

November, 2023

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Volume XLIX, No. 11

Presbytery of the Cascades

Fall Presbytery Meeting Scheduled for Friday, November 3.

This meeting will be online only

At this meeting presbytery commissioners will:

- Install the Moderator and Moderator Elect to office
- Elect General Assembly Commissioners
- Consider Changes to the Bylaws
- Approve Terms of Call for elected staff
- Adopt the Presbytery Budgets and Per Capita for 2024
- Consider the proposal from Tigard, Rise, to sell an unused parking lot
- Celebrate the faithful ministry of, and dissolve, the Mt. Laki Presbyterian Church, Klamath Falls Oregon

Additionally commissioners will hear reports concerning:

• Recent Grants to New Ministries

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- The Committee on Representation
- Report of the Temporary Executive Search Committee

Commissioners are reminded that Presbyterians gather "to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ" (Book of Order F-3.0204). At our meetings, when we disagree, we confine our debate and discussion to the issues and hold to these principles of decorum:

- Confining remarks to the issue before the presbytery (speak to the motion, not to other issues).
- Refrain from attacking the motives of other members (you can condemn the

nature or likely consequences of a motion in strong terms but not condemn or question the motives of another members).

- Address all comments to the chair and refrain, as much as possible from using other members' names (rather than saying "I disagree with what Anne said" say "I disagree with the remarks of the previous speaker").
- Refrain from speaking adversely on prior decisions unless the motion is to "reconsider", "rescind" or "amend something previously adopted".
- Refraining from disturbing the assembly (keep muted until recognized by the moderator).



Stewardship Reflections: Trusting that we have enough

September 21, 2023 by Rev. Sandra Moon (Editor's note: We are entering the time of Stewardship Conversations in many churches. I found this article on the denomination website a helpful reminder of how to consider the topic.)

This past summer I served as the keynote speaker for Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center's July Middle School Conference. Located in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Massanetta is a PC(USA) ministry in Shenandoah Presbytery.

I did not grow up going to Massanetta. My only previous experience with Massanetta was attending the wedding of dear seminary friends in Hudson Auditorium. The theme of the conference was Welcome Home, based on Psalm 23. The theme was partially chosen to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Middle School Conference. During my two weeks there, I experienced why Massanetta has felt like "home" to so many people over the years, and I was reminded of the deep connections that make our denomination home.

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, OR 97239-8526. Email: <u>kwaugh8@outlook.com</u>

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

Often, the articles we read about religion and the role of the church in our society today paints a dismal outlook for the church at large in this country, and the PC(USA) is no exception—membership is



Sandra Moon Ministry Relations Officer Cumberland Region

declining, worship attendance is down, and the number of congregations forced to close continues to grow. News like this often frightens church leaders into a mindset of scarcity.

While I am a realist who acknowledges that challenges for the Church continue to grow, I also deeply believe that God is doing new things in our midst. While the Church is changing, it's not dying. My experience at Massanetta reminded me of how incredibly rich the Church is in so many ways, and how much we have to offer if we only trust in God and are generous with our God-given gifts.

The first verse of Psalm 23 tells us "God is my Shepherd; I shall lack nothing." We explored this theme at the first keynote of the conference. Messaging all around us tells us we're not enough. That we need more power, more stuff, more wealth, more social media "likes," and on and on to be valuable and worthy in this world.

Similarly, we as the Church may feel that in order to make a difference in the lives of our members and communities and to remain relevant in this quickly changing world, we need more — more young families in our buildings, more

people in our pews, more deep pockets, more programming, and on and on. Psalm 23 affirms that through God's presence and providence, we have been given all that we need to be faithful to God's call. As people of faith, we need to trust that promise and we need to act on that truth.

