

Words of Faith

THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHS Graduates 25th Class, and Welcomes a New Principal

GRADUATION!

On Friday, May 26th, 24 Seniors graduated from Covenant High School.

Elsie Matsuda pulled out the all the stops as she filled First Presbyterian Church with sounds of “Pomp and Circumstance”. Honor Society President Kaleigh Smallbeck began the evening with prayer, and Salutatorian, Damita Gomez read Scripture. Salutatorian Watchman Tamminga and Valedictorian Kailey Cozart both shared many fun memories that they experienced during their 4 years at Covenant High School. Afterwards, Rev. Tito Lyro encouraged and challenged these graduates that instead of crossing the finish line, these young adults are now lined up at the starting line for their lives.

Congratulations to Amy Castle, Payton Chiou, Kailey Cozart, Damita Gomez, Amelia Kanz, Mark Lovelace, Grace Lyro, Liana McKown, Rachel Quick, Noelle Roberts, Watchman Tamminga, and Alaina Wescott. 57% of our Washington resident seniors finished in the top 10% of Washington state graduates!

Dave Miller Begins His New Work as CHS Principal

David Miller started his tenure as the Covenant High School principal on August 1, 2017. Dave has been a Christian from earliest childhood and raised in a Christian family. He is a 2005 graduate of Wheaton College with a B.A. in Communication and Media Studies. He holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Northwest University in Kirkland, and he is currently working on a Masters in Theological Studies from Covenant Theological Seminary.

For several years, Dave was a member of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA), a church of our presbytery in Redmond, Washington. For the past eleven years, Mr. Miller has been a junior high and high school rhetoric and history teacher at The Bear Creek School in Redmond, a classical Christian school. For the last three years, he has been mentored in school administration by the Head of School, preparing himself for a school leadership role.

Dave and his wife Lauren have a one-year-old daughter named Selah, and the Millers are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their second child in October. The whole CHS community looks forward to seeing God bless our students through Dave Miller’s leadership.

John Pulliam, Local Missionary

You've organized and launched a new business for the Tacoma Rescue Mission. What is that business?

The business, Rescue Services, will initially focus on junk removal and pressure washing.

What are the goals for this business project?

The economic goal is to help the Rescue Mission provide a permanent and complete pathway out of homelessness for Pierce County residents. Too often, Rescue Mission clients fail at the job stage of recovery and end up back in homelessness. Rescues Services is designed to be an intermediate step between recovering from homelessness to a career that pays a living wage.

A second goal relates to the Christian business community. Ministries often use the “donor as an ATM,” which undervalues and neglects the God given potential each Christian has to minister to people. Bearing this in mind, Rescue Services is engaging the Christian business community less for their donations and more for their Christian character, wisdom and practical business experience.

This is a sort of missional work, yes? Can you explain?

Broadly speaking, serving the poor has always been part of God's mission to restore people to himself. In the Old Testament, serving the poor was one way Israel was to be a light to the nations. Additionally, Christians through the ages have advanced the gospel through faithfully obeying God's call to help the poor both economically and spiritually.

Rescue missions have been blessed with fruitful evangelistic and mercy ministries to the homeless since the late 1800s. Unlike many economically secure people in the U.S. who feel they don't need God, the homeless are often at a point in life where they are very receptive to the message of the gospel.

The new business, Rescue Services, is one part of the Tacoma Rescue Mission's ministry to the homeless in Pierce County. The mission is to: A) disciple Christians (employees) who are climbing out of homelessness; B) welcome employees—who are not yet Christians—into a Christian community; C) glorify God by demonstrating the restorative power of the Gospel to transform lives.

What's your role at the TRM? In this particular business?

I am the director of the business and am responsible for the day-to-day operations of the business. I report to Mike Johnson, the Rescue Mission's executive director, and to the Rescue Services board of directors, which is composed primarily of retired business professionals.

How can people support this work?

The business need right now is for mentors. I believe in the discipleship model based on the example of Jesus and his disciples. Research now confirms that most life-altering learning happens in relationship. The importance of relationships is even more fundamental for helping the homeless because so many grew up in and around highly dysfunctional family relationships.

To keep relationships central, each full-time employee at Rescue Services will have a Christian mentor. We are looking for Christians who have a heart for both discipleship and for people who face challenged life circumstances.

