

Sherwood Presbyterian Church Chartering

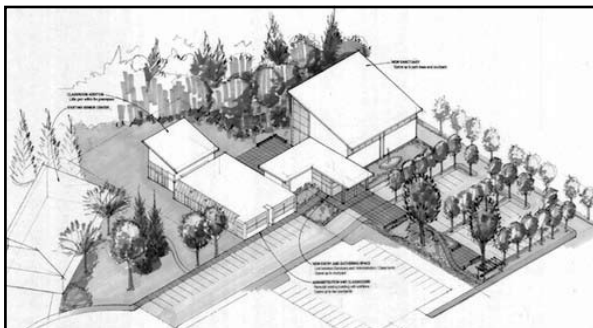
By the Rev. Dr. Craig S. Williams

Editor's Note: On Sunday, April 27, the Chartering Service of Sherwood Presbyterian Church was held at the Sherwood Senior Center. The service featured testimonies of God's faithfulness, a video history of SPC, election of their first elders, and the calling of Pastor Len as the first installed pastor.

The church received the wonderful news that it received a Sam & Helen Walton award of \$50,000 for purchase of property to expand their ministry. Check their website www.sherwoodpres.org to see the plans they are making for the next steps of their ministry.

The Reverend Craig Williams, Director of New Church Development attended the service two days after he was called to this presbytery position. He was invited to comment for the Omnibus.

My first official appearance as Director of New Church Development for the Cascades Presbytery was to attend the chartering of the Sherwood Presbyterian Church. What a great way to begin. I had no official role, no hand in the startup of the congregation. But I received



that privileged position of witness to what God has been doing in our midst as a presbytery. Here's what I witnessed...

...a grateful people. The members of the Sherwood congregation expressed their gratitude to God, to one another, to the presbytery, to those who had gone before. A video that showed elements of the church's life together displayed examples of God's hand on their fellowship and witness. The Sherwood congregation gave thanks for all the ways they saw God at work in bringing their church to this point.

...an expectant people. Though chartering was a goal of the new church, the Sherwood congregation was already leaning into the future. Conversations had already begun on securing the property next door. They were already looking at how to reach beyond those gathered that day and reach into the existing



Moderator Sandra Frey installs elders, deacons and pastor at the Sherwood chartering ceremony while the new congregations looks on.

community. The DNA of a congregation is established in the early years, and Sherwood's DNA is one of a people who reach out to those beyond their fellowship. They intend to be a church planting church and are making that known.

...a proud presbytery. Many of the people I met that Sunday were members of the presbytery staff and committees. There were administrative people and executives. All had gathered as witnesses to God's work. Some had official parts, but many were simply there as a supportive presence. It reminded me of the passage from Hebrews where the author described a scene of encouragement - "Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us throw off every weight and hindrance that clings so close, and run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus..." This is a significant role of the presbytery as new congregations are brought to fruition and called to maturity. We stand together. We run together. We watch sometimes from the stands and cheer. It is a good thing to be proud in this way.

...a humble leadership. When it came time for the nomination, election and installation of elders as well as the calling and installation of Len Tang as pastor, I was quite moved. It's a simple thing really, but profound in its

simplicity. Both Pastor and Elders took their vows of ordination/installation at the same time. It is one of the few times in a church's life when the installation of leadership happens at the same time. Why is this so profound? It demonstrates what we believe about leadership in the Presbyterian Church - that we have one calling with different responsibilities and functions. They could have done it differently. But it was a powerful testimony to the shared ministry. Well done.

...God glorified. My lasting impression was "Well done." I believe this is God's word to the Presbytery of the Cascades and to the Sherwood Presbyterian Church. But it is not a final word, merely encouragement to keep running the race.

Cascades Honored for Mission Giving in 2007

Cascades Presbytery was honored at General Assembly in June for being one of the top ten presbyteries in six of the eight categories for financial support of Presbyterian missions. Honors were given to Presbyteries of all sizes, and covering all parts of the country both for total dollars and dollars per member for the 2007 calendar year.

- Total **Shared and Directed Mission Support** - Cascades ranked **#3**
- Per Member **Shared and Directed Mission Support** - Cascades ranked **#4**
- Total **Special Offerings** - Cascades **#4**
- Per Member **Special Offerings** - Cascades **#7**
- Total **Giving in 2007** - Cascades **#4**
- Per Member **Total Giving in 2007** - Cascades **#4**
(The other two categories were Total and Per Member giving for Specific Appeals.)

The Basic Mission category includes Shared Mission Support and Directed Mission Support contributions totaling more than \$100 million for the work of the PC(USA) at its presbytery, synod, and general assembly

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2008 Deadlines

September 15	Oct/Nov Issue
November 17	Dec/Jan Issue

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Peacemaking Offering Serves Local and National Ministries

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 5. Churches are encouraged to use whatever Sunday works best for them.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives



to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

In accordance with the action of the 217th General Assembly, congregations are encouraged to consider

directing a portion or all of their 25 percent of the Peacemaking Offering as a faithful Christian response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

This denominational web site www.pcusa.com offers materials to help congrega-



Omnibus

Omnibus is published six times a year by the Presbytery of the Cascades for distribution to churches and individuals.

Information about the Presbytery is also available on the web site: www.cascadespresbytery.org.

Omnibus welcomes news and views of all the churches of Presbytery

and all its readers. Send all communications to Kathy Waugh, Omnibus editor, 85 South Holly, Medford, OR 97501, tel. 541-772-4874, email omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org

Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The Presbytery Communications Team is the editorial board.

tions promote and interpret the Peacemaking Offering. Churches will receive a packet of materials, most of which are also posted on the website as well.

Journeying Through Scripture with the Lectionary's Map

The Professional Support Committee of the Presbytery of the Cascades is pleased to announce that this year's Lectionary Retreat facilitator will be C. Clifton Black, Otto A. Piper Professor of Biblical Theology and former Chairman of the Department of Biblical Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. It will be held September 22-23, 2008 at the Shalom Prayer Center, Mt. Angel, Oregon

This retreat is open to laity and clergy. Those interested in attending are encouraged to register for this exciting experience as soon as possible. Costs are \$90 for overnight stay and \$53 for commuters. The registration form can be found on the presbytery website www.cascadespresbytery.org. Send it and check to:



The Reverend Clifton Black, Ph.D.

Presbytery of the Cascades - South Office, PO Box 1145, Phoenix, OR 97535-1145 as soon as possible. Registration deadline is Monday, September 8, 2008. Late registrations will not be accepted unless arrangements are made before the deadline. Questions? Call the South office at 1-800-701-7313.

Dr. Black holds degrees from Wake Forest University (B.A.), University of Bristol (M.A.), Emory University (M.Div) and Duke University (Ph.D.). Before coming to Princeton he was Assistant Professor at the University of Rochester, Department of Religion and Classics; and Assistant, Associate and Full Professor in the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. His principal areas of instruction are New Testament Interpretation and Research; The Gospel According to Mark: Exegesis and History of Interpretation; New Testament Theology and Biblical Theology; and Jesus, Christology, and the Gospels.

Dr. Black is the author/collaborative author of many books, articles and commissioned essays. His works as sole author include *The Disciples According to Mark: Markan Redaction in Current Debate*; *Mark: Images of an Apostolic Interpreter*; *The Rhetoric of the Gospel: Theological Artistry in the Gospels and Acts*, and *The Eighth Day of Creation: An Anthology of Christian Scripture*.

Dr. Black was ordained as a Deacon in 1980 and an Elder in 1988 in the United Methodist Church.

Presbytery of the Cascades

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

The Media Resource Center is located in Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont, Portland.

You may reserve videos in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-5:00 (please call first); by phone at 503-445-4999 or 866-200-5660, or by linking through the presbytery website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.



Renewal (DVD) This documentary offers a comprehensive overview of what different religions (including Muslims, Native Americans, and Buddhists) are doing about the devastation of earth's life systems now taking place. The filmmakers' vision of the problem and understanding of viable solutions show rare depth of perception and are matched only by their sense of the urgency of action needed if we're to realize our hopes for the future. Individual stories range from 6-17 minutes for a total of 90 minutes. Close captioned. Ask for: DVMBX003.

Faith Under Fire with Lee Strobel (four volumes - DVD - all have leader's and participants' guides.

Vol. 1: Four sessions on Jesus, the resurrection, universalism and the supernatural.

Vol. 2: Four sessions on the Bible, heaven, hell and science.

Vol. 3: Four sessions on forgiveness, pain and suffering, the Trinity, and Islam.

Vol. 4: Four sessions on the relevance of Christianity.

Lee Strobel was the legal editor of the Chicago Tribune and a spiritual skeptic until 1981. He was married to a Christian woman however, thus the rest of the story!

Are you a person who likes to read short stories? There is a series of four underutilized video tapes in the Resource Center that I highly recommend. In *Listening for God - Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith*, you can learn about the author from a video clip, then read the story. If you are really motivated, there are study questions in the guide. A leader's guide and session plans are included, if you want to use it in a book club. The first video in the series features Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, Annie Dillard, Garrison Keillor and four others. Ask for VTGHX047. You can read about the other three tapes and what authors they feature by going on-line to the Resource Center's home page. Hit the purple print that says: Search the Media Catalog and do a title search, "listening for God." This would be a good practice try for those of you who are unsure how to search using this method.

Walking The Bible - a journey by land through the five books of Moses.

Two DVDs (168 minutes total) Both a heart-racing adventure and an uplifting quest, this resource features one man's (Bruce Feiler) epic journey-by-foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel through the greatest stories ever told. This was featured on Public Television in 2006.

On order: *The End of Suburbia* and *Kilowatt Ours*. They should be here by the time you receive your *Omnibus* newspaper.

