

The Link

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Volume 37 No. 8

God is Still Speaking,

April 28, 2015

Dear Church Family,

At the recent information meeting about the current phase of our capital fundraising, our leadership team realized that certain aspects of the plan for the honor garden had not been clearly defined. We sincerely apologize for any confusion we caused. This letter gives the background and the details of the plan envisioned.

In planning this fundraising phase, our team placed an emphasis on the spiritual values and motivations that drive our efforts. We realized that generosity was the spiritual engine that propels the life of our church in such moments. We were clear that we wanted our fundraising to be well-grounded in this core impulse of our faith. To help facilitate a time of spiritual reflection during this phase of fundraising, the honor garden was conceived. Next to the entrance to the sanctuary, we will have a garden that features bricks engraved with the names of the spiritual heroes and heroines of our lives.

Every member will be given the chance to select an exemplary person or a pair of family members whose giving spirit in everyday life serves as an inspiration for others. Some might want to honor a mother or father. Others might want to honor a teacher or friend. The persons honored can be alive or dead. While we anticipate many current and past members will be honored, the person does not have to be a member. There are no restraints on who one might choose. We do not even require a minimum amount to be pledged because we want everyone to be able to participate regardless of his or her financial situation.

We realize that sometimes guidelines can be helpful in making important decisions. In this vein, we offer the following parameters to help bring clarity to the process:

- 1) Each person submitting a commitment card may name one person or two persons if they are family members. In the instance of two family members, the names will appear on one brick.
- 2) Couples submitting a single commitment card count as two persons, so each can name a person or a pair of family members to honor on a brick.
- 3) If more than one commitment card names the same person, one engraved brick will represent the collective honoring of that person. However, we welcome more than one biographical remembrance to be submitted for those named on multiple commitment cards.

A form for submitting the names to be engraved according to these guidelines accompanies this letter. After this fundraising phase, there will be an opportunity to purchase additional engraved bricks. If you have any questions about the process for honoring persons in our garden, please direct them to me.

Sincerely,

John Fite
For the Capital Fundraising Leadership Team

WORSHIP IN MAY

May 3, 2015 Communion

10 a.m. Worship Service. Rev. Carole Elizabeth Presiding Minister, Trent Corey and Andy Allensworth speaking. Infant and Toddler Care available. MAZI meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters: Sandy Mathis and Joy Gerlitz
Worship Leader: Jerry Mathis
Ushers: Rory Martindale and Trent Corey
Wayne and Doris Fletcher

May 10, 2015 Mother's Day

10 a.m. Worship Service Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. . No MAZI this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Melanie Handshaw
Ushers: Carol Pendergraft, Dwight Chapman
Darrell and Shirley Brandenburg

May 17, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service. . Infant and Toddler Care available.

10:20 a.m.: Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. MAZI meets at 11:30 a.m.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Pam Osborne
Ushers: Ken Rowe and Cory Saum-Blystone
Mike King and Ray Jones

May 24, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service.
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.:
Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. No
MAZI this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Harriet Anani
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Sue Rush

May 31, 2015

10 a.m. Worship Service.
Infant and Toddler Care available. 10:20 a.m.:
Christian Education for children 4yrs. - Grade 8. No
MAZI this Sunday.

Worship Volunteers:

Greeters:
Worship Leader: Rory Martindale
Ushers: David Macko and David Harrington
Sue Rush

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
Ken Kerr
Gloria Ross
Betty Ferner
Jean Mathews
Cordelia McBride

UPCOMING PUBLICATION DATES FOR "The Link"

Link Deadline
Link Mailed

May 10, 2015
May 12, 2015

Birthdays in May

May 1	Kristin Martindale
May 5	Isaac Martin
May 6	Janet Melton
May 7	Jim Crossman
May 7	Alona Steinke
May 21	Laela Brittain
May 22	Jean Matthews
May 24	Greg Ralph
May 25	Ruby Frank
May 29	Kathy Woolley
May 31	Boean Marquardt



Women's Breakfast for May

We will honor Sabrina Mauke-Wiswall at the May 9th breakfast. Sabrina is graduating from high school and planning to attend Western Washington State University this fall. Women and girls, please come and help us honor Sabrina. 9:30a.m. at the Quay in downtown Vancouver. Questions, call Connie Oppel at 573-8997.

Thinking About Becoming A Member?

If you have decided that we are the church family for you, you can attend this two-hour orientation class and light brunch after worship on Sunday, June 14th. If you are interested in attending, let Pastor Brooks know as you leave the sanctuary today. Childcare provided upon request.

Howdy Partners,

Contributed by Linda Wear

Get out you cowboy gear and get ready to participate in the Hazel Dell parade on Saturday, May 16th. Our church is gonna have real western ho down. Keep your eyes open for more information to come.

