

## A Gathering of Waters: Worship at Fall Presbytery

By Michial Hubbard, First, Medford's elder commissioner to the November, 2007 presbytery meeting

"We are baptized with water. And therefore we are baptized, that is, washed or sprinkled with visible water. For the water washes dirt away, and cools and refreshes hot and tired bodies. And the grace of God performs these things for souls; and does so invisibly or spiritually." *From the Second Helvetic Confession, 1561*

Using water as a metaphor and baptism



Choirs lead presbytery in exuberant worship

as the theme, worshipers at the fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades at **United, Albany** were moved to remember their baptism in a myriad of ways. Symbolically, tactually, preached and sung, senses were engaged and hearts lifted in each of the four worship services.

In the act of filling the font, the presbytery's unity was affirmed in a powerful way as each of the four vice-moderators poured water from their regions' waterways. The visible difference in each of the waters was erased as their blending yielded water peculiar to that place and time. Later in the service, worshipers had the opportunity to reach into that unique blend of water and remove a small smooth stone as a reminder of their own baptism—a powerful reminder indeed.

The focus on the sacraments shifted

from baptism to communion as night fell. United's jazz ensemble and a host of musicians both from Albany and the assembly led worship in song after song that gave lie to the notion of a "frozen chosen." Reverent and uplifting, every song, prayer, and reading made the presence of the Holy Spirit as real as the warm rain falling in the night. In preparation for communion, Co-Pastor Sharon Edwards sang a responsive liturgy that was answered by the congregation, making each a participant as well as a recipient.

To express the amazing grace made so real in the service, the final hymn was that grand song—*Amazing Grace*, as arranged by Don Marsh, from *Swing the Wondrous Story*.

A recitation of water place names—lakes, rivers, oceans, and seas—spanning the world reclaimed the

theme of baptism on Saturday morning. Again, the powerful imagery of water, that



Rachel O'Brien lifts a pebble from the blended waters of the four regions of presbytery.

most basic of created elements, and the part it plays in our spiritual lives was made alive and real in story, verse and song.

As was fitting for the close of presbytery, the midday prayer began with the great commission, a reminder of not our baptism, but a reminder of what we are to be about—the baptizing and making of disciples. The reality of baptism, our Lord's, our own, and the world's, in the waters of creation was celebrated and affirmed in a particular and blessed way at fall presbytery.

A special thanks need be extended to the Presbytery Worship Design Team, the musicians at **United, Albany**, and those who joined them.

## Leadership Fair Features Marva Dawn

Internationally renowned theologian, author, and educator Dr. Marva J. Dawn will be keynote speaker at the Cascades Leadership Fair on February 23, 2008. The Fair will be held at **First, Vancouver** and will offer workshops in many different areas of congregational ministries. Worship and fellowship opportunities will give participants time to network with one another.

Dr. Dawn serves as Teaching Fellow in Spiritual Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Under Christians Equipped for Ministry (CEM), she has



Dr. Marva J. Dawn

preached and taught at seminaries, clergy conferences, churches, assemblies, and universities throughout the United States and Canada and in Australia, China and Hong Kong, England, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Singapore, and Scotland.

A scholar with four master's degrees and a Ph.D. in Christian Ethics and the Scriptures from the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Dawn is also a popular preacher and speaker for people of all ages. She is the author of numerous articles and over 20 books, several of which have won awards and/or been translated into Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and other languages.

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### 2008 Deadlines

January 14	Feb/Mar Issue
March 17	Apr/May Issue
May 19	Jun/Jul Issue
July 14	Aug/Sep Issue
September 15	Oct/Nov Issue
November 17	Dec/Jan Issue

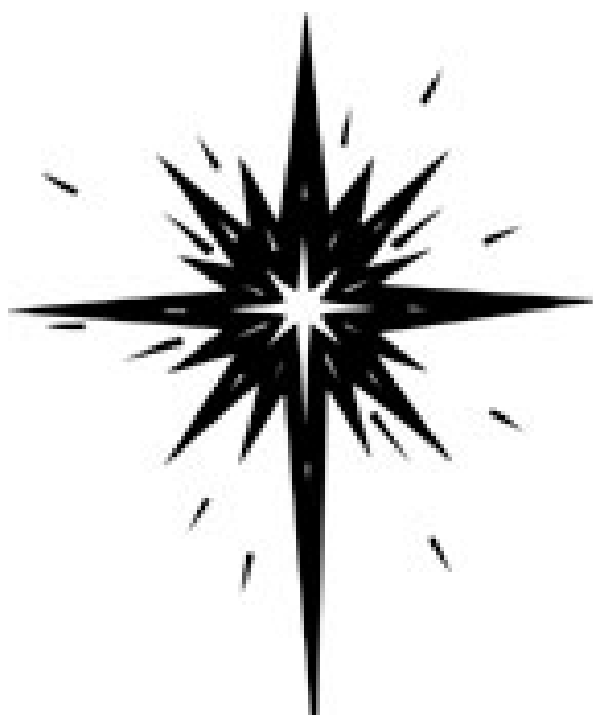
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## Congregations Receive Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Participants are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to their congregation's offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is usually received the Sunday before Christmas.

Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other 50 percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council.



## New Fair Trade Options for Fundraisers and Gifts

The Presbyterian Coffee Project in partnership with Equal Exchange is "Bringing Fair Trade Home" by adding healthy snacks to its line up in the form of pecans, organic almonds and organic cranberries grown by owners of small family farms in the U.S. With the continuing loss of family farms eroding rural communities, small farms in this country face challenges that are similar in many ways to those of farms in the developing world.

Farmers around the world are caught between declining prices for their products, the consolidation of markets and distribution, and tightening control over inputs such as seed. Equal Exchange's model for fair trade is now being extended to family farmers, farm workers, and farmer co-operatives in the U.S. For more information, visit [www.equalexchange.coop/pcusa](http://www.equalexchange.coop/pcusa).

### 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](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org).



For the coming liturgical season, type either of two keywords, "**Advent**" or "**Christmas**," on the center's home page under "Search the Media Center Catalog" and it will bring up approximately 38 items for Advent and 43 for Christmas. [www.cascadespresbytery.org/mediarc.html](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org/mediarc.html)

The Center has just received some illuminating new donations from the Presbytery's **OPENING DOORS** Task Force on Disabilities:

#### **Gifts of the Shadow** (Video - 18 minutes)

Depression is never a welcome condition. Because of depression's hopelessness and helplessness, depressed people often cannot see their way out of their situation. But our dark times can lead to greater self-understanding and the ability to live life more fully. The Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder discusses six gifts of the shadow she discovered in her journey with depression and reveals how they became opportunities for growth and transformation.

#### **Addiction & Depression** (Video - 18 minutes)

Addiction to alcohol and/or drugs often masks an underlying depression. The link between addiction and depression can cause a downward spiral leading to severe health problems, even suicide. Three persons share their stories of addiction and depression that end in recovery and hope.

#### **Understanding Depression** (Video - 18 minutes)

Over 20 million adults in the United States, many of them persons of faith, suffer from depression. The video's true stories about the hope of recovery counter stigma-induced shame, myth and misinformation that keep up to one-half of people with depression from seeking treatment. It also highlights the role people of faith can play in ministering to the needs of people with depression.

#### **Anxiety Disorders: Overcoming the Fears** (Video - 21 minutes)

For some 23 million Americans, anxiety is more than a simple case of the nerves. Instead, it manifests itself in severe panic attacks that lead to fearful avoidance of certain places and/or situations. These fears can be as crippling as any serious physical illness. Help and hope are available.

#### **A Beautiful Mind** (DVD movie - 136 minutes)

Dreamworks Pictures, 2001 Rated **PG-13** (intense thematic material, sexual content, and a scene of violence) Winner of four Academy Awards, it's a story about John Nash, the brilliant mathematician and Nobel Laureate diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. A powerful story of courage, passion and triumph.

Take advantage of your free library. Items may be checked out for three weeks, or longer if needed for a study.

