



THE GRAPEVINE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
May 2018

From the Pastor...

As we come closer to May 2, we approach another Pastor Anniversary for my call to Sandpoint. This will mark the conclusion of seven full years and the beginning of year number eight. This is also a milestone in my ministry as a Pastor, because I have now served the church in Sandpoint longer than I'd served anywhere else. We've lived here longer than we've lived anywhere else since leaving home for college. And we are so thankful for the many friendships and blessings we experience through the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint. Thank you for the love and support you express as we journey the road of discipleship together. I hope you can come to the Pastor Appreciation Potluck on Sunday, May 6 following worship. This is a busy weekend for many, especially Bloomsday runners, so if you are not able to come, you're missing out on a good time. Carol Curtis is organizing this event with the theme of an appreciation for the earth, such as the blessings of food and farm, bees and honey, and other good things from nature. With huckleberries and honey, we have all the proof we need that Sandpoint is heaven on earth!

May God bless us as we journey together into the future.

Peace,

Pastor Andy

WEBSITE UPDATE

The church website, www.fpcsandpoint.org is going through an upgrade. You will soon see the new format, which is more responsive to various devices. It can tell if you are looking at it on a computer, or a smart phone, or a tablet, and the layout is readable with any of those. The planning committee of Sharon Anderson, Carol Curtis, Kathleen Huntley, Judy Labrie, Mickey Quinn, and Pastor Andy, worked for hours and days and days to update content, layout, editing, photos, and other aspects as we worked with Ubeity LLC, a company that helps with websites. Thanks to all those who helped when called upon, for those contributing pictures, and others. Many thanks to Dawn Linendoll who set up and supported the website prior to this, and got us to this point. It is hoped that this updated, interactive tool helps the church become more noticed by those outside the church searching through the internet for a welcoming congregation.

SABBATICAL HIGHLIGHT

People keep asking me (Pastor Andy) if I had a nice vacation a couple weeks ago, but I did not have a vacation a couple weeks ago. I did have one week of Study Leave. During those days, I worked from home to reconcile the expenditures of the entire Sabbatical experience. With all the months of bank statements, cash machine withdrawals, checks, and debit card charges, it took days and days to wade through, but it finally came together. We now have a massive spreadsheet showing each budget line and how the funds were used. It's posted in the office if you want to see it. Basically, everything balanced out well because although I went about 1,900 dollars over budget, the congregation portion was about 1,900 dollars under budget. We will be sending the Lily Foundation the 48 dollars and change that remains.

Look in the next Grapevine Newsletter for the final of six highlights. This will feature Shawna's highlight of the Cathedral in Reims, France, where we visited on our way from England to Germany via a ferry from the cliffs of Dover across the English Channel.

PEACE GARDEN

The Peace Garden project helps us as a congregation to connect to the larger community, both through having a space of hospitality and through the process of creating that space as we partner with others. Having wide-ranging community support is a key part of forming this wonderful, welcoming space. One of the community groups we are partnering with is the Sandpoint Rotary Club, which is sponsoring the construction of a gazebo. Although the project has faced delays, it is currently under construction. It looks great!





As the gazebo is completed, we will hire a landscaper to help us finish out the south end of the Peace Garden by installing the gravel pathway, finishing the catering patio, setting up the little free library zone (which will still need benches), and planting a garden area with the two pear trees Jane Clark helped take care of all last summer. These trees and some blueberry bushes are dedicated to the father of Dyno Wahl, purchased through a Rotary memorial donation. Donations can be made to help support the continuing work of the Peace Garden by giving to the church and adding a memo "Peace Garden" to your check, or online through the website and clicking on the Peace Garden line item after clicking the GIVE button. If you have ideas on other community partnerships, please share this with Pastor Andy or the church office.

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION – SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

As we care for God's earth, our commitment as an Earth Care Congregation challenges us to accomplish actions in four categories: worship, education, facilities and outreach. In the realm of worship, our Sunday service on April 22 – Earth Day – reflected an Earth Care theme through Scriptures, hymns, prayers, poems, meditations and Pastor Andy's message that inspired and encouraged us to protect God's great creation. For education, Marilyn Robertson constantly reminds us of simple actions to implement in our daily lives to reuse, recycle or conserve our natural resources. Building and Grounds committee chair Chuck Bauer and, now, Karen Rockhill continue to implement energy saving practices in our facilities. We can all feel good about our increasing awareness and accomplishments in making Earth Care a regular part of our worship as well as our daily lives.

