



## FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Messenger

March 2011

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### WESLEYANS MEET MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>

Wesleyans' regular meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on March 1st, in the Garden Room. We are delighted that Muriel Elsey, a new member in the congregation, will be sharing the fascinating story of her missionary work in the villages of Canada. We encourage everyone to come for this inspiring program.

Submitted by *Virginia Heald*

### MISSION CORNER

We all do mission work every day and often do not really think about it. At work, doing volunteer activities, and even when we shop we are with people and may have a chance to help someone in need, solve a problem or bring someone enjoyment. Some of us do mission work on a schedule, reading with children or Family Bridge, and others of us do it spontaneously. If we tell ourselves, each time, that we are doing a mission for Jesus Christ it could help us be stronger and better servants. If we are not careful we could even find more good deeds to do. It may even give us more joy and help do a better mission action.

We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, which is the mission statement of the United Methodist Church. This requires an outward focus from our Church, requires being a part of our community. God's focus is on everyone in the community, not just us. We are the communicators and the doers of His focus, with His help and guidance. God needs us to be mission doers in the community.

We come to our Church where we connect with God and our fellow members, get recharged, and find new direction so we can better go out to help. I encourage each of you to focus outward, into the community, and make yourselves and our Church an active part of our community. Make your everyday activities stronger by thinking of them as not just tasks, but as opportunities for missions. Let it be known that your mission and our Church mission is to do good and make a positive difference where we live.

Remember the Pig Fashion Show will be Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>; bring your Pig (with coins).

*B A Mission*  
Mission Ministry Team



THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Every so often it's good to step back from whatever one is immersed in to gain a broader perspective. It's good to move from the stage where the action is, and step for a moment into the balcony to see how things look from there.

March 6<sup>th</sup> is one such opportunity to do just that with the person who connects us with the wider United Methodist denomination of which we are a part. Our Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Kate Conolly, will join us in worship on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, for a conversation about who we are, the direction in which we are headed, what we believe our mission to be, and to hear any comments, analysis, hopes, dreams, disappointments, concerns, or visions you may have. It's a time to share all, and to share where you believe God is leading you and/or this congregation, through God's Holy Spirit, at this time. I'll be sharing a few things, too, as will our congregational leaders.

The Wednesday after that which marks the beginning of church year. We mark the of the end, ashes, upon our minded that we are dust, and on this earth is precious, sac-called to live life as fully as essarily mean to be as busy Lent is a season that invites and deepen a spiritual disci-worship attendance, mission

**Come to the  
Congregational Meeting with  
our Assistant to the Bishop,  
Kate Conolly**

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

**Kate will be preaching in wor-  
ship that day**

My Lenten discipline this *NightStrike* ministry in Port- from 7 to 10 p.m. This is a ministry that provides food, haircuts, foot washing, prayer, clothing, and dignity to persons who are homeless. I will be leaving Forest Grove at 6:00 p.m. each Thursday night, beginning March 10<sup>th</sup>, and I invite you, I invite anyone, to join me in coming alongside this very effective and life-giving ministry.

As we at Forest Grove United Methodist Church continue the conversation about our mission, vision, core values, and reason for being, I hope for clarity, pray for God's guidance, and ask for your participation. We can't just keep on doing what we've been doing. It's not working anymore.

God has something new for us. I pray that we can discover that together. Let's keep talking with each other in encouraging ways, with hope for the future, and with the expectation that God will reveal that new thing in due time. It's happened before; it will happen again.

In expectation and hope,



Pastor Dan

## FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I have a column to write for my Christian Educators Fellowship journal on the subject of “Teaching Jesus” and that seems like a good subject for this column too. Lent is upon us and what a good time to be thinking about Jesus! I’ve been reflecting back on my own personal experiences and growth so this will be a quite personal sharing.

Like many of you, I’m a product of years of childhood and youth Sunday School learning. I learned the Bible stories of Jesus (as well as other Bible stories). I learned the hymns of the 1939 Methodist Hymnal and The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal. How we did sing! Hymns taught a lot about Jesus.

