

August 2024



## AUGUST

### DEACON OF THE MONTH

Barbie Baker

### FISH FOOD

Soups, Stews, Chili




### SOLVE THE RIDDLES

Why did the fish blush?

Why don't oysters donate to charity?

Stumped?  
See page 5 for the answers.



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

# THE CHURCH BELL

Published Monthly

Volume 47, No. 8

"All kind of animals, birds, reptiles, and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by humans, but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:7-8

As I'm sure everyone was, but I was particularly shocked and deeply saddened at the recent assassination attempt against the former president, Donald Trump. While these sorts of events are nothing new on the stage of American politics, they still catch us off guard when they do happen. How did we get to this place? Regardless of how we feel about a particular candidate's political persuasion, this kind of barbaric behavior has absolutely no place in American society today.

The one thing I hear being repeated on both sides of the political divide is that we must tone down the political rhetoric. No more vitriolic hate speech. No more unadulterated lies. No more character bashing. Its time to actually debate policy in a spirit of mutual cordiality that benefits all Americans regardless of which candidate they choose.

James, the brother of Jesus, was very clear when he talked about the power of the tongue. He likened it to a small rudder able to change the course of a large ship or a small spark able to set an entire forest ablaze. It can be used either as a tool to praise God or a weapon to destroy others.

As a preacher, I am very aware of the power of words. I have to be very careful of what I say and don't stay from the pulpit. My aim is to always build up, edify, and challenge the Church in its faith, whether in word or in deed. I also know that as the head of staff and moderator of our session that my words are responsible for settling the corporate culture within our leadership. People will mimic the words and behaviors that I use.

In his Letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul exhorted, "Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:16-17)

So may we all take a moment to regroup and think seriously about the words that come out from our mouths. May we realize that we have the power to sow seeds of love or seeds of hate. And as the song that we often sing states, may "People we know we are Christians by our love."

If we aren't hearing words of love coming from our politician's mouths, then maybe we should not vote for them. But let us first check our own eyes for logs before we attempt to remove specks of dust from another's eyes.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino



## ERIK SUTTEN FAREWELL

After ten years of music ministry at Cascades, Erik Suten has moved on as Cascades' Contemporary Worship Leader. We are sorry to see Erik go and are grateful for his faithful worship leadership for so long. Not only did Erik help us maintain a spirit of worship through the COVID Pandemic, but he helped us grow into our new sanctuary. We pray for God's blessings on him as he moves on to what is next. We are also grateful for Josh Krane's worship leadership as a bridge until we are able to find a replacement.

## NEW SESSION RESPONSIBILITIES

Please note the following new session responsibilities: Finances and Stewardship (Mark Hartrim-Lowe); Buildings and Grounds (Faye Salomone); Personnel (Dian Poujade); Worship Arts (Laura Livingston); Christian Education (Janet Lind); Technology (Seth Hartrim-Lowe); Mission and Peace (Janet VanFleet); Community Life (Christie Mistrot); Evangelism and Member Care (Josh Krane). We are grateful for the gifts and passion that each person bring to their areas of oversight.

## SCAMMERS

Once again scam artists are trying to take advantage of others by falsely claiming to be someone else over fraudulent text messages, emails, or social media communications. It behooves us all to be vigilant and know what signs to look for. The Oregon Department of Justice encourages us to look out for these six signs:

1. Scammers Want You To Wire Money. You may be asked to wire money or purchase pre-paid debit cards.
2. Scammers Tell You To Keep It "Secret."
3. Scammers Make It Sound Too Good To Be True.
4. Scammers Contact You "Out Of The Blue."
5. Scammers Claim There Is An "Emergency."
6. Scammers Ask For Your Personal Information.

One other clue is to look at the originating phone number or email address. If it does not match up with person you know, then it is most likely a scam. The key here is trust your gut instinct and if you get a strange communication from someone you supposedly know, reach out and speak to them directly. Then report it to the Washington State Attorney General's Office at [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov).



