March Gladness!
Presbytery Meets March 20-21
By Paul Belz-Templeman, State Clerk

The Presbytery of the Cascades meeting starts with Workshops at 12:30 p.m. on March 20 at Westminster, Portland! As your Stated Clerk, I came up with fifteen reasons to attend the Presbytery meeting. Here I present five good reasons why presbytery attendance will make you glad:

Respond to the Word from J. Herbert Nelson
All the way from headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky comes J. Herbert Nelson as he continues to set a new direction for the church. He will call us to explore deeper spiritual and communal relationships and advocate for justice while engaging our rapidly changing world.

Hear from the Candidates
Not THOSE candidates, I’m talking ministry candidates! A highlight at any meeting is when people preparing for ministry share their life and faith. This meeting we have not one but two opportunities to hear from candidates: Melissa Temple will share her “Statement of Christian Experience” related to her move to candidacy; and Brenna Dykman will share her “Statement of Faith” and be examined for ordination.

Catch the Vision for Our Future
The Presbytery Leadership Commission, Presbyter for Vision & Mission Brian Heron, and friends will devote a solid portion of time to present their findings related to a vision for presbytery. You can give feedback or learn more during break-out sessions on Saturday.

Decide via Vote
What would Presbytery be without votes, debate and someone finally calling the question. We’ve got proposals for a moderator elect position, an overture or two to the General Assembly, motions to refine the 2020 budget and, say, anybody remember that motion referred to the Leadership Commission in November about putting more money in the Hunger Action fund? Well, it’s coming back with a recommendation on Saturday!

Celebrate and Commission People
We’ve got Retirees, Commissioners to General Assembly, Congregations preparing to enter the Vital Congregations Initiative, and more to commission and honor. And then there are those other people we celebrate because, just like you and me, they show up at presbytery. Skirt the rules about decorum and whisper to your neighbor during the Stated Clerk’s report. Take a break from business to laugh together in the back hallway. Or pass the peace to your old colleague or friend from the church you used to attend and go out to lunch after the meeting!
Ask the Clerk

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

Q: “Who Can Preside at Communion?” – the question everybody is asking these days.

A: OK, maybe you aren’t asking this question, but the emails, phone calls, faxes, and telegrams keep coming into the office of Stated Clerk to raise this query. Read on to learn which denomination’s ministers can administer communion in a Presbyterian Church. But, to begin with, the fundamentals, “the Lord’s Supper shall be authorized by the session and administered by a minister of the Word and Sacrament. It is appropriate that a presbytery authorize and train ruling elders to administer the Lord’s Supper in the event of the absence of pastors” W-3.0410.

So, first, the session must authorize communion. Then, a Minister of the Word and Sacrament or an elder “authorized” by the presbytery must administer it. When the presbytery “commissions” a ruling elder to serve as a pastor, part of the commission is authorized to serve communion. Presbytery can, and has, trained and authorized ruling elders in remote congregations to administer communion when it has been difficult to have consistent ministry by Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. But, in the absence of presbytery authorizing an elder to administer communion, an elder is not able to do so.

But wait, there is more. Many of the questions I get involve the use of non-PCUSA Ministers. Can a Lutheran preside? Can a Methodist? How about the retired non-denominational pastor who worships with the congregation? While some have argued that “Minister of the Word and Sacrament” is a particularly Presbyterian term, this does not mean that it is restricted to Presbyterians. If a person has been ordained to a ministry that involves preaching and the sacraments, the session can, if it determines that the theological understanding of that minister/priest/pastor, is consistent with the Reformed understanding, then the session can invite that person to preside.

This may appear to give the session too much authority, but it must be remembered that the session authorizes the celebration of communion provided that a minister or authorized ruling elder is available to administer it.

Concerned about a Pandemic?

During what can be a frightening time for many, Presbytery Disaster Assistance encourages congregations to remain as calm as possible and to follow common-sense measures to keep their communities safe. See the Resource page (12) for information on how to access a guide which provides common-sense tips for congregations and individuals during the coronavirus outbreak.

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 Technology Team” (CATT) is the editorial board.

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One of the things that is becoming clearer to me all the time is that we in the PCUSA represent a certain slice of Americana and a specific expression of Protestantism. I have felt this to some degree for most of my life in the PCUSA. As the child of a teenage mother, I could feel that my story didn’t quite mesh with the more normative story of my Sunday School buddies who came from stable two-parent households, had educated parents, and the expectation of having their college education funded.

