

# e-ACTS Newsletter



September 2011



**First United Methodist  
Church of Ashland**

*open hearts, open minds, open doors*

175 North Main Street Ashland, OR 97520

541.482.3647

## The *InsideOut* Church

**Welcome** to First United Methodist of Ashland, the *InsideOut* Church!

- It's our way of expressing what we want to be, should be, and actually are doing!
- It's our way of doing what Jesus said was most important: doing to the least by feeding, clothing, healing, helping, supporting, friending, housing.
- It's our way of *living* our faith in a way that makes a real difference in peoples' lives, and thus, in our lives.
- It's our way of *servicing* our community.

Each week in worship, a part of the service (*Responding to God's Presence*), will show you in pictures what the *InsideOut* Church has doing. Help us collect photographs and stories. If you want a place to serve in the *InsideOut* Church, we will have lots of opportunities for you (see Rev. Dorita's article).

Isn't it exciting to be a part of this growing, surprising, serving, loving, supporting, and laughing church!

## Rally Sunday Celebrations!

Rally Sunday is September 18 and this is the time when we reconvene to celebrate the beginning of a new year of programming and ministries in the life of the church. The morning will be filled with wonderful opportunities for all! Here's a preview of the schedule:

- **9:00 am:** Join the Adult Education class in Wesley Hall led by Bruce Borgerson: *Fuzzy Alternatives – Emergents, Americana and Progressive Evangelicals.* The Coffee will be on and ready!
- **10:30 am:** Come praise God with worship in the Sanctuary, *Sherman, and Children's Sunday School following the children's message.*
- **11:40 am:** Enjoy the Rally Festivities with good food and fellowship in Wesley Hall. We'll have entertaining intergenerational games for everybody from ages 2 to 102!

Like any rally, we're counting on each and everyone, **OF ALL AGES**, to join in the celebration, and make it a super success!

### DETAILS:

- Bring a pot luck dish to share:
  - Couples/families please bring a main dish and a side dish;
  - Singles bring a single dish
- **GO GREEN!** Bring your own table service!
- Beverages provided by church
- Invite a friend to join you for all of the festivities!

**QUESTIONS?** Call the church office at 541-482-3647 and ask for Dorita.

We hope everyone will come celebrate this new beginning!

## The Directories Cometh

Lots of good news!

- The church pictorial directories should arrive on or around **September 15.**
- It will be great to finally see all of our smiling faces, including new staff.
- We will all look one year younger!

We will keep you informed as to arrangements for the *"It's About Time!"* party.

# JOIN US!

## Want to become a real, bona fide, authentic, legitimate and verifiable *member* of our church?

First United Methodist of Ashland has a proud and long history in our community. Did you know that we were the *first* church to organize in Ashland? The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1864, and in 1875 our present sanctuary was built. Several of our members have roots to these beginnings.

We would love to welcome you into official membership. Rev. Pamela will meet with you , explain all of the wonders of coming into membership, and answer any and all esoteric questions that burn within. We will pair you up with a sponsor (a current member in the church whom you know or admire!), who will introduce you to the congregation.

The next scheduled Sunday for Membership Reception will be **September 25** during worship. Please let the Office know of your interest, indicate on Sunday's Friendship Folders, or talk directly with Rev. Pamela.

## Can You *Hear Me Now ...* or Later?

We want to make sure that you enjoy all that Worship has to offer:

- For those using our *Hearing Assist* devices, the best reception is sitting in the middle section of the sanctuary.
- If it's been a worship service that you would like to listen to again, we have recorded CDs available shortly following each service, on the center Narthex table.
- And finally, Sunday sermons are posted on our church website on the Tuesday following.

# Sunday Adult Class Begins in September

## Fuzzy Alternatives: Emergents, Americana, and Progressive Evangelicals

Conventional wisdom divides predominantly white Protestant Christianity in America into two camps: liberal mainline congregations (aging and mostly shrinking, with traditional worship styles), and theologically and politically conservative evangelical churches (with notably younger congregations and contemporary worship styles). And that's it, right? Nope. In this class we will explore "fuzzy alternatives" that encompass progressive evangelicals, the ill-defined emergent movement, and gospel inspirations interwoven into Americana music. We will focus on books by Shane Claiborne, Rob Bell and Richard Rohr, plus excerpts from several others. We will also listen to sermons by Joel Hunter and Rob Bell, and hear music from Patty Griffin, Uncle Tupelo, Band of Heathens, Mike Farris and others.

