

March 11, 2015



# GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606  
Vol. 59, No. 5 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>

## IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME!

The sun is out! The trees are in full bloom! The air is sweet with the fragrance of spring! All these lovely signs remind us it is time for spring cleaning at the church.

There is a list of cleaning tasks that need our helping hands – washing walls, deep cleaning the kitchen, wiping down hymn books, vacuuming worship chairs and cleaning table legs etc. Many helpers are needed to spruce up the building and yard for our Easter celebration.

Join the All Church Clean-Up on Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Work sign up charts will be available on Sunday morning. If you can't join the work day, you can sign up for a task and do it during the week.

## POTLUCK & GAMES NIGHT SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • 5-7 P.M.

Join your church family for an evening of fellowship and fun. Bring a potluck dish to share, your favorite board games and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.

We'll start by enjoying dinner together and then have a time of playing games. It will all be wrapped up in time for kids to get home and get ready for bed or to finish homework.

Thanks to Tony Wilson who has agreed to lead this event. If you want to help him with the set up or clean up, please let him know.

## GENTLE CHAIR YOGA

Rowland Gaal is offering chair yoga classes on Wednesday mornings from 11:15 a.m. to noon on March 11, 18 and 25. Chair yoga improves balance, flexibility, strength and promotes relaxation. The classes are free, open to all ages and can be individualized to suit your needs.



## EASTER BREAKFAST

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. • SUNDAY, APRIL 5

ALL DONATIONS

HELP SEND KIDS TO SUMMER CAMPS

## BRINGING PLANTS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

To beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday, we are encouraging people to bring flowering plants that they have selected and purchased. Bring them to the church on Good Friday, April 3. We will have tags to attach to the plants to remember loved ones and an opportunity to have names appear on a bulletin insert.

If you have questions, please see Nancy in the office.



**PLEASE BRING  
SMALL PACKAGED CANDY  
TO FILL EGGS  
FOR OUR EGG HUNT!**

# Church Family News

## In Our Prayers

Jen Collins who is being treated for leukemia  
Harold and Georgia Parker  
Family and friends of Phyllis Silsbee, Charlotte Houser's sister, who died on Feb. 27  
Stephan Selvage, whose dad died  
Ray Lindley, who is awaiting word on treatment for prostate cancer  
Tom Cochran, who is at home recovering from a heart transplant  
Kim Free, being treated for typhoid  
Linda Bricker  
Jan Goby  
Nancy Robb's brother  
Jack Miner  
Lynn Evans  
Haryette Anderson  
Sarah Mack's step mom  
Cheryl Hersom, in hospice care

## Attendance and Giving

### Sunday, March 1

Attendance 105  
General Fund giving \$4,180  
Building Fund giving \$960

### Sunday, March 8

Attendance 111  
General Fund giving \$7,272  
Building Fund giving \$5,915

General Fund giving in Mar. \$11,452  
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Mar. \$6,875  
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

### OUR MISSION

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

## THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Indeed, change is in the air. My retirement is weeks away and I am feeling excited, nervous and a bit overwhelmed by how my life and role in the church are shifting. Despite my hearty proclamation to the congregation to "be not afraid," I am experiencing fear. It is becoming clear to me how much of my identify is found in what I do. I am an ordained minister of the Gospel and have been for 35 years. For 40 years I have invested the majority of my time, talents and effort in serving Christ and the Church. This role brings clarity and direction to my life – this is who I am. But now, things are changing. I'm wondering who I am separate from being a pastor and I am a bit befuddled by that wondering.

It is in those moments when fear is about to get the best of me that I return to a favorite prayer by Thomas Merton that is posted in my bathroom. I read it in the morning when I rise and before I go to sleep. It has framed my days for many years.

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

"These times they are a changin'" for us all. Perhaps you too are feeling excited, nervous, a bit overwhelmed and even fearful. Those feelings are best met in prayer for it is in that time of connection with the Spirit that the best of ourselves can rise up to help us be who we really are – the beloved of God.

Love,  
Patty



To Patty, Douglass Anne, Paul, Caren, deacons, special ladies who served the refreshments after the memorial service and my church family,

You all made a difficult time very special for me and I know Don would have been pleased. Thank you so very much for all your efforts.

