

Welcoming a Stranger; Reaching Out in Love

By Kay Richardson

(Kay Richardson is a United Methodist and freelance writer. She is the Administrative Assistant at Vancouver First Presbyterian Church where she witnesses acts of Christian love on a regular basis.)

Koang Diet, a member of **First, Vancouver**, is a blessed man. At 29, he has experienced profound love on two separate and disparate continents—the kind of love many never are fortunate enough to know.

An outwardly easygoing, ordinary young man, Koang lives a typical American life. He lives in an apartment with his uncle, enjoys McDonalds, and surfs the Internet. He attends classes at Clark College, working toward a transfer degree to Washington State University-Vancouver. Until recently, he worked two jobs, now working fulltime at a local warehouse. Eventually, he would like to become a teacher.

Casual in appearance, but soft-spoken and respectful in conversation, Koang laughs easily and seems comfortable in his environment despite the uniqueness of his story.

His life has been anything but that of a simple, ordinary man.

Koang came to the U.S. as a 17-year-old from Laré, a small village in Gambela, Ethiopia, near the Sudan border. His family had lived in refugee camps — his father died in 2003 — and they migrated between two villages following the availability of water from the Kier River.

Education doesn't come easy for children from Koang's region. The children must be old enough to walk two to three hours to school, attend class all day without any meal, then walk back home. Because of this, many do not attend school until they are 12 years old. Knowing this hardship, an aunt in Minnesota arranged through a Lutheran refugee assistance program for Koang to join her family and have a chance at a better way of life. Hopefully — with God's help — more family members could come later.



Koang and his **First, Vancouver** family on the day he became a citizen

Leaving Laré was “scary,” as he was afraid he would never see his family again. He lived for a year and a half in a refugee camp before leaving for Minnesota.

Settling in to American school was difficult, as he spoke little to no English and communication with his family in Laré was rare. Eventually in September 2005, at an uncle's invitation, he moved to Vancouver, Washington, and enrolled in a GED program.

One day out of the blue, Koang received a Vancouver First Presbyterian Church newsletter in the mail. “I don't know how I got it, a newsletter from this church. I thought, ‘Wow!’ I was kind of surprised, to be honest, because I had never been there. It was kind of funny because I had been looking for a church to go to ([his Parish Malow church was Presbyterian), then I got this newsletter.

So I just came in.” The newsletter would prove to carve a turning point in his life.

It is an understatement to say the congregation enveloped Koang. Anyone who has visited FPC knows their welcoming nature. In the next weeks, as they learned about his background and goals, they walked alongside him, companioned him. Retired couples took turns tutoring and mentoring him, finally helping him earn his GED.

One of his tutors, Colleen Otton, said, “He was just this young man, reaching out. We were not going to let him do this alone. We're a family here. He studied hard and didn't give up. We were so impressed how he was never late for his lessons, and wanted to study right up until the last minute he had to leave for work.”

(Continued on page 6)

Campbell and Holper to Keynote 2012 Leadership Fair

The Rev. Drs. Cynthia Campbell and J. Frederick “Fred” Holper are slated to give the keynote address at the 2012 Cascades Leadership Fair at First Presbyterian, Portland, on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Their presentation on *Preaching What You Practice* will

explore the roles various spiritual disciplines have in the life of the church and its leaders. In addition to the keynote, Campbell and Holper will each offer workshops in the afternoon that will develop the theme.

Cynthia Campbell recently retired as president of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and was the first woman to serve as president of a Presbyterian seminary. Fred Holper also recently retired from McCormick, where he was professor of preaching and worship. He formerly taught at Union and Austin seminaries. Campbell was a very popular keynote speaker for the Cascades Summer Conference a few years ago and has been eager for a “return engagement.”

Registration for the day-long event is just \$20 and includes the keynote, worship, lunch and a variety of workshops for church leaders and members. To register visit our website at www.cascadespresbytery.org and print out a registration form. Mail it along with your check made payable to Cascades Presbytery. You can also register online with a credit card through a link on the website. Registration deadline is February 10.



The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell

The Cascades Leadership Fair is an annual event that is sponsored by the Congregational Support Committee of the Presbytery of the Cascades. Some underwriting comes from Mission Partnership Giving Program—Fund 2 and that keeps the cost affordable for everyone. A variety of workshops will be aimed at elders, deacons, clerks, treasurers, musicians, educators and those interested in spiritual growth, church governance and theology.

In this issue...

Transformation Workshop	p. 2
Staffing Reductions	p. 3
Positively Presbyterian	p. 4
Transitions	p. 5
CPAT	p. 6
Prayer Calendar	p. 7
Presbytery Highlights	p. 8

2012 Deadlines

January 16	Feb/Mar Issue
March 19	Apr/May Issue
May 14	Jun/Jul Issue
July 16	Aug/Sept Issue
September 17	Oct/Nov Issue
November 19	Dec/Jan Issue

High School Students Gather for Weekend of Faith, Fellowship and Fun



Friday-Sunday, Nov. 18th-20th, 130 high school students, youth directors and volunteers gathered at the Macleay Christian Retreat Center near Salem for Cascades Presbytery Youth Assembly (CPYA). The Rev. Jennifer Martin, Campus Pastor at The Koinonia Center at the University of Oregon was the featured speaker. In addition to exploring their faith through a variety of activities, this was an opportunity for the Youth of our church and their guests to make and reconnect with friends from around the Presbytery and experience what it means to be part of a connectional church. The weekend also featured small groups, music, and fun activities such as volleyball, basketball, swimming, games, a dance party and mud football. CPYA is subsidized by Mission Partnership Giving, Program-Fund 2.

Presbytery of the Cascades

MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER

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

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



At the recent Presbytery meeting in Corvallis, I had the most check-outs ever! Four full pages! (I usually have only three ...)

New items from the Alban Institute:

Becoming the Pastor You Hope to Be by Barbara Blodgett (181 pages): Ms. Blodgett unapologetically urges clergy readers to develop practices that will help them become more excellent ministers. She will ask you to be *vulnerable* before your peers in order to learn from them, and to define yourself as a leader who does not merely take an activist stance, but one who risks entering into deep, transformative relationships. This resource is also a valuable tool for discernment committees, Christian educators, and lay education programs. Barbara is a minister in the United Church of Christ.