As a divorced person, I have also felt this subtle awkwardness. It’s not that I have been turned away as much as people are just unsure of how to talk about my relationship status in an institution where marriage is assumed to be “God’s intention for all people” and often mistaken as one of our sacraments.

Now I am living in a large apartment complex in Gladstone. I have wonderful people around me, but it is strikingly obvious that the people here look different, dress different, and drive a different category of car than most of my Presbyterian family.

This led me to look at some basic statistics for the state of Oregon (and assuming that our southwest Washington churches reflect similar statistics) and ask the question, “What would it look like if our churches reflected our communities?”

This is what would happen:
- 61.9% of our members would own homes and one out of every 300 members would be homeless;
- 12.6% of our members would live below the poverty line;
- 15.4% of our members would speak something other than English at home;
- Our members would be almost exactly split into three educated groups: one third with a high school education or less; one third with some college; and one third with college or higher degrees;
- 61% of our members would be Christian (this is a fun one to think about!);
- The median age would be 39.1 years old;
- 49% of our members would be married, 31% single and never married, 12% divorced, 6% widowed, and 2% separated (see my blog for “The Married Minority” in holybreadcrumbs.org);
- 62.2% of our adult members would be in the workforce;
- Our ethnic make-up would be 84.4% white, 4.7% two or more races, 4.3% Asian, 1.9% black or African-American, 1.1% Native American and 3.5% other;
- 25.7% of our members would have a disability;
- 47.1% of our members would be over the age of 80.

I write this because every day I travel between two very different worlds. I walk out of my apartment complex and see one world and then walk into one of our churches and generally see a different world—more uniform and homogenous. We can either try to make the rest of the world look like us or we can try to reflect the world that already exists around us.

I have a hunch that God favors the latter. On this sacred journey with you… Brian

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A Congregation of Joy-Filled Seniors
By Bruce Smith, Central Region Reporter

First, Creswell, is located in the Willamette Valley of Lane County 13 miles south of Eugene, Oregon. Creswell offers a quiet retreat in the South Willamette Valley with easy access to the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Creswell itself comprises a small downtown district, a few big box stores and shopping strips, and several residential neighborhoods abutting farmlands crowned by Creswell Butte. The population at the 2010 census was 5,031. Creswell is also notable for annual events such as its spectacular Fourth of July Celebration, which draws spectators from all over the state, as well as a wonderful Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration for the entire community in early-December.

Seth Wheeler became the pastor of First on January 1, 2007. His first ordained call was at Wynne Presbyterian Church in Wynne, Arkansas. Then there was a nine-year stint in Kansas City in the Northminster Presbyterian Church. He and his family are now enjoying trips to see the beautiful sights of Oregon.

Seth described the church of 79 members who are 75% over 65 with an average worship attendance of about 65 as an active group of seniors, “but that doesn’t slow us down.” The church has a normal complement of committees such as communications, faith, and fellowship. They are fortunate to have Rock Oakeson, to lead the music program in the church.

One activity that was recently initiated is called the Joy Group. “Joy” is an acronym for “Just Older Youth.” It is a senior social hour that meets Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 with 25 to 30 people. It has been opened to the community with individuals from other churches as well as those who don’t go to church and are just looking for some social interaction. There is coffee and refreshments available and many are involved in playing card games such as dominoes, and puzzles, the kind where there are weird shaped pieces. There was even an attempt at line dancing. It has been a neat way to see people who sort of feel out of place coming together to socialize. Attending a church may be foreign to them, but coming into play pinochle for an hour-and-a-half is something that is meeting a need for fellowship. “It has just been a really fun time to hear the people in the church laughing together, playing together, and having fun. It has been a blast and we’re not overplaying it, we are just kind of letting it become whatever it will be.”

Another activity is the Brew & Bible which meets every other Thursday to ponder theological questions or not in the studio of a professional artist who is a member of the congregation. There is a theological issue presented to go along with the brew, but if someone has a need to discuss something else, the group will try their best to consider it and in so doing meets an individual’s need. This is the opportunity to be able to reach out to those who may not feel comfortable coming to a Sunday School class or worship on a Sunday morning.

About three-and-a-half years ago, Seth began to put his Sunday services on the Web and Facebook and has been pleased to the response with about 60 views a week. And every once in a while, he will receive the message from a friend from a former church who said that he saw the sermon on Sunday. “It was great.” I know there are some church members who may be sick or traveling and they will watch it when they can. One individual said that if she did not understand everything Sunday, she will watch it at home. “That is real dedication.” Actually, there was a couple who had been watching remotely and decided to come to church and are now regular attenders. (I don’t know if it’s on the drawing board, but it seems to me there should be some way to pause the viewing and switch to a site where one could make a Sunday morning offering. Just a thought.)

