

A Journey of Letting Go and Bringing Together

Oregon Pastor Sets Out on Cycling Pilgrimage to Learn About Others' Experiences with the Sacred

(Editor's Note: This story was written by Bethany Furkin, *Presbyterian News Service*) The Rev. Brian Heron is embarking on a pilgrimage. And though his congregation will stay home while he's out on the 10-week cycling trip, they'll be going on a journey of their own.

On July 10, Heron set out from Portland, Oregon., on his bicycle. His plan: bike 4,000 miles throughout the northwest United States, talking with people along the way about their experiences with the sacred.

While he's gone, his church, **Eastminster, Portland**, will also be hearing people talk about their faith and religious journeys. For a series called "This is My Story," the church has lined up 10 speakers — many culled from a community movie group sponsored by the church — to speak every Sunday that Heron is gone.

"This isn't just me doing this — this is a reflection of what's going on here at Eastminster," Heron said. "We're really doing it together."

With about 35 members and an average age of 80, Eastminster knows it probably won't be around much longer and is focusing on its legacy rather than its survival, Heron said.

That same kind of letting go and uncertainty about the future is evident in the larger church and society, Heron says, and that's part of what he hopes to explore on his pilgrimage.

"The church I expected to serve (when I was ordained) is really no longer there," he said. "I'm really having to learn on my feet."

Heron, who has been cycling for 30 years, grew up in the Presbyterian Church. He credits the church with teaching him



The Reverend Brian Heron begins his bike trip.

about relationships and emotional commitments. But he is also interested in exploring Buddhism and a spirituality that comes from being in nature.

"When I feel closest to God and the sacred is when I'm out cycling," he said.

These two worlds — the Reformed tradition and an emerging broader spirituality — don't often come together, Heron said. He often struggles with how to speak with people of one world about the other when the languages aren't even the same.

"It's time to bring those together for me and for the community as well," he said.

The cycling trip, which Heron is calling Pedal Pilgrimage, is a start at bridging that gap. Heron has a list of about 50 Presbyte-

rian churches he'll pass on the way, and it's possible he might talk to people there. But the idea of a pilgrimage is to wander, so he'll also speak with people as he meets them: waiters, cashiers, other travelers.

Heron hopes to have many conversations a day about where people feel closest to God and see if any patterns emerge. He'll be blogging throughout the trip.

"It's more of a soulful reflection than a sociological experiment," Heron said. "The whole experience is part of the reflection."

To follow or support Heron's journey, check out his blog.

Images of God and the Divine-Human Relationship 2011 Lectionary Retreat

The Professional Support Committee of the Presbytery of the Cascades is pleased to announce that this year's Lectionary Retreat keynoter will be Dr. Terence E. Fretheim, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota. The retreat is scheduled for September 26-27, 2011 at the Shalom Prayer Center, Mt Angel, Oregon.

Fretheim has taught at Luther Seminary for over forty years. He has authored twenty-two books and more than one hundred articles. His most recent books are: *Creation Untamed: The Bible, God, and Natural Disasters* (Baker Academic, 2010); *About the Bible: Short Answers to [35] Big Questions* (expanded version, Fortress, 2009); *Abraham: Trials of Family and Faith* (Univ. of South Carolina Press, 2007). He is married, has two children, and three grandchildren.

The theme for this year's retreat is "Images of God and the Divine-Human Relationship." "Relationship" is a word we often use when speaking of God. Indeed, the Bible is filled with images of God that are highly relational. What do we mean when we use that language? What does it mean for God to enter into a relationship with us that is "real"? What effect do our words (such as prayers) and actions have on God's way of working in the world? How might such understandings affect the way in which we think about God's power, God's will, and the shape of the future? We will explore several Old Testament texts that draw out what genuine relationship with God entails.

Search for Cascades' Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly begins

Are you or do you know someone who is 17-23 years old? Now imagine being with 100 other young adults representing this generation at the General Assembly in 2012. God and the Presbytery of the Cascades are looking for a nominee, endorsed by their session, to attend the General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania June 30-July 7, 2012. Normal travel expenses will be paid for our Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD).

The Nominating Committee will select two candidates, one of which will be elected

by the Presbytery at the meeting November 11 & 12, 2011.

If you're interested, or know someone who is interested in applying to be the Youth Advisory Delegate from Cascades Presbytery, visit our website at www.cascadespresbytery.org to download an application. Deadline for receipt of the application is September 9, 2011.

As in the past, we want to send our best. An applicant must be an active member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who:

- Participates actively in the life and work of the church.
- Is willing and able to attend the entire session of the General Assembly (GA).
- Is willing and able to do significant study and preparation before GA.
- Is willing and able to make an interpretive presentation after GA.
- Has sufficient maturity, interest, and commitment to the church to contribute to the work of the GA and to benefit from the experience of being a YAD.
- Will be between the ages of 17 and 23 on or before June 30, 2011.

For additional information contact Dawn at the Presbytery Office --800-926-3223 or 541-465-9173.

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2011 Deadlines

September 13	Oct/Nov Issue
November 15	Dec/Jan Issue



Mason Fast shares his mission project with those attending the workshop.

Presbytery Workshop Focuses on Children Doing Mission

“And a little child shall lead them,” was the title of the workshop held at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Tigard before the Friday meeting of Presbytery. Katy Ailstock, the Director of Christian Education had arranged the children’s ministry area with displays and posters of mission projects that have been completed by children and their families. Each display told a story of the activities which were part of a three-year program of “M & M” standing for Ministry & Mission Events. These Ministry & Mission events are held on Fridays or Saturdays to help parents teach their kids the importance of Christian mission work.

Tyler Nguyen, a ten-year-old, told his story of wanting to raise money to build a well in Africa. He had seen what a drought stricken area looked like on a trip to Africa with his grandparents. He started at his local school and his teacher let him tell about what he wanted to do. Katy helped him with a project called Tyler’s Water Wish, sponsoring a variety of activities related to water, and through many efforts he raised \$2,000 to build a well.

