



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 June 2024

From the Pastor...

A couple years ago when I went on silent retreat in Snowmass, Colorado for ten days, the retreat group gathered for Centering Prayer early in the morning before dawn, and a few more times throughout the day. We also had the opportunity to participate in evening vespers with the Benedictine monastic community down in the chapel. This was the monastery where Father Thomas Keating lived and served, and he helped renew contemplative traditions so others can experience a deeper faith journey even without living at a monastery.

Although he died at age 95 in 2018, the sense of his influence was palpable for me on that trip to Colorado. I especially liked the bookstore, and I've never seen any like it before or since. The titles and topics were like a reflection of my interests, practices, and intentions.

In a homily in 2007, Father Keating shared about peace. In his insightful way, he explores the difference between *peacemakers* and *peace lovers*. Since I mention peace in my sermons rather often, this distinction caught my eye. He says, "Peacemakers are the voices of the voiceless. They are those who are not afraid to confront. They don't let themselves be distressed by most things, but when there is an issue of serious importance, they have a voice. They speak out. Peace lovers like everything as it is, for fear of losing the kind of peace that they mistake for the true peace that Jesus brings. ..."

I admit to being a *peace lover*, for so often going to my default, basing my understanding of peace on just that, my understanding, which is limited. It is no wonder that when things change it makes me anxious, especially if people become upset in the process or there's lots of details to keep up with, or what I value seems threatened. I want things to be smooth and predictable. I love peace, but this does mask a deeper fear, probably of the C word, (change).

Peacemaker is what I aspire to and a quality in which I find courage. When I am a peacemaker, it brings me into alignment with Jesus in a way that builds trust. Jesus gives a peace beyond understanding. The world needs peacemakers, faithful, loving followers of Christ who lend their voice to what needs said, and match their inner most desires to serve God with their actions. No matter what distress this brings, anxiety cannot claim a rightful foothold.

I have been somewhat distressed as I watch yet another church in our presbytery come to an end, close their doors (Westminster in Spokane). It is a demographic, an active dynamic that congregations do, what I call, "aging out." Membership declines, and those that remain are not able to maintain the building or the ministry as they did in the past.

This is not only local, but that monastery in Colorado I mentioned also has closed. Most of the monks died, and the four remaining ones who were there when I visited cannot carry the burden. The wonderful bookstore is gone. My retreat may have been the last one, as the retreat center is now in a phase of discernment, and the fate of the property (it is a massive ranch just outside of Aspen) is undecided.

I am so glad I was able to go. It was a peaceful time sitting in prayer in the pre-dawn dark while coyotes howled across the mountain-ringed valley. I enjoyed the walk up the 8,000-foot peak to immerse myself (along with the local elk herd) in the Rocky Mountains just before a late-winter snow squall. It was amazing, and peaceful enough to appreciate Father Keating's point: to not be a peace lover, but a peacemaker, and keep the mission of Jesus Christ as the focus for all decisions and actions on ministry in and through my life, both within and beyond the church. Anxiety is not worth it. Confidence in God's sovereignty is more inspiring to live by, even though it may shake things up.

We welcome more groups as the life of the church opens to the community (as the Gardenia Center closes), and continue with the development of a mission statement for use of the church facility as a tool of outreach for Jesus Christ (a presbytery cohort process). May God help us in this to be peacemakers. We do not have the luxury of "keeping everything as it is, for fear of losing," for those days are gone for the church. A dynamic faith calls us forward, and from the grounded Presence in our heart, we can respond. To nurture heart-space is of utmost importance, and contemplative practices are helpful for this experience of soul exploration.

Many years ago in the church yard, we took down the chain link fence. We felt the expansiveness of a yard with no barrier, and made the intention to open ourselves to the community. We drafted a design, and the first installment was a Peace Pole that reads, "May Peace prevail on Earth" in eight languages. This is more than a nice sentiment, for we desire to make what it says become reality. Although this is not an easy task, let us strive to be Peacemakers.

Peace and All Good,

Pastor Andy



Membership, Outreach, Mission

THE WESLEY BELL RINGERS CONCERT, TUESDAY, June 18

The Wesley Bell Ringers, a music ministry of Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City, UT, will perform at First Presbyterian Church in Sandpoint on Tuesday, June 18th at 7:30pm.

This will be the ninth concert on the choir's 58th annual Summer Tour and will feature 16 teenaged ringers playing more than 150 handbells and hand chimes. More information on the Bell choir and the concert is listed at the end of this article.



