



December, 2023

Volume XLIX, No. 12

Presbytery of the Cascades

Thomas Lundy appointed as Missional Resource Manager

It’s been hard to say goodbye to long-lived and long-beloved congregations these past few years. One of the challenges the presbytery faces is how to handle the property returned as a result. What happens to the equipment left in the buildings? What happens to those beloved dishes served at afternoon teas for so many years; or to those banners and other artwork left in the library? For that matter what happens to the whole building itself when it is returned to the presbytery?

The Presbytery of the Cascades decided to develop the position of Missional Resource Manager and hired Thomas Lundy. As soon as the congregation is officially decommissioned, Lundy begins his many conversations with the various committees, the Board of Trustees, and the Presbytery Leadership Board.

Thomas Lundy was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended the University of North Florida where he received his degree in philosophy and political science. He had wanted to get his law degree but decided to join AmeriCorps – comparable to the Peace Corps, but with all assignments located instead in the United States. He was sent to Corvallis where he worked in community outreach.

After his time with AmeriCorps, he moved to Portland where he served time as property manager of the apartment complex where he lived. Later, he spent some two years managing a Homeowners Association, (HOA). It was then that a friend encouraged him to apply for the job as Missional Resource Manager for the Presbytery of the Cascades.

The presbytery is blessed with the many gifts Lundy brings to this position. His understanding of property management helps maintain the valuable resources this presbytery holds. His understanding of the laws and many steps it takes to transfer property to new owners is invaluable. His background in community relationships allows him to interact well with the many different communities in our presbytery – to understand that each community has its own set of laws and policies when it comes to property management and transfer.

At the recent presbytery meeting, Lundy was nominated and elected treasurer, Class of 2024.

“I’m having a good time learning how the presbytery works – not only the local Presbytery of the Cascades, but how the whole denomination lives out its values and beliefs,” Lundy states. He says he feels fortunate to have the love and support of the many folks he has interacted with as he learns more and more about the presbytery and the job he is charged with doing.



Inside This Issue

Bisbee Grant Extended	2
Ask the Clerk	2
Viewpoints	3
New Reporter for Central Region	4
Westminster, Eugene	5
Columbia, Vancouver	6
Transitions	7
Omnibus Changes Coming	7
Resource Page	8
Prayer Calendar	9



Bisbee Grant

For many of us, the past handful of years have been a rude awakening. Between the pandemic

and global warming, “hundred-year events” are becoming annual, or nearly so. Have you thought about what kind of emergency resources your church might provide for your community in a time of crisis? Is your church security up to date?

At the beginning of this year the Bisbee Community Grants team decided to offer funding to help congregations prepare for emergencies.

The application deadline has been EXTENDED to December 31, 2023. Could your congregation use a bit of financial assistance to help disaster preparation become part of your mission outreach? Are funds needed to update church security? Check out the Bisbee Community Mission Grants on the Cascades Presbytery Website.

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: 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.



Ask the Clerk

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk

Q: At a recent presbytery meeting the bylaws were suspended. I thought that bylaws could not be suspended?

A: Most sets of bylaws have some rules that can be suspended. However, the presbytery bylaws CANNOT be suspended. This is because we adopted a rule in our bylaws that states that our bylaws cannot be suspended, no exceptions, end of story. Since it is generally the case that most rules in the bylaws cannot be suspended, I’ll try to show what suspendable rules look like, so that if you look at your congregation’s bylaws, you can get a sense of what can and what cannot be suspended. Of course, if your bylaws state something along the lines of “these can’t be suspended”, then there is no distinction to be made between any rules in your bylaws.

First, what does it mean to suspend something in the bylaws? To “suspend” means to temporarily set aside a rule, usually for one particular purpose. This is different than amending the bylaws where changes are made to the bylaws that are permanent (well, permanent unless/until that same section of the bylaws is amended later).

Robert’s Rules of Order states that there are two sorts of rules found in bylaws which can be suspended. First, there are rules that are “in the nature of rules of order that can be suspended.” These are bylaws that pertain to the conduct of business within a meeting or the role of officers within a meeting. For instance, if the bylaws state that the clerk of session shall take minutes at all congregational meetings, this is a rule of order that (unless the bylaws state that they cannot be suspended) may be suspended so that (in the clerk’s absence) a secretary pro-tem can be elected. Such a suspension would be valid for just that meeting. Bylaws in the nature of rules of order can be suspended by a two-third’s vote according to Robert’s Rules of Order. The motion to suspend the rules is an undebatable incidental motion.

