



# SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CEN- TER

March 2023 Newsletter

## St. Patrick's Day

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with our **annual Green parties on Friday, March 17**. Please see your child's teacher for specific party time and details.



## Easter

We will be having our **annual Easter Egg Hunts on Friday, April 7**. We are collecting donations of plastic Easter eggs and small toys/treats to fill our eggs. Please give donations to any staff member. Please remember all donations of food items need to be peanut-free. Thank you!

## Inspection Season

Our annual Fire Alarm, Fire Safety & Health Inspections have been completed and we passed all with flying colors!

## Save the Date – Pre K Graduation

We will be celebrating our graduating Pre K students at a small ceremony in **Holmes Park on Friday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.** Please save the date! More details to come!



## Goodbye, Teacher Kathy

Kathy has been our Ladybug Preschool Teacher for the past six years. She will be retiring at the end of this month. Her last day teaching will be Friday, March 31. From her first day at our Center, Kathy has shown her big heart for children, a passion for teaching in the Early Childhood field, and a kind and compassionate spirit. Kathy has been someone all kids and families have adored, and someone other young teachers look up to and want to emulate. Kathy is fun and has a great sense of humor. She knows not to take herself, us, or the kids too seriously. She shows her students how to love books and reading, how to explore their world through art and science, and how to problem solve through puzzles, social interactions, and logical thinking. We will never be able to replace Kathy. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

—Jaime Snider, director

# From auto mechanic to pastor

By PAULETTE AVERY

This month we learn more about Pastor Mike Hubbard, our Congregational Care Associate. Mike's work at First Pres began in 2004 when he served as church administrator. After years of training and already an elder at First, Mike became a Commissioned Ruling Elder, certified to perform pastoral duties.

Community Presbyterian in Tulelake, Calif. called Mike as half-time pastor in 2011. He divided his time between Tulelake and Medford, once making the 200-mile round trip four times in one week! Mike retired from Tulelake in 2016. Cascade Presbytery honored Mike that summer by inviting him to deliver the sermon for a worship service during the PCUSA General Assembly held in Portland.

That fall our Session called Mike as half-time associate pastor, renewing the contract every year.

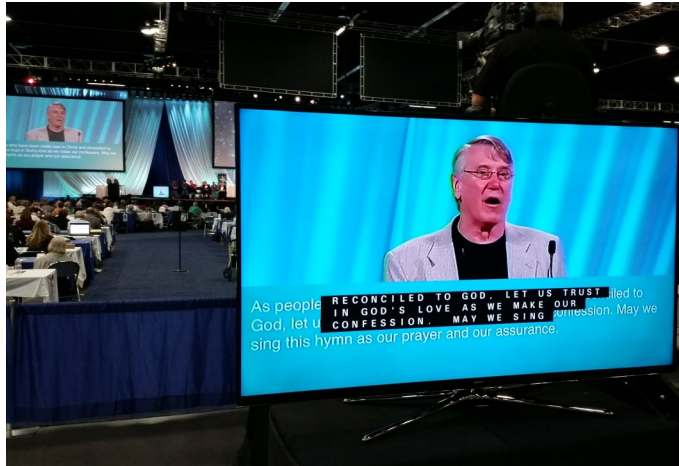
He's held many positions with Presbytery, and currently serves on the Presbytery Leadership Commission.

Mike was born in San Diego and lived in rural San Diego County until his family moved to Oregon in the 1960s. After high school, Mike became an auto mechanic, a job he did for 30 years.

He and Evonne met in Grants Pass, married and later adopted two Black disabled boys. Because Alaska offered great support services for their sons at no cost, they moved there in 1986. At age 50 Mike began studies in human services and social work at the University of Alaska. He worked in mental health in Alaska before he and Evonne returned to Oregon in 2002. Mike worked a year as activity director at a mental health facility and also helped care for Evonne's parents in Grants Pass.

If you have read any of Mike's writings, you know he writes beautifully. He attributes this to being a life-long voracious reader, but I would say he also has great talent including an almost photographic memory for book passages and song lyrics. From 2005 to 2017, Mike served as editor of the journal for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

In his spare time, Mike loves to obtain and prepare food. Recently he made grey squirrel stew and farm-raised duck over spaetzle. And then there is all the fish that he and Evonne love to catch. We are blessed to have Mike on our church staff.



Pastor Mike leads 2,000 Presbyterians in worship, 2016

## Jazz Vespers newcomer



Eric Pollard

Eric Pollard, a vocalist and percussionist, makes his first Jazz Vespers appearance on March 12. A recent arrival in the Rogue Valley, Pollard brings a quartet which includes some familiar names, including Peter Anastos on trumpet, Gordon Greenley on saxophone and Mark Hamersly on bass.

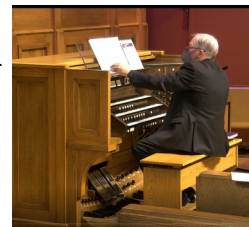
Vespers will be at 4 p.m.

Pollard grew up in Minnesota in a musical family and became part of local bands while in high school. Since 2012 he's performed under the pseudonym Actual Wolf and in 2015 moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. He toured with a band known as Actual Wolf, which released several albums.

Photographer Fran Yates, who lives at the Rogue Valley Manor, will share many of her nature and wild-life images in our first floor hall gallery.

## Organ vespers March 26

Our Schoenstein & Co. pipe organ will be the musical start on Sunday, March 26 for Kick-off of a new monthly 5 p.m. vesper service. Organist Bob Adams is organizing the concert with members of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



Bob at the console

Bob says the format will be similar to our long-running monthly Jazz Vespers, heavy on music with some brief spoken words. In addition to local guest organists – who are still working out music to be performed—at least one number will be a piano-organ duet.

The pipe organ was assembled in 1992 as part of a remodeling of the Sanctuary. It was upgraded to its present configuration of 36 ranks in 1999. Schoenstein & Co. is the oldest organ builder on the West Coast, with offices in San Francisco and a factory in Benicia, Calif.