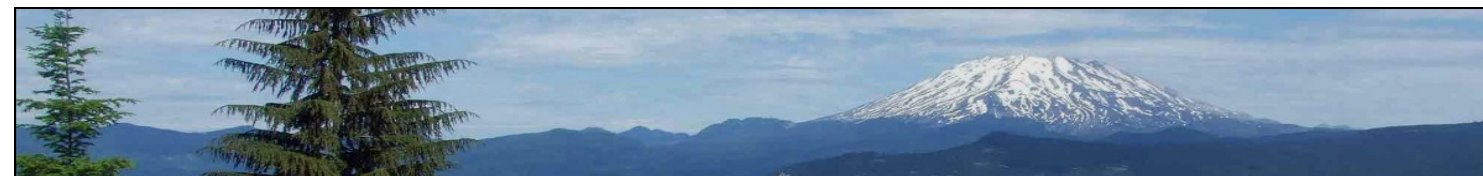




9503 NE 86th Street
Vancouver, WA 98662
(360) 892-6613
office@caspres.org
www.caspres.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 49, No. 10

SEPTEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Doris Raspa



What do you get
when you drop a
pumpkin?

What did the
pumpkin say to the
pumpkin carver?

Answers at the
bottom of the
calendar page.

Try to find the hidden
cross somewhere
in the newsletter.
It looks like this.



“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.” — Hebrews 13:2

Cascades is a friendly church. New visitors often tell us how welcomed they feel. Because we are a smaller church, it’s hard for someone new to go unnoticed—and usually someone will introduce themselves and say hello.

But being **friendly** and being **welcoming** are not always the same. I recently read *Becoming a Welcoming Church*, and it reminded me of some simple ways we can make people feel at home.

It starts online. For many people, their first visit to a church is actually a visit to the website. Is our information accurate and easy to find? Does the website give people a good sense of who we are? Can they easily watch or livestream a worship service?

The welcome continues in the parking lot. We remember how seriously Art Derbyshire took this ministry. He greeted people with his wonderful humor and, when it rained, would even walk to their car with an umbrella. Those simple acts of kindness made a lasting impression.

Inside the doors, we help people connect. Claudia Derbyshire has always been especially good at learning names, welcoming visitors, and introducing them to others. One of our guest preachers last summer said he had been greeted at least five times before he even reached his seat!

Families need to feel welcome, too. Parents want to know that our nursery is clean, safe, adequately staffed, and that they can be contacted quickly if their child needs them.

We should also give visitors some space. Not everyone wants to be singled out or asked to introduce themselves during worship. Sometimes the best welcome is simply a smile, a friendly greeting, and the freedom to observe and get comfortable.

Finally, **welcoming doesn’t end when the service ends.** Our deacons do a wonderful job of following up with visitors, and I also enjoy sending personal notes and, when possible, meeting with people to get to know them better.

Most importantly, **welcoming is everyone’s job—not just the Greeters Ministry.** Imagine walking into a church where you don’t know anyone, finding a seat, and waiting for worship to begin. That is the perfect moment for any of us to walk over, introduce ourselves, and say, “We’re glad you’re here.”

Thank you for helping make Cascades a place where people feel seen, cared for, and welcomed.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:15am Worship Service

9:00am Sunday School for All Ages

Saturday, Oct 3rd—Women’s Fall Retreat, 9am-2pm

Sunday, Oct 4th—Pancake Breakfast 9am

Tuesday, Oct 6th—Deacon Meeting

Thursday, Oct 13th—Session Meeting

Sunday, Oct 18th—Youth Group Pumpkin Carving

Saturday, Oct 31st—New Member Gathering, 9am-noon



High School & Middle School Students

Join us at the McKusick's Farm for an evening of pumpkin carving, eating pizzas, and making s'mores around a bonfire.

Sunday, October 18th, 4-6pm

What a great way to kick off the fall season and to invite a friend to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Prizes for most creative, funny & strange pumpkin designs.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A native Pacific Northwesterner, Erin Suttan was born in Portland and raised in Ridgefield. Homeschooled until 5th grade, she then began attending school in La Center where her uncle was the principal. After graduating from La Center High School, Erin went to Multnomah Bible School for a short time with the goal to become a youth pastor. But life offered her a choice to become a nanny to two young boys, ages 2 and 4, and she worked as a nanny for many years. Once the boys started school and she had more free time, she segued into becoming the office manager for the family's excavating business as well as caring for the two boys until they grew up. This role continues today as she does the bookkeeping for the business. Those two boys are now 26 and 28 years old.

