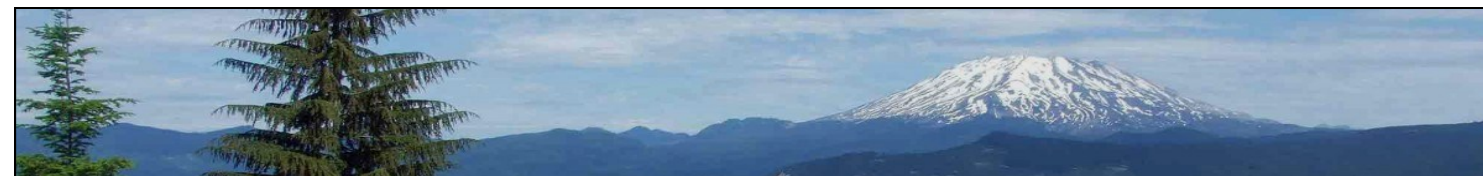




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THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

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OCTOBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Joan Detrick



SOLVE THE RIDDLES

Why did the skeleton
go to the Halloween
party alone?

I'm wet and cold and
fall without a sound.
What am I?

Stumped?
See page 4 for the
answers.

As you enjoy reading
the Newsletter try to
find the hidden cross
somewhere in
the newsletter.
It looks like this.



"Praise God Through Whom All Blessings Flow"

Each week at worship, we sing this line as part of the Doxology. The Webster's dictionary defines doxology as "a liturgical formula of praise to God." In our Presbyterian tradition, it's the part of the service, following the sermon and prayers of the people, when we stand and respond to God's goodness by giving back to God a portion of the blessings that we have been given. The imagery is that of a joyous fountain or an overflowing river, that continues to give more and more...even more than we could ever need or want. So we joyfully sing as we give these gifts.

I don't know about you, but that has been the pattern of my entire life. God has been so good to me, that I certainly cannot outgive God. Indeed, God has blessed me more than I certainly need or deserve. I have a wonderful family, good health, a roof over my head, plentiful food on our table, meaningful work, satisfying relationships with friends and family, and most importantly, because of Jesus I have a vital connection with the God who created me. This goodness leads me to want to offer even more than a song or money from my abundance. It demands my very life.

Unfortunately, this is not the heart of our current culture which tends to look at the world through a lens of scarcity. Thanks to the constant flow of negative newsfeeds and everything that is wrong with the world, it can be very easy to be discouraged and dissatisfied with what is good in our lives. This causes us to hold on, tight-gripped, to our resources instead of letting them generously flow.

But what if instead of focusing on all the negativity, we began looking daily for all that we are grateful? What if we began counting our blessings as a lifestyle of gratitude to the God who has been so, so good to us? How might that begin to change the way we see the world with all it's problems?

Soon you'll be receiving our Narrative Budget Brochure that describes session's proposed budget for 2026. You'll notice that we have picked up the ministry momentum temporarily halted during the pandemic. We ask that you would take a moment to look at what we have planned. Feel free to ask questions of your session elders. And then pray for how God might be calling you to give generously.

Thank you again for being such faithful partners in Christ's mission in Clark County and the world beyond our doors. After twenty years, it continues to be such an incredible blessing to journey together.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS



She feels she has always known Jesus, being born in Anderson, IN, to a family with Christian parents who attended the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, also known as the Dunkers or Dunkards. The rules were strict: no trained pastor, no TV, radio, movies, dances, or musical instruments, and pit toilets! In church, men and women sat on separate sides. But she learned humility, simplicity, community fellowship, and a literal acceptance of the Bible. At a Campus Life ministry with her older sister, she heard the gospel message and responded to Christ's call to her, so, at age 14, she desired baptism, which was a profound experience for her. As a baptized member, she entered public high school wearing the traditional German Baptist garb, accepting the no-dating, no-prom lifestyle.

