



The Viewpoint

News from the Forest Grove

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 2011

Plan on Planning Days!

**Saturday, February 12,
9:00—12:00**

All commission members and officers are asked to participate in this event to make plans for 2011! You will receive training, inspiration and the gift of time to plan out our schedules, events and fellowship for the year, as well as the opportunity to get to know one another!

Also, all members of the congregation are welcome to attend and breakfast will be provided.

Please plan to join us. If you have any questions, contact your moderator, Amber Mather-Hall, 503-357-2820, or Audrey Ouellette, Program Coordinator at 503-357-9121.

No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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The Viewpoint is published monthly by the Forest Grove UCC. A full-color electronic version is available via e-mail. Send a request to elena@fgucc.org to be added to the email list. The Viewpoint is edited and designed by Elena Parker

Trivia Questions

What time does church start? What is the church address? What does our church believe? What kind of activities are available at Forest Grove UCC? What are the youth up to? Where is the Youth Mission Trip going to and when? What music groups are there at church? What time are practices? When do Commissions meet? Did you know all these questions – and many more – can all be answered at any time, day or night, on our updated website? YES – THEY CAN! Check it out at www.fgucc.org.

Puritan Pride?



I'm currently in the midst of a very engaging book titled "The Wordy Shipmates" by Sarah Vowell. The book explores the story of the Puritan's journey to the New World and comments on how their theologies and governance continue to shape the American ethos. In the first half of the book, Vowell speaks specifically about a couple of notions that continue to shape our vision of ourselves, first the notion that "we're here to help" and second the idea that our country is the "city on the hill" as described by the New Testament.

The "city on the hill" theme was applied by Massachusetts Bay Colony founder John Winthrop. Winthrop and his compatriots sought to create a community and a nation that treated each other with the utmost expression of Christian charity, but at the price of requiring absolute agreement with the decisions of the General Court and Court-approved interpretations of

Scripture. Failure to agree with the leadership of the community could result in banishment, or in the case of one unfortunate fellow, having his ears cut off.

The "we're here to help" mentality was pictorialized in the seal of the Massachusetts Bay Colony which depicts an Algonquin Indian with words printed in a ribbon streaming out of his mouth, "Come over and help us." The "help" unfortunately came over bearing viruses to which the native population had no immunity and cultural precepts, particularly about the "ownership" of land, which destroyed the people we had come to save.

Both ideas, being the "city on the hill" and seeing ourselves as "helpers" to the rest of the world, are grounded in noble intentions, but both of which ultimately suffer from the same curse: pride. Pride does not listen to the possibility that our assessment of problems, much less the solutions we so proudly pursue might be falsely predicated. Pride shuts our ears and blinds our vision such that only one way, our way is seen as the appropriate intervention strategy. This pride has led our nation to intervene in the internal affairs of far too many nations, and to refuse to change our strategies when those strategies continue to result in catastrophic failure.

Pride also destroys interpersonal

relationships when we assume we know what "help" looks like or what the "right" course of action is without humility. We've heard the adage, "when your favorite tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail." Humility invites us to search through the tool box and practice using tools with which we might be unfamiliar, with the hope that grace and patience will help us truly be of service.

The adage that "pride goeth before the fall" might be better stated that "pride createth many falls." I wonder how many nations not to mention how many relationships might have been saved had the actors stopped to ask, "How is my pride contributing to this problem or hindering true resolution?" How is my need to be right stopping reconciliation? I pray that we come to a place in our national and personal lives where we can be proud of the way we let humility work in us to make the world a better place. Amen.

— Pastor Jennifer



All voices Welcome to our Choirs!



Greetings to you all! We welcome all voices to join us in ANY or ALL of our FGUCC choirs to explore and learn to sing and praise God in this safe and welcoming environment we create.

Our rehearsals schedule is as follows:

Sanctuary Choir: rehearsals are on Thursdays (2/3, 2/10, 2/17 & 2/24) at 7:15-8:45 PM and rehearsals/services are on Sundays (2/6 & 2/20) at 9:30-11 AM.

Gospel Choir: Rehearsals are on Sundays (2/6 & 2/20) at 11:30 AM-12:30 PM and rehearsal/service is on Sunday (2/27) at 9:30-11 AM

Children's Choir: Rehearsals are on Sundays (2/6 & 2/20) at 9-9:30 AM.

Let's sing and praise God's good words,

— SeungJin Bae, Director of Choirs

What is Belief-O-Matic?

Nurture suggests you check out our website for a link to 'Belief-O-Matic.' It's an interesting 20-question survey that slots respondents into degrees of alliance with 20 of the world's major religions. Don't take it too seriously, but it is a good springboard for thought, and some may wish to gather for discussion.