Stay cool this summer! Regards, Maureen O'Rourke, Director

Omnibus: Where to Send

Please send all Omnibus articles and photos to the editor by emailing to omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org. Any attached documents must be sent using Microsoft Word. Those using other software (for example: Word Perfect) can place the material within the body of the email itself instead of attaching. It's very helpful to note "Omnibus" in the subject line.

Although email is preferred, one can also mail articles, complaints, suggestions or ideas directly to Kathy Waugh, Omnibus Editor, 85 South Holly, Medford, 97501. Phone contact: 541-779-1711, ex 1010.

Please Note: For address corrections, additions, or deletions for the mailing list, please email margi@cascadespresbytery.org, or call her at 503-227-5486 or 1-800-495-4114. Her extension is 201.

The Omnibus is sent automatically to all elders, deacons and pastors in a congregation. We know that extra copies are often sent to a congregation and would encourage those copies to be left in a place where other members of the congregation can take them.



Cascades Viewpoints

by John Huenink

I've had two very different viewpoints at meetings of governing bodies in recent weeks.

My assigned seat at the 218th General Assembly (GA) in the cavernous McEnery Convention Center in San Jose was at nearly the center of the plenary meeting hall, where the stated clerks of the presbyteries were all seated together in alphabetical-by-presbytery rows. It would have been a great place to see the GA in action had it not been for the large platform in front of me on which the video cameras were mounted and which obstructed my view of the front platform. But, there were the large screen displays which fortunately provided a good view since from my unaided perspective the speakers appeared to be only a few inches tall. There was also a large television monitor in front of me which displayed the images of the speakers and provided an often-strange "verbatim" narrative similar to the captioning available on home televisions. When things got slow and tedious, my colleague clerks and I marveled at how simple words could get so corrupted when translated from voice into displayed text.

Off to my right was where Cascades' co-executives were seated in the Executive Presbyters section. In front of them, were the Cascades' Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) in a fenced-off area into which only commissioners/YADs were permitted. To my left, were ecumenical delegates and other advisory delegates. Behind me was seating for visitors and guests.

But it was not the context which was of most interest- it was the content of the meeting. The GA elected a moderator, The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow of The Presbytery of San Francisco (who at age 39, is the youngest moderator ever elected) and a new Stated Clerk (The Rev. Gradye Parsons, who had previously

served as Associate Stated Clerk and who visited Cascades last March). I have extended an invitation for Moderator Reyes-Chow to visit Cascades, preferably at one of our stated meetings, sometime during his two-year term, but his schedule is only now taking shape.

In general, there was a sense of vitality and optimism evident. Cascades was honored for its outstanding mission support and its innovation in seminary relations work. Overtures were received and processed; proposed amendments to The Book of Order will be referred to the presbyteries for their votes. Powerful services of worship were held. Although the weather outside was very warm (nearing triple-digit temperatures early in the week), there was generally a sense of coolness and lack of contentiousness in comparison with other GA meetings which I have attended. Those at the 218th GA seemed focused on doing what work was to be done. Even the demonstrators outside the hall (each promoting its perspectives on issues before our church) were calmer and less aggressive than has been the case in past years. If you were able to be at the Cascades' July 11-12 Stated Meeting, you learned something about the now-concluded 218th GA. If you want to read a summary of what happened in San Jose, visit the GA's website at www.pcusa.org/ga218.

My viewpoint at Cascades' Stated Meeting in Klamath Falls was not obstructed - but then, I view Cascades' meetings from "the clerk's table." As I have noted before, I look at the faces of Cascades' presbyters as a meeting progresses. Some show devoted attention, some have puzzled expressions, some seem to find our time together unduly restful. Our July 11-12, 2008 Stated Meeting began on a warm day in Klamath Falls and it didn't get cooler in the building as the meeting unfolded - but the heat was the result of the weather and not vituperation.



A viewpoint of the stage at GA. The theme of this year's assembly is from Micah 6:8. credit Joseph Williams

tive debate. Fans and bottles of water helped to keep presbyters reasonably comfortable despite a challenging docket ... and the meeting adjourned even earlier than anyone thought possible.

As is almost always the case, Cascades received carefully prepared reports, took necessary actions, celebrated together in worship, and gave thanks for the many and varied reasons why Cascades is such a good and effective governing body. Elder Judy Austin, Moderator of The Synod of the Pacific, was with us for the meeting and made very positive comments at the close of the meeting about how Cascades does its work with responsibility and good humor - and without the rancor she has experienced in other presbyteries. Let's keep it that way! There will certainly be issues about which we will disagree - but let us do so as sisters and brothers bound together by our common faith in Jesus, Our Christ, and by our common commitment to doing His work as best we are able in our part of God's world. We've been getting better and better at doing so during the nearly 35 years that I have been a member of Cascades. I see a glimmer of hope that those at a General Assembly are beginning to get Cascades' concept of how to do the work of the church without fracturing the bonds of fellowship! Thanks be to God and the influence of the Holy Spirit working among us!

Cascades Honored

(Continued from page 1)

levels.

The Special Offerings category includes contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering, One Great hour of Sharing, the Peacemaking Offering, and the Pentecost Offering.

Other Specific Appeals in 2007 included Extra Commitment Opportunities, the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts and Hands, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Theological Education Fund.

Recognition of the "Top 10 Presbyteries in Giving" is a time-honored highlight of the denomination's bi-annual gathering, when presbyteries who have given the most in dollars, or

in dollars per member, in several categories of giving are recognized.

"This support is vital to the national and global mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA)," said Karen Schmidt, Deputy Executive Director of Communications and Funds Development of the Church's General Assembly Council (GAC). "Presbyteries demonstrate stewardship by working with their congregations to support the ministries with time, talent, and treasure. The donations follow the passions of faithful Presbyterians, and it is the presbyteries that help make those connections possible."

Many of the presbyteries that were celebrated, including **Cascades**, attained Top 10 status in more than one category of giving. The small-

est presbytery honored was Eastern Oregon Presbytery, whose 1,112 members gave generously in the Basic Mission, Special Offerings, and Total Giving per member categories. Santa Fe Presbytery, in New Mexico, had the highest giving by size at \$43.64 per member. Philadelphia Presbytery, in Pennsylvania, gave the most in total dollars: \$1,063,259.12.

"One of the many things I love about the Presbyterian Church is how diverse we are - and how we celebrate that diversity," said Linda Valentine, Executive Director of the GAC. "For many years we have recognized both those presbyteries that gave and did the most, and those presbyteries that gave and did the most for their size."



Ask the Clerk

(Short Version)

Q: Can a General Assembly change the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution?
A: No.

(Longer -and perhaps more useful- Version)
Q: Can a General Assembly (GA) change the PCUSA's Constitution?

A: No. The powers of a General Assembly (and of a Synod) are specific and delegated, whereas the powers of a Presbytery (and a Session) are general and inherent.

The Book of Order makes explicit (in Chapter 18) how constitutional standards may be changed. There are actually two provisions- one which applies to confessional

documents (G-18.0200) and the other (G-18.0300) which applies to *The Book of Order* (the three documents which include The Form of Government, The Directory for Worship and The Rules of Discipline). Changes to confessional documents (that is, what is contained in *The Book of Confessions*) requires a longer process for change and "the approval in writing of two thirds of the presbyteries." Changes to *The Book of Order* may be proposed to a GA by overtures or at the GA's own initiation and, if approved by the GA, become "Proposed Amendments." These are "sent down" (or, more accurately stated, "referred to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes") and take effect "one year following the adjournment of the assembly transmitting the proposed amendments" if they receive a majority vote of the 173 presbyteries (87 presbyteries). Voting by presbyteries is by majority vote on the three (and only three) options of "Concur," "Not Concur," or "Take No Action."

The Presbytery of the Cascades will take action on the Proposed Amendments referred to

it by the 218th General Assembly at its Stated Meeting to be held on March 13-14, 2009 (at First Presbyterian Church in Salem). Booklets giving the precise wording of the proposed amendments will be provided to the presbytery in November (too late for Cascades to act at its November, 2008 Stated Meeting) and will be provided to presbyters in the background information for the March meeting. Also provided will be analysis of the effect of the proposed amendments which will be prepared in early 2009 by Cascades' Bills & Overtures special committee of Presbytery Council. Although the process has begun for some changes to the text of the Heidelberg Catechism in The Book of Confessions and the addition of The Belhar Confession to our confessional documents, it will take action by the 219th General Assembly (to meet July 3-10, 2010 in Minneapolis, MN) before either may be referred for action by presbyteries. It is likely that action on The Belhar Confession may not be referred to the presbyteries until after the GA in 2012.

Positively Presbyterian

Northeast Region

By Jan Noller

The deacons at **Colonial Heights, Portland** are having an Emergency Preparedness and Safety Forum followed by an outside picnic lunch on July 27. Members at **Cascades, Vancouver** were given nine good guidelines for visiting people in a hospital - one was to remember the power of prayer.

Love INC (In the Name of Christ) coordinates the ministry of the **Mt. Scott Park, Portland's** ministry to the community.

Savage Memorial, Portland has selected a new program for the fall stewardship focus, called "Dessert First - Celebrating God's Blessings."

Blue Lake Park was where **Rose City Park, Portland** held their all church picnic in June.

Dave Wheeler of **First, Oregon City** spread the word he wanted blankets for his birthday, but not for himself, but to give to the homeless. He and his daughter collected 86 blankets and distributed them to homeless shelters.

Gateway, The Dalles wants everyone to have a Bible. They are giving away New Testaments in the New Living translation.

As older people are 10 times more at risk, the Parish Nurse at **Springwater, Estacada** gives seven good tips to avoid heat stroke. The parish nurse at **Eastminster, Portland** announced identical workshops in two Presbyterian Urban Network (PUN) congregations for help with depression. **Milwaukie** has a new program. They are developing a parish nurse program to start this summer.

Smith Memorial, Fairview is one of the local churches in Gresham that will do a Season of Service day with projects at local elementary schools ranging from paperwork to landscaping.

