

September 2006

The United Messenger

Newsletter of The United Church of Moscow
an American Baptist/Disciples of Christ congregation

Roger C. Lynn, Pastor



Notes From The Journey . . .



There is a bumper sticker which reads, "If you aren't living on the edge, you are taking up too much space." I believe that our faith calls us to explore the edges - of our lives, of our world, of our faith. There is certainly a place for being comfortable, and if we spend our whole lives being comfortable we're probably missing out on a lot of life's potential.

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I have recently started exploring some of my own edges in a new way - by listening for the stirrings and leadings of the Spirit through the spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth. This particular practice has been described as a walking meditation. The labyrinth is a circular path which twists and turns and eventually leads to the center. The metaphors which this practice offers for prayer and reflection are numerous - journeying, following the path, seeking the center, and on and on. I am finding my experience to be enlightening, refreshing and enlivening. In conjunction with this practice, I am also engaging in a virtual conversation (via the internet) with some colleague/friends in which we explore the themes and insights

which are emerging for me.

One of the things I have become aware of through this process in recent weeks has to do with us - The United Church of Moscow. It occurs to me that it has been a while since we've been intentional about asking some of the foundational questions - who are we, who do we want to be, where do we want to go, how do we want to get there? Really grappling with questions such as

these can play an important role in helping us listen for God's leading and discover new directions for our journey together.

I am interested in gathering together a group of people who would like to engage in such an exploration. It is not yet clear to me exactly what shape such a process will take, and I am confident that together with other interested and committed individuals we can figure it out. If you would like to be a part of such an adventure, please contact me.

God is present in the midst of us and life is filled with abundant possibilities. I am excited about discovering what the future holds in store - for me and for us.. - Roger

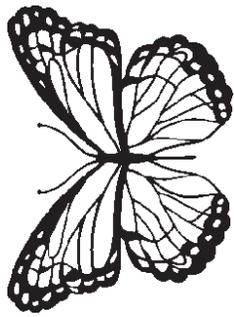
A Visitor From Angola – Sept. 27th – 6:30 p.m.

Coming up at the end of this month we have a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with a visitor from Angola. *Rev. Rebeca Nanjese Canganjo* is a pastor in her country and is in the midst of a three-month visit to the United States. She is here sharing the story of what the Church is doing to help rebuild war-torn Angola. She is an enthusiastic and delightful person to spend time with and I hope you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

We will be hosting a potluck supper, followed by a time of sharing with Rev. Rebeca. Bring some wonderful food to share. Bring a friend. Bring your questions. Plan to come and join us.



Faith Explorations Class – Begins Sunday, September 17th @ 9:30 a.m.



This class actually does reflect its name. It provides an opportunity for us to explore our faith. We will be using a variety of audio & video presentations as “stepping off” points to launch our discussions. It can get lively, but is always respectful of people’s perspectives and points of view. Come join us.

Matthew Fox – November 5th & 6th

The Roger Williams Symposium, which is sponsored by The Common Ministry at WSU, is bringing *Matthew Fox* to Pullman this year. Priest, Theologian, founder of Wisdom University and Friends of Creation Spirituality, and author of 28 books, including the revolutionary *Original Blessing*, a thoughtful and positive new paradigm for Christianity, he is one of the great thinkers of our time, certainly in the area of Theology but perhaps more importantly as a serious commentator on the state of our culture and our world. For additional information, and/or to register for this event, please go to: www.wsu.edu/~commin/events/



Greg Skinner Takes On New Role At Church



This summer the Board created a new volunteer position and named *Greg Skinner* as Assisting Pastor. This allows Greg to maintain his status with the NW Region of the Christian Church as a Licensed Minister. His duties include occasional preaching and pastoral support when Roger Lynn is out of town. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to share Greg’s gifts in this way.

Compassionate Communication Classes

The Compassionate Communication Network of the Palouse is sponsoring two twelve-week classes this fall. One will meet on Tuesday nights in Moscow, beginning September 12th, and one will meet on Thursday nights in Pullman, beginning September 14th. There is also a free Introduction presentation on Saturday, September 9th. For additional information go to www.palousecc.org or contact *Veronica Lassen* at 882-2562.



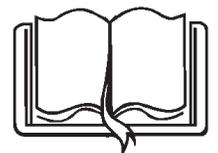
Welcome To Our New Musical Staff



The problem with hiring college students is that they graduate and leave town. The joy of hiring college students is that we get the wonderful experience of sharing their gifts while they are here. And so we bid good-bye to *Kezia Schrag*, who is now attending graduate school in Kansas. And we say hello to *Matt Pilcher*, who joins us as our pianist/organist. And we say hello to *Heidi Kalina*, who joins us as our choir director. Welcome to you both. We look forward to getting acquainted in the months ahead.