Cards For Virginia!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

As you know, our beloved music director is retiring after 25 years here at 1st Congregational UCC. We are collecting cards for Virginia Dunbar to show our appreciation for her musical leadership all these years. If you would like to give her a card, please bring it to church between now and June 1st and put it in the box in the narthex. (They can also be mailed to the church, c/o Kristina Martin.) They will be presented to Virginia on June 7th. Thank you!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DINNER

Contributed by Ellie Bradley

Come join us for dinner and some lively entertainment to celebrate the conclusion of our current Capital Campaign. The theme will be Italian and we hope a good time will be had by all.

Friends of our Church Grounds

I am going to try something new this year. Instead of having just one or two workdays and instead of asking folk to sign up to maintain a particular spot, I am going to try a periodic e-mail with a to-do list. If you are willing to help out when you can, you will be asked to sign up on a list with your e-mail address. I will post the to-do list and ask for you to volunteer by replying to all on the list that you will take on one of the items at your convenience. I will also post days when I will be working and ask anyone who can join me to come. I will have the sign up list available in the narthex May 3 and following Sundays. Our grounds are really looking good this spring and it is all because of so many willing hands who make it so. Many thanks to you all.
Ed Martin

DATE: Sunday, May 31
TIME: 11:30 AM
WHERE: Bradford Hall

Celebration for the Life of Verna Myers

There will be a Celebration for the Life of Verna Myers on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Verna was a member of our church family for 44 years and served as Church Secretary for several years.

Update from the Financial Secretary

Submitted by Jeff Osborne

Quarterly donation statements for the first quarter were handed out and mailed during April. These statements should accurately reflect each member's giving for the annual operating budget, the second capital campaign, per capita dues as well as other contributions for the year through March 31st. Please review your statement and contact me if anything seems incorrect.

Because the end of the fulfillment period for the second Capital Campaign (6/1/12-5/31/15) is approaching, the Q1 statement shows the capital campaign status through 5/31/15.

Note for those who pre-paid their operating budget pledges and/or per capita fees for 2015 at the end of 2014: Your pre-paid giving was shown on the 2014 year-end statement and cannot be repeated on the 2015 statements. Because of how our tracking software works, it will appear that your pledge is unpaid for 2015. If you have any questions about this please don't hesitate to contact the Financial Secretary.

Jeff Osborne, Financial Secretary
email: jeffo@vanucc.org
phone: 360.904.5910.

Support the Campership!

Contributed by Kristina Martin

For the month of April, Mission and Outreach will collect a special offering to support our Campership fund. The Campership fund helps the families of 1st Congregational UCC send their children to Camp Adams. The current cost for a week of outdoor ministry at Camp Adams is \$365.

With your support, we are sending more and more children from our church to Camp Adams. As one of the few remaining conferences with an outdoor ministry camp, we are very fortunate indeed. (If you are also interested in supporting Camp Adams directly, please go to their website: www.campadams.org for more information.)



**PRIDE SEASON IS ALMOST HERE
HELP US CELEBRATE!**

The Portland Pride Festival & Parade will be June 13-14. All of the local UCC churches are signed up to march together in the parade on June 14th. Step off time is 11:00 AM, but we will start line-up in the North Park Blocks. Exact details of our line-up location will be available in June.

We will also have a table at the festival at Waterfront Park on June 13-14. Tabling at this event is an incredible experience as we share our radical welcome and love with the public.

Please volunteer to represent our church and carry our banner in the parade. It is a joyful experience that you do not want to miss!

To volunteer for the table or the parade, please contact Karen Kulm at 360-991-5774 or email at lk.kulm@gmail.com.

Baby Blessings Coming Soon

Eunita, Brooks and Danalyn are expecting their baby around the second of May. In place of a shower, we are collecting monetary donations and will purchase certificates from baby stores. If you are interested in donating, please see Virginia Dunbar or Natalie Cantrell.



Triple Point is a local youth group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and straight ally youth, ages 13-21 years old. They provide a safe space, support, education, information and referral services through Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW.) Triple Point also provides youth with a meal and structured activities during each meeting. The Vancouver chapter currently meets at the CHSW building at 1112 Columbia St, downtown Vancouver, but they are in the process of planning and fundraising for their own building.

Triple Point meets every Tuesday from 3:00 – 6:00pm for Drop-In and the Support Group meets in the evening from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Volunteers provide a meal for the kids and mentoring. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Spring Dowse, Triple Point Program Coordinator, at 360 695-1325. You can also check out:

<http://childrenshomesociety.org/triplepoint.html>

Please consider making a donation to this wonderful group of youth by writing a check to our church and noting "Triple Point" in the memo line.

Vacation Bible School 2015

Contributed by Kristina Martin

Families planning their summer calendars, please note that we will not be offering VBS this year due to low attendance and limited available volunteers.

A list of local VBS options will be generated for families.

Thank you.

Central Pacific Conference Women's Annual Meeting Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ 5150 SW Watson Street Beaverton, OR 97005

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with Luncheon (\$10.00) served at 12:00 noon. Please make reservations for lunch by May 8 with Bethel Beaverton, 503-646-1191.

Opening Worship presented by the women from Kairos-Milwaukie UCC begins at 1:00.

