

WE DISCOVER, EXPLORE, EMBRACE, AND SHARE GOD'S BELOVEDNESS.



## A NIGHT OF MUSIC IN SAN FRANCISCO

### FUMC Youth Mission Dinner Auction

Saturday, May 19

6:00 - 9:00PM

Jason Lee Hall

**Silent and Live Auctions!**  
**Performances by Youth of Vancouver First!**  
**Childcare provided!**

**Tickets just \$15 per person!**

#### OUR MISSION

*We are companions on a spiritual journey, engaging minds, transforming hearts,  
and empowering hands to serve Jesus Christ in our local and global community.*

# FROM YOUR PASTOR

I am not one who looks forward to another meeting. I endure a lot of them and try to reduce the number of meetings rather than add to them. But every time our Church Health Team meets I have been blessed by their commitment, energy, and spirit.

For those who don't remember, the Church Health Team is a group of volunteers from the congregation who are guiding us through the Natural Church Development process. You might recall that in January, thirty members of the congregation took a survey to see which of the "eight characteristics of a healthy church" was the lowest. Our minimum factor was passionate spirituality.

The Church Health Team then held a series of Focus Groups to get a deeper understanding of what people desired in their spiritual journeys, what was missing, and what some of the obstacles to spiritual growth were. Sixty-one people attended and gave input.

For the last four weeks, the team has been "mulling" the results of those focus groups. We actually called our weekly meetings "mulling meetings" and I have a new appreciation for the word. We went over the input, spent a lot of time in prayer and discussion, and came up with a list of major issues. Then we went through the process again and again until we felt comfortable with where we felt the input, prayers, and group discussion were taking us.

We were reminded by our coaches midway through the process that our focus for improving our minimum factor was simply deepening our love for God. Now that seems like an obvious thing for churches to be doing but often it becomes forgotten in the process of doing.

This is especially true of mainline Protestant churches in the Pacific Northwest. In fact, of the seven churches in the Vancouver District that are going through the same NCD process together, SIX of us shared passionate spirituality as our minimum factor. It shows up in our reluctance to share our faith with others and our desire to be so politically or religiously correct.

This past week we settled on three key issues that we feel need to be addressed by our congregation so that we might be able to improve our minimum factor. I am not going to share them with you today but I would like to invite you to the next step in the process. On Saturday, May 5, we are going to have an Action Planning Workshop where we will wrestle with the three key issues and come up with an action plan that will guide us through the months ahead.

If you want more information on this process, please talk with any of the members of the Church Health Team or with me. They are Ed Durgin, Jean Roberts, Kay Richardson, Ginger Gardner, Lisa Budnik, and Denise McGuiness. When you talk with them you will hear their commitment to this process and understand their passion to deepen us spiritually. They have been a blessing to me and to our church.

Grace happens,  
Pastor David

# BE A PART OF THE POSSIBILITIES

## **PINOCHLE**

Pinochle will be hosted this month at the home of Bill & Marcia Hidden on Saturday, May 5. The potluck dinner starts at 6:30PM, with cards to follow. All are welcome. If you don't know how to play but would like to learn, come join us. We're very informal and always share great fellowship. To make a reservation, to decide what dish to bring and to get directions, call Bill or Marcia at 314-6878.

## **SERVICE FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS**

Our next Healing and Wholeness Service, provided by Care Ministry program, will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 6, at 6:30PM. You may come for prayers and anointing with oil for your own concerns or for concerns of a loved one or friend. This service is open to the entire community.

## **SENIOR LUNCHEON**

Have you planted your garden yet? What, no room to plant? Learn when and how at our next Senior Luncheon in Jason Lee Hall on Friday, May 11, at 12:30PM. After a lunch of Tater-tot casserole, fruit salad and hot biscuits, learn from an expert on how to grow plants in limited spaces. Make your reservation for the lunch by calling the church office, 693-5881, by Wednesday, May 9. Come share the fellowship, hear some great jokes and learn a little along the way.