In Christ's service, *Maureen O'Rourke, Director*

### 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](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org).

Omnibus welcomes news and views of 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](mailto:omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org)

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

## News Briefs

- The Rev. Barbara Price Rolph of Grants Pass has been appointed newsletter editor for the National Association of Presbyterian Clergywomen. A support group for clergy women, NAPC has evolved for over twenty years. If you would like a copy of the newsletter or more information about NAPC contact Barbara at [beprolph@msn.com](mailto:beprolph@msn.com).
- **The first Educator's Certification** course is December 10-12, 2007 at Menucha Retreat & Conference Center near Portland, Oregon. For more information, please see the Menucha webpage: [www.menucha.org/events](http://www.menucha.org/events)
- The next offering of the Cascades Lay Institute will be on "Leading Worship." It will be February 15-16, 2008, at Westminster, Eugene (777 Coburg Rd., Eugene). The Rev. Patricia Berger, Covenant, Gresham will be the presenter speaking on "Pray, Prepare, Preside." The Institute is open to those preparing for Commissioned Lay Pastors and anyone interested in leading worship. Contact the South Office (541-535-7313, 1-800-701-7313, or [jalpine@cascadespresbytery.org](mailto:jalpine@cascadespresbytery.org)) for more information or to register.
- Presbyterian '**BOOK of ORDER 2007-2009**' copies are now available from our covenant partner, Circuit Rider Books at \$7.50 per copy as long as this shipment lasts. (Thereafter, \$10/copy) Only 75 copies are left after Presbytery meeting, so order soon. Save on shipping charges by ordering for your whole church at once. Call 1-800-637-3949 or email [requests@circuitriderbooks.org](mailto:requests@circuitriderbooks.org).
- **Per Capita for 2008 is \$21.41** each member, based on church membership as of 12/31/06.
- This year's **ABC television network Christmas Eve service will originate from Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien, Connecticut.** The program, produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Media Services office under the auspices of the National Council of Churches of Christ USA, will be taped Nov. 18 for telecast on ABC affiliate stations on Christmas Eve. The one-hour musical program, "The Angels Sing," is based on the traditional "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols."



## Cascades Viewpoints

By John Huenink

I write this not long after Cascades' Stated meeting in November, 2007. At that meeting, our presbytery experienced the same sorts of experiences and emotions which are a part of all of life. We celebrated as we learned that we will soon organize our New Church Development in Sherwood as the newest congregation of our presbytery and as we authorized the employment of a Director of New Church Development in the anticipation that we might have such celebrations more often in the future. We celebrated as we received yet another candidate for professional ministry, as we examined and authorized the ordinations of two of Cascades' candidates, and as we examined a candidate of another presbytery coming to serve one of Cascades' congregations. What joys!

There was sadness also. It was sad that Cascades found it necessary to authorize the dissolution of the New Life Korean Presbyterian Church. The church was organized in April of 2002 as a rebirth of a portion of the former Korean Presbyterian Church of Portland which was dissolved at the end of 2000 (and with another portion of the former church being organized just two weeks later as Hope Korean Presbyterian Church). Despite its name and brave efforts, however, the New Life congregation simply failed to thrive. An Administrative Commission has been working with the remnant of the congregation for well over a year, but finally had to acknowledge

that dissolution was the only option. How sad when a congregation "dies"!

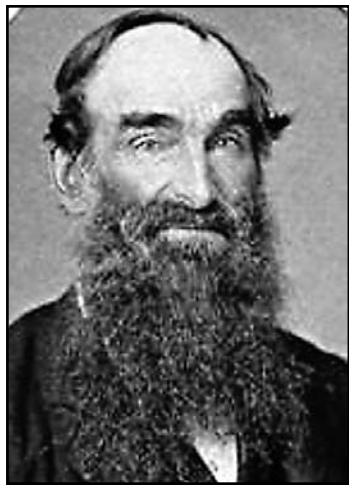
The action taken by the presbytery to authorize the dissolution of Hope Presbyterian Church of Rogue River was necessitated by a quite different course of events. The congregation is alive and healthy, but has taken actions itself which led to the action taken by the presbytery. A full accounting of Hope's actions and Cascades' responses is far too lengthy for this space but is available from the Stated Clerk. The result, however, was that The Presbytery of the Cascades was left with a congregation on its roll and on the roll of the PCUSA which had been neither dismissed nor dissolved (as required by G-11.0103) by Cascades. It has been no secret that the officers of Hope have expressed dissent regarding denominational issues (although it has been reported that they had no substantial complaints about Cascades) and had begun the process established by Cascades last June by which they might become a congregation of the New Wineskins transitional presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. That process, which is entirely ecclesiastical, was complicated when the church filed multiple legal actions against the presbytery and denomination and the options for Cascades' Resolution Team were severely compromised (and Cascades had to begin expending significant funds for legal services to respond to the legal filings).

The actions which led to Cascades'

decision to authorize the dissolution of Hope, Rogue River took place between Cascades' meetings in June and November of 2007. Cascades followed its newly-adopted policy: COM-South established a "Conversation Team" in July and, on the basis of conversations held, Presbytery Council established in September a "Resolution Team." At the end of October, Hope's minister and elders renounced the jurisdiction of the church (see G-G-6.0700 for explanation) and Cascades then had a congregation with no officers and which had neither been dissolved nor dismissed – and in fact had never formally requested dismissal from the PCUSA. Had that request been presented to Cascades by the Resolution Team in November, it is entirely possible that the presbytery would have done so in acknowledgment of their conscientious oppositions. That option was never before the presbytery, however, and the officers of the church had already (and improperly, according to the PCUSA Constitution) dismissed themselves from the denomination. With no officers remaining, the only option possible for the presbytery was to dissolve the congregation. How sad! There is still a congregation in Rogue River, but its since-1901 history as a congregation of The Presbytery of the Cascades and its predecessor presbyteries will soon end – not by the choice of the presbytery, but in response to the irregular choices made by the congregation's officers. How sad!

## A Bit of Church History

Moses Williams is called father of Presbyterianism in Southern Oregon. He organized **First, Jacksonville**, on November 22, 1857, an area he concluded was "ripe for the gospel, since it was populated with miners, Indians and frontiersmen." That congregation just celebrated its 150th anniversary.



The Rev. Moses Williams, 1811 – 1897

Photo by Peter Britt

After gradu-

ating from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1847 and preaching and teaching in the east, South America, and California, ministerial friends suggested he explore northern California and southern Oregon. On October 31, 1857 he arrived in the Rogue River valley. He stopped at the head of Bear Creek which is now Ashland and found a dozen present in the morning and 35 or 40 at evening service. In Jacksonville he found a group of Presbyterians called together by Squire William Hoffman and his family. At that time Jacksonville was a thriving frontier metropolis bustling with activity, but it also was obvious that the city was relaxed in its spiritual discipline and could use some Godly direction. The Methodists had a meeting house, (which is now Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church) but there was none for the Presbyterians.

Encouraged by Hoffman's enthusiasm, Williams took the initial steps toward organizing a church, announcing the plans following the sermon he delivered November 15 at the Methodist meeting house. The following Sunday, November 22, 1857, he formally established **First, Jacksonville**. He later organized **First, Ashland** August 28, 1875, **First, Phoenix**, the next day on August 29, 1875, and **First, Medford** March 29, 1885. The same year he began preaching in Grants Pass, but his failing health and the distance from his home prevented him from organizing that church. Another minister, Robert McLean, accomplished that on December 11, 1885.

Information for this article came from *Table Rock Sentinel*, March-April 1989, a publication of Southern Oregon Historical Society.



## Ask the Clerk

Ask The Clerk

**Q: What is a Presbyterian "AC"?**

**A:** In Presbyterian terminology, an "AC" is an "Administrative Commission," as described in G-9.0503. Any governing body (session, presbytery, synod, or General Assembly) may establish an administrative commission to do any of a variety of tasks at the direction and on behalf of the establishing governing body so that the whole governing body need not be constituted to do the task needed.

For a presbytery, the most common functions of the presbytery which are implemented by administrative commissions are ordinations of ministers, installations of ministers, or ordination and installation of ministers. Less commonly, an administrative commission will organize (not "charter" which is commonly but improperly used) or merge a congregation with another. Although all of the foregoing are usually for events of celebration, the provisions of G-9.0203a(3) permit an administrative commission to intervene on behalf of the governing body in times of trouble or when a subordinate governing body either will not or cannot fulfill its responsibilities. In the Presbytery of the Cascades, one administrative commission is at work together with a session to provide on behalf of the

presbytery some necessary but apparently lacking skills for the proper management of a congregation. Another administrative commission has been at work with the assignment of exercising the authorities of the session since the particular church does not have even the minimum quorum required by G-10.0202 for the transaction of business. A presbytery may also establish an administrative commission with the power to replace ("supplant") a session and "assume original jurisdiction" of the church (G-11.0103s) if the presbytery believes that such action is necessary in the case of a session unable or unwilling to manage wisely the affairs of the church.