**Class will be led by Bruce Borgerson beginning Sept. 18, on Sunday mornings in Wesley Hall at 9:00 a.m.**

Suggested books for all to read (book sharing encouraged):

(Costs: list, Amazon new, Amazon used)

<i>Velvet Elvis</i> by Rob Bell	\$14.99	8.92	1.41
<i>The Irresistible Revolution</i> by Shane Claiborne*	\$14.99	8.92	3.46
<i>The Naked Now</i> by Richard Rohr	\$19.95	11.62	11.61

\*Audio book read by author available from Bruce on MP3 CD.

Recommended (excerpts will be distributed)

*Blue Like Jazz* – Donald Miller  
*Jesus for President* – Shane Claiborne et.al.  
*God's Politics* – Jim Wallis  
*Fall to Grace* – Jay Bakker  
*They Like Jesus but Not the Church* – Dan Kimball  
*Right Wing, Wrong Bird* – Dr. Joel Hunter

**Proverbs 22:17**  
**"A merry heart does  
good like medicine"**



**FUMC Red Wagon**

## Ashland Food Bank Has New Home - Carol Heisel

Have you heard? The Ashland Food Bank has a new home. It will be located across I-5 at the old A&W, KFC site near the Caldera Brewery. This is exciting news that brings some challenges with it. There is a lot of packing and cleaning that will need to take place before the move is complete.

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday on September 12-16 and 19-23 from 9AM-1PM to enable the Food Bank to continue its service to the community. Volunteer teams will be packing boxes, dusting, cleaning, and doing general prep work on both building sites. Volunteers will be organized into teams in order to make the move as smooth as possible.

If you are able to help with the move or would like more details about it, please contact Bernice Koch. I urge everyone that is able to come out and support this great organization.

# Church News

## Our Worship Screen

Sunday worship now has a worship screen, a powerful digital projector, and a trained team of technicians who craft *image* to enhance *Word* in our worship services.

One year ago, **Chris Hjelt** led the Worship Committee in catching the vision of how digital projection could augment the worship experience. Throughout the year, we looked at all the installation possibilities, cost, and needed equipment.

Our Board of Trustees assembled a team to approve the project, which included **Linda Monroe, Dave Green, Dan McKay, and Mike Grubbs**. **Bruce Borgerson** helped the feasibility team envision the projection and installation options. A quiet search for funds brought in money to order the screen. **Chet and Donna Daniels** purchased the projector to be shared between Rotary and the church.

**Larry Pearson** gathered a group of interested members to learn about PowerPoint presentations, and dubbed them the ***Imagineers*** (a combination of *imagination* and *engineer*). **Rev. Pamela** shared her background knowledge with effective worship projections.

Beginning in July, Sunday worshipers saw the first incarnation of digitally projected worship. The Roseburg UMC lent us a portable screen which was placed on the chancel.

On July 30, our permanent ten-foot screen was installed in the SE corner of the sanctuary. Thanks to the expert carpentry and engineering skills of our own **Mike Grubbs**, his **brother-in-law Gregg Williams**, and **Larry Pearson**. When the screen is not in use, it retracts into its own valance and is virtually invisible.

Larry has conducted two *Imagineer* training sessions and is planning a third. Rev. Pamela holds monthly sessions to look at the next month's weekly themes, scriptures, hymns, and special events. It is a think-tank for creativity, theology, and learning. *(continue above)*

**Our wonderful *Imagineers* are: Larry Pearson, Brian Nelson-Munson, Hannah Borgerson, Mary VanWesep, Carol Heisel, Chris Hjelt, Bill Brown, Mary James, and Betsy Shanafelt.**

**Rev. Pamela** sees many positives of image-enhanced worship. "In the last almost 500 years the Protestant tradition has become very left-brained literate. Our right brain (image), also needs to be engaged. In fact, when you have word and image, both sides of your brain will engage each other, and the message will be far more powerful and memorable. These are the stained glass windows of the 21<sup>st</sup> century! I feel people much more engaged in worship and my sermons."