## **SCRIP FOR OUTREACH**

Do you have graduation presents to buy? A Memorial Day BBQ coming up? And there is always the car to fill with gas? Scrip purchase cards can help you do all of these things while giving back to the outreach programs. The May scrip order forms are out. The deadline for ordering is May 13 (with cards being delivered May 20). Questions? The information booth or the church office can give you more details.

## **WOMAN OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION**

On Saturday, May 12, the UMW will host the Women of The Year tea. Join us in Jason Lee Hall from 1:00-3:00PM for good food, fellowship and entertainment. This is a great way to spend the afternoon with your mother, daughter, or good friend.

## **NEED HELP WITH ESTATE PLANNING?**

Are you like so many people who need to create an estate plan or update an older one? We will be host-

ing a workshop on May 19, at 4:00PM, to help you get started with this often complicated and confusing area of life. Call the church office for the free Estate Planning Toolkit or if you would like to visit with a professional about your particular estate planning needs. There is no cost to do so, and no insurance or investment products are promoted in the process. This truly is a service for those associated with the church!

## **YOUTH MISSION AUCTION**

This year you have an opportunity to help change youths' lives by supporting our Youth Auction and ultimately our Youth Mission Trip to San Francisco! This trip will cost approximately \$8400. Our youth have already shown their commitment to this mission trip by donating almost \$1,000 of their own money! Now, they are asking for your help. There are several ways to participate and they are fun and easy. One way is to buy tickets to the auction on Saturday, May 19, for dinner, music and auction - it's a bargain at \$15 a ticket! Another way is to donate items for the Youth Auction. And lastly, buy things at the auction itself. We hope to raise enough money this year so that we can go to San Francisco and let our youth effect change in the world around them!

## **THANK YOU, TEACHERS!**

Teacher Appreciation Sunday is May 20. This is the perfect chance to thank your church school teacher (or your children's teachers). Write a note to let them know how much you appreciate their hard work and what a difference they made in your life! A basket will be in the back of the narthex on that Sunday to drop in any notes for your teachers here at Vancouver First.

## **VBS: SKY - EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD**

At Sky VBS (July 30-August 3), kids imagine what it would be like to bounce among the clouds, soar with eagles, and reach for the stars. The Bible will come to life as kids explore why nothing is impossible with God. Do you want to be a part of this experience? We are looking for youth and adults who are willing to help make VBS come alive for the kids. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth in the church office (693-5881 or [program@vanfumc.org](mailto:program@vanfumc.org)). We have volunteer positions for every interest and time availability (both before and during the VBS week).

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### WITH SYMPATHY

Our prayers are with Grace O'Malley and her family; Grace's brother, Lester Dunn, died on April 8. A private service will be held at a later date.

### THANK YOU - YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

The children of Vancouver First raised \$150 during Lent. This money will be sent to Kenya to purchase shoes for approximately 30 children so that they may attend school. Way to make a difference in the lives of others!

The congregation of Vancouver First raised about \$300 dollars through the Lily Alternative this Easter. These donations will be sent to Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, our 2012 community partner. Way to make a difference in our community!

Several women from our congregation spent one Saturday in April completing hard physical labor on the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build. Thank you for volunteering your time to hammer hundreds of nails and carry hundreds of pounds of wood. Way to make a difference in one family's life!

## FINANCE CORNER



Through March, 2012, the church has received \$110,623.29 or 20% of the required income for the year. Our budget included giving of \$137,642.50 through March. This leaves us \$27,019.21 short of the required funds as of March 31, 2012.

In order to fulfill the church's commitment to the community and outreach, it is important that we continue to achieve our pledged commitment. Thank you for your continued support in these tough times.