The business also needs customers. If you have junk removal or pressure washing needs, please give me a call. We provide quotes based on photos people send us. For junk removal, we charge a markup on the expected cost we incur (time, transportation and dump fees) and for pressure washing we charge roughly \$0.30 per square foot for concrete.

Our first few customers have been a big source of encouragement, especially to our employees, as many homeless individuals often feel ostracized by the wider community.

How can people support the Tacoma Rescue Mission?
The Tacoma Rescue Mission has a number of broader needs:

1) Volunteers: the Rescue Mission depends heavily on regular volunteers. Volunteers work as many hours as the entire Rescue Mission staff.

A few opportunities include: a) working in the kitchen for a meal. I would recommend going with a group of people; b) Search and Rescue - the Rescue Mission's ministry to the street homeless is managed by one person who depends on volunteers to accompany him as he distributes food, blankets and other supplies to people living on the streets.

Volunteers also have opportunities to pray with and for people living in the streets. The objective of Search and Rescue is to encourage the street homeless to consider engaging with the Rescue Mission community.

2) Prayer: Due to a variety of factors, the number of homeless individuals is growing quickly in Pierce County. The needs are also changing. For example, the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is the middle class.

Meeting this growing, evolving need is an ongoing challenge. Specifically, raising sufficient funding and filling open positions with qualified Christians are two major prayer concerns.

John, thank you for your work in our community, and for God's kingdom.

HUGO VANDOOREN

Hugo vanDooren M.D., P.S Born August 15, 1925 in Bandung, Indonesia; departed this earth on May 13th, 2017 in Tacoma, Washington. Hugo was a practicing psychiatrist in the Tacoma area from 1957-2012, and is lovingly remembered as a member of the medical community who dedicated his life to the health of those under his care.

His family left Indonesia in 1938 and returned to the Netherlands, where Hugo grew up under the shadow of the Nazi occupation. He graduated from the University of Amsterdam and moved to the U.S. in 1953 with his first wife, Ada (Visser), to complete his psychiatric residency. He held positions at Western State Hospital, Tacoma General Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Puget Sound Hospital. Additionally, he maintained a private practice for nearly 45 years.

He was an avid sailor, swimmer, competitive fencer, and devout consumer of ice cream. He served on the board of the Tacoma Philharmonic for many years. In life he had a peaceful, calming presence, and was known for his playful and light spirit.

Hugo is survived by his wife Loretta, and their children Lara Rogland, Lars, and Adrian, and his children with Ada, Ivan, Michael, and Gwen Thompson. Lorie's daughters from her first marriage to Berton Andersen (Valorie Wigen, Sandy Andersen, April Greenwell, and Robin Andersen) count him as a loving father, as do Gladys, James, and Marta, grandchildren whom he adopted with Lorie. His daughter Joann preceded him in death. Hugo, affectionately called 'Opa,' is remembered and cherished by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Christian Liberty: A Double-Sided Coin

Jennifer Sullivan

Going on a journey requires cash, some currency to navigate traveling with a sense of freedom. On our pilgrimage, we have been supplied with some genuinely substantial assistance in the form of solid Liberty coinage. Our trip is made more successful in every way with these in our pocket. You know it is sound currency, because the underlying gold standard is freedom from sin, which issues from and is backed up by a priceless source—the blood of the Son of God. “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

We will find this one-way fare was already paid out for us at each stage along the expedition. Also, some Liberty coinage has been left to help us with our needs as we navigate the varying terrain we find along the way. Not a quick jaunt through the park, this will prove to be a quest, worthy of our lives, taking us through many kinds of experiences, and all requiring the ready use of just this kind of reliable expenditure while getting from point A to point B.

There are some common pitfalls to watch out for when using our coins. Sometimes we start treating our Liberty coinage like petty cash that lets us barter with the world. Or we get sidetracked and start to just see how much stuff we can get with our Liberty-- but that was not the worth of the coins in the first place, and that is not the purpose of any worthwhile mission. And then there's some counterfeit currency going around—you can tell it by the poor Latin inscription on the back that translates, “Who made you judge over us?” Not true Christian Liberty currency. No, you can tell the genuine article when you turn the coin over and see the face on the front—King Jesus-- it's always the same.

