

Weekly news & updates for St. Paul's

Week of February 15, 2021 | Volume 7

Upcoming Events for the week

- Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday
Noon Zoom service ... make your own ashes
- Feb. 21 - Sunday Forum 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 21 - Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
- Annual Meeting following the Worship Service

SAVE THE DATE: Feb. 28



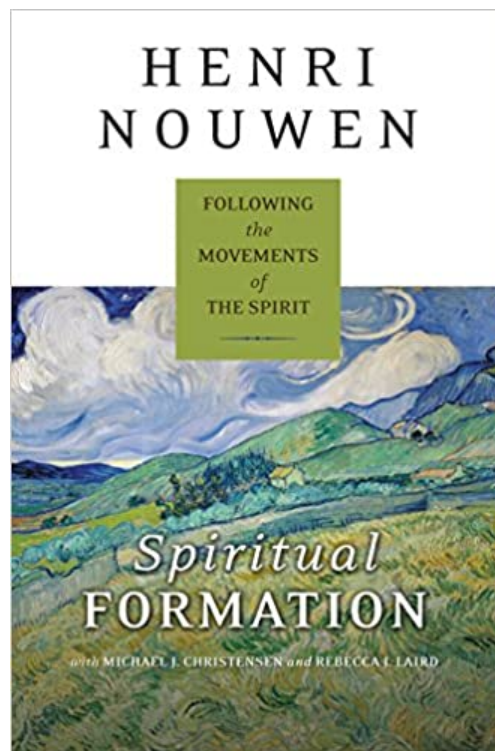
The Right

Reverend Bishop Pat will be joining St. Paul's for Zoom Church on February 28, 2021. So put the date on your calendar. It will be wonderful to have Patrick join us both in word and virtual presence.

Annual Zoom Meeting February 21, 2021

Annual Meeting will take place following the Worship Service.

Lenten Book Study



**Starting Wed. Feb. 24th - 6:30 p.m.
by Zoom**

Books can be picked up at the church. Please read the preface, introduction to page 35.

"The word person is a french word meaning 'sounding through'. Our spiritual task is to resist the temptation to box our fellow human beings into figures and characters, and to see them rather as persons who 'sound through' to a greater reality than they themselves fully know." ~ *Henri Nouwen*

North Central Public Health District Vaccine Notice:

North Central Public Health District is using the Moderna vaccine, which is for those 18 and older. It is given in two doses a month apart, and is 95 percent effective against COVID-19 illness. Vaccines will be administered at the Readiness Center, 402 E. Scenic Drive [located on Columbia Gorge Community College} Below is the following dates to receive your vaccinations based on age:

Feb. 15 - 75 and older are eligible

Feb. 22 - 70 and older are eligible

March 1 - 65 and older are eligible

Delegates needed for Diocese of Eastern Oregon Convention in October 2021

At our Annual Meeting coming up this Sunday, we will elect two delegates and two alternates to represent St. Paul's at the Diocesan Convention October 13-17, 2021. Elected delegates attend the business meetings and vote to approve the budget and elect new members to Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. These are important functions, and you will be supported by access to candidate applications and other materials. It's not a hard job, but an important one, and St. Paul's will be grateful for your willingness to be a delegate. We are not sure at this point about whether Convention will be held by Zoom, or in person at Ascension School; if in person, your travel and meal expenses will be paid – and you will have a wonderful time getting to know other Episcopalians from around Eastern Oregon.

Please email PK Swartz pkswartz33@gmail.com or **Mike Fowler** mfowler@gorge.net

Neighborhood Team Report

Greetings,

“Church should always be this fun.” That was my closing thought at our last Neighborhood Team meeting. Thanks to the Vestry and to Marilyn for making our group possible.



Our Facebook group, Hilltop Neighbors, is gaining traction with 57 members. If you haven't visited lately, please check out the recent Valentine's Day postings. This FB group has a dual purpose of connecting neighbors and allowing us to listen for the Spirit at work in the lives of our neighbors. We caught a glimpse of the Spirit in a recent online dialogue which affirmed the value of what we are doing with this platform.

Thanks to Alan Alford, we have also launched a Hilltop Neighbors YouTube channel. It was initially created as a video library in support of our Facebook group, but it may eventually become the primary online presence. I'm grateful that Alan and PK had the vision to look

farther into our online future.

We appreciate the response to the Valentine's Card challenge. Cards were delivered to The Springs, the Veterans' Home, and some of St. Paul's members. There was participation by a couple of people from the neighborhood and a few members of First UMC.

In the coming months, we expect to focus on summer experiments. This is the phase where we will become even more intentional in inviting the congregation to join us as we listen to God, each other, and our neighbors.

In peace,
Rev. Gigi Siekkinen



God's Garden

It's cold sitting here.
I shall not stay long.
I had come to see the best "dresses" on display.
Even as the sun sinks behind the clouds covering the horizon,
it seems the sun remains.
Myriad sunflowers-miniature
capture the sun's glow with a similar intensity.
Violet Lupine and Shooting Star bring a striking compliment
to the sunny Balsam Root.
I smile.

The dark "stars" shoot among light "suns".
Here, day and night exist together
as in a Van Gogh painting.
Even the dead grass, leaves, and rotting branches,
augment tender "birthing" spring buds
in the same garden.

Why can't I find as much wealth in coexistence

with those opposite me?
Why can't we see each other's beauty?
Why can't we see that we each become more beautiful
in our own uniqueness, surrounded by others
oppositely unique?

Gods Spirit dwells equally in dark and light, stars and suns,
night and day, death and life, you and me.

God bless us all growing together in God's Garden.

