Presbyters Worship, Learn
Decide, and Act

By Paul Belz-Templeman

During the June Stated Presbytery meeting, we:

**Worshipped:**
- Installed Clark Scalera as Advocate for Congregations and Clergy.
- Received offering of $694.25 given to Salem for Refugees.

**Learned:**
- Dr. Frances Taylor Gench from Union Seminary led the pre-Presbytery Workshop: When the Bible Raises Your Blood Pressure: Faithful Wrestling with Challenging Texts.
- The Reverend Jenny Pratt shared about her work with Second Home placing unaccompanied homeless high school students with families in Beaverton, Gresham and Lincoln County.
- Aurora Presbyterian Church explained their work with Backpack Buddies and a host of other ministries in the community.

**Decided:**
- Elected and Installed Barbara Campbell as Moderator, Evonne Hubbard and Pat Berger as Vice Moderators and others to service on Presbytery boards and committees.
- Installed Clark Scalera as Advocate for Congregations and Clergy.
- Adopted the Vacant Property Task Force Report as presbytery policy. Among other things, when a property has been vacant, the New Ministries team has six months to come up with a use that furthers the mission of Jesus Christ; if no use is found, then the presbytery will sell the property. Read the policy here.
- Amended by-laws to add a co-chair of the New Ministries team to the Leadership Commission.
- Gave permission for the Rev. Jennifer Martin to be considered as candidate for Co-pastor at Central, Eugene.
- Approved sale of Mt. Scott Park, Portland manse.

**Acted:**
- During the Saturday Open Space, solidarity was shown with families separated at national borders.

Commissioners show solidarity with families who have been separated at the border during Saturday’s Break Out Sessions.
Ask the Clerk  
By Paul Belz Templeman, Stated Clerk

Q: What happened to New Business at Presbytery meetings?
A: Keep moving along, nothing to learn here! Pssst….want the down low on the presbytery’s novel new business procedure and a loophole to defeat it? Here it is: The new presbytery standing rule concerning new business is long, but it means this: If you bring new business to a meeting, you need to submit two copies of the motion on this form. Then the business will be referred to a committee for recommendation to a subsequent presbytery meeting.

That’s the normal procedure. However, the presbytery can consider your new business later in the meeting if the presbytery votes to do so with 2/3 in the affirmative. The reason for this rule is to attempt to balance the rights of individual members and commissioners to bring new business with the rights of the whole body to have time to consider the motion carefully. To be clear, if your new business is in response to a recent world event and needs presbytery to vote before the end of the meeting, presbytery can decide (by 2/3 vote) to do so.

Now for the loophole: this new business procedure should be a special rule but is found in the standing rules. Standing rules can be suspended by simple majority. So, one could move to suspend the standing rule in order to consider a particular piece of new business in the same meeting. Then, if a simple majority agrees, you’ve eliminated the standing rule for the time being and can consider the new business!

Omnibus

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

Omnibus welcomes news and views of all the churches of Presbytery and all its readers. Send all communications to Kathleen Waugh, Omnibus editor, P.O. Box 1145, Phoenix, OR 97535-1145, tel. 541-772-4874, email omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org.

Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The Presbytery “Communications and Meeting Planning Team” (CAMPT) is the editorial board.
“You’re from Cascades? Oh wow! What a great assembly you folks put on in Portland.”

I heard that comment repeatedly over the course of the ten days that I spent in St. Louis at this year’s 223nd assembly. I imagine that I will be saying something similar in two years to folks I meet from St. Louis when we meet in Baltimore.

But I want to reserve this time to talk about the impact that The Presbytery of the Cascades has had on our denomination. Remember two years ago when we sent an overture to the assembly “On Choosing to Be a Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25?” My friends, I want to report to you that the PCUSA got the message and took it seriously. On numerous occasions speakers from the GA stage began their comments with “As a church committed to Matthew 25…” The theme played its way out as numerous overtures were directed toward ministries for and with the disenfranchised, the voiceless, the refugee, the imprisoned, and the forgotten.

