



FOREST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Messenger

October 2011

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

SECOND SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY

October 8th is the date for our monthly Garden Party at church. We need to weed, trim, prune, rake, etc. Start at 8:30 a.m., rain or shine, and go home no later than noon. Please bring your gardening tools. There will be provisions for caloric and liquid refreshment!

Submitted by: *Margaret Hoerber*

WESLEYANS MEETING

Wesleyans will meet at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, October 4th, in the Garden Room. *Lela Baskins* will present an intriguing program on "Too Many Irons In The Fire". Visitors are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Submitted by: *Virginia Heald*

CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT

I want to thank all who attended the Charge Conference on September 13th; much was accomplished. During the meeting I gave a short report on some of the operating activities of FGUMC. My comments: At the start of the year our Church Council took a hard look at ourselves to see how we could become stronger. As a result we kept doing much of what we have been doing, but we also made changes. Members are starting to step forward more to take charge where they can help. This is a report on several areas of our Church life.

Music -- It is a joy; we have grown from four music groups to just now developing our sixth group.

Youth -- Just keeps growing and has been serving in the local community this year. A number of members are from families that are not associated with our Church, which is **great**.

Community -- Family Bridge and supporting the Food Pantry with our garden and donations continue to be strong areas for us. More good news is that we are just now adopting Joseph Gale Elementary School in Forest Grove, with positive feelings all around.

Missions -- Three members went to Central America with UMVIM.

Communications -- More members are putting in articles in the Messenger, our monthly newsletter.

Study Groups -- Members are stepping forward to lead Bible study groups.

Getting Closer Together -- We have continued events that bring us together, like the Swiss Steak Dinner and the Parking Lot Sale. Tables For Seven was renewed this summer, with 50 members involved. We now do monthly group hikes in the Tillamook Forest.

Organization -- We are starting to focus on fewer meetings and more action. To do this, the Church Council voted last month to make the Council smaller, twelve members, who will provide a general direction for the Church and have ongoing action/activities organized around the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. This is just getting started.

Finance -- This continues to be a large opportunity for us to get our arms around; it has received strong focus all year but we are not out of the woods.

Stronger? -- We are starting to get there.

Submitted by: *Harold Jensen*, Council Chair

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

I have so enjoyed this beautiful September weather – the heat that made the tomatoes grow, and now the rain that also makes God's plants grow, and gives drink to those who are thirsty.

I'm also enjoying this preaching series we're in on the 23rd Psalm. What a powerful hymn (all Psalms are hymns – it is the hymn book of the Israelites).

What I'm enjoying most these days, though, is the volunteering I am doing at Joseph Gale Elementary school these last two weeks. I'm starting out by volunteering at the "Catch-Up Club" and "Technology Club", which are watched over in the library by AmeriCorps volunteer, Amy Reid. I go every day from noon to 12:30 when I can. It's not much, but it's a start. There will be more things I will do, I am sure. I scooped ice cream at Back-to-School night. That was fun.

I am always amazed by people who work with kids this age. I see the English Language Learner teacher doing what she does, sometimes in the library. I see Amy interact with the kids, and I can tell that for her and other teachers and staff, this ability is a gift. For people like me, it's a stretch. While there, I've been helping set up some iTouches and iPads that the school has for kids to use some educational games on during Technology Club. So far, we haven't had any kids come to Technology Club (they have to earn this privilege), so Amy and I have been setting up the units, charging them, downloading some free educational apps, making sure everything works.

Catch-Up Club is a time during noon recess when 3rd and 4th graders, who need extra time to get their work done, come to the library with a pass from their teacher to do just that – catch up. The students know what to do – they have all the instruction they need from their teacher – they just need to do it.

Does that in any way sound familiar to you? You know what you need to do and have all the instruction you need from The Teacher; you just need to do it?

The prophet Micah told us that we already know what to do: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. We just need to do it.

Jesus told us that we already know what to do: feed those who hunger, quench the thirst of those who are dry, visit those who are imprisoned in any way – the same with those who are sick in any way. We know what we need to do – we just need to do it.