At **Columbia, Vancouver**, the nursery is growing and growing. They invite adults to get their baby or grandbaby "fix" by holding babies in the nursery.

Junior highs from **East Woods, Vancouver** have joined with two other congregations to do work projects in downtown Portland.

Emmanuel, West Linn in their newsletter has a bottom line question, "If our congregation wants to be alive and thriving in 2025, into which ministries should we invest significant energy and resources?"

Under the sponsorship of the Medical Team International, a group from **Morreland, Portland** is going to Mexico City to help people who live and work at the dump sites. They will be pouring cement floors and improving sanitary conditions.

Kenilworth, Portland is proceeding along with establishing an Early Childhood Center for three-to-four year olds. They have employed a Teacher/Coordinator.

Northwest Region

By Jeanne Rich

"Serving family, friends, neighbors, community and Jesus" is the theme of a favorite Vacation Bible School curriculum this year called "God's Big Backyard." This theme pervades the summer activities of Northwest churches as they invest talents and time in a "Season of Service" locally, nationally and internationally.

Close to home, **First, Portland** recently celebrated the freshly painted face of Julia West House with an Open House. Three unique ministries "serve 200-300 people a day with our daytime and evening

activities." People from the three programs—DayWatch, Workshops, and Operation Nightwatch—explained how volunteers "can be involved through prayer and hands-on service." A group from **Sunset, Portland** joined with First in this project as a part of the Luis Palau "CityFest, Season of Service." Also a part of the CityFest, **Hillsboro** church cleaned the grounds of Eastwood Elementary, a neighborhood school. **Valley Community, Portland** youth helped with the program for single moms and children at 5 Rock Ranch in Yamhill. **Multnomah, Portland** youth served homeless people in Bridgetown. After an orientation, the youth "set up underneath the Burnside Bridge" where they spent time talking and learning about stories from homeless people during Night Strike, "an incarnational approach to blessing others that have great need." Multnomah members also joined other local churches in a Park Party mid-July to "reach out to the immigrants that God has brought to SW Portland." This friendship party was held at Markham Elementary School.

Further from home, Campbell Farms near Yakima will be served by youth from **Multnomah** and **Hillsboro** churches. **Calvin, Tigard** youth traveled across the country to "serve Christ with the Center for Student Missions in New York City—a week of seeing how God cares for the homeless, poor, and downtrodden in the city." **Emmanuel, West Linn** members are partnering with youth who will travel to Montana in August for mission service. Each youth will be sponsored by four adults. **Southminster, Beaverton** youth are preparing for a mission trip to Westminster House in Spokane. We hope to be able to report on this experience later.

Far from home, **St. Andrews, Portland** is concerned about the health and needs of children around the world. Members are participating in the fight against malaria that claims the life of "an infant or toddler in Africa every 30 seconds." They are contributing through Presbyterian Church(USA) to purchase mosquito nets at \$10 each. The church's concern for feeding the hungry has reached its children where the Kids' Lighthouse class recently wrote letters to members of Congress, "urging them to fully fund programs to needy countries, as suggested by the organization, Bread for the World." **Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro** youth traveled to Mexico to build a home with Amor Ministries. **Lake Grove, Lake Oswego** continues its work of reaching out to the globe's far corners; however, three children from the church school family will be a part of the Zambia Go Team this summer. When the three were asked to tell what they were thinking about the trip in a recent church newsletter, they responded thoughtfully. Zoë Flach (9) was quoted saying, "I want to see sponsored children to see what it is like to pump water from a borehole well, and what the kids do to have fun. I also wonder what girls my age have to do—what their chores are like." Eleven-year old Jenny Chandler said, "I am scared to see all the people suffering....But at the same time I am glad to be a part of helping them." When asked how people could pray for them, Ariel Flach (11) responded, "Please pray that God will lead the way and help us relate to people in a way that builds them up." She expressed concern about not knowing the "right way to act or how to handle things" that she doesn't understand. The girls will be traveling with their families under the "protective auspices of World Vision."

Special recognitions of talents were noted recently. **Community Church, Can-**

non Beach Pastor David Robinson and son Thomas team up at CannonBeachLog@ecola.us to provide "essays and photos (which) are about human being, not human doing." Thomas' nature photography provides material for devotional thoughts written by David which is updated each weekend. Great-grandson Sammy, of **First, Astoria** member Rod Miller, was awarded a trip to New York for his family by Jif Peanut Butter Co. While there, he was awarded the grand prize of \$25,000 for his winning recipe, "Crunchy Chinese Fortune Cookie Sandwich." Sounds interesting! **St. Mark, Portland** member Peg Anderson was honored by Eastern Oregon University (EOU) by having their new softball field named after her. "She started and coached women's basketball, field hockey, track and field and volleyball" and was "instrumental in developing opportunities for female athletes" at EOU since 1966, receiving 20 awards over the years. **Southminster, Beaverton's** Pastor Peg Pfab sang a solo. Apparently this is not something she does easily, but at a youth mission fund raiser she agreed to be auctioned with the highest bidder choosing the song. Georgia Walp won the honor and chose a New Zealand "Farewell Song" in recognition of their youth departing for summer mission. The latest news is that Peg did very well on a Sunday morning and no one knows why she has a hang-up about singing!

South Region

By Ann Moore



Cody Johnson, (R) and Jimmy Atwood are almost atop each other as they paint trim to an office door in the **Cascades South office at Phoenix.** credit Tam Moore

Five youth from **First, Creswell**, painted the inside of the **South Regional Office** during 100-plus degree days in July. They spent the night at **First, Phoenix**, where the office is located, and started to work in the cool of the morning at 6 a.m.

Westminster, Medford's youth drove to South Ogden, Utah to help three families with house painting and constructing a deck and ramp for handicap access. They stayed at a South Ogden Junior High school, sleeping in classrooms, eating in the cafeteria, and having meetings in the gymnasium. They were among 200 student participants from Alaska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, California and Oregon. Group Work Camp Foundation has sponsored the program nationally and internationally for 31 years. Candidates for construction help submit applications through local churches. The churches work with city and community services as well as local merchants.

For "their" families, **Westminster teams** spent two days scraping and preparing the exterior of one house, the interior of another, and another two and one half days painting. The third team built a 5 by 7

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Positively Presbyterian

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foot deck and a handicap access ramp for their family. When one group finished its project, the workers helped another. Work days were 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

First, Bandon will have new clay figures to form their Christmas crèche. Pot-



Celebrating repainting of a project house in South Ogden, Utah are members of a youth team from Westminster, Medford. From left, Jeff Louie, Trevor Van Winkle, Tom Payne, Jeremy Warner, Dawn Van Winkle, Heather Dumas.

credit Cody Gilliland

ter Jean Stephenson showed a class of six students how to create them in her Langlois studio for two Tuesdays in July.

First, Brookings is building again. They completed a major remodel in 2004, and the chancel needs to be larger, according to Ron Wheeler, project coordinator. The remodel will raise the pulpit and communion table to make a larger area including room for a grand piano which was a memorial gift. The space will be on one level. The remodel will address the issue of safety as well as handicap access in the chancel area.

First, Roseburg celebrated 135 years of service to the community August 3. The Board of Missions in 1873 sent Rev. William Adams Smick out from Princeton Theological Seminary to organize a church in Roseburg where the O & C Railroad had just arrived from the Willamette Valley. There were 13 original members. The only other Presbyterian church in southwest Oregon at that time was in Jacksonville. Rev. Smick also organized churches in Empire City, now part of Coos Bay (1873), Wilbur, (1878), Oakland (1882), Myrtle Creek (1885) and Sutherlin (1910).

Certified Church Administrators from two south congregations were recognized at the July Presbytery meeting. Karen Nantais, Bethany, Grants Pass and Karen Harris and Carolyn Levens, Westminster, Medford received their certification. The program improves the quality of professionalism in church offices which are the first point of contact with congregations, and it celebrates the ministry of lay church professionals.

Central Region

By Bruce Smith

Have you heard about the "That's My Farmer" coupon books which are available at **First, Corvallis**? When you use these coupons at the market for fresh food you provide two dollars per book to families in need so they can shop also.

The \$50 decision. In May, members of **First, Dallas** received an envelope asking them to do something good with the contents: \$50. In discussing it afterwards, members were asked to share how they gave away the money and the decision process that went into the gift.

Summertime is a special event time for Vacation Bible Schools. There are a variety

of special programs to appeal to the kids. **First, Bend** has selected the "Power Lab" model for their VBS. **First, McMinnville** also used the Power Lab, an activity program to discover Jesus' miraculous power. Add the **Mill City** church as another group using this program this summer. **First, Newport** will use a program called the "Rainforest Adventure" which is a trip into a tree-top Bible blast! **Community, Redmond** has also signed up to use the "Power Lab" for their VBS. Put **Westminster, Salem** on the list of churches who are using the "Power Lab" this summer in their VBS program.

A group of older youths and adults from **First, Bend** will trek together to the Nez Pierce region in Idaho to seek out those in need, learn a little about each other, and continue their journey of faith together.

The youth of **First, Lebanon** meet as a group that is called "Asylum" for "Nite Strike," a service project in Portland, once-a-month movies, and support a road band called "The Lauderdale." By partnering with Lebanon's Foursquare Church to reach more teens, they are fast becoming a community activity. From **Mill City** come details of the sabbatical planned by Bruce Sexton this summer. As long as he can get his bicycle on an airplane, he plans on see-

ing the sights of Scotland on two wheels. This will be a time to have a private retreat to rest, read, and explore the devotional life. He will cycle into another retreat in Germany to study Luther and see the sights of the German Reformation. Then he heads for Switzerland and Geneva and the World Council of Churches to bask in John Calvin land.

As Presbyterians we emphasize the importance of a good education whether in our church schools or in the public school venue. Scores of graduates were noted in the newsletters from high school through advanced degrees in college. **Central, Eugene** passes on these words adapted from Philips Brooks to serve graduates as they embark on their life journeys:

"Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person.

