

*A publication of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries  
McMinnville United Methodist ~ Trinity Lutheran*

*Come join us for  
Ash Wednesday  
service at 7pm in  
the Sanctuary,  
Feb 17th*

## *Behold I am about to do a new thing...*

It is God who said that (Isaiah 43:19), not me. But it turns out that what God said to the people of Israel about 2,500 years ago, is also true for all of us today.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Joanne and I will be moving to Bend, Oregon where I will report as the Assistant to the Bishop for the Central District of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Central District covers all of Oregon east of the Cascade crest. It is a large and very sparsely populated region with widely scattered congregations of loyal and faithful United Methodists. My job will be to help these congregations sustain and expand their purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I am looking forward to this new challenge.

But there is grief as well. Joanne and I have been here in McMinnville for 12 years. It has truly become home for us, both the community and this amazing and wonderful church. You have taken permanent residence on our hearts. We could not love a place and people more than we love you and this place. To leave is a very difficult decision, but one that we are making, confident that it is God's calling to us at this time.

I have no doubts that the Cooperative Ministries will continue to thrive and grow. God is doing a great work in this community and the best has not yet been imagined, let alone seen. It will be a continuing blessing and encouragement to Joanne and me to hear of the new things that will continue to emerge here as God shows us all the future into which we are called.

We ask you all to let faith and hope sustain you through this transition. We know that you will welcome and embrace whoever comes to serve as your new Methodist pastor with love and anticipation. She or he will bring new gifts and graces that will help you discover the new thing God is doing. Keep Joanne and me in your prayers as well so that we can embrace what God is doing in and through this new phase in our journey of faith.

Praise God that we have a few months to learn to walk through this transition. God is about to do a new thing. Surely the one who has begun this work in us is capable of bringing it to full completion. And besides, if there is one thing we all know here, we can change. See you in church.

*Pastor Steve*

### *Also in this issue:*

- A message from District Superintendent Kate Connolly, pg. 2
- Faith Into Action, pg. 3
- Halcyon Trio Oregon to perform, pg. 3
- Fairly Fabulous, pg. 4
- Attitude of Gratitude, pg. 4
- Mini-Muffin Café, pg. 5
- Red Hat luncheon, pg. 5
- Young Families, pg. 6

## *A Message from Kate*

Dear Members and Friends of McMinnville Cooperative Parish—Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It has been one of the great joys of my ministry serving the United Methodist congregations in the Western District to witness the birth of the Co-op. I watched and listened with great interest as Steve and Mark started the first tentative conversations about how the two congregations could share work together in ministry. It has been a delight to watch those very early conversations between two pastors turn into a shared vision of their congregations that has led to such a healthy, vital and thriving ministry in downtown McMinnville today.

I will be working very closely with your Leadership Committee as we move into this very critical change of leadership on the United Methodist side. You are blessed by the joint Lutheran and United Methodist leadership of the committee in the persons of Ron Pittman and Patty Munday. I have already met very preliminarily with your Leadership Committee when Steve shared the news with them. I will be returning on January 27<sup>th</sup> to meet with them again. This will give us an opportunity to spend time discussing what kind of pastoral leadership is most needed to succeed Steve at the Co-op at this time. I will be listening very carefully. I also want you to know I heard loud and clear the concerns that were expressed to me after the announcement on Sunday.

On Sunday, I invited the committee to join me in prayer that God will reveal to us the right person at this time in the life of the Co-op. I am asking for your prayers as well. It has been my experience again and again that God is so faithful to provide the leadership that is needed.

For those of you who are either acquainted with a call system or have not been in a congregation where there was a change, this next bit of the process is going to be different for you. In a call system and in the normal way that the Co-op operates, there is transparent and open discussion before decisions are made. In the United Methodist system the next steps of this process will mostly occur behind the scenes, at confidential meetings involving your Leadership Team and the United Methodist conference leadership.

It may seem like nothing is happening in the coming weeks. I want to reassure you that your Leadership Team and I, along with my UM colleagues on the cabinet will be at work, it is just work that will be done in a confidential fashion. I wish I could give you a precise time for when there will be an announcement as to who the new pastor will be, but I cannot. We are committed to doing this well, even if it takes a little more time. Rest assured that even when you are not hearing anything the process is still moving forward faithfully.