Liberty coins have several different denominations and mintings too. One helpful reissue that came out a little while ago and has remained quite popular, is the one that has a hand holding a glass of wine pictured on the back. King Jesus is on the front surrounded by his words, “Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” This coin came out about the same time as the movie minting, and they are often spent together. A different edition that seems scarcer now, so perhaps of somewhat more value, are the coins with the hand that was holding a drink, cut off, and the person watching the movie with his eye gouged out. King Jesus is on the front surrounded by his famous similar injunction to take sinning seriously. We may see more of these coins in the future, at a ratio somewhat proportional to the increasing square footage given to liquor in your corner market and of screens on the street. The box these come in has instructions that continue Jesus' aforementioned declaration—which was inscribed on the reissue coins, and had affirmed the inert moral quality of perishable things-- with the rest of his words: “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.” Surely, we are going to want some of both kinds of denominations in our pocket for ourselves, and maybe a few extra to spare in case we see a friend needing help along the way.

At times, we may be enjoying the luxuries of our joyful journey. The issues bearing inscriptions, “A cheerful heart is good medicine” and “The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God” are good for that. On those occasions, you should always have on hand the “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving” capital as well. For food is nothing, but out of place talk is, drink is nothing, but immorality is, laughter isn't wrong, but crudity is, the earth is the Lord's,

but foolishness isn't. At yet other times, we find ourselves needing some hefty denominations like, “put a knife to your throat If you are a man of great appetite. Do not desire delicacies, For it is deceptive food” or “It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.” For sometimes the way will feel less like a welcoming smile, chat, and pat on the back at a sidewalk café, and more like an Antietam amputation antechamber. That's O.K. We will never run out of whatever kind of Freedom coins we need to keep us forging ahead, thanks to our more than generous Provider. This is no illusory trek we are on. Our Liberty coins allow us to tangibly make the right purchase, without scruple, in either situation. One thing is certain, we will never lack the funds to continue and thrive on our way. King Jesus has seen to that. So let's trustingly open up our hands to him, and let him pour in our personal allowance for this journeying life.

Why is he called Christ, that is anointed?

Answer. Because he is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and to be our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body, has redeemed us, and makes continual intercession with the Father for us; and also to be our eternal King, who governs us by his word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in (the enjoyment of) that salvation, he has purchased for us. [Heidelberg Catechism Q 31](#)

But why art thou called a Christian?

Answer. Because I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus am partaker of his anointing; that so I may confess his name, and present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to him: and also that with a free and good conscience I may fight against sin and Satan in this life: and afterwards reign with him eternally, over all creatures. [Heidelberg Catechism Q 32](#)

RUTH EMMA WILSON

Ruth Emma Wilson passed into the presence of her Lord Jesus Christ in her home at 4:20 PM on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at the age of 80, encircled by her family.

Ruth was born on June 6, 1937 in Glendale, California, the first child of Bryan and Minnie Harris. Two years and four months later, her sister Esther Rae was born, but lived only 2 months. Ruth was raised a Christian in the Rosemead Church of Christ, where she met Lorne Wilson. She married Lorne on August 5, 1956 at the age of 19. Within 3 years she bore 3 children: Thomas, Susan and Cynthia. She was faithful to the Lord, and to her husband, to the end of her life. She died believing and loving Jesus her Savior.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Bryan and Minnie Harris, her infant sister, Esther Rae, and a great granddaughter, Emily Henderson. Ruth is survived by her only husband, Lorne Wilson, to whom she was married for 61 years and 1 day; by her son and his wife Thomas and Rebecca Wilson and daughters and their husbands, Susan and Dennis Kreiss, and Cynthia and John Burnett. She was also “grandma” to 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Ruth loved the Lord and His music. She was an accomplished pianist and organist, playing the keyboards from an early age in almost every church she attended. She loved to play church hymns and classical music as long as she was able. She loved her husband and all her family, especially the young ones. With one heart and voice they would all rise up and call her “Blessed!”

Ruth was a trained nurse, bookkeeper and secretary, but never lost the passion of her true calling as a wife, mother and homemaker. Even as her muscles diminished from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy for the past 7 years, her spirit, mind and hearing were active, loving to receive family and friends even to her last hours.

