

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.**

JULY, 2015

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It's Summer! It's a time for vacations, fun with family and friends and getting back into the habit of regular church attendance! Summer is also the time of year when I ask you to begin thinking about what sermon topics you'd like to hear preached on in 2016. I'll take some time at the end of Summer to put my 2016 preaching plan together so begin thinking about your choices now!

One of the topics I was asked to preach on last year was "The Seven Deadly Sins." What a perfect, sizzlin' summer topic! So, starting on July 12 and going through August 23, we'll take a look at what medieval clerics preached some "hell-fire" hot sermons about, and what has been a Hollywood staple since before there were "talkies" - the "Se7en Deadly Sins!"

Now, remember, Jesus never preached a sermon on these seven sins, there is no actual Biblical reference to "deadly" sins, seven or any other number of them, and while sin is the subject of many scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments, the idea of making a list of the worst of the worst didn't come about until at least 300 years after Jesus' death and resurrection.

The current list of the "Seven Deadly Sins," the list the way Hollywood spins them, the way Dante Alighieri wrote about them in the "Divine Comedy," are Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy and Pride.

This list, pared down and thoughtfully revised from an earlier, eight sin list, is attributed to Pope Gregory the First. Yes, that Pope Gregory.

The one given credit for the musical form known as Gregorian Chant and the Pope responsible for the sermon that for 1500 years thereafter branded Mary Magdalene as a "fallen woman." The one I refer to and Pope Gregory the "Not So Great." The man was heavily into sin. That may have come out wrong... He was heavily into helping people stop sinning... I think I'll quit while I'm behind!

Anyway, each of the sins listed encompasses a bit more than just the single word describes. For instance, gluttony obviously refers to the physical act of eating to ridiculous excess – eating so much that the eater is beyond making her/himself ill. But in the Christian interpretation, such excess on the part of one person or a community of persons means that there is less for others.

Front page article #1 (continued)

When interpreted in that way, it becomes possible to see gluttony not as the occasional big meal on a holiday (for which we usually feel some guilt) but as a communal sin – one that might suggest to us that a group that has plenty should take some responsibility for groups who have little or nothing.

Anyway, each of the sins listed encompasses a bit more than just the single word describes. For instance, gluttony obviously refers to the physical act of eating to ridiculous excess – eating so much that the eater is beyond making her/himself ill. But in the Christian interpretation, such excess on the part of one person or a community of persons means that there is less for others. When interpreted in that way, it becomes possible to see gluttony not as the occasional big meal on a holiday (for which we usually feel some guilt) but as a communal sin – one that might suggest to us that a group that has plenty should take some responsibility for groups who have little or nothing

Believe it or not this should be a fun sermon series! While we will take a serious look at how each of these sins impacts our daily lives in 2015, we'll also take a look at the original intent of the list, its use in popular culture over time and its misuse as well.

Another “for example...” why do you feel guilty if you over eat a little at a big holiday meal? Could it have something to do with ancient interpretations and old sermons on the “Seven Deadly Sins?” Hmmmmmm! Something to think about! And, perhaps it is appropriate to tweak, just a little, our old ideas of sin and guilt and where that all comes from!

So.... which of the “Seven Deadly Sins” should I quote to get you all to church this summer!!!! Ooooooovoooo I’m beginning to feel like “Pope Gregory” already! Just kidding! No guilt here! Just come and enjoy the fellowship of some great people, and hear a little old-time preaching guaranteed to move your mind and soul without any “hell-fire and brimstone!” Honest!

In Faith,
Pastor Kathy



July

Anniversaries:

Richard and Bonnie Sunderland 7/5

Phil and Karen Miller 7/10



Birthdays

Jackson Warner 7/1

Sheri Conant 7/13

Nicholas Rosenbaum 7/5

Diane Huckaby 7/7

Kurt Muramatsu 7/12

Esther Nichols 7/15

Jake Skrydlak 7/18

Liz Allen 7/19

Melanie Sedler 7/21

Beverly O'Dell 7/21

Anna Thomas 7/21

Wyn Ward 7/22

Rev. Orville Nilsen 7/25

Linda Bunga 7/30

Crystal Miller 7/31



BfUMC Missions in Action!

