

ted amberg was confirmed at garden grove on january 8 by dale vaughn and chris lasley



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news from the greater
pacific northwest mission center

THE chinook GPNW

Community of Christ

summer reunions sustain, ordain and honor priesthood

by Kathy Sharp, Mission Center President

GPNW members have several opportunities to express support for ministers in new priesthood offices, as well as honoring long-time servant leaders at summer reunion settings. Three events include Special Mission Center Conferences, when priesthood calls will be formally presented and sustained by vote of the membership present, prior to ordination.

All friends, family and members are invited to attend these special events—whether or not you are staying for the full week of reunion. Add your presence to affirm new and lifelong commitments to servant ministry.

- **memorial service for jack hedal**
Sunday, June 10, 3:30 pm, Samish Island Campground (during Samish Adult Reunion): Jack was a former Community of Christ bishop for the Pacific Northwest Region and Seattle Stake. Coordinator for memorial service: Clo Baggerly, clobaggerly@me.com. If you are not registered for Samish Adult Reunion and would like to stay for an evening meal after the memorial service, contact Glen Fishel one week prior at adultreunion@cofchrist-gpnw.org or 360-757-4559.



- **special mission center conference and ordination service**
Thursday, June 14, 7:15 pm, Samish Island Campground (during Samish Adult Reunion): To present the call of **Sylvia Hancock**, Sequim, to Elder, followed by her ordination.

continued on page 2

PLAN ON IT! upcoming mission center events

(see page 2 for a listing of youth camps)

JUNE 2012

- 9-15 — Samish Adult Reunion
- 10 — Webb of Life at Selah, 11 am
- 10 — Legacy Celebration, Lacamas Heights, 3 pm
- 10 — Jack Heddal Memorial Service at Samish Island Campground, 3:30 pm
- 14 — Special Mission Center Conference at Samish Island Campground, 7:15 pm
- 16-24 — Caravan Trip, E WA/N ID
- 23-29 — Remote Reunion
- 24 — Special Mission Center Conference at Lewis River Campground, 7 pm
- 24-29 — Lewis River Reunion

JULY 2012

- 8-14 — Samish Family Reunion
- 9 — Vern Webb Superannuation Celebration at Samish Congregation, 1:30 pm
- 10 — Special Mission Center Conference at Samish Island Campground, 7:15 pm
- 18-28 — Spectacular

AUGUST 2012

- 12-18 — NW Support Group Singles Reunion
- 31-Sept. 2 — Bend Institute

camping 2012

youth camping

Register now for 2012 youth camps. Check out all the details and register online at www.cofchrist-gpnw.org/camp.

lewis river campground

jr. high boys camp (hosmer lake):

(boys grades 7-9)

July 8, 10 am to July 13, 6 pm

camp israel: (grades 10-2012 grads)

July 8, 3 pm to July 14, noon

camp zarahemla: (grades 3-6)

July 15, 5 pm to July 19, 3 pm

jr. high girls camp: (girls grades 7-9)

July 15, 3 pm to July 20, noon

samish island campground

camp genesis: (grades 3-4)

June 1, 7:15 pm to June 3, noon

camp mungai: (grades 5-6)

July 1, 4 pm to July 7, noon

camp kluane: (girls grades 7-9)

July 22, 4 pm to July 28, noon

camp chimacum: (boys grades 7-9)

July 29, 4 pm to August 4, noon

camp kimtah: (grades 10-2012 grads)

August 5, 4 pm to August 11, noon

camp remote

sr. high camp: (grades 9-2012 grads)

July 7, 3 pm to July 14, noon

jr. high camp: (grades 6-8)

July 15, 3 pm to July 21, noon

kids camp: (grades 3-5)

July 29, 3 pm to August 1, noon

reunions

samish adult reunion:

June 9, 3 pm to June 15, noon

remote family reunion:

June 23, 2 pm to June 29, 11:30 am

lewis river reunion:

June 24, 3 pm to June 29, noon

samish family reunion:

July 8, 2 pm to July 14, noon

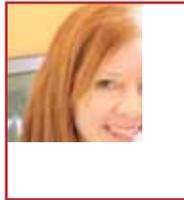
northwest support group singles:

August 12, 3 pm to August 18, 12:01 pm

- **special mission center conference and ordination service**



Sunday, June 24, 7 pm, Lewis River Campground (during Lewis River Reunion): For **Lowell Groat**, Southridge, to High Priest; **Dan Murphy**, Salem, to Seventy; and **Brenda Sargent**, Cowlitz Valley, to High Priest.



from top: lowell groat, dan murphy, brenda sargent

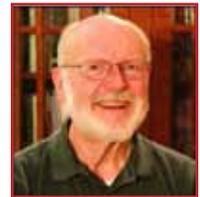
- **superannuation celebration for vern webb**

Monday, July 9, 1:30-2:30 pm, Samish Congregation (during Samish Family Reunion): Light refreshments will be served at an informal reception for Evangelist **Vern Webb**.

