

Summer Conference Moving to Reed College Campus

By Nancy Gaston

The Cascades Summer Conference planning team has announced it is moving to the campus of Reed College for the July 9-14 event this summer. The compact, level campus and the accessible location in Southeast Portland are among the reasons for the move.

Another plus is that the keynote talks and worship services will be held in the Reed College Chapel, a 200-seat setting that suits the group very well. Other attractive aspects include being on campus with just two other events—both for adults—and food service provided by a local firm noted for its use of fresh local ingredients.

Strathdees to be Music Clinicians

In other exciting news, the team has engaged Jim and Jean Strathdee, internationally honored concert artists, worship and song leaders, as music clinicians for the conference. The Strathdees have written over 400 songs, hymns and anthems, including "I am the Light of the World" and "What Does the Lord Require." Their music is sung by faith communities on five continents, offering a message of unity and compassion, justice and healing.

Jim and Jean are the directors of music at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento, CA. This congregation is very supportive of the Strathdees' ministry to the church at large, encouraging them to go "on tour" once a month.

Steve Doughty to Keynote Event

Keynoter for the conference is Steve

Doughty, author of four books and numerous articles in Weavings magazine and other publications. His M.Div. is from Yale Divinity School, and he served as Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan for ten years. Steve describes his theme, "Walking in Integrity in an Age of Crisis," this way: "How can we, as Christians, live a healing response in a time when so many issues remain unresolved?" The daily examination of that question will include looking at biblical examples

and engaging participants in discussions and exercises.

Registration Brochures to be at March Presbytery

Detailed information about conference registration, classes and programming for children, youth and adults will be supplied in the brochures distributed at the March meeting of presbytery and made available at that time on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.



Concert artists Jim and Jean Strathdee



Central Walkway of the Tree-lined Reed Campus

(Used by permission of Reed College)

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2006 Omnibus Deadlines

March 20
May 15
July 17
September 18
November 20

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Presbytery of the Cascades will have a stated meeting

Friday and Saturday, March 10-11, 2006

Calvin Presbyterian Church
10445 SW Canterbury Lane – Tigard,
Oregon

A mailing will be sent prior to the meeting with more details.

Information on the docket and on pre-presbytery workshops will be posted on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.

2005 Touchpoints Available For Purchase

The 2005 edition of Presbytery of the Cascades' annual anthology, Touchpoints, is available now for purchase by individuals or congregations. The theme "Encounters With God" carries through this collection of poems, stories, and essays by pastors and congregation members in this presbytery. Back issues on the themes, "In the Desert," "Set Apart for God (Holiness)," "Mary, Mother of Jesus," and "Worship," are also available. Copies are \$2.50, including postage. To order, contact the South Office of the Presbytery of the Cascades (1-800-701-7313).

Submissions are being accepted for the 2006 issue on the theme, "Living With Death." Shirley Tormey, Touchpoints editor, states, "I am looking for material relating to Biblical or personal experiences." Send

essays, stories, sermons (limit: 2500 words) and poems (limit: 50 lines) to Shirley Tormey, editor, 8313 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, OR 97219 or by e-mail at Nekahr@aol.com. Please put "Touchpoints" in the subject line and imbed your submission in the e-mail. **No attachments, please! Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2006.** For further questions, Tormey can be contacted at (503-245-2649).

Tormey adds, "While the purpose of Touchpoints is to facilitate dialogue between Presbyterians, I cannot publish personal opinions solely for the purpose of stirring up a discussion. Alternative viewpoints are welcome, however they must be well-supported, primarily by Scripture and secondarily by church teachings."



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.cascade-presbytery.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@cascade-presbytery.org

Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The media committee of Presbytery is the editorial board.

Stated Clerk Welcomes New Administrative Assistant

By John Huenink

Stated Clerk John Huenink is pleased to announce the employment of a new administrative assistant to Cascades' Office of the Stated Clerk. Elder Margi Brown began service in that position in January, 2006.

Margi was first employed by the presbytery in 1979 as Administrative Assistant to Newton Roberts, Cascades education specialist, and then served Presbytery Executive Tom Castlen. She served the presbytery in a multitude of administrative ministries for nearly a quarter-century until she left the presbytery's employ in 2002. She has worked since then with Stand For Children, a non-profit advocacy group.

In the fall of 2005, Cascades revised its staffing pattern for the Portland office. A new position was advertised last December and of the 30 applicants who applied for the position, there were none with the depth of history and experience and demonstrated qualifications offered by Margi.

Margi is a graduate of Lewis & Clark

College and has a Master of Arts in Values from San Francisco Theological Seminary. She lives in Portland, having previously lived in Laguna Beach, CA during her high school years and Menlo Park, CA where she worked for Sunset Magazine.

The Stated Clerk very much appreciates the long and faithful service of Kim (Snyder) Otis as his Administrative Assistant since 2000 and is thankful that she will continue to serve in Cascades' Portland office now as Administrative Assistant to Co-Executive Presbyter Aleida Jernigan and the commit-

tees, programs, and projects to which she provides executive service. Kim and Margi will share some duties, but it will now be Margi Brown who will work with the Stated Clerk in preparing for Cascades' meetings, taking minutes, producing reports, and assisting with all the "clerk work" required by our Presbyterian system.

Give Margi a call at the Portland office to welcome her (back). Get to know her if you do not know her already. You'll meet her in person at Cascades' Stated Meeting in March.

Changes in the Portland Office

Changes in the Portland Office

By Hugh Anderson

Beginning January 1, 2006, several changes began in the Portland office that will provide more efficient services to the Presbytery. These changes were initiated by the Personnel & Administration Committee and approved by Presbytery Council.

The first change is the hiring of a full-time administrative assistant for the Co-Executive Presbyter Aleida Jernigan. Previous to this, Aleida shared Administrative Assistant Kim Otis' time with Stated Clerk John Huenink. Beginning in January, Kim now serves full time as administrative assistant for Aleida, working with her on Committee on Ministry - Northeast and Northwest, Mission Support Committee, and the Westminster Foundation as well as the sub-groups under those parent committees.

