

February 2024



FEBRUARY

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Mary Oswalt

FISH FOOD

Pasta & Pasta Sauces




SOLVE THE RIDDLE

I can break, I can be clogged, I can be attacked, I can be given, I can be kept, I can be crushed, yet I can be whole at the same time. What am I?

Stumped?

See page 5 for the answer.

As you enjoy reading this month's Bell, try to find the hidden cross. 

THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

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"A teacher of the law came to Jesus and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'" Matthew 8:19-20

I am struck by this short discourse that Jesus has with a well learned man, a religious man, a person who would have known the Torah and God's expectation that we care for the most vulnerable in our community. What Jesus was essentially saying to him was "Really? You'll follow me even if you are homeless, like I am?"

Why does this sit with me so profoundly right now? Perhaps it is because I am thinking about the several homeless people in the greater Portland Area who died from hypothermia during our recent cold spell. Or it's because I have just read an article in today's Columbian Newspaper about the lack of affordable housing in our community and how eviction rates in our county have more than doubled over the past couple of years. Or it's because the Winter Housing Overflow here in Clark County has just asked for more volunteers to help staff the family shelter. Or it's because I have just recapped our year's activity of the Cascades' Benevolence Board for The 2023 Annual Report.

If homelessness and lack of affordable housing are indicators of the overall social health of a community, Clark County is pretty darn sick. Some rents have risen 35% this past year alone. Some residents of local mobile home parks (people who own the home but rent the land it sits on) are being priced out of their housing because the land rents are now more than they can afford. And now that the pandemic is over, landlords are no longer required to offer grace to tenants who are unable to pay their rents.

For these reasons and many more, the number of rental assistance requests that the Cascades Benevolence Board received in 2023 was 246% more than in 2022 and the amount we granted increased by 220%. That was 32 families that we were able to provide with rental assistance and one family that we helped with emergency hotel lodging as they awaited more permanent housing. Over \$43,000 in direct assistance. That's a lot of assistance and a lot of work that goes into vetting whether these requests even fit our criteria.

Whenever we receive any sort of assistance request from one of the Family Community Resource Coordinators (FCRCs) at our local public schools, it is immediately put in the hands of Betty Scott, one of our Benevolence Board members. Betty is such a gift to our church in many ways, but most especially to our board because she brings years worth of social service and mental health experience to her role. Betty understands the issues that many of our applicants face and works in partnership with the FCRCs, the families, and often the landlords to see if the family meets the criteria for our benevolence help.

One of our primary goals in preventing homelessness is to stop it from happening in the first place. If we can help a family get past a one time financial hiccup that would have caused them to lose their housing, then we might just break the cycle of homelessness and poverty in younger generations. Our assistance is a one time grant only meaning that families cannot apply again should they find themselves in financial dire straights down the road.

Continued on Page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For these cases, we often refer people to partner agencies that work with the chronically homeless such as The Council for the Homeless, The Friends of the Carpenter, Family Promise of Clark County, and Open House Ministries. These organizations, unlike, our Benevolence Board are better equipped to deal with such issues which is why we provide support grants throughout the year to support the work that they do. I am extremely grateful to our current board members, Janet VanFleet, Tim Rettberg-Speed, Sam Hartrim-Lowe, Christie Mistrot, Phil Hickok, Rod Swanson, and Betty Scott for how they listen to the needs of the community and together discern how we can best meet those needs. And I am humbled that members of our extended Cascades Church family entrust us with the resources to help us care for the more vulnerable members of our community. If you would like to donate to our Benevolence Board, please add those gifts in addition to your regular offering marked Cascades Benevolence Board.

In Christ's Care,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

CHURCH DOOR SECURITY

On Sunday mornings, please access the church building through the main front doors only, unless you are the first person to arrive. Recently, we have had some difficulty with people unlocking side doors as they arrive and leaving them unlocked behind them. This poses a security risk for the rest of us in the building as it could provide an unguarded intruder access. We are so grateful for Art and Claudia Derbyshire who do such an excellent job welcoming new comers in the morning and for Art who keeps watch over these doors throughout the worship service. This will ensure that we all can worship freely and without safety concern. Thank you for your help.

CHURCH RELATED CONCERNS

Please forward any non-emergent church related concerns to office@caspres.org and these will be forwarded to the responsible session elder. Refraining from discussing concerns with Pastor Chris and the elders just prior to worship will assist them as they prepare their hearts to lead the congregation in worship. Thank you.

ONLINE GIVING FEES

For everyone who has set up their regular giving through our online portal, we are truly grateful. As you continue giving would you also consider covering the administrative costs for setting up this ease. In 2023 alone, Cascades paid over \$1,556 in online fees. Adding these fees can be done by simply checking the box next to your online gift and it will added to your online gift.

