

# *On the Way*

November 1, 2011

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE \* UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Extravagant Grace \* Generous Hearts \* Renewed World*

## *Thanks . . . for all the Saints!*

You may remember these stories, from the documents that introduced me to the Central Pacific Conference in 2008. *For all the Saints* (with pipe organ) has been playing in my head the last few days, and I decided to share my words with you again.

The first church I served was St. Paul's UCC, in the rolling farmland south of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The congregation was founded in 1868 by German immigrants who made their way north from St. Louis, along the Missouri River valley. St. Paul's was a postcard – a white frame building, with a steeple and a bell that was hand-rung every Sunday. The cemetery wrapped around the building. Whenever I got frustrated with ministry, I went for a walk among the gravestones. I read the engraved names: Heuwinkel, Young, Franke, Hobus, Boehm – and thought about the generations of people that had lived and died, carrying on faithful ministry in that place. These people were the saints of God! They were a great comfort to me. They reminded me I was not the beginning and end of all good things. Ministry had gone on long before I arrived on the scene, and it would continue long after I was gone. Each time I walked, the burden of perfection was lifted from my shoulders and I was inspired for ministry.

I found another reminder of the saints of God at St. Paul's – patchwork quilts! I think it's impossible to look at a quilt, with hundreds of pieces of material and thousands of small, even stitches without wondering about the people who created such a piece of warmth and beauty. As church members proudly showed me their family quilts, I came to understand the heirlooms as an alternative version of Paul's image of the church as the body of Christ. We spend lots of time trying to be like each other, but the beauty and strength of the church comes from the paradox of unity and diversity. Have you ever looked closely at a pieced quilt made from leftover scraps of cloth? Taken by themselves, many of the pieces are plain, or downright ugly. But put them together, and they are beautiful beyond description.

We established an annual quilt show in the sanctuary. The second year, the event fell on All Hallows Eve. We left the quilts hanging on the wall for our Sunday service of remembrance. We read the names of loved ones who had died that year, and sang "For all the saints, who from their labors rest..." As I introduced communion, I was moved to draw attention to the quilts saying, "We are literally surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." I'm touched by the images of the cemetery and the quilts because I believe it's impossible to be the church by yourself. We come together, to find wholeness. Together, we are the saints of God, and we make a beautiful quilt through the love of Christ! Together, we are the Body of Christ, as we follow Jesus *On the Way*.

Yours in Christ, walter john

Check the video: *God is Still Speaking* on All Hallows: <http://vimeo.com/30908774>



### ***You are Invited to a Conversation with Enzi Tanner – UCC Coalition Board Member***

Sun November 13th from 3-5 PM at Ainsworth UCC \* 2941 NE Ainsworth St, Portland, OR.

Come Talk with a National UCC Coalition Board Member.

Learn How The Coalition Supports LGBTQ Persons and their Allies.

What Would You Like The Coalition to Know about the CPC?

What Direction Would You Like The Coalition to Take?

Come Share Food and Conversation

Read about Enzi at <http://www.uccoalition.org/about/board/#c4044>

Submitted by Joyce Liljeholm (CPC ONA Consultant)

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### ***National Youth Event ~ Audrey Ouellette***

National Youth Event: All interested Youth and Youth Leaders – we are putting together a delegation from the Central Pacific Conference and we would love to have as many churches represented as possible! The National Youth Event is for youth aged 13 to 18 and is July 10-13, 2012; at Purdue University in Indiana. It is an AMAZING event for youth from all over the United States to gather for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship! Registration for the event is \$425 (includes food and lodging) and we are working on air fare costs. If you have an interest, a question – anything at all – please contact Kristina Martin at Vancouver UCC ([Kristina@vanucc.org](mailto:Kristina@vanucc.org)) or Audrey Ouellette at Forest Grove UCC ([Audrey@fgucc.org](mailto:Audrey@fgucc.org)) to see how we can get your kids to NYE! Thank you!!

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### ***Inclusive Language Scriptures ~ Jennifer Yocum***

At Forest Grove UCC, part of our commitment to radical hospitality means making certain that our language is as broadly inclusive as possible. Many pastors/worship leaders who place a value on gender inclusive language for God and humankind struggle through traditional scripture translations to 'clean up' the text before it gets read or goes to print. This task can become very time consuming and awkward, but help has arrived. By way of sharing resources, I'd like to recommend The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation by [Sheed and Ward](#). This translation has become our standard text at Forest Grove and helps us remain consistent with the inclusive text of The New Century Hymnal.