The position of administrative assistant to the stated clerk was created and has been filled. Margi Brown has returned to work with the Presbytery in that capacity. See the accompanying article written by Stated Clerk John Huenink. We welcome Margi back to our staff as she joins the other administrative assistants who serve our Presbytery - Janet Alpine, Kim Otis and Kate Whitehead

The position of receptionist for the Portland office was closed effective December 31, 2005. We thank Stella Dillenbeck for her

(Continued on page 5)

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 866-200-8660, or by linking through the presbytery website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.



What's new & relevant in your Media Resource Center

Lots of new items are arriving as I had an *enthusiastic* end of the year buying spree! Items are automatically checked out for three weeks, but if needed for a study, let me know and I can override the computer. J Your only cost is the return postage.

Meeting God In Prayer (DVD) Six 5-minute sessions: What is Prayer?; Why do We Pray?; How do We Pray?; When do We Pray?; Does God answer prayers? A bonus prayer devotional from Luther Productions is also included. Enjoy an intimate conversation with church teachers as they share their biblical understanding of prayer, their own stories and point to the promises of a God who meets us in prayer. There is also a leader's guide on a CD-ROM, which can be used on either a PC or a Mac.

An Ordinary Day with Jesus from Zondervan & Willow Creek Resources. Experiencing the reality of God in your everyday life from John Ortberg and Ruth Haley Barton. This is a kit that includes a PowerPoint CD-Rom, video, leader's guide and participant's guide. The series can be presented in several formats: Eight 50 minute sessions; four two-hour sessions; or at retreats. You'll learn how to invite Christ to work alongside you, recognize and hear the Holy Spirit's voice, wake up and go to sleep in Jesus' name, spend soul-replenishing time alone with God, as well as use the spiritual pathways that best connect you to God. An ordinary day with Jesus truly can be the *greatest* day you've ever had. Best of all, it can lead to an extraordinary life!

Biology and Belief: Conversations in Faith and Science from Luther Productions. This six-part video examines modern issues that confront the realms of both science and faith. Six prominent experts share their views in presentation and conversation. The subjects are God after Darwin; Evolution and Divine Providence; Intelligent Design in Biology; Brain, Consciousness and the Soul, The Ethics of Stem Cell Research; Farming and the Care of Animals; and The Challenge of Naturalism. Total time is 135 minutes (DVD). There is also a leader's guide on a CD-ROM which can be used on either a PC or a Mac.

The Heart of Healing Prayer from Seraphim Communications. The church is beginning to reclaim its healing ministry. Congregations are rediscovering healing services, calling parish nurses and making care for the sick an important part of their ministries. This DVD invites people into a practice of prayer for healing and offers several simple steps based in part on James 5:13-16. Dr. Kenneth Bakken is a physician and pastor. Father John Calbom is an Orthodox priest who is researching the healing power of love in prayer. Margaret Kittleson is a practitioner of healing prayer. When her husband was in a coma and near death, she noted that his vital signs improved while she was praying for him. A study guide is included.

Lent and Easter items: Lots of useful resources here under the section titled: **Church Seasons**. Or type in a keyword and see what comes up: "The Robe," "The Wall," and more.

I would like to wish all of you a blessed and magical 2006!

Maureen O'Rourke-Center Director

Leadership Fair Offers Something for Everyone!

The Cascades Leadership Fair, sponsored by the Congregational Support Committee, will be held Saturday, February 25, 8:30-3:00 PM, at **Lake Grove, Lake Oswego**. The event features guest speakers and timely workshops that focus on the many needs facing congregations today. "This is an event for every Presbyterian in the pew and for church staff," states Kate Whitehead, registrar.

Featured speaker this year will be the Reverend Dr. Gary Demarest. His topic will be "Searching for the Perfect Church." Demarest served as co-moderator of the Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church, which recently released its final report. He has more than 50 years of experience in youth ministry, pastoral ministry, and service on the staff of the General Assembly

as director of evangelism. He has served six Interim pastorates in Southern California since his retirement in 1993.

Workshops include ones focusing on questions faced by elders, treasurers, and clerks of the session. Other workshops offer ways to enhance sanctuary art, lead worship, pray for others, connect with your neighborhood, improve listening skills, explore essential tenets of the reformed faith, use church photography, and much more.

Costs are \$15 per person including lunch. Additional people from the same congregation are only \$10 each if registered at the same time. Childcare donation is \$10.

Contact Kate Whitehead at 800-926-3223 or kjwhitehead@cascadespresbytery.org, if you have any questions.



A Christmas Greeting from Cuba

A group from **Southminster, Beaverton** has visited Cuba two times. Jacque French, a member of that group, shares the following note that was sent from one of the friends they made during their visit. "In spite of the fact the holidays have passed, we would like to share this Christmas greeting, with its timeless message, to the whole presbytery." Thanks to Julie Huisman, another member of the group her visited Cuba, who translated the note.

Xiamara Arenas, from Cuba, writes, "At Christmas time I wish to decorate my little tree. I have no ornaments, garlands, nor decorations but I have reflections on this time of

my life. I wish to put the name of my friends that I loved and admire and also those that have difficulties to endure. I ask a prayer to God for all of them. On the tree I also put cards where I write the things that I have enjoyed and have given happiness and those forgotten that have given unhappiness. Names of my children, grandchildren, daughter-in-law, spouse, with their countless virtues, and my parents and other relatives today in the presence of our God. My dear family within and outside of Cuba that one way or another aid and support us and extend their hands day to day in the harshness of the life we know.

On this little tree there is a special place for

the camp, the Presbyterian churches, the CIC and others that I also love and respect. For the older pastors and their families and also for the younger ones that wish to understand. Here they lack two beloved pastors that have died and they are reminded day to day. My little tree has names of illnesses, of HIV, cancer, single mothers, forgotten elderly, incapacitated ones, abused women alcoholics, etc. Every year it is my pleasure to add new names and experiences to my tree. If you know that I have been thinking of you, that also forms a part of God. Thank you God for my life and also for my tree. Merry Christmas."

Crop Walk to Support Church World Service and Hunger Relief

The Portland area 2006 Crop Walk will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 21. The walk will begin at All Saints' Episcopal Church at 40th Ave. and SE Woodstock Blvd.

Every spring, people in the Portland area have the opportunity to support Church World Service (CWS) and local hunger relief programs with the crop walk. Participants from your congregation can join others to walk a four-mile or a one-and-a-half mile to two-mile course. Friends and other church members sponsor the walkers. The money that is raised goes to Church World Service for their many programs, and we request that 25% be granted back to the Portland area for local hunger relief.