Thank you,  
Your Finance Team



## Little Acorn Preschool & Kindergarten

Wow, it is hard to believe that May has arrived. We have only 6 weeks of school left. After almost 2 years of fundraising, we accomplished one goal - the beginning of playground renovations! Last month we implemented the first phase of our playground renovation project. The old play structure was removed and the new play structure was erected. This month we start phase two: planting of self-sustaining green areas. The final phase is still a year or so away. We continue to raise the funds to install a safety surface under the new play structure. We still have a way to go toward our goal of \$20,000 for purchase of the new surface. We are hoping by the end of next school year to realize this goal.

~Maria Williams, Director

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## CHURCH HEALTH UPDATE

There's big news with the Natural Church Development program. Your Church Health Team has thoroughly reviewed all the results from the focus groups held in February and March and met with our coaches extensively. We're ready to have the Action Planning Workshop. This lively affair will be held in our church home on Saturday, May 5, from 9:00AM - 1:00PM. Childcare and snacks will be provided for those who attend.

This event will move us from diagnosing our weakest point and rooting out the causes to finding solutions and creating an action plan. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Those who participated in the survey or attended a focus group may find the workshop especially interesting. Please continue on this journey with your congregation toward a more passionate relationship with God. Questions or comments may be directed to any Church Health Team Member or contact Ginger at [Churchhealthlady@hotmail.com](mailto:Churchhealthlady@hotmail.com). Please be sure to RSVP (especially for childcare) to the church office, 360-693-5881 or [fumc@vanfumc.org](mailto:fumc@vanfumc.org).

# MAY

<i><b>S</b></i>	<i><b>M</b></i>	<i><b>T</b></i>	<i><b>W</b></i>	<i><b>T</b></i>	<i><b>F</b></i>	<i><b>S</b></i>
		1 9:30 MOMS Club	2 5:30 Hand Drumming 6:30 Grief Group 7:00 Praise Team	3 <i><b>National Day of Prayer</b></i> 10:00 Naomi Circle 10:00 Grief Group	4	5 9:00 NCD Action Planning Workshop 6:30 Pinochle Potluck
6 8:30 Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 New Member Class 10:00 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Jr. High Youth 5:30 Sr. High Youth 6:30 Healing Service	7 8:00 Needleworker's Guild 10:00 Knitting 11:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 LAPS Staff Meeting 6:15 Healing Walk 6:30 NA Group 7:00 Troop 525	8 9:30 MOMS Club 12:30 Care Calling 6:00 SPR 6:30 Finance 7:30 Leadership Team	9 10:00 UMW Board 5:30 Hand Drumming 6:30 Grief Group 7:00 Praise Team	10 10:00 Grief Group	11 12:30 Senior Luncheon	12 1:00 UMW Woman of the Year Tea
13 <i><b>Scrip Order Deadline</b></i> 8:30 Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 Sacred Chaos Class 10:00 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Jr. High Youth 5:30 Sr. High Youth	14 8:00 Needleworker's Guild 10:00 Knitting 11:30 Staff Meeting 6:15 Healing Walk 6:30 NA Group 7:00 Troop 525	15 8:00 Needleworker's Guild 9:30 MOMS Club 9:30 LAPS Board Meeting	16 10:00 Rachel Circle 5:30 Hand Drumming 6:30 Grief Group 7:00 Praise Team	17 10:00 Grief Group 12:00 Methodist Foundation	18	19 4:00 Estate Planning Workshop 6:00 Youth Mission Dinner Auction
20 8:30 Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 9:45 Sacred Chaos Class 9:45 New Membr Class 10:00 Church School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Mickey's 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 4:00 Jr. High Youth 5:30 Sr. High Youth	21 10:00 Knitting 11:30 Staff Meeting 6:15 Healing Walk 6:30 NA Group 7:00 Troop 525	22 9:30 MOMS Club 12:30 Care Calling 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Leadership Table 6:30 Stitch Sisters	23 9:30 UMW Quilting 5:30 Hand Drumming 6:30 Grief Group 7:00 Praise Team	24 10:00 Grief Group	25	26
27 8:30 Worship 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Church School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Jr. High Youth 5:30 Sr. High Youth	28 <i><b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b></i> 10:00 Knitting 6:30 NA Group	29 9:30 MOMS Club	30 5:30 Hand Drumming 6:30 Five Wishes Workshop 7:00 Praise Team	31		

