



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

November 2007

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Sermon series:

Blessed to be a Blessing

This series will focus on how we can bless others when we recognize the blessings we have received. This series coincides with our annual Stewardship Campaign and is the theme of the campaign.

October 28	<i>Blessed by Joy</i>
November 4	<i>Blessed by Saints</i>
November 11	<i>Blessed by Giving</i>
November 18	<i>Blessed by Blessing</i>

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

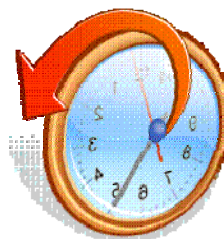
Excitement continues in the children's Sunday School. Children K - 4 will move through various learning stations in the month of November centering on the theme of Jesus calling the disciples. Fifth and Sixth grade children will discover the many stories of "Moses Leads the Great Escape" in Live B.I.G. Lessons are based on Exodus 13:17-18; 14:5-31; Exodus 20:1-17; Exodus 35:4-36:7; 39:32-43 and Joshua 1:1-10; 3-4. Be sure to thank a teacher when you see them around the church!

Stories and songs and loving care are teaching our pre-school children about the love of God and the loving, accepting and safe community of Forest Grove United Methodist Church.

Rhoda Pittman Markus
503-357-3998 home; 503-201-1233 cell

TIME CHANGE!

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on the morning of November 4th.



ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 19

Reverend *Kate Conolly*, Western District Superintendent, will preside at the "annual meeting" of the church where we evaluate where we've been and where we're going, make necessary decisions and receive reports.

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

KITCHEN UPGRADE

Two new Lang commercial ranges (with large ovens) and the free-standing double ovens have arrived and have been installed in the kitchen. The ranges offer an improved griddle, four improved "French plates" (round burners) and a rectangular hot plate for handling heavy cookware such as stock pots. If you have any questions about operating the new equipment, see *Ted* or *Lois Oakberg*.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Taking the next step...

Our Bishop, **Bob Hoshibata**, recently invited the clergy of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to a symposium of learning, fellowship, and connection. For three days in Pendleton, Oregon, we were blessed by our guest speaker, Dr. **Lovett Weems**, retired President of St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, and present executive director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership at our United Methodist Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. I came away from that event with a renewed understanding of my role as leader and pastor of this congregation.

The one insight, among many, that stood out most prominently for me was what he said about the discernment of what “the next step” for a congregation would be. I came away asking myself: “What is ‘the next step’ for the Forest Grove United Methodist Church?”

Last Sunday, Ted Oakberg, on behalf of the Stewardship Campaign Committee, solicited from you in worship, comments of activities, people, programs, anything in the life of the FGUMC about which you are joyful. We received an overwhelming response! There is a LOT about which you are joyful and thanking God. Praise be to God! Many mentioned the growing choir and music program, worship changes, increased participation and visibility of youth, children, new families and individuals among us. Mentioned also were new babies, an outreach vegetable garden, needing to divide our Sunday School classes, church softball team, youth mission trip, and so much more.

It's obvious that we are growing, changing, becoming “a new creation” in Christ.

The question I AM thinking about these days is: “What's the next step?”

Your Church Council, the guiding leaders of this church, will be meeting in retreat on Saturday, November 3. We will be considering what “the next step(s)” will be for this church, specifically setting goals for 2008. We'll also be considering long-range (5 years out at least) goals, based on where we see God leading us.

If God has revealed to you what the “next step” should be in regards to any aspect of this wonderful church God has entrusted to us all, I encourage you to speak to one of the members of the Council. Here are their names:

Brian Hawkins

David Rose

Marilyn Carr

Jacquie Haney

Karl Swenson

Jerry Hoerber

Patti Rose

Laura Dionne

Mary Ann Mellbye

Dan Gustafson

Pat Gilman

Ted Oakberg

Liz Swenson

Bobby Tabb

Emily Tabb

Rhoda Markus

Dan Wilson-Fey

Mary Jane Nordgren

Betty Pritchard

Sue Brenner

Alisa Hampton

Finally, I ask you to pray for this group as we meet on November 3rd. I expect God will be present, and guide us as we seek to “take the next step(s)” in faith.

