

omnibus

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Presbytery of the Cascades

Rick Ufford-Chase to Keynote Leadership Fair in Portland

By Nancy Gaston

Rick Ufford-Chase, the popular former moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), will deliver the keynote address at the Presbytery Leadership Fair scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2007, at Lake Grove Presbyterian, Lake Oswego.

Ufford-Chase was the first moderator to serve for two years. He was also, at the age of 40 when elected, the youngest in many years. He founded BorderLinks, a bi-national program that tries to connect and educate people of faith on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, and served with the organization for 17 years.

Rick has a bachelor's degree from Colorado College and entered Princeton Theological Seminary, but says he soon discovered that his call was not to be an ordained minister, but to serve in ministry as an elder.

He has also worked with the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America in

Guatemala. With his wife, Kitty, he has been trained to serve as a reservist with Christian Peacemaker Teams, an organization that has sent teams of "accompaniers" to Colombia, Iraq, Palestine and the U.S./Mexico border region.

In June 2006, after the end of his term as PC(USA) moderator, Ufford-Chase accepted a call as the Executive Director of Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

Besides keynoting the leadership fair, Rick will present a workshop on peacemaking. Other workshop topics slated for the event include spiritual discernment in decision making, styles of prayer, small group ministry, generational differences in the church, Presbyterian basics, mission trip planning, church website design and special sessions for clerks and treasurers.

Watch for registration information on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org, and in your local church. Clergy, elders, deacons and con-



Former moderator, Rick Ufford-Chase

gregation members interested in mission, worship, caregiving and personal growth will all find offerings to fit their needs and interests.

OPENING DOORS Task Force Awards 2006 Grants

Since 2001, the *OPENING DOORS* Task Force on Disabilities has awarded financial grants to 17 churches in the presbytery for projects relating to the removal of barriers to worship and participation for people with disabling conditions. This year, 13 additional churches are receiving funding for the following projects:

- 1 St. Andrews, Portland – Chancel ramp; restroom modifications; updated sound system
- 2 Clatskanie – Exterior ramp
- 3 Mt. Laki – Restroom hardware; parking signs; sidewalk repairs; large print Bibles; assistive listening device system
- 4 Community, Moro – Architectural services

for developing a barrier removal master plan

- 5 First, Lebanon – Accessible restroom facilities; interior ramp; accessible parking
- 6 First, Newport – Accessible restrooms; assistive listening device system
- 7 Kenilworth, Portland – Exterior and interior ramps; unisex accessible restroom
- 8 Eastminster, Portland – Accessible parking facilities; sidewalk extensions
- 9 Community, Cannon Beach – Automatic door opening device, signage; Braille Bibles and hymnals; large print Bibles and hymnals; portable chancel ramp
- 10 Multnomah, Portland – Accessible restrooms

- 11 Bethany, Grants Pass – Handrailings
- 12 Valley Community, Portland – Assistive listening device system; Portable ALD transmitters
- 13 McKenzie Valley, Waltherville – Exterior ramp resurfacing; handrailings

The *OPENING DOORS* Task Force has limited funding available to support a wide variety of physical or programmatic projects. The deadline for submission of applications for next year's funding cycle is July 31, 2007. Forms can be downloaded from the Presbytery's website www.cascadespresbytery.org. For more information, please contact Rick Parfrey at 503-638-0109 or parfrey@msn.com.

Music Leadership Rings Forth at Summer Conference

Phyllis Tincher, handbell soloist, and Sean Rogers, pianist, are featured music clinicians at the 2007 Cascades Summer Conference, to be held the week of June 24, 2007, at Reed College. This duo, known throughout the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, tours as Ring Praise Music Ministry, and is dedicated to telling the story of Jesus Christ

through scripture and hymn history.

Phyllis is bell director at First Presbyterian, Nampa, ID. She has been directing since 1993 and is highly regarded in her profession. Sean teaches classical and theater organ and all styles of piano, as well as serves as music coach and accompanist. The duo began touring in the spring of 2004, first, taking their

ministry to small Presbyterian churches in Eastern Oregon and Idaho. Since that time, they have logged nearly 7,000 miles.

While at the Conference, Phyllis and Sean will conduct workshops on bells for all ages, as well as conduct the vocal choir that has become a long-standing tradition of this summer event. This is the perfect opportunity for churches to spend a week developing English handbell choirs. Phyllis use 3-1/2 octaves of Schulmerich handbells and 2 octaves of Schulmerich Melody Chimes.

Summer Conference will be offering a variety of courses including the Certification class for Lay Pastors, and a course on software for congregations that includes Biblical resources as well as data management systems.

Keynote speaker for this year's conference is William P. Robinson, President of Whitworth college. He will speak on the topic, "Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century."

This all-family conference provides childcare for the youngest, as well as instructional and recreational activities for elementary, middle and high-school ages, while adults participate in a wide variety of class options. Everyone comes together for meals, worship and fellowship daily. We provide golf-cart transportation on campus for those who find walking difficult. Registration begins in March, 2007.

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In this issue...

New Speaker's Bureau	p. 2
Viewpoints	p. 3
Positively Presbyterian	p. 4
Joy Offering	p. 5
Voices	p. 6
Prayer Calendar	p. 7
Seeking to Understand	p. 8
Circuit Rider	p. 9
Genetics and Faith	p. 10
Youth Triennium	p. 11
Presbytery Highlights	p. 12
2007 Deadlines	
January 15	Feb/Mar Issue
March 19	Apr/May Issue
May 21	Jun/Jul Issue
July 16	Aug/Sep Issue
September 17	Oct/Nov Issue
November 19	Dec/Jan Issue

Celebration Works Concert Series Presents Renowned Organist

Tamara Still, renowned organist and currently associate director of music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, will play a recital at First Presbyterian on Sunday, January 21 at 3 p.m., as part of First Presbyterian's Celebration Works series. Tickets are sold at the door and are priced very reasonably at \$5 for seniors and students and \$10 for adults. Parking in First Presbyterian's new underground garage at SW 12th and Morrison is free for concert-goers; parking tickets will be validated at the concert.

"Visitors to First Presbyterian, Portland, are always awed by the sight of the beautiful polished wood of the neo-Gothic interior of the church and especially by the more than three thousand pipes of the hand-crafted tracker pipe organ built by Dan Jaeckel and installed in 1999-2000. Here's your chance to hear the organ as well as see it," states Ann van Bever, Concert Series Administrator.

Tamara Still holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Washington, a Master of Fine Arts from UCLA and a Performance Certificate from the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam. She was the winner of the Northwest Region Young Artist's Competition of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) in 1991. In 1993 she was a finalist in the Naples International Competition for Organists. She has played concerts in England, the Netherlands and Canada and at major international festivals to enthusiastic reviews. She has been a performer at AGO conventions. She is currently serving on the AGO's National



Tamara Still

Committee for the New Organist.

Dr. Still plans a program that will highlight the strengths and sonorities of First Presbyterian's Jaeckel organ. It will span the centuries of organ masterworks from the 1600s to the present day. She will play works by J.S. Bach, Olivier Messiaen, Calvin Hampton, Dieterich Buxtehude and Alexandre Guilmant.

For more information about the Celebration Works series, please visit www.fpcpx.org, First Presbyterian's web page, and click on "Ministries" and then select "Music Ministries."



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 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.

OPENING DOORS Task Force Offers New Speakers Bureau

By Rick Parfrey

The Opening Doors Task Force (ODTF) promotes the full and active participation of people with differing levels of ability in churches throughout our Presbytery. Through ODTF programs, local congregations become enlightened, equipped, encouraged and empowered to provide the needed support of the emotional, spiritual and practical needs of members with life-changing conditions.

"LIVING WITH..." is one such program. Individual speakers or panelists tell their own stories and experiences, bringing to life the human and faith "issues" nobody wants to talk about. Hearing these stories and interacting with presenters will help members of your church better respond to the real needs of those in your congregation facing similar life challenges.

"LIVING WITH..." presentations offer brief, yet comprehensive and interactive opportunities to learn more about physical, mental or sensory disorders. Hear from people who have experienced depression, suicidal tendencies, visual impairments, bi-polar disorders, spinal cord injuries, age-related dementia, multiple sclerosis, chronic pain, hearing impairments, developmental disabilities, elder depression, arthritis, cerebral palsy or brain injury.

Focusing on deeply personal experiences as well as those with family members, fellow workers, or fellow parishioners, these presentations are designed to enrich the audience's understanding of how people live with serious disorders and cope with the realities of their situation while claiming their lives with dignity and meaning. Importantly, presenters offer hope by their example and testimonials.