Blessings on all of your worship planning. Jennifer Yocum, pastor of Forest Grove UCC

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## ***UCC Mission 1 is NOW!! Don't Forget to Report Your Efforts ~ Ben Guess***

UCC Friends –

'Mission 1' is here! The tote board at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) just went live this afternoon.

Remember, in addition to collecting food, making donations, and writing letters, **we need everyone to be diligent in reporting their activities during the coming 11 days.** A "report your efforts" tab is prominently displayed on the M1 tote board. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to report often so that our totals will grow steadily during our mission campaign. Starting tomorrow, our tallies will be updated hourly.

A daily edition of Keeping You e-Posted will provide updates, stories and news accounts of M1 progress across the country.

Join us live at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) for a closing service of blessing and celebration for 'Mission: 1' on Friday, Nov. 11, at 4 p.m. (ET) which will be webstreamed LIVE from the UCC's Old South Church in Boston.

In oneness, Ben

P.S. We are also encouraging UCC members and friends to change their FB profile image to the M1 logo during the 11 days of 'Mission:1.' You can easily locate the image at [www.facebook.com/unitedchurchofchrist](http://www.facebook.com/unitedchurchofchrist)

The Rev. J. Bennett Guess  
Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries  
United Church of Christ  
[216-736-3801](tel:216-736-3801) \* [guessb@ucc.org](mailto:guessb@ucc.org)

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## ***National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education ~ UCC***

The National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education in the United Church of Christ is being conducted from *October 1 to December 16* in order to gather information from UCC members that will assist us in shaping the future of faith formation for our church. We want to know what matters to you and why! Everyone is invited to participate. Click here to take survey:

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UCCFaithFormation>**

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## ***Coming Alive . . .***

*Ask not what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. What the world needs is people who have come alive.*

Howard Thurman

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*A Link to Like . . . submitted by Jennifer Yocum  
Our Families: LGBT African American Stories on YouTube*

Listen to the story of Beryl Jones, a member of our Forest Grove church, and hear the ways she's found love and acceptance in the UCC.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1AYIxGM\\_2g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1AYIxGM_2g)

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*OCCUPY - Salem UCC Church Signs on with the 99% ~ Gabrielle Chavez*

Here's a picture snapped by one of our members after worship this Sunday. After the sign planting, Peter Bergel from Oregon Peace Works spoke and answered questions about the Occupy movement. Besides this, we have offered our parking lot for overnight camping if needed, are donating food and the use of our dishwasher. The youth group went down for a visit during their lock in this weekend, too. A teachable moment. Here is the sign file we bought if anyone else wants to use it.

Gabrielle Chavez, Interim Senior Pastor  
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Salem, OR

**BLESSED ARE  
THOSE WHO  
OCCUPY**  
*for Righteousness Sake...*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**





***People of Faith Support the 99 Percent ~ submitted by Andrea Cano  
Days of Action for “Just Jobs” set for November 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
Planning Webinar scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>***

National – Crowds occupying Wall Street, Chicago and other cities have been described as ragtag, but countless clergy support their call for an economy serving 100 percent of Americans, not just the wealthiest one percent. They are organizing marches and risking arrest for nonviolent civil disobedience outside their pulpits.

In November, congregations and worker advocates are planning four National Wage Theft Days of Action calling for “Just Jobs.”

The Rev. Paul Sherry, Coordinator of the Faith Advocates for Jobs Network and former president of the United Church of Christ, appeared in court today. He and other religious leaders were arrested while praying in the Capitol Rotunda during debt ceiling debate this summer.

Following his court appearance, Rev. Sherry is set to speak on Capitol Hill with unemployed workers, faith leaders and allies calling on the Senate to pass the American Jobs Act.

“All of us must accept responsibility for the welfare of all,” Sherry said.

Congregations and worker advocates will join in during four National Wage Theft Days of Action, planned for Nov. 17-20. They will highlight the need for “Just Jobs” in cities across the U.S.

“A just job is a sustainable job,” said Kim Bobo, Executive Director of Interfaith Worker Justice. “It’s a job with pay and benefits that can support a family, working for an employer who doesn’t steal your wages.”

