

Meeting Notes, 9/16/12
First United Methodist Church
Natural Step Ministry Team

Attending: Marge Stevens, Robin Proebsting Marian Veley, Rebecca Marti, Corinne Butzin,

Absent members, send minutes to: Rev. Bonnie Parr-Phillipson, Valerie White, Sara Power, LoErna Simpson, Kris Graves, Jeanie Goul, Pat Smythe, Kim Burnap (church office), Maureen Beezhold (Natural Step), Matt Gregory (FUMC web master);

Next meeting: Sunday, November 18, 2012, 3:30 – 5 p.m. Round Table Room 106b

Landscape/Garden: Corinne gave an update on the Garden project. The water pipe has been installed, and Corinne has a key for the lock on it, and will make copies. The cost ran more than anticipated due to extra digging required, from an estimate of \$450 to a cost of \$1200. Corinne is working with Trustees Landscaping, Memorials, and Columbarium committees to help with cost over-runs.

Three board cutting parties were held at Corrine's house and all the boards have been cut. After re-measuring the space, the number and arrangements of raised beds was changed. There will be three beds 4' x 8', one bed 4' x 7', and three beds 4' x 6'.

Next steps: Corinne will sort through all the boards and make up a kit for each raised bed. She will select the ones to be sanded and stained on one side for the outside pieces. The boards will be brought to church in Corinne and Marge's cars or Marian's trailer. The youth will be solicited to help with assembly. We will consult with Bill Proebsting about best practices to cover the grass and prepare the surface to put down mulch and lay the beds in place. Then we fill them with compost and leaf mulch (maybe from a youth leaf raking party on the church grounds) or a cover crop for the winter. When we have decided what to plant, we will figure out irrigation methods. Robin mentioned the plants need to be low by the driveways, to allow for sight distance for drivers.

Sharing Table Update –produce is being shared on Sunday mornings. Some \$ donations have been received. Information has been appearing regularly in the weekly bulletin – thanks to Kim for doing this unasked.

Litter Pick-Up – The youth offered to do this as their September service project. It was done on September 9, and will be need to be done again in the spring. This may become a regular activity for the youth.

Football parking – All the spaces were sold on Sept 8 and a net amount of about \$1200 was received. The group decided to split this four ways, with Natural Step, APJ, Jammin' and Sacred Landscaping (which lost their parking opportunity of Sept 1 due to a hurricane at the visiting school). The next parking dates will be Oct 20, and Nov 3 and a possible make-up date for the Sept 1 game on Dec. 1

SNAP6 / Food Stamp program – Marge received a mid-season report. Usage has increased this year over last year through July 31. The grant funds for this year have already run out. Participating churches are being asked to hold special offerings to support the program in 2013, possibly in March, just before the market open. Marge will contact the Outreach Committee to request this.

Upcoming meetings: The **Sustainability Coalition**'s Quarterly Gathering will take place on Monday, October 1 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the library, and Marge will not be able to attend. If anyone is available to attend to represent the Methodist Church Natural Step Ministry Team, that would be great. Rebecca will check her calendar, and Marge will send out the information in a separate email to Rebecca, LoErna, and Valerie.

Energize Corvallis is focusing on faith communities for the energy challenge program, funded through a grant from EPA. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, October 9 from 5:30 to 8:30 at Dennis Hall of the Presbyterian Church to meet with people from other congregations in Corvallis to network and learn about bringing the Communities Take Charge program to their church homes. Marge will forward information to Corinne, Valerie, and Tim Stover.

There will be a fund raising concert for the **South Corvallis Food Bank** at the Odd Fellows Hall on Saturday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. (One of the musical groups will feature Bill Veley on Bass guitar!)

Robin brought in fresh produce from her garden to share with us all!

Leadership of Natural Step Ministry Team: Marge is ready to turn over leadership of the Natural Step team, after six + years. It is good for the organization's creativity and energy to have a change of leadership from time to time. ******If you are interested in becoming the Ministry Team leader, please contact Marge or Rev. Bonnie for more information.******

Mark your calendar:

Anytime – write articles on Natural Step for church newsletter

September 22 – World Car Free Day, Pinwheels for Peace, Fall Festival

September 29 – Music fundraiser for South Corvallis Food Bank, Odd Fellows 7 p.m.

October 1 – Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Quarterly Gathering, Library Noon – 1:30 p.m.

October 9 – Communities Take Charge project, Dennis Hall Presby Church 5:30 p.m.

November 18 – next Natural Step meeting, 3:30 – 5 p.m., Round table room 106b

Ongoing – Solar Electric Panels on church facilities