Secondly, there may be a rule that explicitly provides for its own suspension. Such a rule might have application outside of a meeting. Hypothetically, the bylaws might state that “the board membership is limited to 14 members. This rule may be suspended on an annual basis by a three-fourth’s vote of the membership.”

Can bylaws be suspended? Yes, if the bylaws don’t forbid their own suspension and the particular rule to be suspended is in the nature of a rule of order or explicitly allows for its own suspension.

ViewPoints

By Marilyn Howe, President of Board of Trustees

About a year ago, I dropped off some Lazarus List items at the **Community, Yachats** on a blustery weekday morning. The little building was humming with activity. A home-schooling group was clustered around a set of maps in the fellowship hall and an earnest group of ladies were in deep discussion in the sanctuary.



As the staff member and I hauled boxes out of my car, a man in tattered clothes with a big dog walked up and offered to help. The staff member greeted him and the dog by name and said she had something for him in the office. I left them talking like old friends.

Later I learned this congregation took over the town's food pantry when its city hall closed to the public because of COVID. Pastor Bob Barrett said they were seeing 50-70 people weekly, providing two to three days' worth of food, sometimes for whole families. They were doing this with 20 volunteers and lots of donations and local business discounts supplementing what the congregation could provide.

I left thinking there's a church that figured it out. They became what they needed to be to fulfill their mission.

I know other congregations in the presbytery are looking for ways to serve and connect to their neighbors. In a region that is famously irreligious, with church membership shrinking every year, they are asking 'What are we supposed to do?'

One option is to seek professional help. Twelve of our congregations did just that.

They just finished an eight-session workshop addressing how to assess their building's potential to be a platform for community activities. It was led by Partners for Sacred Places, a non-sectarian nonprofit dedicated to sound stewardship of religious properties all over the country.

Partners teaches congregations how to use asset-based community engagement to build new ties to their neighborhoods. That gives congregations the confidence to explore new options and redefine their relationship with their buildings.

Thanks to a grant from the M.J. Murdoch Charitable Trust, this expertise came to us free of charge, and it may be available to us again in 2024. But this isn't the only help available. Our Presbyterian Foundation also offers consultation services to coach a congregation through a disciplined discernment process. This is a highly tailored, one-on-one process that includes a financial review.

If your congregation wants to learn more about how to adapt to serve faithfully in the future, please know that the presbytery wants to help you. You are always welcome to contact the Trustees at trustees@potc.life, and our Missional Resource Manager, Thomas Lundy, at mrm@potc.life. We can help you explore your options and walk beside you in your congregation's journey.

[Return to Index](#)



New Reporter to the Central Region Joins Omnibus Staff

Editor's note: We have been blessed to receive Dennis Smith as the new reporter for the Central Region. He begins working with us in January, 2024. I asked him to tell us a bit about himself. The delightful response follows:

I must have been 14 when I first saw the signature bridge that crosses Coos Bay to

enter North Bend. Would that have been 1965?

My family then lived in the Santa Cruz mountains. Our church had sent me to help with a Vacation Bible School at a logging camp somewhere in Coos County.

Now, 58 years later, I return to North Bend, recently retired, newly elected ruling elder at **First, North Bend**, accompanied by my spouse, Maribel Pérez, newly elected deacon. My parents had settled here in the 1980s. They had been active members of First. One of their passions was serving in the food cupboard. Maribel continues that family tradition.

I studied communication at Wheaton College in Illinois, and then served for 43 years as a lay mission worker for Presbyterian World Mission. Most of that time we were based in Guatemala, but for the last decade I served as regional liaison for South America, based in Argentina.

During our years of mission service, Oregon served as our home base in the United States. A few churches in Cascades Presbytery became faithful supporters of our ministry. Now, finally, we have an opportunity to set down some roots in this beautiful corner of God's creation.

For Presbyterian World Mission, my job was to train partner churches and community leaders in community media and citizen journalism. I also taught theology of communication and was active in the ecumenical movement. In the 1980s I began to work with Latin American colleagues researching media, religion, and culture as well as the role played by the media in religion and politics in the region.