CWS partners with our denomination in providing disaster and development assistance around the world and here at home. They are currently in the hardest hit North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, as well as Kashmir, Afghanistan and India. CWS has been the largest donor of shelter, food packages and medical care in that area. Local CWS trained Pakistanis risked their lives to save others. CWS efforts at rebuilding communities and lives will not end when the next disaster makes headlines. In Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya and Louisiana, CWS is our partner in mission in almost 80 countries.

Marcia Escudero, **Westminster, Portland**, chair, states, "I invite you to encourage your congregation to join walkers from many

denominations in this fun and worthwhile effort. Several of our churches are making this an opportunity for their youth groups. Each year, the number of participating congregations and the money raised grows. Our goal for 2006 is to raise \$10,000."

Escudero adds, "You may notify us of your interest in participating in the crop walk by sending us a note at cropwalk@tpcspirit.com. More information will be sent to those who want to participate in this great mission outreach."

CWS reports other dates scheduled soon for Crop Walks in Cascades Presbytery are Polk County on May 6 and Corvallis on April 29.

Cascades Viewpoints

By John Mahon, Co-Executive Presbyter, Central Region

There is an issue that has been with us nearly thirty years now, just about my whole ordained ministry. It's an issue that just won't go away. It's an issue in which knowledge has increased but not understanding. Instead, polarization over the issue has intensified and enlarged. It is an issue that is bigger than just one institution. It divides not only Presbyterians but other Christians. And the church is not the only part of society so divided. The culture as a whole has, at least, two minds on it. It's an issue that is so emotional that to even mention it is to get people uptight. The issue concerns homosexuality and whether to ordain self-avowed, practicing homosexuals to Christian ministry.

The debate continues this year as The Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force report is being discussed around the country. That

report will come before General Assembly (GA) this June in Birmingham. If you haven't read it, please do so. You can find it at (www.pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity/finalreport.htm). I do not know what GA will do with it. I suspect that if the report is approved, it will not be in the form first presented. The process of committee deliberations and amendments will probably alter it. The only thing I am sure about, besides it being hot in Birmingham, is that whatever happens will not resolve the main issue. As the report itself delineates, there are at least six deeply held sides to the issue.

Jesus in his encounter at the well with the Samaritan woman tells her that "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24) She had tried to entrap him in the ongoing, divisive issue of her day, where God is to be worshiped. The Jews said Jerusalem; the Samaritans Mt.

Gerizim. That issue, said Jesus, is transitory. What is important is one's relationship with the living God. This is the real issue before us no matter on what side of the so-called main issue you stand. What is your relationship with God?

It is around this real issue that we need to talk. The Relational Support Committee, through its Theological Reflection Group that was commissioned at presbytery in Milwaukie, has begun this discussion. Thanks to Brian Boisen and LaVae Robertson for convening this group of eight elders and ministers. We need more groups like it. One thing the members of the Peace, Unity and Purity Task Force discovered was that when we do talk with each other, we do get back to basics. The truth of John 4 is that Jesus reveals God. On that issue rests the peace, unity and purity of the church.

Positively Presbyterian

South Region

By Ann Moore

A Christmas morning come-as-you-are service happened at **Tri Cities, Myrtle Creek**. Worshipers were invited to "forget about shaving, leave your hair in curlers and wear your fluffies" and gather by the fireplace in Nash Hall for Christmas music and goodies. The picture shows what happened.



Pat Cotterell of **TriCities, Myrtle Creek**, at the Christmas Day worship

Rhythmic Renewal returns to **First, Bandon**. Exercise and fun happens Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The class does stretching, low impact aerobics and floor exercises to Christian music. Connie Thrush, certified instructor, leads the class. There is no charge and childcare is available.

Carol Swanson began September 1, as **First, Brookings'** interim pastor. The ministry is a second career for her. For 30 years she taught junior and senior high school English in Mill City. After teaching 28 years, Carol felt she was moved in a different direction. She had been involved in all phases of leadership and volunteerism at her home church, **First, Mill City**. A pastor suggested she was being called to the ministry.

About that time the Northwest House of Theological Studies for mainline churches opened in Salem. Professors for weekend classes were flown from Claremont Theological Seminary. She completed her first year of seminary by attending those classes while still teaching school. She retired and enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in New York City where she finished her last two years. She returned to Oregon for a year of internship, half-time at **Westminster**, Salem, and half-time at the Oregon State Correctional Institution. Carol was ordained November 13, at the Mill City church. The day before, she was inducted into the Santiam Valley School District Hall of Fame. She was a student, then a teacher in that district, and her mother also taught junior high English there.

First, Klamath Falls' pastor David Dendy placed a half-page advertisement in the Klamath Falls Herald and News on December 8, inviting readers to "explore the deeper meaning of Christmas." The ad was in the first section of the paper, not on the religion page. He avoided using "church" language. He said that each reader was worth the \$726 cost of the ad. He continued, "at First Presbyterian Church we are looking at what it means to 'come home to God.' Please accept my personal invitation to come and be welcomed and discover with me a truer, deeper meaning and understanding of what Christmas is all about." The response to the ad "on the street" as well as in church was frequent and positive. David said he hopes to develop a relationship with the community through similar ads in the paper maybe four or five times a year.

Central Region

Bill Dittler, Reporting

Community, Yachats is providing the congregation and community with a marvelous musical opportunity. Their organist, Jon Nestor, is offering a series of monthly "Morning Organ Meditations." This will be "an on-going series of monthly organ music presented for you by the Organist to energize and calm your spirit as it prepares for a new day of listening to, dialogue with, and response to God, the Author, Savior, and Redeemer of all Creation."

In his column in *Presbyterian Pursuits*, Pastor Peter Santucci, **First, Lebanon**, shared, "The last few years have been record-setting in defections from the PC/(USA). While our church's numbers are up a little bit each year recently, we're part of a

sinking ship. Something had better change and fast! And here's the most important change that needs to take place: we need to move from maintenance to mission. We need to stop thinking of how to make things nicer and cozier for us who are already within the church. We need to be wracking our brains and praying with urgency about how we might make new connections with our local community, bringing the message and compassion of Christ to our neighbors."

