



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

January 2012

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

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The **Western District Leadership Training** event is on January 7th. If you haven't registered yet, call the district office at 503-581-3969 by January 5th. It's helpful if you can also name the 2 workshops you want to attend. There is information in the church office on what those are.

Submitted by: **Rhoda Pittman Markus**
503-357-3998; 503-201-1233 (cell)

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST WHAT DIRECTION SHOULD WE TAKE?

Join us as we meet to discuss the direction that the FGUMC should take in the coming year. There is a new Church Profile that we need to complete. In it are questions that ask us to describe ourselves and our church. It is the desire of the SPRC that the congregation share in the development of our Church Profile. Along with this discussion of the direction that the FGUMC will take, hear about a grant possibility that is available that would support our congregation's efforts to travel in the direction that is identified.

There are two opportunities to help chart our course. The first is January 8th, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Child care will be available along with light snacks. The second opportunity occurs on January 11th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.. Again, child care and light snacks will be available.

Be one of the pilots of our voyage into the new year. Help us to discern the direction that the grant application should take. We, the SPRC, look forward to seeing you either on January 8th or the 11th.

On behalf of the SPRC,
Brian Hawkins, Chair

JANUARY 1ST FELLOWSHIP TIME

Happy New Year! Let's start the New Year right with a fun fellowship time of everyone's favorite dip, chips and crackers! So bring a dip and chips/crackers to share on January 1st and let's see the variety we get.

Submitted by: **Janet Hummel**

WESLEYANS MEET JANUARY 3RD

The Wesleyans' regular meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012, in the Garden Room. **Erma Heisler** has the program. Hostesses are **Shirley Gamble** and **Virginia Heald**, with **Marion Gustafson** leading devotions. Come join us to welcome the New Year!

Submitted by: **Virginia Heald**

FIFTH SUNDAY

Our fifth Sunday service project for January 29th will be a return to the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store.

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

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

A Blessed New Year

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

As the new year begins, it marks a time that many persons take stock of their lives, sweep out the old, throw out what's not used or helpful anymore, and make room for the new thing that would be "born in us today."

Your church is doing the same.

We are "taking inventory" by examining who we are, and what new thing God might be asking us to do or be in 2012. Your Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Church Council are responding to questions in the new "Church Profile" that we turn in every year to the District and Conference as a way of describing for them who we are and what we believe God is currently calling us to be about. Here is a sampling of some of the questions which will be brought up at the two **Town Hall Meetings** scheduled for **January 8 and January 11** that you can read about in SPRC Chair **Brian Hawkins'** article elsewhere in this newsletter.

- What one aspect of your church best represents the heartbeat of your congregation?
- In 3 sentences, how would you describe the membership of your congregation?
- How would you describe your worship service to a complete stranger?
- What are the 3 most significant annual events in the life of your church?
- What 3 things do you think are your church's strongest traits?
- How would someone in your community describe your church? What are you known for?
- If a consulting team came to analyze your church, what would they say are the areas in which you need to grow?
- The United Methodist Church's mission statement is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." How is your church expressing this mission in your ministry context?
- What challenges or impediments keep you from fulfilling your mission?
- Who in your community would you like to reach that you aren't currently reaching?
- What is your church uniquely positioned to do in your community that no other congregation is able to do?
- What kind of pastoral leadership does your church need in order to reach your mission?

We'll be working on answering these questions together, so please...lift up your voice. Let **Brian Hawkins, Harold Jensen, Ann Ulum** or myself know if you have a good answer to one or more of these questions! I look forward to seeing you at one of these two meetings.

Until then, have a very merry twelve days of Christmas (Dec. 25 through Jan. 6th). It is a time to celebrate the birth of new things God is doing. Scary...exciting...tiring...surprising...blessed. New birth is all these things. What joy.

