

The Oregon Trail Evangelist

a diocesan edition of Episcopal Journal



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON

DECEMBER 2012



Processing out at the close of Convention Eucharist.

“We have found our souls. We are...less worried about money and more concerned about being Christ’s hands in the world. While we would love to have more folks in the pews (especially young folks) we are more focused on the difference those of us who are already in the pews can make in our communities and the world.

We are feeding the hungry, loving children, welcoming the homeless, sewing dresses, pasturing animals, growing community garden...among so many other ministries! I brag on you all the time.

There are a series of e-mails right now among the bishops, canons and other diocesan staff members about small congregations and how to get them to close or merge or whatever. Luckily someone wrote a response similar to what I needed to say but didn’t have time to write: there’s a difference between small and stuck, between languishing and vibrant. There are small congregations that can and do make a huge difference.

Size isn’t the variable that counts. Faithfulness counts. Imagination counts. Loving counts. Partnerships count.

...In our partnerships we boost our power...the Holy Spirit will take us where we need to go.”

--from Bishop Nedi Rivera’s Oct. 13 address to Diocesan Convention.

Convention: elections, workshops

When delegates to the 42nd annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon gathered in Bend in mid-October they elected a slate of new members to both Diocesan Council and Standing Committee.

They adopted a resolution from Standing Committee directing the Bishop, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council “to continue to live into and develop the part-time bishop model for the Diocese of Eastern Oregon until such time as the act of the Convention is revoked.”

Delegates also took part in a range of workshops that offered training for lay ministries, for church treasurers, and Safeguarding God’s Children and Safeguarding God’s people; included a review of General Convention; and related how various parishes carry on with merged congregations and children’s ministries..

“All in all the agenda moved smoothly with absolutely no underlying controversy,” delegate Doug Boone reported in the St. Stephen’s, Baker City newsletter. “The budget approved by the voting delegates was again sparse but balanced. We were told to expect declining revenue within the foreseeable future.” For more on Convention, turn to page 3

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The Rev. Dcn. Jane Dey is retiring

Jane Dey started studying for the diaconate two decades ago, as she approached retirement from a long and satisfying career as a public health nurse.

Ordained a deacon in Missouri in 1993, Dey has been part of Church of the Transfiguration in Sisters since 2004. “I love the time I’ve spent as a deacon,” she says. Although she is retiring from active service, “I will always be a deacon.”

Dey turns 85 this year. She says “Age is creeping up on me.”

“Jane’s love and concern



for others is always evident,” says the Rev. Ted Rodrigues, rector at Trans-figu-

ration.” While Jane may have retired from ‘active’ ministry in the parish, I know that she will continue to minister actively, for that is her nature.”

The ministry of deacons “is essential to develop our missional church,” says Bishop Nedi Rivera. “With Jane’s retirement, we are

‘down one.’ We will miss her faithfulness, her generous heart and her loving presence when we gather together. We wish her well in her retirement.”

“My church has always been a very important part of my life,” Dey says, noting that she might have studied for the priesthood had that been an option when she chose a career. Still, she never regretted becoming a nurse. Before she retired, she had been head of Missouri’s Bureau of Public Health Nursing, for 17 years.

Make an Advent calendar of our lives and witness

So much to be thankful for! Diocesan Convention was terrific! Trinity's hospitality was amazing: great accommodations (isn't St Helen's Hall a great place to worship?) a lovely introduction to Family Kitchen showing off their tasty food and loving service, great signage, and lots and lots of volunteers standing ready to help.

The music and worship were heavenly. Isn't this what happens when congregations partner together – bringing their best gifts to the table to share with others? Transfiguration and Sunriver Christian Fellowship each helped Trinity make the music outstanding.

It was Trinity's idea to share the many waters of Eastern Oregon to use as holy water in our congregations. Both the giving and taking of waters brought me to tears.

Thank you also to St Andrew's, Prineville for a contemplative and gracious Morning Prayer.

All this set the mood for a loving and grace-filled Convention. We learned together, took time to get reconnected across the diocese, ate good food, and committed ourselves to look for opportunities to share the Good News of God in Christ and to forge new partnerships in ministry as we move out into the world God has called us to serve. It seems to me, and I think to many, that we are living in a resurrection time.