There have been many appreciative comments from the congregation: "*It is easier for me to read the screen than the hymnal*" ... "*Seeing the actual Biblical place made the sermon more alive to me*" ... "*When everyone looks up to sing, it sounds so much better*" ... "*I didn't think I was going to like the screen, but it doesn't dominate*" ... "*I remember the announcements much better when I see them with pictures.*"

Many thanks to all who shared the vision, gave generously, worked hard, and now participate in this ministry.

## Powell's Welcome Grandson!

**Michael and Annie Powell** share the joy of their newborn grandson, Jameson Jack Randall Powell Savage, born on Wednesday, June 22nd, at OHSU. He only weighed in at 4lb. 14 oz., but now he's a healthy "chunker", weighing over 9lb. One remarkable thing is that Jameson has bright glowing red hair. Parents Chalice and Shawn, and big brother (2 ½ year old) Morgan are all enjoying their new family.

# Church News

## Mid-Week Bible Study Coming this Fall!

Our own **Bill Brown** will be offering the exciting **DISCIPLE II Bible Study** on Thursday evenings beginning **September 8**. This study will be held in the Upper Room from 7pm to 8:30.

Bill, who is a Certified Lay Speaker through the United Methodist Church, has trained to offer this popular study. The DISCIPLE Bible Study program is designed to develop strong local churches through the in-depth study of Scripture. Through DISCIPLE, persons are strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry. Strong, biblically nourished leadership will help your church grow in vitality and Christian discipleship.

The first unit will last eight weeks, and cover these Old Testament topics: The Making of the Hebrew Bible, the Creation Story of Israel, Out of Bondage, Promise and Problem in the Land, Israel has a King, Division and the Rise of Prophecy, Exile and Response, Restoration and Renewal. Two subsequent units will be offered in Winter and Spring.

Sign-ups continue in the Narthex. The books will cost \$12.

**DISCIPLE**  
  
BECOMING DISCIPLES  
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

## News From the “Front”

– Chuck Bridges



Whew! Here it is at long last...my first installment of e-Acts and it is hopefully the beginning of many more to follow. In this, my first issue, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for welcoming me here with such kindness, patience, generosity and goodwill. This is a most remarkable congregation... one that puts faith into action -- here and out in the larger community. Just reading this newsletter reveals a church that is on the go, and a congregation that is involved in so many endeavors! I've heard it said that FUMC is an “older” congregation, but I observe it as dynamic, young in spirit, vital and active. In the short time since I first arrived, you have amazed me with all that you plan, execute and vision for the future. It is my intention to “roll up my sleeves” and set about the work you have discharged to me and to assist Rev. Pamela and Rev. Dorita in ways that make their lives easier. God bless you all and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Drop in and say “Hello” when you can. And, if you just happen to have a slice of coffee cake in hand, I wouldn't object. God bless you all!

*“We spend precious hours fearing the inevitable. It would be wise to use that time adoring our families, cherishing our friends, and living our lives.”*

*~ Maya Angelou*

# Stirring the Pot

Rev. Pamela Nelson-Munson

## It Was There All Along!

Even after 13 months in Ashland, one thing that still catches me by surprise is the beauty of Grizzly Mountain. No matter the season, whether it is summer gold, burnished in the fall, winter white, the green of Spring, sunrise or sunset -- it is beautiful!

Now what puzzles me is that for 40+ years I have been a pretty regular commuter past this unobtrusive beauty. I was always going somewhere. The scenery was just that – a means to an end. Only when I stopped to live here, and stopped to sit and gaze, and stopped to just drink it all in day after day after sunrise after sunset, did I see what a wonder of natural beauty it is.

Today's pace of life continues to accelerate. All of our electronic gadgets have not made the life we had simpler; rather, they have enabled us to squeeze even more activity, information, and communication into our days. And still it does not all get done. Think of the emails yet to be answered; the electronic news and literary downloads still waiting. In the car, our cell phone rings just as our GPS breaks in uninvited with the next set of directions (never the big picture of where we're ultimately going or what to enjoy); with only enough information to keep us on the right track until it's time for the next set of directions.

