

Communicator

April 2011

*Nurturing Faith,
Growing Community,
and Sowing Seeds of Justice and Peace on the Palouse*

Enraged Pacific
Fire, water, endless destruction
Hope and hopelessness collide. Nohea

Dear Friends,

This haiku poem was written following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. It reminds us of the reality of the world in which we live, a reality that is certainly apparent to us during this Lenten season: We are truly living in a world in which hope and hopelessness seem to be meeting one another in great, crashing waves. Destruction and devastation for miles, uncertainty about loved ones, food shortages, the ongoing crisis of high levels of radiation that threaten Mother Earth herself . . . It's difficult to imagine how life goes on after this level of loss. At the same time, we watch events unfolding in Libya and the Middle East, surely another area where hope and hopelessness are colliding in the struggles for change and the threat and reality of violence. For those of us with some physical and emotional distance from the crises, some of us respond by remaining glued to our television sets, computers, hunting down "breaking news." Others of us can barely stand to pick up a newspaper, so overwhelmed that we'd rather not know.

It is during times like these that our spirits need this season of Lent. Lent invites us to walk into all of those moments where hope and hopelessness are colliding – particularly those places where hopelessness seems to be winning the day – and there to place our heart, our light, our intentions and our actions. We listen, learn, and watch, not with a sort of voyeuristic, "reality television" attitude, waiting for the next news bulletin, the next tragedy to unfold. Rather, our faith calls us to look with eyes of compassion and with a heart filled with prayer, for each of us to be a part of inviting God into the midst of the suffering we see.

At times, it seems that our prayers and good intentions are all we are able to offer, and they don't seem nearly enough. And yet, I am always amazed when I open myself to understanding the suffering of another how often an opportunity arises to do something, to be part of some kind of meaningful gesture or action. Lent is a time that encourages us to take up the disciplines of prayer and reflection, of making ourselves aware of the realities of the lives of others. Jesus based his ministry upon bringing his gifts of healing, compassion, teaching, and justice-seeking into the suffering he encountered in the world around him. Lent is a season in which we are invited to follow and even take up that journey, carrying his ministry into our own beautiful and broken world.

Blessings on Your Lenten Journey,

Kristine

"Lent invites us to walk into all of those moments where hope and hopelessness are colliding."

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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APRIL COMMUNITY COFFEE HOUSE **Friday, April 8 - 7-9 pm**

The Pullman High School Key Club will be the sponsor for April's Coffee House, with proceeds going to relief efforts in Japan. If you have not had a chance to attend a coffee house yet, this is a great time to try it out! We get to listen to a variety of wonderful performers of all ages, eat good food, and raise money for a good cause. Thanks to all helping in March!

MAUNDY THURSDAY **TAIZE PRAYERS**

Thursday, April 21, 2011 -- 7:00 p.m.

Gather in Brewster Hall to remember and experience anew the story of holy week with readings of scripture, poetry, silence, beautiful music, and communion. In this time and space, we'll have the chance to reflect on how this ancient story of betrayal, sacrifice, and loss holds meaning for us as we journey together. Please join us. Childcare is available if requested by Tuesday, April 19 by calling 332-6411.

MOMENTS TO PAUSE: JOURNEYING **WITH JESUS ON HIS LAST DAY** **Friday, April 22 -- Drop-in Noon- 6:00pm**

Jesus' last day contains poignant, timeless moments that can help us reflect on our own lives and world. The emotional and physical places he experienced in such a different time and place can help to ground us here and now. They can help to situate us on our own journey. Drop in between noon and 6pm to walk the labyrinth and pause at stations that tangibly reflect different aspects of Jesus' last day such as doubt, betrayal, etc...

LEARNING COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011 and lasts until Easter Sunday. It is a season of quiet reflection when we bring our deep thoughts and feelings to God. Christians often observe Lent with something the church calls spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, fasting (giving up eating certain foods, or not eating at all during a certain period of time), and service to others. Talk to your children about switching off televisions, computers, telephones and other distraction and think about changing our habits.

Lent and Easter gives us a chance to think deeply about our relationship with God and how we relate to each other and the world.

-- Chandra Crow, LC Coordinator

125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION **FOR CCUCC - Sunday, May 15**

This year marks our 125th year as a Pullman congregation. The date for our anniversary celebration is Sunday May 15th, and we're looking for those of you interested in helping to put on the party! Please contact Monique Slipher (332-7604, mslipher@hotmail.com) or the church office if you'd like to volunteer. Some ideas floated already are: A commemorative Sunday service followed by a potluck luncheon with an "open-mike time" for stories, reminiscences, etc. (the potluck food could be especially from our church cookbooks), a display and/or slide show of old photos and memorabilia, a historical fashion show from the Thrift Shop, and/or ?? Again, we seek your ideas and help!