In God's Presence-Encountering, Experiencing, and Embracing the Holy in Worship by N. Graham Standish (159 pages): Too many worship services are perfunctory, suggesting that most churches don't think much about how to connect people with God. Standish makes his case that congregations must restore intentionality and authenticity to worship in a way that will open people to the Holy. Intentionality, he says, reflects a deep understanding of what tradition has attempted to do, what contemporary people are hungry for, what is going on in our culture, and how to connect the three. Standish is a Presbyterian pastor and professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The Business of the Church: The Uncomfortable Truth that Faithful Ministry Requires Effective Management by John Wimberly, Jr. (164 pages): Wimberly weaves the realities of congregational dynamics and faith-centered purpose together with practical, proven approaches to business management. The book begins with a foundational discussion of how a systems approach helps congregational managers identify areas of dysfunction and effective solutions. The author's conversational writing style and many real-life examples make a seemingly complicated, mysterious topic for some an engaging and easily applicable read.

From Desert Ministries (North Carolina):

A Guidebook for a Pastor Search Committee by Rev. Glenn Doak (98 pages): This book is written mainly for members of a congregation who are searching for a new Pastor, or an Associate Pastor and would like some help in deciding what a Pastor Search Committee should do and how best to proceed. It addresses key questions and provides guidance in answering them. Dr. Doak is a Presbyterian minister active in the Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

New DVD: *Surrender* by Francis Chan & Bluefish TV - for high school age youth: Surrender typically implies weakness, loss and defeat. Can you actually gain something by giving up? Jesus said that the only way to truly live is to fully surrender your life to him. In these four challenging sessions, students share real-life stories about their own struggles and triumphs in surrendering to Christ.

Four video-driven sessions: Surrender Stuff (20 minutes); Surrender Status (22 minutes); Surrender Sin (23 minutes); Surrender Self (22 minutes). Includes four DVDs, 52-page Leader's Guide, and Printable Group Handouts. Francis Chan is the founding pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California and a nationally-recognized speaker. Francis is committed to teach directly from the words of Scripture and is passionate about seeing the next generation of American Christians display a deeper love for Jesus and their neighbors.

Take advantage of your free library, courtesy of the Presbytery of the Cascades!
Warmly, Maureen O'Rourke CRCD, Director

Omnibus



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

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

Omnibus welcomes news and views of all the churches of Presbytery

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

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

Robinson to Lead Transformation Workshop

The Rev. Anthony Robinson is returning to Cascades Presbytery on Saturday, February 11 to lead a workshop entitled *The Power of Purpose* from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Columbia Presbyterian Church in Vancouver.

Research shows that churches that are bucking the decline trend have a clear sense of purpose when it comes to who they are and what they are about. Robinson will be working with the group on several fronts:

- what Scripture teaches us about the purpose of the church
- developing a process of discerning purpose for your congregation
- implementing this work and
- the implications of this work for stewardship which will draw on his most recent book, *Stewardship for Vital Congregations*

Registration is \$25 for individual registrants and includes lunch. It is believed that churches that bring multiple people from their leadership and congregation will have more success. Therefore, churches that bring five or more people will receive a \$5 discount on the registration fee making it just \$20 per person.

The Rev. Anthony B. Robinson is the author of ten books. He is a graduate of Willamette University and has a Master's degree from the University of Oregon. His Master of Divinity degree is from Union Theological Seminary, and he has done post-graduate work at Harvard. Robinson is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

The Transformation Team invited Robinson back to lead this workshop due to the popularity of his keynote address and workshop at the 2011 Cascades Leadership Fair.

The registration deadline is Thursday, February 2, 2012. To register simply download the registration form from the Presbytery's website at www.cascadespresbytery.org and mail it along with your check to the Central Region Office. You can also register instantly online with a credit card.

This workshop is sponsored and subsidized by the Transformation Team of the Congregational Support Committee with funds coming from Mission Partnership Giving, Program-Fund 2.

Presbytery of the Cascades
on Facebook
Sign up; go to Presbytery page,
and click "Like."
Website
www.cascadespresbytery.org



Cascades Viewpoints

By Cathy Quackenbush, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Cascades

In August of 2010, a group of interested members of the Presbytery of the Cascades came together to assist the Stated Clerk in designing future presbytery meetings. The mission statement of the task group is: *Seeking God's will, our purpose is to provide guidance on ways for Presbytery meetings to become more engaging and fulfilling for attendees and appealing to those who are not attending.*

In June of 2011, the task group facilitated a conversation among presbyters attending that stated meeting. They asked people to share memories of their best experiences and practices at past presbytery meetings. One hundred twenty-five people participated in this exercise in an appreciative inquiry format. The Task Group has sifted through these responses and has come up with some key initial observations which are listed here:

Personal Connections was a key motivating factor for attendance at presbytery meetings. People place a high value on relationships, and presbytery meetings may provide an opportunity to support these relationships.

Worship is the other offering of presbytery meetings that was most highly valued. People look forward to worshipping together. Those who plan and lead worship in their own congregations appreciate simply being among the worshippers at these meetings.

Singing together as a presbytery is another activity related to the enjoyment of worship that presbyters find most meaningful.

There was a good deal of support expressed for the format of **seating presbyters around tables for small group discussion** at meetings. This format allows for more flexibility, insight, and sharing of ideas in the discernment process. It takes deliberation out of the realm of debate and into person-to-person dialogue. It allows for more informality and ability to move physically in and out of the room for participants. This preference for sitting around tables does not necessarily apply to worship preferences. Worship in the sanctuary of the host church carries high value.

Many presbyters think that the most satisfying parts of presbytery meetings are those parts that include **relational activities**.

Presbyters generally prefer that meetings be **interactive in nature**. They prefer not to simply be observers.

Sharing stories of ministry, mission, and personal faith are highly valued by presbyters. Many would like to see more of this happen in presbytery meetings.

Presbyters find **innovative reports**, using technological aids and other visual aids to be most appealing. People like to look for the extraordinary in presentations.

Ordination exams are especially valued

and enjoyed by members of the presbytery. Many look forward to the reports of the Committee on Preparation for the Ministry. Many people found it especially meaningful to participate in the ordination of Jae Soon Lee at the November 2010 meeting.

Voting on Amendments and Overtures as a way of participating in the national church is also something appreciated by presbyters.

And finally, many presbyters find high value in experiencing **diversity**: theological, racial ethnic, regional, and more that has the potential to be offered at presbytery meetings.

A video presentation by the Presbytery Meetings Task Force, presenting these findings can be found on the Cascades Presbytery Facebook page, and a link to it will be posted on the next edition of the Cascades Electronic Express.

In the meantime, the Task Group is seeking to get information from those churches and ministers that are not presently attending presbytery meetings. A short on-line survey is coming in January, 2012. We hope that if you haven't given us any information yet, that you will participate in this. You are always welcome to call me at the Stated Clerk's office or e-mail me to share your thoughts and visions of what presbytery meetings might become. Thank you for caring about the way we meet together!

