

new gpnw  
apostle scott  
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welcomed at  
mission  
center  
conference  
on nov.  
7, 2010



WHAT'S INSIDE:



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news from the greater pacific northwest mission center

# THE chinook GPNW

Community of Christ

WINTER 2011

## let them lead the way

by Sean Langdon, Volunteer Young Adult Ministries Specialist

On the weekend of November 19-21, about 55 young adults, children and staff gathered for the Vision Project Retreat at Tuality Congregation in Tigard, OR. Members of the First Presidency are traveling around the world to meet with young adults to listen to what their vision for the Community of Christ is.

**T**his is happening in response to President Stephen Veazey's April 5, 2009 address to the church in which he stated, "Young adults, the church needs you. We need you now. We need you to help us become who we are all yearning to become." **Dave Schaal**, Counselor to President Veazey, was our Guest Minister from the First Presidency.

We started the weekend in fun as we played mixer games to get to know each other. That was followed by an informal Q&A with President Schaal. On Saturday, we started the day in worship that included a powerful opportunity to be a blessing to each other and be blessed in return through the use of human touch and prayer. Mission Center staff and other key leaders facilitated small group discussions. We shared on topics relating to generosity, peace and justice, and our personal history with the church.

During the afternoon, we gathered together as a large group for further discussion on what our vision is, as well as what we will commit to doing to actively participate in the fruition of that vision. Likewise, Mission Center staff also shared their commitments with us. For our evening meal, we went out to different restaurants in the community to continue our sharing with one another. One of the highlights of our day was an evening campfire and impromptu Spirit-led communion and administration service.

continued on page 2

**GPNW Young Adult  
vision project  
Retreat**

## PLAN ON IT! upcoming mission center events

### JANUARY 2011

- 15 — End Hunger Event, Crystal Springs
- 22-23 — Caravan Huddle, Grants Pass
- 22-23 — Dynamic Worship Workshop, Bend
- 29-30 — Dynamic Worship Workshop, Southridge

### FEBRUARY 2011

- 6 — Legacy Seminar, Salem
- 12 — Orphans Africa Benefit, Auburn WA
- 19 — Caravan Huddle, Myrtle Point
- 19 — Seattle Area Elders Gathering, TBA

### MARCH 2011

- 5 — Youth Leadership Training
- 5-6 — Dynamic Worship Workshop, Rainier Valley
- 12 — Caravan Auction, Huddle, Eugene
- 12 — Congregation Leader Training, TBA
- 18-20 — Sr. High Spring Retreat, Samish Island
- 19 — Congregation Leader Training, TBA

### APRIL 2011

- 9 — Caravan Huddles, Redmond & Bend
- 16 — Congregation Leader Training, TBA
- 29-30 — Oregon Women's Retreat, Florence OR
- 29-30 — Fine Arts Retreat, Samish Island
- 30 — Congregation Leader Training, TBA

## spring workshops: leadership “nuts & bolts”

**W**ant to learn to be a pastor or a CFO in one easy lesson? Can't be done, you say? Well, you're certainly right there!

However, this spring the GPNW Mission Center will hold one-day regional workshops for pastors, pastorate teams, and congregational financial officers that will cover a wide range of issues that confront those serving in these positions. A “how-to” for those new in these roles and a helpful reminder for those who have had these responsibilities for years, the workshops will feature workshops, general presentation/discussion sessions, and break-out sessions for the specific groups to look at some of their unique responsibilities.

Scheduled for March and April (see below), circle the date of the location near you and watch for further information coming soon. If you're a pastor, member of a pastorate leadership team, or a congregational financial officer, plan now to attend this valuable training event.

## schedule

- **march 12:** Puget Sound area
- **march 19:** SW WA/N OR area
- **april 16:** Central/South OR area
- **april 30:** Central WA area
- **tba:** Alaska

Sunday morning we gathered for a second communion worship, with remarks provided by Bill McFarlin. We shared in a young adult-led worship with Tuality Congregation, where Dave Schaal preached. Our weekend came to a close with a bountiful harvest potluck provided by and shared with members of the congregation.

It was an amazing weekend that we shared together in community. Thanks to Tuality Pastor **Ann Short** and the congregation for hosting it. Special thanks to **Mary and Wes Schlenker** for the amazing food and early morning laughter.

