

# *On the Way*

September 1, 2011

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE \* UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## *How do we know we're On the Way?*

### *Communications in the Central Pacific Conference*

It's no surprise that communications are a concern in the CPC. A little context . . . In 2005, co-CMs Gene Ross and Hector Lopez retired and the CPC moved to a solo Conference Minister. In 2007, the CPC discontinued the "wrap-around" newspaper that arrived in member homes as part of the national UCC News (the national setting of the UCC discontinued the print version of UCC News in 2009 – now it is available as an online publication: <http://www.ucc.org/news> ). At the same time, the editor position was dropped, the secretary/receptionist position was cut from full time to part time. The secretary produced the monthly clergy packet. This was discontinued in the staff reduction. There was also part-time help in dealing with ministerial profiles. This assistance continued into the first five months of John Gantt's 3 year tenure as interim Conference Minister. To fill the communication void, John Gantt began publishing his e-newsletter, *In the Meantime*. Here's a summary of this narrative:

**2004 Staffing:** 2 full-time Conference Ministers, 1 full-time administrator, 1 full-time secretary, 1 contract UCC News editor, 1/4 part-time profile support staff, 1 volunteer webmaster.

**2011 Staffing:** 1 full-time Conference Minister. 1 full-time administrator, 3/5 secretary, and 1 contract webmaster.

John Gantt is an excellent writer, and was conscientious in sending out a regular e-newsletter. When I began ministry with you, I immediately realized that I needed to follow John's example. I began sending out *On the Way* on a weekly basis. Like John, I do all the work to produce *On the Way*. Shawn Burchfield (3/5 secretary) and Debbie Jacober (full-time administrator and book-keeper) don't have the time or expertise to put out the publication. As more and more CPC issues demanded my attention, the publications became more irregular. "Every so often" became the practice.

Recognizing the need for more regular communications, the Board of Directors have directed me to send out an issue of *On the Way* each month, on the first of the month. That begins with this issue. To accomplish this task, I need your help. I deputize all of you as Reporters. Here are guidelines:

1) Send your submissions to me at [wjboris@gmail.com](mailto:wjboris@gmail.com). Please include "OTW" in the subject line. All submissions are due a minimum of 1 week before the first of the month.

2) I need you to edit your submissions. Please send your piece as a Microsoft Word document, using Times New Roman, 12 point type. No paragraph indents. 8 point space between paragraphs – not automatic spacing before and after paragraphs. Do not send me a pdf of a flier. I can't copy the flier and drop it into my Word document. It takes too much time to grab text and reformat it for *On the Way*. I don't set a limit on words at this time, but try to be concise and compelling. Include your name as a by-line. Thanks for your attention to these details. Formatting takes a long time!

3) I would like the Board of Directors and the Ministry teams to send me a copy of their work after each meeting. Again, please find a good writer in your group that can do more than just list actions. I'd like submissions that interpret the work as part of the ministry of the Central Pacific Conference.

4) If you have a pastoral concern you'd like to share with the CPC (death, illness, wedding, birth, anniversary, etc.) please get permission to share and send me the news, copy ready.

5) We currently have a little under 400 names on the e-mail list for *On the Way*. This is considerably less than the 2,283 members that used to receive the wrap-around UCC News. We have approximately 7,000 members in the CPC. With only 400 names on our e-mail list, only a small group of people hear about the work of the CPC directly. You can help. a) copy relevant articles into your church newsletter. b) or better, forward *On the Way* to your church e-mail list. c) or best, encourage all your members to go to the CPC website to sign on to receive *On the Way* directly: <http://www.cpcucc.org>.

While I will continue to publish *On the Way*, with your help, we are also working to expand the number of ways you receive information from the Central Pacific Conference.

6) *Rolling Justice*, the twice monthly e-letter from our Justice and Witness Ministry Team, has just moved to a blog format. During the transition, you'll still get emails with the new article. Eventually, those emails from Shawn will stop. But if you want to get notices that a new article has been posted to the blog, you can sign up through the blog: <http://cpcjusticeandwitness.com>. The JWMT has done an outstanding job of recruiting Team members and others to share their passions as authors of blog posts.

7) *Hands of God*, the quarterly e-newsletter from our Wider Church Ministry Team, has also moved to a blog format. You can get notices that a new article has been posted: <http://cpchandsofgod.com>.

8) The two blogs transitions have happened through the expertise of our webmaster, Ellen Yarnell. I've meet with Ellen to develop a comprehensive communications plan for the CPC. She redesigned both the CPC website and the Camp Adams website. I've asked her to work with all of our Ministry Teams to offer the blog format to them. We've also discussed the logistics of a "What's Happening in the CPC" blog that could serve as a more immediate way for churches to share information. While we are still working on details, we imagine that each church would have someone who could be trained as a "blogger" to post to the CPC site. Stay tuned as we finalize plans.

9) We currently have a *facebook* group page for the Central Pacific Conference that has 42 members. In the next week, we'll be converting to an organizational "Page" for the CPC. In order post or receive newsfeeds from the *facebook* "Page," all you'll have to do is "like" the page. If we get enough people on the CPC *facebook* Page, it will serve as another immediate way to share announcements and conversation.