Of course it was in the context of Resurrection that Jesus sends us forth into the world to be God's feeding, healing, forgiving, raising the dead hands. As we in EDEO have more and more claimed our call to mission, we have become stronger



Bishop Nedi Rivera watches, as representatives of each parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon bring water from a local creek or river to mingle in a common vessel. Bottles of the holy water went home to each congregation from Convention.

and stronger. Jesus wasn't scolding us or trying to get us to do something onerous when He invited us into ministry – He was saying this is the way to enter the Reign of God. This is the new life you seek. And we are learning (are we not?) that Jesus is always right. That He is worthy to be followed in this life of self-denial and self-giving.

So often when we speak of what we wish for in our churches, we think that more people, especially more children will be our salvation, but Jesus teaches us that in some way, this isn't our business.

Our business is to heal the sick, raise the dead, forgive one another and feed the hungry. Jesus' ministry wasn't about building the church – there were less than 200 people at Pentecost, the Baptism of the Church. Jesus' ministry was about opening the door to the Reign of God.

Here is my assertion: to the extent we live into this vocation to serve, take delight in it and are willing to share this joy and delight in a regular way, we and the Church will also be served.

I really believe the more we are willing to share our love of

God, the more our lives will be centered in Christ, and the we will discover the Grace God pours out upon us.

What if during this Advent, we were to make an Advent calendar of our lives and witness?

What if in our morning prayers we were to look deeply to find the kernel of Good News we are willing to share that day: perhaps the words from one of those amazing prophecies of the Sunday liturgies (e.g., "The Lord has taken away the judgments against you"), or of Advent or even Christmas carols (e.g., "love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be") or of some tidbit of the preacher's wisdom?

Then what if we take the risk to open the door of your heart and find a way to share it?

In November (when I am writing this column) I am offering thanksgivings each and every day.

So too, each day in December, in Advent, I will find a way to share God's Good News with someone, somewhere. Won't you join me?

Blessings!
Nedi

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The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, founded as the Missionary District of Eastern Oregon in 1907, became a diocese in 1970. It includes all of Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains as well as Klickitat County, Washington—some 69,000 square miles. There are 22 parishes and more than 2,600 Episcopalians in the diocese.

The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera,
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The Episcopal Church, organized in 1789, is a community of 2.5 million members in 114 dioceses in North American and abroad.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop
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The Anglican Communion is a global community of 70 million Anglicans in 37 member provinces around the world.

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon.
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Diocesan Calendar

December

1 Ascension School Board meeting, Cove, 9 a.m.
8-9 Trinity Institute webcast at Trinity, Bend
14-25 Diocesan Office, The Dalles, closed

January

4-11 Diocesan Office closed
11-21 Bishop Rivera in the diocese
19 Education for the Baptized: Vestry Formation

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

December

Dec 2 St Andrew's Episcopal/ Peace Lutheran/Church of the Living Waters, Burns: Matthew Littau

Dec 9 St Andrew's, Prineville: Janet Warner

Dec 16 St. Barnabas, Bonanza: Martha Hurlburt, Sherry Hartley

Dec 23 Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton: Alison Dingley, Jean Cupp

Dec 30 St Stephen's, Baker City: Aletha Bonebrake, Connie Boone

January

Jan 6 St. Thomas, Canyon City: Dan Gardner

Jan 13 St Peter's, La Grande: Kathryn Macek

Jan 20 St. Paul's, Nyssa: Roger Williams

Jan 27 St Paul's, Klamath Falls: Martha Hurlburt

February

Feb 3 St Paul's, The Dalles: Janet Fullmer, Stephen Schafroth, Georgia Giacobbe

Retired priest crafts custom vestments

When she retired as priest at St. Andrew's, Prineville two years ago, the Rev. Carol Parker found a creative outlet in designing and crafting staples for church and clergy: custom vestments and altar cloths.

"Calling it a business is a bit ambitious," she jokes.

Her first project was for St. Andrew's, where she was priest for 15 years: hangings for the lectern and pulpit, an altar frontal, a chalice veil and burse, plus priest's and deacon's stoles. All in green--"what we had was old and tired," she says.

"I had such a good time doing it. It took awhile, but you have to remember I was newly retired," Parker says.

Since then she's made an assortment of stoles for both priests and deacons. Most cost \$50 to \$75. The price, a fraction of what custom vestments usually cost, depends on the fabric and the amount of handwork involved.

She recently made a three-piece set of hangings, including an altar frontal, for the Lutheran church in Prineville, charging for the cost of the fabric and just \$10 an hour for her labor. Total cost was \$500. "I don't do it to get rich, just to have fun, to play with pretty fabric and be creative."

