

All Peoples
United Church of Christ
SOJOURNER NEWS

A Central Oregon House Church

Vol. XVII, Number 1

January, 2017

SOUP KITCHEN TRANSFORMS VOLUNTEERS AND DINERS

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) of Kansas City, MO, have added a fresh touch to their soup kitchen ministry. Its called “dining with dignity.” Restaurant-style volunteer servers greet diners at their tables. The volunteer takes orders from a two- or three-entrée menu. Staff serve up and deliver meals to the tables... with dignity!

Redmond is certainly NOT Kansas City. Nor do we have a host of middle and high school students who would volunteer to be servers (and learn)—or might we?

The point is not to suggest that our successful Jericho Table system undergo big changes; rather it is to follow, as much as possible, the philosophy of the innovative man behind the

ECS program Beau Heyen. Beau says, “This isn’t just a kitchen; this is a transformative space where we’re trying to teach something to everyone who walks in here.” ▲

JANUARY ‘17’S, JERICHO TABLE VOLUNTEERS

2nd—Closed;

9th—Evelyn Doherty—HELP!

(Evelyn needs a volunteer partner);

16th—Fran Davis & Gerry Soto;

23th— David & Nancy Cook

30th—HELP... no volunteers in sight yet!

Volunteer; it’s educational and fulfilling. ▲

BURNED DOWN BUT NOT OUT

From the UCC church in Vancouver, WA.

In the months before fire burned a major part of their sanctuary, the UCC congregation of 125 years had lost their pastor to a position with the national UCC offices in Ohio and their music director of 25 years to retirement. The group was in a state of major transition with an interim pastor and a new music director. Then came the fire on May 25th. Ever since, the members of the Vancouver UCC congregation have been coping with “being” the church without a building and with new personnel. For a detailed report on the story, go to:

http://www.ucc.org/news_burned_down_but_not_burned_out_church_finds_new_sense_of_community_at_christmas_12202016

Vancouver’s experience is parallel to that of All Peoples’ in several ways; there may be lessons to learn from the two congregations—lessons for a national denomination that is also in a state of flux.

- Add a measure of stress and people begin to pull together.
- Remove the comfort of traditional ways and people become creative and resourceful.
- Give people a new story and others may be drawn to share in the experience. ▲

A PASTOR’S LAMENT

The preponderance of social networking information found through UCC websites carries stories of stress, points of protest and calls to action. The following comes from writing by Traci Blackmon, Acting Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries, UCC. We struggle to make room in our houses for the unplanned, and often unwelcomed, in-breaking of Christ.

- There is no room in our legislative houses to welcome those in need of refuge today.
- There is no room in our houses of worship to welcome those whose beliefs may differ.
- There is no room in our cities to offer shelter to the homeless.
- There is no room in our hospitals to care for the mentally ill.
- There is no room in our political policies to welcome the immigrant.
- There is no room on our agenda to respect the environment.
- There is no room in our hearts to comfort the poor, the vulnerable, the profiled among us.
- There is no room in our inn.
- And yet, Christ comes anyway, challenging us, always, to make room. ▲

MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Thoughts for the New Year

For many of us in advancing age, turning the corner into yet another year may have become fairly mundane. This year is different in many ways. It is filled with more uncertainty than usual.

At any level from family and friends to local to regional, national and global, events appear to be on the cusp of something new and unanticipated. We find ourselves seeking areas where stability still beckons in order to draw peace and strength to face unknown futures.

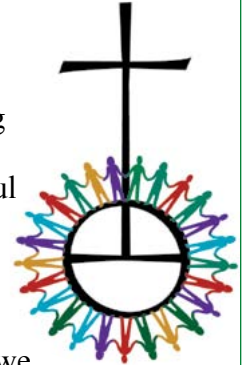
All Peoples' close and loving family stands as one of those bastions of hope and love. Joining to serve others yields a peace and enthusiasm that builds to recharge our reservoirs of faith.

We have grown some this year. Our ability to reach out to those in need is a bit stronger. But, even our journey together keeps changing. It takes on new concerns and new emphases. Each one of us is a part of the ways that this journey unfolds.