A national planning webinar for the Days of Action is set for Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. (EST). Speakers include Laura Perez-Boston, Director at Houston Interfaith Worker Justice; the Rev. Renwick Bell of Miami; and Kim Bobo, author of THE revised and expanded *Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Americans are not Getting Paid and What We Can Do About It*. Contact [Adam DeRose](#) for more information or to register.

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*This is the third annual Wage Theft Days of Action organized by Interfaith Worker Justice, a nonprofit organization working at the intersection of faith and labor since 1999. Contact [Kelly Fryer](#) at [773-710-9837](tel:773-710-9837) for more information or to schedule an interview Email: [kfryer@iwj.org](mailto:kfryer@iwj.org)*

## *October Ministry at Smyrna UCC, Canby OR*

Grass doesn't grow under the feet of the folks at Smyrna UCC! On October 16<sup>th</sup>, twenty choir members from Highland Christian Center in Portland, OR made the beautiful country drive and joined Smyrna UCC for a moving worship service. Earlier, a group from the congregation visited Highland. You've probably done pulpit exchanges before. But what about choir exchanges? Or even more daring, pew exchanges! Choose a Sunday morning, and have your whole congregation join a sister UCC church in worship. It will be exciting, and worth the turmoil!

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first lady of Oregon, Cylvia Hayes, visited the congregation as they celebrated their prison ministry and received thanks from former inmate Billy Rooney. (pictures below). This past Sunday, there were no scheduled visitors, just a Halloween party.

Smyrna has set some ambitious goals for the UCC's Mission 1. So far, they have 9,500 cans of food toward their goal of 11,111. Record your church's efforts at UCC.org, and send me a note so I can list your accomplishments in the next issue of *On the Way*.



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## *Saved by Love . . .*

*Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope.  
Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history;  
therefore we must be saved by faith.  
Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone. Therefore we are saved by love.*

Reinhold Niebuhr, 1951 \* From Justice and Mercy

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## ***Another Opportunity for Extending the Table ~ Donnamae Craber Grannemann***

Practicing hospitality in the name of Jesus not only refers to who is included, but what is served.<sup>1)</sup> In one of my churches a few years ago, I observed a woman opening her purse during communion on several occasions and removing a special piece of bread. Being curious, I approached her and asked if she was gluten intolerant and she informed me that she was. “You do not need to bring your own bread. The congregation can provide special bread.”

Every time the bread was broken around the table, a small 2" X 2" plastic zip top jewelry bag containing a small piece of rice wafer or fresh gluten-free bread was included on each bread tray. The bag includes a small return address label with the words:

### ***Special Communion Wafer - Free of gluten, wheat, dairy & corn***

I further observed that a couple of people never accepted the wine or the grape juice because of allergies, alcoholism or prescription restrictions. A cup of water was added to each tray. That means in some worship settings there is red wine, amber grape juice and clear water. When possible, mark the tray with a small “g” for grape juice, “wa” for water, and place these in the center circle.

The following is a suggested wording for the bulletin and media projection:

***The Lord’s table is open to all. Christ invites you to be his guest. For those with food allergies, there are small plastic bags of special Communion Wafers—free of Gluten, Wheat, Dairy & Corn. Each cup tray contains wine, amber grape juice & 2 water (free of any juice). If there are no more wafers or water cups, request that the server provide them from another tray.***

The number of persons identified with Celiac disorder (*gluten intolerance*) and lactose/dairy intolerance is increasing. Even a small amount of gluten can be life-threatening. This bread must be encased in a small bag so that it does not come into contact with the wheat/gluten crackers or bread. Be sure to keep the gluten-free wafers tightly wrapped and in the freezer with the date opened written on the package. Then replace regularly. If you use the tiny hard wheat squares or rectangular pieces, add a few round wafer discs or soup crackers for those who are unable to pick up the smaller pieces. Never serve stale products. Grape juice needs to be used within three weeks or pour into tall ketchup/mustard type plastic bottles, wrap lids and freeze. Defrost the day prior to use and dispense as usual.