The leadership and congregation of **First, Woodburn** are making an intentional commitment to read the Bible through in one year. Pastor Ryan Shrauner states, "some of us will read in the morning; some of us will read at night. Some of us will read with others; some will read when we are by ourselves. Some of us will read ahead sometimes; some will catch up from time to time. An important thing to remember as we walk along is that we are not alone; we are walking together as the church, the Body of Christ. Some of us have read the Bible before (some more than once); some have limited experience; the well-traveled will help those new to the terrain, and those new to a passage or verse will give those returning to it the gift of fresh eyes to see and ears to hear. Again, this is a journey which we are taking together and together we will experience so much more than we would on our own. As we read God's Word to us during the week, we will look forward to gathering every Lord's Day to worship together and to share in the meal which Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, prepares for us. As the Holy Spirit draws us ever more together through the Word of the Lord, through the Spirit's power we will be drawn ever more into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ seated on the right hand of God."

Committee or Ministry? Here is one pastor's take on one of life's burning issues. "Simply put, Jesus called no-one to committee service. Not one. But he called a lot of people to ministry. Ministry is the work of all of us - not just those who are ordained. We want to keep that kind of spirit alive in the work of Christ's Church," observes Pastor Chris Whitehead, **Christ's Church, Monmouth**.

Some time ago it was noted here that the **Prineville** church was developing a community garden. Kim Kambak led the effort and reported to the congregation that the endeavor involved a number of volunteers. More than 500 pounds of vegetables were distributed to the St. Vincent DePaul food bank. Kim concluded, "It was a great year and next year already looks promising!"

Pastor John Carpenter, **Oakville, Shedd**, shared this insight. "...our true home - our identity, purpose, and meaning; (where true love, joy, peace, and hope) is in our relationship with Christ, through whom everything was made. One of the best places to experience all of the most desired aspects of home is in the church home - the family of believers who are connected (however imperfectly) with Christ."

"Sometimes the church (including our national church), in my opinion, focuses too heavily on the 'rules' of the Church," states Pastor Rob Anderson, **Community, Redmond**. "That occurs when 'the church' fusses over the rules and doctrines that try to explain how we 'play at' or 'become' the church that God desires. When we spend more time and effort in changing or making the rules for being the church than we spend at playing and becoming the church, we lose out. The real agenda of the church is not about the rules but about being a 'player' or participant in the church. That includes dealing with the great human questions concerning life, death and hope. We must answer questions like, 'What must I do to be saved from a life of emptiness, greed, fear, and doubt?' or 'If a person dies, will she live again?' At CPC, our focus is upon working at and becoming the church, rather than fussing and arguing over the rules and doctrines of the church. The rules and doctrines are important, but Jesus also calls us to make disciples and servants. To me, that means we must focus on 'playing' and being servants of God."

Pastor John Moody, **Westminster, Salem**, shared this thought: "Each Gospel, however, pro-

claims and celebrates the resurrection. It is as if to say: 'Do not miss the message! He is risen!' One could say that the birth, which we celebrate at Christmas, was a minor thing to the early church and the resurrection was the major event that gave the birth its meaning. Could we be majoring in the minors and minoring in the majors? Maybe. Yet I can only think of the sacrifices of our early church ancestors who against the powers of Rome risked their lives, chose to meet together to worship God as a statement of their allegiance to a power greater than any worldly power."

Northeast Region

By Janet Wylie

In the depths of winter, **Westminster, Portland**, celebrates the creativity of Westminster members and friends with the First Annual Fine Arts Exhibit. Artists working in a variety of mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, textile art, metal arts, printmaking, and photography were encouraged to be a part of the celebration of God's gift of creativity.

Moro Community, Moro, is celebrating the gift of new energy-efficient windows for their building. Members of the church donated windows and the company installing the windows contributed two windows to the effort. The windows will help keep the building warmer and reduce energy costs.

Paulette Mixon-Weller at **Cascades, Vancouver**, was a PC(USA) delegate to the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ and Church World Service. The theme of the assembly held in Baltimore this year was "A Witness That the World Might Believe" from Jesus' prayer in John that all his followers would be one. Some 32 denominations representing more than 45 million Christians were present and working together, particularly with Church World Service in disaster relief.

If you're looking for a good book to read, **Savage Memorial, Portland**, lists *Life Goes On* by Philip Gulley (a fun, light read), *Winner Take All* by T. Davis Bunn (legal suspense and international intrigue), *Approval Addiction* by Joyce Meyer (self-help with a Christian emphasis), *Flyboys* by James Bradley (World War II history), and *The Scent of Lilacs* by Ann H. Gabhart (a family historical drama).

During these wet days of winter, it might be a good idea to check out your church library for reading material to go along with your daily devotionals, or start a discussion group at your church. The book club at **Covenant, Gresham**, has been reading *Peace Like A River* and *The Kite Runner* this winter. Other book discussion groups include the women's book club at **Westminster, Portland**, reading *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*; the men's group at **Mt. Scott Park, Portland**, calling themselves the "Band of Brothers," is reading C. S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*. Pastor Chris Montovino at **Cascades, Vancouver**, recommends *Blue Like Jazz* and *Through Painted Deserts* by Donald Miller. The children's library should not be forgotten. **Rose City Park, Portland**, hosted a book party on Epiphany to update the children's library.

Two churches in the Northeast region are pursuing construction projects during this rainy weather. **Gateway, The Dalles**, should be ready to occupy their new Christian Education building by the time you read this and **Rose City Park, Portland**, is in the process of renovating the church tower—fortunately just in time as they discovered that the base of the cross on one side had almost disintegrated.

Northwest Region

By Jeanne Rich

"Being part of a spiritual community," a phrase from "10 Ways to Activate Your Child's Spiritual Life" (*Presbyterians Today*, September, 2005), is a concern at **First, Newberg**. Other Northwest churches share the concern and have provided ways in which children and youth can grow and share their experiences.

What they are thinking is evident as youth share what the church means to them and how they are active inside the church walls and beyond. Grant Wheeler, in the **Multnomah, Portland**

Continued on page 8)

Voices

A Christmas Meditation

by Kristi Van Nostran,

It was cold. Even when we went inside the cold went with us. Sheets and blankets covered the windows instead of glass. The woman was weaving, kneeling on an old mattress in a small room filled with broken furniture. She was in her ninth month.

