

THE WITNESS

Beaverton First United Methodist Church
12555 SW 4th Street – Beaverton, Oregon 97005
Email: office@beavertonumc.org - Website: www.beavertonumc.org
Phone: 503.646.7107

**Our Vision: Here at the heart of Beaverton, Christ calls us to feed our community; body, mind and Spirit.
Our Mission: Knowing that our works change our community and ourselves; we seek to ensure that no one in the Beaverton area goes hungry, investigate the teachings of Christ through research and communion with others, and respectfully share the love of God with all.**

MAY, 2015

Pastor's Message

Last year, in my post-Easter article for The Witness, I wrote about leading a “no Fear” life. What does that mean? It means living a “Resurrection” life, a life dominated by a “Yes I Can!” attitude, rather than an “I don’t think so” attitude. It is a life built on the principle that “I can do all things through him (Jesus Christ) who strengthens me!” With that attitude Resurrection is a forgone conclusion, not something we celebrate once a year. The “no Fear” life is just a given.

I saw our congregation embrace a “no Fear” attitude and live the Resurrection Spirit on Sunday, April 12 when we voted to become a Reconciling Congregation.

A Reconciling Congregation is one that chooses to openly welcome everyone into its communion without regard to anything. That includes race, gender, ethnicity, marital status, economic status, health status, physical abilities or disabilities, social standing, as well as other human traits that have been considered excluding at various times in our history – especially sexual orientation.

The late 20th – early 21st Century have been particularly excluding times for persons who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgendered¹ (LGBT). In 1988, 1992, 1994, 2000 and 2004 ballot measures were seen on the Oregon ballot that essentially made discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation legal. Either these measures failed or they were found to be unconstitutional after they passed. It was in the midst of these legal battles that some of the first United Methodist Congregations became Reconciling Congregations.



The ‘90’s and early 2000’s are over. Sadly, discrimination against persons of the LGBT community is not. Recent news from Indiana and Arkansas makes that all too plain. There is something else that is all too plain – the love of Jesus Christ for each and every one of God’s children!

If we scour the New Testament accounts of Jesus’ life for evidence of his attitude towards homosexuality we will find that the full extent of his preaching on the subject is ... nothing. He spoke not a word about same gender relationships. I’m sure they existed in his society. Such relationships always have. But, apparently, Jesus found no reason to speak on the subject. The subject he spoke on most often was love... God’s love for humanity and the love humanity should have for each other.

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?"

He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live." Luke

10:25-28 (CEB)

(Pastor's Message – continued from page 1)

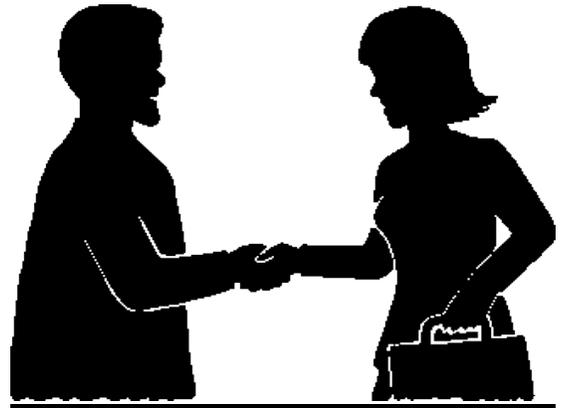
What we forget most often is that very simple answer to that very complex question... what must I do to gain eternal life? If that is the question that drives human existence, then we really don't have to worry about it anymore. It has been answered. It there is an even more pressing question, however, that drives our existence, perhaps it is this one... "How do I live well, very well, in this life?" I would suggest that the answer is the same. *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."* Do this and you will live fully, abundantly, joyfully, healthfully and magnanimously in the life you live on earth, as well as in the next Life.

What we chose to do, as a congregation, last Sunday was all about living, fully, abundantly and joyfully both in this life and in the next Life. It was about affirming what Jesus said were the most important commandments and going the step beyond, actually living those commandments.

I will never tell you that living a Resurrection life is easy. There are places in the world today where acknowledging that you are a Christian can cost you your life. But I will tell you that it is a full and purposeful way to live. It means knowing who you are and whose you are. I am proud to say I am a Christian, proud to say that I love Jesus and proud to say that the church I pastor is a Reconciling Congregation. So let's live the "no Fear" life! Let's shout the love of God from the roof tops. Let's let the rainbow flag fly and let our community know that we really *do* love our neighbor as ourselves - **ALL** our neighbors!