- **special mission center conference and ordination service**

Tuesday, July 10, 7:15 pm, Samish Island Campground (during Samish

Family Reunion): For **Mark Murphy**, Crystal Springs; **Steve Pomeroy**, Renton (yet to be sustained); **Lynn Roberts**, Auburn; and **Rich Sowers**, University Place, all to Evangelist.



from top: mark murphy, steve pomeroy, lynn roberts, rich sowers

Evangelist candidates **Susan Gregory**, Bend Congregation, and **Blake Puckett**, Crystal Springs Congregation, will be ordained on **Sunday, November 4**, at our fall Mission Center Conference in Portland.

As we look forward to these humbling and inspiring community events, please uphold each person and their families in prayer. May they, and we, experience the warmth, empowerment and encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

FOCCUS MARRIAGE PREPARATION ADDS NEW MINISTRY CAPACITY

by Kathy Sharp, Mission Center President

Taught by Children and Family Ministries Specialist **Jeri Lauren Lambert**, 44 GPNW members earned their FOCCUS marriage preparation certificates in April. FOCCUS stands for "Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study." Auburn and Portland Congregations hosted the workshop, coordinated by GPNW Learning Officer **Christian Skoorsmith**.

The FOCCUS marriage preparation tool includes a faith-based online or paper-and-pencil inventory of more than 150 questions. Couples take the inventory separately. A certified FOCCUS facilitator receives the inventory results of the couple's answers. Inventory results point out areas of agreement, disagreement, strengths and areas for growth.

A facilitator confidentially shares these results with the couple in five to six marriage preparation sessions to facilitate deeper conversations between the couple. Pre-marital topics include:

- Lifestyle expectations
- Friends and interests
- Personality match

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Religion, spirituality and values
- Financial issues
- Parenting
- ...and more

Marriage is a sacrament within Community of Christ. We invite God's presence into

the exchange of vows and the marriage. As we "generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments" (Doctrine and Covenants

163: 2b) and pursue peace, this new capacity to strengthen and support families offers a profound missional opportunity.

Priesthood members performing a marriage can seek help with pre-marital preparation through our certified facilitators. To request a FOCCUS facilitator in our mission center, contact **Christian Skoorsmith** at cskoorsmith@cofchrist-gpnw.org or 206-457-9275. To learn more about the FOCCUS inventory for marriage preparation, go to www.foccusinc.com.



communicating stewardship ideas

by Bishop Bill McFarlin, Mission Center Financial Officer

Camping season is upon us! The stewardship of our camping ministry is an important way you can help the Mission of Jesus Christ be lived out. Here are some practical ways in which you can help the camping program and campgrounds of the mission center.

- 1. Become a registered youth worker.** If you are interested in the future and present church, see your pastor about starting the process of becoming a registered youth worker. The 17 reunions (church family camps) and youth camps scheduled for this summer are always in need of volunteer help. By being a registered youth worker, you will be able to help in a broader range of ways.
- 2. Volunteer to work at your congregation's campground.** There is a great deal of work that must be accomplished each year simply to keep the campground running—mowing grass, painting, cleaning, minor and major repairs, just to name a few. Check with your campground's board and caretaker to find out how you can help.
- 3. Adults—attend reunion. Kids—attend reunion and youth camp** (and Spec, and Caravan). Each year dedicated volunteers and mission center staff members work diligently to create excellent camping experiences. We also have wonderful campground facilities at which these camps are held. Your attendance will enhance the camping experience for all and just might change your life.
- 4. Give your money to the camping program** (mission center) **and to the camping facilities**



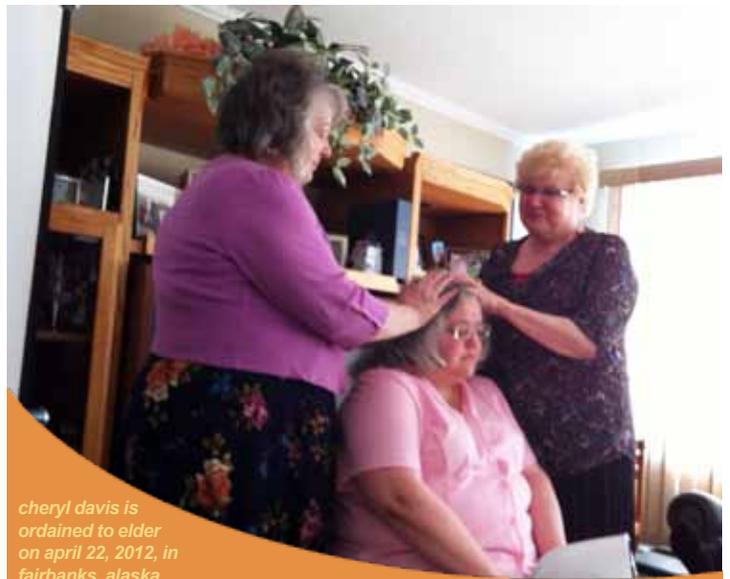
(campgrounds). Contributions to the mission center operating fund help provide the resources necessary to support the camping program. Contributions to the campgrounds help provide the facilities at which the camping program is lived out. Your help in these ways is greatly appreciated. These contributions can be made directly through your congregation and during reunion.

