



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

June 2010

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SERMON SERIES

As we draw to a close the sermon series titled *un-Christian*, we'll conclude on June 6th with the sermon titled: *Where the Church Gets It Right*. In preparation for that, on Friday, June 4th, you are invited to the church at 7:00 p.m. to watch the movie, "Lord, Save us From Your Followers." Then, the worship schedule will be as follows:

- June 13th Guest Preacher: **Rev. Carol Seckel**,
GBGM missionary to Germany
 - June 20th Father's Day – Pastor Dan preaching.
 - June 27th Guest Preacher – TBA
- Submitted by: **Pastor Dan**

WESLEYANS, UMW & UMM DINNER OUT

The Wesleyans will meet for their annual dinner out on Tuesday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m., at the Oriental Garden, 600 Main Street, in **Banks**. Forest Grove and Banks UMW & UMM members are also invited. Spouses and companions are cordially welcome. Those wishing a ride should be at the church by 5:30 P.M. where the bus will be available, along with car pooling if needed. Cost of the dinner is \$10.00. For more information, call **Ann Ulum** at 503-357-1386. Come join us for great food and fellowship!

Submitted by **Virginia Heald**

SECOND SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY

A gentle reminder that Saturday, June 12th is our regular work party at church. We meet at 8:30 a.m. and quit no later than noon. Bring your own gardening tools as there is a lot of weeding, pruning and planting to be done. There will also be an opportunity for calorie and liquid replacement.

Hope you can join us.

Submitted by **Margaret Hoerber**

MORE ABOUT HUNGER PROJECTS

Sunday, June 6 is the last day for the "Loose Change for Hunger" offering. Thanks to all of you, new hunger projects can be funded throughout Oregon & Idaho. Here is the continued list of projects funded by past offerings as promised in last month's newsletter:

Your gifts have:

- Funded new stoves and stock pots
- Paid butchering costs for donated beef for a food pantry
- Helped purchase food for bilingual cooking/nutrition classes

You bought:

- Construction materials for community gardens
- A commercial license for a church kitchen
- Backpacks to feed hungry children on week-ends

Most of all, these gifts gave hope and health to our neighbors in need.

Submitted by **Rhoda Pittman Markus**
503-357-3998; 503-201-1233 (cell)
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ST. PAUL RODEO

The final count for the July 3rd St. Paul Rodeo needs to be received by **June 1st** to get the best seats. Everyone is invited. If we fill up the bus, we'll get some car pools going. Please contact Janet Hummel or sign up in the Fellowship Hall after church.

Submitted by **Janet Hummel** (503.359.1799)
janet.hummel@verizon.net

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

The once-a-year gathering of lay and clergy members, in equal numbers, representing all United Methodist Churches in Oregon and southern Idaho, is upon us. All these persons will gather June 10-13 at the Salem Convention Center for uplifting worship, exciting and extraordinary educational opportunities, and discussion about how we as a Church, like all society, adjust to changing economic realities as we continue to carry out our mission as a Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We'll hear and tell stories of exciting new ways individuals and congregations are doing just that, changing lives, bringing hope, relief, peace, healing, and justice in Jesus' name. We'll grieve and give thanks for loved ones who have died in the last year. And careful notes will be taken by the persons you have charged to go from this church, Ted Oakberg and Lela Baskins, along with Deacon Rhoda Markus and myself. We'll share with you later in June what we learned, experienced, and decided.

And YOU are invited to the Conference! On Friday, June 11th, Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, will offer the *Leadership Institute* workshop. This is an extraordinary opportunity to be inspired and renewed in your faith and life. You are welcome to attend, and I'll pay your way if need be! You're also invited to the grand worship experiences each day, especially the one outdoors at Riverfront Park in Salem on Sunday morning, June 13. And if you can't attend that, be sure to attend worship here at FGUMC to hear Rev. Carol Seckel, a General Board of Global Ministries missionary to Germany whom we support.