Following the retreat, I asked some of the young adults and staff to briefly share their experiences:

*I was amazed to hear that so many young adults like myself want to be MORE involved in church.*

—**Erica Lasley**, Garden Grove Congregation

*I loved the Vision Retreat; it helped me get a sense of what everyone else my age wanted. Also I loved that I got to be with people that I don't get to see much.*

—**Heather Frazier**, Auburn Congregation

*The Vision Project Retreat was a wonderful and refreshing experience. Not only did I learn more about our faith community, but I also realized that many people wanted the same changes as I do, and that I am not alone in my opinions.*

—**Kala Clarence**, Eugene Congregation

*After attending the Vision Project, I know that the Lord's work has a wonderful future. I hope Community of Christ can adapt enough to embrace that future.*

—**Mike Bessonnette**, Mission Center Staff

*The retreat brought to me, once again, the understanding of how important our faith community is in our lives. The fellowship, ministry, sharing of vision, and the peaceful Spirit blessed us all as we shared from our hearts about the church and our future.*

—**Rachel Mills**, Portland Congregation

*It was encouraging to see the First Presidency so interested in receiving input from young adults and to witness the profound thought and feeling that went into the questions and answers offered by the young adults. Hope was renewed that weekend.*

—**Bill McFarlin**, Mission Center Staff



attendees at 2010 vision project

# dynamic worship workshops

by Christian Skoorsmith, GPNW MC Learning Officer

*Time well spent - I feel energized!*

*Concrete ideas for services, theology to make me think, humor and stories to remind me of joy.*

*I took away from this workshop a richer and more meaningful approach to worship planning.*

These are some of the reactions to the Dynamic Worship Workshop hosted by the Portland Congregation this past September. Twenty-five participants from Southern Washington and Northern Oregon spent Saturday and Sunday afternoons learning about and discussing worship: its history, its essentials, its craft and its content. They left renewed and excited, equipped with both concrete ideas for services and a wealth of insight into what worship is all about.

The whole weekend was permeated with a spirit of both realism and excitement, a seriousness and enthusiasm about the task of worship. The workshop evaluations asked, "Would you recommend others to come to this workshop?" Unanimously: "Yes."

**Christian Skoorsmith**, Mission Center Learning Officer, facilitates the workshop, leading the presentations and directing large group discussions. The workshop is itself a digest of material, resources and insights from a semester-long Community of Christ Seminary course on worship.

## workshop topics

Topics include the fundamentals of worship, using the lectionary, characteristics and strengths of worship in smaller congregations, approaching and speaking to those struggling with their faith, the theology of the order

of worship, many potential options for meaningful worship outlines, how to review and critique worship, and creating dynamic and meaningful bulletins.

Multiple resources with concrete ideas and suggestions were provided, as well as a review of additional helpful resources for congregations and worship planners.

## attending a workshop

The Dynamic Worship Workshop will be offered again in 2011 at the following congregations:

- Bend (Central OR): January 22-23
- Southridge (SW WA): January 29-30
- Rainier Valley (Seattle, WA): March 5-6

If you would like to attend one of these free events or schedule one in your congregation, contact Christian Skoorsmith at 206-938-6173 or [cskoorsmith@cofchrist-gpnw.org](mailto:cskoorsmith@cofchrist-gpnw.org).

This may be the weekend that changes the life of your congregation's worship. Don't miss it!



university place ordinands (from left): paula thrall, ruth bacon, cathi richardson, becky macaras

# 13 mission center ordinations

september-december 2010  
gpnw ordinations

- Sheyne Benedict, Eugene - Elder
- Robert Brightwell, Selah - Elder
- Nellie Butterfield, Crystal Springs - Elder
- Karolyn Chapman Sharp, Crystal Springs - Priest
- Choo Ming Chiong (Ruth Bacon), University Place - Teacher
- Maria Keesee, Garden Grove - Elder
- Harold Lasley Jr., Tuality - Evangelist
- Becky Macaras, University Place - Teacher
- Linda Osborn, Eugene - High Priest
- Cathi Richardson, University Place - Priest
- Paula Thrall, University Place - Priest

- Michele Versdahl, Crystal Springs - Priest
- Mary Wickstrom, Yakima - Elder



left to right: robert brightwell is ordained at selah congregation on october 3, 2010; linda osborn and harold lasley are ordained at mission center conference on november 7, 2010



# REBUILDING HAITI CAMPAIGN

by Karen Short, Mission Center Communications Coordinator

*Our mission center is partnering with Outreach International to raise funds to rebuild a school in De Michel, Haiti. Like many Haiti schools damaged by the January 2010 earthquake, the De Michel school lacks enough protection from the elements and an appropriate infrastructure to withstand hurricanes and landslides common to the area.*



## jim & shirley chapman honored: 25 years of service to outreach international

by Nan Sargeant

After 25 years of service as Outreach International Advisors, **Jim and Shirley Chapman** of Renton Congregation are transitioning to the role of Mentors.

Remembering the many inspirational memories of being a part of this organization, Shirley shares, “It has been a privilege to be associated with the OI staff, and every advocate who served as volunteer OI representatives of each congregation. We will continue to be advocates for Outreach International. Everyone: Go to the OI Website and become educated as to the uniqueness of OI’s sustainable good approach to helping end poverty in the world by helping the poor help themselves.”

