

February 25, 2015



GOOD NEWS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) 432 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 541-926-8606

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Left to right: Nadine Wood, Graham Kislingbury, Paula Moore, Ross Jackson, Chet Houser who serve on the Transition Team. Linda Less also serves on the team.

TRANSITION TEAM GETS STARTED

Our six-member transition team held its first meeting Feb. 17 with regional minister Cathy Myers Wirt. Cathy and the team discussed a "Congregational Transition Team Checklist" that includes three chronological categories of tasks: "Before the Pastor Concludes Ministry"; "During the Interim Period"; and "After New Pastor Has Arrived." The team also reviewed the guidelines of "Closing a Pastoral Ministry: A Document of the General Commission on Ministry," outlining what needs to be done before Patty Evans' retirement on June 1.

Patty, Douglass Anne Cartwright and Nancy Anderson presented lists of everything they do. The team spent most of its next meeting Tuesday evening, Feb. 24, reviewing those lists to develop job descriptions during the interim. The team will determine what tasks will be turned over to lay leaders and members of the congregation and what may not get done. The team will also move forward on creating an interim pastor profile.

Members of the transition team are Chet Houser, Ross Jackson, Graham Kislingbury, Linda Lees, Paula Moore, and Nadine Wood.

POTLUCK & GAMES NIGHT SUNDAY, MARCH 29 5-7 P.M.

Join your church family for an evening of fellowship and fun. Bring a potluck dish to share, your favorite board games and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.

We'll start by enjoying dinner together and then have a time of playing games. It will all be wrapped up in time for kids to get home and get ready for bed or to finish homework.

Thanks to Tony Wilson who has agreed to lead this event. If you want to help him with the set up or clean up, please let him know.



Hanging by the church office is this lovely silk wall hanging, "Layers of Trees" by Mary Goodson. It was given to the church in memory of longtime member Elizabeth Haddan who enjoyed quilting and needlework.

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Family and friends of Lois Hobbs who died on Feb. 23

Ray Lindley, who is awaiting word on treatment for prostate cancer

Tom Cochran, who is at home recovering from a heart transplant

Kim Free being treated for typhoid

Linda Bricker

Jan Goby

Nancy Robb's brother

Jack Miner

Lynnie Evans

Harryette Anderson

Sarah Mack's step mom

Doreen Hilderbrand

For those in hospice care:

Phyllis Silsbee

Cheryl Hersom

Attendance and Giving

Sunday, February 15

Attendance 94

General Fund giving \$6,244

Building Fund giving \$950

Sunday, February 22

Attendance 129

General Fund giving \$2,677

Building Fund giving \$685

General Fund giving in Feb. \$20,990

Amount needed monthly \$24,322

Building Fund giving in Feb. \$3,620

Amount needed monthly \$8,950

OUR MISSION

is to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice.

WHERE'S PATTY?

If that question reminds you of the children's book that invites young readers to search for a bespeckled Waldo in a stocking cap and red striped sweater you are on the right track! During the next three months you may wonder where I am. You may not see me in my usual spot overlooking the church parking lot, keeping track of all the comings and goings. For the good purposes of helping Douglass Anne be fully equipped as the resident pastor during the interim period, it seemed wise to move her office space down into the hub of church activity. I will be moving upstairs and will be as busy as ever and available to help in all the ways I need and want to be available, and Douglass Anne will have the opportunity to see first hand what "life at the hub" really looks like. She will have the opportunity to learn some of the fine arts of administration and pastoral care before I move into retirement. She will have a better opportunity to visit with you and get better acquainted.

My office will be upstairs just to the left of the elevator as you come up to the second floor. As usual my office door will be open and I will be happy to see you, visit and help you with any needs. Douglass Anne will fill the pastor's place in the church office. She too will be happy to see you, visit and help you with any needs. Between the two of us and the help of our great office administrator, Nancy Anderson, we should all experience smooth sailing as we move into this transition time.

