

THE GRAPEVINE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
October 2018

FROM THE PASTOR...

Thank you all for the recent time away from the normal routines of life. The last week of October was used as vacation, although it was a stay-cation because it involved doing projects around the house. Sometimes there are things that just need focused attention and uninterrupted time to get finished, especially when it comes to gaping holes in the side of your house and cold weather is on the way. Our main project involved replacing our front door, which had dry rotted from moisture infiltration, and also changing two windows into doors. The house had no back door, but now it has two.

Just last night I turned on the new porch light and opened one of the new back doors, peeking out into the windy night. Perched on a nearby fence post sat a Great Horned Owl. What a gift to see this creature in our back yard! I would likely have missed it if that door wasn't there, so already the benefits of this project are happening.

The next week was for Study Leave, and I headed to Cottonwood, Idaho and participated in a retreat that explored the sacred art of writing as a spiritual discipline. Writing is a central aspect to ministry as I use words to convey larger truths of faith, divine Presence, and awareness of the Living Christ. It was a great week to deal with blocks to this creative flow, to visit with other writers, to learn from knowledgeable and experienced leaders who patiently give of themselves, and to enjoy the setting of the St. Gertrude's Monastery on the side of a hill overlooking the Camas Prairie. Like the door project at home, this was a week that depended on a dedicated time for focus, intentionality, hard work, and a desire to partner with God in the creative process.

This fall as we see the seasons in transition, look at your own life and what God is doing to creatively reveal grace and love. Explore what blocks you're dealing with, and invite God to create a door, and then open it into the sensitivity and spaciousness of awakened faith.

Peace and All Good,

Pastor Andy



PEACE GARDEN

On September 15, a handful of church members gathered for a day of labor, putting their muscle and effort into the creative process of landscaping. The Peace Garden is a place of welcome for the entire community, a gift of sanctuary to help people find their center. On that day, the birch tree was given a boost at holding on to life as grass sod was removed around the base and replaced by mulch to help water and air reach the roots. This may slow the process of disease and decay, which is beginning as it works its way down from the crown. Several loads of sod were removed, and several loads of mulch were brought that day and in a few follow-up days. Thanks to Don Helander for his trailer, and Bart Casey for the dump truck! Thanks to the people whose muscles reminded them later that they'd helped!

A Little Free Library Box was also installed that day. An article in Back Home Magazine (July/August 2014, pages 14-15) describes this movement, which started in 2009 in Wisconsin, and Little Free Libraries are now “springing up around the world in front yards, community gardens, parks, and public spaces. These watertight boxes sit in publicly accessible places and invite people to share books. They are built and curated by volunteers who love books, love their communities, and want to find ways to connect the two.”

Lynn Anderson created the custom box for the church yard. This resembles Noah's Ark, as both a biblical story and a tribute to the Ark feature which children once played on in the church yard, but was removed several years ago. Benches will be placed around the Little Free Library Ark so people can rest, read, and connect with other neighbors.



MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Membership and Outreach committee oversees many ministries within the church such as retreats, peacemaking, social justice, highway litter clean-up and getting outside the church walls and into the neighborhood in various ways. In September, a Membership and Outreach Job Description was approved in the Session meeting. The purpose is stated: “The Membership and Outreach Ministry helps FPC friends and members engage in the larger community to put faith into action in positive ways. Connecting with others in a deep way helps to establish relationships. God is relational and experiential.”

Session also approved a new position called Bonner County Human Rights Task Force Liaison. Many thanks to Lynn Pietz for bringing this proposal forward. Lynn has already met with Brenda Hammond, BCHRTF President, and will bring BCHRTF information forward so members and friends of FPC will know more about what’s going on regarding local human rights efforts. We look forward to hearing from Lynn in future newsletter blurbs.

Coming up soon is the day-long retreat called, “An Autumn Pilgrimage for Your Soul”, set for Saturday, October 13th. It will be a day exploring faithful journey by using a tool called a labyrinth. Walking a labyrinth is an ancient Christian spiritual tool or contemplative practice where one can experience the twists and turns of life’s journey exploring where we’ve been and where God may be leading. We were approached by Jolie Monasterio when she heard FPC is planning to install a labyrinth as part of the Peace Garden ministry. Jolie graduated from Gonzaga with a masters-level degree in Spirituality. Labyrinth journey is her specialty and she leads retreats world-wide. We are very fortunate to have such a facilitator as close as Spokane. If you are curious about pilgrimage and journey, please join us!

