

THE BEACON

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWPORT

December
2014

Volume 24, Issue 9



CHRISTMAS ISSUE

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Merry Christmas

CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesday Practice: 5:30pm-6:30pm
(No Practice on December 31st)
Sunday Rehearsal: 9:00am
(No Rehearsal on December 14th)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 7	Communion Sunday	10:00am
Dec 7	PW Meeting in the Sanctuary .	11:30am
Dec 7	Gifts for Kids Delivery Deadline	12:00pm
Dec 7	Communion at Oceanview . . .	1:45pm
Dec 9	Christmas Tea – Oceanview . . .	2:30pm
Dec 11	Coastal Aires Food Pantry Benefit	7:00pm
Dec 13	Newport Youth Symphony Concert	7:00pm
Dec 15	Stone Soup	4:30pm
Dec 22	Mtgs: Worship, Prayer, Staff (usual times)	
Dec 22	Literary Group	12:00pm
Dec 23	Session	7:00pm
Dec 24	Brown Bag	12:00pm
Dec 24	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	7:00pm
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	



Dec 26	Office Closed
Dec 28	<i>Baptism</i> Hannah Vey Schonau	10:00am
Dec 28	PW (GFK) Thank You in Geneva	11:00am
Dec 29	Mtgs: Worship, Prayer, Staff (usual times)	
Dec 29	Literary Group	12:00pm
Dec 31	Brown Bag	12:00pm





Pastor's Pencil

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

When I was a child my favorite part of Christmas was the anticipation of Santa coming and leaving presents under the tree. As I grew older, and understood better the Christmas message, my thoughts turned more to what I could give rather than receive. Now as an older man I am beginning to appreciate Christmas simply for its perennial hope.

As a child it was fun to receive gifts wrapped in bright colors. It never occurred to me that I would grow tired of opening pretty presents. Somewhere in my adolescent years the unimaginable happened. I began to love Christmas for its inspiration to give and receiving gifts began to become less and less important.

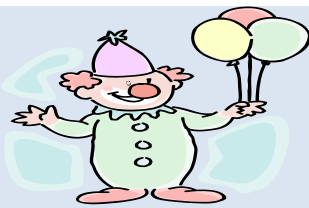
I have been blessed to have relived those experiences through my children and recognize the natural growth from receiving to giving. With a new grandchild I may even be fortunate enough to see the process repeated again through her Christmases.

This has caused me to realize that one of Christmases' special gifts is its timeless, ongoing inspiration of receiving and giving. The Christmas story begins with our receiving God's gift of a son, Emmanuel, *God with us*. Throughout the ages many have received this gift with a grateful joy that overflowed into their own inspiration to give.

Until the Lord returns, that eternal hope will continue to shine in many, many lives. Whatever the future may bring we may be certain of this: there will always be those inspired by the miraculous gift of Christmas, who suddenly finding themselves shining this loving light in whatever darkness needs to be overcome.

Yours for a bright Christmas, Don

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Pam Schindler 4th

Drake Dougherty 13th

Ruby Cooper 31st

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY



Casey & Kathryn Hawes

29th

NEW BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY



A Book of Christmas: Readings for Reflection During Advent and Christmas, published by Upper Room. This is a book that all the family can enjoy, including a litany for lighting advent candles at home.

Living a Life That Matters, by Harold S. Kushner. The author known for his book **When Bad Things Happen to Good People**, has written a book to help set guideposts for living a useful and fulfilled life, regardless of circumstances.

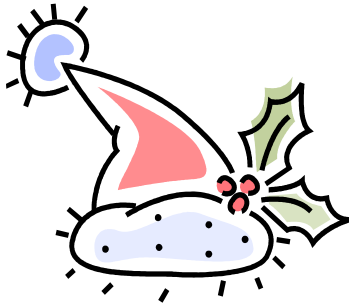
Skeptics Answered: Handling tough questions about the Christian Faith, by Dr. James Kennedy. The author will prepare you with good basic information on how to answer those tough questions, from skeptics and doubters, while supplying you with interesting historical facts.

