

October 2023



# THE CHURCH BELL

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## OCTOBER

### DEACON OF THE MONTH

Deborah Shaner

### FISH FOOD

Canned Meats




Happiness is coffee  
on a fall day

### SOLVE THE RIDDLES

What room do ghosts  
avoid?

Why did the scarecrow  
win so many awards?

Stumped?  
See page 5 for the answer.

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

Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul, had a radical encounter with the living Christ. One day on his way to persecute members of The Way (early Christians), he was literally knocked on his behind when Jesus stopped him from going any further and asked him why he was doing what he was doing. That encounter changed his life and gave him his calling to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the known Gentile world.

Imagine if we each came to our own times of study in God's Word expecting to have a personal encounter with living Jesus Christ! Imagine how radical and exciting each day would become!

Throughout our fall sermon series, How to Hear God, based on Pete Greig's book with the same title, we hear story after story of people in the bible and people we know who have had these sorts of encounters with the living Jesus Christ. Sometimes God speaks to us through prayer, through God's prophets, through others, through our circumstances, and through our culture. But we know that God always speaks to us through His Word. Oftentimes the reason we don't hear God is that our lives are just too busy and hurried to take time to listen to the still small voice as God speaks.

I know that is true in my own life. I can get so busy doing even good things in the church, in my neighborhood, in my family, and in my own life that there is little time where I can set aside for quiet where God often speaks. That's why I am intentional about retreating to quiet places at least once a month where I can be present with the Lord as the Lord is present with me. And in that stillness, God speaks.

But sometimes when God speaks it can be downright confusing or difficult to understand exactly what God is trying to say to us. That is why it is important to be part of a smaller group of faithful Christian people where we can discern whether or not we are actually hearing God's voice.

Samuel was a small boy who had been dedicated by his mother to serve in the temple. One night Samuel woke up hearing someone call his name, but he didn't know who it was. He kept going to Eli the temple priest to see if it was he who kept calling him. But it was not. Finally, after the last time, Eli told Samuel that it was the Lord who was calling him and that he was to answer, "Here I am, Lord! Your servant is listening." Eli was right and Samuel heard God's voice. In this story, Eli played that crucial role of a faith community that helped Samuel discern that it was actually God. Samuel could not do it by himself but needed Eli's help.

In the same way, we need the help of one another to help discern God's voice in our own lives. Thank God that we have this place called Cascades Presbyterian Church where we can be surrounded by other faithful Christ followers who have also heard God's voice for themselves and can help us as well! If you are not part of such a smaller group, I cannot encourage you enough to consider joining either the Fall Women's Bible Study or the Men's Once Saturday Fellowship Breakfast and Bible Study. These are great places to be connected with people who will help us hear the voice of God.

Continued on page 2

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

In the meantime, may we all have the same heart attitude as young Samuel who said, "Here I am, Lord. Your servant is listening."

In Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Chris Montovino, Pastor

**FALL FESTIVAL POTLUCK & TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

October 28 5:30-8:30

Food, fellowship and fun galore,  
come see what Cascades has in store!  
Mummies, daddies, kiddies and friends,  
are always welcome to attend!  
The yummy potluck is oh so pleasing,  
and all the kiddos go Trunk-or-Treating!  
Bring a dish to share and a non-scary costume to wear,  
so come join us this night...if you dare!



Sign-up sheet for a dish to share  
and/or your car trunk of treats is on  
the bulletin board in the narthex.

**BENEVOLENCE BOARD NEW MEMBERS**

The Cascades Benevolence Board welcomes Rod Swanson and Sam Hartrim-Lowe to the Board. They will join Betty Scott, Christie Mistrot, Phil Hickok, Janet VanFleet and Pastor Chris as they discern how to best support under-resourced families in our community. Thank you for saying yes to God's invitation to serve!

**SESSION NOTES**

Started with devotion on Genesis 50:15-21 on Things that Don't Make Sense. Discussed possible all church mission trip to New Hope Opportunities School in San Pedro Sula, Honduras summer of 2024. Received report on need to replace both sanctuary projectors which are beginning to show signs of failure. Met with sound engineers to create plan to place sound panels on back wall of sanctuary to enhance sound acoustics. Plan to submit grant to Presbytery to help offset costs. Update on school permit status. Set 2024 Budgets for Fall Stewardship Campaign. Carpets to be cleaned throughout church. Mentioned start of Women's Fall Bible Study and Men's Once Monthly Saturday Fellowship Breakfast and Bible Study. Approved facility use for flute recital and regular use of 4H Homeschoolers Theater Group on Mondays. Overall we expressed gratitude for our church family and facilities and are excited about exploring new ministries and ways to connect with the neighborhood.

