

Weekly Message from
Parkrose Community United Church of Christ
March 5, 2009

Good afternoon. This is Rev. Chuck Currie from Parkrose Community United Church of Christ with an update for April 15, 2008.

One of the lectionary readings for this day is Psalm 118 which concludes with these words:

“This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

We have much to rejoice in this week. Our Easter celebration was a wonderful and moving worship experience. The choir was at its finest and their music stirred our souls. There were many visitors and the pews were full. Part of this was because of our internet advertising and the profile article about our church that ran in the Easter edition of The Sunday Oregonian. But many other people came because they were invited directly by our members. That's evangelism!

Many people have commented on The Oregonian article. The author did a fine job of reporting on the historic past of this congregation and the problems we have more recently faced. She also told readers of the proactive steps the church is taking to find a way to be the church of the future.

Sara Cole, one of our younger members, commented on The Oregonian's website after reading the story:

Hi I am another person lucky enough to have had my life changed by the love and support that Parkrose UCC has to offer! I have been a member of the church since I was 8 or so, and when I was old enough went through confirmation classes and was baptized at the same time. Sadly life has kept me very busy and I have not been going to church as much as I would love to or need to. Two years ago the Lord gave the best Christmas gift I have ever been given, At 12:21am Christmas morning my son Christian was born! I had no idea I was even expecting let alone that soon! And I was very ill from it. I spent 7 days on life support, and while I was in there my church family stepped up to help us out. Anything we needed they helped out! And the prayers were heard! I love my church family I wish they knew just how much I do! And as sad as it is to be in financial trouble and thinking about selling the building, the congregation is really in our hearts and not in a building. We will always have the memories and pictures, but when one door closes another one opens! God does not give us anything we cannot handle!

During Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and now we are marking a moment of time that we hope to look back on as the rebirth of our church. Yes, the future is uncertain. But because of our hard work over the last two and a half years we have the possibility of a future. When all hope was lost for the first Disciples they were encounter by the Risen Jesus who told them one thing: Go out and preach the Good News.

Hear those words from the Psalm again:

“This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

We have much to be hopeful for as we live out the gift of these days given to us by God.

A few additional announcements:

Tonight the church’s Pastoral Search Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Room. Dinner is provided

Women’s Fellowship would like to announce that they will not be doing a desert fundraiser this month but will do one in May. Women’s Fellowship will also be visiting downtown’s historic Old Church on May 5th and will be going to lunch afterwards. There is a \$6 charge. Please RSVP to Jean Johnson by April 19th.

I will be moderating a forum on Health Care Reform at First Unitarian Church on Thursday, April 16th from 6-8pm. The guests will include U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, State Senator Alan Bates and Dr. Mike Huntington. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a co-sponsor. More information be can found here.

The Board of Trustees will meet after worship next Sunday, April 19th in the Garden Room. Those helping with the marketing of property will join them.

The Women’s Chorus will also meet following worship on Sunday, April 19th.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!