Two books by C.S. Lewis:

The Great Divorce: This is an allegory about a bus ride from hell to heaven. This is a new book for our collection of C.S. Lewis books.

The Screwtape Letters: This is one of his most popular books, about temptation and triumph over it.





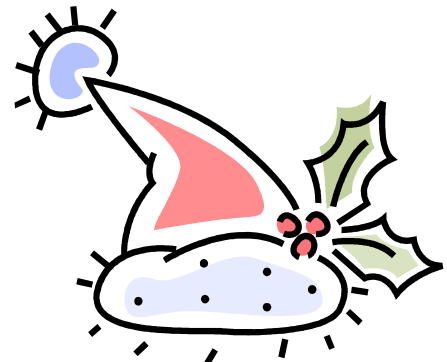
FOR THE CHILDREN

"Gifts For Kids" Christmas Mission

A gift each for a total of 86 children (36 boys and 50 girls) who are under the protection of the Lincoln County Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and the Child Welfare Division of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) - that is the goal of our "Gifts For Kids" Committee for Christmas 2014. This annual mission is sponsored by our Presbyterian Women, but is made possible through the generosity of our congregation-at-large.

Can we do it? With your help, yes we can! Please meet us at our "adoption" table in Geneva Hall after Sunday's worship service. We'll be there each Sunday until each child on our list is assured of a gift ... possibly the only one he/she will receive.

If shopping is difficult for you, your tax deductible check (payable to LCCAC) will be welcomed (*no amount too small or too large!!*). We are grateful for your help, and for your prayers for these very special children. Questions? Contact Committee Co-Chairs Barbara and Art Bradley (541/270-6193) or Martha Sneller (541/270-6041).



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GATHERING **** Program Only – No Business Meeting!****In the Sanctuary****Sunday, December 7th****11:30 a.m.*****(CHILD CARD PROVIDED !!)***

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Holy Savior, please plan to be with us for our December meeting to hear about other precious babies within our own community who are recipients of our church's "Newborn Necessities" program – a mission sponsored by our Presbyterian Women, but made possible for the past nine years by our congregation-at-large through on-going individual donations. Our guest speaker will be Julia Young-Lorian, R.N., who provides services for Lincoln County's needy newborns and their families via her capacity with the Healthy Families Division of Lincoln County Health and Human Services. Our own "songbird" Toni Mueller will close out the program with Christmas-themed solos and sing-alongs.

Remember that the meetings/gatherings of Presbyterian Women are open to ALL women of the church (members and non-members), and we cordially welcome guests; so, bring your friend(s) and join us – in our hopes and prayers for our community's newest citizens, in our Christmas sing-a-long, and in the warm fellowship of your Presbyterian Sisters!

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Fireside Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 11th, at Gladys Snedecor's home (3337 NE Coos Street, Newport).

Fellowship Circle will meet at 1:30 p.m., on Friday, December 19th, in the Westminster Room.

Both Fireside Circle and Fellowship Circle will be studying:

Lesson Four:

"Carrying in Our Bodies Jesus' Acts of Healing, Reconciliation, and Love"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10

"READY-ING" FOR RUMMAGE

Beginning Sunday, January 4th, your **(CLEAN!!)** rummage will be welcomed and appreciated. Our weekly sorting-sessions begin Friday, January 9th, and will continue each Friday thereafter through April 17th.

Pick a card - ANY card - and take it home with you! A supply of 5'x4" cards specifying **what NOT to donate** will be continuously posted in five convenient locations within the Church: (1) Library window; (2) northeast window in Geneva Hall; (3) window next to the Office door; (4) Calvin Room door; (5) PW's bulletin board. They have been prepared especially for YOUR convenience, so we invite you to take one home and keep it (*on your fridge? ... in your glove compartment?*) to remind you of those items that we **CANNOT ACCEPT**. Until you can pick up your card, here's a quick review of what NOT to donate: textbooks, old encyclopedias, dated magazines (such as news magazines and National Geographic), mattresses, refrigerators, stoves, pianos, organs, Christmas garland, personal toiletries (soaps, lotions, toothpaste, perfumes, etc.), medicines, pesticides, opened paint, other hazardous waste products ... **(AND AGAIN THIS YEAR)**: absolutely **NO** exercise equipment, **NO** computer configurations and/or peripherals (CPU's, monitors, keyboards, printers); **NO** TV's, copy machines, fax machines.