10) If you want to keep up with me on *facebook*, you can "friend" me at Walter John Boris.

Changes in the economy and the speedy development of electronic and social media offer tremendous challenges and opportunities. I'll continue to place a high priority on improving our communications in the Central Pacific Conference as we follow Jesus *On the Way*.

Yours in Christ, walter john

## ***Church Vitality Workshops with Kate Huey (UCC National Staff) Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>***

Jan Wargo is our CPC representative to Local Church Ministries in the national setting of the UCC. When Jan heard that Kate Huey was traveling to Seattle to lead workshops on stewardship and church vitality, she asked if Kate would be willing to add the Portland metro to her itinerary. Kate's response was an enthusiastic "yes!" We're happy to be hosting her for 4 events – two clergy luncheons, and two evening meetings for clergy and lay leaders. You can mix and match – come to one event, or all of them! Each one will offer guidance and inspiration, shaped by the wisdom and stories of the participants. There is no charge for the events (Thank OCWM!) \* (Clergy –I suggest that the luncheons take the place of our September 15<sup>th</sup> Portland clergy cluster. However, if someone has a desire to host a clergy cluster on Thursday, call the CPC offices and we'll publicize the gathering).

### **1. Growing a Vibrant Mainline Congregation: Tending the Garden of God**

*(A conversation with pastors)*

Rather than a workshop on one aspect of church vitality, we'll share our experiences and wisdom about putting the pieces together: worship, stewardship, evangelism, outreach and service, community life – all of them, spiritual practices that form us as disciples of Jesus and seek to feed a world that is spiritually hungry.

**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: 11:30am – 2:00pm. First Cong. UCC, Salem. Lunch provided.**

**Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>: 11:30am – 2:00pm. Bethel UCC, Beaverton. Lunch provided.**

Please RSVP to Shawn at [centralpacific@cpucc.org](mailto:centralpacific@cpucc.org) so we can plan enough food! Thanks.

### **2. Spiritual and Religious: Living in a Transparent World**

*(For pastors and lay leaders)*

Modern or post-modern, or somewhere in between, many of us in the church are spiritually hungry even while we're trying to reach out to feed a world that is starving both physically and spiritually. Would people beyond the walls of your church think of your congregation as a good place to go if they need to be fed? We'll take a closer look at practices that are familiar to us in the church and yet need to be approached in a whole new way, as well as unexpected but everyday opportunities to grow closer in our relationship with God.

**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 – 9:00pm. First Cong. UCC, Salem.**

**Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 – 9:00pm. Bethel UCC, Beaverton.**

Please RSVP to Shawn at [centralpacific@cpucc.org](mailto:centralpacific@cpucc.org) so we can prepare handouts. Thanks.

**Bio:** The Reverend Kathryn ("Kate") Matthews Huey serves as Minister for Stewardship, Scripture, and Discipleship with Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. She produces the UCC weekly preaching resource, Sermon Seeds, and the Bible study, Weekly Seeds, on [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org). She has served on the national staff of the United Church of Christ since 2000. Kate received her B.A. in history from Walsh University, her M.A. in theology from John Carroll University, and her M.Div. from Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. For five years, she taught courses in theology and ethics at John Carroll and at Notre Dame College of Cleveland. She served several churches in northern Ohio, including Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Cleveland and New Vision UCC, a new church start in Canton, Ohio. As an active member of the Western Reserve Association of the Ohio Conference, Kate has served on its Stewardship Committee, Association Minister Search Committee, and Church Development Committee. She is the mother of three grown children and the grandmother of six *very* young grandchildren, so photography is one of her interests, along with reading and movies, especially at the intersection between faith and popular culture.

## *Reflections on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of September 11*

A Vespers Service:  
September 11, 6:00-7:30 pm

At  
Lake Oswego United Church of Christ  
1111 SW Country Club Road  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

A candlelit service with meditative singing, poetry, and silence, led by music director Susan Peck. In the service, we will reflect on where we have come as individuals, as a community, as a nation, in these 10 years since the shocking events of September 11, 2001. The service will include songs from the Taizé tradition, poetry, and silence to allow time for meditation on grief, healing, and how we can respond in peace and love. Open to the community.

*Dear one, I never thought that you would witness such a time*

*I hear you cry.*

*Dear one, there is a reason for these things, but there's no rhyme.*

*I hear your whys.*

*I don't have the answer to your questions*

*I don't have the answer to your prayers*

*But I know this is a moment of transcendence*

*If only we will take the time to care.*

*Let us, let us rise in love*

*Let us, let us rise in love*

*-Ysaye M. Barnwell (Sweet Honey in the Rock)*

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## *Karl Vercooteren named Pastor Emeritus of UCC Congregational of The Dalles*



Karl Vercooteren was honored for 31 years of faithful ministry in The Dalles during morning worship on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. The congregation named him Pastor Emeritus. Pastor Deb Allen presided over the celebration. Congratulations, Karl, and thanks! From all your friends in the Central Pacific Conference.

## ***Ordination Service for Sally Godard – Sunday, September 18th***

The Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ  
in covenant with the Forest Grove United Church of Christ  
and the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Salem

invite you to celebrate the Service of Ordination for Sally L. Godard, M.Div.  
Sunday, September 18, 2011 \* 3:00 PM  
Grand Ballroom \* 325 NE Third Street \* McMinnville, Oregon

All clergy are invited to robe and process at the beginning of the service  
Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness of the national UCC  
will offer the message.