Unlike most of you, I went off to seminary when I was 21, and learned more. Much of the Bible learning was about how to approach the Bible though. It was good and important learning, but I don’t remember learning a lot more about Jesus or even thinking very deeply. Life moved along. I was connected to the church in various ways and then disconnected for a time.

When I returned to the church in 1988 looking for more to fill me, one of the really important things that happened was that someone introduced me to a devotional guide that followed the lectionary. I used that resource for 15 to 20 years and through repeated exposure to a collection of Old and New Testament readings began to see the connection between who Jesus is and what he taught and the teachings of the Old Testament. All that together began to form me as a follower of Jesus. It started me on a journey of finding Jesus’ ministry, and later mine, from the stories Jesus told and the encounters he had with a wide spectrum of people. It gave me the tools to unlock the mystery of Jesus and often put me in a controversial spot.

It seems to me that unless we get beyond familiarity only with Christmas and Easter narratives and stories taken at face value, we miss knowing Jesus. Those are the primary stories unchurched people know so we must have a plan for teaching Jesus beyond those stories. We cannot assume a Sunday School knowledge of Jesus as a starting point.

For me The Kingdom of God is the central theme of the Gospels. And it’s clear to me that The Kingdom of God is a very here and now situation and Jesus’ expectation for you and for me is that we live into that Kingdom with all our being in our everyday lives.

So what are some of the things we need to be doing better in teaching Jesus. We need to be careful that the stories of Jesus are taught to our children without moralizing – that’s a word to teachers and parents and clergy. We need to be giving youth tools to think and discuss stories of Jesus and great themes of the Bible. We need to see adults continue to use those tools and dig deep for a Jesus that speaks to the 21st Century. We need to support parents in telling their children about Jesus. We need to help adults unlearn some of the strange un-Jesus concepts they were taught in another era and learn from pop culture. We need to be willing, to listen, at least, to some of the very progressive scholars who may at first be offensive, but no matter where you end up on a theological spectrum, will end up being helpful.

Your Servant in Christ,  
*Rhoda Pittman Markus*

### GRANT COMMITTEE

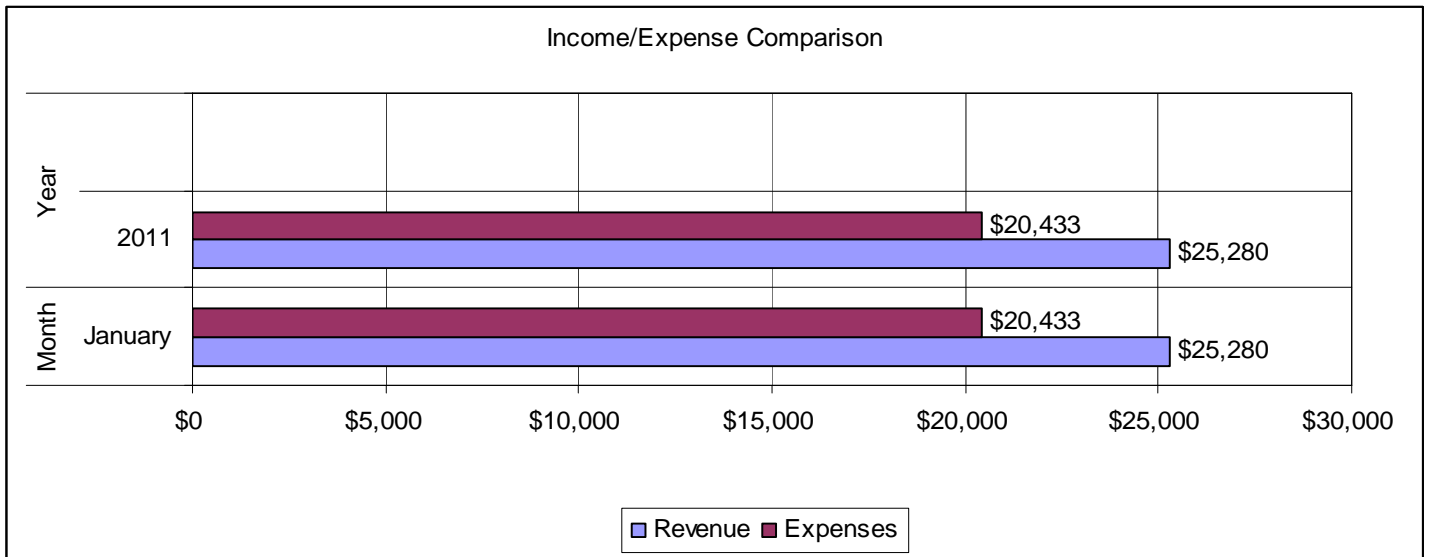
The Application for Ministry Grant “Reimbursement of Contingency Fund” will be approved. The balance of the Grant Fund, \$24,658 as of the date of the application, has been transferred to replenish the Contingency Fund.