There are some major changes being proposed at this Annual Conference session. I'll try to summarize some of them:

- closing of the Prairie City UMC and Williamson River UMC
- elimination of the Conference Leadership Team for 2 years, replacing it with the Ministry Cabinet, to be held accountable by an "Oversight Board" made up entirely of lay persons, including the Conference and District Lay Leaders
- rescind the requirement of local church participation in Conference-mandated insurance program
- proposed budget for 2011 ten percent below that of 2010
- a "unified budget" with a single apportionment, rather than the present six
- more focus on supporting and developing healthy and vital local congregations rather than Conference-wide programs
- making camping, campus and Hispanic ministries financial support an "asking" rather than part of the Conference budget
- measures to increase awareness and prevention of abuse of all kinds
- shifting increases in health insurance premium costs more toward participants (increased deductibles, etc.), and drawing on reserves, rather than increase cost to local churches
- petitioning the 2012 General Conference to change our Social Principles regarding marriage definitions
- addressing the continued draining of Conference reserve funds

Churches in our Conference last year supported the Conference budget at a level of 75%. This has led to, among other budget cuts, our Bishop, District Superintendents, District and Conference staff all accepting salary decreases.

These are difficult times, financially. AND, this is also a time when we have seen great generosity, sacrificial giving on many levels -- persons and congregations who continue, no matter the circumstances, to be faithful and committed to the ministry of Christ to which they have been called, and whose very life they represent. And you, Forest Grove United Methodist Church, are among them.

A week ago at our last Church Council meeting, I found myself leaving the meeting encouraged, renewed, and grateful to be pastor of a church that is willing to continue to discern and allow God to do something new through you. We have youth whose lives are cherished and faith being solidified. You reach out to one another in times of need in loving and meaningful ways. You are the presence of the living Christ as you reach out to those in need in this community and beyond.

Let us pray for ALL the church, here in Forest Grove, in Oregon and Idaho, in this nation, and in the world, that we may continue, in both currently effective and in new ways, to be a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

In Christ's service,



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Last June at Annual Conference, one of the legislative items, sponsored by a task force for the Bishop's Initiative to Abolish the Death Penalty, carried with it the hope that "each congregation in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will undertake a study with the intent to work toward abolishing the death penalty in the states of Oregon and Idaho." I admit, I didn't think much about that responsibility until quite recently.

In March I attended an annual workshop day sponsored by The Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) as I usually do. The subject was the Death Penalty. After hearing a first person account of the mother of a murdered child and her passionate plea to work for abolishing the death penalty, the ambivalence I have always felt began to disappear. Soon after, I read the novel *The Crying Tree* by Oregon author Naseem Rakha, who was also a speaker that day. (Book is available from the Washington County Library System).

It is my intention to offer a class for 5 sessions beginning June 20 at 8:45 a.m. in the Library. The class will make use of a video from the Living the Questions series: "PreJean: Questioning Capital Punishment." The five sessions are a journey through these topics: Crossing the Breach, What in God's Name?, A Change of Heart, Radical Forgiveness, and Next Steps. **Won't you join me in exploring this issue?**

Another legislative item from 2009 asks local congregations to spend time exploring "The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church." I would like to know if you are interested in such a study. I am convinced that it is important to explore the issues that are part of our heritage as United Methodists – not that we need to be of one mind – but that major issues of our day need to be informed by our faith. I yearn for conversation.

Let me close with this in a somewhat different vein:

Ministry for All

Who is a "minister"? Pastors.
They practice the ministry of identity.
Their work is among believers as internists in Christ's body.
They are called to teach me about my potential in Christ.
I need this ministry to prevent **amnesia**
– that disease of the mind that causes me to forget who I am as a Christian.

I am a minister too!
I practice the ministry of vitality.
My work is in the world as a farmer, a soldier, an ambassador.
I am called to be salt, light and leaven
in a sick and broken world – Monday through Saturday.
The world needs this ministry
to protect it from **anemia**
that disease of the blood that slowly robs the system of its health.
All Christians are in ministry!

(From Pete Hammond, *Lessons, Prayers & Scriptures on the Faith Journey*)

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

UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

"An UMVIM team is one that serves locally, nationally or internationally where it is invited; works in a ministry endorsed by the host Methodist church, partner church or agency and serves in cooperation with the local host group."