What’s on the table for potluck dinners and fellowship time? One of the churches I served advertized a cheese, crackers and fruit snack to accompany tours of the church’s beautiful stained glass windows and wall murals after one of the City parades. A lovely young lady came, looked at the display of food and asked, “Do you have any foods which are gluten and dairy free? I’m hungry.” We didn’t, but I hurried upstairs to get her some of the special rice crackers we had stored in the freezer for communion. You see, none of the restaurants in the area were accommodating either. Mark these items on the table as “gluten-free”, “dairy free” and place them on a separate serving plate or tray. Soups can be marked also. Serving a spaghetti dinner? Have some gluten-free spaghetti on hand and advertise that it will be available. It only takes a few minutes to cook it up in “fresh” water which can already be warm on the burner in the event it is requested. A can of tomato sauce and cooked ground beef or turkey with nothing added can be on hand. Add a little salt, pepper and Italian seasoning for flavor. (*meatballs in the regular sauce may contain wheat, flour, cereal and eggs*). Provide a slice of fresh, gluten-free bread, but do not add butter or margarine if lactose intolerant.

At conferences, assemblies and gatherings, gluten/dairy free cookies and other snacks can be provided, as well as special elements when communion is served. One of the pastors with Celiac disorder could break bread at the Lord’s table but was unable to partake of it. Alternative bread is now provided and identified in addition to the traditional bread or breads.

This is not an issue of picky preference, but can be a matter of health or serious illness. Even if you are unable to identify anyone in your congregation or larger gathering with these challenges, you never know who may be participating and be touched by full food inclusion.

Christ declared that all are invited to the table, whatever manifestation that takes. Let's extend that opportunity as far as we are able to do so.

***If you would like to become a "Table Hospitality Congregation" e-mail your decision to me at: [donnaeag@gorge.net](mailto:donnaeag@gorge.net) and you will receive a certificate to post. The list of participating congregations will be published in a forthcoming issue.***

***A source for Special Communion Wafers - Free of: Gluten, Wheat, Dairy & Corn is produced by Ener-G Foods [www.ener-g.com](http://www.ener-g.com) in Seattle WA if you'd prefer these over the rice ones available in grocery and health food stores.***

Donnamae Craber Grannemann \* Cell: 541.980.9666 \* E-mail: [donnaeag@gorge.net](mailto:donnaeag@gorge.net)

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### ***Portland's only HIV/AIDS day center to hold fundraising breakfast on World AIDS Day \* Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon***

**What:** HIV Day Center Fundraiser Breakfast. There is no cost to attend the breakfast; a collection will be taken with all contributions going towards sustaining the HIV Day Center. As the only HIV drop-in center serving greater Portland's most vulnerable, low-income, HIV-positive individuals, [Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's \(EMO\) HIV Day Center](#) provides over 1,600 meals each month to low income people living with HIV/AIDS in addition to counseling, recreational therapy, computers, phones, laundry, clothing and showers. For reservations to the breakfast, contact EMO by Nov. 23 at [\(503\) 221-1054](tel:5032211054) or [csiems@emoregon.org](mailto:csiems@emoregon.org).

**When:** From 7:20 to 8:30 a.m. on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2011.

**Where:** Concordia University, Hagen Center, second floor, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland. Parking at NE 27th and Holman.

**Who:** The keynote speaker will be Thomas Aschenbrener, founding president of Northwest Health Foundation. The HIV Day Center is a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. The sponsor of the breakfast is Concordia University.

**Why:** On Dec. 1, around the world and throughout the United States, communities will come together to mark the 23rd annual World AIDS Day. This is an important time to remember the 25 million individuals lost to HIV/AIDS and the 33 million global citizens living with the HIV virus today, including over 1.1 million Americans.

CONTACT: Lindsay Ross-Hunt [\(503\) 460-3822](tel:5034603822) \* [lrosshunt@emoregon.org](mailto:lrosshunt@emoregon.org)

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns connects, inspires, informs and empowers people, congregations and religious institutions to work for justice and the care and renewal of the earth. EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*

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## *Need House-sitters for the Holidays? A Global Ministry Opportunity*

Doug and Liz Searles are missionaries, under the UCC/DOC Global Ministries program. They are just back from two terms in China and will soon be heading out for their new assignment in Lodz, Poland. Currently, they are “itinerating”, visiting Presbyterian USA churches as well as UCC and DOC to share their stories. They will face unique challenges in Roman Catholic Poland. But they’ll meet these challenges with dedication, impressive strength and creativity (youth conferences, bell choirs etc).