Another boy, Mason Fast, age 7, wanted to donate money to “Tyler’s Water Wish” but the goal had already been reached. So he decided to try something else. Mason’s grandparents own a farm. He decided to raise money for farm animals. For his money raising efforts at the church, he helped his grandmother make beaded earrings which they sold for \$5 a pair. Mason, with this help, raised and donated more than \$700 which was given through Heifer International. Mason’s mom, Madae Fast spoke words of encouragement and challenged other parents to invest time in sharing hands on mission activities with their families and church.

Besides the workshop, Katy Ailstock designed a labyrinth made with rope and pictures of children to walk with in prayer. Another gathering place at the presbytery meeting was the lounge with a display of the new Feasting on the Word curriculum. This featured a table of feasting with fruit and pastries to enjoy while reviewing the new resources. Many thanks to Katy for making

these special efforts to focus on children and the new curriculum possibilities.



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.

LifeServe Conference Set for PCUSA’s “Hometown”

The only national conference for church volunteer leaders in the missional church is set for September 26-29 in downtown Louisville, KY, at the Galt House.

Planners promise: “You’ll be part of a spirited conversation about new and proven approaches to church ministry. You’ll network with other pros who face the same issues. You’ll gain a renewed perspective of what your mission is all about.” Several workshop tracks, plus keynote speakers, lunchtime discussions and inspirational worship are included in the registration cost. Also offered are two options for intensive training in the Equipping Institute at the basic or advanced level.

For more information and to register, visit the website, www.lifeserve.group.com.

Presbytery of the Cascades

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

The Media Resource Center is located in Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, 5441 SE Belmont, Portland. Director - Maureen O’Rourke.

You may reserve videos in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (please call first); by phone at 503-445-4999 or 866-200-5660, or by linking through the presbytery website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.



DivorceCare kits for adults and kids. DivorceCare makes it easy for your church to help divorced and separated people. You can quickly equip a lay ministry team to launch a comprehensive, Christ-centered divorce recovery ministry – even if they have no prior ministry training. Every DivorceCare video features powerful interviews with 31 different leading authors, counselors, speakers and pastors. Each one has years of expertise in divorce recovery ministry. They all embrace a Christ-centered approach to divorce recovery. (DVD, leader’s guides, etc.) These are two separate kits, and a lot of material. They are too heavy to mail, so would need to be picked up at the Resource Center or at a Presbytery meeting. Mt Tabor Church started a group which has since doubled in size. You may call Rev. Carly Friesen to ask her about it.

Alban books are published by the Alban Institute specifically for the church community and their leaders. Visit their website to view something you’d like to read. The Resource Center has almost every single book published by them. www.alban.org

The Turnaround Church by Mary Louise Gifford (97 pages, 2009)

The story of Wollaston Congregational Church United Church of Christ, a 130-year-old congregation that once was thriving in ministry, membership, mission, music, and money. For half a century, however, the church had slowly declined and was considering closing its doors. Then they hired a new, optimistic seminary graduate! Addressing a wide audience, Gifford shows church leaders they have options and reason for hope. People in dying churches will find assurance that they are still a part of the body of Christ. Clergy serving these struggling churches will discover tools and resources to help them guide change. Judicatory leaders will appreciate an inspiring story they can tell about a church that turned around in spite of the odds. *The Turnaround Church*, while not a prescription for all churches, is a call to make long-lasting, life-sustaining changes.

From a Mustard Seed, (210 pages, 2010) an experienced pastor-professor and an experienced church musician provide a model for faithful and excellent worship in congregations that average 75 or fewer people in weekly worship. While the limitations of small congregations are obvious to their members and leaders, the possibilities for creative music and worship are often greater than we can imagine. Written by: Bruce Epperly and Daryl Hollinger.

Director’s pick: **The Jewish Roots of Christianity** (Three segments, 25 minutes each.) Three men, Jewish by birth but followers of Jesus by choice, are your guides in the Holy Land. It is done in an interesting format and offers fresh insight into the religious dynamics experienced by the first Christians. There is quite a bit on immersion baptism in the first segment. A group in Pacific City led by Lou Chandler recently watched this and very much enjoyed it.

Have a relaxing summer! Fondly, **Maureen**, your Center Director.



Cascades Viewpoints

By Hugh Anderson

Novelist Douglas Adams, author of the popular sci-fi classic *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, once wrote a column for *The Sunday Times* about the Internet. He suggested the following framework for defining and understanding technology:

- 1) Everything that's already in the world when you're born is just normal;
- 2) Anything that gets invented between then and before you turn thirty is incredibly exciting and creative and with any luck you can make a career out of it;
- 3) Anything that gets invented after you're thirty is against the natural order of things and the beginning of the end of civilization as we know it until it's been around for about ten years when it gradually turns out to be all right, really.

As one who is technically challenged, I can relate to what Adams is saying. I rely on my children [and now grandchildren] to help me understand this new technology and get it to work on my computer. I am slow to adapt to these changes. I am much more comfortable doing things the way I have always done them. I realize that these changes in technology have happened in order to make things better. We human beings have moved from smoke signals to letters to telegrams to telephones to email to tweets, with each advancement in communication occurring because we want to communicate more effectively in the world in which we find ourselves.

The observations of Adams to technology in the world also have similarities to life in the church. Take worship, for example. In the 1980s when I was serving as pastor in a small town church in Ohio, I suggested to the Worship Committee that we initiate a Passing of the Peace in our worship service. An elderly woman elder quickly shot down that idea by saying, "I don't want to have to shake hands with other people in church." The subject was dropped, never to be raised by me again. Eventually I left that church to take another call. About ten years later when I returned to visit that congregation, I was surprised to see that its worship service now included a Passing of the Peace. I was even more surprised to see that elderly woman elder moving around the sanctuary during the passing of the peace, happy to be meeting and greeting others. I am sure you can think of other examples of changes in worship from your own congregation. Guitars replacing the organ. A contemporary service with a praise band. A new hymnal. Words and photos projected onto screens in

the front of the sanctuary. For some, those changes do not seem to be normal because they were not already in the world when they were born. For others, they are "incredibly exciting and creative." Yet these changes in the way we worship God were all proposed in order to make the worship of our eternal God more relevant to those in the church of today.