"The UMVIM motto, "Christian Love in Action" is taken from *1 John 3:18*, in which Christians are asked to love "not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

Forest Grove United Methodist Church Youth Mission Team will be going to San Francisco July 24-31 to serve the underprivileged through Glide Memorial UMC.

We plan to work on an UMVIM project in Honduras in 2011. So there are lots of opportunities to serve through our church.

Submitted by *Chuck and Betty Pritchard*

PLANT SALE A SUCCESS

Thank you to all the folks who bought plants at the recent sale. Including the donations at Ted's workplace, we raised a total of \$305.00 for the youth. I wish all a fruitful summer.

Submitted by *Lois Oakberg*

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

BROWNIE SUNDAY

Brownie Sunday is coming – July 4 – so start thinking about what brownies you want to make this year!

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*

FATHER'S DAY POT LUCK

Please join us for a Father's Day Potluck lunch following church on Sunday, June 20th. Bring a salad, main dish or dessert to share on this day when we honor fathers!

Submitted by *Ted & Lois Oakberg*

YOUR MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

Your Team met in May to review many of the opportunities we have to be active in our Wesleyan heritage of Missions; as a result we will begin a Mission Corner in the Messenger to focus on different areas each month. As an introduction, this month will be an overview of Mission activities.

Two of the areas are right here in Forest Grove: the Food Bank and Family Bridge. Food Bank contributions are the packaged food we give all year, produce from our Church Garden, and the extra produce contributions from our own gardens.

Each year FGUMC contributes financially to ongoing Mission Teams. Currently, we help support Kevin & Rev. Carol Seckel on a Mission in Germany. Rev. Carol will be coming to visit us on June 13.

Mission projects of the UMC are very well coordinated by United Methodist Volunteers in Missions, UMVIM. This office of the Church evaluates mission projects and supports those that are well organized so that we can be assured all of our efforts on a mission trip will be rewarding. Volunteer organizations in the US are rated on the amount of contributed money that goes to accomplishments, not to organization costs, and UMVIM is one of the top rated. There are Mission Projects within a few hours drive from Forest Grove, across the US, and around the world. There are projects that fit all ages, skills, (including limited skills) and levels of adventure. Our youth are going to San Francisco this summer and some of our church members are preparing for a trip to Costa Rica next spring.

Giving is an important part of Mission work. Not only is it important all during the year to support ongoing Teams and Projects but also during special offerings. June 6 will be the special offering for Peace with Justice. This is a US offering to provide peace of wellbeing (as opposed to peace from war) for all ages, youth to seniors. Half of the donations are used by the Annual Conference in the US and the other half goes to international social action and public policy education and advocacy.

We look forward to keeping you up to date on Mission activities.

Submitted by your *Mission Ministry Team*

F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2010

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LETTERS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Dear Chanté,

Can you believe the time has finally come to graduate? I can remember just starting at the church and wondering if anyone would show up to events we planned. Sure enough, you'd stroll in with your big, beautiful smile ready to get the party started =). It's hard to put into words how much I appreciate your dedication to this youth group.

You are such a strong young woman. I have watched you deal with difficult situations with such passion and maturity. You approach your faith in the same way. I admire your ability to ask tough questions and not shy away from an opportunity to learn more about you and your relationship with God.

Your beautiful artistic talents have blessed so many people from gorgeous artwork displayed in the Coffee House, pictures that capture special moments, to creative and fun T-shirts for the Kansas Mission Trip. One of my favorite moments was watching you shine at Xplosion during your heart-felt performance before communion. As you led different events, I also saw you as a natural leader among your peers.

My prayer for you, as you begin a new adventure, is to hold tight to your faith. Remember who you are and all that you've been through has made you into that person. I'm always here if you need me no matter what, and you are part of our family.