REQUEST TO THE CONGREGATION

Our congregation will be hosting the Bell Ringers and their chaperones. To do this, we will be providing a BBQ dinner on the church lawn and organizing accommodations for the ringers and chaperones in homes in the Sandpoint community.

Please contact Lynn Pietz to host a bell ringer(s) and/or chaperone(s) and Judy McComish to assist with the BBQ dinner.

HOST SIGN UP

Hosts provide housing on Tuesday night & light breakfast early on Wednesday morning.

Team leader: Lynn Pietz 208-597-6911; lynnpietz21@gmail.com

Please provide Lynn with the following information if you can provide housing: Name, home stay contact information (address, phone), beds per room/bed type, number of guests you can host (youth and/or chaperone), pets (one youth is allergic to cats, dogs, and horses; several are allergic to cats).

Membership, Outreach, Mission (cont.)

BBQ DINNER SIGN UP

Menu: BBQ on Church lawn – burgers, veggie burgers, salmon burgers, sides, desserts (There are youth with allergies & dietary restrictions)

Team leader: Judy McComish, 734-558-5841, jfmccomish@wayne.edu

Please provide Judy with the following information if you can help with the dinner: Name, contact information, help with food (contribute food, purchase food, prep food), other help (set up, serve, clean up).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE WESLEY BELL RINGERS

The Wesley Bell Ringers was formed in 1963, over 60 years ago! Since then more than 500 youth have participated in the choir. The choir developed a reputation for musical excellence that continues to open doors to exciting opportunities for the youth. The previous 57 summer tours have taken the choir to all 50 states and all but one of the Canadian provinces. They have performed at the US Capitol, Cathedral of the Pines National Monument, Mt. Rushmore, George Washington Masonic Memorial, Disneyland, and Disneyworld. The choir has participated as the featured choir at numerous handbell festivals around the United States and performed for The National Music Educators convention. Performances with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and The Utah Symphony Orchestra have been repeated honors over the choir's history. In 2017, the choir was invited to record with *The Piano Guys* on their album *Christmas Together*.

This year, the choir is thrilled to be invited to perform a solo concert as the featured youth choir at the *Ringin' Up!* Festival on June 15th, hosted by Area 11 of the Handbell Musicians of America.

Highlights from the 2024 summer concert include Disney's *Go The Distance*, Léon Boëllmann's *Toccata from Suite Gothique*, Sondra Tucker's *Christmas Kaleidoscope*, and commissioned selections from noted handbell composers Kevin McChesney and Joel Raney.

May Session meeting notes and highlights

The Session met for its regular May meeting on May 15. We gathered at 1:30 but spent the first half hour working on getting our computers connected to the electronic agenda and documents uploaded to our new working site created by Paula Vincent. (Thank you, Paula!) There are some growing pains with transitioning away from a paper copy of all the documents to a more “paper on demand” model, but it’s working. As we become accustomed to a new “digital” platform, our use of paper for Session should reduce greatly.

Moderator Pastor Andy led prayer to open our meeting at 1:55. Sue Helander, Sylvia Humes, Judy McComish, Mary Sturgis, Kirsten Thompson, and Paula Vincent were in attendance. Sharon Anderson and Judy Labrie were absent.

Session business included ratifying email decisions approving use of the church for Saturday AA meetings at 7 a.m., and Wednesday Community meals from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both groups had previously met at the Gardenia Center. The Suzuki string ensemble will be using the sanctuary to rehearse from 3:30 – 5 p.m. May 14, 21, and June 5.

Additional building uses approved by Session include the monthly district meeting on the second Saturday of each month for the AA group Attitude Adjustment, Living Sober AA group on Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 p.m., and Music Bridges Borders on Monday July 29. These groups will all be paying rental or building use fees. Use of the downstairs room for the Metaphysical Group from the Gardenia Center on Sunday afternoon was authorized. Mark Reiner from the Gardenia Center indicated that this space would not work for them.

Given the added use of our building by community groups, the Session voted on amendments to the building use policy, to include a \$25 refundable key deposit for keys issued, and a fee for late cancellation of building use – all necessary to help defray the costs of maintenance, preparation, heating/cooling etc. for building use. In the same vein, as there are more comings and goings, our building and furnishings are getting a closer look. Nine pews located in various locations will be sold, in favor of using chairs which are already owned by the church. These pews include the entry lobby area, the area behind the piano and choir, the top of the ramp area and the back of the church. Chairs will provide more flexible and comfortable seating.

May Session meeting notes, cont.

