

Transformation Conference October 23-25 Valley Community Church, Portland

By the Rev. Dr. Craig S. Williams,
Director of New Church Development

Kevin Ford in his book "Transforming Church" (which I highly recommend) states: "Every church needs transformation. Those that don't change, die. Don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating change for the sake of change. The wrong kind of change can be toxic. Healthy change, however, is required for growth, maturity, and adaptation. Like any organization, churches can become stagnant, complacent, irrelevant, or ineffective without transformational change to keep them focused on their mission. But without a clear understanding of the nature of change, the chances of growing a healthy church are diminished."

The Rev. Philip Lotspeich will be our featured presenter at the October 23-25 Transformation Conference at Valley Community, Portland. Philip is the Coordinator of Church Growth and Ministry Support within the Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Area of the General Assembly Council.

Philip has positive experience both in

church transformation and new church development. The view he is leading our denomination in is that "every church needs transformation."

Transformation is not merely for those who are trying to figure out how long they can keep the lights on. Transformation is for the large church that has become stuck in worship attendance, or the great family church that is having trouble reaching the next generation, or the downtown church that doesn't know how to meet those in their revitalized neighborhood.

The conference is in two parts: Thursday and Friday sessions are for pastors only, and Saturday is for all who are interested.

For pastors only: Sessions on **Thursday**, October 23, are 1:30 to 8 p.m. and include dinner. The conference reconvenes at 8 a.m. **Friday**, October 24, for breakfast and concludes at 11:30 a.m. before lunch. This time is for pastors. We want to have some straight talk about the challenges to pastoral leadership and what can be accomplished. Philip is in touch with transforming congre-

gations throughout the U.S. and brings a broad perspective to the conversation. Thursday-Friday workshop is \$15.

For all who are interested:

On **Saturday**, October 25, church leaders and pastors are invited. This is a day for the leadership of the Church to gain new insights into the challenges of growing healthy churches. The Saturday workshop is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes lunch together; cost is \$10.

You'll be receiving updates regularly and opportunities to sign up by mail or on the Presbytery website, www.cascadespresbytery.org.

Set aside this time to join with me and others in learning ways we can advance God's work in the world.



The Rev. Philip Lotspeich

"Like Old Home week:" The 2008 Cascades Pulpit Exchange

By Tam Moore

When the Rev. Barbara Campbell of St. Marks Portland drew Central Eugene for this summer's presbytery-wide pulpit exchange, it was a return to the "church that nurtured my faith while I was in college."

Rev. Tom Green, First Portland, created a buzz during his visit to First Roseburg when he forgot to pack dress pants. His confession to the Roseburg congregation was unforgettable. Green opened his robe and showed the Bermuda shorts he'd worn beneath the academic garb.

"Everyone got a good laugh out of it," said Roseburg's Rev. Dwayne Brown as he recalled experiences in both congregations from the August exchange. It was keyed to the Sunday that Cascades Presbytery was mentioned in the 2008 PCUSA Mission Yearbook.

Twenty churches whose pastors volunteered to participate were paired through a drawing at the July presbytery meeting in Klamath Falls. The longest trip was between Merrill, a Klamath Basin farming community

four miles north of the California border, and First, Vancouver. Also traveling great distances were pastors from First, Lakeview and Eagle Creek in the Clackamas River country on the western slopes of Mount Hood. The shortest exchange sent pastors from Emmanuel, West Linn and Eastminster across Portland.

The Cascades Relational Support Committee received enthusiastic reports. Another voluntary pulpit exchange is set for April 26, 2009, the second Sunday after Easter.

Campbell said after worship at Central Eugene, she met with an adult education class, and chatted with a young woman moving to Portland who was looking for a church. "There were just lots of serendipitous moments all around," Campbell said.

At Clatskanie Presbyterian, Rev. James Simmons from Christ's Church, Monmouth found the newly-completed sanctuary restoration special.

"It shown like a copper penny. The music, the spirit and the hospitality (was) congenial and heartfelt," Simmons said. And Clatskanie asked him to come back.

Two small churches participating in the exchange, Yachats and Myrtle Point, formed a prayer covenant.

How did Brown, the Roseburg pastor, react to preaching in the big sanctuary at First, Portland?

"The way it is designed doesn't feel overwhelming," said Brown, who grew up in Portland. He shared the sermon with his wife, the Rev. Victoria Brown, co-pastor at Roseburg. "We were warmly welcomed and made several connections from the past," said Dwayne Brown.

Dave Dunford, clerk of session at Cov-

(Continued on page 3)

Election Resources

Links to the following materials are available at the Presbyterian Washington Office at: <http://www.pcusa.org/washington/christiancitizen.htm>

- Christian & Citizen booklet Updated 09/08
- Study Guide and Worship Resources
- Do's and Don'ts for Congregations During Election Times
- Holding a Candidate Forum in Your Church
- Implementation of Charitable Choice / Faith Based Initiatives
- Voter Registration Information – Find out key information on your state
- Perhaps You Could Run for Office
- Also: See "Ask the Clerk" column this issue, page three

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Presbytery of the Cascades Will Have a Stated Meeting November 7-8, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church 1200 SW Alder Street – Portland, OR Information on the docket and on the pre-presbytery workshops will be posted on the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org. Background papers for the meeting, maps, and information about lodging in the Portland area will be available mid-October.

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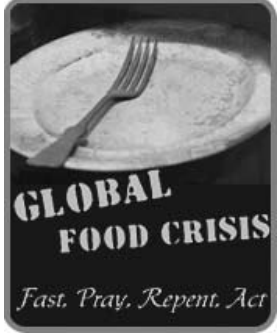
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Presbyterians Invited to Churchwide Fast for Hunger Awareness

By the Presbyterian Hunger Program

At the behest of the 218th General Assembly, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is inviting its congregations to engage in a monthly church-wide fast to discern faithful responses to the global food crisis, in a world where more than 845 million people go hungry. As many as 100 million more may be driven into extreme poverty due to the food crisis, while others live with plenty to spare.



Beginning in October, Presbyterians are encouraged to fast monthly, beginning on Friday evening, and breaking the fast with communion on Sunday morning. Those who are physically unable to fast may eat simple meals.

The year-long cycle will end on Oct. 16, 2009, on World Food Day, with new materials available each month. The first fast begins on the evening of Friday October 3, and ends with communion on Sunday October 5 - World Communion Sunday.

Congregations may commit to the fast as a body; individuals and smaller groups may also participate. The website and fast materials are at www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis. Prayers for communal or individual use will be provided for the 40-hour fasts and will be written by fast participants, church partners

and theologians from the United States and overseas.