In Christmas Joy,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Last month I wrote about getting to know Jesus through a reading of the Gospels starting with Mark and asking some questions about who the Gospel writer introduces us to, what his teaching themes are, who his friends are, and who and where he likes to hang out with friends. Then I took on the challenge myself. I'm through with Mark and into Matthew. I'm going to share my discoveries from Mark. I'd be interested in hearing what yours are too.

As I read Mark I was reminded of one of the contemporary ways of understanding how people relate to one another and how they function in different settings. This is a measurement of what is called Low and High Context and is a continuum of behaviors. A Low Context person likes to get on with business and is impatient with storytelling in a business meeting. The High Context person likes to check in with all the participants and hear all the stories about the business items. If business gets done that's ok, but it's the stories that are important. The writer of Mark seems to be a Low Context person. There's not much detail, it's harder to glean meanings from the various incidents and Jesus' character and personality is not as strongly revealed. Nevertheless, here are some things I observed. You may also want to know that I was reading from The Message as some of my descriptive phrases are from there.

The people in Mark seem to fall into two categories. They are seen in individual circumstances or in a crowd or smaller group.

There are two kinds of crowds – those who are hungry for the teachings and healing of Jesus and those who support those in power that are unsettled, even angered, by Jesus, his teachings and his actions.

There are individuals who come to Jesus for healing. They are mostly people on the margins of society. They are grateful that Jesus cares for them, champions them, heals them. There are the disciples that Jesus calls to follow him. There are the women – Mary Magdalene, Mary his mother, Salome. There are individuals who are observers or placed in a role for the crucifixion such as Simon of Cyrene, Joseph of Arimathea, the Roman captain who says "This has to be the Son of God." There is Pilate. There are officials, both religious and political. They are challenged and threatened by Jesus because he's about challenging the status quo and upsetting the balance of power and authority.

Some of the teachings include these that either anger or console: nothing said or done that can't be forgiven (depends on a connection to God); expands boundaries of family; giving not getting is the way; courage comes from faith in a good and generous God; embrace suffering; self-sacrifice saves your true self; last becomes first; be a servant to all; children are important; in addition to the commandments go sell all and give to the poor; serve, not be served; be great by becoming a servant. The Living God is the God of the living, not the dead; Go into the world and announce God's good news to one and all.

In Christ's Ministry to all,
Deacon *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

WESLEYANS BAKE SALE REPORT

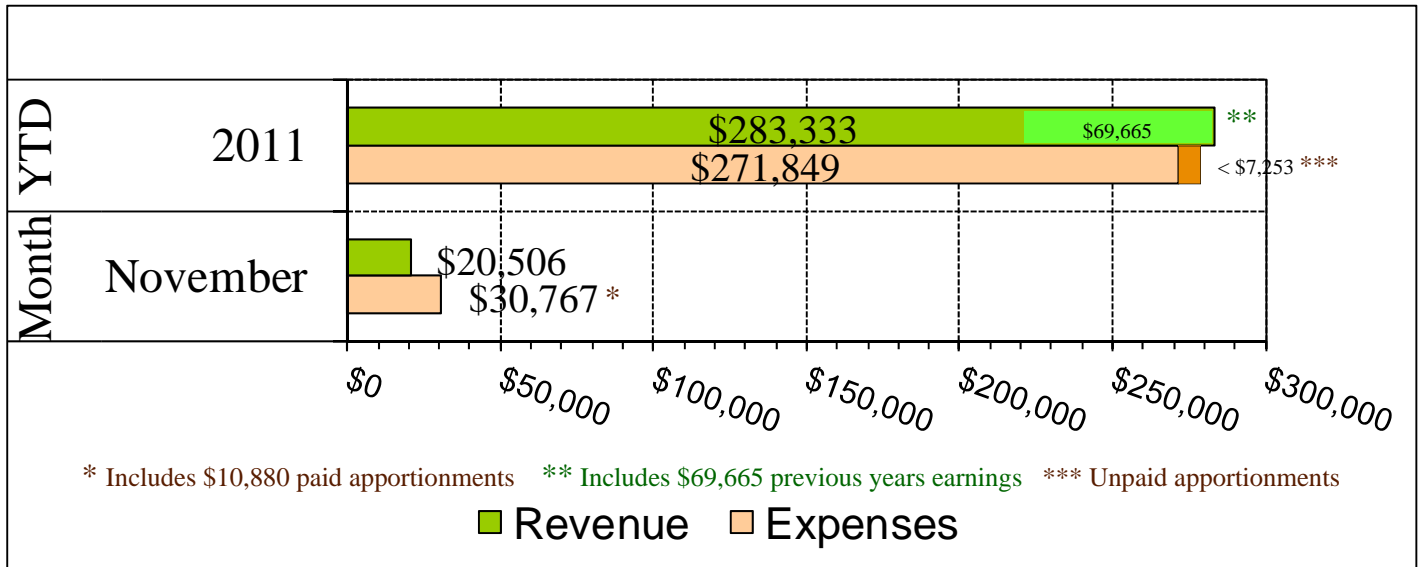
Thanks to all who made our sale a success, those who bought and those who baked cookies, breads, candy & pies or made other gifts. A special thank you to those generous souls outside of Wesleyans who donated items to the sale!