Maybe what they're doing at Joseph Gale is what we should do at the church – start a "Catch-Up Club" for anyone who knows what they should be doing, but just needs a place, a little extra time, and some encouragement to get done what we already know how to do.

If you need a pass for Catch-Up Club, let me know. I've got some lying around. But you'll have to give up recess. I'm guessing you already knew that, too.



Pastor Dan

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

I love **Strength for the Journey!** It is the highlight of my year. First, some information for my readers who may not have heard of *Strength for the Journey* or have any idea what it is. *Strength for the Journey* is a camping experience for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Oregon-Idaho version was started by a small group of visionary people in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church 17 or 18 years ago. It is held each August at Suttle Lake, serves about 70 individuals and is staffed by 20 or so. I have been part of the volunteer staff since 1999. These are some reasons why it is such an amazing experience.

It is a model of **Hospitality**. I start thinking of what arriving for the staff pre-camp work will be like - greetings will be hearty and genuine and full of hugs. I yearn for that kind of experience and find it rare in daily life. This is pretty much a universal perception of what the first moments of camp will be like. It doesn't stop there.

Strength for the Journey very quickly becomes a **Community** of love and acceptance. Newcomers are embraced and incorporated into cabin groups and small groups and introduced to a wide variety of activities to choose from within 30 minutes. Meals are abundant, noisy and filled with laughter as we come together in table fellowship. There is little fear of the possibility of rejection or not fitting in. It's a safe place.

Stories are freely told. Most are hard to listen to because the individuals have experienced the worst kinds of rejection from their families, their churches, and much of society. They are stories of addictions and abuse and triumph over all that. This year during a candle lighting closing ceremony, there was story telling (testimonies) that went on for nearly an hour and a half. Most of the stories were stories of moving from these feelings of rejection and marginalization to transformation through love and acceptance culminating in their camp experience. Some said they caught a glimpse of the Kingdom of God! It was a tear-drenched time.

Would you imagine that individuals who have lived the stories described would also be freely making statements of trust in God and awareness of forgiveness? During an early morning centering time held each morning and attended by a small group, I asked some of the questions that Pastor Dan has been asking some of you since his leave – what makes your heart sing? – what makes you feel alive? – what do you value? Responses were rich and diverse. There was a buzz around camp about what was the question for today. **Statements of belief and faith** are freely and often told.

Campers are **passionate about life** and share those passions with others. Even though often rejected by families, most are passionate about the love of their mothers. There is an on-going love relationship with her. Many of the campers have been married at some point in their lives. They are passionate and caring fathers, mothers and grandparents. Some are caring, devoted partners. It's amazing the level of commitment to community service and meeting the needs of others. One of the zaniest of the campers in my small group went, in an instant, from his zany persona to telling how he felt called to sit with people as they die and how much that has transformed him. He also performed "O Holy Ground" at the end of the talent show.

I'm part of the registration team. There were three new people who arrived with **attitude!** It was clear from body language that they would rather not be there. During the closing ceremony each one of them told about the fear of coming, expecting another place of rejection, but instead finding total acceptance and love. They spoke of **transformation**. Each affirmed they could hardly wait for next year.