The Session approved scheduling a church yard sale on June 1st to help with the continuing efforts from Building and Grounds to clean up unused corners of the church grounds to create a more welcoming and streamlined environment for all church users. The Session also approved some new items, including a new water heater in the kitchen, new digital locks for the Alder Street entrance, “panic” or emergency bars for exits which currently lack them, and new security lighting. These upgrades are intended to enhance the mission of the church to our larger community and as a result, Session authorized utilizing the Mission/Deacons fund for these expenses. Tree trimming of the maple trees on the Alder Street side of the church was also authorized and will come out of the church’s regular maintenance budget.

Christian Education will be on recess for the summer after May 19. Pastor Andy will be working with Sharon Anderson about next fall’s offering.

The Personnel Committee moved and the session approved \$1000 for education cost for Pastor Andy for a labyrinth summer school in Maryland this July. If expenses are higher, a second request may be made.

A bid has been received for assisted listening devices for use in Worship from Sandpoint Computer. More information will be gathered before making a decision.

With the closing of the Gardenia Center, First Presbyterian Sandpoint is experiencing the opportunity and challenge of considering how best to welcome new community groups that have a long history of service in Sandpoint. It’s an exciting time!

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 – a bit later than our agreed time of 3 p.m., as we worked on getting up to speed with electronics and finishing a full agenda!

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Thompson, Clerk of Session

Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

June 2024

Stewardship Reflection

The recent Memorial Day holiday often marks the unofficial start of summer. Many of us will have travel plans that periodically take us away from Sunday worship in Sandpoint. Even when you are not able to participate in weekly worship at FPC, your gifts continue to support the ministry and mission outreach. Perhaps you have noticed the many new groups making use of the church facilities for meetings, weekly meal outreach, and the periodic concerts or special events. All of this is possible thanks to your support. May you experience the joy of generosity through sharing your gifts of time, talents, and resources this summer.

Finance Summary

Budgeted through May 19: **\$50,769**

Received through May 19: **\$49,251**

Expenses through April 30: **\$47,455**

Per Capita Received: \$1004

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vincent, Elder
Stewardship, Finance, Memorial

Building Use

The first half of 2024 has been busy for building use requests, and it is wonderful to see so many people enjoy the spaces in the church facility. The sanctuary acoustics and “bright” piano continue to be a draw for music concerts, rehearsals, and recitals. Performances include the Music Conservatory, Festival at Sandpoint Youth Orchestra, Bella Noté Music Studios, Suzuki Strings Academy, and the Sandpoint Piano Group.

Two families requested use of Fellowship Hall and the kitchen: one for a baby shower and the other a celebration of life gathering.

One major uptick in requests for meeting space has come from the sale and clearing out of the Gardenia Center’s building. For example, the dedicated crew that has been hosting the Wednesday Soup Kitchen have been providing a soup lunch to the community for decades. Now they will be serving out of the FPC kitchen every Wednesday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. With the Soup Kitchen comes a change in space usage in cupboards and the storage areas. That group is also bringing a refrigerator, upright freezer, a newer dish washer, and storage shelves.

Several Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings and the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meeting that were at the Gardenia Center have relocated to FPC. We also continue to provide space for the ongoing meetings of Al-Anon on Monday evenings and Thursdays at noon.

By making the building available, church members and friends support the larger community by providing affordable meeting rooms in downtown Sandpoint. Spread from the downstairs choir practice room to the Fireside Room, on every day of the week there is one or more meetings somewhere in the facility.

Every request to use building space comes with gratitude and appreciation that there is a place for their performance, group, meeting, or family gathering. It is truly a blessing to be of service in this way.

Sincerely,

Judy Labrie, Building Use Committee

Building and Grounds

Three Claps for:

Sylvia Humes, Dave and Mary Sturgis, Pastor Andy and Shawna Kennaly, Judy Labrie, Sally Moon, Donna Bricker, Lexie De Fremery, Annie Welle and Don Helander, for taking time to beautify highway 95 on May 18th. The group picked up 16 extra large trash bags.

Church Clean-up: many thanks to Paula Vincent, Judy Labrie, Mary Sturgis, Lynn and Dave Pietz, and Pastor Andy and Shawna Kennaly for their efforts at tidying up the gardens, kitchen, and sanctuary, as well as decluttering the closets and basement.

Best,

Sue Helander

Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who has been stepping up to manage Fellowship after church. It is so appreciated!

Just a reminder that the signup sheet should always be at the end of the food table. If you are moved to help out, there are complete instructions hanging at the end of the sink on the cork board. Coffee instructions are in the marked coffee cabinet. There are always folks ready to help you.

Thank you again for helping to bring our church family even closer.

