



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

December 2011

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

EXPERIENCING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- Dec 4** **Second Sunday of Advent**
 Communion
 Youth Sunday
 Advent Festival
- Dec 11** **Third Sunday of Advent**
 The Journey
 Bethlehem Marketplace
- Dec 17** **Christmas Basket party**
- Dec 18** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
 The Journey
- Dec 24** **Christmas Eve service**
- Dec 25** **Christmas Day**
 The Journey
- Jan 1** **New Year's Day**
 Communion

STREETS OF BETHLEHEM

The fourth annual Streets of Bethlehem (formerly Bethlehem Marketplace) is scheduled for December 11th, 2011. This is a fun event during Advent that combines fellowship with an experience of a marketplace during Jesus' time. Watch the Bulletins for opportunities to participate. New and experienced volunteers are invited; costumes will be available, and Fellowship will feature foods of the same period. Contributions are welcome. Straw for the manger is needed, as are small children to wear lamb costumes. Questions? See Janet Hummel or Beth Hall.

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*



ADVENT FESTIVAL SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH

On Sun. Dec. 4th we will have our annual Advent Festival after worship. Adults will make wreaths, swags, and other decorations for our homes. Children will make Advent Chains.

Never made a wreath? Come learn. There will be expert instruction. Evergreens, ribbon, wire, and decorations are provided, though if you want to use a favorite decoration of your own, please bring it. And if you don't feel crafty, there will be an extra for you to take home. Come join us!

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*

WESLEYANS ANNUAL BAKE SALE

The Wesleyans will hold their annual holiday bake sale on Sunday, December 18th, immediately after the church service. Plan to purchase your Christmas goodies and perhaps a small gift. Proceeds will go to the Wesleyans' budget for kitchen supplies, etc. Questions? Call *Lois Oakberg* at 503-357-8129.

Submitted by: *Virginia Heald*

WESLEYANS MEET DECEMBER 6TH

The regular meeting of the Wesleyans will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6th. All ladies are warmly invited to attend as we celebrate the Christmas season together. Come hear a special program by *Muriel Elsey*, and enjoy, as always, refreshments and good fellowship.

Submitted by: *Virginia Heald*

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

*And there where shepherds living out in the fields nearby,
keeping watch over their flocks at night.*

- Luke 2:8

Shepherds watching over sheep is part of the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph watching over their newborn child is part of the Christmas story. To “keep watch” is to be alert, awake, expecting something to happen. It is an Advent kind of thing.

Parents “keeping watch” are those who are attentive as infants slumber. Who doesn’t remember listening, during a time when the child was terribly sick, to see if the child was still breathing? Who doesn’t remember keeping watch over the child as they first climbed high on the playground equipment, waded at the edge of the water, or first got close to and played with the new pet? What parent is not alert to keeping track of their children at the State Fair, the shopping mall, or the church gathering? We parents keep watch in one way or another, even when the child grows to the point of not wanting us to do so any longer.

“Keeping watch” is so human. We do it when the stakes are high. Lovers watch their mailbox (electronic, or the one out on the street) for that anticipated message from their beloved. Nurses keep watch over the very sick in intensive care units. Lookouts on ships keep watch for that infrequent, but all-important sighting of another ship or an iceberg. Soldiers keep watch for the enemy’s approach.

At our church, our Safe Sanctuary program is designed to “keep watch” over the children and vulnerable adults to guard against situations where harm could come to them. We have two adults “keeping watch” at all such activities.

Governmental intelligence and police agencies keep watch over known or suspicious criminals. They keep watch over the public, to keep us safe.

I am, in general, grateful for all those who “keep watch.” They are the ones who notice little things, observe slight movements, detect unusual circumstances. The modern-day shepherds are those who have a mission, and they know what it is. Their mission is about caring. Their mission is about noticing if something is amiss. They are the ones who stay awake, even when they feel like slumbering.