Critical to keeping the APUCC momentum going is our continued love and awareness of the wonderful individuality of each member of the group. As we focus on the needs, talents and aspirations of each of those with whom we worship, God will continue to speak to All Peoples through love and faith.

These "editor's notes" from far away are not a sermon on keeping the faith so much as cheer leading for the wonderful acts of compassion and love that this congregation embodies. As new leadership moves into place in our communities, the Central Pacific Conference, our local and national governments, may we share, work and learn from each other to discern the best paths to follow in order to be a force for good, love and compassion. ▲

God bless All Peoples UCC,
Pris Hardin, editor



IF THE NEWS MEDIA SEEM TO HAVE GONE SILENT...

Here are two fairly recent URLs reporting on the Standing Rock Sioux protests:

<http://www.snopes.com/2016/12/21/ghost-dance-standing-rock-sioux-will-continue-dakota-access-pipeline-battle/>

and

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/why-i-kneeled-before-standing-rock-elders-and-asked-for-forgiveness-20161221/>

As reported on YES Magazine's website.

“On December 2, 2016, some veterans participated in a formal “forgiveness ceremony,” at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation protest of the DAP pipe line construction site, The event began with an emotional plea to the tribe for forgiveness by former Army Lt. Wesley Clark Jr., son of Gen. Wesley Clark, former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO:

‘Many of us, me particularly, are from the units that have hurt you over the many years. We came. We fought you. We took your land. We signed treaties that we broke. We stole minerals from your sacred

hills. We blasted the faces of our presidents onto your sacred mountain. Then we took still more land and then we took your children and ... we tried to eliminate your language that God gave you, and the Creator gave you. We didn't respect you, we polluted your Earth, we've hurt you in so many ways but we've come to say that we are sorry. We are at your service and we beg for your forgiveness.’

Clark made these remarks head bowed, kneeling before the elders. Chief Leonard Crow Dog put his hand on Clark's head. A moment of forgiveness followed by tears and embraces.”

For the complete interview with former Army Lt. Wesley Clark Jr by Sarah van Gelder of YES! Magazine check out the EcoWatch website cited above.

If nothing more, view the photograph taken by Joe Zummo. While cynics might label this as grandstanding flimflam, a quick read through the entire interview carries a sense of the deep sincerity of the event. ▲

TAKE A STAND

An article in Costco's October *Consumer Connection* offered guidelines for organizations seeking to impact an issue. Authors David and Amanda Horowitz, a father/daughter team, are simply offering good logic. But, as APUCC steps closer to becoming even more active on social issues, the subtitle to this article, "How to Champion a Cause," hints at some ideas that could be useful.

The authors outline six steps to the process:

- **Think through your goal.** Put together a brief mission statement. Flesh it out by noting key personnel, resources, timelines and costs.
- **Study the related issues.** Learn all you can about the cause. Read articles, interview others who are involved with the matter—as the research continues, one discovery, resource or ally will lead to other information.
- **Stick to the facts.** Verify resources. Work hard to avoid the trap of false information and bias.
- **Identify allies in the cause.** The Horowitz team suggests numerous national organi-

zations (several available on the internet) that may share in your concerns and may be able to contribute information and support to your cause.

- **Communicate with elected officials.** This advice could also include civic, social and religious leaders, depending upon the APUCC issue of concern. The authors point out that engaging with staff members of organizations may yield very useful information, too. Avoid heavily biased and angry protagonists as they will turn other potential supporters off fast.
- **Engage with media.** Composing a media kit for distribution among local and traditional media outlets holds strong potential for reaching others.

Perhaps some of these suggestions can offer a framework for APUCC to follow in the coming year should the congregation decide on a targeted issue to support. ▲

APUCC COMPLETES YEAR'S GIVING

A December collection of \$235.00 for the UCC Christmas fund, finishes the church record of having contributed to each of the 5 charity campaigns sponsored by "national." ▲

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE LAUNDROMAT

Several of our beloved community are traveling this holiday season. Conversations with complete



strangers seem to happen easily during travel. Ask the returning travelers about their chance encounters. Sometimes rich insights result.