Jim and Shirley are pictured above, holding the beautiful crystal bowl sent to them from the Outreach International staff as a thank you for their years of service. A depiction of the globe is etched on the bowl, a powerful reminder of our interconnectedness and our dependence on one another. Thank you, Jim and Shirley, for all your heartfelt effort and time on behalf of those in need.

**W**ell-built, reinforced classrooms that reduce children’s fear of earthquakes are a vital part of ensuring their success in school. That is why the support of donors who value even “the smallest of these” children is critical to their welfare and that of their community.

### how to help

The Mission Center goal for this initiative is \$50,000 over the course of one year. We raised \$11,000 at the mission center conference kick-off, and **Portland Congregation recently pledged \$25,000 to our project**—so we are off to a great start!

The GPNW Rebuilding Haiti project has its own appeal number: **7300 GPNMC Haiti**, for tracking purposes. Using this number will ensure that all funds coming in for this initiative will be set aside for the De Michel School.

### three options for giving

Giving is easy—there are three options:

1. **BY MAIL:** Use the GPNW Haiti Donation Form (available in NewsBriefs or from your pastor) to mail in checks or charge to a credit card number. Please include **7300 GPNMC Haiti** on the notation part of your checks.



de michel school, haiti

2. **ONLINE:** Visit the GPNW First Giving site at [www.firstgiving.com/demichelschool](http://www.firstgiving.com/demichelschool), which allows you to see at a glance, the progress being made. (There is a 1-3% fee for the service, but allows for easy networking to Yahoo, Facebook, Twitter and other accounts).

3. **THROUGH OI:** Visit the Outreach International site at [www.outreach-international.org](http://www.outreach-international.org). If donations are made online from the OI website, an email *must* be sent to **Bonnie Rexroad** at [b.rexroad@outreachmail.org](mailto:b.rexroad@outreachmail.org), telling her that you have made an online donation, listing the amount and appeal code **7300 GPNMC Haiti**.

### about the project

Amount Needed:

- \$50,000

Includes:

- Costs of building evaluation, design and reconstruction, using available local materials and renewable wood sources
- Site supervision, project monitoring and management
- Administrative and tuition support for school effectiveness, serving populations that cannot afford high tuition costs
- Uniforms and school supplies to replace items lost in earthquake
- Feeding program in the form of a daily lunch; to enhance learning capacity

## new outreach international local leadership

**O**utreach International has named **Eleanor Bessonette** as the new permanent Volunteer Advisor for Oregon, and **Jennifer Redfern** has been named the new permanent Volunteer Advisor for Washington/Alaska. **Deborah Towner** has been named as the Fundraiser Chair for the year-long GPNW Rebuilding Haiti Schools Project. Deborah

will be working with the advisors to encourage, rally and support their work with congregational representatives, and will communicate those developments through Mission Center communications. Eleanor and Jennifer will be working with representatives on fundraising ideas and their implementation of those during this year-long initiative.

# “on their behalf”

by Christie Ostendorp, Youth Camping Chair

Mark your calendar now for the 2011 Youth Leadership Training, “On Their Behalf,” scheduled for March 5, 2011, in the Portland/Vancouver area. This training is specifically for camp directors, camp staff and all congregational youth workers. Everyone is welcome. Organizational, program and budget items will be discussed, as well as ideas and discipleship practices shared.



*campers at 2010 lewis river jr high girls camp*

Congregation have been collecting pop cans for decades to earn money to send youth to SPEC and camps. They have not only cleaned up the environment by picking up discarded cans, but more importantly they have been able to financially assist youth to participate in the church’s camping programs.

**Nila and Max Peel**, of Portland Congregation and Camp Hosts of Hosmer Lake in central Oregon, have contributed to

youth camping scholarships for over twenty years. They invite those who camp at Hosmer to make a donation for use of their personal canoes to benefit the camping program. The Peels give the money to Portland Congregation, and the congregation pays the full camp fee for their members and friends each year. This year, they extended their generosity with children and youth from other congregations.

Thanks to the many individuals and congregations throughout our mission center that are responding to the call to minister to our young people, either directly or through financial assistance.

## 2010 camping evaluations

GPNW camps had an increase in camp evaluations received this year, with consistently positive scores across all camps and campgrounds.

This summer, all camper evaluations will be completed before camp ends, and a parent feedback form will be posted online for parents who would like to give feedback.

## 2011 camping preparations

All 2011 camp directors are in place and will be meeting with their campground teams to plan additional publicity in their areas, recruit staff and increase camper attendance.

## thanks for your support

I’d like to share a couple generosity stories that impact our camping program and the spirit of community.

