



THE GRAPEVINE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDPOINT, IDAHO
 October 2023

From the Pastor...

Did you know I'm working with third graders? As a part-time pastor, I have a need for additional work and income. In August I applied with the Lake Pend Orielle School District for an afterschool program funded through a grant. Several of the elementary schools in the district host this program. It provides a structured environment for children who otherwise would be what I've heard described as, "latch-key-kids," children who, after school, would otherwise go home to an empty house because the parent(s) of the household are at work.

I am one of four adults at Farmin-Stidwell Elementary School and there are about 70 kids enrolled. My group is mainly third graders, with a couple of fifth graders who also act as helpers to the younger kids. This takes place Monday through Friday, from just after 2:00 p.m. to about 5:30 p.m., and I'm paid for 3.2 hours of this, which comes to 16 hours per week.

Most weeks, the 20 hours of pastoring becomes 20-plus. When I was able to have the church position as my sole focus, this was easier to navigate. Now, I'm on a set schedule with the school and if I'm late, like most employees who are late, I get in trouble because they depend on this tight schedule based on bells that ring and hallways that swell with kids.

But I also have a third job. Shawna and I have Honey Frame Place, LLC. We have honey for sale, and I will add more bees next spring. The grounds, gardens, and barn need constant attention. This is not very lucrative, and it's probably more of a hobby. The income doesn't cover the expense most of the time. I have not updated the website for a while. The part of this job that I long to give focus and attention is writing. I am a writer, but it is very difficult to maintain this practice.

I also have another job as a Spiritual Director. I don't have many Directees, so the income stream is more of a trickle and the time is minimal, but it's an energy-producing aspect of my call in ministry. I am one of the only contemplative/mystic certified Christian spiritual directors in our multi-state region (Sharon Anderson is another).

Near the end of the Sabbatical, I got vertigo at the end of July. This threw me off most of August and much of September. I went to doctors, physical therapy, and now I am finally starting to not feel so many of the effects of the Vestibular Migraine Syndrome that was diagnosed. It has helped to replace all the fluorescent lights in my home and office with LED light bulbs, and other than the school, to avoid loud places, and to monitor my diet especially regarding alcohol, caffeine, and sugar.

One challenge with a varied schedule that chops up the day involves making time to exercise, the benefits of which are huge. Even with just a bit of exercise, I am thankful to have more energy to keep up with life's dynamic situations/opportunities/callings.

As we go into the fall and a change in season, may God lead us as we all look to ways to love and serve the Lord in our increasingly complex world.



SABBATICAL MOMENT

Three months ago, it was the Fourth of July. Do you remember where you were and what you did that day? I do. The Fourth of July was the anniversary of Henry David Thoreau starting his two-year stay at Walden Pond. His friend, Ralph Waldo Emerson, invited David to use part of the Emerson property for this experience of simplicity. Just outside of Concord, Massachusetts, the Walden Pond area is now considered a suburb of the metro-Boston region.

On July 4, 2023, Concord was cloudy and cool, a bit drizzly in the morning with a stronger rain in the afternoon. Shawna and I walked from The North Bridge Inn bed and breakfast to Walden Pond, and we followed the main road to get there, and ducked in and out of the woods on a parallel trail. We had heard Walden Pond was a popular place for the locals, both for swimming and for fishing. A busy day might see several thousand people, with hundreds of blankets lining the beach on the visitor center end of the lake.

I was very glad for a rainy Fourth, because there really were not that many people there, plus we had an earlier start to our day. One unique experience included finding the trail that walks along the woods by the lakeshore, and as we walked along, we heard a big CRACK as a large tree SNAPPED its trunk about five feet above the ground, then TUMBLED with a CRASH across a side trail we had just passed by on our hike. We saw the tree fall after we heard the initial bang, and thankfully it fell away from where we were standing. No wind, a calm day. Not sure why it fell, but we did hear it. I suspect it would have been loud even if we were not there.

At the beach area, we took off our shoes and waded up to our knees. We did not join the swimmers who were in their wetsuit swimwear, swim caps, and attached orange swimmer buoys so the lifeguards can see them out in the lake. The lake is lovely, with clean, clear water, and rather cool. The lifeguards enforce the “no feeding the geese” rule as they use the speakers to blare their message. They also pick up the goose poo off the sand with scoops designed for that purpose. Everything is clean, well-managed, and as natural as can be given the popularity of the area.

