**Report from the Board**

2014 has been a year of challenge, adaptation, and growth for Asbury Our Redeemer Partnership. We now have completed the first full year of functioning under the single board governance model. We have had two interim pastors and have joyfully welcomed Pastor David King and his family into our congregational family. The construction of the food bank has presented challenges – lack of parking and restricted access to the office building- but it is a daily symbol to us and the community of our commitment to reach out beyond the doors of the church to serve our neighbors. Pastor David and Melissa King have reinvigorated our confirmation and youth program. Our youth are planning to attend the triennial national ELCA youth conference in Detroit in July where 35,000 youth will gather to learn, have fun, and provide service to that distressed city.

In 2014 our average weekly attendance has been 36 for the 9AM service and 43 for the 10:30 service –a total average weekly attendance of 79, and growing. Both first and second services have a refreshed spirit and continued to be enriched by a variety of music from not only our choir and bell choir but also by guests and Pastor David and Melissa. Christian education opportunities have expanded to include adult education at 8 AM Sundays and a book group studying The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg on Thursday evenings. (See Gigi Siekkinen for details.) Cindy Murahashi, Jim and Gigi Siekkinen provide leadership for the Sunday school each week throughout the school year.

Goals and plans for the coming year – February/March complete an all congregation survey to assess our relationship with God, each other, and our community. This will lead to discussion groups that will help us clarify our calling in the world. From these discussions we will start talking about what the name should be and how we will move forward on our covenant after 2015. By April, the completion of the FISH food bank will call for a big celebration. We need to look at all the building maintenance needs and determine how we can best address them. Happy Hands will be raising money to move the bell from Asbury to the front of the church. We should have some architectural concepts to consider soon of how to best use the bell and blend our landscaping with the new food bank. A plan must be developed to address deferred maintenance on the church and the office building for lighting, doors, heating, etc. The church directory needs to be updated and reprinted.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee**

Pastor David King
Chairman: Martha Hoskins, Secretary: Erica Gerald, Board Member to SPRC Rick Mc Bee
SPRC members: Nancy Radley and Doug Swanson
Board Member Chairman: Debby Chenoweth

Asbury Our Redeemer Partnership new church Profile completed, sent to Oregon-Idaho Conference Superintendent Lowell Greathouse to review for the new church pastor candidates.
David D.M. King was interviewed by the SPRC committee along with Lowell Greathouse and voted on to be our new pastor. Salary and benefits package completed for new Pastor.
Hand written Name tags placed at Ushers station for when new Pastor and family come.
Pastor will use the Parsonage for his home and the Asbury trustees will use the money from the Church sale of Asbury Church building to do the remodel.
Suggestions cards were made up for members to tell us how we are doing and a new handmade suggestion box was placed in the narthex.
A brochure of "Who's Who's" telling about the many active groups available for members such as:  Music and Worship, Social and Educational Activities, and the many Service Groups to chose from.
Installation of the Rev. David King and invited the community of Methodist and Lutheran Pastors in the Gorge to attend along with Steve Ross and Susan Kintner.
Review of Staff Job Description & Evaluation for 2015
Safe Sanctuary classes were attend by 18 members who filled the Voluntary Disclosure form and watched a DVD on child, youth and older adults abuse,  as required by our Safe Sanctuary Abuse Risk Reduction and Prevention Policy.
Adult Education classes are in process each Sunday with Pastor King.
Throughout the year the committee worked with the Board and the many projects for the FISH Food Bank.

Respectfully,

Martha Hoskins, Chairman SPRC

**FISH Food Bank Building**

The new FISH food bank building is now under roof so interior work can commence. Prior to construction all necessary funds (over $1million) were raised, including additional funds to provide solar panels. The youth of the congregation, led by Eric Siekkinen, spearheaded the drive for the solar panels which exceeded their target. The building is expected to be completed by the end of March. Craig Terry, Dave Radley, and Alan Yenne have spent countless hours coordinating the construction activities.

