

September 4, 2011

Happy Labor Day weekend,

Though Fall doesn't officially begin for another three weeks, this weekend marks the traditional (and psychological) end of summer for many of us. For Oregonians and Washingtonians, the weather patterns this first week of September will likely give us the longest string of hot days we've had all season, causing us to feel as though summer is just beginning rather than drawing to a close. It's a little disorienting, yet life itself has an interesting habit of disorienting us just enough to allow for and encourage a search for what is truly important and reliable. The unpredictability of weather mirrors the unpredictability of life. It invites us to cultivate flexibility while discovering or re-discovering what remains stable, where our foundations lie and what they are made of.

Mass Schedule This Month

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR PORTLAND

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **September 10**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. Our new church home is warm and welcoming and there is a parking lot behind the church. The ramp down to the kitchen (as well as the ramp up to the Sanctuary) is located at the east end of the parking lot. Parking is also available on N. Atlantic (west side of the church) and you may enter through the front doors or the back door facing the parking lot on the west end of the building. Vegetable dishes, salads and desserts will be most welcome at our dinner following Mass.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be Sunday, **September 11**, at First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd, at **4:00pm**. Bring your entrees, vegetable dishes, salads and desserts for the potluck following our Liturgy. If you would like to be involved as a lector, Eucharistic minister or musician at this Mass, please contact Kathy or Carol. And if you would like to participate as a singer or musician, please come at 3:00 and join in on the rehearsal.

Pastoral Update

Conflicting vacation schedules has delayed work on the **website**, but progress continues in the background. We remain flexible as this project continues to unfold and look forward to the eventual launching of an online presence for our community in God's good time!

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE. Due to a scheduling conflict, the date for our **Fall retreat** has been changed from Saturday, October 29, to Saturday **November 5**, from 10am to 6pm. Cost of the retreat will still be just \$15.00 per person. Please save this

date on your calendars and plan now to participate in this spiritually rich community experience. More information will be available in the October newsletter.

If you are aware of pastoral needs awaiting attention please don't hesitate to let me know. You have my email address in this mailing, and my phone number is 503-286-3584.

Food for the St. Andrew's Food Pantry

Kathleen Greene, Director of the Food Pantry sent the following message after receiving our contributions in August. **Please look for the basket at the entrance of the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please continue to be as generous as possible.**

This week our pantry received 131 pounds of WONDERFUL items from Sophia Christi Angels.

Cookie and cake mixes, hardy soups and chili, tuna, cooking oil, cereal, rice, Pork & Beans, shampoo, bar soap, laundry soap, dish soap and tooth paste filled our shelves. We were so thrilled.

Thank you, thank you. God bless your big hearts. And may you never go without His love and the kindness of others.

Kathleen

As a faith community, our stability is anchored in the steadfast love of God and the faithful presence of Christ amid the fluctuating circumstances of our individual and communal lives. Recognizing this truth is a continuing challenge since we humans naturally look to the physical world for a tangible experience of solidity and continuity. Time and again we are disappointed. Often the unexpected intrudes and adjustments have to be made. Anxiety is a common response to change in the personal or public sphere. Perhaps an ongoing practice of forgiveness is needed—forgiveness of the world-that-is for not being what we want it to be, for promising what it can't deliver—and forgiveness of ourselves and each other for the aggravating attempts and painful disappointment of trying and failing, over and over, to make the world into the particular kind of heaven we imagine heaven would be. Yes, 70 times 7 times. We just have to keep forgiving. The weather keeps teaching us. This world will never be exactly what each of us would want it to be. Neither it nor any of us will ever live up to our most cherished desires and expectations, and so we learn and re-learn how to forgive.

May the Wisdom of Christ lead us through the vagaries of life, and bless us with an inner peace,

Toni