Many of the people I met at the conference have long memories tied to Massanetta. One of the codirectors of the conference attended the Middle School Conference for the first time 17 years ago as a youth pastor, and this year his own children attended the conference as participants. High school students and recent graduates who served as young leaders called "advocates" shared stories about how their experience at Massanetta when they were "middlers" shaped their faith. Many adults who served on the leadership team or volunteered as chaperones had their own memories of being middlers at this conference. Over the years so many former middlers have journeyed back and given of their time, talents, and treasures to the next generation of middlers so that they could experience God through worship and play at this thin place in the Shenandoah Valley. <u>Continued on page 4</u> <u>Return to Index</u>

ViewPoints

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

"The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; A troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise." Psalm 51:17

One morning I deviated from my accustomed practice of reading Psalm 95 as part of my prayers and instead turned to Psalm 51. In the Book of Common Worship the Psalm texts are from a version provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The 17th verse of 51 in that version hit home.

"A troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise." "The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit." Worshiping God might be easier than I think if I simply pay attention. Every day brings more trouble to our world- Gaza and Israel are the latest as I write this; to our nation- another mass shooting, this time in Maine; congregations seeking pastors are waiting longer, others are trying to understand the impact of new laws or constrained budgets. None of us signed up for this, we are seeking peace and wholeness, the sooner the better. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit. God is troubled too. After all, God loves us and desires our flourishing as God's creation.

How we get there, how the Spirit leads us to our place in God's realm, is, well, its troubling. This is why Jesus blesses mourners. This is why Jesus shared a table with those who would betray, deny, and abandon him. And why he keeps speaking and loving disciples who "worshiped but some doubted".

Speaking of leading, in the midst of our presbytery leadership transition, the Spirit is still at work, still goading us into difficult conversations about budgets, benefits, and property. I have to wonder if the Spirit prompts each to speak a part of the truth, mixed with error so that it is only together, through long (troubling) discernment we will find the way forward, where God is leading us. I'm writing this as we prepare for a presbytery meeting that may well have some contentious issues. Would we be a church if we didn't have contention?

This is not to support violence, harassment, quarrels nor conflict for its own sake. I'm hoping that we can find it in ourselves to politely voice our disagreement and to listen to those who disagree with us. As I look forward to the presbytery meeting, I am grateful that we have rules and decorum around debate. We disagree about issues without attacking motives. We recognize that while church councils may err, the Spirit is at work in our deliberations - in fact, we don't send delegates to our meetings. A delegate can be told how to vote by the group that elects and sends. We send commissioners who are commissioned to listen, think, and pray before voting. That's hard work. It's troubling. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.



Support Humanitarian Work in Israel/Palestine GIVE NOW. Learn More

NE Portland Youth Collective Hopes to Put Faith in Action

By Dianna Weston, Northwest Region Reporter

Faith journeys can take many paths. For the Reverend Chris Dela Cruz, Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Community Engagement at **Westminster, Portland**, his path took him into community organizing.

Prior to being called to Westminster, he was an associate pastor in New York City, where he was involved in youth empowerment and community engagement.

He arrived at Westminster in the fall of 2020 right in the middle of COVID and then came the summer of the fires that clouded our skies, but not Westminster's emerging mission to



Rev. Chris Dela Cruz and friends

work with youth and teenagers in their Northeast Portland community.

Chris was one of the core leaders to form the NE Portland Youth Collective, a coalition of Westminster, Rose City Park Presbyterian, Fremont United Methodist, Central Lutheran, Augustana Lutheran, and St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal.

During COVID, there were some preliminary organizational conversations, Zoom meetings and a few socially distanced youth gatherings outdoors. There was a weeklong youth summer service week during the summer of 2021.

Each coalition-member church took turns hosting the gatherings, and they still do in these post-COVID times. Dedicated volunteers and staff keep things going.

This year's focus is on youth leadership development, using input from a recent meeting to evaluate what has worked, what needs more development. The goal is to transition to youth driving the program, with the adult leaders serving as advisors. Community organizing is their common bond and activity.