Seth knows that the church has an elderly congregation but they are trying right now to be the best congregation of seniors that they can be.
Voices

New Family Shelter is Seeking the Support of East Portland Churches

By Susan Voss-Rothmeier

Homelessness has become a significant issue in Multnomah County and across Oregon. There are over 4,000 people experiencing homelessness in the county with at least half of them unsheltered and sleeping outside. The rate of homelessness in Portland has increased at twice the national average since 2018. Oregon has the fourth-highest per capita rate of homelessness in the United States.

While these numbers are troubling, the more heartbreaking number is the rate of families experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County. Specifically, 900 families in Multnomah County are without permanent housing. The waitlist to get into family shelters can take weeks or sometimes months, leaving families without any place to go at night or moving from friend to friend. The largest family shelter in the county had to close its doors two years ago due to structural issues with its building. Sufficient replacement has not yet been created. Other family shelters are limited in capacity and struggling to meet the need.

In response to this challenge, a group of churches in East Portland is collaborating to address the need by creating a new chapter of Family Promise. Family Promise is a national organization providing shelter to families while assisting them in securing permanent housing through case management and other services. Washington County has had a chapter for several years (see the Northeast Region article about First, Vancouver). Now, a new chapter is forming east of the river with the goal of opening its doors by next winter. As we begin this new effort, we are seeking the support of several congregations in the metro east area.

Family Promise operates on a rotating basis so the burden is light for any one congregation. Each host congregation takes one week a quarter or four weeks a year, rotating each week from Sunday evening to Sunday morning. During each week, the church provides a place for four families to stay on cots or mats overnight from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., along with dinner in the evening and breakfast (or to-go items) in the morning. A few volunteers are needed at night for the various duties of providing a meal, hanging out in the evening and staying overnight. The local chapter will provide a day center for the families during the day where they can meet with a case manager to explore permanent housing options, employment, and other resources. Screening of the families will be done by staff at the day center and transportation will be provided to and from each host church.

The geographic focus of this new chapter is the city of Portland, east of the river, but we are willing to expand into inner Gresham if needed. We need 13 host congregations altogether and currently have six. We are also seeking 26 support congregations who can lend a hand to the host congregations, offering additional volunteers and support. Each host congregation will be matched with two support congregations. Please consider how your church can support us in this new venture. Participating in this work is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to families struggling in our community and to remember the words of Matthew 25: 40-45 “Truly I tell you, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me.”

For more information about Family Promise Metro East, please go to www.familypromisemetroeast.org or contact Susan Voss-Rothmeier at vossrothmeier@yahoo.com. She is available to meet with you or attend a congregational meeting to share more about this work and how your congregation can help.

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As Presbyterians and followers of Jesus, what are we called to do? The members of First, Vancouver (FPC) answer that question by bringing those with needs into their church as well as reaching into the Vancouver community to provide help.

With a congregation of about 360 people, the mission ministry relies on people to bring ideas forward. They call these people “champions.” These champions then work to see how these ideas can become reality.

Seven years ago, champions Ann and Neil Fischer, brought the concept of starting a food pantry in the church. Today the Healthy Equitable Living Project (H.E.L.P) serves over 60 families each week representing over 250 family members from 14 schools. On Saturday mornings, while clients shop for food, their children do crafts and also have breakfast.

FPC recently joined other churches to support Family Promise of Clark County. Last April they became the first church to host families attempting to break out of homelessness. Championed by Antoinette Emch, the church provides overnight housing and meals for a week, four times a year. Thus far, they have served eight families, with five of these families graduating into permanent housing.

Outside the church doors, FPC has also been busy. In 2009 they played a key role in organizing the five Presbyterian churches in the Vancouver area to become involved in volunteering on Habitat for Humanity Faith Builds. Another outreach is Heritage Farm. Members, Larry and Lynn Grell manage this program where food is planted and harvested on a ten-acre plot of county land and given to the Clark County Food Bank. Last year this program provided 68 tons of food to local people with food insecurities.

