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Presbytery of the Cascades

Presbytery of the Cascades Works Closely with Warm Springs

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter



It has been a while since we printed an update on what is happening with the **Warm Springs Presbyterian Church**. This is our fourth task force and several people on our current task force have been involved in the previous work of revitalizing the congregation at Warm Springs and understand the urgency of moving forward with the next steps. Our staff person is Brian Heron. Our COM representative is David Dornack. Beverly Crow, Pat Berger, Gail Black, Linda Jackson-Shaw and Nancy Patterson serve as the Warm Springs task team. Greg Anable has recently joined to coordinate the internet technical work for the church. Monthly meetings have been exciting, as members report on activities during the previous month.

One thing that we have begun to work on is a document called the Doctrine of Discovery. The 2022 General Assembly (2016) called on the whole church to confess its complicity and repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. Click [here](#) to learn more about the doctrine. The church was also called to review the history of this doctrine, and to write a report on the doctrine. As our presbytery does this, it will also be walking beside the people of the Warm Springs Church.

First, from the PCUSA website, here is a bit of history about the doctrine: "The Doctrine of Discovery" was first articulated in 1452 by Pope Nicholas V, . . . and in 1496 by King Henry VII of England as a patent granted to John Cabot, which authorized and justified the destruction, killing, and appropriating of the lands of indigenous peoples and nations." The Doctrine of Discovery became a part of US law in the 19th century. As a result, Native Americans lost their right to complete sovereignty, and to be independent nations. They had only the right to occupancy. The doctrine laid the basis for genocide of indigenous peoples everywhere, colonization around the world, and transatlantic trafficking for slave labor.

Recently, partly because of the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, many faith communities, including the World Council of Churches, (WCC) have begun critical examinations of the doctrine. The WCC and many denominations in the United States have repudiated the doctrine.

What are we doing in the Presbytery of the Cascades? Our first project has been to work on water issues on the Warm Springs

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Ask the Clerk

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk



Q: When a member requests removal or withdrawal from membership does the session need to approve a motion to accept the request?

I won't claim to speak with any certainty on this issue. (Though if you push back and then I get defensive we will learn the hard way that I actually have a high regard for my own opinions. Please note that I have merely made a conditional truth claim dependent upon my response to any pushback my gentle readers dare to provide. Amen). Now, where was I?

Ah, yes, that's right, we are trying to get to the bottom of what the session needs to do (if anything) when a member writes a letter asking to be removed from membership. The Book of Order indicates that the session does have discretion in some cases since it may or may not delete the member's name from the roll book. Let's look at the moving prose found in the Book of Order at G-3.0204a:

"The session shall delete names from the roll of the congregation upon the member's death, admission to membership in another congregation or presbytery, or renunciation of jurisdiction. The session may delete names from the roll of the congregation when a member so requests, or has moved or otherwise ceased to participate actively in the work and worship of the congregation for a period of two years."

Notice that in certain cases the session must act (that is what SHALL signifies in the Book of Order- see the Preface). It must delete names from the rolls when members die, become members of another congregation or presbytery (when a member is ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament they join a presbytery) or when the member renounces jurisdiction. Does this require a motion and a vote? I don't think so (the vote would be meaningless since the session must act so your "no" vote is worthless). However, I do think that since the session must act and the minutes contain the actions of session, the names of those who must be removed from the rolls should be noted in the minutes of a session meeting with the reason for removal (e.g. "death", "renunciation" etc.).

But now, look with rapt care at the next part of the paragraph which states that the "session may delete names...when a member so requests...". If session may delete names it also may choose not to delete names (as the Preface puts it "MAY signifies practice that is permissible but not required"). In this case, a vote of session is required to remove the name. But why would session not remove the name of a member who requests removal? Perhaps session wants to respond and encourage the member to reconsider the request for removal. clerk will remove Paul from the rolls."

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, Presbytery of the Cascades, 245 S. Bancroft St., Suite D, Portland, Oregon. Email: kwaugh8@outlook.com

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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NOTES FROM THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

By Rev. Brian Heron,
Presbyter for Vision and Mission

I am a person who works well with deadlines. I sit here writing my January *Omnibus* article four days before Christmas morning, but very aware that the *Omnibus* is due to be published on January 1.