Connections ↻ **Reflections** ↻ **Directions** ↻

2011 PNC-UCC ANNUAL MEETING

April 29-30

University Congregational United Church of Christ, Seattle, WA

Would you like to represent our church at our conference annual meeting this year? Let us know quickly and you can be an official delegate in Seattle on April 29 and 30. Of course, anyone is invited and encouraged to attend the gathering, which looks to be interesting and features guest speaker DaVita McCallister, interesting activities for youth, and a slew of intriguing workshops such as: *The Moses Project: How a Church and a Child Advocacy Organization Partnered for Social Action*; *Multifaith Living*; *Every Stitch Tells a Story*; *UCC 101*; *Sex and Church*; *Closet Activism*; *Faith, Climate, and Coal*; *Faith, Food, and Justice*; *The Saint and the Scientist*; and *On the Grid 24/7: Generational Conflict and New Technologies*.

Annual meeting provides a great opportunity to meet some of our brothers and sisters from around the conference, learn some new things, and have a voice in the important work we do together across the Pacific Northwest. And, because it runs from 12:30 on Friday to Saturday night, a lot will happen in a relatively short time period, leaving us some time to enjoy the city.

The more people from CCUCC who attend, the more we'll have an impact in the ministry we do as a regional UCC presence!

Look for registration packets on the table just outside the sanctuary. There is a cost to attend as well as any hotel costs, but the church budget provides for scholarship money for delegates, so talk to Kristine or Chip if you're interested.

N-SID-SEN CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER 2011 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Campfires, worship, hiking, crafts, music, delicious meals, programs, relaxing with friends, cozy cabins -- what more could you want on a summer day? Being at N-Sid-Sen provides so many ways to reconnect with God and friends on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene. Our camp has something for everyone!



WOMEN'S RETREAT: MAY 20-22

WORK CAMP: JUNE 12-18 (FREE!)

KIDS CAMP: JUNE 26-29

INTERMEDIATE CAMP: JULY 10-16

SR. HI AQUA* CAMP: JULY 17-23

FAMILY CAMP #1: JULY 31- AUG 6

JR. HI AQUA* CAMP: AUGUST 7-13

FAMILY CAMP #2: AUGUST 14-20

*Aqua Camp includes water skiing, wake boarding, and tubing with power boats, plus canoes, sailing, and other water activities.

E-MAIL RANDY CROWE randy@n-sid-sen.org

OR CALL: 208-689-3489 OR 800-448-3489

CAMP WEBSITE: www.n-sid-sen.org



Sowing Seeds for Justice & Peace

“FINDING THE CENTER: Forging Alliances & Strategies for Action” Saturday, April 9, University of Idaho Student Union Bldg, 8 am - 5 pm

This one-day conference promotes the protection of human rights through community-based change. The 2011 theme, Forging Alliances and Strategies for Action, encourages participants to make a lasting contribution to human rights work in the Inland Northwest. Participants will learn techniques, tools, and programming to implement in their home communities, schools, and workplaces. Projects instigated by conference attendees will contribute to Finding the Center's long-term goal of creating an Inland Northwest Human Rights Alliance. All are welcome and workshops include tracks for educators, students, any community members interested in human rights, and law enforcement and government officials.

For more information go to <http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/ftc/>

Remembering Others

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES*

Kalvin Johanson
Katie Hindman
Joyce Wills
Kristine Zakarison
Beth Waddel
Margaret Vogt
*Carl & Ginny Hauser



Windows into CCUCC History

written by Monique Slipher

Last month we learned of Lucius O. Baird's arrival in Pullman in the fall of 1890 to serve the First Congregational Church, which was temporarily worshipping in the Methodist church, as their own building still lay in charred ruins after the July 3rd fire that destroyed downtown. Young and enthusiastic, Rev. Baird found a fitting home in the vital new town, a community that in those days seemed not only quick to recover from repeated disaster, but continually ready to face some fresh daring venture, town scandal, or need for "frontier justice"...