Dear Alexis,

Wow, what a journey we've had together. I have watched you mature from a shy, timid 8th grader to a passionate, confident young woman. I can remember wondering how I was going to get you to participate in discussions and taking you to ice cream so we could get to know each other. I have always been amazed at your commitment to the youth group and to those you care about. Your dedication and work ethic have always impressed me. You have always been one of the hardest workers, whether it was putting on a breakfast club, spreading bark dust, or serving outside of the church. I never once heard you complain during mission trips (especially in the knee high grass) or any other time. You are such an easy-going person who is always up for anything. You're a joy to be around and I love laughing with you. Your kind and gentle spirit blesses all those around you because the love of Christ is present in all that you do.

I'm not sure how to express all that I've learned from you. I will always cherish the wonderful times we've shared and how you've taught me to give 100% to anything I commit to. I always looked forward to seeing you at youth events because I knew you'd almost always be there. I will always remember the game nights where we shared laughter and a good time.

My prayer, as you start a new chapter in your life, is that you hold on to who you are. Don't ever forget how strong you are and your ability to put your heart and soul into what you love. Hold on to your faith and know that it's okay to question or struggle with it because that is what makes you stronger. Know that I am always here for you and no matter where life takes you, you always have a home at FGUMC.

Dear Jaron,

I know great things lie ahead for you as you start a whole new experience in the Marines. I am so glad you were part of the youth group. Even when life got busy and we didn't see you for a while, the emails you sent were thoughtful and wonderful to receive. From the times we spent together at youth group, Appreciation Dinner, and Destination Unknowns, I saw a caring and compassionate person. I appreciated your ability to include everyone and make sure people feel welcome.

I will remember the laughs we had and the conversations about the military and the crazy training you had to do. I enjoyed coming to your track meet where you took the time to greet me and talk to Chase. You are a blessing to be around.

My prayer for you is that you keep your carefree attitude and draw close to God in all the ups and downs life will throw at you.

Dear Christina,

Well, you're closing a chapter of your life and starting a new one. I will always treasure the meaningful times we shared during Confirmation. I learned so much from your profound faith and willingness to delve deep into finding answers. I remember on our mission trip to Latgawa, after a long, hot day of clearing trails you were cheering everyone up with your positive attitude and contagious smile.

The message you gave during a Youth Sunday touched so many people. You are a blessing to be around and I miss spending time with you. I pray wherever life leads, you will look back on the impact you made on this youth group. You are an incredibly special person and someone who I will never forget.

Submitted by: *Emily Tabb*, Youth Pastor

SWISS STEAK DINNER REPORT

Good news - the Swiss Steak Dinner was a great success! Thanks to all the people who worked together so well, we made a much needed profit for our Church.

One of the benefits of the dinner is the opportunity to work with old friends and make new friends. Sometimes we smile and greet a person but hardly know them until spending time working together at the dinner or some other church activity.

Many people spent many hours preparing for the dinner. Just think of the time it takes to make 45 pies! The behind-the-scenes work culminates in a big push for the final day. A number of people bought needed items but did not turn in a bill - in other words, made a donation! No doubt there were more items than the \$192 that were acknowledged.

Now for a financial report as of the 24th of May.

The Book Sale netted \$194.50; the Silent Auction, \$2004.00.

The total gross for the evening was \$6532.50; expenses paid were \$872.91.

So the net profit for the church was \$5659.59.

Thanks to all Way to Go!

Submitted by *Edythe Westlund*, Chairperson

GARAGE SALE

The Wesleyans and the UMW are planning a garage sale for Friday & Saturday, July 16th and 17th, at the home of **Ted & Lois Oakberg**, 504 Meadowview Road, Forest Grove. Times for the sale are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Donations will be greatly appreciated. Check your closets and cupboards for those items you've been wanting to dispose of. We'll be pleased to take them off your hands! All proceeds are to be applied to our missions projects. For more information, call 503-357-8129 (Lois) or 503-357-7281 (Virginia).

Submitted by *Virginia Heald*



TRUSTEES' REPORT

As you know, last month the Trustees proposed an addition to the Gift Acceptance Policy. This proposal was announced in church on four consecutive Sundays.

At the Trustees meeting on May 18th, each member reported on comments or suggestions from the congregation. After discussion the Trustees voted to adopt the additional paragraph.

This paragraph will be inserted after the section "Distributions" in the Gift Acceptance Policy and reads as follows:

"In the event that the principal of either account falls below the adjusted basis for that account (original value as adjusted for inflation), the investment committee could still disburse the accrued interest, dividends, and other income earned."