**daily
Devotions*****Proclaiming God's Name***

Feb 1 Mark 1:29-39
Feb 2 Luke 2:22-40
Feb 3 Malachi 3:1-4

Faithfulness & Transformation

Feb 4 2 Kings 2:1-12
Feb 5 Psalm 50:1-6
Feb 6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Feb 7 Mark 9:2-9
Feb 8 Mark 9:2-9
Feb 9 Mark 9:2-9
Feb 10 Mark 9:2-9

The Soul Alone With God

Feb 11 Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Feb 12 Psalm 51
Feb 13 Psalm 51
Feb 14 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb 15 Psalm 25
Feb 16 1 Peter 3:18-22
Feb 17 Mark 1:9-15

The Way of Discipleship

Feb 18 Mark 8:31-38
Feb 19 Mark 8:31-38
Feb 20 Mark 8:31-38
Feb 21 Mark 8:31-38
Feb 22 Mark 8:34-38
Feb 23 Mark 8:34-38
Feb 24 Mark 8:34-38

Gifts for God's People

Feb 25 Exodus 20:1-17
Feb 26 Exodus 20:1-17
Feb 27 Psalm 19
Feb 28 Psalm 19
Feb 29 1 Corinthians 1:18-25



A THANK YOU

Cascades Presbyterian Church,
We appreciate your generosity and kindness with the donation of Winco gift cards for our struggling families this year. So many are experiencing such hardships right now. This helps so much.

Heritage High School

KITCHEN REMODELING PROJECT

Before COVID hit, Dorman Holcomb had hoped that we might be able to make much needed upgrades to our current kitchen facilities. Plans were drawn up and committees were formed. Unfortunately with Dorman's passing and the impact of the pandemic, those plans were put on hold. Now that we are fully back to our normal rhythms of fellowship, it is becoming painfully obvious that our kitchen does not meet our current needs. It is time for us to pick up the ball and restart those plans. If you would like to be part of this restart, please contact Faye Salamone, Elder of Buildings and Grounds. Thank you.

BUNCO NIGHT

Cascades Family,

The youth group would like to invite you to a Bunco night on Saturday, March the 2nd. We will be doing this in lieu of the sweetheart banquet. We welcome all age groups. There will still be a free-will offering for the youth group camp fund. We hope that you will join us for an evening of Bunco, prizes, community, desserts, and coffee (decaf will be served, too). We will begin the festivities at 6:30 pm. Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet in the narthex!

We look forward to seeing you there!
Sarah and the Youth Group



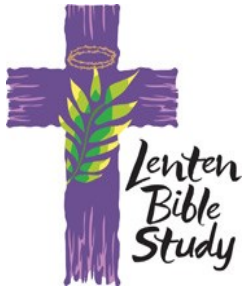
ISRAELI PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Two books that I have found very informational regarding the Israeli Palestinian Conflict are Jimmy Carter's memoir on his work toward achieving peace in the Middle East, *Palestine, Peace Not Apartheid* and Alan Dershowitz's *The Case for Israel*. Former President Jimmy Carter is well versed in scripture and provides a balanced view of what both sides have done to both help and hinder the peace process. Alan Dershowitz is a professor of law at the Harvard Law School and his book reads more like a law case stating the accusation against Israel, what the accusers claim is true, what the Israeli truth is, and then finally what substantiated evidence justifies Israel's position. As we are discovering in our Adult Education class on Sunday mornings, this is an extremely complex conflict and that has had very few successful attempts by either side to achieve any sort of lasting peace.

JANUARY SESSION NOTES

Devotions began with the challenge that what we need to do is keep our spiritual eyes open to the world in order to know for what we need to pray based on 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Treasurer reported a very good financial year end in the black as opposed to a budget deficit as planned. Approved increase in hours for administrative assistant during high work volume seasons. Discussed repairs to Fellowship Hall HVAC system. Sunday morning door security reminder. Talked about the two Christmas Eve Services. Both were incredibly beautiful and meaningful with a record of 271 people in attendance both in-person and online. Deacons to check in with several families who we have not seen in a while. Michelle is creating 2023 Annual Reports. Pastor Chris reported upcoming time away and study leave plans. Facility use request granted for Young Lives Bunco for Babies Brunch on January 15. Session agreed it was time to pick up kitchen remodeling project this year. Overall session was grateful for the support that the congregation gave us in 2023. We are called to rejoice always. New Years bring exciting times.