Presbytery Staffing Reduced; Offices Closed on Mondays

By Janet Wylie, chair of presbytery's Personnel & Administration Committee

Beginning January 1, 2012, presbytery offices will be closed on Mondays. This is a difficult time for both congregations and the Presbytery of the Cascades. There is not enough money to do everything we would like to do. Twenty-five percent of the presbytery budget is funded by presbytery per capita revenues which are declining. The rest of the presbytery budget is funded by Presbyterian Partnership Giving from our congregations which are also declining.

Per capita provides funds for expenses mandated by the denomination: the Stated Clerk, office space and supplies for the regional offices, the Permanent Judicial Commission, presbytery meetings, etc. Presbyterian Partnership Giving provides funds for ministry and mission to congregations and communities in Cascades Presbytery and our denomination: the three Co-executive presbyters, our support staff, the camping program, Media Resource Center, presbytery-wide youth events, Leadership Fair, and many other programs and mission opportunities.

No longer can we depend on reserves to cover current expenses. Program budgets have been reduced. Mission funding for our local congregations and communities, to the synod, and to the General Assembly has been reduced. Funding for Westminster

Foundation is slowly being eliminated.

The biggest expense remaining is personnel costs. To be good stewards of our funds, the personnel budget for 2012 has been reduced by more than \$110,000 from the 2011 budget. This was accomplished by reducing the three full-time Presbytery Co-Executives to 80% time, the Business Manager to 80%, the four office administrative assistants to 80%, the full-time program and bookkeeper staff to 20 hours per week, and the part-time program staff hours have been reduced by 50% as well. The Stated Clerk remains at 75% time. The three presbytery offices in Portland, Eugene and Phoenix will now be closed each Monday, and only staffed Tuesdays through Fridays. To alleviate some of the impact on our former full-time staff, we will now provide medical and pension benefits to employees who work 20 hours or more per week.

How does this affect you and your congregation? While each call and e-mail is important, you may not receive the quick response you are used to receiving. Plan ahead; don't wait until the last minute to contact your Presbytery office with your questions.

There is a wealth of information and guidance already available in the *Book of Order*, the *New Form of Government*, the presbytery website (www.cascadespresbytery.org), and the denomination's website (www.pcus.org).

Start by doing your own research, then call if you can't find the answer.

Seek input from other PC(USA) congregations or your Committee on Ministry liaison.

The Co-Executive Presbyters and Stated Clerk will not be able to attend all the committee meetings they have attended in the past.

Special events and programs that are heavily dependent on staff coordination will need more volunteer leadership—or they might not happen.

Presbytery committees are volunteer-led and staffed. These committees may find a longer lead time is needed when presbytery staff support is needed.

Visits to local congregations will be less frequent.

There may be other implications for our congregations and committees as we "live into" this new staffing pattern beginning January 1, 2012. Presbytery staff members are no less committed to assisting congregations, but their reduced hours constrain what they can do. Your understanding, patience and willingness to volunteer will allow effective ministry to continue.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either your regional presbytery office or Janet Wylie, chair of the presbytery's Personnel & Administration Committee at janet.wylie@comcast.net.



Ask the Clerk

By Cathy Quackenbush

Q: Our Session is having trouble getting a quorum together to conduct a meeting. Could we decide on the items of business by e-mail?

The eleventh and newest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is very clear on what types of electronic meetings constitute a deliberative meeting and what kinds do not. First of all, if you think you will want to conduct meetings in electronic form in the future, it is wise to provide for this in your by-laws. Second, the type of electronic technology you utilize for the meeting needs to meet the following criteria: It must allow all participating members to meet and communicate with one another at the same time. The opportunity for simultaneous aural communication is

essential to the deliberative process. Video conferencing, Skyping, or teleconferencing would meet this criteria, but e-mailing would not. A group that attempts to conduct a meeting through the means of writing, such as postal mail, e-mail, chat rooms, or fax is not meeting simultaneously or allowing for simultaneous aural communication. Another important thing to remember is that we as Presbyterians believe that the Holy Spirit enters most decisively into our deliberations when the People of God meet together, and not as much when making decisions individually.

Positively Presbyterian

Central Region

By Bruce Smith, Reporter

For many of the churches in the Central Region, summer is a time for the youth to participate in a variety of mission trips. The kids from **Westminster, Eugene** spent time in Los Angeles in the Sierra Service Project where they met with other youth to participate in painting touch-ups in a church as well as getting a flavor of South L.A. A group of Middle School students from **Central, Eugene** traveled to the First Presbyterian Church in Portland to join with 41 youth and adults for a week of service. They joined with a variety of organizations working with individuals needing shelter and food. Nine youth and five adults from **Mill City** attended a weeklong mission trip in the Bay Area. They were involved in a rescue mission working in the kitchen while others assisted in a nearby nursery. A somewhat different "mission trip" was enjoyed by the congregation from **Central, Eugene** when they were invited to visit three organic farms in the area. The first farmer provided them with a tour of his chicken, pork and beef farm. Next day they visited a field farm where they were given pails of water and knives to wash and eat some of the produce from the fields. The third stop was to be able to enjoy further herbs, goats, and berries.

The congregation of **Westminster Church, Salem** in August enjoyed Mozart's opera, *Così fan Tutte*, presented by the Cascadia Concert Opera. This was a tale about two soldiers as they embark on a light-hearted mission to prove the fidelity of their respective lovers.

One of the mission projects of the **Church of the Siuslaw, Florence** is Camp Florence, a transitional correctional facility for young men. The camp provides security, accountability, and treatment designed to meet specific reformation needs. The church offers funding for bowling and pizza outings, individual gift cards, holiday treats, and recreational equipment.

The members of **First, Creswell** hosted the Seventh Annual Party in the Park. They served members of the community a hot dog lunch to more than 400 kids and adults. They also handed out school supplies and backpacks to over 350 students heading into the new school year.

Jennifer Harris, who grew up in **Westminster, Salem** spoke at the church in November about her missionary work in the Amazon for the past 14 years. She is the co-pastor of a vibrant church that supports 31 satellite churches throughout the jungle that helps people meet their basic needs of food, shelter and medical care.

The congregation of **First, Newport** was treated to a multimedia organ concert of *Bach and Sons* by Dr. Jeannie Jordan of Lincoln City. There was a live-feed camera which projected her hands and feet on the screen to let the audience watch the organist while she performed.

The Guatemala Team Project of **First, Bend** is hoping that 200 members of the church will travel to Guatemala in the next five years to assist various communities with mission projects. To help defray the costs of the trip, the Team is canvassing individuals who have extra air miles to donate to individuals planning to travel.

And finally from **Prineville**, we have a story. The class assignment was to write a short paper on "Things I Am Thankful For." One fourth grade boy's priority was "my glasses. They keep the boys from punching me and the girls from kissing me."