Sylvia Humes

Elder



Family Favorites

Welcome to our new newsletter column, featuring family favorite recipes. Do you have a treasured (non-copyrighted!) family recipe that you'd like to share with the church family? Drop them off in the church office or email them to Dana at Office@fpcsandpoint.org. Please share a little info about the person who created the recipe, if you can.

This month's recipe is one Dana got from her grandmother, Ada Phillips, who was a member here in the 1970's-1990's. Ada was a beloved 2nd grade teacher at Washington Elementary for most of her career, while she raised two children (Geri and Bud) as a single mother. Ada loved to bake and always had goodies in the house for anyone who came to visit. Her spring rhubarb cobbler is perfect for this time of year. Dana likes to sometimes add some sliced almonds to the topping. It's delicious served warm on its own or with whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

SPRING RHUBARB COBBLER – Ada Phillips

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 3 cups diced rhubarb | 1 cup sifted flour |
| 2 cups sugar, divided | ½ tsp salt |
| 2 tbsp butter | 2 tsp baking powder |
| 1 cup water | ¼ cup shortening |
| | 1 egg |

Measure rhubarb into a greased 8-inch square baking pan; sprinkle with 1 cup sugar and dot with butter. Pour water over all. Place in 350° oven while mixing remaining ingredients. Sift dry ingredients; cut in shortening and egg until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle mixture over hot rhubarb. Continue baking at 350° for 40 to 50 minutes.



HANDBELLS AT FPC SANDPOINT

In the mid-1970s, Lois Scott, the spouse of Rev. Jim Scott, encouraged the church to acquire a basic set of handbells to expand our musical offerings during worship services. With her musical background, she had experience playing and conducting handbell choirs.

The initial growth of the handbell program evolved into three choirs encompassing all ages - Dingalings (junior high), Westminster (high school), and Adult. Dana and Lynne Stockman along with Steve Neuder played together during these early years. Dana recalls playing while in the 6th grade as she became a valuable substitute in the choirs due to her ability to sight read music.

As the program grew, Lois attended a national handbell clinic led by Donald Allured, a nationally acclaimed bell choir master teacher, conductor, composer and arranger from Lake Charles, Louisiana. Lois passed along this valuable experience to elevate the skill level of our handbell choirs.

(Personal Note: Lois was extremely surprised when I told her that one of Mr. Allured's sons, Tim, was a college classmate of mine. I occasionally visited the Methodist church to listen to amazing music performed by Donald's vocal and handbell choirs. Services were always followed with a home-cooked meal with the Allured family.)

Under Lois Scott's leadership, our handbell choirs travelled to handbell festivals at Pacific Lutheran University and Northwest Nazarene College. There was a "West Coast Tour" that performed at Presbyterian Churches in western Washington and Vancouver Island. Our handbell choir participated in the Sandpoint Fourth of July parade.

Following Lois Scott's initiation of the program, Terry Jenkins, Jim Shirrell, and Jennifer Carter directed handbell choirs at FPC Sandpoint. Coming full circle, our most recent handbell director was Lois' granddaughter, Amy Scott.

As we prepare to host The Wesley Bell Ringers from Christ United Church, Salt Lake City, Utah on June 18, may we recognize our rich history of handbell music. Over the past half-century, there are many fingerprints, wearing gloves, of course, on our valuable and cherished handbells. We appreciate the Music Conservatory of Sandpoint for their careful stewardship of our instruments. Afterall, handbells are made for ringing.

Thanks to Dana Stockman for sharing her recollections of performing handbell music in our church for many years.

Bill Love



Contact updates

Judy Labrie brings us news from our friend Anna Bates.

Just had a nice telephone conversation with Anna Bates in Reno. She's doing well and wanted me to pass along her warm greetings.

Anna is involved in a local Presbyterian Church there. Her sister Louise died this spring so Anna had traveled a couple of times to Louise's place in southern CA. Also she just got back from traveling to two separate graduations; nephew's kids, I think.

For the past year and a half she's had a part-time job working as a relief house manager at a faith-based safe house residential program where women who come from jail or prison or rehab to live for 90 days. It's a very structured program. She stays over on Sunday from noon till Monday at 9:00 am. That's quite a commitment!!

Her sister, Elaine, who lives in Reno, is still a big part of Anna's life, as is her church.

It was great to visit with Anna. If you feel inspired to reach out, here is her contact information.