Beliefs: Do You Want to Know How Your Beliefs Compare to 27 Other Beliefs?

I became aware of an instrument called Belief-O-Matic quiz. I got it off of another church's web site. I took the quiz, got a print out of my beliefs, and requested that my brother complete it. Then we compared our results. We both benefited from our discussion. Later we took it again and again discussed our results. We subsequently had other family members and friends do the same.

Finally, I asked the people who participated in The Shack Book study and the members of the BEST team whether they would want to take it. One of the Shack Study group members suggested that we have a potluck at my house and have the discussion. We did.

One of the participants also teaches in the learning community and she said that she used some of the information with her students.

The Belief-O-Matic link is: <http://www.beliefnet.com/Entertainment/Quizzes/BeliefOMatic.aspx>

The top score on the list below represents the faith that Belief-O-Matic, in its less than infinite wisdom, thinks *most closely* matches your beliefs. However, even a score of 100% does not mean that your views are all shared by this faith, or vice versa.

After listing your top score belief, the Belief-O-Matic then lists another 26 faiths in order of how much they have in common with your professed beliefs. The higher a faith appears on this list, the more closely it aligns with your thinking.

BEST regards, in faith and love,

— Dale Feik

Youth Activities in February

Sunday, February 6 at 3:00 PM—SUPERBOWL SUNDAY! Feel free to join in the tradition of an afternoon football game in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the game, come for the commercials, come for the fun! And make sure you bring your **favorite snacking food!**



Sunday, February 13—Join us for some JUMPING FUN! Friends welcome! Since this is a pretty darn fun, crazy event – I am opening this up to all youth group kids and their friends (high schoolers – PLEASE see me if you have any questions, concerns, issue with this). We will leave from church immediately following service (11:15 AM) and head to SkyHigh Sports in Tigard. Jumping is from 12 to 1 and we will grab some grub on the way home. The plan is to be back at church around 2:30 PM. The cost is \$10 per person. Also, there is a waiver of liability we need to have signed by each person who signs up. Waivers can be obtained from me or on our website at www.fgucc.org, RSVP by February 6 please!

Sunday, February 27: Reserve the afternoon for Youth Group – may be planning, may be fun. Just wait and see!

Youth Mission Trip Summer 2011

Our mission trip is scheduled for August 7–12 this summer and have 13 kids confirmed to go! YAY! Kids have made deposits and our goal is to raise the rest of the money to make our trip! We have many fun ideas planned!

Over Spring Break, we have some Flamingo mischievousness in development. If any of you happen to have some Flamingos stored away in your garages or attics, we would love to borrow them for a week. Thank you!

For Runners/walkers, anyone who enjoys the beauty of spring – save Saturday, April 16 for a 5K Walk/Run through EF Nursery. Exercise coupled with being outdoors with trees in bloom for spring—what could be better? Open to all ages – friends, family, neighbors all welcome!

We have other ideas under consideration and we will be coordinating with our Finance and Property Commission. We'll keep you updated through the bulletin, weekly announcements and the website!

If you have any questions, please see Audrey Ouellette, Program Coordinator. Thank you every-

one for your generosity and enthusiasm for our Youth!

— Audrey Ouellette
Program Coordinator
503-758-4114



Yakama Christian Mission

Confirmation Class Field Trip set for Saturday, February 19

We are scheduled to participate in a class at the Dharma Zen center on Saturday, February 19 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Pastor Jennifer would like youth to be at the church at 12:00 noon, fed and dressed nicely, yet comfortably, as there will be a fair amount of sitting. Please see Pastor Jennifer with any questions.

Learning from our Sisters: Women's Spirituality

Our next Women's Spirituality meeting will be Wednesday, February 9th at 7 PM in the Chapel. Our focus will be "Learning from our Sisters." In searching for our next topic I got out the rolls of paper we brainstormed on last year. One of the entries "Learn from each other" caught my eye. Our last Women's Spirituality Retreat was a year ago April. Could it be that this meeting of "learn from each other" might be the seeds to how we spend our time at a future retreat (April or May?)

Please join us and bring something you could teach others. If Dottie were to bring her knitting, it doesn't mean that I would learn to knit in that time—but in her time to talk, she might share about knitting, how she learned, what it means to her and perhaps share something she has knit. Perhaps you have a particular spiritual practice that works for you? A method of prayer? Maybe you play a musical instrument or practice yoga? Do you understand the ins and outs of texting? Can you perform ballet? Perhaps you have a special recipe you make (if that's the case, please, bring samples).