As you can imagine, we go through a lot of dishwasher detergent in a year, as well as paper plates, cups, napkins, coffee filters, sweeteners, sugar & creamer, etc. that are used during Sunday Fellowship Time. The cost of all these adds up fast, and the money from the Wesleyans Bake Sale goes to help pay for them.

Submitted: by *Lois Oakberg*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

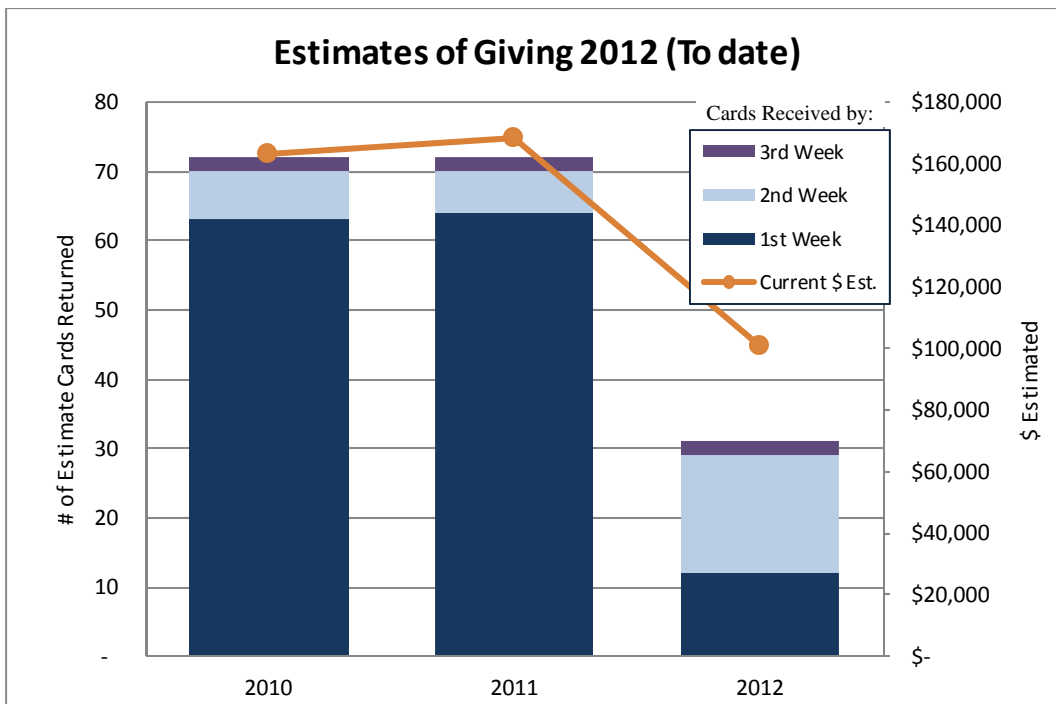
Income/Expense Comparison (As of 11/30/2011)