## JULY SESSION NOTES

Devotions focused on Proverbs 16:31 and the importance of asking good questions. Sarah Ostrand shared with Session exciting opportunity of receiving grants from the PCUSA and Cascades Presbytery to establish new senior care ministry in Clark County, Washington. Thanked Cordell Beck and Heather Hartrim-Lowe for six years of active service on session. Selected New Session Responsibilities with new elders. Received and accepted Erik Suten's resignation as Cascades' Contemporary Worship Leader. Elders signed up for CPR/First Aid Training on Saturday July 27, 2024. Approved Campership grants for East Clark County Young Life for Heritage HS and Covington MS students. No session meeting planned for August. Overall excited about new session members and the gifts they bring. Sensed God's invitation to grow where planted. Importance of living for today, letting go, and always pursuing hope.

## daily Devotions



### A Worthy Life

- Aug 1 Ephesians 4:1-16
- Aug 2 Ephesians 4:1-16
- Aug 3 Ephesians 4:1-16

### God Provides

- Aug 4 Psalm 130
- Aug 5 Kings 19:4-8
- Aug 6 Psalm 34:1-8
- Aug 7 Psalm 34:1-8
- Aug 8 John 6:35, 41-51
- Aug 9 Ephesians 4:25-5:2
- Aug 10 Ephesians 4:25-5:2

### Living With Intention

- Aug 11 Ephesians 5:15-20
- Aug 12 Ephesians 5:15-20
- Aug 13 Ephesians 5:15-20
- Aug 14 Ephesians 5:15-20
- Aug 15 Ephesians 5:15-20
- Aug 16 Ephesians 5:15-20
- Aug 17 Ephesians 5:15-20

### Grounded and Strengthened By God

- Aug 18 Ephesians 6:10-20
- Aug 19 Ephesians 6:10-20
- Aug 20 Ephesians 6:10-20
- Aug 21 Ephesians 6:10-20
- Aug 22 Ephesians 6:10-20
- Aug 23 Ephesians 6:10-20
- Aug 24 Ephesians 6:10-20

### Establishing a Practice of Faith

- Aug 25 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- Aug 26 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- Aug 27 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- Aug 28 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- Aug 29 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- Aug 30 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
- Aug 31 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Eight years ago, they met on a blind date in Tacoma through an online dating site. Their journeys to that point certainly differed from each other. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, he was the son of Hungarian immigrants who had fled during the 1956 revolution against the Soviet Union. She, born in Barbourville, KY, was raised in Appalachia and in the San Joaquin Valley of California. As the daughter of two teachers living in provided housing on the grounds of the migrant workers town school in Five Points, CA, she took an early interest in learning and in music, which her father taught.



Laura Livingston obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Fresno State, her master's in public administration from Golden Gate University, and her PhD in curriculum and instructional design from Florida State University. She made a career of the US Army, both active duty and reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Her experience developing training for soldiers led her to earn her doctorate, enabling her to provide various content for multiple companies, both for-profit and non-profit. She has lived "all over," including a three-year stint in Germany, and has traveled extensively in Europe.

Tom Holczer found his profession as a draftsman when the job was done manually, then rapidly advanced to become a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) automation engineer and an electrical/instrumentation maintenance engineer. His work programming industrial control systems brought him from Pittsburgh to Tacoma, with Southwest Missouri and Shanghai, China in between. He married and had a family early in life, so work, travel, and family took precedence over the engineering degree he desired. Still, he excelled in his vendor-provided training as well as being educated at two other schools.

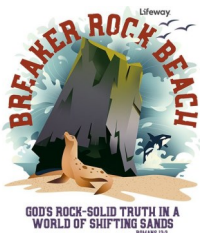
"Ultimately, Laura found a job opportunity in Seattle and settled in Puyallup. Tom's life changed dramatically after a divorce and having been laid off from a Portland steel mill. He relocated to Tacoma taking a job there. Thus, Tom and Laura, having met in Tacoma, recently moved to Vancouver as Tom now readies for retirement in February."