Book Study

We’ve been doing Bible Study pretty much the same way for several years now. So, at least for a while this fall, we’re going to try something different. We’re going to study a book. *“Misquoting Jesus: The Story of Who Changed the Bible and Why”* by Bart D. Ehrman. It is a book about how the Bible came to be the way it is. This offers us a chance to really dig in and take a more in-depth look at topics we’ve talked about in Bible Study over the years. I hope you will join me for this lively and educational study. Participants will need a copy of the book (we’ll be taking orders the first night). If you can pay for it, great. If not, that’s OK too. We still want you to participate. We begin on Tuesday, September 12th. Then we skip a week and resume on September 26th.



Personal Glimpses

It's been a summer filled with various happenings in people's lives. It is very possible that we will miss something here. If so, please contact Roger Lynn with details, so we can include it next month.

Congratulations to *Brenda (Bradberry) & John Norris* who were married in McCall in August.

We keep *Pearl Jensen* and *Lucille Green* in our prayers as they continue to recover from serious medical conditions.

Word has reached us that former member *Howard Abbott* died recently. We keep his family in our prayers.

A number of people have moved recently, including:

Sheldon & Elaine Russell (Lewiston)

Reta Boyd (Good Samaritan)

Lucille Green (temporarily to Latah Care Center)

Bob Johnson & Linda Rasmussen (The Netherlands)

Martin Watkinson has returned from his year in France and *Ian Cooper* is now at Whitman College in Walla Walla.

It was good to see *Lew & Doris Ann Smith* at the Outdoor Worship Service at Robinson Park.

Celebrating Birthdays . . .

We didn't have a newsletter this summer, so we got behind in announcing birthdays. If we missed yours, please accept our belated best wishes.

. . .In July

6th - Royce Manning	21st - Donna Deerkop
9th - James Leonard	23rd - Helen Tribble
11th - Zoe Lassen-Purser	27th - Cliff Grove
18th - Barbara Hisel	31st - Reta Boyd
19th - Jason Hawley	31st - Steve Talbott

. . .In August

2nd - Chris Talbott	14th - Barbara Means
4th - Amy Macy	15th - Daniel Macy
11th - Viva Grove	18th - Brent Bradberry
21st - Dorothy Roberts	

. . .In September

13th - Kyle Hawley	16th - Brandon Suquet
16th - Gene Leonard	19th - Karen Davis
16th - Sheldon Russell	23rd - Sandy Cooper
23rd - Pearl Jensen	

. . .In October

4th - Betty Leonard	15th - Bob Germain
5th - Wolf Deerkop	16th - Tristan Suquet
9th - Mo Westberg	17th - Neva Farnam
11th - Janice Doyle	18th - Luella Frey
13th - Dick Sanchez	19th - Sharon Macy
14th - Ian Cooper	25th - Alberta Hill

31st - Paul Santoro

If we've missed your birthday, please let us know so we can update our records. We want to include you.

Volunteers Needed

Our congregation needs your energy, your time, your enthusiasm, your gifts, your resources. You are invited to share yourself. In particular there are some ways in which you can get involved right now: Bake communion bread / Serve as liturgist and/or as usher/greeter /Tally "Pantry" receipts & submit them (talk to Roger for additional details about this) / Serve as substitute Children's Church teacher / Teach the adult Faith Explorations Class / Provide rides for those who need transportation to church

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Roger Lynn.

Sept / Oct

2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Fall Schedule Begins 9:30 AM, Potluck Brunch 11:00 AM, Morning Worship 	11 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	12 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Book Study Begins 	13 12:00 PM, <i>CancerSupport</i> 7:00 PM, Board Meeting 	14	15	16
17 9:30 AM, Faith Exploration Class begins 	18 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	19 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, No Book Study (Today Only)	20 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	21	22	23
24	25 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	26 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 6:00 PM, Elders/Deacons 7:00 PM, Book Study 	27 2:00 PM, Sunshine Club w/ Rev. Rebeca 6:30 PM, Potluck Dinner & Sharing with Rev. Rebeca 	28	29	30
1 <i>Fellowship Fund</i> • October •	2 7:00 PM, 4-H 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	3 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Book Study 	4 10:00 AM, Watercolor 7:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 	5	6	7
8 2:00 PM, Care Center Worship (Clark House / Good Sam) 	9 <i>Columbus Day.</i> 7:00 PM, Spiritual Mysteries 	10 5:30 PM, AA Meeting 7:00 PM, No Book Study (today only)	11 12:00 PM, <i>CancerSupport</i> 7:00 PM, Board Meeting 	12	13	14



The United Church of Moscow
 123 W. First St. • Moscow, ID 83843
 208.882.2924 • www.unitedchurch.cc

• Return Service Requested •

~ Did You Know? ~
 Roger Lynn's Sermons
 are available
 in both print & audio format
 on our web-site!