- 5. Last, but certainly not least, are pray and give thanks.** Please keep the ministry of the camping program in your thoughts and prayers throughout the year, but especially now through August. There is a lot going on, and your prayers for a successful and meaningful camping experience for all is extremely important. Also, be sure to thank those who are working so hard to ensure a successful and meaningful camping experience—directors, staff, cooks, nurses, teachers, lifeguards, guest ministers, caretakers, boards, camping team, and all of the others that make this happen.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of those who work so hard in preparation for our busy camping season. I know many of the sacrifices you have made and continue to make, and for that I am grateful. Thanks for your willingness to serve the Body of Christ in this way. Your support of Christ's mission is truly a blessing for all. Thank you for your generosity!



jane worlund is ordained to elder on april 29, 2012, at samish congregation



cheryl davis is ordained to elder on april 22, 2012, in fairbanks, alaska

10 mission center ordinations

january-april 2012 gpnw ordinations

- Scott Amos, Portland – Elder**
- Douglas Brown, Tuality – Elder**
- Cheryl Davis, Fairbanks – Elder**
- Elva Eliason, Southridge – Elder**
- Janette Freel, East Wenatchee – Priest**
- Roberta LaHue Brown, Tuality – Elder**
- Andrew Nilsen, Tuality – Teacher**
- Carla Nilsen, Tuality – Teacher**
- Teresa Taylor, Southridge – Teacher**
- Paige Webberley, Lacamas Heights – Priest**
- Jane Worlund, Samish – Elder**

upcoming ordinations

- **A special Mission Center Conference and ordination service** will be held on **Thursday, June 14, at 7:15 pm**, at Samish Island Campground (during Samish Adult Reunion) to present the call of **Sylvia Hancock**, Sequim, to Elder, followed by her ordination.
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- **A special Mission Center Conference and ordination service** will be held on **Tuesday, July 10, at 7:15 pm**, at Samish Island Campground (during Samish Family Reunion) for **Mark Murphy**, Crystal Springs; **Steve Pomeroy**, Renton; **Lynn Roberts**, Auburn; and **Rich Sowers**, University Place, all to Evangelist.



service at bend congregation with iglesia apostolica

building community

by Susan Gregory

Bend Congregation began renting their church building to Iglesia Apostolica in July 2011, with the goal of gaining additional income, as well as being good stewards over the building. However, as pastor **Shawn Sahlberg** shared at a combined worship service (both congregations attending), God had other plans for the congregation, and they are now building relationships and community.

In August, Bend Congregation invited Iglesia Apostolica to join them for traditional grilled hamburgers following the worship service as a way to get to know each other. In November, Iglesia Apostolica joined in the 11 am worship service. A translator ensured all could understand, since both pastors shared in their native languages. Iglesia Apostolica then spread a feast of homemade tamales and other tasty dishes. The churches also collaboratively planned to share New Year's Eve together—roasting a full pig in the ground, enjoying games and activities, and then worshipping together as all celebrated the arrival of a new year.

One can only anticipate how the relationship and fellowship will expand and blossom as the churches continue embracing and sharing their mutual love and commitment to God.

CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS BODE WELL FOR CAMPING SEASON

All three of our mission center's campgrounds have undergone significant improvements during the off season. Special thanks to the campground boards, caretakers and volunteers who put in countless hours and a lot of hard work!

samish island campground

Early in 2011, the Vancouver, BC Congregation shared \$100,000 of the late Einar Hopen Estate with Samish Island Campground, with stipulation that it be used to complete a major kitchen refurbishment initiated in 2007.

Over the course of this past winter, bids were obtained and selected from several contractors for each major portion of the work. After a work party to completely demolish the bulk of the kitchen, contractors moved in for the stainless steel work, plumbing work, and installation of FRP on all the walls in the kitchen and west pantry.

Hardibacker board, plywood and carpet-to-Epoxy floor transition components were purchased and installed by volunteers to prepare for contractor installation of Everlast Epoxy Flooring on the dining hall upper floors in the kitchen, hallways, restrooms, laundry room, pantry, walk-in cooler, bell room, and vinyl-covered area in the dining room.

The remaining balance of the grant is being used to procure and install added equipment and services for the kitchen and dining room, including Epoxy floor in the coffee-making area of the dining hall, shelving and racks in the kitchen, a new convection oven, and carpet for the dining area. Caretaker **Ian Watson** also installed a new slate hearth for the fireplace.



lewis river campground

The big project this fall and winter has been the harvesting of dangerous Douglas Fir trees around the current structures to minimize storm damage from them. Many new trees have now been planted to replace them. These trees will provide the desired shade, with a lowered canopy that will reduce maintenance repairs. In working with professionals, the camp will have a beautiful fall



scene looking toward the lodge on both the main level and along the road on the bottom. The main level has red Autumn Blaze Maple, and the lower road has yellow Emerald Queen Maple. These trees being planted are larger trees, 15 to 20 feet in height, with four to five years of growth already.

Douglas Fir seedlings were planted on the hill and lower section. In all, more than 80 trees have been planted, and 75 Arbor Vitae have been planted along the road.