Thanks for asking your question!  
John Huenink

# Positively Presbyterian

## Northwest Region

by Jeanne Rich

Fall headlines in this area's newsletters indicated the busy season started well before seasonal holidays. With the arrival of Julie Dunsmore, Presbyterian mission worker with the Joining Hands program, a number of Northwest churches reported on programs and events in which Julie shared the work she and husband Bob are doing in Bolivia. The **Reedville** church hosted Julie on October 16 to gather information "to determine whether Reedville should become an official partner with the Dunsmores in the Joining Hands program." Julie, who was raised in Oregon and attended Lewis and Clark College, is a member of the Reedville church. On October 17 members and friends of **Emmanuel, West Linn**, joined **Milwaukie PC** for a potluck and presentation to hear Julie. **Plymouth, St. Helens**, reported that Julie was the featured speaker at their Harvest Mission Dinner on October 20 and the next day she preached at **Valley Community, Portland's** Sunday worship service. Valley is one of eight Cascade Presbytery participating congregations in the Joining Hands partnership. That same day, Julie spent more than three hours at **Southminster, Beaverton**, in an informal discussion about how she and Bob "are co-facilitators of a process in which Bolivia's efforts to address the root causes of hunger are led by the Bolivians themselves." **Pioneer, Warrenton**, reported that area churches were invited to hear Julie speak on October 23. There were many other churches and groups on her schedule from San Francisco to Oregon to Montana, covering 1200 miles.

Habitat for Humanity was also mentioned several times. **St. Andrews, Portland**, invited Habitat Construction Supervisor Mike Wiley to a Men's Ministry Breakfast in November to hear him speak on "the challenges and success of this dynamic organization." **Calvin, Tigard**, Mariners held an October 27 workday on Lawson Place in Hillsboro. **Lake Grove, Lake Oswego**, set a goal of raising \$55,000 to build an entire house jointly with Willamette West Habitat for Humanity. This "blitz build" was a one week project located in Lawson Place housing development, named in honor of the late Rev. Gary Lawson, a previous pastor of **Calvin, Tigard**.

Retired minister Steve Maling continues as itinerant Bible teacher with his course, "Meeting Jesus in the Psalms," a four-week series held at **Orenco, Hillsboro**. The **Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro**, newsletter announced this course as "explorations (that) will be both musical and mindful" and both churches mentioned Steve's "charming Maine accent!" as an attraction.

Recognitions in the region indicate how we serve a wide community. Dick and Alyda Gilkey of **St. Andrews, Portland**, shared their joy that son David Gilkey won an Emmy for Outstanding Current News Coverage for Broadband as a war photographer in Iraq and other places. He was a Producer/Photographer of "Michigan Marines: Band of Brothers" which "is a real tribute to the incredibly difficult work that our military and their families are asked to do on our behalf." Competing entries were from Frontline, National Geographic,

Newsweek and the Washington Post. **Multnomah, Portland**, member Anne Hill has published "Unforgettable Journey: Tips to Survive Your Parent's Alzheimer's Disease." Anne says about the book, based on the author's own experience with her mother, "First I wanted a short, easy read—adult children of Alzheimer's patients don't have time to read long books." Secondly, she hopes it brings comfort, and finally, she wanted print large enough "so you can read it when you're crying." The book is available online at [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com). "The Sewing Ladies" of **Lake Grove, Lake Oswego**, received a "2007 Oregon Governor's Volunteer Award" at a ceremony in Salem on September 28. For more than 16 years the Sewing Ladies have been teaching basic sewing skills to women in addiction recovery at Letty Owings Center.

Finally, it was noted that **Bethany, Portland**, and **Multnomah, Portland**, are encouraging a lost art. Bible memorization is emphasized in the youth group at Bethany where Kim Gaston presents prizes to the first youth to memorize selected verses. The Multnomah "Announcer" reported giving a "shout out" to Nancy Unrath and Anne Braun who "have put in several years and hundreds of hours to create a curriculum for the junior high Sunday School class which includes memorizing scripture so that youth will "have God's word in their hearts."

## Northeast Region

By Jan Noller

At **St. Johns, Camas** the people are being challenged to think and do small and big faithful acts to live out "thy will be done" from the Lord's Prayer.

Loaves and Fishes was the theme for an outreach dinner after the worship service recently at **Community, Moro**.

**East Woods, Vancouver** had an at-home weekend men's retreat complete with sleeping bags on the floor to do work projects at their new building site.

At **Eastminster, Portland** the pastor did a seven Sunday sermon series on what it means to be a "Reformed" Presbyterian Church. (Maybe more of us pew sitters could benefit from such a series).

Thanks to **Rose City Park, Portland** we now know what Snow-Cap means - Suburban Neighborhoods Operation Witness - Community Action Program. The church has a produce table on Sunday with produce from the Farmers Market.

**Milwaukie** is preparing boxes for 40 families in need with nutritious food for Christmas dinner. There will also be gifts for every family member. The boxes will be delivered on December 23rd after worship.

A living Nativity can be seen at **First, Oregon City** on December 15, 16, and 17 from 6-8 p.m. Children through adults take part.

In the Sunday School room at **Laurelhurst, Portland** there is a new Tillamook Tree House which is age appropriate for pre-schoolers.

Positive Parenting classes, a four-week series, are featured at **Gateway, The Dalles** starting with "Ten Keys to Positive Parenting."

**Kenilworth, Portland** is completing renovations to accommodate the handicapped and brighten areas with new glass and paint.

**First, Vancouver** is having a contest

between youth and adults to bring food and supplies for F.I.S.H.

If members at **Colonial Heights, Portland** can answer "yes" to eight or more of the good health statements the parish nurse lists, they are taking good care of themselves.

**Mt. Scott Park, Portland** people are assembling many personal items for Christmas bags that Community Meals give out at Christmas time.

As **Cascades, Vancouver**, members are working on becoming a missional church; families are urged to turn the television off during meal times and find out what each others' high and low points of the day were.

**Westminster, Portland** rejoiced as two members, Aimee Moiso and Bob Goodin were approved at the November Presbytery meeting to be ordained to Word and Sacrament.

**Savage Memorial, Portland** is having an Alternative Holiday Market featuring Beyond Borders, CASA, Church World Service, Heifer International, Mercy Corps and Shepherd's Door.

The Lilly Foundation has approved a grant for **Springwater, Estacada** entitled "Bringing Creativity to Faith." The pastor will spend time studying visual expressions of faith in three locations. The congregation will experience three artists in residence.

**Piedmont, Portland** members are gathering gifts from a wish list for children at a hospital in Iraq where a member stationed in Iraq and his unit volunteer.

Changing to efficient lights, installing new thermostats, being diligent about turning lights off, installing gas furnaces and air conditioners are some of the ways **Smith Memorial, Fairview** is going green.

## Central Region

By Bruce Smith

The **Westminster, Salem** Session selected the Rev. Scott Dalgarno to be the interim pastor for a year. Scott comes from Ashland where he had been the Pastor, Head of Staff. He is a strong preacher who has won several national awards for his efforts. The Rev. Audrey Schindler began the role of Interim Pastor, Head of Staff at **First, Salem** in September. She, with her family, moved to Salem from Melbourne, Australia where she was Dean of Students at the Uniting Church Theological College. She is learning to drive on the right side of the road again. **First, Woodburn** welcomed the Rev. David Morelli in November to be their interim pastor. **Community, Redmond** elected the Rev. Heidi Grube to be the new Associate Pastor. Heidi was graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. She brings to the church a broad background from serving in the Peace Corps two years and working with the American Red Cross in Washington, DC. David Hampton is settling in as the interim at **First, Dallas**.

When Ginger Harlow Allen of **Nestucca Valley** was selected to be an elder, she continued the tradition of 170 years with her family being involved in the Presbyterian Church.

Tom Rawson, folk singer and storyteller, presented a program at **Westminster, Salem** in October. All proceeds go

(Continued on page 5)

## To Serve is to be Blessed

By Ann Moore, Photos by Tam Moore

First, Central Point prepared and served Thanksgiving dinner for almost 300 hungry people at St. Vincent DePaul. They partnered with St. Matthew's Lutheran, also located in Central Point. In addition, 19 veterans from the Domiciliary in White City helped. They all cleaned up afterwards. Persons were served restaurant style, getting to choose white meat or dark. Teens and older children served drinks. The Old Time Fiddlers provided music during the meal. Volunteers cooked 17 turkeys and 35 pies of many varieties and sizes.



Server Richard Higgins takes an order from a dining room volunteer as **First, Central Point** put out almost 300 plates of Thanksgiving dinner for guests of the Medford-area St. Vincent DePaul mission. Waitpersons brought custom-ordered plates to each guest.



Jean Miller of **First, Central Point**, presides over serving 35 pies baked for a Thanksgiving dinner shared with guests of the Medford-area St. Vincent DePaul mission. St. Matthews' Lutheran Church of Central Point joined the Presbyterians in the ecumenical project.



There was a lot to do as volunteers, including Delores Lafever, worked behind the crowd at the Medford-area Thanksgiving dinner.

