

*A publication of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries
McMinnville United Methodist ~ Trinity Lutheran*

Also in this issue:

- Giving Program, pg. 2
- Operation Christmas Child, pg. 3
- Sisters in Community, pg. 3
- Sue Buel needs, pg. 3
- Living With Compassion, pg. 4
- Attitude of Gratitude, pg. 4
- Parkview Tree Project, pg. 5
- One Can at a Time, pg. 5
- M&M Ministry Spotlight, pg. 6
- Hygiene Kits, pg. 6

Settlement Reached in Portland Lawsuit

The lawsuit filed against First United Methodist Church of Portland, Oregon, The Metropolitan District Church Extension Society, and the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church for damages for sexual abuse of a minor by a clergy person in the 1960's has been dismissed following a negotiated settlement acceptable to all parties. We are pleased that we were able to reach an acceptable agreement through mediation rather than trial.

Sexual abuse of a minor is a serious violation of the sacred trust of a clergy person's ordination. The United Methodist Church does not tolerate sexual misconduct of any kind. We are committed to making our churches places where all persons are safe. In the decades since these incidents occurred, the churches of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference have implemented a number of policies and procedures to safeguard those who come into all of our churches.

The United Methodist Church and the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference take seriously any allegations of clergy sexual abuse, including child abuse, and sexual harassment. If you have experienced such sexual misconduct by a clergy person, please contact any District Superintendent or Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata.

Contact information:

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, (503-226-1530 or 1-800-593-7539, ext. 39)
The Rev. John Watts, (541-389-1047), Central District Superintendent
The Rev. Robert Flaherty, (208-385-0598), Eastern District Superintendent
The Rev. Bonnie Parr Philipson, (503-249-1851), Metropolitan District Superintendent
The Rev. Donna Pritchard, (541-689-3725), Southern District Superintendent
The Rev. Dr. Kate Connolly, (503-581-3969), Western District Superintendent

“If you planted hope today in any hopeless heart, if someone’s burden was lighter because you did your part, if you caused a laugh that chased a tear away, if tonight your name is mentioned when someone kneels to pray, then your day was well spent.”

– Eleanor Plamondon

Your Giving Inspires Our Ministries

Inspired today -- to love and serve with all people in restoring all of creation to God's loving embrace.

As McMinnville Cooperative Ministries (MCM), we are generous. We provide a broad range of effective ministries that contribute to our vision of becoming a Christian community which puts our faith into action by listening, striving to eliminate hunger and homelessness, and fostering learning and the arts. Thank you for supporting this vibrant congregation.

In recent months you may have read or heard stories about some of our ministries and their impact. From the Community Compassion Fund to Habitat for Humanity, small group ministries, Sue Buel School, youth development programs, Trinity Learning Center, worship services, AA, NA, The Boy Scouts, Lutheran Community Services, music, mini muffin cafe, the Parkview garden and so much more – none of this happens without the contribution of your time, talents and financial resources.

During this season, we consider the end of one year and look hopefully toward the next, rejoicing in the gifts God has given us, including His Son Jesus Christ. You are also asked to prayerfully consider the gifts that you can offer to maintain and grow the vital ministries of our church. Among these is a regular financial contribution, which enables us to more accurately budget for the services that we can provide. 2010 Giving Program cards will be distributed this month, and blessed the second Sunday in January.

About 90% of the funds to provide for our ministries, keep the lights on, the building in order and to pay a living wage to our wonderful pastors and program staff come from direct contributions by members. In 2008, we ran about a 5% budget deficit. In 2009, we project about a 7% deficit. Staff took pay cuts in 2008 and those levels have been held this year. However, if trends continue, even with further expense control, we could run as much as a 12% deficit in 2010. Naturally, this pattern is not sustainable.

Of course, these are difficult times for many people, including some in our own congregation. But McMinnville Cooperative Ministries is such a vital part of the faith-based network here that lifts up those in need. We help transform lives: our own, our neighbors, and our brothers and sisters around the globe.