Evelyn Ranck  
Special friend of Don Brash

## LOOKING AHEAD

### March 22-27

Mission trip to JustLiving Farm, Yakama, Washington

### April 3

7:30 p.m. Good Friday service

### April 5

Easter Celebration and Baptisms

### April 19

Congregational meeting

### April 26

Kick off stewardship campaign

### May 24

A Celebration of Patty's ministry with us on her last Sunday

### June 7

Graduation Sunday

### July 18-22

General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio

### July 26-31

High school and middle school regional camps at Suttle Lake

### Aug. 10-14

Grade School Camp

### Aug. 21-23

Family Camp at Tumalo in the Bend area. Registration will be in the spring.

# TRUE COMMUNITY

## GENERAL FUND NEEDS YOU!

Our General Fund, which provides a firm financial foundation for all the ministries and mission of the church, is a little shaky as we come to the end of the first quarter of the year. Our hopes and dreams for the congregation are rooted in a well-supported General Fund and right now it is in a deficit condition. Our gifts to the General Fund provide the many ministries of our staff, support the educational and fellowship programs of the congregation, maintain our building as a vital tool of ministry and reach out in love and compassion to people in our community and around the world. Many thanks are extended to all who give regularly, joyfully and generously to the General Fund. All gifts large and small make a difference!

## REGISTER FOR FAMILY CAMP BEFORE MAY 1

During April, we will be registering people for Family Camp which is set for Aug. 21-23 at Tumalo State Park near Bend. Reservations of 5 RV sites and 7 tent sites have already been made. Thanks to Teralee and Doug Weir who are coordinating this year's Family Camp.

The cost will be \$55. The registration form/brochure is available on the rolling counter by the office. The fee must be paid when you register to hold a spot. Make checks payable to First Christian Church. The deadline to register is May 1.

## LABELS FOR MISSION

Christian Women's Fellowship collects cash register receipts from MEGA Foods and participates in the 1% rebate program. Turn in receipts to Laverne Bilyeu or to the church office.

You can also save labels from FLAV-R-PAC, WESTPAC and SANTIAM canned and frozen foods. The group receives five cents for each label. It doesn't sound like much but it adds up.

The money raised goes into the CWF mission budget which goes to the Disciples Mission Fund, Fish, Volunteer Caregivers, Helping Hands, ABC House, Turner Retirement Home, our church's youth mission trip, Jackson St. Youth Shelter, and Cane Ridge, Kentucky to help support the upkeep of the original Disciples church building.



# DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

## WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING EASTER SUNDAY DISCUSSION

All who are reading “We Make the Road by Walking” are invited to a special discussion gathering at 9 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 5.

The youth will be serving an Easter Breakfast (8-9:30 a.m.) and all are invited to pick up breakfast and go to the Cornerstone Room where we will discuss the Holy Week reading assignment. In readiness for this time of fellowship and reflection, read Chapters 32 (Parts A, B, and C) and Chapter 33.



## GOOD FRIDAY, SERVICE OF DARKNESS

A solemn service in remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus will be held in our sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 3.

The ancient name for this contemplative service is “Tenebrae” which means “darkness.” The service is marked by the gradual dousing of candles and concludes in total darkness. Light does not return to the sanctuary until Easter morning. This is an opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ death in order to more fully experience the joyous light and life celebrated on Easter.

The service will include silence, reflective readings, special music and visual reminders of the Passion Story of Jesus Christ.

## MISSION GRANTS AWARDED

Our church recently awarded three mission grants.

- \$1,000 to Jackson St. youth shelter to assist with building a shelter in Albany
- \$250 to Albany Peace Seekers for peace awards given to local high school students
- \$900 to Just Living Farm in Yakama and \$600 for our youth mission trip expenses to Yakama

The funds for these grants come from the Christian Church Foundation investment accounts. A percentage has been designated for world and local mission work.

Mission grant applications will be reviewed again in July. If you have a project that you would like to see receive a gift, complete an application which is available in the church office.

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

These worship, reflection and fellowship opportunities will add meaning and depth to this year’s observance of Lent and Easter. All will be family-friendly!

### HOLY WEEK

#### Palm Sunday Worship Celebrations

Worship in the Round at 8 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

#### Good Friday Service of Darkness

Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

### 8-9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

A delicious breakfast cooked and served by our youth! Proceeds support sending our kids to camp this summer.

### 9 a.m. “We Make the Road by Walking”

#### Discussion

Pick up your breakfast and come to the Cornerstone Room to eat together and discuss the Holy Week readings .

### 10 a.m. Resurrection Sunday Worship

Celebrate the Risen Lord with great music, warm fellowship around the Lord’s Table, and creative telling of the great story of life.



## REIKI PRAYER MINISTRY NEWS

Reiki Prayer Ministry meets from 1-3 p.m. every Thursday. If you are interested in experiencing Reiki, contact Terry Wood.