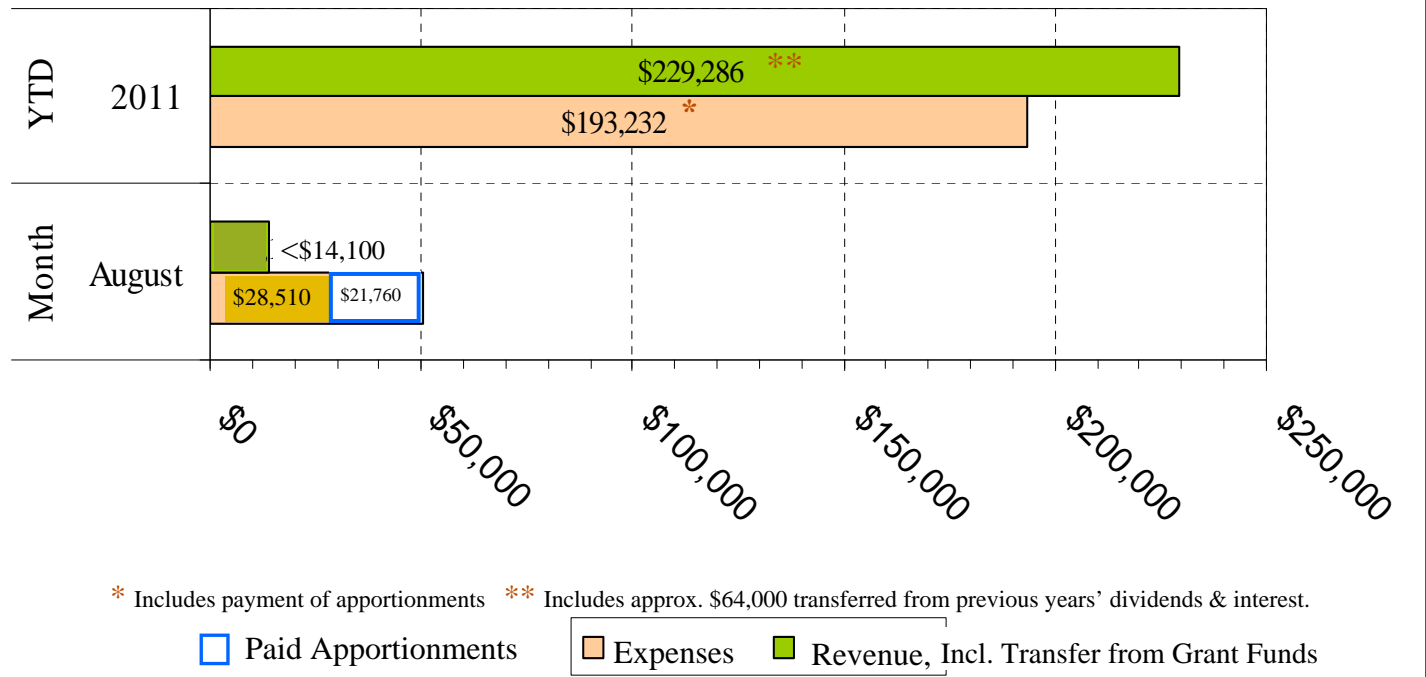
An amazing experience!

Your servant in Christ,

Deacon *Rhoda Pittman Markus*

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Income/Expense Comparison (As of 8/31/2011)



YOUTH IN MISSION 2011

This year, for our mission trip, we decided to stay local and help out the communities around us. Little did I know how logistically challenging, yet life-changing this experience would be. Nine youth from FGUMC teamed up with six youth from Hillsboro UMC and sixteen youth from Tigard UMC to be the hands and feet of Christ. We stayed at our church from Saturday through Monday, Hillsboro UMC on Monday night, and then Tigard UMC through Thursday.

We began right here in Forest Grove by bark-dusting a new trail at Thatcher Park. We ended the day with a BBQ and pool party at Ann Ulum and Robert Nickerson's house.

Sunday, the day began by cleaning up after Family Bridge guests left. Twenty-one youth and several adult volunteers attended church here at FGUMC. What an amazing opportunity to see the church full of lively and passionate young people; especially when some felt led to dance around the sanctuary during the Hymn *Lord of the Dance*.

Later that day we focused on connecting the group through group-building activities and walking the labyrinth at Pacific University. In the evening, the FGUMC Youth Council led *The Gathering* - a worship experience around a campfire.

Monday we were off to several locations. Three groups went to Loaves and Fishes in Forest Grove and Hillsboro to serve meals to seniors, while another group went to Cornelius UMC to weed the labyrinth garden, help with the food pantry, and clean up the community playground.

In the evening we volunteered at Northwest Children's Outreach. According to most, this was one of the highlights of the trip. I highly recommend volunteering at NWCO. It is a great experience for all ages. Their website is <http://northwestchildrensoutreach.org>. We worked in pairs to fill a garbage bag specific to one child. Printed on the bag were the child's name, age, size, and zip code, which we were to pray for and bless by filling with clothes, necessities, and toys appropriate for that child.

(NOTE: Continued on Page "Insert 2", the back of the Calendar.)