Then there are the actions of this summer. Amendment 10-A has passed. This amendment replaces the wording found in our *Book of Order* in G-6.0106b. For some this new wording is "against the natural order of things and the beginning of the end of civilization as we know it." Though the original wording added to our Constitution in 1996 basically said "you must not ordain..." the new wording does not say "you must ordain..." The new wording puts the emphasis on "submit[ting] joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life." The changed section stresses that it is the church's duty to take seriously the "calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability" of individuals we are asking to serve. The church now can determine who is called, what gifts are needed, how one is prepared and who is suitable to be its leaders. This change returns the responsibility back to the congregations and the presbyteries to set their own criteria rather than having a national standard. This change in the way we discern whom God is calling forth to serve God's church has been made in the desire for a more faithful way

of choosing the leaders in our congregations who will lead us into the future.

Then there is the major change in our *Book of Order* with the approval of a new Form of Government, complete with a new section on Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. The previous Form of Government was first introduced with the reunion of the northern and southern streams of Presbyterianism in 1983. It was written to guide the church into the new waters of reunion. Now it is felt that we need a revised Form of Government to guide the church into this new century. It allows our Constitution to be a true constitution with the nuts and bolts of how we do things in our denomination covered in standing rules and manuals of operation. The hope is that we will not have the need to be constantly tweaking the way we organize ourselves and do ministry by amending the *Book of Order* every other year. The goal is to have a church that can more easily respond to what God is calling us to be and do in this day and age for the glory of God and the advancement of God's kingdom.

New forms of technology. New ways of being the church. All these changes are our attempts to be faithful to the God who is changeless. It really is an exciting time to be the church. Change is inevitable. And that is okay because, as Douglas Adams reminds us, "everything [and that includes change] that's already in the world when you're born is just normal."

IRS Changes Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service today announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2011. Taxpayers may use the optional standard rates to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and other purposes.

The rate will increase to 55.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2011. This is an increase of 4.5 cents from the 51 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2011, as set forth in Revenue Procedure 2010-51.

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2011. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

"This year's increased gas prices are having a major impact on individual Americans. The IRS is adjusting the standard mileage rates to better reflect the recent increase in gas

prices," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We are taking this step so the reimbursement rate will be fair to taxpayers."

While gasoline is a significant factor in the mileage figure, other items enter into the calculation of mileage rates, such as depreciation and insurance and other fixed and variable costs.

The optional business standard mileage rate is used to compute the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business use in lieu of tracking actual costs. This rate is also used as a benchmark by the federal government and many businesses to reimburse their employees for mileage.

The new six-month rate for computing deductible medical or moving expenses will also increase by 4.5 cents to 23.5 cents a mile, up from 19 cents for the first six months of 2011. The rate for providing services for charitable organizations is set by statute, not the IRS, and remains at 14 cents a mile.



Ask the Clerk

by Cathy Quackenbush,
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Cascades

Q: How is the New Form of Government going to change the way my congregation functions?

The answer will be different for each individual congregation. The New Form of Government changes the first section of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*. It went into effect on July 10, 2011. It differs from the old form of government in that it is less of a regulatory manual, attempting to provide a "one size fits all" answer to every situation faced by congregations and presbyteries. Our former regulatory-based way of "doing

church" has often led church leaders to focus on doing things right rather than concentrating on doing the right things. The new Form of Government helps to focus on the mission of God and how a particular church or presbytery can most effectively participate in that mission in particular context and situations. There are some terminology changes. For instance, sessions, presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly are now referred to as "councils," rather than "governing bodies." Elders are now referred to as "Ruling Elders," and ministers of the word and sacrament are also referred to as "Teaching Elders."

This new portion of the *Book of Order* now is more flexible regarding the way congregations and presbyteries set quorums, structure committees, run time lines, etc. Because there are fewer specifics, it will be necessary for every congregation to review their existing by-laws and operational manuals and determine if parts of them need to be rewritten. Items affecting decisions that

are made by the congregation will need to be included in the by-laws. By-laws can only be changed by a 2/3 vote of the congregation. Items under the authority and power of session should be included in a policy and procedure manual. Sample By-laws for congregations, along with a number of other helpful documents can be found at <http://oga.pcusa.org/formofgovernment>. A policies and procedures guide for councils can be found appended to the New Form of Government. The 2011-2013 *Book of Order* is now available at "Church Store" at www.pcusa.org.

Your church's present by-laws and policies are still in force until you can make desired and appropriate changes. The same holds true for presbytery policies. If you have specific concerns and questions, please call the Stated Clerk's office. We hope to have some workshops available in the coming year as well. We are all in this new way of being church together. Let us support and learn from one another as well.

Positively Presbyterian

South Region

By Mike Hubbard

Transition and milestones respect no seasons, so the summer months hold no more change than the other, cooler months. However, with two substantial mileposts being marked in late spring and early summer of 2011, Omnibus would be remiss for not celebrating with Steve Parker on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as Pastor at **Bethany, Grants Pass** and the good folks at **First, Lakeview** as they celebrated 100 years as a congregation.

Some 130 members and friends were in attendance to celebrate Pastor Steve's quarter-century of service. To show their appreciation, Steve and wife, Rachel, received an Alaska Cruise!

In Lakeview, the Centennial Committee conducted interviews that were printed in *New Song*, the church's newsletter. For those not able to attend the celebration, the interviews have been a way for the extended church family to feel a personal and tangible link with the congregation.

Several South Region churches are at various stages of Pastoral transition. **Westminster, Medford**, the longest in transition, has its CIF posted and their Pastor Search Committee is working hard to fill the Head of Staff position. **First, Medford** has signed the Rev. Dr. Stephen Brewer as an Interim. Dr. Brewer comes to the Southern Region fresh from serving as Interim in **Hollister, California**. **First, Ashland's** Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has completed the preliminary steps and is ready to begin interviews.

