



Forest Grove United Methodist Church

Messenger

August 2006

1726 Cedar St., Forest Grove, OR 97116-2434
e-mail: fgumc@teleport.com

Phone: 503-357-2689 FAX: 503-357-8410
website: www.forestgroveumc.org

FAMILY BRIDGE: A HOSPITALITY MINISTRY IN FOREST GROVE UMC

Sometimes we assume everyone knows what's going on in the congregation. That isn't necessarily true, especially since new folks have come lately. Several people have asked me what Family Bridge is, and what will happen here during hospitality week, July 30 – August 6. So I think a general description is in order.

Family Bridge is a network of eleven churches in Washington County. Four of the churches are United Methodist: Aloha, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Westside. The others are from various Protestant denominations. We serve homeless families by providing shelter, meals, and help and hope so that they can achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

We have a director, Kris Moore, and one part-time staff member. They work at the Day Center in Hillsboro, providing intensive case management, helping families secure income and permanent housing. Volunteers from our churches provide dinner and a place to sleep in our church buildings. You can find more information at www.family-bridge.org.

We house up to three families at a time. The guests spend one week at each of eight host sites, of which our church is one. At the end of the week they move on to the next church. All this moving around is not very convenient, but the practice helps avoid volunteer burnout. And as one guest has said, it provides motivation to get out into a real home.

For volunteers, it's very good to have Family Bridge staff doing case management. That way we aren't responsible for whether the kids are getting to school, or the parents are looking for homes or jobs or health

care. We don't have to offer possibly unwanted advice, or tell people what they don't want to hear. We don't have to judge anyone. We just sign up for a time slot, and show up.

What do Family Bridge volunteers do when they show up?

Bus drivers pick up guests from the day center every afternoon and bring them to the church for dinner. In the morning they take them back. Drivers use either their own cars or our church bus, depending on how many guests we have.

Cooks bring dinner to the church, serve it buffet style and eat with the guests, then clean up.

Evening hosts open the church about 5:00 pm, and stay through dinner. Sometimes they just need to be present. Other times they talk, play games, read to children, or help with homework. If guests have questions, or need something (a child's fever thermometer, more TP, crayons) they go first to the evening host.

Overnight hosts spend the night at the church, sleeping on camp cots. In the morning they wake the guests around 6:30, so they can be ready for the bus at 7:00.

Other volunteers set up guests' rooms and take them down at the end of the week. They child-proof the rooms and make them homelike and welcoming. They transport guests' luggage and beds between churches. These volunteers may not actually meet guests, but they do a lot for their comfort.

Your coordinator manages the show, as much as it needs management, which isn't as much as you might think. I post the signup sheet and invite volunteers to sign up for the various jobs. If the sheet doesn't fill up

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**God's intimate presence
takes me by surprise
in the middle of
hospitality work.**

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

At our home, we've finally unpacked the last box from our move. At one point during the process, Kathy stopped when we had just opened another box with books in it and with a big sigh said: "I didn't know we had so many books." We do have a lot of books, though we have a good deal fewer books after the sorting and dust settled.

Our kids love reading. They come by it naturally. Our family's love of reading comes naturally: my mother was a great reader; one sister is a writer with a Master's in English from the University of Virginia, and my other sister a copy editor and Multnomah County library employee and avid reader. For our family, Powell's Bookstore is one of the greatest blessings of having moved to this area.

Good writing is powerful. Some years ago, a dear friend sent to me the following, a quote from a play titled *The Real Thing* by British playwright Tom Stoppard:

"Words...[are] innocent, neutral, precise, standing for this, describing that, meaning the other, so if you look after them you can build bridges across incomprehension and chaos...I don't think writers are sacred, but words are. They deserve respect. If you get the right ones in the right order, you can nudge the world a little or make a poem which children will speak for you when you're dead."