Do not pray for tasks equal to your power but for powers equal to your tasks.

Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle,

but you will be the miracle.

Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness

of your life, which is come to you by the grace of God."

TRANSITIONS

• *Editor's note: This column will be publishing the comings and goings of our clergy members. It will include a section noting clergy deaths. Please refer to the presbytery website where readers will find the complete memorial letter celebrating the ministry of those clergy listed in the "In Memoriam" section.*

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

- **The Rev. James A. Lacy [HR]**, transferring from the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca
- **The Rev. Dr. William F. Stevens**, transferring from the Presbytery of Sacramento, to serve as pastor of United Presbyterian Church, Reed-sport, beginning May 1, 2008

INSTALLATIONS

- **The Rev. Adam N. Grosch**, installed as associate pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem, June 8, 2008.
- **The Rev. Dr. William F. Stevens**, installed as pastor of United Presbyterian Church, Reed-sport, May 4, 2008.

PASTORAL CHANGES

- **The Rev. David M. Crow** began service as Stated Supply Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove, May 12, 2008.
- **The Rev. Beverly J. Crow** began service as temporary supply pastor of Springwater Presbyterian Church, Estacada, May 15, 2008 with service ending August 24, 2008.
- **The Rev. Benjamin F. Dake**, completed service as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove, May 1, 2008.
- **The Rev. Cynthia Reyes Fillmore** served as part-time stated supply pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Waldport, April 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008.

- **The Rev. Thomas Nolen** completed service as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Portland, June 1 2008, to serve as Hospice Chaplain, Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Portland.

- **The Rev. Kent Organ [HR]** completed service as co-interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, on July 22, 2008.

- **The Rev. Douglas Satré** completed service as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, February 24, 2008 to serve as executive director of Floresta, San Diego, California.

- **The Rev. Carol L. Swanson** is serving as pastor of Amity First United Methodist, Amity, Oregon and Sheridan United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Oregon.

- **The Rev. William E. Taylor** completed service as Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Coos Bay on June 30, 2008; he began service as Interim Pastor of United Methodist Church, Canby on July 1, 2008.

TRANSFERS

- **The Rev. Victoria G. Curtiss**, completing service as co-interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, on July 22, 2008, transferring to the Presbytery of Chicago to become associate pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.
- **The Rev. Lori D. Hedlund**, transferring to the Presbytery of Southern New England
- **The Rev. Anne Stewart Miller** completed service as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Portland, June 1, 2008; she transferred to the Presbytery of Long Island to serve as Interim Pastor of Montauk Community Presbyterian Church,

Montauk, New York.

- **The Rev. Dean F. Rowley [HR]**, transferring to Redwoods Presbytery, to serve as interim pastor of Living Word Presbyterian Church, Fairfield, California
- **The Rev. Warren H Rutledge [HR]**, transferring to Grace Presbytery
- **The Rev. Douglas Satre**, transferring to the Presbytery of San Diego
- **The Rev. Dale E. Southorn** completed service as Associate Pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard, and is transferring to the Presbytery of Lake Erie to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Erie, Pennsylvania.

RETIREMENTS

- **The Rev. John R. Lacy**, granted Honorably Retired status, March 31, 2008
- **The Rev. James C. Moiso**, completing service as Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, September 7, 2008, to be granted Honorably Retired status, September 7, 2008
- **The Rev. Donald R. Shaw**, completing service as Stated Supply Pastor of John Knox Presbyterian Church, Keizer, August 31, 2008, to be granted Honorably Retired status, September 1, 2008
- **The Rev. John W. Wallace** completed service as pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Portland, June 30, 2008, and was granted Honorably Retired status, June 29, 2008.

IN MEMORIAM

- **The Rev. George Milton Shuman** died May 14, 2008, in Beaverton, Oregon at the age of 97.

Voices

By Mary Wright Gillespie

(Editor's Note: The Reverend Mary Wright Gillespie (HR) was one of the commissioners to General Assembly (GA) representing the Presbytery of the Cascades.)

"Brothers and sisters, sharing our common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and walking humbly with our God, prepare to vote." This is the manner in which the new Moderator of the 218th General Assembly, Bruce Reyes-Chow, spoke before each major decision. The Moderator was asked by a new committee of the GA, Worship and Spiritual Renewal, to use these words as part of the assembly business.

The theme for the week was from Micah 6:8: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God." These words permeated the event. They were displayed on the banner in the civic center, on all of the printed pages, and the preachers were asked to use this as their theme.

My committee was one of two new ones created because there were more commissioners at this assembly and size determined



The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow was elected moderator of the 218th General Assembly.
credit Joseph Williams

the need. I was on Worship and Spiritual Renewal. Our particular task was to make our decisions using communal discernment rather than following Robert Rules of Order. Communal discernment is a process that requires trust, commitment, and time. This became problematic as many of the commissioners assigned to the committee were not prepared for the experience. Many had not read the materials ahead of time including five booklets with specific information on the process. Some of the committee members were disappointed that the scope of this assignment did not include some of the more controversial overtures, and therefore felt cheated out of an experience of debate and argument. The committee had two overtures: the words which were said before each significant vote and one other passed

Menucha "Expression Series" Offers Two Courses

Beginning this fall at Menucha, the Menucha Expression Series explores themes of our spiritual journeys through the medium of art. Two week-long courses have been designed for those interested in this kind of expression and theological reflection. Held in the midst of Menucha's autumn color changes, they will also be an instrument of reflection that mirror the journey of the seasons as well as one's soul. Both classes are open to beginners as well as experienced participants.

October 12-17, 2008, **Quilting Your Spiritual Journey** with the Rev. Nancy Ferguson, quilter and storyteller is limited in attendance at 15. A frequent image for our lives is that of journey. Within this image is captured the idea of movement - from stage to stage, from place to place, from relationship to relationship, from

with comment.

We elected a new Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons, who will serve for the next four-year term. The outgoing Stated Clerk, Clifton Kirkpatrick, was honored for his years of faithful service. We elected as the new Moderator a 39-year-old minister from San Francisco, Bruce Reyes-Chow. Bruce pastors Mission Bay Community Church, an innovative new church development of San Francisco Presbytery where he contacts his parishioners mostly through email. The Vice-Moderator, Byron Wade, is 45 and the pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC, a 140-year-old congregation. These two young pastors, friends from Youth Triennium days, bring a vision of new leadership for the Presbyterian Church (USA). They did an excellent job of moderating through long sessions which at times became tedious with the late nights following hours of debate.

Many valuable resolutions were passed including a commissioner resolution from Sung Man Kim for hunger relief to North Korea and Zimbabwe; continuing accompaniment in Columbia for workers; and help for the Philippines. The recognition of baptism with the Catholic Bishops was approved and will be sent to the presbyteries for ratification. A new Social Creed for the 21st century was approved as a reminder of the one passed 100 years ago with many of the same challenges still to be resolved, including abuse of children in the labor market and slavery. Another resolution to be sent to the presbyteries seeks to correct five translation problems in the Heidelberg Confession.

Most of the media coverage has centered on ordination standards. First, an amendment to our Book of Order to change the present language that says officers of the church must live by "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness" (G-6.0106b). The new proposed language is **"Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ as Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate's sincere efforts to adhere to these standards."** This amendment will come to the presbyteries for a vote.

Second, the Assembly adopted a new Authoritative Interpretation: "Interpretive statements concerning ordained service of homosexual church members by the 190th

dullness to bright shining wisdom. During this event, each participant will create a quilt that tells the story of her or his journey through life. Using colors and shapes to tell the stories, each quilt will follow the journey of its creator.

November 16-21, 2008, **Watercolor Techniques** with Gayle Weisfield also has limited attendance at 15. This is a part of the Menucha Expressions Series, a ministry for older adults. Through a series of fun and surprising exercises designed to loosen up your artistic creativity, one will study a variety of different painting topics while focusing on the four primary techniques used in landscape watercolor painting.

Contact Scott T. Crane, CCE, Program Director, for more information, 503-695-2243, or at the website, www.menucha.org.



Gillespie shares her insights fo GA at recent presbytery meeting.

General Assembly (1978) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the 119th General Assembly (1979) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and all subsequent affirmations thereof, have no further force or effect."

Third, the Assembly adopted a new Authoritative Interpretation on G-6.0108 which restores the intent of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church Report from (2006) to allow someone who is being considered for ordination or installation as a deacon, elder, or minister to register a conscientious objection to the standards or beliefs of the church and ask the ordaining body to enter into a conversation with them to determine the seriousness of the departure.

Many significant pieces of business were discussed and reviewed and they can be found on the Church's website, www.pc-biz.org. The post GA letter said more than 400 items of business came before the Assembly. Some of the positive and important reports will get lost as they do not make the headlines. New resources and helps for study will come from Presbyterian Publishing and Congregational Ministries. Amazing work in shared mission efforts were reported and success in giving to mission was noted. The work of Presbyterians in disaster assistance for Katrina both in money given and volunteers sent was highlighted. The Presbytery of the Cascades was honored for its outstanding giving record, and Aleida Jernigan and Jack Hodges were elected to the General Assembly Council.

It was a privilege to serve as a commissioner to the 218th General Assembly. There were many reports and witnesses as to how God is working in the world today. The most inspirational message came to us from Archbishop Elias Chacour, peacemaker for humanity, inviting us all to visit the Holy Land. Let us all continue to live the Micah 6:8 words: "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God."

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Prayer Calendar

The Professional Support Committee is pleased to present this Prayer Calendar for Cascades Presbytery. Every congregation, minister member, candidate and committee is listed on a day appropriate to them. You are invited to use this list in your daily devotions. Please contact the South office if there are any additions or corrections.