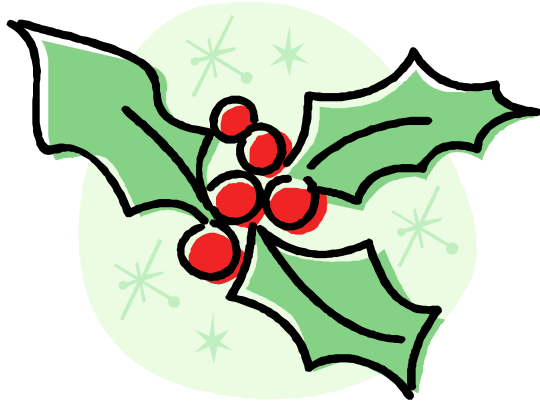
In making your donation decisions, please keep in mind that the success of our Sale is directly dependent on QUALITY ... we do not offer items that are soiled, torn, incomplete, broken, etc. Please understand that if you bring us such items, you are creating a hardship in terms of time and effort for our sorters, and a further hardship in terms of the charges we must pay to have them hauled away. We ask for your thoughtfulness and cooperation in this regard. Questions? Call either of our Rummage Co-Chairs: Beth Mathewson (541/265-7484) or Marianne Mendenhall (541/867-7474).

Rummage Sale Dates:

April 23 - 25, 2015

*(Proceeds will support: Our church, Our Community,
and World-Wide Mission Goals)*





Thank-You to PW
from Project Homeless Connect's
Food Committee *

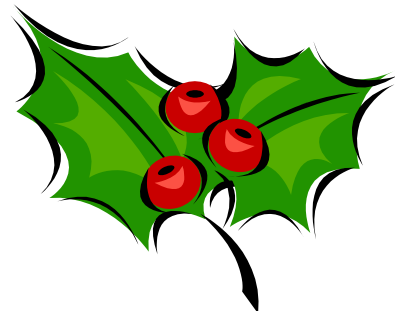
Dear Presbyterian Women,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Food Budget for Project Homeless Connect. We served a lot of people, and they were able to take some food with them.

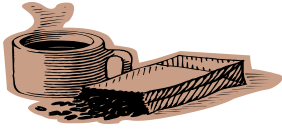
Your support was truly appreciated!

Cindy McConnell
PHC Committee

** PW's mission gifts are made possible by
the proceeds of our Annual Rummage Sale.*



NOTICE OF EVENTS



Chocolate Coffee Christmas Classic: Your Admission by donation benefits the following:
HELP Program of Lincoln County School District for Homeless students &
Newport Food Pantry/Operation Backpacks emergency food programs.

Location: Newport Intermediate School: 825 NE 7th Street, Newport



Dec 6th, Saturday: 9:00am - 4:00pm – **Featuring Live music by the Sweet Adelines**

Dec, 7th, Sunday: 10:00am – 3:00pm

MORE INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE



December 11, 2014 – First Presbyterian Church Newport – 7:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

Coastalaires

Admission by donation to benefit

Newport Food Pantry





Chocolate Coffee Christmas Classic

Columbia
Bank
Columbia State Bank

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7

9:00a.m. ~ 4:00p.m.

10:00a.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

Newport Intermediate School ~ 825 N.E. 7th

Welcome to the Oregon Coast's Biggest Holiday Expo!

Need gift giving ideas? This is the place! Over 50 vendors under one roof with gifts for everyone on your list! Art, jewelry, creations for kids, pottery, hand bags, wood craft products, photography, specialty foods and much more!