In a similar vein, my sister, the writer, once reminded me of poet Robert Frost's words in his piece titled *Education by Poetry*:

"Greatest of all attempts to say one thing in terms of another is the philosophical attempt to say matter in terms of spirit, or spirit in terms of matter, to make the final unity... It is wrong to call anybody a materialist simply because he tries to say spirit in terms of matter, as if that were a sin. Materialism is not the attempt to say all in terms of matter. The only materialist – be he poet, teacher, scientist, politician, or statesman – is the man who gets lost in his material without a gathering metaphor to throw it into shape and order. He is the lost soul."

Finding the right metaphor to express in understandable terms the world of the spirit... finding the right words in the right order to move the world... these are the attempts of those who write, like Mary Jane, Taylor, Bobby, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Their efforts remind me of the ministry of the One who was "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth." Jesus. Think of all the metaphors and parables Jesus used to express the world of the spirit in material terms. Think of all the words Jesus put in the right order to nudge the world. Words like: "Love your neighbor as yourself." "Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Your words are powerful. They can change the world and the people in it. Poet Stuart Vail said *"[Words] can incite, torture, kill, comfort, heal, encourage, humiliate, anger, inspire, sadden, give joy, make one laugh, and they can forever change one's life."*

I thank God for The Word, who came to show us the way, the truth, the life abundant. I believe that when our honest words, whether penned or spoken, are somehow related to The Word, grace and truth will reign. Pay attention to the words you read, the words you use. You never know whose life they might change forever.

In faith,



Pastor Dan

(Continued from page 1)

I make wheedling phone calls. I confer with other coordinators and with Family Bridge staff. I touch base with volunteers and stay on-call. I let the cooks know how many will be at dinner. I let the police and fire departments know that there will be people in the church overnight. Most of all, we all stay flexible and adaptable.

One night John and Janet Hummel turn dinner into a family party, and Addison supervises games for guest kids and church kids alike. Marion Gustafson sits with another mother in the fellowship hall, just talking together. This doesn't happen every week. Not every guest is ready for that kind of community, and not every guest needs it. But when it does happen, when we blur the lines between giver and receiver, when we act like a family, children of one Father, then we can bear one another's burdens easily and graciously. Then the Kingdom of Heaven has broken in on us.

It's in the middle of all this that I encounter God. *God's intimate presence takes me by surprise in the middle of hospitality work. A child volunteers to say grace at dinner. "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest," he prays, and the Lord is there* (as He always is for a child's prayer, but I am not always so vividly aware of Him) *telling us, "Well done."*

Do you think you'd like to be part of this? A good way to decide is to come to dinner some evening during the first week in August. No duties, no obligation: just call a day in advance to let the cooks know how many people there will be at dinner. We'd love to have you.

Liz Swenson
503-628-5638 (home)
503-840-0016 (cell)
ejswenson@att.net

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**PASTOR'S VACATION**

Pastor Dan will be on vacation over the next two Sundays, returning on the 11th. For a pastoral need in Pastor Dan's absence, you may contact the church office (503-357-2689) or Deacon Rhoda Pittman Markus (503-357-3998).

Pastor Hannah Hurdle-Toomey will preach on July 30 and Kris Moore, Director of Family Bridge, will bring the message on August 6th.

**YOUTH GROUP**

During our recent adventure as Camp Counselors at Camp Magruder, we sang a song entitled "The Magic Penny." The words are as follows:

*"Love is like a magic penny. Hold it tight and you won't have any. Lend it, spend it and you'll have so many, they'll roll all over the floor."*

*"Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away. Love is something if you give it away, you'll end up having more."*

The song is a simple, yet powerful, reminder of how we experience God more fully when we share God's love with others.

We've had four very successful events this summer. Eleven youth attended a lock-in talking about the masks we wear. Eight youth participated in our Messy Olympics and Water Games. We served close to forty people at our June Breakfast Club. And fifteen people participated in the Golf Scramble, with several others joining us at the Dionne's for a BBQ afterwards.