In our church, we are about to set up a so-called “flocks and shepherds” program. It is very simple. We will be assigning one shepherd to “keep watch” over a flock of 10 families in the church. The shepherds will “keep watch,” noticing if someone has gone missing or if there is something amiss with some of their flock. You’ll be hearing more about this after the first of the year.

For now, I simply want to ask: Over what or who or whom do you keep watch right now? Who are you caring for, caring about these days? Who is your flock?

During Advent, Joseph is caring for Mary. Mary is caring for her unborn child. The shepherds are caring for the sheep. I’m grateful for those who care; those who keep watch.

Keeping watch with you,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Who is this Jesus I follow? It seems to me that each of us needs to have an informed and up-to-date personal answer to that question and what better time to think about it than the seasons of Advent and Christmas?

I had reason to think about this not long ago. My grandson expressed an interest in having a Bible of his own. He has not had much connection to any church, but has deep spiritual yearnings. It's not likely that he is immediately going to show up at a church, new Bible in hand, so I wondered how I could give him some guidance. I'm aware that he does some Bible reading with someone that has no formal experience with the Bible himself, so I had some concerns as I prepared to give him a Bible for his birthday.

This is what I did, thinking back to the advice a friend was given when he became a Christian in his late teenage years. The advice was: start with Mark. That sounded like a plan, but where should one go after that? I wrote these directions in the front of the Bible.

**First read Mark, then Luke, then Matthew.
Read them again and also read John.**

**Think about what kind of person Jesus is. Who are his friends? Who does he hang out with?
How does he treat people? What does he say about who God is, how God treats and relates to people?**

Anything else you read in the Bible, ask yourself: does this fit with the Jesus you've come to know?

I had a conversation with the person whose advice I was following and he (a pastor) said my directions were what he need to add to his upcoming sermon. Then he told me that he had been lax in his own Bible reading and was going to follow my advice.

Sounds like these are directions that are good for anyone to follow. Why don't you join me over the next few weeks in getting started on this plan and come to know Jesus again in a personal Bible based way.

By the way, I also added a brief list of Grandma's favorites. These are mine: Psalm 139, Luke 4:16-21, Matthew 25:34-40, Micah 6:6-8, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 22:34-40.

What would your list include?

Your servant in Christ,
Deacon **Rhoda Pittman Markus**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