Each month, the site will offer fresh analysis on an aspect of the food crisis, such as global warming, flawed trade agreements, lack of access to food or loss of inherited seeds to grow indigenous crops. Other new material each month includes:

A biblical study by a respected scholar and/or pastor

Liturgy for corporate worship

Reflections on spiritual practice by a recognized author and/or teacher

Church partners from heavily-hit nations like Congo, Sudan, Haiti and India will join us by telling their stories and by providing us data about the food crisis from their particular context. In fact, partners have asked that the Presbyterian Church (USA) engage with them in study and worship. That request was honored by the General Assembly last June when it voted to initiate a church-wide fast to seek God's presence, purpose and power in the midst of such devastating tragedy.

Food shortages and famines are not new. The difference now is that food, water and climate crises are converging to create what has been called a "perfect storm" with unprecedented suffering that calls us all to respond.

Please circulate this invitation to others who are seeking a faith-based response to the global food crisis and who are willing to engage it through a sacrificial practice. Let's fast, pray, repent and act, following the

Omnibus



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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

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example set by Jesus in the sacrament of Eucharist, to divide the gifts of the earth fairly, sharing them with the weak, the poor and the hungry.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Ruth Farrell, coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program at (888)-728-7228, ext. 5816, or Ruth.Farrell@pcusa.org. Find out what others are thinking, saying, and doing around the fast and the food crisis on the Facebook group, "Presbyterians Respond to Global Food Crisis." And share your own reflections.

Southminster Pastor to Travel to Cuba

Editor's Note: This article was first written in the Southminster, Beaverton's newsletter by Aleida Jernigan, Co-Executive staff to Mission Support Committee.

Our Presbytery continues to maintain a partnership relationship with Cuba. Due to travel regulations to and from Cuba, the presbytery at the present time does not have a license for travel to Cuba. However, individual churches are in a better position to obtain one through their own. Such has been the case when a group from Bend traveled to Cuba last November.

Mission Support Committee continues to correspond with pastors and church leaders in our partner presbytery of El Centro. It is through this relationship and our contacts with the denominational Cuban Network that Peg Pfab, pastor at Southminster, will travel to Cuba September 21-29.

In the first part of the trip, she will be taking part in a Cuban Partners meeting (including about thirty people from across the U.S. and approximately an equal number of Cubans) at the Evangelical Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba. Peg will be representing Cascades Presbytery. The goal of this meeting is to look back at the history of the partnerships of the U.S. and Cuban churches, evaluate them and envision the future of these partnerships. For the second part of the trip, Peg will be with Southminster's mission partner, the Church Camp at Santa Clara. Peg will also attend the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Presbyterian Church in Placetas. This congregation is very near to the Camp, and the Southminster delegations have worshipped with them on previous trips to Cuba.

Peg will be happy to share her experiences and reflections upon her return.

Please keep all of the Cuban partners and all the U.S. delegates in your prayers. As I write this article, I have received word from the Presbyterian Church Secretary General in Cuba regarding the damages by the recent hurricane season. The Cuban church has been in a position to house and host refugees from the storms. The churches struggle to meet the needs of many and plead for help from outside partners.

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.



Is your church or community or just you looking to become a bit more "green?" The Media Resource Center has several videos and DVDs to view on this relevant and timely subject:

The Greening of Faith: Program 1, Theology & Spirituality: 30 minutes and comes with a leader's guide. Why the environment is a Christian concern. Ask for VTMBX001. **Program 2, Ethics:** 26 minutes and comes with a leader's guide. The unique role the church can play in the formation of attitudes and enabling change. Ask for VTMBX002. These two videos were made in 1993 but are still full of useful information.

Faithful Earthkeeping: The Church as a Creation Awareness Center by Kaye, Lindy (1997) Ask for VTMBX006. Designed to help congregations learn about the issues related to the care of God's creation and to suggest ways for individuals and congregations to act as earth keepers. Part I: The Biblical Call to Earth keeping (20min.); Part II: Creation's Praise...Creation's Cry (27minutes.); Part III: Earth keeping: The Church Responds (32minutes.). Features Dr. Cal DeWitt.

As if Salmon Matter: making ethical choices (two hours, four part video) by Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns (2004). Highlights of a seminar held at Portland State University. Ask for VTMBX018

The End Of Suburbia - Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream (76 minutes) hosted by Barrie Zwicker, (2004 DVD). An exploration of the American way of life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. Ask for DVMBX005

Kilowatt Ours (55 minutes) by Barrie, Jeff (2007). What would you find if you traced the wires from your light switch to their energy source? Mr. Barrie and his wife cut their bills in half and use a portion of the savings to buy green power. In this interesting DVD, he'll help you do the same! Ask for DVMBX004

Renewal - Stories from America's Religious-Environmental Movement (2007).

Individual stories range from 6-17 minutes for a total of 90 minutes. This documentary offers a comprehensive overview of what different religions are doing about the awesome devastation of Earth's life systems now taking place. The filmmakers' vision of the problem and understanding of viable solutions show rare depth of perception and are matched only by their sense of urgency of action if we're to realize our hopes for the future. Close captioned, also. Ask for DVMBX003.

An Inconvenient Truth (96 minutes) by Al Gore (2006). Ask for DVMBX001.

New! Rediscovering the Labyrinth - A Walking Meditation (29 minutes) with the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. This is a story of transformation and an invitation for you to begin the journey. It's a moving documentary of real people whose lives have changed by walking a labyrinth. Ask for DVGH2007.

Hope you had a great summer and hope to see you in November at our Presbytery meeting, where you can return items borrowed from the Center.

Warm regards, Maureen O'Rourke, Director



Cascades Viewpoints

By John Mahon

Is the church alive? This sounds like a ridiculous question to ask just when activities in the presbytery and most congregations get going again after a summer breather. Is your church alive? Sure, it is busy, but is it alive? Is God's Spirit flowing through it? Is your church so alive that visitors sense the enthusiasm and can't wait to come back to feel it again? I know that there are congregations in the presbytery where this is true. I've been there and worshiped with them.

Yet, when we look at the presbytery as a whole, that Spirit seems to be lacking. Twenty years ago, we had twice as many members, and mission treasuries that were overflowing. Today, we have some congregations that are barely holding on. In some parts of the presbytery, we have too many congregations that are too close together and, as the demographics in the area have shifted, those congregations have shrunk. When one looks at the presbytery directory, one notices that we have over 43 churches with fewer than 75 members! Now membership is not as important as worship attendance, but membership gives us a clue that our congregations are not attracting newcomers. There are many reasons for this including the fact that we live in the "None zone," the North-

west culture that is vaguely spiritual but not affiliated with any faith commitment. Excuses aside, is your church alive?