Submitted by *Ted Oakberg*, Chair

### UMW – UMM MEETING

The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men will share a potluck lunch on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 12:20 p.m., followed by separate meetings and a program. Please join us!

Submitted by *Lela Baskins*



### FINANCE CORNER

**Correction:** Last month's Messenger showed a bar graph illustrating our revenue and expenses for last year. It showed 2010 revenue of \$284,364 and 2010 expenses of \$280,338. These numbers may have been a bit misleading. In actuality, our revenue was \$246,864. We were able to cover our expenses by transferring \$37,500 from contingency into the operating budget. Our contingency fund at year end was less than \$3,000. I apologize for the confusion.

Submitted by **Barbara Huson**,  
Finance Chair

### A NEW TWIST: GIVING UP SOMETHING FOR LENT

Our Conference Director of Stewardship provides these resources for persons to use during Lent as a Discipline related to Stewardship of the Earth and reducing one's carbon footprint. Perhaps you would like to try one. If one particularly interests you, **ask the church office to provide you with a copy.**

**2011 CARBON FAST FOR LENT** This is a calendar with a suggestion for each day. On Ash Wednesday the suggestion is to remove one light bulb in your home (without creating an unsafe situation). Do not replace for now.

**LENTEN CARBON REDUCTION FAST** This is also a calendar - Put a coin in the jar\* for every fresh piece of paper you used today is the suggestion for one day. \*Donate the money in the jar to a cherished project at the end of Lent.

**CARING FOR CREATION: A PRAYER AND ACTION GUIDE FOR A LENTEN FAST FROM CARBON**, consists of seven prayerful reflections (for Ash Wednesday and the six Sundays of Lent) that include insights on regional impacts of climate change, Scripture readings and prayers, and actions of individuals wanting to reduce carbon dioxide waste. One day's suggestion is to read Genesis 2:8-9, a Prayer, and one of several actions is to put out some bird seed.

**GOD, EARTH, AND US: LENTEN MEDITATIONS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CREATION** This gives scripture readings and reflections including action directed questions. Each week of Lent is a separate document of several pages.

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

# F. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2011

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday							Wednesday							Thursday							Friday							Saturday																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
<b>February</b>														<b>April</b>														1 7:00 p.m. Wesleyans	2 7:30 p.m. Trustees	3 5:00-6:00 p.m. <b>Guitar Group</b> 6:00-7:00 p.m. <b>Bell Choir Rehearsal</b> 7:00-8:30 p.m. <b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</b>	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Pastor's Day Off 9:00-1:30 p.m. <b>Youth Destination Unknown</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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## HOSPITALITY TEAM

This team will focus on the things that make our church a family. Coordinating **bus transportation, fellowship, letters** of welcome and reaching out to the home-bound, ushers and greeters. By collecting all these items under one coordinated umbrella we can better communicate those things that make all of us feel at home in our church. The Team meets quarterly.

- newsletter-communication-publicity (newspapers, website, other)
- caring for newcomers and long-time members alike
- Tables for 7
- Hospital visitations
- Signage – interior & exterior
- Nursery environment
- Young adult/Pacific Univ. student activities
- Memorial Day weekend campout
- Prayer chain
- Building use/rental: easy & clear
- Softball team
- Nametags
- Photo bulletin board

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM

Spiritual growth is critical to the health of our church. With the help of the Holy Spirit we will develop **study and growth opportunities** for all ages from birth to maturity. By creating a team whose focus is on filling each of us up with the Holy Spirit, we will grow and overflow into the community.