Parker says she'd like for other churches to call and say, "This is what I have in mind, what can you do for us?"



The green stole that the Rev. Carol Parker, retired priest at St. Andrew's, Prineville, wore at Diocesan Convention was one of the custom vestments she's made.

Elected, appointed to Diocesan positions

Elected (all by unanimous ballot)

Secretary of Convention: Doug Harder, Redeemer, Pendleton;

Diocesan Treasurer, incumbent Jerry Frazier, St. Paul's, The Dalles.

To Standing Committee: Ann Havill, Trinity, Bend; the Rev. Dan Gardner, St. Thomas, Canyon City.

To Diocesan Council: Doug Boone, St. Stephen's, Baker City; Karla Nash, Trinity, Bend; Charles Cagle, St. Andrew's, Burns; the Rev. Dan Lediard, St. John's, Hermiston; the Rev. Kathy Macek, St. Peter's, La Grande.

Appointed by Bp. Nedi Rivera:

Diocesan Commission on Ministry: the Rev. Rebecca Hendricks, St. James, Milton-Freewater; David Silva, Redeemer, Pendleton; Beth Spell, St. Thomas, Canyon City; the Rev. Rich Landrith, St. Luke's, Lakeview.

Approved: the bishop's nomination to another term on the **Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board** of the Rev., Ted Rodrigues, Transfiguration, Sisters and Arnold Coe, St. Peter's, La Grande.

2013 Convention will be Oct. 11-13, hosted by St. Matthew's, Ontario



Diocesan Council members Don Dickinson, St. Paul's, The Dalles; Doug Boone, St. Stephen's, Baker City; Bishop's Secretary Diane Adams and retiring Standing Committee member the Rev. Paul Morton talk at Diocesan Council retreat, held at Ascension School in Cove Nov. 9-11.

Photo by Bp. Nedi Rivera

Clergy voices

The Rev. Alison Dingley in the November issue of Voice of the Redeemer, newsletter of Redeemer, Pendleton:

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.

As I write this, news of the multiple disasters and messes caused by Hurricane Sandy is washing over and through me. I did much of my growing up in New Jersey, and my parents lived there until my mother died and I moved my father to Hawaii in 2000. Thus, much of my heart is with the folks there as I see reports from places I know and have fond memories of.

We moved to Montclair, New Jersey when I was nine, and joined St. Luke's Episcopal Church. I enjoyed Sunday School and Junior Choir there and learned to sing the hymn, 'I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.' It has always been one of my favorite hymns both because it appeals to the Anglophile in me and because it taught me that anyone can be a saint. That lesson has helped me embrace the varieties of shared or mutual ministry that are so much a part of this diocese. There also were great examples of saints at St., Luke's when I was growing up...all of whom taught me what the ministries of the laity might be.

In times of disaster, when people pull together and offer all that they can to help their neighbors, we can see the possibilities of community. God gifts each of us with calls to minister and serve and with the abilities and skills to offer to God and to one another. Disasters have a way of breaking down barriers of fear and reticence that can stop us from stepping forward in service in whatever way God calls. Imagine how it would be if we could have that freedom all the time and truly be the saints God is calling us to be.

The Rev. Jan Kozak, in the November issue of One Voice, the newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal/Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Madras:

How quickly things change! A month ago I rejoiced in the wonderful family visit we had just been blessed to have. Today I rejoice in that family still, while giving thanks that my Mom is finally free, released from dementia, at peace and with God forever! Thank you for your prayers, calls, texts, notes and emails. Truly they carried us.

When I think about the pain that the finality of death of a loved one brings to those of us who are still alive in our bodies, I also marvel to know, not only that their pain is over, but that they thrive eternally in the peace of Christ!

These thoughts lead me to reflect, not only on All Saints' Sunday coming up in November but also about November as the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving. In our culture, Thanksgiving Day has become for some a day characterized more by too much food and football than by thoughtful, prayerful giving of thanks to God for all God has given us.

Maybe 'our' candidate will not have been elected; maybe we still have family members serving in war zones; maybe family dissensions will prevent some members from being present at table with us. These are indeed hard things.

And...even so, God blesses us...here in this place with clean air, pure water, a bountiful harvest, friends and so much more. Surely we have been so blessed as to give thanks to God continually, not only for a few scant seconds on Thanksgiving Day.

