

January 14, 2015



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606

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PATTY ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 1



Exploring new horizons.
Living with a different
rhythm. Embracing a
new approach to time.
Living awaited dreams.
These are fancy ways of
talking about retirement.
I've been talking about
retirement for more than

a year but now am ready to live into it. After much prayer and careful discernment, I have decided to close my ministry with the First Christian Church of Albany on June 1 with my last Sunday in worship and in the pulpit being May 24. I will be retiring from this full-time position as a Senior Pastor and opening myself up to new ministry possibilities on the horizon. I hope to have the opportunity to do interim ministry work as well as take on some teaching and chaplaincy assignments. I'd like to have the time to pursue my interests in art, music and creative writing.

There is a full measure of sadness to contend with because goodbyes are difficult when so much love is present. But, on the other hand, I am absolutely confident in the Spirit's guidance in this matter and know that the timing is right for this move. Wonderful possibilities stretch out before me and before you – the people I have been blessed to be in ministry with for over 11 years.

This is a good time for moving on. We are blessed to have the Rev. Douglass Anne Cartwright securely on board as our Minister of Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families. She will join forces with a carefully se-

lected interim pastor and together they will lead the congregation through a time of creative transition.

Our Co-Regional Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cathy Myers Wirt, will be meeting with the leadership of the church to establish two essential teams – a transition team that will discern the shape of ministry that will be most effective for the church at such a time as this and a search committee that will build on the transition team's discernment. The search committee will seek out the pastor who God is calling to serve alongside Douglass Anne and the whole congregation to strengthen and expand the church's response to the Gospel call in Albany and the world.

I will have many more opportunities to share my thoughts, hopes and dreams as we enter this time of transition, but for now I want to lay claim to three words that resonate throughout the Gospel story, "Be not afraid!" The congregation has been and will continue to be in good hands in so many ways. Be not afraid! God is present and will continue to guide and inspire us. The church is healthy, vibrant and ready to meet the challenges of these days in creative, dynamic ways. The work that we have done together will not go to waste. It provides a firm foundation upon which exciting ministries of God's great love will grow and bear rich fruit. Be not afraid! There are new horizons to explore. There is a different rhythm pulsing and beckoning us to dance. New approaches to challenging times are ready to be discovered and embraced. There are great, new dreams awaiting us all. Be not afraid; God is with us.

Love,
Patty

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

David Fryer whose sister died
Marcia Stevens
Tom Cochran
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Nancy Robb's brother
Jack Miner
Lynnie Evans
Harryette Anderson
Sarah Mack's step mom
Doreen Hilderbrand

For those in hospice care:
Phyllis Silsbee
Cheryl Hersom

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, January 4

Attendance 115
General Fund giving \$6,318
Building Fund giving \$885

Sunday, January 11

Attendance 119
General Fund giving \$4,103
Building Fund giving \$915

General Fund giving in Jan. \$10,421
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Jan. \$1,800
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

IN LOVING MEMORY

JEAN MARY BURKE

AUG. 10, 1920 - DEC. 28, 2014

On Jan. 2, we celebrated the long life of Jean Burke who was an active member of our church since she and her husband Art joined the church on March 25, 1979. She was a faithful worshipper, served as a deacon and member of the Program Cabinet and was active in Christian Women's Fellowship, serving as the treasurer for the group for a few years.

Jean worked hard and had a strong mind, quick wit, lively spirit and compassionate heart. She could do anything and anything she undertook she did well.



When we think of Jean we will remember how faithful she was to her husband, children, extended family and to all of us here at the church. She wanted to be in her place along the center aisle with Vicky by her side for worship as often as possible. She was always dressed to the nines with plenty of sparkle on the outside AND the inside. She didn't always agree with what was preached or decided, but she was always gracious and kind and had a loyalty to the church family that extended beyond her own needs and opinions. She prided herself on being the oldest active member of the church - an honor she was tickled to remind Mildred Evans about every time she saw her and passes on to her now.

She gave herself to the common good of the family - her own family and the church family. She, who never considered herself intelligent or talented, was actually both and quite brilliant in all ways - open minded, well read, well informed, articulate, and wise. We found comfort in her presence, comfort in her humor, comfort in the generosity of her love.

Please hold Jean's family in your prayers in this time of loss.