Developing a program around a "LIVING WITH..." presentation provides members of your congregation with opportunities to ask questions of people who have faced life-changing situations. Set in a non-threatening environment, these presentations also help remove common misperceptions and change attitudes and hearts about serious mental and physical disabilities.

Useful resource materials are distributed to all participants and an opportunity for program evaluation is provided. These programs are appropriate for your deacons, Stephen Ministers, Session retreats, adult education classes, youth groups, adult fellowships, commissions or adult forums.

For more information about this program or to schedule a "LIVING WITH..." presentation, contact the Rev. Eileen Parfrey at (503)638-0109 or parfrey@msn.com.

Presbytery of the Cascades

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

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

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



While at an ecumenical resource center gathering recently I learned about an important new resource. I want to climb to the top of Mt. Hood and shout out the good news about an online site produced by the Alban Institute! It's receiving approximately 40,000 hits a month, quite a compliment indeed. This website has grown to include over 900 resources in 116 topic areas on issues that congregations say are most pressing to them. Be sure to visit: www.congregationalresources.org.

New in the resource center:

Rhythms of Peace (DVD) for kids 8-11 years and their families. This is a delightful mix of music, fiction and mini-documentaries, blending fast-paced humor sketches and featuring children as actors. You can use individual stories or the complete 60-minute program. Some of the excerpts are: An Eye for an Eye, the Canoe Journal and Cuban Surprise. (produced by Mennonite Media)

50 Ways to Pray, Practices from Many Traditions and Times (book from Abingdon Press) by Teresa Blythe - for individual or group use. It is written for the seeker and sojourner, as well as the church leader, youth minister, retreat facilitator, or worship planner. It is for all of us who thought we only knew one way to pray. Theresa is a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary's Master of Divinity in the Art of Spiritual Direction program.

Shadow Voices - Finding Hope in Mental Illness (DVD produced by Mennonite Media) An hour-long documentary, dealing with stigma, recovery and hope. The program offers an inside look at what it's like to live with mental illness and how people find their way through a morass of mental, medical, governmental, societal and spiritual issues. Ten persons tell their stories, plus experts and advocates in the field add perspectives and insights. Interviewees include former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.) I have found Mennonite Media does an outstanding job on their productions.

The History of Christianity (Video produced by the Arts and Entertainment Television Network). There are two sets - the first 1000 years and the second 1000 years. Each set includes four videos with each tape running 50 minutes. These are very professionally done and are really gripping! Ask for these tapes by name and which set you'd prefer if ordering only one set.

We also have a kit by the same name presented by Dr. Timothy George, historian and Dean of Beeson Divinity School. It's a six-part series on two video tapes with each tape about 90 minutes long. This kit also includes a leader's guide and student worksheets. Ask for KTCEX001. KT = kit.

Maureen O'Rourke, Resource Center Director

Cascades Viewpoints

By Hugh Anderson

A major milestone in the Presbyterian Church occurred recently but to little fanfare. The date was October 1, 2006. The milestone was the 300th anniversary of American Presbyterianism. The event was a celebration in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the site of the first presbytery. The occasion, in this tricentennial year, was to celebrate the first presbytery meeting held in 1706. Perhaps that is the reason there was so little fanfare!

Those of you who know me, know that I am willing to have a party at the drop of a hat. And those of you who get notes from me know that I strongly encourage congregations and clergy who reach milestones in their ministry to take time to celebrate that fact. So I am mystified as to why we as a denomination have missed such an historic occasion to party! Is it us? Or is it the object of such a celebration? It does make one wonder!

It makes one ponder about the purpose of a presbytery meeting. According to the Presbyterian Historical Society, Francis Makemie [the Father of American Presbyterianism] and six other ministers formed a general presbytery with no fixed geographical boundaries. Their optimism also had no bounds. In a letter Makemie wrote about plans to "attend a Meeting of Ministers

we had formerly appointed here; and were only Seven in number, at first, but expect a growing number." And grow they did so that the Synod of Philadelphia was formed in 1716-17 with four presbyteries comprising it. And the rest, as they say, is history. But I am getting ahead of myself. Makemie also described the purpose of that first presbytery - education, fellowship, discipline, and to license and ordain men for ministry. [Sorry about that last one but those were the rules of the game back then].

It would be interesting to evaluate ourselves and see how we are doing in these four areas. Of course, the longer institutions exist, the more apt they are to increase and expand. Today, our *Book of Order*, lists 27 responsibilities for a presbytery. Again, it would be interesting to evaluate ourselves and see how we are doing in those 27 areas. Are we any better at 27 than at four? Perhaps by increasing the number of duties, we have decreased our effectiveness!

When I first arrived on the scene in Cascades Presbytery 12 years ago, Loren Mead had just published his book, *Transforming Congregations for the Future*, the second volume in his series on the Once and Future Church. In this book, Mead has a chapter on the role of the judicatory [his

generic name for what we rightly call a presbytery]. In one chapter, he writes about what congregations need from judicatories and elaborates on each of the following nine points:

- Congregations need help when they get in trouble.
- Congregations need to be left alone.
- Congregations need to be jacked up when they are off base.
- Congregations need pastoral care.
- Congregations need pastoral care for their pastors.
- Congregations need help with leadership development.
- Congregations need technical assistance.
- Congregations need a sense of their place in a larger mission.
- Congregations need someone who listens and listens and listens.

I have taken these nine needs to heart and have tried to provide that in my ministry as executive presbyter.

Now nine is somewhat of a compromise between four and 27. I wonder how we as a presbytery [and our congregations and clergy] would do if we focused on enhancing our performance in these areas. Perhaps it would make us want to throw a party!

Ask the Clerk

Q: Is there a difference between a committee and a commission?

A: There is, and it is such an important distinction that the two terms are defined in G-9.0500 of The Book Of Order. Look it up!

In short, a committee is a subsidiary body established by a larger body to do specific work on behalf of the parent body and to bring recommendation to the parent body. A committee has no inherent authority other than to do what it was assigned and to make recommendations of action to be taken. It is common for all organizations to establish committees to do work separate from meetings of the larger body and to bring recommendation(s) of action to be taken by the organization in a full meeting.

A commission, on the other hand, is a body which has the full authority of the parent body assigned to it for a specific function and specific time. In the presbytery, commissions are established to exercise the full authority of the presbytery in ordaining and/or installing or doing a variety of other functions. It is extremely important that both the parent body and a commission be clear about the scope and nature and limitations of the commissioning, for there have been many times when a commission has exceeded its authority - and often to the regret of many.

There are many who use the terms indiscriminately, interchangeably and inappropriately. There are church sessions which call their committees "commissions," perhaps because they think it sounds like a more important term, but have no intention of their having the full authority of the session in a specific area. Does a session really intend to delegate its authority to a commission with the power to conclude matters without the prior concurrence of the session? I am aware of a case (fortunately in a church other than Presbyterian) in which a Worship Commission sold a church organ

as "excess" without seeking advice or consent from the parent board - or from the donor of the instrument. The painful aftermath of that commission action lasted for at least two decades.

If a parent body intends to give a portion of its authority to a commission, then the terms of the commissioning - as to authorities, as to time, as to specific requirements for consultation or review, etc. - should be made as explicit as in a for-

mal contract. If a parent body intends to have a group other than itself - perhaps more representative, perhaps smaller, perhaps with special participants, etc. - consider matters and bring recommendations to the parent group without taking action until approval is given, then a committee is the appropriate vehicle.

I realize this is a bit complicated, but it will get more complicated still if the terms are not understood or used appropriately!



Shown is Virstan Choy, the primary leader at the **Committee on Ministry (COM) Retreat**, speaking on how to do effective mission studies. The retreat also featured Vickie Curtiss, a member of the Peace, Unity, and Purity (PUP) Task Force interpreting some of the issues in the PUP report. She and John Huenink shared a workshop at the retreat on the implications of the PUP Report for COM work.

Positively Presbyterian

Central Region

By Bruce Smith

Congratulations to two churches celebrating 100-year anniversaries, **First, Creswell** and **Community, Redmond**. Both churches have been rejoicing all year long with special services, luncheons, and dinners. **Creswell** produced a video providing the history showing past and present with pictures. There was even a cookbook prepared by the women. There was no word if the recipes were 100 years old. Both churches had different kinds of memorabilia to commemorate the occasion. (Will they be half price in 2007?) **Redmond** hosted a dinner for 400 plus members and friends at Eagle Crest where five previous pastors spoke of their ministry in the church.