My task as a mission worker was not to be a God-bearer – wherever I went, God was already there - but to join our mission partners in discerning how and where God is present in every time and place. And how God calls all of us to faithful service in building the common good.

My joy, always, has been bearing witness to God's grace-filled presence in our troubled world. That means learning to pay attention to real folks in the real world and then telling those stories to whoever I can get to listen. That's what I hope to do in these pages – tell the stories of how Presbyterians in Central Oregon are living out God's love and justice in the real world.



[Return to Index](#)

A Westminster Among Many

By Mike Hubbard, South/Central Region Reporter

One need not be more than a casual Presbyterian to know that “Westminster” is a prominent church name. Sure, there are “Northminster” and “Southminster” and “Eastminster” churches, but Westminster wins the popularity contest hands down.

So, when and where did the name originate? Wikipedia, that source of shallow but abundant information, tells us: “A charter of 785, possibly a forgery, grants land to ‘the needy people of God in Thorney, in the dreadful spot which is called Westminster.’” The charter may have been a forgery, but “Thorney” was in reference to “Thorney Island,” a silt deposit in the River Thames, arguably a “dreadful spot.” The monks pursuing their vocation at Westminster had their work cut out for them. Clearly, they were up to the task, evidenced by the most famous Westminster of them all—Westminster Abby—occupying the former dreadful and thorny silt deposit.

Westminster, Eugene is certainly not a “dreadful spot.” The campus, located on the corner of Coburg and Harlow roads, is large and beautifully landscaped, the building airy and inviting. In 1961, the architectural firm of Stewart and Richardson received an award from the Church Architects Guild of America for the design of the sanctuary. The chancel is an example of that spare, modern design that will always look fresh and inviting. Large windows in both the sanctuary and fellowship hall showcase the well-tended grounds. From inside, it’s difficult to remember that one of Eugene’s busiest roads lies just beyond the parking lot.

On a recent chilly autumn morning, we joined Westminster’s congregation in worship. Having been there before the pandemic, it was refreshing to see a similar number in attendance. Co-pastors David and Marta Ukropina shared leadership of a comfortably familiar Reformed worship service, with David delivering a thoughtful sermon on Matthew 25. Music Director Michael Mercatante and the chancel choir offered their gifts of song. Michael’s relaxed, easygoing approach to playing and directing, combined with his education and plentiful experience, elicits the best music from both choir and congregation.

The morning’s activities didn’t end with the postlude. A college-age Bible study occupied one room. In another, the Deacon’s made plans for decorating the church’s Giving Tree, with residents of Rainbow Village this year’s recipients. And, with Advent fast approaching, the sanctuary was alive with singers preparing for this year’s Christmas cantata.

Beyond Sunday worship, Westminster Presbyterian Preschool offers a high-quality preschool, earning a five-star rating from Winnie, the national childcare/preschool resource center. Collectively, their four-person staff shares over 30 years of experience.

From an earlier conversation with former Interim Executive Presbyter, Dawn Alcorn, it is obvious that life at Westminster has largely rebounded from COVID. The church’s Presbyterian Women are busy crafting new Chrismon to decorate the chancel Christmas tree and creating crafted items to sell at the holiday bazaar. The Men’s Prayer breakfast is active, as is a contemplative small group that meets there. And the Youth Group went to Menucha in August for their first retreat since the pandemic.

God’s faithfulness and Westminster’s faithful response to the grace that surrounds them warmed our heart even as the morning’s frost lingered. We had met in worship and departed refreshed.



David and Marta Ukropina

[Return to Index](#)

Columbia Invites Moms and Young People to Explore Life Choices

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter

Pastor Matt Overton at **Columbia, Vancouver** hasn't been in that position long. He was installed last spring. That doesn't mean, however, that he is still getting his feet on the ground. Far from it!



The first program that came to his mind was their MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) group. Columbia had such a group about ten years ago, and now has re-started it. The group meets approximately twice a month. Members are moms of children in their pre-school, moms of previous pre-schoolers, and even a retired mom or two who enjoy the group and serve as coaches for the younger moms. These people are really anxious to meet, to chat with each other, and to pray for children in the pre-school. They are grateful that they again have a MOPS program.