**Myron and Joanie Steinbrink** of Albany



*campers at 2010 samish camp genesis*



*katelyn versdahl is blessed on october 17, 2010 at crystal springs*

# 6 very special blessings

# 1

## katelyn versdahl: baby blessing

**Katelyn Amanda Versdahl** was blessed by her great grandparents, Janice and Keith Townsend, at Crystal Springs Congregation on October 17, 2010. Katelyn’s parents are Dave and Michele Versdahl. Happy grandparents are Dennis and Kerry Amos, and David and Vicki Versdahl.



*katelyn versdahl, 7 months, crystal springs*

# 26

## more baby blessings:

**Kaleb Hunter Henderson, Olympia**

**Elijah Michael Sizemore, Auburn**

**Caleb Peter Sizemore, Auburn**

**Malia Rose Anderson, Lacamas Heights**

**John Akerson, Lacamas Heights**



*kaleb henderson, olympia*

# Community of Christ



# MATTHEW'S GOSPEL FOR NEW CHURCH YEAR

by Christian Skoorsmith, GPNW Learning Officer

*With the beginning of Advent, we welcomed another arrival: the beginning of the Church Year. Every year we move through the scriptures, each year focusing on a different Gospel and a different part of the Old Testament.*

## graceland's online master's degrees

by Debbi Leialoha, Graduate Assoc. Dean

Interested in advancing your education? Graceland University offers several online master's degrees.

### master of education

The MEd areas of focus are:

- Mild/Moderate Special Education
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Technology Integration
- Differentiated Instruction
- Management in the Inclusive Classroom

### master of arts in religion

The MAR prepares ministers to interpret scripture responsibly, understand church history, and teach persons to appreciate the identity, mission and message of the church. It also trains them to be more effective preachers, worship leaders, and promoters of mission.

### master of science in nursing

The MSN includes two concentrations: Family Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Educator.

All programs are relevant and affordable. Call 1-800-833-0524, x4516 or email [leialoha@graceland.edu](mailto:leialoha@graceland.edu) for the MEd program. MA in Religion: call 1-800-833-0524, x. 4508 or email [luffman@graceland.edu](mailto:luffman@graceland.edu), MS in Nursing: call 1-800-833-0524 x 4511 or email [bgarwood@graceland.edu](mailto:bgarwood@graceland.edu).

Our gospel readings now come primarily from Matthew, and the older testament readings from the first five books, or the Torah. (Read an excellent introduction to the "lectionary," or how we move through the scriptures, at the beginning of the printed worship helps, or available for free online at: [www.cofchrist.org/worship10-11/lectionary.asp](http://www.cofchrist.org/worship10-11/lectionary.asp).)

Reading from one gospel over the course of a whole year gives us a chance to delve deeper into Matthew's own particular vision of the good news. The writer of the Gospel According to Matthew was a particular person, writing in a specific place for a select audience. We hear Matthew at his best when we understand who he was and who he was speaking to. A texture and masterful storytelling come to life in the text when we see Matthew as not just another version of the same story, but a story distinct from the others, as well as deeply tied to them.

### matthew's unique gospel

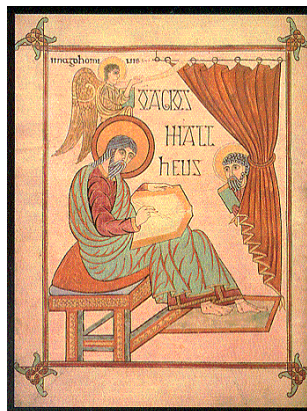
Matthew quickly became a favorite gospel in the early Christian movement, and has remained popular since. Its story is organized and presented in a way designed to be taught and preached. Some of Christianity's most beloved scriptures are found in its verses: the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew also preserves a time in our tradition when followers of Jesus were still a new mix of Jews and Gentiles worshipping together, experiencing the tensions that arise from their different traditions and cultures. The intended readers of Matthew were also likely materially prosperous and primarily urban – situations not entirely unlike many of the congregations in our mission center.

Reading Matthew as a whole this year allows both individuals and congregations to grasp more solidly what Matthew was trying to say. Doing this consciously and intentionally would add to any congregation's spiritual journey.

### matthew resources

Several excellent resources are available to congregations for study, inspiration and reference:

- *An Introduction to the Gospels*, by Mitchell G. Reddish (Abingdon Press, 1997), is an excellent general introduction to all the Gospels, and can be read selectively to focus on Matthew in broad strokes.
- *The Westminster Bible Companion's* volume "Matthew" (Westminster John Knox, 1997) by Thomas G. Long, offers a closer reading and insightful commentary as it walks through the Gospel in easily digestible sections. Also a tremendous resource for preachers. Long is among the premier preachers and scripture-teachers in the English-speaking Christian world today.
- A focused and very interesting text on this Gospel is *Matthew and Empire*, by Warren Carter (Trinity Press International, 2001), which looks particularly at the political and cultural world Matthew was written in: the world of the Roman Empire. It examines how the Gospel According to Matthew uses that context to shape the narrative, how Matthew contrasts the kingdom of God with that of Rome, and in so doing what Matthew is trying to say about the Good News to his readers. For congregations, preachers or readers looking for a fresh way to look at Matthew's Gospel, this is it.