 Plans are underway to have a master plan for all the gardens and landscape necessary to augment food production and educational programs in the new building are being developed by a group from FISH, the congregation, Hood River County Extension Service, Master Gardeners, and other community volunteers. A generous donor has provided funds to pay a volunteer coordinator to enlist community help in accomplishing the work.

**FISH Volunteers**

Our congregation continues to staff the Hood River food bank Monday, Wednesday, and Friday approximately once every 10 weeks throughout the year. In addition we donate food the 4th Sunday of each month as part of the Food on the Fourth Program. Kathy Terry coordinates the volunteers who staff the food distribution. Alan and Bette Lou Yenne and Craig and Kathy Terry help with all the behind the scenes support needed to keep the food bank running smoothly daily.

**WELCA**

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) meets three times a year for a general meeting

where we plan some women's activities. The main activity is the annual church yard sale which, in turn, helps support the women's fall and spring retreats. All women of the church are welcome to attend this meeting as well as the other activities.

WELCA Bible study meets the 4th Tuesday each month from 2-4pm at the church.

The quilting group meets in the fellowship room every 1st, 3rd, (and sometimes 5th) Wednesday of the month from 9-1pm. In 2014 this group made more than 120 quilts that are distributed across the world through LWR.

Kathy Terry

**Women’s Spirituality Group**

In 2014, Women's Spiritual Group had another successful year. We studied the book Living in Gratitude by Angeles Arrien. We met once a month to study a chapter of the book. Volunteers from the group lead each monthly session. The book provided us with learning about the practice of gratitude in our lives. Some months we created fun crafts that went along with the month's theme.

The bonds this group is creating are amazing. It is truly a joint partnership group of Asbury and ORLC ladies. Members of the Women's Spiritual Group and other women of the church gathered together for our annual Mt. Angel retreat. The theme was Rainbows and was a wonderful way to share the fellowship of incredible women.

Carol Kyger

**Christian Education – Children, Youth, Adult**

**Children**

Our children’s Christian education is focused on Sunday mornings. During the school year, children have their own worship/Sunday School experience concurrent with the Celebration Worship Service. This gathering seeks to introduce the major Bible stories and prayer in a simplified worship experience. Once a month, children remain in worship with the larger body to join in Communion. As an outreach focus, our children collect and sort our congregations’ monthly food donations for the local food bank.

During the summer months, children remain in worship and a brief children’s message is added to the service. We have also experimented with Young@Heart services specifically designed to engage children.

**Youth**

We are excited to have Pastor David and Melissa working with our youth as part of Confirmation Class. This age group has been without leadership and structure for several years, so parents and youth are enthusiastic about this development.

**Adult**

Some of our Christian education offerings for adults are long-standing. The Women’s Spirituality group and the WELCA Bible Study are examples of groups that meet year round. The men’s retreat and two women’s retreats are annual events with long traditions.

 Other opportunities are short-term or seasonal. This past year we offered a Wednesday night Lenten study. A retired pastor in our congregation led a Bible study over the summer at a local retirement facility. We have recently initiated a Thursday evening small group for a short-term study. Pastor David is also leading an adult study on Sunday mornings before worship services.

**Asbury Trustees Report 2014**

The Trustees for the specific Asbury UMC related items of our church partnership met a number of times during the 2014 year in order to work on the following areas:

1. The Renovation of the interior and exterior of the Asbury Parsonage on 1808 State Street.
2. The Trustees received approval from the UMC Bishop’s council to utilize $50,000.00 of the sale money of the old Asbury UMC church building in order to renovate the kitchen, dining room, heating system, windows, insulation, electrical and painting of the building.
3. A contract for this interior work was let with Bustos and Hernandez Contractors for this work which was begun in June and completed in mid-July 2014. The approximate cost of this work was $48,000.00.
4. Pending exterior work on the parsonage to be contracted for 2015 includes: removal and replacement of the existing gutters and roofing on the parsonage and exterior painting of the building. The estimated $7,000.00 for the completion of this work will be taken from reserves and specific benevolent donations for this project in 2015.