When giving cards are made available, we hope you will respond to this call in whatever way you are moved. As was illuminated in a recent sermon on Luke 21:1-4 about the Widow's Offering, what is important is not how much we give, but that we do give, and do so from our hearts. With your commitment and God's guidance, we will turn our vision into reality and create a brighter future for our congregation and community.

INSPIRED BY CHRIST

Operation Christmas Child Wraps Up

Wow, this was our biggest year yet! With the help of our Linfield group, we packed & shipped a total of 97 boxes this year. We also delivered a check for \$707, which more than covered the cost of shipping. Thank you to everyone who donated time, money or time in prayer. This is such a special project and I know it had an impact on the kids and adults who were part of it. Thanks to Mini-Muffin Cafe and October loose change offerings, our monetary donations far exceeded our goal. — Tracy Ewing



Sisters in Community

January 29th-31st at Camp Magruder!

In just two months, women of our community (and beyond) have the opportunity to attend the 2010 MCM Women's Retreat. It will be an opportunity for rest and renewal, as well as time to deepen friendships and make new ones. Our theme this year, 'Sisters in Community,' will involve lots of good conversation, laughter, time for walks on the beach and maybe even a row on the lake. There will also be opportunities for other special activities, including a discussion of the book, *Half the Sky*, by Nicholas Kristof. Registration forms are available at the church, so sign up now!

Sue Buel needs for December

For the month of December we are focusing on three things for Sue Buel School: We continue to need snacks on a regular basis (high protein snacks are best). With winter coming we will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, warm winter coats, hooded sweatshirts and sweatpants (sizes small or medium in neutral colors) and underwear (boys and girls, sizes 5/6, 7/8) for the children. If you can help with any of these needs, bring the items to the church, put them in the containers marked BUEL SCHOOL or put them in the basement office (key available from Jenn during weekday office hours). We are also continuing to collect money to help children with the purchase of uniform shirts and to provide books for the reading program (Make checks out to Sue Buel School and place in offering plate).

Anyone interested in helping with the purchase of Christmas gifts (a toy and an item of clothing) for children at Sue Buel School, please contact Linda Cruikshank at 503-472-8060.

Living With Compassion

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” – Galatians 6:9

Several months ago, when I told Joyce I wanted to volunteer in some capacity to help her with the Community Compassion Fund, I had no idea what I wanted to do or what I thought I could do. I just knew I wanted to make a difference. She suggested I do “intakes.” As people come in looking for assistance, I help them fill out the application and talk about the situation they are in. Most of the time I just listen. Some are eager to have someone to listen to their story and some are reluctant and embarrassed by their situation. Nevertheless, they come because they have nowhere else to go. We are their last resort.

After these several months, I have noticed a difference. But it is not the difference I expected. The difference is in ME. My attitude has changed. I am humbled. I am less judgmental. Every contact I have with the people that come to CCF for help I consider a blessing and I try to be a blessing in return. I know we can't help everyone who comes to CCF, but at least we can treat them with respect and dignity, and let them know we care about their situation.

One other thing I noticed in the last few weeks is there are more people coming to CCF who have never been in dire situations before. They are used to helping others in distress but now find themselves needing help, and they don't know how to handle it. This economy has really taken a toll on our community. That got me thinking that this could happen to any of us. If it did, how would you react? How would you like to be treated?

If you are in a position to contribute to the CCF, I urge you to do so. Even if it is putting your loose change in the collection basket each Sunday during December, you will be blessing others and in turn be blessed. — Cathy Long

Attitude of Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to Henderson House. Your donations help us meet matching grant requirements for the state and federal funds we receive. Thanks to the generous contributions of our friends and donors, we are able to respond to victims' needs and those of their children, and assist them in their journey from violence to safety. We appreciate your support. Sincerely – Lynda Weigan, Resource Development Director, Henderson House.

