

May 13, 2015



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606
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REV. ERIC DALE TO SERVE AS INTERIM PASTOR

The Transition Team is excited announce the Rev. Eric Dale will serve as our interim pastor beginning Sept. 8. The Church Board approved the team's recommendation of Eric at its May 11th meeting.

During its interview with Eric, the Transition Team was impressed by the importance he places on the interim time and the role he has in guiding the congregation during this time of change. The Transition Team is confident he will work collaboratively with both staff and members, and will be a wonderful addition to our

congregation. The team members found that Eric's friendly demeanor and ready smile make him very approachable, and they feel he will move easily into the life of our congregation.

The following URL address links to videos and audios of Eric leading worship at Seattle's Fauntleroy Church UCC. He has served as interim pastor there for two years.

http://www.fauntleroyucc.org/about_staff_eric_page.php

WORDS FROM ERIC

A little about me ... I received my theological training at Pacific School of Religion and The Jesuit School of Theology, both part of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. My undergraduate degree is in photography and communications and I did additional graduate work in sociology during a sabbatical year in England. I am the author of the book *Bringing Heaven Down to Earth: A Practical Spirituality of Work*.

My interests are varied and include such things as hiking and walking, exploring the surrounding areas, photography, writing, movies, books and reading, music, dancing, and travel. I'm always open to a good discussion, preferably around a good meal.

Some of the highlights of my ministry have included leading two mission teams to Chile, leading student summer abroad groups to Denmark and the former USSR, leading a Peace Pilgrimage to the former USSR, and participating on mission and educational trips to Cuba and Central America.



My wife, the Rev. Monique-Cheri Pierre, is also a minister. She is currently serving the Forestville United Methodist Church in Sonoma County in northern California. We both grew up in San Francisco and even though we went to the same high school, we didn't know each other until after college (it was a big high school). We have three dogs, love movies, and the outdoors.

The Pacific Northwest has been "home" for a long time. My father was the campus minister at Western Washington State College in Bellingham a long time ago, when I was in kindergarten and first grade. My folks bought a small place just out of town and every summer while growing up my family would spend the summer at our "cabin" in the woods near the bay. My parents retired and lived in Bellingham for the last 23 years. My father passed away but my mother is still in Bellingham. My wife and I spend a couple weeks' vacation in Washington every summer.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Joan Miner
Mary Lou Estes
Helen Wells, moved to Lebanon
Fern Dixon, moved to Timberwood
Memory Care
Gordon Kirbey
Ray Lindley, whose brother died
Jen Collins
Linda Bricker
Jan Goby
Nancy Robb's brother
Lynnie Evans
Harryette Anderson
Sarah Mack's stepmom
Cheryl Hersom, in hospice care
Our Transition Team

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, May 3

Attendance 120
General Fund giving \$7,136
Building Fund giving \$17,380

Sunday, May 10

Attendance 116
General Fund giving \$6,700
Building Fund giving \$1,835

General Fund giving in May \$13,836
Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in May \$19,215
Amount needed monthly \$8,950

Year-to-date deficit: \$6,845

Sunday, May 24

Celebration of Patty's ministry with us. She will preach her last sermon as our pastor and there will be a luncheon to follow. Join us!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

- Joe Burchfiel is graduating from West Albany High School. He plans to attend Butte Community College in Oroville, CA, near Chico, where he will work toward an AA degree in Business.
- Marissa Minato is graduating with a bachelor's degree in exercise science and a minor in human biology from Western Oregon University. She hopes to find a job in the health care field in the near future.
- Lauren Burchfiel will receive a master's degree in education from University of Oregon in June. This fall she will teach language arts at Claggett Creek Middle School in Keizer.
- Nathan Tong, grandson of Frank and Linda Morse, has graduated from Lewis and Clark College with Honors in Economics.

"HAPPY II" STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES MAY 17

Our four-week stewardship campaign, "Happy II," will wrap up Sunday, May 17, with a brief "happy moment" presentation by Co-Board Chair Tony Wilson.

A big thank you to Graham Kislingbury, Kris McLaughlin and Lacey McLellan for their "happy moments" (on April 26, May 3 and 10, respectively), underscoring the importance of giving and the ways our joyful giving makes a difference in the church and community.

Pledge cards are being received throughout May and will be dedicated on Sunday, May 17. They also can be mailed in or dropped off at the church office.

On the card, you can affirm the pledge you made in the two-year "Happy!" campaign a year ago, or you can change the annual amount you'd like to pledge toward the church's general fund and building fund. Any increased level of giving would be greatly appreciated. If you need a reminder of what you pledged in the original "Happy!" campaign, just call Nancy in the church office. Of course, there will be great happiness all around when brand new pledges are received!

You are also encouraged to list volunteer talents and time you'd like to offer in the coming pledge year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). The sharing of time and talents is a big part of what being a good steward means.

Thank you for your wonderful support, which continues to make First Christian Church a happy and meaningful place in our lives.



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.

TRUE COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

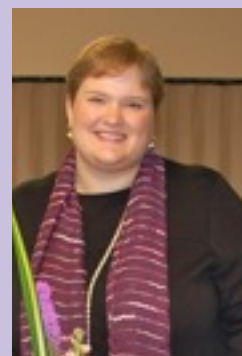
As some of you know, during the last week of April I had the wonderful opportunity to attend my first Bethany Fellows retreat in Tampa, Florida. Bethany Fellows is an incredible ministry for young ministers and for the church, as research has showed that 40% of young ministers leave congregational ministry in their first five years. The goal of Bethany Fellows is to provide support and spiritual guidance for young ministers as they face the new challenges that pastoral ministry can bring.

