

8th & Holly newsletter
 First Presbyterian Church
 85 South Holly Street
 Medford, Oregon 97501

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8th & Holly

Our 134th year

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon September 2019

From the pastor's study
 By Murray Richmond



During a midnight thunderstorm, a young boy called for his mother to come to his bed. The mother, being very sleepy, said, "Honey, Jesus is in there with you." After a pause, the boy said, "Yeah, but I want someone with skin on them."

Who can blame the boy? We can talk about spiritual comfort, but sometimes we need someone with skin on them. That takes us to the third mark of a vital congregation, Outward Incarnational Focus.

Outward incarnational focus is just theological talk for being Jesus to the world. Incarnational means, literally, in the flesh. The Bible says we are the Body of Christ. For all intents and purposes, we represent Jesus to the world. The church is the only Jesus some people will ever see. For many people the church is "Jesus with skin on."

Basically it means embodying the love to God to the world, making it so people we can see feel the love. The primary way we do this is by meeting people's needs. There are many ways we do that here at First Presbyterian, from the Food Bank, to the Brown Bag Café, to the Bridge House, and generally just how we treat the people who come in our doors.

Of all the marks of a vital congregation, this is probably the one we do best. We are an active congregation when it comes to helping others. People know that if they have a need, they can come here. We are not able to meet everyone's needs, but we meet a lot of them.

I want to take moment to brag on the staff here, especially Elizbeth, our office administrator. She treats everyone who comes in the office, whether they are life long members or just off the streets, as if they were important. She treats the people who come here with dignity. Many times I have heard people from the community surrounding the church, "You treat us like people." That means a lot to them.

But then, I see that attitude in all of our staff, and in the people who worship here. And when we do that, we are showing them the true nature of Jesus' love.

Food of the month



We're looking for what some folks call "meals in a can" to augment our September offerings at the Food Bank. Please bring a canned main dish, something like *Spaghetti Os*, or canned stew, ravioli or other prepared pasta. You can put it in the basket in the Narthex any Sunday. We need these to augment the donated food we get from ACCESS and the Oregon Food Bank and local grocery stores. Food Bank Manager Jim Foucault notes that this is a repeat request. The last time we built up the "meals in a can" inventory was over six months ago. If you are able, donate cans with "pull-off" lids.

McCoy family plays Jazz Vespers September 8

It's going to be a McCoy family musical party at the September Jazz Vespers. Theresa McCoy, a drummer and frequent performer at Vespers, will be joined by her husband, Sean, and mother-in-law Patti Moran McCoy, backed by Jeff Addicott on bass.

Call it the Teresa McCoy Quartet.

Jazz Vespers is Sunday, September 8 at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Patti McCoy is a well-known jazz pianist who performed professionally for decades and makes her home in Southern Oregon. Her son Sean has operated Oregon Sound Recording Studio since 1989. He's a music arranger and composer who will show off what's called an Electronic Valve Instrument in the Vespers appearance. Addicott and Theresa McCoy provide the rhythm, roles they've taken at many Jazz Vespers.

Featured visual artist for September is Winnifred Liang Wilson, a recent arrival in the Rogue Valley and a retired geographer and land-use environmental planner.



Patti McCoy

Wilson is wrapping up a show at Art du Jour Gallery in Medford. She works in watercolor, oil and other media. Her paintings will hang in the first-floor hall gallery and she'll talk at Jazz Vespers.



Theresa McCoy at her drum set

The Akai electronic valve instrument, Sean McCoy's instrument of choice



September at First

**1 Sunday
Worship**
Informal 8:30 a.m.
Traditional 10:30 a.m.
11:45 a.m. **Church Growth committee**, Library

2 Monday Labor Day
Office and Sarah Corson Center closed

3 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, workroom
1 p.m. **Fellowship Committee**, Fireplace Room

4 Wednesday
10 a.m. **Food Bank set up**
1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**
4:30 p.m. **Christian Education Committee**, Library
7 p.m. **Choir rehearsal**, Choir Room

5 Thursday
2 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**, Library
7 p.m. **Parables Bible Study**, Fireplace Room

**8 Sunday
Worship**
Informal 8:30 a.m.
Traditional 10:30 a.m.
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers**, Theresa McCoy quartet, Sanctuary

9 Monday
4 p.m. **Mission Committee**, Library

10 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, workroom
6 p.m. **Handbell Potluck**, 437 DeBarr Ave., Medford

11 Wednesday
10 a.m. **Food Bank set up**
1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**
7 p.m. **Choir rehearsal**, Choir Room

12 Thursday
7 p.m. **Parables Bible Study**, Fireplace Room

Carolina BBQ
North Carolina-style pulled pork, barbecued by Pastor Murray, is the feature of our Fall Kickoff Dinner. The annual event will be at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, September 14 in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this wonderful meal and time of fellowship.

