

# Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



November, 2011

## Important Dates:

- November 13: LRS meeting & election
- November 18-20: Regional Youth Retreat
- November 21-22; 28-29: Youth: wreath making
- December 3: LRS deliver Christmas trees
- December 9: Youth: Movie
- December 11: LRS meeting
- December 16: Caroling
- December 20: Youth: party
- December 25: Breakfast at Church
- December 29: LRS craft night
- January 1: Old Testament Jeopardy game (evening)
- January 6: YAG snowshoeing and overnight in cabin
- January 8: Sunday evening Book of Mormon class begins

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
— I Thes. 5:18

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.  
— Psalms 100:4

## Congregational Camping Trip, 2012

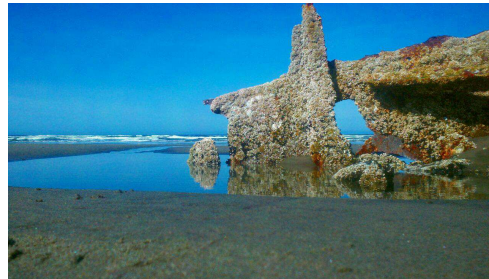
by Brother Brian Herren

For several years, reservations have been sought at Fort Stevens State Park for our annual congregational camping trip. The park is located 9 miles west of Astoria, Oregon (across Young's Bay), where the Columbia River pushes into the Pacific Ocean. While the campground is large, it is also very popular and quickly filled. Reservations are open exactly nine months in advance of one's arrival, and many begin securing their reservations at 12:01 a.m., nine months to the date. It is very challenging because those booking earlier in the week (who will stay through the following weekend) have an opportunity to reserve sites several days before those who simply want to make reservations for the weekend. That is, the nine months before their date of arrival (Mon, Tues., Wed., Thurs.) comes days before the nine months of our date of arrival (Friday of the same week). To make matters even more challeng-

ing, we try to reserve at least 10 sites adjacent to one another. In the past, we have been richly blessed at D Lake State Park and Beverly Beach State Park. This year, the Lord has blessed us again. By His amazing provision, we were able to obtain 10 great sites at Fort Stevens State Park, July 27-29, 2012!!! The reservations were confirmed in the early morning hours of October 27<sup>th</sup>. Even as the final arrangements were being made, it was worrisome to see campsites disappearing rapidly from availability on the computer monitor!

What is Fort Stevens? Fort Stevens was an important military installation that was used for 84 years, beginning with the Civil War, and continuing through World War II. Today, the installation is on 4,200 acres of forested land that is designated

as the largest state park in Oregon and one of the largest in the entire country. The park boasts



Fort Stevens State Park: tide pools at the beach.

more than 500 campsites, a beautiful coastline as well as a view of the Columbia River, 9 miles of bike trails, 6 miles of hiking trails, playgrounds, a military museum and fort, military gun batteries available for self-tour, a 105-year-old shipwreck on the beach, sand dunes, towering hemlock and spruce forests,

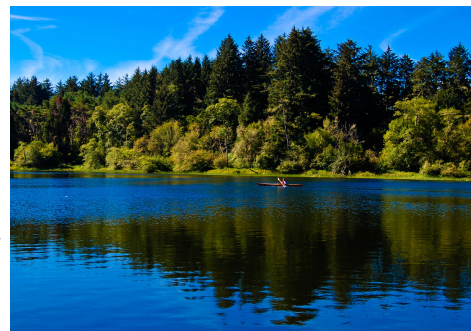
wildlife viewing platforms, and two fresh-water swimming areas on Lake Coffenbury. During the summer months, groups may enjoy a truck tour



Fort Stevens State Park: 105 year old ship wreck

of the military fortifications and grounds for a fee. When camping at Fort Stevens State Park, the day-use fees are waived for parking at the lake and fort sites. Each campsite is equipped with power and water, and is suitable for a trailer/camper/RV and tent. The sites are \$27/

night and have been paid in full. If you wish to reserve one of the ten available campsites, please contact Brother Brian as soon as possible. You may reimburse him for the



Fort Stevens State Park: Coffenbury lake.

cost if you wish, but if you would like to come and are unable to pay, please do not let financial considerations stand in the way. Special arrangements can be made so that all who have a desire might enjoy this fellowship, so long as space remains. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. As in years past, we will enjoy campfire services

on Friday and Saturday evening, and worship together Sunday morning. The Saints from Puyallup, Vancouver, and Boise will also be invited.