FINANCIAL NEWS

So far 32 “Estimate of Giving” cards have been received for next year. This is after three weeks from the time cards were sent out. For the same period of time last year, we had received 64 cards. Many thanks to those who have completed and turned in cards. The Estimate of Giving cards are a huge help for the Finance Committee in projecting revenue for next year - a very important piece of preparing the church's operating budget. If you plan to return an Estimate of Giving card, please do so as soon as possible in order to help ensure our budget is based on the most accurate information available.

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



F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2012

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 New Years Day	2 6:00 p.m. Worship Team	3 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	4 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group	5 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 Pastor's day off	7 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group 12:30-4:00 p.m. Western District Leadership Training for all!
8 8:45 a.m. Youth Council 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal 11:30-12:30 p.m. Town Hall meeting	9 6:00 p.m. Worship Team	10	11 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:00 p.m. Investment Committee 6:30 p.m. Grant committee (If needed) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Town Hall meeting continued	12 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 Pastor's day off 11:00 a.m. Have December committee minutes in office	14 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group
15 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	16 6:00 p.m. Worship Team 3:00 p.m. Jennings-McCall Gathering w/ Pastor Dan	17	18 3:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:00-7:30 p.m. SPRC, Trustee & Finance Committees 7:30-9:00 p.m. Church Council February Messenger articles due	19 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor's day off	21 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group
22 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Fellowship 12:30 p.m. UMW & UMM 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	23 6:00 p.m. Worship Team	24 2:00 p.m. The Elms Gathering w/Pastor Dan	25	26 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 Pastor's day off	28 Pastor's day off 8:00 a.m. Guitar Group 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Youth Leadership lab

Family Bridge

29 5th Sunday 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Club 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 10:20 a.m. Out to serve 11:30-12:45 p.m. Youth Band, Apostlips Rehearsal	30 6:00 p.m. Worship Team	31	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December</th> <th colspan="7">February</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	December							February							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3				1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	26	27	28				
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YOUTH NEWS

AFTER-SCHOOL ALL STARS

Starting in January, the youth will partner with Joseph Gale Elementary. We are starting an after-school program for 2nd- 4th graders on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:15 p.m.. The time will start with snacks and a project for the students to work on. There will be two youth-led areas for the students to choose from: Creative Art and Active/Team Building. Alicia McConnell is helping organize the program as her Senior Project.

Remember several Sundays ago, when the youth sold handmade friendship bracelets? Thanks to your generous donations, we have \$110! We plan on using your donations for this project, i.e., for creative art supplies, for t-shirts (saying *After-school All Stars*) which the students will help us make, and for snacks. Many thanks to Laura Dionne for her awesome couponing skills, which stocked us up on snacks!

I am looking for two adults who could get snacks set out and sit with the students from 2:15-3:00 p.m. or someone to drive the bus to pick up the youth from school. I pick the youth up from school each Wednesday but the high school gets out the same time as Joseph Gale. Please let me know if you are able to help out!

LEADERSHIP LAB

I am part of the Metro Youth Ministry team, along with Chris Natland from Tigard UMC, Erik Day from St. Paul's UMC, and Megan Humphreys-Loving from Portland 1st UMC. We organize youth events and youth worker events for the Metro area. We thought it was crucial to offer an opportunity for senior high youth to discover their leadership abilities and where God is calling them in the local congregations, conference, camping program, and the world.

On the fourth Saturday of the month, from January through April, the senior high members of the Youth Council will be participating in leadership training. Leadership Lab is a four month process for high school students to focus on five principles of transformational leadership. In concluding the leadership training, each youth will be challenged to utilize their leadership skills in an area they feel called into leadership.

ANSWER QUESTIONS

During Youth Sunday in December, the youth posed two questions for the congregation to answer:

- 1) When do you remember feeling the "Spark" for the first time?
- 2) Where do you feel God is calling you to be the spark in the world?