It is also offered on the fourth Saturday of the month. There will not be a meeting in March due to spring break.

There will be a reunion gathering of all reiki students/practitioners at Patty’s home from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9.



# PASSION FOR JUSTICE

## TRANSITION TEAM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### Who are we?

The Transition Team is made up of five members recommended by the Church Board. Members are Graham Kislingbury (ex-officio), Linda Lees, Ross Jackson, Paula Moore, Chet Houser and Nadine Wood (chair). Our purpose is to guide and help facilitate the congregation and staff through the transition from Patty's retirement to the hiring of an interim pastor and the settling in of a permanent pastor. The Transition Team will continue to meet through the first six months after the congregation has hired a permanent pastor.

Specific responsibilities include:

- developing a job description for the interim pastor
- hiring the interim pastor
- planning a farewell for Patty, welcoming the interim pastor
- keeping the congregation informed on the interim process

### Will the transition team hire the permanent pastor?

No. The Transition Team is **not** responsible for hiring the permanent pastor. A Search Committee will present a candidate to the congregation which will vote to extend a call to a permanent pastor.

### When will the Search Committee begin?

In order to give the congregation some time away from the style of ministering we have known with Patty for the last 11 years, it is important to allow a period of time to experience new leadership. The Search Committee will form in the near future, likely around the time the interim pastor is hired.

### What work has the Transition Team done so far?

To date the Transition Team has met three times. Regional Pastor Cathy Myers-Wirt was at our first meeting to explain our role and guide us to our first steps which include:

- developing a job description for the interim pastor
- updating the Congregational Profile
- making plans to celebrate Patty's ministry

### When will we have an interim pastor?

At this point, we cannot say when an interim pastor will be on staff. Considerations include availability of interims, budget, and adequate coverage of summer church responsibilities. The soonest an interim would be here is June, and it is possible it will be as late as September.

### Why is Douglass Anne's office downstairs now?

On Patty's recommendation, this move allows Douglass Anne to be more visible in her continuing role as Associate Pastor. There may be a period of time before an interim pastor is hired when Douglass Anne is the only pastor on staff, making it critical she is in the hub of activity.

*(see related story on this page.)*

## OFFICE CHANGE

As has been done in the past, our pastors have made office changes to better address current staffing needs. Patty will use the upstairs pastor's office for the next three months which will give her the opportunity to focus on the work of transition, pastoral care and worship life. Douglass Anne will be in the downstairs pastor's office which will give her the opportunity to get better acquainted with the congregation and the daily work rhythms of the office.

Patty will continue to be the Senior Pastor and fully available to the needs and concerns of the congregation. Douglass Anne will continue to do the work of our Minister of Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families. She will remain in this office until such time that the staff team (including the interim pastor) decides that other arrangements need to be made to best address the work they are doing.

When the church moves into the interim period, Douglass Anne will continue on as resident pastor which means her ministry is rooted in this community and will not end at the close of the interim period. Douglass Anne, the interim pastor and other staff will work alongside the Transition Team, Church Board, Program Cabinet and Elders to coordinate all the ministries of the congregation. God has called this ministry team for just such a time as this. Be not afraid; the church is in good hands!

## PRE-PRIMARY NEWS

*by Beth Morse, Director*

The school year is quickly coming to an end but we still have a few events on our calendar. On March 13 we will have our annual carnival and silent action. This is our social event of the year and is enjoyed by the students, families and staff. We could still use extra hands so if you would like to volunteer, please contact Beth.

The preschool provides scholarships for students whose families cannot afford to pay all or a portion of their tuition costs. We have families in which a parent has lost a job, single mothers, and parents who are going back to school to get a better education.

If you would like to contribute to our scholarship program and help fund new toys and support our speech and language program, please drop off your donation by Sunday, March 15. Designate or make checks payable to Pre-Primary School.

Pre-registration for the 2015-2016 school year starts Wednesday, April 1.

Classes will be offered for 3 and 4-year-olds as well as our speech and language class for children who would benefit from communication assistance. Feel free to share our information with those who have a young child.



Gordon Kirbey has planned the menus for the Community Meal for the next few weeks.

- 3/10 Spanish Rice
- 3/17 Broccoli Chicken Casserole
- 3/24 Macaroni and Cheese
- 3/31 Chili Macaroni
- 4/7 Meatloaf
- 4/14 Betty Rea recipes



Albany, OR 97321  
432 Ferry St. SW  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



**GOOD NEWS**