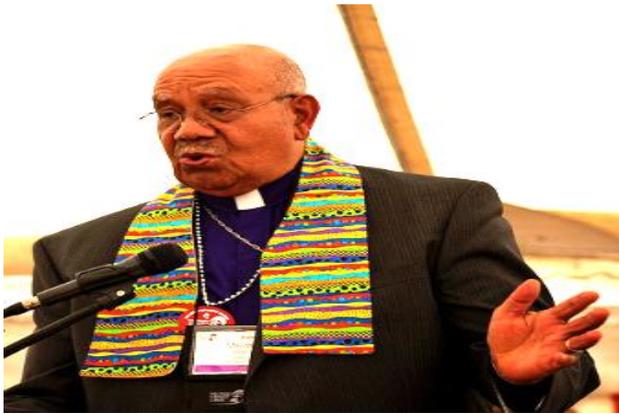
Tuesday, January 13th will be our church's day to volunteer for Meals on Wheels People at Elsie Stuhr Senior Center. Drivers should be at the Elsie Stuhr Center at 10:00 a.m. Please call Pat Tervooren at 503-644-7475 regarding this program.



Save the Date!
Remember we are serving a meal with Home plate at Merlo Station High School on August 12th. Look for Sign- ups posted in Fireside Room soon!

Back Pack Buddies Monthly Summer Food Drive Marches on!

Thank you for bringing in cans of soup last month! This month of July we are asking for **Granola Bar** donations. Although School is out for the summer, each month we are focusing on one item to help stock our shelves for September. Please place any donations in the large basket located in the Fireside Room. Thank you!!



Stoles for 2016 General Conference



Reconciling Stoles Fabric

We have received the fabric to make the Stoles for the 2016 General Conference held in Portland this coming spring. It is not the striped rainbow colors as previously shown, but circles of colors, that could be labeled “Circle of Love”. Look for a future date for the “BFUMC Church Sew Bee” that everyone that desires be involved in constructing the stoles. Needed will be cutter’s, presser’s, sewer’s, ripper’s, packer’s, and shipper’s to complete this mission. If you would like to participate in this Mission, and have fantastic fellowship with each other, look for the announcement of date for this event in BFUMC.

BAGS FOR UMCOR SCHOOL KITS:

The bags for the School Kits need to be constructed from a **heavy duty fabric only**, such as denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc. We at BFUMC have been blessed to have had fabric donated to us that includes the type of fabric needed to construct these bags. We thank June Reed and Gloria Gomez for picking up, sorting, and stacking this fabric that may be used to help others in need. These bags are pre-cut and will need to be sewn according to the UMCOR instructions. For those that would like to volunteer to sew together these bags please contact Linda Bunga

UMCOR School Kits:

The UMCOR Relief website states; "**In some countries, children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources.**" We have chosen the UMCOR School Kits as our UMCOR project this year. We will need volunteers to make the 14" x 16" school bags (all pre cut, just need to assemble according to instructions). The following is a list of the materials to go into each bag. Please deposit them in a box labeled for UMCOR School Kits in the Fireside Room or office from **July 12th thru August 9th**. A date will be announced for assembly of all kits after August 9th.

School Kit Materials

- **1 pair blunt scissors**
 - Rounded tip only;
 - No plastic scissors, please.

- **3 pads of paper**
 - Spiral- or top-bound pads;
 - 150 sheets or less of loose-leaf paper can be substituted for 1 pad;
 - Combination of spiral, top-bound, side-bound, or loose-leaf paper is acceptable;
 - No composition books, please.

