

April 29, 2015



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
Vol. 59, No. 8 Web site: <http://www.fccalbany.com/>



Our youth are learning about the Disciples denomination and went looking for our chalice symbol. They didn't have to go far to find them.



HAPPY! STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

What makes you happy about giving? People are happy to give when they know they are making a difference in the world. People are happy to give when they can invest in something exciting, bold and life-changing. People are happy to give when their giving touches lives.

The church's dream is to change the world with God's love, to lift hearts, work for justice, bring healing and hope and transform unjust systems and broken lives. Every financial gift to the General Fund of the First Christian Church is an investment in life, love, hope and healing. Every gift to the Building Fund helps to provide a tool for ministry in our community where lives are changed. Every gift of time, talent and treasure directed

through the First Christian Church changes the world. What we give makes possible the sharing of the love of Christ here at home and around the world.

Watch your mail this week for a letter explaining how you can be HAPPY II!



Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Joan Miner
Mary Lou Estes
Helen Wells
Gordon Kirbey
Ray Lindley
Billie Jo Cruzan
Sandy Jenne
Jen Collins
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Nancy Robb's brother
Lynnie Evans
Harryette Anderson
Sarah Mack's step mom
Cheryl Hersom, in hospice care
Our Transition Team

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, April 19

Attendance 112
General Fund giving \$4,599
Building Fund giving \$1,085

Sunday, April 26

General Fund giving \$2,551
Building Fund giving \$0

General Fund giving in Apr. \$21,046
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Apr. \$10,490
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

Deficit for March \$2,020
Year-to-date deficit: \$7,351

OUR MISSION

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



A SPECIAL DAY OF CELEBRATION ON MAY 24

May 24 will be a special day here at the church. We will have the opportunity to hear Patty preach her last sermon as our pastor and we will celebrate her years of ministry with us before we launch her off into the rest and relaxation of retirement.

Following worship, we will have a spring salad buffet and a program with tributes to Patty and a time of appreciation for all the ways she has inspired and led us in ministry.

Thanks to Charlotte Houser and Joyce Arnott who are taking the lead on the luncheon. If you are willing to lend a helping hand, please contact one of them.

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Patty, please do so by Sunday, May 3. Checks can be written to the church with a notation of "Gift for Patty." If you have questions, please see Nancy in the office.

WHO IS GRADUATING?

Do you have someone in your family graduating from high school or college? Please send information (name, school, degree, and future plans) to the church office so we can include it in the newsletter. We will be honoring graduates at our 10 a.m. worship service on June 7.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR FAMILY CAMP

There are four tent sites still available for Family Camp. Family Camp is set for Aug. 21-23 at Tumalo State Park near Bend.

The cost is \$60. 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. Please make checks payable to First Christian Church. The deadline to register is May 1. After May 1 we will release the sites that we don't plan to use.

PIANO AVAILABLE TO A GOOD HOME!

A year ago the Church Board authorized the sale of the piano in Cornerstone Room. Our current piano tuner has worked on this piano and in his opinion it is not worth restringing. If you are interested in owning this piano, please see Nancy in the church office before May 15.

LOOKING AHEAD

May 17

Dedication of pledges - end of stewardship campaign

May 24

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

May 31

Potluck and Games Night
5-7 p.m.

June 7

Graduation Sunday
Choir Appreciation

July 18-22

General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio (Douglass Anne will be attending.)

July 26-31

High school and middle school regional camps at Suttle Lake
Middle school camp director:
Douglass Anne Cartwright

Aug. 10-14

Grade School Camp

Aug. 16

Swim Party and Potluck at Otter Beach with Corvallis First Christian

Aug. 21-23

Family Camp at Tumalo in the Bend area. Register by May 1.

TRUE COMMUNITY



Above: A small group from the church participated in the 8th annual Procession of the Species parade in downtown Albany. Pictured above: Patty, Nancy and Douglass Anne were joined by Abe, the jellyfish, and B.B., the butterfly and Stacey Peterman. Patty worked at the registration table and handed out balloons.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

'THE (UN)COMMON GOOD'

The Wednesday Morning Book Study is reading "The (Un)Common Good" by Jim Wallis. The book is an exploration of Jesus' vision of the common good – a vision that impacts and inspires our politics, our personal lives, families, churches, neighborhoods and world.

The group just started the book so feel free to join in. It meets 10 a.m. every Wednesday. They read the book out loud together and then discuss it.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Care giving is blessed and challenging work. It is a joy to extend oneself in loving care to family and friends, but it can also be frustrating, lonely and tiring. Caregivers need support!

To that end, a Caregivers Support Group meets on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room. The group shares supportive conversation and prayer. This is an open, self-led support group and all are invited.

