

# *The Link*

First Congregational  
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*God is Still Speaking,*

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## **An Outpouring of Love: From North Carolina to Washington**

Dear Church Family,

If social justice is what an outpouring of love looks like in public, then our nation witnessed a stunning manifestation of love on Valentine's Day when tens of thousands marched in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. The demonstration was yet another accomplishment of the Moral Monday movement. This movement has now conducted nine annual marches with last year's march drawing more than 80,000 participants in what was described as "the largest civil rights rally in the South since the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965."

The Moral Monday movement is a fusion of groups and individuals devoted to working on issues of immigration, LGBT rights, race, labor, and the environment. Its primary public leader has been the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, a Disciples of Christ pastor and the president of North Carolina NAACP. In describing the diversity of the movement, Barber declares:

We like to say we're black, we're brown, we're white, we're young, we're old, we're gay, we're straight, we're teachers, we're students, we're doctors, we're the uninsured, we're the underemployed, we're labor rights, we're businesspeople, we're Republicans, we're Democrats, we're independents, we are North Carolina.

For me, an inspiring vision is to imagine a similarly diverse movement taking root in our own state. We are despairingly weak when we splinter in countless directions, yet we are astoundingly strong when we join together in a common cause. As Barber notes, we are confronting issues today that are not about the left or the right side of a matter. They are about "the moral center of who we claim to be as a people."

On Valentine's Day, Barber diagnosed the problem of our country as a "heart problem" in need of a defibrillator. Maybe we can be part of getting the defibrillator working in our own state. As people of faith, we can deliver a therapeutic dose of spiritual energy to our deteriorating social body. With our own outpouring of love, we can be just what the doctor ordered.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Brooks

## WORSHIP IN MARCH

### March 1, 2015 Second Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. Christian Education for children 3 yrs. – Grade 7 following worship

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters: Sandy Mathis  
Worship Leader: Jean Beary Stolle  
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey  
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

**Lenten Lunch Series:  
Communicating with Children  
Carole Greenauer**

### March 8, 2015 Third Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. Christian Education for children 3 yrs. – Grade 7 following worship

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani  
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman  
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

**Lenten Lunch Series:  
Crucial Conversations between Grandparents  
And Adult Children  
Alice Rowe**

### March 15, 2015 Fourth Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7 following worship

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis  
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone  
Mike King and Duke Charpentier

**Lenten Lunch Series and Potato Feed  
Healthy and Necessary Confrontation  
Rev. Brooks Berndt**

### March 22, 2015 Fifth Sunday in Lent

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7 following worship

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Joan Blair  
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington

**Lenten Lunch Series  
Fostering and Sustaining Community  
Rev. Brooks Berndt**

## REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY IN PRAYER

Prayer requests for:

**Our sons and daughters overseas, and the people of the Middle East;**

### CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS FOR:

Farley Maxwell  
Joan Blair  
Abigail Fazio  
Gloria Ross  
Verna Myers  
Betty Ferner  
Jean Mathews

*(Jean is recovering from surgery at Prestige Care in Hazel Dell and would welcome visitors)*

Our thoughts and prayers go to **Phyllis and Phillip Corbin** following the death of their daughter, **Wendy Cokeley**. A Celebration of Wendy's Life will be held on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

## UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

March 8, 2015

Link Deadline

March 10, 2015

Link Mailed

## 2 for 1 Open House

The Martin families are having dual open houses on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 until 3 PM. Come to one and then walk around the corner to the other! No gifts please, your presence at our celebration will be enough.

Ed and Claudia: 5309 NE 68<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bert and Kristina: 6622 NE 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Maps are available in the church office.

### March 29, 2015 Palm Sunday

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Brooks Berndt preaching. Infant and Toddler Care available. Christian Education for children 3 yrs. - Grade 7 following worship

#### **Worship Volunteers:**

Greeters:  
Worship Leader: Leslie Chapman  
Ushers: John Bradley and John Hannon



## YOUR HELP NEEDED NOW

### Sign up now for our WHO week March 1-7.

Once again we are partnering with our friends at Kol Ami. Volunteering is easy by using Volunteer Spot.

#### Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on

Volunteer Spot: <http://vols.pt/cbdRWF> **Make sure the calendar is on March** to find the shifts available during our shared week shifts, March 1-7.

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on Volunteer Spot)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots – Volunteer Spot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! Note: Volunteer Spot does not share your email address with anyone.