The noise level and where people were situated in the pews made it difficult for many to hear or share the answer to those questions that day. I would like to invite anyone from the congregation to come to a youth meeting and share their experiences in a smaller group setting. I thank Patty Davie for coming and sharing her story with the youth. That meant a lot to them!

YOUTH BREAKFAST

On the 5th Sunday, January 29th, the youth will be serving breakfast. Please join us any time between 9:00-9:30! Money raised will go toward our Youth Mission Trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to help at the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) distribution center and to help at Sawtooth Methodist Camp.

Submitted by: *Emily Tabb*, Youth Director

CHURCH COUNCIL

It is wonderful to watch all of you working together, making our Church run smoothly, and you enjoying your time together. There are so many accomplishments, jobs just get done with little fuss. Listing all the activities will mean that some are not included, but I will try; please forgive me for any omissions. I see you in the kitchen, with music, worship, in social togetherness, working in the garden and giving food, in special events like the Swiss Steak Dinner and Parking Lot Sale, Family Bridge, Christmas baskets, Joseph Gale School, prayer support, visitations, yard and building upkeep, office support, care for each other, Sunday School and youth activities, and on and on. The real joy is the accomplishments by all of you.

We each have our niche, the type of activity we can do with comfort and enjoyment. Being active is good for our health and mind. It brings us closer together as a Church team and makes a stronger Church. It may pull us out of our comfort zone at times but that helps us grow and learn. It exposes us to the needs of the community, outside the Church, where we can find new opportunities to serve.

The UMC Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by caring and by example. This is what I see being done and what I enjoy watching. All of you making a difference in the Church and the Community.

Thank You All for what you are doing. You do make a difference. Now, with that said, I must stop watching and start working myself.

Submitted by: **Harold Jensen**, Council Chair

IN MEMORIAM

LUTHER JAMES SCHROCK September 22, 1934 -- December 10, 2011

Luther was born in Berne, Indiana, the son of the late Noah and Martha (Habegger) Schrock. He was raised and received his education in nearby Decatur, Indiana, graduating from Decatur High School in 1952. Following his graduation, Luther served an apprenticeship at G.E. as a tool and die maker. He then enrolled at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he received a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1962.

Luther and Janice E. Voshell were united in marriage on August 30, 1959, in Decatur, Indiana. They resided in West Lafayette while Luther finished his education. He was employed at Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan, where the family lived for 20 years, before transferring to Lake Jackson, Texas. After 30 years at Dow Chemical, Luther retired in 1996. Later, in 2005, Luther and Janice moved to Forest Grove, Oregon to be closer to family.

Luther was a member of the United Methodist Church in Forest Grove.

Among his special interests, Luther enjoyed wood turning, Sudoku puzzles, reading and playing bridge. He also found enjoyment in attending his grandsons' activities.

Luther was preceded in death by his parents, Noah and Martha Schrock and his infant daughter, Deborah Schrock.

Survivors include his wife Janice of Forest Grove; his sons and daughter-in-law, Bradley and Yuko Schrock, of Beaverton, Oregon, and Derek Schrock of Bowling Green, Kentucky; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Ted and Barbara Schrock of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Richard and Nancy Schrock of Winchester, Massachusetts. and his two grandsons, Brandon and Yule Schrock.

The family suggests that remembrances may be made to the Forest Grove United Methodist Church, 1726 Cedar Street, Forest Grove, Oregon.

Services were held December 16th.

In Loving Memory Of



Luther James Schrock

September 22, 1934 ~ December 10, 2011

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The U.M.W. will share a potluck lunch at 12:20 p.m. on Sunday, January 22nd, followed by a meeting and a program. Please join us!

Submitted by: *Lela Baskins*

UNITED METHODIST MEN

After a potluck lunch on Sunday, January 22nd at 12:20 p.m., the U.M.M. will be studying from our new book "Women of the Bible"; I am suggesting that we discuss the story of Eve, then read the next 3 stories during the month as a daily devotional. Books are available; we welcome new members.