## Positively Presbyterian

(Continued from page 4)

to the "Table of Plenty" and to support the Joining Hands in Bolivia partnership. In November, the church continued their musical programming with the men's a cappella group called RESCUE. This is a vocal quartet with a fresh and exciting sound and an entertaining yet worshipful program. **Peace, Eugene** presents a musical program in December weaving together Jewish, pre-Christian and Christian songs of the season. **United, Albany** hosted a virtuoso French horn duo in November. They offered a program of highly motivated, sometimes traditional, and often dazzling horn playing.

**Community, Redmond** raised \$5,725.50 for Heifer International at their ice cream social in August. Many churches are conducting their stewardship campaign this fall. **Nestucca Valley** has opened a brokerage account with a firm in Lincoln city. This will assist the membership in making gifts in the form of stocks, bonds, and/or mutual funds, IRAs, or even cash. **Central, Eugene** received more than \$800,000 from the estate of Elaine Armes to create a permanent endowment to support nonsecular outreach programs.

The youth of **Aurora** joined with the **Laurelhurst, Portland** church in a mission trip to Lee Vining, California where they painted the manse. The tiny congregation of 12 members was very appreciative of the effort. Julie Clark of OSU's **Westminster House** spent two weeks in an orphanage in Krasni Hutor in the

Ukraine with a group of volunteers. Although communication barely went beyond hand gestures, it was still a powerful ministry.

Bruce Sexton, **First, Mill City**, received an award of nearly \$45,000 for a three-month sabbatical in the summer of 2008. This money was received from the Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program to allow a pastor to step away from daily parish life and engage in a period of renewal and reflection. The money will allow Bruce to have three retreats, and travel time with his family through Europe.

**Christ Church, Monmouth**, now broadcasts their services on Channel 17 Wednesday and Thursday nights as well as Sunday.

You can tell when people are not up to speed in reading the Bible when they cannot find Charles Heston in the concordance.

## South Region

By Ann Moore

More churches do weekday after-school programs. **First, Bandon** joins with St. John Episcopal for "Wonderful Wednesdays" at the Episcopal Church. **Malin Community** serves children ages four through twelve. **First, Medford** serves youngsters in the downtown community in a program that offers Bible study, recreation, music, crafts and dinner. These churches join others described in the last issue of Omnibus including **First, Jacksonville**, **First Klamath Falls**, **First**

**Brookings**, and **First, Merrill**.

**Bandon** also reaches out to youth with healthy lunches the first, third, and occasional fifth Mondays. Volunteers report it's a "wonderful way to get better acquainted with our young people."

**Tri City, Myrtle Creek** has welcoming Sunday greeters in the narthex and Veronica "Ronnie" Goodpuppy on the outside. She is a friendly, calm dog who greets anyone who walks in the door with a tail wag. She lives with the Rev. Philip and Nancy Nasset.

**First, Ashland** has been asked to partner with the Congregational Church to provide emergency shelter to persons in need when temperatures are expected to be 20 degrees or lower. They plan to expand service from mid-November through mid-February. Hours are 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Folks must bring their own bedding. All possessions except bedding are locked up for the night and no drugs or alcohol are allowed. Two "hosts," male and female, serve each evening. **First's** responsibility is during January and the first part of February. Other faith groups have expressed interest in helping. Last winter the Congregational church provided shelter six times during January.

**Olivet, Glendale** joined with the Glendale food bank to prepare food boxes, particularly needed this year with the lay-off of 40 persons from a local mill. One family donated dozens of small canned hams. Each box received three of them.

# Voices

## Doing Ecumenical Laundry

by Aimee Moiso

If there's one thing I know after spending a year at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute near Geneva, Switzerland with students from around the world, it's this: laundry is a great equalizer. No matter your socio-economic level, language, background, education or theological perspective, if you live in a big house with 35 other students and no clothes dryer, you'll end up sharing a clothes line with everyone.

At the beginning, those of us with washing machine knowledge taught – or sometimes pantomimed, if there was no shared language among us – how to choose the cycle and add the soap. Some people consistently ran overly-full loads; others – enamored with the prospect of not washing by hand – ran the washer with only a few socks swirling inside. A few who hand-washed their clothes at home chose to do the same in Switzerland, even though the machines were free.

But all of us hung our clothing to dry in the basement, and there the jeans and t-shirts intermingled with heavy socks and beaded scarves and yards of African cloth.

That's the grand experiment that is the Bossey Ecumenical Institute. A program of the World Council of Churches, Bossey has served as an "ecumenical laboratory" for more than 60 years, and continues to strive to bring a disparate global church closer to unity. Theology students from all corners of the globe and all parts of the church (Pentecostal to Orthodox) are thrown together in an old farmhouse in the countryside outside of Geneva and spend time studying, learning and living together. Though the coursework in ecumenical studies is intended to bring to light the oneness of the church and inspire its future, it is life in community that drives home the point.

In October, 2006, I joined students from Romania, England, Korea, the Philippines, Bulgaria, Russia, Guinea, Hungary, Egypt, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Germany, Haiti, Australia, Kenya, Samoa, Greece, India, Slovakia, and Burkina Faso at the 58th graduate school at Bossey. About two thirds of the students were part of the one-semester certificate program that ended in February, 2007; ten

of us stayed through June to complete a master's degree in ecumenical studies.

Coursework in ecumenical studies covers a broad range of topics from social ethics (taught this year by former WCC General Secretary Konrad Raiser) to missiology to biblical interpretation in a multi-denominational context. Class modules were supplemented with plenary sessions led by various WCC staff members, theologians and other local and regional specialists. Through their eyes, we examined (almost too thoroughly at times) the history of the World Council of Churches, and various movements and projects working for church unity around the world.

It was in an ecumenical theology class that we took a hard look at the concept of unity itself. In the ecumenical world – as well as the PC(USA) – it is a given that the church of Jesus Christ is one (whether or not we live like it is), and that as disciples we are called to manifest its visible unity. For Presbyterians, the understanding of the "true church" is rooted in the proclamation of the Word and the right administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper. But discussions of unity quickly became complicated when the Reformed students in our class encountered others from churches with seven sacraments, or churches for whom dramatic conversion and baptism in the Spirit (through speaking in tongues or other spiritual manifestations) were of utmost importance. Moreover, theologizing in the abstract was impossible when classroom discussion moved to the breakfast, lunch and dinner tables and became about real people, not just historic principle.

In recent decades, the WCC and other bodies have invested increasing energy in studying divisive "non-theological" issues of ethics, culture and context – and in acknowledging the indivisibility and interrelatedness of religious conviction, ethical concern, and contextual, lived experience. I was surprised to find a Presbyterian student from Egypt who was horrified by the imposition of ashes at an Ash Wednesday chapel service. In his context, such Lenten displays were thoroughly Orthodox and never practiced by Presbyterians. He was incredulous when I told him quite honestly that the ritual was standard practice in many PC(USA) churches.



Aimee Moiso during her examination at the November Presbytery meeting

It is at this intersection that the Bossey Ecumenical Institute sits, weaving together historical and theological study with the ins and outs of life in a diverse community of faith and culture. None who participated in the 58th graduate school would say it was without challenge or discord. Few would boast that the experience was easy or carefree. In our months in Switzerland, we did not resolve any of the conflicts that continue to separate our churches.

But by the time spring rolled around and it was warm enough to hang our clothes outside, we knew well the mixed-up stripes and plaids and polka dots of our colleagues' laundry, and if it started to rain, someone would always run out and collect the lot. Given the conflict both within and among our churches and nations, perhaps that's not a bad start.

Aimee Moiso graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2006. Her master's thesis at Bossey, entitled, "How Matters: A study of the relationship between approach and outcome in ecclesial dialogue," compared dialogue processes of the World Council of Churches and the PC(USA) Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church. For more information on the Bossey Ecumenical Institute, visit [www.wcc-coe.org/bossey](http://www.wcc-coe.org/bossey).

Moiso was recently examined for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament having received a call to serve as Protestant Chaplain at Santa Clara University in The Presbytery of San Jose. Her examination was sustained, and the presbytery established an administrative commission to ordain her on December 30, 2007 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland.

## New Presbytery Camp Coordinator Hired

Elizabeth Bolton Larkin, has been hired to serve as the presbytery's camp coordinator. Introduced at the November presby-



Elizabeth Bolton Larkin

tery meeting, Larkin lives with her husband George and children, Megan, Kadee, and Cody in Camas, WA. She is a member of **Columbia, Vancouver**.

The mission of the Presbytery of the Cascades Summer Camp program is to provide individuals of all ages the opportunity to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, each other, their families and their church home through outdoor living experiences in a distinctly Christian community.