- youth ministries
- worship
- Sunday school
- nursery care
- adult education opportunities (parenting, Living Fully-Dying Well, etc.)
- Bible studies
- Day camp
- Camping program/support
- Time with older kids during worship
- UMW
- Bethlehem Marketplace
- Any educational endeavors

## MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team will **focus outside** our church. Family Bridge, **community needs** including local and distant **missions**. Working with the youth in support of their missions and coordinating and communicating opportunities to be Jesus' arms and feet in the world. The 2009 Youth Mission to Greensburg Kansas would be an example.

- scholarships
- apportionment involvement/special offerings (Christmas for Westco & Living Water Intl., etc.)
- covenant relationship with Seckels
- Family Bridge
- Youth & UMVIM mission trips
- Severe weather shelter
- Food donations & vegetable garden
- Special Sundays
- Bishop's Initiative for Elimination of Hunger
- Christmas baskets
- Health kits
- UMW
- Wesleyans
- UMM

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ross Miller is a retired United Methodist pastor and a long-time advocate for adult Christian education. Recently a small group of people met with him for three sessions at Forest Grove UMC, to talk about life-long Christian education. We found out that Ross is an engaging speaker, and good with a story.

Ross asked us to remember the best, most mature Christians we have known, and tell what those people were like. They were joyful, generous, brave, and strong; nurturing, welcoming, and hospitable; hopeful, daring, confident; gentle, compassionate, and wise; trusting and trustworthy; grateful, humble, patient, and caring. It made us feel warm just to think about these people. How can we grow to be like them?

The best Christian education aims at building people up to be like these mature Christians. It engages heart, head, and hands. A mature Christian knows our story, loves it, and acts on it. Actually there are three stories that every Christian should know: the story of Israel, the story of Jesus, and the story of the Church from the first Pentecost to today.

Ross talked with us about opportunities for Christian education. At our own church we will begin two studies in March. An 11-week Disciple Bible study will examine the Gospel of John. And Pastor Dan will lead a class on the book by Marcus Borg, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. When we were children, we uncritically accepted Bible stories like Noah's Ark or Jonah and the Whale. Many of us as adults can't take those stories literally and factually. Is there another way to read them? Do they still mean something to us? Do they still hold authority for us? Come to this class to talk about these questions.

A book club meets monthly in Deacon Rhoda's home. The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men have ongoing reading programs. The UMW offers an annual School of Christian Mission. There are offerings at other United Methodist Churches: Hillsboro UMC has a book class led by Dale Harris, and Lefty Schultz leads a men's spiritual growth group. There are opportunities in other denominations, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon among others. And did you know that people over 55 can audit courses at Pacific University for free? The course schedule should be on the web by the end of March.

Ross Miller told us that in the Gospels, the most common title by which people addressed Jesus was *rabbi*, meaning "teacher." If that is so, shouldn't his followers be students? The word *disciple* is related to the *discipline* that every student needs, and also to *discovery*, the reward of study.

I've heard about a young woman who had never read the Bible. When she first began to study it, she said "I always thought the Bible was more of a salad thing, you know, but it isn't. It's a chocolate thing." She's right. The Bible is full of surprise and challenge and delight. Let's have more chocolate.

Submitted by *Liz Swenson*

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## IRISH LUNCH MARCH 13TH

The St Patrick's Day Camp Fund Raiser will be on March 13 this year and will be better than ever! Not only will we have a fine selection of Irish (beef) stew, we have a great program planned – the Apostlips will be playing! So plan on joining the fun after fellowship time on March 13 and support camping! Questions? Contact Janet Hummel [janet.hummel@frontier.com](mailto:janet.hummel@frontier.com)

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*

## SPRING CPR CLASS

We will offer a CPR class with American Red Cross Certification on April 9, 2011 in the Garden Room. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be finished by about 12:00 p.m. Please call Chuck Pritchard if you want to attend. A \$10.00 registration fee, which will be applied to the total cost, will be collected to reserve a spot in the class. Please sign up and pay your fee by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Total cost will be determined by the number of people who attend.

