



SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

August 2017 Newsletter

Closed August 10-11

We will be closed Thursday, August 10 AND Friday, August 11 for our annual Staff In-Service. Our new carpeting will be finished during this weekend. We will be painting walls, rearranging classrooms, deep-cleaning, etc. This is a fun time for our staff, as we work to improve our Center. We'll also be participating in a three-hour training on positive discipline techniques for young children.

Pre-K Graduation

It is the time of year when we celebrate our children heading off to Kindergarten! We will have our annual Pre-K Graduation on ***Friday, August 18 at 9:30 a.m.*** in our Dragonfly classroom. Families of graduates are welcome to attend! Light refreshments will be served following a short ceremony.

Closed for Labor Day

A reminder we will be closed Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

Welcome New Staff!

We'd like to welcome our new staff! ***Deva*** joins our Pre-K classroom, coming to us having worked at the Ashland Family YMCA.

Katy joins our Preschool classroom after moving to the Rogue Valley from Redding, Calif. Katy has prior experience working in a Center-setting as well as in a Special Education classroom.

Samantha (Sam) is the new Aide in our Toddler 1 classroom. She has MANY siblings and has been a nanny for several years. Please help us welcome all three of these ladies!

Water Play Days & Sunscreen

We will continue with Water Play days through the end of August. Please make sure your child has all appropriate water play wear here at school. Please make sure we have a continuous supply of sunscreen for your child.



Toddler foil painting

—Jaime Snider, director

Turnipseed's back



Paul Turnipseed

August Jazz Vespers feature a return engagement for the Paul Turnipseed Trio and an exhibition of photographs made by Rogue Valley Manor resident Preston Mitchell.

Turnipseed, who last did the 5 p.m. second-Sunday Jazz Vespers in January, returns August 13 with his trio. They've been playing together the past four years. Turnipseed is on vocals and guitar, backed by Jeff Addicott on base and Mike Fitch on drums.

Jazz and the blues influence Turnipseed's music. He went to college in New Orleans and before moving to Medford in 2012 spent a decade entertaining in Mexico. Turnipseed took up the guitar as a 12-year-old in Connecticut.

Photographer Preston Mitchell's art will occupy the hall gallery area during August. Mitchell has many talents, including many years playing tuba in both the Rogue Valley Symphony and the Ashland City Band. Now 99 years old, Mitchell continues to volunteer as photographer for many local events. His images are a collection of family photos, scenic places and animals.



Preston Mitchell

Leading the way: Meet Mary

By PAULETTE AVERY

Although she does not consider herself a pioneer for female pastors, Mary Wright Gillespie's story indicates otherwise.

After graduating from the University of Redlands in Southern California, Mary attended Andover Newton Theological School in Andover, Mass. and worked as a church organist to help support herself. Her goal was a degree in Christian education with no intention of becoming a pastor. However, because she changed her major, she graduated in 1955 as the only woman in her class with a degree in divinity. She also met her husband Bob there. His career as a pastor included many leadership positions in the Presbyterian Church.



Mary Wright Gillespie

In retirement, Mary remains a leader, serving as chair of religious activities at the Rogue Valley Manor, a position held by her husband until his death in 2011. As a volunteer in our congregation, Mary is an associate for visitation and pastoral care and an active contributor to the Christian Education committee. She's served our presbytery as a committee chair and vice-moderator of the southern region.

One of her jobs after graduation was as the educator for the Genesee Valley Presbytery. She attended meetings but was not permitted to vote because she wasn't ordained.

After a move to California and encouragement from Bob and her daughter, she began to pursue ordination while employed with Golden Gate Mission Area, a group of three presbyteries. The denomination began ordaining women in 1956, but few women served in the 1970's in California. Ordination requirements included passing five exams, the first on Bible content. She attributes passing that exam to her strong Baptist background. After passing the remaining four exams she also had to go through oral interviews.

Mary was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor June 15, 1980.

After ordination, Mary was installed as assistant pastor of Redwoods Presbyterian Church in Larkspur. Later the congregation called her as associate pastor and director of Women's Programs. She also taught at San Francisco Theological Seminary and later became associate pastor at San Anselmo Presbyterian, where she retired many years later.

Mary recalls that frequently after officiating at a wedding or memorial service, people told her that it was the first time they had seen a woman serve in that way.

Over the years, Mary did much work for Christian education including serving in the Association for Presbyterian Christian Education where she remains a member of one of their committees. After her husband retired as moderator of the Redwoods Presbytery, Mary took over that position.

Her son, his wife, and Mary's two grandkids live in Roseburg and her daughter lives in Windsor, Calif.