September 2008

- 1 Charles F. Falconer, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1999 • Rebecca L. Hazen, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005 • John D. Dennis, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2006
- 2 Jennifer Hampton, candidate for the ministry, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, West Linn
- 3 Rolland C. "Ron" Carter ordained this day in 1955, serving as parish associate at Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene
- 4 Peter B. Hutton, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1991
- 5 Richard L. Clippinger, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1999
- 6 Elizabeth Winslea, ordained this day in 1998, serving as co-pastor of Sunnyside Centenary United Methodist Church & Lincoln Street United Methodist Church • Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst, Portland - chartered this day in 1892
- 7 Jenny Holmes, Restoring Creation Enabler for Cascades Presbytery
- 8 Committee on Preparation for Ministry - Roger Smith, Chair
- 9 Thomas "Fitz" Neal, installed as pastor at Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day in 2007 • D. Hugh Peniston, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1983
- 10 Craig S. Roberts, ordained this day in 1995, serving as interim associate pastor at Bethany Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 11 Theodore W. Buck, ordained this day in 1983, serving as parish associate at St. Johns Presbyterian Church, Camas
- 12 Roger J. Newell, ordained this month in 1984, serving as professor at George Fox University • Paul Belz-Templeman, installed as pastor of Aurora Presbyterian Church, Aurora, this day in 2004 • Dorothy Franklin, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1999, serving as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Trout Lake and Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Cook, Washington
- 13 Richard P. Zimmerman, installed as pastor of Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro, this day in 1998 • Presbytery Council meets today - Sandi Frey, Chair
- 14 Constance S. Wilkerson, ordained this day in 1994, serving as stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Central Point • Elizabeth T. Boatwright, installed as associate pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, this day in 2003
- 15 Peter Santucci, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, this day in 2002
- 16 David P. Prichard, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Astoria this day in 2001 • Sun Moon Jhee, installed as pastor at Korean Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day in 2007 • David M. Crow, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2003, serving as stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove
- 17 Brian L. Heron, ordained this day in 1989, serving as chaplain at Laurelhurst House Assisted Living & as stated supply pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Portland

- 18 Dawn Champoux, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, central region office
- 19 Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Warrenton - chartered this day in 1846 • David C. Dornack, installed as pastor of Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1999 • M. René Minshew, installed as pastor of Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland this day in 2004
- 20 Jennifer A. Butler, ordained this day in 1992
- 21 Christine K. Dungan, ordained this day in 2002, serving as parish associate at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 22 James P. Freda, ordained this day in 1970 • David K. Morelli, ordained this day in 1976, serving as stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Woodburn • First Presbyterian Church, Newport - chartered this day in 1878
- 23 Howard V. Hannon, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1987 • Karen S. Pollan, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Salem, this day in 2001
- 24 Catherine R. & Paul M. Quackenbush, installed as pastors of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, West Linn, this day in 1995 • Diane M. Baques, ordained this day in 1989, serving as Hospice Chaplain, Visiting Nurse Association • First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis - chartered this day in 1853
- 25 Philip U. Martin, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990 • Michael S. Foster, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, this day in 2005 • Sylvia C. Dilworth, installed as designated co-pastor of Multnomah Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2005
- 26 Holly Hayes Lucas, ordained this day in 1993 • John W. Ailstock, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, this day in 2004
- 27 Committee on Ministry Northwest region - Kenneth Evers-Hood, Chair
- 28 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene - chartered this day in 1952 • Donald M. Ludwig, ordained this date in 1997
- 29 Bruce J. Marten, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Oregon City, this day in 1996 • Debbie R. Blane, ordained this day in 2002, serving with AMITY in China
- 30 Robin Garvin, ordained this day in 1990 • William F. Dittler, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1994 • William E. Barlow, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000 • Patricia E. Vanderpol, ordained this day in 1984 • Chinese Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1973

October 2008

- 1 Robert A. Garwig, installed as pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard, this day in 2006
- 2 Timothy L. Winslea, ordained this day in 1994, serving as co-pastor of Sunnyside Centenary United Methodist Church & Lincoln Street United Methodist Church
- 3 Lorraine R. Stuart, ordained this day in 1982 • Kenneth Evers-Hood, installed as pastor of Tualatin Presbyterian

- Church, this day in 2004
- 4 Plymouth Presbyterian Church, St. Helens - chartered this day in 1959
- 5 Lloyd "Buck" Tohill, commissioned this day in 2003, serving as Commissioned Lay Pastor, Olivet Presbyterian Church, Glendale
- 6 W. Daniel Klingler, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1999
- 7 Willis O. Case, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1982
- 8 Lorne P. Bostwick, installed as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene, this day in 2006 • Bruce C. Armstrong, installed as associate pastor of Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day in 2000 • Jeffrey W. Bredeson, ordained this day in 1989 • Jonathan Andres, ordained this day in 1989 • Dana C. Perreard, installed as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Oakland, this day in 2006
- 9 Synod of the Pacific meets this day through October 11
- 10 John R. Ewing, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1984
- 11 Elizabeth Larkin, camp coordinator, Presbytery of the Cascades
- 12 Alvin E. Fischer granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 13 David R. Allison, ordained this day in 1985, serving as Risk Manager, Sacred Heart Medical Center, Eugene
- 14 Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of the Cascades - Kappy Eaton, Moderator
- 15 William P. Borgman, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1993, serving as parish associate, Community Presbyterian Church, Waldport
- 16 Peter J. Blank, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Newberg, this day in 1994 • M. Ann Bowersox, ordained this day in 1983 • Joseph C. (Chris) Montovino, installed as pastor of Cascades Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day in 2005
- 17 George M. Furniss, ordained this day in 1976 • Robert D. Stone, installed as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Moro, this day in 1999
- 18 United Presbyterian Church, Brownsville - chartered this day in 1857 • Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1908 •

(Continued on page 8)

Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

Vacant

Cottage Grove, First
Lakeside, Community
Portland, Calvary

Seeking Interim or Stated Supply

Portland, Grace
Waldport, Community

Preparing to Actively Seek

Ashland, First
Pacific City
Salem, First

Actively Seeking a Pastor (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Coos Bay, First (three quarter-time position)
Eugene, Westminster
Medford, Westminster (Associate)
Milwaukie, Milwaukie

Bolivian Partnership Gains Momentum

By Don Shaw

Gretchen Williver and Ali Kent, both of **First, Bend**, traveled July 13-19 to Chapman College in southern California to represent Cascades Presbytery at an international gathering of all Joining Hands partners. Delegations from ten nations around the world met with Presbyterians from 11 partnering presbyteries to share their experiences and strategize for the future. A common theme of nearly every group was the issue of water - how can we assure that all people have affordable access to clean water in the years ahead.

Julie Dunsmore (our partnership facilitator in Bolivia, along with her husband,



Julie Dunsmore in the middle of the right boat, Ely Lopez in the bow, and Beth Hurd of Valley Community, Portland, in the middle of the left boat. Others in canoes are from Milwaukie.

Bob) and Elizabeth (Ely) Lopez, Director of UMAVIDA, (which means "Joining Hands for Life") our Bolivian partner, spent the preceding week visiting congregations in Cascades Presbytery, concluding their visit by participating in a workshop and speaking on the floor of the July Presbytery meeting in Klamath Falls. During their itinerary, they gave presentations at the Presbyterian churches in **Redmond** and **Bend** and learned about some of the water issues in Central Oregon. They then spoke at **Milwaukie, Valley Community, and First, Portland**, where they explored Kellogg Creek as it runs through the church property at Milwaukie and later canoed around Ross Island in the Willamette River. They then

visited **Salem Westminster**, toured Crater Lake with **Reedsport** church leaders, and concluded their itinerary by learning about Klamath Basin water issues at **Peace, Klamath Falls**.

May 8-9 the Cascades Joining Hands Coordinating Committee met to strategize



Ely Lopez and Ali Kent share their experiences in the Joining Hands ministry at a pre-presbytery workshop July 11, in Klamath Falls.

and train. They were assisted by Alexa Smith from the Presbyterian Hunger Program in Louisville and Linda Blagburn, Hunger Action Enabler from San Francisco Presbytery. Together they shared insights, raised issues and planned for upcoming events.

April 4-13, ten delegates representing six churches from Cascades Presbytery ventured to La Paz, Bolivia, to meet with our Joining Hands partners. With most of the visit at or above 13,000 feet, and some approaching 16,000 feet, the experience was literally breath-taking. Building relationships, sharing common concerns and learning about one-another's cultures was a life-transforming experience for all who participated. The travelers have prepared a DVD which they would be delighted to share with any congregation or other group wishing to learn more about Joining Hands with Bolivia. For details or to schedule a speaker, contact Don Shaw, donjpkchurch@qwestoffice.net or 503.302.4656.

Old Scotch Church Offers Annual Lecture Series

Members of Cascades Presbytery are invited to **Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro's** (Old Scotch Church), annual lecture series on the Reformed Tradition, Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11. Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. will present the 2008 *Exploring Our Reformed Faith* seminar



Cornelius Plantinga

The three-lecture series is titled, *Clothed with the Virtues of Christ*. In Colossians 3, the Christian life is positively described as a set of characteristic "clothing" worn by Christians. The idea is that certain virtues fit Christians especially well—compassion, for example, as

well as humility, patience, forgiveness, and "love that binds these virtues together in perfect harmony." What are these virtues like? How would a person hope to get them? How may Christians receive the counsel to "clothe yourselves with the virtues of Christ" not simply as moral duty, but also as glad invitation?

The Friday night lecture is *Clothed with Compassion*. The second lecture on Saturday morning is *Clothed with Humility*, and the Saturday afternoon lecture is *Clothed with Forgiveness*.

The first seminar session is Friday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Saturday sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with continental breakfast and lunch provided to registrants. The church is located at 30685 NW Scotch Church Road, Hillsboro, Oregon.

