

On the Way

August 15, 2008

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE * UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Extravagant Grace * Generous Hearts * Renewed World*

Why do I love the UCC? Because it's not just about believing in Christ, it's about following Jesus!"
from the 2007-2008 UCC Desk Calendar – September 2008
Together, in the Central Pacific Conference, we are followers of Jesus, "On the Way."

My Conference Minister email address . . .

If you want to reach me by email, please use my gmail address. The CPC emails download into the office computer and are not easily accessible from home or on the road. I could have them forwarded to my gmail address, but that would add an unnecessary level of confusion to both incoming and outgoing messages. We'll keep it simple: wjboris@gmail.com. Thanks!

Paint Party Invitation from Bridgeport UCC ~ Susan Leo

Hey Friend -- We really need help to paint the foundation of the church this Saturday morning from 7 a.m. until we get 'er done. Diane & I hope it can be done quickly (and before Shir Tikvah has services Saturday morning), but that's only possible with a little help from our friends!

Can you come? We'll provide coffee, goodies, and roller pads. Bring your rollers, pans, and paint brushes if you have them and together we can rock & roll. Please, please, please RSVP to Wendy Thompson at ulindythom@aol.com. Thanks!

Bridgeport United Church of Christ * 621 NE 76th Ave. * Portland, Oregon 97213

Transform Your Church with "Unwrapping Our Gifts"

Bethel Congregational UCC in Beaverton, OR will host a leadership training event on Saturday, October 4th, from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. "Unwrapping Our Gifts" is sponsored by the Central Pacific Conference UCC and the National UCC. This will be a time of individual spiritual renewal as well as an introduction to the Laity Empowerment Project. To get maximum benefit for your church, send a team of 3 people (including your pastor). If you can't find three people, you're still welcome to attend. If you want a personal recommendation, call David Randall-Bodman at Bethel. He'll tell you that it's the best program of leadership training he's experienced in his years of ministry!

Congregational Vitality was the theme of the Spring Assembly and will continue to be a focus for the western churches at the Fall Gathering in Corvallis. "Unwrapping Our Gifts" is a concrete step toward member empowerment and increased vitality for your church. For more information go to: <http://www.laityempowerment.com/>.

Diana Butler Bass at the Turner Memorial Lecture Series

Retraditioning: Intentional Practice and Church Vitality is the theme of this year's Turner Lectures – October 6-8, 2008, Englewood Christian Church, Yakima, WA. A brochure and registration materials are available from the Disciples NW: <http://disciplesnw.org/forms/2008TurnerBrochureRegForm.pdf>.

Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of six books including the best-selling *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.

This workshop will provide a preview of Dr. Bass's upcoming book. In it, she explores the dynamic effect that congregations experience when they rediscover the richness of the Christian heritage. "Intentional practice" is the phrase Diana uses to describe the invigorating effect she has observed in many mainline congregations when they thoughtfully draw upon patterns of Christian spiritual practice. She finds that a congregation's critical appreciation of its tradition is key to its vitality.

From the Folks that bring you "Living the Questions" ***Session 22 Living it Out.***

Sat, Oct 25, 2008 - Sun, Oct 26, 2008 Phoenix, AZ

Session 22 is an international gathering of progressive Christians for networking and sharing practical strategies for mobilizing change in our local communities. This year's event will feature Winnie Varghese on Mobilizing the Theologically Marginalized plus networking on "what works" with fellow participants. Input will also include John Bell on singing, Tex Sample on storytelling, Cynthia Langston Kirk on "new words for worship," and music with the Barb Catlin trio. Plus talk with the LtQ co-creators Jeff Procter-Murphy and David Felten.

Pricing: \$150 per person if registered by Oct 1, \$175 per person afterwards; groups of 5 or more: \$100 per person. Registration includes two meals: Saturday night's banquet and Sunday lunch. Space is limited -- please register by visiting <http://www.livingthequestions.com/xcart/home.php?cat=402>.

Linda Jaramillo preaches at Ainsworth UCC this Sunday, August 17th

Last Sunday, our own Linda Jaramillo gathered with almost three dozen folks at Ainsworth UCC to discuss our denomination's call for *Sacred Conversations on Race*. The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo is executive minister of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, responsible for the church's work on human rights and social, racial and economic justice. This week, Linda is attending the PAAM (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries) Convocation in Honolulu. She'll return this weekend to preach at her home congregation, Ainsworth UCC.