Northeast Region

By Nancy Gaston, Reporter

The Presbyterian Church is connectional, or so we're told in our new member classes. The news from churches in the Northeast Region makes that claim a reality in many ways.

Mt. Scott, Portland, reports on their participation in the presbytery-wide event for women, held at **Colonial Heights, Portland**. The keynote address was titled "Women across Generations and around the World." And to put a new spin on connecting, each woman was asked to bring a guest from another generation.

Milwaukie Presbyterian pastor Katie Pate looks at connecting in another way as she writes about the current trend of calling oneself "spiritual but not religious." One cannot separate the two, she points out, as "church leaders from St. Benedict to Bonhoeffer have refused to separate spirituality from regular congregational life." One can love humankind in the abstract, but that love is worked out in community.

The connections between **Covenant, Gresham**, and their sister church in Cuba were further strengthened when Xiomara Arenas came to visit them. She and her husband had run the Presbyterian camp where mission teams from Covenant had been housed. It is hard for Cubans to get U.S. visas, but Xiomara was here for the Presbyterian Mission Convention in Chicago. She stayed with another sister congregation, **Eagle Creek**.

The Thanksgiving holiday is observed in connectional ways for many a congregation. **East Woods, Vancouver**, hosted a Thanksgiving Eve service involving **Columbia, Cascades**, and **First, Vancouver**, as well as **St. John's, Camas**, with a joint choir directed by Lee Jennings of St. John's.

And those connections cross denominational lines. **Smith Memorial, Fairview**, invited its members to donate and volunteer for community Thanksgiving feasts at two other churches, both United Methodist.

The dual nature of Thanksgiving was pointed out by Susan Grewe in her column in the newsletter of **Savage Memorial, Portland**. Being thankful involves coming together in gratitude. It is, she suggests, "noun-ish and passive." Giving thanks is "verb-ish and active." We give thanks when we reach out and feed others, partner with others, help others and advocate for them, an especially important thing to do in Oregon, which has more hungry children than almost any other state.

Caring for children is part of the mission of congregations. **Piedmont, Portland**, has an indoor play park open to children from 0-5 years of age and their parents or caregivers. All are welcome, with a modest fifty cent donation per child recommended but not required. And **Calvary, Portland**, hosts a co-op preschool right in their building. **Kenilworth, Portland**, does the same with a community preschool. **Oak Hills, Milwaukie**, partners with Concord Elementary School to provide "lunch buddies" who meet weekly to befriend children in need of reliable adult role models.

Many churches sponsor or host MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) groups, **Moreland, Portland**, being one of them. The Moreland program has now grown to include another group, MOMSnext, for moms of school-aged kids for "support, enlightenment and self care."

First, Oregon City, offers helpful advice on training children, contrasting a "worldly

mindset" with a "Biblical mindset": instant vs. delayed gratification, "my generation" vs. transgenerational thinking, keeping it all vs. giving, and doing it my way vs. seeking wise counsel.

And speaking of giving--has your church ever given YOU money as part of their stewardship emphasis? On Stewardship Sunday, **Rose City Park, Portland**, invited people to accept a "mustard seed" gift of \$50, \$100 or more to invest and grow to serve others. Suggestions included holding a tag sale, knitting items for a holiday bazaar, hosting a dog wash..... and returning the proceeds to multiply the church's mission work.

We are a Presbytery of mostly small churches, and many of them struggle with how to best serve, given their limited resources. Brian Heron, pastor of **Portland, Eastminster**, reminded them of what fewer than 40 members were accomplishing: hosting a Homeless Family Warming Shelter, involving 120 people in "Movies and Meaning" and hosting a community garden, among other things.

Northminster, Portland, offers a similar example. The website for this small congregation shows impressive use of their facility each week—a play park, numerous support groups, scouts, exercise classes and a neighborhood clinic, among other uses.

Mt. Tabor, Portland, has opened up "Taborspace," a coffee house and community center that even includes a children's play space. **Laurelhurst, Portland**, recently came together in retreat to explore how they could best use their resources. Pastor Greg Ikehara-Martin listed some of the questions that facilitator Ann Philbrick left them pondering, among them: What do we do really well? Who is God calling us to serve? (And the answer can't be "everybody.") Where is God already at work in our neighborhood and how can we partner with other groups? So we end where we began this column, with connecting. And it seems evident many congregations are doing this quite well.

Northwest Region

By Bud Frimoth, Reporter

Hillsboro – Pastor Michael's column included words from his work in Hospice about cancer: "What cancer cannot do: It can't cripple Love; can't shatter Hope; can't corrode Faith; can't destroy Peace; can't suppress Memories; can't silence Courage; can't invade the Soul; can't steal eternal Life; can't conquer the Spirit."

Clakskanie – are you aware of what *tetelestai* means? It's a Greek word meaning "paid in full" or "it is finished" as checked in Col 2:14. A personal story of losing electricity in one's home brought an awareness of darkness and need for lights of more than electricity.

Multnomah, Portland – many options are available for members from a special Thanksgiving Dinner for folks from Westside Community Focus to youth planning a mission trip back to Skagway, AK with whom they are sharing Skype conversations.

Tualatin – from a critique of the life of Dr. Wangari Maathai to a piano concert by Dr. Ron Fabbro in the Schnitz gave a bit of life to their ministries. Also, moving was Erin Dwyer's reasons for becoming a member because she found TPC "accepting of people and their differences." Another opportunity for finding more friends will be in the progressive dinner in December.

Lake Grove, Lake Oswego – Ten different opportunities to engage in music are

(Continued on page 5)

Positively Presbyterian

(Continued from page 4)

offered from children's choirs to bell and chime ringers plus "modern worship" folk. Become a Mentor Mom through the MOPS - Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers program. Sounds helpful.

Calvin, Tigard - Wednesdays at Calvin include Bible study, dinner, adult enrichment with various church and community leaders offering programs of deep concerns locally and internationally as well as Advent studies.

Cooper Mountain, Aloha - Mud Football between adults & high school youth and the possibility of a mission trip to Northern Ireland are just some of the highlights of their ministries. Another highlight was the hiring of Drew Scott for children and family ministries.

Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro - While Interim pastor Sayer has left to serve at Creswell, ministries of the church continue with on-going programs such as Scotch TAPE/GUARD youth programs and their annual Giving Tree help for others.

Valley Community, Portland - A Children's Sabbath weekend to an Advent Fair only brush the surface of events that occupy members. Other ministries include helping with a Habitat for Humanity building project and the "Piecemakers" stitching children's quilts. Their Valley Scrapbook of photos provides a gracious visual side of the many forms of ministry.