However, the fourth category – outreach – sometimes takes us out of our comfort zone and causes a little squirming. At least it does for the Earth Care Team! As an Earth Care Congregation, we are encouraged to engage in public policy awareness and community involvement. This calls us to have a voice in protecting and restoring our earth. Moreover, it encourages us to speak on behalf of people who have been oppressed or neglected by exploitation of the earth's resources. This charge requires courage and conviction.

With this lengthy preface, the Earth Care Team has carefully and prayerfully deliberated on a decision for our church to submit a letter of support for the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area to local newspapers. We sought the guidance of Session as we considered every word that went into the letter. Session approved our final draft during its April 17th meeting.

The attached letter will be submitted to the *Bonner County Daily Bee* and *The Reader* for publication as a letter to the editor.

Peace as we care for God's great creation,
Earth Care Team

Carol Curtis, Bill Love, Margaret Ann Maricle, Dave Pietz, Lynn Pietz, Marilyn Robertson,
Pastor Andy Kennaly

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April 24, 2018

Re: Letter of Support for the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area

To the Editor:

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho, an *Earth Care Congregation*, recognizes God's call to stewardship, and we care for God's garden.

Earth Care Congregations is a voluntary certification within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), encouraging churches to care for, restore, and enjoy God's creation. Taking an *Earth Care Pledge* involves action in four categories: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Our love for God inspires us to care for this world.

Civil, community-based dialogue is necessary for citizens – it's important to work together. For some, wilderness areas protect ecological values, others appreciate recreational opportunities, and some experience spiritual fulfillment through the living Christ in the "cathedral of the wilderness." Whatever your response to this unique area of nature, we urge you to vote "in favor" on the Advisory Issue on the ballot May 15.

The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area is a gift. Congressional designation as Wilderness today is an important step ensuring protection for generations to come.

Peace,

Andy Kennaly, MDiv Marilyn Robertson
Pastor Earth Care Congregation Team



Congratulations to Chuck Humes who recently was named Volunteer of the Year at Bonner General Health! Chuck has volunteered over 3500 hours of service at Bonner General Hospital. Thank you, Chuck for all you have done over the years for this community and your church.

PASTOR APPRECIATION POTLUCK

Please join us at our annual Pastor Appreciation Potluck on Sunday, May 6, 2018. Our theme: A Walk Through The Garden, is celebratory of our progress outside with our garden, with an emphasis on farm-to-market, fresh food. If you can locally source it, serve something fresh like a salad, or honey on bread, or practice an environmentally conscious method of preparation or serving. We will continue celebrating our beautiful Earth, and our fantastic Pastor and his family being at FPC.

Kindly email the office your planned contribution. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Carol at carol@curtisteam.org, or 208-290-5947, or the church office at 208 263-2047. Thanks in advance.

Lost in the 50s

Our annual fundraiser (food booth) will occur on May 18-19. Please plan to help. Many hands make light work.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers is posted on the bulletin board by the office. You can select job assignments and hours of commitment.

This is one of the larger sources of income for the membership and outreach activity of our church.

Your help is needed and appreciated.



SWEET MAGNOLIA HOUSE, OUR NEW NEIGHBOR

In April, Presbyterian Women presented speaker, Valorie McCormick from Sweet Magnolia House, our new neighbor across the street in the old Sweet Magnolia Bed & Breakfast building. Her presentation was positive, informative, and warmly received. Valorie explained that Freedom House (which is how we've been referring to it) is actually the umbrella under which Sweet Magnolia House operates. You can find out more by Googling, "Freedom House Sandpoint Idaho."

Sweet Magnolia House opened in October 2017. It is a safe and sober house, with the mission of providing a safe place for women caught in addiction. Upon being released from jail, many women find they have nowhere to go except back to their old life, which can mean very little support to maintain their sobriety. When entering Sweet Magnolia House, the women residents often bring nothing with them, because they're afraid to return home to get their belongings, or they simply have very little to bring. While at Sweet Magnolia House, their needs are supplied through the generosity of others. There are currently seven residents, with room for one more.

Sweet Magnolia House is a faith-based recovery program that includes emotional support, help getting a job, learning budgeting skills, and Bible study. It is not a shelter in the normal sense, in that only women released from jail are residents. Many have been placed on probation and have been assigned by the Court through the Bonner County Drug Court program. Residents' hours of coming and going during the day are flexible, depending on work hours, classes, and other commitments. Because Sweet Magnolia House is not set up for or licensed for children, residents must make other arrangements for their children during their stay.