UCC Congregational of The Dalles celebrates Karl Vercouteren

Next Sunday is the farewell service for Karl Vercouteren after more than three decades of faithful service as pastor of the church. Members will also gather in the evening for a celebration of Karl's ministry. The congregation has called Donnamae Grannemann to serve as interim pastor beginning September 2. Thank you, Karl, and God's blessings. Welcome, Donnamae.

Visiting the Board of Directors



The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the CPC since my arrival will be this Saturday. One of my goals these first two weeks was to meet face-to-face with members of the Board. By tomorrow, I'll have visited with 10 of the 15 Board members, plus phone conversations with most of the rest. It has been a delight and I celebrate the gifts of each of these leaders.

This process included a tour of the beautiful and eclectic garden that Kevin Bruce has developed around his Hillsboro home. If you want to talk plants, Kevin is ready! The CPC was a partner in Kevin's ordination. For a time, he made the long commute to serve our congregation in Bend, OR. Thanks for your ministry, Kevin.

High Visibility for Forest Grove UCC



Soon after I entered the Forest Grove building, I smelled temptation. "Cinnamon rolls?" I asked. "No, Pies for Peace!" replied Jennifer Yocum. Following the invasion of Iraq in 2003, members of the church joined community activists in baking pies to sell at the Wednesday Farmers Market on Main Street. For \$15, you can take home dessert with local seasonal fillings – blueberry, blackberry, strawberry rhubarb, or my personal favorite – hazelnut!

Pictured are Carol Woodford and Julie Case.

When the bakers began, they were dubbed the "Pie Mamas." Then Dick Kroll joined in, and they changed the name to a more inclusive "Pie Folk." In the past five years, the Pie Folk have contributed over \$20,000 to Mercy Corps for humanitarian aid to those impacted by the war. The presence of group each Wednesday at the Market is a powerful public witness. You can read more about Mercy Corps at: <http://www.mercycorps.org/>.

Unique Stewardship Effort



Each person has to decide what it means for them to be faithful with their financial resources. For Tom and Lori Eplar of Forest Grove UCC, that led to a contribution from their *L Bar T Bison Ranch*. There's still time to get out to the Wednesday Market and pick up a ticket – or three! The raffle is a fun activity that provides additional weekly visibility for the congregation at the Farmers Market.

Every church activity can have a variety of benefits – community building, outreach, witness, service, education, and evangelism. It's always good to explore and maximize the good that can come from each event you plan. When you bring people together for some purpose, explain what you are doing and how your faith motivates you. Invite others to join you in the effort, and let the media know what's happening with your congregation. Never miss an opportunity to passionately share your faith and to extend the extravagant welcome of Jesus to all who are in need!

A Personal Note . . .

Last week I focused on our critters. You can tell I'm feeling the challenge of my solo zoo-keeper gig. So, on to the people part of the family... Cindy Penn & Walter John Boris – we'll celebrate 33 years of marriage in Hawaii this October. Cindy and I both liked our own names, so we just kept them when we married. We grew up in Milwaukee, WI and attended UWM- the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. We actually met at work – Milwaukee Brewers baseball, Milwaukee Bucks and Marquette Warrior basketball, Holiday on Ice, and so much more... Good friends for a few years, before we became a couple.

We have three adult children. Matthew is 28, in graduate school at the University of Texas in middle - eastern studies, and a Captain in the Marine Corps. Leah is 25. She received her bachelor degree from Pacific University in Forest Grove and just completed her masters degree in environmental and evolutionary biology at the University of Michigan. In a few weeks she'll begin a nine month position at a nature center in Faribault, Minnesota as an intern naturalist. Joshua, 23, graduated from Whitman College a year ago in psychology and film studies. He'll be leaving for Los Angeles soon, to seek fame and fortune writing and directing movies. It was seldom boring in our home! You'll hear more about them over the years – we have a hard time concealing our pride.

Yours in Christ, *walter john*

**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 (O) 503-228-3178 (M) 206-235-3801 (H) 360-314-2497