Transitions of a briefer sort find Pastor David Dendy of **First, Klamath Falls** and Associate Pastor, Chris Ward of **Westminster, Medford** on Sabbatical.

Of course, no summer review of church activity would be complete without a survey of Vacation Bible School. **First, Roseburg; Westminster, Medford; First, Central Point; Bethany, Grants Pass; First, Ashland; First, Medford and First, Klamath Falls** are among those whose newsletters featured VBS programs. **First, Medford** is joining three other area churches, **Zion Lutheran, St. Mark's Episcopal, and The United Church of Christ** in their first ever ecumenical VBS. Themes as varied as *Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus was a Kid, Great Bible Reef, and Shake it up Café* make one almost wish they could set back the clock and experience the pure joy of VBS!

On a related Christian Education note at least two churches, **Bethany, Grants Pass** and **First, Medford** are doing short, one topic adult education classes on Sundays. **Bethany** calls theirs *Burst* classes, while *Adult Education Potpourri* serves in **Medford**.

If your summer travels bring you to Southern Oregon take the time to worship with one of our many and varied congregations. Enjoy a blessed and safe summer.

Northwest Region

By Bud Frimoth

Ever want to get a handful of bumblebee feathers? Then ask Bill Eaton at **Clatskanie** what they taste like! Many wonderful tributes to mothers in this Spring 2011 edition.

An early evening VBS was scheduled at **Hillsboro** which is a different approach. They are also celebrating Pastor Michael's 25th year along with a reminder that 20 years ago the former church facility was burned. Since then the folk in the church have been "on fire" for the gospel.

From local mission trips to FISH and

Neighborhood House to Drama Camp and the blessing of the animals **St. Andrew's, Portland** had different means of ministries. The "Prayer Corner" is a gracious reminder of sharing encouragement as well.

Disciple Groups as a thoughtful way to journey through the Bible is but one of many opportunities for learning at **First, Portland**. In a gracious mood they also opened their facilities for "comfort needs" to those attending the Rose Festival Parade. Nine seasons worth of "Celebration Works" providing musical concerts concluded in June.

"Fix-byterians" is a group of volunteers in **Plymouth, St. Helens** who handle all kinds of "fixing" needs from snacks to gardening, painting, and clean up - projects not just for the church but also for the community.

A membership covenant is being proposed at **Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro** as a work in progress. Among the adult groups is one appropriately called "Scotch Brite." They also list military service personnel names and addresses.

"God Shot" was an experience of faith that Andrea Murdoch wrote about in *The Messenger*, **Valley Community, Portland**. "Creative Classroom Circuit" uses drama and a computer lab in children's ministry.

Statements of faith are a common theme in newsletters and **Tualatin** offers meaningful insights with the differing journeys of faith given by three Deacons. It is a significant experience for them to lift up their lives to others. **Tualatin** also offers assistance at the Essential Health Clinic.

Calvin, Tigard Youth Mission trip went to Logan, West Virginia to work with "Kids Club." They also served as a "Work Crew" for needs around the town. \$13,000 was raised by the Night of Entertainment to send the 19 youth and five adults. Parish Nurse suggestions noted in the newsletter were most helpful to the congregation.

An auction and a dinner for 100 served by youth at **Orenco, Hillsboro** was a great event and raised over \$6,000. Additionally, over \$1,000 was received for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Pastor Mark's 100 piece Football Helmet puzzle provided a good illustration of how all pieces/people in the church are needed to complete the picture.

Southminster, Beaverton has a beautiful tradition where they transform their now bare Christmas tree into the cross which they flower for Easter. Their community garden plan will come about in another summer.

Lake Grove, Lake Oswego has a Saturday evening service of worship and three on Sunday mornings as they seek to meet the various needs. Oak Ridge Housing is making real progress. Walk4Water4 event raised over \$40,000 for clean water in Zambia.

Multnomah, Portland had a great series of pictures indicating where the congregation has been involved. This "Faith in Action Gallery" shows sponsorships through World Vision to pulling weeds in a local school. Three members attended the Presbyterian Women's statewide gathering.

Cooper Mountain, Aloha had an inter-generational mission trip to Umatilla earlier this summer. A new men's breakfast group also began this summer. They have creative names for the youth groups - "Path" for middle school and "Ousness" for senior highs, and "Selah" for yet another group.

Bethany, Portland picked two interesting books for summer reading by the Book Club - *Heaven is for Real* and *A Girl from Yamhill* by Beverly Cleary.

Northeast Region

By Nancy Gaston

"Holiness isn't necessarily associated with the unusual and the awesome...It may be centered in personal conduct and be associated with the ordinary and the familiar." The Rev. Donovan Burkert-Kerr of **Rose City Park, Portland**, quoted Judith Shulevitz in the church newsletter, *The Broadcaster*. Churches throughout the Northeast Region have been pondering what it means to "take time to be holy" during this summer season.

Many are embarking on studies. **Moreland, Portland**, members took the Summer Reading Challenge and tackled as their first book *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox, with discussions after Sunday worship. Chris Grewe of **Savage Memorial, Portland**, reminded his congregation of the importance of being there - the ministry of presence, whether by visiting the sick or by regularly attending corporate worship. He points out that we learn much from one another and by our interface with the timeless truth of the Bible.

For some faithful congregation members, physical attendance at worship isn't feasible. Many churches speak of "homebound" members, but **Colonial Heights, Portland**, has what seems to me a more inclusive and accurate term, calling them "our friends who participate with us from home."

Spending time in nature is a popular way to explore holiness in the familiar. Ten children and youth from **Milwaukie Presbyterian** planted over 67 native plants in the church wetlands, including sword ferns, red huckleberry, trillium and bleeding hearts.