Sally and friends invite everyone to stay following the service to "swap stories and enjoy local foods and wine." An RSVP would be helpful for the planning of this reception. [sallygodard@earthlink.net](mailto:sallygodard@earthlink.net)

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## ***Installation service for Deb Allen at UCC Congregational of the Dalles – October 2nd***

Deborah Allen will be installed as Pastor and Teacher of the UCC Congregational of The Dalles on October 2, 2011 at 2:00 pm. Reception to follow. Clergy are invited to robe and process (red, please).

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## ***CPC Board, Ministry Teams, and Special Events***

Personnel Committee: Saturday, September 10, 2011 \* 9:00am-12:00pm  
Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Portland, OR

Pilgrim Cove Music Camp Friday-Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Pilgrim Cove Camp and Conference Center, McCall, Idaho

Board of Directors: Saturday, September 17, 2011 \* 9:00am-2:00pm  
Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Portland, OR

CPC Support Staff: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 \* 10:00am-1:00pm  
Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Portland, OR

Covenants Ministry Team: Saturday, October 1, 2011 \* 8:00am-2:00pm  
Interchurch Center, Pamplin Room, 0245 SW Bancroft Street, Portland, OR

Wider Church Ministry Team: Friday, October 14, 2011 \* 9:00am-12:00pm  
First Congregational UCC, 1126 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR

Board of Directors: Friday, October 14, 2011 \* 12:00pm-4:00pm  
First Congregational UCC, 1126 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR

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## ***Hold in Your Prayers . . .***

Lynda Clark spent the summer in Santa Fe, New Mexico with her daughter and 6 month old granddaughter. She continues to receive chemotherapy for her cancer. Lynda will be returning to Salem in October for further treatments.

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## ***Idaho Association Fall Gathering***

***hosted by Challis Community UCC at Living Waters Ranch***

The Challis Community Church/United Church of Christ is honored to host the Annual Idaho Association Gathering of the Central Pacific Conference.

**WHEN: September 23 – 24, 2011**

**WHERE: Living Waters Ranch** – Retreat located 4.2 miles west of town. Just follow Main Street through town and wind through the hills till you see their blue roofs and the sign and turn off on the left.

**WHO: Everyone**, of course.

**WHAT: It varies.** There will be Association business meetings, guest speakers, food and fellowship, worship and vespers, and quiet time in a beautiful setting.

**WHY: We've got business to attend to**, friends to see, friends to meet, things to do and places to visit.

**WHAT ELSE?** Send for registration materials to view the full schedule.

**HOW DO I GET THERE?** Though you can hire one of our excellent mountain pilots to shuttle you over the peaks and back, we suggest you drive through the scenic mountains either by route:

- a) Boise – Mt Home – the Fairfield Cutoff – Craters of the Moon – Carey – Arco and North to Challis
- b) Boise – check a map to see how you want to get to Lowman – Stanley and North down the Salmon River to Challis (the most twists and turns)
- c) Other points South – Arco – and North to Challis

For questions or registration materials contact **Sharon Maughan** at [ccucc@custertel.net](mailto:ccucc@custertel.net) .

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## ***Let's Make a Joyful Noise! ~ CPC Westside Fall Gathering ~ Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>***

The theme for CPC Fall Gathering is music, music, music! How often have you heard complaints about music at church? Music is central to our worship and it's also a lightning rod for dissent. We want to take a look at music and the many ways it feeds us and deepens our connection to Spirit. This event is NOT just for musicians, so plan to attend and enjoy great music, worship and workshops!

The event takes place October 14-15 at First Congregational UCC Portland. Presenters include musicians and groups from many different genres and special guest Scott Ressman, Minister for Worship, Music and Liturgical Arts on the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team (Local Church Ministries UCC) in Cleveland. Scott will help us discover great new music in the UCC's *Sing! Prayer and Praise*, our new praise and worship music book. AND everyone who attends will receive a copy of *Sing! Prayer and Praise*.

So save the date, and watch for registration information from the Conference office. We want YOU to join us as we Make a Joyful Noise!

PS There will no business sessions at Fall Gathering – it's all about music!

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## ***Mission: 1***

### ***Have You Heard about the UCC's Mission:1?***

***11.1.11 – 11.11.11 (That's Nov. 1, 2011 – Nov. 11, 2011!)***

Nov. 1-11, 2011... ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1

- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States; and \$111,111 DOLLARS for East Africa famine relief ministries.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign.

DURING THE FIRST 11 DAYS of NOVEMBER, an online tote board at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) will tally our collective count of foodstuffs, donations and letters - information we'll update and celebrate in real time together.

And throughout the 11 days, the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries will organize church-member delegations to meet with Members of Congress to bring attention to our church's concern about hunger at home and abroad.

Most importantly, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be 1" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues through sermons, seminars and conversations; to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world; to raise money for hunger-action purposes; and to share bread - and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal - with our neighbors in need.

Begin now to organize your church's victory strategy. And plan now to join in a national celebration of our campaign's success on Sunday, Nov. 13 - in your local UCC church.