The camps are open to all regardless of church affiliation and welcome campers who may have little or no experience in faith or church. Campers encounter God through the experience of worship, exploring the wonder of God's creation, Bible-focused lessons, and Christian community. In keeping with the Christian Reformed tradition, campers are helped to make a connection between their lives and the

stories of faith in the Bible in ways that free them to follow Jesus Christ. For each camper, we pray that camp becomes part of their journey to better knowing God's Son.

Camps cover a range of ages, and the program is designed with the mental, social, physical and spiritual development of the camper in mind. The joy of recreation and play is offered in a safe community which teaches non-violent communication and respect for each individual as somebody made in the image of God. It is recognized that campers learn in many different ways, and the focus is on providing a wide range of experiences in which campers can participate.

For more information about the camping program, contact the presbytery's website [www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org). The tentative dates for the 2008 season are posted on the camping link.



# 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.

## January 2008

- 1 Nestucca Valley Presbyterian Church, Pacific City - chartered this day in 2001
- 2 Andrew L. Caesar, ordained this day in 1994 serving as youth counselor for Multnomah County
- 3 Dean F. Klarr, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2001
- 4 Donald H. Frank, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1997 • Margi Brown, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, stated clerk's office
- 5 Weston D. Gray, granted Honorably retired status this month in 1995
- 6 Community Presbyterian Church, Yachats - chartered this month in 1950
- 7 Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of the Cascades, John Ailstock, President
- 8 C. Montee Kennedy, installed as pastor at Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence, this day in 2006 • Philip D. King, ordained this day in 1999, serving as Chaplain, United States Navy
- 9 Thomas E. Young, installed as pastor at Cherry Park Presbyterian Church, Troutdale, this day in 2000
- 10 Janet Alpine, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, South Region office
- 11 Elmer R. (Bud) Frimoth, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1992
- 12 Susan D. Grewe & Christopher N. Grewe, installed as co-pastors at Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1992
- 13 Graig L. Flach installed this day in 2002 as associate pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego • Ashton A. (Skip) Roberts, ordained this day in 2007, serving as chaplain for the Department of Veterans Affairs
- 14 Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship, Aloha - chartered this day in 1996
- 15 James T. Stewart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995
- 16 Stephen G. Maling, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000
- 17 William C. Howell, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1991
- 18 Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1961
- 19 Duane L. Sich, ordained this day in 1972, serving as executive director of Friends of the Carpenter • Kris M. Voss-Rothmeier, ordained this day in 1997
- 20 Warren H. Rutledge, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1996 • Presbytery Council meets today, Cathy Quackenbush, Chair
- 21 Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1906 • James C. Moiso, installed as pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1990 • Katherine Stewart, commissioned this day in 2006, serving as Commissioned Lay Pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grants Pass
- 22 Covell A. Hart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1987
- 23 Kenneth M. "Woodley" White, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2007
- 24 James C. Cayton, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1985
- 25 Sang J. Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
- 26 John J. Rodgers, ordained this day in 1976
- 27 United Presbyterian Church, Albany - chartered 1853
- 28 J. Wilbur Patterson, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
- 29 Jack P. Hansen granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1997
- 30 Gene H. Upton, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1986
- 31 J. Bradford Kent, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2007 • Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church, Lincoln City - chartered this day in 1937 • Robert Kang, ordained this day in 1994
- 10 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem - chartered this day in 1957
- 11 Kenton United Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1912 • John R. Moody, installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem, this day in 1996
- 12 Dale E. Southorn, installed as associate pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard, this day in 1995
- 13 Jeff Sievert, Vice Moderator, Northwest Region
- 14 Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1905
- 15 William K. Van Nostran, installed as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2004
- 16 Brian G. Campbell, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 17 Tualatin Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1985
- 18 Professional Support Committee - Scott Phillips, Chair
- 19 Calvary Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1882
- 20 F. Arlin Nave, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1994
- 21 Phyllis P. Hart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995
- 22 John S. Carpenter, installed as pastor at Oakville Presbyterian Church, Shedd, this day in 1998 • Roger W. Weeks, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2006
- 23 Soo Shin Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005
- 24 Gail Moody, Certified Christian Educator, Westminster Presbyterian, Salem
- 25 First Presbyterian Church, Creswell - chartered in 1909
- 26 Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton - chartered this day in 1959 • Charlie T. Brown, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2001
- 27 Committee on Ministry-South, John W. Hubbard, Chair • First Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls - chartered this day in 1884
- 28 James C. Beck, installed as pastor of Beaverton Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland this day in 1999

## February 2008

- 1 E. Gordon Crider, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992 • John R. Fry, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992
- 2 Aurora Presbyterian Church - chartered this month in 1904 • Robert C. Patten, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 3 Lawrence E. Jung, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, this day in 1985 • Janice Hearn, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000
- 4 Marjorie Robinson, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, Northeast/Northwest Region office
- 5 Leo C. Tautfest, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 6 Charles E. Poling, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1990
- 7 Scott W. Peterson, ordained this day in 1988, serving as stated supply pastor at Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship, Aloha • First Presbyterian Church, Trout Lake - chartered this day in 1905
- 8 First Presbyterian Church, Bandon - chartered this day in 1891
- 9 John W. Dilworth, installed as co-pastor of Multnomah Presbyterian Church, this day in 1986

### Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

#### Vacant

Eugene, Westminster  
Lakeside, Community  
Medford, Westminster (Associate)  
Pacific City  
Salem, First

#### Seeking Interim or Stated Supply

Coos Bay

#### Preparing to Actively Seek

Portland, Calvary  
Reedsport, United  
Corvallis, First

#### Actively Seeking a Pastor (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Portland, Chinese  
Portland, Sunset (Associate)  
Salem, Westminster (Associate)



Be up to date on  
Presbytery news and events!

Cascades Electronic Express  
Email newsletter

Sign up at  
[cee@cascadespresbytery.org](mailto:cee@cascadespresbytery.org)

~ ~ ~

Visit our website:  
[www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org)

# Open Sanctuary Project Touches Lives

By Nancy Gaston

We think of the church sanctuary as being “open” on Sunday mornings or other times when the congregation gathers for worship. First Presbyterian, Vancouver, expanded that concept on six Wednesday evenings this fall.

People were invited to visit the sanctuary on those evenings. Greeters were there to welcome them and answer questions. Soft music was playing. People could walk around, sit quietly, or meditatively drop a glass “pebble” into the water of the communion font.

The project was designed especially to welcome those with developmental disabilities or other conditions that make the traditional worship service challenging or impossible for them. The group preparing for the project developed protocols—which were never needed—on how to help persons who suffered seizures or needed some medical or psychological intervention.

Who came? Some people with special needs—all kinds of special needs:

- A family that included a daughter with autism.
- A man whose weekend work shifts make it impossible to attend Sunday services.
- A 50-year member who appreciated the contemplative quiet time.
- Parents and their one-week-old baby. They dropped a pebble into the font in celebration of the birth.



David Pitonyak shares thoughts with congregation member Pam Otton on the Open Sanctuary project of First Presbyterian, Vancouver.”

As one member remarked, “We are all people with special needs.”

Dr. David Pitonyak from Blacksburg, VA, a consultant and advocate for inclusion of people with special needs, visited the church and met with interested congregation members. He stressed that people who feel like outsiders yearn for a way to be useful and helpful. Pitonyak pointed out the terrible loneliness of persons with developmental disabilities “when it dawns on them that the only people relating with

them—outside of relatives—are paid to do so.” David’s website, [www.dimage.com](http://www.dimage.com), offers suggestions for relating to those who exhibit “difficult behaviors” because their needs are unmet.

At the close of the six-week project, the congregation’s Worship Ministry concluded that there is desire for an ongoing time of quiet, meditative worship on a weekday evening.

## Celebration Works Concert Season Continues

Celebration Works, **First, Portland’s** series of concerts and art exhibits, continues in the new year with three concerts and a unique art exhibit in January and February. On Sunday, January 20 at 3 p.m., hear organist Jon Stuber and violinist Mary Rowell in a concert titled, “Pipes and Strings.” The centerpiece of the concert will be a performance of Josef Rheinberger’s 19<sup>th</sup> century *Suite* for violin and organ. In addition, the concert will include chamber music for violin, flute, cello and organ, as well as solo works for organ and violin.

On Saturday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m., Belle Voci Women’s Vocal Ensemble will host the Fourth Annual Treble Choir Concert with guest conductor, Judith Herrington. This special evening brings together treble choirs of all ages to celebrate cross-generational music making. Some of the most outstanding treble choirs in the area will spend the day working with Ms. Herrington and then perform separately and together during an inspirational evening concert. Margaret Green is the founder and music director of Belle Voci,

one of Portland’s most outstanding choral ensembles.