First, Portland - The marvelous ministries of Julia West House (JWH) described some of the drastic changes in people who found this ministry. They include a 60-year-old woman learning her alphabet to students earning their GED. Also there was a young man who was able to re-claim his life and regain his family because of the ministries at JWH.

Southminster, Beaverton and Calvary Korean, Portland planned and celebrated World Communion Sunday together as a marvelous way of sharing and understanding of cultural needs and differences. This led Pastor Peg to also consider the origins of clothing we purchase and the nature of many in sweatshops. Plans are moving ahead for the Cuba Mission trip in early summer with youth and adult participants.

Orenco, Hillsboro - Plans are developing for the Orenco Christian preschool to start in 2012. They've had a school, but the leader is retiring so new visioning planning is taking place now. A community garden is also in the mix next year.

Bethany, Portland - The Cookie Bake for Soldiers and Seniors is an outreach project that has been completed with the boxes sent. Check their Mystery Family fun of making cookies, taking them to homes, ringing the doorbell and then hiding. Pastor Dave added a wonderful old saying to his notes, "To make God laugh, tell Him your plans!" Something for Presbyterians to consider!

Plymouth, St. Helens - "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something" is a theme in Marilyn's Meditations as a reminder that we can all put Christ's love into our lives and actions. Wonderful stories of Christina Quiroz and Steve Hooper's faith journeys added personal dimensions to the meaning of commitment.

St. Andrew's, Portland - 30 church leaders spent 10 meetings with Kevin Ford of TAG consulting as the church seeks to understand the role of the church in today's changing world. Perhaps the six-part series called, "Advent conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?" is helping the whole congregation in this thoughtful study and ultimate actions that will follow.

Southern Region

By Mike Hubbard, Reporter

As green leaves turn orange and gold and the geese head south, churches, much like the rest of creation bring their resources into their storehouses. Stewardship, the pledging, gathering and dedicating our time, talents, and treasure, occupies many of our South Region churches as this issue of Omnibus goes to press.

While many of our churches, including **First, Medford; Westminster, Medford; Merrill Presbyterian, Merrill; First, Ashland; First, Lakeview; First, Central Point**, to note several, are conducting stewardship campaigns these past months, other forms of giving have been taking place as well. World Communion Sunday was celebrated on October 2 and with it the Peace-making offering was collected and dedicated. Most, if not all of the churches mentioned above as well as many other South Region churches participated in this popular Denominational offering.

In other churches other forms of gathering were practiced. **First, Roseburg**, dedicates their "Funds for Fish" offering on fifth Sundays. **First, Roseburg** is also participating in a "coat drive" in connection with the "Douglas County Housing and Homeless Coalition" on December 2. An article titled "Little Green Bags" in **Westminster, Medford's** "Chimes" newsletter humorously promotes the "Medford Food Project" which collects food items in, you guessed it, "little green bags." Children from **First, Medford's** "Wednesday Night Live" program have already been shopping for children's gloves, mittens, and winter hats for the church's popular "mitten tree."

Fall has also brought closure to several of the transitions detailed in the June/July South Region column. **Westminster, Medford** has called the Rev. Dr. Barnabas Sprinkle as head of staff. Dr. Sprinkle comes to them from Atlanta, Georgia. He and his family will be making their home in Med-

ford. **First, Ashland**, also recently a church in transition, has called Adam Walker-Cleaveland as their Associate Pastor. He and his wife Sarah come to Southern Oregon from Livermore, California. **Merrill Presbyterian, Merrill** will be under the leadership of Elder Barbara Dehlinger. Barbara is a Commissioned Ruling Elder (under the old Book of Order, a Commissioned Lay Pastor), and will be serving in the capacity of an Interim. **Community, Tulelake, California**, the Presbytery of the Cascades' only California church, will commission Elder Mike Hubbard as their new pastor on November 27. Mike is also a Commissioned Ruling Elder; he will serve the church in a half-time capacity. **First, Medford**, currently under the Interim leadership of Rev. Dr. Steve Brewer has elected their Pastor Nominating Committee. The committee has assigned tasks and is working on the beginnings of their Mission Study.

Help Urgently Needed in African Drought

A severe drought has killed crops and livestock across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, leaving more than 13 million people without enough food. The United Nations has declared that southern Somalia is in the midst of famine - a situation so bad that more than 3 in 10 children are acutely malnourished. Church World Service (CWS) and the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) are providing food and other essential aid, reaching people in country and in the enormous camps along the borders.

To support this vital, life-saving work, CWS is seeking contributions and advocacy. They propose that Christians "tell Congress to protect foreign aid and the lives it saves."

Visit the following link for more information and to make a gift.

https://secure2.convio.net/cws/site/SPageServer?pagename=africa_drought_dm&JServSessionIdr004=yx4reqioo2.app243b

TRANSITIONS

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

- **Elder Barbara Dehlinger**, to be commissioned to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder of First Presbyterian Church, Merrill, beginning November 20, 2011
- **Elder Michial Hubbard**, to be commissioned to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder of Community Presbyterian Church, Tulelake, California, beginning November 15, 2011
- **The Rev. Elizabeth S. Leavitt**, transferring from the Presbytery of Boston to serve as interim pastor of Peace Presbyterian Church, Eugene, beginning January 1, 2012
- **Candidate Jennifer S. Pratt**, to serve as Director of Member Relations at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, pending her ordination in January
- **The Rev. Dr. M. Barnabas Sprinkle**, transferring from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to serve as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Medford, beginning December 11, 2011
- **Candidate Stasia V. Van Buskirk**, to serve as chaplain at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center, Tualatin, pending her ordination on December 3, 2011
- **Candidate Adam B. Walker Cleaveland**, transferring from the Presbytery of San Francisco to serve as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, pending his ordination on November 27, 2011

PASTORAL CHANGES

- **The Rev. Sharon H. Edwards**, completed service as co-pastor of United Presbyterian Church, Albany, October 31, 2011
- **The Rev. Sayer C. Strauch**, completed service as interim pastor of Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro and beginning service as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Creswell on November 9, 2011

INSTALLATION

- **The Rev. William D. Sperry**, installed as pastor of East Woods Presbyterian Church, November 20, 2011

TRANSFERS

- **The Rev. Craig S. Roberts**, transferring to the Presbytery of San Jose to serve as pastor of El Estero Presbyterian Church, Monterey, California

Chancel Choir, Corvallis, leads Worship at Presbytery



Highlights of the Friday Evening Worship Service and Celebration of the Eucharist were the music presented by the musicians from First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, including organist Robert Thompson, the Chancel Choir under direction of Carol Nelson, with Gayle Hazel as soloist, and the Gratitude Jazz Band. The Reverends Bruce Cameron and Debbie Garber co-celebrated communion, and the Rev. Beverly Crow preached on the "Do not Fear" Texts. The amount received for the Christmas Joy Offering was \$974.40.