The world needs the distinct values, vision and voice of the United Church of Christ - Continuing Testament. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives. This is MISSION: 1

***62 Days until Mission: 1***

**[www.ucc.org/mission1](http://www.ucc.org/mission1)**

## ***Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All \* Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Oct. 1st***

*Ready. Responsive. Radically inclusive. At least one out of four families in your congregation is affected by a mental illness/brain disorder or disability. The time is right to join the conversation about how you can be a leader.*

### **Sponsored by the United Church of Christ (UCC) Disabilities Ministries and the UCC Mental Illness Network.**

A National Gathering. Developing the life of congregations to include persons with disabilities and persons with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We invite you to the second national Conference jointly hosted by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries (UCC DM) and the United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network (UCC MIN). It will be in Columbus, OH, from Thursday, September 29 through Saturday, October 1, 2011. (Sunday, October 2 is an extra day and is an option.)

In Matthew we read, “*Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.*” (10:40)

Congregations are groups of people called to be welcoming and inclusive communities. Welcome embraces the involvement of everyone, including people who have been touched by or have experienced a mental illness/brain disorder and/or a disability, apparent or unapparent. National statistics indicate that at least one out of four families are in some way affected by these experiences. This is true in our congregations and for us on the Planning Team.

We hope in this National Conference to:

- \* educate about mental illnesses/brain disorders and disabilities;
- \* learn how to develop A2A (Accessible to All) Covenants and Mental Health Ministries in your congregation;
- \* share best practices by telling stories, learning from each other, and networking; and
- \* offer spiritual support group experiences and worship together.

Keynote speakers who will be with us for the entire Conference are Thomas Reynolds, Carolyn Thompson, Christine Guth, and J. Bennett Guess. Please see more information about our Featured speakers in the registration form. There will be six workshops offered three times with the keynote speakers and national and local leaders. There will be time to share in CORE groups and a Journal will be offered to each participant. Those who stay through Sunday afternoon will have the opportunity to worship locally, perhaps including an opportunity to offer leadership in local church worship services or adult educational programs.

This promises to be an enriching, connecting and motivating Conference. We look forward to welcoming you in Columbus.

Grace and peace, Peggy Dunn, Chair, UCC DM and Alan Johnson, Chair, UCC MIN

**[www.wideningthewelcome.com](http://www.wideningthewelcome.com)    Questions: [revalan2004@comcast.net](mailto:revalan2004@comcast.net)**

## ***CPC Women's Camp at Camp Adams ~ Native American Spirituality and Art***

Women's Camp is scheduled for October 7-9 at Camp Adams with a theme of "Native American Spirituality and Art". Rev. Denise Andersen and her daughter Caitlin will be the resource leaders. Caitey works at Celilo Indian Education Program on the Columbia River. Brochures will be sent to all churches this summer and women should save these dates and plan to attend this event.

Contact Nancy Klingeman for more information: [nancyklingeman@comcast.net](mailto:nancyklingeman@comcast.net). You can also find registration materials on the CPC website: <http://www.cpcucc.org>.

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## ***UCC 2012 National Youth Event Call for Workshop Proposals***

The United Church of Christ's National Youth Event's Vision Team officially launched its **Call for Workshop Proposals**. National Youth Event is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 10 – Friday, July 13, 2012** at **Purdue University** of West Lafayette, IN.

There will be two days of workshops: Wednesday, July 11 and Thursday, July 12.

The workshops are 1-hour sessions. There are two sessions:

Session I      11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Session 2      02:15 PM to 03:15 PM

The sub-themes for those two days are :

July 11          Imagine a Healthy World

July 12          Imagine a World Where Differences Are Embraced

We believe these two sub-themes are broad in their scope and can create a diverse pool of workshops that cover issues beyond the obvious. We invite you to submit proposals that would consider these sub-themes, but above all else, lift up the official quadrennial theme for NYE which is "**Imagine**." The quadrennial scriptural focus is **Isaiah 43:19**. We will review and consider all submitted proposals.

There will be a track for youth workers, ministers, leaders, facilitators—folks who work with youth!

We invite all workshop proposals to keep in mind the audience—youth, ages 13-18 years old and youth workers who may be 18 years of age and older. Think out of the box, be interactive, technology is welcomed and have fun with your ideas. All of our accepted workshop proposals will be placed in one of twelve diverse workshop tracks. If you have questions about these tracks, email [youth@ucc.org](mailto:youth@ucc.org).

Visit [UCC NYE](#) site to keep up to date on National Youth Event. You may also [Friend us on Facebook!](#) or [Follow us on Twitter!](#)

Workshops are being accepted through **Monday, September 26, 2011**. We will announce the workshops and the tracks, **Monday, October 31**. The official Workshop Proposal form is now up and running on the [NYE page](#). Thank you for your submission and for being a gift to our ministry for, to and with youth.

Daring to *Imagine*, Waltrina Middleton, Local Church Ministries, *Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation* Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team \* [middletonw@ucc.org](mailto:middletonw@ucc.org)  
P [216-736-3871](tel:216-736-3871) \* F [216-736-3818](tel:216-736-3818) \* [www.ucc.org/youth](http://www.ucc.org/youth)

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## ***Bridgeport UCC, Portland, OR seeks Choir Director or Accompanist***

Bridgeport United Church of Christ is seeking a Choir Director or Director/Accompanist for our small but excellent choir. Rehearsal begins at 9am each Sunday, worship is at 10:30am. Candidates for this position must have knowledge of a broad range of music, leadership experience with musicians with various levels of experience, comfortable with the values of our progressive church, and a sense of humor.