Special Added Attractions:

Chocolate makers & Coffee roasters with gift packages!

Free samples!

Live music by the Sweet Adelines on Saturday!

Special \$5.00 holiday lunch!

Your admission by donation benefits



HELP Program of Lincoln County School District for homeless students & Newport Food Pantry/Operation Backpacks emergency food programs.

Paul & Rose Davies - Gladys Hartsel - Cathy & Duane Peltier

 **Thrivent Financial**
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Dear Church Family,

I have wanted to write this letter for some time and it is just so hard to find the right words. I don't know if I ever will so I am not delaying this letter any longer.

Many of you were praying for me and for my family while we waited to see what God's plan was for us/me. We knew I would not live long without a new heart.

This holiday season marks the first year anniversary of my new heart. It is also marks the first anniversary of the death of loved one for the donor's family and friends. Throughout this journey, I have been aware that the Lord's protective hand was on my family and on me. It is time I thank you for the constant, faithful prayers and take the time to testify to God's faithfulness to those prayers. This journey has allowed me to share Christ and my faith in Him to countless health care providers and given me the privilege of meeting other believers that we crossed paths with.

I did not have any prior history of heart disease when on March 2, 2013 a main artery to the left ventricle of my heart had torn causing a large area of the left ventricle to have no blood supply. This resulted in a massive heart attack nicknamed the "widow maker". I should not have survived that first night but to compound things I was misdiagnosed as a gallbladder attack and sent home, delaying care until March 4th. My living until then is a miracle in itself. I had 2 stents put in, but the damage to my heart was too much and the stents were unsuccessful at supplying enough blood to my dying heart.

I was transferred from Salem to OHSU due to how sick I was. I was there until Easter evening and the process of getting me listed for a heart transplant had begun. They wanted to put in a heart pump called an LVAD but I just didn't feel it was right. I went home on a PICC line and 24 hour cardiac IV medicine and even with that, I could barely get around our house. We were told it was unlikely I would live past 3 months and certainly no more than 6 months. I was a hard match for a donor heart and the doctors were afraid a heart would not come in time for me. But I made it 8 months, never received a LVAD (against what we were being advised) and got the heart "in the nick of time" according to the doctors.

Along this journey, God showed His face to us over and over again. I will tell you some of what happened that made us know God was paying attention to us:

* In ICU in Salem I was exhausted, knew this must be how it feels before a person dies. I asked God if I could just go home, stop fighting. No tunnels, no lights, no voices appeared and just when I felt He was not listening to me, the face of my oldest grandson appeared with a distinct message I was to stay for the kids.

* 8 months later my youngest brother was fearful as I went into surgery to get my new heart. It was midnight and he drifted to sleep when our precious mother who is with the Lord came to him in a dream and told him to not worry because I had to stay for the little grandsons. I had never told him about the message I had received 8 months before and

for him to get the same message as I had confirmed what the Lord had told me in Salem's ICU.

* Right after transferring to OHSU ICU I met the chaplain I would have throughout all my hospital stays there. She was my age, great sense of humor and also attended a Four Square Church and didn't use any of the Christian clichés in her words to me that can "turn my listening off". I just clicked with her on a lot of levels. Her prayers taught me about talking directly to our Lord when crisis hits.

* God had given me a gift of the friendship of Mary who I sit with in church most Sundays. She was /is a true sister in Christ. She helped me from day one of this journey and she helped me make it to church even when I was so ill. She loaded my wheel chair, pushed me in to church without one word of complaint. She did it with a joyful heart.

* The doctor's pressure for me to consent to a LVAD never ceased. We didn't feel God's direction to consent and if I had said to go ahead the last time the pressure was on, I would not have been able to receive this heart.

* After I got the heart, we found out a recent OHSU study had just completed that showed women my size did not do well with LVADs and it was a good thing I never had one. We also were told the surgery went so well because I did not have a LVAD. I knew the lack of peace we had about the LVAD was God's protective hand to keep us from feeling ok to consent, even when my name was already on the surgery schedule in May.