There is a Peacemaking event around the Peace Pole set for Friday, November 2nd, at noon. The program is in development and will include prayers, poems, songs and sharing about peace. November 2nd is World Community Day and it will be a great way to celebrate peace and community. If you are interested in helping with this event, please see Lynn Pietz, Margaret Ann Maricle, Pastor Andy or Judy Labrie.

There is a lot to be thankful for going into this lovely autumn.
Blessings on your journey,
Judy Labrie, M & O committee moderator



An Autumn Pilgrimage for Your Soul

"On most spiritual journeys, it is the road that teaches us the best way to get *there*, and the road enriches us as we walk its length."

Paulo Coelho, *The Pilgrimage*

All Are Welcome

Join us for a Day of Reflection and Meditation
as we Journey together on a
Chartres-style Canvas Labyrinth

Saturday, October 13, 2018

8:30 am- 3:00 pm

\$35 suggested donation includes lunch

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint

417 N Fourth Ave

Registration Deadline: October 8th (space is limited)

To register contact Judy at office@fpcsandpoint.org or 208-290-3119

Scholarships are available

Jolie Monasterio is a Labyrinth Facilitator with over 20 years of experience leading ecumenical and interfaith retreats and workshops. Combining her expertise and passion for spiritual growth, Jolie offers an unique perspective on the many uses of the labyrinth as a spiritual tool.

Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral



Enter above on the right side. Use your finger to follow the path.

Join us again this year for
A Concert &
Sunday Worship Service
First Presbyterian Church
417 N Fourth Ave., Sandpoint
Sunday, October 21, 10:30 am



Living Sacrifice Christian Ministry Choir
Neema Youth Choir
Of Spokane
Praising God together with music from refugee children from all over the world.
www.fpcsandpoint.org
Phone: 208-263-2047

At the First Presbyterian Church, Sandpoint, Sunday, October 21, 10:30 a.m., The Living Sacrifice Christian Ministry Choir of Spokane will be presenting a concert at our Sunday worship service. This youth choir is made up of children, refugees from countries in Africa, such as Sudan, Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi South Africa, and Tanzania. They range in age from 10 to 17 years of age.

All of these children came here with brothers and sisters, but only one child came with both parents; others came with mothers and aunts. Being in a new country with a different culture and language can be traumatizing, making for a difficult adjustment. Singing is therapeutic, a healing factor in their lives as they navigate the American culture.

Most African style music is played using hand percussion instruments. They are excited and eager to learn something new, so they gather once or twice a week to learn different instruments. A group goal is for each child to learn how to play all the instruments: drums, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, and keyboard.

There has been a very positive response in Spokane to the children; the community loves their performances in the Spokane Folk Festival, Bloomsday events, and different churches on Sundays.

This Neema (born in grace) youth choir has been in existence since 2007, and officially as a choir since 2010. Similar choirs also exist in Fargo, North Dakota and in Boise, Idaho.

Please join us for music, dance, and the joy of youth in our Sunday worship service!

CELEBRATE WITH US

On Sunday, October 21, Coffee Hour will include birthday cake to celebrate Marilyn Robertson's 80th birthday.

Please join us!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women began their new term in September with a planning meeting followed by the first chapter of the study book by Barbara Taylor Brown, "*Learning to Walk in the Dark.*"

The rummage sale was October 5-6 and proceeds totaled \$921.66. Thank you to all who helped and supported us.

Our meeting on October 9th included a program on Proposition 2 (expanding Medicaid in Idaho). Contact Susie Haskins or Barbara Rolph if you need a ride to future meetings.

FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Thank you one and all for participating in Fellowship. Fellowship is about the time we spend together, more than the food we consume. We want to stress that if you have signed up or been volunteered for Fellowship, an elaborate spread is not necessary. The design is more a nibble with some coffee, tea or other drink. So please don't feel obligated to purchase a great deal of food. Anyone can help clean up, OR anyone can look at the list and tell the assigned person you would be willing to help them put the dishes away - that really reduces the load and the time spent. If you have questions or suggestions please contact me at Carol@curtisteam.org OR 208-290-5947.