Chris Whitehead **Christ's Church, Monmouth** accepted a call to the First Christian Church in Mansfield, Ohio. The church will have temporary pulpit supply until the Methodists fill the pulpit next spring. The church still broadcasts its services on Channel 17 on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Stewardship campaigns were in progress in many churches under a variety of formats from dinners, Pony Express, and special promotions, each stressing the importance of the commitment of talent and talents.

Several churches are celebrating the season. **First, Bend** has an Advent Festival with a supper; **Prineville** has an Autumn Festival with crafts and goodies, while **Redmond's** goes under the banner of Angelfest. **First, McMinnville** carries out a Harvest event and **Westminster, Salem** presented a Fine Arts Festival.

Passing along an idea, **Prineville** has the tradition of a "birthday pig," when those who have a birthday place the exact change of their age in the stomach of the pig. No dollar bills yet.

Music plays a strong part of the worship services in Advent at **Westminster, Salem** with the Chancel choir, Christmas Cantata, senior and junior Handbell Choir, youth orchestra, and the Sunshine Choir. This church also provided youth with new driver's licenses wooden crosses for their key chains. At **First, Salem** Ken Cowan, organist, was in concert in October. He is widely known and has performed solo recitals in the United States and Canada. In December, Michael Allen Harrison, pianist, will be in concert at **First, Corvallis** playing original holiday pieces. **Peace, Eugene** is preparing for a "Scottish Christmas in December" with a local Celtic band with a variety of instruments including fiddle, whistle, and guitar.

The Rev. Jennifer Martin has been appointed the Director of the **UofO Koinonia Center**. Her dossier points to a varied background in teaching, chaplain's work, and various religious programs. Welcome Jennifer to the Willamette Valley and the "Ducks."

I found that the **Florence** church and **First, Woodburn** provided a monthly calendar of daily Bible readings from the Old and New Testament for their readership. The Vision Team of **Community, Yachats** held a twelve-hour prayer vigil where people came to the sanctuary and prayed for an hour about whatever was in their hearts or minds.

Many newsletters include bits of humor between their pages. I don't know if Presbyterians have a group funny bone or if we are merely funny people. As example, retiree Loiselle Dahill, **Prineville**, claims that

she is making a fitness move and calling it "Pumping Rust." A young boy was staring soberly at a plaque of names on the wall in the narthex. He asked the pastor what the names meant and was told that they were people who had died in the service. The boy paled and asked, "Which service, the 9:00 or the 11:00 o'clock?" It's a joy to read the newsletters.

South Region

By Ann Moore

Community, Malin's women gathered in the church kitchen to bake cookies of differing varieties to be sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other cookies were baked at home. Final count was about 30 dozen.

Tri-City, Myrtle Creek is considering Thursday, 4:30 p.m. Advent services followed by soup and bread. The plan is to share the worship with Ascension Episcopal in Riddle and the Canyonville and Myrtle Creek United Methodist churches.

First, North Bend collects the names of needy families from local schools and gives each family member new clothing, plus food basket boxes. The schools provide names for each family member plus clothing sizes, and special interests. Church members pick up the names, shop for five items of clothing plus a toy or book that fills the interest of the receiver. The purchaser gift-wraps and puts tags on each item. Each family also receives two food boxes which include a fresh turkey, fresh fruit and vegetables and pumpkin for a pie. The names come from elementary schools. If one of the family is in middle or high school, he or she receives the same kinds of gifts. Clothing includes shoes, socks, underwear, shirts, sweatshirts, and pants. The gifts and food baskets go to the schools on the day before Christmas break and the families are called to pick them up. It's done this way to keep the givers anonymous.

First, Roseburg Presbyterian Women collect the lost and found boxes and bags from area schools. They sort the contents by item (jeans, shirts, sweatshirts, backpacks, jackets, shoes) and take them home for mending and laundering. They are returned to the church and donated to shelters and other organizations that give away clothing. Before the sorting, the women clean out clothing and backpack pockets. They find books which they return to the schools and discard old homework, lunches and snacks.

First, Roseburg also helps fund Mercy Foundation and Physicians of Douglas County that pays for the school nurse program. They funneled their June Pentecost Offering to that program. They used their Peacemaking Offering to help two members travel to New



Sign at the historic First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville

Orleans where they worked with the Presbyterian Disaster Team to help with the on-going clean up from Hurricane Katrina.

Northeast Region

By Jan Noller

The members of the congregation at **Milwaukie** were asked "Why should I volunteer? Then they were asked two more questions: "Why me?" and "Why not me?"

The prayer shawl knitters at **Rose City Park, Portland** are making prayer shawls to give to congregation members who would benefit from a reminder of God's loving embrace because of circumstances or sickness.

At **Smith Memorial, Fairview**, Betty Carroll lists 42 things for which to be thankful. Some are: listening to a child read, shy smiles from new friends, people who pray for our children and youth, laughing until my sides hurt, dirty knees from playing outside, and wild games and quiet talks.

EastWoods, Vancouver is packing 138 baskets. Each contains ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving dinner.

The "Go Team" at **Columbia, Vancouver** is preparing to go to Senegal to work among the Wolof. In another project, the children are filling 100 shoe boxes with simple gifts for children in desperate situations around the world.

Laurelhurst, Portland challenges its members to PIPAN thinking - Presbyterian, Intelligent, Paradoxical, Ambivalent Nuanced thinking - based on an article by Jack Haberer in Presbyterian Outlook.

For the past three years **First, Vancouver** has been participating in WHO - Winter Hospitality Overflow - helping existing homeless shelters.

Piedmont, Portland has a free Friday night games night for the neighborhood.

"Friends of the Carpenter" held their 4th Annual auction and banquet to support their ministry with the homeless. In their Vancouver Friendship Center, volunteers and participants work together to assemble wood kits.

Derrick Weston, a summer intern with PUN - Portland Urban Network, a project of seven small urban churches, has helped

Kenilworth, Portland explore emerging worship.

Colonial Heights, Portland sponsored a three-part series related to end of life issues. The events focused on financial and legal concerns; health care, decision making, rituals, and care addressing grief and loss.

In addition to two worship services on Sunday morning, **Gateway, The Dalles** offers a Saturday night worship - a little more relaxed, a little more singing, just a little different.

Cascades, Vancouver stewardship campaign turns the question around. Instead of asking how much should I give to God's work, they ask God how much of God's money do we keep?

A month of Peacemaking activities at **Springwater, Estacada** included working at the Oregon Food Bank and learning non-violent disputes resolution. There were also discussions about going beyond our cultural bias to gain more respect for people outside our sphere of familiarity.

Continued on page 5)

Positively Presbyterian

(Continued from page 4)

Northwest Region

by Jeanne Rich

While churches this season have had calendars full of annual Harvest Festivals, Reformation Sunday Services (kilts were encouraged at **First, Portland**) and appearances of Stu-Bear (remember the friendly creature who educates children about Stewardship?), some new activities are in the works.

First, Astoria, expects 400 people to be served at the First Astoria Community Thanksgiving Dinner which is made possible by several local churches, community agencies and a student project. All without a place to be on Thanksgiving Day were invited to a delicious meal and warm fellowship.

Southminster, Beaverton's Pastor Peg Pfab recently quoted Douglas Meeks, "Home is where there is always a place for you at the table...the heart of justice is participation in God's household." She went on to remind "that God calls all humans to the table of grace, the table of forgiveness and the table of peace...we are called to expand the welcome table." While this was with reference to World Communion Sunday, it extends to Thanksgiving as the Astoria church certainly will be expanding that welcome table.

Concerns for our children have produced several groups of interest. **First, Portland**, introduced a "new group for grandparents who are actively involved in parenting grandchildren" to share stories, pray for one another and discuss topics such as "the newer psychology of resiliency as it applies to children—and adults." Parents at **Emmanuel, West Linn**, "(have) been developing and planning a course on human sexuality to offer to our church's middle and high school youth...in the context of faith-based values." The parent team is appropriately called "YES" although we must do some guessing about the meaning of this acronym. Shepherds at

Southminster, Beaverton aren't preparing for a Christmas pageant. Adults "who have a sense of humor, calmness and a friendly attitude are sought to journey with children on their spiritual path." These shepherds will help classroom leaders, welcome and befriend visiting children and be committed to pray for the children. And at **St. Andrews, Portland**, a Parents of Teens group is a supportive environment to share concerns about "this new parenting challenge." It meets conveniently at the same time as the Salt Company High School meeting.