January 1 is the Eighth Day of Christmas. “Eight maids a milking.” The day the church celebrates Mary, the Mother of God.

If you are a working person, your employer is likely giving you this day off so you can spend time reflecting on this 8th day of Christmas. Maybe you will stop by a Catholic Church to spend time in prayer at the foot of Mary.

Of course, the above comments are all in jest as we are all aware of how much the Church and each of us have become co-opted by our culture’s dominant narrative. I am just as guilty as anyone. New Year’s Day will most certainly be spent first sleeping in, then watching football, enjoying family, and likely enjoying a good stroll by the river, weather-permitting. Offering my adoration at the foot of Mary will have to be reserved for another day.

But isn’t it the narrative of the Eighth Day of Christmas that we really need to hear this year? Yes, all of us could use a break and having a day off on New Year’s Day will be received as a welcome and overdue gift for many.

But the Eighth Day of Christmas is a nod to the feminine face of God, an attribute that is often treated as a heresy in our patriarchal, hierar-

chal society warped by toxic masculinity. I am an athlete and I love football, but how much more do we need to see testosterone-laden giants going to battle, risking their bodies as they crash into each other like cars in a demolition derby?

How many more elections do we need to see going to the person who out trash talks one’s opponent? Are we going to be saved by an escalation of patriarchal values or do we need a heart transplant?

As much as I want to wish you a Happy New Year, I am also completely conscious that I am not the mayor or a corporate boss serving in a secular society. I am a representative of a church tradition, and, as such, January 1 is not the new year for us; that actually occurred on the First Sunday of Advent, way back on November 27.

So, today, I will wish you a Holy and Contemplative Eighth Day of Christmas as we honor and celebrate the Mother of Mary, God-Bearer, and the feminine face of God.

May this day be committed to a “kinder and gentler” way of life.

May this day encourage us to replace competition with more cooperation.

May this day remind us that God not only sacrifices His body for righteousness but also gives Her body over to the birth of a new reality.

Today, I drink to you, Mary!

Brian



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reservation. The presbytery now has an account for this project; individuals and congregations can contribute to this by contacting the presbytery office. We are constructing a Facebook page and soon there will be a book study which will be announced in *Cascades Connections* – so stay tuned.

At our last task force meeting, we were thrilled to be visited by Dr. Cal Chinn, who was pastor at Warm Springs from 1972-1978. This was prior to his service on the faculty at the seminary in San Anselmo, California. Many thanks to him for his time and wisdom! One result of that was that our COM representative, David Dornack, will be going to COM with the recommendation that an Administrative Commission (AC) be formed for the Warm Springs Church. It is hoped that the AC would be able to line up the next steps the church needs to take.

That would mean the end of our task force -- and it would be a big step forward for Warm Springs! Best wishes to those who are the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church -- and those who have been on our task force will still be paying attention!

If you have questions, contact [warming Springsorp usa@gmail.com](mailto:warm Springsorp usa@gmail.com).



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So, in my view, the session should only remove names for those who request removal by adopting a motion. This can be as simple as the moderator stating: “Is there any objection to removing Paul Belz-Templeman from the rolls? There being none, the clerk will remove Paul from the rolls.”

But wait a minute. If a member requests removal from membership, aren’t they renouncing jurisdiction? Can’t they say, “I’m not a member, you’re not the boss of me”? Sure, they can say it (and it is priceless if they do say it) but believe it or not, that isn’t the same as renunciation. “Renunciation of jurisdiction” is a term of art for which the General Assembly’s Permanent Judicial Commission gives the following authoritative interpretation: “Since renunciation involves divestment of rights and privileges within the church, as well as the giving up of membership and office, the writing [letter requesting removal from the rolls] must expressly state in clear and certain terms the act of renunciation of jurisdiction in order for the renunciation to be effective” (Remedial Case 217-6 Raines v. Miami Shores see specification of error #2). In other words, unless the person submits in writing to the clerk something that specifically says “I renounce jurisdiction” or nearly identical language, it isn’t a renunciation of jurisdiction.

In my view the session should record all removals from the rolls in the minutes and only remove members who request to be removed after adopting a motion consenting to their request.