**daily  
Devotions*****Faithful Until the End***

- Oct 1 Exodus 20:1-4
- Oct 2 Isaiah 5:1-7
- Oct 3 Psalm 19:7-10
- Oct 4 Exodus 20:18-21
- Oct 5 Psalm 80:7-19
- Oct 6 Philippians 3:7-11
- Oct 7 Philippians 3:12-16

***Waiting for God***

- Oct 8 Exodus 32:1-6
- Oct 9 Luke 17:11-19
- Oct 10 Psalm 106:1-3, 19-23
- Oct 11 Isaiah 25:1-9
- Oct 12 Psalm 23
- Oct 13 Philippians 4:4-7
- Oct 14 Philippians 4:8-9

***Show Me***

- Oct 15 Matthew 22:15-22
- Oct 16 Exodus 33:12-23
- Oct 17 Exodus 33:12-23
- Oct 18 Psalm 99
- Oct 19 Isaiah 45:1-7
- Oct 20 Psalm 96:1-13
- Oct 21 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

***Holy Union***

- Oct 22 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
- Oct 23 Matthew 22:34-36
- Oct 24 Matthew 22:34-36
- Oct 25 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Oct 26 Psalm 1
- Oct 27 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- Oct 28 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

***God's Words for You***

- Oct 29 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
- Oct 30 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- Oct 31 Joshua 3:7-17



## UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL PERMITTING PROCESS

When we undertook the project with the Clark County Development Office to be re-permitted to host a preschool/ kindergarten in our existing facility, we knew that it would be a difficult and slow journey. What we did not expect was that it would be so expensive. After submitting documents for the pre-application conference which told us exactly what we would need to do and how much it would cost for us to do it, we were informed by Clark County that we would have to pay over \$66,000 in traffic impact fees. This is due to the supposed number of additional daily trips that a preschool of our size (40 students) would allegedly generate. These fees also do not include the nearly \$16,000 in permit review fees nor changes what would be required for our facility to meet current school codes. Needless to say, we do not feel that these expenses are fair and have petitioned our Clark County Commissioners to have such fees waived. So as of right now, it seems that the Lord is not giving us the green light to move forward on the project as we had hoped. Instead we are waiting patiently on our Commissioners responses, and if the Lord so wills, we will move forward. If not, we will not proceed further.

## PICTURES FROM THE CLARK COUNTY FAIR

These pictures were taken at the Clark County Fair where Sam, Seth, Harrison, and Miriam participated in showing their animals for the 4H Animal Auction. Each won many awards for their husbandry expertise while earning a bit of money as well. Congratulations and well done!!!



## SANCTUARY PROJECTOR REPLACEMENT

The technology required for the Sunday morning worship service has evolved significantly from rolling out an overhead projector to display worship music to the current technology environment that supports our service today. The projectors are a main element of our worship experience providing many essential tasks: easy access to lyrics for our worship music; weekly announcements; visual aids for the sermon; minute for mission; movies for special events with the children; and displaying photographs of our community life.

Unfortunately, as you may have noticed, our projectors are getting old and have begun to display visual defects. There is a slight pink/purple hue that is present on the left side and bottom of the display from both projectors. This will continue to degrade and cannot be repaired. This means the church will need to buy new projectors. The current projectors have provided an excellent service for about 10 years. At the last bulb change several years ago, both projectors had over 5000 hours of service logged (bulbs are rated for 2500 hours).

Due to the degrading condition of our projectors and the brightness in our sanctuary during the service, the church needs to purchase projectors that can output 5000 lumens or better to display properly. The current projectors are Epson PowerLight projectors. A replacement Epson PowerLight 2250U today will cost \$1,674, for a total of \$3,348. The newer projectors have an increase in lamp life which will get 5000 hours as opposed to 2500. There are several other improvements such as an aspect ratio of 16:10 vs the current 4:3 ratio.

Projectors are an essential part of our worship service. This cost is a capital expense and outside of the usual 2024 operation and expense budget. If you would like to make a direct donation to this outside your normal pledge, please submit the donation and include a note indicating it is for the Technology Fund.

Cordell Beck, Elder of Technology



## FAMILY PROMISE NEW DAY CENTER

Family Promise of Clark County opened their new Day Center recently at River City Church in Vancouver. Their new space is wonderful, and is so welcoming. It is a privilege for Cascades to be a supporter for this wonderful program serving homeless families in Clark County.