Even though Laura and Tom both have traveled extensively, they still desire to "travel anywhere and everywhere". Both take pleasure in their Labradoodle, Piper. Laura enjoys researching her family genealogy. They appreciate Cascades Church's smaller size and its sense of community. Laura likes being a part of the choir ministry. We at Cascades welcome them and appreciate their willingness to serve in our congregation.



*Submitted by Bill Honey, Elder*

## 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP



Life can feel like you're treading on shifting sand. Things are always changing, especially for our children. During Vacation Bible School this year, we shared that God is our rock in our everchanging world.

Each day we shared a new truth with our nearly 30 VBS attendees. On Monday, we shared that God's plan is best. God provided an opportunity to live out this truth when I found myself in the hospital with Sam on Monday rather than at VBS. All of our volunteers rallied to launch VBS without a hitch. On Tuesday, we talked about how everyone NEEDS Jesus. We are not responsible for our own salvation. Just as the rich man who seeks the kingdom of God learns in Mark 10, all things are possible with God. On Wednesday, we learned that Jesus is the only way. And on Thursday, we practiced speaking truth in love. By the last day of Vacation Bible School, this was a good reminder.

Each year we assign a mission to our Vacation Bible School. It's important to teach our young people to think beyond themselves. This year in memory of Patsy Kneller, our Christian Education friend and benefactor, we chose to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Patsy worked for Habitat in Humanity in Texas for many years. Our VBS families, along with our church family, were so generous! We exceeded our goal of raising \$300 by Wednesday. All told, we raised \$869.16 for Habitat for Humanity. Wow! Thank you all for your support!

Continued on Page 4



## 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP

It is such a blessing to serve alongside such faithful volunteers. Each year, I'm reminded of what servants we have in our midst. Thank you to Dian Poujade, Doris Raspa, Joan Detrick, Janet Lind, Becky Hickok, Sandy Cox, Greg Beck, Cordell Beck, Nancy Bisbee, Laura Livingston, Debbie Engley, Linda Beck, Sherry McKusick, Bill Honey, Faye Salomone, Betty Scott, Michelle Drexler, Sofia Montovino, Catherine Hartrim-Lowe, Chloe Hartrim-Lowe and, as always, Pastor Chris for the many ways you loved on the youngest members of our community. An additional shout out to Lindsay Winsor, Tauschia Wallschlaeger and Art & Claudia Derbyshire for feeding our new friends. And, last but certainly not least, to our 12 teen helpers who bring energy and joy to Vacation Bible School, I thank you.

Heather Hartrim-Lowe, VBS Director



## NEW HOPE OPPORTUNITIES MISSION TRIP

It's been almost a month since "The Dream Team" as Pastor Chris called us has returned to life as normal. However, it's doubtful any of our lives will ever be the same. Our hearts were transformed with God's amazing presence during our time at New Hope School in Honduras.

Leading Vacation Bible School for 160+ students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade sounded like a huge hurdle for our team of 10. Packing 7 bags full of all we hoped we would need to pull it off seemed like the beginning of a daunting task. Arriving later than expected on Sunday after 16 hours of travel due to several long layovers didn't help. No time for jet lag with alarms set to get up early to eat breakfast then greet all 160+ students at 6:50 am Monday as they entered the school to begin their week.

At 6:50 am Monday, God's presence became very real. Every child pre-k through 12th grade walked through our line-up to give each of us a hug. Immediately, the daunting task ahead was erased from our minds. We all went into "God" mode and began preparing for VBS.

Greeting the students became the beginning of our daily routine for the week. Through those 160+ daily hugs, we all felt God's presence and confidence that VBS would be a success. It was more than a success. Not only did we bless the New Hope School, they blessed us in return. Seeing the joy on the children's faces was indescribable, especially when realizing that "joy" as we know it is something they seldom experience.

Thank you to all who supported us with your prayers and donations to provide this international mission opportunity.