Anna Bates
(775) 448-6085
trucker26541@gmail.com
7000 Mae Anne Ave, # 1316
Reno, NV 89523

And here is Jim Shirrell's new address:

Jim Shirrell
702 N Hwy 95, Apt. 318
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-290-0403
jimshirrell@hotmail.com

REMEMBERING REVEREND BOB BURDETT

Interim Pastor 2008 - 2011

While driving from Des Moines, Iowa to Sandpoint, Idaho in September 2008, the Rev. Bob Burdett answered my call on his cell phone. We had just received a request to hold a funeral service for a Sandpoint resident who had no connection with our church. Furthermore, the service would take place the day after Bob's arrival as our interim pastor. Without hesitation, he answered in the affirmative.

A couple days later on a Friday afternoon, Bob parked his Ford mini-van towing a small U-Haul trailer in the church alley. As an experienced interim pastor, the first items unloaded included a garment bag containing a suit and pastoral vestments along with a file box with his bible, worship materials and a sermon. He arrived fully prepared for a funeral and Sunday worship.

Rev. Burdett came highly recommended as he and our presbytery executive, Rick Meline, pastored in the same South Dakota presbytery years earlier. Bob later became an interim pastor, mostly with small churches in the Midwest. Perhaps Bob had mistaken Idaho for Iowa when he accepted our invitation to come to Sandpoint.

Bob's wife, Misty, remained in Iowa maintaining her career. Bob returned home twice each year while Misty and one of his daughters, Maegan, visited Sandpoint on several occasions. These long-distance relationships were normal for this "circuit preacher."

We quickly discovered that Bob had a beautiful baritone voice. After singing in our choir, he later volunteered to put his Indiana University music degree and experience leading an US Army chorus in Germany to use by becoming our choir director. Sacred music from the classical period was his forte.

Dyno Wahl recently described Bob's sermons as lengthy. I confirmed that he spent hours preparing them and thoroughly expounding upon the lectionary texts. We left the sanctuary each Sunday with multiple take-home messages.

Rev. Burdett initially moderated session meetings using Robert's (Burdett) Rules of Order. Over time, however, he laxed the formality and became comfortable with our western, laid-back style of conducting the business of the church.

Bob guided our pastor nominating committee through the structured process of calling a new pastor. His hands-off approach allowed us navigate at our own pace of discernment while offering key advice and encouragement when needed.

Bob Burdett pastored our congregation almost three years until Pastor Andy Kennaly's arrival in May 2011. He retired in 2018, at the age of 84, after serving the Presbyterian Church in Dunbar, Nebraska. He passed away on March 19, 2024, at his home in Van Meter, Iowa.

During his first worship service in Sandpoint, Bob asked us to pray for him as he promised to pray for each of us. Now we pray for the blessings that he brought to First Presbyterian Church, Sandpoint and other congregations during his many years of ministry. We support his family with our thoughts and prayers.

Peace,
Bill Love, Elder

Yard Sale

Announcing a pop-up yard sale on the church lawn on **Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.**

If you would like to help set-up, work the sale and / or clean-up, your participation will be appreciated. Meet at church at 7:30 am to move items to the lawn or show up any time to lend a hand.

No time to help? Do come and shop the sale! Funds generated will be used for furthering the building ministry of the church.

A result of the new meetings and Wednesday Soup Kitchen shifting over from the Gardenia Center has been clearing out cupboard and cabinet space for group literature, food and appliance storage.

Several members of FPC have cleared space and found many things that have not been used for years. So, just like in homes after spring cleaning, there are many things that need to go.

In addition to the yard sale, session members approved the sale of 9 pews; 5 of the longest and 4 of the shorter pews. If you know anyone who might be interested in owning a historic pew, have them contact Judy Labrie at 208-290-3119.





- June 1** **Church yard sale, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- June 2** **Installation service for Reverend Duane Fister
First Lutheran Church, 526 S Olive Street, 2:00 p.m.,
reception following**
- June 18** **The Wesley Bell Ringers handbell concert, 7:30 p.m.**

JUNE



6/9 Jean Babcock
6/9 Cynthia Dalsing
6/11 Dana Stockman
6/14 Sue Helander
6/19 Bart Casey
6/22 Jackie Windju
6/25 Millie Rinker
6/29 Sharon Anderson

Regular Monthly Events



Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. Worship, In-Person and Livestream (<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyteriansandpoint>) - change to summer hours!
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Monday-Saturday

- 7:00 a.m. AA meeting

Monday

- 9:00 a.m. TOPS meeting (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
- 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting

Tuesday

- 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Wednesday

- 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Rainbow Soup Kitchen community meal
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting

Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon meeting
- 7:00 p.m. AA meeting



First Presbyterian Church

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Ministers

Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

Office hours

Tuesday 9:00-12:00

Wednesday 9:00-11:00