Please also bring your calendars and any ideas you have about location and what to do for a future Women's retreat.

We look forward to seeing you! If you've been with us before, or this is your first time, you are WELCOME to join us!

— Melissa Timm
Women's Spirituality Group Coordinator

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for Adults schedule has been set!

OWL is finally here for adults! We've scheduled a condensed seven Sunday course, which will hopefully provide half as much information on sexuality and our faith as our children know. All classes are right after church from 11:30 -1:00. Here's the schedule:

February:	13th and 27th
March:	13th and 27th
April:	10th and 17th
May:	22nd

Since the curriculum includes 27 sessions, we will be pairing down as the class interests dictate. Our Whole Lives is for any and all adults. All teachers are experienced in helping us get over our jitters and giggles and will lead us to a holistic and holy approach to who we are and how we operate. Come, it will be fun! Let Elena or Audrey in the church office know if you are interested. Or you can sign-up on the sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Questions? Call Sandy Freeman daytime (503) 357-6119, or evenings at 503-324-8655.

— Sandy Freeman for Nurture Commission



Superbowl Sunday — February 6, 2011

Kickoff: 3:30 PM

Grab your favorite football munchies to share and come on down to church to enjoy the game projected life-size onto the wall of Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome!

Upcoming Events in the Community

Share the Love: A Fundraiser for Family Bridge Homeless Shelter— Saturday, February 5, 5:00-9:00 PM

A fundraiser for the Family Bridge Homeless Shelter featuring a silent auction and delicious dinner catered by Pasta Pronto, wines by Ardiri Winery, and music by Patrick Lamb, saxophonist, vocalist and songwriter. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information please call 503-844-2919. With help from many churches and volunteers Family Bridge has been helping homeless families in Washington County for many years. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Hearts for Habitat Valentine's Benefit for West Tuality Habitat for Humanity— February 12, 6:30-10 PM

Everyone is cordially invited to this annual fundraiser for Habitat to be held at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club. Tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased from Elena after church or during office hours. Thank you for your support in Building homes, Building hope, One family at a time.



Family, Fun & Fiddling

Please join us for a fabulous auction, a benefit for the Forest Grove School District String Orchestra.

Saturday, February 26, 6:00 PM



The auction will be held at Fern Hill Elementary School, 4445 Heather Street, Forest Grove. The musical group, "Red Sneaker," will present traditional chamber music in a decidedly un-traditional format. Wearing their trademark red Converse sneakers, these virtuoso musicians will perform with FGSD orchestra students as well as entertain

you throughout the evening. In addition, thanks to both Ralph Brown, the Master of Ceremonies, and Pastor Jennifer Yocum, our grand auctioneer for the oral auction for their generous donation of time. Tickets are \$7 each. For more information about donations and tickets, please contact Elena Parker at 503-357-6960, or elena-maria1957@yahoo.com

— Elena Parker

Outreach & Mission News

Welcome to the Outreach Commission the following new members: Ellaine Whisler, Steve Whisler and Phil Zapf. They will be joining current members Ralph Brown, BJ Jones, Deva Harris, Kristinoel Ludwig and myself. Also, thanks again to previous members Laura Barrett and Sharon Williams. We look forward to a productive and rewarding 2011.

— Nancy Christoph

Severe Weather Shelter Update

Wow! We've been open 14 nights since mid-November so far and provided almost 60 bed stays. Some great collaboration with Pacific U, Refuge of Christ, St. Bede's Episcopal, Forest Grove United Methodist, and our local community has taken place to support our efforts. Pacific Christian Fellowship held a benefit concert in December and one of the Pacific U's first-year seminar classes donated a portion of their activity budget to help fund the service we provide. Some of our staff have been supporting Sunrise in their 90-day operations in Hillsboro.

Partnerships with other organizations is one of the benefits of the shelter—we educate other people about the issues at hand, and they, in turn, share their lessons with others.

We look forward to continuing

our operations through the end of February. Thank you for your support thus far.

— Tori Eaton, Team Leader

Another Miracle is Witnessed!

Today I saw a community come together and respond to people contending with homelessness at the 5th annual Washington County Project Homeless Connect, a one-day, one-stop event for FREE resources that was held on Friday, January 28.