I sometimes wonder if most of us don't arrive breathless at worship on Sunday. After all, it's the last day of the weekend. After church there is lunch, friends and events, grocery shopping, getting ready for the next week, and .... ?

The original idea of Sabbath was rest. It was to be an intentional putting down of all things not holy – because it was a day set aside for the Holy. It was a 24 hour window of time every week, where we were not to rely on ourselves but stop and rest in God. It was a time to remember whose we are. Perhaps that framer of the original Sabbath was a seer, and knew that Sabbath would become more, and not less, necessary as the eons sped by.



Grizzly  
Peak

Like whizzing past Grizzly Mountain for all of these years, *Sabbath* stands still and waits for us to stop long enough and notice. *Sabbath* refuses to *fit in* to our electronic calendars, Daytimers or smartphones.

Instead she waits for us to wait; to *wait* on the Lord. In any one *Sabbath*, what will be learn and hear and experience by our *rest*? *Sabbath* is not an intellectual exercise. It's not something we can think about and judge whether it would be worth our while. It is not a hoop to jump through, as much as it *is* a spiritual discipline – a *thank you* to our *CreatorRedeemerSustainer* for this very gift of life and all that flows from it.

And so, *Sabbath* is not something we will ever fully appreciate, or understand and catch the tip of its iceberg of meaning unless we *stop*. Only once we have quieted our spirits enough, will we be able to see *Sabbath's* beauty and richness, and have it speak back to us through all the seasons of *our* lives.

Perhaps some time down the road, we will wonder how we could ever have missed its incredible beauty and strength and health and peace. Because, after all, *Sabbath* has been with *us* and waiting *for* us all along.

On the journey with you!

Rev. Pamela

# CHURCH CALENDAR

~ September 2011 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 10:30 – Communion Service – Sanctuary	<b>5</b> LABOR DAY	<b>6</b> 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 UMW General Meeting 4:30 Uncle Foods Diner in WH 4:30 Tasty Tuesday In UR	<b>7</b> 10:00 Quilters - WH 1:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry - CL 5:30 Music Comm. in Chapel 6:30 1 <sup>st</sup> Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary 8:00 Joyful Noise Practice in Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 2:00 Worship Comm. In Library 7:00 Disciple II Bible Study in UR	<b>9</b> Joyful Noise overnight retreat at Camp Latgawa	<b>10</b> Chancel Choir all-day retreat at Camp Latgawa
<b>11</b> 10:30 – Worship Service – Sanctuary 9/11 Remembrance Choirs return! 11:30 Haiti Jewelry Benefit - WH	<b>12</b> 5:30 Trustees Mtg. in MPR	<b>13</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Finance Mtg In MPR 4:30 Uncle Foods Diner in WH 5:30 Advent Planning Mtg	<b>14</b> 10:00 Quilters - WH 1:30 SPRC in MPR 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 8:00 Joyful Noise	<b>15</b> 7:00 Disciple II Bible Study in UR	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Set-up for Rally Sunday Lunch
<b>18</b> 10:30 – Worship Service – Sanctuary Hymnal Dedication Rally Sunday Lunch & Celebrations All Day	<b>19</b> 4:00 Imagineer Training in CL 6:00 UMM Dinner & Presentation – WH	<b>20</b> e-ACTS Due! 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:30 Super Seniors 1:30 Visioning in MPR 4:30 Imagineer Lectionary -CH 4:30 Uncle Foods Diner in WH 4:30 Tasty Tuesday in UR	<b>21</b> 10:00 Quilters - WH 1:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry – CL 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 8:00 Joyful Noise	<b>22</b> 7:00 Disciple II Bible Study in UR	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:00 All Church Work Day 10:00 Caring Friends
<b>25</b> 10:30 – Worship Service – Sanctuary Membership Council	<b>26</b> 1:30 Memb. Nurt. & Care in CL 4:30 Church in the World in CL	<b>27</b> 9:00 UMW Exec. 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Uncle Foods Diner in WH	<b>28</b> 9:30 Space Use Mtg in CL 10:00 Quilters – WH 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 8:00 Joyful Noise	<b>29</b> 7:00 Disciple II Bible Study in UR	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

*“Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.”*

*Theophrastus*

# UNITED METHODIST LEADERSHIP

## CHARGE! IT'S YOUR CONFERENCE ON NOV. 20

So what's a *Charge Conference*?