Upcoming on August 11<sup>th</sup>:  
Rock Climbing.  
Contact Bobby or Emily for more information

A big thank you to everyone who has helped chip in to make our Youth Group what it is.

**Bobby and Emily Tabb**  
Youth Pastors  
[bobbyfgumc@teleport.com](mailto:bobbyfgumc@teleport.com)

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DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE?

An easy way to take part in Day Camp is to make some homemade cookies for the week of August 14th - 18th.

If you are interested, please call me at (503) 357-3185 or e-mail: plc2fd@verizon.net, for more information.

Patty Davie

FROM THE ALTAR TO THE WORLD

Day Camp is coming! This is the 5th year that Forest Grove UMC has hosted a day camp. There are some new twists to it this year.

Conference Camp & Retreat Ministries stepped out of the leadership role for "experienced" churches. That means there is still lots of support from them, but they are not sending a team of teachers or leaders.

FGUMC's day camp committee decided, with the resource people that we have, to make it more intentionally bi-lingual than in past years and that is all in place.

We are also working toward including more culturally in-tune crafts and foods and bringing on board some Hispanic community leaders to assist. All in all, it promises to be an exciting event.

Cooks are planning, teachers are preparing, bus driver is lined up, volunteer shepherds are saying "yes." Children are being recruited and registered. When does this all take place? August 14th - 18th. If you are a volunteer or have been in the past, you already know the energy and excitement that fills this site during day camp week. If you haven't been around in past years, do plan on dropping by sometime and "catch the spirit." We'll be here from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.!

I've talked in past months about ways that we individually and as a congregation take our worship life and our sense of being the body of Christ out into the world. In telling you about day camp, I'm lifting up a way we make use of the amazing gift of this facility and the many person resources we have to make a difference in the lives of children in the community of Forest Grove.

Please pray for the success of the week.

Deacon
Reverend **Rhoda Pittman Markus**

DAY CAMP

Monday, August 14th thru Friday, August 18th, 2006

Monday - Thursday; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

United Methodist Church
1726 Cedar St.
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Children entering grades 1-6

Registration – \$25 per child; \$40 per family
(Scholarships available)

Register at the Ice Cream Social,
August 13th, 2006 at the church; 3-5 p.m.
Or; call **Rhoda Pittman Markus**, 503-357-3998

WRITING DAY AT THE COAST

Wednesday, August 16

All men & women are welcome. We meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to car-pool to Lincoln City.

Please bring \$18 and a casserole for a shared lunch.

Contact **Mary Jane Nordgren**,
503-357-3626
mjnordgren1@juno.com

OWL

(Older Woman's Legacy)

Writing classes will be held in the Church Library on Mondays from 9:30 to noon, September 11 through October 9. The cost is \$15 for all 5 sessions, to cover the notebook expense.

Contact **Mary Jane Nordgren**,
503-357-3626
mjnordgren1@juno.com

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The family of **Betty and Cal Clayton Sr.**

requests the pleasure of your company

at a special reception honoring

50 years of marriage.

Saturday, the twelfth of August 2006

Two o'clock p.m.

at the United Methodist Church

Forest Grove, Oregon

The honorees request no gifts.

Kindly respond: 602-882-7941

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**BUS RIDERS PLEASE NOTE:**

**Linda King** has been having problems with her telephone. If you cannot reach her at her home number, (503-357-1141), please call her cell phone: **503-522-1215**.

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**CALLING ALL CHOIR MEMBERS
INCLUDING POTENTIAL MEMBERS!**

Come to the Choir Retreat on Saturday, August 19, 10 am to whenever, at the beach house (see address below).

All interested persons Grade 7 and above (no upper age limits) and their significant others and children are invited to attend! We will go over some of the music we will be doing in the coming year.

Please plan to come. We will have a pot luck lunch, so bring some food to share. Meeting at the church at 8:30 and car pooling would probably be helpful to most people. The address is 5281 Logan Road, Lincoln City. Please call me if you have questions!