As a church where mission has been an important part in its history, champions at FPC have begun or been at the forefront of several local projects. Members of the church began FISH of Vancouver, a local food pantry which has been going strong for 50 years. They also were instrumental in starting the local branch of Habitat for Humanity. Member, Duane Sich started Friends of the Carpenter over 20 years ago. This organization provides woodworking tools and support for vulnerable members of the community. Kristi Van Nostran, who grew up at FPC, currently is working with migrant asylum-seekers in California.

Over the past 20 years FPC’s youth have taken many mission trips. One of their trips involved a trip to Wapato, Washington where they spent time learning from the Yakama indigenous tribe.

Being a missional church is often not convenient. FPC demonstrated this by hosting Family Promise during the Fourth of July and during Christmas week using over 300 volunteer hours during each of those weeks. But in their striving to reach out, they have shown that they are willing to champion those in need and to extend the love of Christ into their community.
Mr. Rogers Gives Away the Neighborhood

By Roberta Schlechter, NW Reporter

With Tom Hanks in the starring role, the movie “A Wonderful Day In the Neighborhood” inspired both movie goers and ThoughtfulChristian.com. The website produced free, downloadable curriculum (Check here to explore) that Hillsboro Presbyterian (HPC) Christian Education Director Laura MacMillan used to facilitate a four-week, 45-minute multi-generational small group fellowship. Given HPC attendance patterns, MacMillan scheduled the fellowship for two consecutive Sundays in January and two in February.

MacMillan explains. “HPC moves toward intergenerational fellowship as much as possible.” The church is one of 14 participants in the Intergenerational Cohort experiment underway in Cascades Presbytery. The movie is now available on DVD (check here).

The curriculum was easy to tailor to the HPC small group fellowship consisting of MacMillan and one other millennial, Pastor/Christian Educator Bob Stebe and other boomers, some GenZ folks, plus a few children. MacMillan facilitated both cross-generation and intergeneration encounters, depending upon the presence of children.

Authors Shea Tuttle and Michael G. Long wrote books about the faith life of Mr. Rogers (check here and here). In video clips (check here) Tuttle and Long discuss Mr. Roger’s theology. Long says, “God is the Creator of a neighborhood that doesn’t have any doors. But it does have a Creator that goes outside the neighborhood in search of people who have left the neighborhood on purpose, seeking to bring them back to the neighborhood so they can enjoy life to its fullest.” Observing that Mr. Rogers rarely told children to be kind, but rather modeled kindness, Long adds, “Evil would have us look on our neighbor with the eyes of the Accuser. We sometimes think of ourselves with accusing eyes, and so we see our neighbor the same way.”

Tuttle reflects on Rogers as a seminarian going to hear a well-known preacher. But instead, an “octogenarian supply pastor” gave a poor sermon. Afterwards, Rogers turned to his companion and saw tears in her eyes. Tuttle says, “He understood that the Holy Spirit had translated this feeble offering into exactly what she needed to hear. It’s a lesson that changed his life. He understood that the space between someone offering what they can, and another person in need, is always holy ground.”

MacMillan says each gathering was structured like a mini-worship service, with a gathering/welcome, then a song, scripture story, another song, and closing scripture and prayer. She led the group in making a neighborhood mural. New people would add a paper dwelling to the mural. Weekly craft objects and reflections gave the mural a more ‘lived-in’ look. The neighborliness theme emphasized intentional listening. At each table a small softball served as a talking stick; people listened to the one with the ball. MacMillan suggests that practicing such a habit helps young children develop both self-confidence and courtesy.

The lessons offer dual scripture readings that foster rich discussion. Deuteronomy 10:17-21 drew comments about “How do we break the barrio and be more neighborly?” In Acts 16:11-15, Lydia offers hospitality to Paul, Silas and Timothy. “She’s a new believer,” MacMillan explains. “This woman was baptized and then offered her home, ‘if you think I’m worthy enough.’ She exhibits outside-the-box.

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Southern Living

By Evonne Hubbard, Vice-Moderator South Region

As I close my last year as Vice-Moderator of the South Region, I ponder the changes I have seen in our churches over the years. The mission and ministry of some has grown and changed, larger churches have supported smaller congregations with everything from pulpit supply to administrative partnerships, and churches that have left a lasting legacy of faithful service.

I have also had the honor of serving with compassionate and insightful people working and praying to discern the direction we are being led in the presbytery. Brian and the Dream Team spend time in prayer, ask difficult questions, and observe God’s work in our churches. We don’t claim to have all the answers (or even all the questions) but we are excited to see some general paths down which many of our churches are being led.