Picture and Poem By Carolyn Thomas

Faith

I've come to realize that faith and reason are not natural enemies. It's our human need for certainty and our need to "be right" that have pitted faith and reason against each other in an almost reckless way. We force ourselves to choose and defend one way of knowing the world at the expense of the other.

I understand that faith and reason can clash and create uncomfortable tensions – those tensions play out in my life, and I can feel them in my bones. But this work [of research] has forced me to see that it's our fear of the unknown and our fear of being wrong that create most of our conflict and anxiety. We need both faith and reason to make meaning in an uncertain world.

I can't tell you how many times I've heard the terms *having faith* and *my faith* in my interviews with men and women who are living the Wholehearted journey. At first I thought that faith meant "there's a reason for everything." I personally struggled with that because I'm not comfortable with using God or faith or spirituality to explain tragedy. It actually feels like substituting certainty for faith when people say, "There's a reason for everything."

But I quickly learned from the interviews that faith meant something else to these people. Here's how I define *faith* based on the research interviews:
Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty.

I also learned that it's not always the scientists who struggle with faith and the religious who fully embrace uncertainty. Many forms of fundamentalism and extremism are about choosing certainty over faith.

I love this from theologian Richard Rohr: "My scientist friends have come up with things like 'principles of uncertainty' and dark holes. They're willing to live inside imagined hypotheses and theories. But many religious folks insist on answers that are always true. We love closure, resolution and clarity, while thinking that we are people of 'faith'! How strange that the very word 'faith' has come to mean the exact opposite."

Faith is essential when we decide to live and love with our whole hearts in a world where most of us want assurances before we risk being vulnerable and getting hurt. To say, "I'm going to engage Wholeheartedly in my life" requires believing without seeing.

from Brené Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection* (2010) pps. 90-91.

Submitted by Julie Reynolds

ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 1859

ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE REGIONAL

HISTORY FORUM SERIES FOR 2021

Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. each Saturday in February.

Pandemic = no gatherings at the 1859 Courthouse this year.

Join programs via Zoom: <http://OWCCZoomLink.info>

(To attend by phone, leave a message at 541 296-4798 and we'll call back with directions)

Saturday, February 20: The Diaries of George Vause (1887-1983)

Local historian Julie Reynolds tells the story of a young man born and raised in The Dalles. He showed early talent as a keyboard musician. In his adult life he had an illustrious career as a church organist, accompanist of famous singers, and head of university music departments. His diaries, begun when he was 16, give an intimate picture of life in The Dalles in the early 1900s.

Saturday, February 27: Electric Power in Wasco County, Past and Current

Those who read local newspapers or listen to local radio know Rodger Nichols. Our local historian and member of the Courthouse board hopes those who tune in this program "will get a charge out of an enlightening presentation on watts been happening in the 120-year history of electricity in Wasco County. It may have the potential to spark a battery of questions."

Regional History Forum Programs, now in the series' 42nd year, are free. However, donations toward the operation of the Original Courthouse are gladly accepted.

Send to P.O. Box 839, The Dalles.

We hope the 1859 sheriff's office, jail, and courtroom will be able to reopen soon!

Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation invites you to join
Zoom presentations
of the 2021 Regional History Forum
each Saturday in February at 1:30 p.m.

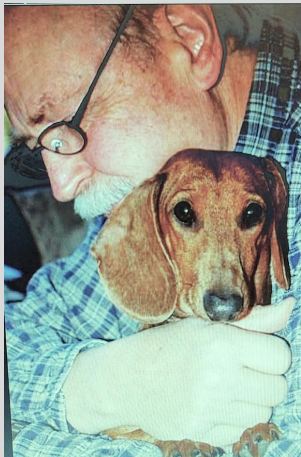
A little wisdom to ponder ...

The most destructive habit.....Worry
The greatest joy.....Giving
The greatest loss.....Loss of Self-Respect
The most satisfying work.....Helping Others
The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
The greatest "shot in the arm".....Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome.....Fear
The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of Mind
The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses
The most powerful force in life.....Love
The most dangerous act.....A Gossip
The world's most incredible computer.....The Brain
The worst thing to be without.....Hope
The deadliest weapon.....The Tongue
The two most power-filled words....."I Can"
The greatest asset.....Faith
The most worthless emotion.....Self-Pity
The most beautiful attire.....Smile
The most prized possession.....Integrity

The most powerful channel of communication.....Prayer
The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm

LIFE ends, when you stop DREAMING. HOPE ends, when you stop BELIEVING.
LOVE ends, when you stop CARING. So, please share this BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE.
FRIENDSHIP ends when you stop SHARING.

Submitted by Mike Fowler



Our little furry pals are hard to lose

Jeanie Senior shares a photo of Tom Senior and their little Dachshund, Daisy, who died recently. Daisy would have been 16 years old this week.

Photo submitted by Jeanie Senior

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES ...



February Birthdays:

Ann Marie Woolsey - 27
Amy McIlvenna - 27

Please pray ...

For your prayers: Peggy Davis, Skip & Carol Fisher, Bobbi Green, Ross & Deb Hucke, Don and Alice, Dale Newton, Jeff Krier, Ginger Crowley, Oscar Martinez, Ruth Welle (Carol Yakish's sister), Sarah, Barbara Portwood, John Davis, Carol healing from lung cancer, Judith (sister of Sandy Kice), Lorrie (friend of Alan Alford), Lee Keifer, Rosemary Ross, Andrew Larive, Melanie from Ascension, Wanda Hilderbrand, Connor (grandson of Jeanine Dirksen), relief from the Covid-19 virus spread throughout the community and country, and Our Nation. 2/15/21

To submit articles or pictures for the weekly newsletter, please submit them by Friday. Some articles may be held over for the following issue due to immediacy and space. Your articles keep us smiling and feeling like a community. Thank you, Marilyn