The office switch will be complete on March 9. It will be helpful for everyone to remember that the church office closes at 3:30 p.m. It is helpful for people to make appointments and/or arrangements if they need to meet with a pastor or take care of church business after office hours. Pastoral ministry continues long after the office closes, but it is wise to not take for granted that you will always find a pastor available. If you do stop off at the office in hopes of connecting with me and the church is locked, ring the doorbell to the left of the alleyway entrance. The bell will ring in my upstairs office and I will come down to help you if it is possible. Give me a bit of time to come down.

Your patience and understanding will be greatly appreciated by the whole staff during this transition time. Our utmost desire is to continue to be of faithful service to Christ and his church in such a time as this.

Serving Christ with you,

Patty

Thanks to all who helped move chairs for the Ash Wednesday prayer stations and then reset the chairs for worship.



LOOKING AHEAD

March 22-27

Mission trip to JustLiving Farm,
Yakama, Washington

March 28

All Church Clean-Up
8:30 a.m. to noon

April 5

Easter Sunday Celebration
Breakfast hosted by youth

May 24

A Celebration of Patty's ministry
with us on her last Sunday

July 18-22

General Assembly in Columbus,
Ohio

July 26-31

High school and middle school
regional camps at Suttle Lake

Aug. 10-14

Grade School Camp

Aug. 21-23

Family Camp at Tumalo in the
Bend area. Registration will be
in the spring.

TRUE COMMUNITY

IN LOVING MEMORY

DON BRASH

AUGUST 2, 1924 - FEBRUARY 6, 2015

On Feb. 20, we celebrated the long life of Don Brash, who passed away on Feb. 6 at age 90.

Don joined our church in 1955 when he and his wife, Marge, and their two sons, Mike and Gregg, moved from Toledo to Albany.

During his long membership here, Don served in many capacities including camp counselor, Board Member, Deacon, Elder, Fidelis Sunday School class member, Living Memorial Committee member, and a dedicated worker, particularly when it came to the upkeep of the church grounds. Don pulled weeds and cut grass on this property for far longer than he probably should have, but his dedication to this church was solid.

Don and Marge were also active with the Disciples on Wheels camping group and Don enjoyed the time to get away and fish.

Starting in 1955, Don taught biology at Albany Union High School. He later was asked to set up the science department at the New South Albany High School. He retired after more than 30 years of teaching.

Don was a faithful, dedicated, hard-working man with a love of nature and teaching. Although he was a quiet man, his loyalty, kindness, sense of humor, intelligence, and sensitivity made him the best kind of friend you could have.

Don enjoyed many years of membership with the Good Sam Club Ready Roamers, in which he made many friends. He was also a longtime member and leader of the Masons.

After Marge's death in 2008, Don honored her memory by starting a scholarship fund to make sure that any child who wanted to attend church camps would be able to.

Please hold his sons and their families, his niece, Peggy Wilson, and family, and his beloved friend, Evelyn Ranck, in your prayers for comfort and strength.



Don Brash
Biology, Council of Clubs
Adviser, Linfield, B.S., Lin-
field, M. of Ed.

DEEP CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

'WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING'

Many people have expressed appreciation for the book the congregation is reading together this year. "We Make the Road by Walking," written by Brian McLaren, is a yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation and activation. We are encouraged to read and reflect on one chapter per week and then to pull together a group of friends to discuss what we are learning. One discussion group, which is open to everyone, is being held at 9 a.m. every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. This discussion group will continue to meet formally through March 29 and then will discuss future meeting times.

About once a quarter all readers will be invited to attend a gathering in someone's home where there will be an opportunity to discuss and reflect together on the reading that has been completed to date. Watch the newsletter for information about these discussion opportunities.

If you are trying to keep pace with the congregation in your reading, make note of the following schedule. You will note that we are skipping ahead from Chapter 8 to Chapter 27 in order to explore the chapters that are designed to be read during Lent. We will return to Chapter 9 later in the year.

Read Chapter 27 by March 1
Read Chapter 28 by March 8
Read Chapter 29 by March 15
Read Chapter 30 by March 22



MINDFULNESS PRACTICE

If you have attended Terry Wood's workshops on mindfulness and would like to be a part of a group that gathers to encourage and support one another in this practice, please sign up on the clipboard in the office. If there is enough interest to form a group, Terry will contact participants and then set a date to gather.