Inventive ideas were bountiful this fall. **Clatskanie** church's Evangelism Committee has announced that its newsletter "Lifeline" is available at Hump's Restaurant and at the Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce office as a part of the committee's outreach efforts. They also state that the second Sunday each month is designated as Evangelism Sunday. (We'd like to hear more about what goes on.) **Reedville, Aloha**, members contribute dollars equal to their age as they celebrate birthdays. The fund goes toward the church's Centennial Celebration.

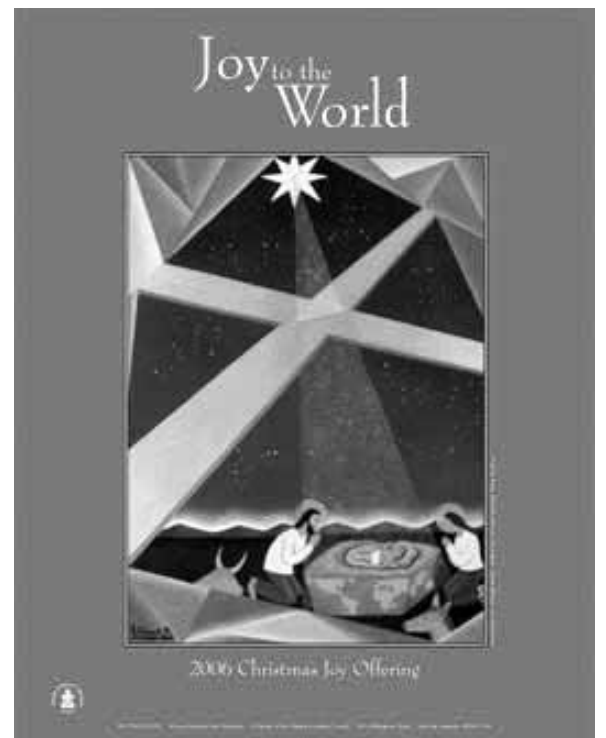
**The simple shepherds
heard the voice of an angel
and found their Lamb;
the wise men saw
the light of a star
and found their Wisdom.
Fulton John Sheen**

Christmas Joy Offering Received During Advent

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

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

The Christmas Joy Offering is usually received the Sunday before Christmas. Resources are mailed to each congregation in early September. Free promotional materials include poster, bulletin covers, bulletin inserts, minutes for mission, a booklet with helpful



hints for a successful promotion, place mats, coin box, worship resources, and offering envelopes. All of the resources are available through PDS by calling (800) 524-2612 or order online at www.pcusa.org/cjoffering/index.htm.

Cascades Lay Institute sets 2007 Schedule

"Being Presbyterian: How Does the Presbyterian System Work," will be the first of a series of events held by the Cascades Lay Institute. The Rev. Chuck Falconer, former stated clerk of the presbytery, will be the presenter. The event will be held at **First, Corvallis**, February 16-17.

Other events include: "Church Administration," with The Rev. John Huenink, presenter, to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene, May 18-19. "Biblical Interpretation," to be held at the Cascades Summer Conference, Reed College, June 24-29. "Teaching," October 12-13.

The Cascades Lay Institute is a program of the Commissioned Lay Pastor Certification Committee, a sub-group under

the Professional Support Committee. The purpose of the Institute is to provide regular opportunities for those who are interested in becoming Commissioned Lay Pastors to be able to complete the required training in the eight areas of study within a two-year period.

The Institute, however, is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about what it means to be Presbyterian and who wishes to receive training in order to develop skills in the following areas of leadership: Bible, Reformed Theology, Polity, Preaching, Leading Worship, Pastoral Care, Teaching and Church Administration.

Topics covered in 2006: Preaching, Leading Worship, Reformed Theology, and Pastoral Care.



The Art of He Qi Dr. He Qi (huh chee), who spoke at the opening service of the second day of presbytery, came to the Christian faith through art. He also shared his experiences at a pre-presbytery workshop. As a teenager growing up during the Cultural Revolution in China, He Qi's family was sent into the fields to work following the closing of his father's university in Nanjing. His one ticket out of field work was through painting Chairman Mao's portrait. His father's friend, the chair of the closed art department, taught him to paint by using Rafael's Madonna. "By day I painted Chairman Mao, by night, Madonna!" Looking into the peaceful eyes of Christ during this time of great upheaval, God's spirit began to work on the boy. Today China's most vibrant and prolific Christian artist brings a message of peace and hope to a new China as he works to paint 120 panels for a future world art Bible that will bring the Gospel to a billion people.

Hallowed Homecoming: Adoption as Ministry

By Chris Ward

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families..."

Ps. 68:5-6

Just a week after seminary graduation, my wife Julie and I sat on a plane bound for Kenya. Nearly a year's worth of effort was being rewarded; we were on our way to meet our first child, Imani. It had been like a pregnancy to us (only we'd spent a lot more time at the notary public than at the doctor) and it was finally our time. We were giddy with excitement.

We had always known we would adopt. What we didn't know was that adoption would become an irresistible passion in our lives and an integral part of our ministry together. We now have four children: Imani (from Kenya), Andrew (our biological son), and, as of two months ago, Manyazewal and Mihret (from Ethiopia.) With each child God has blessed us, and we have felt our lives changing as our passion for adoption grows.

It is not unheard of for Christians to consider adoption as a ministry. The church has a healthy history of its people opening their homes to children. Still, it seems that God is now doing a new thing. As we entered into the adoption process again last year, we were amazed to find out how many fellow applicants were Christian, and how many of them were adopting because of a sense of calling. While adoption might once have been a last resort, it was clear to us now that more couples are choosing adoption as a new way of building families while also responding to God's call to care for orphans.

Adoption stands at the intersection of God's heart and the world's need. Right now, the world is experiencing a burgeoning crisis of children without a home. The United Nations counts more than 140 million children as orphans, and because of poverty, war, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, that number is growing. Some of those children will find homes with extended family or kind neighbors, but many will end up in institutions or on their own, and the future for them looks grim. Even as the crisis looms, many Christians are working hard to ensure that at least some of the world's lost children are given a home and a name.

Still, the adoption process can seem intimidating. Though about 40% of Americans have considered adoption at one point in time, only a very few pursue it, and children continue to languish without a family.

It doesn't have to be so daunting. Committed people in this new adoption movement have worked hard to overcome any obstacle a family might face in adoption. There are an increasing number of organizations dedicated to supporting adoptive families through the process, whether with information, with fellowship or with finances.

Though the process can vary widely with each adoption (as different countries, agencies and states have different rules and requirements), there is help to be found to ensure that nothing will keep capable families from giving a home to a child in need. There is a wealth of information in print and online to help families decide if adoption is right for them, and then to walk them through the process. Governmental cooperation and oversight is making the process easier and safer for both kids and families, while tax credits and corporate sponsorships make it a financial possibility. Just this last year, the PC(USA) started offering Adoption Assistance Grants through the Board of Pensions.



The Ward Family: Back – Mihret, Chris, Julie, Andrew; Front – David (Manyazewal) and Imani

Churches, too, are beginning to weigh in, offering support networks, information, resources and financial assistance. Our own congregation, **Westminster, Medford** has been instrumental in our adoption process and in that of several other families here.

Online adoption communities are flourishing as people share stories and advice on everything from choosing an agency to post-placement issues. Adoptive parents email and "chat" their way through the process, sharing pictures and prayers, and asking and answering questions for one another. This community was also very important to us during the year or so it took for our process to be accomplished.

Foundations like Shaohannah's Hope provide everything from advice on how to begin a church ministry, to steps in the adoption process, to financial grants to make it all possible. Online E-zines like Rainbow Kids help

dispel the myths about adoption, put a face on it, and give a forum for people to address their concerns and questions. No matter what the obstacle, there are people to help overcome it.

Adoption is certainly not always easy, just as a biological birth includes discomfort and uncertainty mixed in with the joy and expectation. But today's adoption happens in an open, caring community supported on all sides by systems and networks that can make the process a truly exciting one.

It has been such a blessing for us to have a community of faith to help us respond to God's calling. We consider it a privilege to be able to give our children a place in our hearts and home, and, most importantly, a place in the family of faith.

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name, welcomes me."

Matthew 18:5

Mission: Campus Ministry

By Rev. Jennifer Martin,
Campus Pastor & Executive Director of The Koinonia Center

I may be the newest campus minister in the presbytery, but my love for college ministry is anything but new. It started when I was a college student, wishing that there was more of a church presence on my campus. It grew when I had the opportunity to serve as an associate college chaplain during seminary. It was during this time that I came to see college ministry as a mission of the church.