After we put our shoes back on, we walked across the road to the official Visitor Center and gift shop. We watched a Ken Burns documentary about the area and its authors, particularly Thoreau. I was moved to tears, it was amazing. We looked at displays featuring actual items from the mid-1800’s period. I signed up for membership in the Thoreau Society and my first volunteer action was to show a picture of the fallen tree over the trail. On our hike out, we heard the rangers with their chainsaws. We also explored a replica of the original cabin, and had a photo opportunity with a statue of Henry David Thoreau.

On the way back, we took The Amble, which is a path along the way that Emerson and Thoreau would have used to walk between Concord and Walden. It started raining so back in town we ducked into a café (the only one open on this holiday). I changed into a dry shirt, one I’d bought in the gift shop that says, “Member of the Thoreau Sauntering Society.”

No firecrackers, no fireworks, and we missed the famous Boston Pops concert on the island. But we had a great day of quiet reflection at Walden Pond on a memorable day of personal

significance. This will be my marker for all Fourth of July days and I'm grateful to have been there to saunter.



CLERK'S SEPTEMBER SUMMARY

We welcomed Pastor Andy back after his summer sabbatical. Then approved activity that had taken place since the previous April meeting...including;

- Switching banks from Umpqua to Washington Trust
- Following through with larger maintenance items... new energy efficient blinds in the fellowship hall, new A/C unit replacement and installation of heat cable on north side of building to minimize ice buildup over the sidewalk.
- Building use by BCHRTF
- Maureen Ballard's pop up acupuncture clinic
- Music Conservatory's continued use of the Bells for another calendar year
- Adult Sunday School curriculum for the Fall
- Building use by Suzuki String Academy

Additionally, we approved...

- Bella Note' building use
- Nova High building use on a month to month trial
- Mickey Quinn pulpit supply for Oct 8th
- Highway Cleanup Saturday Oct 14th with lunch to follow at the Hume's
- Deacon Report: Mary Sturgis reported the following contribution: Teen Center \$300, Food Bank \$360, Senior Center \$300. The Deacons are considering joining with the Methodists in another Food Bank drive.
- Finance Report: Paula brought up the concept of a narrative budget. She also reported that income for September was catching up compared to the slower summer months. Paula reports that all parties are content so far with the new relationship at Washington Trust Bank.
- Pastor's Report: Graveside service, Sally Nye, DOD(date of death) Sept. 2, 2023, service was Sept. 12, 2023 at Pinecrest. Jack Parker DOD Sept.9, 2023, service was Sept. 25, 2023 at 11 a.m.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Don Helander, Clerk

FIRST PRES./METHODIST FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

Remember our Food Bank challenge last year between the Methodist Church and us? We fought long and hard for two months, November & December, and ended up with 5,608 # total for The Food Bank from both churches, with food and cash.

This year we'll do it again, challenging the 5,608 # from last year, and together challenging us all to top that amount. This is not a competition, but a mighty collaboration to work together as churches to address needs in the community.

At First Pres. we will take whatever food and cash we've gathered to the Food Bank each Monday. It is important to bring donations to church each Sunday, and place into the box.

Monetary donations are counted as \$2 = 1#; we will be collecting both, with checks made out to Bonner Community Food Center.

Donations can also be taken directly to The Food Bank; just remember to give our church credit for them.

In January, both groups will gather at First Pres. this year for a potluck.

WE WILL top our 5,608 # goal!!