OUR MISSION

is to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Would you be interested in joining a group that would meet a couple of times a month to support each other in healthier eating and weight management? If this sounds like a helpful and interesting possibility, call Shanna Jenne or Patty Evans and they will set a time for an organizational gathering.

TRAVELS THROUGH THE SOUTH

Dena Minato and Dave Kullowatz will be presenting photos and stories from their 91-day, 11,000 mile journey across the South at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 in the meeting room at the main branch of the public library.

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 7-8, 2015

Women's Weekend at Silver Falls Conference Center (remainder of fees due Feb. 1)

Feb. 18, 2015

Ash Wednesday

March 22-27, 2015

Mission trip to JustLiving Farm

April 5, 2015

Easter Sunday Celebration

July 18-22, 2015

General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio

SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY CAMP

August 21-23, 2015

Camp Tumalo

in the Bend area

Registration in the spring.

If you have questions, talk to Teralee Weir.

TRUE COMMUNITY

CONGRATULATIONS, JIM SCHULTE



Our 2014 Honored Member, Jim Schulte, is a native Oregonian – in fact, is pioneer stock. He was raised in a family with four kids and graduated from Albany Union High School where he ran track.

The Christian Church was blessed with the family when the Baptists went to ragging on their preacher a bit too much and Jim, who was in junior high school at the time, put a firm foot down and refused to go there anymore. The next Sunday

found the family in the pews at the Christian Church for which we are eternally grateful. Mary Lou and Jean McCorkle were leaders when Jim participated in both the Chi Rho and CYF programming of the church.

Then there were the years away in the Navy before he was back in Albany working as assistant manager at Richie's Market and later at Wah Chang before opening the White Rose floral shop with his cousin Jim Somppi.

For 40 years Jim gave loving care to his beloved mother. He gave more than a full measure of himself to her care – making sure she lived surrounded by all the love and beauty he could provide. Caring for her, the home and working a full time job didn't leave him with a lot of time to spare, but upon her passing he began to extend his care back into the church in which he had been raised.

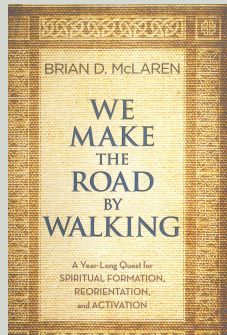
It didn't take long at all and he was back in full time service here at the First Christian Church. He said YES to becoming a deacon; YES to the Open and Affirming Advocacy Committee; YES to the Program Cabinet; YES to planning last summer's ice cream socials; YES to dish-washing, food preparation and serving as point person at the weekly Community Meal; YES to mowing the lawn, YES to helping Chet do the detailed work of keeping the fire suppression system up and running according to Fire Dept. standards; YES to being on call with our Security System network; YES to serving on our Sanctuary Arts team and helping to create a beautiful and meaningful worship environment in the sanctuary; YES to regularly serving as a liturgist and YES to becoming an elder this year. Over and over and over again Jim Schulte, our 2014 Honored Member says YES and by his loving and faithful service strengthens our congregation's response to the gospel call. His YES helps us live in true community, with a deep spirituality and a passion for justice.

Jim Schulte, we love you. We appreciate you. We are honored to minister side by side with you. Thank you for your years of service to Christ and His Church.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

'WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING'

If you are reading Brian McLaren's book "We Make the Road by Walking" as a part of our yearlong congregational spiritual quest, be sure to pick up the reading schedule which will guide this exciting spiritual quest. The schedule is available in the church office and on the rolling counter outside the church office on Sunday mornings. Throughout the year opportunities to gather for discussion will be offered. Watch the newsletter for information.

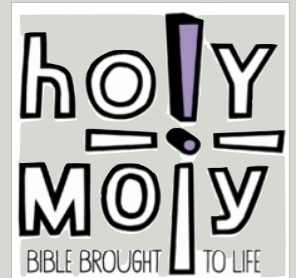


A discussion group is currently meeting on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and will continue to meet through March 29. If you would like to join a small group that meets mid week for reflection on a weekly or monthly schedule please put your name on the sign up chart on the rolling counter and Patty Evans will facilitate the formation of these groups. Please sign up by Jan. 25. Books are available for purchase in the church office. If you are trying to keep pace with the congregation, read and reflect on chapter 3 by Jan. 18 and chapter 4 by Jan. 25.



