

First Baptist Church  
1140 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. / P.O. Box 38  
Coos Bay, OR 97420



# ***THE LIFE-LINE***

*February 2020*

## **Where Faith and Life Collide** by Pastor James

Care. How do we show that we care for one another? Who should we care for? When my daughter was little, Care Bears were the latest rage—those plush teddy bears with hearts. Remember them? They started out as greeting cards, then they became plush animals. They were in books, they made movies, and they even had their own TV series. Why were they so popular? Because we all need to know that someone cares, even if it is only a stuffed animal.

I believe that we are blessed to have a very caring congregation. It is one of our strengths as a church. That is why we take the time, each Sunday, to have a “meet and greet” where we can shake a hand, give a hug, ask about a health concern, or just say hi. It is why we also have a prayer time on Sundays where we can keep each other up to date on our prayer needs and concerns.

Caring for people is why Paul wrote in the book of Ephesians “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (Ephesians 4:11–13 ESV).

As a church we are beginning the Stephen Ministry this year. The initial leadership team has been formed and will receive their training February 16-22. So please be in prayer for those being trained— Eric and Peggy Ahlgrim, James and Patty Alexander, Penny Noble, and Fran Worthen.

We have explored the Stephen Ministry, their philosophy, methods, and practices of providing care and believe that they are biblical, that they will provide our church with the ability to provide care to our members, and to reach outside of our walls and provide care to members of our community. This was and will continue to be of paramount importance to us. We have no desire to provide secular care. Our care will be biblically based.

After we have received the leadership training, we will come back and begin implementing the Stephen Ministry in our church. The next step will be to identify and recruit one-on-one care givers. All care givers will be provided a 50-hour training so that everyone will be on the same page and everyone will know exactly what and how they are to provide care. Each care giver will minister to one other person.

Once we have our first group of one-on-one care givers, we will begin matching them with people who need the care that the Stephen Ministry provides. I started this article by asking two questions, “How do we show that we care for one another?” And “Who should we care for?” I would like to end by asking, “has God called you to step forward and be a one-on-one care giver.” If the answer is yes, please let me or Peggy Ahlgrim know so we can add you to the team.



## February Calendar of Events

|       |     |                                  |       |     |                  |                  |
|-------|-----|----------------------------------|-------|-----|------------------|------------------|
| 02/02 | Sun | Souper Bowl Potluck after Church | 02/13 | Thu | Trustees Meeting | 530 p.m.         |
| 02/03 | Mon | Craft Morning 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.   | 02/17 | Mon | Craft Morning    | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| 02/05 | Wed | Prayer Meeting 10 a.m.           | 02/23 | Sun | Board Meeting    | 5 p.m.           |
| 02/09 | Sun | Missions Meeting after Church    | 02/24 | Mon | Craft Morning    | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. |
| 02/10 | Mon | Craft Morning 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.   |       |     |                  |                  |

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>02/01</b> Jim & Sue Fuller | <b>02/14</b> Gary Rice |
| 02/02 Loreda Yandell          | 02/15 Stella Lewis     |
| 02/02 Elene Stiennon          | 02/18 Justice Hoffine  |
| 02/05 Coten Pallin            | 02/19 Chrystal Lewis   |
| 02/07 Dorothy Haga            | 02/19 Jim Hulsey       |
| 02/07 David Bagely            | 02/22 Mary Rice        |
| 02/11 Reece Dixon             | 02/26 Jane Booth       |
| 02/14 Randy Hoffine           | 02/26 Richard Stiennon |



## Monday Morning Craft Time

Join us on Monday's for craft time. If you have a craft or art project you're working on, bring it to the church Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to noon and join a group of like-minded crafty people. It's no-host, and you can come and go as you want. Coffee provided.



## Monthly Sunday Fellowship Refreshment Schedule

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2/2</b> Adult Sunday School Class                      | <b>2/16</b> Worship Team (vocalists and instrumentalists) |
| <b>2/9</b> Christian Education Committee and all Teachers | <b>2/23</b> Membership Committee                          |



## **From the Moderator's Desk** **by Fran Worthen**

Aloha from my "desk away from home" in Holualoa, Hawaii. I won't go into the weather report because I know it would break your heart. I'm spending the month with daughter, Leah and her family. The two granddaughters are pushing me pretty hard, but I think I'll survive.