It's our yearly "ordering" meeting that is specifically United Methodist.

Once a year, every United Methodist church comes together in a *Charge Conference* to vote on: the pastors' salaries, nominations to leadership, and the Membership Audit. It's also a time when each ministry (committee/board) in the church submits a report of how they have served in the past year and plans for the next.

This year our *Charge Conference* will take place right after worship on **Sunday, Nov. 20**. We'll share a potluck lunch and then be led by another United Methodist pastor from our district.

One of the areas that the pastors need to oversee in preparation for this meeting is discerning who the leadership will be beginning in 2012. Revs. Pamela and Dorita meet with the Committee on Leadership to pray about who is gifted to serve in all the areas and ministries of our church.

If you feel you would like to serve in one of the following ministries of the church, please let the office know:

Church Council  
Education  
Stewardship  
Caring Friends  
Records & History  
Board of Trustees

Finance  
Church in the Word  
Health Ministries  
Receptions  
Space Use  
Worship

Annual Conference Member  
District Church Extension  
Lay Leadership (Nominations)  
Membership, Nurture, Care  
Staff Parish Relations  
Music

# BACKPACK BLESSINGS

24 filled backpacks were dedicated, showered with prayers and love, and given hand-written notes of encouragement in worship on Sunday, August 21. These backpacks were then given to the Ashland school district to be given away in a drawing to 24 Ashland children, in their free lunch program on August 26.

What a blessing that our congregation is willing and able to give where the need is greatest! 24 backpacks this year. How many next year?



## Let's All Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

I've just finished a Master Recycler Class through Oregon Extension Services, and it has changed a lot of my thinking-- especially about paper. I just wanted to share some thoughts about saving some of our waste here at the church.

First, I like to look at each item before I throw it "away" especially in the kitchen. There are blue bins in the Wesley Hall kitchen for bottles, glass, foil, paper and plastic tubs. Put it all in there and it will get sorted out. Food contaminated paper and waxed paper are not acceptable in "Comingle Recycling", nor are plastic bags. There are other ways to recycle those.

The paper newsletter is already gone. The paper bulletins are becoming a thing of the past. I know it's been a hard transition, but we just can't keep up creating so much trash! There are recycle bins all over the church for any papers

you might have picked up, or printed off for your meeting.

And this brings me to meetings:

- Send out minutes electronically and take corrections and comments by e-mail.
- Ask members to copy their own minutes if they want them.
- Include the agenda with the minutes or put them on a white board or project them.
- Electronically send out any sub-committee reports and ask people to make their own copies.
- If necessary to make paper copies, use front and back of the paper.

We didn't get here in a day, and it will take awhile to get back. Remember when a ream of paper was a big expenditure and it took a month or two to use it up?? Let's start thinking that way again.

- **Judy Beyer, Master Recycler**

# Church Events

## Starfire Singers

On July 28, our church hosted The Starfire Singers from Los Altos United Methodist Church, who performed their musical: ***The Project!***

The 70 youth and chaperones arrived in two full-sized busses, plus equipment truck. They transformed our sanctuary into a multi-media event, as they performed the original production asking, "If you could reinvent *church*, what would it look like?"

Prior to the performance, our church shared a spectacular potluck with the group, who was very impressed with our hospitality and our food. And everyone ate their fill.

A free-will offering was taken for the ministry of *our* choice. We chose to support our on-going partnership with Walker Elementary School.

## Hearts, Hands, and Art Rocks and Walks!

Our sanctuary, Chapel, classroom and Multi-Purpose room were all in good use during our week of Art Day Camp: ***Hearts, Hands, and Art***, July 18-22.

Twenty-two children enjoyed this original Day Camp concept created by Rev. Dorita and Carol Heisel. Additional art guides were: Tia Hatch, Pat Sorsoli, Berit Larson, Nicki Stroo, Vonna Skidmore, Maureen & Nora Honeycutt, Lisa & Erin Parrish, Rev. Pamela, and of course Sherman!