Sweet Magnolia House is a non-profit, dependent on donations from churches, individuals, and businesses. This is where we come in. As a good neighbor, we have the opportunity to help in a variety of practical ways:

1) Because of residents' varying hours, there is no set meal time. Instead, each resident makes her own meal. Valorie stated that having crock pot dishes and casseroles placed in individual containers which can be put in the refrigerator or freezer for future use would be extremely helpful. That allows residents to have a good meal on their individual schedules. Or perhaps you'd prefer to bake something. If you'd like to have the fun of cooking or baking, but don't want to bother with individual containers (baked goods don't need to be portioned) or delivering, call Lynn Pietz at 208-597-6911 or Anna Bates at 208-263-8126. Please call ahead of time to insure a prompt pick up. If you choose to deliver your creation, Sweet Magnolia House would be delighted to meet you. They have requested that you call ahead to notify them you'll be stopping by. The numbers are 208-217-5375 or 208-627-2388.

2) There is an on-going need for toilet paper and paper towels. When you're at the store, it would be wonderful if you could pick up a package of either or both and bring to the church. There will be a collection box next to the office.

3) As with any non-profit organization, there is always a financial need. If you would like to help, please put your cash donation in an envelope and clearly mark it for Sweet Magnolia House, or write Sweet Magnolia House on the memo line of your check. Drop either in the collection plate. You may also donated directly to them.

4) Large bottles of shampoo would be much appreciated.

5) An individual gift card to Walmart or another store of your choice would allow a resident to purchase her own underwear. Valorie said this is truly appreciated by the women.

6) There is currently a need for several dressers. If you have an extra one, please call Anna Bates at 208-263-8126 for pick up.

Donating to Sweet Magnolia House is not meant to be a substitute for your other charitable donations, such as the Food Bank. It is meant to be another opportunity to share. It could also be a wonderful opportunity for our church to support a much-needed asset to our community on an on-going basis. Sweet Magnolia House is our neighbor, and Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Words to live by.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On April 10th, Presbyterian Women met and listened to Valorie McCormick speak about the Sweet Magnolia House - a safe and sober house. This former bed and breakfast now is a home for women committed to seeking freedom from the bondage of substance abuse. Women must be sober for 30 days before entering the home. Many have served time in jail and arrive with nothing. Cost is \$400 a month and the first month is paid by scholarship, then the women pay from their jobs. An average stay is about three months, during which the women continue with the Celebrate Recovery program, learn how to budget, write resumes, job hunt and other basic tasks. The Deacons have taken on this program as a mission, and PW may too. Donations of cash, food and time are welcomed. More information can be found at www.freedomhousehope.org.

Election of officers was held – with most agreeing to stay on for another term.

Barbara Rolph and Marilyn Robertson attended the Inland Northwest Presbyterian Women district meeting April 14th and will report at the May meeting. May 8th is the final meeting with a potluck at Dee Dreisbach's home. Bible Study lesson is #9 with Sylvia Humes leading. The Least Coin offering will be dedicated at the May meeting.

SUMMER VACATION IS COMING!

Summer camp scholarships for children will again be available for interested families. Camp Spalding at Davis Lake is a wonderful opportunity for children to have fun and grow spiritually. If you are interested, please send a letter or email to the church office with attn: Dan Murphy. Letters of interest should be submitted by the end of May.



TWELVE WAYS OF EARTH CARE

1. As a spiritual experience, spend a quiet half hour once a week, in a “sit spot”, maybe in a park, where you watch, listen, and smell whatever is happening in a grove of trees, thanking God for the wonders of nature.
2. Buy a safe “BPA free” water bottle, and avoid bottled water. (Maybe Emergency Management or someone who helps the homeless would like any leftover supply of bottled water.)
3. Start recycling a category of items you haven’t recycled before. (card board? “tin” cans?)
4. Volunteer to launder the church’s cloth napkins once a season (4 times a year).
5. Recycle your newspapers, office paper, & card board for the rest of 2018. (If you live outside of Sandpoint, they can be turned in at Pacific Steel or the Dufort Road Waste Transfer Site.)
6. Purchase paper towels, napkins*, and bathroom tissue made from recycled paper, for the rest of 2018. (*or use cloth napkins.)
7. Use cloth shopping bags for grocery shopping.
8. Somewhere that you usually drive, choose to carpool, walk, or cycle to one event or errand once a month for the rest of 2018. (A bonus reward will be given to anyone who manages to do it once a WEEK!)
9. Participate in “Climate Stewards”. (information available)
10. Vote “in favor” of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness proposal on the Advisory Ballot May 15.
11. Raise some of your own food this summer, and/or purchase produce regularly at the Farmers’ Market.
12. Try a “Pick-it-up and Pray” Walk in your neighborhood or favorite walking route, once a month for 2018. Take a bag and gloves, pick up litter, and pray for whoever dropped the item, for environmental awareness in the neighborhood, and that we all may be good stewards of the land.