Mary Beth attended Anderson College in her hometown, where she earned her chemistry degree. Compulsory Christian education brought exposure to new beliefs, which ultimately led to her difficult decision to leave the German Baptist Church. She drifted away from organized religion, met and married Jeff Northrup, who also had a degree in chemistry. Moving to Florida, they both found work in the environmental field. Jeff worked for a series of environmental consulting firms, while Mary Beth spent most of her career as an Environmental, Health and Safety Manager for Motorola. After having their first child, Mary Beth searched for and found a new church home at Faith Presbyterian in Pembroke Pines, Florida where she was active for over 20 years, volunteering where needed and serving as choir director. She sensed God's presence both in how she found employment and how they bought their home.

In 2012, the couple tragically lost their younger son in a car accident. That caused them to re-evaluate their goals, and to accelerate their dream to sell their home and travel the country as full time RVers. Hitting the road in 2017 has allowed them to see this wonderful country in all of its beauty. Favorite places include the National Parks: Sequoia, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, and the Great Smoky Mountains, to name just a few. Mary Beth says: "Traveling has given us such an appreciation for this great nation that we live in. Traveling has also given me an appreciation for the diverse peoples of this country, who, in my experience, are generally kind, hard-working, and want the best for their families. We have so many more similarities than differences."

Mechanical engineer son Sean wanted to live near mountains, with moderate weather and four seasons, and Vancouver fit the bill. Sean moved here with his wife, internal medicine physician Marissa. They now have a one-year-old son, Noa, and another boy on the way. Mary Beth and Jeff decided to be "creepy stalker parents" and moved here as well! Jeff and Mary Beth currently live with their son, but spend winters in an RV park in Tucson, AZ.

Settled in Vancouver, Mary Beth googled "churches" and discovered Cascades has a quilting group, a choir, a blended service, and even sings old hymns. She felt like she "came home when she walked in the door." We are glad.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED! Dr. Deborah Baker Hampton had to cancel our event scheduled for September 20 due to a family emergency. The **NEW DATE IS NOVEMBER 1 from 8:45-2:00pm**. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this special opportunity to learn, laugh and grow with other women as Dr. Baker shares truths about allowing God's light to bloom through our cracks. Lunch will be provided and childcare will be available. A new Sign up will be available in the narthex in October, or you may register by calling the church office. Guests welcome!

Cascades Presbyterian Church

Join us for

Women's Fall Fellowship Conference 2025
"Shine & Bloom Through Your Cracks"

Saturday, November 1, 2025
8:45am—2pm, Lunch Included
Guest Speaker Dr. Deborah Baker Hampton
On Time Ministries—Tacoma, WA

RSVP by signing up at the church or by calling the church office by 10/26.



When God's light seeps out
through the cracks others can
see our blooms.
2 Corinthians 4:7



Deadline for submissions to the
November Bell Newsletter will be
Thursday, October 23rd

October

Oct 1	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:45pm	Youth Group
Oct 2	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Oct 5	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Kitchen Remodel Meeting
Oct 6	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	7:00pm	Deacon Meeting
Oct 8	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:45pm	Youth Group
Oct 9	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Oct 11	8:00am	Men's Bible Study Fellowship
	9:00am	Fall Work Party
Oct 12	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Oct 13	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 14	7:00pm	Sessions Meeting
Oct 15	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Oct 16	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Oct 19	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Top of the Hill
Oct 20	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 22	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Youth Group
Oct 23	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Oct 25	5:30pm	Potluck
	6:30pm	Harvest Party/Trunk or Treat
Oct 26	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Oct 27	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 29	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:45pm	Youth Group
Oct 30	4:00pm	Giving Hands
	6:45pm	Choir Practice

BIRTHDAYS

Joanne Jacobs	Christina Miley
Betty Scott	Heather Hartrim-Lowe
Joan Detrick	Janet VanFleet
Catherine Hartrim-Lowe	Amber Beck
Chloe Hartrim-Lowe	Rachelle Lacombe
Pamela Boehning	Bob Walters
Harrison Hartrim-Lowe	

ANNIVERSARIES

Amber & Cordell Beck
Debra & Gladwin Dayal

AUGUST FINANCES

Income	\$24,549	Year to Date 2025
Expenses	\$20,404	\$34,444
Total	\$ 4,145	



"But there's not enough space for Thou
shalt not wear socks with sandals."