Because of a gift to the congregation for the funding of the seminars, the cost is only \$35 which covers meals, snacks, and printed materials. Group rates are available, as well as a special rate for retired ministers and their spouses. Call the church office at 503-648-9573 or email office@oldscotchchurch.org for details.

Cornelius Plantinga Jr., is an ordained minister in the Christian Reformed Church and has served as a pastor in Webster, NY and supply preacher in Cliffwood Beach, NJ. Before joining the faculty at Calvin Theological Seminary, Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. taught at Princeton Theological Seminary (1976 - 78), Fuller Theological Seminary (1985, 1987), and Regent College (1997). From 1996 to 2002 he served as the first Dean of the Chapel at Calvin College. He now serves as President of the seminary and teaches systematic theology. He enjoys swimming, biking, golf, travel, reading, listening to music and practicing the violin.

President Plantinga has written several books including **Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin** (1995), *Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning and Living* (2002), and *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking About Christian Worship* (2003). He is also the author of numerous articles in periodicals and magazines and has contributed chapters to several books. In 2003 he received the *Christianity Today* Book of the Year Award in the "Christian Living" category for *Engaging God's World: A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning and Living*.



Prayer Calendar

Continued from page 7

- Korean Presbyterian Church, Corvallis - chartered this day in 1999 • David K. Park, installed as pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, this day in 1999
- 19 Patricia M. & Thomas C. Campbell-Schmitt, installed as co-pastors of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Portland, on this day in 2003
- 20 Cynthia J. O'Brien, installed as pastor of Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairview, this day in 1996
- 21 Randy L. Lodjic, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2005
- 22 Delbert E. McAmis, installed as designated pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Tulelake this day in 2006 • First Presbyterian Church, Mill City - chartered this day in 1894 • Reedville Presbyterian Church, Aloha - chartered this day in 1908
- 23 First Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1854 • Joyce L. DeGraaff, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Medford, this day in 1994
- 24 Katherine A. (Katie) Pate, installed as associate pastor of Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, this day in 2004
- 25 Stephen Dietrich, ordained this day in 1992, enrolled in the CPE residency program at Sacred Heart Medical Center • Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1942
- 26 Roberta D. "Bobi" Souder, ordained this day in 1997, serving as therapist/family services coordinator at Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Association, Freedom, California • Christopher L. Ward, installed as associate pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Medford, this day in 2003 • Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1892
- 27 Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver - chartered this day in 1954
- 28 Ronald H. Burns, ordained this day in 1978, serving as stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Gold Beach • Karen C. Fortlander, ordained this day in 1990
- 29 First Presbyterian Church, Oregon City - chartered this day in 1888 • Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, West Linn - chartered this day in 1961
- 30 David E. Buzza, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1980
- 31 Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1954

East Woods Receives a New Cross

By Bill Stewart

Known for its thousands of tiny wooden crosses and small religious icons crafted by the homeless, Friends of the Carpenter has moved up in scale. The result is a nine-foot tall wooden cross for the new sanctuary of East Woods Presbyterian Church.

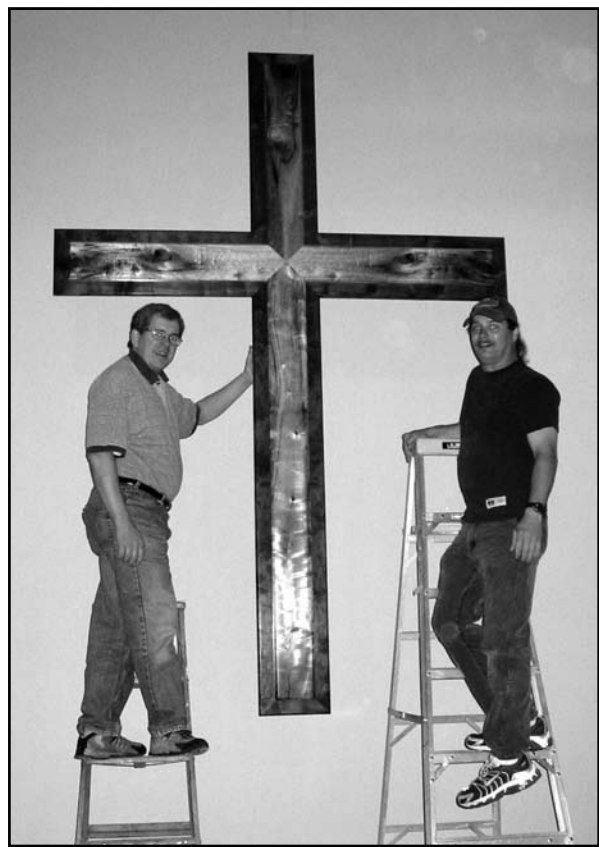
"It's the largest project we've ever had," said the Rev. Duane L. Sich, executive director of Friends and former associate pastor of Vancouver's First Presbyterian congregation.

The cross, a memorial for the late Don Costello, East Woods member, was crafted from scrap and salvaged pieces of black walnut and myrtlewood. "We felt that was symbolic," Sich said. "After all, Jesus ministered to people who were society's scraps, much like today's homeless."

The myrtlewood face of the cross includes a number of knotholes and blemishes that remind viewers of where Christ's hands were nailed, and of a dove descending. The foot of the cross includes a long split that Dan Nichols, who headed the woodworking and installation team, said symbolizes the earthquake that occurred when Jesus rose from his tomb.



Dan Nichols watches the Reverend Duane L. Sich lift up the cross bound for East Woods. credit Jan Cox of Friends of the Carpenter.



Sich and Nichols hang the cross at East Woods. credit Jan Cox of Friends of the Carpenter.

The other woodworkers included Brent Stahl and Rodger Stevens. Nichols estimated that 75 man-hours went into the basic project. Sich added that "before we were done, everyone had spent some time doing the finish sanding."

Friends of the Carpenter, located in an industrial area at the western end of Vancouver, starts homeless men on simple scroll saws, making small wooden pocket crosses and other small religious items, some of which have been sold at the Vancouver Farmers Market. Not all work is on tiny projects though - there are Adirondack chairs, blessing boxes, bud vases, coaster sets and Son-Ray crosses. Other projects have included golf bag stands, computer desks, cabinets and day-care blocks. The latest task just started is an expansive "welcome desk" for a new Catholic parish.

Sich said nearly 40 Clark County congregations are supporting the woodworking center, which has operated in a donated 18,000 square foot warehouse for the past four years, but he predicts Friends of the Carpenter will have to shift its focus more to fundraising soon as the homeless community swells. Many of the participating churches see Friends of the Carpenter as a domestic mission.

"We don't feed anyone - Share House is not far away - but we offer a religious experience," Sich said, including morning and afternoon prayer circles. He added that the center does not send its clients to specific churches, but they are helped with their past. "In most cases, we find these people were mistreated by religions in their past, and we work on that." The center operates weekdays but saves weekends for attending community churches.

The Center also helps its clients find jobs, and does such things as assist in acquiring vehicles to get to work, rental deposits, tool needs, travel grants, and medical and dental work. At the end of a work day, each gets a \$5 voucher for bus tickets, gas, or groceries.

Sich tries to recruit one volunteer for every four clients, and he maintains a list of 70 veteran woodworkers for help on occasional projects.

But not all clients are homeless when they arrive. Some are assigned to the Center to perform court-ordered community service hours. And some clients are chosen to live in a duplex at the Center, serving as watchmen for surrounding industries.

Sich started the Center in 1998 after 28 years at First Presbyterian. He took a six-month research sabbatical, and never slowed down. "Friends" will mark its 10th anniversary in October.

At East Woods, the large cross replaced a cross-shaped paper banner made of colored hand prints of the congregation. Pastor Scott Phillips, describing the cross as "fantastic," said it had to be removable because the church, which moved into its first building earlier this year, already is talking about expanding the sanctuary by pushing the chancel back.

Phillips also noted that it is fitting that the memorial cross was made at the homeless center because East Woods, established as a New Church Development in 1992, was essentially homeless until this year, operating out of a rented school gymnasium and a Grange Hall.

Folks interested in contacting Sich or learning more about Friends of the Carpenter can go to the website Friendsofthecarpenter.org or call 360-750-4752.

A RESTROOM THAT WORKS!

By Glenn Chilcote, OPENING DOORS Task Force

A major issue in church accessibility is access and function of a properly designed restroom. After a number of years where OPENING DOORS Task Force has analyzed whether church restrooms meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, we often find there are gaps.

First, recognize that ADA standards are written as minimum for conformance and often are "too minimum" for satisfactory function in many areas of accessibility. This is particularly true for public restrooms.

For instance, a restroom entry door clear width per ADA standards is minimum 2'8" (32 inches) requiring a 2'10" door. This is not enough for a wheelchair, particularly if the chair must maneuver in a sharp turn (usually the case) around a partition. A 3'0" door with a clearance of 34 inches, although a small dimensional difference, is a big difference to someone in a chair.

Consider the many small improvements within the restroom not included in ADA criteria that can make a difference in functionality:

A separate wall mount 48" high x 20" wide mirror with the bottom 18" to 24" above the floor allows a chair user to check appearance. The mirror over a sink (lavatory) is required to be tilted, but often is not.

A coat hook mounted not more than 48" above the floor and a spring loaded shelf, both close to the toilet provides a place for a chair user to hang a purse or coat and a place to set objects, such as medical paraphernalia. The shelf can swing up out of the way when not in use.

A waste basket should be mounted on the wall within arm's reach of the lavatory. A wastebasket located across the room requires a chair user to wheel over to dispose of paper towels, requiring additional maneuvering. This also allows easier cleaning of the floor. Mount the basket with 8" of clearance to floor.

Side space should always be available next to a toilet. Usually a wheel chair user needs to come alongside a toilet to allow transfer from chair to toilet. The space should be minimum 34" wide plus toilet width. "Front" transfer simply does not work for the majority of wheel chair users. The floor surface, at least in the chair/toilet transfer area should have a slight texture to it. This will prevent the chair from sliding as a person transfers weight. Finally, a grab bar should wrap all three sides continuously around the stall rather than ADA minimums, so a person can grab at any position.