St. John's, Camas; First, Vancouver and Columbia, Vancouver are also planting—and weeding and harvesting - in their Churches in Partnership community garden. People of all ages participate, with the youth from **Columbia** planting potatoes and onions as part of their 30-hour-famine experience, and the children of Liberty Middle School planting 400 hills of squash. The three congregations held a joint dedication service of the garden plot.

Our contact with nature can even help us get in touch with our attitudes toward money, the **Springwater, Estacada**, newsletter points out. Consultant Margaret Marcuson suggests that one way to connect financial stewardship with our spiritual life is to "take a walk on ground that is not paved" to keep our perspective about the natural world.

Serving the community doesn't just mean planting and gardening. **Mt. Tabor, Portland**, members spent a Saturday morning cleaning up graffiti in the neighborhood. The Office of Neighborhood Involvement funded the supplies, but the labor was supplied by congregants.

Of course, if it's summer it must be Vacation Bible School time. The majority of congregations provided a week of morning experiences—some for children only and some multigenerational. But **Covenant, Gresham**, took a different approach, offering up a series of Tuesday mornings in July and August with the theme, "Eat, Pray, Serve." They explain: "It seems that some combination of those three things is involved with almost every story in the Bible, and surely in the stories about Jesus. We hope you will join us as we take an "eating tour" of the Bible."

All that summer activity needs to be balanced with time for rest. Pastor Mark Newton of **Mt. Scott Park, Portland**, points out that Jesus invited his disciples to "come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a

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while.” We often forget to rest, Mark notes, as “one thing leads to the next and the next and the next. Do you know that you have to plan in some rest time?” he asks.

Summer can be a time of staff changes, too, a notable one occurring at **Laurelhurst, Portland**, where Beth Keys wrote in a letter to the congregation: “It is with deep emotion that I write this letter of resignation as Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry at the Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst. I will be retiring effective August 31, 2011....This is a decision I have not come to easily. After completing 25 years in ministry here at the Presbyterian Church of Laurelhurst, it is time for me to explore what other opportunities and challenges God has in store for me.” She goes on to explain her gratitude for having been called to work with the children and youth on a “journey full of joy, creative opportunities, challenges, change and personal growth.”

Interim Pastor Laurel Neal prepared to move on from **Eastwoods, Vancouver**, as they prepared to call a pastor. She points out that while there is sadness in leaving, “You know, nothing will make me happier than for folks here to be filled with joy about the new pastor.”

For Pastor Brian Heron of **Eastminster, Portland**, the summer represented a long journey—literally—as he headed off on a 10-week, 4,000 mile bicycle pilgrimage across the continent. Meanwhile, the congregation back home is on their own pilgrimage as ten different speakers are sharing their own spiritual journeys on Sunday mornings.

Several newsletters commented on the recently approved Amendment 10-A giving congregations more freedom in determining who may be ordained, removing language that prohibited ordaining practicing gays or lesbians. The conversations in congregations seem to be thoughtful and open. Associate Pastor Tim Vance of **Gateway, The Dalles**, writes, “As we move forward in this important conversation may we continue to invest our lives, our time, our talents and our money in the good work that God is doing right here. And as we do may God be glorified, may we serve others and may we become more like Christ.” And from pastor Bruce Marten of **First, Oregon City**, these words: “We are listening to one another. We are praying. We are searching our souls. We are seeking after truth in love....”

And David Jewel of **Kenilworth, Portland**, offered an interesting insight. Noting that some are sad, some are filled with joy and some are ambivalent, he writes, “Answers to questions of our faithful response to God’s call don’t come easy....But you see the word ambivalence comes from Latin words that mean “both” and “strong or vigorous.” Could our vigor, our strength, somehow rest in the ability to embrace “both”?

Central Region

By Bruce Smith

Christ’s Church, Monmouth welcomed Katie Perkins as Program Director of Western Compass Campus Ministry at Western Oregon University. She will serve as half-time director of the ecumenical program, working with students to create meaningful experiences to strengthen and define their spiritual lives. Katie traveled to France in the summer and plans on a wedding set for September.

Billy Brown of **Westminster, Eugene** donated a gift of \$40,000 towards building a second school in Ethiopia as a part of the Light of Hope project. This would be a school for grades 5-8 in Kore on the same site that members and friends of Westminster previously donated funds for grades 1-4.

On May 22 in Austin, Texas Cheryl Bourne, **Prineville** received the Doctor of

Ministry degree from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The title of her final project was “Venturing into the West: Equipping the Elders of Prineville Presbyterian Church to be ‘Sent People.’” The goal of this project was to effectively educate the elders in a missional theology that will equip them to move from being congregational-focused to being a “sent people.” Upon completion of the elder education, the whole congregation is to be taught what it means to be a “sent people.”

Vacation Bible schools were scheduled for many churches in June and July. “Panda Mania” seemed to be a favorite with **Westminster, Salem; Community, Redmond; First, Bend** and **First, McMinnville. Creswell** reached out with the use of the “Kids of the Kingdom” theme.

The ratification of the amendment to the church’s constitution redefining a candidate’s qualification to serve in a leadership role was noted in many newsletters. **Nes-tucca Valley, Pacific City** had a two page spread discussing the changes. **John Knox, Keizer** carried a piece on Amendment 10-A and suggested for those members wanting more information to read the Pastoral Letter on the Presbytery website. **Westminster, Eugene** included a report of Presbytery in their newsletter detailing some cogent facts

Paul S. Wright Lecture at Menucha

‘Contemporary Worship in a Reformed (and always reforming) Church’

Menucha Retreat and Conference Center is privileged to bring Beth Watson to deliver the Paul S. Wright Lecture August 31 - September 2, 2011. Ms. Watson is Director of Worship Arts for the Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. She will engage participants in a presentation entitled, “Contemporary Worship in a Reformed (and always reforming) Church.”

Why this topic? Watson says, “As the reformed church, with a strong liturgical tradition, the appearance of ‘contemporary’ worship has been a source of heated debate for mainline congregations for several decades. With the onset of accessible technology, the debate has intensified. Sanctuaries with drum sets and screens? Some rejoice, others moan and gnash their teeth. Can we be ‘contemporary’ and still be... ‘us’?”