* I was expected to "drop dead" and had a defibrillator implanted. I was never shocked. My damaged heart kept struggling along. Even with the defibrillator the doctors told the chaplain I was still likely to drop dead. Obviously I didn't.

* I got a blood infection in May and had to go back in the hospital. After getting through that infection, one of the end stage heart failure doctors told me he was beginning to think I had 9 lives. He just didn't know which one I was on. I told him it was God's power and all the prayers being lifted up.

* I found out I was on prayer lists across the US and even in Canada. My Christian family of friends and relatives just spread the word and that was the result. I would never have guessed this would have happened.

* My husband had to be with me all the time but he fell off the roof on to concrete in August and was badly injured and hospitalized. I could not take care of myself let alone him.

* His fall happened when our daughter was visiting and she heard him fall. I heard nothing and he could have been out there for a long time before I would have found him. I believe she got called into the bathroom with one of the children so she would be in earshot by the protection of God's hand.

* Exactly as my husband was falling, literally, our son was calling me from the Christian camp he worked at all summer to see if we would be ok if he moved back home at the end of summer. The timing was too amazing to not know it was the Holy Spirit that urged him to call me at that moment. He left Eugene and headed home immediately and was by my side and his Dad's side within a couple of hours.

* Before the paramedics got to our house that day, my friend Mary, a RN, came through the door to drop off a gift for my grandson who turned 1 that day. I was too weak to help my husband and her timing was again amazing as she stayed by his side until the paramedics arrived.

* Mary stayed with the little boys and me so our daughter could go to the hospital with her dad and advocate for him. Perfect timing again. John had 8 broken ribs and 5 broken vertebrae, a lacerated liver and spleen and would spend the next week plus in the hospital. Our daughter's presence with him was so good as she kept me informed the whole time he was in ER and advocated for him as he was unable to do so himself.

* When my husband was released, he was on oxygen and a walker and now a patient himself. I was too sick and the stress of the past week with his injuries made me sicker. I was readmitted to OHSU within 24 hours of him coming home. Our children, in spite of our daughter having 3 little ones, tag teamed to keep him safe, including another ambulance ride for him back to the hospital.

* One of my younger brothers was always my faithful encourager via emails on all these hospital stays, but he died suddenly in June shortly after his 50th birthday, a party I missed due to being in the hospital. This admission in August/September I was not going to get a lot of company with the kids taking care of their dad in Salem and no cheerful emails from him. I felt lonely and I cried. I turned on my Ipad and on the screen appeared the last message he had sent me during my May stay. This was almost September. That had to been the Lord letting me know I was not alone.

* John was unable to help me with decisions and the doctor wanted me to stay at OHSU and add an additional cardiac medicine and keep me in ICU to aggressively seek a heart. I wanted to go home once stabilized with the same level of care until John got better. The heart cath would be the decisive test to decide. I was allowed home against the odds.

* During this time I did not feel ok about praying for a heart. I decided I would pray instead for the potential donor and the donor's family and friends. I could only live if someone else died. How can you pray that a person dies quicker so you can live?

* After that last admission I started failing more and more. In the early part of November I began to doubt I would make it to Thanksgiving and really did not think I had a chance to see another Christmas.

* On November 17th I tried to stir a pot on the stove and I was too weak. I asked the Lord why He would have saved me and then have me die 8 months later. What had I accomplished in these months for Him? Why did my family have to go through the hardship of the last 8 months if I was to die anyway? I did not hear His voice that day beyond keep fighting.

* The next day, Monday Nov 18th I blew my prayer commitment. Having barely made it back to the couch from the bathroom I blurted to God "Just give me a heart already"". 2 hours later I got the call there was a heart for me. What I learned from that call was at the time of my prayer the decisions had been made and they were in the process of coming up with a plan for the heart to work for me. My prayer went towards the matching process, not towards a person losing a life.