Lynn Pietz, Deacon



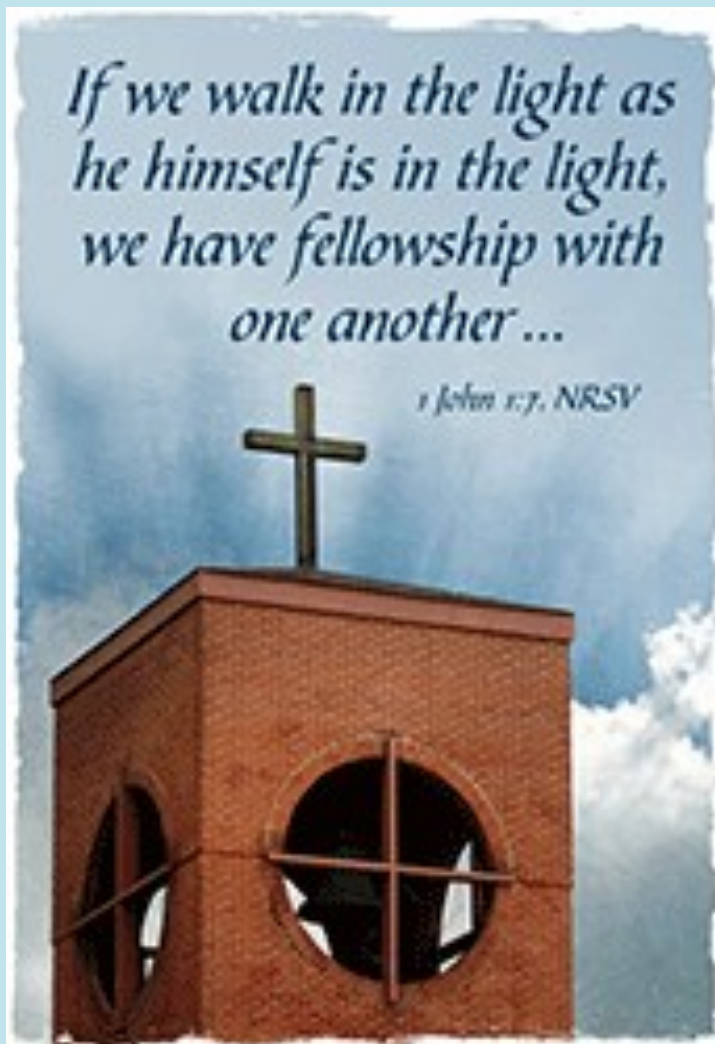
FELLOWSHIP

Your Session members feel that we will all benefit from meeting more regularly for Fellowship after church. Our new schedule will be the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays. We hope to see you there.

Our fall highway pickup is planned for Sat., Oct 14. We will be meeting at the Westmond Store, Hwy 95S at 10:00. Please wear gloves; vests will be provided. The tradition has been to meet when we're done at the Humes', in Sandpoint, for lunch immediately after. Please sign up with Sylvia (208)-304-2995.

Blessings!

Sylvia Humes



“The End of a Sabbatical Summer” Worship and Music Committee

We welcomed Pastor Andy and Shawna as they returned from their Sabbatical Summer on August 20. While we listen to brief snippets of their coast-to-coast experiences, we anxiously await the Power Point presentation that Pastor Andy prepares to share of an interesting summer dedicated to further develop his talented writing skills.

In my reflections of the summer, I noticed the leadership growth of our congregation in many aspects, especially in Sunday worship services. This was largely due to the efforts of a dedicated Worship and Music Committee consisting of Judy Labrie, Sue Helander, Paula Vincent, Sharon Anderson and Dana Stockman.

In planning for Sunday worship services, the Worship and Music Committee embarked upon a blend of inviting ordained clergy for “high church” communion services, guest presenters to emphasize local and global mission activities and encouraged church lay leaders to lead services.

As the committee invited church members to lead services, we offered to assist with the “churchy, preachy” aspects that might be unfamiliar to them. The results were wonderful. Here are some examples.

On Mother’s Day, Mickey Quinn described inspiring stories of Mothers in the Bible. Later, on Father’s Day, Kathleen Huntley shared experiences of her father which culminated in a tribute to her Heavenly Father. Paula Vincent, always an educator, passed out kites as visual aids to document our sermon notes. After recently returning from her second Carter Center retreat in Atlanta, Marilyn Robertson was anxious to tell about her experiences. Gary Jones used one verse of the Beatitudes – “Blessed are the meek” to weave in both Old and New Testament scriptures on meekness. This peer-to-peer preaching, interspersed with ordained clergy, provided a summer blessing for the congregation.

As the summer foliage fades into fall color, we say, “Welcome home, Pastor Andy and Shawna.”

Bill Love, Elder
Worship and Music Elder

2024 Proposed Budget

Our Plan for Ministry

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>To provide meaningful, life changing WORSHIP every week of the year.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">\$93,750</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(75% of general budget)</p> |
|--|---|

Highlights from 2023

We held weekly worship services where, on an average week, 30 people gathered to praise God and hear his word.