Both concerts are in the Sanctuary at **First, Portland**, located at 1200 SW Alder in downtown Portland. Tickets for all concerts are sold at the door. General admission tickets are \$10, and tickets for seniors and students are \$8. Parking in First, Portland’s underground garage at SW 12<sup>th</sup> and SW Morrison is free for concert guests.

Art work created by participants of the Washington County Jail Instructional Art Program will be on exhibit in Chapel Hall from January 9 through March 16, 2008. Art exhibits are free and are open during Celebration Works concerts and on Sundays from 9 am to noon. Exhibits may also be viewed during the week by appointment.

Visit the church’s web site at [www.fpcpdx.org](http://www.fpcpdx.org) for more information.

**GA Commissioners  
Elected for 2008:**

Elected as commissioners to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly at the recent Fall Presbytery of the Cascades meeting are:

**Ministers:**  
Mary Wright Gillespie  
Sung Man Kim  
Kent Organ  
Laurie M. Vischer

**Elders:**  
Mary Jo Emmett  
Kim Kambak  
Sandi Schwarm  
Mary Lou Williams

**Youth Advisory Delegate:**  
Anna Grewe

“To Travel  
the road to Bethlehem  
is to keep a rendezvous  
with wonder,  
to answer  
the call of wisdom,  
and to bow the knee  
in worship.”

John A. Knight

## Making Poverty History

Church World Service is introducing a new hunger education resource, *Making Poverty History*. This is a 26-page collection of simulations, skits, and worship materials on hunger, poverty, and the related themes of the Millennium Development Goals. It is great for hunger educators, CROP Hunger Walk organizers, youth leaders, religious and mission educators, camp directors, anyone interested in engaging their community on the issue of hunger and poverty.

The various activities are organized around the major themes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG): Hunger and Poverty,

Education, Health, Environment/Water, Partners in Development. Each section contains a few facts on the MDG theme, a story from the work of CWS addressing the theme, and assorted interactive ways to engage people on that theme.

Orders up to ten copies are FREE! Eleven to 99 copies are \$1.00 each (plus \$5.00 shipping/handling fee). Bulk rates are available. Please pre-pay: Church World Service, P. O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 For more information or bulk rates call 800-297-1516. You can view or download the resource at [www.churchworldservice.org/knowhunger/index.html](http://www.churchworldservice.org/knowhunger/index.html).

# Taking Sabbatical Time: A Case Study

By Cynthia O'Brien

Imagine that you are the pastor of a church. You are responsible for preaching God's word every Sunday, supervising the people's spiritual development, administering a nonprofit organization, and you are on call 24 hours a day. Now imagine that after eleven straight years, you could take a three-month break from it.

I love my church, but especially after an intense capital campaign, I was ready for a break. This summer, my church, Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fairview, Oregon, sent me on a three-month paid sabbatical with no expectations except that I rest and renew. I'd like to share with you what the church and I did.

## How We Prepared

Since our church did not have the money to keep paying me and also hire a temporary pastor for the summer, we chose to have guest preachers every Sunday. I called in a lot of favors, asking the best preachers I knew to get a guest for *their* pulpits so they could preach for us. We called it "The Summer of Discovery," and one of our talented elders made a color brochure about the 12 preachers. Church attendance stayed strong through the summer.

Our local hospital chaplain, Harold Fuller of Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center, was on call for emergencies. He has been a friend of our church for many years and the congregation is comfortable with him in the role of pastor. One member, Orson, died during the summer. I was fortunate to be in town when death was imminent, and I visited shortly before he died, but Chaplain Fuller handled everything after that.

Church administration was carried out under the direction of four elders I named "The Cabinet." I started meeting with them six months before my sabbatical so that we would have a common vision for what needed to happen in my absence. No decision was to be postponed; they had the good judgment and authority to move forward. They continued to meet weekly, and each served one day a week in the office, making decisions, supervising the staff and answering questions.

When everything was in place, I was ready to go. I was really looking forward to it. But to my surprise and embarrassment, I cried at the end of my last Sunday service in May. I confess, I was up until midnight on May 31, e-mailing last-minute instructions. For the next two weeks, I could not let go. I kept thinking of things that I needed to remind the church leaders to do. I would go to my computer, write an e-mail, then have to erase it. Trust them, I reminded myself. Trust them.

## Time Alone, Time With Family

It would have been exciting to do a sabbatical like *Three Months in Jerusalem* or *A Summer in Ireland Studying Celtic Spirituality*. But with a husband, small children and not much of a budget, I had to be creative. And, honestly, I couldn't stay at home, because I knew I would spend the whole time puttering around my house and feeling guilty that it wasn't clean. I had to get out of town, but inexpensively. I put together a summer schedule that included time alone, time with my husband, and time with the family.

I began the summer by spending a few days at the Trappist Abbey in Lafayette, Oregon. They provided me with a small room, three meals a day, and the privilege of going into the chapel to listen to the monks sing their prayers five times a day

beginning at 4:30 a.m. I hiked the trails, took naps, sat out by the pond, read and prayed. Twice I met with a monk for spiritual direction.

After the monastery, I spent a week at the Grunewald Guild ([www.artfaith.com](http://www.artfaith.com)), an artists' retreat in Leavenworth, Washington. I joined a small class called "Drawing as Meditation" taught by artist/monk Mickey McGrath, who has published a wonderful book, "At the Name of Jesus." Our class included a UCC pastor, a hospital chaplain and an engineer. We spent part of the day in quiet observation of our surroundings, time in the studio, and gathered for morning and evening worship.

My husband and I were able to spend some time together in Pasadena, making use of the Fuller Seminary Library, going to favorite museums like the Getty Villa and the Huntington Library, and doing whatever we wanted to do. This was largely made possible by my brother, who invited our young daughters to stay with him for a couple of weeks.

We ended the summer by vacationing with our extended family, building relationships with in-laws we rarely see, and enjoying the beauty of Kauai and Maui. I read widely, and I learned a great deal about the human condition from the various novels and essays I read.

Along the way, we visited many churches. We were warmly welcomed everywhere we went, from a two-hour Pentecostal service in Kauai to the liturgical service at the Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco. When we were home, we visited a couple of new, multicultural churches that are starting in the Gresham area.

My greatest surprise about the sabbatical was also my biggest disappointment: that I was not more productive. I had a list of projects I wanted to do and about three shelves of books I wanted to read. But I was supposed to be taking time for rest and renewal, and it is typical of me to expect that I can do more than is humanly possible.

## When I Returned to Church

Being away during the summer meant giving up my usual preparation for the fall. When I returned, I had not planned a sermon series, new member class or any new programs as I would normally do. The elders had planned our fall Session retreat, which I attended, and a team of volunteers put on the fall Neighborhood Block Party as scheduled.

In the first week back, I did spend more time studying than normal; I felt that I was renewing some good habits. Then three people died in two weeks and I was thrown back into the race again.

You'd have to ask my congregation if I'm different. Here's how I feel different. Since I've returned, I am a little more calm, a little less controlling, and more easygoing in general.

## Sabbaticals Are Becoming More Common

Studies have shown that a pastoral sabbatical is useful for personal renewal, and should not be confused with an academic sabbatical which is often about publishing a book. Pastors have different needs and priorities.

The Presbytery of the Cascades recently mandated a paid sabbatical for newly installed pastor coming into the Presbytery after every seven years of service in a congregation. The Lilly Foundation offers grants for pastors of up to \$40,000 for a



Cynthia J. O'Brien, 43, has been pastor of Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairview, Oregon, for eleven years. Her husband, Michael, teaches advanced math and theology at Portland Lutheran School. They are both graduates of Fuller Theological Seminary and have two daughters, Rachel, 8, and Laurel, 6.

three month sabbatical. While I applied twice for a grant, my applications were not successful, and I ended up paying for my sabbatical out of my personal savings and my continuing education allotment. Near the end of the summer, friends asked me if I was energized about coming back to church. "No way," I said. "I'm never going back." Frankly, when you have time to play with your children, read what you want and go on week-long dates with your spouse, who would want to go back to work? But I never lost my sense of call, and I'm happy to be back in ministry.

## Sabbatical Grants Available

Board of Pension Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grants (SSSG) for pastors are now available through the Synod of the Pacific. The Synod is limited to four grants a year. A pastor must currently be serving a congregation with fewer than 200 members and demonstrate financial need.