More importantly, how can your church become alive? It is no secret. It is as simple as the old children's song, "Read your Bible, pray everyday, and you will grow, grow, grow." Read your Bible. What if every congregation in our presbytery committed in 2009 to do some serious Bible study, say on the Book of Acts, where the growth of the church goes from Jerusalem to Rome. Pray everyday. What if each church in the presbytery not only prayed for themselves every Sunday but for one other sister church in the presbytery? Grow, grow, grow. Grow spiritually.

What if in our congregations and in the presbytery, we came humbly to the Lord's table and asked for Jesus' direction? Grow numerically. What if our churches increased their giving to mission, specifically Presbyterian Partnership Giving? Grow physically. What if we increased hands on mission projects, such as New Orleans relief? We have a great track record here with many teams going from churches in our presbytery.

A church alive takes leadership. Pastors are the key. We have great pastors in this presbytery. What if they were committed

to making their congregations alive? They couldn't do it alone. It takes committed elders and deacons working in the same direction with their pastors to make it happen. There is a Transformation event for pastors and leaders October 23-25 at Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland. That would be a good place to start. Jesus said, "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly." (John. 10:10)



Q: Are there restrictions on political activity in which a church can engage?

A: There certainly are! In general, church organizations, as a condition of the Group Ruling Exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3), must be engaged in activities that further exclusively charitable purposes. Churches may not participate in political activities, and a substantial part of their activities may not attempt to influence legislation. IRS Publication 1828, which may be secured by calling the Internal Revenue Service at (800) 829-3676, states: "All section 501(c)(3) organizations, including churches, their integrated auxiliaries, conventions or associations of churches, are prohibited from participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office. Violation of this prohibition results in denial or revocation of exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes."

It is important to distinguish between political activity and witnessing/lobbying. Political activity typically involves a candidate for office or political party. Witnessing/lobbying involves a public issue or legislation. Political activity is strictly prohibited. Lobbying is merely limited. Political activity includes endorsements and statements of opposition of particular candidates, parties, or political action committees; provisions of financial and other support; provisions of mailing lists; sponsoring of political action committees; and distributions of partisan campaign materials. The political activity prohibition does not prevent candidate forums being held in or sponsored by a church, as long as such activities are even-handed, nonpartisan, and demonstrate no favoritism for a particular candidate (or opposition to a particular candidate).

Witnessing/lobbying, on the other hand, includes contacting or urging the public to contact members of the legislature or the executive for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation or advocating the adoption or rejection of legislation. Witnessing/lobbying may be engaged in as long as it does not constitute a substantial part of the organization's total activities. While neither the Code nor the Regulations define what is substantial, a few cases suggest that the line between what is insubstantial and substantial lies somewhere between 5% and 15% of an organization's total activities as measured by time, effort, expenditure, and other relevant factors. The PCUSA's Legal Office advises governing bodies and churches to keep such expenditures at the lower end of the spectrum.

"CPYA 2008 Hearing the Call"

November 21-23

Canby Grove Conference Center

High School students and their leaders won't want to miss this one!

Guest Speaker: Author Mike Yankoski

"Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America"



Mike Yankoski

Registration packets have been sent to all the churches. It is time to gear up and get your high school students and leaders signed up for this amazing weekend. The theme of the weekend is "Hearing the Call," and Mike Yankoski will be challenging all who attend to be "living loud: a Christ centered response to the needs of our world."

Mike Yankoski, from Parker, Colorado, is a recent graduate of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, where he studied computer science and theology. He seeks to live out his faith with radical intensity, and intentionally pursues a lifestyle that reaches others for Christ and glorifies God.

The weekend will also include a variety of activities, seminars, small groups, Saturday night at the Y, good food and new friends. Mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss out on this opportunity.

For more information on Mike Yankoski, go to www.undertheoverpass.com. For more information on Canby Grove, go to www.canbygrove.com.

The new low price is \$65 on or before November 3, and \$70 after November 3. This not only pays for the whole weekend but includes a free CPYA t-shirt. Camperships of \$30 are available from Presbytery.

For more information, contact Ann Zelenka, CPYA Registrar, atzelenka@comcast.net or 503-284-9048

"Old Home Week"

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enant, Gresham, went along with his pastor, serving as liturgist in the exchange which took them to Westminster, Eugene.

"I highly encourage that a lay leader also accompany the pastor," wrote Dunford.

"Pastors are more or less used to preaching in a different church, but lay leaders seldom get the opportunity. It was interesting and a learning experience to see how different congregations conduct the worship service. The exchange also offered some insight to

what a pastor has to face when preaching in a different pulpit. Especially a tall pulpit. And the most important part is that though the service might not proceed like clockwork ..., the purpose of needing and worshiping God is still accomplished."

Covenant's pastor, the Rev. Patricia Burger, said it was a treat to hear Westminster's organ, even if the pulpit was a bit tall for her

diminutive stature.

"It does seem high, but I really thought I could see everyone," she said, only to learn later that one of the worship attendees said "she had never seen me at all," just heard an amplified voice during the sermon.

Westminster, Eugene's interim pastor, the Rev. Scott Delgarno, said going to Covenant "was like going home," a small, friendly congregation similar to his first pastorate in Portland, where worshipers give the pastor a cue if the order of worship differs from what they are used to.

"I have been a pastor for 28 years, and the opportunity to trade pulpits showed me so beautifully that I still have so much to learn about the riches of our wonderful Reformed tradition. My thanks go out to the dear people of Covenant Presbyterian and their beloved pastor, Pat," said Delgarno.

Missed it this year? Plan ahead: Cascades' 2009 pulpit exchange will be Sunday, April 26.

Positively Presbyterian

South Region

By Ann Moore

Westminster, Medford will celebrate its 50th anniversary December 1, 2008. A second Presbyterian church in Medford was the dream in the early 1950s of D. Kirkland West, pastor of **First, Medford**, the downtown church. Attendance at Sunday school and worship was so large that both were on double shifts. The present Westminster site, a six-acre farm, was purchased in 1953 for \$45,000 for a possible church. In 1958 that church became a reality, and in December, 1959, the congregation was worshipping in their own building. John Reynolds was organizing pastor.

Bethany, Grants Pass and **First, Medford** have three classes on faith and politics. Both newsletters say there will be no taking sides with issues or candidates. They ask how we allow our faith to speak to our choices.

First, Klamath Falls and **First, Roseburg** offer classes that inspire creativity. Klamath Falls has senior wood carving, taught by Dale Faries, an experienced wood carver. The Roseburg class is calligraphy and card making, taught by Manya Meador.