News Bits

Sacred Road Article

Abraham Sullivan

“I sure appreciate the help that Chris gives me every year,” said Jake Mann, a Yakama Indian, in response to June’s missions trip. “I just appreciate the kids doing this.” From June 17-24, twelve people represented Faith Presbyterian at Sacred Road ministries on a one-week mission team, doing work for locals. The Faith Pres. team worked painting the interior and exterior of a house owned by a Yakama elder.

Upon arriving, the team attended Sunday morning services at Hope Fellowship, giving us a unique opportunity to see the church which is made up of a majority of children. Pastor Granberry, leader of the ministry, preached on the theme of God’s promises, telling us to hold on to them for dear life, as a man climbing a cliff without ropes would hang on to the cliff face. Though a necessary message everywhere, this sermon could feel particularly potent in such an obviously broken place as the Yakama Reservation.

Throughout the week, the team spent the mornings and early afternoon working on painting. The heat, which we Western Washingtonians were somewhat unaccustomed to, made the work harder, though it was not as bad as it has been in years past. In the afternoons, we helped at Totus Park with the Kids’ Club. There, we played with local children, in a wide variety of activities, including crafts, water balloons, and swinging.

There were several special highlights throughout the week. On Tuesday night, over 100 children attended the youth group for middle schoolers and high schoolers. We got to attend as well, and were excited to find that a sizable group was going to participate in a Young Life camp the following week. On Wednesday night, a local man came and gave the teams a lesson on how to make simple dreamcatchers, though ours were nothing like his complex, beautiful productions! On Thursday morning, rather than painting, the teams had a day off. The Faith Presbyterian team, joined by some of the Sacred Road staff, spent the morning at Rimrock

Lake, where we had fun swimming in the lake or sitting on the shore.

During the week, the we found ourselves working alongside a team from Briarwood Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Alabama, the church where the PCA was founded, see <https://www.pcanet.org/history/>. Our group interacted well with the youth and pastors from their church, and at the end of the week, several exchanged contact information to stay in touch. An agreement was even drawn up and signed by both youth pastors, officially designating the Faith and Briarwood youth groups as “sister youth groups.”

We were privileged to know that our work made an even wider impact than we had imagined. The owners of the house we worked on knew a man who works for the local radio station. After the owner told his friend about our work, the radio station talked about us on their morning news program, which is widely listened to on the reservation. While none of us got to hear the report, it was special to know that our witness was going beyond just one family and to many across the reservation.

All in all, the week was a great way to see God at work in a dark place. Here in Tacoma, while there is plenty of brokenness around us, we are often cushioned from some of the darkest effects of sin. In Yakama, the clear distinction between the church and the surrounding people is stark, and shows just how much the church can be the salt and the light of the world.

VBS

Vacation Bible School returned to Faith Presbyterian Church, after a 17-year hiatus. Trail Guide Heidi Bone headed up a team of over 30 volunteers, who shepherded nearly 100 camper/backpackers “Upward Bound” on the arduous trek to the summit (of faith in Christ), equipping them for the climb (with gospel presentations and Bible work) and encouraging them in their pursuit (with singing and general good fellowship).

The whole church was made over (with the help of many more volunteers) in a mountain camp motif, with tenting stations along an alpine trail, dotted with various sierra vegetation. Next year’s camp will launch into the outer reaches of the universe, following the theme “Genesis 1: Space Probe.” It’s never too early to sign up to help next year!

YXL

By Calvin DeGraaf

Every year, high schoolers from churches around the country gather at Horn Creek, Colorado, for YXL—Youth eXcelling in Leadership. This year, the camp ran from July 1-8. YXL is both a Bible camp and a leadership camp, teaching students how to be Godly leaders, as well as some of the fundamentals of faith.

Campers are arranged in groups of students from other churches, to encourage us to meet new people and establish new friendships. Getting thrown into a group of people, most of whom I didn’t know, really forced me to get to know everyone else in my group. Because my closest friends from back home were taken away from me, I was forced to socialize and become acquainted with people that I never would have even really noticed had the safe option of sticking with my friends been available to me.

