



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

February 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

VALENTINE POTLUCK

There will be a Valentine's Day potluck on Sunday, February 15th, following the worship service. We will also honor four church members who had 100% attendance at the Sunday service during 2008.

Ted Oakberg

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES

We will be offering a Confirmation Class for youth who have not completed one yet. The classes will be held on Sunday afternoons starting in February. The classes will conclude on Easter Sunday with the opportunity to praise the risen Lord and welcome our newly Confirmed youth! Be listening for opportunities to help out.

Submitted by *Emily Tabb*



WESLEYANS MEETING

All women are cordially invited to come to our meeting on February 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Garden Room. After the business meeting, *Delva Johnson* will present a program on *Small Talk* by Debra Fine. Refreshments will follow. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by *Patty Davie*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FEB. 25TH

This worship service, including the use of ashes marking both our foreheads and the beginning of Lent, will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Paster Dan

SHARE THE LOVE

Enjoy an evening of fun with friends to benefit the Family Bridge Homeless Shelter!

February 14th 5:30-9:00 pm

St. Matthew Catholic Church Parish Hall
447 SE 3rd Ave in Hillsboro

- Preview & Bid on Exciting Auction Items
- Sample Tasty Hors D'oeuvres & Beverages
- Love at First Sip; Featuring **Ardiri Wines**
- Rock & Roll Music by **The Shwing Daddies**
- Delicious Italian Buffet Dinner Catered by **Pasta Veloce**
- Have Fun with Friends, Board Members and Volunteers
- **Tickets: \$30**

The Mission of Family Bridge is to end family homelessness one family at a time. We provide temporary emergency shelter and a safe, supportive environment for families with children while they transition from homelessness to a home of their own. Proceeds from the Auction will be used to provide temporary emergency housing and assistance with transportation, deposits, personal care products, and other resources to help families become self-sufficient and move into a home of their own.

For tickets and information about this event or Family Bridge Shelter, please contact *Annie Heart* at (503) 844-2919 or; familybridge@gmail.com

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

We have a new President in our country. Pray for him. Pray as well for all new leaders coming into office in these days.

In his inauguration speech, President Obama quoted the Bible when he spoke these words: “We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, **the time has come to set aside childish things.** The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.”

He was quoting 1 Corinthians 13:11: *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (NIV)*

And yet, Jesus said: *unless you change and become as little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3, NIV)*

Which is it? The Apostle Paul’s counsel to put away childish things? Or Jesus’ counsel to become as a little child?

There is a story in President Obama’s memoir, *Dreams From My Father*, referring to a sermon Rev. Jeremiah Wright gave at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, where Obama then attended. The 1990 sermon was titled “Audacity to Hope” in which Rev. Wright referred to an 1886 painting by G.F. Watts titled “Hope.” In the painting, a blindfolded woman in tattered clothing sits upon a chaos-torn earth, plucking a lyre of which all the strings are broken except one. Rev. Wright said: “She has the audacity... to make music... and praise God... on the one string... she has left!”

While not without controversy, that reference in President Obama’s memoir to the sounding of a note of hope, does resonate with what many people are feeling these days even amidst the worsening economic news in the world. When one might be tempted toward despair rather than hope, what do we do? Where do we look? To whom do we go for counsel?

Jesus said look toward the children. If children despair at all, it’s never for long.

I think that it’s not to be overlooked that the Apostle Paul’s treatise on love in 1 Corinthians 13 ends with these words:

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (NIV)

In the same chapter where Paul tells us to put away childish things, he urges us toward traits I think are most characteristic of children. What faith they have! Faith in their parents, for instance. And hope! They excel at hope, especially at Christmas time. And love... this is the secret of children – they love so easily and so readily. If we’re to become, in a manner of speaking, “as little children,” then we must hope as much as we love and are faithful.

I know you’ve already figured out that there’s a difference between “putting away childish things” and “becom[ing] as little children.” I think that difference is hope. And I think that makes all the difference in the world. And in us.