Whatever text you use, recognizing that the worship year is woven together by the single narrative of Matthew's Gospel will add depth and color to your spiritual journey over the next twelve months. We are gaining an understanding of Matthew and his understanding of the Good News.

For those of us living in material prosperity or urban locations, or in the shadow of empire and religious tension, we may find Matthew speaking to us even more clearly. It may be something we need to hear.

# church provides sanctuary

by Sean Langdon, Puyallup Counselor and Communications Coordinator

One of the definitions of “sanctuary” found in the Webster’s Dictionary is “a place of refuge and protection.” The sanctuary at Puyallup Congregation has turned into such a place on Monday evenings since mid-November. We have become a place of refuge and protection for homeless adult men and women in the city of Puyallup.

“Freezing Nights” is an ecumenical shelter ministry for homeless individuals in the city of Puyallup. Beginning in 2004, it provided a place for those without shelter to come in and sleep and be fed during the cold winter months. A different church takes on a particular night of the week. They open their doors every night during the months of November to March and provide three meals to those who may otherwise go hungry.

## responding to urgent need

For a year now, I have had the pleasure to represent Community of Christ on the Puyallup Homeless Coalition. In late October, I became aware that the “Monday” night church backed out of the program, and therefore a new church was needed to host this shelter ministry. The need was urgent. After some quick discussion, Puyallup Congregation decided to participate in this program. Every Monday evening, we host 20-30 males and females. Our “guests” sleep in the sanctuary while three to four church members stay overnight with them. Many more members and friends of the congregation help donate the food, prepare the meals, come and visit and play games with our guests.

## unexpected blessings

We have experienced many blessings because of our participation. Members and friends of the congregation are getting involved. At a Public Forum on Homelessness that I helped plan in November, I overheard a group of people saying as I walked by, “That’s Sean Langdon. That’s Community of Christ.” Our congregation is becoming a more visible presence in the community. We are becoming more known for our actions that reflect the ministry of Jesus.

Doctrine & Covenants 163:4a states, “God, the Eternal Creator, weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God’s will....For in their welfare resides your welfare.” Members and friends of the Puyallup Congregation, including some who haven’t been active for a while, have come together to help fulfill this scripture passage and provide a sanctuary so our neighbors don’t have to sleep out in the cold. We are truly attempting to fulfill what it means to be a Community of Christ.



email your events,  
announcements and photos  
for the next issue of the chinook  
to [kshort@cofchrist-gpnw.org](mailto:kshort@cofchrist-gpnw.org) by  
april 1, 2011

# Community of Christ

## communicating stewardship ideas

by Bill McFarlin,  
Mission Center Financial Officer

“Let the truths of my gospel be proclaimed as widely and as far as the dedication of the Saints, especially through the exercise of their temporal stewardship, will allow.” —Doctrine and Covenants 153:9a

This is the next installment of the ongoing series of stewardship ideas for followers of Jesus Christ living out their discipleship in the Community of Christ. In this and future articles, we will explore principles of Disciples’ Generous Response and tools to help us become better stewards. The following principle and tool connect our personal spending with the mission of the church. How we spend our money, time and talents (and what’s left after we’ve spent) can directly impact our ability to fund our shared mission in the world—God’s mission.

### principle

“Spend Responsibly” is one of the principles of Disciples’ Generous Response. The principle of spending responsibly is a commitment by disciples to use the remainder of their income (after giving generously and saving wisely) to live in health and harmony as they support family, personal needs, giftedness, and interests. Wise and prayerful planning and management of these remaining resources brings financial wholeness in life. How we spend our money is part of our personal witness of Christ. Disciples spend responsibly in all areas of life, including housing, health care, transportation, food, clothing, recreation, and personal development. (See [www.cofchrist.org/Generosity](http://www.cofchrist.org/Generosity).)

### tool

Financial Peace University consists of a 13-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey that incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. Topics include cash flow planning, dumping debt, saving, and giving much more. The course is easy to facilitate, and there is no certification required to become a volunteer coordinator. (See [www.cofchrist.org/Generosity](http://www.cofchrist.org/Generosity).) If you would like more information about how to start a group in your congregation, please contact **Doug Brown** of Tuality Congregation at [doug65201@yahoo.com](mailto:doug65201@yahoo.com) or (503) 336-4413.