Alfonso and Mara who lead New Hope School are extremely grateful to Cascades for sharing our love of God...making it so much more true for their students and their families. Their hope is that this is the first of many VBS mission trips. While the team may not always be the same, it will always be God's dream team making a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor families living in the Riviera Hernandez community of San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Blessings from Dream Team 2024

Sophie Hickok, Jasper Suttin, Harrison Hartrim-Lowe, Seth Hartrim-Lowe, Sam Hartrim-Lowe, Catherine Hartrim-Lowe, Heather Hartrim-Lowe, Janet Lind, Janet VanFleet, Pastor Chris Montovino.



## CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

**August 16th & 17th 9am-3pm**

The youth group is having a church-wide rummage sale! Proceeds will be split between the youth campership fund and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you have items you would like to donate to the sale, we are collecting items during church office hours (Mon.-Thur. 8am-12pm), ring the doorbell to be let in. For those who need to bring items at a different time or need help bringing items to the church, contact Sarah Ostrand at 949-290-9315.



## BIRTHDAYS

Greg Beck  
Yukte Dayal  
Claudia Derbyshire  
Kay Gibson  
Mark Hartrim-Lowe  
Phil Hickok  
Bill Honey  
Janet Lind  
Fred Poujade  
Liz Swanson  
Luanna Walters

## CALENDAR

Aug. 1	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Aug. 4	10:15am	Worship Service
Aug. 5	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Aug. 6	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
Aug. 7	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Aug. 8	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Aug. 11	10:15am	Worship Service
Aug. 12	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Aug. 13	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Aug. 14	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Aug. 15	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Aug 16-17	10-3pm	Youth Group Rummage Sale
Aug. 17	5:30pm	Family Game Night
Aug. 18	10:15am	Worship Service
Aug. 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Aug. 21	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Aug. 22	1:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Aug. 25	10:15am	Worship Service
Aug. 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Aug. 28	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	6:30pm	Worship Team
Aug. 29	12:30pm	Giving Hands Ministry

"God's *love* is like an ocean; you can see its beginning, but not its end."

Rick Warren

## ANNIVERSARIES

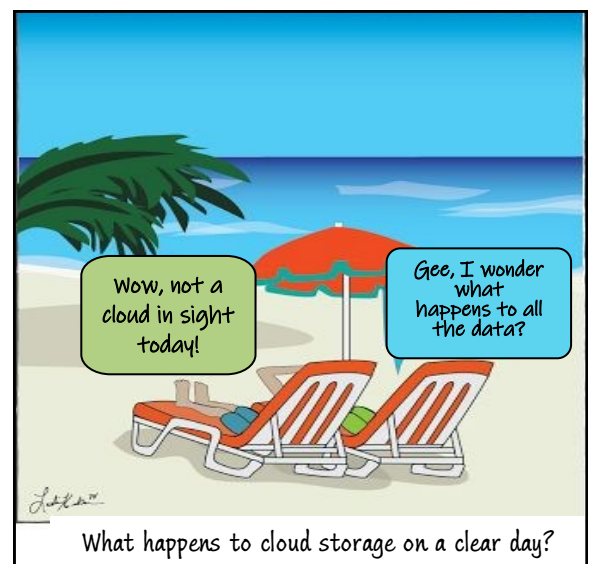
Andy & Michelle Drexler

*Don't see your name here?  
Contact the office to be added to the Birth-day & Anniversary List!*

## JUNE FINANCES

Income	\$25,367.62
Expenses	\$20,697.93
Total	\$ 4,669.69

Year to Date 2024  
\$3,907.91



Answer: 1. Because it saw the ocean's bottom!  
2. Because they are shellfish!





