



August 2014



Greetings from
"Pastor Becky"

Yes, I'm definitely "in like" with this congregation. You have been warm and very helpful in my attempts to get settled! I am sure that our spiritual lives will grow together during our time as pastor and people.

I'll be working for CCMP and Falls City from Sunday through Wednesday evening, as a rule. My office hours here will usually be 9-12, Mondays and Tuesdays.

My administrative work will, of course, be focused on gearing up for the fall – resumption of study groups and choirs, and the requisite communication about opportunities to worship, study, and serve.

You've probably noticed the weekly Mail Chimp email that you receive from the church, with the previous Sunday's prayers, breaking news and announcements for the following week. I hope you find that email helpful. If you haven't seen it... well, check your junk mail folder! You'll also be receiving a monthly newsletter (yes, like this one) by email, or by US Mail, if you

don't have email.

My pastoral work needs to be filled with opportunities to get to know you. Please don't hesitate to invite me to your home, or work, or school. Or your bedside, if you're ill! Small gatherings would be helpful, too, in this attempt to know and be known. Would you like to host a gathering? Let me know!

Although I still have boxes to unpack and pictures to hang at the parsonage, I hope to invite people to my home, also.

What is on your heart – as a heaviness, or as a hunger, or as a hope? Is it well with your soul? I hope you will share those with me.

Finally, as a Presbyterian, I will be installed by the Presbytery of the Cascades to this position. My Installation Service will be September 28 at 3pm. Please plan to attend!

Blessings,

Becky

Christ's Church

Methodist and Presbyterian United

Worship News

August brings us into the home stretch of summer. It's just about time for the kids to go back to school! We have several treats of music coming up for special music this month.

August 10th, Jessica Coons will worship with us as she sings. August 17th, Ruth Sonnenschein will inspire us. August 24th, Sue Badgett will sing. August 31st, Branden Hume will play his guitar and sing.



After Labor Day, on Wednesday September 3rd at 6:30, Elizabeth will get the choir going until the end of September. Kevin will resume with the choir after he returns from Germany. The Joybells are also very warm and welcoming and will also help you learn about reading and playing music. Come join us! We have a lot of fun!



First Neighborhood Block Party

Voices, laughter, music and the smell of hotdogs filled the air around the fire pit at Christ's Church in the evening of Thursday, July 24. Children running in the kick ball game, others bouncing in the inflated castle and still others hanging onto or pulling their parents hands created a random movement among booths and activities.

This first ever Neighborhood Block Party was a gift from Christ's Church to the community. Hot dogs and chips came with the visit to the two-hour event as well of drink, salads and beans donated by members of the church. About 18 Community service agencies with their canopies and tables circled the area with fun activities for children and useful information for parents and neighbors.

At the end of the evening, children left the bounce castle reluctantly but with laughter and giggles bursting forth and smiles and painted rainbows on their faces. Parents were asking if this would happen again next year. One neighbor who arrived as things were closing up said, "I'm sorry I couldn't be here earlier. I hope you do this again next year. It's such a wonderful idea."

One out-of-town guest said she was going to take this idea back to her church. It looks like it's time to set a date for next year.

Staff-Parish Relations News

New Administrative Assistant, Kim Clark, began her work with us at the end of June. Originally from upstate NY, Kim has made several moves with her husband, whose specialty is Continuing Ed in Higher Ed. They have one son, Sam, who is a member of our Scout Troop. Highly skilled in office administration, Kim has worked in a city Court System, and has an entrepreneurial business with her quilts. She has been a leader in a PTA, so she knows how to organize. Watch for her artwork in the office; check out her bulletin board skills around the church! She is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 – 12.

Stephen's Ministry News

We have a new supply of "Journeying Through Grief" books for those who have lost a loved one. If you or someone you know needs these books, please call Jo Ann King @ [503-838-6603](tel:503-838-6603). Also, we are looking for someone to attend the National training session for Stephen Ministry Leaders in order to assist in our local program. If you are interested please call Pastor Becky or Jo Ann King. Also we are planning to start serving "extended communion". This means that we can deliver and serve communion to shut-ins or those unable to attend for any reason, after the elements have been blessed in worship. If you would like to be one of the servers, contact Pastor Becky for brief training or to go with her as she serves. It is a blessed experience!

Prayer Chain

If you would like to join our Christ's Church prayer chain and be notified by call or email about prayer needs, so that you can pray for them, please call the church office, [503-838-1724](tel:503-838-1724), or Bev Herzog, [503-838-1172](tel:503-838-1172), and give them your information for the prayer list.

Peace, Justice, and Mission News

Hospitality Project Update



The Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network continues its work in Salem as weekly newsletters speak to the progress of the families in the program. Of particular interest are those families who stayed with us in March. The baby was born in late April and that family is in its own home and the father is receiving training for future employment. The family of eight have their own home after months of trying to find something suitable for their family's needs.

Those involved in the March experience that included about a dozen area churches and about five dozen volunteers and 360 volunteer hours continue to pray for the expansion of the program into Polk County to help the families without homes in this area. The plans are moving slowly at this time.