Looking toward Jesus, the Hope of the World,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I was reminded recently of the importance of our smallest of actions in the lives of others. I moderated a panel of persons deeply immersed in various outreach ministries for Outreach Chairs at a Western District Training Event. In the middle of enormous social issues plaguing our society it is often the smile, the touch, the eye contact that makes or breaks a person's day. One presenter spoke of being in solidarity with disenfranchised people. Recognizing our common humanity is a way of doing that.

Many persons in our world are cut off from the usual meaningful relationships and simple camaraderie. The circumstance of life may be homelessness, immigration status, a different way of thinking or being, the elderly who have lost spouses and friends, the overwhelmed single parent, the person who has lost some sense of independence because of health problems, or youth feeling out of step with the whole world. We just don't know when actions such as the hello, the door held open, the smile, the gracious letting someone in line in traffic or at the store will restore a person's sense of worth.

In the last day or two I read two different stories in the newspaper. One told of a single man among the working poor. He gets up every morning, goes to work, takes care of his obligations, he's clean and sober. What makes him different from you and me is that he gets up from the back of his pickup parked in a different place around town each night. He lost his room when the smoke of others in the establishment where he was living began to challenge his health. One day he found hate-filled messages on his truck – messages that plainly said "We don't want you in our neighborhood."

The second story was of a middle-schooler who learned in ways that are different from many. He was teased and bullied by kids, and school officials seemed to just want him to fit in. He no longer wanted to go to school. His parents were despairing. Finally one day the boy's doctor kindly suggested a school that would honor his differences and allow him to learn as he needed to learn. The change was made; establishing trust was slow, but now he is happy at school and doing well.

Both stories illustrate small actions that make a difference.

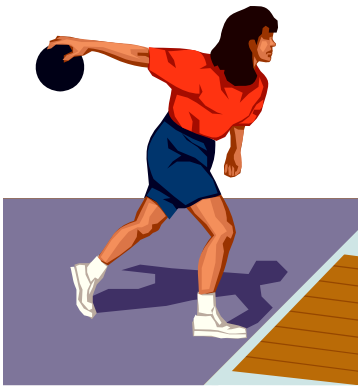
I'm reminded of the word "Namaste" used in greeting by people of many spiritual paths. It carries the meaning of "the God in me greets the God in you." May it be so with our everyday actions and encounters. You may have heard about the book our governor is encouraging all Oregonians to read in this year that celebrates 150 years of statehood. Its title is *Stubborn Twig* and is the story of Japanese immigration through the eyes of one Hood River immigrant family beginning in the late 1800's through internment of World War II and on to the lives of the third generation. It was a dismal part of Oregon's and our nation's history. It sheds light on all immigration stories. I commend it to your reading.

Your servant in Christ,
Deacon Rhoda Pittman Markus

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In December, you responded to opportunities to support persons in need. The Christmas Offering to support WESTCO amounted to \$539. Also, recent contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund totaled \$495. The contributions to this year's Christmas Baskets were an amazing \$2140. The offering for Adelante Mujeres taken at the Community Thanksgiving Service totaled \$435. Thank you to all who have donated to support these ministries and persons!

Pastor Dan



LET'S GO BOWLING!

Did you have a great time playing Bunko? Weren't able to go? Well, here's another opportunity to have fun with your Church Family and help with Family Camp too! Join us for an evening of bowling on February 21, 2009 from 6-8 PM for \$10 per person (includes shoes - family camp get 50% of all proceeds) at Rainbow Lanes, (503) 357-6321, 2748 19th Place, Forest Grove. Should be fun! See you there! Questions: contact **Sue Brenner**, 503-357-5409 or **Janet Hummel**, janet.hummel@verizon.net or 503-359-1799.