“The very word ‘contemporary’ brings a variety of images and opinions to mind, none of them universal. What IS ‘contemporary’ worship anyway?” Come to Menucha to hear Watson’s answers! Her lecture also will address what makes worship vital and relevant as well as steps congregations may take to update and revitalize the worship experience within their liturgical tradition.

Watson promises that over the two-day event, “We will explore together the experiences of other congregations as they have

of the action taken by the commissioners at the Presbytery meeting.

Norm Few, **Creswell** preached his last sermon at the church on June 26. He has been the pastor of the church since 1957 which comes to 53 1/2 years of continuous service. Norm will be truly missed as he continues the journey into his retirement years.

Bruce Cameron with his wife Michele, **Peace, Eugene** spent time vacationing in central Italy. Rob Anderson and wife Karen, **Community, Redmond** spent two weeks in Scotland examining his ancestral beginnings.

The Common Table ministry in Bend has been providing food for the poor each time a meal is purchased. To date there have been 8,800 volunteer hours from the **First, Bend** church. The restaurant has served 1,336 “grace bowls” and redeemed 2,073 tokens for meals.

The Sunday after Easter, **John Knox, Keizer** celebrated what is known as *risus paschalis* or “the Easter laugh” as early theologians called it. This practice is rooted in early theological musings that God played the ultimate practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Parishioners were invited to wear bright silly clothes, perhaps a crazy hat or an entire silly outfit.

struggled with these same issues, and look to the Holy Spirit to move us into closer communion with God. We will sing and worship together, ever trusting that God is in our midst!”

Beth Watson is a former PC(USA) Camp Director and former Associate for Liturgical Transformation at Trinity University’s Campus Ministry. Beth was the Editor for PC(USA) resource “New Song, Ed. I and II,” the denomination’s first contemporary music resource. Beth

has led music and worship at too many conferences to count, but most notably: Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Montreat Youth Conference, Pathways/Princeton Youth Forum, and Faith in 3D. Beth lives in Wimberley, TX with her four children and dog, Lucy.

“We encourage anyone with a passion for worship - especially pastors, worship leaders, and youth leaders - to attend,” states Scott Crane, Program Director. Depending upon the housing chosen, the event’s cost ranges from \$265-\$365. Commuter rate is \$227. Early Birds may add \$50 to arrive on Wednesday night for a wine and cheese reception and continental breakfast with Beth Watson before the event.

Registration ends August 10. For more information or to register, go to www.menucha.org/programs.

TRANSITIONS

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

- **The Revs. Elizabeth M. and P. Gregg Neel**, transferring from the Presbytery of Milwaukee to serve as co-pastors of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, beginning July 11, 2011
- **The Rev. Dean F. Rowley [HR]**, transferring from the Presbytery of the Redwoods

ORDINATIONS

- **Debra A. Garber**, ordained on July 2, 2011, serving as stated supply associate pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene
- **David B. Jewel**, ordained on July 17, 2011, transferring from the Presbytery of Western Reserve to serve as stated supply pastor of Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, Portland

RETIREMENTS

- **The Rev. Norman F. Few**, completed service as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Creswell and granted Honorably Retired status on June 30, 2011

Swap Positive Combines Fashion, Fun and Philanthropy

By Barb Hughes
(Editor's note:

Laurelhurst,

Portland has been the home of Swap Positive – a unique take on re-using that is going strong in the Portland area. Barb Hughes has been promoting the concept and brought the idea to Laurelhurst. In



Barb Hughes

today's economy and with a view towards thinking "green," the concept touches on many of the values important to us today. As a social and business innovator, Barb Hughes (daughter-in-law of retired Presbyterian Pastor Bud Frimoth) founded Swap Positive <http://swappositive.wordpress.com> to combine recycling, community, and philanthropy under the banner of having fun. She and her husband, Chris Frimoth co-own the Hughes/Taylor company, an audio production and entertainment business <http://www.hughestaylor.com>. Barb is also the founder/innovator of Over 40 Fashions, a site that re-invents fashion for women of all shapes by featuring real women over 40 as models. <http://www.over40fashions.com>. In the following article she describes Swap Positive.)

What Are Free Swaps?

Free Swaps combine recycling, clearing out clutter, having fun, and philanthropy. Volunteer hosts(esses) choose what **they** want to swap. I advertise their name, swap type, location, and email address on my wordpress site. Swaps featured so far include women's clothing by size range, plant swaps, gift swaps, stuff swaps (like an upscale garage sale for all kind men, women, and teens) and more. It's a lot of fun; it allows people to clear out in-good-condition clutter, be around like-minded, kind, and thrifty people, find useful things that they can use, keep usable items out of the landfill, and everyone gets to be a philanthropist, because the remainders are donated to local agencies or even put on "free" tables in front of members' houses. No money changes hands. You don't know who just lost their job or who just won the lottery. You can bring in a piece of jewelry and go home with a whole new wardrobe, or bring in a bag of outgrown clothes and come home with the perfect new pair of shoes.

How Did Free Swapping Start?

Free swapping has been going on wherever generous people with stuff, but not the "right" stuff, gather. Lewis and Clark bartered with the Native Americans to get things they needed. When my kids were small, we'd have stuff swaps with our neighbors. My discovery of a more organized version of Free Swaps took place when my daughter was in 6th grade and growing like a weed. I heard about a size 0-5 clothing swap, and took my daughter. It was so much fun! All these women and teens diving through mounds of new-to-you clothes, shoes, and accessories. I just couldn't stand back and watch while my daughter had all the fun, so I looked at the accessories pile and found a few things I liked, too. The next time we went, I contributed a few of my medium sized clothes. In jest, someone held up my items and said "Who brought the **huge** pants?" It was then I was told, kindly, that the reason it was a 0-5 swap was so 0-5 ladies didn't have to wade through other sizes to find things that fit, and would I consider starting a medium swap? So I did. I advertised on Freecycle and Craigs List, and talked to my friends and neighbors, who told their friends. Due to the popularity of free swapping (after a few years I was sending out 800+ emails each month!), I decided to

start a website for swap information instead of sending monthly emails.