A 2008 4wd L3400 Kubota Tractor was recently purchased, thanks to your generosity. Three power poles have been erected, the RV park has been graded and sloped, WIFI installed, new kitchen sink installed, hydro-seeding, a reader board added to the camp sign, and so much more.

camp remote

One special project this year involved redoing the electrical to the small cabins. **Mike King, Eric King and Curtis Grohs** dug a trench and ran PVC conduit to the cabins, and then resupplied each cabin, adding new outdoor lighting and heaters for cool evenings. All of our outdoor RV electrical outlets were upgraded. Everything is now GFCI protected and code approved.

A new meeting tent was recently purchased, and many projects planned, including putting down new flooring and installing new permanent built-in bunk beds in the small cabins.

leading congregations in mission

by Mike Bessonette, Mission Center Mission Coordinator

The Leading Congregations in Mission program (LCM) was first presented to the mission center at the Pastor's Breakfast at Mission Center Conference last November. LCM is a World Church program that is funded by a generous grant from a Community of Christ family for the purpose of providing a set of formational experiences for pastors' leadership teams that will equip them to cultivate environments of discernment, discovery, and missional innovation in their congregation.

These experiences will include: Journeying Together in Mission; Forming Sacred Community; Our Changing Context for Mission; Leading the Missional Journey; Discerning, Cultivating, and Utilizing the Gifts of all Ages; Expanding Participation and Sustaining Mission; Moving from Experiments to New Forms of Missional Life; and Spiritual Formation Retreats.

The participating congregations from our mission center are **Auburn**, **Crystal Springs**, **Tuality** and **Woodburn**. The congregation leadership teams will make a three- to five-year commitment to implement the program.



MISSION MINDED

Each congregation will be supported by a team of congregational support ministers who will receive training from World Church for this task. The support ministers from our mission center are: **Tim Polly** and **John Mills** (Woodburn); **Marsha Short-Webb** and **Mike Bessonette** (Tuality); **Steve Pomeroy**, **Stan Corrington** and **Bev Corrington** (Crystal Springs); and **Mark Murphy**, **Tom Webber** and **Susan Webber** (Auburn).

The program began this spring, with the training of the support ministers at workshops in Independence, MO. It will continue in late fall with the first of a series of nine training workshops over the next three years for the leadership teams at Samish Island Campground.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the Leading Congregations in Mission program, please contact **Mike Bessonette**, Mission Center Mission Coordinator, at mbessonette@cofchrist-gpnw.org or 541-923-3660.



carron barnhart and john grubb marry at eugene congregation on march 17

3 very special marriages

1 carron barnhart and john grubb wed
Carron Barnhart, daughter of **Jody** and **Troy Barnhart**, married **John Grubb** at Eugene Congregation on March 17. It was a wonderful event, shared by many church families.

2 paul and bobbi crinzi celebrate 67 years of marriage
Paul and **Bobbi Crinzi**, Renton Congregation, celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on February 23. They met at Graceland College in 1941, during WW2. Congratulations!

3 harry and amy ruchaber celebrate 65th wedding anniversary
Harry and **Amy Ruchaber**, Roseburg Congregation, enjoyed their 65th anniversary on Christmas Day 2011, with a family dinner. They were married on December 25, 1946, in Rich Hill, Missouri, and settled in Roseburg, OR nearly 50 years ago.



Community of Christ



blankets created by fairbanks congregation members go to people in need

fairbanks blanket ministry continues

by Cheryl Davis

Fairbanks Outreach group continues in blanket ministry. Participating members from Fairbanks Congregation create blankets from flannel fleece, with fringes tied around the edges, as a community service project.

Started in 2008, we have, in past years, delivered blankets (over 500) to non-profits in the community, such as the Senior Center for use in vans while traveling to various places, Resource Center for Parents & Children, Rescue Mission, as well as to the villages of Kotzebue and Anchorage. In 2009, a Bold Moves grant was awarded to assist with acquiring materials for the blankets.

We are now preparing to deliver blankets to the Kidney Dialysis Center. Our new project will be to partner with one of the smaller, lesser-known agencies and supply, as needed, blankets for mothers and their children as the parent receives addiction rehabilitation.

orphans africa auction raises funds for better future

by Dave Skoor

Isaiah 1:17: Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

It's been a little over six months since my adventure to Tanzania with Orphans Africa (OA). I went as a means to push my comfort boundaries in supporting the cause of peace and justice through face-to-face and hands-on volunteering. I also went as a way to personally

see how the funds donated to OA were being used and to provide other donors an accounting of OA's efforts at the actual project sites. This experience made real both the needs and the efforts taking place, and provided me with a valuable testimony of how we are providing hope that overcomes the despair of what can be a bleak future for these orphans.

It is with this in mind that the OA Benefit Dinner and Auction is of such vital importance to OA's cause. This benefit raises 33 to 50 percent of the total annual funds and is a fun, exciting and, yes, tasty way to see and hear about the progress of OA projects. The tension is almost palatable as the clock runs down in succession on each of the silent auction bidding tables.