Three persons joined First Presbyterian Church through transfer of membership and dedicating or rededicating themselves to serving Christ Jesus

Special worship services were held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Live Streaming of weekly services allowed for anytime viewing. A few individuals made regular use of this format

Over 20 church members assisted Sunday worship serving as worship assistant, usher, or Live Streaming technician

During Pastor Andy Kennaly's sabbatical from May-September, Sunday worship services were led with a blend of visiting ordained clergy and lay leaders from the church

Instead of our traditional outdoor worship service at Sandpoint City Beach, we held three services in our Peace Garden

Worship services were enhanced with special music from the choir with the leadership and musical voice of Dana Stockman and the talents of Annie Welle at the piano.

Eric Moe, formerly a trumpet player in the Spokane Symphony and currently serving with his wife, Rev. Betsey Moe, as missionaries in Guatemala, inspired us with special music during a summer worship service

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>To NURTURE people on their faith journeys.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">\$18,750</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(15% of general budget)</p> |
|--|---|

Highlights from 2023

Christian Education held two classes at 9:00 am on Sunday morning during the winter and spring

Bible Study Group, facilitated by Mary Sturgis watched videos on the **Holy Lands** with five to six participants

Adult Nurture, facilitated by Sharon Anderson, Judy Labrie, and Pastor Andy utilized a study book, **The Art of Invitation** with 10 to 15 participants

Christian Education continued in the fall using **The Beatitudes and Francis of Assisi** workbook with 15-20 participants

A "**Church of the Wild**" expedition was held in Pine Street Woods with 10 participants

Dave and Lynn Pietz hosted a Potluck Dinner at their home with 15 participants

A half-day retreat centered around **The Tree and Me** was held after worship on Sunday, February 26, 2023 with 21 participants. It was facilitated by the Cultural Specialist at The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations in Spokane,

2024 Proposed Budget

Our Plan for Ministry continued:

| | |
|--|--|
| <p><i>To WITNESS to our faith in ministry and MISSION beyond ourselves</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;">\$12,500 <i>(10% of general budget)</i></p> |
|--|--|

Highlights from 2023

Provided financial support through mission giving and participation in special offerings such as Christmas Joy and the One Great Hour of Sharing

The gift of space in the Peace Garden, including a “Little Free Library” gets frequent visitors

Vegetables are grown in raised garden beds and donated to the Bonner County Food Bank

Financial donations and FPC volunteers support the Bonner Food Bank and Bonner Homeless Transitions

Meeting space is offered for community use and local chapters of AA, Al Anon, and PFLAG are welcomed

The sanctuary is frequently used by many of the local music schools and groups for recitals and community concerts

Pastor Andy writes a monthly article published in the Pastor’s Corner of the Daily Bee

Congregation members volunteer in many ways at Sandpoint Senior Center serving as meal delivery drivers, food service helpers, and helping with special/fundraising events

FPC partners with the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force by providing and supporting space for retreats, training and community gatherings

The congregation hosts benefits such as the St Patrick's Day dinner to support the Senior Center and a dinner to support Ukrainian refugee families resettling in Spokane

FPC continues to support a local Ukrainian family that has resettled in Sandpoint

For two months in 2023, FPC experimented with an acupuncturist by offering space for affordable community acupuncture sessions in a summer pop-up opportunity

FPC sponsors a stretch of Highway 95 through semi-annual clean up drives

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Total needed to fulfill our VISION:</p> <p><i>To follow Christ’s light as a congregation of people, loving, living, learning the joy of faith.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$ 125,000</p> |
|--|--|

2024 Narrative Budget

Draft October 2023



Sacrament of Communion Sunday October 1, 2023 during worship

Deacon Meeting Sunday October 8, 2023 after worship

Session Meeting October 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Bella Nova' Concert October 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Suzuki Concert October 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER



October Birthdays

1 Carol Curtis
7 Barney Ballard
19 Marilyn Robertson
20 Wesley Dustman

Regular Monthly Events



*Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. In-Person and Livestream
Adult Christian Formation Class 9:00 a.m.*

Monday - Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.

*Tuesday - Contemplative Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. to 2p.m.
Book Study and Contemplative Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. to
3:00 p.m.*

Second and Fourth Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. PFLAG

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon on Zoom

Thursday - 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous



First Presbyterian Church

Ministers: Members and Friends

Pastor Andy Kennaly

417 North Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

208-263-2047 office@fpcsandpoint.org

pastorandy@fpcsandpoint.org

Pastor cell phone: 208-304-5488

www.fpcsandpoint.org