Pledge to do 1-or more- of these actions. If it works for you in 2018, it might become a habit.






May Birthdays

1	Mary Bauer
7	Virginia Ross
8	Jim Shirrell
9	Don Helander
12	Brian Casey
16	Jack Parker
17	Ted Farmin

Calendar Announcements

May

- 6 Pastor Appreciation Potluck (A Walk in the Garden theme)
 6 Sandpoint Youth Orchestra Concert—4:00 p.m.
 8 PW Meeting
 9 Bella Note' Recital—4:30-8:30 p.m.
 15 Session Meeting—6:30 p.m.
 18-19 Lost in The Fifties
 20 **Pentecost Sunday** 

June

- 3 Worship begins at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Monthly Events

Sunday Worship—10:30 a.m. Fellowship, following service

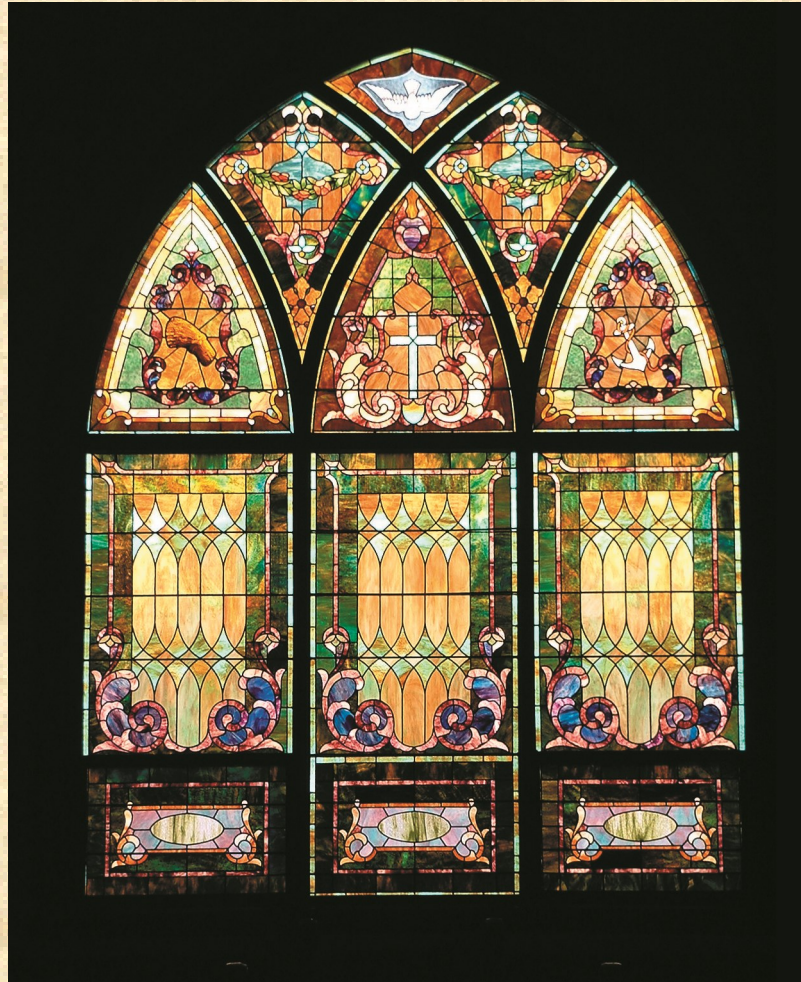
Monday 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday Book Study Group—1:30 p.m.
 Contemplative Prayer Group—3:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Church Breakfast— 8:00 a.m. at Connies Café 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month

Thursday 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon
 7:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous



First Presbyterian Church

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