This year there was an added dimension to the bidding fun for donated desserts—the "Dessert Dash." Instead of a bid sheet for each dessert, attendees placed donations into their table's envelope, with a challenge that the table collecting the highest amount would get first choice from the tempting selections. To add to the excitement, the tables were announced every three to four seconds, prompting mad dashes to the dessert table, while shouts of selection choices boomed

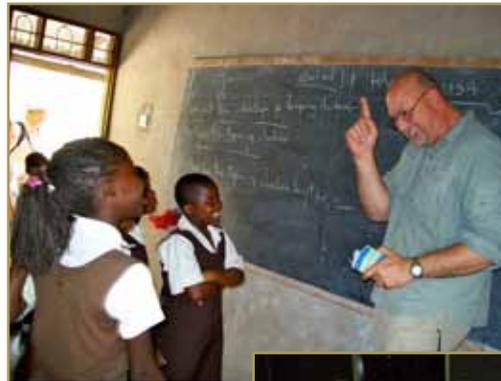
from the crowd. It reminded me of *The Price is Right* when everyone is yelling out "helpful" opinions, only in this case it was, "Get the tiramisu!" or "We want the Red Velvet cake!" Fortunately, there weren't any catastrophic dessert malfunctions, cross-body checks, head-on collisions or outright chocolate truffle tug-o-wars!

One of the highlights of the evening was the personal testimonies from the September 2011 Tanzania volunteers. **Leslie Ryan** and I were able to both share pictures and experiences from our adventure, while **Pablo Rodriguez** and **Monica Arruda** spoke to their impressions and passions regarding

their experiences and the OA cause via video. In addition, an awesome new OA video presentation, "Never Give Up," created by **Michele Torrey**, was shown. The evening activities came to a close with the attendees purchas-

ing almost \$10,000 dollars' worth of much needed school supplies and building materials. In all, the auction netted \$31,000—money which is already at work in Tanzania funding the building of dormitories, kitchens, dining halls, classrooms, all aiming toward helping hundreds of orphans to finally have a place to call home.

I was in awe of how generous people can be when they see a need and desire to be a part of this marvelous effort. A special "thank you" goes to our awesome supporters for your generous support. Thank you for being our partners, for trusting us, for enabling OA to provide the gift of hope and the promise of a better future to those in need.



top: dave skoor with orphans in tanzania
above: oa benefit dinner and auction

the gospel according to mark— reading deep and wide

by Christian Skoorsmith, GPNW Learning Officer

Despite being our earliest gospel, and the basis for two others, Mark often gets lost or forgotten. Luke and Matthew have more stories and parables; John is more mystical. Mark doesn't have any birth or childhood stories, so we don't start reading his gospel until well after Christmas. Mark doesn't have any resurrection stories, so we don't read him much at Easter. Mark isn't as easy or fun to read. Or so we think.

Mark is a masterful gospel, with structured story lines and layered symbolism that makes the shape of the story as instructive for faith as the content. It is a foundational document that shapes who we are, and more than any other gospel gives us a chance to encounter the Christ of faith without mediation. What we need is someone to walk with us through the story: the genre, the characters, the plot—and how they relate to each other. We need someone to make the complex social, political and poetic context simple and understandable. We need a chance to meet Mark on its own terms, as a whole story in itself.

David Rhoads, Joanna Dewey and Donald Michie are just such people, and their book *Mark As Story* (Fortress Press, 1999, second edition) is just such a chance. *Mark As Story* is praised by scholars for its accuracy, and by Bible study groups for its freshness and plainness. It walks through the historical context and character of the gospel, then offers a fresh translation that puts Mark's gospel in contemporary language that reflects the flavor and meaning of the original Greek. Then the book pores over finer points of

interest that arise when looking at the gospel as a story in itself: the “narrator” and what Mark wants to get across, the settings of the story, the plot as a whole, looking at Jesus as uniquely portrayed in Mark's gospel (instead of the Jesus we meet in all the gospels and letters of the New Testament as a whole), and looking at the other “characters” in the story: the authorities, the disciples, the people, and so on.

A particularly helpful feature for adult study groups is the abundant sub-headings that make most topics discussed in a page or less. It is also readily available for purchase at an affordable price, and small enough to be carried with your scriptures.

Each year we read primarily from one gospel in our assigned Sunday scriptures and themes. Last year we read Matthew. This year we are looking more closely at Mark. This gives us a chance to get to know the unique voice and perspective of each gospel writer. Focusing on Mark gives us the chance to hear his voice and learn from his special testimony of Christ—one of the earliest testimonies we have in our church, and one full of adventure, tension and mystery. Mark introduces us to a Christ that might make us uncomfortable, through a story that is at times uncomfortable. The shape of the story is as instructive as the content.

A masterful story told by a master storyteller, about the Master. *Mark As Story* is a valuable guide to Mark's Gospel.

The Chinook includes events, announcements and photos submitted. Be sure to get your news included in the next issue by sending to kshort@cofchrist-gpnw.org by August 1, 2012.