Erin's next career move began when she started working with Rebecca Foster for Indigo Event Design. Starting with weddings and bar mitzvahs and such occasions, the company evolved into hosting Kindred Gatherings. This is a networking event designed to bring connection to the wedding industry. What she enjoys most about this career is building relationships within their team and creating community in the space they provide. One of her favorite activities is Crossfit, which is a priority for her. As is watching her own two boys, Jasper (16) and Camden (13) enjoying their activities and flourishing. Being a mom brings her much happiness. This is a source of joy as is having opportunities to help people and being with people that you care about. Erin began singing at a very young age. Her parents were quite involved with their church, La Center Evangelical Free, and Erin began singing with the worship team and participating in all the church pageants. She also sang in her high school choirs and really enjoyed the Jazz choir. Her warmth and caring really shines through and we are grateful for her smile and lovely voice.

ADVENT AND HANGING OF THE GREENS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



The first Sunday in Advent this year is *November 29th*. Sherry McKusick will be helping to recruit Advent candle lighters and readers for this year's Advent activities. Let Sherry know if you would like to volunteer to help light an Advent Candle during one of the five Sundays of Advent.

To kick off Advent we will have our traditional Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 28th. Our plan is to set up for the event on *Monday, November 23rd*. Let Laura Livingston know if you would like to help with set up.

For the *Hanging of the Greens* we are recruiting anyone interested in telling a story, reading a poem, singing a favorite Advent song, or tap dance with sparkles on your shoes (just kidding). This year we would like to open the event to those who wish to share their joy and memories of the Advent season now and in the past. If you would like to share what the Advent season means to you now and in the past contact Laura Livingston, Janet Van Fleet, Donna Von or Sophie Hickok.

Laura Livingston, Worship Arts Elder

October

Oct 1	1:30pm 6:45pm	Giving Hands Ministry Choir Practice
Oct 3	9am-2pm	Women's Fall Retreat
Oct 4	9:00am 10:15am 12:30pm	Pancake Sunday Worship Service Bowling Fellowship
Oct 5	7:00pm	Deacons
Oct 6	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 7	1:30pm 6:45pm	Giving Hands Ministry Choir Practice
Oct 8	9:00am 10:15am	Sunday School All Ages Worship Service
Oct 11	12:30pm 7:00pm	Bowling Fellowship Session
Oct 12	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 13	12:30pm	Giving Hands
Oct 14	1:30pm 6:45pm	Choir Practice Sunday School All Ages
Oct 15	9:00am 10:15am 4-6pm	Worship Service Youth Group Pumpkin Carving
Oct 18	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 21	1:30pm 6:45pm	Giving Hands Choir Practice
Oct 22	9:00am 10:15am	Sunday School All Ages Worship Service
Oct 25	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 28	1:30pm 6:45pm	Giving Hands Choir Practice
Oct 29	9-noon	New Member Gathering
Oct 31		



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

Cordell & Amber Beck



AUGUST FINANCES

Income	\$24,194
Expenses	\$21,963
Total	\$ 2,231

Year to Date 2026
\$-4,548

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to stay connected with life at Cascades throughout the week, please sign up for our weekly email newsletter bulletin known as the "eBell". Email Lisa in the church office at office@caspres.org with your email address to get signed up.

Please keep the church office informed of any address, phone or email updates or changes and if you would like to have your birthday or anniversary included in the monthly Bell Newsletter, please contact the church office.



Deadline for submissions to the November Bell Newsletter will be Thursday, October 22nd



Answers:
1. Squash
2. Cut it out.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us Sunday mornings starting at 9am for a six week series on the book of Acts led by church leaders from nations around the world. We will be inspired to lead as servants, overcome opposition in community, face persecution with boldness, and reframe our work places as our mission fields.

NEW MEMBERS GATHERING

Have you been attending Cascades for a while and would like to learn more about the church, it's mission, and how your unique gifts can fit into our body? Please join us and the elders on Saturday October 31, 2026 from 9am to noon for breakfast and missional conversations following. Contact Pastor Chris or Paul Foster for more details.