Rev. Baird was ordained and installed on Feb. 6, 1891, two days before the newly rebuilt church was dedicated. Handwritten church notes from that year record a membership of 48 adults, an average attendance of 87, and 11 Sunday School teachers for the 60 or so pupils of all ages. Baird found he'd inherited a vital and active group, reflecting the energy of the town as a whole.

That first summer Baird gave the 4th of July invocation at the town festivities, and along with Miss Baird (presumably his sister), "visited Almota with its magnificent orchards" and entertained his parents visiting from Chicago in August. To quote Otho West from his collection of essays "I Remember": "He called upon everybody, and chicken pie was his favorite dish. If the town ran short of activities, he helped create some. In the early days wine, women and song, such as it was, enlivened the old frontiers. The former, nothing could be done much about, for the first legislature had turned down prohibition. Song, as sung, while considerably off key, was not too bad. The other part of the trio had gotten considerable out of control, so Rev. Baird decided to do something about it. There was a raid, the judge got busy, the Minister et al won the case. He was the town's first one-man reformer."

Rev. Baird also played a role in Pullman's vigorous effort to convince the new state legislature to establish the "college devoted to agriculture and the mechanic arts" here. As Otho describes, "When it came time for the Olympia delegation to arrive in Pullman on an inspection tour for (the college) site, the Reverend was in the parade that met the train, to meet the delegation that marched up the hill to the Dr. Webb mansion. He was the Minister who intoned grace upon the assembled group (before the liquor got into circulation), trusting that the Creator would guide them in selecting Pullman as the chosen site. It became a race between the Almighty and "Old Crow". Anyhow, Pullman got the Agricultural College." Even with all the town happenings to keep an eye on, Baird certainly did not neglect his congregation. He led the usual morning and evening Sunday services, as well as a separate Sunday School in the morning prayer meeting in the evening, plus a Wednesday

evening Bible study. The whole town heard the bell "rung thirty minutes before each meeting and struck five minutes before beginning." There were also special events, such as the following listed in the Pullman Herald of Oct. 16, 1891: "Three evening discussions at the Congregational Church by the pastor Mr. Baird: 1st-Why I Believe in God, 2nd-Why I Believe in Worship, 3rd-Why Not be a Christian?Everyone will be welcome whether they are in the habit of church going or not. Those who firmly believe in God may

find their faith made more vital... Truth is sought for. Truth seekers of whatever name are cordially invited."

There were funerals aplenty too, of course, in pioneer days; one in particular held in our church stands out. Young Rev. Baird had just returned from a trip back east in late October of 1893, and enjoyed a Saturday evening reception "by the members of his congregation, who were glad to welcome the popular pastor back to his fold". But only a week later



The Rev. L. O. Baird

he assisted at the funeral of Amos B. Cooper—"the largest funeral that ever took place in our city was that of the murdered man". Cooper, new to town but already well-loved as a Masonic member and manager of Blackman Brothers Store, had awakened in his room at the Artesian Hotel at 3am to an intruder, who shot him point-blank in the heart before fleeing. Despite posses of citizens organized within ten minutes to search the town, the murderer could not be found—to the robber's good fortune, as the paper commented, "If the dastardly assassin could be caught the people of Pullman would make short work of him, and would hang him up to one of the numerous telegraph poles that adorn our city"! (One George F. Parker was later arrested for the crime and held for trial—presumably not strung up after all.)

Rev. Baird moved on in August of 1894 to attend Andover Seminary for advanced work—surely a more peaceful existence than his four years in Pullman. He served churches in the east and Midwest for many years, and held national Congregational positions, but eventually ended up back in Seattle to serve our regional Conference. He visited Pullman again at least twice in the 1930's, more than 40 years after first arriving here. Otho recorded Baird's response to a toast, "There is a place in my heart for my first four years of ministry which nothing else can supplant." So for young Rev. Lucius O. Baird, something good definitely did come out of Pullman.

Photo of Reverend Lucius O. Baird came from a 1933 Pullman Herald article.

525 NE Campus Ave. Pullman, WA 99163

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU ANNUAL BUFFET AND AUCTION

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Banyan's on the Ridge Banquet Facility

5:00 p.m. Social

6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner followed by Auction

Join us for a great evening of socializing, laughter, dinner, and a chance to contribute to the important ministry that happens at Interfaith House! In the time of transition as Gail Stearns moves to Southern California, know that our congregation's support is crucial to maintaining an inclusive, progressive ministry on the WSU campus.

You can purchase tickets from one of our CM Council representatives, Chip Laird or Nancy Nydegger.