David and Jonathan Skoor were blessed at Crystal Springs on January 15

4 blessings and a birthday

special blessings:

- **Lucas Martin**, son of **Melissa Martin** of Ellensburg Congregation, was blessed on February 2.
- **Alyssa Reynolds**, daughter of **Ryan Reynolds** and **Chenkhoda Khem** of University Place Congregation, was blessed on January 29.
- Twins **David** and **Jonathan Skoor**, son of **Michael** and **Jessica Skoor** of Crystal Springs Congregation, were blessed on January 15.

special birthday

Anne Dobson, of Olympia Congregation, celebrated her 75th birthday on January 14 with a large gathering of family and friends.





one of the southridge congregation tables; (l-r) kristine baylous, becky swedblom, janice & dick dynes, sandy & eric glover and ken groat

the pies have it—positive votes again

by Elva Eliason and Fae Jackson

Southridge Outreach Coordinator **Lisa Haines Leonard** just keeps coming up with ways to use the Southridge pie bakers' expertise to assist good causes in the community, and the pie bakers and their helpers just keep showing up and baking those pies.

This time it was to benefit the local *Share* organization hunger initiatives. This April 22 event was the 11th annual "Share-a-Bowl" fundraising dinner featuring gourmet soups created by local chefs and served in keepsake bowls crafted by local pottery artists.

Information about the dinner noted that the menu was soup, salad, bread, beverages and "delicious pies—berry, strawberry rhubarb and apple—made by the Southridge Community of Christ Pie Ladies."

Sixteen representatives from Southridge attended, and the enthusiasm of the crowd for the pies was amazing! The bakers were asked to stand and received an overwhelming round of applause. And the pies were, as always, melt in your mouth delicious.

We are honored to be included in this effort to "serve" those in need and honored to have our congregation and church recognized at the event.

GOSPEL WAGON: SHARING THE WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

The Gospel Wagon is both real and symbolic, both historical and spiritual. The story begins as it always has—with Jesus.

Jesus's final words in the gospel of Matthew are, "Go into all the world." We've always thought of evangelism as "go somewhere and tell." However, evangelism begins in the world within. The first thing that occurs is a change of heart. Then evangelism is not just going, it's overflowing. The joy rolls out of us as we share our discoveries with others.

Children come by this overflowing joy naturally as a response to the grace of God. The Gospel Wagon provides tangible experiences for them to share with friends. Teenagers and adults who help children with these activities see Jesus anew through the eyes of a child, and experience their own affirming and empowering gifts from the Spirit.

The GPNW Mission Center has its very own Gospel Wagon, presently housed at Southridge Congregation, and available for use by all.

The wagon is actually a trailer, containing a mobile collection of exhibits about Jesus used to attract elementary-age children, with a focus on intergenerational and family activities. The materials can be used in a variety of settings, such as church school, camps, reunions, retreats, vacation church school, after-school activities, worship, and community fairs or festivals. There is also a Suitcase Version—a group of Gospel Wagon activities that fit in a traveling suitcase.

Specific Gospel Wagon exhibits include the following:

- **The "Be" Attitudes**—A scriptural board game similar to "Candyland" guides the children through a cooperative exercise where they learn about attitudes and actions that please Jesus.
- **Be My Echo**—A memory matching game of twenty picture cards asks children to hear the voice of God in a world of mixed messages and to repeat the message to others.

- **Gifts of the Spirit**—Arriving in a gift bag, seven stuffed gift figures of different colors and personalities teach children about the blessings of the Spirit.
- **Go Into All The World**—A wooden maze challenges the children to guide metal balls with magnetic wands, illustrating the dual need of disciples to come together and go out to share the Christ.
- **Jump for Jesus**—Through rhythm and rhyme, the children jump rope to reinforce forgiveness, love and Christ-like behavior.
- **Look Within**—Interactive kaleidoscopes form unique patterns illustrating the power, strength, and beauty which lies in the heart of each person and in the world around them. Smaller prism kaleidoscopes demonstrate the world view change that occurs after people have done the internal spiritual journeying.
- **Love Makes You Real**—Stuffed bunnies or puppets and "The Velveteen Rabbit" story combine to reveal the transforming power of love.
- **Make a Joyful Noise**—Colored bells are used in collaborative effort to create four songs which affirm the love of Christ and the giftedness of each individual.
- **No Hand Too Small**—A memory matching game of twenty picture cards displays different ways that children can be engaged in community and human service.



Where will the Gospel Wagon go next? Our vision is that there are no limits to what each "Wagoneer" can do. If you are interested in having the Gospel Wagon or the Suitcase Version come to your congregation or event, contact coordinator **Cathy Boyer** at 360-727-3174 or cathyrb3@gmail.com.

olympia pastor celebrates rich heritage of service

by Kim Naten

Olympia pastor **Minnie Ledington** celebrated her 80th birthday with some special guests recently. **Webb of Life**, the musical group based out of the Auburn and Renton congregations, brought their ministry to the congregation on March 25, and helped the congregation surprise Minnie with their special rendition of *Happy Birthday to You*.

The congregation presented Minnie with a **Webb of Life** CD and a gift card to a local nursery so that she can add to her beautiful garden.



minnie ledington celebrates her 80th birthday

An abundant potluck and birthday cake followed the service. For a small congregation like Olympia, the abundance of music, praise and fellowship, not to mention the food, was truly a blessing! However, one blessing we can always count is our pastor, Minnie.