A detailed job description is available upon request. For more information about our church see [www.bridgeportucc.org](http://www.bridgeportucc.org)

Choir Director's salary is \$555/month. Nine month position runs mid-Sept thru Mid June  
Director/Accompanist's salary would be \$800/month for nine months and \$300/month during the summer.

Please submit your resume with a cover letter that describes your interest in leading a choir in a progressive Christian church to [Bridgeport.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:Bridgeport.rocks@gmail.com) by September 12<sup>th</sup>.

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## ***Visit Haiti in September or May for water ministry awareness trips ~ Susan L. Smith*** *Susan is a member of our CPC Wider Church Ministry Team*

Join the Pacific Northwest Solidarity Group!

Eleven people have now accompanied me on three trips to the Central Plateau of Haiti as part of the PNW Solidarity Group, ages 15-86. My next trip to Haiti is set for September 12th - September 24th. I invite anyone *willing to share what they learn* to accompany me to Haiti.

We will see the work of Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP), the Peasant Movement of Papay, on clean water, sanitation, health promotion education, and sustainable agriculture. We will visit the remote mountainous area of Zabriko, Tablon, and LeFle Diset (clean water through capping and distribution spring water, latrines), Twa Woch (well repair, latrines, and health promotion), Cherival (newly drilled water well), Docele (well repair, cisterns, and vegetable gardening), and Yard for Life projects (sustainable small plot agriculture). We will also visit the primary partner of Global Ministries in Haiti, the national Protestant council of churches known as CONASPEH, in Port au Prince. On Saturday, we will visit the spectacular local waterfall and caverns of Basen Zim. On Sunday, we will attend local church services in the morning as well as conduct our own worship service on Sunday evening.

MPP's work is funded in large part by the Clean Water Fund of 1st Congregational Salem using Drink Water for Life contributions from congregations throughout the Central Pacific Conference -- in addition to funds from other churches, schools, and individuals.

If you are interested, please contact me **immediately** through [susanlsmithor@gmail.com](mailto:susanlsmithor@gmail.com). I will provide an itinerary, a reading list, a packing list, travel notes, and everything you need for an enjoyable, memorable, life-changing and empowering trip.

If September isn't possible work for you, consider coming with me on my Spring trip (mid-April - May) when I return to Haiti for a similar work/awareness trip.

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*Available for Fall Preaching/Teaching/Presentations ~ Susan Smith*  
*Susan is a member of our CPC Wider Church Ministry Team*

**Fall Preaching/Teaching/Presentations**

I will be available after September 24th to lead worship/preach/teach/present concerning **any** of the following topics:

- 1) the global fresh water crisis and what we can do to address it;
- 2) global water and sanitation problems and the role of community-based projects in solving them;
- 3) Haiti, history, politics, and prospects for progress;
- 4) the Central Pacific Conference's work on clean water in Haiti;
- 5) the JUST PEACE initiatives of the World Council of Churches;
- 6) water and sanitation problems in South Africa;
- 7) the human right to water as a mechanism to address global water and sanitation problems.

In preaching, while I tend to comment on some issue listed above, I generally preach the lectionary scriptures...which means my message WILL NOT be a canned sermon. Pulpit supply fees, if any, are directed to the Clean Water Fund, 1st Congregational UCC, Salem, OR. This means that I would like to also do a pre/post church presentation in addition to service if possible.

I am willing to do multi-part adult forum or educational series, but they must be scheduled on 2 - 3 weeknights or for a half day on Saturday morning or afternoon. I reserve Sundays for one-shot preaching and before/after service presentations.

My purposes are:

- (1) raise awareness about global water issues,
- (2) encourage your efforts to fund our clean water ministries,
- (3) support congregations in obtaining Global Mission church designation,
- (4) increase awareness of the work of Global Ministries,
- (5) highlight Just Peace initiatives of the World Council of Churches, and
- (5) assure a high level of clergy and lay energy and participation in next year's Spring Assembly (focusing on Global Ministries).

**NEW DAY magazine focuses on water issues**

A forthcoming issue of NEW DAY magazine published by Christian Church(Disciples of christ) will focus entirely on water. It includes three articles I wrote on the global water crisis, bottled water, and the clean water ministries of the Central Pacific Conference and 1st Congregational Salem.