Adult Tickets: \$35 Children Tickets: \$15

If it would be helpful, talk to Chip and we can arrange to have childcare here at the church during the auction time. (There is no onsite childcare this year.)

Still Seeking Auction Items--

If you have a vacation home, art piece, dinner to cater, or other creative item to donate, please call: 509-332-2611 or email: office@interfaith-house.com

Silent Auction will feature beautiful Holiday Baskets and Vintage K-House memorabilia. Your classy and classic silent auction donations are also welcome!

GOING AWAY PARTY FOR GAIL STEARNS - Tues, April 26 - 4-6 pm Lewis Alumni Centre, WSU

This celebration provides a chance to thank Gail for her twelve years as Director for the Common Ministry at WSU. This is also an opportunity to say goodbye and wish her well on her new position as Dean of the Interfaith Chapel at Chapman University in Orange, California starting the end of this academic semester. Contributions in honor of Gail can be made to the Common Ministry at WSU, 720 NE Thatuna, Pullman, WA 99163. If you want to share a memory with Gail, we are creating a memory book for her. You can bring your wishes on a 8 1/2 x 11 page to the party, or mail it to the Common Ministry.

ARE YOU A FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER?

Louise Barber is wanting to contact former Peace Corps volunteers to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps. If you are a former volunteer, or you know others who are, please write Louise at louised.barber@gmail.com

FIFTH ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS CAMPAIGN Saturday, April 30, 2011 9-11am, Pullman City Playfields

This community celebration is designed to give friends the opportunity to raise funds to support the Meals-on-Wheels and Senior Nutrition Program in Whitman County. Each \$5 raised provides a meal to a home-bound senior in a variety of ways: a hot mobile meal delivered 365 days a year in Colfax or Pullman, a box of frozen meals for a resident of our rural communities, or even be a box of liquid nutritional supplements for a senior that can't keep weight on any other way.

On April 30, 2011, participants will be encouraged to help put nutritious food on the table of senior citizens by participating in a pledge march in support of Council on Aging & Human Services' Meals on Wheels and senior nutrition program. All money raised remains in Whitman County.

The March for Meals will be held simultaneously from 9-11 am (check in at 8:30) at the Pullman City Playfields and the Colfax High School Track. Registration is \$10 and includes water, snacks and a souvenir towel. Marchers can register on-site or pre-register. Pledges and donations are welcomed for those unable to join in the march that day.

Businesses, organizations, or individuals can participate by forming a team of marchers or through sponsorships: Gold Plate Sponsor (\$500+), Silver Plate Sponsor (\$250+) and Bronze Plan Sponsor (\$100+).

For more info, call Scott Hallett or Suzy McNeilly at the Council on Aging in Colfax, 1-800-809-3351.

Volunteers from CCUCC make the meal deliveries through Mobile Meals in June each year! Thank you!!

BACKYARD HARVEST COMMUNITY FARM SHARE (CSA) PROGRAM Provides fresh produce for you AND for lower income families and seniors.

Like any CSA Program, Backyard Harvest's farm share ensures each participant a weekly box of fresh, delicious sustainably-grown veggies from May-October. It's a great deal with a twist! In addition to your own box of produce, your membership also enables BYH to provide very low cost weekly boxes to families and individuals in need.

Shares are selling now! There's a brochure about the program on the bulletin board by the restroom.

For more information, contact Carol Spurling, a board member for Backyard Harvest, by email at outreach@moscowfood.coop

Community Congregational
United Church of Christ
525 N.E. Campus Ave.
Pullman, WA 99163

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DATES TO REMEMBER (see inside for details)

- April 8 Community Coffee House - Fellowship Hall
- April 9 Finding the Center: Forging Alliances & Strategies...
- April 11 Memorial Service for Derek Wandschneider - 11 am
- April 17 Congregational Meeting - after worship
Common Ministry Annual Buffet/Auction
- April 18 Articles for May Communicator - due at the office
- April 20 All Board Meetings (gather first in Brewster Hall)
- April 21 Maundy Thursday - Taize Prayers
- April 22 Good Friday - Moments to Pause
- April 24 Easter
- April 26 Going Away Party for Gail Stearns
- April 29-30 PNC-UCC Annual Meeting - Seattle
- April 30 5th Annual March for Meals Campaign



**Remember to visit our Thrift Shop
for the best bargains in town . . .
and spread the word to others!**
Hours:
Tuesdays: 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Thursdays & Fridays: 12 noon - 4 pm

CHURCH STAFF

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