"We're in an interesting and exciting time," notes Chris. "Young people from different congregations, from different denominations, coming together and realizing they are not alone in their faith journey, and even seeing what they can do together to make a difference – that's what we hope to be about."

Continued from page two

Though I did not have my own Massanetta stories since it was my first Massanetta Middle School Conference (and hopefully not my last!), I was reminded of the joy and richness of the connectional church. During the conference, I spent time with a former supervisor and mentor who was attending the conference with his current youth group. I met many fellow alums of the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer program, and we shared stories of our years of mission service. I met middlers from a church pastored by a former seminary roommate. I saw friends, met children of friends, and friends of friends. My time at Massanetta filled me with deep gratitude for the Presbyterian connections from many different places and times in my life that merged at that event. It was a much needed reminder of how wealthy the PC(USA) is in connection and community, and how lives continue to be shaped and transformed through the ministries of our denomination.

While the outside world may tell us that the church is losing relevance, I don't believe that's true. We are enough. We lack nothing. God our Shepherd has given us all that we need to live and serve as followers of Christ if only we are bold enough to believe it.

Rev. Sandra Moon serves as the Ministry Relations Officer for the Cumberland Region, which includes Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. She works with congregations to create a culture of generosity,



First Roseburg Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry By Mike Hubbard, Central and South Re-

gions Reporter

While we Presbyterians make light of being the "Frozen Chosen", we really don't want anything to rock our ecclesial boat. If we are going to be anything, we prefer to be the "comfortably chosen." Alas, sometimes "comfortable" gathers an ever-so-slight layer of dust. Invariably, something—sometimes, even a good something—comes along and blows off the dust.

These days, **First**, **Roseburg** is graciously dust-free. Throughout 2023, a joyous and holy



wind has been blowing through this South Region congregation. First, Pastor Vicky Brown is taking her sabbatical—her second sabbatical. In today's world, with the supply of available pastors falling far short of our churches' needs, how many congregations are granting a second sabbatical for the same pastor? In Brown's absence (First in May, and then September and October) Rev. Zane Buxton, Rev. Dr. Jack Finney, and Rev. John Mahon will assume preaching duties, with the Rev. Kathleen Brinegar moderating Session. In a recent interview, Mahon remarked that this is the second time he stood in for Pastor Vicky during a sabbatical, the first in 2015. This time around, he offered a seven-week series of sermons on the PCUSA Book of Confessions, and taught a class on the same topic. He pronounced the congregation "well organized", a fitting comment from a retired Executive Presbyter.

The second rush of wind came over the weekend of August five and six, as First Presbyterian, Roseburg celebrated their sesquicentennial. In plain numbers, that's 150 years. Naturally, the two-day celebration was months in the planning. Building and Grounds chair, Connie Johnson, related that for several months the Sesquicentennial Committee was at an impasse, as they sought ways to make the event special. She added, "all of sudden, like a light switch turned on, everybody pitched in and got it done." By the time the work was finished, the grand old red-brick building glowed. Johnson estimated that between 60 and 75 people showed up for Friday's open house. Saturday's worship service saw 156 in attendance.

Since pastor sabbaticals became mandated, resources for congregations granting them have increased, reducing anxiety and insuring continuity in the church's program. Without a doubt, the increased resources, coupled with this being Roseburg's second time, around gave them a good start on an otherwise busy and special year. However, many of their resources are homegrown. Their newsletter, *The Tower Tidings*, is packed with useful information. (The September and October edition is a full 18 pages.) It offers a variety of announcements, community and denominational resources, and human-interest stories.

Likewise, Roseburg's website is attractive and easy to navigate. All of us, at one time or another, have been in a strange town and have searched online for the local Presbyterian Church, only to find an announcement for last year's Easter celebration. With even the most basic smartphone a person using Roseburg's site can find their way to the church's Lane and Jackson address. And know what to expect when they get there.