Finally, I was very touched by the words of love and appreciation that I heard for Steve and his ministry, and your grief at his leaving. It has been a remarkable collaboration between clergy and laity who are willing to risk and change and the fruits are most evident. Please know that I will be holding all of you in prayer during these next months of transition, and that I believe with all my heart that what you have done at McMinnville will have a widespread impact on the health and vitality of many other congregations through Steve's leadership.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Kate Conolly  
Western District Superintendent

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## Why I Give

*“Inspired today to love and serve with all people in restoring all of creation to God’s loving embrace . . . “*

. . . I chose to become part of the particular people of the Cooperative Ministries to make that endeavor a reality. As I watched the emergence of the Cooperative Ministries, I became enthused that two critical biblical concepts were becoming a reality and a force in McMinnville. One is from Paul, who speaks often about the “Body of Christ” being a continued presence of the living Christ in the world. He stresses how that body is diverse and must move in unity. Over the centuries that hope has been hard pressed by human divisions; but I believe the Cooperative is making a genuine effort to truly be the Body of Christ in the world – diverse and unified.

The second concept comes from Jesus who spoke most often about the Kingdom of God. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is basically a training manual for Kingdom citizenship. It is awareness that leads to action, justice and compassion. I believe we at the Cooperative Ministries are striving to be good Kingdom citizens. It is a developmental process as Matthew’s gospel suggests, but we are committed to make our diversity be a unified witness of compassionate and just citizenship. That is why a Cooperative ministry excites me.

**“We cannot do this without your support – your time, your talents and your financial gifts.”**

- David Massey



## Halcyon Trio Oregon to perform

Jackie Van Paepeghem, soprano; our very own Joan Haaland Paddock, trumpet; Debra Huddleston, piano/organ - will present “Of Praise, Passion, Princes and Pancakes!” on Friday February 19th, 7:30 p.m., in Ice Auditorium at Melrose Hall, Linfield College. Sponsored by Linfield College Department of Music, Halcyon Trio Oregon will present the world premiere of a work recently written for them by Colin DeJong entitled “Le Petit Prince,” based on Antoine de Saint-Exupery’s book by that name. Mr. DeJong is a senior at Indiana University, Arnold Jacobs School of Music. In addition to this premiere, celebratory music of Alessandro Scarlatti and Archangelo Crotti will open the program, followed by “to cast a shadow again...” a cycle of passionate poetry hauntingly set to music by contemporary composer Eric Ewazen, Julliard professor of music. “Norwegian Folk Variations,” written for Halcyon Trio Oregon by Northwest composer Greg Bowers, will close the program. A tour-de-force drama, this storybook piece features, among others, a witch, Jack, a fiddle and a pancake. Admission is free - don’t miss this one! For more information call Donna Root, Linfield College Department of music, 503-883-2275.

## *Fair Trade Store: FAIRLY FABULOUS ONCE AGAIN!*

*by Win Martinson*

Our church's ministry to small-scale, low-income artisans in developing regions around the world, known as Fairly Fabulous Fair Trade, has completed its 5<sup>th</sup> year. Every purchase of our varied, enticing merchandise helps eradicate poverty – a pretty lofty mission for our modest operation, which just illuminates that promise we have from Scripture about the mustard seed.

Sales of \$3000 were consistent with the lower expectations of this year. Fewer items of merchandise were ordered to accommodate the mood of the times, which may have led to a case of self-fulfilling prophecy. This is not to discredit our accomplishment or our sense of deep satisfaction. Many of the new and unusual items sold out early while familiar merchandise and Christmas ornaments were our dependable cheer champions. Our excellent store was staffed with faithful volunteers who brought unique talents to their smooth-talking, warm-hearted on-duty hours. The names of those who volunteered 155 holiday hours are: Patsy Bixler (2 hrs.), Jean Bresee (1 hr.), Alexis Campbell (3 hrs.), Jan Carlile (3 hrs.), Linda Cruikshank (2 hrs.), Hannah DeMaster (6 hrs.), Roelie Goddik (4 hrs.), Terry Hall (10 hrs.), Chuck & Alice Howell (10 hrs.), Jo & Richard Jarvis (4 hrs.), Doreen Pittman (2 hrs.), Marianne McClellan (10 hrs.), Sue Meyer (14 hrs.), Jane Moore (8 hrs.), Jane Nielsen (5 hrs.), Annette Nelson (4 hrs.), Jeanne Rahier (9 hrs.), Carolyn Stastny (3 hrs.), Linda Taylor (8 hrs.), Connie Tetrault (2 hrs.), Joanne Walker (5 hrs.), Ann Wheeler (2 hrs.), Dar Keller-Kitts and John & Win Martinson (numerous hours). Dar, who also was long-suffering as cataloging assistant, handled recruiting and scheduling these committed volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who worked, browsed, purchased and prayed. Thanks to Kathy Campbell of Wednesday Wines for making the space for us again and helping out in many enormous ways. Our cause of helping to promote a sustainable way of life for workers in far away cooperatives, villages and farms will be blessed by the Lord and He will bless us, too, for our work with fairly fabulous pieces of opportunity and justice for all.