REIKI CIRCLE REUNION

More than 20 people in our church have been trained in the gentle art of hands-on, healing prayer called "Reiki." And many in the congregation and community have received Reiki Prayer from our Reiki Circle. This is one of the vibrant and transformative ministries of our church.

All those who have been trained in Reiki during Patty Evans' ministry as our senior pastor are invited to a Reiki Circle Reunion at her home on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will share memories, Reiki Prayer and lunch.

Plan to come even if you haven't shared Reiki since your training. Please RSVP to Debbie Burchfiel, Patty Evans or the church office.

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

How's your reading coming? If you are keeping pace with the congregation's group reading of Brian McLaren's new book, "We Make the Road by Walking," you should have read chapters 1-8 and 27-36.

The next monthly discussion group will be held on Monday, May 11 at 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. at the home of Patty Evans, 1556 SW Otter Court. The group will discuss chapters 37-40.

Program Cabinet plans to resume a Sundays at Nine discussion group starting Sunday, June 4. Chapter 41 will be the focus.

SUNDAYS AT NINE

May 3 at 9 a.m.

Youth programs highlighted

Douglass Anne will talk about what is happening with our children's programs, youth groups and the plans for summer camps. Learn about "Holy Moly" and what the middle school and high school youth are doing in their weekly gatherings.

May 10 at 9 a.m.

Christian Women's Fellowship & Prayer Shawl

Come hear about the programs of CWF and the Prayer Shawl group. Find out if this is a place for you to share your gifts and connect to a wonderful group of people.

May 17 at 9 a.m.

Reiki and Mindfulness

Debbie Burchfiel and Terry Wood will share information about Reiki Healing Prayer and Mindfulness.

Reiki was started in our church in 2006 and has grown in the past nine years. Many have benefitted from the healing touch of prayer.

Terry has offered workshops in Mindfulness and is currently offering it at our youth groups.

Come hear more about these healing ministries and how you can participate.



PASSION FOR JUSTICE

Right: Cathy Myers Wirt answers questions about the search for an interim pastor at the congregational meeting on April 19.



TRANSITION TEAM CHECKS REFERENCES

The FCC Transition Team met April 18 with Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt to discuss reference checks for our interim pastor candidates. The team planned to complete the reference calls by its April 28 meeting. It hopes to recommend a candidate to the church board on May 11 or sometime later next month.

Cathy outlined the transition process and long-term search and call during the 9 a.m. class hour and at our congregational meeting on April 19. If you were unable to attend either of those sessions, copies of Cathy's slides are available at the church office or can be emailed to you by calling 541-926-8606.

The Transition Team talked during the 9 a.m. class hour on April 26. Members of the team are Nadine Wood, Chet Houser, Ross Jackson, Linda Lees, Paula Moore and Graham Kislingbury.



TRANSITION TEAM NEWS

COMMUNITY MEAL VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to Charlotte Smith and Nancy Powell who are leading the Community Meal cooking during Gordon Kirbey's absence. We also want to thank everyone who is putting in extra effort to make this possible.

If you are interested in volunteering for food prep, talk to Charlotte Smith who is expanding the volunteer base and training people in the kitchen.

We are also grateful for the participation of volunteers from both the Mennonite Church and from the United Presbyterian Church. They are preparing desserts on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Last week we served 227 meals with volunteers giving 57 hours of their time to help feed people in our community.

VISIONING A FUTURE REGIONAL CHURCH

Since late 2013 The Regional Church Vision Team has been meeting, praying, and listening to people's hopes and dreams for our new regional church. As the shape and geography of our region has changed with the addition of our South Idaho churches so too our opportunities and mission/worship/program life are changing.

We are invited to participate in an opportunity to be a part of this visioning process. All are invited to a gathering on May 16, 12:30-4:30 that will take place simultaneously in five locations. The Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm will lead the visioning process in person at the First Christian Church in Eugene. He will be virtually present at the First Christian Church of Dallas, Lynchwood, Pendleton and Red Rock Christian Church in Boise.

Douglass Anne Cartwright plans to attend the visioning session in Eugene and Patty Evans will attend the gathering in Dallas. They are looking for people who will join them and through our sharing of hopes, dreams and visions for the church create a new model for what it means to be a vitally connected and responsive regional church family.

Contact Douglass Anne or Patty if you would like to join the adventure!



ICE CREAM SOCIALS

At its April meeting the Program Cabinet looked ahead to the summer and decided to plan ice cream socials in July and August.

The ice creams socials will be held at city parks and will be a time to enjoy fellowship as well as yummy ice cream and toppings.

Shanna Jenne will be coordinating these ice cream socials. Just let her know if you are willing to help.