I'm excited to report that our new constitution and bylaws will be going to print in the weeks ahead of our annual business meeting for your review. Comments and questions can be directed to the vice-moderator, Randy Hoffine. The committee found consensus in this process all along the way.

Framework ideas were set forth by Elmer Baxter in 2015 and fine-tuned by Phil Marler in 2019. The timing was right for this project when Pastor James and Patty got involved in the process. Patty's technical writing skills have expedited the entire process, and I just don't believe we could have such a professional product without her skill set. Your board directors are all hard at work on their policies and procedures which we hope to have complete by the April board meeting.

New appointments were made to the nominating committee, and an audit committee was approved at the recent board meeting. Eric Ahlgrim fills position P1 and Howard Kubli position P4 on the nominating committee. The vice-moderator is the chair of this committee and will be getting the committee together for prayer as new board directors and elders will be considered for our May elections. If you have a desire to serve or would like to recommend another member to service, please let Randy Hoffine know about it.

Our giving outpaced our budget estimates in 2019 which will allow the mission chairman, Ken Stiennon, to identify the mission(s) to receive the overage of \$1,500. What a blessing from God to exceed our budget goals, minimize our expenses, and still have enough financial gifts come in to get our new audio and video systems up in the sanctuary. You just can't out give our God! Plans are now underway to upgrade our microphones and purchase a digital piano to replace our old and faithful baby grand.

The Stephen Ministry training will get underway at the end of the month, and our leadership team is excited to return from Anaheim, California and follow the Lord's leading in our next step to bring this care ministry back to our church and community. The Monday daytime Bible study will start again on March 2 and study the book of Esther. Please be in prayer for our church leadership and for everyone involved in any capacity in our church ministry because we cherish each one and realize that we need each other and can only succeed as the Body of Christ when we work together in unity and love.

Blessings and peace to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!



## **Nominating Committee** **by Randy Hoffine**

As we begin to look several months down the road, the nominating committee will be looking to fill positions on the Board. The members of the nominating committee serve a 4-year rotating term, the current members consist of Eric Ahlgrim (1 year remaining), Peggy Ahlgrim (2 years), Kelly Hoffine (3 years), Howard Kubli (4 years), and myself (vice-moderator). If you

are a member and would like to serve in a particular director position, please let one of these individuals know. The director positions include; moderator and vice-moderator, as well as directors of the following departments; trustee, worship, membership, Christian education, missions, finance, and evangelism. The list of candidates will be approved at the April Board Meeting, and a vote will be held at the Quarterly Business Meeting in May in which the directors will begin service on June 1.

In addition to director positions, there are also numerous committees in which individuals may serve, and you do not necessarily need to be a member to serve on a committee. Some committees may require it, but if you have interest please feel free to inquire, and we will get you to the right person. Speaking of membership, if you have a desire to become a member of our church, please visit with Ted and/or Penny Noble.

May the Lord richly bless you in the month of February.



## Elders Note by Eric Ahlgrim

### Thoughts From 1 John

As I read through 1 John, where Pastor James is preaching from, I found myself looking at how I can apply this to my life. One of the points that John writes about is “Keeping His (Jesus) commandments.” In Chapters 2 and 3, he mentions keeping these commandments about eight times. Similar to this, he encourages us to “abide in Him” and to “abide in the light.” These commandments seem pretty important, as in “doing what is pleasing in His sight.” (1 John 3:22)

I kept reading and reading, looking for what these commandments are, and he doesn't get to it till the end of chapter 3, and it was so simple, not complicated at all.

1 John 3:22-24 tells us “and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He commanded us. And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” (NASB)

Kind of reminded me of the greatest commandment and the second that was like unto it. Love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself..

## Worship by Yvonne Woytus



Planes, Trains and Automobiles, minus the Trains. A real-life story from a Worship Leader!

Several years ago, I went to San Francisco during Christmas week to visit a dear friend and my sister. I planned to fly home Saturday, Christmas Eve, so I would be back for the Christmas Day Sunday Service. What I didn't know was that a severe storm would come into Northern California and Oregon.

I was dropped off at the SF Airport and went to my gate. As I was waiting with the group, our flight magically disappeared from the screen. It seems that our plane was diverted to a need in Sacramento at 5:30 in the evening. I was angry, I needed to be in Coos Bay for the church service the next day; the next flight home was Tuesday. People were crying and angry. The weather was horrible. There was nothing the airline would do!