Who Goes To Free Swaps?

Thrifty, kind people can attend swaps where they fit the category/interest of the swap. Swaps aren't for everyone, however. Some buildings are not childproofed, so check ahead to see if children are welcome and if so, there may be an age limit. Some swaps accept babies that are contained in a car seat, but not toddlers or lower grade schoolers due to safety or sound issues. Women's clothing swaps by size are for women of that particular size range. If someone is looking for something specific and wants it brand new, they might be better off going to a full price store. But those who are kind, generous, thoughtful, and who love

the thrill of the chase will fit right into free swaps!

How Can I Start A Free Swap?

Free swaps are run by volunteers like you! There's a link on the site telling how to start a swap in your own area. Swaps are currently being held at churches, libraries, community centers, senior centers, businesses such as a pizza parlor and the top floor of a food co-op, in homes and more. If a location offers its space for free, then it's a possible option for a free swap. Also, all remainders must be given away for free (not sold, and not given to organizations that will sell them). That is the mission of free swaps. For those interested in hands-on social justice, this is a great way to step into the post-growth society right now.



People lay out their things by "category" in rows so they are easy to find. Toys are to the far left, books and games to the right, household items (including a vacuum in the middle), fabric/crafts/seasonal, then tools/garden/techie, and the very last row is antiques/breakables/jewelry.

Community Presbyterian Church

Redmond, Oregon

Karen M. Sipes, Director of Music Ministries
Is Proud to Announce a Church Choir Workshop

With Allan Petker, Workshop Director

Date: Sept. 16-18, 2011

Cost: \$40 per participant

Registration by September 1, 2011



Allan Robert Petker is a published composer and arranger with over 200 published works with numerous publishing houses. His conducting books, "Choral Questions and Answers" Vol. I, II, III, IV and V, have become staples in school curriculum and for secondary resource material. His crusade to offer a cure for musical illiteracy culminated in the publication of the ADVANCE learning series. As a composer for hire, he has written original scores for live performance and has penned a number of original TV commercials which have appeared on the CNBC network. Allan holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from California State University at Northridge in music, specializing in viola (BA), voice and choral conducting (MA).

As a conductor, Allan frequently serves as a guest clinician or conductor for publishers, choral societies, church festivals, state honor choirs and colleges. In the summer of 1994 he formed the Consort Chorale, an a cappella ensemble of 30

select voices from the San Francisco Bay area, which maintains an on-going concert series. He was appointed the director of the Bakersfield Symphony Singers in 1997, the choral arts affiliate of the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra. He currently directs the choir at Marymount College, Rancho Palos Verdes. In 1995 he was the American guest conductor/composer for the Cathedral Choir Tour in England, sharing the podium with such luminaries as Peter Aston, Andrew Carter and John Rutter. He has been an active church choir director since 1973, led concert tours through western America, and is currently the Minister of Music at the San Pedro Presbyterian Church in California. Allan is a past President of the Choral Conductors Guild.

Please join us for a musical mountain-top learning experience.

For more information, contact: Marty Stiewig, 541-923-4122 or email: mstiewig@bendbroadband.com.



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 2011

- 1 Rebecca L. Hazen, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005 • John D. Dennis, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2006 • Donald R. Shaw, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2008
- 2 Charles F. Falconer, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1999
- 3 Jenny Holmes, Restoring Creation Enabler for Cascades Presbytery
- 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 James C. Moiso, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2008
- 8 Margaret (Meg) Lewis, inquirer for the ministry, Tualatin Presbyterian Church
- 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
- 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 stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Trout Lake
- 13 Timothy S.K. Vance, installed as associate pastor of Gateway Presbyterian Church, The Dalles, this day in 2009
- 14 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 co-pastor at United Presbyterian Church, Albany
- 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 • Presbytery Council meets today and tomorrow - Ric Neese, Chair
- 24 Paul M. Quackenbush, installed as pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, West

- Linn, this day in 1995 • Diane M. Bagues, ordained this day in 1989, serving with the Legacy Visiting Nurse Association - Hospice Association • First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis - chartered this day in 1853
- 25 Philip U. Martin, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990, serving as parish associate at Tualatin Presbyterian Church, Tualatin • Michael S. Foster, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, this day in 2005 • Sylvia C. Dilworth, installed as co-pastor of Multnomah Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2005
- 26 Holly Hayes Lucas, ordained this day in 1993 • Rebecca Chancellor, installed as associate pastor of Valley Community Presbyterian Church, this day in 2010
- 27 Delbert Burnett, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Salem, this day in 2009 • Constance S. Wilkerson, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, this day in 2009 • Jeremy Watson, installed as associate pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, this day in 2009
- 28 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene - chartered this day in 1952 • Donald M. Ludwig, ordained this date in 1997, serving as parish associate at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton
- 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 as a teacher at the Nile Theological College in Khartoum, Sudan
- 30 Robin R. Garvin, ordained this day in 1990, serving as stated supply associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Portland • William F. Dittler, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1994 • William E. Barlow, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000 • Chinese Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1973

October 2011

- 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 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 • Jeffrey W. Bredeson, ordained this day in 1989 • Jonathan Andres, ordained this day in 1989
- 9 Meagan Frey Helton, candidate for the ministry, Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego
- 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 W. Allison, ordained this day in 1985, serving as Risk Manager, Sacred Heart Medical Center, Eugene • Rodman L. Fridlund, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992
- 14 Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of the Cascades
- 15 William P. Borgman, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1993 • Richard C. Wiggers, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2009
- 16 Peter J. Blank, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Newberg, this day in 1994 • Joseph C. (Chris) Montovino, installed as pastor of Cascades Presbyterian Church,

