for the holidays! Proceeds will go to the Wesleyan budget for kitchen supplies, etc.

Submitted by **Lois Oakberg**
503-357-8129

WHEELCHAIR WELCOME

We have occasional need for a wheelchair to be used around the church. Do you have or know of a wheelchair that could be donated to the church? If so, please contact Liz at the church office. Thank you!

Submitted by **Pastor Dan**

PIANOS

We still have two surplus upright pianos that we need to dispose of as soon as possible. Price is extremely negotiable. If you know of anyone wanting a piano, please contact **Edythe Westlund** at 503-357-5693.

STAFF CHANGES

We've recently received the resignations of John Davis, our Groundskeeper, and Lindsay Tovey, our Nursery Attendant. We want to thank them for their work and ministry among us! We have hired a new Nursery Attendant: Adrienne Dionne. Welcome, Adrienne!

Submitted by **Pastor Dan**



Betty Pritchard & Patti Rose leaving the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, Kansas.

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> November January </div>		1 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	2 2:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Grant Committee	3 6:00-7:00 p.m. Handbell rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Pastor's Day Off Dunk TBA																																																																																											
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6 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Bethlehem Marketplace 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m. Bethlehem Marketplace	7 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	8	9 2:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. SPRC	10 6:00-7:00 p.m. Handbell rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	11 Pastor's Day Off 11:00 a.m. Have committee minutes in office	12 Pastor's Day Off 12:00—2:00 p.m. Youth Sunday, practice 2:00—4:00 p.m. Christmas Cookie decorating																																																																																											
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LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE INSIGHTS

In early October, ten persons from our church attended the *Leadership Institute* at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. The *Institute* is designed to strengthen, inspire, and encourage church leaders through worship, teaching, and sharing of ideas that have worked for them and others in their endeavor to be the best they can be as the Church. Below are some thoughts from some of those whom you sent to attend the *Institute*:

Kathy Wilson-Fey said, “There is no doubt that the greeters of the Church of the Resurrection UMC make a great initial impression! They are legion (it's a mega church) and obviously trained to be warm, welcoming, and helpful.

The Church of the Resurrection UMC offers so many resources! They decided as a church that whenever they develop something that works, they make it available for other churches. That generosity is inspiring. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor, is worried about the future of the United Methodist denomination, considering the declines in membership, the aging ranks of congregations, and perceptions that many unchurched people have about Christians. I'm excited about his thoughtful and passionate approach to turning around the decline of the Methodist church, especially when he talks about increasing the church's cultural relevance for younger people.

I got a couple of ideas from the small sessions that I attended on contemporary music in worship:

- The music of worship always needs to serve the greater purpose of facilitating an experience of the spirit and helping people sing their faith.
- The use of contemporary music styles in worship is essential to staying culturally relevant with younger people.

I came away from these sessions somewhat overwhelmed, but also with the desire to start a conversation at FGUMC about how to start using more contemporary music in worship in a way that deliberately opens new doors to worship.”

Chuck Pritchard said, “Waking up Saturday morning, I had volunteered to go in the early (6:30 AM) car so that another in the group could sleep in and get to the conference starting at 8 AM. When we arrived, we went to the chapel for a prayer vigil which continued until the start of the meetings. After 15-20 minutes, with the others still going strong, I was prayed out and went to the lobby to wait. While there, I found a pocket Bible left by someone and opened it randomly to Hebrews 5:12-14. Having read this, I realized I had to choose to either continue to be an infant in Christ feeding on the milk of others or to grow to do Christ's work. I spent the rest of the conference and the time since trying to grow.”

Betty Pritchard said, “The Leadership Institute was exceptionally well done. The Church of the Resurrection has a well defined Mission Statement, and all aspects of the church work to fulfill that Mission. I attended workshops on Children's Music and Youth Mission in Music, which showed how they go out into the community to share the mission of the church; I found the sessions very rewarding. I came back to the church hoping to keep our children and youth singing, playing instruments, and sharing their incredible talents and love of service with others, both in our community and on mission, as needed around the USA and in other countries.”

Next month we'll hear from our Worship Committee chair, Patti Rose, and our Lay Leader, Ann Ulum.

ALL YOU NEED IS ... JOY?