There is a group called Young Lives, which is a partner program of Young Life. It is the Clark County Chapter, which is headquartered at Columbia. Those in this group are teen moms and dads. Those who lead the group provide assistance for the teens as they learn their new roles as moms and dads. Sometimes, the teens' families aren't very supportive, and the ones who lead the group become more like family for them. Another part of the Young Lives program is Copernium, which is a group for children with disabilities.

Columbia Future Forge is another way that young people are involved through Columbia. This is a 501-C3 organization, attached to Columbia, that makes an impact by giving young people work experience. Pastor Matt began this program and, learning by doing, set up a landscaping business and hired young people to learn the business and do the work. It is not church-funded; all of the bills are paid through earnings from work performed. Now they are looking at partnering with the schools, so that those in the work experience programs might earn credit for work they perform. One of Pastor Matt's ideas is teaching the young people to build sheds, and he hopes they can earn school credits while doing this. Perhaps, he thinks, this could lead to building tiny homes, too.

A part of Columbia Future Forge is a weight-training program. This is funded by those who attend the program. They are in the process of hiring an executive director. A gym has been set up at the church, and a variety of training is ongoing. Approximately 100 young people per week work their way through the classes.

There are Bible studies as part of the program, too. Some who come are new to church, brought by participating in other parts of the programs. They get to know some of the church people and begin to wonder: what is this church and faith, anyway? Members of the church participate, too, so the conversations help all involved to learn more about themselves and life in the church and God. People in the community become more aware of Columbia and the variety of programs and activities that it offers.

All of these projects keep Pastor Matt and his congregation very busy, as does keeping all of those regular things in the life of the church going! At this point, they have about 200 or so in worship each Sunday, in addition to 50-60 online. Blessings for all of your ministries, Columbia!

[Return to Index](#)

Pastoral changes:

- The Rev. Susan McDougall will begin serving at Kenilworth PC, Portland, beginning December 24, 2023
- Brian Heron will labor outside the bounds & serve as interim pastor at Grace PC, Milton Freewater, OR
- The Rev. Laura Nile Tuell has transferred her membership to Olympia Presbytery.

Retirements

- The Rev. Sung Man Kim will retire from Providence Hood River effective January 1, 2024.

Memoria

- The Rev. Leonard Goehring passed away October 16, 2023.



Omnibus Changes Coming in 2024

Effective January, 2024, the *Omnibus* will be published every other month. The decision was made at the Communication and Technology Team meeting on November 29.

As the *Omnibus* approached its fiftieth year of publication, the team reviewed its purpose especially its relationship with the Cascades Connection, a weekly on-line communication to the presbytery. We will continue to contact the churches in the four regions – highlighting, whenever possible this year, members who are offering interesting projects and programs. In other words featuring more of the faces and voices of the presbytery. Presbytery leaders will continue to touch base with us through columns such as “Viewpoints,” and “Ask the Clerk.”

We hope to expand the presbytery coverage by inviting folks to share inspirational writings such as poetry, slice-of-life moments that can touch our journeys of faith. If you feel called to share such inspiration with us, please feel free to send it to me, Kathleen Waugh, editor, kwaugh8@outlook.com.

We now have four regional reporters. Each of them will be eager to receive news of your church or a member of your congregation. Consider WHO in your congregation can be highlighted with a story and picture. Feel free to recommend such folks to our reporters at the following email addresses: Northeast: Pat Berger - pfbb1202@yahoo.com; Northwest: Dianna Weston – dianna_weston@hotmail.com; Central: Dennis Smith – densmithfam@gmail.com; South: Mike Hubbard – pastormike@firstpresmedford.org.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas Season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ. The Christmas Joy Offering supports leadership development, provides comfort to church leaders, builds up the future of the church. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Click [here](#) for more information and where to send donations.



[Return to index](#)



Resources help Ministry and Mission

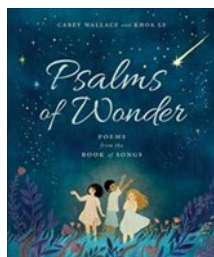


Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality
By Kara Eldson

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.

For more information click [here](#).