READ NW AT SILVER STAR

Read NW is a program starting at Silver Star Elementary School this November to build literacy skills with 1st graders. Cascades is looking for four volunteers who might be interested in reading with and to a student once a week for 30 minutes. This s a great opportunity to serve young families in our community and to help their students thrive. Contact Pastor Chris or Taushia Wallschlaeger for more information.



NEW KITCHEN IS FINISHED



Yes! It is completed. On Sunday, September 13, we blessed and commissioned the new kitchen for our kick off Pancake Sunday. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to make this happen. It fits so beautifully in our space and makes our church even more welcoming as people walk into the church for the first time. We look forward to using it to feed our church with good food and fellowship for years to come. We are especially grateful to our Kitchen Committee Janet VanFleet and Faye Salomone (Committee Chairs), Sue Holcomb, Barbie Baker, Christie Mistrot, Tom Holczer, and Betty Scott.



Reading Thru the Bible...

The Bible Recap is a 365-Day Chronological Reading Plan you can start any day of the year. 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. If you are not able to read every day you can keep track of where you are by marking the boxes or just read on the days that you can. The most important thing is to keep reading and don't give up! An option to reading would be to listen to the Bible on an app such as YouVersion®. 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 OCT 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 OCT 8	Day 282 Matt 12 Mark 3 Luke 6	Day 283 Matt 5-7	Day 284 Matt 9 Luke 7	Day 285 Matt 11	Day 286 Luke 11	Day 287 Matt 13 Luke 8
Day 288 Mark 4-5 OCT 15	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 OCT 22	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 OCT 29	Day 303 Luke 18	Day 304 Matt 19 Mark 10				



Women of Cascades
Join us for our FALL RETREAT
SATURDAY OCTOBER 3rd, 9am-2pm

Popular retreat speaker Barb Boswell, a lifetime resident of Woodland, WA, will share on the gift of encouragement and being a light in your world. Barb is known for her humor and practical wisdom and her ability to find God in the ordinary activities of daily life and is the author of three books.

Come for a special time of fellowship and learning and bring a friend. Continental breakfast and potluck lunch will served. Sign up in the narthex & bring a friend!



SEPTEMBER SESSION

Discussed and set budget for 2027 Stewardship Campaign. Provided update on Worship leader search. Not very many people are applying. Planned for Nancy Bisbee's 20-year celebration as our Choir Director. Update on Kitchen remodeling project and commissioning on September 13. Set Security Team Meeting for September 24. Approved nomination for Faye Salomone to the Community Action Advisory Board. Youth Group Parents and Students to meet for BBQ on September 13 to decide future program. Benevolence Board Grant for Silver Star Elementary Chess for Success After School Program. Pastor Chris discussed being a Welcoming Church. New Members Retreat planned for October 31, 2026 from 9am to noon. Pastor Chris to participate in a Missional Preaching Workshop starting in October. Getting classrooms ready for Sunday School. Classrooms ready for kick off on Sunday September 20. Overall, many preparations are being made though lots of program changes are happening. Need to take it step by step trusting God at each point along the way.

AUDIO VISUAL PROPOSED UPGRADES

As part of the Future Focused Church initiative we looked at what physical space improvements were needed in the sanctuary. Top of the list were enhancements to our Audio Visual equipment to improve the in-person and online experience of worshipers. Rodney Garcia-Goubert has scoped out the exact equipment we need. He provided an excellent spreadsheet with options for the different components that we need. Rodney also met with Cordell Beck to review the proposed upgrades to ensure they were consistent with our current set up which they are. One of the most important upgrades for our system is changing out our two cameras for two new ones that an AV Tech can control from the AV Deck through interaction with a controller. This camera upgrade will allow us to significantly improve the visual quality and expand the types of camera focal views we can use for better viewing online. Something to keep in mind is that, with the exception of the cameras, we are not replacing our current system, but rather we are enhancing our current capabilities. Session has been briefed on these enhancements and costs for the different options. In addition to Audio Visual upgrades, we are also looking at the feasibility of installing acoustic panels to improve the sound quality in the sanctuary. Rodney is again helping us assemble options for these panels. Session will be briefed once we have the options and costs of each. Contact Laura Livingston, Rodney Garcia-Goubert, Cordell Beck, Jeff Engley or Pastor Chris if you have any questions reference these two sanctuary improvement initiatives.