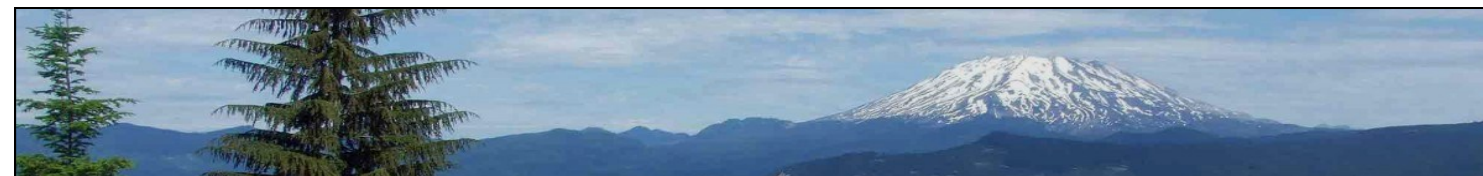




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THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 49, No. 9

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good...His love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

Hello Cascades!!! I am back in the saddle after my summer sabbatical. It was truly such an incredible time of rest, reflection, and rejuvenation. I feel excited and renewed in my call as pastor of Cascades Presbyterian Church. I am truly grateful to the congregation for this gift that has helped provide clarity in how I need to pastor in this next season of ministry together. As I look back over my time away, I give thanks to the Lord for he has been good to us in so many ways.

I give thanks to the Lord for our dedicated session elders who took over many responsibilities that often fall upon my shoulders...from writing monthly Bell Newsletter articles, participating in Vacation Bible School, moderating the nominating committee and session, assisting with staff transitions, etc. Because of all of you, I knew that the church would be left in good and capable hands. I am also deeply grateful to the Rev. Phil King for moderating our session meetings while I was away. Thank you!

I give thanks to the Lord for our servant-hearted deacons. Your love, kindness, and constant care of Cascades' flocks gave me the confidence to step away knowing that the people of Cascades would receive the necessary pastoral care in their time of need. Thank you!

I give thanks to the Lord for our Kitchen Committee, especially co-chairs, Janet VanFleet and Faye Salomone. With your collective expertise on facilities and construction project management, I had no worries whatsoever regarding the kitchen renovations. And I was absolutely thrilled to return to a beautiful new kitchen upon my return. Thank you!

I give thanks to the Lord for our many guests preachers who brought God's Word weekly. I followed along with many of their sermons throughout the summer and was blessed to focus on the Book of Acts and the birth story of the early church. It was refreshing to hear from so many people with different styles, voices, and perspectives... Yet it is the same God who speaks. Thank you!

I give thanks to the Lord for Laura Livingston, elder of Worship Arts, and the many lay worship leaders and liturgists who kept the flow of worship each week. Our hope is to get more and more people involved in our worship services. If you are interested, please talk to Laura. Thank you!

I give thanks to the Lord for our office administrator, Lisa Kupfer. Lisa really is the glue that keeps all things together around here. Lisa's heart of service touched everyone I mentioned above. Thank you!

But mostly, I give thanks to the Lord for all of you. While worshipping away, I never met a kinder, more generous, and welcoming congregation than Cascades. Our unique gifts, make us a beautiful expression of the Body of Christ. Thank you!

So with the Psalmist and for all of these things and so much more, I give thanks to the Lord, for He is good...His Love endures forever! Amen!

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

SEPTEMBER

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Karen Montovino



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



SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:15am Worship Service

Tuesday, Sept 1st—Deacon Meeting

Thursday, Sept 3rd—Choir Practice Begins 6:45-8pm

Monday, Sept 7th—Labor Day—Office Closed

Tuesday, Sept 8th—Session Meeting

Sunday, Sept 13th—Pancake Breakfast 9am

Sunday, Sept 20th—Sunday School for All Ages 9am



CONGRATULATIONS NANCY BISBEE!

