

Weekly Message from
Parkrose Community United Church of Christ
Jan. 22, 2009

Good morning. This is Rev. Chuck Currie from Parkrose Community United Church of Christ with an update for January 22, 2009.

Normally I begin these updates with a lectionary reading. I'll forgo that this morning but at the conclusion of our announcements for the week there will be included some special audio from the Inauguration.

Please note that the Implementation Team will be meeting directly after church in the Garden Room this Sunday. We anticipate that early next week all members of the congregation will be mailed a detailed proposal from the Implementation Team outlining recommendations on how we move forward in the future as a church.

Once you receive this information in the mail small group discussions will be scheduled so that you have time to reflect on the recommendations. A vote on the recommendations will take place in February or March.

I'm looking forward to hosting the Women's Fellowship at my house at 10 am on Tuesday, January 27th for coffee and refreshments. Maps to my home will be available at church this Sunday.

Our class on "Paul" will also meet again on Tuesday, January 27th. Come at 6 pm with a potluck dish to the Fellowship Hall. Members of our congregation have been joined by members from Zion UCC and First Congregational UCC for this exciting series on the life and ministry of Paul.

After Easter, we will begin a new leadership training program called "Unwrapping our Gifts." More information on this great opportunity will be presented soon to the congregation.

This week we witnessed this historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. There were two moments from the celebrations that I wanted to share with you. The first is the benediction offered at the inauguration by The Rev. Joseph Lowery. The words of this aging veteran of the civil rights movement captured my heart and spoke, I think, to all of us about the inclusive and loving nature of our God.

Video available at:

http://chuckcurrie.blogs.com/chuck_currie/2009/01/a-prayer-for-all-gods-people.html

The second moment that I want to share is the sermon given by The Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins delivered at the National Prayer Service held the day after the Inaugural. Dr. Watkins is the general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Disciples are like first-cousins to those of us in the United Church of Christ. Here now Dr. Watkins words to the new president and all those assembled:

Video available at:

<http://www.disciples.org/OfficeoftheGeneralMinisterandPresident/NewsandUpdates/GMPToDeliverSermonatNationalPrayerService/tabid/476/Default.aspx>

History will judge, I believe, the accomplishments of the new administration on whether or not it will be able to live up to the prophetic and powerful message offered by Dr. Watkins.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Parkrose Community United Church of Christ."

Our worship service begins at 10 am. More information can be found by calling 503-253-5457 or visiting www.parkroseucc.org.