In Confidence and Hope,

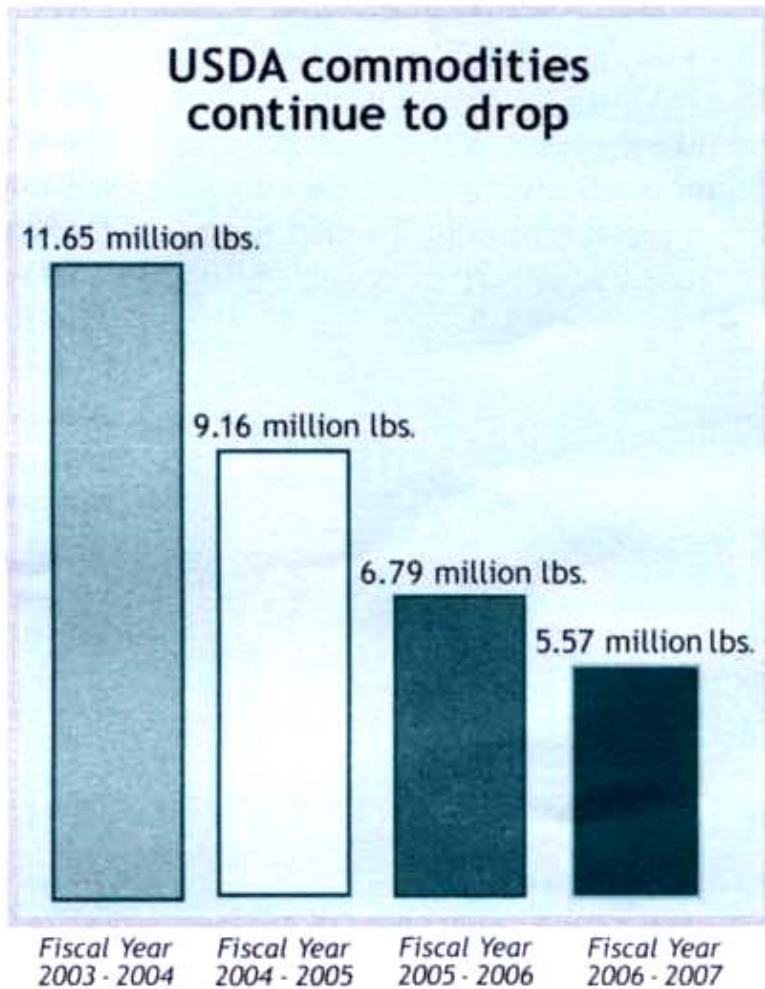


Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

My Sunday School class this morning spent time pondering the words of a hymn: “Together we serve, united by love, inviting God’s world to the glorious feast.” Many persons in our community cannot partake of a glorious feast on earth, or in heaven, unless we are present in their lives united by love in service.

Hunger needs right here in Forest Grove, as well as throughout Oregon, continue to be huge. One administrator at the Oregon Food Bank warehouse in Portland says that “Our warehouse shelves are as empty as I’ve ever seen them.” Many factors contribute to the empty shelves. Hunger needs continue to grow as supplies dwindle. One of the contributing factors has been the number of food recalls in recent weeks including items such as stew and chili that usually top the list of OFB’s most-wanted foods, because they are high protein, shelf-stable foods. Another contributing factor is that USDA commodities continue to drop. (see graph to left) Food industry donations have also dropped.



All this means, say the administrators, is that there is a big gap to fill and the support of churches and other service organizations is needed more than ever. You can donate funds and get other information at www.oregonfoodbank.org. Every dollar you donate enables Oregon Food Bank to collect and distribute more than five pounds of food through its food distribution program.

Members and friends of this congregation are to be congratulated on the many ways Forest Grove United Methodist Church has joined in the campaign against hunger. Special thanks are due Bill and Tracy Gulacy who spear-headed the garden project and spent countless hours harvesting and hauling produce to St. Vincent de Paul at the Catholic Church. Over 1,112 pounds of fresh produce was harvested. Also to be thanked are Pat and Mac McClelland who faithfully transport donated food items to St. Vincent's' every few weeks. Adam Hampton is one of the leaders in organizing Christmas Food Baskets for our end of the county. Not to be forgotten is each individual who remembers the hungry while shopping and keeps our food box full. Let's keep up the good work!

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches you will see information about our gift of food specifically for Christmas baskets. Please be generous.

The verse concludes “We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.” Thanks be to God for the generosity of the congregation of Forest Grove United Methodist Church.

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

HELP BUY BIBLES FOR LIVE BIG

The brand new Sunday school class for 5th and 6th graders (Live BIG) is hoping to purchase about 6 age-appropriate Bibles for use during Sunday School. They are about \$20 each. If you feel called to support the young learners in our congregation in this way, donations are accepted in the offering plate or in the church office, marked "Sunday School Bibles". Thank you!