Over the next four years, I will have an opportunity to go to seven more Bethany Fellows retreats (two per year). Each retreat gives me the opportunity to meet and engage with congregations across the nation that are doing some really cool things in ministry, to spend lots of time in prayer on my own and with other young ministers, spend a day in silence to help remind me that God says, "Be still, and know that I am God," and a whole lot more.

Coming back from this first retreat, I feel refreshed, encouraged, and excited for the next part of our journey together here in Albany. I have a lot of new connections with young ministers from all over the U.S. and a relationship with a mentor/spiritual director who will be checking in with me every so often to see how things are going here. All of this gives me a lot of confidence that there are exciting things ahead for me and for all of us at FCC Albany.

I hope you will check out the Bethany Fellows website and learn more about this amazing ministry (My name should be up there pretty soon!): <http://www.bethanyfellows.org>. And, I'd love to talk with you to tell you more about my experience and how I think this program will benefit my ministry and our ministry together!

With Joy,
Douglass Anne



DEACON TEAM C GATHERING

All members of Deacon Team C are invited and encouraged to attend a brief meeting following worship on Sunday, May 17. Pick up your cup of coffee and cookie and come to the Cornerstone Room! We will be assuring that all the service spots on the schedule are filled and will review responsibilities. Deacons will also have the opportunity to hear and ask questions about the worship plan for June and how communion and offering will be handled. Please make every effort to attend.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



OUR SHARED MUSICAL HERITAGE

Music has a very special way of speaking to each of us. There are certain songs, hymns, or melodies, which reach into our heart and soul, and their impact is remembered for years. We likely will not agree on which specific songs those might be, but it is likely that we have each experienced the powerful response to music.

This summer, as a congregation, we will explore and share the music that has left its mark on us. Our musical tastes will be as diverse as we are a diverse assembly of individuals. So, let's celebrate that musical diversity with hymns of years past, newer upbeat songs of praise, and everything in between.

We will soon make cards available for you to let us know some of your favorite songs. As we gather your recommendations, we will start incorporating them into our summer worship experience. Some Sundays we will explore the story behind how a hymn came to be written, its history and composer. Other Sundays we will spend the sermon time in a festive Singspiration of a half-dozen favorites. Again, the intent is to celebrate the variety of music we find in community together and experience the stunning tapestry of emotional responses that music creates. Watch for upcoming information, and let your musical spirit be heard.

If you have specific questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Gary Ruppert or Douglass Anne.

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

Our congregational project of reading and reflecting on Brian McLaren's wonderful book "We Make the Road by Walking" continues. By Sunday, May 31, everyone should have read chapters 1-8 and 27-40.

The monthly discussion group will gather on Monday, June 8 from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. at the home of Nadine Wood. All are welcome to join this great opportunity to reflect, discuss and grow.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Sundays at Nine discussion group that starts up on June 7. This group will meet at 9 a.m. each Sunday through June 28 and will be discussing chapters 41-44.

SUNDAYS AT NINE

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.

May 31 at 9 a.m.

Regional Ministries

Rev. Cathy Myers Wirt will talk about the various ministries of the Christian Church in Oregon and Idaho.

June 7, 14, 21, 28 at 9 a.m.

Discussion of the Brian McLaren book, "We Make the Road by Walking." Read chapters 41-44 and join in the discussion.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CUSTODIAN

Welcome to Richard Isted who has been hired to serve as our custodian. Richard comes to us after retiring after 25 years of service at BiMart.

He is already on the job so be sure to stop and introduce yourself to him and extend a warm welcome.

VISIONING A FUTURE REGIONAL CHURCH

All are invited to a regional visioning gathering from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16. 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 five locations including the First Christian Church of Dallas.

Douglass Anne Cartwright plans to attend the visioning session in Eugene and Patty Evans will attend the gathering in Dallas. If you would like to join in the conversation about the shared hopes, dreams and visions for a vitally connected and responsive regional church family, contact Douglass Anne or Patty!



SUMMER CAMPS 2015

Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho

Suttle Lake Camp • Sisters, Oregon

July 26-31

CYF (High School) Camp
(completed grades 9-12) \$355

Chi Rho (Middle School) Camp
(completed grades 6-8) \$355

Aug. 10-14

Junior Camp
(Completed grades 3-5) \$320

First Christian Church of Albany will pay half of the fees for campers who are active participants in our youth programs.

Deadline to register
in the church office: **June 22**
\$10 late fee after June 22

2015 Theme: Say What?

Campers explore the theme of the day in small groups led by two adult staff members.

Activities:

- group hikes
- crafts
- canoeing
- games
- swimming
- worship at campfire
- Bible study



Directors and staff are members of Disciples of Christ congregations and each of them have undergone a background check.

First-aid trained staff members and lifeguards will be on site.



Our youth have been learning what it means to be part of a Disciples of Christ church.



Mary Goodson's "Transformation" hangs in the gathering space before you enter the sanctuary. Thanks to the team of Linda Lees, Paula Moore and Charlotte Houser who worked with her on this commissioned project.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER

YOUTH SCHEDULE

May 17, 24 • 4-6 p.m.

Youth group for middle and high schoolers

May 31 • 5-7 p.m.

All Church Potluck and Games Night

June, July and August

Stay tuned for special youth events and outings

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

May 17, 24, 31

"Holy Moly" for the children

During the summer months of June, July and August, the children will stay in the worship services, which will be family-friendly.

Stay tuned for special events and outings for children and families. There will be all-church ice cream socials and an August swim party.



Albany, OR 97321

432 Ferry St. SW

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