Submitted by *Edythe Westlund*, Chairperson

CHILI COOK-OFF

Thanks to everyone for participating in our chili cook-off on May 2nd. We had 8 entries and lots of fun. Tied for first place were "Very Vegetarian" by Janet Craig and "Fire & Brimstone" by Dan Wilson-Fey; Janet Craig also won for best decorated booth. Other participants included John Hummel, Sue Brenner, Ed Davie, Rhoda Markus, Adam Hampton and Janet Hummel. All participants received a prize.

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*

CHURCH COUNCIL CELEBRATES:

- all those who volunteer to bring meals for the middle school youth group dinners on Wednesday nights
- all who have contributed in various ways to make the church garden ready for planting
- the new Hospitality and Mission Ministry Teams who have had very good and inspiring initial meetings
- Lela Baskins attending the recent United Methodist Women's General Assembly in St. Louis. It's her 12th time of attending this every-four-years event.
- This year's children's Sunday school teachers: Terri Jones, Jenny LaCombe and Ian Rice
- The effort of the Tabbs, Rices and Heuns, especially, in helping the youth group put on the Mystery Dinner
- Ian Rice's amazing work with the new youth band, *The Apostlips*
- The 2 babies (Emrie Tovey & Freya Henriksen) recently baptized, and 2 others (Kayleigh Tabb & Audry Morrison) in our midst
- The choir and all their hard work this year and the end-of-year celebration
- The Chimes choir and Betty's work with them
- The recent sermon series based on the book *un-Christian*
- Those looking forward to attending the all-church Family Camp at Camp Magruder in Rockaway, OR, over Memorial Day weekend, and organizers Janet Hummel & Sue Brenner
- Our Youth Group, and the ways they help our church reach out in Christ's name

Celebrating New Life

We celebrate (a little late) the birth of **Kayleigh Bea Tabb**, born to Bobby and Emily Tabb on March 24, 2010, checking in at 9 lbs., 5 oz., and 21 inches. She's grown a lot since then! She joins her brother, Chase, in the Tabb family. Welcome, Kayleigh!

Hospitality in the 21st Century

Ted Oakberg, Caroline Dau, Rhoda Markus and Pastor Dan attended a day-long workshop at Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland, learning of ways churches can better exhibit hospitality in this day and age.

First Aid Graduates

Thanks to Chuck Pritchard for teaching a Red Cross First Aid class recently. Eight persons were certified.
Submitted by *Pastor Dan*

ABOUT FAMILY FIESTA 2010

Dates: **Week of August 9**

Helpers Needed:

I'm looking for 4 teams of 2 or 3 persons to man the kitchen one day at a time. Each team's responsibility would be for only 1 day (plus any prep at another time). There would also be at least one pre-planning meeting with Patty Davie and me to plan menus, share recipes, and figure out the shopping process. If you don't contact me, I'll be contacting you. Once again, many thanks to the volunteers over the years who have spent days and days in the kitchen. It's time for a change in how big a demand is put on people. I think this will work. Adult and teen shepherds are needed also. Shared spots work. Background checks are necessary if that has not already been done.

SECOND MILE GIVING

It's also time to think about your ability to do some second mile giving for the support of Family Fiesta. You have been so generous in the past and that has been important in offering a rich experience to community children. You can mark checks "family fiesta" and place them in the offering plate or mail them to the church office.

Submitted by *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

503-357-3998; 503-201-1233 (cell)

revrpm@verizon.net

HEALTH EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Some of you may not be aware that we have various health care equipment available to use at the church or loan out as needed. Currently we have a wheelchair, rolling & folding walkers, crutches, canes and other items. To make arrangements to borrow any of these, see *Liz Swenson* in the office.

SUMMER CLASS OFFERED

Rhoda is offering a 5 session summer class starting on June 20th at 8:45 in the Library. We will be exploring the issue of the Death Penalty using video materials from the *Living the Questions* Series. Please read "From the Altar to the World" for more information.