I'm sure most of you have heard the Beatles' song, *All You Need is Love*. "The nice thing about [the song] is that it cannot be misinterpreted. It is a clear message saying that love is everything" said the Beatles' manager, Brian Epstein.

Well, the youth would like to challenge the congregation to consider joy to be just as important. It is true, 1 Corinthians 13:13 does say, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." We would like you to think of joy and love as complementing each other, not able to have one without the other.

As we plan for the upcoming Youth Sunday, we've been discussing joy versus happiness, and whether you can truly love without joy and vice versa. The youth described joy as:

- "Happiness is a feeling, joy is an emotion"
- "Happiness can be bought, joy is priceless"
- "Joy is the small things in life"
- "Joy changes you"
- "Happiness is temporary, joy lasts longer"
- "Can you show love or accept love without ever experiencing joy?"

As we find ourselves in the middle of the holiday chaos and excitement, the youth would like to ask you: "What brings you joy?" We ask that you think past the provisional enjoyments that bring happiness, to focus on the priceless memories and experiences when joy overwhelms you -- times when your hearts skips a beat, a child's laughter touches your soul, the warming sensation that God is with you. Whatever it is or however joy finds you, we ask that you take time to savor that moment.

The youth will be leading the congregation in worship on December 13th. We will be focusing the service on how we experience joy as a church and as youth. They may even ask you to share those joyous moments.

In Christ's love,
Submitted by *Emily Tabb*

QUILTERS GET READY!

Plan to attend a quilters and crafter extravaganza – Feb. 5th & 6th, 2010 -

Friday, Feb 5th from 5 to 10 pm and Saturday, Feb 6th from 8 am – noon (or later) in the Garden Room. Come and get that project done!!! Pizza dinner / potluck Friday night and continental breakfast on Saturday. Beginners welcome, basic instruction will be provided. Stash and sewing notion sale. Questions? Contact *Janet Hummel* – janet.hummel@verizon.net

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

Liz Swenson
Church Administrative Assistant

IN MEMORIAM
LEROY T. GAMBLE
1926 – 2009

We were deeply saddened by the passing of *LeRoy Gamble* on November 3rd.

LeRoy Thomas Gamble was born October 22, 1926 in Elmwood, Nebraska. As a young boy he moved with his family to Forest Grove. He graduated from Forest Grove High School in 1944, where he earned letters in track and football, and had a leading role in the Junior Class play.

After serving in the US Navy Seabees during World War II, he returned to Forest Grove and enrolled at Pacific University, while also volunteering with the Forest Grove Fire Department. LeRoy was a four-year letterman on the football team; he was named All-Conference Guard. He joined Alpha Zeta fraternity and Badge Knights, a campus service organization. He graduated in 1950 with a degree in Physical Education; he received his Master's of Education in 1957. Further studies in advanced School Administration followed at Lewis & Clark College, Oregon State University, and Stanford University.

LeRoy and Shirley Jean Anderson were united in marriage on June 3, 1950, here in our church, and have always resided in Forest Grove. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary this past June.

He was Principal of Forest Grove High School for 28 years, followed by 10 years as a Forest Grove School District Administrator until he retired in 1989. He was a member of the United Methodist Church since 1953. He joined the Forest Grove Rotary Club in 1958, serving as President 1993-1994 and as chairman of various committees. He was a member of the American Legion Washington Post #2. He enjoyed the fun of the Forest Grove Morning Coffee Club.

Woodworking, fishing, camping and travel were among his special interests. He and Shirley have visited Sweden 7 times, spending time with her family and their Rotary Exchange daughter Ingrid Eurell Hesser and her family. His love for his grandchildren gave him much joy and many excuses to "brag". The most important priority in his life was his family.

He is survived by his wife, *Shirley J. Gamble*; his three children and their spouses, Patti and David Rose and Tom and Debbie Gamble, both of Forest Grove, and Eileen and David Green of Spokane, Washington. His six grandchildren are Brigett and her husband Mike Eisele, Derek Rose, Bryan and his wife Anna Gamble, Travis Green, Michael Green and Jenna Gamble. Great grandchildren are Gavin and Molly Eisele. His surviving siblings are brothers John and Robert; sisters Ruby, Betty and Mary. His parents and sister, Vivian, are deceased.

A Celebration of his Life was held at the church on November 14th. The family suggests that remembrances be given to the *LeRoy T. Gamble* Memorial Fund at Forest Grove United Methodist Church.