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If grace is so amazing ... Why is there not more of it?

by Donna Frischknecht Jackson | *Presbyterians Today*

Presbyterians Today December 20, 2022

It was New Year's Day 1773. The faithful in the English town of Olney, though, were not thinking about old acquaintances being forgotten. (It would be another 15 years before Robert Burns would write his poem that would forever become synonymous with New Year's Eve revelry.) They were thinking about grace and all its amazingness.

It was on Jan. 1 that their preacher, John Newton, introduced what would become one of the most beloved hymns in history, "Amazing Grace." (The tune to which we sing Newton's words came later in the 1800s.) Newton often wrote hymns to accompany his sermons, and on a day full of high expectations for the remaining 364 days to come, he found himself preaching on how God's grace could find those who were lost and make the blind see. Newton was preaching from experience as he himself, once a slave trader, was redeemed and led to share God's saving grace for the rest of his life.

As 2023 begins, I'm not reflecting on the haunting words of "Auld Lang Syne" as I usually do. Rather, I'm reading Newton's words. I'm doing this not just to mark the 250th anniversary of "Amazing Grace." I'm doing this because in our denomination — from presbyteries to synods to local congregations — grace seems to be lacking.

I remember hearing a story of how C.S. Lewis, an Anglican lay theologian and author of "The Chronicles of Narnia" novels, once walked into a discussion where clergy were wondering if there was a belief that would be considered uniquely Christian. Lewis replied, "That's easy. It would be grace."

There was a time I would have agreed with Lewis. Grace is that unmerited divine forgiveness that Christians believe. Grace is what makes becoming God's new creation possible. And once we have experienced grace, we should then extend it to others. Yet today if Lewis walked into such a conversation with his cronies, would he give "grace" as his answer?

I ask this because I have noticed many articles from researchers revealing that humankind is more short-tempered and carrying rage. Experts believe it is the fallout of the long pandemic we have been in. I've even read somewhere that this pandemic anger is being coined "pangry" — a blending of the words "angry" and "pandemic." And so, I wonder. Where's the grace to a pastor who might be a dynamic preacher, but falls short when it comes to pastoral care? Where is grace toward someone who spoke too quickly out of frustration? Where's the grace on social media that helps us to respond in love to things we misunderstand, rather than casting stones of judgment?

A new year is upon us, and I find myself thinking about grace, the lack thereof and the need for more. On a personal note, I also think about the grace that has been extended to me as your editor.

The hardest thing for an editor to write is their first editorial and their last — well, this is the next to last editorial before *Presbyterians Today* takes a sacred pause in April, and it has been just as challenging. But I want to thank you for allowing me this space to speak from the heart. In some small way, I hope I have lightened your load, eased your worries and ignited your courage. I pray that you have found a glimmer of hope amid the pages. It's been a deep joy and humble honor to serve you this way. But remember, the Good News will continue being told, with or without the magazine, because God's grace abounds (thank you to our General Assembly co-moderators, the Rev. Shavon Sterling-Louis and the Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, for coining that phrase) and because of that, "We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun." Until we meet again, my friends, keep singing those praises.

For five years, Donna Frischknecht Jackson has been editor of *Presbyterians Today*. She has prayed over the pages and for the people in the stories. The new year brings new adventures not just in writing, but in addition to her five chickens, she has recently welcomed a Bernese mountain dog puppy to her Vermont home. Share your thoughts about the magazine's sacred pause at donna.jackson@pcusa.org.

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Reaching out into the Community

By Bruce Smith, Central Region Reporter

Community, Waldport with a membership in the thirties has been providing breakfast meals for some time. Sherry Seaman reports that the meals are in boxes for individuals and households. In October she provided 389 boxes which fed 429 people. Her able members from the congregation continued the practice of providing sustenance to the community this fall.

In another effort to assist individuals during the winter months **First, Salem** provides a warming center for people of the community. Currently there are thirteen members of the congregation who are hosts who work the kitchen, make and serve coffee, and handout snacks. There is an opportunity for members to become involved in this local mission program.