# MAY

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



1	Willa Curtis	11	Judy Dresser	20	Dave Hansen
	Spencer Smith		Carlos Ortega	22	Mildred Benedict
2	Mike Mehl		Ron Rasmussen	23	Pratibha Sagar
	Bill Owen	13	Carol Eckert	24	Merril Firestone
	Charlie Roe		Ann Kaufman		Mark Newman
3	Marci Hope		Kathy Reigel	27	Chuck Mickey
4	Renee Lewis	15	Ike Ekeya		Allison Owen
5	Gary Cavett		Glenn LaFave		Ben Perry
	Ben Kraft		Betty Perry	28	Mike McCoy
7	Dolores Dearborn	16	Brenda Bomberry	29	Karen Dinan
	Jim Kern		Eleanor Green	30	Logan Femling
8	Fev Pratt		Len Satterfield		Sue Myers
9	Lucy Conway		Brooke Weeks		
	Sydney Potter	17	Donna Pennington		
	Anne Seelye	18	Jim Stewart		
	Madison Soumokil	19	Larry Patterson		

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1	Malcolm & Connie Storey	21	Ryan & Lauren Smith
4	Tim & Brenda Bomberry	23	Gerald & Judy Johnson
	Dale & Betty Perry		Anne Seelye & Melissa Arnold
6	Jim & Shirley Stewart	25	Matt & Stacy McCallum
11	Trey & Angie Friauf	26	Brian & Brooke Weeks
	Dave & Kristi Griffin	29	Mark & Devon Newman
17	Chuck & Marie Mickey	31	Dexter & Traci Mitchel
18	Larry & Sue Irish		
	Ed & Suzanne Waldrop		



May is always exciting in Youth Group! Youth groups across the states are getting ready for graduations. We are so close to summer we can feel its freedom at our finger tips, yet we still have a lot of things to accomplish! Here is the exciting schedule of things to come in May for our Youth Group:

5/6 - Food - Jr. High lunch after church (12:00PM) in Vancouver

- Sr. High (6:30PM) outing to Rimsky Korsakoff House in Portland

5/13 - Faith - discussing current events as they pertain to faith!

5/18 - Youth Auction Prep Day

5/19 - Youth Auction

5/20 - Fun - trivia night

5/26-5/28 - Sr. High Convo (No Youth Group)



## United Methodist Women

UMW has several active circles at Vancouver First:

Naomi Circle meets in the Conrad Room at the church the first Thursday of each month at 10:00AM For more info., call Sheila Leonhardt, 696-9558.

Rachel Circle meets at 10:00AM the third Wednesday of each month at member's homes. For more info., contact Marion Noe, 750-5952.

AWAKE Circle meets at 6:00PM the fourth Monday of each month at member's homes. For more info., contact Bev Thomas, 573-0399.

The UMW Executive Board will meet in Hesseltine Hall on Wednesday, May 9, at 10:00AM.

UMW Quilters will meet in Room 8/9 on Wednesday, May 23, at 9:30AM.

## FOCUS ON...

### *Caring Ministry*

Every day of May is a celebration ...

May 1 ~ Mother Goose Day ~ a day of remembering our childhood and celebrating the moments that have made us who we are today!

May 2 ~ Brothers and Sisters Day ~ a day of remembering our siblings and how invaluable they are in our lives. Today is a good day to drop a note or make a call to a sibling!

May 3 ~ National Day of Prayer ~ a day to lift your world in prayer. Our sanctuary will be open from 10:00AM-2:00PM for a time of quiet prayer and meditation.

May 6 ~ National Teachers Day ~ a day to say "thank you" to a teacher!