Maybe the signature moment of this GA was the Hands and Feet initiative as hundreds of us marched from the Convention Center to the St. Louis Justice Center to protest the unjust practice of bail that falls more heavily on the shoulders of the poor and minorities. After arriving at the Justice Center we presented a check for $47,200 to The Bail Project (www.bailproject.org) and confirmed that we don’t just preach Matthew 25; we live it!

It’s no surprise to me that this national re-emphasis on “ministry to the least of these…” would have been initiated by The Presbytery of the Cascades. In my visits over the past six months I have discovered both churches with ample resources and churches with meager resources have a deep commitment to serve the naked, the hungry, the thirsty, the sick and the imprisoned. Among them:

First, Gold Beach has a dedicated core of people who serve a soup lunch every week; Nestucca Valley, Pacific City works with the school system to provide a weekly backpack full of food to qualifying students and families in what is an annual $35,000 pro-

gram, and Lake Grove, Lake Oswego works with local schools and principals to provide support to at-risk children through their Pink Eraser Project.

Community of Pilgrims, Portland (one of our GA 1001 New Worshipping Communities) lives out its vision statement “Following Jesus! Embracing All!” by creating a core community around those who are often considered “the least of these.”

This is all good news as well as a good sign for our presbytery. One of the things we heard clearly in this 223rd General Assembly is that the new generations of people aren’t searching for churches insulated from the harsh realities of life, but are looking for gospel communities who are literally the hands and feet of Jesus out on the streets.

Thank you, Cascades Presbytery, for being a Matthew 25 church. The PCUSA took notice and thanked us for the reminder.

Committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ with you…

Brian
Best Kept Secret  
*By Heather Crow-Martinez, Vice-Moderator Northeast Region*

I am going to do my best to reveal a secret with the goal of increasing regional Presbyterians’ awareness about a unique and beautiful “pocket of faith-based excellence.” My main fear is that in doing so, it could come across as a shameless plug, or even worse, yet another boring advertisement (like we’re not already inundated by these daily!).

Unbeknownst to, well – let’s face it, much of the world, there is a Presbyterian Church (USA) in Warm Springs, Oregon. For those of you unfamiliar, the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church is located on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon. To create a little context, our Reservation is located in Central Oregon, approximately two hours east of Portland.

The oldest and most distinguished Oregon treaty tribe (there are nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon), Warm Springs is nestled between the Deschutes River and many mountains – including Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson, to name just a few. As Central Oregon is essentially the mecca of outdoor recreation in the state, many of you already knew, at least to some degree, that Warm Springs exists because you have to drive through it, to access Camp Sherman, Three Rivers, Smith Rock, or one of the many destination resorts throughout the Central Oregon region. But how many of you know that Warm Springs Presbyterian Church (admittedly small and for sure cash-poor), remains alive, committed to Christian life, rich in spirit, and a critical component of the Warm Springs community?

Because our community is small, naturally, so is our church; weekly attendance ranges from 15-30 and while there are many regular attendees, there are regular guests who attend but sporadically. Year after year, state-wide data supports that Warm Springs is socioeconomically one of the poorest communities in the state. Our church members are giving, but are financially not able to contribute much; instead, they find others ways to give of themselves.

One must keep in mind the grim reality that the average per capita annual income on our Reservation is $13,365. It is a myth that all Oregon tribes are casino rich, simply not our local case. A couple of years ago our tribally-owned sawmill, a source of employment for many tribal members, closed down permanently. Unlike many previously timber-rich Oregon counties, we do not receive federal timber payments. Our destination resort no longer reaps great financial benefit and has been contracted out to an off-reservation investment group. At minimum, our resort under new management will at least provide employment for some tribal members. But in spite of economic decline, we remain rich in culture and heritage, and hope for our future. Our little church continues to be a sanctuary of support, spiritual nourishment, and a spiritually rich Christian faith community.

We provide a safe place for community members to worship, break bread together, and pray for peace locally and beyond our borders. Our church exists financially at the benevolence of the Cascades Presbytery and we are grateful for the commitment to fund us as a mission church. We continue to work towards raising our visibility, engaging in the Presbytery, and carrying the message that we, too, are a community of faith and play a role. We, like many other Presbyterian churches are uncertain of our future sustainability fiscally. Given the local socioeconomics and declining revenue, we remain full of love, hope, committed to our Christian faith and determine to proceed as best we can. We trust in the God’s love and guidance and remain rich in our faith.