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*Keeping You e-Posted – weekly news from the United Church of Christ*

Do you miss receiving UCC News in your mailbox? Do you wish there was an easy way to keep track of the current news in our denomination? *Keeping You e-Posted* is a weekly, coordinated e-zine of news, featured items, resources, worship materials, and justice-action items e-mailed each Tuesday. Here's a link to subscribe: <http://www.ucc.org/news/keeping-you-eposted>

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## ***Part-Time Ministry Resources from the Center for Progressive Renewal***

**Free Webinar!! – In many of your local church settings leaders are facing this decision of moving to Part-time ministry leadership. The Center for Progressive Renewal wants to provide resources for those ministers and congregations. Sign-up today for this free webinar at <http://www.progressiverenewal.org>.**

Join **Rev. Robert LaRochelle** (author of "Part-Time Ministry, Full-Time Church), **Rev. Sheldon Culver** (Conference Minister, Illinois South UCC), **Rev. Don Remick** (Assoc. Conference Minister, Massachusetts Conference UCC), and **Rev. Ineke K. Mitchell** (North Central Regional Minister in Connecticut Conference ) as they discuss *Part-Time Ministry - Trends, Challenges and Training Ministers for the Tasks*. Wednesday, August 31, 2011 - 7:00 - 8:00 PM EASTERN Time.

**Also please recommend to key leaders the five week course: “ Moving to Part Time ministry: A step toward decline or an opportunity for vitality?”** This course has been recently discounted to make it more affordable and it begins on September 6.

### **CPR ONLINE COURSE:**

*Moving to Part Time ministry: A step toward decline or an opportunity for vitality?*

Tuesday, September 06, 2011 To Thursday, October 06, 2011, 8:00 - 9:00PM (ET) time each evening  
This course is designed to assist congregations and part time pastors in working effectively together to meet the needs of the congregations they serve. It is based on the premise that even when a congregation calls a part time pastor, the church itself still has full time needs.

Regular Rate: ~~\$299~~ Individual, Group (up to 3) \$500

**Sale Rate: \$199 individual, Group (up to 3) \$399**

Rev. Gregg A. Carlson \* Director of Online Learning \* [404-805-0934](tel:404-805-0934)

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## ***Northeast Emergency Food Program Rummage Sale ~ September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011*** *NEFP is a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon*

**Hot Items! Tons of vendors! Come find what you're looking for! This bargain sale will benefit the rising needs of the Northeast Emergency Food Program. Some fun things you'll be sure to find: Lemonade Stand, Live music, Bake sale table, and tons of great stuff!**

1st Annual NEFP Benefit Labor Day Rummage Sale! Northeast Emergency Food Program  
Meeting the urgent food and clothing needs of our north and northeast Portland neighbors  
In the parking lot of Luther Memorial Church, corner of E 72<sup>nd</sup> and Wygant. 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.

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### ***Need a Guest Preacher?***

Chuck Currie asked me to share with you, he recently completed a stint as the acting minister at First Congregational, Salem, and is now looking for opportunities to preach this summer and fall. Call him at 503-208-6521. In our CPC offices, Shawn has a list of clergy available for pulpit supply. If you'd like your name included on the list, please email your contact information to Shawn at [centralpacific@cpucc.org](mailto:centralpacific@cpucc.org). Thanks!

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## *Opening the Boxes – A Gift and a Challenge*

*Biblical and Theological Literacy* is the first of six priorities for the Central Pacific Conference named in the Vision: 2015 document (approved in August 2005). Here's the way the intended outcome is described: *Growth in knowledge, understanding, and application of the Biblical tradition and theology that permits articulation of faith, inspires a vital spirituality, and stimulates social transformation.* One of the six strategies to achieve this outcome is, "Train members to share the story of their own Christian journeys."

I served as a local church pastor for 29 years before joining you as Conference Minister. I learned that inviting members into the pulpit to share their journeys and passions had a tremendous impact on the vitality of the congregation. Personal sharing strengthened community, empowered the lay leadership of the church, and provided the foundation for the congregation to act for social justice.

In my address to the Spring Assembly of the CPC this year, I described a program I created in the last church I served to help members explore their own faith and share their spiritual journeys. I passed out packets of resources I created for the program to all the clergy in attendance at the event. I also had our staff mail the packets to the churches that weren't present at Assembly. I'm writing now, to encourage you to adapt the program, and use it in your congregation. If you've misplaced the packet, let me know and I'll send you a replacement. Here's the cover letter included in the packet:

*Dear Friends,*

*As part of my State of the Conference address this year, I want to send you home with a gift and a challenge.*

*The gift is a 10 week worship/study series I developed and shared with the church I served before joining you in ministry. For 10 weeks in the fall of 2006, we set aside our usual ordained minister sermon format, to focus on what we believed as a congregation.*

*Each week, we focused on a different theological topic – God, Sin, Bible, etc. Instead of a sermon, four people each spoke for 3-4 minutes, sharing their personal view on the subject of the day. The liturgy and hymns were also specially chosen to be part of the conversation.*

*In 10 weeks, the congregation heard from 24 different people. The series empowered the lay leadership and strengthened our sense of who we were as a church.*

*In your folder, you'll find a description of the program, along with resources for your use. If you want digital copies of the resources or the liturgy of the day, please email your request to me at: [wjboris@gmail.com](mailto:wjboris@gmail.com)*

*The challenge? Use the resources! Schedule your own series so members of your church can share their faith with each other. Read through the things I've shared, and then make them your own. If you are reluctant to try this in worship, how about a retreat, or an adult education series? Let me know what you do, and I'll share it with the rest of our churches.*

\*\* on the next page, you'll find a copy of one of the worksheets that was part of the program.

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## Opening the Boxes #4: God

Mark the statement, if you agree. Then, examine the descriptions you've marked. What do they have in common? What do they tell you as you answer the question, "Who is my God?"