Submitted by *Chuck Pritchard*  
503-359-9340 [b2c2m2@gmail.com](mailto:b2c2m2@gmail.com)

## CELEBRATING OUR AMAZING YOUTH!

Did you know...

*Adam Borrego* plays violin for the Oregon Youth Symphony.

*John Heun* is the chaplain of his Boy Scout troop.

*Max Wilson-Fey* is the Captain of the FGHS Tennis Team.

*David Lance* won the district bowling tournament and competes in the All Stars on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Alicia McConnell* has a part in the FG High School play *How To Succeed in Business Without Even Trying* starting March 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Sarah Hampton* plays Snow White's mom in the Theatre In the Grove's *Snow White*.

## B1 WEEKEND

On February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 17 youth participated in **B1**. B1 is a program created by the Advanced Project of the United Methodist Church. We joined 50 other youth at Tigard UMC to raise awareness and money for hunger. The youth and adults fasted for 24 hours during the event to have a first hand understanding of what it feels like to be hungry, while learning about hunger and poverty around the world and in our local communities.

Our very own Apostlips band performed Saturday morning for *Bishop Hoshibata*. The Bishop joined us to share his passion for eliminating hunger and to hear what the youth have to say about their experience.

If you'd like to donate to the B1 effort, look for a youth on a Sunday morning or contact the church office. During the weekend, the youth chose which UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) project they wanted the money to go to, and 100% of the money was donated to that project.

## MOM'S GROUP

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month. Please join us at 10:30am in the church nursery. Mothers of elementary age kids or younger are welcome! Here is another opportunity for play time as well.

Submitted by *Emily Tabb*, Youth Pastor

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## CORNELIUS UMC OPENS INDOOR PLAY AREA!

Parents with children who are not yet in school are invited to visit Cornelius UMC's indoor play area. With toys for crawling, jumping and stacking, and space to run, the play area provides a warm, dry place for children up to age 6 to run and develop large motor skills and for parents to connect with other parents. The play area is free and is open to the community every **Thursday morning** through May from **9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** at Cornelius United Methodist Church: 1095 S. Beech. Registration is required at the first visit and parents sign a release and a commitment that they will supervise their child(ren)'s safe play. We are also in need of a few items, like carpet remnants or play mats, and bean bag chairs. If you'd like to help or have questions, contact Mira Conklin at 503-828-7444. All are welcome!

Submitted by *Mira Conklin*

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## THANK YOU

Thank you everyone who participated in the Valentine Pot Luck. Special thanks to Ted and Lois Oakberg who provided the decorations, flowers and balloons. It was a great fellowship opportunity and the balloons were shared by the Pacific University students with their fellow students.

Submitted by *Janet Hummel*

## YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

As the new Chairman of the Church Council, I am starting a practice of reporting Council activities to you each month. The Church Council is the operating leadership of our Church, with Pastor Dan being the spiritual leader. With this arrangement, Pastor Dan can concentrate on the important mission of our Church while the Council keeps support activities going. The Council is made up of leaders of all committees and teams of our Church organization. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. Church members are welcome to sit in.

One task of the Council, a task that affects all of us, is managing the Church finances. There are generally two separate sets of finances within our Church; the Endowments, Investments and related Funds; and the Church Operating Budget.

Some of the Endowments, Investments and other funds are managed by the Investment Committee. Use of the money and earnings is directed by the Grant Committee. Other funds were created by specific donations or other earnings and the uses were specifically identified by the donor at the start. There are limits on their use. It is the responsibility of the Grant Committee, Trustees, Church Council and Finance Committee to ensure that this money is used only as intended. In summary, we have a lot of money that is to be used for very specific needs.

Our Operating Budget is managed by the Finance Committee. Income each year for this budget is from our contributions, earnings from operations (rent for example), and Church activities (parking lot sale for example). This money is used to pay all employees (60 % of the budget) and all other costs -- utilities, taxes, upkeep, supplies, etc (40 % of the budget). The total budget is about \$300,000.