First, Bend and **Westminster, Salem** offered their members of the congregation to participate in the Alternate Christmas Market. Here was a way of giving to those people who have everything. Presbyterian Church (USA) provides a catalog of options from which you can select opportunities to further the ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The gift of money for animals, clean water and just support are many ways it can be used. There are beautiful cards that can be filled out to let individuals know that a gift was given in their name. For orders totaling \$150 or more, the giver is eligible to receive a beautiful fair trade artesian handmade ornaments which is a symbol of a skillful craft and your generosity. (This is a real trifecta in gift-giving. You satisfy your desire to give, what you purchase from PC(USA) has a purpose, and is deductible.)

Other churches are continuing to be involved in the community life. **First, Corvallis** has been in that city for 165 years serving God by participating in mission projects to aid those in need, serving many community needs, participating in over 8500 worship services, educating hundreds of children and adults, as well as hosting potlucks and socials and filling the air with beautiful music. Now they are continuing this effort of community life by converting the church manse which will house the Authentic Hope Counseling organization. Permission has been granted by the city to begin the work in 2023 to construct an accessible ramp, parking spaces and a covered bicycle rack.

Westminster, Salem continues work converting the Winola House property. It has been used several ways during its life. It has served as a residence, an office and a support for a Safe Sleep motorhome. For several years now it has not been used but recently it has been given a new life. The first step was with a hard-working group to remove the trash, gather the recyclables and hazardous materials to haul to the Transfer Station. A few items remain - primarily pieces of furniture (a desk and bookshelves) which will be donated to a nonprofit in Salem. It is anticipated that the Salem for Refugees (SAR) will be the organization to use it for incoming refugee families. Since the Winola House only has two bedrooms it will be used for small families who will live in the home for a few weeks while the SAR staff finds them permanent housing in the area.



There's a Place for You!

The nominating committee encourages your participation on presbytery committees. Please take this opportunity to suggest yourself or someone you would recommend for service on a committee or taskforce in the presbytery. We will use this information to update our committee and nomination database. Interested? Click [here](#) to nominate yourself or someone you know.

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ViewPoints

By Carole Eckerd, Vice Moderator for the South

Jesus, Jesus, what a Wonderful Child sounded loud and clear in the southland this last December. Music is a big part of who we are at **First, Roseburg**. We love to celebrate the Christmas season and have been busy spreading the joy of music with our congregation and community. For the past thirteen years we have presented a wonderful afternoon of Christmas music called Holiday Harmonies which presents music of diverse types, from the sacred, to secular and the downright silly. December is a month of extra music, and our congregation has been blessed to have various instruments join in the fun, including a harp, handbells, the brass, and many wonderful voices which have all been part of the celebrations.

Music brings such joy into our lives when we hear old favorites and beautiful new pieces that reach our hearts with their lovely melody or meaningful words. Music is a gift not only for those who can play an instrument or sing but also for those who hear and enjoy.

As we start the New Year with the wonderful music of the season ringing in our ears, I would like to leave you with a hymn that we sang on the Fourth Sunday in Advent. It sums up all we have been waiting for in this Advent and Christmas season and takes us into this New Year with hope and love.

“Love Has Come”
words by Ken Bible 1996
Glory to God Hymnal #110

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High!

Love is born! A light in the darkness!
Love is God now a sleep in the hay,
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love!
Love is the name she whispers, Love! Love! Jesus Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas, Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

May the blessings of love, joy, peace, and health be with each one of us throughout the new year.

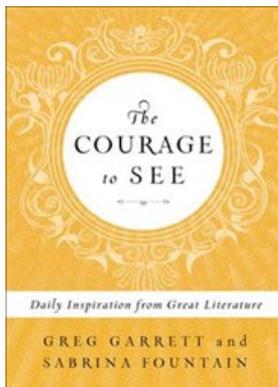


January 6, 2023
Epiphany
A light in the darkness...
*May your light shine the gift of love we
have already received.*

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Resources help Ministry and Mission



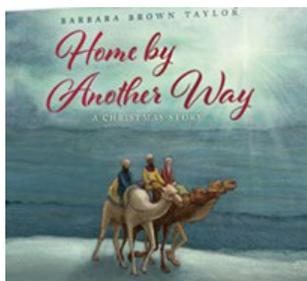
The Courage to See
By Greg Garrett & Sabrina Fountain

Book lovers know there is something sacred in the stories, poetry, and insight of even the most secular books. This 365-day devotional celebrates the beauty of literature and

its ability to illuminate elements of the Divine, present all around us. Pairing excerpts from more than two hundred literary works with thought-provoking Scriptures and brief prayers, this spiritual guide invites readers to draw closer to God through the words of both classic and modern authors.