At Project Homeless Connect there were all manner of services available from non-profits, the county, as well as federal providers and many volunteers. Friendly smiling people greeted us as we came in to Sonrise Church. There was hot coffee and eggs, sausages and toast. People helped each other. Coughs were listened to and sorenesses soothed. Dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, and acupuncturists were on hand. There were hot showers and dry towels. If your feet hurt they were cared for. Bikes were tuned up and oiled. Flat tires were repaired, too. Vaccines were given. There was shuttle service reaching out to Tigard, Tualatin and Beaverton bringing the people in and taking them back. There were a lot of people in wheel chairs and walkers as well as mothers pushing kids in strollers. There were knit hats, sweaters, shoes, pants, coats, socks and it was free cloth-

ing, donated by churches and people who had extra. There was pet care, and lots of information including help with forms and services and identification. The VA was present helping vets. Love Inc. was there. The Salvation Army had a booth. So did the Oregon Food Bank, and Home Plate, which does such wonderful work with our unaccompanied youth. It was warm inside. People saw friends. There were hugs and hand shakes. When I drove away two attendants in the parking lot shouted out to me to have a nice day. They were genuine and smiling and happy to be helping out.

Last night at the pre-event meeting we were told that with the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in place here and in Portland as well as elsewhere in the northwest, that the slam of the Great Recession was not as severe as we might have anticipated. We were ready for the extra federal funding that came our way. All providers, such as Community Action locally, as well as others regionally, experienced huge numbers of requests from people needing assistance. Remember that although the Ten Year Plan has never been fully funded it has delivered in efficiencies and new approaches toward responding to the issue of homelessness in our county. It has increased and enhanced a community wide and coordinated response. We have also moved to the realization that we save money when people re-

main in their homes. Once they are on the street things get tough for all concerned and much more expensive. We are doing much better!

Community is the key. It matters when any of us is outside. People matter. That's what I saw today. People mattered today at Project Homeless Connect.

UPDATE RECEIVED FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Here is a report on the preliminary details from Friday's 2011 Project Homeless Connect at Sonrise Church in Hillsboro:

- 65 non-profit, public, faith and business partners participated
- 60 key leaders attended Key Leaders Briefing the night before
- 293 volunteers and 200 provider staff provided services & support
- Approximately 500 attendees received one or more services
- 125 dental screenings & education
- 500 provided with Tri-Met tickets
- 1200 meals served throughout the day
- ?? Vision exams and vouchers for glasses
- 116 books distributed
- 104 Section 8 applications given

- 24 HIV tests
- 125 haircuts
- 40 Chiropractic treatments
- 88 medical screenings & referrals
- 50 H1N1 vaccine
- 62 pets received veterinary care & received food and supplies
- 31 children used childcare services
- 451 attendees participated in interviews for county homeless count
- 347 from Washington County
- 54 from outside Washington County
- 451 individuals
- 309 household

Hands On Portland is reporting for our volunteer participation:

The current hourly rate for general volunteers in Oregon is \$18.50. We had a total of 293 volunteers (Thursday and Friday) with an average of 4 hours volunteering per shift. The total dollar amount for volunteer contributions was **\$21,682**. Amazing!

Here is some positive feedback we received from volunteers:

“I was kept very busy sorting and organizing the donated clothing and jackets. All went smoothly I thought. I felt needed and appreciated.”

”Project was well organized and we were kept hopping the entire time. A very worthwhile cause.”

“I very much enjoyed my experience last night and was truly overwhelmed with the love and care that I saw through the people helping to set up. would be very interested in helping more with the hands on portland organization.”

“It was a rewarding experience for me and wonderful to work with agency staff and other volunteers. I look forward to helping out next year if possible!”

“So much went well at the event it's difficult to know where to begin. Great food, huge variety of services available, clients were absolutely raving about the haircuts, dental care, clothes, and housing information.”

“THE BEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE. THE STAFF KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING. I met wonderful people, both staff and guests. and shared lots of smiles. Giving, caring and sharing, what a wonderful thing! We did need more hot water in the foot care center.”

Truly this was a job well done by all concerned.

Eric Canon (Chair)
Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
www.ahomeoftheirown.com
(503) 357-3282

Rolling Justice: Driver's License and Tuition Equity

Let's Accomplish An Oregon Dream Act.

First Congregational UCC in Eugene has long been interested in immigration issues, as well as establishing relationships with Latino communities in both Eugene and abroad. Over the last several years, the people of Tasajera Island, off the coast of El Salvador, have welcomed people from FCC to work on a health clinic, a turtle conservation project, computer access, and English language skills. The most valuable outcome of the many trips to Tasajera is the development of solid relationships with Salvadorans on the island.

In Eugene, First Congregational UCC has fostered relationships with sister Catholic churches that have large Latino congregations. FCC members have been active in teaching English to adults in Springfield.

FCC is a natural site for an upcoming event sponsored by CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition. CAUSA is the largest Latino civil and human rights advocacy organization in the Pacific Northwest.