In the Faith of the Resurrection,
Pastor Kathy

¹ Please note that I did not say, "Identify as LGTB" or "Consider themselves to be LGBT." Genetic science has concluded that people are genetically predisposed to their sexual orientation



Hospitality Team

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

How important are name badges for our congregation?

The Hospitality team has been discussing this matter for a few months. When greeting as people arrive early on a Sunday morning it was a surprise to have a "new face" ask "where are the name tags?" These questions have caused us to rethink the matter. We will appear more hospitable if we are wearing name badges so new arrivals will at least know we are part of this Church. Be aware that we will be talking more about name badges and will be placing orders for new ones very soon. Be IN TUNE for more information about signing up for your new name badge. Thank you, June

May 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 9:00am CPR Training 11:30am Clarinet lessons |
| 3 9:00am Youth Group 9:00am K- 5 Sunday School 9:00am Nursery Care 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 10:30am Pre-K | 4 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Altair 1:30pm Altair Martial Arts | 5 9:00am Altair 10:00am Pastor Kathy's Bible Study 2:30pm Intentional Faith Development Team Meeting 8:00pm AA Beaverton Group | 6 9:00am Altair 10:00am Missions Team Meeting 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30pm Te Deum Choir Rehearsal | 7 9:00am Altair | 8 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath | 9 9:00am Men's Group 11:30am Clarinet lessons 3:00pm Girl Scout Celebration-Wesley Hall |
| 10 9:00am Youth Group 9:00am K- 5 Sunday School 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Nursery Care 10:30am Worship {Mother's Day} | 11 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Altair 1:30pm Altair Martial Arts 2:00pm Hospitality Committee 6:30pm Finance | 12 9:00am Altair 10:00am Meals on Wheels 10:00am Pastor Kathy's Bible Study 8:00pm AA Beaverton Group | 13 9:00am Altair 10:00am Ruth Fellowship 3:00pm Homeplate Youth prep in Kitchen 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal | 14 9:00am Altair 7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting | 15 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath | 16 11:30am Clarinet lessons |
| 17 9:00am Nursery Care 9:00am K- 5 Sunday School 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Youth Group 10:30am Worship {Ascension Sunday} 10:30am Pre-K | 18 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Altair 1:30pm Altair Martial Arts | 19 9:00am Altair 10:00am Pastor Kathy's Bible Study 8:00pm AA Beaverton Group | 20 9:00am Altair 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30pm Te Deum Choir Rehearsal | 21 9:00am Altair 10:00am Holiday Bazaar Workgroup 7:00pm Church Council | 22 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath | 23 11:30am Clarinet lessons |
| 24 9:00am Nursery Care 9:00am K- 5 Sunday School 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Youth Group 10:30am Worship {Pentecost Sunday} {Aldersgate Day} | 25 9:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Altair 9:00am Church Office Closed 1:30pm Altair Martial Arts 6:30pm SPRC | 26 9:00am Altair 10:00am Pastor Kathy's Bible Study 8:00pm AA Beaverton Group | 27 9:00am Altair 10:00am Quilts and Crafts 7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30pm Te Deum Choir Rehearsal | 28 9:00am Altair | 29 Pastor Kathy's Sabbath | 30 11:30am Clarinet lessons |
| 31 9:00am Nursery Care 9:00am Youth Group 9:00am K- 5 Sunday School 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Pre-K Sunday School | | | | | | |

May Anniversaries

David & Edie Flaming 5/14
Bob & Cathy Merrill 5/28
Eric & Ellen Kingstad 5/28



&

Allison Johnson 05/01
Alexander Server [V] 05/01
Mary Ann Axelson 05/03
Ted Bunga 05/06
Kristopher Spor [V] 05/07
Mallory Berry 05/10
Judy Hook [V] 05/12
Charlene VanCleef 05/16
David Flaming 05/16
Joseph Abruzzo [V] 05/16

Birthdays

George Scott 05/23
Mikaelyn Blanding 05/24
Alfred Jlay 05/26
Jonathan Kleene 05/26
Alex Kurschner 05/27
Alison Santos 05/27
Erika Kurschner 05/27
Brenna Berry 05/29
Liz Smith 05/30
Nina Takahashi 05/30
Gina Rizk [V] 05/20

Church Finances for April 2015

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pledged Giving: | \$10,628.00 |
| Unpledged & loose Giving: | \$965.55 |
| Other Income: | \$2,230.17 |
| Fundraisers: | \$70.00 |
| Transfers: | \$ 0 |
| Total Income: | <u>\$14,268.72</u> |

Special Giving: \$375.00

(Includes gifts to special funds: not part of the operating funds. Includes building fund, Hunger Ministries, UMCOR, etc.)