Take time now at the beginning of this year to plan your spending, saving and giving for the rest of the year. May God bless your faithfulness in that process!

# DO WHAT WORKS

by Jim Lloyd, Myrtle Point Pastor

In October 2009, Myrtle Point Congregation hosted the Mission Center Workshop, “Making a Difference.” In her presentation, Apostle Susan Skoor mentioned life skills as a possible avenue of service that could make a difference for congregations in the life of their communities.

**T**he power of that suggestion found a home with one of our Myrtle Point members, **Tara Blohm**.

She wanted to reach out to our community, which suffers from high rates of both unemployment and welfare recipients. Overnight, Tara conceived the idea of a program, reviewed it the next morning with myself and our support minister, **Bob Dobkins**, and submitted a Bold Moves Grant application to help get things started by the following Tuesday. (The application deadline was Wednesday!)

The program, *Food for the Soul*, was to be a monthly session, held at the church, serving a lunch and presenting a workshop offering training in basic life skills, such as interviewing for jobs, health care, and use of financial resources. Along with this, we would offer a children’s program of crafts and recreation to keep them occupied while the parents were involved in the workshop.

To carry out the program, we needed to upgrade our kitchen and restrooms. The congregation (about 15 regular attendees) agreed to sponsor the facility upgrades, and we got to work.

## early setbacks

Our hope was to present our first workshop by May or June 2010; however, that’s when the delays started. We constructed two new classrooms (we had none) because, by state health laws, we couldn’t feed people and have a workshop in the same room. We also had to do major plumbing work—all of which took more time. We thought about Moses in the wilderness, and persevered through many setbacks.

We started our advertising in July and held the first workshop in August. To our dismay, no adults showed up. However, we did have several children show up for the craft portion to make stepping stones. Disappointed but not discouraged, we started the advertising for September’s workshop three weeks early. This time, no one showed up except the State Health Inspector. (At least we passed inspection!)

Once again, disappointed but not dis-

couraged, we decided our original plan wasn’t working. For October, we decided to lighten up and throw our resources into a Halloween party. This worked well. About 150 adults and kids came throughout the night, most of them eating the meal we provided. We felt pretty good; it was a little off our original objective, but at least we had people coming to the church and getting familiar with us.

## changing our focus

As we looked at November, we hadn’t decided on a workshop title that might attract people. We went to Mission Center Conference without a subject or date... and Eureka! We attended the Pastors’ Breakfast, and

someone mentioned a diaper ministry they started and how it is working. We thought, “That will work for us; there’s a need in our community for that. We can do that.”

## signs connect

We now had a subject, but we realized our advertising wasn’t reaching the people we were trying to serve. We decided that signs in the community were the answer. Tara commandeered the wall of a very visible downtown business, and we put together a ten-foot square sign and hung it on the wall, visible from the main highway, gas station and stoplight. We made sidewalk signs to put in other strategic highway locations. Nobody was going to get through town without seeing one of our signs!

We also put a large sign on top of our church sign, which is adjacent to the Head Start program. Head Start agreed to hand out flyers to all their students and parents. The

local food bank agreed to put a flyer in every box of food the prior Thursday. We posted flyers on all the bulletin boards in town. We blew our total monthly Bold Moves budget and bought \$500 in diapers, and the congregation chipped in \$100 for sanitary wipes. We were going for broke.

Saturday morning, December 4, arrived. People started coming early. Many walked because they didn’t have transportation. Some people were hungry and even came back later to eat again. Forty families came to take advantage of our offer for free diapers. We fed approximately 90 people and sent food home with many. Kids made candles, and we took pictures of the babies and children, framed them, and gift wrapped them to put under their Christmas trees. One mother told us it was her first framed picture of her 16-month-old.

## do what works

None of us slept Saturday night thinking about the needs we had overlooked in our community and what we could do in the future. We’re repeating our ministry in January and February. Then

we’ll re-evaluate. This approach seems to be our niche. Not our original plan, but it works!

Did we meet the objective of our original plan? No. Did we fill a need? Yes. Our next step, already in progress, is to seek community donations to make the project self-sustaining. We will offer soap, shampoo and other basic hygiene needs next time.

The bottom line: Find your way to reach out. If a small congregation like ours can do it, any congregation can. Keep things simple and basic. Be flexible. Let a Bold Moves grant give you that starting boost. And just do it! May God bless you in the same way He has blessed Myrtle Point.

(See related Bold Moves story, page 9.)



# “food-to-go” for children

by Cindie Ellwanger, Program Director

**A**uburn Congregation has been a steady contributor to the Auburn Food Bank for several years, and we wanted to expand our community giving and service. A year ago, we invited the director of the food bank to come talk with us and help us brainstorm what we could do in the Lea Hill area of Auburn where the church is located.