You can view the shift details and description before you sign up, but sign up early to get your preferred shift!

If you have any questions or problems with the sign up, contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774.

## Birthday Celebration

Contributed by Connie Oppel

Lots of presents for the church were given by the 21 ladies who attended the Mary Jo Ebel Circle Meeting Wed Feb.18<sup>th</sup>. After a program featuring the church history, good food and fellowship they left a table full of the following gifts:

For the nursery: games, toys, books, markers, paper towels and goldfish

For the office: 2 cans of coffee, pens, printer paper, and paper towels;

For the Kitchen: many beautiful towels, dish cloths, pot holders, 3 cans of coffee, creamer, Splenda, paper towels, and a scrub daddy.

For the MAZ I/Compassion Project: two full compassion bags, hand sanitizers, deodorant, shampoo, storage bags, granola bars, toothpaste and Kleenex.

All gifts were gratefully appreciated.

## Heifer International

Contributed by David Slocum

Our mission focus for March is **Heifer International**. Heifer is a relief organization that was started in 1948 by some Midwest farmers that shipped 17 cows to needy families in Puerto Rico. Since then Heifer has helped 22.6 million families all over the world and here in the United States. Heifer equips people with the tools, education and livestock to bring about positive transformation.

Mom, Judy and I have traveled to some of the poor countries with Heifer. We spent time in the villages and saw what an impact Heifer really makes. We have been in villages where the children could not go to school because they had no shoes until Heifer come. We have been in villages where the infant death rate was terribly high until Heifer brought in cattle and taught them how to take care of them.

This is an excellent program and I urge you to learn more about them (Heifer.org) and support them

## Birthdays in March

March 04	Marilyn L. Ross
March 04	Patty Yates
March 08	Irma Slocum
March 08	Christi Brittain
March 09	Garrett Ralph
March 11	Patty Ralph
March 12	Kristin Mauke-Wiswall
March 15	Emma Schnabel
March 16	Willow Wilson
March 21	Alice Rowe
March 21	Andrew Peterson
March 21	Connie Oppel
March 23	Ed Frank
March 26	Nita Calvert
March 26	Sharie Lewis
March 28	Dorothea Johnson
March 30	Kathleen Williams



## Lenten Luncheon/Adult Education

Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: *Communicating with Children*. Led by Carole Greenauer, this session will present helpful tips for communicating with children in a way that reflects and embodies our values.

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>: *Crucial Conversations between Grandparents and Adult Children*. Led by Alice Rowe, this session will focus on how to have conversations around important issues such as decisions related to housing, health care, loss of independence, etc.

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>: *Healthy and Necessary Confrontation*. Led by Rev. Brooks Berndt, this session will consider how to have positive and constructive confrontations with others in our everyday lives.

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>: *Fostering and Sustaining Community*. Led by Rev. Brooks Berndt, this session will formally introduce a new document for our church entitled "Fostering and Sustaining Community," providing helpful guidelines for building community and addressing conflict in healthy ways.

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## Christian Education and Lent

As a way of connecting all levels of religious education with the exciting Lenten Series, "*Communication Rooted in Our Values*," **Bible Adventures will be held at the same time as Adult Education**. Children and their parents will gather for lunch in Bradford and then the children will attend Bible Adventures classes that emphasize communicating with one another in ways that reflect our values as Christians. During the traditional Bible Adventures time, children in grades 1-8 are welcome to stay in the service. Children from birth through preschool are welcome to visit the nursery.

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## Thank You

Because of your faith and support, we have met the goal of our supplemental pledge campaign.

Thank you for your generosity.

Ken Rowe, Moderator  
Rev. Brooks Berndt, Pastor

## Organ Recital – Save the Date!

Submitted by Jeff Osborne, Chair, Organ Committee



**March 21<sup>st</sup>** marks the 330<sup>th</sup> birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Our organist, Dr. Christopher Schindler, will mark the occasion with a special organ recital as part of the international Bach in the Subways movement.

This free recital, which begins at **3:00 PM**, also celebrates our new 3-keyboard Johannus Opus 370 organ. Pastor Berndt will lead a short dedication for the organ. The recital will be open to the public.