He also has plans to offer the workshops again this year if you missed the first two times.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

Mark the following on your Lenten schedule and plan to attend. These worship, reflection and fellowship opportunities will add meaning and depth to this year's observance of Lent and Easter. All will be family- friendly!

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship Celebrations

Worship in the Round at 8 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.

Good Friday Service of Darkness

Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

8-9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

A delicious breakfast cooked and served by our youth! Proceeds support camp and mission trip scholarships.

9 a.m. "We Make the Road by Walking"

Discussion

Pick up your breakfast and come to the Cornerstone Room to eat together and discuss the Holy Week readings .

10 a.m. Resurrection Sunday Worship

Celebrate the Risen Lord with great music, warm fellowship around the Lord's Table, and creative telling of the great story of life.

REIKI PRAYER MINISTRY NEWS

Reiki Prayer Ministry meets from 1-3 p.m. every Thursday. If you are interested in experiencing Reiki, contact Terry Wood.

It is also offered on the fourth Saturday of the month. The next gathering is Feb. 28. Contact Deb Burchfiel.



PASSION FOR JUSTICE

MISSION TRIP UPDATE AND EASTER BREAKFAST

The high school mission trip to JustLiving Farm (part of Yakama Christian Mission) is just around the corner and the participating youth and adults are looking forward to all that we will learn and experience! In preparation for our trip, each week at youth group we are having conversations about some of the topics we will encounter on our trip.

PILGRIMAGE: This trip is more of a pilgrimage than a mission trip, in that the focus is on our own transformation rather than transformation of the site (although we will be working on the farm and in the homeless shelter on the reservation). For some examples of what a pilgrimage is we looked at the story of Moses and the two different kinds of pilgrimages he made – the first after he killed an Egyptian and fled (unintentional pilgrimage) and the second after God appeared to him in the burning bush (intentional pilgrimage). We also watched part of the movie “The Way” (PG-13) for an idea of what a pilgrimage is and we highly recommend it.

LANDSCAPE: The people of Yakama Valley are deeply connected to its landscape, not just the plants and shape of the land but all of the history shared here and passed on from generation to generation. In order to learn more about their landscape when we get there,

we talked about what our own landscapes include. Some of the questions we pondered were: Where are your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents from? How might their lives in the landscape of their birth be different from ours? Does it make a difference how we treat the landscapes surrounding us?

Upcoming conversation topics include CULTURE, ECONOMICS, and JUSTICE.

If you’d like to learn more about the upcoming mission trip and what we are most looking forward to, feel free to ask one of the participants.

Mission Trip participants:

Haley Weir
Alyssa Nelson
Ryan Nelson
Elizabeth Wood

Mission Trip Chaperones:

Shanna Jenne
Jay Mack
Douglass Anne Cartwright

Plan to come to Easter Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 5. The youth will be cooking breakfast and sharing their experiences from the mission trip. Proceeds from the breakfast will go towards sending our kids to camp this summer.

WEEK OF COMPASSION

It is never too late to give to the good work of Week of Compassion. We received and dedicated the annual special offering for Week of Compassion on Sunday, February 22. This offering is the very best way to respond in compassion to the great needs and tragedies in the world. Its very low administrative overhead assures that the greatest percentage of the money received goes directly to the places in greatest need.

Week of Compassion provides medical relief, food, shelter, blankets, and clean water when earthquakes, tsunami’s and other natural disasters occur. It is present in war torn places and in refugee camps. It provides help with refugee resettlement, builds schools, digs wells and rebuilds lives shattered by tragedy. Every gift, large and small, make a huge difference. Our Week of Compassion offering to date is \$3,582.

Let’s continue to be generous and see if we can send at least \$4,000 this year.

BAPTISM/FAITH FOUNDATIONS

Baptism is one of the ways that we, as Christians, declare our intent to live intentionally in the way of Jesus. It is also an opportunity for the church to embrace and welcome individuals making this commitment of faith.

If you have an interest in being baptized this year, or if you're interested in learning more about some of the foundations of our faith (including baptism), talk with Douglass Anne. If there is interest, she will be creating a short-term learning group that will look at some of our faith journey steps and explore what it means to be part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Thanks to Makinzie Cluver who brought valentines to give to everyone on Feb. 15.