Celebration Works Offers Concerts in Early 2012

First, Portland's series of concerts and art exhibits, Celebration Works, is in its tenth year. After a moving opening concert by the Resonance Ensemble and gala reception in October and a virtuosic violin concert in November, the series will continue with five concerts in the first half of 2012. All concerts begin at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary at **First, Portland**, 1200 SW Alder, in downtown Portland. Tickets (\$12/\$10) are sold at the door. Parking in the church's underground garage is free.

February 12: The Julians in *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. Join The Julians on a journey of the heart as they navigate the peaks and pitfalls of dating for a year, marked in time by the changing seasons. This musical genre-bending, theatrical and poetic experience will transport you to real and raw places unique to the human condition. The Julians are four of Portland's finest singing women

(Liz Bacon, Kristen Buhler, Maria Karlin and Vakar Petrolinait) working together to explore, challenge, embrace and sing the living daylights out of the music they love.

March 18: Liz Bacon, vocals, and Jon Stuber, piano in *Time, Time, Time, See What's Become of Me*. Join Portland's own Liz Bacon and Jon Stuber as they once again wow us with an afternoon of song and theater. Focusing on *Time and Change*, they will create an afternoon of beautiful performance and a concert experience you will not soon forget. ("Time is but the stream I go a-fishin' in." - Henry David Thoreau)

April 22: Moussai Ensemble in *Let's Dance!* The Moussai Trio (Janet Bebb, flute; Ann van Bever, oboe; Maria Choban, piano) hits the light fantastic with an exciting afternoon of dance music, from waltz to tango and everything in between. The three women of the Moussai will be joined by their colleagues

Chris Cox, clarinet; Ann Crandall, bassoon; and Amy Vaillancourt-Sals, horn. And you are invited to join in the waltzing! (The muses or *moussai* are the Greek goddesses of music, song and dance, and the inspiration of poets.)

May 20: Michael Kleinschmidt, organist, in *Creation, Inspiration, Imagination from the Master: An All-Bach Concert*. Trinity Cathedral's award-winning organist, Michael Kleinschmidt, performs the masterworks of Johann Sebastian Bach on First Presbyterian's magnificent 69-rank Jaeckel pipe organ. June 3: Amedei Cello Ensemble in *Ace of Hearts*. What could be more romantic than being serenaded by a cello? Being serenaded by **four** cellos! Amedei Cello Ensemble (Adrienne Welsh, Martha Pressler, Elizabeth Goy and Dale Tolliver) presents an enchanting program of romantic music by Bach, Brahms, The Beatles and many more.

Welcoming a Stranger

(Continued from page 1)

But even though he had come to call Vancouver his home, he still yearned to see his mother again. It had been 13 years since Koang had seen her, his family, friends, and village.

Koang said, "After about five years in Vancouver, my number one priority was to graduate, then after that take a year to work and save up and try to go back to Laré, but it didn't happen. So I had to wait...I just thought it wasn't time to go."

Friends in the congregation learned about his desire to go back to see his mother and family, and a campaign to help him was begun. Through donations, special offerings and the church's mission budget, Koang was able to make the long trip back to Ethiopia in May 2010, carrying gifts for the village and cash to help buy a cow for his mother.

Despite the will of an Icelandic volcano to delay his flight for a day, Koang left for Parish Malow. He flew into Addis Ababa, then to Gambela and a three-hour bus ride to Laré. From there it was a three-to four-hour walk to his village, Parish Malow.

The word of his coming had preceded him. He received a rock star's welcome at every juncture. Even at the airport, he was ceremoniously greeted by people he had never seen or met before. Finally back in his village, in an overwhelming and emotional reception by hundreds of people singing and

drumming, he finally was reunited with his mother, brother, sister and never before seen nephews.

Back in Vancouver, the congregation kept tabs on Koang as best they could. As thrilling as Koang's journey was for him, it was proportionally so for them. His name was on the weekly prayer chain. They imagined what it was like for him to see his mother for the first time since he was a boy. They fretted over his shoulder pain from a recent injury, and that he had to walk many miles carrying his heavy, gift-laden bags.

Updates were posted in the church office: "Koang called—he arrived in Africa—everything going well," and weeks later, "Koang home!" The church's Main Street signboard called out, "WELCOME HOME KOANG." With great anticipation, they planned their order of worship to include a children's Q & A time with Koang and his reading a letter of greeting from his Parish Malow pastor to the congregation.

More recently, congregation members have supported Koang in reaching his goal of U.S. citizenship. He passed his exams with flying colors, and once more, his church family celebrated with him. Otton said the October 7 ceremony was emotional. "We were so proud to be there for somebody who had worked so hard to be a citizen despite working two jobs and also giving back by volunteering at the church's community gardens in his spare time."

"For someone like me," said Koang, "it's a dream. It's a big deal. I'll have more freedom to travel and can go at any time and not worry if I miss a flight or something. I will be able to stay here, too, and enjoy life."

He stood out among the others with their hands held high taking their sworn oath. "Not because he's tall, but because he has a persona about him, an aura," Otton said. It could be surmised that aura to be a spirit of joy and thanksgiving.

"Because of what the church did, I feel like I owe them a lot," said Koang. "And even though I'm never going to be able to pay them back, at the same time, I can do the same for others— help them achieve what they want any way I can. You can say, 'I can do it on my own,' but as a team, or a community like the church, it's so much better to do it that way. As a church family, that's way better; to have that community— giving.

These days, it can be a struggle for mainline Protestant churches to establish community identity, to articulate their mission, their vision. Their role in society is not the same as it was 30-40-50 years ago. But one thing has not changed — that *love* is at the foundation of their faith. The people of Vancouver FPC had no motive, no agenda, no reason, to help Koang except out of powerful Christian love and the spirit of welcoming a stranger. Koang's story is all about that love and spirit— giving and receiving— here at his home, and far away in Parish Malow.