God is...

- \_\_\_ the only person who loves me for myself.
- \_\_\_ a puppeteer who manipulates people like toys.
- \_\_\_ an energy hinted at when a baby is born, when we fall in love.
- \_\_\_ the judge who punishes wicked people with poverty, sickness, and sorrow.
- \_\_\_ an idea created by past generations before humans knew they could shape the world.
- \_\_\_ a father who lovingly encourages and guides all his children.
- \_\_\_ an unseen world soul that we are all a part of.
- \_\_\_ a creator who believes that everything she has made is very good.
- \_\_\_ the peace that will reign when all creation is in harmony.
- \_\_\_ someone who forgives mistakes I'm allowed to make.
- \_\_\_ a being so beyond me that words fail to describe.
- \_\_\_ an eccentric being who created the world and forgot it.
- \_\_\_ a cosmic Santa Claus who knows if you've been good or bad and treats you accordingly.
- \_\_\_ someone who dares to let me be free.
- \_\_\_ the computer that programmed the universe.
- \_\_\_ an angry critic of the world, who will get even with us later.
- \_\_\_ the energy/force of all life.
- \_\_\_ a lawgiver whose commands urge me to do right rather than wrong.
- \_\_\_ the future, the end of all human striving.
- \_\_\_ a mother who nurtures us and protects us from trouble.
- \_\_\_ the one who has all power, knows everything, and is present everywhere.
- \_\_\_ an American and a Republican.
- \_\_\_ the managing director who constantly intervenes to correct the flaws of the world.
- \_\_\_ an existence the human race will evolve into.
- \_\_\_ a ruler whose power is freedom and love rather than force.
- \_\_\_ the perfect one who says I'm sinful and makes me feel guilty.
- \_\_\_ a lover who urges me to come to the heavenly marriage feast.
- \_\_\_ the one who cares that I become myself.
- \_\_\_ a clown who created laughter when humans were given free will.
- \_\_\_ an old man who doesn't understand the modern world.
- \_\_\_ the beauty of a fragrant mountain meadow, a whistling bird, or a dazzling sunset.

*This exercise is modified from an un-attributed source, with additional statements inspired by Your God is Too Small written by J.B. Phillips, ©1953.*

## *The First Parish Project – A support and enhancement program for beginning clergy*

First Parish Project, funded by The Lilly Endowment and administered by Hinton Rural Life Center, is a continuing education program aimed at developing and sustaining effective pastoral leadership in the small membership church (understood in this context as those congregations that average 100 or less at the principal weekly worship service). It targets pastors who are (1) age 35 or younger, (2) serving their first full-time pastorate, (3) in a church of small membership. The program is ecumenical, i.e. open to clergy of all denominations.

The program focuses on the transitions participants are undergoing, not only from seminary to a first parish but also the transition into the world of the small membership church. FPP gives special attention to understanding, appreciating, and coping with the unique dynamics of the small membership church. Beyond equipping pastors for ministry in the small membership church, the program is created for colleagues to develop a nationwide network of pastors/friends serving in similar situations. When young clergy come together and share their ministry stories we inevitably learn from one another, and serving one's first parish is a shared phenomenon.

Participants are recruited through contacts with denominational bodies, seminaries, pastors, and FPP alumni. Each group of 20 meets on the 34 acre campus of Hinton Center in Hayesville, N.C. for two successive years. Each gathering lasts one week, Monday evening through Friday morning, and includes the following: didactic sessions on ministerial praxis by faculty/resource persons, community worship and Eucharist, covenant group time, table fellowship, and free time. Continuing Education Units are available to participants for their work in the program.

In addition, a Hinton staff member is available to visit each participant's parish twice during his/her time in the program. The purpose of such visits is to lead participants' congregations in a visioning/planning process that will help congregation and pastor attend together to the important work of doing community assessment, discerning congregational gifts and strengths, and identifying ministry priorities. In this way the program invests in the development not only of the congregation's minister, but also of its ministry.

As a result of participating in this program, ministers can expect to gain useful insight about ministry, particularly ministry in the small membership church; to develop ongoing supportive relationships with a diverse group of colleagues in similar ministry situations; to enjoy participating in a community of worship and prayer; to relax; and to enjoy Hinton's beautiful setting and its hospitality.

The total program cost to the participant/church is \$900 to be paid in \$150 amounts at each session. The rest of his/her expenses are cared for out of the Lilly Foundation grant that underwrites the program.

It is understood that upon acceptance into the program, the pastor agrees to participate fully in every aspect of the program throughout its duration. This is a matter of mutual respect and commitment, as well as a demonstration of appreciation to the organizations that make such an opportunity possible. The program is open to all recent seminary graduates under age 35 serving their first church of smaller membership.

**GROUP IX session 1 will be November 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** For further information you may contact: Amy Spivey, Hinton Rural Life Center. Email: [amy@hintoncenter.org](mailto:amy@hintoncenter.org) Call toll free: 866-389-8336. [www.hintoncenter.org](http://www.hintoncenter.org) 866-389-8336.

## ***Introducing StillSpeaking Magazine***

Delegates to the May, 2011 Spring Assembly of the Central Pacific Conference received a complimentary copy of the of the UCC's new, high-end-design StillSpeaking Magazine, an oversized, full-color publication that debuted in April of 2010.