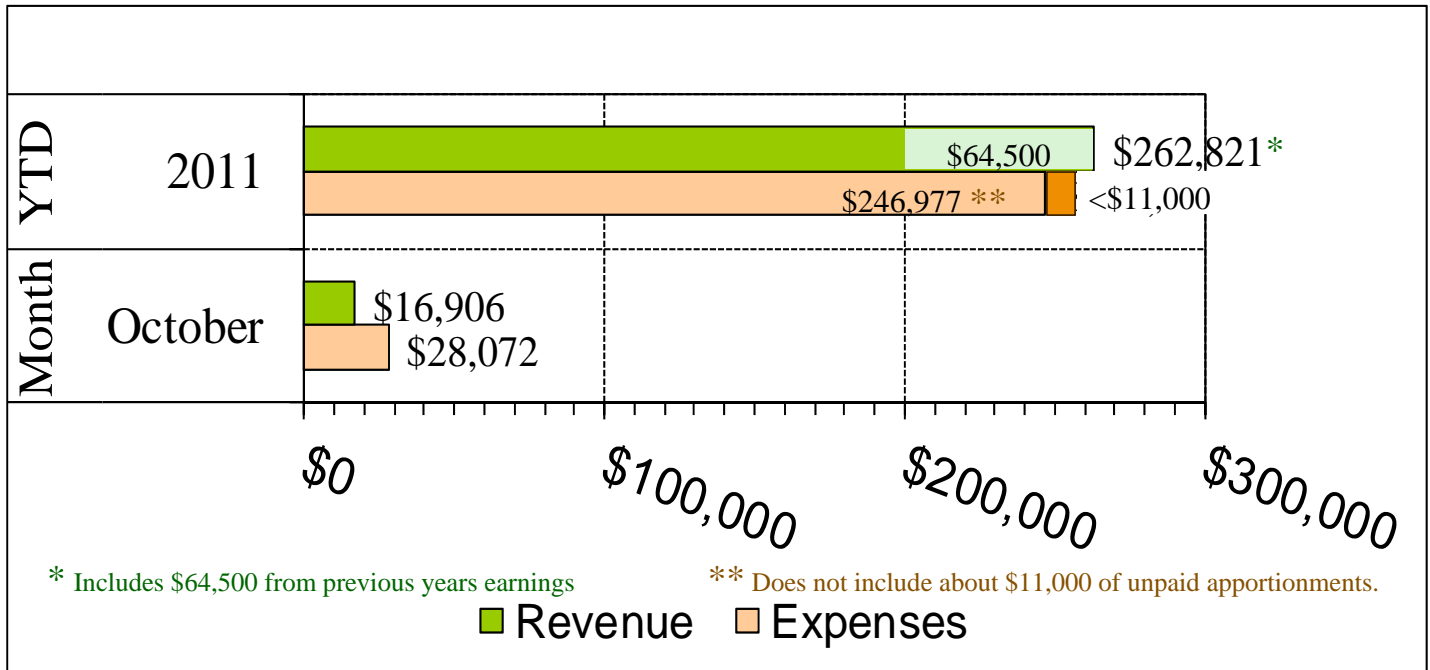
On Saturday, January 7th, 2012 the Western District Leadership Team will host our 2012 Leadership Training Event at Forest Grove UMC, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. This is for all church leaders, new and old! This year's theme is "Outside the Box: The Gift that Can't be Contained." Everything we do as a church should be about sharing the good news of God's gracious love and salvation through Christ. This is a gift that can't be contained: not inside the walls of the church building, nor within the time span of the Christmas season. So the day after Epiphany, we will gather together to polish our skills as church leaders and expand our understanding of what it means to live with Christ "outside the box".

The afternoon will begin with a worship time led by Camp & Retreat Ministries with our own Assistant to the Bishop, the **Rev. Kate Conolly**, preaching! Following that we will each have the opportunity to choose one workshop from two different sessions. The first session will offer workshops in the basic responsibilities of and resources for the various church leadership roles. The second session will offer workshops in the areas of the Five Fruitful Practices: Intentional Faith Development, Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Risk-Taking Mission, and Extravagant Generosity.

Submitted by: **Rhoda Pittman Markus**
503-357-3998; 503-201-1233 (cell) revrpm@frontier.com

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income/Expense Comparison (As of 10/31/2011)



FINANCIAL NEWS

I hope the bar graph Ed Davie provides each month on where we stand financially is helpful (and thank you, Ed, for doing this). If you look at the year-to-date graph, you will see that we are on track to finish the year in the black. Once we pay our apportionments, the expenditure and revenue lines should be very close together. As a reminder, though, we've been able to meet all of our expenses this year due to a transfer of \$65,000 from previous years unspent earnings from the endowment fund. This was a one-time transfer and these funds will not be available to us in the future.

In the last week or so you should have received a letter regarding Stewardship Planning for 2012. If you didn't receive the letter, please let me or Liz know and we'll make sure you get one. If you plan to return an Estimate of Giving form it would be very helpful to have it to the church by December 11th. This will help us a great deal in preparing our 2012 budget.

As always, if you have any questions about the church's budget or finances, please feel free to ask anyone on the Finance Committee.

Submitted by: **Barbara Huson**, Finance Chair

PERSONAL TAX INFORMATION

TABLES FOR 7

Our Financial Secretary, **Dan Gustafson**, would like to remind you that if you want to have your offerings reported in 2011, be sure that they are received at the church by the end of the year. Postmarks don't count. Questions? Feel free to ask Dan.
 (eudan@comcast.net)

Several *Tables for 7* groups were a success this first session. The second session of *Tables for 7* is set to start in January and needs someone to organize it.