Over the course of the week, we all took part in a number of group activities. There were team building challenges—fun little tasks pitting two teams against each other, or just one team against the clock. The teams also competed in an ultimate frisbee tournament, the winners of which faced off against the staff, who resoundingly crushed the campers for the 40th year in a row. One free time day included traveling to the sand dunes national park, or rafting on the Arkansas River, or hiking Horn Peak (a 14,000 ft mountain) or hiking the Venable Lakes loop of 13 miles.

Each night, we participated in a worship service and prayer, and heard three Grace talks during the week. The theme for this year was “Exiles,” and

the sermons followed that theme. The speaker, Ben Coppedge, an RUF minister at New Mexico State, explained that Christians need see themselves as both exiles and part of this world—all while also being different, and holy. He explained that in order for us to maintain this holiness, we need to be focused on our true home, and on who we truly are, while also being careful not to lose perspective on what this life is truly like.

The three Grace talks were about sanctification, justification, and glorification respectively, explaining what they meant, and how they affect us. Two other seminars were about leadership styles, and faith and media.

By the end of the week, we had all met lots of new and interesting people from many different parts of the country. I was reminded about many of the key aspects of my faith, and challenged in my understanding of how my faith intersects with this world. All this happened in the beautiful foothills of the Sangre de Christo: “Blood of Christ” Mountains. All in all, a wonderful week.

Singing Camp

Melissa McMillan

56 kids—aged 5-18—attended the July 17-21 singing camp sponsored by the Alliance of Christian Musicians. The week went very well—the singers worked very hard to prepare the music for the Friday night program. They only had 10 hours to learn the music and go through logistics for the concert. They worked on a medley from the *Music Man*, an arrangement of St. Francis’s prayer “Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace”, 2 different hymns, a solfege piece, and a piece by Karl Jenkins in an “emotive” language called “Audiemus”. It was such a blessing to be able to teach this motivated group of singers, and come together to work to make music for the glory of God.

Upcoming Events

ESL Training Session

August 26 @ 8:00 am - 12:30 pm or

September 2 @ 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

DeSoto Hall

Save the date for 1 of 2 upcoming ESL training sessions for Better English on 6th. Both sessions are the same; you only need attend one or the other. Sessions are Saturday, August 26th and Saturday, September 2nd, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in DeSoto Hall. Contact Jonathan Nichols for more information.

Family Fun Luncheon – Lunch with Luther!

September 17 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

DeSoto Hall

Reformation 500 Celebration

November 3 - November 5

In recognition of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation (1517), Faith Presbyterian Church and Alliance of Christian Musicians are sponsoring a dynamic weekend of teaching and music on November 3-5. Two guest speakers will be featured: Dr. Hans Madueme, Associate Professor of Theological Studies, Covenant College, and Prof. Charles King, Assistant Professor of Music, Trinity International University, Chicago. Dr. Madueme is a native Nigerian with both M. D. and PhD degrees. As a theologian he specializes in the challenge that modern scientism poses for the Christian faith. He has written and spoken widely on the historicity of Adam and Eve and the doctrine of original sin, which in our culture are the watershed issues even as justification was in the 16th century. Professor King served as longtime Pastor of Worship and Music at College Church of Wheaton before taking his current post at Trinity. He teaches various music courses and directs choral and instrumental ensembles. His recent thesis written for Northwestern University equips him well to speak on the musical impact of the Reformation. See more details on his blog—<http://tedecethymnus.blogspot.com>. The Ref500 weekend will feature lectures, workshops, and a full palette of excellent music including the adult choir singing Bach's Cantata on "A Mighty Fortress."

Vivaldi's "*Gloria*": Music for Advent

December 3 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Rehearsals for the timeless oratorio, *Gloria*, by Antonio Vivaldi will begin on September 12 and continue on succeeding Tuesdays through November. This will be performed by the ACM Festival Choir under Ron Bechtel's direction.

Member Changes

Additions

Rich & Debra Dryden, reaffirmation, 6/25

Ava Downie, child profession, 7/2

Payton Chiou, voting member, 7/16

Alex Hass, reaffirmation, 7/23

Baptisms

LiAnn Heermann, child, 3/26

Isabel Apodaca, child, 4/16

Gemma Bone, child, 4/23

Artemis Howe, child, 5/14

Liesl Kvale, child, 6/25

Naomi Bruce, child, 7/9

Deaths

Hugo vanDooren, May 13

Ruth Emma Wilson, August 6