

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 4

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Tower Notes

The monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church in Albany, Oregon

WORSHIP · SERVE · LEARN

I was at a meeting of the clergy of our district recently down in Roseburg. One of my colleagues shared that his church had a shower and a washer and dryer in their finished basement. He had proposed to his church board that this area be offered to the community as a warming center for the homeless during the month of December on those nights when the temperature dropped below freezing. Two other congregations in town cover the other winter months. The board voted “no.” They went to a place of fear about all the things that could go wrong instead of seeing this as a marvelous opportunity for being Christ to the community. My heart broke for him – and for his congregation. My colleague is so discouraged to be in a place where the focus is so narrow and inward and fear based.

My friends, I am telling you this because I will never take for granted how blessed I am to be in a very different congregation. To be in a congregation where the church board is positive, outward focused, and Spirit led to be on the lookout for where God is calling us next to be of service to one another and to the community. What a joy! And God bless you all for so cheerfully getting on board!

We have been on quite a journey. It started almost two years ago when the tower was removed. As various board members shared, it symbolized a number of things – the end of the gloom and doom, the glass being half empty, getting rid of the rotten stuff that does not work, that we are not going to keep trying to fix the unfixable, the willingness of folk to accept change, and so on.

We then went on to the renovation of the sanctuary and narthex. This was described at our last board meeting as an opening up and a lightening up of the congregation, the glass becoming half full, about accessibility and hospitality. Last Thursday, because of the renovations to the chancel area, the West Albany High School choirs had a wonderful space in which to perform their fall concert. (Thank you, Eric, for the genius idea of

inviting them and for your hosting of the concert!)

And now we come to our latest step on the journey – the renovation of the stage area. What is so exciting about this is that it is not about us. It is about the community. It is such a visible symbol of saying “this building is not ours it is God’s and how can we use it to be Christ to our community?” I cannot think of a better way than to have it used to feed hungry people, many of who are children, in our community.

By the way, one of the other things that God placed in our laps was a neighbor seeing our woefully neglected garden and feeling called to resurrect it. Dain, God bless him, rototilled it for her last spring. Seeds were planted – and approximately 1900 pounds of food were harvested for the Gleaners! How blessed are we to have God place such opportunities to be a blessing in our laps like this?

So, let the journey continue! I know God is going to continue to present us with amazing opportunities to be a blessing to each other, the community and the world. I know that I have a congregation that will continue to respond positively to those opportunities.

Thanks be to God!

Your grateful pastor,

Kate

Lawn Mower Needed



Due to physical limitations our fourth lawn mower member is unable to continue mowing. We need a volunteer to take his place. To volunteer contact Ray Hilt at 541-928-0951.

Fish of Albany Food Collection

On the first Sunday of every month we will be collecting non-perishable food for Fish of Albany. Albany First UMC has a long connection to this great local organization. This is just one way we at Albany First UMC can help the hungry of the Albany area.



Men's Group. If it is the first Sunday of the month and you are a man — come to McDonald's at 8:00am for breakfast, planning, and fellowship.



This is a great way to get to know "the guys" and become involved in church activities.

UMW Notes... UMW members will meet on Wednesday, **November 5**, at 9:30am in the Fireside Room.

Hostesses will be Jeanie Kirk and Evalyne Pace. Mary Ann Sanker will give a brief talk about the World Thank



Offering, and she reminds all members to bring their own thank offerings. Devotions and program will be given by Carol Pemberton on her mission trip to Kenya, with an emphasis on the medical situation she found there. Visitors are always welcome at UMW meetings. The board will meet beforehand at 9:00am.

Saturday, **November 8**, UMW will take part in the Holiday Craft Bazaar at the Albany Senior Center from 9:00am 'till 4:00pm. We will have a table with mostly holiday craft items for sale, the work of our ladies. Lunch will be available there for \$6 from 11:00-2:00.

Saturday, **December 13**, UMW will hold a Chicken Supreme Luncheon, plus a silent auction of gift baskets, a raffle, and concert by "No Strings Attached." Put the date on your calendar and invite family and friends.



A very heartfelt thank you to all of you who sent cards and memorial gifts and gave me words of encouragement when my brother died in August. I have really felt the love and support, and it means everything to me!

Melinda Sorte



Do you shop online?

Here is a painless way to donate to the church! The United Methodist Church has set up a program called UMCmarket approved by the

General council as a way to acquire donations through online shopping. There are a couple thousand participating stores, including Kohl's, Old Navy, Columbia, Amazon, Sears, Lowe's, Macy's, and so many more specialty retailers, online stores, and mainline stores.

Here is the very simple way to sign up — go to UMCmarket.org. Click on the “Get Started” button and follow the steps. When you come to the page called “Find Your Ministry,” choose “The United Methodist Church, Albany OR” and click “donate to Organization.” From now on, a percentage of your online shopping at participating stores will come to the church!

Contact Melinda Sorte, delivery@peak.org, if you need help getting set up.

Over 2000 pounds of produce harvested!

Our community garden manager Jeanne Hogan reports 1884 pounds of produce were donated to the Gleaners, plus about 200 pounds of pumpkins and gourds given to our Early Learning Center.



“I was able to get the majority of the plants from Peoria Gardens at wholesale. West Albany green house classes graciously donated the leftover plants and flowers, and Harts nursery in Jefferson

donated as well. Also there was a huge box of bean and pea seeds someone had donated. I still have some and will use them next year.