LENTEN ZOOM BIBLE STUDY



Lent this year begins with Ash Wednesday on Valentines Day or February 14, 2024 and runs through Holy Week. Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ. During Lent, many people decide to give something up that they love - like chocolate, sweets, or social media. Others might decide to take something up like a five week ZOOM bible study where they can draw closer to God and to others. Please join us by ZOOM on Wednesday evenings in Lent starting February 21, 2024 at 7:00-8:00pm from the comfort of your living room. We are still deciding what video series we will use to reflect upon and discuss. If you are interested in joining in, please reach out to Pastor Chris by email at chris@caspres.org and he can send you the ZOOM link.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Lifelong Washingtonians, they met at Washington State University in Pullman. He, born in Colfax, WA, in an old, converted house serving as the nearest hospital to the family Oakesdale home, had his first memories in Prescott (near Walla Walla) before moving to Spokane. There he attended Spokane Falls Community College. She, born near the Canadian border in Tonasket, moved to Seattle at the age of three. The farthest she ever lived from Washington was The Dalles, OR. Her parents had met at the Methodist Common Ministry on their college campus and she, a junior, met him, a senior, at the same ministry on the campus of Washington State. Scott and Anne Wiley married and began their life together.



Anne taught school four years, stayed home 12 years to raise their three children, and for the past 25 years has continued teaching. Scott worked 33 ½ years for Bonneville Power Administration as a communications and controls engineer, later solving billing issues, then specializing in contracts to deliver power to wholesale customers and litigating their regulated transmission rates." Now retired and a "recovering engineer," Scott handles grocery shopping and cooking and aspires to be a writer, while Anne hopes to someday soon retire to enjoy quilting and reading. With their three children raised and out of the house, they now care for two lab mixes.

As for their three children: pastor Craig supports the hospital chaplaincy of wife Gabby in Lancaster, PA; Jackson and his wife now own a home in Vancouver and plan to provide grandchildren for Scott and Anne; and Elizabeth works for the Parks Foundation in New York City.

Scott and Anne traveled to Iceland when he retired and someday hope to see Great Britain and Scandinavia. Anne previously visited Europe twice with her brother and his husband.

The Wileys attended Columbia Presbyterian for years. When the children were grown and no longer in the youth programs, Anne desired a smaller church where she would be known. They found Cascades to be what they needed. Anne has taught adult Sunday School and serves as a deacon.

Scott has served as an elder and provides music with the praise team. Of Cascades helping with the settlement of two Afghani families, Scott writes, "I feel like the experience of trying to teach Hakim, Fawad and Sayed to drive safely here in The States has left me, metaphorically speaking, with 3 nice little tattoos, whose beauty doesn't fade, but nor do they heal. What I mean is, Their gratitude toward me is obviously great, and I would like to do so much more to help these men's families; their needs, though, and the needs of others similarly situated, are so great that to do anything more feels like a very dangerous, slippery slope. With my ADHD, it's all I can do to take care of things within my own family, and occasionally in our church. And yet this experience has certainly colored my view of the events in Israel and the occupied territories, watering seeds planted many years ago at Columbia Pres by Pastor Husted, who pointed out how many thousands of Christians live among the Muslims in the Palestinian territories. We don't seem to even look after our own."

Submitted by Bill Honey, Elder





CALENDAR			BIRTHDAYS
Feb 1	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry	Nancy Bisbee
	6:45pm	Choir Practice	Devon Chandler
Feb 4	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast	Clara Hickok
	10:15am	Worship Service	Kara Kent
Feb 5	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	Carolyn Young
Feb 6	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting	
Feb 7	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
	6:30pm	Youth Group	
	6:30pm	Worship Team	
Feb 8	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry	
	6:45pm	Choir Practice	
Feb 11	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages	
	10:15am	Worship Service	
Feb 12	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
Feb 13	7:00pm	Session Meeting	
Feb 14	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
	6:30pm	Youth Group	
	6:30pm	Worship Team	
Feb 15	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry	
	6:45pm	Choir Practice	
Feb 17	5:30pm	Family Game Night	
Feb 18	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages	
	10:15am	Worship Service	
	11:30am	Top of the Hill Potluck	
Feb 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
Feb 21	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
	6:30pm	Youth Group	
	6:30pm	Worship Team	
Feb 22	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry	
	6:45pm	Choir Practice	
Feb 25	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages	
	10:15am	Worship Service	
Feb 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
Feb 28	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship	
	6:30pm	Youth Group	
	6:30pm	Worship Team	
Feb 29	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry	
	6:45pm	Choir Practice	
			ANNIVERSARIES
			<i>If you don't see your anniversary or birthdate listed here please contact the church office!</i>
			DECEMBER FINANCES
			Income \$32,496.29
			Expenses \$24,464.07
			Total \$ 8,032.22
			Year to Date 2023
			\$ 7,456.34



*Jesus is the Greatest Valentine
His love will never cease to be
His love is bigger than the world
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me*

*Jesus is the Greatest Valentine
His heart is bigger than the sea
And He always fills my heart with joy
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me*

*Yes He is the Greatest Valentine
I will rejoice eternally
I will life my voice with all my heart
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me*





CASCADES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



PANCAKE BREAKFAST
February 4 @ 9:00am

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
February 17 @ 5:30pm

TOP OF THE HILL POTLUCK
February 18 @ 11:30am

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:15am Worship Service