14 Saturday
5:30 p.m. **Fall Kickoff BBQ**, Fellowship Hall

**15 Sunday
Worship**
Informal 8:30 a.m.
Traditional 10:30 a.m.
11:45 a.m. **Deacons**, Fireplace Room
Worship Committee, Library

17 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
6:45 p.m. **Shepherd's Bells rehearsal**

18 Wednesday
10 a.m. **Food Bank set up**
1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**
7 p.m. **Choir rehearsal**, Choir Room

19 Thursday
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, Library
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, Workroom
2 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**, Library
7 p.m. **Parables Bible Study**, Fireplace Room

**22 Sunday
Worship**
Informal 8:30 a.m.
Traditional 10:30 a.m.

23 Monday
5:45 p.m. **SonShine Singers**, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. **Craft Night**, Fellowship Hall

24 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, workroom
1:30 p.m. **Book Nook**, Library
6:45 p.m. **Shepherd's Bells rehearsal**
7 p.m. **Session**, Fireplace Room

25 Wednesday
10 a.m. **Food Bank set up**
1:30 p.m. **Food Bank**
7 p.m. **Choir rehearsal**, Choir Room

26 Thursday
7 p.m. **Parables Bible Study**, Fireplace Room

**29 Sunday
Worship**
Informal 8:30 a.m.
Traditional 10:30 a.m.

September Birthdays

- 1 Doris Sjolund
- 3 Vickie Reierson
- 7 Mike Meckler
- 9 Al Densmore
Jennifer Belford
Jan Sinner
- 12 Jim Foucault
- 15 Michael Bennett
Alice Smith
Janet Stang
Loni Hagler
- 16 Meghan MacDonald
- 21 Dick Birkinshaw
Michelle Mauldin
- 22 Vickie Domis
- 23 Mary Dixon
- 25 Marv Hayes
- 29 Margie Webber

Lunch Bunch schedule

- September 1--Roadhouse Grill, 2699 W. Main
- September 8--Red Lobster, 2200 Crater Lake Hwy.
- September 15--Parkside Café, 110 Hawthorne St.
- September 22--Las Palmas, 210 E California, Jacksonville
- September 29--Common Block, 315 E Fifth

Got a mailbox to spare?



Third graders at Medford's Jackson Elementary School will trade letters this fall with adult members of our congregation in an outreach program set up by the Christian Education Committee. What's needed now is donation of a couple of mailboxes, one to go in the Narthex at our church, the other in the Jackson classroom.

Teacher Alex Hamilton and our Vickie Reierson set up the program. The 25 students will be paired with our 25 volunteers. The first letters will come from the kids this month.

Once we receive and distribute the student letters, we will then gather up Pen Pal reply letters in the church Narthex (hopefully in some kind of fun mailbox), and Vickie will deliver them to the teacher. Ms. Hamilton will choose topics for each letter exchange, such as "Five Things About Me," and will vet all letters to ensure content is readable and on the chosen topic.

Ms. Hamilton said having a "mailbox" set up in the classroom would be great. So, if anyone has an idea or suggestion (or maybe a grand old mailbox lying around), please contact Vickie at 541-245-3200 or vickie@mind.net.

Two fall classes

A Bible study of the Parables of Jesus and a class on troubling questions of faith are offered this fall by our Christian Education program. The Parables class starts Thursday, September 5 at 7 p.m. The faith questions class will be monthly, with a starting date to be set during September.

Barbara Haddon leads the Parables study every Thursday through October 10.

This six-week-long Bible study will, in Barbara's words, look at the "backside" of the parables, seeking meaning from Jesus' stories about common-place happenings of the day. Commentators say that while listeners to the original parable would understand the imagery, each listener would discern a message based on their own background.

All classes will be held in our Fireplace Room.

Patti Sprinkle will moderate the monthly forum on faith questions. Folks were asked during August to write down faith questions they've always wanted to ask – but didn't. The monthly forum will discuss those questions. Patti hopes participants in the forum will take a question – their own or someone else's – and research it for group discussion.

She's a professional writer with years of experience developing curriculum for several denominations, as well as writing novels.

Sing, ring and worship

All three of our worship music programs are seeking folks this month as they begin the fall season. Singers are needed for the SonShine Singers at the 8:30 a.m. service and the Chancel Choir which performs at 10:30 a.m. worship. Ringers, old and new, are sought for Shepherd's Bells, the handbell ensemble shared by our congregation and First Presbyterian in Central Point.

SonShine Singers rehearse every Sunday morning at 8 a.m. and have more extensive practices at 5:45 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Talk with Bob Adams, our pianist and organist for more information. Chancel Choir holds its first Wednesday rehearsal of the new season at 7 p.m. September 4.

"If you love the Lord, like to sing, can carry a tune, are able to read music at least a little," Choir Director Jane Blomquist says, you're encouraged to join the choir. Please call Jane at (541) 857-6027.

Shepherd's Bells start the season with a potluck meal Tuesday, September 10.

They'll socialize, then set the performance schedule through Christmas. Terry Rosenberger is hostess for the 6 p.m. barbecue. Her address is 437 DeBarr Avenue, Medford. Bring something to grill for yourself and a dish to share. Spouses are welcome.

Bell rehearsals start at 6:45 p.m. September 17. Director Cyndy Patterson would like a call at (541) 944-6841.

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