On September 13, not only will we welcome back Cascades Choir in worship, but we will also celebrate Nancy Bisbee’s twenty years of service as our beloved choir director. Nancy has been such a blessing to our church community in so many ways. Over her many years at Cascades, she has served as a session elder, a deacon, theater stage manager, Christian educator, Vacation Bible School leader, mission director, and also as our choir director. Nancy puts her heart and soul into everything she does and we love and appreciate her SO VERY much. So please join us on Sunday September 13 as we give thanks to God for the gift that Nancy Bisbee is to all of us at Cascades!

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS RESUME IN THE NEW KITCHEN!

Join us at 9am on Sunday September 13 as we resume our monthly pancake breakfasts in our new kitchen. We will also have our official kitchen ribbon cutting and dedication. Session decided to dedicate the kitchen in honor of the late Dorman Holcomb who completed the original kitchen designs before he passed away in 2020. Thank you to everyone who served on the Cascades Kitchen Committee (Janet VanFleet, Faye Salomone, Sue Holcomb, Betty Scott, Barbie Baker, Tom Holczer, Christie Mistrot, Renee Lacombe, and Michelle Drexler) and to our very generous donors who made this project possible.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



He was born in Chicago, IL, raised in Chicago's western suburbs, and educated (including some college) in Elmhurst, IL. She, born in Alhambra, CA, grew up in El Monte, CA, "a quaint town, with stores closed on Sundays." After high school, she found employment with the phone company, then on to Los Angeles to an insurance company for 2 ½ years until she was of the right age to become a stewardess for American Airlines out of Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, where she also attended college. But it was in L.A. that George (Buzz) Markert met his future wife, Marla. Buzz attended Los Angeles Trade-Institute of Technology, becoming an elevator technician.

Marla says, "Later my brother, who worked with my husband, introduced me to him, and it was love at first sight. We were married a year later and had our son Ryan a year after that." Buzz's career led him to teach a four-year apprenticeship program for 35 years. "Upon retirement, he was and is an expert in elevator injury cases."

With Ryan and other children from previous marriages, they have nine children, who live in Colorado, Arizona, Illinois, and California. Buzz says, "Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are scattered across the United States. This makes it difficult for us all to be together at the same time."

Buzz and Marla moved to the Salmon Creek area 1 ½ years ago. Presbyterians all of their married life, with children raised to be involved in worship, they visited three churches. Claudia's and Joan's welcome at Cascades made our church seem "warm and friendly and active." We are so glad to have them here with us.

Now retired, Buzz "began writing short stories." Two months ago, four of his stories were published as "Chance Encounters," by George "Buzz" Markert. Marla's hobby is "downsizing and decluttering after 48 years of stuff." They are dog people, but miss their last lab so much that for now they are satisfied with two cats.

They enjoy travel, with their favorite destination being Vienna, Austria. They enjoyed cruises to Alaska and Canada, especially Nova Scotia. They visited Sweden with Marla's mom and saw where Marla's "sweet dear Grandpa" grew up, before emigrating at age 16 to Michigan. Buzz and Marla, on that same trip, also visited Norway and Denmark. Later, they enjoyed Germany, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, France, and Switzerland. They hope to someday see Italy.

In Buzz's words, "As I look back, I realize how blessed my wife and I were to have been raised by good Christian parents, who endured the great depression and World War II. We were raised in the aftermath of that war, and in what is probably the best of times this country has ever experienced. People naturally had a good, kind, and Christian attitude toward one another; and politics took a back seat to people getting along, and like the TV show "Happy Days" summed up everyone's attitude." Again, we are delighted to have these people join us in worship.



Sept 1	7:00pm	Deacons
Sept 2	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 3	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 6	10:15am	Worship Service
Sept 7		LABOR DAY
Sept 7	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 8	7:00pm	Session
Sept 9	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 10	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
	6:56pm	Choir Practice
Sept 13	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am	Worship Service
Sept 14	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 16	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 17	1:30pm	Giving Hands
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 20	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Top of the Hill
Sept 21	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 23	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 24	1:30pm	Giving Hands
	6:45pm	Choir Practice
Sept 27	10:15am	Worship Service
Sept 28	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Sept 30	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship

David Dayal
Becky Hickok
Sue Holcomb
Drew Kenney
Nathan Kenney
Susan Kenney
Christie Mistrot
Karen Montovino
Sharon Morrison
Corvin Sieveking
Lynda Wittren



Robert & Sherry McKusick

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.