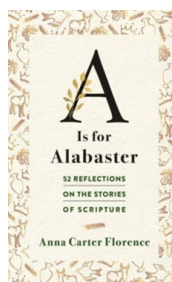
Psalms of Wonder: Poems from the Book of Songs
By Carey Wallace and Khoa Le

Sometimes the psalmists are joyful, sometimes troubled. Sometimes they’re angry, at the world or at God. Sometimes they’re overwhelmed by God’s love or dazzled by the beauty of God’s world. But however they feel, they bring it all to God—their mess, their pain, and their joy. Through many generations, people have called on the beloved ancient songs to express their deepest emotions to God and one another.

For readers of all ages, these inviting poems and gorgeous illustrations are inspired by the book of Psalms, echoing all its wonder and courage, comfort and joy, protection and love. For children, *Psalms of*

Wonder offers an introduction, bridging to the beloved phrases and images of Scripture. For readers who already know and love the Psalms, the poems reveal a refreshing new perspective while holding true to respected biblical translations. Perfect for savoring and sharing, this luminous collection will resonate deep in the hearts of God’s children.

Psalms of Wonder is perfect for preaching, studying, and praying the Psalms, both at home and in church group settings of all ages! To support your educational, devotional, and liturgical uses of this book, we’ve created free digital resources, which can be downloaded [here](#).



A Is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture
By Anna Carter Florence's book

From a book review by Jo Forrest in *The Presbyterian Outlook Magazine*, she writes: “If you want to inspire people in your community to read the Bible, gather around the stories in Anna Carter Florence’s newest treasure: *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*. If you need another shot of creativity for your own Scripture study, pick up *A is for Alabaster*.

Florence teaches preaching at Columbia Seminary and guides us to read scripture through her vivid imagination. Her newest collection of essays puts to work the same principles she shares in her prior work. She lets the verbs animate these stories right off the page and grow flesh and blood into the characters of our faith. Prophets become petulant and loving. Certain women, perhaps considered sassy or labeled as illicit, become exemplars of faith as the people who changed history. Click [here](#) for more of the review.

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

[Return to Index](#)



Friday, December 1

CRE Chris Macfarlane, PA at Tualatin Plains & COM-NW

Philip Meddaugh, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2010

Saturday, December 2

Brookings Presbyterian Church, Brookings -- chartered this month, 1953

Sunday, December 3

Stasia Van Buskirk, ordained this day, 2011, now Honorably Retired

Monday, December 4

Robert Griffen, ordained this day, 1977.

Tuesday, December 5

CRE Karen Keady commissioned this day at McKenzie Valley, Waltherville

Peter Funch, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2005

Wednesday, December 6

Rebecca Strader HR, ordained this day, 1981

Tri-City United Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Creek -- chartered this day, 1954

Thursday, December 7

Kathleen Brinegar, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2015

Friday, December 8

Steven Parker, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2014

Saturday, December 9

Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this month, 1946

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Camas -- chartered this day, 1883

Sunday, December 10

Andrew Wall, serving at Estacada, Springwater PC

Monday, December 11

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grants Pass -- chartered this day, 1887

Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1946

Tuesday, December 12

Timothy Cayton, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Wednesday, December 13

Douglas McClure, ordained this day, 1981, in private practice as counselor

Thursday, December 14

William Van Nostran, ordained this day 2003, now Honorably Retired

Friday, December 15

Richard Rohrbaugh, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2003

Saturday, December 16

Lori Hedlund, ordained this day, 1990

Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairview -- chartered this day, 1890

Continued on page 10

[Return to Index](#)

[Continued from page 9](#)

Sunday, December 17

Mary Wright Gillespie, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1998

Monday, December 18

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham -- chartered this month, 1959

Tuesday, December 19

Wesley Yoon, Pastor at Hope Korean, Portland

Wednesday, December 20

Wesley Lachman, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1991

Thursday, December 21

Alexander Wendeheart Ordained this Day in 2021!

Friday, December 22

John Hasenjaeger, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2009

Saturday, December 23

First Presbyterian Church, Woodburn -- chartered this day, 1898

Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1885

Sunday, December 24

First United Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Point -- chartered this day, 1890

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day -- give thanks for God's inexpressible gift

Tuesday, December 26

Michelle Todd, Chaplain PeaceHealth Vancouver

Wednesday, December 27

Dean Rowley, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 1994

Thursday, December 28

Christopher Murphy, ordained this day, 2008, serving as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Newberg

Friday, December 29

John Braund, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1999

Saturday, December 30

Alan Jackson, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2009

Sunday, December 31

Daniel Myers, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2013

[Return to Index](#)