Often, (since an accessible restroom appears to have wasted space to most ambulatory people) "miscellaneous stuff" ends up stored there. This can include an extra chair, a stack of folding chairs, storage cabinet, table, etc. Before adding furniture in the room, think of a person maneuvering in the space with a wheelchair. Incidentally, it is always helpful to have a chair user maneuver in the space and observe how successfully it works.

These are a few helps to develop a truly functioning accessible restroom for the disabled. This is not a comprehensive list of options. The OPENING DOORS Task Force is willing to visit your church and customize it for maximum accessibility and thus usability. A comprehensive web site with a checklist of accessibility criteria can be found thru AARP: www.AARP.org/families/home_design.

Cascades Congregations Assist Disaster Recovery

Recovery comes slowly after major disasters. That's what folks in Columbia and Clatsop counties are finding out after major storms hit them early last December.

Phyllis Wright, who represents Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for our

that had been repaired by another faith-based group this spring. Volunteers may stay there now. Some of the work they did was rebuild a porch on the back of a house and stabilize some of the corners, as the house will be elevated four feet, hopefully

like to work in Clatsop or Columbia Counties," she states. She has researched places where they may stay if overnight housing is needed. She has also helped buy and inventory all the tools. The tool trailer will be used by groups in either county and is currently in Astoria. There are tools to



The work group from Grants pass are raring to go.

Presbytery, tells us that significant recovery is just now starting. The devastating storms caused flooding and wind damage affecting several thousand folks. Now that plans are in place and equipment has arrived, Wright is inviting work groups to help assist with the recovery. Several congregations have already answered the call.

On May 15, a group from **Hillsboro** under leadership of Janine Wikoff went to Camp Magruder to help clear trees and logs from some of the trails. They were trying to get all the trails cleared before summer camp season started. There are hundreds of trees down from the wind storm on December 2-3 from winds of over 100 mph for 36 hours, according to Steve Rummage, camp director. The work group cut trees into log size pieces and then loaded them onto a trailer. They were dumped on a huge pile which someone else will be splitting and stacking. There were numerous Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) camps that day; the work groups don't interfere with the camp activities.

A group from **Bethany, Grants Pass**, under the leadership of Tom Link, arrived in Vernonia June 22 and stayed until June 28. A couple brought their RVs and stayed in the park, but most of them stayed in a house

within a couple of months. They did some painting inside, also. On one day, several men helped move the belongings of a lady from a POD container into her house which had been repaired. OR VOAD (Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) purchased a tool trailer and tools, and the Grants Pass group was the first one to use the new tools. They were very excited to do this. "I was thrilled to work

with this group," Phyllis said, "as it brought back the memories of the months I spent as a PDA village manager in Gautier, MS, in 2006."

Wright is Volunteer Team Coordinator



Groups will be able to use brand new tools to do the work.

clean up debris in yards, do mudding and taping of drywall, different items for building, a generator if there is no electricity, items for painting, plus miscellaneous hammers, screwdrivers and whatever is needed, so groups do not have to bring their own tools.

It will take many months to elevate the many homes four to eight feet in Vernonia. Work to be done in the meantime includes roofing, some drywall, and lots of debris cleanup in the Astoria area. Needs in Vernonia include flooring, drywall, rebuilding, building new homes, and plumbers. Camp Magruder can always use people to continue the cleanup process in their wooded areas. Other ways to help include purchasing gift cards (VISA or MC), providing funds to buy new appliances when homeowners can move back into their home, adopting a family or just providing financial assistance to the Presbytery office for the recovery work.

Get a group together to go for a day or a week, whatever works best for the congregation. Wright can be contacted by email, pwright12@juno.com or

by phone 971-404-9405. More information can be seen on the presbytery website which is usually updated every two weeks.



A work group from Hillsboro clears debris from Camp Magruder just in time for camping season to start.

with OR VOAD and represents Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. "I will work with teams from any denomination that would

"Faithful Links" Explores Sustainable Communities and Creation Care

On Saturday, September 20, the Eco-Justice Team of Congregational Support, Presbytery of the Cascades will present the fourth annual Creation Care Fellowship from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, at NE 44th and Sandy in Portland.

"Faithful Links: Mobility, Community and God's Creation" is co-sponsored by Presbyterians for Restoring Creation. The layout of our communities and our transportation choices impact our neighbors, our health and the well-being of God's creation. What are the choices we can make as individuals, congregations and as a society that build community and care for creation? This event will explore the links among transportation, sustainability, community, and faith and build a faith-filled vision for a sustainable future.

The opening keynote will be provided by Dr. Rob Kugler, chair of the Religious Studies department and the Paul S. Wright Professor of Christian Studies at Lewis and Clark College who will develop a theological and biblical vision for faithful living in a time of global warming and rising energy prices.

Gail L. Achterman, Director, Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University and member of the Oregon Transportation Commission is our topical keynoter. A Presbyterian laywoman, she is a fourth generation Oregonian with broad experience working on natural resource and environmental law and policy.

Workshops include the following: Why Walkable Communities?, Rain Gardens and Green Streets, Citizen Advocacy for Climate Friendly Communities, and Sustainable Transportation Options. Two optional field

trips are offered: Friday at 6 p.m. is a movie and visit to Powells Books, and Saturday at 3:30-4:15 p.m. is a tour of the Rebuilding Center, where quality, used building materials are available.

The cost is \$10.00 or \$5.00 for students and seniors plus \$3.00 for lunch. A delicious locally grown lunch will be prepared using ingredients from the nearby Hollywood Farmers' Market. Registration information is at the presbytery website, www.cascadespresbytery.org or by contacting Dawn Champoux, Central Region Office, Presbytery of the Cascades, 1-800-926-3223. The event is for clergy and lay people, religious educators, members of mission and care for creation teams/committees, new church development people, and anyone interested in stewardship of creation. For more information, contact Jenny Holmes at 503-281-8175.

CircuitRider offers Exciting New Books

CircuitRider Books, a covenant partner of Cascades Presbytery, reports that new books are arriving and are available. Among the highlights are the following:

Finding purpose in Narnia, a Journey with Prince Caspian. Author Gina Burkart teaches English at the University of Northern Iowa and conducts workshops about using literature to explore Christian themes. Here is a helpful roadmap on the journey to understanding Prince Caspian, the second in the very popular movie series and among the seven novels comprising the collection *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The book encourages personal growth by inviting readers to interact with the insights of C.S. Lewis, with the author's reflections and scripture passages. The book also poses questions for the reader's own consideration. Inspired largely by 1 Corinthians 13, the book's three sections are "Faith," "Hope," and "Love."

Simple Prayers for Complicated Lives, by Jennifer M. Phillips. An Episcopal priest, published poet, liturgist and hospital chaplain, Phillips believes that "God desires to hear from us, to have our thoughts, hopes, and needs expressed by us in whatever ways we can manage." On these pages are prayers for "Morning," "At home and work," "Evening," "Birth," "Parents and children," "Assaults and intrusions," and "Mixed Blessings." Nothing is off limits. One finds a dashboard prayer, a prayer of someone being bullied, a prayer for a sick or injured pet, a prayer at evening lamp lighting, a prayer for naming a stillborn child, and a prayer of an imperfect parent. Phillips believes "because we are all children of the Creator, we are all invited, entitled, and empowered to pray."

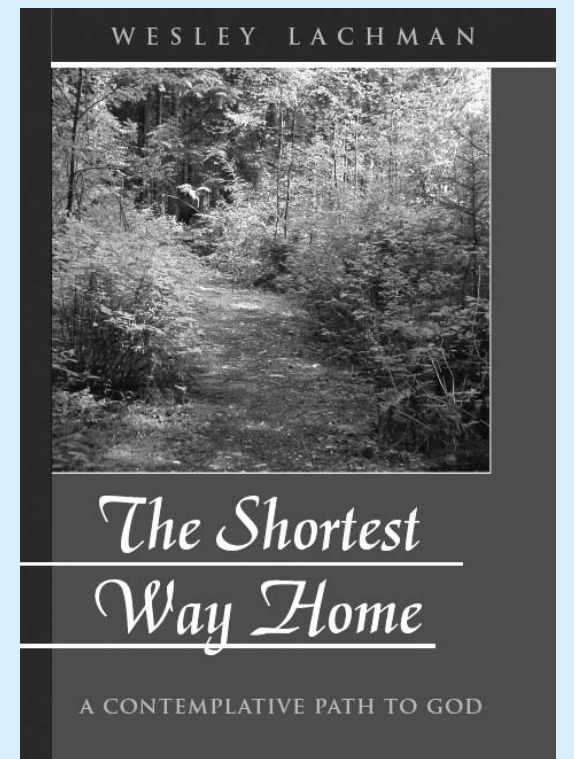
The Meandering Way, Leading by Following the Spirit, by Gary A. Shockley, a mission development pastor for the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Shockley has written a book that not only describes a way of being and of leading, but he has written it in a manner that draws the reader into the experience of meandering. Using himself as a case study, Shockley illustrates how easy it is to become driven to accomplish success for God, rather than being led by God to do God's will. The author has completed work for his Doctorate of Divinity in spiritual formation. He reflects a new style of leadership that is emerging in the mainline church. It is a leadership approach

that cares less about the church as an organization and an institution and much more about the church as a community of people following God wherever God will lead.

Holy Places: Matching Sacred Space with Mission and Message, by Nancy DeMott, Tim Shapiro and Brent Bill. Buildings communicate. They point to a faith community's beliefs about worship, identity, purpose, and more. *Holy Places* is designed to be used by congregations that are involved in or are contemplating work on their facilities. The book's three parts, "Discern," "Decide," and "Do," help leaders approach the work with mission at the forefront. This is the key to having a final result that strengthens the congregation's ministry. The authors describe the most common mistakes made during renovation and new construction. The authors represent Quaker, Presbyterian and American Baptist faith traditions.