In just a few days she would give birth to her sixth child. Her oldest daughter is 16 and works for a neighbor (with whom I was staying) doing her cooking, cleaning and wash, and her youngest son is five and prefers to spend his days in the house of this same neighbor. Her husband goes into the city each day to wait for work. Some days he finds it and returns home with food for the next day's lunch; other days without luck he returns home empty-handed and their lunch consists of eggs from the hens with which they share their home, and a few cooked potatoes.

She was scared; she did not come out and tell me, but when I asked about the baby she barely managed to force a smile. I was worried thinking about all the troubles this mother would face. She is not terribly young, but she is rather young to have six children. Looking in her eyes I imagined all the thoughts running through her head: there isn't enough money to keep up this house, nor to fix up the tattered clothes the other kids wear, or to send them all to school, and there are days when the food doesn't go far enough—even when two of the kids take their meals across the street. How can it be that I am expecting again? How can this be good news?

I imagine that, especially at this time of year, she feels like she can relate to Mary. But not the Mary who sang joyfully; rather the frightened Mary who sought refuge in the home of her relative Elizabeth. But aside from all of the comforts she doesn't have, not unlike Mary, she does have her faith. She holds onto a faith that God will "...bring down the mighty kings from their thrones, and lift up the lowly; will fill the hungry with good things, and send the rich away with empty hands," as is written in the *Magnificat*, Mary's Song of Praise, found in Luke 1:52-53.

This caused me to reflect upon the prophecy of Isaiah, "A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be called, 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.'" I realized that the King of Kings,

Portland Office

(Continued from page 2)

service in that position this past year. The duties of receptionist have been divided between the two administrative assistants.

There is one function that will no longer be done by a person. When you call the Portland office, you will immediately be connected to our voicemail system. Just punch in the specific extension and you will be transferred directly to the person to whom you wish to speak. The extensions are:

Cheryl Anderson, Business Manager
ext 207

Margi Brown, Administrative Assistant
ext. 201

John Huenink, Stated Clerk
ext 202

Aleida Jernigan, Co-Executive Presbyter
ext 203

Kim Otis, Administrative Assistant
ext 205

Diane Wells, Bookkeeper
ext 206

Lord of Lords, Christ the Savior came to us not only in human form, but in the frailest state of human form.

Our Mighty God arrived in the world as a fragile and powerless child. This Son of Man was totally dependent on his parents: he cried, he whined, and wet his pants just like any other baby. Mary and Joseph, along with their friends, relatives and neighbors, had the blessing and the responsibility of caring for and raising Jesus so that he could fulfill his purpose.

So often we focus on the fact that Jesus set aside his divinity to come to us as a human being. He was born in a stable to a humble, young family, and his 1st first cradle was a cow's trough. But we forget that, despite his eventual glory, he was a baby.

As I think about the little boy, born just a few days ago, in an environment not all that different from how we picture the scene at Bethlehem, I have come to realize all of us have an obligation similar to that of Mary and Joseph. We might not have the direct charge of raising this child, but the responsibility to pray, to work and to fight for a world in which he, too, can recognize and fulfill his purpose.

My hope—indeed, my deepest desire—is that all of us will acknowledge, that it lies with each of us to create a place in our hearts into which Jesus can be born, live and grow everyday, like Christmas Day.

Camp Registration Begins

Kids and families, don't miss your chance to experience the love of Jesus Christ in the beauty of God's creation. Register for 2006 Presbytery of the Cascades Summer Camps now!

April 1 is the deadline for the early registration discount. Counselors in Training registrations must be received by April 30.

Forms for registration can be downloaded



Kristi going barefoot with a new friend while visiting El Salvador

Editor's Note: Kristi is the daughter of The Rev. William Van Nostran, Northminister, Portland. Kristi is presently serving in the Presbyterian Church's Reconciliation and Peacemaking mission Exchange to Central America. Her assignment is Guatemala.

from www.cascadespresbytery.org, where you can also register online. For more information, contact the interim Camp Coordinator, Sarah Lewis, at Presbytery Camp Office prescamp@cascadespresbytery.org, 503-460-3024, or toll-free 1-866-200-5559. And remember, camp is even more fun when you invite a friend or two.

2006 Camp Schedule						
No.	Date	Camp Sessions	Grade Completed	Locations	Before April 1st	After April 1st
101	June 2-4	"Mom & Me"	K-3	Magruder	\$160	\$185
102	June 18-23	Music, Art, Drama (MAD)	6-8/9-12	Magruder	\$235	\$260
103	June 18-23	Counselor-In-Training (CIT)	9-12	Suttle Lake	\$235	\$260
104	June 18-23	Youth	3-4	Suttle Lake	\$235	\$260
105	June 18-23	Youth	5-6	Suttle Lake	\$235	\$260
106	June 25-30	Middle School	6-8	Suttle Lake	\$235	\$260
107	July 2-7	"Fishing Camp"	3-6	Suttle Lake	\$235	\$260
108	July 16-21	Middle School	6-8	Magruder	\$235	\$260
109	July 16-21	Youth	3-4	Magruder	\$235	\$260
110	July 28-30	"Dad and Me"	K-3	Suttle Lake	\$160	\$185
111	July 29 - Aug. 5	Family Camp	All Ages	Honeyman State Park	Fees vary, please refer to the Family Camp Registration Form	
112	July 30 - Aug 4	Senior High	9-12	Magruder	\$235	\$260
113	July 30 - Aug 4	Youth	5-6	Magruder	\$235	\$260

Network of Eco-Justice Team Regional Coordinators Forming

In order to better resource congregations and individuals with interests in creation stewardship, the Eco-Justice Team of the Congregational Support Committee is establishing a network of Eco-Justice regional coordinators. These individuals serve as local connectors and resource for a regional group of congregations in the Presbytery of the Cascades.

The primary roles of regional coordinators are to share resources, facilitate collaboration among congregations and get the word out about upcoming events. They will also inform the Eco-Justice Team of the creation stewardship activities of local congregations.

Training will be offered for Eco-Justice regional coordinators to familiarize them with what the Presbyterian Church says about creation stewardship, to learn about relevant resource materials, enjoy fellowship and to build skills in communicating successfully with congregations.