TABLES OF SEVEN TO RESUME

The Tables of Seven program is scheduled to begin again soon. Watch the Sunday announcements for how to sign up. There are many new persons in the congregation since the last round and this is a good way to get acquainted. Groups of seven including couples and singles over a wide age range meet together in homes for a shared meal about once a month. Groups are reshuffled and it starts over again. For more information you may speak with **Delva Johnson**, **Rhoda Markus**, or **Emily Tabb**.

Submitted by **Rhoda Pittman Markus**

SPECIAL SPEAKER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH AT HILLSBORO UMC

You are invited to join us at Hillsboro UMC, 168 NE 8th Ave, Hillsboro, for worship at 10:00 a.m, a potluck at 11:00 a.m, and the program at **11:45 a.m, on April 5th**, *We welcome you to come for any and all parts!* **Baldemar Mendoza Jimenez**, our speaker, is the coordinator of the agro-ecology program for UNOSJO (the Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez, Oaxaca). UNOSJO is an indigenous organization that works with native communities and organizations in the Zapotec region of the Sierra Juárez, in the State of Oaxaca, Mexico.

They also focus on women's issues, indigenous rights, and organic coffee production. Sr. Mendoza is an expert on food sovereignty issues and the impacts of free trade agreements on native farmers from Oaxaca.

Ann Theisen, a staff person from the Mexico team of Witness for Peace, will accompany the speaker to provide interpretation for this event. Questions? Contact **Mira Conklin** at 503-828-7444 or miraconklin@yahoo.com



ST. PATRICK'S DAY - IRISH STEW AND YOU

Hey FGUMC Talent Stars! Get your talent ready for a St Patrick's Day Irish Stew and You Talent Show. Plan on staying after church on March 15, 2009 for lunch and watching the Best of FGUMC talent show. More info to come in the March newsletter and church bulletins, but start shining those shoes and brushing up on those instruments! Sign-ups being accepted now - all ages welcome! Contact **Janet Hummel**, janet.hummel@verizon.net (503-359-1799), or **Sue Brenner** (503-357-5409).

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
1 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship: Communion 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:15-11:45 a.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group	3 6:30—8:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hand-bell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Church Council	5 5:32-6:58 p.m. Outlet Room #8b 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Pastor's Day Off 5:30-10:30 Destination Unknown																																																																																																		
8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:15-11:45 a.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal 11:30 p.m. Confirmation parent/ youth meeting 11:30 a.m. Outreach Committee	9 6:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group LiveWire Articles Due 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee	10 6:30—8:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study	11 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Guitar Group 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hand-bell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. SPRC	12 5:32-6:58 p.m. Outlet Room #8b 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Grant Committee 7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Pastor's Day Off 5:30-9:00 p.m. Family Bridge benefit, dinner and auction 6:00 p.m. Youth																																																																																																		
15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Valentine Potluck 11:15-11:45 a.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal 12:30 p.m. Confirmation parent/ youth meeting	16 NO Youth Group 2:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/ Pastor Dan President's Day	17 7:00 p.m. Trustees	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hand-bell Rehearsal March Newsletter articles due	19 5:32-6:58 p.m. Outlet Room #8b 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Pastor's Day Off 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bowling—Magruder fundraiser																																																																																																		
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:15-11:45 a.m. Chime Choir Rehearsal 11:30 a.m. Education Committee 12:30 p.m. Confirmation parent/ youth meeting	23 11:00 a.m. Have committee minutes in office 6:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Group	24 2:00 p.m. The Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan 6:30—8:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee	25 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Guitar Group 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hand-bell Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service	26 5:32-6:58 p.m. Outlet Room #8b 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	27 Pastor's Day Off 2:00 p.m. UMW at Jennings McCall 7:00 p.m. Coffee House	28 Pastor's Day Off																																																																																																		
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SECOND FRIDAY

Do you remember the feeling of joy you had when you attended a Christian retreat or gathering? Often contemporary Christian music and gathering in faith can create a sense that you are a little closer to God for just a while. Dale and I would like to explore the possibility of meeting once a month to enjoy contemporary faith music and fellowship. This will be an excellent opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us for a casual evening. Look for more information soon.