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 2012

- 1 John W. Goff, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2010 • Nestucca Valley Presbyterian Church, Pacific City - chartered this day in 2001
- 2 Andrew L. Caesar, ordained this day in 1994, in private practice as a counselor
- 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 - Ann Bartsch, President
- 8 C. Montee Kennedy, installed as pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence, this day in 2006 • Philip D. King, ordained this day in 1999, serving as Chaplain, United States Navy
- 9 Thomas E. Young, installed as pastor at Cherry Park Presbyterian Church, Troutdale, this day in 2000
- 10 Barbara P. Rolph, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2010
- 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 as associate pastor of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego, this day in 2002 • Ashton A. (Skip) Roberts, ordained this day in 2007, serving as chaplain for the Department of Veterans Affairs
- 14 Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship, Aloha - chartered this day in 1996
- 15 James T. Stewart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995
- 16 Stephen G. Maling, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000
- 17 William C. Howell, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1991
- 18 Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1961
- 19 Duane L. Sich, ordained this day in 1972, serving as executive director of Friends of the Carpenter • Kris M. Voss-Rothmeier, ordained this day in 1997, serving as parish associate at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 20 James C. Cayton, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1985
- 21 Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1906
- 22 J. Bradford Kent, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2007
- 23 Kenneth M. "Woodley" White, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2007
- 24 Jack P. Hansen granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1997
- 25 Katherine A. (Katie) Pate, installed as pastor of Milwaukie Presbyterian Church, this day in 2009

- 26 Janet Alpine, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, south region office
- 27 United Presbyterian Church, Albany - chartered 1853 • Presbytery Council meets today and tomorrow - Ric Neese, Chair
- 28 J. Wilbur Patterson, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990
- 29 Jacob Chang Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2010
- 30 Robert Kang, ordained this day in 1994
- 31 Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church, Lincoln City - chartered this day in 1937

February 2012

- 1 E. Gordon Crider, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992 • Nicholas Q. Sorani, ordained this day in 1998
- 2 Aurora Presbyterian Church - chartered this month in 1904 • Robert C. Patten, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 3 Janice Hearn, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2000
- 4 Marjorie Robinson, administrative assistant, Presbytery of the Cascades, northeast/northwest region office
- 5 Leo C. Tautfest, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1996
- 6 Phillip H. Essex, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1993
- 7 Scott W. Peterson, ordained this day in 1988, serving as stated supply pastor at Cooper Mountain Presbyterian Fellowship, Aloha • First Presbyterian Church, Trout Lake - chartered this day in 1905
- 8 First Presbyterian Church, Bandon - chartered this day in 1891
- 9 John W. Dilworth, installed as co-pastor of Multnomah Presbyterian Church, this day in 1986
- 10 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem - chartered this day in 1957
- 11 John R. Moody, installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Salem, this day in 1996
- 12 Committee on Ministry-South - Vera Morrell, Chair
- 13 Lynn Royston, Vice Moderator - Northwest Region
- 14 Piedmont United 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 Richard P. Zimmerman, ordained this day in 1992 • Brian G. Campbell, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 17 Tualatin Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1985 • Terry C. Graunke, ordained this day in 1980 (ELCA), serving as stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Central Point
- 18 Professional Support Committee - Brad Kent, Chair
- 19 Calvary Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1882

- 20 F. Arlin Nave, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1994
- 21 Gregory G. Bolt, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bend, this day in 2010 • Phyllis P. Hart, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1995
- 22 John S. Carpenter, installed as pastor at Oakville Presbyterian Church, Shedd, this day in 1998 • Roger W. Weeks, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2006
- 23 Soo Shin Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2005
- 24 Gail Moody, Certified Christian Educator, Westminster Presbyterian, Salem
- 25 First Presbyterian Church, Creswell - chartered in 1909 • Martha Page Greene, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2009, serving as parish associate at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 26 Southminster Presbyterian Church, Beaverton - chartered this day in 1959 • Charlie T. Brown, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2001, serving as parish associate at Tualatin Presbyterian Church
- 27 First Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls - chartered this day in 1884
- 28 James C. Beck, installed as pastor of Beaverton Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland this day in 1999
- 29 Henry W. Andersen, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1990



Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

Vacant

Klamath Falls, Mt. Laki
McMinnville, First
Portland, Calvary
Portland, Grace

Seeking Interim or Stated Supply

Bend, Common Table (interim)
Portland, First (interim)
Portland, Mt. Tabor (designated pastor/teaching elder)
The Dalles, Gateway (interim)

Preparing to Actively Seek

Klamath Falls, First (associate pastor/teaching elder)
Medford, First (pastor/teaching elder)
Tigard, Calvin, (associate pastor/teaching elder)
Vancouver, First (pastor/teaching elder)

Actively Seeking a Pastor (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Hillsboro, Tualatin Plains (pastor/teaching elder)
Portland, Bethany (pastor/teaching elder)

Presbytery Highlights

Editor's Note: These are the highlights of the November 11-12, 2011 meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades, at First, Corvallis, excerpted by the editor from the notes of Stated Clerk Cathy Quackenbush. A more complete report may be found on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.

The following teaching elders were introduced as new members of Cascades Presbytery: The Rev. Lawrence Porter, transferring from the Presbytery of San Francisco, The Rev. William D. Sperry, transferring from the Presbytery of San Fernando, and The Rev. Stephen C. Brewer, transferring from the Presbytery of San Jose. Not present was The Rev. Tracie A. Bullis, transferring from the Presbytery of Huntington.

Teaching elders who were recognized as recently honorably retired included: The Rev. Richard A. Christensen, The Rev. James T. Hazlett, The Rev. Delbert E. McAmis, The Rev. Lorraine R. Stuart, The Rev. Robert M. Stuart, and The Rev. Kathleen J. Waugh.

The Mission Support Committee presented information about hunger ministry grants through the Cents-Ability offering, the work of the Oregon Roundtable against Hunger, Heifer International, and Self Development of People Grants.

The Congregational Support Committee presented news from the Eco-Justice Team about how churches can become "Earth Care Congregations." Theresa O'Brien of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene reported on that congregation's journey toward becoming an "Earth Care Congregation." Jenny Holmes announced the Earth Care Summit: Environmental Justice and Faith" event, which will be held January 30, 2012 at Highland Christian Center, Portland, Oregon.

The Professional Support Committee highlighted opportunities for education and support. Maureen O'Rourke, director of the Media Resource Center reported on coming schedule changes for the Media Resource Center in 2012. She will be available in the Center on Tuesdays. The Rev. Tim Cayton of the Uncommon Ministries group presented a riveting introduction to prison ministry in Oregon.

The report of the Relational Support Committee included an appeal from Kathy Waugh, editor of the Presbytery newsletter, *Omnibus*, for articles relating to local mis-



Stasia V. Van Buskirk was examined and approved for ordination as Teaching Elder.

sion projects, ministries and human interest stories. The next Presbytery Pulpit Exchange is April 22, 2012. An overnight stay at Menucha Conference Center will be provided to one pastor who commits to participating in the exchange. Spencer Parks and Scott Crane from Menucha Retreat Center presented information about two retreats at Menucha in January. The Moderator of Cascades Presbyterian Women, Marsha Landrith, introduced the PW Coordinating Team members present and announced the Church Wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in July, 2012, in Orlando, Florida. Marsha was commissioned by the Presbytery to serve as one of three representatives from Presbyterian Women to the 56th session of the Commission on the

Status of Women of the United Nations.