I started to think rental car and discussed it with a young man sitting next to me. We started asking people if they would be interested in renting a car with us. People couldn't afford it, so I said I would rent it. There was an 18-year old female German student, who was going to her host family in Coos Bay. She spoke only broken English and was terrified. I said come, I will take you to your host family. Two very elderly women were also crying, I said, “come you will be safe with me, as I am a Fire Fighter and EMT.”

We had five people and a 12-hour drive, through snow, rain, and wind. God was with us. I knew it. I felt his presence. But still, I was terrified, but didn't show it. When we finally had cell service, the people were able to let their families know what had happened, and that I would take each person to a waiting spot. I went to Bandon for one lady, another had their family waiting in Langlois, the Host family of the German student waited for us in Fred Meyer parking lot, and I dropped the young man off at his home in Coos Bay. I reached my home at 4 a.m. Christmas morning. Exhausted but knowing that the last 15 hours had been God driven and ordained, made me exhilarated and ready for our Christmas Day Service. God brought each of us home safe and secure.



## Membership by Penny and Ted Noble

### Church Membership and What it Means

You might be asking yourself, “what does it mean to be a member of a church? Does it mean that I will be in a club?” Some might even think that they don’t want to become a member because it might mean that they would have to act a certain way by standards that will gain you entry. Just remember God’s grace – that is not the way he would want us to feel. Becoming a member is a simple way of stating that you are making it visible that you have faith and you are committed to Christ and His people. It is also showing that you are part of a local body of likeminded believers. As a believer in Christ we ought to abide by what He wants us to do. God wants the members of the church to serve His church and bring it to life. 1 Corinthians 12:14 says, “For in fact the body is not one member but many”. To be a member of a church body holds value, and to reject it is to deny what God has already established.

Do you have a gift that you would like to use and show God how thankful you are that he gave you this gift? Becoming a member of a church is a perfect way to lend much needed helping hands in the functioning of a healthy church. Being a member of a church is showing solidarity and unity with like-mindedness and is valuable for the purpose of organization. This is the right season for a member to become engaged in one of many departments that are looking for help. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10)

If you are a member and are interested in being more engaged with the church body, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of department heads, another member, or Pastor James. Our church is needing more ministries to come to fruition such as the Widows/Single women group, Youth group, Family Fun Night, Stephan Ministry, Men’s group, Couple’s Bible study and many more in other departments. It is easier to function with a full body than it is to try and function with a dismembered body. Praying that more members will come forward and share your gifts.

If you are inquiring on how to become a member we are here to help. Please see a Ted, Penny, or Pastor James and would be delighted to help you through this process.



## Finance by Peggy Ahlgrim

As the church closes out 2019, I’d like to share some exciting news. **The church received over 100% of what was budgeted for the general fund – 111% to be exact.** WOW – that’s exciting!! When the budget was originally proposed, 10% of it was designated to missions, and is considered to be the church’s tithe. It was agreed that if there were any funds collected over the budgeted amount, 10% of those funds would also go to missions. The missions department is in the process of deciding which mission(s) those extra funds will be donated to.

Besides taking care of the needs of running a church, your offerings and donations helped train pastors and minister to abandoned women in Lebanon (Chettis), shared the gospel with college students from other countries in Eugene (Kruse), helped finance a local family who are church planting in Nebraska (Turmans), helped put food on the table for the local homeless shelter (South Coast Gospel Mission), helped a local young woman prepare to go on the mission field in Greece (Anderson). Our church also supports training youth for gospel outreach and hosts Release Time (Child Evangelism Fellowship). Add to that the special designations received for House of Love and other non-budgeted missions connected with the church and you can’t help but come to the conclusion that we are a giving church and are following God’s word.

Isaiah 58:6-11 (NIV): If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

May we always be a light in the darkness.



## Finance Department Highlights by Peggy Ahlgrim Finance Director

The Finance Department oversees the finances of the church. Those finances include General Fund, Non-budgeted Special Missions & Projects, Savings, Memorial Fund, Fellowship Fund and the Beckham Fund.

In October, a proposed General Fund budget is developed by each of the Board of Director's departments. The congregation adopts a budget in November, and it's implemented in January.

Right off the top, the church tithes 10% which is budgeted to specific missions. This is our church's tithe to God's work and missionaries, locally and around the world. That doesn't mean you can't give more to support them. By all means, offerings over and above the tithe are more than welcome. We also take up a special collection for American Baptist Church mission offerings throughout the year.