The featured program on Homelessness by Rev. Gary Davis, Director of Operation Nightwatch and Israel Bayer, Executive Director of Street roots Newspaper will begin at 1:15.

Save the Date: June 10th for the Annual Choir Fun Night

Contributed by Virginia Dunbar

The choir will present a "Fun Night" on the evening of Sunday, June 7th. We will begin with a potluck supper at 6:00 PM. More information on that will be forthcoming.

The program is titled: "It's a Grand Night for Singing" and will include music from Broadway shows, folk-type solos and who knows what else!! It will be an entertaining evening you won't want to miss.

A postscript from Kathy:

This wonderful evening of music and fun coincides with Virginia Dunbar's last Sunday as our Music Director. You are all invited to come and celebrate the amazing musician and beautiful woman we have come to know and love.

Cans for Zambia

Thank you for caring about Zambia and Good Samaritan Ministries. Your cans and redeemable bottles are helping buy sturdy metal desks which cost \$80 each. They seat 3 students. They opened a new center in Ndola in which they have no desks, so the push is on. Please think about collecting these cans over the upcoming holidays when your neighbors (or you) are having parties. The receptacle basket is downstairs in the lower entrance of the church. Please do not crush the cans and rinse cans and bottles, so that Dave Slocum does not have to work so hard. He has been great to collect the cans and rinse them if necessary. Thank you, Dave!! And thanks to all of you!!! ---Nancy Fite

All-Church Book Read

We have begun to learn about the different books that our church will consider for our All-Church Book read. Beginning May 10th and continuing through the month, you will then be able to vote for the book you think our church should read and discuss in the coming Fall. The topics of the books range from understanding the faith of teenagers to learning about the often unknown views of Martin Luther King, Jr. regarding economic justice and global peace.

The books being considered are:

Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church
by Kenda Creasy

Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart
by Christena Cleveland.

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World
by Tracy Kidder.

and

The Radical King
edited by Cornel West.

Job Announcement: Opening for Part-Time Music Director at Our Church

First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver, Washington is an open and affirming church that seeks a part-time Music Director who will bring musical excellence to our vibrant worship services. The Music Director will lead our choir and tone chimes choir by conducting Wednesday evening rehearsals, Sunday morning rehearsals, Sunday worship performances, and occasional special services during the

course of the year. As a congregation that believes worship is an act of the people, the Music Director will collaborate with the pastor to plan worship that seeks to affirm the diverse musical preferences of congregation. The position entails approximately 6-8 hours of work each week. The position requires professional music training with a demonstrated ability to teach and coach choral singing. Application

Deadline: May 31st, 2015. Application

requirements: Cover letter and resume.
Salary: \$10,000 for 9.5 months

Email: kenerowe@msn.com

Contact Person: Ken Rowe

Further Information about Position:

www.vanucc.org/front-page/music-director-position

Members are encouraged to circulate this announcement to persons and organizations they think might be interested in the position.

Teacher and Graduate Recognition Sunday

If you have a graduate in your family, please let Kathy in the office know the graduate's name and plans after graduation so we can add him/her to the bulletin that day. You may drop off your announcement in the office until June 10th or email it to kathy@vanucc.org.

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:00 Worship 11&1 MCC 11:15 MAZI 4:30 Fireside	4 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality	5 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:30 Staff 5:30 Conservation 6:30 Sierra Board	6 9:00 Meditation 4:00 WW 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir	7 4:00 Pantry 6:00 Plnd. Pthd 7:30 Fireside	8 10:00 Pantry	9 9:30 Women's Bkfst Group Quay 2:30 McLoughlin Rec. SAN
10 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 2:00 Davis Recital 4:30 Fireside	11 1:00 Membership 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside AA	12 LINK 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff 6:30 Parish Life 6:30 CE	13 4:00 WW 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir	14 10:00 Prayer Shawl 1:00 Wood 1:30 Meditation 4:00 Pantry 7:30 Fireside	15 10:00 Pantry	16
17 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 11:15 MAZI 11&1 MCC 1:00 CCMTA 4:30 Fireside	18 6:30 VANUSA 7:00 Spirituality	19 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff	20 10:30 Ebel Circle 4:00 WW 5:30 M&O 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir	21 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Book Club 7:30 Fireside	22 10:00 Pantry	23
24 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 11&1 MCC 4:30 Fireside	25 Office Closed Memorial Day 6:30 VANUSA 7:30 Fireside AA	26 LINK 9:00 WW 9:30 Bible St. 10:45 Staff 7:00 Communications	27 4:00 WW 6:00 P&F 6:30 Sp. Choir 7:00 Choir	28 10:00 Memorials 1:00 Art and Crafts 4:00 Pantry 7:00 Council 7:30 Fireside	29 10:00 Pantry	30 1:00 Young Performers CCMTA SAN
31 10:00 Worship 10:20 Bible Adv. 11:00 Cap C Lunch 11&1 MCC 4:30 Fireside						