Of course, it takes more than a slick website and bountiful newsletter to make a thriving church. A thriving church needs people who work together building the Kingdom and glorifying God. That, Roseburg has in abundance. A quick read through the current Tower Tidings yielded over 30 individual names of folks doing everything from building a house to writing human interest stories to teaching classes to baking cookies. When the ball drops on December 31, 2023, the good folks at First, Roseburg can look back on a year of joy and celebration and say "By the grace of God, and a lot of hard work, it has been a very good year."

Old Scotch Church Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter Another of our Presbytery's congregations is celebrating the 150-year anniversary of its founding! Tualatin Plains, Hillsboro, also known as the Old Scotch Church, is spending a good bit of time and energy this year on fun events for this anniversary.

Tualatin Plains was formed in 1873. As recorded on the first page of the minutes of their first Session meeting:

"Columbia Academy, Washington County, Oregon, 16th November, After a sermon this day by the Rev. A.L. Lindsley, D.D., Portland, *1873*. Oregon, he along with two of his elders, Messrs. Holman and Wadhams, organized the Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, consisting of twelve members. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed. The congregation then proceeded to elect two elders, when Messrs. William Chalmers and James Smith were chosen to fill that office. It was found that Mr. Chalmers



was an ordained elder, he having been chosen and set apart to that office a long time previous to his departure from Scotland. He was received and Mr. Smith ordained to the eldership of the Tualatin Plains Church. Closed with prayer."

Those twelve members came mostly from Aberdeenshire, Scotland. On coming to this country, the group had settled in an area north of Hillsboro; the area was known as Tualatin Plains. First, they met in an old schoolhouse. They made plans to purchase land for a church building and cemetery. Most of those first members remained in the area for the rest of their lives; eight of them (along with many descendants) are buried in the cemetery.

Shortly, Session agreed to buy two acres of land. The man from whom they bought the property offered to give them one acre, and to sell the other to them for \$25.00. Their first service in the church building was held in 1878 -- and they haven't looked back!

Clearly, this anniversary called for some major celebrating. Fellowship Elder Sheri Hiester agreed to be the "hub" for what would follow. In January, she put sign-up sheets in their Fellowship Hall, and asked those who were in worship that day to sign up for just one of the activities. Apparently, it all sounded like so much fun -- when she picked up the sheets later, she was overwhelmed by the number of signatures! And thank goodness: every one of the celebration events involved about 45 people, from set up through the event and its clean up.

What have they done? In May, they had a Senior Tea; all church people over the age of 70 (and children!) were invited for an afternoon of refreshments, live music and games. In July, they had a float in the Hillsboro Fourth of July parade. The float featured a model (to scale!) of the outside of the current church building. Members of the church family walked the parade route with the float -- altogether, 45 members of the church participated. Also in July, the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church was celebrating the 25-year anniversary of its founding. They gathered at the church for an event that featured grilled s'mores and many games. At least 15 past and present Scouts came for this special time.

August featured a picnic on the lawn outside the church. Those who came were asked to bring "old -fashioned" food, like they might have brought for church picnics in years gone by. There was a cake walk and hopscotch, and many other fun games, and a fiddler provided music. In September, a tour of the cemetery brought in many from the community. Thirteen church members memorized their parts to tell stories of some who are buried in the cemetery. In October, a choir concert brought the church's wonderful musicians to the fore, singing and playing for a standing-room gathering and reception after. The last events of this anniversary year will be held in November -- open house on Saturday, November 11, with live music and church mementoes; Sunday, November 12, will feature a special worship service, followed by a sit-down lunch.



New pastors:

- The Rev. Dawn Linder has transferred her membership from Des Moines Presbytery to serve at Prineville
- The Rev. Chauncey Handy, member of National Capital is teaching at Reed College and serving inside our bounds

Installations:

• The Rev. Sue Van Stelle was installed at Mt. Scott PC in Portland on September 24, 2023.