Answers:
1. Because he had no body to go with him!
2. Rain.

SEPTEMBER SESSION NOTES

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED!

Devotions opened with prayer and discussions on Listening for God. Finances for 2025 looking very healthy. Continued work 2026 budget development. Approved funds to put up a chain barrier between shed and playground to prevent cars easy access to yard. Received rebate from Clark PUD for replacing church sign with new energy efficiency sign. Sanctuary carpet needs replacement soon. Looking at options. Kitchen remodel committee plans to interview contractors soon. Janet Lind shared new idea for Elementary Sunday school. Approved gift to New Hope Opportunities Solar Project. Pastor Chris shared book on Team Leadership. Overall sensed energy is good, excited about upcoming Women's Gathering and starting to envision a new kitchen!

Our new Sunday School class for children ages 4 through 2nd grade is off to a great start! We meet after the children's sermon until the end of the worship service, and we're looking for kind-hearted volunteers to teach or assist just one Sunday a month. All materials are provided—you just bring your enthusiasm and love for kids! Whether you're a seasoned teacher or simply someone who enjoys working with children, we'd love to have you join us. If you're interested or have questions, please talk to me after church or reach out directly. Thank you for helping us grow this joyful ministry!

- Janet Lind



NEW HOPE OPPORTUNITIES - SOLAR PROJECT

For many years, Cascades has been in partnership with New Hope Opportunities School (NHO) in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. NHO provides top notch education to children from the Rivera Hernandez community is which is among the poorest of the world's poor. Cascades has sent several mission teams in the past to run Vacation Bible School for their students and two of our own Cascadians, Heather Hartrim-Lowe and Janet VanFleet serve on NHO's board. NHO recently approached us with an opportunity help them launch a solar energy project to reduce the long-term utility costs and strengthen their ability to serve children, youth, and families in their community. It would cost more than \$86,000 to help them become completely separate from the current unreliable energy grid and self-sufficient. Not only would this be better for the environment, but the yearly power savings would provide for hiring a new teacher and cover the costs for a full year of classroom and cafeteria supplies. Because God has been so faithful to Cascades this year through the generous giving of the congregation, session moved to share some of our blessings by providing \$10,000 from our general mission budget. This gift helped NHO close the gap so they could proceed with the project. We are so excited to see this solar project in operation when we travel down there soon on future mission trips. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

HARVEST FESTIVAL POTLUCK AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT



Don your best costume and join us on Saturday, October 25th for this year's Harvest Potluck and Trunk-or-Treat! Potluck at 5:30pm; Trunk-Or-Treat from 6:30pm-8:30pm. If you would rather decorate a table versus decorating your car trunk, we can accommodate that too. (If the weather doesn't cooperate, everyone will have a table to decorate inside.) Please be sure to add your name to the signup sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Christie Mistrot.

ENVISIONING FUTURE WORSHIP - ASSEMBLING OUR TEAM

We have assembled our team to begin work on envisioning future worship at Cascades. Team members include: Laura Livingston, Nancy Bisbee, Josh Krane, Joan Detrick, Mary Beth Northrup, and Alex Berg. We will hold our first meeting on Wednesday, October 1st. Along with team members we plan to assemble what we call a team of "Advisors" to provide knowledge and expertise of a particular area of worship or a demographic. These Advisors will be rotating in/out to interface with the team on particular areas and topics. The Team/Advisor model reduces both the size of the envisioning team and reduces Advisor time commitment. We will begin the envisioning process by prayerfully LISTENING. We will determine who we should listen to, what questions should we ask, what should we be listening for and what should we do with what we hear. The purpose of this listening is to define where we are now and why; essentially defining the HERE in the process. This is a necessary first step on the journey to defining where we want to be (THERE). The team will most likely be defining the HERE phase until January. We will provide further updates along the way. Please consider helping us when you are asked. We promise to make good use of your time. We need all the input and feedback we can assemble to accurately define HERE. If you have any questions regarding the envisioning project please contact Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder.