JULY FINANCES

Income	\$20,057
Expenses	\$23,939
Total	\$-3,882

Year to Date 2026
\$-9,752

Deadline for submissions to the
October Bell Newsletter will be
Thursday, September 24th





Women of Cascades

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

Popular retreat speaker Barb Boswell, a lifetime resident of Woodland Washington, 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 beginning September 13th.

FUTURE-FOCUSED WORSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

Extra Extra Read All About It!
Future-Focused Worship Assessment Summary Report Now Available!
On August 17th, Session was briefed on the findings, goals, and implementation actions from the recent Future-Focused Worship Assessment. Session gave its approval of the results and their release to the congregation. A Summary Report was prepared of these results and is now available for downloading from Cascades’ website. The report in PDF format has been posted under RESOURCES on the site. If you have questions after reading the report you can contact Laura Livingston, Joan Detrick, Nancy Bisbee or Alex Berg for clarification.
Where are we now with the Future-Focused Church initiative? We have begun to move forward with the implementation actions noted in the report. We are assembling implementation teams to tackle the actions. If you are interested in participating in an implementation team, please contact Laura Livingston.

Laura Livingston
Worship Arts Elder

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 244 Ezek 18-20 SEPT 1	Day 245 Ezek 21-22	Day 246 Ezek 23-24	Day 247 Ezek 25-27	Day 248 Ezek 28-30	Day 249 Ezek 31-33	Day 250 Ezek 34-36
Day 251 Ezek 37-39 SEPT 8	Day 252 Ezek 40-42	Day 253 Ezek 43-45	Day 254 Ezek 46-48	Day 255 Joel 1-3	Day 256 Dan 1-3	Day 257 Dan 4-6
Day 258 Dan 7-9 SEPT 15	Day 259 Dan 10-12	Day 260 Ezra 1-3	Day 261 Ezra 4-6 Ps 137	Day 262 Hag 1-2	Day 263 Zec 1-4	Day 264 Zec 5-9
Day 265 Zec 10-14 SEPT 22	Day 266 Esther 1-5	Day 267 Esther 6-10	Day 268 Ezra 7-10	Day 269 Neh 1-5	Day 270 Neh 6-7	Day 271 Neh 8-10
Day 272 Neh 11-13 Ps 126 SEPT 29	Day 273 Mal 1-4					

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Beginning on Sunday, September 20th at 9am we will resume Sunday School for all ages PreK-12th grade. Adult Ed will also meet at 9am. We will also continue to have focused activity time for PreK-1st grade following the children’s sermon. Look for a volunteer sign up on the front bulletin board. If you have any questions please contact Janet Lind.



Top of the Hill Senior Ministry Potluck Sunday, September 20th following the worship service

You are invited to come and share stories from your summer and enjoy fellowship together. All are welcome, and there is always plenty of food even if you are unable to bring a dish. If you plan to attend, please contact Betty Scott so we may prepare an accurate table count.

AUGUST SESSION

Pastor Chris opened with a devotion based on Popularity verses Priorities. Discussed the challenges with the Worship leader job search and lack of interested applicants. Looking for other pools of people to pursue. Kitchen remodel is nearly complete. We’re waiting for new countertops to be replaced and final inspections completed. Youth group parents and students plan to gather soon for BBQ and to brainstorm program needs for future. Received Future Focused Church Worship survey results and discussed next steps with how to best disseminate information to the church. Pastor Chris shared about his recent sabbatical. Approved facility use for holiday flute recital in December. Overall, very good to be back together with new session and Pastor Chris. Prayed for the community of Spokane and the recent devastating wild fires. Waiting to hear from Spokane local churches on how Cascades can be of help. Trusting the Holy Spirit as the early church did in Acts in knowing how to move forward.