A BIG THANK YOU

The last day of Sunday School for the children was May 23. Terri Jones and Jenny LaCombe shepherded the younger children through the year with many fun activities to reinforce Biblical stories. Ian Rice led the older children. You can tell how much our children are learning from the sharing they do in worship on Sunday mornings. Please remember to thank these persons when you see them.

Submitted by **Rhoda Pittman Markus**
503-357-3998; 503-201-1233 (cell)
revrpm@verizon.net

UMW MEETING

The UMW will meet on June 27th, with a pot luck lunch, meeting and program. All women are invited to come!

Submitted by **Lela Baskins**

**NEW ADDRESS FOR
TOM & JOANNE RANNELLS**

Former Pastor **Joanne Rannells** and her husband Tom have moved to Portland. Here's their new contact information:

Tom & Joanne Rannells
2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd #329
Portland, OR 97201-6317
503-299-4329
revrans@aol.com

Tom's cell 541-280-4492
Joanne's cell 541-480-5419

Submitted by **Liz Swenson**,
Administrative Assistant

BIRTHDAYS

Verva Loomis	June 1 st
Rebekah Hall	June 2 nd
Bill Boysen	June 5 th
Barbara Schultz	June 8 th
Maryellen Wirtz	June 8 th
Kendra Swartz	June 10 th
Sarah Brown	June 13 th
Margaret Hoerber	June 14 th
Cade Ashton	June 18 th
Alisa Hampton	June 18 th
Taylor Haney	June 21 st
Beth Tveit	June 21 st
Arleigh Berget	June 24 th
Hazel Sefler	June 27 th
Janet DePooter	June 28 th
Caleb McGee	June 28 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Paula Gassman	June 3 rd
Tom & Joanne Rannells	June 8 th
Bobby & Emily Tabb	June 12 th
Jerry & Margaret Hoerber	June 13 th
Tom & Jan Stewart	June 14 th
Chuck & Carolyn Ashton	June 18 th
Fred & Linda Raycraft	June 19 th
David & Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh	June 21 st
Morris & Jacquie Haney	June 21 st
Dave & Patti Rose	June 26 th

SERVING IN JUNE

Liturgists	TBA
Altar Guild	Val Hawkins
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver:	Marilyn Carr
Ushers & Greeters	Hospitality Team
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	
June 6 th	Beth Hall
June 13 th	Volunteers needed
June 20 th	Father's Day Pot Luck
June 27 th	Volunteers needed
Nursery Attendant & Childcare Coord.	Adrienne Dionne
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Kitchen Elves	Patty Davie & Edythe Westlund
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.

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 18th of each month!

e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net

FINANCE CORNER – LAURA DIONNE

Adrienne, Alyssa, and Connor stare at their mother when she says, “I get to weed!” Husband Bob merely smiles and hands her the trowel. He knows her passion for “creating order out of chaos” and the sense of accomplishment she gets looking back at a section of garden she’s cleared. They’ve been married 27 years. She met him when he came to work for Intel, where he worked for 16 years. Laura has been with the company 28 years and Intel happily uses her skill in clearing up a problem and bringing back order.

“A full-fledged over-achiever even at 19”, Laura graduated from the University of Portland, where she earned degrees in both management and marketing in 3 years. She’d grown up in Vancouver, WA, so she’s been a Pacific NW person nearly all her life, except when Intel sent the Dionnes to work in Albuquerque.

When they returned to the N.W. in 1999, they found FGUMC as a great place for Laura’s mom, Edythe Westlund, and then found the church met their own needs as well. The family has pitched in to help on many commitments, including Gifts and Investments. Laura volunteered to be treasurer, and has streamlined many of the accounting procedures.

Still, her favorite pastime is working in the sunshine in her garden. She also enjoys cross-stitch and jewelry making. The family plans many trips during Laura’s upcoming sabbatical, including visits to Hawaii, Victoria, B.C., and rafting in the Grand Canyon. They’ll meet Connor on the last day of the Youth mission trip to San Francisco this summer so he can join them exploring Yosemite. They are not at all sure they’ll be taking along the four dogs, seven cats or their new bunny, Cinnabun.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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