NOMINATING

Nominating is a subcommittee under Session that is tasked with finding people to fill specific positions or jobs. Some jobs are committee level - like Personnel, Memorial Fund, and Nominating. Some jobs are being a Deacon (helping others and helping with Fellowship), and some positions are on Session. The specific assignment on Session is made after training is done and the group is assembled. Currently there is an opening in Building and Grounds. There is an opening on Deacons also. Some terms are one year and some are longer. When a committee is formed, it is usually comprised of a person from Session, a Deacon (sometimes), a Presbyterian Women representative (sometimes), and a member at large. Committees generally meet as needed. This is different than volunteering for Membership and Outreach, Peace Garden Committee, Building (Front Entry) Project, or Earth Care.

There are a great deal of opportunities. Please contact me if you would like more information, or feel free to ask a person who is currently serving in an area that may interest you. We need people to participate in order for things to run smoothly, and for a few people to not be overwhelmed. Thank you for giving this some serious consideration. Call or email me with questions, suggestions or to get more information.

BUILDING FRONT ENTRY PROJECT

We want to be 100% sure everyone knows the status of this initiative. For many months, we have been slowly moving forward, gathering information, and determining how to get a new FPC front entry. Specifically, this means removing the old iron railing on the sides, fixing the cement, and planning the finances for a new Timber Frame entry. Why? The cover of the front entry is not attractive and is very worn and falling apart. New canvas is far more expensive than it seems. The iron railing is not a reliable safety barrier. This committee needs a chairperson, but has been moving forward as it can. We paid for renderings from Reid Weber, who works now for Boden Architecture. We set out the drawings in Fellowship Hall and people were able to see 3 different designs. The majority gravitated to the Timber Frame presentation. We got two bids and the lower of the two was about \$36,000. This number is after the cost of pulling a permit and presenting finalized plans to the City - about \$4,000.

At the end of the month, on October 28, 2018, a presentation will be made in the sanctuary directly after the service. The goal of the SHORT presentation is to ensure that the congregation understands:

1. Why should we do this?
2. What does it cost – any additional questions about the estimates.
3. How will we pay for it?
4. What is the benefit - both in terms of structural maintenance and looking like a healthy inviting place to attend?
5. What concerns could you have and what is the tradeoff to doing something different or doing nothing?

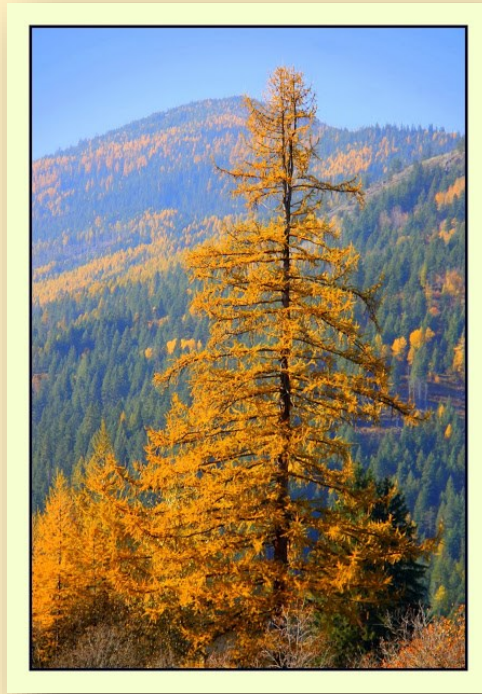
This project is important, but it really won't be successful unless we are all tuned in. At this late stage, 2018 funds that would be expended would likely be about \$4,000 for the finalization of the drawings and the permit, which is good for a year; extensions are also possible. Funds would be raised, and some church funds would be proposed for allocation, to ensure we are ready to pay when the project starts. Although concrete can be repaired in the Fall, contractors have been swamped, so likely nothing structural will happen in 2018.

We welcome your participation by attending the presentation, and by considering involvement on the committee. The committee, which has been orchestrated to date by Cynthia Dalsing, (THANKS CYNTHIA) is looking for a captain to keep this on track and to communicate regular updates.