Betty Pritchard
503-359-9340

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

We've had three staffing changes recently. We'd like to introduce you to the new faces you may see around the church.

Martin and **Dace Horn** have been hired as our Groundskeepers. You already know Dace as our pianist and organist. Martin grew up in in South Bend, Indiana, and studied printing and graphic arts there. He has worked for 25 years in that field. He and Dace moved here 3 years ago and in their spare time enjoy hiking, bicycling, kayaking, tennis, and other outdoor activities. Martin also plays piano and guitar and does some composing. We're glad to have you both here!

John Davis is our new Custodian. John grew up in Concord, California, moving to this area in 1983. He has worked in construction, painting, building maintenance and custodian work. He is currently the part-time sexton (maintenance and custodial person) at the Forest Grove United Church of Christ. John has two children nearby and one grandchild on the way. In his free time he enjoys playing guitar, songwriting and playing basketball. Welcome, John!

Hillary Hawkins is our new Nursery Attendant. She has lived in Forest Grove all her life and grew up in this church. She graduated from Forest Grove High School last year where she was involved in drama and played basketball. Hillary has attended Pacific University, and in her free time loves to read, watch movies, cook, and hang out with friends. We are glad you are with us, Hillary!

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**CROP WALK**

**Art Fogg**, a member of our church who lives at Alterra, is looking for some help in his efforts to organize a community-wide CROP Walk. Would you like to help? Funds raised through CROP Walk supports the relief ministries of the World Council of Churches. If you would like to help Art or like more information, please call Art at 503-359-7840.

**BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY**

**Disciples' Bible Study:**

- A thirty-four week study for adult groups
- Moves through the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem
- Features weekly small group discussion of Scripture based on careful study and preparation
- Draws on the work of scholars to aid the group's understanding of the Bible

This is a high-commitment study program. Weekly meeting sessions last 2-1/2 hours. There is daily reading expected of participants. Videotaped presentations by Biblical scholars are part of the weekly sessions.

Pastor Dan will be leading this study from September through May on Sunday nights. If you want to study the Bible with a small, committed group and be challenged in your Christian discipleship, speak to Pastor Dan. Space is limited to 11 persons.

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AUTHORS IN OUR MIDST

Mary Jane Nordgren, our Education/Congregational Care Committee chair, is the author of four books and a recent play: "Water and the Word." She regularly leads a writing group in town.

Recently, we've become aware of two other authors in our midst with whom we have cause to celebrate.

Taylor Morrison who attends our church, recently received an honor book award in the nonfiction category of the 2006 Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards for Excellence in Children's Literature for his most recent book, *Wildfire* (published by Lorraine Houghton). Congratulations, Taylor!

Another writer is our Youth Director, **Robert "Bobby" Tabb**, who recently wrote and published his first book: *Joe and the Ten Wishes*. You can order his book from Amazon.com and it will soon be in local bookstores for purchase. We celebrate with you, Bobby!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2006 Operating Budget

Annual Budget:	\$243,865
Income through June 30, 2006:	\$118,951
Expenses through June 30, 2006:	\$108,860
Balance:	\$10,091

Submitted by **Dan Gustafson**

Finance Committee Report, 7-20-06

The Finance Committee met Wednesday July 19 for their monthly meeting.

They discussed ideas concerning a Stewardship Campaign, and five people volunteered to be a part of the committee. They will begin organizing and planning for the event to be held later in the year.

The Grant Committee reported that of the \$34,628 approved, \$29,820 has been spent. Five of the eight requested grants have been completed with a savings of \$2689 from the original grants. This money will be returned to the Grant fund for future expenditures.

They also discussed the number of undesignated memorial funds, and how they could be handled.

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**HAVE YOU MOVED?**

Please be sure that the church office has your new address. It costs us 75 cents for each item of returned mail.