First, Bandon's Heifer Fair is October 19. The church will look like a county fair decorated with bales of hay, produce and animals. Fair attendees are invited to wear farm clothes. In past years, a goose, rabbits, goats, sheep, and a donkey all came in separate pens to be part of the fair. "The only problem was goats liked to sing with the choir," according to Caroline McKemy, mission and stewardship. The event is to encourage giving to Heifer International, which provides other livestock such as chickens, cows, sheep and goats as well as heifers to people in need around the world.

The cold winter of southern Oregon's high desert is a concern of **First, Lakeview**. The church has an oil furnace, and each month the fuel bills grow larger. Back in 2004, oil was \$1.29 to \$1.87 per gallon. The church's costs for that year was \$3,866 for heating the church and Christian education building. Costs were almost that much from January to June alone for 2008. The cost of oil was \$4.45 per gallon in July. Session created a special fuel fund for members and organizations to contribute to, and the finance committee is asking for ideas to increase the fund. The average winter low temperature is down to 13, with days that are below zero in December and January.

Community, Merrill in the Klamath Basin with similar winter low temperatures finished insulating its buildings and installed energy efficient windows. Its current task is winterizing stained glass windows, many of which are in danger of falling out due to deterioration of the frames.

Central Region

By Bruce Smith

Summertime seems to be a good time for church barbecues. **Nestucca Valley, Pacific City** held their church picnic on the banks of the Nestucca River. The barbecue was smoking with lots of country style pork ribs and chicken. **Westminster, Salem** held their outdoors get-together at Bush's Pasture Park. **Community, Redmond** held a neighborhood block party inviting their community for a meal. There was a special invitation for the kids with a petting zoo and a rock-climbing wall for the adventurous. **Church of the Siuslaw, Florence** traveled to the Yurt at Woahiank Lake for their get-together. They enjoyed their after lunch entertainment

by the Old-Time Fiddler's group. **Central, Eugene** held their church picnic at Emerald Park hosting Family Shelter as guests. **First, Newport** all-church picnic had the Rex Putnam Chorales present a special performance for the attendees. **First, McMinnville** ran into a bump in the road when they had to spend an additional \$60,000 to remove the asbestos in the ceiling of their remodeling project. **First, Corvallis** is well on their way to begin next spring construction of the John and Nancy Dennis Community Center and Fellowship Hall. Now that **John Knox, Kaiser** has their new roof in place, they are going to build a rock wall leading to the entrance of their church.

Cheryl Bourne, **Prineville** was in Austin, Texas working on her Doctor of Ministry degree. An interesting assignment was to tell in five minutes to a non-church member the most important aspects of our faith. Can you do it and get the most important fact stated without putting someone to sleep or being considered "one of those?"

Summertime is travel time. Karen Polan, **First, Salem**, spent her vacation in the Holy Land. Gail and Denvy Saxowsky, **Christ Church, Monmouth**, are in China this fall working with teachers who will teach English in the villages around Nanchang. You can follow the news of the day in China or some thoughts of their experiences on www.saxowsky.com. Closer at home, 40 members of **First, McMinnville**, traveled to Seattle to watch a Mariners baseball game. They were welcomed with a notice of their presence on the Mariners scoreboard.

First, Woodburn has been busy offering their building for many community organizations. Head Start begins their program in September. Iglesia de Dios uses the church four days a week. Meals on Wheels operates out of the church five days a week. The Woodburn School District uses their parking space and the North Marion Adult Center offers activities to senior citizens in the Woodburn area.

The General Assembly recognized Cascade Presbytery as being in the top 10 of monetary giving. **Mackenzie Valley, Waltherville**, as one of the smallest membership congregation, ranks in the Top 10 (or close to it) of giving per member.

Many churches are beginning to re-energize their church school programs. **Westminster, Salem** is using the PowerXpress package with first through fifth grade kids.

First, Salem held a golf tournament to raise money for their Stephen Ministry program. There were prizes with lots of fun and fellowship, and they raised \$540. The jocks of **First, Bend** and **Community, Redmond** also held golf tournaments during the summer.

This from **Westminster, Eugene**. Two men were standing together at a river they were hoping to cross when they spied several crocodiles. "Are you afraid," asked one. "Don't you know that God is merciful and good?" "Yes, I do," said the more timid one. "But what if God should choose right now to be good to the crocodiles?"

Northwest Region

by Jeanne Rich

Special events are signs of a new season in Northwest churches. **Calvin, Tigard's** Wednesday Adult Enrichment classes in September focused on story telling, more specifically "teaching the telling of testimony: What God Has Done in Our Lives." The month began with the church's annual Block Party with barbecue, carnival games,

clown, live band and an opportunity to get acquainted with neighbors to tell them about Calvin Church. Each Wednesday thereafter the class concentrated on "The Power of Testimony." Pastor Bob Garwig led one session that was called "How to Testify (out of court!)." **Southminster, Beaverton** featured a "Welcome Sunday" with an outdoor service, bluegrass and old-time gospel music and potluck picnic following the service. Lawn chairs and blankets replaced pews, and a Bouncey House appealed to children. (What a way to let the public know we Presbyterians do have fun!) **Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro** announced a Reformed Theology weekend with Dr. Neal Plantinga, Jr., President of Calvin Theological Seminary and Professor of Systemic Theology. Three lectures, on the topic "Clothed with the Virtues of Christ," will be presented October 10-11, 2008. Dr. Plantinga has written several books, including *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin.*

The Rev. Dr. Steve Maling is not really retired. He was found at **First, Portland** kicking off the fall adult education season with a Sunday morning class called, "Meeting Jesus in the Psalms." Jesus learned to pray from the Psalms, so the class met Jesus "in reflections on Psalms that have been woven into the tapestries of the four gospels." After this series, he will teach a class on Christmas for grown-ups at **Valley Community, Portland** beginning October 26 and continuing through November 23. With the topic, "Relatives, Romans, and Royalty: Luke's Adult Christmas," the class will find "the first two chapters of Luke show that Christmas is for grown-ups at least as much as it is for children." Steve Maling is a former Valley associate pastor.

Many churches reported good attendance with Vacation Bible School programs, but **Bethany, Portland** is taking their successful attendance of 88 children at "Power Lab" a step further. There will be a Fall Festival event on Saturday, November 1, called "Slime Time." (Keeping in touch with those kids will make a difference.)

"Were you touched by a worship service? Did you enjoy an event at St. Andrew's?" These questions are being asked at **St. Andrew's, Portland** as they seek writers and photographers who will submit works to *Crossroads*, their monthly newsletter. Since they advertise that no experience is necessary, this could be an excellent door for a "wannabe writer" as articles will be accepted about church events and attendees all year long. (Good idea for making those newsletters more than a calendar of activities.)