One of the programs that was already in existence with the food bank was a program called, “Food-to-Go.” This program provides needy children in the Auburn School District with food for the weekends. This struck a chord with many of us. The three elementary schools within

a three-mile radius of the church were not being served due to lack of room at the food bank and people to participate.

We worked out all the logistics of the program to fit us, and today I am very pleased to say that every week we pack 60 backpacks for children on Lea Hill. Through the Bold Moves grant, we were able to re-do one of the classrooms at the church and purchase shelving to hold the food. Since the program started in September, we have also had one family visit us on a couple of Sundays. It makes us feel good knowing that these children will not go without. Thank you, Bold Moves, for making this possible.

## bold moves grants get things started

by Steve Pomeroy, Bold Moves Chair

**R**eflecting on his congregation’s efforts to bring mission to their community, **Jim Lloyd**, pastor of the Myrtle Point Congregation, points out:

“The main story of our beginning to have success isn’t about Myrtle Point...it’s about the Bold Moves grants availability and how they can help get other congregations to realize how easy it might be to get a simple program started. Our congregation is small and aged, as are others, but something like this can work for them too.

“The unity it brings to a congregation can’t be measured,” continues Jim. “Since we started, we’ve had about 300 people come through the church...most of whom didn’t even know it existed.

Last Sunday, we had a woman come to church who is interested in helping these marginalized families and wants to be a part of our next event on January 16, 2011.

*right: community families being helped at the december 2010 myrtle point event*



“We’ve received \$200 in donations so far for the next event, and our success article hasn’t hit the local paper yet. It’s difficult to describe all the fringe benefits and happenings that go with a program like this.”

### how to apply

Target **APRIL 15, 2011**—the next Bold Moves Application deadline. Be the next GPNW “success story!” Visit [www.cofchrist-gpnw.org/bold-moves](http://www.cofchrist-gpnw.org/bold-moves) for an application. Need help? Contact Steve Pomeroy at [spomeroy@cofchrist-gpnw.org](mailto:spomeroy@cofchrist-gpnw.org) or 425-641-8876.



## myrtle point leader directs food share pantry

**M**ember **Ranelle Morris** handles the food prep for Myrtle Point’s “Food for the Soul” program. (See story, opposite page.) But that’s just the beginning of her efforts to bring food to those in need. Ranelle was recently name Volunteer Pantry Director for the Myrtle Point Food Share.

Myrtle Point Food Share is a part of the South Coast Food Share network, which works with 33 local pantries and meal sites. The program provides and distributes more than two million pounds of food

annually. Myrtle Point Food Share itself serves between 100 and 200 families per week and is drawing people from the larger towns around it.

The Myrtle Point Food Share building recently had a Grand Opening ceremony and showcased new shopping-style

pantry operations. The Myrtle Point Food Share pantry is the first shopping-style food pantry on the South Coast of Oregon. Explains Myrtle Point Pastor **Jim Lloyd**, “The real story here is the concept of shopping for the food items people need. The pantry is stocked like a grocery store. People can select items they need instead of receiving what is boxed and handed to them.”

Oregon Coast Community Action states, “As former mayor of Myrtle Point, Ranelle has a long history with the city. She has connections with many organizations as well as community members, and as she navigates the astronomical growth in need, she is effective in reaching out to make connections with other agencies. That, in addition to her great skills in recruiting and organizing volunteers, has made the leadership transition a smooth one. Ranelle Morris also has a vision for how to meet the increasing need in her community, and is looking forward to fundraising efforts this holiday season.”

Ranelle is available to discuss the shopping-style system with others that are involved in food sharing programs. She can be reached at 541-260-4370 and is very happy to talk to anyone about the program.

# young adults organize new food pantry

by Sheyne Benedict, SOYAs Co-Leader

The Southern Oregon Young Adults (SOYAs) have spearheaded a new food pantry known as the “Community Cupboard,” located in Eugene Congregation.

We provide nonperishable canned and dry goods, household essentials and toiletry items to community members who are in need. We provide information regarding these services to a local elementary school where many students live in households that are below the federal poverty limit, and to a nearby apartment complex where many low-income families reside.

We are open the last Saturday of every month from 10 am to noon. Our first Saturday, no one showed. The next month we stepped up our community advertising, and we were able to serve four households consisting of 18 individuals; it was a 100% improvement over our first month’s attendance rates! The third month we were able to serve seven households. One of the families we served also attended our Harvest dinner and children’s party.

We are still in the early, experimental stages, and we are open to all suggestions and ideas for improvement. One idea we are planning to pursue is to connect with a local Spanish-speaking social service agency in an effort to provide services to people who do not have the required documentation to access other food resources.

It has been exciting to watch our congregation’s generous response to this outreach opportunity! We look forward to seeing the impact of our congregation connecting more tangibly with its the community.