R. G. U. M. C. CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2011

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5th Sunday 8:30 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																																																																																										

YOUTH IN MISSION 2011

(Continued from page 4)

It was eye-opening to realize most of these bags were for children right here in our community who don't have their basic needs met. It was also inspiring to know we were doing something about it.

Tuesday, most of the group went on a prayer walk around Hillsboro, praying for the different organizations that help others. Linda Clarkson from Hillsboro led this walk. I took four youth and headed to Don West's house where we picked bags and bags and bags and bags of lettuce. This was a God-moment for me because we were able to take the lettuce with us later to the Oregon Food Bank, where another volunteer group was processing produce. The lettuce went out to the hungry that same day! Through our work bagging rolled oats and the 116 pounds of lettuce, we were able to feed 79 people *per volunteer*.



Wednesday was a very long day. Our service began at the Oregon Humane Society bark-dusting and installing a barrier to keep the bark-dust from falling off their property.

Later we volunteered at the Portland Rescue Mission where we were split into groups. Some worked all day in the hot sun sanding metal bed frames to be repainted and put in the shelters. Others went to the Women and Children's Shelter to work on raised flower beds, and the rest went to the Portland Rescue Mission's car lot and washed donated cars.



We finished the day by enjoying Music on the Green in Sherwood.

Thursday, our last project was led by Paul Taylor, a member of the Tigard UMC, who designed and helped Tualatin Elementary plant a sustainable garden. He talked to us about the project and how much it blessed the students to learn and to help with the sustainable garden during the school year. We helped get it ready for the beginning of school.

To wrap up our amazing time together, we took turns sharing our high of the week, low of the week, and how we experienced God. I recommend asking one of the youth next time you see them. I asked each youth group "Now what?". After this awesome experience of being the love of Christ to others, now what do we do? Our youth group has been inspired to continue to serve to our community. We are going to look for ways to bless others on a regular basis.

Thank you all for your support! We received generous donations of over \$100 and food for our sack lunches. The Heuns cooked dinner on Sunday evening, Ann and Robert let us invade their home, and Christie Rice and Chuck Pritchard volunteered as second adults. Thank you, thank you.

Submitted by: *Emily Tabb*

IN MEMORIAM: SALLY GREEN
DECEMBER 4TH, 1928 - AUGUST 19TH, 2011

Sally was born in Grand Rapids, Mich. to Woody and Ethel Green. She was raised and educated in Cleveland, Ohio. She will be remembered for helping others in her many volunteer jobs.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jeff. She is survived by her daughter, Gayle Nachtigal; son-in-law, Fred; granddaughters, Sarah and Claire; and granddaughter-in-law, Karen.

The family suggests that Remembrances be sent to the Senior Volunteer Program of Washington County, at 14175 NW Cornell Road, Portland, Oregon 97229.

Arrangements: Springer and Son, 503-356-1000.

At her request, no service will be held.

OCTOBER 30TH - FIFTH SUNDAY

Our 5th Sunday in October service experience will be fall clean-up at the Forest Grove Senior Center. We will be doing such things as raking leaves and trimming bushes and also window washing indoors and out. You know what kind of equipment you might need for those jobs. Donations of those heavy paper debris bags that come 3 in a pack will probably be useful as well. This will go on rain or shine! After all, we are Oregonians!

Back at the church we'll put you to work baking cookies to deliver to the Fire Department in thanks for their important role in the community. Who would like to be in charge of that? Let me know if it's **you!**

Watch the Sunday bulletin and posters in the narthex for more details as the day draws closer.

Submitted by: **Rhoda Pittman Markus**

UMW -- UMM MEETING

The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men will share a potluck lunch on Sunday, October 23rd at 12:20 p.m., followed by separate meetings and a program. Please join us!

Submitted by **Lela Baskins**

YOUTH CORNER

CROP HUNGER WALK

The youth will be participating in the Crop Hunger Walk on October 1st. The Apostlips Band will be playing as walkers finish up, and the rest of the youth will be walking. Thank you to those who supported the Crop Hunger Walk with your donations.

PORTLAND MARATHON VOLUNTEERS

Twenty volunteers from Forest Grove UMC have helped out at the Portland Marathon for the third year. We will be at the finish line on October 9th, welcoming the runners back, handing out food and drinks, and picking up trash.