Minnie began her “official” ministry in Olympia Congregation following her ordination to Priest in 2000. In 2002 she was elected pastor and has served in that role for 10 years. She was ordained to Elder in 2004. Additionally, she served as both Recorder and CFO from 1998 through 2011. Minnie’s faithful leadership over the past 10 years has kept this little neighborhood congregation alive, despite a decline in attendance over many of those years.

In addition to all her duties supporting Olympia Congregation, Minnie has worked for Catholic Community Services as an In-Home Aide since 1986. She has cared for the same client for the entire 26 years, and we know she has provided a great ministry to her. Minnie’s caregiving extends to all aspects of her life. She cared for both her disabled husband and mother-in-law, has helped raise

her grandchildren, and is even now caring for and helping raise her three great-grandsons. Her two daughters, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren have been blessed by Minnie’s dedication and devotion to them.

Even at 80 years old, Minnie shows no signs of slowing down. She still travels to Eastern Oregon and Idaho regularly to visit family. Her goals are to eventually retire, take a long vacation, and live to be 100! In Minnie’s words, “I have always enjoyed working and also doing God’s work that has been assigned to me. My family has always come first with me.” That dedication is clearly evident each week in Olympia Congregation, where her “other family” is truly blessed by her ministry and leadership.



sara mongrain, shown with the DAR chairwoman, receives prestigious award

1 gpnw youth’s special achievement

auburn:

Sara Mongrain, Auburn Congregation, was the winner in a regional DAR Good Citizen scholarship contest (amongst four school districts: Enumclaw, Auburn, Kent and Federal Way) on February 11, as announced by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Sara was selected by the Enumclaw High School staff as the school’s recipient of the DAR Good Citizen award. Only one student per year may be honored. The DAR Good Citizen program and scholarship contest is intended to reward the qualities of good citizenship. The student selected must have qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Each school’s DAR Good Citizen is then eligible to enter the scholarship contest by completing an essay administered under

the supervision of a faculty member at one sitting, within a two-hour time limit and without assistance or reference materials.

Sara’s qualifications and winning essay have now advanced to the State level of judging. Grade transcripts are also sent; Sara has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school.





quilts of love

by Susan Gregory

The Sew ‘n’ Sews have been faithfully meeting every Thursday for years to create beautiful quilts at Bend Congregation. Each gal (so far no guys) puts in hours and hours working on quilts—not to take home, but to donate. The camaraderie of the group is readily apparent as they cheerfully help each other and patiently teach the ‘newbies’ tricks they’ve learned over the years. In addition to the time they spend, members also contribute \$5 a month to pay for material and batting.

This last December, the Sew ‘n’ Sews delivered 14 beautiful hand-made quilts, including several with a matching crib-size quilt, to Grandma’s House, where they were received with joy and appreciation. Grandma’s House is “home” to young moms ages 12 to 19, who receive grandmotherly guidance, encouragement and parenting skills during their stay.

As with most worthwhile projects, it takes quite a crew to make it all happen. In addition to Sew ‘n’ Sews members—**Bettie Bessonette, Frances Brown, Laurie Burford, Dorothy Donnelly, Susan Kennedy, Debbie McLain, Donna McLain, Mary Ann Montoya, Mary Rasmussen** and **Kassydee Soto**—there are also the Friends of the Sew ‘n’ Sews, who provide help, support and materials—**Claire Farnsworth, Julie Glender, Athena Kennedy, Megan Martens, Mary Jo Montagner, Betty Rogers, Judy Sahlberg, Carrie Smith** and **Maggie Troyer**.

We are grateful for these dedicated women who are generously sharing of their time and talents to the benefit of those who are in need.

bold moves impact: serving hungry teens

by the Springfield Educational Foundation

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but for many Springfield High School (SHS) students, it is a meal that they don’t get to eat. Instead, they come to school hungry and unable to concentrate in class.

The reasons vary, but for the most at-risk students it is often due to lack of food at home or homelessness. These same students are often unable to participate in the breakfast program because they care for younger siblings in the morning or because they work at night and do not have a morning class.

The Student Snack Zone was created last year after school staff noticed an increase in students reporting hunger and an increase in behavioral referrals. Each day from 9:45 to 9:55, some of the school’s most at-risk students

stop by the Attendance Office to pick up a healthy snack of granola, oatmeal, yogurt or string cheese so that they are better able to pay attention in class. The participating students are served by staff and student volunteers. For most students, this is the first opportunity they have to eat each day. The Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center provides support for the program through a Bold Moves grant.

Since its inception, the Student Snack Zone has steadily increased the number of students it serves. In 2011, the school cafeteria began offering school breakfast twice during the day in order to serve the students unable to come before school. The program now serves more than 200 students at SHS. So far, the program has been shown to increase the attendance rate, increase the grades and academic achievement and decrease the behavioral disruptions among participating students. The key is simple: students who get

enough to eat are able to focus in class and are less likely to be disruptive, allowing them to get better grades.

Springfield, like many communities, has been hit hard by the economic decline and that is reflected in our student population. At SHS, more than 67 percent of students qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, which is often used as an indicator of low-income and at-risk households. This is a nearly 20 percent increase from 2007’s 49 percent. Furthermore, across the district nearly one in every five students comes from an impoverished home as defined by the U.S. government, and 81 SHS students are homeless.