If you are interested in helping out with the next session, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Submitted by **Emily Tabb**

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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4 8:45 a.m. Youth Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship: Youth Sunday, Communion 11:15 a.m. Fellowship: Advent Festival 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	5 6:00 p.m. Worship Team	6 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Journey Advent Study 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	7 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group	8 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 Pastor's day off	10 Pastor's day off 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. Dunk 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group																																																																																				
11 9:00 a.m. Streets of Bethlehem 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship: Streets of Bethlehem 11:30 a.m. Caroling with the Choir 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	12 6:00 p.m. Worship Team	13 6:00 p.m. SPRC 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Journey Advent Study	14 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Grant committee (If needed)	15 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 Pastor's day off 11:00 a.m. Have November committee minutes in office	17 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group																																																																																				
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25 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Christmas	26 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Office Closed for vacation	27 2:00 p.m. The Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan	28	29 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 Pastor's day off	31 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group																																																																																				

YOUTH CAMP SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH

It only takes a spark. That is where the concept of Camp Sunday started. As the youth were trying to figure out what message God was calling us to share for the second Sunday in Advent, they were inspired by the intimate and simple idea of a campfire. Most of the youth smiled as they recalled God moments they've experienced around a campfire. Whether at Family Camp, a church camp, Boy Scout outing, or camping with family the memories of singing, stories, laughter, and S'mores were unforgettable.

We discussed the "spark" that is in all of us, up to us to recognize and fuel through our actions and words. Christ is always there. I asked the youth when they first remember feeling the "spark" or Christ in their life. The youth wanted to share these experiences with the congregation, so I challenged them to pray about whom God was calling to share their story on Sunday. They also wanted the congregation to have the opportunity to share their stories as well. The youth felt a small group setting would be an intimate and simple way to discuss just like being around the campfire. So we divided the large group into smaller groups and wanted to have communion in those groups too.

God is really moving and inspiring the youth. I admire their passion for worship, their relentless search for answers to faith questions, and compassionate hearts for serving others. If you want to be motivated, start up a conversation with one of the youth. I am blessed to be part of their lives and able to witness the Holy Spirit working through them. I hope Camp Sunday has intrigued you to pay attention to the Spark that is in you.

Submitted by: *Emily Tabb*, Youth Pastor

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION Great Hymns of the Faith December 8th, 2011

Cars will leave the church parking lot about 8:00 a.m. for the Alton C. Collins Retreat Center. The cost is \$17.50, including a gourmet lunch. If you'd like to go, contact Marilyn Carr at 503-357-2622.

Submitted by: *Marilyn Carr*



MEET DAN MEARES OUR NEW ACCOMPANIST ON ORGAN AND PIANO

Dan grew up in Paso Robles, California, and later in Taft, CA, from where he graduated from high school. He attended college at the University of the Redlands, Vanguard University, and received an A.A. degree from Golden West College. He also trained for two years in sound engineering. He attended Portland Community College for awhile studying science and math. While there, he was team captain of the College Bowl team for a couple of years.

Over the years, Dan has worked in various endeavors including raising and selling gourmet and medicinal mushrooms. He has worked in sales, in the high tech industry, the insurance industry, and marketing and advertising, both Yellow Pages and internet.

Dan has always been interested in music, playing organ since he was 15 years old. He's played in many and various churches over the years. His musical interests are quite varied, from enjoyment of fusion jazz and rock and roll, to traditional classical.

Dan has been married for over 40 years with two adult children in the Portland metropolitan area, and he recently moved to a new home in the country outside of Hillsboro. He's always up for a good stimulating conversation on any topic.

Dan, we're glad you're here, and are grateful for the gift of music that you are sharing with us! Welcome.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our church has agreed to make up and deliver Christmas Baskets for 30 families this year, and it's not too early to start collecting items, as the baskets will be assembled December 14th - 16th.

You may bring non-perishable food and place it in the food box in the Narthex. We are only doing food again this year, (no toys, as other churches and organizations will be doing that). Think **Holiday Dinner** when buying your food for donations.