It is their dream of spending the last week of December together with their two college age children. The best chance for this to happen would be to have a house sitting opportunity, or a very inexpensive vacation home or condo. They hope to spend December 19- January 1 together with their children, They will be house-sitting in Seattle for the first part of December. They like animals and plants and take excellent care of borrowed space. Are you going to be out-of-town from December 19<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>? Are you willing to share your empty home, providing security for you and a family gathering for the Searles? If you can’t offer the whole time, what about part of that time? We already have a potential stay from December 27<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>. Send me an email at wjboris@gmail if you can help.

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## *Covenants Ministry Team in Motion ~ Paul Kloster*

Imagine you had a job in this touch economy requiring you to be on duty 24-7, 365. That position directs you to care for all equally, but leaves little time for self-care. That contract binds you to keep all confidence, but leaves few you can confide in. That vocation requires you to nurture your job performance, when sabbatical and leave are unlikely words in your contract. That profession demands you not use your position for influence, when a complaint can be brought against you by anyone at any time. That calling adjures you seek out a superior’s counsel, when doing so will create a conflict of interest. That covenant leads you to advocate for fair compensation for others when you’re unlikely to be fairly compensated. That ministry calls you to honor your commitment to family when you have to feed a flock.

Parenthood? Not really. The above describes the walk a covenanted UCC minister endures. To be sure, there is not a one-to-one correspondence, but think what your pastor is called to in terms of The Minister’s Code, “Manual on Ministry, Section One, pp. 14-19.” Lay that over the covenant your church used to call its minister. If unfamiliar with the Code, look it up on the internet:

<http://www.ucc.org/ministers/manual/mom-2001-20partners-1.pdf>.

In support of UCC clergy, your Covenants Ministry Team (CMT) has instituted Boundaries Training for all authorized ministers with standing in the Central Pacific Conference. Boundaries Training is not meant to satisfy an insurance carrier’s mandate to reduce lawsuits, nor to meet an industry standard that managers receive this kind of training every three years. The UCC is base on a loving covenant which can be strained through time. Your CMT has seen and felt this strain, and is making available times for your minister to gather with peers in confidence to “rub shoulders,” sharing the rough edges of ministry and sharing resolutions with other UCC ministers, in additional to professional insight. Your CMT knows one size fits all training doesn’t fit all clergy; therefore, different curriculum at varying times and locations are provided.

Your Covenants Ministry Team asks your support in making sure ministers have time off to attend Boundaries Training to enrich their ministry. Better yet, encourage your Ministry Team members to institute Lay Boundaries Training in all Central Pacific Churches in support of the ministry we share.

## ***Earth Care Summit set for Jan. 30, 2012 \* Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon***

**What:** Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (INEC), a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, will host its third annual “Earth Care Summit” at Highland Christian Center on Jan.30, 2012. The event will include a simple, seasonal dinner, an inspirational keynote speaker and a green congregation story. The theme this year is “Environmental Justice and Faith.” Resource people will share ideas and facilitate roundtables on a variety of topics applicable to congregations wanting to deepen their faith foundations for earth care and put their values into practice around environmental justice and earth care. Roundtable topics will include transit equity, faith and the farm bill, healthy homes and environmental justice, green jobs through energy retrofits, creation and worship, and more. Come network with other congregations and be inspired!

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25/person, \$15 for students. Scholarships are available. Registration forms are available online at [www.emoregon.org/emo\\_events.php](http://www.emoregon.org/emo_events.php).

**When:** Monday, Jan. 30, 2012, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (registration and display tables at 5 p.m.).

**Where:** Highland Christian Center, 7600 NE Glisan, Portland, Ore. The location is accessible by transit, [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org).

**Who:** This event is sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns and co-sponsored with local congregations, agencies and community organizations.

**Why:** Provide a networking opportunity between congregations, community agencies and businesses who are involved in the greening process; share best practices; and celebrate the many creative ways that congregations are already caring for creation.

CONTACT: Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministries director  
 [\(503\) 221-1054, ext 214](tel:(503)221-1054), [jholmes@emoregon.org](mailto:jholmes@emoregon.org)  
Alison Warren, INEC program associate \*  [\(503\) 221-1054, ext. 210](tel:(503)221-1054)

**The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris – Conference Minister  
Central Pacific Conference \* United Church of Christ  
Interchurch Center  
0245 SW Bancroft Street, Suite E  
Portland, OR 97239-4258**

**[wjboris@gmail.com](mailto:wjboris@gmail.com) (O) 503-228-3178 (M) 206-235-3801 (H) 360-210-5945**