### *Attitude of Gratitude*

To the CoOp:

I want to express, from our staff and students, how much we appreciate your continued support of Sue Buel Elementary School. The personal contact and organization from Linda Cruikshank has helped make this a strong partnership. Our school has a population that is needy in many ways. 76% of our children are on free or reduced lunch. So many of our parents are struggling to buy food and pay rent. The continued giving from both Women's groups provides the money for the children's fund for special needs. We are able, with your contributions, to bring some help to some families by providing snacks, gifts, clothing, uniforms and essential items, such as glasses or shoes. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Yours for kids – Jan Allen, Buel School Counselor

NO-HAT-CREATION-92-R-O-T-S-E-R-I-N

# MINI MUFFIN is our Name CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS is our Game



Each Sunday Mini Muffin Café serves a full hot breakfast between 8 - 9:15 AM.

Eggs, hashbrowns, bacon, sausage, pancakes and waffles every Sunday.

Each week there is a different special:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – Omelets

2<sup>nd</sup> – Biscuits and Gravy

3<sup>rd</sup> Breakfast Casserole

4<sup>th</sup> Eggs Benedict

It is our goal to have as many of our church youth attend Summer Church Camp as possible. Part of your donation each Sunday for breakfast will go toward camp scholarships. The summer camping information is on website now and will be available at church soon. For more info, contact Genne Sherman (503) 472- 6404 or David Hammond (503) 864-2487.

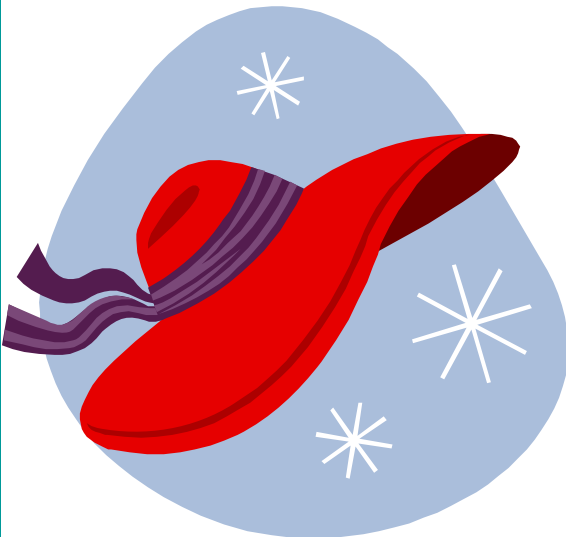


## Are you 90 yrs plus?

**The Red Hat Girls invite you to join us for lunch!**

Friday, February 12 at noon in the Great Room

RSVP: Mona Clark (503) 472-3574 or Genne Sherman (503) 472-6404.



TO GOD'S DOGS JOINING EMBRACE

# Supporting our young families

In Matthew 19 we read the words of Jesus saying *“Let the little children come to me, and don’t prevent them. For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. And he put his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.”*



Our church is so blessed with many little children. It is heartwarming to see all the babies and, at the end of the 10 AM service, seeing the older children come in to take communion with their families.

Recently a group of young mothers and little ones gathered at Parkview Center to decorate a Tree with bird food for the hungry birds. The next week young families came together to eat and play games in the great room while the children played in the nursery.

We as a church family need to continue to make opportunities like this available to our young families. Love and support is very important to parents and children alike. For more info, contact Genne Sherman (503) 472-6404

