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Graduate Celebration Day

Lauren, Willie and Patrick



Pastor King congratulates graduates

Sally Havig presenting the three quilts



At a recent Celebration Worship Service, four members received special recognitions. **Cindy M.** has coordinated and taught Sunday School for “more than a few years!” What a dedicated person she is! **Jennifer F.** has been a Site-Coordinator for SMART (Start-Making-A-Reader-Today, an Oregon non-profit helping children with reading) for 3 years. **Pat P. and Kris W.** have been volunteers with SMART for two years. Each woman received a book as a donation to the May Street SMART site.



Dear Friends,

If you've been in worship any of the last three Sundays, you have heard some of the results from the Church Vitality Survey that we took earlier this year. The survey measured our self-perception in three main areas: connection with God, connection with each other, and connection with the world. Here is a very brief summary of the results.

When it comes to connection with God, we rated ourselves fairly highly, particularly in areas related to worship. In general, we feel like we are growing spiritually and that our spiritual needs are being met. Most respondents are optimistic about the future of the congregation, with a minority of about 15 who are concerned for the future of the congregation.

Connection with each other is the area in which we need the most growth. We rated our congregation between 3.0 and 3.8 (out of 5) in the categories in this area. People sense tension in our relations, most likely related to the process of two congregations coming together. When asked about the social climate of the church, 15 said it was characterized by "harmony," 27 said "tension," 19 said "open and respectful disagreement," and 6 said "open harmful conflict." At the same time, we overwhelmingly said that we have a strong sense of belonging and a strong sense of commitment. 63 out of 73 feel they are being supported in using their gifts. What this indicates is that while we have experienced some pain in the process of joining, we are overwhelmingly committed to the process, and we have all of the gifts and resources needed to move ahead together.

When it comes to connection with the world, we generally think that we are a positive force that is well connected in the community and that we are addressing social and justice issues well. Our lowest score in this area was related to being equipped to share our faith with others, and there is an interesting tension in how we perceive ourselves. When asked how the church is doing at equipping its members to share their faith, we said that we are doing only a mediocre job. But at the same time, an overwhelming majority said that they feel personally well equipped to share their faith and that they do, in fact, have meaningful spiritual conversations with people outside the congregation. This seems to indicate that while we do not have a clear program for teaching people how to share their faith, we have a very strong base of people who do feel comfortable sharing faith and who can be a resource for helping those of us who have more trouble doing it.

We aren't finished with the process we started with this Vitality Survey. The next phase is a Season of Listening. Those of you who were in worship on Sunday were invited to write down the names of three people in the congregation you think are really good listeners. Over the next few weeks, Debby and I will be using your suggestions to recruit a team of listeners. This team of listeners will get training from an expert from the Oregon Synod (ELCA) on how to conduct 1-on-1 listening sessions. Over a period of about 6 weeks, this team of listeners will have confidential 1-on-1 conversations with as many members and constituents of the congregation as possible. They'll be asking you about where you think God is calling this congregation and what identity you think God has for us. Once the listening is done, the team will present what they heard in a short series of house meetings, to which everyone is invited. I believe this Season of Listening will really help us to develop some shared sense of who we think we are as a church and where we think God is calling us.

cont.

I know these sorts of processes can be stressful. It takes a lot of work, and a lot of time, and a lot of understanding, and a lot of vulnerability to be able sort out who we are together, especially when we are doing something as dramatic as bringing together congregations from two different denominations. It is natural to have feelings of anxiety about what and when and how things are going to change. It is natural for some of us to be very cautious about moving ahead while others are frustrated that things aren't moving fast enough. In a marriage, it takes more than a few years for the partners to really figure out how to communicate and compromise and live together. If it takes so long for just two people to get comfortable coming together, it's no wonder it takes a lot of time and effort when two entire congregations come together.

I'm proud of the work we've already done. This congregation has done a tremendous amount in the last few years. It can be hard to remember that sometimes. The steps we have already taken are well worth celebrating. I pray that this Season of Listening will help us to take the next step together.