Pastoral changes:

- Derek Richman is now serving at Clatskanie PC
- The Rev.s John and Sylvia Dilworth have transferred their membership to Inland Northwest Presbytery

Retirements

• Pastor Mike Wilson retired from his service at Prineville PC on September 10, 2023

Memoria

- James P. Freda, Jr. died September 15, 2023
- Dr. Rolland C. Carter passed away September 10, 2023

November Collaborative Conversations

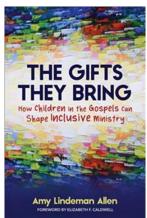
In an effort to spark creative collaboration among our churches, we piloted our first "Collaborative Conversation" on Zoom to provide space for our churches to connect, idea-share and brainstorm.

Our pilot "Collaborative Conversation" topic was, Advent: What has worked well in your church and community for the celebration of this holy season? Almost 20 elders, staff members and ministers from churches across our presbytery gathered to share Advent ideas and strategize best practices for Advent. It was unanimous...we need to do another collaborative conversation. Click <u>HERE</u> to watch the conversation (passcode:potc2023!). *Note the links provided in the comments section of the video for resources discussed.

November 28 from 12-1 p.m. will be our next "Collaborative Conversation." What is your After Advent plan? Do you have thematic suggestions for worship planning? Favorite curriculum you've used post-Christmas? Creative ways to make your ordinary time congregational meetings extraordinary? Questions about officer installation? Share with us at our November Collaborative Conversation! Register for November 28 by clicking the link below.

<u>Register</u>





The Gifts They Bring: How Children in the Gospels Can Shape Inclusive Ministry

Amy Lindeman Allen

Children are often touted as the "future" of the church, but their role in the church today is less frequently considered. In The Gifts They Bring, New Testament scholar, pastor, and mother Amy Lindeman Allen

challenges readers to reconsider the way we view children in the church, focusing on our present life together as a diverse, inclusive community of faith. To do this, Lindeman Allen looks to the past, rereading familiar Gospel accounts with an eye to the experience of childhood in Jesus' world, highlighting both the gifts that children brought to Jesus' ministry as well as those they received from him.

Through this lens, she invites readers to reconsider the age and relationship of well-known and lesser-known Bible characters, including the Bethlehem shepherds; James and John, the two disciples who followed Jesus alongside their mother; and the young boy whose lunch Jesus used to feed the five thousand. In the process, Lindeman Allen reconsiders ministry with children today, moving away from a transactional model of imparting wisdom to children to a dialogical model of learning and serving together with children. Click <u>here</u> for more information.

Stay Auhile Aventilsons in Divine Hospitality KARA EIDSON Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality

Kara Eidson While the world tries to rush us into Christmas, decorating the day after Halloween and packing it all up once the gifts are opened on December 25, Advent is a season of preparation that—like our holiday gatherings themselves—takes time

and care. Think of the anticipation that comes with hosting loved ones for Christmas dinner: We begin by extending an invitation. We make plans, and as the event draws closer, we begin our preparations. Ultimately, we open the door and welcome our guests, and that is when, finally, we celebrate. Advent should feel the same way, a time to make ready for the long-awaited event of Christ's birth.

In *Stay Awhile*, pastor Kara Eidson presents a banquet table of inspiration for Advent, including weekly reflections for personal and small group use, brief daily devotions, and ideas to involve the whole congregation. Congregational resources include liturgies, sermon starters, children's moments, and even a no-rehearsals-needed Christmas pageant. You can also use video introductions for each session from the author to inspire your individual or group study. Click <u>here</u> for more information.



