



Dialogue

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

Walker & Siskiyou • 541/482-3536 • firstpresashland.org

Vol. 56, No. 7

July 2016

Three special Sundays coming up in July at First Presbyterian Church

Homecoming Sunday, July 3

By Elaine Morgan

We will begin celebrating our country's independence a day early, with our Homecoming Sunday. Following the 10 o'clock worship service in the sanctuary the Summer Planning Team will host the celebrations with coffee, tea, and cold drinks, grilled hotdogs and root beer floats.

You may bring a dish to share that you think would be a good accompaniment, such as fruit, veggies, baked beans, potato salad, green salad or dessert.

Bring your family members and friends who may be in town for Ashland's Fourth of July celebrations. Renew friendships and make new ones!

Dixieland music on July 17

The Ashland Dixieland Band accompanies worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 17. There will be no 8 o'clock service that day, so every-

one can enjoy the swinging special music. Raoul Maddox and Laurie Anne Hunter will jam with many friends. Don't miss it!

Gospel Piano Jazz Sunday July 31

By Elaine Morgan

Rogue Valley jazz pianist, teacher and composer David Scoggin will be our guest musician for the 10 o'clock service on July 31, as we sing together hymns from the gospel tradition, "Jacob's Ladder," "I'll Fly Away," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," and "Go Down Moses."

Gospel music can be traced to the early 17th century with roots in the black oral tradition. Hymns and sacred songs were repeated in a call and response fashion and typically

utilized a great deal of repetition, allowing those who couldn't read the opportunity to participate in worship.

Most of the churches relied on hand clapping and foot stomping as rhythmic accompaniment, as they sang *a cappella*.

The first published use of the term "gospel song" probably appeared in 1874.

We will have accompaniment to our singing and perhaps a little hand clapping and toe tapping as well.

Fall worship team seeking members

By Linda Purdom

The Fall Worship and Planning Team is looking for members and friends of the church who would like to be part of the planning for upcoming fall events. We have many and varied special days to consider.

The Fall season runs through November, incorporating Labor Day, International Day of Peace, Native American Day, World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering, World Food Day, United Nations Day, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Christ the King Sunday, and Stewardship. The Team will select which of these events to feature for this year.

If you see anything in this list, or have other ideas for stewardship, fellowship, music, mission or other activities that are part of the life of our church, please join us on the fall team.

You may call me or email at wpurdom@jeffnet.org.

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Insert July Calendar, Letter from GA

On Line Links to videos from GA

General Assembly Highlights from Kathy Keener



Tony De La Rosa

Rev. T Denise Anderson

Rev. Jan Edmiston

Rev. J. Herbert Nelson

Anyone who's ever been to a General Assembly knows it's a rich feast. The business agenda of the Assembly alone is massive, and there are a host of auxiliary meetings and social events as well. Boiling down the work of the Assembly is a challenge, but I borrowed from some lists of Top Things that Happened at the 222nd General Assembly.

New faces in leadership: for the first time ever, there is no Anglo male face among the senior leadership of the church. The Assembly elected the Revs. T. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston (of National Capital and Chicago presbyteries, respectively) as its first-ever co-moderators. It also elected the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, former director of the church's Washington Office) as Stated Clerk. Tony De La Rosa continues as interim director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

First confession from the Southern Hemisphere: This Assembly completed the process of adding the Belhar Confession as the twelfth confessional document contained in the Book of Confessions. While this was pretty much a foregone conclusion — since three-fourths of the presbyteries have already given their required assent — still, it is of great historic significance. After the positive vote, theologian Allan Boesak of South Africa, one of the authors of the Belhar Confession during the apartheid era, addressed the Assembly. He ended his remarks by saying, "We may not know what tomorrow may bring, but I know this: tonight, we have overcome. I know this: because of Jesus, we shall overcome. I know this: whatever may come in our world, we shall overcome." In a moving moment, the Assembly responded by spontaneously breaking into song, singing — what else? — "We Shall Overcome."

Science and Faith: In the early twentieth century, Presbyterians could be found at the forefront of the fundamentalist movement, advancing a literalist interpretation of scripture. We are very far from that place a century later, interpreting scripture with the full range of literary and historical tools available. In two separate actions, the Assembly stated definitively that science and faith are not enemies, that evolution — rather than a literal reading of the Genesis creation stories — is a reasonable explanation of how God created the universe, and that Christian disciples should not shrink from using the full range of their God-given intellectual abilities to advance scientific inquiry.

New Directory for Worship: After more than thirty years, and after great change in worship style, the Assembly approved a draft of a new Directory for Worship that will now go out to the presbyteries for approval. The changes have to do mostly with making the Directory for Worship more concise and usable, although it does offer new flexibility to welcome unbaptized inquirers to the Lord's Table, as long as the invitation to be baptized is made clear to them.

Ashland FPC at GA: Linnea Gettman, Jill Turner (modeling the volunteer apron), and Wendy McAninch. Not pictured: Elaine Morgan, Eleanor Robison, Bill Sager Kathy Keener and Rosie-in-training.



THE HOPE IN OUR CALLING IS ALIVE IN PORTLAND (EPH 1:18)

PRESLANDIA



Panorama shot of 100 volunteers carrying signs of Cascades Presbytery churches processing through and around the Assembly following bagpipes and drum. We are one of the largest presbyteries, so it was quite impressive. Ashland FPC's sign was carried by our Clerk of Session, Linnea Gettman. Bill Sager, Kathy Keener, Wendy McAninch and Rosie also processed.

Fossil Fuels: After contentious debate, the Assembly rejected a call for aggressive divestment of the church's stock-market holdings in two hundred corporations that produce fossil fuels. Instead, the Assembly opted for a less-confrontational strategy of engaging these companies in dialogue through stockholder resolutions.

Israel-Palestine: For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace: The Assembly approved an amended report, supporting the two-state solution to that intractable conflict, taking particular note of the imbalance of suffering between the Israelis and the Palestinians and focusing on children. The Assembly refrained from moving beyond phased divestment from Hewlett-Packard (the position of the 2014 Assembly) to an outright boycott, continuing to work with that corporation to encourage them to do less to support the Israeli occupation of Palestinian areas.

Could the "sex wars" really be over? Generally, the atmosphere was far less contentious. This is largely due to the changes that took place at the last two Assemblies, allowing freedom for GLBTQ believers to assume ordained office, and a similar freedom for pastors and sessions wishing to offer same sex marriage ceremonies where permitted by civil law. There was an overture to return to the "one man and one woman" language once present in the Directory for Worship's section on marriage. This was resoundingly

defeated by a more than a 4-to-1 margin. Another overture, coming from the opposite end of the theological spectrum, called on the church to formally "apologize" to GLBTQ Christians who have been marginalized by past church teachings. The Assembly declined to use the emotionally-loaded "a"-word, speaking instead of "regret." This was in order to provide gracious space for those who continue to dissent from the church's tolerant stance on same-sex marriage, honoring their freedom of conscience.

Social Justice: Attempts to limit the Assembly's ability to do almost anything related to social justice by restricting how often certain topics could come up and adding supermajority voting requirements were all resoundingly defeated.

Eight days; some beginning at 7am and ending at 11:30pm; daily worship and bible study, hundreds of volunteers, exhibitors, international and ecumenical guests, Ruling and Teaching Elders from churches like ours, prayerful discernment. - KK



Come celebrate the Kings' 60th anniversary on August 3



An invitation to all . . .

WHO: The family of Lawrence and Virginia King
WHAT: Invite you to join them in celebrating their parents' 60th wedding anniversary

WHERE: Calvin Hall

WHEN: Wednesday, August 3 at 7 p.m.
(you will be home before dark)

WHY: An evening of celebratory fellowship and fun.

Dessert will be served at 7 p.m.

Entertainment by The Extended Circle will follow at about 7:30 or so.

No gifts please!

Women's Book Club reading *Digging for Richard III*

By Marcia Hunter

The Women's Book Club is reading *Digging for Richard III: The Search for the Lost King* by Mike Pitts in July. This sounds like a fascinating story of the archaeology behind the dig that found the body of a king in a parking lot in 2012.

According to *Goodreads.com*, "*Digging for Richard III* is the page-turning story of how his grave was found and the people behind the discovery. It is the first complete narrative of a project that blended passion, science, luck and detection. Told by a noted archaeologist, . . . it follows the

quest from an idea born in an Edinburgh bookshop to the day, fourteen years later, when two archaeologists carefully raised the bones from the parking lot in Leicester, and the scientific studies that resulted. . . . The vivid tale of a king, his demise and his rediscovery, this is also an insider's gripping . . . narrative worthy of the finest detective fiction."

Please join us for an interesting discussion at Kathy Campbell's house on Monday, July 25 at 7 p.m. Come for the snacks, the fellowship, and the book discussion.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 - David Wilkerson
9 - Helga Binder
9 - Kathy Hoxmeier
9 - Laurel Dryland
15 - Greg Jones
21 - Kelly Conlon
22 - Bill Quiett
26 - Mary Smelcer
28 - Katie Patton
31 - Jas Wilkerson

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

2 - Brian and Carrie Prechtel
8 - Margie and Gregg Lininger

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Dialogue. Articles are welcome for the August issue. Please submit by Thursday, July 21. Email (preferred) to huntermarcia@gmail.com

Notes from the Session

By Linnea Gettman, Clerk of Session

At the Session meeting on Tuesday, June 14 Pastor Kathy Keener opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion.

The Summer Planning team continues with its plans for the summer. Several fun things are coming up (please refer to other parts of the newsletter for information on what's going on!).

The Finance and Administration committee has secured a new insurance company for FPC at a significant savings for the church. They also reported that the church

is on track and within budget at this time of year.

Buildings and Grounds reported that they were pleased with the workday in May.

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work hard on our behalf. Please keep them in your prayers as they are reviewing PIF's of potential ministers. This is a time-consuming process and requires much discernment on their part. Thanks to the PNC for their commitment.

The Session and many of its committees will not meet in July.

First Pres,

Thank you for the gift bag and honoring me at the service in May. I especially enjoyed the cake.

I really appreciate the support of the church community and am glad I have a church home with First Pres.

Sincerely,
Walker Shibley-Styer



Community dinners feed neighbors September through May

By Kathy Sager

Thank you all for tirelessly volunteering at the Community Dinners. We served over 80 guests at the May dinner. I think the word is out that we have a friendly, welcoming environment and healthy food!

People were surprised when we started 2016 off with elk meat. Thank you to Rick who worked through the night butchering the meat. We served elk stew, elk stroganoff, elk pasta sauce, and BBQ elk "pulled pork" sandwiches. We also served Derryl's much loved "pigs in a blanket" in October and May.

SuAnne's coleslaw is always a crowd favorite! Marilyn Mobley keeps everyone happy with tubs of ice cream, and all of you contributed to the amazing dessert table with pies, cookies, cobblers, cakes and brownies.

Thank you for the soups, macaroni & cheese, vegetable purees, dinner rolls, chili and Christmas hams! I can always count on Jill and Nancy to make the main dish. Sous chefs Marcia and Shirley have sharpened their knife skills! Thank you to the Wrights who show up early and set the tables, prep the silverware, make

the coffee and sandwiches and do whatever else needs doing. Thank you to Jill and Bill, and the clean up crew that washes dishes until they themselves are soaking wet! The kitchen stays organized with Barbara, Sue, Joanne and Judi putting the hot dishes away. Thank you to so many of you who serve, bus tables, move chairs, sweep, haul garbage, make "to go" containers, and lend a listening ear. You make a difference in my life and in the lives of those we serve at the community dinner.

Thanks for a great season!

Noisy Offering going to Ashland Emergency Food Bank

By Jim Holloway

This month our noisy offering will go to the Ashland Emergency Food Bank. You may ask, why would we ask for support in July? Well, the need is great. This summer Executive Director Pam Marsh expects to run very short of basic foods such as soup and cereals. These items are particularly valua-

ble to families on a tight budget. And soup and cereal are not usually on sale during the summer months.

The Ashland Emergency Food Bank is an old friend. In January and February, we provide volunteers to help the needy shop at the food bank. And the food bank supports our church community dinners.

Please help, as you are able.

Refugees supported

The **June noisy offering** for Syrian refugee relief raised \$205.41. Our thanks to John and Kathy Sager for sharing with us their heartfelt stories about the efforts of the volunteers who will put this donation to good use serving refugees.

The GoFundMe account for Laurie Ann Hunter and her husband Frank is growing. You can follow this link to see how you can help them in their time of need: www.gofundme.com/23zt36k

Thank you from OnTrack for noisy offering

To the Members of the First Presbyterian Church:

I am writing as Director of OnTrack, Inc. to thank the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland for your generous and unexpected gift to our programs. We appreciate your kind regard for the families we serve and the message implicit in it that you understand and honor the effort our families make to learn to live clean and sober lives. In making positive changes, they improve not only their own lives and the lives of the people

they love but also enrich our entire community. Your donation reminds us that their steps along the path to recovery have not gone unnoticed.

On behalf of all of us at OnTrack and the people it is our pleasure and privilege to serve, I offer our most heartfelt thanks for this gift and for the compassionate concern it represents.

Respectfully,
Rita Sullivan, PH.D., Executive
Director

Financial report

Financial report year-to-date:
Income: \$90,316
Expenses: \$90,336
Year-to-date deficit: <\$20>

Carolyn Moeglein, treasurer

Two college grads celebrate new beginnings



Adam with his mom Lori Freed

Adam Good graduated recently from PSU – Portland State University – with a business degree. He is planning to stay in Portland and has already started an internship for this summer with the Hops, a minor league baseball team. He is enthusiastic about being involved with this team as well as being part of the business office. His dream has always been to work for a major league ball team, so this is a great start along his path.

Wyler McAninch-Ruenzi graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on May 28 in Troy, New York. He earned a Bachelor's of Science cum laude with a major in computer science and a minor in economics.

Following graduation, Wyler moved to New York City and is working for Capital IQ, a Standard and Poor's company. He shares a small apartment with a roommate and feels fortunate to have the well-situated place he does.



Wyler with his mom Wendy McAninch

PW Synodwide Gathering in August

Out of the darkness . . .

Into the light (John 1:5)

The 2016 PW Synodwide Gathering overlaps this year with the PW USA Mission Experience.

Come to the Gathering and learn about human trafficking, domestic violence and immigration issues; meet and share bible study "Who is Jesus?" with Rev. Yung Me Morris, the Pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia; and be in fellowship with our PW sisters.

Speakers will be Sister Marilyn Lacey, Mercy Beyond Borders; Beverly Upton, San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium; and Brian Wu, Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition.

Date: September 23-25, 2016

Place: Mercy Center, 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame, California

Cost: \$230 – REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 15, 2016

For more information, contact Shirley Patton or Doreen Der-McLeod (ddermcleod@gmail.com)

Haiku

Defending his yard,
Tiny dog thinks he's barking
But can only squeak.

By "Poet" Robb Grover



Men's Book Club reading *The Sea Wolf* for August

By David Hall

The Men's Book Club is currently reading Jack London's *The Sea Wolf* and the biography of Jack London called *Sailor on Horseback* by Irving Stone. The meeting to discuss these two books will be sometime in early August. Call David Hall or the church office for updated information.

Karen Amarotico wins SOU alumni award

Karen Amarotico was honored with the Stan Smith Alumni Service Award at the Southern Oregon University alumni breakfast prior to commencement on June 11.

The Alumni Service Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community and service to people. Karen earned a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from SOU in 1990 and a Master's Degree

in management in 2008. Since 1986, she has logged hundreds of hours volunteering nonprofit organizations, including Rotary, SMART, Ashland Schools Foundation, the Elks, and the Presbyterian Church. In 2011, Karen began a year-long project in pie baking to express her gratitude. For 365 days, she chose a friend, neighbor, or stranger she knew could use a pick-me-up and baked them a pie.



Faithful members beautify campus on May workday

By Howdy Miller and Gene Wright

The Buildings and Grounds Committee wants to thank all of you faithful members who worked so hard on workday. We now have many projects completed on our long list of jobs to do.

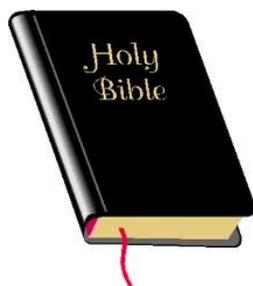
The work goes on, even without a workday. Amy Patton has taken

on the "re-do" of our campus irrigation system and would welcome any help you might be willing to give.

Outside painting needs to be done on our buildings where the sun has faded the paint in spots. We already have the supplies, so we need to get a "paint party" organized.

We have been blessed with great people who have helped with workdays. We had 20 people at the last one. Special thanks to an AYC family who helped clean roof debris and gutters – what a gift!

The parking lot will be resealed and relined on July 1.



Galatians 5:13-26 Good News Translation

As for you, my friends, you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead, let love make you serve one another. For the whole Law is summed up in one commandment: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." But if you act like wild animals, hurting and harming each other, then watch out, or you will completely destroy one another.

What I say is this: let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature. For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and

what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do. If the Spirit leads you, then you are not subject to the Law.

What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. I warn you now as I have before: those who do these things will not possess the Kingdom of God.

But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.

Submitted by Debbie Miller



First Presbyterian Church
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Return service requested
Dated material



First Presbyterian Church

Corner of Siskiyou and Walker

PO Box 626 Ashland, OR 97520 541-482-3536

A welcoming and affirming congregation

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kathy Keener momrev1kk@gmail.com / **Office Manager:** Susan Coghill presbyashland@yahoo.com

Director of Music: Laurie Anne Hunter lahunter@mind.net / **Parish Worker:** Wendy McAninch

Treasurer: Carolyn Moeglein cmoeglein@yahoo.com / **Bookkeeper:** Lynn Godsey

Ruling Elders on Session: Amy Patton, Elaine Morgan, Linnea Gettman, Jill Turner, Howdy Miller, Linda Purdom, Brian Almquist

Clerk of Session: Linnea Gettman

Deacons: Pat Gaulke, Marilyn Mobley, Marilyn Wright, Shirley Patton, Anne Sklensky, Gail Johnson, Ruth Ralls, Debbie Miller, Marjorie Lininger **Deacon Moderator:** Wendy Ray

Ministers: the whole congregation

Our Mission

We are a faith community centered in Christ, doing justice,
loving kindness and walking humbly with God.

Our Vision

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Table



Visit the church website at www.firstpresashland.org
"Like" us on Facebook at fb.com/firstpresashland
Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/1stPresAshland



Regular Sunday Schedule

8am Chapel Worship
 10am Sanctuary Worship
 11:15am Fellowship



JULY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7:30am Crack Sealing the Parking Lot	2
3 Homecoming 8am Chapel Worship 10am Sanctuary Worship 11:15 Potluck with Hot dogs and Root Beer Floats	(Office Closed) 4th of July Parade 	5 AYC Fundraiser (NW Pizza)	6	7	8	9
10 Noisy Offering-Food Bank Birthday Fellowship	11 2pm A & F Committee	12	13	14	15 Presbytery @ Medford 1st Pres	
17 No 8am Service 10am Dixieland Jazz Band 	18	19	20	21 Dialogue Articles Due	22	23
24 8am Chapel Worship 10am Sanctuary Worship 11:15 Fellowship	25 7pm Women's Book Club	26	27	28 10am Dialogue Folding Noon Presbyterian Women Summer Potluck@Sue Sagers Susan Out of Office	29	30
31 8am Chapel Worship 10am Gospel Jazz Piano w/ David Scoggins 		<p>Do you want to do something about Gun Violence? There are powerful and creative resources we may use at FPC but I need collaborators to plan a quilt display, movie showing discussions, studies and creative workshops. Both gun owner and non-gun owners are preferred. Please tell me of your interest. -Kathy Keener</p>				

Weekly Building Schedule

AA	Fireside Room	7am-8am	M-Sat			
AA	Fireside Room	9am-10am	M-Sat	Summer Preschool	Lower Calvin Hall	July 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 21
Alanon	Fireside Room	7pm-8:15pm	Mon	BNI	Calvin Hall	8:00am - 9:30am Tues
Alanon	Fireside Room	7pm-8:30pm	Fri	Realtors	Calvin Hall	8:30am - 9:30am Thurs