



The FPC Newsletter

601 Pine Street Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

January 2018



Musings from Pastor John

I still can't believe we have traveled through the Advent "Christmas" season. It can all seem so fast and frantic. We experience the intensity of preparation and then suddenly it is gone for another year. I'm guessing you still might be snacking on the goodies you made or received. But the wrapping paper is either in the trash or put away for next year along with most of your decorations.

A person has asked, "is all the work for the Christmas season worth the effort, especially as it is here today and gone tomorrow. My answer is...Yes! This celebration we call Christmas is our reminder that this is not the end but only the beginning of something pretty special.

As we begin this new year, I want to invite you to put on your dancing boots, so that we can be prepared to join God in the dance He is leading us into. God has and is inviting us to be a part of His ever-unfolding story of love. The dance that emerges from His story of love is both familiar and yet new. It is discovering, experiencing and showing the goodness and the love of God.

I am neither a great nor even a good dancer. I'm so grateful God is a patient dance partner. Sometimes this dance is fast and other times it is slow. Either way, God is delighted that we have joined Him. May we learn this year how to better follow His lead. After all, He is the one who calls the dance. The scripture below is one of the dance steps He is calling us to.



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD,

Jeremiah 29: 11- 14a

So lets put on our dancing boots.... And follow God's lead!

In God's grip, because it is the strongest one...

Pastor John



CHILDREN'S
Ministry
NEWS

New Children's Ministry Director

When we began praying for who God would bring to be our next Children's Ministry Director, we had no idea that this person would be in our own congregation! It is with great joy that we announce Mary Kern has heard and answered this call. Mary has long been a member of FPC and grew up in this church. In addition to participating in the children's programs at FPC, Mary has also led the King's Kids program prior to becoming our current Praise Team Director. Thus leading Children's Ministry has come as a natural fit, and one that Mary felt called to answer.



Mary will continue as the Praise Team Director, adding the additional responsibilities of Children's Ministry Director. Please join us in congratulating Mary on her new role at FPC!

	Table of Contents
Page 1	Musings from Pastor John
Page 2	Children's Ministry News Table of Contents Thank you from the Geiters
Page 3	A Change in Dinner plans Pastor's Meet & Greet
Page 4	Dive a little deeper Angel Tree Thank You
Page 5	Christmas 2017 Alan Jackson
Page 6	December Senior Luncheon New Women's Bible Study
Page 7	Session summary
Page 8	General information



John, Deanna and family wish to express their thanks for the gifts a number of you have given during the Christmas season. Thank you for all your love, thoughtfulness and support.

The Geiters

A change in dinner plans..... From lunch to brunch

After prayer and thoughtful discussion among Pastor John and Session the following changes are beginning in January.

- Beginning in January:

- ♦ Every Sunday, the contemporary service will be at 9:00, with the traditional service at 11:00.
- ♦ On the 2nd Sunday of each month, instead of a catered lunch, we will have a brunch at 10:15 between the two services.
- ♦ Through our Deacons, the six parishes will be rotating to provide food for this meal



- Some of the rationale:

- ♦ Keeping our two services at constant times every week will have the advantage of...
 - ◊ Maintaining the distinct service styles that people appreciate.
 - ◊ Maintaining a consistent schedule to alleviate confusion about times of service.
 - ◊ Continuing to provide a full church fellowship time that so many have appreciated, with the 2nd Sunday brunch, in a less costly manner for the church.

- We look forward to seeing you there.

Brunch * Brunch * Brunch

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them -
1 Peter 5:2a*

Our shepherd, Pastor John Geiter, would like to get to know his flock. We have scheduled many opportunities for you to get to know him, and he to know you. These gatherings will consist of no more than 8 people at a time. Pastor John will have several questions he will ask and you can answer as you feel led. Pastor John will answer too. The first dates have been scheduled, but if you can't make any of these or they "fill up" before you have a chance to sign up, there will be more scheduled until everyone has had a chance to attend. Please only sign up for one gathering. The Tuesday gatherings will be in the evenings from 6:30 – 8:00pm and the Wednesday gatherings will be in the afternoon from 2:30-4pm at FPC in the Library. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby every Sunday.

Come and get to know your shepherd.





Ever want to dive a little deeper into the Sunday sermon?

Ever want to discuss with others how to make it come alive in your life?

Well, starting Sunday, January 21 we will be beginning a study and discussion class between services to go over the questions and applications that Pastor John includes in the sermon notes each Sunday. We will be meeting downstairs in the fellowship area at about 10:20 AM and wrapping up about 10:50, prior to the start of the 2nd worship service. The class will be going over what 1st service attendees have already heard - AND- will be a bit of a preparation for the folks going to the 2nd service at 11:00. Everyone is invited and hopefully will be blessed by participating.

Craig Rappe will be the class leader initially. From time to time, there may be other leaders helping also. We will plan on convening the class each Sunday, except the 2nd Sunday, which will be the all church Brunch instead. Give the class a try. Bring your Bible. Hope to see you there.



Angel Tree update

We would like to thank everyone who was involved with angel tree this year and for helping support this wonderful ministry. We had another successful year. Our party was on Saturday, December 16th, where we handed out gifts. 251 children were served in Klamath County and there were 4,146 children served by 168 churches in the state of Oregon.

In talking with families at our party on Saturday they wanted to express a great thank you for the gifts. Also a big thank you to those that helped with the party. We could not have done this without all of you!