Carole Heun

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for Educational Scholarships are now available in the office. Applications are due March 31, 2009 and will be awarded by mid-April. These scholarships are available to anyone affiliated with FGUMC. They are awarded to applicants interested in pursuing an education in any educational institution including state or private institutions, community colleges or vocational schools. The scholarships are available thanks to generous members who have donated monies to the church which are distributed based on qualifications by the grant committee. Contact *Janet Hummel* re: questions – janet.hummel@verizon.net or 503-359-1799

FUNDRAISING

While a date has not yet been set, we are blessed that Edythe Westlund has again agreed to lead the Swiss Steak dinner this spring. Edythe commented to me that while the dinner is a lot of work, one of the things she loves is how all our members come together for this one important event. This annual fundraiser is critical to the fiscal health of the church, but more importantly it is a valuable reminder that together we can accomplish much. I am asking that you all consider pitching in on this day or before, during planning.

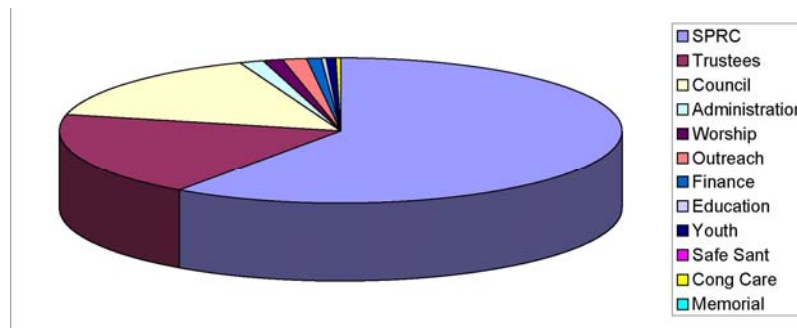
Years ago, BJ (before John) I worked as a Development Associate for a national non profit. Basically, that meant that we developed and launched fundraisers. The policy of this organization was to not sit on success but always have some new, leading edge fundraiser on the back burner. I am putting together a development committee here at FGUMC to look at additional and alternate fundraising opportunities for the long term health of the church.

Any good fundraising plan includes an attitude of camaraderie, recognized outreach opportunities and an element of fun. Please prayerfully consider joining our “think tank” that plans to begin meeting early February. Contact me for more information.

Carole Heun ccheun@verizon.net or 503-992-0744.

BUDGET UPDATE

We face a challenging year and have dedicated ourselves to moving forward in faith while using our funds wisely and deliberately. The finalized budget indicates this year we expect to come up short by a little more than \$1,400 this year. Our expected expenses in Christ’s service break down as follows



Please continue to exercise wisdom in your use of church funds and pray for the continued health of FGUMC.
Carole Heun, Finance Chair.

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

GRANT APPLICATION

An Application for Ministry Grant from Dave Rose on behalf of the Church Council has been received by the Grant Committee. The Application requests that a grant for \$20,000 be approved to help balance the church budget for 2009. The Grant Committee has approved presentation of this Application for Ministry Grant to the congregation.

Without this grant money and funds from other sources, severe cuts in the programs and staff will be necessary for the coming year. Your comments and questions are requested. You may contact *Alisa Hampton, Ted Oakberg* or *Pastor Dan*, or you may leave written comments in the Grant Committee mailbox in the fellowship hall.

The Grant Committee will consider approval of this Application at the next meeting, Thursday February 13.