Submitted,

Carol Curtis, Committee Member

October Birthdays



(photo by Marianne Love)

10/1	Carol Curtis
10/7	Barney Ballard
10/11	Robert Meigs
10/15	Barry Gage
10/17	Judy Farmin
10/19	Marilyn Robertson
10/20	Wesley Dustman
10/31	Dolly Maddox

Calendar Announcements

October

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| 1—7 | Pastor Study Leave, St. Gertrude's Monastery |
| 5—6 | PW Rummage Sale |
| 13 | Labyrinth Retreat— 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. |
| 14 | Deacons Meeting—8:00 a.m. |
| 16 | Session Meeting—Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. |
| 21 | Deacons Meeting—Sunday at 8:00 a.m. |
| 21 | Neema Youth Choir during worship—10:30 a.m. |
| 21 | Birthday Celebration after worship for Marilyn Robertson's 80th birthday |
| 24 | Music Conservatory Vocal Recital—7:00 p.m. |
| 28 | Reformation Sunday and Front Entry Presentation |



Regular Monthly Events

Sunday Worship—10:30 a.m. beginning September 9, Fellowship, following service

Adult Christian Education—We are reading a book published by the Center for Action and Contemplation, the Richard Rohr group, called *Oneing – Anger*

Monday 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon

Tuesday Book Study Group—1:30 p.m.

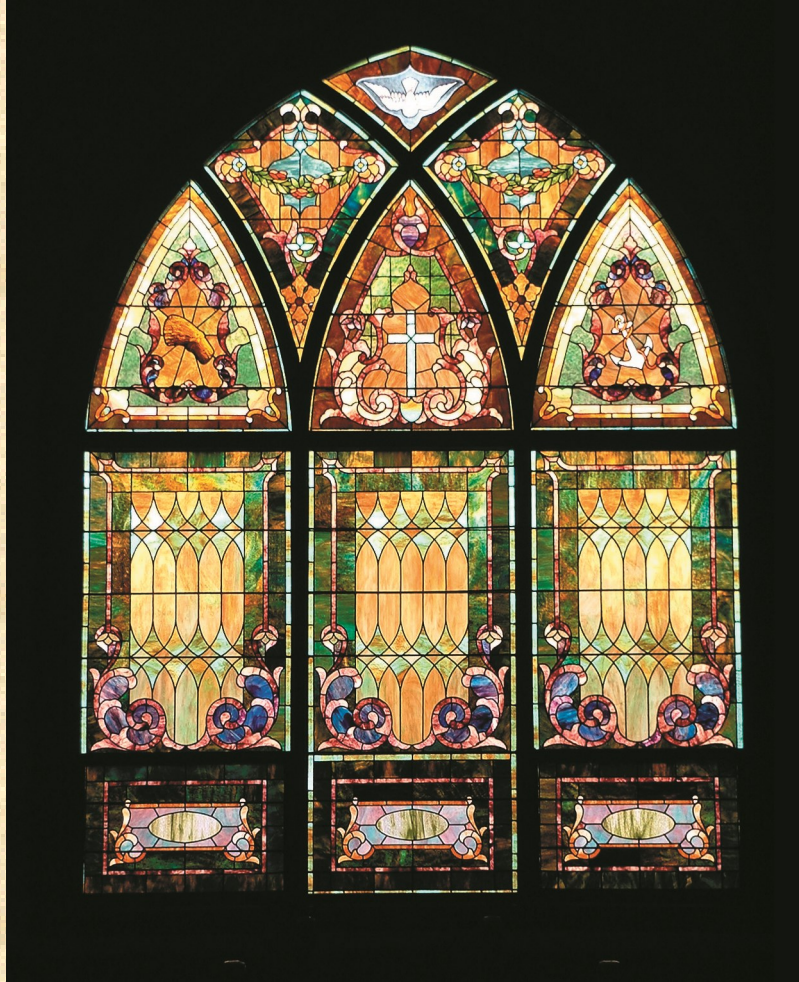
Contemplative Prayer Group—3:00 p.m.

Choir Practice—5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Church Breakfast— has been cancelled

Thursday 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

7:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

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pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

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