Barb Keeney and Coral Blind



A Joyful Christmas

Views from the Church Office

- De-decorating Saturday, Jan. 13 at 9:30
- February Newsletter deadline for submitting articles is Jan. 22
- Church office will be closed on
 - ◇ Monday, January 1st
 - ◇ Monday, January 15th

CHRISTMAS 2017
Alan & Carol Jackson
(A Seasonal Update)

Winter Last year we wrote: *“We’ll be commuting to Klamath Falls each week through Easter to ‘fill the pulpit.’”* Actually, we were the ones “filled.” The folks at FPC are a dear second church family to us, and we were lovingly cared for. And with record snowfall, we had more than enough opportunity to enjoy 4WD plus snow-tire commuting. Thank God for Eddie (our trusty Sequoia).

Spring We celebrated post-Easter with a memorable cruise around the Gulf of Mexico where we crawled over some amazing Mayan ruins. That was one biggie to check off the bucket list. And what could be a better follow-up than a total knee replacement in early May. (Carol continues to improve - now six months post-op.)

Summer Ebenezer (our trusty travel trailer) proved a great “getaway” home a couple of extended times during the summer (we “got away” from the heat and wildfire smoke that made Medford a less-than-desirable place to breathe).

Fall We broke in our new quasi-electric car with a delightful trip through Idaho, Washington and Oregon, visiting family and friends. One huge highlight for Carol was seeing Dry Falls for the first time. She was awestruck; made all the more memorable with a recent NOVA program on PBS called “Killer Floods” (about the origins of the Eastern Washington scablands). Check it out. It reminded us again that the Great Northwest really is great.

Winter ...breathing down our necks once again. But we’re warmed by the immense blessing of living so close to all our children and the nine grandkids. Meanwhile there’s food in the pantry, a fire on the hearth, understanding love, and more than a little laughter. We are blessed.

and Now, as we wrote last time: *“As we enter again what Christians persistently call a season of peace and goodwill, we are faced with a choice. Do we allow the darkness in the world to smother the light, or do we light a candle to shame the darkness and give a precious, sweet sign of hope (however small) to those with whom we must live - both friend and foe. As for me and my house, we will hold up the light in our little corner of this big world. We will embrace the One who, through a manger and a cross and an empty tomb, has brought us to life - God’s own stumbling block and cornerstone.”*

We pray that you and yours will know a deeply blessed Christmas this year.

Alan and Carol

December 2017 FPC Senior Luncheon



The Senior's Christmas Luncheon was a fantastic get-to-gather!

Always fun! Thank you Susan Scrimsher for playing Christmas songs for us on the piano, and thank you Sandy Couch for always taking the great pictures! The next Senior Luncheon will be on January 22nd. See you then!

Barb Dehlinger and Belinda Reno



Childcare is available.

*New Women's Bible Study
Beginning Tuesday,
Jan. 9, at 5:30-7:00 p.m.
&
Beginning Wednesday,
Jan. 10, at 9:00-11:00 a.m.*

Session Meeting Summary 12/14/17

Pastor John Geiter moderated the regular meeting of Session held December 14th from 7:00-9:40 pm. He opened with prayer and a time of reading Psalm 130:1-8. Following reflection, each elder expressed thoughts on the passage.

Craig Rappe' and Don Boyd shared their faith stories.

Reports and actions included:

- A couple of people are considering putting their names in nomination for deacon to fill currently open positions. Andrew will set a follow-up meeting date for the nominating committee.
- February 23rd was offered as a date for the joint elder-deacon meeting, to be hosted at John and Deanna's.
- The StrengthsFinder Summaries which had been completed by the elders were reviewed. The elders were provided with a reflection paper, "Getting the Most Out of Your Clifton StrengthsFinder Report," to further examine their own and each other's strengths to determine how we can use our talents to best advantage and in complement with each other. Discussion will continue in January.
- Elder of the Day responsibilities were reviewed. There will be further discussion on how members of the congregation can be involved in some responsibilities.
- John held 2 "meet and greets" this past week with a total of 16 people attending. He has also met with those attending 2 home Bible studies. He asked the questions: "What excites you about FPC and what concerns you?" A suggestion was made to send a letter or post card to folks who used to attend in the last 5 years but no longer do.
- The large Nativity scene needs a place to be shown and to be stored.
- In January, we will return to having 2 services every Sunday in the month with communion on the first Sunday and a meal between services on the second Sunday of the month. Parishes will coordinate and provide the food for the meals.
- In January, Craig Rappe' will begin leading a sermon reflection time between services.
- Alan Jackson will preach on December 31st. John will be on vacation December 25-January 2.
- Elders reported they have received positive feedback about our new pastor both within and from outside FPC.
- The Mission Committee's recommendation for the Christmas eve offering to go to the Klamath Falls Gospel Mission's operating budget was approved.
- The Personnel Committee's recommendation to offer Mary Kern a 30 hour per week position as Director of Children's Ministry was approved.
- Prayer concerns were expressed and prayed for.
- Next regular meeting is Thursday, January 18th at 6:45 pm. Meetings are open. If there are items a person would like Session to address, please contact an elder in the week prior to have it placed on the agenda.

First Presbyterian Church

601 Pine Street

Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

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Return Service Requested

FPC Elders

Heidi Neel Biggs

Don Boyd

Barb Dehlinger

Dave Pollard

Craig Rappe'

Steve Schultz

Andrew Smith

Laura Stewart

Mitch Stokes

Keith Stone

Rich Touslee

Gay Woods



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Susan Scrimsher - Choir Director

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Mary Kern - Praise Team Director

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Belinda Reno - Administrative Assistant

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Prayer requests: contact@klamathfpc.com

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FPC Deacons

Randy Clark

Brian Coe

Charlie Dehlinger

Denny Fullerton

Janell Knutson

Terrie Mumford

Sharon Nelson

Judy Swan

Lee Woods