Submitted by *Ted Oakberg*, Grant Committee

BIRTHDAYS

Jenny LaCombe	February 1 st
Emily Tabb	February 1 st
Vic Albro	February 3 rd
Edythe Westlund	February 6 th
Adrienne Dionne	February 8 th
Linda King	February 8 th
Betty Pritchard	February 10 th
Alyssa Dionne	February 11 th
Maxine Nichols	February 13 th
Earl Nordgren	February 14 th
Lois Zumwalt	February 19 th
Jan Schrock	February 22 nd
Val Miller	February 25 th
Lilly LaCombe	February 26 th
Amanda Garland	February 27 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Carl & Doris Traub	February 6 th
Tom & Donna House	February 14 th
Bill & Lyn Boysen	February 27 th

CREATION VACATION 2009 * YOU CAN BE A FAMILY FRIEND!

Have you ever been with a child when she experienced something for the first time? What a gift! Nervous excitement, laughter, a lasting smile—these are some of the small and unexpected ways that God shows up in the world.

Creation Vacation, a program of Oregon-Idaho Camp and Retreat Ministries, invites poor families to experience some things that are often new to them: a dip in the ocean, a donkey ride, a vacation with quality together time, far from everyday burdens and worries. And *you* are invited to accompany one family during their vacation at Camp Magruder, for 3 days in July. *Would you consider being a Family Friend for a low-income family from Forest Grove?* You'll stay in a cabin with other volunteers and join your "family" for meals and other parts of the day you decide to spend together. You'll be invited to help with boating, crafts or another activity, will get to know volunteers from other churches, and will have some time for yourself. Spanish language ability is not a requirement and considerations may be made for Family Friends with older children.

We hope that you'll get to know your family well and will continue your friendship after returning home—and that this relationship will be a gift to *all* of you. Your connection might even lead them to come to Day Camp, Sunday School, or a church service—and will certainly provide you with opportunities to learn and grow. Together time deepens neighborly bonds and strengthens families in *your community*.

No commitment is requested at this point, but if you'd consider participating, please call the FGUMC office: 503-357-2689. Knowledge of your interest is helpful for our planning. More information can be found at:

www.gocamping.org/creationvacation

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Liturgists	Al & Kristi Thomason
Altar Guild	Ella Colcord
Bus Coordinator	Volunteer needed!
Bus Driver:	Morris Haney
Ushers:	Bob & Laura Dionne
February	Morris & Jacquie Haney
Greeters	Marilyn Carr, Pat Gilman, Linda King, & Maurine Scott
February	
Coffee Coordinator	Carole Heun, Delva Johnson & *Janet Hummel
Team: *February	
Fellowship Time	
February 1 st	Sue Brenner & Liz Swenson
February 8 th	The Dionne Family & Edythe Westlund
February 15 th	Valentine Potluck
February 22 nd	Volunteers needed!
Nursery Attendant	Lindsay Marsh
Childcare Coord.	Delva Johnson
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Kitchen Elves	Lela Baskins, Delva Johnson
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Tape Ministry	Media team
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

NURSERY TEACHER CORNER

LINDSAY TOVEY

Lindsay's family moved to Oregon from Minnesota, her birthplace, when she was a toddler. She started at Emmaus Christian School and then attended Lenox Elementary in Hillsboro. She went one year to Glencoe H.S. and then finished her last three years of high school in Banks, where she played softball and bowled. She met her husband Robby in 7th grade and they dated several years until the families moved away.

Lindsay trained as a medical assistant at Cambridge College and worked in the OB-GYN office at Tuality Hospital, and then in Internal Medicine. Now she is at home caring for her children and giving day care.

In 2005, she and Robby met again and the romance blossomed. The family loves to go 4-wheeling on quads, and all enjoy camping, especially Ryker, who will be 2 in March.

Although 4-year-old Troy is now thrilled that his mom is expecting a little girl in June and supervises shopping outings so that her new clothes will be pretty enough for her, at first he lamented, "But I wanted another brother! Mom, can I have a lock on my bedroom door? I'm not having any *girls* come in my 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, **February**, Issue No. 2.

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
Bobby & Emily Tabb	503-747-9674 503-707-4971	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

Bless you for getting your articles to me by the 18th of each month!

e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net