“The feast of literature and Scripture is accompanied by prayer. This is a rare book. It may save you from much despair, and in doing so, bring you much hope.” —Presbyterian Outlook

For more information, click [here](#).



Home by Another Way
by Barbara Brown Taylor
Illustrated by Melanie Cataldo

“In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” —Matthew 2:1–2

This enchanting Christmas story by beloved author and preacher Barbara Brown Taylor follows the three wise men on their world-changing journey to Bethlehem. In this beautiful retelling of their adventure, Taylor captures the power of one very special star and gives readers a new perspective on the three wise men and their encounters with King Herod, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Home by

Another Way: A Christmas Story features breathtaking artwork from illustrator Melanie Cataldo and is perfect for gift-giving.

“[Taylor's] contemporary turns of phrase, paired with mixed-media paintings by Cataldo (The Stranded Whale) set against a backdrop of biblical times, provide an intriguing approach to the oft-examined story.”—Publishers Weekly

For more information, click [here](#).



Gifts in Open Hands – a blog

Eileen Sheeler recommends this beautiful resource. She writes...

“Maren Tirabassi has a daily poem/devotional/prayer at *Gifts in Open Hands* that are very often about current international events of the day. She offers a monthly communion liturgy that is non-traditional but very liturgical.”

“Nine years ago, on Pentecost, Kathy Wonson Eddy and I published the anthology *Gifts in Open Hands – More Worship Resources for the Global Community* (Pilgrim Press, 2011). I began this blog to highlight prayers, poems and liturgical resources from that book and invited the one hundred and forty-seven contributors representing forty-three countries to share new work. Some were in English; many more were in other languages.”

For more information...

For more information, click [here](#).

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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Sunday, January 1, 2023

Nestucca Valley Presbyterian Church, Pacific City -- chartered this day, 2001
Susan Carleton, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2018

Monday, January 2, 2023

Andrew Caesar, ordained this day, 1994, in private practice as a counselor

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Dean Klarr, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2001

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Donald Frank, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1997

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Victoria Bethel, Pastor at Tri-City PC Myrtle Creek

Friday, January 6, 2023

Community Presbyterian Church, Yachats -- chartered this month, 1950

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of the Cascades -- Marilyn Howe, President, and members

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Philip King, ordained this day, 1999.

Monday, January 9, 2023

Tom Young, Honorably Retired in 2019

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Kathleen Waugh, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012 - Omnibus Editor

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Donald Taylor, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2016

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Christopher Grewe, installed as pastor, Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day, 1992

Friday, January 13, 2023

Graig Flach, installed as Associate Pastor, Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego, this day, 2002

Saturday, January 14, 2023

Steven Hammond, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2016.

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Ashton (Skip) Roberts, ordained this day, 2007 and now Honorably Retired

Monday, January 16, 2023

Heidi Bolt, serving St. Mark Lutheran Church in Salem, Oregon

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Prayer Calendar continued

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Jim Vickery, Pastor at Bandon PC

Warren Williams, ELCA Pastor, serving at First, Trout Lake, WA

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1961

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Kris Voss-Rothmeier, ordained this day, 1997

Murray Richmond, installed as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Medford, this day, 2014

Friday, January 20, 2023

Jacob Chang Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2010

Saturday, January 21, 2023

Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church -- chartered this day, 1906

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Bradford Kent, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2007

Monday, January 23, 2023

Kelsey Ingalls, Member at Large

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

John Goff, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2010

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

James Wallace, installed as Pastor, Rise Church, Tigard, this day, 2015

Katherine Pate, installed as Pastor, Milwaukie Presbyterian Church, this day, 2009

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Gretchen Janssen, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2016

Friday, January 27, 2023

United Presbyterian Church, Albany -- chartered 1853

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Kenneth "Woodley" White, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2007

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Joshua Dunham, installed as Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham, this month, 2020

Kathryn Keener, ordained this day, 1989, now serving at Newport First

Monday, January 30, 2023

Duane Sich, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2014

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church, Lincoln City -- chartered this day, 1937

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