## Youth Harvest Party

By Sister Trina Herren



*Three crosses pumpkin*

Who said only children are allowed to play on the sea-saw, and run thru the pumpkins to find the prize winning, perfectly shaped and perfectly colored one? What is the purpose of gourds besides to make the holiday fun and decorative? Can you eat them? Who decided it is a good idea to create mystery bags containing food that is shaped and or feels like body parts and have people try to guess what is in them merely by touch? Well, I have no idea but it was so much fun! The youth met for the annual Harvest Party at 4pm on Saturday the 29th, then traveled to Bauman's Pumpkin Patch on a mission for fun. There, we found a wide variety of things to do as well as room to run and be free.

Pumpkin's and animals (some unexplainable as to what species they



*Two of our finest behind bars at the pumpkin patch*



*Several of the youth atop hay bales at the pumpkin patch*

were claiming to be) were everywhere. The smell of open air was refreshing to one's soul. After spending some time enjoying the surroundings we headed back to continue our evening. Everyone cleaned and carved their masterpieces in preparation for display. During dinner we enjoyed the company and conversation of those present that we almost forgot to finish carving our pumpkins. Steve took everyone into the backyard one by one and allowed them to stick their hand into a bag of who knows what and try to



*Sister Melissa carves her pumpkin*

guess correctly what is inside. It was such a blessing to spend time with each and everyone of you and look forward to the next time we can run and be free together. One in the Spirit and One in the Lord!



Happy 50th  
Sister Sharon



## Young Adult Group Sushi Night

By Sister Melissa Herren



*Brother Kevin, Sister Cessaries and Brother Aaron create sushi masterpieces*

On the evening of November 1st the YAG joined together to learn how to create authentic sushi rolls under the instruction of Takashi Yamamoto. After all the ingredients were prepared and a short demonstration of a basic roll, all tried their hand at being a sushi chef. In the process, a few new rolls and combinations were created by our more daring and adventurous members. After the chefs had completed preparing their sushi, a prayer of thanksgiving was offered and the sushi was eaten. A season of fellowship along with a good dose of laughter was enjoyed while dining. The YAG wishes to give a special thank you to Takashi for his willingness, expertise and patience!



## The Youth Earn Money for Camp

*By Brother Brian Herren*



Upper left: Brother Zach gathers trimmed limbs and Brother Michael trims  
Above: Sisters Vicki and Mary rake a bed  
Lower left: Brother Robert prunes  
Lower Right: Brother Travis shears a hedge

Recently, the grounds about our office building were in need of some landscaping work. The owner of the building, Dr. Cook, collected professional bids ranging from \$350 - \$500. A bid of \$200 was placed on behalf of the youth group and the bid was accepted. Dr. Cook was told that he could pay the youth whatever he thought was fair after the work was completed, if the \$200 bid seemed inappropriate at that time. Nine of the youth group gathered on November 12th to complete the job. Beginning at 8:00 am, the youth removed weeds, raked flower beds, trimmed hedges, pruned trees, swept lots, and planted flowers. At one point, 4 different electric hedge trimmers were in use, and two severed extension cords remain as evidence. Every participant worked very hard, and it was extremely rewarding to see how each of the youth helped the others and took joy in the finished product. It is a blessing to see the youth anxiously engaged in earning their own way to camp. By noon, the work was finished and we enjoyed pizza, "cave man style" in the parking lot before heading to the dump to unload the trailer. Thank you Brothers Ron Trammell, Jim Clark, and Kevin Herren for lending us tools. Dr. Cook was very pleased when he arrived on Monday morning, and stated that the work was "fantastic". After seeing the results, he wrote a check for \$300 to the youth group. That's \$100 more than the bid that was originally placed!!! Eight of the youth that helped will be eligible for camp next year, meaning that each of them earned nearly \$40 of their \$200 target in just 4 hours! Great work brothers and sisters. It is an honor and joy to work at your side.

## A Change in the Junior/Senior High Class

*By Brother Brian Herren*

After eight years of teaching the Junior/Senior High Sunday school class, Sister Melissa Herren was relieved of this responsibility in November. She is looking forward to joining the adult class again, though she has expressed some sorrow in leaving "her kids". After some prayer, Sister Cessaries Galusha was asked to teach the Jr./Sr. High class. A course study of the New Testament was suggested, as the youth had completed studies of the Old Testament, Book of Mormon, and Church History. Bible Studies, written by Thelona Stevens, will be used as a class text, along with the scriptures. Thank you very much to Sister Dianna Clark who teaches the younger children.



*Sister Melissa Herren*



*Sister Cessaries Galusha*