During the past five years the contributions, our giving, has decreased, such that income has been less than spending each year. The shortfalls were paid from savings that had accumulated. In terms of a family, we have been living beyond our means. The budget for 2011 is no different, with anticipated income being \$235,000, costs at \$300,000 and a shortfall of \$65,000. In 2010 we used the last of our savings. There is no Endowment money for electric bills. The donors paid their Church electric bills then; they did not give us money to pay our bills now.

As the Council Chairman, I see the budget condition as a wakeup call. The Church will go on, as it has for the past 150 years. There are a number of UM Churches just like us and they are turning themselves around. 2011 must be a transition year for us. The Finance Committee is working on plans to meet our financial needs this year. For example, we are applying a five per

## BIRTHDAYS

Fred Raycraft	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Taylor Crotty	March 5 <sup>th</sup>
Morris Haney	March 5 <sup>th</sup>
Adam Hampton	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Elia Cobb	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Patty Davie	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Richelle (Johnson) Pultz	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Ryker Tovey	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Chuck Pritchard	March 10 <sup>th</sup>
Judy Sherman	March 11 <sup>th</sup>
Bobby Tabb	March 11 <sup>th</sup>
Meagan Potter	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
Donald Tveit	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
Harry Long	March 15 <sup>th</sup>
Patricia Gilman	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
Micah Hampton	March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Henry Gulacy	March 28 <sup>th</sup>
Paula Gassman	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Sam Judah	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Todd McLeod	March 29 <sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARIES

Adam & Alisa Hampton	March 6 <sup>th</sup>
Lester & Erma Heisler	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Ed & Patty Davie	March 28 <sup>th</sup>

cent salary reduction for all employees and other cost cutting steps are in process. In addition to sorting out 2011, we are starting to focus on 2012 with a goal of a balanced budget that year. I will keep you informed of changes.

Most congregations that have met this type of challenge become more active, more a part of the community and become a church that people in the community want to join. I know we can do it and am looking forward to telling you each month what our Council is doing. The Council members are your representatives, you are the Church members; we all must be more active to become a stronger Church.

Submitted by **Harold Jensen**  
Council Chair

## SERVING IN MARCH

Lay Leader	Ann Ulum
Altar Guild	Margaret Hoerber
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver:	Marilyn Carr
Ushers & Greeters	Hospitality Team
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Les & Erma Heisler
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Day Lunch
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteers Needed
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteers Needed
Nursery Supervisor	Melissa Holcomb
Web Master	Jenny Lyn Englin
Kitchen Elves	Pat McClelland & Maurine Scott
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

## MISSION STATEMENT

Do justice.  
Love kindness.  
Walk humbly with God.

## CHURCH CORNER- RUTH REESE

Ruth and her family built their house on acreage on a country hill 58 years ago, and for all those decades she has been blessed with views of birds and deer and the awesome beauty of Nature.

Born in Wisconsin, Ruth moved to Oregon with her family when she was 14 years old. She graduated from high school in Lafayette, and worked for PGE during WWII. Daughter Karen and her husband in Forest Grove have given her two granddaughters and now two great granddaughters. Son Ken and his wife live in Anchorage.

From 1960 until 1986, Ruth worked at the Hillsboro Clinic. Not long after 'retiring' she went to work part time at Woodfold until she finally made retirement permanent at the young age of 80.

She's always loved to travel. She and Corrine Scott toured Boston, New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces—her favorite trip with the one exception of her long-planned for and dreamed of trip in 1980 to Norway, the home of her ancestors. Unsure whether the love of seeing most of the U.S.A. states was cause or effect, Ruth (like her mother before her) delights in collecting postcards. She also kept a diary from her teenage years, but once her children came along, she found there simply wasn't enough room to write all she wanted to, so she started keeping journals—"More room to brag." She now has boxes of journals as a wonderful gift for her family.

## Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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<b>Rhoda Markus</b>	503-357-3998	Deacon
<b>Emily Tabb</b>	503-707-4971	Youth Pastor
<b>Liz Swenson</b>	503-357-2689	Administrative Assistant

Church Office Hours, Monday through Friday

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

<b>Patty Davie</b>	503-357-3185	Messenger Editor
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Bless you for getting your articles to me  
by the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month!

e-mail: [plc2fd@verizon.net](mailto:plc2fd@verizon.net)