As our students and families continue to struggle to meet basic needs, it is imperative that we provide students with the tools to be successful in school, whether those tools be up-to-date technology or string cheese to help get them through their day.



Jody Barnhart, Eugene Congregation (right), and co-worker Lisa proudly wear outreach t-shirts while handing out food



more bold moves

The Bold Moves Grants Committee is currently reviewing four grant applications for the first cycle of 2012. The applications focus on three new min-

istries and an expansion of a Bold Moves ministry already in place. An announcement of grant awards and details of the ministries being provided will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Plan now to submit an application; deadline for the next grant cycle is **October 15**.

special moments in congregational life

The Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center is brimming with life and vitality. Here are some examples shared with us:

fairbanks, ak:

Fairbanks Congregation enjoyed a wonderful visit from **Christie Ostendorp** April 20-23. During the weekend, we enjoyed visiting in homes on Thursday evening and Friday. Saturday was ushered in with a shortened version of the workshop, *Where Mission Begins: Discerning God's Will* at the home of **Allyn** and **Ruth Haynes**. A great day was had by all. The weekend culminated with the Sunday service *All are Called*. Christie presented the message, after which **Cheryl Davis** was ordained to the office of Elder by **Florence Pearson** of Anchorage and Christie Ostendorp. (See page 3.)



southridge, wa:

On April 22, the baptism of **Jordan Le'Roy Goodrich** represented a long line of family members baptized in Community of Christ. Although his grandfather, **Clifford Le Roy Goodrich** (whose mother was also a member), passed away in 2008, Jordan's father, **Matthew Le Roy Goodrich**, and grandmother, **Kay Pattra Goodrich**, are still members of Southridge Congregation.



eugene, or:

Members and friends of Eugene Congregation were greeted on Easter morning with this brilliantly decorated cross, thanks to **Sandy Warnberg**. For the past several years, Sandy has put not only time, effort and talent into the task, but great thought and prayer into the process. Each year, this center of worship reflects and makes visual the magnificent beauty inherent in the message of the cross itself.

neilton, wa:

A program of Christmas music was presented to an overflow crowd at Neilton Congregation during the holiday season. Afterwards, everyone was invited to stay for refreshments in our multipurpose room as part of our outreach program. The



choir also performed at a local nursing home in Aberdeen, WA, and was given rave reviews.

The Chinook includes events, announcements and photos submitted. Be sure to get your news included in the next issue by sending to kshort@cofchrist-gpnw.org by August 1, 2012.



olivia st. claire of crystal springs signs to graceland's 2012 women's soccer squad

2 gpnw women in graceland news

1 crystal springs:

Crystal Springs member **Olivia St. Claire** recently signed to Graceland University's 2012 women's soccer squad. "Olivia has a real zest for life, and she brings that enthusiasm onto the pitch," said head coach Fred Wagenaar. "Olivia wants the ball, and is willing to do the necessary hard work of making runs in order to get it. She has the essential speed of thought required to do well in the game, but also the physical fitness and quickness to get the job done. Olivia also brings that focus and intelligence to whatever she does off the field, and she will add a lot to the classroom and to campus life." Olivia is the daughter of **Roger** and **Chelsea St. Claire**.

lacamas heights:

Lacamas Heights member **Paige Webberley** was featured in a recent edition of *Graceland University Horizons*, the university's alumni magazine. Paige's classmates voted to award "Best Senior Honors Seminar Presentation" to Paige in December for her exploration of nonwestern medicine. Paige is a senior Biology and Chemistry double major with medical school ambitions. After her graduation, Paige hopes to study primary care, or work in underserved areas.



**We proclaim Jesus Christ
and promote communities
of joy, hope, love and peace.**

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we're growing: gpnw baptisms and confirmations

Below are new Community of Christ members in the GPNW Mission Center:

- Ted Arnberg, Garden Grove
- Antonio Ayala Jr., Ellensburg
- Noel Chavez, Ellensburg
- Thomas De Wolf Jr., Ellensburg
- Kandyse Deam, Bremerton
- Michelle Fullerton, Bend
- Jordan Le'Roy Goodrich, Southridge
- Sabrina Gozman, Ellensburg
- Tammy Klajch, Ellensburg
- Melissa Martin, Ellensburg
- Grace Owens, Ellensburg
- Alli Ramirez, Salem
- Anthony Ramirez, Salem
- Traci Sahlberg, Cowlitz Valley
- Dwight Schlage, Bremerton
- Mark Simonsen, Cottage Grove
- Suzanna Simonsen, Cottage Grove
- Anastasia St. Claire, Crystal Springs
- Olivia St. Claire, Crystal Springs
- Deprecia Ware, Ellensburg
- Adric Williams, Bend



*right:
michelle
fullerton was
baptized at
bend on
january 8*



*above: traci
sahlberg was con-
firmed on january 8
at garden grove*



*below: kandyse
deam was confirmed
at Bremerton on
january 29*



*above: dwight
schlage was con-
firmed on january 29
at Bremerton*



*above and left: ana
and olivia st. claire
are baptized at
crystal springs on
december 24*