Your servant in Christ,

+*Pastor David*

Faith In Action

This committee has a busy group of people, and our meeting was done in the midst of readying for the FISH open house. Fortunately, we have our agenda planned out well, and could get through what we needed to quickly.

None of us are too pleased that for right now, we CANNOT recycle styrofoam in Portland. We will inform you if there is someone who accepts it again. In 30 years, I have been able to recycle it, but the places have changed numerous times.

Thank you for continuing to leave your CLEAN clamshells and #1-7 CLEAR plastic, as well as black serving trays. Amber prescription bottles are also accepted. Remaining items that can be recycled curbside in Hood River, should be put into your curbside recycling boxes. Thank you for caring for God's creation!

We will update information regarding recycling during a worship service sometime this summer.

Our committee hosts the coffee hour July 19th, so come prepared to ask questions about our activities.

Food on the fourth will be July 26th. Bags of needed food items may be brought as an additional offering for our next door neighbor.

August 30 is the next designated giving Sunday, and we have selected to support our local schools and their ongoing needs. A list of suggested donations will be made available in early August.

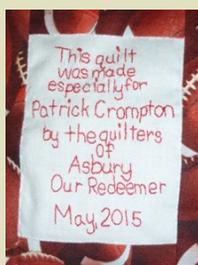
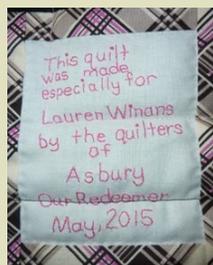
Our next meeting will be August 24th at 10:15 in the Office building. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Sharon, Debby, Vicki, Gigi, Linda and Pat P.

2015 High School Graduates Honored

Sunday, June 7th was a great day of celebration for the High School Graduates at the church. This year we were fortunate to have three graduates: Lauren Winans, Willie Ishizaka, and Patrick Crompton.

The highlight of the recognition was the presentation of three special quilts made by Sally Havig and the Asbury Our Redeemer Quilters. Each graduate received a quilt with its own personalized label as you can see below:



Note that the quilters tried to pick a theme for each of the graduates to fit something about their interests. Lauren has been active in volleyball and in college will be involved in track and field, hence the lines and volleyballs (see below). The footballs on Patrick's quilt show his outstanding work and hopes for the future in that sport. Willie has excelled in baseball so you will note the stitching on the balls for this quilt.

When the quilts are spread out on beds they will lend a wonderful look to the sometimes drab dorm and future apartment rooms that our graduates may inhabit as they move away and pursue new learning, adventures, sports and lives.



The Quilting group, which meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, has a long standing tradition of making quilts. According to Sally Havig, the quilters initially provided quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Later, this mission work expanded when Sally happened to read an article about a quilter making quilts for high school graduates. Sally became hooked on this idea and it has become a special mission project for her each year. She selects special theme ideas from the relatives of the graduates. The quilters identify upcoming graduates a year in advance in order to buy materials. Any graduate who has the Asbury Our Redeemer church as their home church is eligible for a quilt. Sally notes that the largest number of graduation quilts she has ever worked on at any one time is six. She uses LWR batting and backing. The entire quilting group works together to sandwich and tie-off the completed quilts. Our quilters produce and donate a number of other quilts each year, using the theme of 'Around the World'.

Other highlights of the Graduate Celebration Day included a scrumptious cake for all congregants. This was served during the church fellowship time, sandwiched between the early 9 AM Traditional and 10:30 Celebration services. Additionally, at both services the announcement of a \$500.00 scholarship awarded to Willie Ishizaka from the Irvin Johnson Scholarship Fund was made.

Congratulations and Best Wishes from the Whole Church!

by Rick McBee



Thank you all so much for your phenomenal work in the garden , it feels so good to finally have everything planted! I really enjoyed sharing food and conversation and I look forward to more potlucks and festivities as the summer progresses

Susan Randolph, Volunteer Coordinator

FISH Food Bank Garden



On June 21st Celebration Worship was held in the FISH meeting room. The service recognized the dedication of the FISH Building Team.