THE INCOMING 7TH GRADERS

I am happy to introduce three youth who have joined the youth group. Rebekah Hall is a familiar face who brings enthusiasm, her beautiful smile, and ready-for-anything attitude to the youth group. Parker Drew already feels like one of us with his willingness to participate and excitement for the upcoming year. Chloe McCall is a fun and loving person who is completely new to Forest Grove UMC. I have already seen the veteran youth welcoming these three with open arms and big, Christ-like smiles.

Submitted by: **Emily Tabb**

Backpack for Kids

The Backpack for Kids program is in the planning stages and will get underway soon. If you are interested in donating food specifically for the backpacks here's a list to choose from. There will be a special container to receive these items: tuna, soup, chili/stew, spaghettios, real fruit juice in individual boxes or pouches, fruit cups, pudding cups, peanut butter, jelly, cup of noodles, tuna helper, boxed macaroni & cheese, raisins (the little boxes), hot chocolate mix, cereal (little boxes) instant oatmeal packets, fruit snacks, pop tarts, granola bars, Top Ramen, crackers, goldfish, trail mix.

You'll notice most these are things children can prepare themselves. If at any time you want to donate money for the on-going needs of the program, a restricted line item fund has been set up for that purpose. You may write checks to FGUMC and note "Backpack for Kids" on the memo line and it will go to the correct account.

Submitted by **Rhoda Pittman Markus**

GIFTS IN MEMORY: AN INVITATION

At the beginning of November, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday, remembering members of Forest Grove UMC whom we have lost to death in the past year. It's a comfort to speak their names and share their stories. Another comfort is to give a gift or make a donation in memory of those we have loved. One way to do that is through the Gift in Memory program of the United Methodist Women.

There are two parts to a Gift in Memory. One part is a form to give to the local UMW treasurer (Sue Brenner) with a check in any amount; the other is a card that can be sent to the family of the person honored, announcing the gift. Your local UMW chapter will be happy to give you a Gift in Memory package; ask any member. Lela Baskins can answer questions.

Your gift could honor one of the people we will remember on All Saints' Sunday, or someone you knew long ago and far away; it could be a United Methodist, or someone from an entirely different tradition. In any case, the gift will help to keep memory green, both in your heart and in the work that the United Methodist Women support around the world.

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*



WESTERN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

UMCOR WEST Depot in Salt Lake City is in need of completed or partial cleaning kits or financial donations to replenish their store of cleaning kits for future disaster aid. They are also in need of School Kits, Health Kits and Layette Kits. You can also set up teams to volunteer at the Depot by contacting **Rev. Brian Diggs** at the Depot. bdiggs@umcor.org

There are two opportunities coming up for Volunteers in Mission.

A mission trip to Honduras is planned for February 2012 originating in Idaho Falls, Idaho. They are still in need of volunteers. It will be a combination Medical, Construction and water mission trip. Please contact **Brenda St. Clair** if you are interested or have questions. 208-522-3232. jgbrndt@cablone.net

There is still room for volunteers for a mission to Costa Rica February 20th-March 5th, 2012. This will be a construction project at UBL, Bible University of Latin America. Please contact **Donna** and **Glenn Waltman** at 503-622-3226, donawaltman38@yahoo.com if you have questions.

You can always contact **Chuck** and **Betty Pritchard** at 503-359-9340, b2c2m2@gmail.com. We are your Western District UMWIM Coordinators!

Submitted by: *Betty Pritchard*

SPOOKY TREATS SUNDAY

Spooky Treats is the theme for this year's October 30th Fellowship Time – so plan on bringing your favorite spooky treat to share with your church family. Questions? – contact Janet Hummel, 503-359-3510.



janet.hummel@frontier.com

Submitted by: *Janet Hummel*



Volunteers in Honduras

First Aid/CPR Class

When: October 15th, 2011
 Where: Garden Room of the Church
 Time: 8:30-4:00 pm Bring a sack lunch!
 Registration: \$10.00, which will go toward the total cost of the class.