The Education Committee

FIRST AID AND CPR

We have 7 newly certified First Aid and CPR persons in our congregation. Congratulations to Amy Scott, Karl Swenson, Dale Heun, Carole Heun, John Heun, Emily Tabb and Betty Pritchard. CPR training needs to be recertified each year and First Aid is every 3 years. Our next scheduled class will be in February. Let me know if you need a class sooner.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. *Charles Pritchard*



STEVEN WONG

Our new Sound & Media specialist

“BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING”

2008 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We are blessed by God so that we can be a blessing to others. November is the month in the life of the Forest Grove United Methodist Church when we take time to consider the ministries of our church, where we have been in the past years, and what opportunities we have for doing the Lord’s work in the coming year.

The kickoff for the 2008 stewardship campaign will be in the Sunday service on October 28. The schedule for the campaign and sermon topics are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| October 28 th | Blessed by Joy |
| November 4 th | Blessed by the Saints |
| November 11 th | Blessed by Blessing |
| November 18 th | Blessed by Giving, <i>Consecration Sunday</i> |

On November 18 we ask that pledge cards be turned in. We also ask that the congregation bring food (canned food and staples) that will be distributed in the Christmas baskets.

Ted Oakberg

SHARE FOOD WITH OTHERS

NOVEMBER 18

You are invited to bring non-perishable food items as a special “Harvest Altar” offering on November 18, Consecration Sunday. Please bring your offering to the altar before or during worship that day, where we will celebrate God’s goodness and generosity in a special way. The donated food items will go toward the Christmas Baskets our church sponsors in December.



FALL CAMP SESSIONS

Collins Retreat Center

Nov. 2-4

Intergenerational Spirit Quest

Nov. 25

Advent Brunch

For more information or to register for any of the camps, contact **Sue Brenner**, 503-357-5409 or Brascomb@easystreet.net, or call 1-800-593-7539 ex. 43 or go to www.gocamping.org.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

As I look at all the beautiful changes of fall, I am reminded of the blessings God gives us. Not only in the changing of seasons are we blessed, but each day God graces us with people and experiences to show us God's mercy.

Bobby and I chose the theme of blessings to explore with the youth. We have discussed what a blessing is and how to recognize a blessing. We've also talked about blessings in disguise and how to be a blessing to others with our love and actions. This is such an important step in developing our relationship with Christ because we all need to believe we are worthy of blessings. The youth read an article entitled *Attitude of Gratitude*, in which a young man described how hard it was to accept blessings or to feel like he deserved to be blessed.

Once we can jump over the hurdle of feeling that we don't deserve to be blessed, God's love can shine through us. God is going to bless us whether we choose to accept it or not. All we have to do is let God in. Oswald Chambers wrote an inspiring devotion about allowing Christ to flow through us and in doing so we can let His love spill over to others. He said if the love is stopped by our inability to accept it than we are withholding the blessing we can be to others.

Let the amazing fall colors and the delicious smells of the season remind us that God's blessings are all around; you just have to be willing to accept them.

Emily Hill-Tabb

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

Church Secretary

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the wonderful people of Forest Grove United Methodist Church who have supported my music in prayer, comments and personal cards. You have been a blessing in my efforts to begin a music ministry that explores a calling in composition and performance. My hope is the songs sing to your heart the melody soul longs to hear, a tender chord harmonizing with our Lord.

A CD of original solo piano compositions in praise of the Creator and His creation is available in the office. For every CD sold, five dollars will be donated to support the FGUMC where needed most. For more on my ministry, go to www.martinhornmusic.com.

Thank you again.

Your grounds maintenance man and musician,

Martin Horn

POP CAN PULL-TABS

Recently an item in the newspaper said that saving pop can pull tabs for Diabetes patients was a hoax. A subsequent follow-up item claimed that it is a *legitimate fundraiser* for the Ronald McDonald house.

In 2006 Ronald McDonald Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington collected \$2,732.91 to benefit out-of-town families that need lodging while their children are hospitalized. A call to our local McDonald's restaurant confirmed that they will be happy to receive them.

Let's continue to save pop can pull tabs for a very worthy cause.

Edythe Westlund

MESSENGER SCHEDULE

Please note that **the cutoff date for the December Messenger is November 18th**. Late items will be carried over to the following month's issue. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Patty Davie, editor

GRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the November meeting (11/17), the Grant Committee will be reviewing a request for funding the FGUMC 2007 Askings from the Charge Conference and the Western District. The total of the grant request is \$3,519.00. The specific ministries supported by the Askings are: Conference Church Extension; NW House Theological Studies; Conference Hispanic Ministries; Western District Church Extension; and Western District Hispanic Ministries.

