

August 2011



JOYFUL NOTES

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS....

Inside this issue:

Bits & Bites	4
Honoring the Sabbath	2
Raisin' the Roof!	5
Warrenton UMC News	3
Worship Music Needs	2
Unpaid Servant Opportunities	5

Encouraging Children to be He-roes and She-roes

There are heroes and sheroes in the Bible; what would today's world be like if children knew they, too, could be heroes and sheroes and impact someone's life? That's the theme for this year's one-day Day Camp, scheduled for August 24 at Ft. Stevens.

This year we've moved to a single, full-day camp experience that will continue to have favorite activities such as stories, crafts, and music. The camp day culminates with a family BBQ dinner to which the campers, their families, and our church family is invited (watch the bulletins for more details).



Registration is only \$5 per child, with scholarships available; get detailed registration info from the church office.

You can support this important ministry through financial gifts (\$25 per camper suggested), prayers, and participation. If you have questions or would like to assist, please contact the church office!

Thank you to everyone for supporting our young people through Day Camp, especially our hard-working camp leaders! Let's help build heroes and sheroes to transform our Astoria community!



Celebrating Astoria First UMC's Missions

Plan to be with us for worship on Sunday, August 28 for a special celebration of all the missions that Astoria First supports. Photos (and possibly singers) from Day Camp will be included, as well as a special

message from our Western District Assistant to the Bishop Kate Conolly. Following worship, we'll gather for a potluck lunch for good food and good fellowship. Watch up-coming bulletins for more details.

Honoring the Sabbath

We are admonished in the scriptures to "Be still, and know that I am God."

Being still in a world that admires and encourages busyness is not an easy thing to accomplish. I find myself challenged with that as much as anyone else. Yet, God calls us to a day of rest and time alone with our Creator. The challenge to us is to be intentional in carving time out of our busy schedules to be with and rest in God's goodness.

When did you last spend time alone with God? I'm not speaking only of our corporate Sunday worship gathering—though I am glad that you are here to join together in worship— but more importantly, when was the last time you stopped the day-to-day routine of your world to just exist in the presence of the Almighty?

We clergy are expected to take a

day off for our Sabbath, since Sundays are technically a work day for us. I have chosen Fridays as my day, so you will not find me in the office then. I confess I'm not always as good as I'd like to be about refraining from work on my Sabbath, but I do try to avoid work-related phone calls and emails, so please understand if non-emergency calls are returned on Sunday or Monday.

Time to rest from our labors and be in the presence of God is important for all of us. Let's encourage and support each other on our Christian journeys as we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Resting in God's goodness,



Pastor Jennifer

Worship Music Needs

We recently celebrated the music ministry and retirement of Diane Curs, our worship pianist. Her departure brings the opportunity for others in our congregation to share their musical gifts during our weekly worship gathering.

If you sing or play a musical instrument, we encourage you to consider being part of our church's music ministry. You need not play the piano or organ—guitar, violin,

and other instruments are welcomed, too! All bring a joyful musical offering to our worship gathering.

Have questions? Ready to help lead our worship through music? Contact the church office at 503-325-5454 and talk with Linda or Pastor Jennifer.



Warrenton UMC News

As we consider all the changes that have taken place in July, the reality of God's care and provision for each of us is as clear as the light at the break of day! We particularly celebrate our connection with each and every one of you. In our first lay-led worship service, we received a great report on our Oregon/Idaho annual conference from Anne Stark, our lay member of AC. She used her new computer screen projector to show us pictures of the people, places and worship services as she shared information--what a treat to put names and faces together, to see Judy's retirement service and to be reminded of the connections provided to us through God's grace and love. Another lay led worship service was held on July 20th and brought such a sense of "Yes, God, we can do this!"

We give thanks for the partners we have in the use of our church building and for the opportunities to work together. Early in July we celebrated the life of Delores Hart and the sanctuary was filled with people who grew up here, got married here (sometimes more than once!) and who shared their memories with us. What a privilege to be in a place that has so much meaning to so many people.

We ask for prayers for our people who are struggling with health issues like cancer, back problems, depression, diet, medication management and healing from recent medical procedures. We also include prayer support for those who are distant from us or currently unable to attend weekly

services--we hold them in our hearts. Our card writing ministry to them and to two young people in jail is important to us and, based on the letters we receive back, important to them, too. If you have people you want us to include in these ministries of prayer and cards, please let us know their names and addresses. Our prayers for the Day Camp planners, campers and their families and staff are on-going.