Proclamation by Design: The Visual Arts in Worship, by Karmen Krahn and Leslie James. Those who take responsibility for the role of the visual arts in worship discover that as scripture is proclaimed and sung in worship, there is a growing desire to bring the Word to life in visible form. In the transition from decorator to illuminator/interpreter of scripture, leaders need guidance in how the visual arts faithfully proclaim the Word, express a congregation's theological commitments, and become integrated with other elements of worship. The authors begin with four themes: The God we praise, The scripture we proclaim, the design we offer, and the people we become. *Proclamation by Design* focuses on scripture as the organizing center of worship and equips the church to experience the Word-made-flesh in worship. The practical side of the book discusses how to organize a liturgical closet and clean up spilled wax. This book is a collaboration among Mennonite leaders and congregations.

Watch for announcements about CircuitRider's new and expanded website later this spring. The Rev. Carolyn Hampton, CircuitRider Executive Director, is available to consult with individuals and churches about any resource needs. Carolyn can be reached at 800-637-3949. For more information, go to the website, www.circuitrider-books.org.



Book written by retired Cascades pastor Wesley Lachman

Short Path, Small Book

What does the contemplative approach have to offer? "Literally more than we can imagine," says retired Cascades pastor Wesley Lachman. "It leads into depths of experience that we overlook." Lachman's new book, *The Shortest Way Home: A Contemplative Path to God* is a brief, clear outline of the entire contemplative journey from sin and brokenness to happiness in union with God.

The book began years ago. Following 20 years in an NGO doing development that included four-year assignments in Zambia and Calcutta, Wesley and Sherry Lachman moved to Seattle. When both their daughters decided to live in Eugene, the couple joined them. It was here that Lachman encountered contemplative spirituality at an interfaith meditation center. "The center helped me get off the spiritual plateau I was on - be forgiven, try, fail, confess, be forgiven, and so on," Lachman stated.

Lachman was so struck by the contemplative way that he soon began to teach it at **Central, Eugene**. After teaching a different course each spring for several years, he saw that constraints of time and circumstance often prevented his students from seeing how the whole path hangs together. He took pencil and paper and began to outline a little pamphlet. With encouragement, the pamphlet became a book.

A pivotal point of the book is that we each have our ideas about who we are, but these thoughts are exactly what Jesus asks us to set aside: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." According to Lachman, it is as we let go of our supposed self that we encounter our true self and God in and as the spacious awareness that is our spiritual home.

Dr. Marcus Borg is one of the endorsers of the book. It can be found at CircuitRider Books, online booksellers and through **Central, Eugene**. Lachman is available to give a talk/discussion, "Dying to Live," in churches, with the book offered at the end as a resource.



The Reverend Chris Grewe (right) was elected as the next moderator of the presbytery. He and the Reverend Michael Foster, elected as Vice Moderator for the south region, were installed by current Moderator Sandra Frey at the closing service of worship at the meeting in Klamath Falls on July 12, 2008.

Presbytery Highlights

Editor's Note: These are the highlights of the July 11-12 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades held at First, Klamath Falls. They were excerpted by the editor from the notes of Stated Clerk John Huenink. A more complete report may be found on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.

- A total of 133 presbyters (71 ministers and 62 elders) registered attendance at the meeting. The Rev. Pedro Jimenez, of Central Presbytery in Cuba, the Rev. Craig Williams of Los Ranchos Presbytery (Cascades' New Church Development Director), and Elder Judy Austin, Moderator of the Synod of the Pacific, were seated as corresponding members. Elder Julie Dunsmore and Elizabeth Lopez of the Joining Hands with Bolivia Project were welcomed, as was Andrea Heath, a General Assembly Youth Advisory Delegate from Riverside Presbytery now residing in Bandon.



Presbyters get ready for meeting on a warm day in Klamath Falls.

- The Rev. James A. Lacy (HR) and the Rev. Dr. William F. Stevens, pastor at Reedsport, were welcomed as new members. On the recommendation of COM-South, the presbytery acted to restore John Weisinger to the exercise of the ordained office of Minister of Word and Sacrament and granted him Honorably Retired status.
- Cheryl Anderson, Presbytery Business Manager, reported on Cascades' financial condition, that a decrease in fixed assets reflects the sale of the Vernon property with the proceeds of the sale divided equally between the NCD Site Fund, the Barnabas Fund and the Endowment Fund. She noted that per capita revenue has improved since the report ending May 31, 2008 but that per capita giving is still behind. Congregations were encouraged to send complete per capita apportionment payments before the deadline of September 30. It was also reported that the approximately \$9,000 deficit in the Administrative budget was the result of unanticipated legal fees. It was reported that Mission Partnership giving is also behind and has created a deficit in the program budget of \$33,752.
- The presbytery acted to approve a request for \$4,500 from the Presbyterian Hunger Fund to partially support the position of the Hunger Action Enabler/Peacemaking & Social Justice Advocate. Julie Dunsmore and Elizabeth Lopez spoke about the Joining Hands with Bolivia partner-

ships, particularly UMAVIDA, a different vision of mission work which includes joining hands for new life for all the people of Bolivia through the transformation and recognition of our differences and mutual needs and an appreciation of the life giving and sustaining gift of water. The partnership with Bolivia has ties to how we use resources, how local use or abuse of our water reflects on our respect for God's creation. The hope is that we can build bridges to work on global problems with water resources, since the issues being confronted in Bolivia are truly global. Congregations were invited to learn more about the project and how they can get involved.

- The presbytery, on the recommendation of its Board of Trustees, approved the establishment of a Korean Capital Development Fund to encourage Korean congregations to grow constitutionally healthy in Presbyterian theology and polity. The Board of Trustees also reported on a variety of other property and legal matters.
 - Karen Harris, Karen Nantais and Carolyn Levens, all from Cascades' South Region, were recognized as Certified Church Administrators.
 - On the recommendation of Presbytery Council, the presbytery approved the following dates and locations for the stated meetings of the Presbytery of the Cascades in the year 2009: March 13-14 (Central Region), June 26-27 (Northeast Region, and November 13-14 (South Region).
 - The presbytery approved minimum compensation standards for 2009, as recommended

by Presbytery Council, on behalf of the Professional Support Committee, who recommend a minimum salary of \$41,100 with continuing education of \$1,500 and professional expenses of \$3,500. Pension dues will remain at 19.5% for medical, 11% for retirement, and 1% for death & disability. Standards for Commissioned Lay Pastors and Certified Christian Educators mirror those for pastors, although the minimum for professional expenses is \$2,500 rather than \$3,500, and pension benefits may differ.

- The two nominees for 2008-2009 Moderator of Presbytery, the Rev. Steve Parker and the Rev. Chris Grewe were introduced. Ballots for the contested election were cast. Chris Grewe was elected to be installed to office in the closing service of worship at the meeting.
- It was announced that Sherwood Presbyterian Church has received a Sam & Helen Walton award of \$50,000 for purchase of property to expand their ministry.
- The pre-presbytery workshop that met at Chiloquin with tribal leaders and ranchers helped presbyters in attendance better understand the issues of what has been happening in the Klamath Basin, what tensions continue to surface, and what progress is being made. The workshop highlighted the importance of building relationships, so folks are able to speak respectfully with those on other sides of the is-

sue when dealing with limited water resources.

- It was reported that the work of Cascades' Seminary Support Network in building relationships between churches and seminaries had been recognized and honored at the 218th General Assembly for its innovative and effective work.
- The presbytery elected the following persons as readers for the 2008-2009 Standard Ordination Exams. Principal Readers: Elder Ernest Ettlich, Elder B.J. Kim (Korean), the Rev. Bruce Marten, Elder Ken Roth, and Elder Judy Sprunger (Spanish). Alternate Readers: The Rev. Aleida Jernigan (Spanish), the Rev. David Park (Korean), the Rev. Sung Man Kim (Korean), the Rev. Paulette Mixon-Weller, and Elder Bettirae Willis.
- The "Who Jesus Is" task force of Presbytery Council reported, and presbyters engaged in small-group discussions of the meaning of "Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior."
- The Relational Support Committee explained its pulpit exchange opportunity that was offered to churches as a way of affirming the connectional church and appreciating our differences. Churches are to host guest preachers with lodging and meals, with pastors paying for travel out of their expense account. Placemats with Presbytery "fun facts" have been developed. A drawing was held to match at random the churches that signed up.
- Concern was expressed that 81 congregations in the Presbytery have yet to support the Theological Education Fund and 31 congregations have not pledged to Mission Partnership.
- The Theological Reflection Task Force reported on its work on how to relate to difficult theological issues. A group of ten individuals with broad representation and various views agreed to covenant together and have been meeting over the past three years to nurture relationships that allowed them to work together in diversity. Their report is available through the website. An invitation was extended for groups to form on a similar model to learn to discuss respectfully and lovingly in Christ. Members of the Theological Reflection Task Force are available to resource new groups that form. Time, place, setting and commitment to preparation and participation are all important to forming a successful group.
- The report of Cascades' Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to the 218th General Assembly was presented. It was reported that the Rev. Aleida Jernigan, Co-Executive Presbyter NE & NW, and the Rev. Jack Hodges were elected to serve on the General Assembly Mission Council, that the Presbytery of the Cascades was again recognized in the top ten presbyteries for its mission giving. Sang Man Kim presented his commissioner resolution regarding the issue of hunger in North Korea, which was passed by the GA. The commissioners and YAD reported their availability to share their experiences and interpret the 218th General Assembly with congregations around the presbytery upon invitation. Contact information for each is in the Presbytery Directory.
- It was noted that Margi Brown, Administrative Assistant to the Stated Clerk, is retiring at the end of September.