If you have comments or input regarding this grant request, please let me know prior to the meeting. You can send me an email at alisa.hampton@intel.com, or leave a note in the Grant Committee box in the Fellowship Hall.

We also have adopted a corner of the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall (outside the Garden Room) where you can find a copy of the above grant request, as well as copies of the grants which have been approved and funded so far in 2007. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Alisa Hampton, Chair
Grant Committee

HEALING SERVICES

The Banks Community UMC offers a Healing Service at 6:30 pm on the third Sunday of every month, so that anyone with a need, whether spiritual, mental, emotional or physical can come and receive prayer.

We begin with singing to worship and honor God. I share a brief message on healing, as exhibited in the life of Jesus. We give opportunity for people to come forward and receive healing prayer from one of our prayer teams. All requests are confidential between the team and those with whom they pray. We close with a circle of thanksgiving and a prayer.

Services will vary in length based on the number who attend and the needs they bring. Our vision is that God would have an opportunity to touch and heal lives. We believe there is no need to deep that God's love is not deeper still.

We meet at the Banks Community UMC building, located at 151 Depot Street in Banks. For more information, please call the church at 503-324-7711.

Pastor *Brian Shimer*
Banks Community UMC

BIRTHDAYS

L. F. McClelland	November 1 st
Addison Hummel	November 2 nd
Tom Stewart	November 3 rd
Chuck Ashton	November 5 th
Eleanor Fitzgerald	November 6 th
Bill Gulacy	November 10 th
Debbie Gamble	November 13 th
Lester Heisler	November 14 th
Martha Tunall	November 15 th
Dorothy Manley	November 20 th
Dan Wilson-Fey	November 23 rd
Hazel Jean Larkins	November 24 th
Helen Haney	November 26 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Eunice Gustafson	November 6 th
Dick & Sue Brenner	November 12 th
Herb & Chong Roehr	November 21 st

PROOFREADER NEEDED

Janet DePooter, our chief proofreader of our weekly worship bulletin and projected material in worship, has moved to Georgia with her husband, Ted (and we shall miss them!). We are in need of someone with the gift of proofreading. If that's you, and you would be willing to donate a small portion of your time each week to this, please contact the church office. This work can be done by e-mail.

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Liturgist	TBA
Altar Guild	Jan Schrock
Bus Coordinator	Linda King, cell: 503-522-1215
Bus Driver	Tom Gamble
Ushers	
November	John & Janet Hummel Al & Kristi Thomason
Greeters	
November	Dick & Trudy Sundstrohm Lester & Erma Heisler
Coffee Coordinator	Tracy Gulacy
Fellowship Time	
November 4 th	Ann Ulum & Robert Nickerson
November 11 th	LeRoy & Shirley Gamble
November 18 th	Dick & Trudy Sundstrom
November 25 th	John & Janet Hummel
Nursery Attendant	Lindsay Marsh
Childcare Coordinator	Delva Johnson
Web Master	Jenny LaCombe
Acolytes	
November 4 th	Noah & Max Wilson-Fey
November 11 th	Noah Wilson-Fey & Fletcher Johnson
November 18 th	Sarah Hampton
November 25 th	John Heun
Kitchen Elves	Volunteers needed
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Tape Ministry	Media team
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

Daniel Wilson-Fey	503-359-4249	Pastor
Rhoda Markus	503-357-3998	Deacon
Bobby & Emily Tabb	503-844-7694	Youth Pastors
TBA	503-357-2689	Church Secretary
Church Office Hours, Mon. through Thursday		
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon		
Patty Davie	503-357-3185	Messenger Editor
e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net		

FGUMC CORNER—ELLA MAE JAMES

Ella Mae grew up in Idaho, graduating from Lewiston H.S. in 1954. In 1967 she moved to Bay City, OR, where she worked for 15 years in the Tillamook Cheese factory as accounts payable clerk. She retired in 1989 and settled in Beaverton in 1991. Her two sons, Curt and Don, have given her eight grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, who love her almost as much as she loves them.

When she moved to Hillsboro, her neighbor lost his wife one month short of their Golden Anniversary. As Ella Mae helped Karl deal with his loss, they began a friendship that deepened until, "Karl became the love of my life." He sold his trailer and she sold hers, and they bought a larger trailer together in Cornelius. Karl passed away in Oct. 2006.

Ella Mae, suffering with back problems, needed to retire after four years as FGUM church secretary. Her loving devotion and the courage behind her warm laughter have earned the respect of our entire congregation.

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

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