Glenda Williams at **Clatskanie** reported that members and friends constructed a float for the Fourth of July parade in Clatskanie. Their theme was "God's Hand Touches Everyone" and there was mention of food distributed to parade viewers. The float won first place and will host the trophy until next year.

Northeast Region

By Jan Noller

The youth at **First, Vancouver** gave "Yeah, Gods" when they saw God at work on their mission trip. Youth from **Rose City Park, Portland** went to work in Chicago joining other youth from Youth Works, a mission organization with sites all over the world. The youth at Milwaukie had bake sales and car washes raising money for their mission trip in August to San Francisco to work with the homeless and learn about urban ministry.

(Continued on page 5)

Community, Sandy Lights up Lives

By Judy Hubbard

Community Presbyterian Church in Sandy sits in the foothills of Mt Hood on Highway 26 just east of Gresham. Last year the church celebrated its 100th year of existence and also completed construction of a beautiful new addition that includes a fellowship hall, classrooms and offices. Also gracing their back yard is a lovely patio, water feature and a gazebo which lends itself to great church functions and weddings.

The church decided to use their new facilities for a wonderful mission outreach to the community by offering a free Friday night dinner to anyone in the town of Sandy. The program was initially organized by Natanya Swanson with the ongoing facilitators being Elders Paul Griffin and Steve Christman along with many church volunteers.

Pastor Greg Thorsen enthusiastically supports the congregation's efforts, and the response has been overwhelming. As of last June there were as many as 100 people from all walks of life arriving for the dinner. Especially touching to the parishioners was that homeless people were showing up along with other residents of Sandy who did not attend church. An effort has been made to have people mix with others they don't know, and the result is conversations and fellowship



Guest with members Colleen and Keith.

taking place during the dinner hour.

Only through the generous donations by the members and friends of the congregation has the building addition been made possible. The church members felt strongly that

by sharing the gift of their new space and the gift of community dinners, they were able to show their gratitude and the love of Christ.

Opportunity for small churches and their clergy.

Applications are now being accepted for the Summer Collegium, a Lilly Endowment project in support of small congregations. All expenses for the event, including travel, meals, lodging, books, pulpit supply and child care at home are paid for by the grant.

Twenty-five clergy and their spouses/partners from all Christian denominations will be invited to spend nine days at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, focusing on Body, Mind, and Soul: Celebrating, Strengthening and Sustaining Clergy Wholeness in Small Congregations.

The Summer Collegium takes place June 24-July 1, 2009, and applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2008 to be considered. For more information and an application packet, visit our website at www.vts.edu/education/collegium or call Marilyn Johns, Project Manager, at 703-461-1760.

TRANSITIONS

Welcome New Pastors

The Rev. Shereda Benfield, transferring from the Presbytery of San Francisco

The Rev. Dr. Gordon S. McClellan, transferring from the Presbytery of the Heartland to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis beginning September 2, 2008

Transfers

The Rev. Susan Goodin, transferring to the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley to serve as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Gilbertsville, New York

Pastoral Changes

The Rev. Dana C. Perreard completing service as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Oakland on October 5, 2008 to become associate pastor of Grace Pointe Presbyterian Church, Dubuque, Iowa

In Memoriam

The Rev. James R. Belt [HR], 78, who died on July 31, 2008, at his home in Portland

Positively Presbyterian

(Continued from page 4)

"The Bible in 90 Days!" started at **Columbia, Vancouver** in September. It includes a weekly reading assignment, a DVD, a discussion and a preview of next week. G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) starts this fall at **Colonial Heights, Portland** with adult education, GIFT exploration and choir. This fall, the adult education at **Moreland, Portland** will feature three series: one on forgiveness, one on Sabbath and one on Mary Magdalene.

As part of **Smith Memorial, Fairview's** community care day, they did a landscape cleanup at the Fairview elementary campus. Deacons and the women's association at **Eastminster, Portland** are having a rummage sale to raise money to support community projects.

In August, passers-by at **Kenilworth, Portland** were offered "coffee on the porch" on Saturday mornings. **Laurelhurst, Portland** distributed fliers to their neighborhood inviting them to a Block Party in early

September featuring food, music, fun and games.

The deacons' Produce Table has returned at **Gateway, The Dalles** - an opportunity to share veggies and fruit.

New and gently used stuffed animals are being collected at **East Woods, Vancouver**. They will be sent as Christmas presents to the Light House ministries in the Philippines.

A divorce recovery program is offered at **Mt. Tabor, Portland**. One can join at any time.

On September 7, **Westminster, Portland** sent Dr. James Moiso to his "Movin' On" next chapter of his life with a packed worship service and a standing room only lunch, honoring his retirement as Westminster's pastor.

Under the theme, "Outrageous Parable" all members at **St. Johns, Camas** were given a \$50 bill and challenged to bring its increase back to the church in two months. The increase was well over the seed money.

A new school, Jubilee Christian Pre-school, is accepting three to six-year-olds at **Mt. Scott Park, Portland** in a morning program and another set of classes in the afternoon.

Restoration is the *big plan* for **Springwater, Estacada**. It includes new pews and carpet, sanctuary painting and refinishing the fellowship hall floor.

The back-to-school project at **Cascades, Vancouver** is collecting needed supplies for students - backpacks, calculators, food and clothing. **First, Oregon City** has assembled 80 complete kits for the Start Right program. There are 25 different supplies to fill backpacks for Kindergarten-2nd grade, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

From Savage Memorial, Portland comes the story of a child whose method of prayer was to pray the alphabet. The child didn't know what to pray for and figured if he sent God all the letters, God could sort out the prayer.

Celebration Works Concert Series Announces 7th Season of Concerts

By Ann VanBever

In its 2008-09 season, **First, Portland's** concert series, Celebration Works, presents nine concerts by a widely diverse group of musicians. Calendar these dates now so that you won't miss a single performance.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, **October 26**, Portland's crossover pianist, Maria Choban, presents, "It's All Rock and Roll To Me," a program that shows how classical and rock music are related. Choban, a classically trained pianist who loves to shake things up, will present music by Stravinsky, Svoboda, Chopin, Theodorakis, Dukas, and Kalomiris. Students who are brave enough to show up in costume get in free!

On Sunday, **November 16**, at 3:00 pm, hear Portland's newest early music ensemble, La Stella, in music both familiar and unusual. The ensemble includes violinist Mary Rowell, gamba player Max Fuller, recorder player Zoe Tokar, and harpsichordist Owen Daly. Rounding out the group is a lute-like instrument called the theorbo, played by Hideki Yamaya. The group plans music that is improvisational in character as well as the more structured Telemann Paris Quartets.