If you are interested in being a regional coordinator or want to connect with other congregations in your area, please contact Warren Aney, Chair, Eco-Justice Team, aney@coho.net or 503-246-8613, Jenny Holmes, Eco-Justice Educator, jehrestore@aol.com or 503-281-8175.

Older Adult Ministry - The Future is Now!

By Rick Parfrey, *OPENING DOORS Task Force on Disabilities*

Despite being the fastest growing segment of church membership as well as the community they serve, senior members are not recognized by many churches as a hidden treasure. Seniors average two to three times as many available hours for church-related activities as any other age group. Frequently their experience calls them into important leadership roles within their congregations. They give seven times the amount of money being given by younger members. And by changing addresses an average of once every twelve years as compared to the national average of once every seven years, seniors provide valuable stability and continuity to church membership.

Much is being said these days about the advent of one of the greatest social changes (and greatest opportunities) of our time – the aging of baby boomers. By 2011 seventy-six million of them will begin turning 65, and like beachcombers unaware of the approaching sneaker wave, many churches still seem to assume that the future of the church lies with young families and their children. While there is no denying that younger families play an important role in membership development, with our rapidly aging population, placing a high priority on older adult ministry is essential to the future stability and growth of most congregations.

Add to all of this the fact that the average age of membership in the Presbyterian church is highest among all the mainline denominations, and it's not hard to see that along with the increasing numbers of older adults lies the exciting possibility for many Presbyterian congregations to grow substantially by reaching out with programs and physical accommodations designed specifically for them.

Throughout 2006, the Cascades Presbytery's *OPENING DOORS Task Force on Disabilities* will be sharing ideas that hopefully will help congregations become more effective in welcoming older adults into membership and enabling them to participate



Food Bank Team – Don and Audrey Berry, two of the many older adults who volunteer at First, Medford's Food Bank each week.

in the full life of the church. Look for resources from us that will enable your church to make its facilities more accessible to seniors with mobility, sight and hearing challenges. Also expect to receive information that will help equip your congregation to understand and support the mental and emotional needs facing many of your older members.

Through workshops, direct mailings, and articles in the *Omnibus*, we look forward to sharing these resources and hope that by doing so, your church can begin planning and directing your ministry toward the growing wave of older adult and to all of the important changes that are taking place.

For more information about details concerning our upcoming plans, contact our Task Force by E-mailing me at parfrey@msn.com

News Briefs

The Standard IRS Mileage Rates for 2006 are \$.445 per mile for business miles driven; \$.18 for medical or moving miles; \$.14 for driving for service to charitable organizations (with special rules to apply for "Katrina-Related Charitable Miles") effective 01/01/2006. Website: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=151226,00.html>.

There will be no Mission Conference in 2006. Planning for the 2007 Mission Conference is already beginning. It will be held at The Best Western Ocean View Resort in Seaside. The conference will take place from Friday, May 4, to Sunday May 6, 2007. Watch the presbytery website, electronic express email newsletters and *Omnibus* for further information. Planning team is Judy Alford, Leala Harris, Rex Parker, Doug Rich, and Duane Sich. Staff: Aleida Jernigan and Kim Otis.

Cascades, Vancouver, is looking for a new Worship Arts Director. "Our talented choir director who has recently retired left a strong music legacy embedded into the worship life of our congregation," states Pastor Chris Montovino. "As we have been considering how to replace her leadership, we are also thinking how to transition our worship experience so that it will reach out more to younger families and children moving into the area." Contact the church for a more detailed job description, 360-892-6613.

Correction: Recently the Congregational Support Committee mailed out a poster to churches in the Cascades Presbytery listing the ten teams that comprise the Congregational Support Network and the many resources they offer to congregations. It also includes artwork prepared by children that interpret the work of the teams. In it, the home church for Anastacia Bergstrom should have been listed as First Presbyterian Church, Medford. Also, the artist responsible for the Real Estate Resource Team's picture entitled "Window of Life" is Hanna Hibbs (Age 7), Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego.

Portland Training Addresses Hunger Issues, Building Bridges with Local Farmers

Members of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership will gather on March 4 at Portland's Historic Kenton Firehouse to train volunteers and community members to conduct a grassroots food assessment. The Project is made possible by a two-year national match grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, along with support from several denominations and foundations, including the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

The daylong training is part of a major project to build food security in three Willamette Valley communities: Benton County, inner north/northeast Portland and Rockwood. The project aims to forge direct relationships between farmers and their neighboring communities in order to help families eat nutritious foods, keep farmers on the land and keep dollars circulating in the local economy.

The training will be led by Sharon Thornberry, Community Food Programs advocate for the Oregon Food Bank and president of the Community Food Security Coalition, and Jenny Holmes, director of EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns.

Participants will learn about hunger issues in north/northeast Portland, simple tools they can use to gather more information and how the process of food assessments can lead to action. A light lunch and materials will be provided. The day begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. The suggested donation is \$7.

The assessment, which will take place in spring and summer 2006, will help shape the Partnership's food security work and build an understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges of local neighborhoods. One key use of the information will be to help form direct marketing alliances between congregations and local farmers. Members of local congregations and volunteers from the community with an interest in issues of hunger, poverty and stewardship of creation are invited.

Participants will be encouraged to assess their own congregations and communities for assets such as kitchens and land and people with food and farm knowledge that could be used to enhance food security. They will also look closely at their communities to understand the unique challenges and needs of low-income residents.



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.