# CASCADES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9503 NE 86th St  
Vancouver, WA 98662

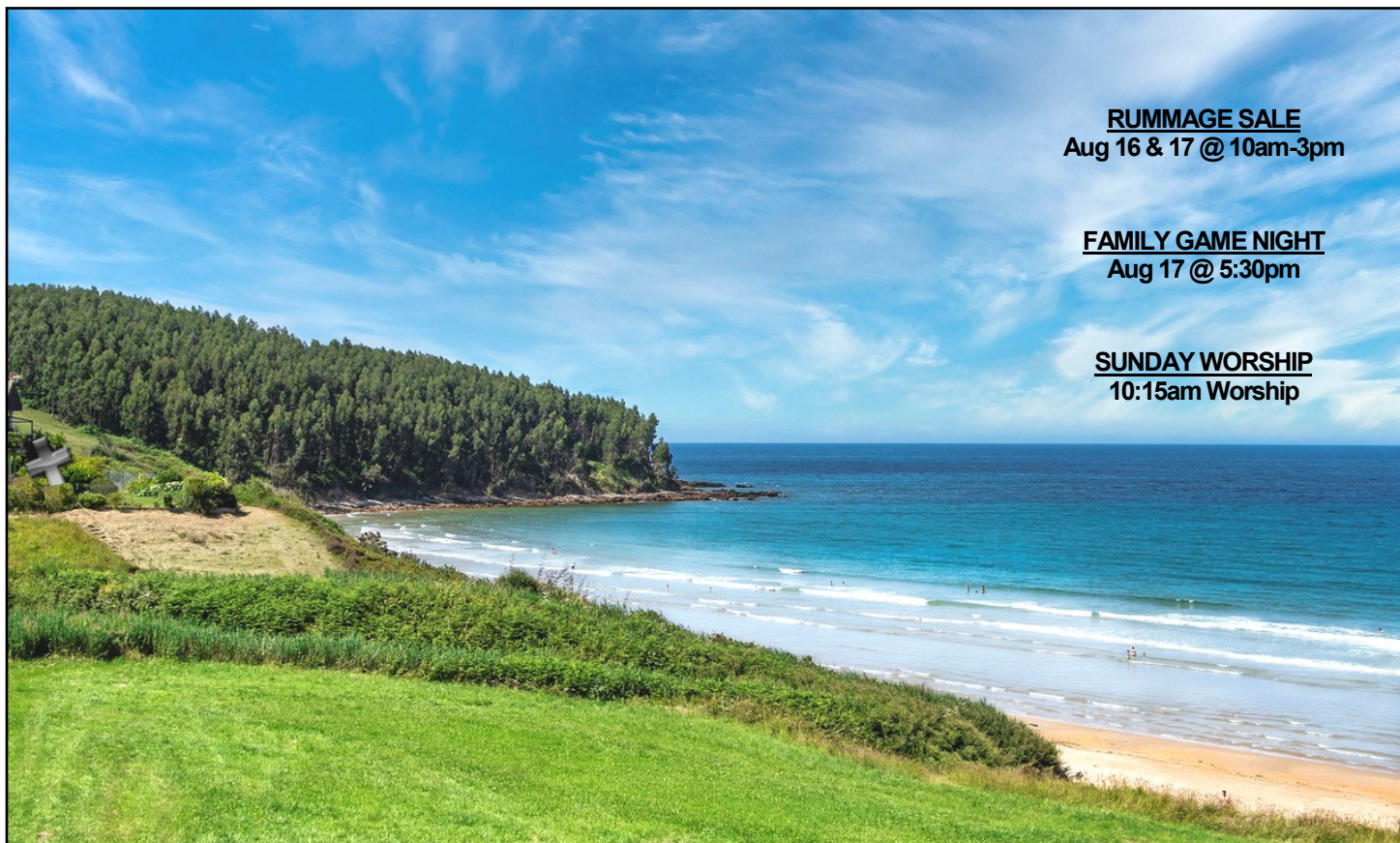
(360) 892-6613  
[office@caspres.org](mailto:office@caspres.org)  
[www.caspres.org](http://www.caspres.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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**RUMMAGE SALE**  
Aug 16 & 17 @ 10am-3pm

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**  
Aug 17 @ 5:30pm

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
10:15am Worship