After the Christmas season ends, the new year brings seven more concerts. On **January 11**, **First, Portland's** own organist, Jon Stuber, presents "Organic Bon Bons,"



La Stella performs at **First, Portland** in November.

a program of French music for pipe organ and instruments. On **January 25**, Four-Score, a "classical manband" of four talented singers/instrumentalists, presents songs of protest, rage and pain in "Shut Up and Sing." On **February 22**, the **First, Portland** Chamber Choir, directed by Jon Stuber, presents its annual vocal feast in "A Banquet of Voices." On **March 15**, Belle Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble presents a program in concert with the gospel/bluegrass group, the Misty Mamas. On **April 19**, "Music for the Great 50 Days of Easter," includes festive music for Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, in a concert by Seattle organist J. Melvin Butler. On **May 17**, come get lost in America's art form—jazz, with Georgina Philippon

on vocals, Mac Potts on piano and Brittini Williamson on bass, in "Let's Get Lost!" Finally, on **May 31**, the Alder Street Sextet presents a new work for piano and winds by Brent Weaver, as well as works for winds and strings.

First Presbyterian Church of Portland is located at 1200 SW Alder in downtown Portland. All concerts are on Sundays at 3 p.m. Free parking is available in the church's underground parking garage; entrance is at SW 12th and SW Morrison. Tickets are sold at the door. Adults: \$10. Students/Seniors: \$8. For more information, visit the church's web site, www.fpcpx.org.

Dunsmores Announce Retirement from Work In Bolivia

Bob and Julie Dunsmore, Presbyterian missionaries to Bolivia, have announced they will be retiring from the field on October 21. Many in Cascades Presbytery have known



Bob and Julie Dunsmore

the Dunsmores and their commitment to serving God's people in Latin America for a very long time.

Dunsmores will end their work as Companionship Facilitators for the UMAVIDA network, under the Joining Hands Program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, after three and one-half years in Bolivia. Prior to this time they served seven years in El Salvador and three years in Costa Rica.

"We are so sorry to be coming to the end of our partnership years with Cascades Presbytery at such an early date, much before we had expected. This is one of the most painful parts about our decision."

"We feel guided to make room for others to take up this work as Companionship Facilitators in Bolivia at this time. The network known as UMAVIDA has entered a significant new stage in its life, as it takes on a new challenge: the initiation of an international campaign to rectify environmental injustice taking place in Bolivia at the San

Cristobal Silver Mine. The Bolivian network *Uniendo Manos por la Vida* (Joining Hands for Life) will be attempting to define joint actions with Cascades Presbytery."

Bob Dunsmore adds, "... Even from our location in Atlanta we want to support Cascades Joining Hands in your efforts, and we hold you in our hearts as you go forward. We have loved working with you all over the years, and appreciate your ongoing prayers."

They would like to hear from friends in Cascades, and can be reached at this address in the near future, dunsmore@wimaxtigo.bo, and more long-term, at dunsmorebobjulie@yahoo.com. After October 21, their U.S. based cell phones will once again be active, and those numbers are Bob, 404-538-6876 and Julie, 404-992-7970.

Julie's words: "And up until our end date, we plan to give our all to supporting the partnership between the Presbyteries and UMAVIDA, sowe're not done yet! Please stay connected with us!"

Joining Hands Bolivian Partners Launch Water Campaign

By Don Shaw

Joining Hands for Life (UMAVIDA), the Bolivian partner of Cascades Presbytery's Joining Hands with Bolivia program, has chosen its international campaign. This is the result of years of research and negotiation. The campaign will focus on the San Cristóbal mine located in Southwest Bolivia. This is reputed to be the world's largest open pit silver mine, producing 9% of the world's silver and 3% of the world's zinc, along with large amounts of lead. To do so, they consume 40 million cubic meters of water per day, in a desert region where the annual rainfall is 200 milliliters per year. The impact on the aquifer is already devastating, although the mine has not yet reached full production.

The Presbytery of the Cascades, along with San Francisco Presbytery, is in partnership with the Bolivian network (UMAVIDA),

which has chosen as its central issue the human right to have access to clean water. Its slogan is "Clean Water: More Precious than Gold." It is focusing its campaign on preventing one of the world's largest silver mines from unnecessary consumption and contamination of water now used for agriculture and drinking purposes. The impoverished indigenous communities in this very remote area of southwest Bolivia are totally dependent on having a reliable and affordable source of water.

Since the San Cristóbal mine is owned and operated by U.S.-based Apex Silver Corporation, Cascades Presbytery can have an important advocacy role in assuring that this mine limits its damage to the environment (it may seriously affect the World Heritage site of the Uyuni Salt Flats nearby) and does not impact the health of our sisters and brothers

in the neighboring communities in Bolivia. At the very least, we can insist that this mining corporation adhere to U.S. standards for responsible mining - i.e. that it doesn't do things in Bolivia that are illegal in the U.S.

The international nature of the Joining Hands Partnerships calls us to strong action in overcoming injustice. In the process of doing so, it also calls us to discern how we, as citizens in the most powerful nation in the world, are complicit in keeping others in poverty, but also how we may hold the keys to their finding justice, dignity and well-being for themselves, their communities and nations.

Congregations are encouraged to consider becoming Joining Hands with Bolivia partners. For more information, contact Don Shaw, 503.302.4656 or peaceandhunger@cascadespresbytery.org.



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.