March 2006

- 1 John R. Maynard, ordained this day in 1981, serving in Australia as pastor of St. John's Uniting Church, Presbytery of Westernport, Cowes, Victoria • Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, Milwaukie - chartered this day in 1963 • Louis Nieuwenhuizen, ordained this day in 1998, serving as chaplain at Rogue Valley Medical Center, Medford
- 2 Rick R. Ribeiro, installed as pastor of Warm Springs Presbyterian Church this day in 1986 • Judith Ann Richards, ordained this day in 1985, serving as interim pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham
- 3 C. Alan Wilkerson, installed as pastor of Kenton Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1991
- 4 Gina L. Campbell, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 5 John B. Pierce, installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene, this day in 1989
- 6 Kenneth S. Mulder, installed as associate pastor of Sunset Presbyterian Church, this day in 1988
- 7 Julie White, Certified Christian Educator
- 8 Rex C. Parker, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1994
- 9 P. Robert McCann, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1985
- 10 Cascades Presbytery meets today and tomorrow, Ernie Ettlich, Moderator
- 11 Mount Laki Community Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls - chartered this day in 1909
- 12 Hugh D. Anderson, installed as co-executive presbyter of Presbytery of the Cascades this day in 2004 • Aleida Jernigan, installed as co-executive presbyter of Presbytery of the Cascades this day in 2004 • John R. Mahon, installed as co-executive presbyter of Presbytery of the Cascades this day in 2004
- 13 Jae Soon Lee, candidate for the ministry, Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA
- 14 Donald R. Shaw, Peacemaking Advocate/Hunger Action Enabler
- 15 Ivan W. Dean, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Merrill
- 16 John L. Smart, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2002
- 17 John W. Wallace, installed as pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1996 • Sarah C. Lewis, ordained this day in 2002, serving as stated supply of Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 18 First Presbyterian Church, Newberg - chartered this day in 1890 • Milwaukie Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1951 • Bruce W. Cameron, installed as pastor of Peace Presbyterian Church, Eugene, this day 2001
- 19 Robert C. Groves, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
- 20 Rhyann Smith, ordained this day in 2004
- 21 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1954
- 22 John O. Reynolds, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
- 23 Committee on Personnel & Administration of Presbytery of the Cascades, Don Pope,

- Chair
- 24 F. Edward Patterson, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1988
 - 25 Richard A. Christensen, ordained this day in 1973, serving as stated supply at Mount Laki Community Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls
 - 26 Arthur F. Dahlberg, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
 - 27 Benjamin F. Dake, ordained this day in 1977, serving as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove
 - 28 First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon - chartered this day in 1881
 - 29 First Presbyterian Church, Medford - chartered this day in 1885
 - 30 James K. Egly, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1991 • John G. Chatalas, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2002
 - 31 Donald M. Mihaloew, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005

April 2006

- 1 Deborah M. Blair, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2002 • John R. Finney, ordained this day in 1971, serving as a psychologist at the Veteran's Hospital, Roseburg
- 2 Ashton 'Skip' Roberts, Jr., candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Newport
- 3 Relational Support Committee - Bill Jackson, Chair
- 4 Michael R. Hertz, ordained this month in 1990
- 5 James M. Brown, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 6 Community Presbyterian Church, Waldport - chartered this month in 1901
- 7 Robert P. Sanders, installed as pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego, this day in 1991 • New Life Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 2002
- 8 Sung Man Kim, ordained this day in 1992, serving as pastor of Calvary Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 9 Eileen K. Parfrey, installed as pastor of Springwater Presbyterian Church, Estacada, this day in 2000
- 10 C. Todd Martin, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2001
- 11 Larry V.R. Bunnell, installed as pastor of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls, this day in 1993
- 12 Community Presbyterian Church, Oakland - chartered this day in 1917
- 13 Brett A. Becker, installed as pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Portland, this date in 1997
- 14 Jeffrey S. Sievert, installed as pastor of Reedville Presbyterian Church, Aloha this day in 1996
- 15 Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence - chartered this day in 1984 • W. Ward Murray, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1993
- 16 James C. Petersen, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1999
- 17 Vicky Brown, Vice Moderator, South Region
- 18 First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA - chartered this day in 1882
- 19 John Holloway, inquirer for the ministry,

- Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 20 Amy E. Holloway, inquirer for the ministry, Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 21 Jacob Chang Kim, installed as pastor of Hope Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2002 • Hope Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 2002
- 22 John L. Reimers, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1978
- 23 Northminster Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1911
- 24 Nominating Committee of Presbytery of the Cascades, Emily Schue, Chair
- 25 James W. McKaughan, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1987
- 26 Alan B. Guffey, ordained this day in 1992
- 27 Wayne G. Plummer, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1988
- 28 St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1946 • Marcella (Peg) Pfab, installed as pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton, this day in 2002
- 29 Karrie Brain-Marsh, ordained this day in 1990
- 30 James L. McDonald, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1997

Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

VACANT

Lakeside, Community

SEEKING INTERIMS or STATED SUPPLY

Coos Bay, First

PREPARING TO ACTIVELY SEEK

Bandon

Brookings

Gresham, Covenant

Myrtle Point, First

Portland, Calvary

Portland, Valley Community (Associate)

Yachats, Community

ACTIVELY SEEKING A PASTOR (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Clatskanie

Eugene, Central

Merrill, Community (Designated Pastor)

Portland, Chinese

Portland, Sunset (Associate)

Tigard, Calvin

Tulelake, Community (Half-Time

Designated Pastor)

Vancouver, First (Associate)

ACTIVELY SEEKING IN SPECIALIZED

MINISTRY

Corvallis, OSU, Campus Minister

Portland, PSU, Campus Minister



Find past issues of Omnibus on
the website,

www.cascadespresbytery.org

Campus Ministry — A Meeting Place for a Long Term Relation

Forrest and Nona Lowe, active members at **Southminster, Beaverton**, started their journey as a Presbyterian couple when they met at campus ministry headquarters at Oregon State College some sixty years ago. They shared their story at the request of Westminster Foundation, the entity that oversees campus ministry for Cascades Presbytery.

"We came from very different backgrounds. My husband, Bud, grew up in Portland the son of a dentist in a small family with only one brother. I came from a farm family in Klamath Falls where I was the oldest of eight children. Both of our mothers, however, had taught school before marriage and to them education was important, so we were destined to attend some institution of higher education and both chose Oregon Sate College to fulfill that requirement.

"Our church backgrounds were also vastly different. Mine was quite limited because in our very rural situation church wasn't easily available and my experience consisted of Sunday school class presided over by a Baptist layman and held in the Poe Valley Grange Hall where we had to sweep out the beer cans from the dance the night before in order to begin our lessons. Bud had attended Moreland Presbyterian Church where his parents were charter members and where he had been baptized. He participated regularly from the cradle roll through the high school youth program. His parents were leaders in that congregation and of course they had the benefit of a properly ordained and well-educated pastor.