The application process is noted below. Contact Hugh Anderson at the South Region office for any further steps the presbytery may request. (541-535-7313, 1-800-701-7313, [hugh@cascadespresbytery.org](mailto:hugh@cascadespresbytery.org))

The SSSG are designed to help pastors serving small congregations take sabbaticals that will strengthen their skills and renew their ministry. The Board of Pensions Assistance Program will provide 110 annual Sabbath Sabbatical Support Grants of up to \$3,000 each to pastors who have submitted an approved plan to their presbytery/synod. The grants will be administered in cooperation with the synods and presbyteries.

At the discretion of the presbytery and the pastor, up to \$500 of the grant may be used to provide pulpit supply and pastoral support for the congregation during the pastor's sabbatical leave.

A pastor must have served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for a minimum of ten years, served his/her current congregation for at least six years and be an active member of the Board of Pensions Traditional Benefits Plan.

Since this is a supplemental program, it is anticipated that a pastor will receive additional financial support for the sabbatical from other sources such as congregations, foundations, middle governing

*Continued on Page 10*

## Tulelake offers Action-Based Bible Study

By Ann Moore; Photos by Tam Moore

**Tulelake, Community's** Christian education program attracts children from the community who have no connection to the church, and they're bringing their friends, according to Pastor Del McAmis. "The children are seldom sitting down," he said. "They're always doing stuff with the older kids helping the younger ones."

It's a one-room Sunday School with a rug for sitting on to listen to the story. There are no chairs. Bible stories are taught in an exciting way, with drama by leader Marcia Walker and the kids, some in costume and some not. The stories are told in character. When the story is over, Marcia asks how they can best remember it. There are age-appropriate crafts, cooking, lots of paper and glue work. Near the end of the session, the memorization station is open and children receive prizes for knowing the verse of the day. This memorization is to give the kids a foundation of knowledge they can "pull out" for use as needed later in life.

Children age three to grade five participate, and the sixth and seventh graders are leader's assistants, according to Marcia who is a long-time Christian Educator. The walls hold lots of art work. The Tulelake curriculum started with Abraham and



**Volunteer Marcia Walker, who leads the Tulelake program, goes by Ms. Marcia as she guides children through the Old Testament, using a Christian Education curriculum she wrote while attending a church in Presbytery of Sacramento.**

is now on Esau and Jacob.

The curriculum is called "Lessons from the Shepherd," developed by Marcia Walk-

er while she worshiped at Sierra Presbyterian Church in Loomis, California before moving to the Klamath Basin.

## Julie Dunsmore Visits Presbytery

By Nancy Gaston

Presbyterian missionary Julie Dunsmore visited churches in our presbytery



**Julie Dunsmore, missionary serving in Bolivial, shares with session members of a Cascades congregation.**

as part of Mission Challenge 2007 in October. The goal for the month-long challenge—the largest event of this kind ever carried out by the PC(USA) – was to have mission speakers in 700 churches. To accomplish that, 48 missionaries returned from overseas for an intensive month, speaking to 55,000 Presbyterians.

Julie and Bob Dunsmore serve in Bolivia where they are part of Red Umvida, the "Joining Hands for Life Association of Bolivia," an ecumenical network of eight nongovernmental and religious institutions carrying out integrated development for the benefit of targeted populations. A volunteer team from our presbytery will be visiting Bolivia in March.

While Julie was spending time in Cascades, San Francisco, and Yellowstone Presbyteries, Bob was speaking in four presbyteries in Kansas and Missouri.

PC(USA) has 247 long-term mission workers in 67 countries. The goal of the month was to help Presbyterians renew and strengthen their commitment to the world mission of the church and to support that mission with individual gifts through World Mission.

### 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 kim@cascadespresbytery.org, or call her at 503-227-5486 or 1-800-495-4114. Her extension is 205.

## Sabbatical Grants Available

Continued from Page 9

bodies or other contributors.

The Sabbath Sabbatical must be for a period of not less than four weeks and may be taken in conjunction with annual study leave and/or vacation. (Expenses related to Doctor of Ministry programs or other degree programs do not qualify for this sabbatical support program.)

The application process is as follows:

The minister/applicant shall:

- Receive congregational approval for a Sabbath Sabbatical.

- Submit an application approved by the presbytery and synod to the Board of Pensions Assistance Program. The application must provide financial information and additional sources of funding. The application must also include a Sabbath Sabbatical project plan detailing its purpose and goals.
- Provide a post-sabbatical summary to the congregation, presbytery, synod and Board of Pensions
- It is expected that the pastor will commit to returning to the congregation for at least one year following the

Sabbath Sabbatical.

The Session shall:

- Approve time for a Sabbath Sabbatical leave
- Provide for pastoral leadership during the absence of the pastor

The presbytery and/or synod shall:

- Review and, if appropriate, approve the applicant's application
- Ensure, through the presbytery, that there is appropriate pastoral leadership for the congregation during the Sabbath Sabbatical.

## George Winston Comes to Peace, Eugene

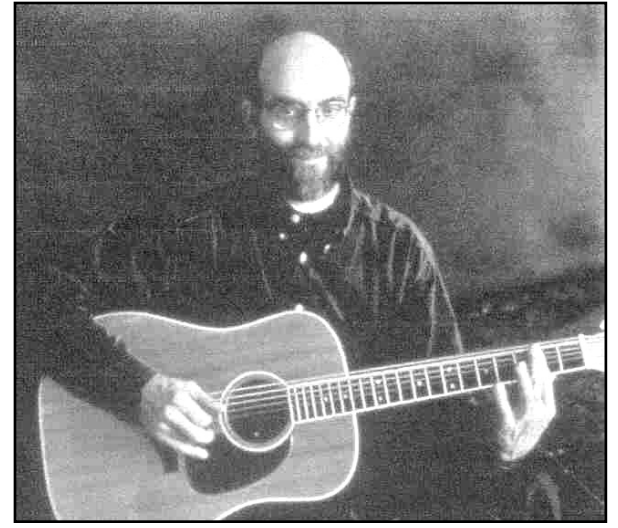
George Winston providing a solo guitar program will be the highlight of a benefit concert offered by **Peace, Eugene**. Scheduled for Friday, January 4, 2008 at 8 p.m., the concert will support a number of church and community service projects.

First, the benefit is supporting FISH, a non-denominational program which meets emergency needs in the community for food, clothing and prescription drugs. A donation of non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted at collection

barrels in our lobby.

It will also benefit "Guitars in the Classroom" providing free guitar instruction for public school teachers. In addition, **Peace, Eugene's** other mission projects will be supported.

Peace, Eugene, located at 3060 River Road, Eugene, OR 97404, will be selling tickets at \$20.00 in advance. For more information call 541-688-2218 or visit the church's website at [www.peacechurcheugene.com](http://www.peacechurcheugene.com).



George Winston

## Congregations Invited to Global Warming Teach-in, January 30

Congregations are invited to join students and faith, civic and business organizations in participating in a national webcast conversation—"The 2% Solution"—on January 30, 2008.

The interactive webcast kicks off the national "Focus the Nation" event on January 31 at locations throughout the nation. Co-produced by Focus the Nation

and the World Wildlife Foundation, the webcast is hosted by Earth Day Network TV and will feature Stanford University climate scientist Stephen Schneider; sustainable business consultant, Hunter Lovins; green-collar jobs advocate, Van Jones, and others. The conversation will revolve around the question:

Can we as a nation cut global warming pollution roughly two percent a year for the next 40 years? What would it take?

You may watch and participate via cell phone voting in your own gathering spaces—anywhere with a computer that has broadband internet access. You will need

Adobe Flash 9.0, a free download. To view on January 30, go to [www.earthdavtv.net](http://www.earthdavtv.net). (Time to be announced.)

For more information, visit [www.focusthenation.org/2percentsolution.php](http://www.focusthenation.org/2percentsolution.php).

This is a great opportunity for the younger generation to help others in their congregations not as familiar with cell-phone voting or webcasts, and to connect with campus ministries.

Focus the Nation is a nationwide movement started in Portland that provides a powerful way for people to be a part of a nationwide voice on global warming solutions.

## World AIDS Day



Africa stands to lose an entire generation to the AIDS epidemic that is sweeping the continent. In some pockets of sub-Saharan Africa, up to 20 percent of the population is infected with the virus that causes the disease. The crisis is cause for despair, but for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s African church partners it also is a matter of faith and a call to action. December 1 is World AIDS Day and Presbyterians will take note and continue to support ministries that make a difference.

They are offering prevention programs, providing home-based patient care and tending to parentless children. Their material resources for ministry are modest, but their hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ is boundless. As one of the most influential institutions in Africa, the church is in a position to make a huge difference in the battle against AIDS. African leaders take heart in the experience in Uganda, where the HIV infection rate was cut from 13 to four percent through a massive education campaign.