See Christopher's program at

[www.bachinthesubways.com/events/christopher-schindler](http://www.bachinthesubways.com/events/christopher-schindler)

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## Altar Flowers

A new year...a new chance to honor loved ones. A new flower chart has been hung in the narthex. Parish Life commission is now filling the chart for 2015. Please consider honoring a loved one, an anniversary, in memory of a family member or friend, or "just because celebration" by providing a bouquet or arrangement for Sunday worship services. Choose a date/s on the calendar, sign up and the reason for your donation. Honors will be included in the Sunday bulletins. Thank you!

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## Welcome Cordelia Ruth Wilson

Cordelia Ruth was born to Molly and Fred Wilson at 5:52pm Wed, February 18 at Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital. Cora weighs 8 lbs. 3 oz. and is 19 3/4 in long. She's has a full head of red hair.

Mama is recovering just fine and brother & sister Dashel and Willow are thrilled with their new baby sister. Cards or notes of congratulations can be sent to 14000 SE Cascade Park Drive #25 Vancouver, WA. 98683.

## **Memorial Contributions Benefit Church**

A few years ago we published an article in the Link telling the congregation about the many items that were given to the church in memory of someone usually purchased with donated Memorial funds. We are going to repeat portions of that article and give an update on more recent contributions. As you come into our beautiful worship center you will notice many meaningful objects that help us center our thoughts and be ready to experience the spiritual aspect of being in a holy place. These include items as large as the wood carvings, banners, marble slab on the Altar, or the concert grand piano in the sanctuary or items as small as individual hymnals and pieces of music for the choir. As you go around the church you will also find many items less spiritual, but necessary to maintain the facility and our programs such as kindergarten furniture, bulletin boards, office equipment, and storage shed for the grounds equipment. What these, and many other items, have in common is that they are outside or beyond the normal church budget. They come to us from monies donated as memorials to past members and friends.

Most recently, we have a new organ purchased with memorial funds and contributions, new banners, trees and lavender plants, choir renovation, flooring for Plymouth Room and lower level, furniture, and hospitality cabinet in Bradford Hall. Memorial funds were also contributed to The Capital Campaign

There may be more items that aren't listed here, but once the funds have been "spent", the gift has been beautifully recorded in calligraphy by Joan Blair in the memorial books in the Narthex. Appropriately, these books are kept in a wooden, glass topped stand that is also a memorial gift.

In order to insure that memorial gifts are properly received, recognized, and appreciated, all gift ideas need to go through the proper channels for approval. To start this process, you can present an idea to the Memorials Committee, the Council, or Pastor Brooks.

Submitted by:

The Memorials Committee:

Ruth Hammer, Judy Walter, Shirl Zent, Virginia Ebersole and Carol Pendergraft

## March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Communion</b> <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:00 Lenten Luncheon And CE in Bradford 3:00 Cokeley Memorial 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>2</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>3</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:30 Staff PLY 5:30 Conservation PLY 6:30 Sierra Board PLY	<b>4</b> 4:00 WW BRD 6:30 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>5</b> 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Planned Pthd NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>6</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>7</b>
<b>8 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:00 Lenten Luncheon And CE in Bradford 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>9</b> 1:00 Membership PLY 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>10 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 6:30 Parish Life NFL 6:30 CE CL2	<b>11</b> 4:00 WW BRD 6:30 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 PC Users Board NFL 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>12</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl NFL 1:00 Woodworking PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>13</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>14</b> 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group at the Quay
<b>15 4th Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:00 Potato Feed Lent Luncheon and CE in Bradford 1:00 CRC Concert SAN CL 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>16</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Spirituality NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>17</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 6:30 PCUsers BRD	<b>18</b> 10:30 Mary Jo Ebel Circle 4:00 WW BRD 6:30 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>19</b> 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Book Club NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>20</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>21</b> 3:00 <b>Organ Concert SAN</b>
<b>22 5th Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11:00 Lenten Luncheon And CE in Bradford 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>23</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:00 Personnel NFL 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>24 LINK</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 7:00 Communications CL2	<b>25</b> 4:00 WW BRD 6:00 P&F PLY 6:30 Tone Chimes CL2 7:00 Choir SAN	<b>26</b> 1:00 Art and Wood- working PLY 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council CL2 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>27</b> 10:00 Pantry	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship SAN 11&1 MCC PLY 4:30 Fireside PLY	<b>30</b> 6:00 VANUSA BRD 7:30 Fireside PLY	<b>31</b> 9:00 WW BRD 9:30 Bible St. PLY 10:45 Staff PLY 7:00 Pastoral Relations PLY				