Here is a special invitation to everyone--Doris Wright and her daughter Karen are with us for the summer and early fall. It is such a delight to have them back in the community. Doris has a granddaughter who has moved with her husband and children to serve God in the work of reaching people in Eastern Europe and helping them on their faith journey. Their names are Kristin and Casey Yorman and the family will be on this Christian mission for 5 years. You are invited to follow them through the internet at www.josiahventure.com and a blog at www.yormans.wordpress.com. We hope you will check out their adventures and join us in keeping them in prayer.

Finally, we are starting our planning for a "Strength for Service" Sunday with the national office of United Methodist Men. This is a program that raises funds to make a daily devotional book for all service people available. Each book for a service person is \$2.50. We will be collecting funds

Continued on next page...

Bits & Bites

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in August

Be sure to wish these folks a happy birthday or anniversary when you see them! Congratulations to all!

August Birthdays

- 6—Trudy Anglim
- 15—Pat Kujala
- 16—Jill Norris
- 18—Chuck Albright
- 18—Jim Swanson
- 20—Rose Marie Thompson
- 27—Bob Gauthier
- 27—Soleil Stokes
- 30—Tony Robinson

August Anniversaries

- 1—Brian & Jenny Bergman (1988)
- 7—Chuck & Molly Albright (1993)
- 15—Chuck & Ushi Gunn (1981)
- 21—Rev. Dave & Kathy Kinman (1971)
- 25—Jeff & Linda Salfen (1979)
- 25—Norman & Beanie Johnson

Thank you from Pastor Jennifer

To everyone in the congregation, thank you for your prayers and support during this time of pastoral transition. You have extended to me a warm welcome to Astoria! I look forward to our time of ministry together and the next chapter in our church's journey. Blessings, Pastor Jennifer

Thank You to Meet 'n' Greet Hosts

Special thanks to the Albright family, Mary Lovvold, and the Soderman family for hosting the recent "Meet 'n' Greet" gatherings with Pastor Jennifer. They were good times of conversation and sharing about our journeys and our church congregation. Thank you for helping to make those possible!

Warrenton News *(continued)*

and planning our worship with local service folks over the next month. Our target is to celebrate this program in our September 11, 2011 service. More details will be coming--if you want to take part, let Jane know. If you have the names and service branch of particular people you want to have mentioned, send Jane that information at jjaj92273@gmail.com, we will be honored to include them.

Lay led services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, Jane leads service on the 2nd and a Holy Communion service on the 4th Sundays. Whenever there is a 5th Sunday, that service will be one of prayer and Old Time Hymn Singing. You are always welcome at 10 am Sunday for worship and every Wednesday at 2 pm for prayer and Bible Study.

May God bless you and keep you,
Jane Hill



Unpaid Servant Opportunities

There are many opportunities for you to become involved in the life of our congregation. If you are interested in serving in a ministry area below, please contact the church office.

Worship Wheels Some of our members need a ride to Sunday worship. Can you help by providing "worship wheels" so that a brother or sister can be present with our congregation for worship?

Newsletter Team Once-a-month helpers are needed at the church office to prepare the monthly newsletter for mailing (folding, taping, and attaching mailing labels).

Card Writer Should have clear handwriting to address envelopes and

prepare birthday and anniversary cards for mailing. Can be done from home.

Communications Coordinator

Responsible for advertising/communicating church events and activities to the community. Involves finding resources available to us (in addition to newspaper) and sharing information in a timely manner to meet deadlines.

Care Team Individuals who are willing to periodically visit shut-ins at home or in a care center. Must be reliable, have own transportation available, and be sensitive to confidentiality needs. Pastor Jennifer will provide training.

Raisin' the Roof!

During the past few weeks you may have seen men up on the roof during the week. Workers from Dr. Roof arrived on July 18 to begin the much-needed replacement of our church roof. Work has progressed well, though unexpected wood damage was found which added about \$1,500 to the cost; the damage could have been far worse.

We celebrate, too, that as of July 24 all pledges for the new roof expenses have been paid! Thank you to

everyone who gave money to help make it possible for our church building to continue to be a safe, dry home for our congregation and the Astoria community.



*Thanks be to God
for all God's blessings!*



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Return Service Requested

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD...

**Astoria First United Methodist Church
Warrenton United Methodist Church**
Western District of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

Bishop: Robert Hoshibata
Assistant to the Bishop for the Western District:
Kate Conolly
Pastor: Jennifer A. Mercer
Administrative Assistant: Linda Grznar
Diaconal Minister: Jane Hill
Lay Leader: Sue Hicks
Church Council Chairperson: Don Morden
Lay Member to Annual Conference:
Mary Frances Gunn

Astoria Church Office Hours:

Monday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

We're on the web!
www.astoriafumc.org