November 2008

- 1 Larry E. Trogen, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2001
- 2 Michael A. Shaw, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2000
- 3 Jennifer Pratt, candidate for the ministry, Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 4 Mary Lou Williams, Vice Moderator, NE region
- 5 Committee on Ministry - Northeast Region, Tom Young, Chair
- 6 Peace Presbyterian Church, Eugene - chartered this day in 1960 • Gregory H. Thorson, installed as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Sandy, this day in 1988 • Jeannine M. Graham, ordained this day in 1994, serving as associate professor of religious studies at George Fox University
- 7 Cascades Presbytery meets today and tomorrow, Christopher Grewe, moderator
- 8 Judith Ann Richards, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2006
- 9 Cherry Park Presbyterian Church, Troutdale - chartered this day in 1936
- 10 Kwang Ho Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2006
- 11 Karen K. Renner, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, this day in 2001 • John A. Day, ordained this day in 1979 • Carol L. Swanson, ordained this day in 2005, serving as pastor of Amity United Methodist Church, Amity, Oregon and Sheridan United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Oregon • Linda S. Gebetsberger, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis, this day in 2005
- 12 Sharon H. & Glenn C. Edwards, installed as co-pastors of United Presbyterian Church, Albany, this day in 1995 • Darrell C. Hall Jr., installed as pastor of Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 1995
- 13 Prineville Presbyterian Church - chartered this day in 1977
- 14 James A. (Jim) T. Hazlett, ordained this day in 1976, serving as pastor of Gateway Presbyterian Church, The Dalles • David G. Robinson installed as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Cannon Beach, this day in 1993
- 15 Faulder Colby, ordained this month in 1973, serving as staff psychologist at the Monroe Correctional Facility, Monroe, WA
- 16 M. Blair Cash, ordained this day in 1989, serving as Sports Information Director at George Fox University, Newberg • Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro - chartered this month in 1873
- 17 First Presbyterian Church, Dallas - chartered this day in 1889 • Community Presbyterian Church, Parkdale - chartered this day in 1909 • Jennifer Martin, ordained this day in 2002, serving as campus pastor at University of Oregon Koinonia Center
- 18 Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1892
- 19 Marcia L. Muir, ordained this day in 2006 • Cynthia Reyes Fillmore, ordained this day in 1995
- 20 Community Presbyterian Church, Lakeside - chartered in 1947
- 21 Roberts A. Anderson, installed as pastor at Community Presbyterian Church, Redmond this day in 1999 • Gregory J. Lund, installed as pastor at Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, Milwaukie, this day in 1999
- 22 First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville - chartered this day in 1857 • Kristin Hamilton Sutherland, ordained this day in 1998

- 23 David H. Hutchinson, installed as associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2003 • Laurie M. Vischer, installed as associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2003 • Barbara J. Campbell, installed as pastor at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day in 2003 • Sayer C. Strauch, ordained this day in 1998
- 24 Meagan Helton, candidate for ministry, Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego
- 25 Community Presbyterian Church, Redmond - chartered this day in 1906 • Wendy A. McAninch-Ruenzi, ordained this day in 1984 • Melinda A. Smith, ordained this day in 1990
- 26 Multnomah Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1920 • Calvary Korean Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1989 • Elizabeth M. Kitamura, ordained this day in 1994, serving as Chaplain at Providence Elderplace, Portland
- 27 Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls - chartered 1947
- 28 John E. Merner, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1985
- 29 Christ's Church: Methodist and Presbyterian United, Monmouth - chartered this day in 1978
- 30 Beaverton Korean Presbyterian Church, Beaverton - chartered this day in 1986 • W. Scott Dalgarno, ordained this day in 1980, serving as interim pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene

December 2008

- 1 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Medford - chartered this day in 1958 • James F. Patten, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1991
- 2 Susan M. Carleton, ordained this day in 1984, serving as Department of Human Services, Social Service Specialist • Alan W. Jackson, installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Medford, this day in 1979
- 3 Donald R. Caughey, ordained this day in 1973 • Patricia F. Berger, installed as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham, this day in 2006
- 4 Robert G. Griffen, ordained this day in 1977 • David W. Dendy, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls, this day in 2004
- 5 Peter B. Funch, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2005
- 6 Tri-City United Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Creek - chartered this day in 1954 • Susan M. Goodin, ordained this day in 1992 • Kathy Scott, webmaster, Presbytery of the Cascades • Brookings Presbyterian Church, Brookings - chartered this month in 1953
- 7 Maureen O'Rourke, Media Resource Center Director
- 8 Duncan C. Cameron, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1997
- 9 St. Johns Presbyterian Church, Camas - chartered this day in 1883 • Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this month in 1946
- 10 Christopher M. Johnson, installed as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day in 2006 • Jack C. Randall, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1994
- 11 Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grants Pass - chartered this day in 1887 • Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1946
- 12 Robyn M. Eddy, ordained this day in 1999, serving as Director of Youth & Family

- Ministries at Central Lutheran Church, Eugene • Martha Page Greene, ordained this day in 1982
- 13 Douglas G. McClure, ordained this day in 1981, in private practice as a counselor
- 14 Sunset Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1952 • Community Presbyterian Church, Sandy - chartered this day in 1952
- 15 Richard L. Rohrbaugh, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 2001
- 16 Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairview - chartered this day in 1890
- 17 Carol Prichard, inquirer for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Astoria
- 18 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham - chartered this month in 1959
- 19 Edward T. Alora, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1990
- 20 Wesley R. Lachman, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1991
- 21 William L. Syrios, ordained this day in 1980
- 22 Payton M. Wall, candidate for the ministry, First Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 23 Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day in 1885 • First Presbyterian Church, Woodburn - chartered this day in 1898
- 24 First United Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Point - chartered this day in 1890
- 25 Christmas - Give thanks for God's inexpressible gift
- 26 John M. Salmon, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1999, serving as parish associate at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Portland
- 27 Stuart D. Campbell, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1983
- 28 John R. Braund, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 1999
- 29 W. Douglas Counsell, granted Honorably Retired Status this day in 2005
- 30 Heidi Bolt, installed as associate pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, Redmond, this day in 2007 • Thomas R. Tepy, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1987
- 31 Robert J. Gillespie, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1992 • Mary Wright Gillespie, granted Honorably Retired status this day in 1998

Presbytery of the Cascades Current Status of Open Churches

Vacant

Cottage Grove, First
Lakeside, Community
Oakland, Community
Portland, Calvary

Seeking Interim or Stated Supply

Corvallis, Korean (Interim)
Keizer, John Knox (Stated Supply)
Portland, Westminster (Interim)
Tigard, Calvin
(part-time Stated Supply, Associate)
Waldport, Community

Preparing to Actively Seek

Ashland, First
Pacific City
Portland, First (Head of Staff)
Salem, First

Actively Seeking a Pastor (CIF submitted to Louisville)

Coos Bay, First
(three quarter-time position)
Eugene, Westminster
Milwaukie, Milwaukie

Carolee Neighorn Joins Presbytery Staff

By John Huenink

It was at Cascades' Stated Meeting in July of 2008 that it was announced that Margi Brown would be retiring at the end of September from her service as Administrative Assistant to the Office of the Stated Clerk. The Presbytery's Personnel & Administration Committee formed a search committee to find a successor to Margi and is pleased to announce the employment of Carolee Neighorn in the position.

Carolee is a member and elder of the Milwaukie Presbyterian Church. She has served a number of terms on the session of that congregation, on its Pastor Nominating Committee, and as a Commissioner to Presbytery. She has served Cascades as a member of its Committee on Congregations. She has a Public Relations Certificate and BA in Communications, both from Marylhurst

College. She has been active in a variety of volunteer organizations and has worked in a variety of administrative positions for the past decade. She has the technical/computer skills needed for her service.