The 88-page StillSpeaking Magazine is published twice annually in Spring and Fall. Subscriptions are \$39 for 6 issues over 3 years (2 issues per year). Order online at [ucc.org/magazine](http://ucc.org/magazine).

"StillSpeaking Magazine promises to be a full-sensory experience for readers, with compelling writing and expert photography that will communicate stories of inclusion, involvement, transformation and the best aspirations of the UCC, its members and its churches," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, formerly UCC's director of communications, now head of the UCC's Local Church Ministries. "We're being very clear that this is not a newsmagazine. Instead, we want a quality feature publication that tells moving accounts of our people and the ways their lives have been impacted by the UCC." The UCC's hard news will continue to be offered online at [ucc.org/news](http://ucc.org/news) and through its weekly e-zine, [Keeping You ePosted](http://Keeping You ePosted).

When United Church News ceased distribution of its print edition in 2009, Guess said the comment most often heard at the UCC's national offices was regret that readers would miss the sense of "holy intrusion" they often experienced every time the periodical arrived in their mailboxes.

"What people said they would miss most about United Church News was something that a newsprint-quality newspaper was never intended to be," Guess said, "so we decided to develop a new from-scratch publication that will inspire, encourage and speak equally to our loyal members as well as our potential ones."

StillSpeaking Magazine will be successful, Guess said, if it is substantial and attractive enough that people will not only read it, but display it and pass it along to others. "Our hope is that individuals will willingly subscribe and churches will buy extra copies in bulk to distribute to newcomers," he said.

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## ***Editorial Comment on StillSpeaking Magazine Article ~ Charles Busch***

*(\*\* note – I had to deal with my contradictions of my dual roles as father and UCC clergy when our oldest son served in the Marine Corps and was part of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. When Charles Busch shared his letter with me, I asked if I could share it with you in On the Way. walter john)*

Dear Rev. Brekke,

I appreciate your ministry as Editor and celebrate the birth of *StillSpeaking Magazine*.

I need, however, to voice my objection to the article, "Military Chaplains Serve Grace in the Midst of Conflict," in the 2010 Fall/Winter issue. To feature the ministry of UCC Chaplains without mention of the issues of conscience which shadow that service, implies acceptance of our nation's military empire and ongoing violent aggression.

In the article, the Navy Chaplain Corps motto, "Cooperation without compromise" is explained as "the need to be true to one's own faith tradition while facilitating for those with different beliefs." No doubt ecumenical accommodation is a challenge for Chaplains. But this is slight compared with the fundamental moral challenge which begs addressing: Ministering to private souls, yet wearing the public uniform of an institution which generates serial wars, develops nuclear and biological weapons,

routinely carries out targeted assassinations, and has recently been exposed for its secret prisons and methods of torture.

There is a need to provide worship services, spiritual counsel and a compassionate presence to military personnel. But do UCC ministers need to accept the embedded role (rank, pay, deferential silence) of Chaplain in order to provide that ministry? In a magazine proclaiming the Word heard new, why repeat what is worn and serves death?

God is still speaking *and* taking questions. Sincerely, Rev. Charles Busch, Lincoln City, Oregon

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### *A Personal Note*

This summer has been a blur! July included General Synod of the UCC in Tampa, FL, followed by a vacation week with my wife, Cindy, in Upper Michigan (the UP!). I had the honor of officiating at the wedding of her close cousin. We returned for a short week of company – our daughter, Leah, her fiancée, Matt, and his parents. Then Cindy and I were off to Challis, Idaho as I sang in the Choral Rendezvous, co-sponsored by the Community UCC of Challis. Next, a quick trip to Medford, OR for an Ecclesiastical Council for Maria Grace. The next week I was back in Boise, ID for a meeting of our Covenants Ministry Team. The rest of August included multiple trips to Camp Adams as a small group hosted and interviewed candidates for our new CPC Outdoor Ministries Director.

Along the way, there were CPC Team meetings, planning for the fall, and ride to Estacada, OR to join in the anniversary celebrations of 300 Main (senior housing) and the UCC's Retirement Housing Foundation. I also had the opportunity over the last months to preach as Nampa UCC, Community UCC of Challis, and St. John's UCC, Payette. I've now preached in all of our Idaho churches, and a total of 42 of our 47 CPC churches.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Carol and Ira Williams. With a reception at the CPC offices, Ira concludes his work as Interim Director of Camp Adams. Ira was delightful as a colleague in ministry. He brought years of experience and a passion for Outdoor Ministry to help us continue to upgrade Camp Adams and attract new clients. Ira focused on the critical issues of risk management, deferred maintenance, and new construction. Under his leadership, new policies were put in place to move us down the track for American Camping Association accreditation. Extensive work was done on improving our existing facilities, especially remodeling bathrooms at Nate Creek. We now have an extensive new drain-field for sewage, providing the infrastructure for further construction. There are two new "park models", cabins "on wheels." An impressive tree-house, deck complex now graces Adkins Lodge. And construction is just beginning on an activity center at Milk Creek which will include bathrooms, showers, laundry, and covered picnic space. A job well done, Ira! Thank you!

Yours in Christ, walter john

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