

### THINKING ABOUT RON

I'm thinking of Ron today. In fact I think of him most mornings as we walk the walk where he never walked. He only wheeled. Lost his legs to a land mine in Vietnam. I salute him and a lot of others in worse shape. He was proud to be a Veteran. He would be at the big Veteran's parade we have in Oregon, except he died this past summer. I think it's important to remember—and think. There has been an awful lot of dying in our history. Awful lot. Awful.

And lots of maiming too.

Ron was proud to be an American, but wasn't proud that America was in Vietnam. He thought it was a shame. An awful, unnecessary shame. But he supported Veteran's causes and was proud of his service. And he often wheeled over to be with the Courthouse few who have kept a daily peace vigil each day since 9/11. He thought Iraq and Afghanistan were unnecessary too. And an awful shame.

He would roll along the river walk in his morning exercise routine, lifting a hand from the wheel to wave. A good smile. He was well-known, well-liked. He remembered me from times I spoke at his church—the Unitarian. He didn't want a service but they honored him anyway.

There are lots more wounded Vets on our streets these days bearing invisible wounds and scars. A new segment of the homeless are younger guys (mostly guys, I think) already hooked on alcohol or drugs and mental demons. An awful shame. Awful.

When those Congress people stood on the steps in Washington DC, in unity—they said, singing “God Bless America,” remembering—they claimed, those lost on 9/11 and the 10's of 1,000's they sent off to both kill and be killed, to wound and be wounded, then went inside and seem to have forgotten to fund what we really owe to those like Ron...well, it's awful.

Ron loved the trees like they are in the fall. Red, orange, yellow, green. Leaves falling now. He loved the river across the path from his condo. He always picked up trash people scattered there. He loved his country but hated what we were doing to the land and air and water. A shame, he thought. An awful shame.

Thinking about Ron on Veteran's Day gives me a lot to think about. — Art Morgan 11/11/11

### Moment Ministries and

Albany First Christian Church

Invite friends of  
PAUL PRITCHARD

TO A PANCAKE LUNCH AND PARTY

Honoring Ministry and Paul's Ministry With  
the Christian Church Pension Fund  
HONORED MINISTER'S PIN

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2011

432 S.W. Ferry Street in Downtown Albany

at noon

(The event follows a 10:15 worship service to which all  
are also welcome)

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A Moment Ministries Publication —Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Year—  
Art Morgan and Paul Pritchard, Colleagues

### A BOOK FOR NON-OBSERVANT CHRISTIANS

“Saving Jesus from the Church – How to Stop  
Worshipping Christ and Start Following Jesus.”

By Robin Meyers

I know many on my list would not pick up this kind of book. If it's been a while since you've been exposed to Christian ideas that make sense in our screwed up world, and if you think you already know what Christians think, this book could give you second thoughts.

Meyers writes: “Adoration of the post-Easter Christ so dominates the language and liturgy of the church that the wisdom of pre-Easter Jesus is all but lost.” (p. 19)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said of this book:

“Every once in a while, a book comes along that changes everything. This is the book.”

**NOVEMBER THURSDAY NIGHT MOMENT**

**Gather at 6—Potluck at 6:30**

**NOVEMBER 17**