

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

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## *New Ministry Opportunity*

Help feed the hungry! CROP Walk is on May 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. CROP Walk raises money to help combat hunger, 25% of which stays local. Last year YCAP received \$1,640.88 from this event. The other 75% is used by Church World Service and other hunger relief agencies for global emergency and long-term disaster aid.

If you would like to participate, you can join as an independent walker or form a team of three people. Please contact Bonnie Churchwell (503)472-3975 or [be-church@hotmail.com](mailto:be-church@hotmail.com) (using CROP as the subject) for more info and/or to sign up. Our Mission & Ministries committee would also like to know who is participating, so if you form a team, please submit a ministry plan form to the church office.

## *Sue Buel School*

We continue to need snacks for the children at school. We also need toiletry items (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant). Money can be donated to the Children's Fund to purchase items like glasses and shoes. During the month of March, the children will be focusing on safety.

# Sisters in Community

INSPIRED BY CHRIST



Wow, what a weekend! I've grown accustomed to MCM's Women's Retreat turning out better than I expected, but this was way beyond the ordinary! Sixty-one women & girls (counting 4-month-old Lucy Adams), attended this year; and the joy, fellowship, fun, and food had us just about bursting at the seams!

Our speakers were wonderful. Irma Karns had us thinking about, and being involved with, our sisters globally. Terry Hall focused us in on our sisters a bit closer to home. And Sandi DeMaster helped to see the importance and joy in having close "sisters" to lean on, in both the joyful and the difficult times.



Even the Oregon coast drizzle couldn't dampen the Spirit that flowed through the weekend. And of course, there was Tillamook Ice Cream! I suggest marking your 2011 calendars for January 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> so you don't miss out on the fun next year!



## Community Corner

### **EFRAIN ARREDONDO**

Efrain Arredondo wasn't thrilled about visiting the CoOp when his wife, Rebecca, dragged him here about three years ago. "Come on Easter Sunday," she urged. "There will be lots of people, and you won't stand out that way." He finally agreed—to please here. He was convinced, however, that it was pretty much a waste of a perfectly good Sunday morning.

"Every Sunday Rebecca would come home and talk about the great people, the great message, and the great atmosphere our church had," he said in a recent interview. "I would listen and just think to myself, you just wait until they start talking about the things that matter to me. If they ever even mention any of the issues that are of interest to me, I would be surprised." And surprised he was when, Easter morning, he saw on the announcements a reminder of the new round of classes starting soon, including one on Earth stewardship. He said, "And there I was, thinking, *wow! How great is this?*"

Efrain has been actively engaged with the Cooperative Ministries ever since. He attends the 10:00 service and plays the hand drums on the worship team. He is always involved, either as a leader or a participant, in at least one small group or class midweek. He leads a bike group in the spring, and is also one of the lead cooks for the LOGOS program this year. He doesn't view any of this as a burden or an obligation, however. "I love to do those things already," he said. "I am glad that this church gives me the opportunity to do the things that I love to do—(although) cooking for 72 people is not that easy! Of course, I don't do it on my own! However, doing Thanksgiving dinner for 70-something people will increase your cooking confidence dramatically."

Efrain does have a life-outside-the-CoOp. He works full-time as the Spanish teacher for Dayton High School, and while he doesn't have children ("yet!" he says), his dog and three cats keep him busy. "But it is hard to separate church and home when church becomes your second home," he said. "I came to realize this last summer. I found myself doing something with church members every other day. I enjoy meeting new people. I like establishing relationships and feeling like I am using my time."

As he discovered, there is always plenty to do around the CoOp!

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## Community Corner

### **DICK AND GENNE SHERMAN**

Dick and Genne Sherman are regulars at the 10:00 service. They moved to McMinnville in 1972 with their two daughters, LaDonna and Lillian. Their new home was right behind the Trinity Lutheran Church so they attended there that first Sunday. The next Sunday they attend McMinnville UMC, and felt instantly at home because of their lifelong background as Methodists. Now, interestingly, they get to worship with both at the Co-op!