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A Tiny Little Snippet
A night spent sleeping in the car can inform and enlighten.

By Roberta Schlechter, Northwest reporter

Most of us are blessed with a roof over our head, three squares a day, and a car that works. We tend to be far removed from our hard working neighbors who are but one illness or car repair bill away from homelessness. Many are families like ours. Their children have important ties to school, friends and a neighborhood. But they live on the economic and emotional edge.

Amidst the multitude of church-supported local mission projects, one national model in particular is designed to serve this group of needy families. It’s called FAMILY PROMISE, founded 32 years ago and having 185 affiliates in 42 states, involve over 6,000 congregations, including Tualatin Presbyterian. TPC is one of eight churches working to launch Family Promise of Tualatin Valley. They need another five host churches and a van. The all-important day center has been secured. Their website is up and running at https://www.familypromiseoftv.org.

Human Resources Elder Judy Nix and her session colleagues were eager to join the local effort when they learned that as a teenager, Pastor Ken Evers-Hood joined his mom as a Family Promise volunteer in Texas. TPC was the first to sign on as a local host church.

Family Promise serves groups of 14-15 clients at a time. Nix explains: “The families sign a contract. They are heavily vetted; background checks, drug tests, etc. Most are victims of circumstance—high rent, job loss, or major car repairs.” Remarkably, 87 percent of Family Promise clients secure housing after just 60 days in the program.

All the necessities are provided. The day center serves as the job-seeker’s “address.” Staff arranges with school districts to transport the children to and from their own school. Meanwhile, adults have access to showers, laundry facilities, computers, a case manager and an intensive, structured course curriculum of money management and job training. Having spent her career in HR, Nix says her “ministry” is helping people create resumes.

While the day center serves as their “address,” a little “home space” is offered in a host church for a week at a time. It comes with home-cooked meals and a bit of ground on which to play. Often church members or youth groups gather with the families in the evenings for games or other socializing. The Family Promise van picks up clients by 7:30 a.m. to begin their day.

This is serious work with a profound mission. But there’s plenty of opportunity for fun. TPC was heavily involved in the recent DRIVE IN-SLEEP OUT fundraiser in the Tigard High School parking lot. Nix says, “The idea is to sponsor a car, kind of like a ‘bail me out of jail’ fundraiser. People could also sign up to be a ‘back-seat driver’ and go sleep in their own bed. Everyone knew the mission of Family Promise: to help children get into circumstances so they don’t sleep in their car.”

Some 150 people attended the event, which raised $31,000. All the food was donated and Knights of Columbus delivered a huge bar-be-cue. Local companies donated raffle items. The “Rogue River Band” set up on the grassy area. There was lots of food and games, and even a family-friendly movie in the gym.

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At 10 p.m. it was lights-out. Sixty people did sleep over in their cars. There were porta-potties and police did extra drive-bys to make sure participants were not disturbed. Sleepers had to deal with street-lights, passing cars, extraneous noise, plus lights from surrounding buildings and business signs. Some people covered their car windows in an attempt to darken their sleep space. TPC youth slept in the church bus. Nix says all the car sleepers were amazed that “Everybody looked so GOOD the next morning!” But nobody wanted to do that more than one night.

So what was it like? Nix reports, “One woman said, ‘I felt vulnerable’ about who might walk by or knock on my car window. Whole families slept together, after having heart-to-heart talks about why it was important to do this. One dad tried to skip the sleepover because he had a presentation to make in church the next day; mom and the kids nixed that idea. A mom and daughter came from Portland specifically so the child would understand that this is a human issue.” Nix concludes, “This was a tiny little snippet of what it might be like to sleep in your car.”

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Ramona’s in the Sanctuary at Westminster, Portland

By Nancy Gaston, Northeast Region Reporter

You may be familiar with Portland author Beverly Cleary’s children’s books featuring the mischievous Ramona. But did you know Ramona attended Westminster, Portland? It’s the “big stone church” where she was a sheep in the Christmas pageant?