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake, in the November issue of Voice of St. Stephens, the newsletter of St. Stephen's, Baker City:

What I would ask is that you continue sharing the great harvest with small thanksgivings day by day, for God blessing us with the rich land and enduring government ideals, for your freedom to speak and worship and live as you choose. I ask that you each continue in the year between Thanksgiving Feasts to remember the poor and hungry among us, giving thanks with a check to St. Vincent de Paul or to the Portland Rescue Mission, or with a can of soup or a jar of peanut butter to the Open Door basket at our altar the first of every month. In this small way, a mighty army can serve the Lord as he has called us to do, serving with joy the needy and hungry among God's children.

The Rev. Katy Anderson, in the November issue of Shared Ministry News, for All Saints Episcopal/ Hope Lutheran, Heppner:

Gratitude has the power to transform. Don't believe it? Give it a try. Next time you wake up grumpy on a cold wet dark morning, just stay in bed for a few extra minutes...and come up with something to be grateful for as you start your day. Are you grateful that there was apparently enough oxygen in the room to keep you breathing all night long? that you have a roof without leaks, windows with glass in them, a furnace with a thermostat, slippers to slide your feet into, coffee already brewed on a timer and waiting for you? Once you start on your gratitude list the things you can add to it will keep surfacing all day long. And it will get harder and harder to be grumpy.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

Diocesan Convention, October 2012



The clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon assemble outside St. Helen's Hall at Trinity, Bend, for a group photo at the end of the 42nd annual Diocesan Convention. At left, a group of confirmants and their sponsors gather at the altar with the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera; below, L to R, items that went into the 1,000 kits assembled for homeless people, then divided among parishes for distribution; the bishop helps pack the plastic bags on Friday night; next to a stack of bagged kits, a small group discusses biblical admonitions regarding charity.

Photos both pages by Jeanie Senior



“Hand in Hand Into the Future”



Clockwise, from top: ✦ The choir from Transfiguration, Sisters, entertains at Saturday dinner; ✦ the Rev. Dcn. Steve Schafroth, St. Paul's, The Dalles, receives a certificate from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Executive Director David Leslie, honoring him for “significant leadership and distinguished service” as an EMO board member and chair of its public policy advocacy committee; ✦ Bishop Nedi Rivera presents outgoing Diocesan Council members the Rev. Dcn. Roger Fairfield, Transfiguration, Sisters; Terry Rahmsdorff, Trinity, Bend; Sue Powers, St. Mark's, Madras with resurrection crosses made by Bob DeSpain of All Saints, Heppner; ✦ Clergy and congregation at the reading of the Gospel on Sunday; ✦ visiting in the break between the Sunday morning business meeting and Holy Eucharist.



Parish's Poetry Socials engage the community

by Malinda Pankl, parishioner at St. James, Milton-Freewater

St. James has enjoyed hosting three poetry socials this past year.

Our mission is to bring together people who love poetry, readers and writers, and enjoy getting to know each other. Our mission is to reach out and support all writers in a congenial setting.

Attendees are asked to bring a friend and up to two poems to share. Our plan includes a couple of big tables set together where we lay out our poems. Everyone is given a pencil and sticky notes so that they may add comments or questions for the poet. We circulate around the tables, reading the poems.

These poems may be either originals or favorites. The variety has been wonderful and has stimulated some fine conversations.

We want to open the door to what matters to us and hear all sorts of times and places. Coffee and snacks are served.



Participants at a recent Poetry Social at St. James, Milton-Freewater: front row L to R Richard Pankl, Terry Nyman, Marty Nyman, Beverley McRae, and Ginger Johnston. Back row L to R Alan Kopf, Lynn Crawford, Malinda Pankl, Linsay Winsor, and Diana St. Hilaire.

As our confidence has grown we are making room for a Reading Circle. People may read one poem. Positive response is encouraged.

We are not holding a formal reading per se or a workshop. Perhaps a writer's workshop will evolve from our fellowship.

Everyone is welcome and we hope people will come and be social with the poetry lovers of our area.

Studying to be a vergger at Redeemer

Verggers tend to be thin on the ground in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, which is mostly rural and without a cathedral.

But Homer Bozarth, a member of Redeemer, Pendleton where's he's the part-time sexton, is studying to change that.

Supervised by the Rev. Allison Dingley, he's embarked on the year-long course of vergger's training outlined by the Vergger Guild.

According to the guild, vergging and verggers have a 700-year history. Verggers today "are laypersons who serve the church in a ministry of welcome."



The Vergger Guild website says the vergger's logistical support gives the priest more time for pastoral and sacramental responsibilities.