My goal was to use every square inch of garden space. I think I reached my goal! I started the garden in May planting peas, onions, beans, cucumber, tomatoes, butternut, delicate and acorn squash, pumpkins, beets, zucchini, gourds, peppers, and sunflowers. It was fantastic growing weather this year allowing the garden to produce until mid October.

Next year I plan to get the majority of plants again from Peoria Garden with the same amount invested, about \$50.

Thank you to Dain for working the ground for me, and Ray for hauling all the produce and always checking if I had everything I needed. Melinda, thank you for helping with all my questions, and the crew who mows the lawn for all the grass clippings.

Thank you to the church for allowing me to do this garden. I truly enjoyed every minute. I look forward to next year's garden.”



Jeanne Hogan

The Transformation Continues

The Church Board and the Foundation are partnering once again to keep our journey of transformation going. Next stop on the journey – the removal of the stage and curtain in the Fellowship Hall and the construction of accessible, flexible storage for the Gleaners and God’s Heart (the group that makes from scratch meals for the homeless every week). These two significant hunger ministries in our community have made due with the inaccessible and inadequate makeshift storage area of the stage. It has not been easy. As a “bonus,” a benefit for us will be to have what is currently an eye sore removed and to significantly improve a main entrance and exit to the Fellowship Hall.



The Foundation has voted to provide a matching grant of up to \$5000 to transform this area. The cost of the project will be approximately \$10,000-\$12,000. Our facilities manager, Melinda Sorte, had the plans drawn up by NOW builders and would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about the project. We are confident that our congregation will respond generously to this opportunity for ministry. In the memo area of your check, please write “Stage.”

Your Church Board

Karla Long, chair Don McMorris, vice-chair Randy Camp Kate Conolly Jill Gosswiller Karl Kuessel
Melinda Sorte Carol Stahl Ken Stahl Tom Turpin

Your Foundation

Kent Hickam, chair John Buchner Bev Decker John Jenks Carol Stahl Russ Tripp Tom Turpin



We have had a very busy summer and fall with events starting in June with our Marimba Party... we sent about \$800 to Africa with the 2014 Mission Team along with other needed items.

Then we had our service in the park for “Imagine no Malaria.” Joining with Jefferson and Lebanon Methodist churches we enjoyed the marimba band, had a great breakfast, good friends, and a lovely church service with music from our own Praise Band. Julia Frisbe gave a memorable sermon on INM with help from Rev. Bill Hayes & Rev. Dave Childress, and an introduction from our own Kate. We sent \$1200 to INM and fed a few people that did not have the money for breakfast.

And we followed this with a beautiful Organ Concert and reception the first part of October.

I want to thank all of you who helped make these events happen. Thank you for your support financially, helping with planning, set-up, decorating, cooking, and clean-up. I could not have done it without each and everyone of you.



Donna Shackelford

November 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2** Daylight Saving Time ends | 3 | 4 Gleaners God's Heart | 5 UMW 7:00 Choir | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9** 11:30 Personnel Team | 10 | 11 Veteran's Day Office Closed | 12 7:00 Choir | 13 | 14 Tower Notes articles due | 15 |
| 16** | 17 | 18 Gleaners God's Heart | 19 7:00 Choir | 20 | 21 12:00 Jackson Street Shelter | 22 |
| 23** | 24 | 25 Gleaners God's Heart Patricia Off | 26 | 27  | 28 Office Closed | 29 |
| 30 Potluck Dinner | | | | | | |

**** Every Sunday — 9:00am, Adult Sunday School; 10:30am Worship; during worship service (Sept.-May) Discovery Time is offered for children ages 4-11. Nursery is available.**

BIRTHDAYS!

2-Marsha Moore
4-Kitty Buchner
6-Tom Turpin
13-Pat Archibald
14-Lidnsey Hanks
21-Carol Stahl
23-Jean Bailey
Ray Hilts
26-Dale Edwards
Karla Long
29-Robert Phillips



COFFEE TIME HOSTS

Please sign up to host a coffee hour. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

*** Anyone can bring cookies at any time and put them in the freezer (please put the date on them).

Please keep these members of the military (family, relatives or friends of our own church family) in your prayers:

Denise & Walt Hammond's son-in-law, Jeremiah Hanks, in the Army; he and Lindsey are stationed in Okinawa, Japan.
Kirsten & Rob Allam's son Ryan Allam, Army, currently stationed at Fort Drum, New York.
Joanne & Randy Camp's daughter-in-law, Katie Camp, Navy, stationed Twentynine Palms, California
Phoebe & Randall Harrison's grandson, Silas Gayner, in the Army, recruiter in Merced, California..
Don & Nancy McMorris' grandsons, Matthew McMorris, Army, stationed at Fort Lewis and Michael, Air Force, stationed in Germany.
Gil & Donna Baker's grandson, Zachery Denton, in the Marines, stationed in Afghanistan.

Tower Notes — next newsletter deadline is Friday, November 14

Recycling



A reminder about recycling around the church... bring your old shoes to the recycling barrel in the Fellowship Hall – keep them out of the landfill! Also, remember that we recycle all paper; there is a bin in the sanctuary for old bulletins and printed items. And in the kitchen there is a receptacle for mixed recyclables such as packaging, paper, plastic and metal.

First United Methodist Church of Albany welcomes all people! Please join us Sundays at 10:30 for our morning worship service; nursery care provided for children age 3 and under. Contact the church office with any comments or questions you may have, 541-928-3505. Our buildings and restrooms are all fully accessible. Our pastor is Rev. Kate Conolly.



This newsletter is available via email and also is posted on our website at www.albanymethodist.org. Please recycle this newsletter!

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