We Hardins had an interesting exchange with a homeless man when we travelled into town to the laundromat on Christmas eve. Having no particular plans for Christmas and a pile of dirty clothes, what better activity than getting cleaned up before Christmas?

Another visitor to the laundromat apparently found himself in the same situation. Parked outside was a grocery cart with his possessions piled in it. It made for an interesting Christmas eve photograph (*left*). When asked if he would mind if I took a picture, he seemed puzzled at first but decided that would be all right after I assured him that he himself did not have to appear in the picture. I said that I wanted to share his Christmas eve activity with my friends at my little church in Oregon and then, he seemed quite pleased to cooperate. ▲

UCC CONGREGATION MOVES MOUNTAINS FOR GUATEMALAN FAMILY

How a small Wisconsin town of 15,000 banded together to guide a small family to a new life is a heart-warming story.

Sparked by the teamwork of two old friends in the River Falls UCC church Lupe and her children have found new friends, schools, language and hope for a new future. After travelling 2,300 miles with virtually nothing, the little family stranded at the border without sponsorship. Through an immigration lawyer, the Rev. Barbara de Souza and Bobbie Kuhn connected with the family last February. An appeal to local churches for help brought 7 of the community's 12 churches together to form the Ecumenical Asylum Committee (EAC) to cover the family's expenses. First Congregational agreed to keep track of donations, and the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ contributed a large sum to help seed the fund.

Before Lupe and her children arrived in River Falls one late night in February, the EAC found her an apartment. Kuhn got

the kids into schools, and de Souza handled medical issues, setting up inoculations, finding a dentist and taking mom and the children to doctors' appointments. De Sousa, at 86, is the eldest of their American family, and sees herself as Lupe's 'grandma.'

An immigrant judge granted the family assylum in October; their deportation nightmares are over. Now they can dream of citizenship. Lupe is looking forward to finding a way to support her family. ▲

THE MADISON SOCIETY

From Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU)

Everything AU has seen so far suggests that church-state separation is going to be a target of the Trump-Pence administration.

That is why AU is asking each AU member to support AU's Madison Society.

The Madison Society is a group of AU members who support their work throughout the year via automated monthly gifts. AU relies on this steady, dependable support so as to act fast to file an urgent lawsuit, fight new legislation, or shine a spotlight on discrimination and injustice in a local community or in policy plans. ▲

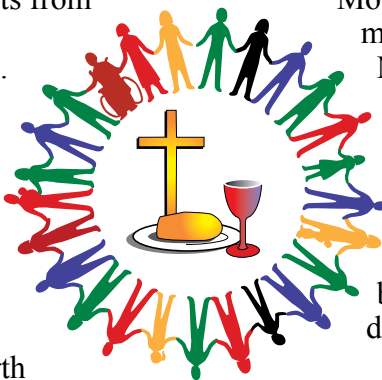
JANUARY WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. Study and discussion group meets from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Refreshments begin at 9:45 a.m..

FINDING ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL IN REDMOND

- **From the north**—From Hwy 97 reroute in Redmond, right on Larch; first left on Canal, right on Kingwood, 3rd right into parking lot.
- **From the south**— coming north on Redmond Hwy 97 reroute, exit left at Glacier, right on 5th all the way north through town to Kingwood, right on Kingwood, go 1.75 blocks, and turn left into the hospital parking lot.
- **From east or west** on Hwy 126, go north on 5th and follow south-side directions.
- **Finding the Juniper Room**—Enter at the main entrance or the next door on the left. Go left to the end of the hall; turn right and enter the first room on the left.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 1st—11 a.m. Worship: Nancy Cook
10 a.m. Discussing “Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?” by Brian McLaren, Nearing the final chapters. Nancy Cook leading.

January 15th—
11 a.m.—Worship:
Becca Tatum
10 a.m. Continuing McLaren book discussion; we’re nearly done with McLaren.
Nancy Cook leading.

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Please join us every first and third Sunday for
worship at 11 a.m.

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