Dick and Genne have never been the type to sit back and take a spectator role in their church. When their daughters were young, they were all involved in the youth program. Currently, they are involved in Mini Muffin Café, Young Families ministries, Well-met and the Mission & Ministry Committee. Their first love, though, is the Parkview Outreach Center.

“It has such a great potential of reaching out into the community to folks that may not come into a church building,” Genne said in a recent interview. “In the summer time, the picnic area is open to anyone. The labyrinth is walked by many folks of all faiths and probably folks who have no church following. The labyrinth guest book tells stories of guests finding answers to hard questions, a place of spiritual growth and times of just communion with God. To us, it is a place of peace, quiet, fellowship, fun, and lots of activities. It is heart-warming to know our church provides such a place for our community.”

“It is such a joy to watch members and non-members in closer fellowship,” Genne said. “The biggest thrill is watching the children at Picnics and on the labyrinth. We know that these will be great memories for them when they are adults. My most recent favorite memory is of the Sunday school classes out walking the labyrinth in the rain with their umbrellas, and Nicholas Nyberg riding his bike into Parkview each Wednesday evening early enough to make the fire to roast hotdogs. It is all about planting seeds of fellowship and faith in a fun and safe environment.”

It's not *all* fun, though. Maintaining Parkview is takes a huge amount of time and energy and some significant resources as well. Their biggest challenge is motivating others to become involved in maintenance and programming and helping them to see it as the true outreach to the community that it is and how it can become even more so.

“(But) God is with us every step, in times of joy and of frustration,” Genne maintains.

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## Community Corner

### **DALE DEHM**

Dale Dehm has always loved gardening. When he and Susan moved here from Nebraska with their three boys back in 1992, it was natural for him to look for some soil to dig in. He had a couple of gardens in various places, but when an attempt at a community garden out at Parkview failed to take off, he decided to take advantage of the plot that had been prepared and start a garden himself. Over a decade later, he's still spending much of the time when he's not working as a city mail carrier bent over rows of tomatoes, onions, beans ...

In the late summer, he generally spends about eight hours each week simply picking and preparing the vegetables that he brings to church on Sundays and sells. Most of that money goes back into the Parkview budget, to help cover the costs that come with maintaining such a large garden. Much of the rest of the produce goes to the food bank, to help supplement the canned and boxed food that YCAP is able to give out to the needy in our community. Or sometimes families will come directly to the garden and pick what they need themselves.

Dale finds it gratifying to be able to do something he loves and to help the community at the same time. But it's not always easy. Never mind the years when the weather doesn't cooperate, or the fact that weeds always seem to be bent on taking over! It's just a whole LOT of work to plant, sustain, and harvest that many vegetables. And he doesn't have a great deal of help. Several people have expressed interest in the garden, but most haven't found their way to a shovel and hoe. But he keeps plugging away. "This is my ministry," Dale said. "If people show up to help, it's a gift."

He is still hoping that Parkview will be able to host an actual community garden. He is planning to fence an area and prep it in anticipation of doing so in the summer of 2011. But whether it actually gets going or not depends on whether someone agrees to coordinate the project. Because he works full-time, Dale would not be able to tend to all the details that would go into creating a successful community garden. But he is eagerly preparing the area in faith that the right person will step forward in due time.

## *An Afternoon of Art*



Beautiful glass & metal work, ceramics, and wood working – all can be seen on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Portland Convention Center during the annual shows of the Oregon Glass Guild, Creative Metal Arts Guild, and Guild of Oregon Woodworkers. If you're interested in an afternoon of beautiful art and creativity, plan to come along! The MCM bus will leave the church parking lot at 12:30. Since the show closes at 5:00, we'll be stopping on the way home for dinner & fellowship, returning to the church around 7:00pm. Please contact Susan Dehm (503-85787584 or [sdehm@onlinemac.com](mailto:sdehm@onlinemac.com)) or Patty Munday ([pattymunday@comcast.net](mailto:pattymunday@comcast.net)) if you are planning to attend.