On February 10, 2011, CAUSA will present a program at FCC for the public that particularly addresses public officials in Eugene and Lane County. A small working group at FCC has been working with an ecumenical group of church leaders (both

immigrant and nonimmigrant) to host this event. Two critical issues to CAUSA and Oregon will be addressed at the 6 pm meeting:

- ◆ Driver's License Restoration Currently undocumented residents in Oregon cannot get or renew a regular driver's license. This two-year-old law poses obvious problems of safety, lack of insurance, loss of revenue to the State through licensure and auto registration. In addition, it is an obvious barrier to people who work or have families that must get to school or the doctor or conduct regular business of daily living. The church community supports CAUSA in its efforts to restore access to an Oregon State driver's license.
- ◆ In-state Tuition CAUSA will urge the State Legislature to create policy that allows all students who have graduated from high school or received a GED in Oregon the opportunity to pay in-state tuition to continue post-secondary education regardless of immigration status. Out-of-state tuition for immigrant youth who were raised in Oregon poses an impossible obstacle to most of these young people. Imagine the disincentive to finish high school if you can't imagine yourself attending college. The public schools are work-

ing hard to bridge the achievement gap with minority students, and tuition equity is one way.

The special event at FCC on February 10 is designed to raise awareness and to inspire local officials to urge the State of Oregon to move on these critical issues. The evening will feature two young people giving testimonials about their desire to attend college and two adults testifying about the hardship of living without a driver's license.

The evening will be highlighted with wonderful music and ended with terrific Mexican food prepared by the women of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

— Brenda Kame'enui

Brenda Kame'enui is a member of First Congregational UCC in Eugene. She is a public school teacher who works with many Latino families. She participates in FCC's Mission Committee and has worked with a task force of Eugene churches and CAUSA to prepare for the Leaders Assembly in Eugene on February 10.

Joys and Prayer Concerns

Sympathy—Our hearts go out to Pat Browning upon the recent death of her father. Please keep Pat in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult passage.



Sympathy—Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Bill Preston who died on Monday, January 17. A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 22. Please remember Bill's family during this time.

Recently Moved—After many years of making their home in Forest Grove and attending church at the Forest Grove UCC, Larry and Marjorie Fick have moved. Their new address is 11552 SW Lesser Rd, Apt. 216, Portland, OR 97219-7167. Please remember the Ficks as they settle into their new home.

Please remember Trevor Van Dyke, as he continues to recover from recent surgery. Continue to remember Charla Gladden, Dick Johnston, Betty Lancaster, Gerald and Frances Engelen, Marge and Larry Fick, Alice Hoskins, Colin Dreher and his family, Bob and Dorothy Schlegel, Lois Campbell, and any other members, friends and family of our church, not named here, who are homebound or who have other ongoing special needs.

**Ushers, Greeters, etc.
for the month of February...**

Ushers in February 2011

Ken Prickett, John and Mary Welch, and Tom Epler

Acolytes

February 6: Hannah & Clara
February 13: Ben & Zack
February 20: Annika & Jenna
February 27: Daphne & Phoebe

Youth Readers

February 6: Grace Ronan
February 13: Dashiell Penfield
February 20: Bailey Becker
February 27: Levi Ouellette

Adult Readers

February 6: Ruth Holznagel
February 13: Eric Canon
February 20: Sandy Freeman
February 27: Carol Brown

CAN Typists

February 6: Tori Eaton
February 13: Melissa Timm
February 20: Pamelajeane Myers
February 27: Malinda Alexander

Transportation

February 6: Dick Lane and Chris Actor
February 13: Ken Prickett & Jack Beu
February 20: Phil Zapf & Bonnie McDowell
February 27: Geoff Johnston Family

Scrip Schedule:

February 6: Amy Waltz
February 13: BJ Jones
February 20: Margie Waltz
February 27: Wendy White

Flowers

February 6: Ruth & Bob Holznagel
February 13: Elena Parker
February 20: Jennifer Smith
February 27: Marie Ingram (in memory of her husband Dale)

COMMISSION MEETINGS:

All Commission meetings are the third Monday of the month (February 21 this month). Please note: If you need childcare, please call the church office at 503-357-9121.

FOREST GROVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sunday Worship Time

10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

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Monday-Friday: 9-4

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Best wishes to all of you celebrating a birthdays in February

Dale Ouellette
Sydney Molin
Jeff Hoyt
Doug Hixson
Renee Mills
Maggie Shotwell
Emma Hansen
Alice Hoskins
Bob Holznagel
Lori Epler
Dashiel Penfield
Zachary Kipp Glenn
Richard Kroll
Lauren Hansen

Happy Birthday!