**Ella Mae James**,  
Church Secretary

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Mable Compton        | August 2nd  |
| Linda Powers         | August 2nd  |
| Sue Brenner          | August 2nd  |
| Christa Bond         | August 8th  |
| Deborah Weekley      | August 13th |
| Dan Gustafson        | August 15th |
| Tom Rannells         | August 16th |
| Jacquie Haney        | August 16th |
| Randy Cobb           | August 16th |
| Alwyn Hites-Clabaugh | August 18th |
| Ben Pritchard        | August 21st |
| Noah Wilson-Fey      | August 22nd |
| Dick Brenner         | August 27th |
| Gerry Zabel          | August 27th |
| Bob Francis          | August 28th |
| David Rose           | August 30th |



**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Dave & Laurie Bond           | August 1st  |
| Ken & Martha Tunall          | August 14th |
| Loyd & Virginia Wells        | August 24th |
| Glen & Lynn Anderson         | August 28th |
| Frank & Ella Collins-Colcord | August 31st |

## SERVING IN AUGUST

|                              |                                                             |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Liturgist</b>             | Marilyn Carr                                                |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Edythe Westlund                                             |
| <b>Bus Coordinator</b>       | Linda King, 503-357-1141                                    |
| <b>Bus Drivers</b><br>August | David Rose                                                  |
| <b>Ushers</b>                | Arleigh & Donna Berget<br>Frank Colcord &<br>Merrill Ludlam |
| <b>Greeters</b>              | Ken & Nancy Bond<br>Sam & Carolyn Judah                     |
| <b>Coffee Coordinator</b>    | Edythe Westlund                                             |
| <b>Fellowship Time</b>       |                                                             |
| August 6th                   | Volunteers needed                                           |
| August 13th                  | Volunteers needed                                           |
| August 20th                  | Nancy Bond                                                  |
| August 27th                  | Merrill & Betty Ludlam                                      |
| <b>Nursery Attendant</b>     | Hillary Hawkins                                             |
| <b>Childcare</b>             |                                                             |
| <b>Coordinator</b>           | Beth Hall                                                   |
| <b>Web Master</b>            | Jenny LaCombe                                               |
| <b>Acolytes</b>              |                                                             |
| August 6th - 27th            | <b>To be announced</b>                                      |
| <b>Kitchen Elves</b>         | Margaret Anne Cox                                           |
| <b>Sound Ministry</b>        | Sound Team                                                  |
| <b>Tape Ministry</b>         | Tape Team                                                   |
| <b>Parish Nurse</b>          | Patti Rose                                                  |

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE-EDUCATION CORNER *Laurie Bond*

“If you can teach kindergarten, you can do anything,” Laurie laughs as she explains having run two Portland Marathons. Laurie’s favorite pastimes include running and reading – and baking. “Which is another reason to run.”

Teaching kindergarten at Harvey Clarke for several years now, Laurie has been a teacher for 22 years. She grew up in Banks and attended the Banks Methodist Church until after she and Dave were married and moved to Forest Grove. Both she and Dave have been active in our church. Laurie has taught numerous Sunday school classes, especially when their two beautiful daughters, Christa and Alyssa, now college co-eds, were tiny.

Dave and Laurie Bond celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 1. Our gratitude and congratulations to them both!

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Forest Grove United Methodist Church is to welcome all people, wherever they are on their journey of faith, into nurturing relationships with Jesus and with one another, through worship, small group fellowship and service to others.

## *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

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|                                                                    |              |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Daniel Wilson-Fey</b>                                           | 503-359-4249 | Pastor           |
| <b>Rhoda Pittman Markus</b>                                        | 503-357-3998 | Deacon           |
| <b>Bobby &amp; Emily Tabb</b>                                      |              | Youth Pastors    |
| <b>Ella Mae James</b>                                              |              | Church Secretary |
| Church Office Hours, Mon. through Thursday                         |              |                  |
| 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon                                            |              |                  |
| <b>Patty Davie</b>                                                 | 503-357-3185 | Messenger Editor |
| e-mail: <a href="mailto:plc2fd@verizon.net">plc2fd@verizon.net</a> |              |                  |