# university place: helping others

by Stan Corrington, Mission Center Council Member and Volunteer Congregational Support Minister  
*Congregations often are looking for ideas for mission. Missionary endeavors don’t always have to be long-term or involve hundreds of volunteer hours. Here are some simple but meaningful ideas from University Place Congregation.*

## food bank donations

On the first three Sundays in November, University Place Congregation collected food and money for University Place Food Bank. In addition to a very full carload of food, we collected \$550 for the food bank. Like many other congregations in the mission center who are helping their local food banks, we have been doing this every November for several years.



## gifts to rescue mission

Each year, Tacoma Rescue Mission sponsors a program for giving gifts to children and youth. During December, the congregation collects gifts that we deliver to the Rescue Mission for distribution to those children who would probably not otherwise receive a Christmas gift.



grade. Christy became acquainted with the Pennies for Peace program while reading Greg Mortenson’s book, *Three Cups of Tea*. She thought this would be an excellent way for her students to learn about another culture. It also gives them a “hands on” opportunity to help children who are hungry for learning, but whose country is very poor and does not value education, especially for girls.

Christy’s students were very excited about this idea and wanted to learn more about how they could help. After receiving permission from her school administration, two other classrooms also joined the program. The students began bringing their coins to school each week. Their goal was to raise \$500, but when the program ended on December 15, they had raised \$813. Christy said her students are very excited about what they have accomplished and have learned a great deal about helping others.

## pennies for peace

From the middle of November to the middle of December, the congregation participated each Sunday in the Pennies for Peace program in support of Greg Mortenson and his efforts to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mortenson recently was awarded Community of Christ’s International Peace Award at the Peace Colloquy last October. University Place Congregation became involved in this program in support of one of our members, **Christy Macaras**, who teaches second



*christie macaras spearheaded a “pennies for peace” campaign that raised \$813*

# devin jackson receives marshall public leadership award

by Elva Eliason, Southridge Communications Coordinator

**D**evin Jackson, a member of Southridge Congregation, was selected to receive the 2010 General George C. Marshall Public Leadership Award. (Proud parents are Fae and Dan Jackson, co-pastors of Southridge.)

For the last 20-plus years, a Clark County, Washington resident age 35 years or younger, has been awarded the Marshall award. This year, nine residents were nominated

and considered based on the criteria of demonstrated leadership ability, commitment to public service, academic achievement, and potential for an ongoing active role in public service.

In addition to recognition of Devin's work as a Commercial Loan Officer with a local Regents Bank and participation in business organizations and activities, his volunteer services with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and his

active involvement in Community of Christ were given special notice.

In 2011, Devin will be participating in a wide variety of activities, to include a tour of the Marshall Foundation in Lexington, Virginia, and a trip to Colonial Williamsburg and Washington, D.C. Remembering

that this award reflects General Marshall's efforts to rebuild strong communities during peacetime, during this coming year we look forward to Devin representing not only our local business area, but also representing our Community of Christ as a church of peace and a church that is committed to build communities of joy, hope, love and peace.



*elson strahan, president of the fort vancouver national trust (left), presents the marshall public leadership award to southridge congregation member, devin jackson*

*email your events, announcements and photos for the next issue of the chinook to [kshort@cofchrist-gpnw.org](mailto:kshort@cofchrist-gpnw.org) by april 1, 2011*

# Community of Christ



*children at tuality model scarves & hats they wove for those in need*

## 2 special moments in congregational life

### 1

**eugene, or:**

**Sarah Barker**, 9, has been competing in gymnastics for only one year. Yet on Sunday, December 5 in Bend OR, she won First Place State All Around in her age group. According to her parents, David and Theresa Barker, Sarah works very hard and practices 3-4 days per week. Says David, "This is a great accomplishment and we are very proud of her."



**tuality, or:**

The primary class, taught by **Andrew Nilsen** and **Emily Allen**, wove hats and scarves this fall. It's a project they learned during their class, but that they worked on during worship services to keep them occupied. Here are **Annika** and **Ella** working on theirs during the service under the grand piano! They donated the hats and scarves to Northwest Children's outreach and the families that the congregation sponsored at Christmas.



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

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## we're growing: gpnw baptisms

*Below are recently reported baptisms in the GPNW Mission Center:*

- Elizabeth Blackwell, Eugene
- Morgan Blackwell, Eugene
- Emily Hill, Cowlitz Valley
- Lauren Moss, Puyallup
- Kenneth Nelson, Portland
- Kristian Nelson-Trout, Portland



left to right:

- *kenneth nelson, portland congregation, is confirmed (name correction from last issue);*
- *morgan blackwell, eugene congregation, is baptized;*
- *emily hill, cowlitz valley congregation, is baptized;*
- *elizabeth blackwell, eugene congregation, is confirmed*