PASTOR CHRIS RECEIVES A REFLECTIVE LEADERSHIP GRANT

Leadership Education aims to create lasting change in U.S. congregations by supporting Christian leaders and the institutions they serve. Leadership Education designs educational services, develops intellectual resources and facilitates networks of institutions that cultivate a coherent vision of Christian institutional leadership and form Christian leaders. Leadership Education is a non-degree-granting initiative of Duke Divinity School funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and based in Durham, NC.

We have been selected to receive a Reflective Leadership Grant from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. These grants of up to \$15,000 support an opportunity for structured reflection for leaders of Christian organizations that are advancing their mission in the midst of today's rapidly changing context. Fifty Christian leaders from a variety of faith-based organizations are funded in this third year of the Reflective Leadership Grant program.

The Reflective Leadership Grant at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity recognizes and supports the faithful and innovative work of lay and ordained Christian leaders who find themselves at a pivotal moment in their ministry,' says Mycal Brickhouse, a director of program and grants at Leadership Education. 'Using Harvard professor Ron Heifetz's language, we want to help leaders experience "balcony time," which allows them to move from the dance floor to the balcony to gain a broader picture of the work, organization, community and trends. We want to encourage grantees to continue to develop their leadership capacities in ways specific to their work and context. For some, this might look like attending interdisciplinary conferences, and for others it might look like observing similar work in different settings. We are excited about the interest in this grant program from both traditional and non-traditional Christian leaders and we look forward to learning alongside them and their communities."

Cascades will be using this grant to provide Pastor Chris and the session time for reflection, leadership coaching, fresh visions for the future, and more concrete preparation as we enter into this next season of ministry together.



Reading Thru the Bible...

What has been your plan for staying in God's Word throughout the year? If you don't have one, why not? God's Word is alive and powerful and God's Word is how you get to know God! Have you ever heard people say that God has never spoken to them? Well they must not have ever opened their Bible because God will speak to you every time you open His Word!

The Bible Recap is a 365-Day Chronological Reading Plan that you can start any day of the year. Reading through the Bible chronologically takes you through the story of Scripture as it happened. It helps you to see where and how it all fits together and when you read through the entire Bible it helps you see the big picture of God & what He is trying to tell us about Himself.

The month of October is a perfect time to start because that's where the NT reading begins. This chart will be in the newsletter going forward and if you are not able to read every day keep track of where you are by marking the boxes or just read on the days that you are able to. The most important thing is to keep reading and don't give up! As a help for understanding what you are reading each day you may want to purchase "*The Bible Recap One Year Guide*." More info for The Bible Recap can be found at thebiblerecap.com

Day 274 Luke 1 John 1	Day 275 Matt 1 Luke 2	Day 276 Matt 2	Day 277 Matt 3 Mark 1 Luke 3	Day 278 Matt 4 Luke 4-5	Day 279 John 2-4	Day 280 Matt 8 Mark 2
Day 281 John 5	Day 282 Matt 12 Mark 3 Luke 6	Day 283 Matt 5-7	Day 284 Matt 9 Luke 7	Day 285 Matt 1	Day 286 Luke 11	Day 287 Matt 13 Luke 8
Day 288 Mark 4-5	Day 289 Matt 10	Day 290 Matt 14 Mark 6 Luke 9	Day 291 John 6	Day 292 Matt 15 Mark 7	Day 293 Matt 16 Mark 8	Day 294 Matt 17 Mark 9
Day 295 Matt 18	Day 296 John 7-8	Day 297 John 9-10	Day 298 Luke 10	Day 299 Luke 12-13	Day 300 Luke 14-15	Day 301 Luke 16-17
Day 302 John 11	Day 303 Luke 18	Day 304 Matt 19 Mark 10				