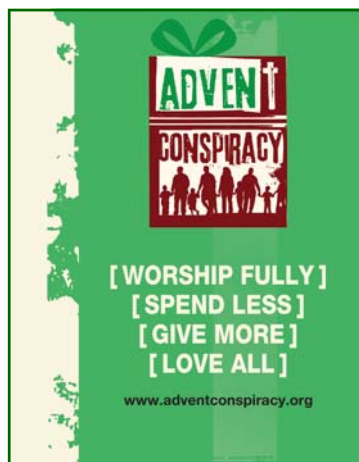
LeRoy was a vibrant part of our church. He will be sorely missed.

ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE

The night of Tuesday, November 24th, found a couple dozen folks gathered at the church for our “annual meeting”, called All-Church Conference. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Kate Conolly, presided in her usual surprising and animated way. This is her sixth year as our D.S. Here are a few highlights of what was reported:

- We celebrated the ministry of **Bobby Tabb** as our Youth Director.
- Worship attendance and church membership have both increased since last year.
- We prayed in thanksgiving for the lives of our members who died over the last year: **LeRoy Gamble, Gib Paterson, Leona Vaughn, and Lois Zumwalt.**
- We also prayed in thanksgiving for those who have joined us, and those who have moved away and transferred their membership.
- We heard reports on a proposed change in church structure.
- We elected several people to new leadership positions in the church.
- A 3% increase in the pastor’s salary was approved.
- Reports on the activities of retired pastors **Ron Ray** and **Lloyd Uecker** were received along with those of our Youth Director, Music Director, Deacon, Pastor, Lay Leader, and more.

Submitted by Pastor Dan



BIRTHDAYS

Sally Green	December 4 th
Christina Cortez	December 5 th
Sharon Adame	December 7 th
Ron Ray	December 7 th
Tanya Lee	December 9 th
Mary Peloquin	December 9 th
Carolyn Ashton	December 10 th
Erma Heisler	December 10 th
Fred Brewer	December 12 th
Billy Tveit	December 12 th
Jacobic Barnhill	December 17 th
Kristy Barnhill	December 17 th
Kyra Ashton	December 18 th
Lois Oakberg	December 19 th
Alexis Gardner	December 20 th
Ella Mae James	December 21 st
Bryan Gamble	December 26 th
Betty Ludlam	December 26 th
Patti Rose	December 28 th
Madalyn Miramontes	December 28 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Buzz & Anne Brown	December 3 rd
Chuck & Betty Pritchard	December 12 th
Harry & Diane Long	December 14 th
Calvin & Beth Hall	December 31 st

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Liturgists	Rhoda Pittman Markus
Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Drivers	Brian Hawkins David Bond
Ushers: December	Volunteers needed
Greeters: December	Shirley Gamble Tom & Debbie Gamble
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	
December 6 th	Shirley Gamble & Virginia Heald
December 13 th	Gerry & Shirley Peloquin
December 20 th	Volunteers needed
December 27 th	Ed & Patty Davie
Nursery Attendant & Childcare Coord.	Adrienne Dionne
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Kitchen Elves	Patty Davie Volunteer needed
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

EDUCATION CORNER – TERRI JONES

Terri, Matt and their redheaded sons Ethan and Ryan love to camp by the McKenzie River near Eugene, not far from Terri's parents. When at home, the boys love to help Mom bake—especially cookies—and they dearly love to read. Terri, who co-chairs the Education Committee this year, has eclectic tastes in books, but nothing scary. No, she has not yet read the vampire series, although she's been asked to many times by her 4th graders at Joseph Gale. Five years ago, Terri switched there to be able to job share. Before that, she'd taught Social Studies to 8th graders for eleven years in Forest Grove.

Before she married Matt, she had been on a mission trip to Peru and had traveled in Europe with a friend. She's also visited her parents when they lived in New Mexico and in Pennsylvania. Although she was born in Oregon, she was raised mostly in northern Idaho before the family returned to Oregon in time for her college.

The family lived on 5 acres in Idaho, but Terri never became a horsewoman because her father wouldn't allow it. He was afraid that, since all the animals on the small acreage became family pets, if Terri were allowed to keep a horse, she'd soon have it in the living room.

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

Volume 2009, **December**, Issue No. 12.

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

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Bless you for getting your articles to me
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