Presbytery Treasurer, Pam Fogg, interpreted the written report on the presbytery's financial status and condition. She reported that the presbytery's financial position is good, but income is down, which is cause for concern.

When added to the slight increases to General Assembly and Synod per capita rates, this will make the total proposed per capita payment per member for 2012 of \$23.85. The Fund 2 or Program portion of the proposed budget was balanced by reducing Westminster Foundation expenses by 20% and reducing all presbytery staff to part time (at least 20%). This reduction in spending reflects recent decreases in Presbytery Partnership Giving and per capita giving. The presbytery approved the per capita increases and the proposed budget for 2012.

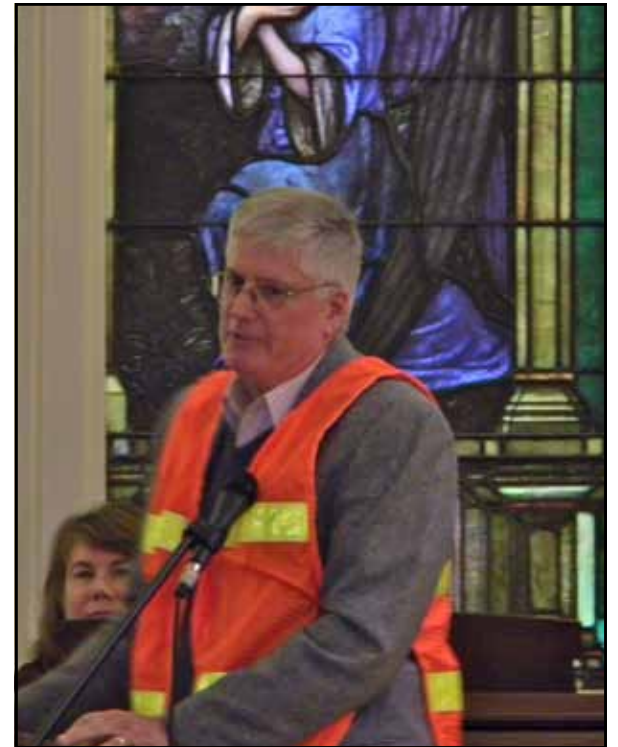
Janet Wylie, Chair of the Personnel and Administration Committee presented the proposed terms of call for the elected staff; the three co-executive presbyters and the stated clerk. The terms of call reflected the 20% reduction in staff hours for the co-executive presbyters. After some questioning and discussion, the presbytery approved the terms of call.

The Synod of the Pacific Report included the following: At the October 2011, meeting of the Synod, commissioners voted to recommend that presbyteries be asked to approve a reduction in Synod Commissioners from 52 to 39, and that commissioners be elected for three year terms instead of four year terms, and that re-election to a second three year term be allowed for a maximum of 6 consecutive years of service. Presbytery voted to approve this recommendation. The Synod of the Pacific will be offering "Green Loans" for church projects that improve energy efficiency.

The Committee on Preparation for the Ministry presented three candidates for ordination examination. Adam Walker Cleaveland was examined and approved for ordination as Teaching Elder so that he might accept a call from First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Oregon, to serve as Associate Pastor. Jennifer S. Pratt was examined and approved for ordination as Teaching Elder in order to accept a call as Membership Relations Director for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Stasia V. Van Buskirk was examined and approved for ordination as Teaching Elder in order to accept a call as Chaplain at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center, Tualatin, Oregon. Presbytery approved the enrollment of Nick T. Silvey, member of First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, as Inquirer for ordination as teaching elder.

The Committee on Preparation for the Ministry recommended the following overture to the 220th General Assembly: *Whereas it has been 44 years since the standard ordination exams were established for candidates for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder); and whereas, times have changed and we as a society have discovered that people today learn and process knowledge in different ways, especially those persons with learning disabilities as well as those who come to us for whom English is a second language; and whereas, many candidates are failing to pass the exams on the first, second, or even third try; Therefore, the Presbytery of the Cascades overtures the General Assembly to 1. Reexamine the viability of testing as a way of discerning a candidate's suitability for ministry. 2. Reevaluate and reassess the process by which the exams are written, administered, and graded.* Presbytery voted to approve sending the overture to the General Assembly.

The following members of presbytery were elected as commissioners to the 220th General Assembly: Rev. Dwayne L. Brown, Rev. Bruce W. Cameron, Rev. Barbara J. Campbell, with alternate teaching elder



The Rev Tim Cayton offered a moving glimpse of what it means to be in prison ministry

commissioners being Rev. David C. Dornak, Rev. Laurel S. Neal, and Rev. James P. Freda. Ruling Elder Commissioners elected were Janet Anderson, Trout Lake, Washington, Shawn Foster, Phoenix, Oregon, and Garry Rawson, Reedville, Oregon, with alternate commissioners being Sandra Corless, Oak Hills, Milwaukie, Stan Pomeroy, Yachats, Oregon, and Dennis Bottenfield, Grace, Portland, Oregon. Victoria Syhalath, McMinnville, Oregon was elected Young Adult Advisory Delegate, and the alternate YAAD is Sean Champoux, Westminster, Eugene.

In the Report of Presbytery Council, Part 2, Shirley Tormey of the Church Growth and Vitality Task Force reported some of the task force's observations and discernments. Brian Heron presented some observations about the present state of the church from his two-month Pedal Pilgrimage sabbatical. In keeping with the task force mandate to "be an incubator for nurturing member churches to a vital future, and to help congregations thrive in order to grow the kingdom of God," Eileen Parfrey led the presbyters in a contemplative Bible study focused on the parables of the Kingdom of God from the Gospel of Matthew.

Dwayne Brown, Co-chair of the Council Special Team for Cascades Presbytery Mission and Structure Review presented recommendations to the presbytery. The Special Team affirms that the Vitality and Growth of Congregations as the priority of the presbytery. It affirms the five essential visions towards that goal under which the presbytery is now functioning. It recommends that Council explore other structures to implement this vision, as the presbytery's current means of implementation are no longer able to support it. Council has appointed the officers of the Presbytery to evaluate and implement the recommendations.

Jack Hodges, member of the General Assembly Mission Council, presented information on that body's mission and ministries. On behalf of the GAMC, he also presented the Presbytery of the Cascades with an award for being in the top ten presbyteries in basic mission giving, special offerings, and total giving.

John Goff and Ian Doescher of the Presbytery Task Group reported on the results of the appreciative inquiry conducted at the June stated meeting regarding the design of presbytery meetings. A five minute DVD of the findings can be found on the Cascades Presbytery Facebook page, and a link will be posted in the next CEE. For members of presbytery who did not participate in the survey, there will be a short electronic survey available for their input in early 2012. The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery is March 9-10, 2012, at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon.