



Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church



May 2016

Pentecost Celebration

Birthday of the Church



Sunday, May 15
Both Services
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Wear Something RED!

Missionaries from the Congo will be speaking at both services. Following each service, there will be a special birthday cake to enjoy.

Church Pictorial Directory

Wednesday – Friday
May 18, 19, 20
1:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 21
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



To celebrate the joining of our two churches, we are planning a new church pictorial directory. Lifetouch Portraits will be at the church on the above dates and times to take pictures.

Two options are available for scheduling an appointment. To schedule your appointment online, go to the church website: kelsofirstumc.org. Click on the Links tab at the top of the page where you'll find the Lifetouch button. This will take you to the Lifetouch website to schedule your photo time. For those who would rather schedule your appointment at the church, you may do so after each worship service on Sundays.

Everyone who has their picture taken will receive a free 8x10 portrait plus a directory. There will be a \$10 off coupon when you check in for your appointment. Seniors 60 or older will also receive a 20% discount.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, you may contact our Co-Coordinators:
Sue Coulombe – 636-3617
Diane Manasco – 636-5204

Closets Overflowing?

We have a solution for that. Bring your unwanted clothing, toys, games, household items, books, etc. The more you bring, the more our church can earn. (See more detailed article inside newsletter.)

Begins Sunday, May 22
through
Saturday Morning, June 4



Donated items will be delivered to Savers Donation Network.

If you have questions or need help, please call Sue Coulombe at 636-3617.

Notes from the Pastor's Pen . . .



Several weeks ago, I decided to clean my sewing room. To be honest, it has been just about like I left it after unpacking almost three years ago. That's rather sad. Anyway, I discovered some interesting things in those boxes. There was a ceramic hanging hot air balloon with clowns hanging off it. (It can be yours at the bazaar.) Tom's mom gave it to us years and years ago, and I had forgotten all about it. I found a box full of snowmen that I used to collect. (Those can also be yours at the bazaar.) I found strange keys, old letters, old bills.... There were many other things in those boxes – some sad, some sweet, and some that I wonder why I even kept that.

Why do we hold onto things in boxes, junk drawers, our lives? Will we ever use that twisty tie again, or do we really need 50 pencils? I don't know, but I do know I certainly don't need a lot of the stuff in my junk drawers and cabinets. How do I get these things, really? As I've mentioned in church, I've also been going through my closets, cleaning out those clothes I haven't worn in years. But it isn't just that, I just have too much stuff. I like stuff. Just check out my desk. When I arrived here three years ago, I told Judy it was too big. I couldn't imagine using all that desk. Now, it's a wonder you can see the desk.

I once collected shot glasses. Not because I drank, but because it was always so much fun to see the different types and designs of glasses of places I traveled. I have since given that up as it took up too much room. I have one left, the very first shot glass I ever collected. It was a gift from my friend when she went to Germany. Now I collect smashed pennies which take up infinitely less room.

I say all this because I wonder how much stuff we have in our lives that keep us from our true calling. What could we get rid of that would bring us closer to God? I know there is a lot of stuff I need to let go of, and it's not just the tangible things. I need to let go of fear and worry.

So here's my challenge to you. As we clear out those closets for our clothing drive this month, clear out those things that keep you from a close relationship with God. Have you not been to church in a while? Are you afraid to come back? Don't be – I've been in your shoes. Don't let fear keep you from God. Do you feel as if there is so much "stuff" that God won't love you? You may have "stuff" going on in your life, but God still loves you no matter what.

In Bible study this week, I was reminded of this scripture from Jeremiah 20:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Don't let anything hold you back from God. God has plans for you! I'll look for YOU in church!

Pastor Vonda

FISH Food Ministry

The next scheduled days to prepare and distribute food to people will be on:

Wednesday, May 4
Thursday, May 5
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Laurie Hall



If you are interested in helping prepare and distribute food on these days, please contact Bette Aanderud at 577-0095 or Pat Faires at 423-7874.

Special food items needed: Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce and Canned Fruit. Items may be put in the containers in the Narthex (Church Foyer).

P.E.O. Mother's Day Sale

Thursday, May 5
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday, May 6
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 7
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



1801 Allen Street in Kelso

Cash, Check, Credit Card
(No Early Sales)

Choose from large hanging baskets, unique and unusual planters, birdhouses, vegetable and herb garden planters, shabby chic, painted furniture, plus much more – created by Chapter CO members with proceeds going for future education scholarships for women.

BINGO & Dessert Night



Saturday, May 21
6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Bring a Dessert to Share.

First bingo card is free and each one after \$1.00 each. Bring a prize – \$5 value (something you would enjoy winning). If you bring children, bring the same number of children's prizes. This event is hosted by the Welcoming and Fellowship Team.

Piano Available

The church has an upright piano that is no longer needed. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Pastor Vonda for details.



U.M.P.W. News



Next Meeting
Wednesday, May 25
10:00 a.m.



Meet in Fellowship Hall

On Wednesday, May 25 the United Methodist Presbyterian Women will take a tour of the Hospice Care Center Gardens and have a no-host lunch at Toppers Restaurant after the tour. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. and car-pool from there.

Thanks to all who have helped at the Dr. McRae and Dr. Clark memorial services by bringing food and helping in the kitchen.

All women are encouraged to attend our meetings.

Furnace Upgrades

We have recently had upgrades on our furnace, which we hope will produce a more pleasant experience during worship and other events.

There is a new thermostat that has been set for automatic heating during scheduled events at the church. If you already have a scheduled event, the furnace will come on. If you should have an event that is not regularly scheduled, there is an override button that will allow for heating for three hours.

There is now a password for the thermostat which our custodian, Dale Bruton, and Pastor Vonda have. Please do not attempt to do anything else with the thermostat. Let Dale or Pastor Vonda know if you have any questions.

Remember In Prayer

Don Aanderud, Marcia Altman, John Anderson, Phyllis Flato (Larry Whyte and Cherie Rapp's grandmother), Jerrilyn French (Virginia French's daughter-in-law), Sue Gilmore (Gene and Charlotte Balint's daughter), Jean Larsen, John Murphy (Diane Manasco's nephew serving in Middle East), Rob Redmond (Harvey and Linda Redmond's son), Carole Sprouse, and our children at Jamaa Letu Orphanage in the Congo: Angele, Benita, Josephine, Naomi, Ruth, Souzanne, Willy, and Yanick.



Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to:



- Pat and Glenn Faires and family at the passing of Pat's brother, Doug Ray, on May 2.
- The family of June Larson. June passed away on April 30.
- Ruth Clark and family at the loss of Ruth's husband, Dr. Marion Clark, on April 19.
- Pam Dickey and family at the passing of Pam's sister, Andrea Strickland, on April 16.
- Brian Johnson and family at the loss of Brian's father, Ken Johnson, on April 1.

A Different Fundraiser

(See "Closets Overflowing?" Article on Front Page)

We have had a number of fundraisers in our church community throughout the years, but this one is a little bit different. We are not asking you to empty your wallets; we want you to clean out your closets. Really!! Did you know your unwanted clothing and household items can help support our programs? We are working with the Savers Donation Network, and they will pay us cash for your donated

A Different Fundraiser (Cont.)

items, and you will get a receipt for your 2016 taxes.

So, we are asking our church members to clean out closets, cupboards, garages, storage units, attics, basements, and anywhere else things have been tucked away. You know you have been thinking about doing this for a long time. Now is your chance. Just think how good you will feel to have this chore done, and you can help the church at the same time. We will be accepting clothing, jewelry, fashion accessories, handbags, shoes, bath and bedroom linens, small electrical appliances, toys, games, kitchen items, knick-knacks, books, magazines, records, tapes, CD's, videos and DVD's.

How many bags of unwanted clothes and household items can you fill from your overstuffed closets? Challenge yourself and start filling those bags. We will be paid by the pound, so every bag will help. As an example, if we fill 400 kitchen garbage bags, we can net approximately \$1,000. And don't be shy. Share the joy of clean closets. Invite family, friends, and neighbors to join in the fun.

This is a win, win, win, win fundraiser. You get clean closets and cupboards. Win. You get a receipt for your taxes. Win. Hundreds of pounds of usable items are kept out of the landfills. Win. The church gets money for programs. Win. Your assignment now is to begin cleaning, sorting, bagging, and nagging (oops, encouraging) family and friends to help us out with this fundraiser.

For more information or if you would like to help with this fundraiser, please call Sue Coulombe at 636-3617.

Happy Cleaning!

Gospel Sing-A-Round to Benefit FISH

Monday, May 23
7:00 p.m.
Columbia Theatre
 (1231 Vandercook Way-Longview)
Tickets: \$10/each

Six choirs from throughout Cowlitz County will join the Portland Interfaith Gospel Choir. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit our community's local FISH food program.

May Birthdays

- 2 Edna Cope
- 8 Nikolas Anderson-Simonson
- Marilyn Strange
- 12 Matthew Buller
- 13 Richard Ainslie
- 14 Myrt Robbins
- 15 Jeffrey Gates
- 17 Bobby Buller
- 18 Kelley Walker
- 22 Bob Heaton
- 23 Ray McDermott
- 24 Marilyn Bruton
- Glenn Faires
- Dolores McDonald
- 28 Bonnie MacDonald
- George Schwartz
- 29 Steve Czarnecki



Attendance

Sunday			
Date	Sunday School	1st Service	2nd Service
4/03/16	12	62	68
4/10/16	10	61	64
4/17/16	16	67	56
4/24/16	8	51	64
Wednesday			
	Youth	Adults	
4/06/16	No Activities (Spring Break)		
4/13/16	20	9	
4/20/16	13	5	
4/27/16	14	5	

Financial Report



March 2016

Balance Forward (12/31/15)	\$4,357
General Fund	\$60,080
Transfer from Designated	\$835
Miscellaneous	\$372
Interest	\$19
	<u>\$61,306</u>
Expenses	<u>(\$54,910)</u>
Balance	\$10,753

Building Fund Balance \$9,254

Apportionments (Shared Ministry)

- Paid March – 100%
- Year-to-Date – 25%

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts have been received in memory of Dr. Larry McRae.

Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church
 206 Cowlitz Way
 Kelso, WA 98626-3411
 Phone: 360-423-7480 / Fax 360-425-1121
 Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
 Daycare Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (M-F)
 E-mail: kelsoumc@cni.net
 Website: www.kelsofirstumc.org
 Facebook: Kelso First United Methodist Church
 Rev. Vonda McFadden, Pastor
 Parsonage: 360-423-3514 / Cell: 360-393-2843
 Pastor's E-mail: pastorvonda@gmail.com
 Rev. Greg and Rev. Laurel Moore, Music Directors
 503-556-8131

Sunday Schedule: (Sept-May)
 9:00 am Contemporary Service
 9:20 am Youth Sunday School
 10:10 am Adult Sunday School
 11:00 am Traditional Service
 10:00 am & 12:00 pm Fellowship Time

Wednesday Schedule: (Sept-May)
 5:00 pm Youth Choir
 5:30 pm Children/Teen Ministry
 6:15 pm Praise Team Practice
 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Meet Gary and Susan Jackson

God plans and God provides. We may not be always aware of what He is planning, but trusting in His plan does work as we see what he provides.



Gary and Susan Jackson as two together was a plan that God had; and He provided the right time for them to meet, but It did take a few times. When Gary was a sophomore at Central Washington State College in 1973, he was assigned to a school in Bremerton to complete his first quarter in a school setting to explore teaching as a career. Susan lived nearby in Poulsbo and was a junior in high school. He could have been easily assigned to her school and been in a teaching role with her. Two years later, Gary graduated and was going to Australia for his first teaching job. He left Ellensburg in August, and Susan arrived there a month later. Three years later, in 1978, Gary returned and went back to Central to complete his 5th year for the Standard Teaching Certificate. Susan was finishing her senior year. They met then; she was the costumer in the drama department, and Gary had a supporting lead in "The Matchmaker." An appropriate setting for getting to know each other.

They married two years later. Susan's faithfulness to God and quiet witnessing of it brought Gary back to active living in God again. Blessings of four children sparkled their life together.

Susan is Catholic and Gary is Presbyterian. Both faiths and churches have been shared and attended. Each of their children: Kathleen, Thomas, Carolyn, and Laura received First Communion in local Catholic Churches. Susan taught First Communion classes at St. Mary's, and Gary taught Sunday School at First Presbyterian. The kids attended both. Gary served as Elder and Deacon at Presbyterian, and now he serves on Church Council. Susan has served in circles at both St. Mary and St. Rose and has been Wednesday Night Fellowship cook at Presbyterian. She is currently serving as Wednesday night cook for our youth groups as well as helping out with other meal events served here.

Kathleen joined First Presbyterian and was active in youth group and mission serving. She brought friends to meet God, and they became active members and served in Presbytery youth ministry. She currently serves as Elder and Christian Education head at her church in Vancouver. Carolyn and Laura joined St. Rose and were active in youth ministry and did mission trips. Laura has worked Journey With Christ Youth Weekend events serving as Youth Leader and Support Staff in Ministry. When she serves and leads an event, she introduces herself as a Cathetarian – recently adding 'ist' – as a Cathitarianist...different faiths together as one in God. Thomas also brought friends to youth group at First Presbyterian and served running the sound board during worship.

God planned and carried out this wonderful, loving, and living out His life in our family and the joy of serving with others in different faith settings. God plans and God provides.

It's Official!

On April 16, 2016, Kelso First United Methodist Church and Kelso First Presbyterian Church held a Church Conference to vote to accept the Bylaws and to officially merge by unanimous vote to become Kelso United Methodist Presbyterian Church.

Research has shown that successful mergers only happen when everyone involved is willing to let go of their control and allow God to help reshape and form them into a new church. The new church may not be what people expected, but it will be the result of our faithfulness and commitment. We are committed to faithfully live out God's calling for us in this place. Our roots are deeply planted in this community and together. We have a long history of working together with many years of shared ministry. So today we carry on that tradition weaving our ministry and mission together as one.

I am reminded of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV)

We are new! While some outside of our congregation might feel this is a last ditch effort for our congregations, I feel it is an opportunity for new life and energy in spreading the message of Jesus Christ.

I have heard from some that church mergers are generally hard. While that may be true for others, it has not been my experience. I can say in all honesty, it has been through the grace of God that we have moved forward in love as one people, serving together, caring for each other, and growing in our faith with nary a problem.

As I have prayed for our church over this last year, I prayed for God's will to be done in our midst. While we certainly couldn't have come this far without each of you, without God we would be nowhere. Our future is bright! I know God has a plan for us, and I pray for God's grace that we might fulfill that plan.

Thank you to Rev. David Nieda for his guidance, to Rev. Wendy Taylor for starting us on this journey, to Rev. Kari McFarland for her guidance, and for the support of the Presbytery, especially Rev. Keith Tannis. I also thank John Simpson, Gary Jackson, Pat Faires, Linda Redmond, Cherie Rapp, and Darylan Johnson for their hard work this last year or so. It wouldn't have happened without you. But mostly I thank the congregation of First United Methodist Presbyterian Church for all your support, prayers, and contributions in making this possible.

Pastor Vonda

Pictures from Church Conference April 16, 2016



Transition Team

Front Row: Gary Jackson, Cherie Rapp, Linda Redmond,
and Pat Faires

Back Row: John Simpson, Pastor Vonda McFadden, and
Darylan Johnson



Left to right: Rev. Wendy Taylor,
Rev. David Nieda, Rev. Vonda McFadden, and
Rev. Kari McFarland