1. The Irv Johnson Scholarship Fund: The trustees approved the use of a portion of the earnings from the fund ($500.00) to be used as a scholarship for Bailey Murahashi to attend university. This scholarship was awarded in November 2014. For 2015 this scholarship process will begin in February and be open to senior high school students who are members of in the Partnership Church. The principal of this fund continues to be invested through Edward Jones Investments here in Hood River.

Nov. 2014 Balance = $8,756.60, up from $8,055.61 in Nov. 2013.

1. The Duckwall Social Justice Endowment Fund: A subcommittee to review Social Action organizations for receipt of donations from a portion of the earnings of this fund was appointed in September 2014. The committee has not yet made recommendations to the Trustees as to organization(s) that should receive these donations. The process will continue into 2015. The principal of this fund continues to be invested through Edward Jones Investments in Hood River.

Nov. 2014 Balance = $86,347.31, up from $76,221.67 in Nov. 2013.

1. The remaining money from the old Asbury UMC building after parsonage repairs were deducted was placed in Edward Jones Investment accounts in November 2015 for the future use by the church on approved capitol building projects The funds with their Nov. 2014 balances are invested as follows:
	1. Certificate of deposit - $86,896.56
	2. Mutual Funds -$191,919.56
2. The Program Fund continues to be managed through Edward Jones Investments in Hood River.

Nov. 2014 Balance = $16,684.49, up from $15,227.57 in Nov. 2013

1. Movement of the old Asbury UMC church bell to the partnership church: The Trustees are in conversation with the new owners of the building to facilitate the movement of the church bell to the Partnership Church site on Tucker Road once the landscaping project to include it is approved and there is a site for placement of the bell. Happy Hands Women’s Organization is raising money to facilitate the movement and placement of the bell during the 2015 year.

Respectfully submitted by the Asbury Trustees, January 6, 2015

Richard McBee, Margaret Godard and Cindy Murahasi, Trustees.

 **Celebration Service**

The Celebration service of Asbury Our Redeemer Partnership began in April of 2013. We began with the idea of assuming that the people in the congregation would not necessarily be familiar with church traditions and lingo. The idea of building education into the services about church specific ideas/words that people might not know led to our focus on the liturgical church calendar – explaining the meaning of different seasons, colors, etc. during our first year. We also wanted to focus on many different musical styles, more experiential elements in worship, providing worship experiences geared toward our youngest children, and helping to grow and utilize the gifts and talents of our congregation. We have made the following steps toward these goals:

1. Music – Our musical selections lean most toward more contemporary songs; however we intentionally choose at least one gospel, traditional hymn, or old favorite for each worship service. We also have included a number of songs from other cultures in our worship services.
2. Experiential elements in worship – We have turned the chairs into a diamond shape all facing the center of the sanctuary to facilitate discussion groups during the sermon on several occasions, as well as using different materials to engage worshipers – clay, hammering theses into a door, rocks, dissolving paper, . . .
3. We held 6 Young@Heart services which were geared toward our elementary age children (but we also had several adults of all ages express how much they liked these services). These services focused on engaging everyone through call and response or echo songs, so non-readers could participate; keeping each section short; incorporating movements into songs, scripture, and prayer; having the kids/youth participate in and lead as many parts of the service as possible.
4. Grow and utilize gifts and talents – We have had a few youth share musical talents with us, as well as the gifts of dance and reading Scripture. We are still seeking ways to help congregation members recognize their gifts and talents and find a way to incorporate those into our church life.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Boris