Then our August 5 ArtWalk featured the work of these young artists. Many of our church and the community joined these young people and their families for an evening of celebrating their achievement. The final celebration was Sunday, August 28 when children and families returned to retrieve their art, and celebrate with homemade ice cream and watermelon and have a last time together with Sherman.

## Advent-ure in Advent

Join Rev. Pamela as we plan for this year's Advent and Christmas season.

What would you like to see happen? Are there any fond traditions you would like to see again? What speaks to you in this holy season?

We will look at the scriptures and themes, and begin our planning process of about 4-6 meetings spread throughout September, October and November. Each meeting will be one hour in length. Our first gathering will be **Tuesday, September 13, 5:30-6:30**.

Anyone is welcome to join this intentional planning group!

# United Methodist Women

Mission Minute from Prayer Calendar: We ended our school year having served more than 250 children from 43 schools. We trained summer camp staff and had two summer interns from the General Board of Global Ministries, as well as volunteers from Illinois and Alabama. There was much excitement in the air throughout summer camp but there is not enough space here to tell it all. Deaconess Joanne Finley, North Rampart Community Center, New Orleans, LA.

I can remember the excitement in our Epworth League Unit as time drew closer for our trip to Little River Institute for a week of camping, study, fellowship, new experiences and new friends. At Little River we had no cabins to sleep in, so part of our baggage was tents, cots, bedding and toilet items. There were no showers, so we just washed our faces, hands and feet in the edge of the river which gurgled along just a few feet from our tent. There was a covered area for the dining facility, and the kitchen actually had a roof, screened windows and doors. It was primitive, but we were young and enthusiastic, and we remember those days with a sense of accomplishment, learning and growing.

I know that our youth have enjoyed their weeks at Camp Latgawa, where they have cabins, bunk beds, shower and washroom facilities. Even a swimming pool (we swam in a deep part of the river). They have studied, shared fellowships, new experiences and made new friends. They are young and enthusiastic, and they will remember these days with a sense of accomplishment, learning and growing. The spiritual growth is different for each generation, but it is there for all who reach out to grasp it in their hearts and minds, and the experience will change them for all the years to come.

Ginnie Pearson and Jane Varrelmann attended the UMW School of Mission at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, July 14 through 17. The campus was beautiful, the food delicious, the studies interesting and challenging! BUT – it was cold, so cold, they had to ask for more blankets and even wore extra clothing to bed each night! Now that they are back home, and thawed out we are looking forward to hearing more of their experiences at our meetings this fall.

Thought For The Day: We often forget that God's love for us has nothing to do with our performance. We can do nothing to make God love us any more; we can do nothing that will make God love us any less. God loves us and delights in us simply because God is our father. From the Upper Room, June 20, 2011.

Peace, Alberta Apenes

**“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.  
You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”**  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

# Note of Thanks from Starfire Singers

What a wonderful time we had this summer performing The Project with your church community. Our tour was all we had hoped it would be due in part to your amazing hospitality and support. One of the most exciting things that came out of the performance was your offering to help support the Walker Elementary School. Collectively, between all 8 churches, we raised approximately \$10,000.00 for the healing and wholeness of communities in need. How incredible is that? This is what "the" church is capable of doing when we Rethink what church means in the world.

So, thank you for allowing us to be in ministry with you and giving us the opportunity to make church a verb, something of action! May our time together simply be the beginning of something great in your church, in our church, in the collective church, and in the world.

We'll see you in 4 years when we travel to the northwest again. And if you find yourself moving or reappointed to another church, please stay in touch so, perhaps, we can extend our trip into your new neighborhood.

With joy and thanksgiving for re-visioning church with us,

Carol and Dirk Damonte

## If You Like to Sing, Join the Choir This Month

If you enjoy singing, try out choir rehearsal, Wednesday, September 7th, 6:30–8:00 pm. If you like Choir, come to Choir Camp on Saturday, September 10th, 9:00 am–7:30 pm at Latgawa.