Carolee began her work on September 15 and for the final two weeks of Margi's tenure, the two of them worked together for Margi to orient Carolee to the intricacies of clerkwork before her departure.

Margi will be recognized and honored for her long and devoted service to Cascades at the presbytery's stated meeting in November - a service of nearly three decades in both her current position and her previous position as Administrative Assistant/Associate to Cascades' Head of Staff.

Call Cascades' Portland office to welcome and encourage Carolee and to wish Margi a well-deserved retirement.



Carolee Neighorn

Presbytery Council Highlights

(Editor's note: These are adapted from notes taken by Stated Clerk, John Huenink)

A regular meeting of the Presbytery Council of The Presbytery of the Cascades met on Friday evening, September 12 and Saturday, September 13 at Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church in Portland.

Council reviewed the presbytery's end-of-July financial reports. The Administration Fund shows positive cash flow, although some per capita apportionment payments from churches have not been made in full. Presbytery Council acted to recommend to the presbytery the following budgets for 2009:

A Presbytery Administration Budget in the amount of \$274,064, to be funded primarily by a presbytery per capita apportionment of \$11.23 for each active member in the congregations of the presbytery.

A Presbytery Program Budget in the amount of \$1,722,938, to be funded primarily by the Mission Partnership giving of the congregations of the presbytery.

The Worship Design Team reported that its theme for the November, 2008 through June, 2009 worship theme would be that of

the 218th General Assembly, Micah 6:1-8. It was announced that Dr. Carol Dempsey of The University of Portland would be at the presbytery's meeting in November for both preaching and leading a pre-presbytery workshop on the theme.

The Professional Support Committee reported that it had reviewed the continuing education reports received by pastors of the presbytery. The barriers to the taking of continuing education are time and money. The PSC will be exploring options to resolve the problems reported.

Draft reports of the resolution teams for Sunset Presbyterian Church and Kenton Presbyterian Church regarding the proposed terms of the departure of the congregations from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to The Presbytery of the West of The Evangelical Presbyterian Church were presented and discussed in detail. Representatives of the teams would work with Moderator Chris Grewe, Council Chair Sandra Frey, Board of Trustees President John Ailstock, and Stated Clerk John Huenink to plan the process to be used at the November Stated Meeting.

Council acted to designate the year 2009 as a year for congregational vitality and vision within the presbytery with resources for implementing programs to be recommended throughout the presbytery for congregational

use. The Presbytery's Transformation Team, the Presbytery's New Church Development Director, and others will coordinate the implementation of the program, in conjunction and consultation with whatever individuals or committees or other resources might be engaged.

It was reported that the recommendation of Committee On Ministry-Coordinating Council on the referral made to them by Presbytery Council regarding the reception of ministers as members of the presbytery was that there be no change at this time in the policy adopted by the presbytery in November, 2007.

A document titled "Proposed Guidelines for Examination of Elders and Deacons" which is intended for use by church sessions in the examination of candidates for ordination was referred to Presbytery Council, with recommended modifications to be incorporated in a final edition to be presented to the presbytery by the Congregational Support Committee at the November Stated Meeting.

The Synod of the Pacific is to meet in Boise, ID in October. It was reported that Merle Botge is to serve as Chair of the Synod Mission Partnership Committee.

Council endorsed allocations of Presbyterian Women Thank Offering funds to First, Medford, (for food bank and computer lab) and First, Phoenix (for re-integrative program for returning military personnel).

Westminster, Medford Moving Forward

By Hugh Anderson,
Co-Executive Presbyter, South Region

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Medford is moving forward following the financial embezzlement by its book-keeper.

It has taken over a year but the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church are now on a solid financial footing thanks to the work of the leadership of the congregation and others outside of the church. When suspicions of financial impropriety were first raised by the congregation's finance committee and the presbytery, the accounting firm of Kosmatka Donnelly & Company were brought in for an audit. Their findings prompted an investigation by the Medford Police Department and the Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program. Charges were eventually brought against the book-keeper, Mary Carol Singley, for her embezzlement of over \$800,000.

Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program covered \$250,000 of the amount taken [the maximum allowed under its policies]. Designated funds within the church were replenished. The session instituted more stringent financial procedures, above and beyond the minimum standards required by the Book of Order which they had consistently met. A new position of church administrator was created to oversee the internal workings of the church.

Mary Carol Singley was tried and convicted on five counts of first degree aggravated theft. She is currently serving her

sentence in the state correctional facility in Wilsonville.

At her sentencing, pastor Alan Jackson had this to say:

Your honor, as Pastor, I speak on behalf of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Medford. We thank you for your time and effort and for your service in this matter.

Mary Carol Singley was a much loved and trusted member of our church family for many years. It is difficult for many of us to understand her choices, or the evident addiction that brought her to them. However, we understand all too well the burden of trying to repair the damage that her betrayal inflicted both on our church family and on our mission partners around the world.

We also understand forgiveness. We are Christians. When Mary Carol stole from us, she broke the laws of God and broke faith with her brothers and sisters. But we believe God can restore that which was broken by offering forgiveness and reconciliation through his Son, Jesus; and as God's children, we are called to do the same. Indeed, we all stand every bit as much in need of that forgiveness. And, were it not for the grace of God, any of us might be facing similarly grave consequences for our choices.

Therefore, we are ready to forgive Mary Carol. She is still our sister in Christ, not because she deserves it, but because God's love is bigger than our failings. But forgiveness is a two-way transaction and Mary Carol has an essential part to play if that transaction is to be

complete. So as she faces the consequences of her actions, we will continue to pray for her healing and restoration.

We also recognize that in stealing from the church, Mary Carol violated not only the laws of God, but also the laws of this land, and that she must be held accountable for those actions. We know that her punishment will be real, but it will be temporary. So we will pray that, as she faces the legal consequences of her crimes, she will do so in a way that honors God and allows healing in her relationship with the people of Westminster Church. Our prayers will remain with her and with this court. Thank you.

Mary Carol has sought forgiveness from God and from the congregation.

In order to help all congregations, the Presbytery of the Cascades, in conjunction with Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program, will be offering three workshops throughout the presbytery during the first week of November. More information will be forthcoming through Cascades Electronic Express [CEE] and the presbytery's web-page, www.cascadespresbytery.org. The information shared about risk management and fiduciary responsibility will provide help to our congregations as they implement their own policies. As an added incentive, Covenant Presbyterian Insurance Program will be offering a percentage discount for each congregation insured by them that sends representatives to these workshops. For further information, please contact the office of the stated clerk.