Marg Mowczko

Exploring the biblical theology of Christian egalitarianism

This blog offers the reader insight into gender equality and the effect it has on our journey of faith. I found her blog entries well-

researched and thoughtfully present-

ed. I encourage you to explore the website and see the wide variety of topics she has touched on. Examples include:

- Publia and her Plucky Choir of Virgins (AD 360s)
- A Female Teacher and Deacon in Antioch (AD 360s)
- A Christian Lady Teacher in Egypt in the 300s AD
- Submission in 1 Corinthians 15:28 and in Marriage
- Revisiting Eshet Chayil ("Woman of Valour")

"I am regularly contacted by conservative pastors who have become open to women's leadership and who want books and articles to help broaden their perspective. I just recommend the awesome Marg Mowczko's site, a one-stop shop for all things egalitarian." Michael Frost, Morling College, Sydney. 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 kwaugh8@outlook.com



Wednesday, November 1

Arthur Mills, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2011

Laurie Sponaugle, Pastor at Emmanuel West Linn

Thursday, November 2

Committee on Representation -- Sharon Hasenjaeger, Chair, and members

Friday, November 3 Colin Eversmann, Clinical Bioethicist at PeaceHealth

Saturday, November 4

Susan McDougall, Spiritual Care Director at Miramont Pointe, Clackamas

Sunday, November 5

Commission on Ministry-NE Region - Susan Graham, Chair, and members

Monday, November 6

Jeannine Graham, ordained this day, 1994, serving as Associate Professor, Religious Studies, George Fox University

Peace Presbyterian Church, Eugene - chartered this day, 1960

Tuesday, November 7

Commission on Ministry - South Region - Michial Hubbard, Chair, and members

Wednesday, November 8

Greg Wood, installed as Pastor, Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence, this day, 2015

Judith Ann Richards, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2006

Thursday, November 9

The Rev. Kirk Seyfert serving in a validated ministry at Northwest Hub in Salem, Or

Friday, November 10

Kwang Ho Kim, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2006

Saturday, November 11

Andrew Hoeksema, Director, Shepherd's House Ministry, Redmond, OR

Personnel and Administration Committee - Lisa Snodderly, Chair, and members

Sunday, November 12

Mary Blain, Treasurer - Presbytery of the Cascades

Monday, November 13

Jae Soon Lee, ordained this day, 2010, serving at Pohang Ocheon Church, South Korea Prineville Presbyterian Church - chartered this day, 1977

Tuesday, November 14

Matthew Overton, Pastor, Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver

Wednesday, November 15

Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro - chartered this month, 1873

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Thursday, November 16

Blair Cash, ordained this day, 1989

Lorraine Boehning, ordained 2008, serving outside the ecclesiastical boundary of Presbytery of the Cascades as Associate Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Medford

Friday, November 17

First Presbyterian Church, Dallas - chartered this day, 1889 Jennifer Martin, ordained 2002, Pastor, Central, Eugene and now Presbytery Moderator

Saturday, November 18

Laura Nile Tuell transferred into our Presbytery this date in 2022 Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day, 1892

Sunday, November 19

William Chancellor, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2011

Monday, November 20

Pastor Liz Leavitt, Pastor at Rose City Park PC, Portland

Tuesday, November 21

Community Presbyterian Church, Lakeside - chartered, 1947

Wednesday, November 22

Karen Hill, installed as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove, this day, 2015 Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland, ordained this day, 1998

Thursday, November 23

Sayer Strauch, ordained this day, 1998

Scott Crane, ordained this day, 2014, serving at First, Corvallis

Friday, November 24

Commission on Preparation for Ministry - Brad Kent, Chair, and members

Saturday, November 25

Community Presbyterian Church, Redmond - chartered this day, 1906

Melinda Smith, ordained this day, 1990 Serving as Clinical Chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital, Portland

Wendy McAninch, ordained this day, 1984, now Honorably Retired

Sunday, November 26

Multnomah Presbyterian Church, Portland - chartered this day, 1920

Monday, November 27 Dawn Linder, Pastor at Prineville PC

Tuesday, November 28 Barbara Campbell, Honorably Retired

Wednesday, November 29

Christ's Church Methodist and Presbyterian United, Monmouth - chartered tihs day, 1978

Thursday, November 30

Oregon Yedam Church - chartered this day, 1986

Robert Barrett, installed as pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Yachats, this day, 2014