We might not see immediate results from the seeds we plant, but the long term positive effects are too numerous to count! Upon graduation from seminary, as I sought my first call, I was surprised to learn that there were not many college ministry positions available in the PC(USA). I ended up serving for four years as a chaplain and program director at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly which serves the Synod of the Sun. During my time there I was able to continue my work with college students by helping train our summer camp counselors and serving with students and college ministers to plan and facilitate a yearly college-age retreat.

As I read denomination publications, I continued to hear about the budget for outreach to young adults being cut significantly or eliminat-

ed altogether in many regions. As a minister serving a denomination that seems often to be focused on the question of why we are not attracting young people, I have trouble understanding the wisdom of this practice. Many college students are experiencing for the first time the opportunity to decide what they care about and how to spend their time away from the influence of their family and their home church. They are making choices about what they believe, what matters to them, what they want to do with their lives – why wouldn't the church want to be a part of that conversation?

I know I am not alone in this belief; other denominations are pouring resources into reaching young adults. I hear from many colleagues in youth ministry about their students, raised up in the PC(USA), joining other denominations in college because we simply aren't there. That is why I am so excited to be here serving in the Presbytery of the Cascades at the Koinonia Center on the University of Oregon campus. During the interview process for this job I was thrilled to learn about this region's tradition of support for college ministry that has continued despite recent national trends. I commend you for your vision, I thank you for your support, and I look forward to serving in this mission field with you.



Prayer Calendar

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

January 2007

- 1 Nestucca Valley Presbyterian Church, Pacific City - chartered this day in 2001 • William C. Howell, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1991
- 2 Andrew L. Caesar, ordained this day in 1994 serving as youth counselor for Multnomah County
- 3 Dean F. Klarr, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2001
- 4 Donald H. Frank, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1997
- 5 Weston D. Gray, granted Honorably retired status this month in 1995
- 6 Community Presbyterian Church, Yachats - chartered this month in 1950
- 7 Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of the Cascades, John Ailstock, President
- 8 C. Montee Kennedy, installed as pastor at Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence, this day in 2006 • Philip D. King, ordained this day in 1999, serving as Chaplain, United States Navy
- 9 John M. Geiter, ordained and installed as associate pastor at Gateway Presbyterian Church, this day in 1994 • Thomas E. Young, installed as pastor at Cherry Park Presbyterian Church, Troutdale, this day in 2000
- 10 Janet Alpine, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, south region office
- 11 Elmer R. (Bud) Frimoth, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1992
- 12 Susan D. Grewe & Christopher N. Grewe, installed as co-pastors at Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1992
- 13 Graig L. Flach installed this day in 2002 as associate pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego
- 14 Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship, Aloha - chartered this day in 1996
- 15 James T. Stewart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995
- 16 Stephen G. Maling, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000
- 17 Joyce K. Fogle, commissioned this day in 1999, serving as Commissioned Lay Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Malin
- 18 Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1961
- 19 Duane L. Sich, ordained this day in 1972 • Kris M. Voss-Rothmeier, ordained this day in 1997
- 20 Warren H. Rutledge, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1996 • Presbytery Council meets today, Ernie Ettllich, Chair
- 21 Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1906 • James C. Moiso, installed as pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1990
- 22 Covell A. Hart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1987
- 23 James C. Cayton, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1985
- 24 S. Ann Richards, Vice Moderator, NE region
- 25 Sang J. Kim, granted Honorably Retired

- status this month in 1990
- 26 John J. Rodgers, ordained this day in 1976 • Congregational Support Committee, Linda Grosso, Chair
- 27 United Presbyterian Church, Albany - chartered 1853
- 28 J. Wilbur Patterson, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
- 29 Jack P. Hansen granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1997
- 30 Gene H. Upton, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1986
- 31 Chapel by the Sea, Lincoln City - chartered this day in 1937

February 2007

- 1 E. Gordon Crider, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992 • John R. Fry, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992
- 2 Aurora Presbyterian Church - chartered this month in 1904 • Robert C. Patten, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 3 Lawrence E. Jung, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, this day in 1985
- 4 Roula Alkhouri, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bend, this day in 2001
- 5 Leo C. Tautfest, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 6 Charles E. Poling, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1990
- 7 Scott W. Peterson, ordained this day in 1988, serving as stated supply pastor at Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship, Aloha • First Presbyterian Church, Trout Lake - chartered this day in 1905
- 8 First Presbyterian Church, Bandon - chartered this day in 1891
- 9 John W. Dilworth, installed as pastor of Multnomah Presbyterian Church, this day in 1986
- 10 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem - chartered this day in 1957
- 11 Kenton United Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1912 • John R. Moody, installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem, this day in 1996
- 12 Dale E. Southorn, installed as associate pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigard, this day in 1995
- 13 Merle Bottge, Vice Moderator, Central Region
- 14 Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1905
- 15 William K. Van Nostran, installed as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2004
- 16 Brian G. Campbell, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 17 Tualatin Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1985
- 18 Professional Support Committee - Scott Phillips, Chair
- 19 Calvary Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1882
- 20 F. Arlin Nave, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1994
- 21 Phyllis P. Hart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995

- 22 Robert J. Elder, installed as pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Salem, this day in 1987 • John S. Carpenter, installed as pastor at Oakville Presbyterian Church, Shedd, this day in 1998 • Roger W. Weeks, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2006
- 23 Soo Shin Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005
- 24 Gail Moody, Certified Christian Educator, Westminster Presbyterian, Salem
- 25 First Presbyterian Church, Creswell - chartered in 1909
- 26 Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton - chartered this day in 1959 • Charlie T. Brown, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2001
- 27 Committee on Ministry-South, John W. Hubbard, Chair • First Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls - chartered this day in 1884
- 28 James C. Baek, installed as pastor of Beaverton Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland this day in 1999 • Douglas M. Still, granted Honorably Retired status February 29, 1988

Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

VACANT

Brownsville, United
Dallas, First
Eugene, Westminster (Associate)
Lakeside, Community
Medford, Westminster (Associate)

SEEKING INTERIMS or STATED SUPPLY

Pacific City, Nestucca Valley
Portland, New Life Korean

PREPARING TO ACTIVELY SEEK

Coos Bay, First
Eagle Creek
Portland, Calvary
Redmond, Community (Associate)
Reedsport, United
Salem, Westminster (Associate)
Yachats, Community

ACTIVELY SEEKING A PASTOR (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Bandon
Brookings
Merrill, Community
Myrtle Point, First
Portland, Chinese
Portland, Sunset (Associate)
Vancouver, Columbia



Check the website regularly for
breaking news:
www.cascadespresbytery.org

Seeking to Understand in Trout Lake

by Barbara Schramm and Bonnie Reynolds

Responding to a parishioner's query regarding how followers of Jesus talk with those with whom we disagree about peace, the church's peace committee, consisting of Barbara Schramm and Bonnie Reynolds, developed a series of events to help the community discuss issues of peace. From January 2006 through Easter Sunday, silent peace vigils took place at the church. Three forums were held: "Loving Your Enemy," based on Martin Luther King's work, "Smart Security," using a video by Physicians for Social Responsibility, and "Every War Has Two Losers," based on writings by William Stafford and Dwight Eisenhower.

The series culminated on Saturday, April 8 when the church hosted a multicultural, interfaith conference featuring guest speakers from four of the major world religions. The speakers addressed the topics of peace and violence.

The four speakers — Rabbi Aryeh Hirshfield of P'nai Or Synagogue in Portland, Jiko of Dharma Rain Zen Center, Imam Mikal Shabazz of the Oregon Islamic Chaplains Organization, and Father Anthony Petrotta of the St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Wilsonville — expressed the views of their faiths as well as personal opinions on issues ranging from interpretations of the Psalms to the debate over immigration in the U.S. Despite the wide range of beliefs they represented, the speakers emphasized the similar-

ties rather than the differences of their respective religions, as well as the need for a deep knowledge of other faiths to truly appreciate and respect them. As Mikal Shabazz observed, "It is more important to understand than to be understood."

While the speakers stressed that the basic tenets of all four faiths favor peace over violence, all readily admitted that, too often, there are disconnects between belief and action. They also addressed the need to balance nonviolence with justice. Shabazz and Petrotta, both Vietnam veterans, discussed the difference between justice and vengeance, as well as their own reactions to such events as the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The event also offered an opportunity for participants to peruse literature related to the topic, including religious histories, holy texts, and contemporary works on war and nonviolence. Reading lists and pamphlets were also provided.

Fifty-five people attended, a very good turn out for our rural community. Even the guest speakers expressed surprise at the number of participants.