May 8 ~ National Nurses Day ~ a day to say "thank you" to those in the nursing profession.

May 18 ~ Bike to Work Day ~ a day to get your bike out of the garage and take a spin. Can't bike to work? Take a walk during your lunch hour.

May 30 ~ Hole in Your Bucket Day ~ a day to revamp your bucket list. Does your bucket list have your "Five Wishes" in place? *Five Wishes* provides guidelines for starting conversations with our loved ones about the uncomfortable topic of the end of our life. *Five Wishes* will help families express how they want to be cared for in a comfortable manner. This workshop will address personal, spiritual and medical concerns and how to share those with family members. *Five Wishes* workshop will be offered on Wednesday, May 30, from 6:30-8:30PM.

Looking for more days to celebrate? Check out all the special days in May at: <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/may.htm>

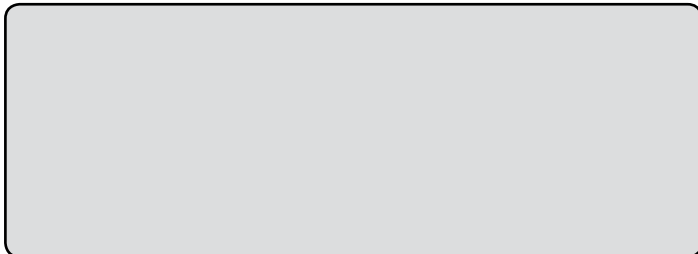
# THE MESSENGER

## YOUR STAFF

Pastor.....David Tinney  
 Deacon.....Denise McGuiness  
 Minister of Congregational Care.....Becki Eichner  
 Program Director.....Elizabeth Owen  
 Youth Director.....Bruce Wilson, Jr.  
 Facilities Manager..... Steve Noll  
 Treasurer.....Michelle Mehl  
 Secretary ..... Terry Hurley  
 Custodian.....Debbie Barnes  
 8:30/Engage Worship Leader.....Steven Schob  
 Sanctuary Choir Director.....Don Appert  
 Organist.....Crystal Richter  
 Nursery Coordinator ..... Sue Bottemiller  
 Lay Leaders .....Dale Perry, Glenn Kuhn, Valerie Estep

## LET'S PLAY BALL!

Would you like to play softball on a fun, co-ed league this summer, playing against other churches? The games are played on Sunday afternoons/early evenings, beginning in July. All games will be played at Mill Plain UMC. Please contact the church office, [fumc@vanfumc.org](mailto:fumc@vanfumc.org) or 360-693-5881, if interested.



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First Church extends prayers for all who are representing our country in the armed forces. Please keep the following servicemen and women in your prayers:

- |                   |                                |                       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Military Service  | <b>U.S. Army</b>               | <b>U.S. Air Force</b> |
|                   | Troy Hein                      | Jake LaFine           |
|                   | Scott Hedges                   | Jason Daly            |
|                   | Ian Fouts                      | Terry Bushnell        |
|                   | Bobby, Terry & Chris Dickinson | Thomas Snell          |
|                   | Corey & Kelly McCoy            | Chase Canizal         |
|                   | Josh Wells                     | Cody Pennington       |
|                   | David White                    | <b>U.S. Navy</b>      |
|                   | Warren Schultz                 | Stephanie Chelone     |
|                   | Randy Schultz                  | Bob Nash              |
| Kurt Christian    | Shannon Johnson                |                       |
| Alex Wellman      | David Dearborn                 |                       |
| Dustin Wannamaker | Miles Wesley Giger             |                       |
| Jacob Reiter      | <b>Marine Corps</b>            |                       |
| Keaton McCluskey  | Cade Latter                    |                       |

### WITH A SERVANT'S HEART



Thank you for having the **Heart** of a Servant

Vancouver First UMC would like to thank all the volunteers who helped clean, freshen and prepare our church for Easter.