The definition of a "tithe" is a tenth of annual earnings. The concept of the tithe is supported in the Old Testament and the New Testament – Genesis 14:19-20, Matthew 23:23, and Luke 6:38 are just a few of the scriptures which mention tithing or giving back to God.

If you wish to give over and above to one of the church's missions or projects, include the mission or project and the dollar amount you want to give on the envelope. Tithes and offerings are included on your annual giving statement which is mailed no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

A portion of the offering is set aside for savings for emergencies and future projects. Next are salaries for the church pastor, secretary, piano player, bookkeeper, babysitter, and custodian. We are required to withhold federal and state payroll taxes including social security and workers compensation. A love gift is collected for the pastor in December and appreciation offerings are collected for the rest of the staff in February.

After that, we take care of the expenses for running a church. During any given month, the expenses could include curriculum for the classrooms, evangelism materials, building insurance, van repair, supplies for the office, utilities, and maintenance/repair of the building. There is a monthly budget available in the church office if you have any questions on what the money is spent on.

Each Sunday, the offering is counted and tallied, and then the Financial Secretary deposits it and prepares a report of the offering for the bookkeeper. The Financial Secretary also records each donor's offering on their giving statement. To help keep track of donations, regular donors (or a family) are assigned a number and are given offering envelopes with that number on it. If you don't remember your offering number, would like to get an offering number or offering envelopes, or have any questions regarding your donations, contact the church office.

There are several ways to make sure your offering is recorded correctly; use your numbered offering envelopes, use one of the pew envelopes (be sure to add your assigned number on the envelope), or just put your assigned number on your check.

The bookkeeper includes the donations on the monthly budget and processes the bills twice a month. The Trustee Department and Board of Directors reviews the monthly finance report of the General Fund, Savings, and Non-budget Special Missions & Projects accounts. The Fellowship Fund, Memorial Fund and Beckham Fund are updated at the quarterly business meetings.

Each year an audit is done on all of the accounts and results are included in the annual report.

I hope this helps you understand the Finance Department and how the church's finances are managed. If you have any questions, please email me at [epahlgrim@gmail.com](mailto:epahlgrim@gmail.com).

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)*





## Woman to Woman by Patty Alexander

A busy Monday. . .craft morning, a P.E.O. meeting, and then a lunch treat with James and Peggy. But as we took the walkway to the car, small yellow blooms peered out at me—new life poking out from the water-soaked bed and seemingly dormant foliage. A hint of the soon to come spring—there will be calves at Simpson Reef, ducklings on the bay. Spring—a time for birth and rebirth. That’s what the resurrection is all about. Walk down this path with me.

As I leaf through my New Testament, I am reminded of the role women played in Jesus’ life. God chose the vehicle of a woman’s womb to bring His Son into this earth. He entrusted this woman to parent His Son to adulthood. This Son, this Jesus reached out and touched women, bringing healing to their bodies, comfort to their broken spirits, and forgiveness from their sins. You see, a group of women travelled with Jesus. Scripture tells me in Matthew 27:55 (when it describes the crucifixion scene) that there “were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee ministering to Him” (ESV) These women sat at His feet—listening, learning from Him, and accepting His unconditional love—not a sexual love—but a love that would wrap itself around them and bathe them with a warmth that none in the world could ever provide. This Jesus, He, too, was planted into the ground, in the still coldness of death, only to await for that morning when He, too, would free himself from his grave clothes, and push death aside, forever conquering it – THE resurrection—HIS resurrection! Mary Magdalene, the first person to speak to my resurrected Lord—and the joy He brought to her! “Go tell my disciples!” But I bet she shouted the news to her friends along the way!

You see, these women experienced resurrection—but more than that, they experienced THE resurrection—dying to sin and being raised into a new life through this resurrected Jesus, this Son of God, this friend of women. New life, new birth, new creation—through our resurrected Lord—the friend and companion of women. Something, my precious friends, to think about.



### **SOUPER BOWL POTLUCK**

Please join us for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Souper Bowl! February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, after service

This will be such a fun potluck of everybody’s favorite soup to make and bring to share.

What you would spend on lunch can be donated to this event and help with our church’s fellowship fund. Everyone is invited whether you bring an item or not. There’s always more than enough to go around. This will be a great time of fellowship. Please contact Phil Marler or Ted Noble with any questions.

Please be sure to bring a soup, salad, bread or cracker item only.