Register by September 25th.
 Instructor: Chuck Pritchard 503-359-9340
b2c2m2@gmail.com

Certification: American Red Cross Certified

Registration forms available in the church office. The total cost will depend on the cost of materials divided by the number of people taking the class, usually around \$30.00.

Submitted by: *Chuck and Betty Pritchard*

HIKE IN THE TILLAMOOK FOREST

Our next hike will be on October 15th, the third Saturday in October. This will be our last hike this year, before the rains start in the rain forest, so come out and enjoy the last go of the year. The trail is very good and the route will be shorter than we have done in the past, just under three miles round trip. It will be in an area we have not gone before, to the east of the Forest Center, where there is quite a bit of vine maple, so we could see some fall color. Meet at the Tillamook Forest Center, located between mileposts 23 and 22, at 9:30 am.

Our destination will be an area where seven Douglas Fir trees that survived the fires remain. These are grand trees, about 150 years old and six feet at the base, standing well above the trees planted in the 1950's which are only two feet at the base.

After the hike you may eat your sack lunch at the Forest Center and then look at the exhibit. Pearl and I will be there to answer questions or just spin stories. See you then.

Submitted by: *Pearl and Harold Jensen*



BIRTHDAYS

Mary Jo Uecker	October 1 st
Jane Peterson	October 2 nd
Leonard Uppinghouse	October 4 th
John Hummel	October 5 th
Liz Gulacy	October 6 th
Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh	October 10 th
Alicia McConnell	October 10 th
Micah Spangler	October 11 th
Dave Bond	October 11 th
Ian Rice	October 14 th
Kathy Wilson-Fey	October 14 th
Zoella Hickmon	October 15 th
Rhoda Markus	October 17 th
Maurine Scott	October 18 th
Max Wilson-Fey	October 18 th
Norene Snider	October 19 th
Diane Ray	October 19 th
Casey Spangler Miramontes	October 23 rd
Ella Collins-Colcord	October 24 th
David Hites-Clabaugh	October 29 th
Brian Hawkins	October 30 th
Ellen Bump	October 31 st

ANNIVERSARIES

Steve & Donna Siddall	October 15 th
Merrill & Betty Ludlam	October 19 th
Lloyd & Mary Jo Uecker	October 22 nd
Jack & Roseanna Murphy	October 28 th

HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

Submitted by: *Liz Swenson*
 Administrative Assistant

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Lay Leader	Ann Ulum
Altar Guild	Janet Craig
Bus Coordinator	Lois Oakberg, 503-357-8129
Bus Driver:	Chuck Pritchard
Ushers & Greeters	Harold & Pearl Jensen Janet Craig
Coffee Coordinator	Janet Hummel
Fellowship Time	
October 2 nd	Ken & Nancy Bond
October 9 th	Volunteers needed
October 16 th	Ed & Patty Davie
October 23 rd	Volunteers needed
October 30 th	Spooky Treat Sunday
Nursery Supervisor	Melissa Holcomb
Web Master	Jenny Lyn Englin
Kitchen Elves	Virginia Heald & Ruth Reese
Sound and Media	Steven Wong
Parish Nurse	Patti Rose

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.**

CHURCH CORNER – Merrill Ludlam

With his modesty and quiet wit, you might not catch some of the best lines. As, “I’m from Illinois, land of Rod Blagojevich, but I got out early.”

Merrill attended Thornton Junior College and two years at U. of Chicago, and served two and a half years in Japan in the Air Force during the Korean War. After his service, he worked for GE designing electrical circuits. Then he joined a small, independent company building electrical controls for saw mills – “all those wires on the back side that, when you press the button, hopefully make the saw mill do what it’s supposed to without a cloud of dark smoke.”

In 1967 a friend was organizing railroad excursions and Merrill helped out working as his ‘go-fer.’ On a trip to Maupin, OR, he couldn’t help noticing a winsome blonde. The next year he helped out on another RR excursion, and Betty was on that one, too. “I decided it was about time I got that young lady’s telephone number.”

Merrill loves to read and to listen to music. He’s a Master Gardener, retired. He’s been active with Boy Scouts and served as President of our local Habitat for Humanity. As usher for FGUM, he often sits in the Narthex to maintain security for our church family.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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by the 18th of each month!

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