Western Compass Focuses on International Affairs

Quietly but surely the campus ministry supported by the Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians continues its work. Katie Moss, the program director of Western Compass, the current name of the campus ministry, guides the students through social justice

programs. Every Monday Katie and students sit at a table in the campus Werner Center to sell fair trade items such as chocolate and honey, and craft items from Guatemala.

Next spring Katie and seven students will travel to Guatemala to meet with persons involved in providing fair income for agricultural products and crafts items such as clothing and jewelry. They will also be learning about the process of immigration from Guatemala to America and the conditions these people face.

While funding for Western Compass has declined over the years, through creative planning and initiatives, the organization continues to move forward with hope and enthusiasm. Your referrals of students are always appreciated, and your encouragement is welcome realizing that most of us were once at that age and now either know someone there, have or had children there or even grandchildren. If you are interested in serving on the advisory board you are welcome. You may contact Jo Ann King or Denvy Saxowsky about your thoughts and comments. And you can always follow Western Compass on Facebook.



Denominational News



Annual Conference 2014 was attended by our Lay Leader, Jo Ann King. She reported on the event at July's Board Meeting, and again in Worship on July 20.

"Imagine No Malaria" is a mission focus for the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area. For more information, and a wealth of resources, see the Oregon-Idaho Conference's website: www.umoi.or

On June 13th the Annual Conference paused to remember the massacre of Native Americans in Colorado in 1864, The United Methodist Church is forever linked to this event because the commander of the Cavalry force, Colonel Chivington, was an elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our conference took time to bless Pendleton blankets that were sent to the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference that will travel to the site of the Sand Creek Massacre National Park to participate in the 150 year remembrance of the massacre. It is never too late to say, "I'm sorry."



Presbytery Confluence

September 13, Albany Presbyterian

The Presbytery of the Cascades has split its meeting in two! The business part took place in June; the resources half will occur in regions, with presentations and discussions for all – you don't have to be a Ruling Elder or Teaching Elder; you don't even have to identify as Presbyterian! More info:

www.Cascadespresbytery.org

SCHOOL SUPPLIES / FOOD BANK ITEMS

It's time to gather **school supplies** to support our local elementary schools. Bimart and Walmart both have good sales now on those supplies. This is one way to support our teachers and students so they can have supplies to do their work and also to be able enjoy their learning. Schools also request backpacks, sweatpants in a variety of sizes for elementary-aged children, and NEW underwear and socks for boys and girls, various sizes.

The focus for the **Food Bank** for August will be personal hygiene items. The Ella Curran Food bank is now in their new location with more space and light. It's a great way to help our neighbors. Think about those things that can't be purchased with food stamps: toilet tissue, toothbrushes and toothpaste, feminine hygiene articles, powdered soap for laundry, dish soap, hand soap, shampoo and conditioner...

Stewardship News

The Stewardship Team at Christ's Church has responsibility for both the physical plant and the finances of the congregation, caring for the responsibilities of both the former Finance Committee and Trustees Committee. The current members of the team are Linda Grund-Clampit, Jim Beaird-Leeper, Linda Schiermann, Dennis Busby, Sherry Pittam and Steve Moser. Also on the team are our church treasurer, Janna Moser, and our pastor, Rev. Becky Strader.

On the physical plant side, we have been working with our new pastor, Becky, to get the parsonage into shape for her as her new home. Watch for a work party for the parsonage yard soon! We are also in the process of replacing the light bulbs in the sanctuary with energy-efficient (and perhaps brighter!) LEDs. Since we live in an older building, nothing is very straightforward and there have been a couple of detours, but it will all get done!

On the finance side, things are looking pretty good. Pledges have come in as expected and we have been able to pay our bills and stay on track toward our goal of paying 50% of our UM and Presbyterian shared giving by the end of the year. We began the year with a deficit in the General Fund, which has been made up so that we are currently carrying a positive balance. Your statements for the second quarter will be mailed out to you soon.

As of July 31, 2014:

Budgeted income year-to-date	\$58,968.43
Actual Income year-to-date	\$64,397.95
Budgeted Expenses year-to-date	\$73,176.19
Actual Expense year-to-date	\$63,429.20

Feel free to contact Janna at jmoser01@hotmail.com if you would like more detail about our financial situation.

ReThink Paul: Horizon Bible Study

Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study begins September 3. The women's circle study takes place on the first Wednesday of the Month, from 1 – 2:30pm at Heron Pointe. For more information, contact Jo Ann King, 503-838-6603 or Jo Yeager 503-838-5969.

The **Book Study Group** will begin again this fall. Watch for announcements!

Recommended reading: Brian McLaren, one of today's well-known progressive evangelicals, has written a book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. Find a copy – there is talk about having some church-wide conversations about the road that we are creating on our faith journeys

Newsletter submissions: Joy Brown and Becky Strader are planning on a monthly newsletter...if you'd like to contribute, please have your article in by August 25 for the September issue!

Our **Charge Conference/Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, at 7:00pm. Please put this on your calendar. Falls City United Methodist will join in the conference.

New Pictorial Directories are out. If you have not received one by email, or need a printed one, please contact the office.