## 2024 MISSION TRIP TO HONDURAS



We are in the beginning stages of planning a mission trip to New Hope School in Honduras in late June, 2024. The focus of the trip will be determined based on the interests of those who want to come. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex at church.

Janet Van Fleet, Elder for Mission and Peace

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

During a drive in 2004, this couple, who had been searching for a new church, saw a sign...the one in front of Cascades Presbyterian Church. They discussed visiting. Before they could, they were visited at home by their remodeler, Dorman Holcomb of T-Square Remodeling, when "for some reason" the topic of churches arose. Dorman suggested they try Cascades. They are glad they did! They are here still.

She grew up locally, with one older brother, graduated from Hudson's Bay High School, worked the soda fountain at Hi-School Pharmacy, and attended First Presbyterian in downtown Vancouver. He, with six siblings, grew up in West Seattle and Des Moines, WA, attended Pentecostal churches there, and graduated from Mt Rainier High School. He moved on to Western Washington University for his Bachelor's degree in Education, then to the University of Portland for his Master's. She attended Clark College, then at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, followed by her Master's, then to Spain for six months studying Spanish at the University of Sevilla.



They each found employment in the Battle Ground School District, finally meeting October 1995 when they separately attended a party for foreign exchange students at the home of a mutual colleague. Rod and Liz Swanson married nine months later. Rod taught elementary and middle school students for 39 years, retiring in 2020. Liz taught Spanish at Battle Ground High School for 35 years, retiring just this past summer. "For five consecutive spring breaks Rod supervised eighth-graders on trips to Washington, D.C." In 2015, the two of them "traveled with a group of high school students through parts of Europe, including Switzerland, Italy, France, and Spain."

The Swansons "live on 2.5 wooded acres where our backyard is often visited by deer, doves, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, and even the occasional black bear." Their son, Matt, "is currently studying environmental science at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon."

"Rod likes to drive American sports cars and has owned a Mustang, a Camaro, and a Corvette." For 30 years, Rod played basketball several days a week until he injured his back, and now dabbles with golf when he can. He likes to tinker, repair things, and do home projects in his shop, and "enjoys displaying his classic blow mold collection in the front yard," mostly at Christmas. At age 56, "he climbed to the summit of Mt St Helens. Rod thought that was quite an accomplishment until he was passed by a very fit 70-year-old man charging up the mountain!"

Liz, an avid reader, benefits from her daily walks and weekly in-person Zumba sessions, and enjoys dancing. She is addicted to Hallmark romance movies and appreciates PBS shows.

Favorite travel destinations include "Hawaii (Kona and Maui), Florida, Belize, Yellowstone, Mt Rushmore, Atlanta, Natchez Trace, Nashville, Alexandria and Williamsburg in Virginia, and San Diego," as well as Seaside and Leavenworth. Now that they are retired, they hope to travel more.

*Submitted by Bill Honey, Elder*



## OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct 1	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:15am	Worship Service
Oct 2	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 3	7:00pm	Deacons Meeting
	7:00pm	Session Meeting
Oct 4	6:30pm	Youth Group
Oct 5	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Oct 8	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Oct 9	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 11	6:30pm	Youth Group
Oct 12	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Oct 14	10:00am	Seedlings Poetry Workshop
Oct 15	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
	11:45am	Top of the Hill Potluck
Oct 16	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 18	6:30pm	Youth Group
Oct 19	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Oct 21	5:30pm	Family Game Night
Oct 22	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Oct 23	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 25	6:30pm	Youth Group
Oct 26	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
	1:00pm	Giving Hands Ministry
Oct 28	5:30pm	Fall Festival & Potluck
Oct 29	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Sunday School All Ages
	10:15am	Worship Service
Oct 30	12:30pm	Bowling Fellowship
Oct 31	All Day	Halloween



## BIRTHDAYS

Joann Jacobs  
 Roy Jacobs  
 Betty Scott  
 Catherine Hartrim-Lowe  
 Chloe Hartrim-Lowe  
 Harrison Hartrim-Lowe  
 Heather Hartrim-Lowe  
 Christina Miley  
 Art Derbyshire  
 Janet VanFleet  
 Amber Beck  
 Rachelle Lacombe  
 Jim Scovil  
 Bob Walters

## ANNIVERSARIES

Cordell & Amber Beck

## AUGUST FINANCES

Income \$24,446.80  
Expenses \$20,182.84  
 \$ 4,263.96

Year to Date 2023  
 (\$ 8,255.13)



Answer: 1. Living Room 2. He was out-standing in his field.



**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)

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