 **Youth Group**

* We started in the fall with brainstorming our hopes and dreams, developing guidelines, and getting to know each other.
* We continue to work through the confirmation curriculum from Sparkhouse with David leading those discussions weekly.
* Our fundraising for our mission trips will begin in earnest on January 11th.
* Emelia Gendreau and Melissa Mimier King serve on the Southwestern Washington and Oregon Lutheran Youth Organization’s (OLYO) Leadership Team. They plan three annual events (HS, MS, CONVO) for youth in the area. The OLYO LT meets about once a month.
* Three middle school youth will attend the Winter Retreat at Suttle Lake United Methodist Camp at the end of January.
* February provides another United Methodist Youth Event called Shebang! in Tigard.
* The Middle School Rally for OLYO will be at Resurrection Lutheran in March.
* CONVO and Synod Assembly for the ELCA are in April.

Which brings us to the trio of amazingness:

* Confirmation on May 24th
* LAST Mission Trip to Portland (June 18th-23rd) for all youth.
* ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI! (July 15th-19th) for 8th-12th graders.

After these exciting culminating events, we will rest for the summer and start again in the fall.

Melissa Mimier King

**Altar Guild**

As altar guild coordinator it is my responsibility to keep all supplies for the altar in stock, wine, wafers, oil for candles, grape juice, etc. I also make sure the colors are changed and dry cleaned if needed for each season.

 I coordinate volunteers to set up communion each 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. There are two volunteers for each month so there is only one Sunday a year to commit to for setting up the altar. The volunteer is responsible to set up only the 9:00 service and clean it up before the 10:30 service. If altar cloths become soiled they need to be taken home to be washed and ironed before the next Sunday. There is a book with directions where the altar supplies are kept. I am happy to assist any new volunteer and will answer any questions. It is very rewarding to prepare the Lords Table.

**Music**

The choir, under the direction of Marv Turner, has worked hard throughout the year to provide great music at both services. Music provided by organist Dottie Gilbertson and Audrey Benz, Linda Boris, Roy Pettit, Eric and Jim Siekkinen, and George Benz and Pastor David has enriched worship every Sunday. The Bell Choir has not only performed at our worship services but also in several community events in Hood River and White Salmon. New volunteer musicians are always welcome. Contact Marv Turner for choir and Linda Bois for the Bell Choir.

WELCA Financial Report

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  $           4,539.88  | BEGINNING BALANCE |
|  $        (6,304.27) | EXPENSES |
|  $          4,329.00  | INCOME |
|  $           2,564.61  | ENDING BALANCE |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Income** |  |
| Offering |       $          153.50  |
| Retreat Deposits |       $       3,459.50  |
| Yard Sale |       $          716.00  |
| Total |       $       4,329.00  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expenses** |  |
| Retreat |  $       4,116.13  |
| Scrapbooks |  $          225.61  |
| Tithe |  $          175.00  |
| Oregon Synod |  $          150.00  |
| Christmas decorations |  $          103.48  |
| Tablecloths |  $          289.92  |
| Window Shades |  $          167.49  |
| Coffee Urn |  $            44.99  |
| Gift |  $          100.00  |
| Subscription |  $            56.00  |
| Bible study |  $            15.65  |
| Subtotal |  $       5,444.27  |
| Transfer to savings |  $          860.00  |
| Final total |  $       6,304.27  |

**Kathy**

**Financial Status**

 Checking Balance US Bank Partnership Account 12/31/2014 : $35,669.91

ORLC Checking Balance 11/25/2014 : $49,119.08

ORLC Mission Investment Fund Check Balance 11/30/14 : $11,646.76

ORLC MIF CD (2 year) Maturity 4/19/16 : $25,491.26

Asbury United Methodist

Irv Johnson Scholarship Fund : $ 8,756.60

Duckwall Social Justice Fund : $ 86,347.31

Sale of Asbury Church building funds

 Edward Jones CD :$ 86,896.56

 Mutual Funds :$191,919.56

Program Funds ( Edward Jones account) : $ 16,684.49

Finan