The peace committee is also in charge of scheduling speakers for a once a month potluck and lecture series that is entitled "How To Live Our Faith in Our Culture" in which participants will have the opportunity to explore applying faith in Jesus Christ to decision making in our lives. Topics include "The Relationship between Religion and



Photo courtesy of First Presbyterian Church, Trout Lake, Wash. Resting in the foothills of Mt. Adams, First Presbyterian Church of Trout Lake, Wash., engages in ministry with a diverse group of 20 formal members and a larger number of participants who eschew formal membership.

Politics," "The Separation of Church and State," "Capital Punishment," and "Spiritual Expression through Haiku." As is often the case when matters of deep importance are discussed, these topics are not pursued without discomfort to church members and generate a lot of soul searching.

A Bold Witness: GA Urges Presbyterians to Go Carbon Neutral

By Jenny Holmes, Eco-Justice

Extreme droughts, record heatwaves, dead-zones off the Pacific Coast, and melting glaciers — it was hard to remain a skeptic about the reality of global warming after the summer of 2006. If one has been paying any attention to the news, the reality of global warming is undeniable.

Add a number of new films that are bringing increased attention to global warming — *Too Hot Not to Handle*, *The Great Warming*, and *An Inconvenient Truth* — one can see public awareness and concerns have never been higher. This is good news for God's creation. The bad news is that once some people sense the magnitude of the challenge, they slip into despair and inaction.

Prominent writer and environmental thinker Bill McKibben calls this humankind's first "civilization scale challenge." As Christians, the appropriate response is one of hopeful action. To help Presbyterians lead by example, GA passed a resolution urging Presbyterians to "make a bold witness by aspiring to carbon neutral lives." Carbon neutrality means two things. It requires reducing energy consumption that releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. It also means carbon offsets are purchased to compensate for those carbon emissions that could not be eliminated.

Now what? Presbyterians for Restoring Creation (PRC) and other concerned Presbyterians are developing a plan to implement the resolution that includes engaging presbytery leadership, training and education. The Presbyterian Hunger Program has posted the resolution and suggestions for action on its web page at

www.pcusa.org/pcusa/wmd/hunger.

Each of us can take three simple steps to become carbon neutral:

1. Calculate your carbon emissions. See www.co2.org or www.greentags.usa
2. Reduce your carbon emissions to the world

average of 4 tons per person per year by saving energy and purchasing green energy from your utility. Start by replacing all your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents.

3. Offset remaining emissions from car and air travel and heating fuels by purchasing green tags or carbon offsets. A few suggestions are www.greentags.usa and www.nativeenergy.com.

The Eco-Justice Team of the Presbytery of the Cascades calculated the carbon emissions generated by its face-to-face meetings and

made a commitment to offset these emissions with green tags. A workshop at the November Presbytery was provided: "Energy Stewardship: Steps Toward Carbon Neutral Congregations." The resolution presents an outstanding opportunity for creative action. By going carbon neutral, we learn what it takes to make the transition to a low-carbon future and exercise respect for God's creation and for future generations. Let your light shine! (but make sure it's an energy efficient compact fluorescent).



Candidates approved for ordination at the November presbytery meeting (l to r): Pat Berger, Marcia Muir, and Ashton "Skip" Roberts. Berger will serve as Pastor of Covenant, Gresham. Muir will serve as Interim Pastor of United, Reedsport. Roberts will serve as Chaplain at Oregon Health Science University Hospital and Veterans Hospital. Not shown is Christopher Johnson, a candidate under the care of The Presbytery of Seattle, for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament who was examined by this presbytery as the presbytery of call. The examination was sustained. He will serve as Associate Pastor of First, Vancouver.

Circuit Rider Welcomes New Staff; Celebrates 25 Years of Service

by Carolyn Hampton, Executive Director

There's lots of excitement around Circuit Rider Books these days!

New Operations Manager

Cindy Winter has been named Director of Operations and will share management duties with Carolyn Hampton. Cindy's duties will be to supervise volunteers and other Circuit Rider office operations. Carolyn will continue to supervise Circuit Rider's event operations. They will be active participants with the Board of Directors in setting the overall tone and scope of the Circuit Rider Books' ministry. Be sure to welcome Cindy when she responds to your phone calls or emails!

Cindy graduated from seminary and was ordained as a minister in the Southern Baptist Church in the days before that denomination became more conservative. The Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, one of Circuit Rider Books' covenant partners, employed her as a Minister of Christian Education and Youth at Bethel UCC in Beaverton for several years. She is currently a member of Waverley Heights UCC, and leads their youth program with her husband, Scott. She has worked in local libraries in the acquisitions department, and currently works part-time as a reading tutor. She hopes to someday become a full-time worker at Circuit Rider Books. We welcome Cindy's fresh insights, ideas, and energy to the Circuit Rider Books ministry!

Anniversary Celebrations Scheduled

Another event generating excitement in the Circuit Rider Books' world is the celebration of their 25th year of ministry to mainline protestant Christians and churches in the Pacific Northwest: 1982-2007. Celebrations of this milestone will be held during 2007, beginning

Cents-Ability becomes part of Cascades Presbytery Hunger Program

Join the fight against hunger. Join Cents-Ability. From our denomination's Presbyterian Hunger Program, Cents-Ability is a plan to build daily awareness of the hunger needs in the world and simultaneously to raise funds to meet that need.

Presbytery Council approved Cents-Ability banks to be placed at meals during presbytery meetings. Local congregations are encouraged to adopt the program as part of their hunger awareness ministry.

The plan is also offered to individual families. Small banks are sent home with each family and placed on the meal table. At each meal, a few cents for the hungry are put into the bank. The banks periodically are gathered by the congregation as part of its mission outreach. The proceeds go to supporting hunger programs. For further information contact Don Shaw at peaceandhunger@cascadespresbytery.org, (503) 302-4656 or Marcia Escudero Mescudero_2000@yahoo.com, (503) 288-5104 or www.pcusa.org/hunger/centsability.htm.



Cindy Winter begins her new duties as Circuit Rider.

with a kick-off celebration on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, home of Circuit Rider Books' office, "The Stable." The celebration will continue in March with an event in the Southern Region around the time of the March Presbytery meeting. Watch for more details soon in the Cascades Electronic Express and your mailbox.

Founded in 1982 as a bookstore in Spokane, WA with a mobile outreach to local congregations and events, Circuit Rider Books became a totally mobile bookstore a few years later. It was incorporated as a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization in 2001.

News Briefs

Per Capita and reimbursement rates announced at Presbytery: The 2007 Presbytery budget approved at the November meeting is to be funded by 2007 per capita at the rate of \$21.26 per active member as of 12/31/2005 (GA-\$5.79, Synod at \$5.17 and Presbytery at \$10.30). Presbytery expense reimbursement rates for 2007 remain the same at \$.14 per mile and \$12.00 per commissioner per night for lodging. The IRS professional reimbursement rate for employees is \$.485 per mile. www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=163828,00.html

Leadership in the Small Church: A two-day seminar held February 5-7, 2007 at Menucha Conference Center, and led by James Cushman, Pastor and Consultant on Re-Forming Ministry. The purpose of the seminar is to enable participants to understand more fully small church dynamics and the role and function of leaders in enabling small churches to discover God's particular corporate calling and engage in vital ministry

Operated by a Board of Directors, and many dedicated volunteer workers, it serves over 40 events each year in local churches and denominational/ecumenical groups through its event book sales service and its Saddlebag book box program.

Special order services to individuals and churches have grown from almost nothing in 1993, when Carolyn Hampton joined the organization, to daily phone and email inquiries today. The need for this ecumenical, mainline Christian presence is clearly evident in the excitement it generates in those who encounter the Circuit Rider Books ministry each year.

and mission. Each topic will include small group discussion to enable participants to apply material to the unique challenges confronting his/her congregation. For more information, see www.menucha.org or call 503-695-2243.

Ten Thousand Villages: Each year the St. John's, Camas and Zion Lutheran Church, co-sponsor a sales Festival, featuring the wonderful merchandise of Ten Thousand Villages. This year the festival is Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday, December 3, noon - 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity for the community to do some exciting Christmas shopping while shopping fair trade. By purchasing handcrafted arts and crafts, the artisans are paid a fair wage for their work and the buyer gets great products at very good prices. Shoppers will also learn more about skilled artisans in Africa, Asia and Latin America. There is a wide range of beautiful and unusual gifts and home decor items.

Omnibus: Where to Send

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

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

Please Note: For address corrections, additions, or deletions for the mailing list, please email kim@cascadespresbytery.org, or call her at 503-227-5486 or 1-800-495-4114. Her extension is 205.