- Vancouver, this day in 2005
- 17 Robert D. Stone, installed as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Moro, this day in 1999
- 18 Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1908 • Korean Presbyterian Church, Corvallis - chartered this day in 1999
- 19 Patricia M. & Thomas C. Campbell-Schmitt, installed as co-pastors of St. Andrew's 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 • Synod of the Pacific meets this day through October 22
- 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
- 24 James A. Lacy, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2007
- 25 Stephen Dietrich, ordained this day in 1992, serving as the coordinator of Spiritual Care and Bereavement for Signature Hospice of Eugene • Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1942
- 26 Roberta D. "Bobi" Souder, ordained this day in 1997 • 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 • 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



Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

Vacant

McMinnville, First
Merrill, First
Portland, Grace

Seeking Interim or Stated Supply

Bend, Common Table
Corvallis, First
Creswell, First
Medford, First
Waldport, Community

Preparing to Actively Seek

Ashland, First (associate pastor)
Klamath Falls, First (associate pastor)
Tigard, Calvin (associate pastor)

Actively Seeking a Pastor (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Hillsboro, Tualatin Plains (pastor)
Medford, Westminster
Vancouver, East Woods (pastor)
Portland, Bethany (pastor)

Presbytery Highlights

Editor's Note: These are the highlights of the June 24-25, 2011 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard Oregon, excerpted by the editor from the notes of Stated Clerk Cathy Quakenbush. A more complete report may be found on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.

The Rev. Jennifer Warner, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Bend Oregon, and the Rev. Dean Rowley (HR) were welcomed as new minister members of the Presbytery of the Cascades.

The presbytery approved a motion from the Committee On Ministry-Coordinating Council (COM-CC) to require all active pastors to take mandatory refresher training in sexual misconduct prevention once every four years with a training session to be offered each year and be rotated among the four regions. Also approved was the recommendation to adopt as presbytery policy all current Committee On Ministry (COM) policies and procedures contained in the COM Manual which are based on the Form of Government in the *Book of Order* prior to July 10, 2011, but which may not be continued in the *Book of Order* after that date, until such time as the presbytery may revise them.

The Rev. Bruce Armstrong was honored on his retirement as Associate Pastor, Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA. A liturgy of celebration was led by the moderator.

Rev. Brian Heron, from the Church Vitality and Growth Task Force with other task force members, presented a summary of the responses from the March 2011 stated meeting when presbyters were asked the question,



The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelsen, Director of the Office of Public Witness preached at the Friday Evening worship service.

“What do we need to be learning from our declining membership and budgets?” Presbyters were then asked to read through a recent letter titled, “The Future of the Church” from the national PC(USA) leadership. Table groups were then asked to respond to the questions. “What aspects of this letter mirrored how you are feeling about your local church and/or the denomination?” and “In what ways might you use this letter or the themes of this letter to join the conversation in the local congregation?”

The presbytery received a report from the Administrative Commission to Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Cook, Washington, and approved the commission’s recommendation to dissolve the congregation and authorize the presbytery’s Board of Trustees to facilitate the sale of the property and the Stated Clerk to administer the details of the dissolution.

The presbytery voted to continue to function under the policies and procedures in place before July 10, 2011, until the presbytery acts to make changes in them in response to the new Form of Government.

Having participated in a short liturgy and prayer, the presbytery was introduced to the Belhar Confession through the video, “Understanding the Belhar Confession,”



And a Child Shall Lead Them: Children in Mission Workshop; Katie Ailstock and Mary Wright Gillespie and participants. See story on page two.

featuring Dr. Richard Weiss. The presbyters then spent the next 30 minutes around tables reading the confession and discussing among themselves its contents and meaning.

Elder John Brinegar, Chair of the Personnel and Administration Committee presented for information presbytery staff reductions which are to be effective January 1, 2012. These cuts are in response to budget shortfalls expected in 2012.

The Rev. Jeff Seifert and Elder Gary Rawson presented information on sabbatical planning for churches and pastors. Rodger Clawson presented various professional development opportunities for ministers and church workers available in the coming year.

The Committee on Preparation for the Ministry presented and presbytery approved Margaret (Meg) G. Lewis to be enrolled as an Inquirer for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. After hearing their Statements of Christian Experience, the presbytery voted to enroll Amanda C. Golbek, and David J. Norse as candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Debra A Garber presented her Statement of Faith and was examined and approved for ordination into the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in order to accept a call as Stated Supply Associate Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Eugene, Oregon. David B. Jewel presented his Statement of Faith and was examined and approved for ordination into the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in order to accept a call as Stated Supply Pastor of Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon.

The Nominating Committee presented nominees for presbytery committees and offices. Candidates for Moderator, Elder Marsha Landrith and Elder Mary Lou Williams gave eloquent statements about what it would mean for them to be moderator of presbytery. Elder Williams was elected. See

the updated presbytery directory with committees and officers on the presbytery website.

After a 20 minute debate concerning whether to add the Belhar Confession to the *Book of Confessions*, as recommended by the 219th General Assembly, the presbytery voted 80 to 13 to approve, adding the statement: “We strongly recommend that every church study the Belhar Confession.”

Elder Rodger Clawson, of the Professional Support Committee presented and the presbytery approved a recommendation for increased minimum terms of call for ministers of the presbytery for 2012.

The Mission Support Committee submitted a recommendation to the presbytery that the presbytery become one of the sponsors of future Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Interfaith Advocacy Days, with any accompanying financial donation to come from the Peacemaking/Hunger line item of the budget of the presbytery. The presbytery voted affirmatively.

The Cents-a-bility Offering which was taken at each meal during the meeting amounted to \$64.74 to support hunger ministries in the presbytery and beyond.

The Rev. Debbie Blane shared her missionary work in South Sudan with the presbytery.

Elder Ann Bartsch, presented a recommendation from the Brownsville United Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission regarding the transfer of property to the Family Bible Church in Brownsville, with the understanding that the property will be received “as is,” and the Family Bible Church will pay all costs relating to closing and expenses.

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery will be held November 11-12, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, Oregon.



Presbyters participate in round-table discussion.