Dear Coop Ministries,

Thank you so very much for your continuing donations to the Yamhill County Food Bank (YCAP). Gifts such as yours greatly strengthen our ability to fulfill our vision of providing the best possible support to those members of our county who are living at or below the poverty line, which includes many seniors and disabled people. From 7/1/08 – 6/30/09, the Food Bank received 898,218 pounds of food. More than 22,851 food boxes were distributed through the Food Bank Network. 70,021 people were served by local food pantries.

Your partner in helping people – Lee Honoré Means, Executive Director & Tricia Harrop, Food Bank Coordinator, YCAP.

Parkview Tree Project

As many of you know the big Maple Tree at Parkview came down this summer. It first lost a very large branch during one of our summer work parties. That led to the discovery that the tree was more rotten than alive and the tree folks said for safety it had to come down. They cut it down this summer and left a very large stump. This fall (in the past several weeks) Dick has been working with the stump grinders to get rid of the rest of the stump and make the ground ready to plant. Mary Jo Barrong gave us the wonderful idea of making a planting across the front of our property to tie it together with the labyrinth landscaping, the pattern of two Arborvitae and one Barberry plant.



Across the front of the property there is still a high bank which needs a retainer wall. That wall has been started. We wanted to get it completed and get the arborvitae and Barberrys planted before winter set in but the window may be closed. We will heal the plants in the ground and wait for spring.

If you would like to help with the wall or planting please contact Dick Sherman (503-472-6404). We are always looking for new ideas to enhance the use of the Parkview property. We welcome your suggestions and ideas.

One Can at a Time

Holiday Dinner: While doing your own shopping, pick up an extra item for someone who needs it. Sweet Potatoes, canned Vegetable or Fruit, or any other canned or boxed food is needed. We have learned that there is a need for Toilet Paper, Diapers (size 5) and baby wipes. One item per week per family is our goal. Help put cheer in the holidays!

In August we donated 158 pounds of dried/canned food, and in September we donated 137 pounds!

M&M Ministry Spotlight for December



Jordan Robinson, the community director and therapist for Lutheran Community Services in Yamhill County, met with M & M on November 5th to explain his mission. LCS is in 3 states (Oregon, Washington and Idaho) and each branch within those states has a slightly different focus based on the needs of the community. In Yamhill County the emphasis is a community response to child abuse, to domestic violence and to mental health. Their mission statement is "Partnering with You for Health, Justice and Hope" and springs from God's words to care for the poor among us.

The primary areas of activities for our local branch involve counseling, parent education classes, vocational rehabilitation and domestic violence intervention. The branch partners with a variety of social service and government agencies including Juliette's House, Henderson House, and Head Start to provide the above mentioned services. LCS works with approximately 250 folks in our community.

When asked how specifically the Co-op helps further their mission, Jordan said we provide housing for classes (free of charge) and child care (which they pay for) along with office help and Pastor Mark provides lunch for the LCS advisory board. Due to the variety of donated facilities and services, Jordan is able to access and receive a wide range of foundation grants. When asked to place an approximate dollar amount on MCM's contributions, Jordan said it would fall somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000-\$15,000. In addition to the tangible benefits, Jordan says for him just knowing that we support what LCS is doing helps provide a community foundation for his work and gives him the feeling that he's not out there on his own.

Jordan's vision for LCS is to become the mental trauma center for the county and to continue developing community partnerships. He would also like to raise the level of visibility in the community.

We will continue to help grow this ministry through our support of time, talent and finances.

Hygiene Kits

One of the things we do through our Community Compassion Fund is give hygiene kits to those who need them. On Sunday, Nov. 22, members of the Well Met Ministry Team organized a Bag It event for the whole church. It was great to see folks of all ages participating in the assembly line. In thirty minutes we had made more than 100 kits; boxed them up for distribution and put everything in its proper place. Many thanks to everyone who donated supplies, money and time to put together these items which are so important to human dignity for those who seek our help this winter season.