Singing is good for your health, especially your breathing. You do not need to be an excellent musician or have a solo voice. Choir is fun and it is a joy making music with Jennifer and Meagan.

Returning choir members: sign up for Choir Camp with Larry Pearson. Cost is \$26; new members free.

## Haiti: A Place Of Hope

This year's mission study for **United Methodist Women** has been the country of Haiti. Although we all know that Haiti has been in the news because of earthquakes, hurricanes, poverty and unrest, this is also a country of hope. **Everyone** (yes, men as well!) is invited to the **Sept. 6** UMW meeting to review the past, present and future of this Caribbean island nation. We will see a video (Paul Jeffrey's photos), hear about the Methodist Church's role in rebuilding, and have a chance to purchase some jewelry and bags made by impoverished Haitians, helping parents rise out of poverty in order to keep their children ([www.apparentproject.org](http://www.apparentproject.org)). We will meet in the sanctuary at **10:30** for a short business meeting, the program is from 11:00-noon. Then we will have a 'bring a sandwich to share' lunch. If you need transportation, call Ginnie Pearson at 541-482-8764.



## The Apparent Project

Born of a desire to see impoverished men and women in Haiti be able to raise their children with dignity and not consider having to give up their children to orphanages, an artisan project was born to help keep families together. At first, four women made earrings from native seeds in Haiti. Today approximately 50 men and women use recycled paper products to make unique and lasting paper beads. These are then coupled with glass and seed beads to make one-of-a-kind eco-friendly jewelry for sale. These necklaces, bracelets, earrings and key rings will be available for purchase at the Sept. 6 UMW meeting and then also during coffee hour, following worship on Sunday, Sept. 11. Stop by the tables in Wesley Hall and do some shopping, while helping poor families in Haiti.

# InsideOut Ministry Opportunities

September marks the beginning of a new year of programming and service in the life of the church. As summer fades and the fall approaches, we are looking at the many opportunities we have to be the church out in our community. Please look through the many and varied possibilities for service through our church to our community. Study the list, pray for the ministries, consider what God is calling you to do and then, take action! If you have any questions or perhaps other service ideas, contact Dorita at the church. God empowers each of us to be servants in this world!

These are exciting times as God works through us in our community and beyond!

## Walker School Ministry:

- Volunteer weekly in the classrooms, art room, library, cafeteria or playground. (Regular School Volunteers need to fill out a School District Volunteer Form; these are available in church office).
- Coordinator for school clothing pantry.
- Coordinator for teacher celebrations
- Assist Carol with organizing an all school "Day of Thanks Living:"
  - Focus is on helping children see the value of community service and celebrating all that we have.
  - Need individuals who would be willing to give one morning to work with the students on a project that would be of service to the community. Example: Kindergarteners are going to make place mats for patients at Linda Vista.
- Contact Persons: **Carol Heisel, Tia Hatch or Rev. Dorita**

## Art Walk Ministry:

- Set up and take down shows, host/greet at First Friday, and sign up to bring refreshments.
- Become a regular First Friday Patron of the Gradient Gallery.
- Contact Persons: **Carol Heisel or Rev. Dorita**

## "Uncle Foods" Outreach:

- A coordinator to arrange church volunteers for our monthly fourth Tuesday volunteer support of Uncle Foods.
- Servants needed for food preparation, serving, and clean up.
- Contact Persons: **Rev. Dorita, Leigh Madsen**
- partner together for this summer of 2012 community outreach to our children.
- Contact Person: **Rev. Dorita**

## "Tasty Tuesdays" Outreach:

- Servants needed for hospitality, serving and clean up.
- Caring adults to play and interact with children after the meal.
- Contact Persons: **Nicki Stroo or Rev. Dorita**

## Food Bank Ministry:

- Sign up to work at the Food Bank (stock shelves, greet, help shoppers)
- Participate in the Green Bag Project
- Help with the move to new FB location in September
- Contact Person: **Bernice Koch**

## Mary's Garden Project:

- Project designed to help people grow own food at her homestead.
- Contact Person: **Mary James**

## Peace Village Summer Day Camp Ministry:

- Help plan, coordinate with UCC church, and partner together for this summer of 2012 community outreach to our children.
- Contact Person: **Rev. Dorita**

