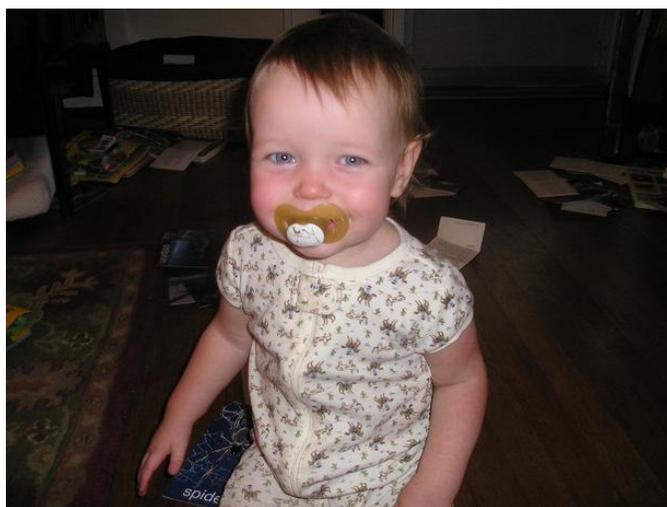


15 MONTHS OLD

Katherine and Frances turn 15 months old this Saturday. Each day they become a little more confident in their walking and their vocabulary keeps increasing (they talk nearly as much as their parents—look out!)



Daddy & Frances; Katherine (left) and Frances play at their piano



Alison (our mother's helper) holds Frances while Liz holds Katherine; Katherine mugs for the camera



Frances reads the paper and shows off her walking skills



Katherine and Daddy; Katherine smiles for a photo

Chuck Visits The Northwest



At mom's house (she is on the far right) with Rock (far left) who was visiting from South Carolina and the Reasoners (family friends); nephew Ian falls asleep

The big reason for my trip back to Portland was to take my ordination exam before the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ's committee on ministry. Before taking the exam candidates for ministry must write a rather large paper explaining their theology, grasp of UCC polity, and their understanding of ministry. The exam takes place near or at the completion of seminary and after all other references and related materials have been collected and reviewed. A committee of ordained clergy and lay leaders conduct the exam (which is really more like a one-hour interview). You can read more on the process – if interested – by downloading the UCC Manual on Ministry (a PDF file) at www.ucc.org/ministers .

The good news is that I received word from our conference minister that the committee will be recommending that I be ordained pending a call to ministry. That recommendation is now sent to an ecclesiastical council. This council, which will represent a larger group of people in the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, will review the decision of the committee on ministry, hear a presentation from me and ask questions, and will then make a final determination as to whether or not I get ordained. The ecclesiastical council will take place on October 23rd in Portland.

Being back in Portland also afforded me the time to meet with Mayor Tom Potter and tour the center where Katrina evacuees are being processed in Oregon. The mayor and I had a good discussion about poverty in the Multnomah County area. I continue to be impressed with how on top of things he and his staff are. The work at the Katrina center, which is being coordinated through several governmental and non-profit agencies, was also impressive. Dona Bolt, Oregon's homeless education coordinator, arranged the tour.

Of course, being back in the Northwest also gave me the chance to visit with many of my family and friends and to preach at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Portland.

School ends in December. We'll be moving home before you know it.