You can choose a family and buy the food, including the meat that the family asked for, or get the Ham, Chicken or

Turkey from the church. If you are buying the meat, please let us know, so we can plan accordingly. You can deliver your items, or have someone in the church deliver it for you.

Below is a list of items for you to choose from:

- Turkey, Ham, Chicken
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Sugar, flour, maize
- Pasta, rice, beans, baking mixes, canned pumpkin
- Oil, evaporated milk, holiday candy, nuts
- Paper goods: towels, bath tissue, etc.
- Fresh fruit and potatoes, bread or rolls (Bring to church a few days before delivery.)

Like last year, a Christmas tree will be up in the Fellowship Hall; each ornament will list a family and note how many adults & children are included. Please, pick an ornament, and sign up to help a family in need; I will appreciate it and so will they.

If you have questions, call me at 503-359-4424.

Submitted by: *Jan Stewart*, Chair

LOOKING FOR OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Forest Grove UMC has a small but elite group of office volunteers, and we'd like to recruit a few more. Do you have 2 to 4 hours a month to give? Here are the kinds of jobs office volunteers do:

On Monday morning, volunteers pick up the sanctuary and fellowship hall. They put the name tags back in order on their stand, straighten hymnals and pew bibles, and replace pens, donation envelopes, and prayer cards in their holders.

On Friday morning, volunteers fold the bulletins and assemble them with inserts. At other times, volunteers refresh the children's activity bags. They replace used coloring sheets, dull pencils, and broken crayons. They may also shop for small toys and notebooks to put in the bags (reimbursement is available).

Other volunteers help prepare the Messenger for mailing. They fold newsletters, put on address labels, pack them in trays, and take them to the post office. We also need volunteers to answer the phone when Liz is out of the office.

Would you like to help with any of this? Call the church office at 503-357-2689, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays.

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*

BACKPACK UPDATE

The target date for getting under-way with Backpacks for Kids is with the return to school in January.

There is a nice collection of food from FGUMC, from the High School, and from some other church. It has been sorted and stored on shelves in Room 6 at Joseph Gale Elementary.

For those of you who expressed interest in helping load up the backpacks each week, I'll be in touch as soon as I know more. After Christmas baskets are filled on December 17th, please return to donating for the back pack program.

Submitted by: *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Your Church Council has completed plans for implementing the Five Fruitful Practices. The working relationship between the Church Council and the Five Practices and the focus of each is my subject this month.

Our Church Council will focus on the long term direction of our Church and how well we are doing and will continue overseeing Lay Leadership, Trustee areas, SPRC and Finance. Week to week operations will continue by the Church staff, as now. Volunteer work will be coordinated by the Fruitful Practices groups. The much-needed work that all of you are doing now will continue, the only change being that you will have a contact who works with similar activities and who will have a more direct contact with Church Council members.

Each Fruitful Practice team will have a specific focus and should not be distracted by other activities or meetings. Each Practice leader will have a Council member as a primary contact for two-way communication with the Council for questions, answers, guidance, reporting accomplishments, plans, and general contact with the Council. The Council contacts are *Marilyn Carr* for Passionate Worship, *Sue Brenner* for Radical Hospitality, *Ian Rice* for Intentional Faith Development, *Ann Ulum* for Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and *Barbara Huson* for Extravagant Generosity.

Position Descriptions have been written for the Practice leaders and a list of services under each Practice has been made. Council Members for each Practice are looking for volunteers to lead their Fruitful Practice. *Patti Rose* has volunteered to lead Passionate Worship, thank you. When leaders come forward there will be a meeting of the new leaders, the Council Member contact and me to talk through the opportunities and the organization.

If you feel a desire to serve your Church in one of these roles, or know who could, then please talk to a Council member or to me. Our objective here is to recharge our service commitment to the community and to actively support our Mission: Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God.