Submitted by: *Cal Clayton Sr.*, President

GREAT HYMNS OF THE FAITH

As you are undoubtedly aware, several of us have attended sessions of Great Hymns of the Faith at Alton L. Collins Retreat Center, the last one just recently on December 8th. Some of us have gone several times, and even so, are eager to go to more sessions. So, these sessions just might be something you might want to consider. And now the Collins Retreat Center is offering a deal.

Normally, the sessions are offered in May, August, and September. If you choose to go to just one session, the price is \$17.50, but if you want to sign up early and make a reservation for all three sessions, they are available for a package deal of \$45. The dates for 2012 are May 24th, August 16th, and October 25th. Oh, and by the way, the price includes a gourmet lunch like you will not find anywhere else.

The offer of the package deal does not mean that you can't sign up for just one or two sessions. It isn't an "all or nothing" offer. So, check your calendar. You might want to pencil in one or more of the sessions offered. If you are interested in the package, check in with Betty Pritchard. So far, we have four people showing interest in the package deal.

Submitted by: *Marilyn Carr*

BIRTHDAYS

Virginia Wells	January 1 st
Margaret Anne Cox	January 5 th
Ethan Jones	January 6 th
Tom House	January 7 th
Linda Raycraft	January 15 th
Bonnie Cameron	January 17 th
Jan Stewart	January 20 th
Betty Weekley	January 21 st
Donna House	January 22 nd
Anne Brown	January 27 th
Tracy Gulacy	January 27 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Kathy Wilson-Fey	January 2 nd
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MISSION NEWS

Here are 3 upcoming UMVIM Trips:

- ◇ Monmouth UMC is planning a mission trip to Tanzania the summer of 2012. Jo Ann King is working on this project.
- ◇ Newberg is planning a trip to Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota May 11-21, 2012 with the Tree of Life Ministries. Bob Flaherty is working on this project.
- ◇ Forest Grove Youth will go to Depot West June 30- July 7, 2012. Emily Tabb is working on this project.

The West Depot at Salt Lake City is in need of Layette Kits.

Submitted by: *Chuck and Betty Pritchard*
503-359-9340; b2c2m2@gmail.com

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 JANUARY

Lay Leader	Ann Ulum
Altar Guild	Val Hawkins
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver	Dale Heun
Ushers & Greeters:	Mark & Cindy McConnell Jody & Tara McCaughey
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	
January 1 st	Dips, Chips & Crackers
January 8 th	Volunteers needed
January 15 th	Lois Oakberg
January 22 nd	Volunteers needed
January 29 th	Fifth Sunday
Nursery Supervisor	Melissa Holcomb
Web Master	Jenny Lyn Englin
Kitchen Elves	Trudy & Dick Sundstrom
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.

CHOIR CORNER – REBEKAH HALL

Petite and pretty, our new choir soprano has a quick smile and repartee that belies her painful shyness. “I’ve always liked to sing,” Bekah confesses. “I sit in my room and sing along with the radio. So I knew I wanted to join the choir.”

Bekah has been home schooled since last year in 6th grade. Now that she is enrolled in Oregon Connections Academy (OCA), she has found the free time to join. But her mom, Beth Hall, who is earning her college degree, had to rearrange her schedule to be able to bring Bekah to practices and sit in the Narthex studying to give her the needed support. Youth Sunday service this past December was Bekah’s first and it was a blast, even with all the preparatory work and scrambling.

“It’s fun to be able to talk with people and find out what we have in common,” an opportunity that Bekah doesn’t take for granted. Choir and the FGUM Youth are two of the places Bekah feels secure enough “to try to duck out of my shell.”

The family dog Denver is Bekah’s close pal who even plays board games with her, especially Monopoly. An avid reader, Bekah has caught up with the author of the Warrior series and is waiting now for her next book.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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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		