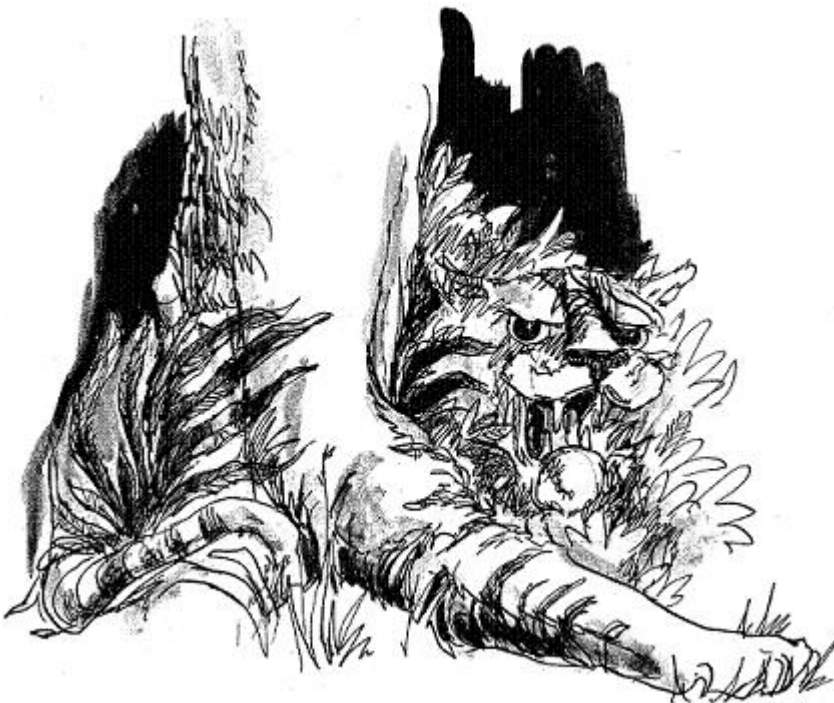


On the Way

August 29, 2008

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE * UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Extravagant Grace * Generous Hearts * Renewed World*



*One warm night I stayed out
late while playing in the park.*

*Everything I saw looked so
big and scary in the dark.*

*Behind a big tree I saw a
tiger, probably.*

from I KNOW I SAW A
TIGER...PROBABLY
written by Lavonia Szurgot
St. Helen's , Inc., ©1971

Fear and anxiety are constant companions in today's fast-paced and complex world. We know that we are called to live by hope, but cynicism and pessimism often have the strong hand. In our Christmas story, the angels announce to the shepherds, "*Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.*" (Luke 2:10 – RSV) One of my favorite verses is Jesus' reminder not to live by fear, "*Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.*" (Matt 6:34 – RSV) Interim ministry training teaches that the most effective pastor offers a "non-anxious presence." Michelle Obama sang the same song in her Monday address to the Democratic convention. In one of her most memorable lines, she said, "*And as I tuck that little girl and her little sister into bed at night, I think about how one day, they'll have families of their own. And one day, they - and your sons and daughters - will tell their own children about what we did together in this election. They'll tell them how this time, we listened to our hopes, instead of our fears.*"

How will we live as the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ? Will we be ruled by our fears and anxieties or will we be inspired by our hopes and dreams to work for justice and offer the extravagant welcome of Jesus to all people? "*Don't be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.*" Let's follow Jesus, "On the Way."

What's Happening with our CPC Webpage?!?

With deep regret, we have terminated our relationship with our web design service, *Bringing Light Enterprises*. This is not an action that we took lightly. The Board of Directors and I express our appreciation for the fine work Lee Burelson did in revamping our site. We intend to find an interim web designer as we re-evaluate our situation. If you know of someone we should talk with, please let me know. Like many of you, I place great value on an effective website as a communication vehicle for our Conference. If you have events that need promotion, please send the information to me and I'll publish it in *On the Way*. wjboris@gmail.com Thanks for your understanding and patience!

Some background on "In the Meantime..." and "On the Way."