Verggers might assign, train and check in with lectors, chalice bearers and acolytes.

In the coming year Bozarth's assignments will include getting to know the parish: the congregation, the church building and parish history, and pastoral considerations. He also must learn church safety, fire safety, first aid and security.



St. Paul's. The Dalles began its celebration of the 50th anniversary of its "new" church with an 8 a.m. Rite I Eucharist at "old" St. Paul's, now the Diocesan Chapel. Gretchen Kimsey, whose husband Rustin is a former St. Paul's rector, played the historic pump organ.

St. James' Church at Prayer

by Beverley McRae

The amber lights glow
Casting barely enough to see
But the familiar pages are known
No more than we need.

The old bell rings
The rope makes a shuddering sound
Never mind it still tolls
The call to worship is there

The ancient organ plays
Its tones so far from perfect
But it fits us well
The pews are old and creaking.

The silence descends
Heads are bowed in reverence
Hush, hush, speak not a word
St. James' is at prayer

NetsForLife effort continues in 2013

The diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development said he expects EDEO contributions to the NetsForLife program could reach \$9,500 for 2012.

Bruce Barnes of Redeemer, Pendleton said the campaign will continue through 2013. Through Dec. 31, 2012 donors can double their contributions: ER-D donations will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$300,000.

NetsForLife supplies insecticide-treated mosquito nets to families in Sub-Saharan Africa, where malaria is a major killer. In communities where NetsForLife is involved, malaria deaths drop by 45 percent.

Dick Burke, Bend, heads EDEO disaster preparedness and planning

A member of Trinity, Bend, will coordinate disaster preparedness and planning for EDEO.

Dick Burke will work with parishes in the diocese to assist them in putting in place a disaster plan.

"Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy as well as tornados in the midwest remind us that not only do we need disaster plans in our homes, we need them in our churches," said the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera. "I am most grateful to Dick Burke for taking on oversight of this work. It is hugely important, and a big job. Please pray for him, and let's each get our own houses in order."

Episcopal Relief & Development

2013 Ascension calendar is here, with Adult Ed leader, theme

The Rev. Marianne Borg, founder of the Center for Spiritual Development at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, will lead the 2013 adult education retreat at Ascension School.

Title of the Aug. 1-4 retreat is "From Out of the Cloud." Borg will focus on exploration of transfiguration texts and themes.

Borg and her husband, New Testament scholar Marcus J. Borg, recently moved to Powell Butte; they are members of Trinity, Bend.

Ascension School 2013

May 2-5 Eastern Oregon Cursillo

May 24-27 Work Weekend

June 17-21 Counselor Staff Training

June 23-29 Film Camp

July 1-3 Discovery Camp

July 7-13 Sr. High Camp

July 14-19 Beginners Camp

July 21-27 Jr. High Camp

July 28-August 2 Combined Camp

August 1-4 Adult Education

November 2- Fall Work Day

November 15-17 Diocesan Council Retreat

repeatedly has urged dioceses and individual parishes to get plans in place.

Burke will be contacting parish leaders in coming weeks, but he also can be reached at 542-728-1225.

Diocesan Council 2013 meeting schedule

Jan. 26 Online meeting

March 15-16 The Dalles

May 11 Online meeting

Aug 9-10 location to be announced

Oct 11-13 Diocesan Convention, Ontario

Nov 15-17 Retreat at Ascension

News from EDEO parishes

St. Stephen's, Baker City

St. Stephen's, which traces its history to the 1870s, again will offer tours of the church and hold its annual Gingerbread Open House on Dec. 8, coinciding with the Baker City Historic Parlor Tour.

St. Stephen's hosted the Baker County Ministerial Association's Ecumenical Thanksgiving service the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake planned the service, with other clergy participating.

All Saints Episcopal / Hope Lutheran, Heppner

Living Water International will build a well in India, paid for by \$5,000 raised by the All Saints/ Hope shared ministry. "When we hear more about where our particular well will be built, we'll share the news and hold a feast featuring the food of India," said a water project update in the *Shared Ministry News*, adding "well-building will be a continuing project. Donations will continue to be accepted until we have enough money for another one."

The churches' November Mission & Outreach focused on holiday food boxes. More than two dozen were distributed Nov. 18, containing food items as well as socks and personal hygiene products. They went to "anyone in the community who could use a little help this holiday season, no questions asked," according to the newsletter.

Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton



Redeemer's sidewalk, visible in the lower part of the photo above, offers front-row seating for the Pendleton Round-up parade. The buckaroo (above, R) also is known as the Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, bishop of Eastern Oregon. Photos by Willis Moore

St. Andrew's, Prineville

For the Seek & Serve Outreach in November, members of St. Andrew's collected items for the Humane Society of the Ochoco's--from cat litter to kitten and cat food, puppy and dog food, toys and bedding. Offering was presented on Sunday, Nov. 25.

By late October, the parish had collected enough money to purchase 35 treated mosquito nets for Episcopal Relief & Development's NetsForLife program. The Rev. Dcn. Janet Warner said fundraising for the project will continue throughout the year.

Trinity, Bend

Common Table, the nonprofit restaurant in downtown Bend that closed in early August, is looking at a "post-storefront future." In the November *Trinity Trumpet* the nonprofit's executive director said that would include a benefit for Syrian refugees in November and four gatherings in Advent, all held at St. Helen's Hall on the Trinity campus.

Trinity, First Presbyterian and Nativity Lutheran sponsored the restaurant, which operated for about two years. Its board blamed the closure on a combination of ongoing financial problems along with the fact that the restaurant would have to close for four months during a building renovation.

"For the four Sunday evenings in Advent," Executive Director Ron Werner Jr. said, "we will once again host simple pay-as-you're able meals designed to bring together a community of haves and have-nots. These evenings will have a contemplative/vespers feel to offer sacred space around common tables amidst a season culturally marked by consumerism and loneliness."



St Paul's, The Dalles

Two days of work on the playground at St. Paul's "improved it amazingly!" wrote the Rev. Janet Fullmer in the November *Messenger*. "Dan Manciu, Don Dickinson and Mike Fowler withstood the cool and rainy weather and got the swings up as well as more work on the [play]house and the walk...the play equipment is looking great and it's safe and sound to boot."

St. Peter's, La Grande

Helen Deatherage, St. Peter's longtime representative to Neighbor to Neighbor, the La Grande area food bank, has had to step down due to ill health. "We miss Helen," wrote Donna Furhrman in a November update on the organization's activities. October's report: 317 people served, including 127 children. "We had 116 pounds of bear meat to give away on Saturday" Furhrman said. "I was surprised at how many folks were excited to get it."

St. Thomas, Canyon City



Six young men showed up for the first day of Sunday School at St. Thomas: (L to R) Landon Beil, Eli Speth, Trejan Speth, J.J. Phillips, Jacob Spaulding, Ryland Beil. Beth Spell and Julie Reynolds share teaching duties. Photo by Jim Spell



Pie auction at St. Thomas raises camp money



Kids (and pies) at St. Thomas, clockwise from top L; Savannah Randleas, Morgan Randleas, Charlie Wolfe; J.J. Phillips, Savannah Randleas, Charlie Wolfe, Ori Schaefer; Jesse Randleas. Photos by Jim Spell

Providing full scholarships to Ascension School last summer for nine campers, half scholarships for two more and sending two adults to Discovery Camp “completely emptied our scholarship fund,” says Beth Spell of St. Thomas, Canyon City.

Now, the church is aiming to do a fundraiser each month to replenish the

fund.

Ascension School Sunday at St Thomas featured a group of Ascension campers who helped with the service and talked about their camp experiences. The pie auction at coffee hour that followed raised \$388. Next up: the men of the church are planning to raise money with a scrap metal drive.



At St. Mark's, Free Clothes for Kids fill the pews

When St. Mark's, Hood River extended an open invitation to its third Free Clothes for Kids, 54 families with 116 children came from all over the Columbia Gorge to get school clothes, shoes and coats and backpacks.

Parishioners and the community donated the clothes, and four local schools also passed on bags of Lost and Found items. St. Mark's youth held two fundraisers to buy new jeans to give away.

Families were waiting when the church's front doors opened.

Helpers L to R) Cody Hipskind, Sadie Hipskind, Drew Harmon, Claire Samuels, Aidan Liddiard. Photo by Jeanie Senior



At St. Mark's, Hood River (above) the critters who came to be blessed by the Rev. Anna Carmichael included Mary and George Roberts' goldfish, Walter, and a group of very well-behaved dogs

The Rev. Rich Landrith, St. Luke's, Lakeview, blessed a variety of animals, including Allison Yates' 4-H goats and Shasta, Mike Warren's 16-year-old miniature pinscher, who's suffering from a spinal injury. Photos by Jeanie Senior (l) and Pam Warren (r)