* It is pretty standard for heart transplant patients to run high blood sugars and be on insulin in the beginning. As protocol, I was on IV insulin. But my blood sugars dropped way too low and it had to be stopped. The nurses told me they never had a patient before me that was not kept on insulin to manage blood sugars due to the medicines and to the stress of the surgery.

* When it was about time for me to get to leave the hospital, I developed all kinds of abnormal heart rhythms. After a sustained period in atrial fib it was decided I needed to be shocked to correct it. The chaplain happened to stop by right before I was scheduled to go down for the cardio version. 10 minutes after she prayed, 25 minutes before I was to go down for the procedure, the nurses came in with an EKG machine. The rhythm converted right after she prayed over me. "Spontaneously".

* The heart I have beating in my chest is a healthy heart. It is truly a gift of life and it will always mark for me that this heart did not always belong to me. My life intertwined with someone else's that I will never meet, at least on this side of heaven. I prayed for 8 months if there was a person who's lost life saved mine, we would meet in heaven.

Albeit there is more events/details I think this is enough to get the idea that the Lord is listening to our prayers and the Lord does love us. For the Lord to protect me, nothing special me; He blows me away.

I hope to never stop praying for the family of the person whose heart I now have. I know each holiday season will be a marker of joy for us. Each holiday season will be a marker of sorrow and loss for them.



Thank you,

Laurel McGinn.

So Many Thank You's !

Bill Johnson, many thanks to you-

-For blowing the pine needles from our church parking lot! It was the greatest quantity of pine needles in recent history!

-For the great carpet cleaning job you did in Geneva Hall and down the hallways!
You were brave to tackle the task!

Bob Young and Nate Green – Great job on new lights and batteries for our church “Exit” signs!

Diane LaRue, we appreciate you-

and your message of “Living in Love”! We can focus on this message throughout Advent, Christmas and beyond!

Many thanks and heartfelt gratitude to-

Our Pastor – Don Taylor and his Wife, Kath Schonau

Our Church Members

Our Church Children

Our Church Hostess and Guest Book Coordinator, Maxene Bahr

Our Worship Team, Worship Assistants Coordinator, BokHi Grimstand and Worship Assistants

Our Prayer Team

Our Prayer Chain Team

Our Knitters

Our Choir

Our Organist – Don Jenkins

Our Coffee Hour Team – Art Bradley and Team

Our Finance Team-David Perry and Marguerite Sanchez

Our Media Techs-Dave Heater, Bob Young and Nate Green

Our Kitchen Coordinator-Carol Jones

Our Pew Coordinator-Eunice Forinash

Our Deacons and Communion Servers

Our Presbyterian Women

Our Building Maintenance Team-Bob Young, Nate Green, Bill Johnson, Mike Clark and others

Our Ground Maintenance Team-Jim Dunlap, Bill Johnson Carol Schriener, Velma Burkert and others

Our Communion Servers at Oceanview and in the homes-Gladys Hartsel and Velma Burkert

The list goes on and on! Each has been a blessing throughout this year 2014! God's many blessings and peace to you, as we move forward into 2015! It is Time and Talent Pledge time for 2015. Maybe you will see something in the list above that kindles an interest to serve!





Church Contact Information

Rev. Dr. Donald W. Taylor:

don@newportfpc.org

Donald Jenkins, Director of Music:

drmaestro880@gmail.com

Ann Denison

Administrative Assistant

Beacon Deadline(*)

for

January

is

December 1, 2014

(*)NOTE: When possible, please send a Word Document as an "Attachment" when you e-mail your articles.

Thank you,

The Editor

Beacon Articles: **(*)**

office@newportfpc.org

Open and friendly, we share God's Word through Worship, Study and Service

First Presbyterian Church

227 NE 12th Street
Newport, OR 97365

Return Service Requested

Phone: 541-265-2841

Fax: 541-265-4776

E-Mail: office@newportfpc.org

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm M-F

We're on the Web!

<http://www.newportfpc.org>