"It's a Matter of Faith" materials are available at no cost through the Presbyterian Marketplace. Check the website: <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/>

## Giving to Joining Hands with Bolivia?

The *Joining Hands with Bolivia* coordinating team, along with Bob and Julie Dunsmore, thank the many congregations who have begun sending in contributions to this new partnership of Cascades Presbytery. However, your assistance is needed in directing these funds. The four separate funds related to *Joining Hands with Bolivia* are listed below. Please give your contributions through your local congregation so they may be credited as part of your church's monthly mission giving. On the remittance form, in the special gifts area, please have your treasurer indicate how

you want your gift used by designating one of the following:

- D 506248 -- For the Dunsmores' ministry in Bolivia
- H 000101 -- For the work of UMAVIDA (our partner network in Bolivia)
- ECO 051608 -- For the larger Joining Hands program in nine nations
- C40450 -- For Cascades' *Joining Hands with Bolivia* coordinating committee

If you are not sure which account to designate, please contact Don Shaw, 503/302-4656 or [peaceandhunger@cascadespresbytery.org](mailto:peaceandhunger@cascadespresbytery.org), for more information.

## Pilot Rock Church Burns To The Ground

By John C. Huenink, Stated Clerk

Word has been received that the sanctuary of the Community Presbyterian Church in Pilot Rock, OR (a congregation of 36 members served by Commissioned Lay Pastor Todd Bensele in The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon) burned to the ground on Sunday evening, Nov. 11. Investigations as to the cause of the fire were hindered by high winds, and no report has been received, although additional information is being posted on the website of The Synod of the Pacific ([www.synodpacific.org](http://www.synodpacific.org)) and on the website of The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon ([www.pbyofeasternoregon.org](http://www.pbyofeasternoregon.org)). The church was insured by Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program and CPIP staff is managing their recovery from the loss.

The local Methodist church has offered space for Presbyterian worship. The adjacent Christian Education building was scorched on the outside but remains intact and usable after water and power services are restored. A family whose home is next to the church got burned out also and they are being assisted by the Red Cross and others with aid. Thanks be to God that no one was physically injured in the fire.

The Synod of the Pacific has established a fund to assist the members of the Pilot Rock congregation with contributions to the fund to be credited as extra mission giving. Contributions by individuals will

be credited to the individual's church of membership since the synod has no way to credit donations from individuals. The account number is 22-01-0010 and notation should be made on the memo line as to the intent. Please mark the envelope "Mission Treasury Deposit" and send it to the synod's lockbox: Synod of the Pacific PO Box 45565 San Francisco, CA 94145-0565.

The 2008 Moderator of The Synod of the Pacific, Elder Judy Austin of Boise Presbytery, wrote this: "In a presbytery of many small, somewhat isolated, and often poor churches, Pilot Rock fulfills all those - and is a strong congregation. They will welcome your prayers and your faith in them, which will be well placed."

Let us pray indeed for our sisters and brothers of Community Presbyterian Church in Pilot Rock and for all who will assist them in their time of need!

For Unto Us  
A Child Is Born,  
Unto Us  
A Son Is Given...  
And He shall be called  
...Prince of Peace

*Isaiah 9:6*

*silent night! Holy night!  
son of God, Love's pure light."  
May Christmas  
be filled with blessings  
for you and yours.*

# Presbytery Highlights

*Editor's Note: These are the highlights of the November 9-10 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades, at United, Albany, 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](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org).*

- Sandra Frey, 2007-2008 Moderator of the presbytery presided. A total of 240 presbyters (141 ministers and 99 elders) registered attendance.
- The Administrative Commission for New Life Korean Presbyterian Church reported that the congregation is no longer viable, and the presbytery acted with regret to adopt the recommendation of the AC that the congregation be dissolved.
- For information, the Stated Clerk reported on the renunciation of jurisdiction of Brian Boisen (and it was noted also that the elders in active service on the session of Hope Presbyterian Church of Rogue River, OR had also renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA.
- Presbytery Treasurer Tom Nolen reported that there is a shortfall in receipts to support the Administrative Budget and that legal and special-committee costs have been higher than usual. Mission Partnership contributions appear to be \$63,000 less than anticipated.
- The Committees on Ministry introduced the following ministers new to the presbytery: Robert Perdue, James Simmons, R. Kennan Smith (HR), Patricia Cox, Beverly Crow (HR), Robin Garvin, Sun Mook Jhee, Fitz Neal, and Tom Green.
- The New Church Development Team presented a report and recommendation that the presbytery employ a New Church Development Director for the Presbytery for a period of 2-3

three full-time Co-Executive Presbyters and for the three-quarter-time Stated Clerk. In a separate action, the presbytery approved the 2008 terms of call for New Church Development Pastor Len Tang, an employee of the presbytery.

- The presbytery acted on the recommendation of its Committee On Preparation For Ministry to require that criminal background checks be made of all engaged in the candidacy process.
- The presbytery sustained the examination of Inquirer Meagan C. Frey of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego and enrolled her as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
- Candidate Robert B. Goodin was examined for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament having received a call to serve as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Booneville, NY in The Presbytery of Utica. His examination was sustained and the presbytery established an administrative commission to ordain him on November 18, 2007 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland.
- Candidate Aimee C. Moiso was examined for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament having received a call to serve as Protestant Chaplain at Santa Clara University in The Presbytery of San Jose. Her examination was sustained and the presbytery established an administrative commission to ordain her on December 30, 2007 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland.
- Heidi L. Grube, a candidate under the care of National Capital Presbytery, was examined for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament on the basis of her call to serve as Associate Pastor at **Community,**

**Redmond, Oregon.** Her examination was sustained. She will be ordained by National Capital Presbytery on December 16, 2007 and transferred to membership in The Presbytery of the Cascades after her ordination.

• Minister Commissioners to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly are Mary Wright Gillespie, Sung Man Kim, Kent Organ, Laurie Vischer. Elder Commissioners are Mary Jo Emmett, Kim Kambak, Sandi Schwarm, Mary Lou Williams. The Youth Advisory Delegate is Anna Grewe.

- The presbytery spent an extended time under the guidance of the Relational Support Committee in reviewing recommendations 5, 6, and 7 of the Report of the Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force adopted by the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Following a presentation by Associate Stated Clerk of the General Assembly Gradye Parsons on the intentional tension which exists between denominational establishment of standards for ordination and the responsibility of an ordaining body to



examine to determine its membership, presbyters divided into small groups for discussion. Associate Clerk Parsons addressed questions which emerged from the discussion groups.

- Acting on the recommendation of Presbytery Council, the presbytery adopted a \$.15 increase in the presbytery's 2008 per capita apportionment rate, a 2008 Administrative Budget in the amount of \$551,992 and a 2008 Program Budget in the amount of \$1,715,347.
- The presbytery adopted a policy in which the authority given to a regional Committee On Ministry to approve candidates for membership in the presbytery will be suspended if a candidate for membership in the presbytery states departure from the ordination standards as described in G-6.0108 of the PCUSA Constitution. If such a departure is stated, the examination of the candidate by a COM is to end and the remainder of the examination must be done at the next stated meeting of the presbytery.
- The presbytery received a lengthy and detailed report from the Resolution Team for Hope Presbyterian Church, Rogue River which had been established by Presbytery Council. Following extended discussion, the presbytery acted to establish a nine-person Administrative Commission for Hope Presbyterian Church of Rogue River with the following authorities: 1) to exercise all responsibilities and powers of a session as listed in G-10.0102 in and for the congregation of Hope Presbyterian Church of Rogue River, Oregon; 2) to take custody of all appropriate session records, rolls and financial information for the church; 3) to ascertain the current membership of the congregation and to provide for the transfers of church members as may be requested or to provide to the custody of the stated clerk of the presbytery the names of members of Hope Presbyterian Church of Rogue River, Oregon who do not choose to transfer memberships from that congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); 4) if it be discovered that a viable congregation of the PCUSA in Rogue River, Oregon not be possible at this time or in the foreseeable future, to authorize the Stated Clerk of The Presbytery of the Cascades to take such administrative actions as may be required to dissolve the congregation as a particular church of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on or before December 31, 2007; and 5) to advise The Presbytery of the Cascades and its Board of Trustees regarding appropriate actions which may be taken regarding whatever real and personal property may have been in the possession of Hope Presbyterian Church of Rogue River, Oregon as a particular church of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



years with the third year contingent upon the raising of financial support. Following extended discussion, the presbytery acted to approve the position and to direct the Personnel & Administration Committee to establish a search committee to fill the position.

- Elizabeth Larkin was introduced as the new Camp Coordinator.
- At the recommendation of Cascades' Personnel and Administration Committee and on the basis of positive reviews, the presbytery acted to approve the 2008 terms of call for the