Meetings Set to Discuss Genetic Research and Faith

The increasing pace of genetic research brings enhanced possibilities for families with a history of genetic illness or for couples experiencing fertility problems, and it offers all of us the potential for capabilities which only a few years ago were firmly in the realm of science fiction. However, along with these new possibilities come serious new concerns.

Last year the National Institutes of Health and the Pacific Institute (of Forest Grove, OR), initiated a seven-part program intended to inform Portland-area volunteers from a variety of faith communities about the expanding possibilities of genetic research and to encourage discussion about the issues from a faith perspective. The participants found the program well-thought-out, highly informative,

deeply thought-provoking, and well worth the time invested. The feedback from those volunteers has helped the program develop further, and this year Portland is again one of the few communities in which this "pilot program" is being offered.

This year Portland's First Presbyterian Church will be the host for one of the groups. A group of Presbyterians, 10-15 persons in size, will meet seven times within a three month period. The first and last meetings are "pre-scheduled" for January 27 and May 5, 2007. The meetings will feature highly respected leaders in this field. The schedule for the other meetings will be set by the participants. The Rev. Merritt McCall, retired Administrator of Menucha Retreat Center, will

serve as the facilitator for this group. Each participant will receive top-quality study materials, access to a dedicated web site, and will be asked to think about two or three basic questions for each discussion meeting. The materials are intended to be fully comprehensible by non-scientists. There is no charge to participants.

If you are interested in participating in this outstanding educational experience, or have questions about the program, please call Merritt at 503.408.9334; or Anne Stewart Miller at First Presbyterian Church of Portland at 503.228.7331. Membership will be limited to a maximum of 15 participants, so don't delay long if you are interested.

Innovative Prison Ministry for Oregon Explored

The Oregon prison system has shown an interest in Kairos Prison Ministry, an innovative faith-based program that reaches out to prisoners both while they are incarcerated and after they are released. Kairos is active in 34 states, but Oregon is not included now. In order for Kairos to begin its work in Oregon, a "launch team" must be formed of persons living in Oregon who have experienced Kairos in other states.

A Kairos three-day weekend within a prison is a way of showing Christ's love to the incarcerated, especially those who would not initially respond to other Christian ministries. They then continue in their faith through Kairos follow-up meetings and other programs.

"It is not the usual thing for the prisons to

take the initiative and show interest in a particular ministry," states Betty Ruth Frakes, member of Columbia, Vancouver, and an active volunteer in the Washington State Kairos program. "We feel this is truly God's invitation and God's desire for Oregon, that Kairos join and become a part of the prison ministry already taking place in Oregon."

Only Oregon residents can form a launch team, but once a launch team is gathered, she said there will be folks from Vancouver who will help the team organize in Oregon. "Because of the influx of population into Oregon," Fracas states, "we are hoping there's a possibility that some folks in the Oregon churches may have been active in Kairos in other states, and would like to help to start a

work in Oregon."

Congregations are being asked to put a short notice in their newsletter or

bulletin, asking if there are persons who have experienced Kairos. Persons who have also experienced "Walk to Emmaus," "Crusillo," or a similar weekend, are also eligible to be a part of the launch team.

For more information about Kairos, see www.kairosprisonministry.org. If there are those in your congregation who are interested in helping to start a work in Oregon they may contact: Betty Ruth Frakes (360) 256-6359 frakes_fbr@netzero.net, Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA.

Helping in New Orleans

By Linda Gebetsberger

A little over a year later the need for help in New Orleans is still desperate. Relief from Hurricane Katrina seems to be progressing at a slow pace. While more activity abounds in hard hit neighborhoods, the fact remains that the population of New Orleans remains at a 50% reduction. Over 230,000 homes were destroyed, and the devastation of schools and area businesses can be added to that number. Although recovery help is present through a number of faith groups, discouragement and frustration is increasing.

On October 28, 57 members of Cascades Presbytery representing 16 churches headed to New Orleans to immerse ourselves in relief work. We stayed at the Presbyterian Disaster Relief village site in Luling, Louisiana. Our work mainly consisted of gutting out five houses. We began the week with moving all the personal belongings out of these homes, and piling it on the sidewalks. Then came the sheetrock, flooring and insulation. It was a week of hard work certainly, but also one that was meaningful and one that made a difference for five home owners.

Enthusiasm and the commitment to return to New Orleans remains strong. Two mission trips are being planned for 2007 - a March trip to Mississippi and an October trip to New Orleans. Contact person is the Rev. Linda Gebetsberger at First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis (541-753-2228).

Cascades Presbytery Team members on the October 28 trip to New Orleans were: Greg Anable, Stella Athon, Nancy Baldwin, Chris Bates, Sam Boucot, the Rev. Ken Campbell, Don Carter, Donna and George Converse, Dr. David and Suzanne Cutsforth, the Rev. John Dennis, Ernest Drew, Dr. Jack and Kay Enbom, Cody Frakes, the Rev. Linda Gebetsberger (team leader), Heather Gedrose, Cheri Gray, Josh Gray,



Cascades Presbytery team members who worked in New Orleans.

Susan Halliday, Shirlee Harrocks, Judith Hodges, Mary and Lyle Jarvis, Don and Joyce Kemper, Muriel Lawrence, David and Janet Leatherwood, Nancy Maynard, Edward McAninch, Charlie Meader, Earl and Sharon Mershon, Jolene Myers, the Rev. Tom Nolen, Archie Palmer, Erik Peterson, Gil Peterson,

Robert Robinson, Linda Schmidt, Janet Sheline, Harry and Marge Sippel, Tara Smith, Lynn Smith, Helen and Jim Smith, Kaci Solt, Don Stevens, Sandra Sutherland, Ann Thomas, Angie Trumbower, Nancy Wilson, Jill Winegar, and Nancy Winter.

Gerald G. Emerson's Death Reported

The Rev. Gerald G. Emerson (HR) died in Salem, Oregon, November 9, 2006, less than a week after his 95th birthday.

"Jerry" was born on November 3, 1911 in Richland City, WI as the son and grandson of Evangelical United Brethren Church ministers. He received a B.A. degree from Coe College in 1932, a B.D. degree from United Theological Seminary in 1938 and later did post-graduate studies at Iliff Theological Seminary in Denver in 1945-46.

Following his ordination as Presbyterian minister in September of 1938 by The Presbytery of Great Falls, Jerry began ministry at the Presbyterian Church in Stanford, Montana, then worked for The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in Cerete and Bogota, Columbia (1943-50). He served as Associate Pastor of **First, Klamath Falls, Oregon**

(1951-52), as Pastor of **First, Creswell, (1952-56)**, as Associate Pastor of **First, Salem, (1956-58)**, and as Pastor of First, Newberg, OR (1958-67). He began service as Pastor of the John Day Valley Parish in The Presbytery of Eastern Oregon in 1967 and retired from that service at the end of 1973. He served as a Commissioner to the Presbyterian General Assembly (from The Presbytery of Willamette) in 1956.

In retirement, Jerry moved to Yachats in 1975 and later relocated to Salem. His first wife, Martha, died in Salem in August of 1992. He married Dorothy Salter in 1995 and she survives him - as do four grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. A family memorial service at the Oregon coast is planned.

The Holy Spirit and Christian Education

David F. White, C. Ellis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Associate Professor of Christian Education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will present a workshop on Spirit Centered Christian Education. The workshop is for educators, teachers, shepherds, youth workers and caregivers and will be held on Saturday, January 27 from 9 to 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Portland.

A few years ago, theologian Ed Farley said that the Holy Spirit was largely an afterthought in Christian education. He observed that educators taught their classes, engaged students, used texts and learning activities – then, as only an afterthought, prayed for the Spirit to be present, much like a relief pitcher in baseball who is brought in to win the game in the final innings. He raised the possibility that Christian education might be reinterpreted in relation to the Holy Spirit.

What is the work of the Holy Spirit? How

can Christian education be more deliberately designed to partner with the Spirit? This workshop will outline key movements of the Holy Spirit drawing on the monumental work of 20th century theologian Karl Barth as well as various schools of thought on Christian education. Spirit-centered Christian education engages the members of the church in a dance with three movements – awakening us to God’s love, empowering us into full personhood, and calling us to heal the world on behalf of God. This workshop will clarify these three objectives and offer educational practices that can be used in church school classrooms.

Registration forms will be mailed to congregations in December. The registration fee is \$10, which includes lunch, materials and parking in First Church’s adjacent parking garage. For more information, please call Anne Stewart Miller at 503 228-7331.