HOLY MOLY

This winter our children (ages 3 through 5th grade) have the opportunity to ignite their biblical imaginations in Children's Worship with a program called "Holy Moly!" With a combination of animated videos, creative activities, and age-appropriate Bibles, Holy Moly brings the Bible to life. Every Holy Moly lesson follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, our kids will watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible Storybook or Bible, and try a creative leaflet activity. If you would be interested in serving as a greeter or a teacher for a month, let Douglass Anne know!



REIKI TRAINING COMING JAN. 22-24

Reiki training led by Rev. Elaine Andres is being offered Jan. 22-24 at our church.

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Option I: Thu/Fri, Jan. 22/23 - 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Option II: Fri/Sat Jan 23/24 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Students who have trained previously have the opportunity to audit the class.

MINDFULNESS FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Mindfulness is a practice focused on exploring the nature of mind with the aim of opening practitioners to the present moment or "the now."

You are invited to participate in a three hour workshop spread over three consecutive Thursdays (Jan. 15, 22, 29). The classes, led by Terry Wood, will explore the nature of mindfulness, why it is important for healthy living, and how to begin a mindfulness practice. Each of the sessions which will run 7-8 p.m. will explore a different facet of mindfulness practice.

This workshop is sponsored by our church and Sacred Path Ministry.

Registration is highly recommended. Cost is \$30 for all three sessions. To sign up contact Terry or Nadine Wood at 541-924-0976 or terrywood4@comcast.net. Checks should be written to Sacred Path Ministry.



PASSION FOR JUSTICE

COMMUNITY MEAL FUNDRAISER

Support the Community Meal and enjoy a delicious and nutritious Sunday lunch prepared by Gordon Kirbey, our Community Meal chef and other volunteers.

Gordon will cook up his famous mac and cheese, Nancy Robb will bake her corn bread, Wilma Albright and Billy Jo Cruzan will bake their oatmeal cookies. Volunteers will assemble these into take home containers.

The meal will be ready to take home following the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 25.

You can purchase your tickets for \$10 now. There are a limited number of meals available for purchase (75) so get your tickets soon. Tickets can be purchased in the church office during the week or on Sunday morning during fellowship time.

All proceeds will provide a firm financial foundation for the Community Meal which serves about 200 meals weekly.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

At Sunday's annual congregational lunch, we enjoyed a delicious soup and salad lunch and had a chance to thank the outgoing leaders in the church and install the incoming leaders.

Thanks to the volunteers and youth who prepared the lunch and to those who gave donations when the duct tape went overhead. The money will help our youth who are going on the mission trip and/or summer camps. \$885 was raised.

We also celebrated our Honored Member for 2014 Jim Schulte (*see the story on page 3*). We also received the news of Patty's retirement on June 1 (*story on page 1*).



FAMILY OUTING TO FUN ZONE

There will be a Children and Family Outing to G2 Fun Zone on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. G2 Fun Zone has bouncy playhouses for kids 12 years and younger. Cost will be \$4 if we have 10 or more kids and \$5 if we have less than 10 kids. There is plenty of seating for parents, so plan to come and visit with Douglass Anne and other FCC parents! If your family is able to come, please let Douglass Anne know as soon as possible!



CHURCH BOARD

6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 15
Graham Kislingbury
Kathwren Hayes
Cam Shuck
JoLee Bryant
Anne Catlin
Emily Killin
Sharon Gisler
Dale Gray
David Fryer

PROGRAM CABINET

6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 19
Tony Wilson
Beth Hogeland
Jim Schulte
Cathy Feeney
Rowland Gaal
Sandy Jenne
Shanna Jenne
Dean Minato
Teralee Weir

ELDERS

6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 26
Ray Lindley
Anne Magruder
Ross Jackson
Nancy Marshall
Mac McClanahan
Vicki McClanahan
Nancy Robb
Kris McLaughlin
Nancy Powell
Don Rea
Mary Dale Salston
Jim Schulte
Steve Etzel

SAVE THESE DATES

REGIONAL SUMMER CAMPS AT SUTTLE LAKE

CYF and Chi Rho Camp – July 26-31, 2015
Grade School Camp – August 10-14, 2015

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