During his tenure as Interim Conference Minister, John Gantt started publishing *In the Meantime ...* as a regular, quick, and effective way to keep in communication with churches and clergy. This was not primarily a staff effort. John was reporter, "typesetter", and editor. He passed the finished product on to our administrative secretary, Shawn Burchfield, and she zipped it out to our mailing list. During Spring Assembly, people frequently mentioned to me how they valued *In the Meantime ...* I knew it would be important for me to continue the practice with my own version, as soon as possible. By the end of my first week in the office, *On the Way* was born. Like John, I bear responsibility for the piece. If you have complaints, aim them at me. If you have suggestions, I'm all ears. If you have something you want to include, send it to me at wjboris@gmail.com.

Just a word about how I'll determine content. The first time I include an event, I'll include as much information as possible (including registration materials if desired). In general, events will get a big push only one time. After that, a brief description will be included near the end in a section I've dubbed "*Still on the Calendar ...*" I know all of you want to publicize your events as frequently as possible. But if we want people to bother to read this piece, it needs to stay fresh and new. Let me know when you want the full service listing. The following weeks will include the reminder. When the website is running at full speed again, we'll archive back issues of *On the Way* and I'll include hot links in the reminder that will take you back to the initial announcement.

REGISTER NOW!! 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/>.

Register your team by September 29th. **Registration form is attached.**

CPC Ministry Teams on the Schedule

Wider Church Ministry Team – Friday, September 5th, 12 noon – 3 pm, Interchurch Center

Covenants Ministry Team – Friday & Saturday, Sept. 5th, 5 pm, to Sept. 6th, 3 pm, ICC.

Local Church Ministry Team – Saturday, September 6th, 9am – 1 pm, ICC.

If you have business for these teams, contact the chairs:

Covenants Ministry: Becky Martin jmartin@jeffnet.org

Local Church Ministry: Rick Skidmore rick@kairosucc.org

Wider Church Ministry: Jean Doane jeanedoane@yahoo.com

Congregational Church of Lincoln City searches for C.E. Director

Our Lincoln City congregation is in need of a Christian Education Director. The position requires someone who will be an advisor/director for their youth work that could be both Sunday morning and/or Sunday evening and will teach *Discovery* Class for children of elementary school age through high school. Current salary \$800 per month with the potential for increase. Anyone interested (or who knows of an interested person), please see or contact Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, 541-994-2378.

UCC HIV and AIDS Network wants to hear from you!

UCAN* invites anyone connected to the United Church of Christ (UCC) to share their views about HIV prevention, particularly for the UCC in various community settings. It is very important for us to learn from the experiences and perspectives around the church.

An online questionnaire is now available for you to share your responses to following open-ended questions. They are provided here to give you a chance to reflect on them before you complete the questionnaire.

1. What do you think makes HIV prevention an urgent concern for the United Church of Christ?
2. What biblical stories or scripture passages under gird your understanding or theology of HIV prevention?
3. What are the faith values that inform why you think the UCC and other people of faith should be concerned and involved?
4. From your perspective, what has happened in the history of the UCC that supports the UCC's involvement--our traditions, events in our history, previous General Synod actions?
5. Based on your understanding and experience, what do you think are the essential components or strategies of HIV prevention for UCAN to include in its program and encourage and why?
6. What public policy on HIV prevention would you like to see the General Synod encourage?
7. What could we do to better share accountability for HIV prevention across the life of the church, not only in the national setting, but in all settings of the church?

Questionnaire responses will be strictly confidential and data from this research will be reported only in the aggregate. Your information will be coded and will remain confidential.

If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer at 216-736-3217 or by email: schuenem@ucc.org.

UCC web link: <http://www.ucc.org/ucan/hiv-prevention-quest-f08.html>.

Healing and Prayer Service at Cedar Hills UCC

A service of Healing and Prayer will take place on September 16th at 7:30 pm. The gathering will be held in the Sanctuary of the Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, 11695 SW Park Way, Portland. (Chapel is adjacent to the parking lot on Park Way.) Prayer requests will be gathered and included in our individual and group prayers and meditations at the service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, especially those with prayers concerns for themselves and/or loved ones.

For more information contact Bev Stearns, 503-626-4026; email is widadsufi@yahoo.com

Ecclesiastical Council for Anne Dunlap

You are invited to participate in an Ecclesiastical Council for Anne Dunlap hosted by Bridgeport UCC on the afternoon of Sunday, September 7th, 3 pm. Anne will have her ordination interview with the Covenants Ministry Team earlier in the weekend.

Still on the Calendar...

Saturday, September 27, 2008. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. First Congregational UCC, Portland. *Workshop with Master storyteller Christopher Leebrick*. The storytelling workshop is \$30 per person for early registration by September 15. Later registration is \$35. Call 503-228-7219 to sign up.