One of the most prevalent ministries in the Southern churches is outreach to the homeless and the hungry. From the smallest to the largest, from the city to the rural, from the desert to the coast I have seen the churches share what they have with “the least of these.” First, Medford and First, Ashland have joined together to assist First, Phoenix in their wildly successful bi-monthly community dinners. Brookings is part of a rotation of other community churches that supply a hot, mid-day meal every day of the week. First, Lakeside, First, Medford and several others feed, clothe, and minister to those folks in need.

Bethany, Grants Pass has an ecumenical gathering to discuss theological beliefs and current issues. Several churches have joined in partnership with other faith communities, city government and non-profits to house the unsheltered. Even in our divisive political environment I see churches “Reaching across the aisle” to other faiths and non-religious organizations to meet the needs of others. These may or may not always formally identify themselves as Matthew 25 Churches but their ministry identifies them as one.

Utilizing our New Ministries Committee others are doing the wonderful legacy work that made them such a vital part of their community. Others have joined the Vital Congregation pilgrimage to know and grow their ministry.

We are on the move in the South and the presbytery and it is exciting!

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neighborliness because she was so new to the community.” The group also discussed: Esau welcoming twin Jacob back home, how to spot un-neighborly behavior, and how to welcome the newcomer. The John 21:15-17 passage is challenging: How often do we need to be asked a question before we really understand?

MacMillan helped the group contemplate their own ‘love language.’ “That is, how we want people to express love to us,” she says. “It’s how we tend to express love to others. But social norms differ. One person needs a hug; another needs words of appreciation. It’s important to make others aware of your love language.”

She expects the curriculum to stay relevant. “It’s something we all struggle with, how to be neighborly. The more you look at this, the deeper you look into it.”

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Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Cascades
Spring Gathering – May 16, 2020

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.
Psalm 107:2-3

Telling Our Stories
...of courage, insight, mission, stewardship, commitment and lamentations

Keynote Speaker: Jane Kirkpatrick
Oregon’s award-winning writer and Presbyterian woman

Jane Kirkpatrick and her pack

Saturday, May 16, 2020
Registration & hospitality: 9:30 am
Program: 10 am – 3 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Portland
1200 SW Alder St.
Portland, OR 97205

Space is limited. Please register early.
Parking: in parking garage marked 1st Presbyterian Church Parking
Car pooling is encouraged
Enter church in garage on P1 via elevator or by Office Entrance on SW 13th and Alder St.

Cascades PW Spring Gathering Registration: Due by May 1, 2020
Please provide information for all attendees.

Name: ____________________________
Email address: ____________________________
Church: ____________________________
Dietary concerns: __Gluten Free __ -- Vegetarian

Cost: $15, includes lunch provided by Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. We will not be able to accommodate walk-in or last minute registrations.

Send completed form and check(s) made out to Cascades Presbyterian Women to
Mary Lou Williams, 14601 NW 26th Ave, Vancouver WA 98685 (360-576-5364)
By May 1, 2020

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Hey, Are You Hungry??

By Mike Hubbard, South Region Reporter

Bold and underlined, the question at the top of the four-by-five card is answered immediately: “We want to feed you!!!” Over the years, thousands of these little cards have changed hands in the South Region town of Brookings, Oregon, and five days a week folks enjoy a hearty noon-time meal at one of the five churches listed on the card.

Mondays, the revolving Community Kitchen serves it up hot at Brookings Seventh Day Adventist. Tuesdays find folks heading for St. Timothy’s Episcopal. Wednesday’s lunch is served at Star of the Sea Catholic. Brookings Presbyterian hosts the meal on Thursdays. Rounding out the week, Trinity Lutheran does the honors on Fridays. In addition, sack lunches can be had on Saturdays and Sundays at St. Timothy’s.

A recent visit to the coast found Evonne and I driving past Brookings on a sunny Thursday afternoon. The grinning sandwich on the Community Kitchen sign beckoned and after an awkward U-turn, we found ourselves perusing the day’s menu:

- Beef Taco Casserole
- Baked Potatoes
- Green Salad
- Fresh Vegetable Soup
- Garlic Bread
- Assorted Desserts

It was the height of the lunch hour, and the 52 guests that day all seemed to be there at the same time. Evonne and I split an entrée and I added a bowl of soup. After talking to the servers and taking a few pictures, I followed Evonne to the table we shared with a local fellow who lives in a repurposed school bus. The food was good, the crowd lively and colorful. That the meal was shared with a sense of community was apparent.