## Chamber of Commerce "Greeters" Outreach:

- Three outgoing and gregarious people to attend Friday Greeters and represent our church. Let people know what's happening!!!
- Contact Person: **Rev. Pamela**

## Ashwood House Project:

- Donate requested kitchen items
- Be a *House Angel* for needed items!
- Contact Person: **Ginnie Pearson UMW, Rev. Pamela, Judy Beyer**

## Paul Jeffrey Missionary Covenant & Support :

- Small cadre of folks to plan fund raising project to underwrite his international mission as UMC photo-journalist to war-torn and suffering countries.
- Contact person: **Church in the World Committee**

## Kenya Volunteers in Missions:

- At least one person from our congregation will be going on a VIM trip to Kenya.
- Volunteer to help with a Kenyan dinner that will be a fundraiser for the project.
- Contact Persons: **Carol Heisel, Berit Larson**

## Anytime Servant Opportunity:

- At any time, pray for these ministries, support them financially, invite a friend to join you on one of these projects, share with others our church's passion for serving others in our community! Spread our passion for serving Christ as we serve others!
- Contact: **God!**

# Communication Quandary

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*“The single biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has been achieved.”* **George Bernard Shaw**

How do we communicate with each other at this church?

- Certainly we see and *talk* with each other on Sundays. But not everyone is here on a Sunday.
- We have the Web page, but not everyone can figure out how to get there, or once you're there, how to get where you want to go!
- There is the electronic **e-Acts**, which used to be the printed **Acts**, but again, not everyone has a computer.
- Don't forget the Sunday bulletin announcements (printed, spoken and projected), posters, and bulletin boards, and word-of-mouth.

How do we get the news out to the community of what is going on with our church, and to be invitational?

- There is the newspaper. But how do we get covered?
- Are around-town posters effective?
- Our church is a member of the Ashland Chamber. How can we take advantage of that?
- Does anyone read our website beside us?

These are all questions our Communications Committee will be wrestling with over the next several months. If you have interest or strong opinions, let Brian Nelson-Munson know at: [bnelsonmunson@gmail.com](mailto:bnelsonmunson@gmail.com), or leave a note for him in the office.

## Make Sure You're on the List!

Do you realize how many amazing things you get when the church office has your email address?

You get:

- Up-to-the-moment alerts on all things from prayers needed to event reminders;
- *Weekly Sermon Teaser*;
- *Sneak Preview* of Sunday's bulletin;
- Random, amazing photographs of our members caught in random acts of service
- Alert when the *eActs* is first published;
- And so much more!

Let the office know, and we'll get *you* on the list right away!

## The Hundred-Year Cleaning

Look up in the sanctuary balcony! Three of the four windows have now been completed in their cleaning and repair. The fourth one just went out for it's hundred-year cleaning. One window at a time, with your generous donations, we are preserving these works of art installed in 1908. They, we're good for another hundred years!

## Imagine Worship

We have a new team in worship these days, The *Imagineers*!

This intrepid and stalwart group of men and women each choose a week to illustrate Sunday worship with the projected images you see up on our new screen. Each spends about eight hours in preparing the projected program for you. And once a month, we come together to look at the next month's scriptures and exchange ideas and creativity.

Far from the plain "words only" of many churches, our *images* strive to bring you into another dimension of worship with classic and modern art, beautiful photography, and placing contemporary image next to familiar words.

If you would like to become an *Imagineer*, let **Larry Pearson** (inventor of the term and coordinator extraordinaire) know for our next scheduled training. Or drop in on our next lectionary and creativity session on Tuesday, **September 20**, 4-6pm in the Library.



## A Green Dedication

A time to dedicate our new song books: ***Worship & Song*** will take place in worship on Sunday, **Sept. 18**. This is the new United Methodist worship publication in ten years, from Cokesbury. The 190 hymns and worship songs within are fun and accessible, representing many genres from 19<sup>th</sup> century camp songs, toe-stomping current Country Western, Christian Rock, and even a re-turning of Wesley's *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*.

**MORE YET TO COME...**  
**STAY TUNED!**

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