Thursday, October 30, 2008. 11 am – 4:30 pm. Cedar Hills UCC. *Green Building and Renovations* sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. To register, call (503) 221-1054 or e-mail ksharinghousen@emoregon.org. Pre-registration is requested by Oct. 27, but registration will be accepted at the door. To download a brochure, go to www.emoregon.org.

Women's Retreat * October 17-19, 2008 * "God is Still Giving"

This year's Women's Retreat explores the theme, "God is Still Giving." During the event, participants will acknowledge the present of God in their lives by slowing down and relaxing! Bring a playful spirit, and join the group at Camp Adams to worship, discuss, meditate, sing, and play together. The Rev. Jean Done will be the resource leader as women take advantage of the opportunity to greet old and new friends, walk in the woods, and share their joys and sorrows as they build a strong community of women in the Central Pacific Conference. **Registration materials are attached.**

Eastside Clergy Cluster Gathering * Tuesday, September 9th, at Noon

If I read my emails correctly, the first Eastside Clergy Cluster Gathering of the fall will be hosted by Dennis Alger at Zion UCC, Gresham. Call Dennis to confirm the info.

When other clergy cluster gatherings are scheduled, please keep me in the loop and I'll make sure I include notice in "On the Way." Thanks.

You can help put “Steeple” on the Air

As you may know, the United Church of Christ will be airing the beloved Steeples ad this fall on national cable networks. We hope to reach 20 million viewers with the UCC’s message of unity, welcome and love.

Thank you to all the churches that have already given or pledged their support.

But we have yet to reach our goal. To do so, **we must raise an additional \$150,000 in one week.** All we need is your church’s pledge of support (to be fulfilled by the end of 2008).

We need:

- 50 churches to pledge \$1,000
- 100 churches to pledge \$500
- 100 churches to pledge \$250
- 250 churches to pledge \$100

I enthusiastically encourage you to make your congregation's voice heard by pledging today. Simply **send an email to The Rev. Felix Carrion** with your **church’s name and pledged amount.**

Together, we will spread Jesus’ message of unity, welcome and hope to millions this fall.

A Personal Note . . .

Search committees always like to ask, “What do you do for fun? How do you take care of yourself?” When I interviewed with the committee here, I was honest. I told them that much of what I do in ministry is what I love to do – visiting with people, building community, and expressing creativity in worship, educational events, and print materials. I don’t take a regular day off, but I make sure that when I need time away, I take time. Sometimes, it’s a long walk. Sometimes, it’s treasure hunting at a garage sale, used bookstore, thrift store, or auction. I am easily amused!

It might not surprise you to hear that, most of the time, the treasure I find can be integrated into ministry. Last Tuesday, I had lunch with Linda Jaramillo, a daughter of this Conference now serving as the Executive Minister of our UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. We meet out in Hillsboro, and spent a couple of hours getting to know each other and discussing ways we could cooperate. When I left, I dropped in on the Goodwill Store just off the Sunset Highway. I wandered through the aisles and eventually discovered three children’s picture books to add to my collection. One of the books was the one I mentioned in my intro – *I Know I saw a Tiger... Probably*. I instantly fell in love with the line drawing, and uttered those words well known to clergy, “This will preach!”

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

Women's Retreat

This year's Women's Camp will focus on "God is Still Giving" (as well as speaking). During our time together, we will try to increase our awareness of God's presence in our lives by slowing down and relaxing. We will learn about our special gifts and how we can use them to deepen our relationship with God. So, bring along openness and a playful spirit!

Join us at Camp Adams to worship, discuss, meditate, sing, and play together. It's our chance to greet old and new friends, walk in the woods, and share our joys or sorrows as we build community among the Central Pacific Conference women.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

"GOD IS STILL GIVING"

Camp Adams Registration

Due October 13, 2008

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Church _____

Telephone (_____) _____ **E-Mail** _____

Total Retreat Fee:	\$95.00	
Pre-Registration:	\$55.00	<i>(transferable but non-refundable)</i>
Amount Due on arrival:	\$40.00	

Make checks payable to: **United Church of Christ Women**

(Total may be paid in advance)

Mail to: **Nancy Klingeman, Registrar**
3225 N.W. Elmwood Drive
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541)-753-3350