Submitted by: *Harold Jensen*, Council Chair

“FIND SOMETHING NEW” UMC AD

Keep your eyes open for the ads (see Ad right) on TV, MAX trains, newspapers, and be ready to welcome guests during Advent.

Submitted by: *Pastor Dan*

A THANKFUL HEART

My heartfelt thanks for all of your prayers during my recent illness; I appreciate it more than words can express. I hope by the time you read this that I will be on the way back to good health..

Gratefully,

Patty Davie

Find something *New* in a familiar story...

What will you take out of the box this Christmas – the usual stuff, or things that matter?
RETHINKCHURCH.org/PDX

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Get a free Bible, text **RETHINK** to 27722

QR code

**WESTERN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST
VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION**

Donna Waltman and *Betty Pritchard* recently took a load of kits waiting to go to the Salt Lake City Depot as far as First UMC Boise. If you have kits of any kind that need to be transported to the Depot in the future, please let us know.

We are hoping to have a training session for those interested in leading or joining a Mission Team. This session will probably be near Salem. Let us know if you are interested in participating.

The mission trip to Costa Rica, February 20th to March 5th, 2012, is in the final stages of organization. This will be a construction project at UBL, Bible University of Latin America.

The youth group from Forest Grove United Methodist Church is planning a mission trip to the Salt Lake City Depot in July 2012.

Please contact Chuck or Betty Pritchard at 503-200-4830, b2c2m2@gmail.com if you have questions about United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, or if you know of a trip that is going or is in the planning stages!

Submitted by: *Betty Pritchard*

FGUMC ANNUAL PHOTO ALBUM

We are creating a FGUMC Annual Photo Album, so please send Patti or Janet any electronic photos you took of FGUMC activities this year that you are willing to share.

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*

UMW-UMM Meeting

Members will not meet this month.

BIRTHDAYS

Christina Cortez	December 5 th
Angela Gapay	December 6 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
Kyra Ashton	December 18 th
Lois Oakberg	December 19 th
Alexis Gardner	December 20 th
Ella Mae James	December 21 st
Krista Tebo	December 25 th
Bryan Gamble	December 26 th
Betty Ludlam	December 26 th
Shirley Peloquin	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

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Lay Leader	Ann Ulum
Altar Guild	Val Hawkins
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver	Fred Raycraft
Ushers & Greeters:	Volunteers needed
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time December 4 th December 11 th December 18 th December 25 th	Gerry & Shirley Peloquin Streets of Bethlehem Janet Craig Betty Ludlam
Nursery Supervisor	Melissa Holcomb
Web Master	Jenny Lyn Englin
Kitchen Elves	
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

CHURCH CORNER – NOAH WILSON-FEY

A sophomore in Forest Grove High School, Noah – with his patented wry smile – informs us that his favorite subject is ‘lunch.’ But he admits that he also likes Choir, both in school and the FGUMC chancel choir. Having spent three years in mission with his family in Honduras, he finds that the Spanish taught in school is very different from what he learned almost by osmosis as he roamed in a new world as a boy five to eight years old. (The family did speak English at home).

Noah enjoys the family camping outings, especially at the beach. He plays tennis in the spring. Currently he is reading Clive Cussler books. He loves watching sci-fi videos and movies, especially for their awesome special effects.

Often wearing his bright yellow “Cheerios” T-shirt, Noah is active with the Youth group, has gone on mission trips, serves on the Youth Council, and plays with the guitar group.

On Noah’s TO DO list: 1. Learn to read music. 2. Sky dive. 3. Earn his pilot’s license.

With his wry sense of humor (from his mother, he says), Noah will continue to soar.

MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Volume 2011, **December**, Issue No. 12.

Messenger monthly.

Periodicals Postage (USPS 970920) paid at
Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1726 Cedar Street, Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434

Daniel Wilson-Fey	503-359-4249	Pastor
Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Emily Tabb	503-707-4971	Youth Pastor
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
Bless you for getting your articles to me by the 18 th of each month!		
e-mail: plc2fd@frontier.com		