As the guests were leaving Pastor David Hunter joined us and noted that while the town’s churches hosted the lunches, the all-volunteer effort enjoys much wider community support. Several vehicles in the parking lot sported California license plates as some volunteers drive up from Smith River and Tryon Corner, as well as from rural areas surrounding Brookings.

So, if your travels take you to Oregon’s “Banana Belt” and you stop in Brookings, ask yourself “Hey, am I hungry??” Because if you are, “They want to feed you!!!”

Blessings from the well-fed South.

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Come Sing With Us!

Do you love to sing? Does gospel music stir your heart? Then you need to know about Gospel in the Gorge, the first annual weekend immersion in gospel music and culture, happening May 29-31, 2020 at Menucha Retreat & Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon.

The event’s artistic director is LaRhonda Steele, who also directs the Portland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Although LaRhonda has performed the prestigious Porretta Soul Festival in Italy and has won the Cascade Blues Association’s Vocalist of the Year three times, she remains very approachable and loves to introduce newcomers to her favorite music, gospel.

Along with LaRhonda, the Gospel in the Gorge instructor list includes internationally known artists Terrance Kelly, Artistic Director of the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir; Marilyn Keller, Jazz Society of Oregon Hall of Fame member; and John Gainer, instructor of gospel at the University of Oregon.

Check our website for more info and videos of this engaging, talented group of instructors: https://menucha.org/programs/gospel. Gospel in the Gorge participants will…

- Learn gospel history from Negro spirituals to contemporary gospel songs.
- Gain vocal techniques to make their singing stronger and more soulful.
- Enrich their understanding of the instrumental side of gospel music.
- Come to understand what gospel greats mean when they talk about “embodying” gospel music.

No experience is necessary and every participant will, no matter what their level of skill, emerge with a full heart and a deeper understanding of this uniquely American art form.

For more information, please visit the website: https://menucha.org/programs/gospel. Menucha’s Program Director Lori Nance also welcomes emails (lori@menucha.org) or phone calls (503-695-2243).

Save the Date!
Plan Ahead to Bring a Child you Love to Menucha's “Grand Getaway”

How wonderful would it be to help a child you love escape the over-scheduled world and spend a few days of camp together.

Menucha's second annual Grand Getaway is your chance to come with the important kid(s) in your life to the Gorge to pray, play, and sing the day away in an intergenerational camp environment. Kids of all ages along with their grandparents, parents, guardians, etc., are invited. Dates are Thursday, July 2 - Sunday, July 5, 2020.

There will be daily song time, nature activities, games, worship, rest time, and even s’mores complete with the best view this side of Oregon! On July 4, you can also experience lots of fun including a small-town parade, fireworks, games, and more. (See http://www.corbettfunfest.com/.) Menucha’s executive director, Spencer Parks, points out that the Grand Getaway offers a special type of camp that works well for all ages. “Menucha provides comfortable housing, excellent food and plans the activities...you just come along for the fun.”

Registration will open before Easter and space is strictly limited so don't delay. Think about it. Put it on your calendar. Give your family the gift of camp! If spreading the cost across several months would be helpful, take advantage of our payment plan (the fee is just $5 per month). Visit our website (https://menucha.org/programs/menucha-grand-getaway) for all the details. If you have questions, please call Lori Nance at 503-695-2243.
As media generates interest in the current outbreak of Coronavirus, presbyteries and congregations have an opportunity for a "teachable moment" about how to prepare for and respond to widespread contagious diseases.

The PDA resource, *Preparedness For Pandemics* can help congregations plan a response for worship and ministry continuation should the need arise.

Download the PDF (3 pages)

**God’s Big Plan**
Elizabeth F. Caldwell
Theodore Hiebert

The world is full of so many different things: animals, plants, foods, languages, people. But it might not have been that way if it weren’t for God’s big plan...

This vibrant picture book illuminates a new understanding of the story of Babel in Genesis, revealing God’s plan for wonderful diversity throughout the world. *God’s Big Plan* includes a note for parents and educators. *God’s Big Plan* is a Junior Library Guild Selection.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World**
Kathy Escobar

In Practicing, Pastor Kathy Escobar inspires and challenges readers with practical encouragement to live their faith through real action using ten transformational practices, including listening more, including the marginalized, advocating for justice, and mourning with those who grieve. By putting our hearts, hands, and feet behind our good intentions, we can transform our groups, our communities, and our world. Extremely interactive, relational, and practical, Practicing can be read alone or processed together with a group, church, or class. Click [here](#) for more information.

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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