Total Expenses this Month: -\$22,352.75

Net income this month: \$-7,965.03

An average of \$18,500 is needed to cover monthly Apportionments and all bills due.

We paid \$200.00 toward apportionments this month. Apportionments paid to date for 2015: \$200.00

Remaining balance on both Church Loans: \$64,332.33

2015 Budget Comparisons April

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Projected income | \$24,458.00 |
| Actual Income | \$14,268.72 |
| Projected expenses | \$21,356.00 |
| Actual Expenses | \$22,029.94 |

Year to date total net income: \$-8,287.46

Missions in Action!



REMEMBER:

BFUMC will be helping feed the hungry in our community by cooking and serving a Homeplate Youth Services dinner on this Wednesday, **May 13**, at Merlo Station.

The menu is Tacos, with condiments, fruit salad with baked goods, milk, juice and water. Come give a hand pre-cooking in BFUMC's kitchen, transporting food, serving dishes, serving & clean up.

These can all be done in shifts to fit into your schedule. This is a mission of the church, so it will take many hands to help feed a small portion of the youth of Beaverton.

Any questions, contact members of the Risk Taking Missions Team, Paula, Roxanne, Gloria, Mary Ann, Linda and Pastor Kathy.

Homeplate Youth Service is Washington County's only non-profit provider of drop-in centers and street outreach for young people experiencing homelessness.

Please volunteer in some capacity to cook, transport, serve or clean up for this mission we will be providing our community.



Meal on Wheels People

Tuesday May 12th will be our Church's day to volunteer for the Outreach Program at Elsie Stuhr Senior Center.

Drivers Please be at the Center at 10:00am. Please call Pat Tevooren at 503-644-7475 with any questions.



Calling all articles for June's Witness! Please submit them to the office no later than the 15th of each month. We are on a mission to get our Newsletter out on time from now on and it is possible if we all work together.



Let's go team!!

Save the Date!



The sixty high school Starfire Singers from the Los Altos United Methodist Church will return for their Northwest tour, **July 24 and August 1** to present FASTIX, a musical written by Carol Nilsen Damonte Director of Youth Ministries and Rev. Dirk Damonte, Minister of Worship and Arts. It will be presented at Bethel UCC and Cedar Hills UCC who have enough room in the chancel for the singers, dancers and instruments.

This choir sings every Sunday at Los Altos and tours for two week each summer to the NW or SW or Mexico (building houses there, as well as singing.) The 4th year is an international destination.

When they presented FASTIX in N. Ireland last summer, the prime minister told Carol that if he had known the quality and power of the production, he would have made it mandatory for all government workers to attend.

This is your opportunity to see what a nationally recognized youth program in the UMC can accomplish. As Carol

Damonte states it, "They've been singing it. Now they need to live it!"

Congratulations!



It is that time of year when we like to recognize our graduates!

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, we would like to include their picture in the narthex display case. Please provide the name they prefer (given or shortened version) as well as the name of the school from which they are graduating. Pictures may be left in the church office or given to Pat Tervooren or Maxine Zerba before June 1st.

Thank You
Mahalo
Kiitos
Tack
Toda
Grazie
Obrigado
Takk
Gracias
Merci
Thanks

We are all so thrilled that our Parsonage has been updated and now is home to our new renter. This was a huge project! We would like to thank all that volunteered.

These particular people though, used countless hours of elbow grease to paint, clean, install items and a multitude of other tasks to make sure it was renter ready.

A Special thanks goes to:

Ben & Charlotte Jackson
Carson & Cathy Bailey
Ted & Linda Bunga
Wyn Ward
Julie Berry
Jeanie Fast
Gloria Gomez
Joyce Hamreus
Bill Butler
Corwin Tiers
Joan Goldhammer

Your hard work is so appreciated!

A personal message from Marlene McCormick:

I would like to thank the congregation regarding cards visits, telephone calls, flowers, etc. I am overwhelmed by the love and attention I am still getting from the church members.

I would like to be sure that you are all aware of how much I appreciate everything.

Thank you,
Marlene