Ramona is still at Westminster. In 1991, members of the congregation began a needlepoint project to create unique cushions for the sanctuary. The result was hundreds of scenes—some biblical images, some local landmarks and Oregon history, and—yes—scenes from Cleary’s books, all rendered in needlepoint. Ramona and friends occupy the second pew on the east side.

Two whole pews have cushions depicting the animals entering Noah’s ark two by two. And exterior of the church itself is featured on another cushion.

If you’d like to book a tour to see this prodigious project, contact the church office coordinator at 503-287-1289 x 111.
Summer is here. School is out. Are the kids going to be at loose ends all summer long? Not necessarily. Today there are a variety of options available to occupy busy minds. In the past there was a Camps and Conference Committee in Presbytery with full-time personnel which organized camping sites and staffing.

Their first encounter with the Cascades Presbytery’s Family Camp was with its predecessor, the Synod of Oregon Family Camp, at the now-defunct Devil’s Lake Campground on Century Drive near Bend. The year, 1965, a small freshly scrubbed group of about half-dozen families from Lake Grove Church came rolling in to Devil’s Lake as the dirt-covered group of about the same size was getting ready to leave. This family camp had begun its life earlier, around 1960. They remembered that pastors Oscar Payne, Bob and Jim Patten and Burton Alvis, a few spouses, as kids and friends were packing to leave.

There have been a variety of camping opportunities for the kids and adults of the Presbytery. One such was the Santiam Lodge which was constructed in the 1969-70 by the CCC and could sleep up to 60 people in its dorms. It is located off the road to the Hoodoo Ski Bowl. It was an all-purpose camp in the summer time for kids as well as a winter ski facility when the snow was good enough. The camp was discontinued in the mid-70s when Presbytery lost its lease on the property. Currently it has been obtained by a couple from Sisters who plan to refurbish the building and reopen it.

One of the more interesting camps was “Sunago” which was available during the early 60’s or 70’s. It was known as a “primitive camp” and was located on a hillside off of the Sunset Highway near Forest Grove. Participants lived and slept in teepees, cooking over open fires for their three meals a day. It took a hearty soul to remain anchored to the side of the hill, especially in the rain, while studying the Bible lesson for the day.

Southminster, Beaverton, was a prime mover in organizing family camps at the Honeyman State Park on the coast. Pastors from local Presbyterian churches provided the leadership and this was one of the longer running camps. It would not be surprising that the youth who were exposed to and appreciated the handiwork of God’s creation be the environmentalists of today.

The School of Christian Service provided a week-long experience during the same period located in various small colleges in central Oregon. This was an opportunity for families to come together from various churches to be involved in leadership training which was conducted by qualified staff. There was usually an individual from General Assembly as a keynote speaker. Families could then take advantage of the various amenities of the colleges during their free time.

Last but not least, there was the Suttle Lake Fishing Camp in 2005. In this camp young ladies and gentlemen were exposed to the joys of dipping a fishing line into the various lakes in the Santiam Pass area. This was the first time for many of simply placing a wriggling worm on a hook. Some girls took to it like born fishermen. Everyone was able to take home fish that they had caught which has to be a watershed experience.

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I would not be surprised if there were Baby Boomers today who will remember their camping experience with some pleasure, snuggling down in sleeping bags underneath the stars. The act of sitting around an open fire, listening to Bible stories, singing songs, and burning marshmallows on a stick to make s’mores has to be a pleasant memory. It is hoped that they will recall their camping experience as a positive step in their journey of faith.

**First, McMinnville** still offers their kids a week at Camp Tilikum in the Willamette Valley. Leadership is provided by volunteers from the church. They have about 10 kids attending and the feedback is that the kids loved it.

Today churches are offering different venues to assist in the youth in their spiritual growth. In the past there have been trips to the homeless areas in Portland, San Francisco, and elsewhere. Visits have been made to Indian reservations in the Northwest in building projects.

Some churches opt for a different kind of experiences with traveling to another country. **First, Dallas** in June provided a mission to Juarez, Mexico where the participants were involved in sewing curtains and other sewing projects. **Community, Redmond** provided an opportunity for 20 youth with adults to travel to Tecate, Mexico to build houses for needy families. **Westminster, Salem** has a youth mission trip to the Los Angeles, California City Camp this summer.