"We met at Westminster House, the campus ministry program, in the spring of 1943. Bud was a junior that year and had been active in that program for three years. I was a freshman and was there for the first time with several girls from my co-op house. We discovered that he lived at Campus Club, the boy's co-op house located in the same block as ours. Soon we were walking home together after the meeting. Auntie Nell McLean was the director at Westminster House at that time and she was doing a wonderful job of providing a welcoming atmosphere for young people at a troubling time in our lives. Our country was at war and young men were enlisting or being drafted regularly. Bud had already enlisted in the Navy V-12 program and knew that he would be going somewhere else soon for an officers' training school. That spring we spent many hours at Westminster House, worshiped at the Federated Church in Corvallis and got to know each other quite well. I found that I enjoyed the fellowship and

the contact with Auntie Nell and the other Westminsterites as much as he did.

"Then began months of being apart as Bud moved from Colorado to New York, Iowa and Southern California ending up at the Camp Pendleton Landing Craft Base where he expected to leave for somewhere in the South Pacific. Bud had leaves in between locations and in the summer of 1944 presented me with the diamond engagement ring that I still wear. At that point his mother was quite determined that I should become a member of their church and urged me to take the membership class. I wasn't sure I was ready for that, but did enroll in it and found the Presbyterian theology and form of government suited me quite well. I was baptized and joined the Moreland Church. I've been forever grateful to his mother for giving me that push. We were married in April 1945 in that same church and began a loving and adventuresome relationship that has now lasted over sixty years.

"We have been very active Presbyterians in a number of locations. Bud was ordained an elder in 1950 at Moreland and has served in that capacity in Newport, OR; Kennewick, WA, and Southminster in Beaverton. Being a woman, ordination did not come as early for me, but eventually I was ordained when we were members of Westminster Church in Portland. I've also been a member of

Southminster's session. When our children were young I was very involved in Christian Education and served as a volunteer director of education in the Newport church. Later I became interested in the work of Presbytery and have served as the chairperson of several committees and as vice moderator of that governing body. I've also had the opportunity to represent Presbytery as a Synod delegate, have served on a General Assembly committee and in 1999 was elected as a delegate to the 211th general assembly meeting. We have always looked on these appointments as a chance to learn and to contribute to the work of the denomination. I've also found them to be an opportunity to participate in mission and have never forgotten the words often printed on the blackboard in that long forgotten grange hall in Poe Valley—"Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only."

"All of this seems a long way from the campus ministry at Westminster House, but we remember it fondly and wonder what might have been if it hadn't been there."

Nona Lowe

NOTE: If you have a story of campus ministry in your life please send it to Lou Balmer, Chair, Westminster Foundation at LDBalmer@aol.com. It may not be possible to publish all stories but they will be shared with our campus ministers.

Positively Presbyterian

(Continued from page 4)

newsletter, wrote "I think it was during the summer camp at Magruder that I had my first 'God Moment.'" Then his worry about losing "that connection with God" away from the camp experience led him to a realization that "the more opportunities you allow for God, the easier it is to have God with you." He does this by staying involved in youth group, reading seven chapters of the Bible a week, and going to Bible Study.

Bethany, Portland's January newsletter devoted two pages to student perspectives on CPYA (Cascade Presbyterian Youth Assembly): Hyun Kim, Andrew Stickel and Andrew Riedi called it "awesome" the way magic and ministry worked together; Emily Berkey's favorite time was in small group and she "walked away...knowing I made my relationship with Christ stronger;" Christa Pierce wrote, "seminars...were the most helpful...topics to clarify things for you;" Senior Meredith Strickland "wish(es) I could go again."

St. Andrew's, Portland, invited their young adults "from far and near to lead the worship service (New Year's Day)...to hear our young people discuss life after high school and the impact it has had on their journey of faith."

How they are acting upon their beliefs is reported through individual actions as well as group efforts. Eight-year-old Katherine Carey at **Clatsop**

Plains, Warrenton, was inspired to help others build a future. With support of the Session, she led the church to raise "enough money for both a water buffalo and a pig for Heifer International."

The Pew News, **First, Newberg**, included an article about a "charming young man named Kevin Council (who) saunter(s) up to you with a gentle smile to ask if there is anything you need." He is following in the footsteps of his late Grandpa Doyle Council from whom he learned to share his handy-man skills with his church.

Many Northwest churches are sponsoring youth-related projects. **Plymouth, St. Helens**, carries out a fundraiser to sponsor a 12-year old boy from Uganda with the belief that "our kids are a beautiful gift from God. Please join us in building the future."

The following churches are supporting spring break youth missions: **Calvin, Tigard** - Gulf Coast relief efforts; **First, Portland** - coast of Mississippi hurricane relief; **Southminster, Beaverton** - rural Cow Island, Louisiana; three churches to Mexico to build houses (**First, Newberg; Multnomah, Portland, and St. Andrew's, Portland**); and **Valley Community, Portland** is in the planning stage.

Other noteworthy news from the region indicates that the church is alive and effective. Reports from six churches (we suspect there are more unreported) indicate a total of more than 40 new members in November and December.

Clatsop Plains, Warrenton, welcomed new Pastor Mike Pyburn and his wife, Kim, who have come from the Olympia Presbytery.

Clatskanie concluded its celebration of the church's centennial year December 4, 2005.

Two Portland churches have been selected to participate in community events. The pastors at **St. Andrew's, Portland**, were approached about "representing the faith community by serving on a committee that is crafting a 30-year vision and strategic plan for the City of Portland." Pastor Tom Campbell-Schmitt says it will be a year-long process and is open to the public.

First, Portland, was selected as one of ten congregations in the Portland area to participate in a series of seven Genetics Seminars to be presented in the community beginning January 28, by Pacific University, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and the National Institute of Health (NIH). Michael Banner and Audrey Chapman, nationally known authors on theological issues posed by genetic science, are the project's principal consultants and speakers at the introductory session.

Give to the One Great Hour of Sharing To Support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program
Self Development of People

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find hope for a bright future.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives 36% of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while Self Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Programs each received 32%.

Most congregations receive the offering on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday or both. Others receive it throughout Lent.

Ask your Session to approve this offering and then locate the materials that were shipped to your church. To order additional materials, call Presbyterian Distribution Services at (800)524-2612.

Questions? Visit www.pcusa.org/oghs or contact Don Shaw, peaceandhunger@cascadespresbytery.org and (503)302-4656.