The presbytery’s Personnel and Administration Committee announced the hiring of Dawn Champoux as the Administrative Assistant in the Central Region Office, replacing Kate Whitehead who had served the Presbytery for 11 years.

2007 Presbyterian Youth Triennium Registration Deadline Extended

“Hope Is In Our Midst,” is the theme for the 2007 Youth Triennium, held every three years at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. One of the premiere events of the denomination, some 6000 youth are expected to attend July 17-22, 2007.

Each Presbytery is allowed a certain number of delegates. “The Presbytery of the Cascades hopes to send a delegation of approximately 45 youth and five adults to Triennium 2007,” states Lynette Nelson, Triennium Registrar. She adds that the deadline has been extended because space is still available.

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is an international event for youth and adults from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The youth and their advisors will experience incredible worship, small group interaction that explores the theme and what that theme means to the youth themselves, meeting folks from all over the world, and making life-long friends.

“Youth come back from this experience with a deeper understanding of their faith, a new understanding of the connectional nature of our denomination, and a genuine joy about being a child of God,” states Kathy Waugh, associate pastor at First, Medford, who has encourage youth to attend this event for years.

Nelson states youth ages 15-19 (in July 2007) are encouraged to apply. In addition folks interested in attending as work crew, ages 19-22 (in July 2007), adult advisors,

ages 21 and older, or small group leaders, ages 25 and older are encouraged to register at www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org

Costs are \$399.00 per person (includes housing, meals, t-shirt and program fees) plus approximately \$500.00 airfare. Presbytery of the Cascades does not have scholarship money, so local congregations, communities are encouraged to help share costs for the youth that will be attending.

For additional information, please contact: Lynette Nelson, Triennium Registrar, 17213 SE 24th Circle, Vancouver, WA 98683; phone 360.254.8088; Email, DANDL10@COM-CAST.NET

**“The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is never to forget the presence of Christ.”
William Barclay**

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)**

New issue of Touchpoints available

Touchpoints, an annual anthology of poems and essays by clergy and laity is available. This year’s theme, “Living with Death,” opens the door to discussion about this often taboo topic.

A copy is provided free of charge to each congregation. Additional copies may be purchased through the South Office; volume discounts are available. 1-800-701-7313.



Pictured at the recent **Fall Discovery Retreat** for pastors new to the presbytery are: Front Row: John Neal, Marcia Muir, John Mahon. Back Row: Bill Eaton, Ron Burns, Doug Satre, Hugh Anderson.

Presbytery Highlights

Editor's Note: These are the highlights of the November 10-11 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades, excerpted by the editor from the notes of stated clerk John Huenink. A more complete report may be found on the website, www.cascade-presbytery.org.

A total of 239 presbyters attended the meeting held at First, Vancouver with the Rev. Catherine Quackenbush, 2006-2007 Moderator of the Presbytery, presiding.

The Stated Clerk reported on 2006 per capita apportionments not yet paid (\$37,220.23). The presbytery pays in full the apportionments due to both the Synod of the Pacific and the General Assembly. Any shortfall in per capita apportionment funds received must be accommodated by either reductions in the presbytery's administrative budget or by increase in the apportionment rate to compensate for those congregations which do make payment.

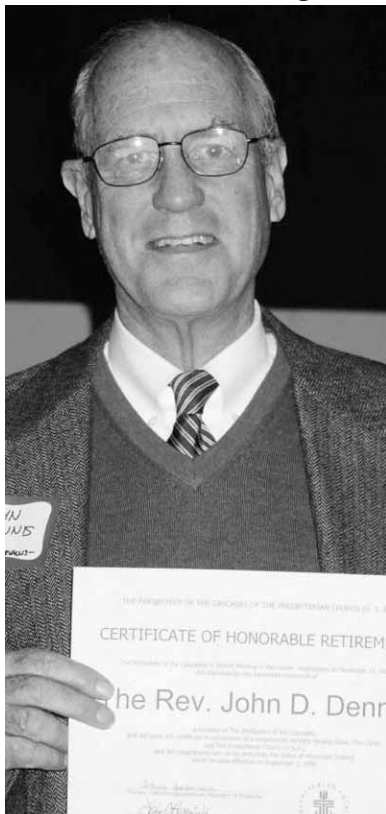
The presbytery received the report which indicated that as of the end of September, 2006: the Administrative Budget had total revenue in the amount of \$518,918 and total expenses in the amount of \$460,171 and that the Program Budget had total revenue in the amount of \$1,007,721 and total expenses in the amount of \$975,964.

The following new minister members of Presbytery were introduced: from South, the Rev. Del McAmis, Tulelake, CA; from Central, the Rev. Jennifer Martin, Campus Ministry University of Oregon, and the Rev. Lorne Bostwick, Central, Eugene; and from the NW, the Rev. Philip Meddaugh and the Rev. Kwang Ho Kim (HR).

The Presbytery of the Cascades as Presbytery of Call conducted and sustained the examination of Christopher Johnson, a candidate under the care of the Presbytery of Seattle, for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. He will serve as Associate Pastor of First, Vancouver.

The presbytery shared in a celebration of the retirement of the Rev. John Dennis who served from 1969 to 2006 as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis, OR and who has been named by the congregation as Pastor Emeritus.

Rebecca Barnes Davies spoke about a conference to be held next year in Texas on food and energy concerns. The presbytery's Eco-Justice Task Force recognized the more than



John Dennis with his Certificate of Retirement

40 congregations in the Presbytery which now serve Fair Trade Coffee.

It was announced that Katherine Stewart, elder from Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grants Pass, has been declared qualified to serve as Commissioned Lay Pastor.

The presbytery acted to adopt the recommendations of Presbytery



Members of presbytery begin their meeting with a time of worship.

Council that a) the process for certifying candidates as ready for ordination is both appropriate and adequate for continuation without significant change, inasmuch as the presbytery as a whole does have opportunity for full examination on any and all topics necessary at the time of the examination for ordination for persons being called to positions within the presbytery and b) that a Task Force review the current practices in use, to interpret them to the presbytery, and to bring recommendations regarding any changes which might be needed for Council to report to the presbytery at the presbytery's Stated Meeting in June of 2007 and that there be no change in practice pending that report.

The Mission Conference for 2007 has been cancelled.

The Presbytery's camping program included 630 campers and 110 volunteers in Cascades' camps, which involved 62 Presbyterian churches and 60 non-Presbyterians.

Robert Cleary of Percept information company presented information on how the presbytery and congregations can access and use the data available to them through the Percept demographic tool.

Congregations completing pledges to the Theological Education Fund were recognized. Bill Creevey was honored by the TEF team for his work at presbytery, synod and GA levels on behalf of theological education funding.

The report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry included the following actions:

Megan C. Frey, a member of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in Lake Oswego, was enrolled as an Inquirer for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Kathleen E. Brinegar, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Salem, Suzanne K. Herman, a member of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church in Milwaukie, Kathleen E. Owens, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis, were enrolled as Candidates for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

Candidate Marcia L. Muir was examined and approved for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as Interim Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Reedsport, Oregon.

Candidate Patricia F. Berger was examined and approved for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as Pastor

of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Gresham, Oregon.

Candidate Ashton A. "Skip" Roberts was examined and approved for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as Chaplain at Oregon Health Science University Hospital and Veterans Hospital.

An Administrative Commission to ordain Candidate Andrew A. Plocher (pending the sustaining of his examination for ordination by the Presbytery of Philadelphia scheduled for November 28, 2006 following his call to serve as Associate Pastor of the Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church in that presbytery) to be held on Sunday, December 17, 2006 at 3:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis was established.

On the recommendation of Presbytery Council, the presbytery took the following actions:

Continued its 2006 per capita apportionment rate in the amount of \$10.30 as the presbytery portion for 2007.

Adopted a 2007 Administration (Fund 1) Budget in the amount of \$554,588, to be funded by per capita income at \$550,188 (less \$11,600 in allowance for per capita default) and \$16,000 in interest earned.

Took no action to change its current reimbursement policy for the year 2007.

Adopted a 2007 Program (Fund 2) Budget in the amount of \$1,555,532, with income anticipated at \$1,413,112 from Presbytery Partnership Giving, \$69,420 from grant revenue, \$16,000 from interest earned, and \$57,000 in interest transfer from other funds.



Moderator Quackenbush inducting Candidates (l to r) Kathleen Brinegar (Westminster, Salem), Suzanne Herman (Oak Hills, Milwaukie), and Kathleen Owens (First, Corvallis).