Commissioning of group going to Portland for Mission work at the June 21st Celebration Worship Service

Pastor David King, Erik S., Melissa King, Grant A., Jed M.



October is not as far off as you think! Are you ready to start preparing for the women's Fall retreat? The topic/book this year is ***Oil For Her Lamp***. Books are starting to arrive and Kris White will have them available after the 2nd of July. Cost per book is \$5. We have ordered 25 copies. More information will be coming as we get into August. Just as a reminder for now, the retreat dates are October 23, 24, 25. Mark it on your calendar; we hope you can attend!!!!

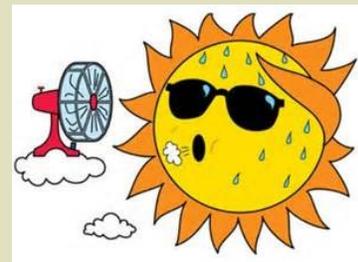
Your Retreat Committee

Places to "Be Cool"

- ++ **Hood River Library** (Tues-Thurs 10am-7pm, Fri & Sat 10-6) and **Hood River Fire/EMS (8am to 10pm at 18th&May; free wifi)** are official cooling centers during heatwaves. Anyone may go in and make use of the air conditioning.
- ++ **The Adult Center** of Hood River is open weekdays from 9am to 3pm. It is open to all people to stop in and cool off with their air conditioning.
- ++ **Hood River Pool**—the water is great! (Fee applies. \$1.00 swims on Fri 1-5pm and 6:30-8pm)



++ **Hydration, hydration, hydration!** Shortt Supply (downtown Hood River), the Library, and Fire Hall all have water available. Providence Hospital has supplied the library with free refillable water bottles.



Worship Assignments

July	5	12	19	26
Lector	Tom Hart	Kris White	Kathy Terry	Debby Chenoweth
Greeter/ Usher	Sharon & George Pantely	Kris & Bob White	Kathy & Craig Terry	Vicki Wartalski Doug Swanson
Fellowship	Lutheran Men	SPRC/ Council	FIA/Quilting	Women's Spirituality
Altar Care	Gale Denis Pat Moore			Gale Denis Pat Moore
Flowers				



Pat Pettit, Jean Sheppard, Jim Siekkinen	1
Skip Fowler, Bette Yenne	3
Constance Henderson	10
Cate Kyger	13
Lisa Godard, Doug Swanson	16
Blanche Donahue	21
Alden Gendreau, Nathan Koch	22
Danielle Miller	23
Candace Henderson	25
Madison Kyger Kathy Terry	23
Maggie Ishazaka	27
Evan Jacobson	29

Jill & Rick McBee	12
Kristin & Brian Marcroft	14
Margaret & Robert Godard	17
George & Ingrid (Flanders) Bentz	29

July 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Communion for 9am service is the 1st and 3rd Sunday</p> <p>Communion for 10:30 service is the 1st Sunday</p>			<p>1</p> <p>9am Quilting</p> <p>FISH Duty</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:30pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FISH Duty</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am Worship and Music Planning</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:30pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am Women's Spirituality</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers</p> <p>Detroit Youth Mission</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am Quilting</p> <p>Detroit Youth Mission</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:30pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p> <p>Detroit Youth Mission</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Detroit Youth Mission</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8am Men's breakfast at Charburger</p> <p>Detroit Youth Mission</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration 11:45 SPRC</p> <p>Yth Return Home</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:30pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Food on 4th 9am Traditional 10 Fellowship 10:30 Celebration</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am Happy Hands</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10am Men's Coffee @ Rosauers</p> <p>2-4 WELCA Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4:30pm Celeb. Serv Prac</p>	<p>31</p>	

Office Hours - Closed Fridays

Rev. David King Mon to Thurs 9-Noon; by appointment

Jennifer Fowler M 9:30-2 T 8:30-11:30 W 8:30-2 Th 8:30-2

Linda Boris Tues 10-1



A Living Bridge

Connecting Community with God's grace

Asbury Our Redeemer

Partnership

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