- **1 hand-held pencil sharpener**
 - Must be at least 1 inch long;
 - Remove from packaging.

- **1 30-centimeter ruler**
 - Hard or flexible;
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable;
 - No advertisements please.

- **6 unsharpened pencils**
 - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, please;
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable.

- **1 2-inch or larger-size eraser**
 - No advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, please;
 - Cartoon characters are acceptable.

- **1 24-count box of crayons**
 - Only 24-count boxes, please

As we are all enjoying our lazy days of summer, please keep in mind those in this world that need materials to be able to partake in the process of learning.

May 2015 Finance Report

Pledged Giving:	\$12,514
Unpledged & loose Giving:	\$1,022.03
Other Income:	\$8,255.17
Fundraisers:	\$0.00
<u>Total Income:</u>	<u>\$22,217.20</u>

Transfers: **\$ 0.00**

Special Giving: \$426.00

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

Total Expenses this Month: 20,943.53

Net income or loss: \$-1,392.67

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

Remaining balance on both Church Loans: \$65,253.38

2015 Budget Comparisons May

Projected income \$20,589.00

Actual Income \$21,791.20

Projected expenses \$18,768.00

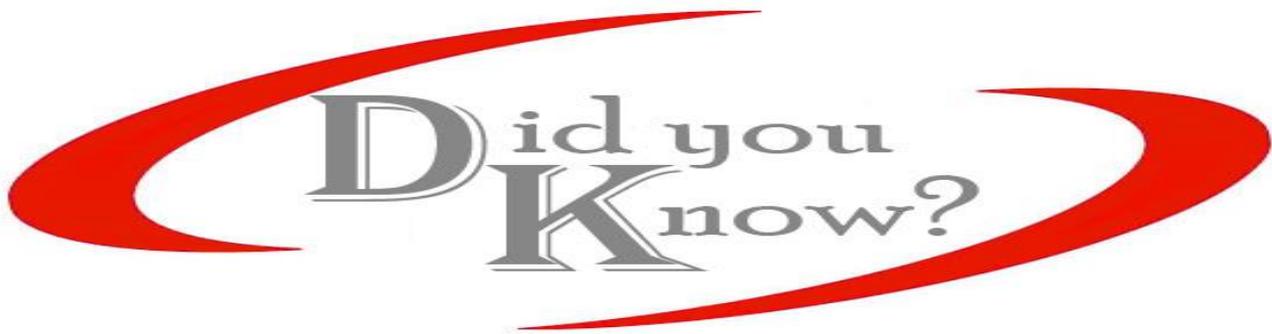
Actual Expenses \$20,690.91

Year to date total net income: \$-4,739.55

Correction on last month's Finance page. The numbers were for **APRIL being **reported** in May.

The Starfire Choir Returns to the Beaverton Area to Perform!

The Starfire Choir a California based United Methodist youth choir will present *JuStix* an original musical written by Dirk and Carol Damonte. There will be two performances in the Beaverton area – Friday, July 24th at 7:30 pm at Bethel Congregational Church and Saturday, August 1 at 7:30 pm at the Cedar Hills Congregational Church. *JuStix* is a musical about following Jesus. It is the story of what happens when people of faith confront injustice in our world and shows a world where love is stronger than hate, and faith is stronger than fear. No tickets are necessary; a free will offering will be taken at each performance. Don't miss this performance and the important message for our times.



At Annual Conference in June, Beaverton First UMC received a Certificate of Recognition from our (former) District Superintendent, Lowell Greathouse, and Field Coordinator Julia Frisbie for our contribution of \$1,380 to the work of Imagine No Malaria!

Imagine No Malaria is a mission of the United Methodist Church dedicated to ending Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. We are accomplishing this through communication, education, distributing bed nets in local communities and setting up health clinics for treatment.

Our contribution has made a difference in the lives of families at risk for this deadly and debilitating disease.

Take a moment and CELEBRATE making a difference in Christ's world!