**First, Bend** is sending approximately 17 members to Guatemala in June where volcanic eruptions had such a devastating effect. The group planned to assist in cleanup activities and wherever else they were needed. They have $8,000 to work with Habitat Guatemala to purchase supplies for those most in need.

The focus has changed in providing leadership to our youth from exposing them to the wonders of God’s creation to a more societal nature of our world. We have experienced many different kinds of influences that have had an impact on the camping program of yesteryear. Communication has to top the list with everyone having a phone in their ear. Presbytery also has had budgetary constraints which has limited their leadership. It seems to me that the question we have to answer is can we adapt and accomplish what we were trying to do with the camping programs?

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**Menucha’s first annual Summer Fair and Ice Cream Social**

**Saturday, August 11 from 10 am – 4 pm**

This new event is an affordable fundraiser (kids get in free!) with something for everyone, all in support of this very special place!

- Artist vendors
- Lawn games for folks of all ages
- Fabulous food
- Face painting
- Music
- Magic
- And more!

Come hungry! Your ticket entitles you to one custom-made ice cream sundae. Plus, we’ll be selling picnic-style food made in Menucha’s famous kitchen. Bring a blanket, spread out and enjoy a beautiful day here.

Tickets: FREE for kids ages 0-12 and $10 for teens and adults. Bring the whole family! This is a relaxed fundraiser, so please bring your friends, too! (They’ll thank you for introducing them to Menucha!) Tickets available at the gate. Save time: buy tickets in advance at menucha.org/tickets.

Menucha Retreat & Conference Center is located at 38711 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, Corbett, OR 97019. Contact us at 503-695-2243 or at this [website](http://menucha.org).
Stated Clerk Issues Statement on Separated Immigrant Families

Nelson: ‘We must not punish desperate parents by tearing their children away from them.’

(Editor’s note: The following article was given to us from the “Presbyterian News Service.”)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly Stated Clerk the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, II, issued a statement from the denomination’s 223rd General Assembly condemning the Trump administration’s new policy of separating young children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.

“What has this nation become?” Nelson queried. “How have we wandered so far from Jesus’ kind admonition, ‘Let the little children come to me…’ He also criticized the Justice Department’s stated use of separate detention of parents and their children as a “deterrent” to immigration and accused the administration of selective use of scripture, saying the citing of Romans 13:1 to obey the law (presumably whatever the law says), while ignoring the higher scriptural demand that “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10) is a blatant misuse of the biblical message.

The full text of Nelson’s statement, dated June 16, 2018:

As Presbyterians gather for the meeting of our 223rd General Assembly, we are mindful of the many issues of justice, peace and compassion we face, both as citizens of the United States and members of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While we face issues of peace on the Korean peninsula, tragic injustice in the Middle East, and the specter of climate change in our nation and our world, there is nothing of more urgency than the tragedy that is unfolding at our borders, where children are ripped from their parents and placed in holding cells, while their frantic parents scream in agony at the separation.

What has this nation become? How have we wandered so far from Jesus’ kind admonition, “Let the little children come to me … for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs?” How can this be happening in a nation in which so many claim the traditions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam and the critical importance of families to the fabric of our lives together?

Perhaps the most egregious aspect of this policy is the willingness of the highest legal official of our nation to suggest that if a mother has fled violence in her own country to save herself and her children but has not had a chance to make a proper petition for safety in the U.S., she should be taught a lesson by having her children taken from her. It is almost incomprehensible that these acts should be used as a warning to others who would come.

What makes matters worse is the audacity of quoting the Apostle Paul’s admonition to believers in Romans 13:1 to obey the law (presumably whatever the law says), while ignoring the higher scriptural demand that “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Romans 13:10).

The crisis of tens of thousands of desperate people coming to the United States for relief seems almost overwhelming. But as the officials of our government attempt to address the crisis, we cannot afford to tarnish the highest values of our nation. We must not punish desperate parents by tearing their children away from them, leaving the parents without access to the children or assurance of their welfare.

In the name of God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stop!

In the faith we share,
Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Do you have a book, a Bible Study, a resource that has helped you in your ministry? Please share. Send to editor, Kathleen Waugh at omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org

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