

## Pat's Pondering in the Pews Bells, Bells, Bells

(by Pat Boesel)

I was 'called' to worship with the ringing of a bell on this particular day of worship and as I usually do, my mind pondered on this sound I heard each Sunday, peeling out its voice to the neighborhood. Another of my senses being utilized in our worship experience.



I love the sound of bells. Some have a sweet, pure note, some a more harsh brassy sound, some give off a tingling note, while others a more thunderous roar, with still others having a melodious sound.

Even the sizes and composition of each bell determines the sound it will make and whether it can be joined in harmony with others. Opps, I now see that bells can be symbolic of people as well, but that's for a different day of pondering.

I have a cut glass engraved lead crystal bell that a dear friend gifted me with several years ago and its sound is sweet, soft and gentle, much like she. I contrast that sound with the cow bell that is sounded to remind people that a bible study is starting. It is loud, deeper and harsh but does get people to pay attention and quickly.

I recall the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" and the ringing of a bell on the family Christmas tree indicating that an angel had earned its wings. Then there are the deep resounding notes of a gong rung from a Himalayan mountain top for various reasons.

I ponder on the crack in the USA's Liberty Bell that is displayed in Philadelphia, Pa and the end of the Revolutionary War and announcing freedom.

In Europe, cathedral bells rang when a new monarch was crowned, or an heir to the throne was born. They rang when a new Catholic pope was chosen. Multiple bells, all sizes and sounds ringing, at the same time at these joyful occasions.

I ponder on the use of bells in worship and when it first started, back in the day. God designed and

empowered the artisans to make them. They were of metal and had no clappers. They were sewn on the hem of the high priests' robe (close together) so that they sounded when he moved around in the holy of holies, signifying that God was pleased and all was well. However, with their silence, it meant that something or someone displeased God and the high priest had died and then, with the rope tied around his ankles, he could be pulled out. ( Ex 28: 33-35 and Ecc 45:9)

The bells also signified adoration to God as recorded in Zech 14:20. Moving on through the centuries; by the 5<sup>th</sup> they summoned monks to worship and in the 7<sup>th</sup> they called the faithful to worship. Then, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Santus (holy) Bells were rung as lower bells as a signal to stop what you were doing ( if unable to come to worship) and praise God where you were. Eventually the Santus Bell was rung before the taking of communion in the Anglican, Methodist and some Lutheran congregations that is meant to create a joyful noise to the Lord.

We see the word Santus written and wonder what it means or how it is used and in Lutheran worship it is sung as:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabboth heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.**

With the advent of computers and electricity, the Carillon was used in many churches and played at 6am, 12 noon and 6pm for the entire community to enjoy. They are usually programmed to play a more well-known melody. Handheld bell choirs have sprung up in many churches, both large and small. These choirs usually perform in several churches throughout the year in concert or worship times.

Wouldn't it be fun and deepen our worship experience if all were to bring their personal favorite bell to church on a given Sunday and sounded the bells at the same time? What a joyful Holy noise we could make unto the Lord as we celebrate an Extraordinary God and grow in our faith a bit more.

### Church Cloths

\* First made of rough linen or hemp then made from silk then finally fine linen.

\*Altar cloths were first used to protect the wood or marble altars from grape stains and wax drippings ---

\*A chalice cup cloth was used to keep dust and insects out of chalice and off the bread before communion.



### Growing Up in Faith September 13, 2015

Bible Study between the services at 9:30 to 10:30am. Diane Pauli will be facilitating a 4 to 6 week study on the HOLY SPIRIT. This will be an adult level study! Meet in the choir room!!!!

### FaithGirlz



Young ladies, ages kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade start up again on **Sept 11<sup>th</sup>** and will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri on the month in fellowship hall. At **5:30pm to 7pm**. Shelia Prax with craft assistance from Kim Ross will spearhead this group of young ladies. Holly Conormon provides a dinner with Lynn Edwards bringing the dessert.

### Sunday School

Sunday School for the younger set begins with Rally Day on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and will meet at 9:30 am in the Sunday School building. Teachers will be Jerry Hadley, Janet Carlson, & Jeannie Yttreness with Charlene Yoder joining this team in Nov.

### Joining Together in Worship and Praise September 6, at 8:15 am

Our worship leaders and hosts will be our first service. All are encouraged to come, as you are on this Labor Day weekend at 8:15am Sept 6. .

### Movie Night



Our fellowship team has planned a delightful evening on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a family friendly movie and pop corn to snack on. The movie begins at 3 PM and will conclude at 5PM Facilitator, Roger Coate, asks that you invite a friend or neighbor to join us.



**The ELCA has announced that September 13<sup>th</sup> to be a dedicated day of service. It is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday!**

### Your council at work in July

\*Pat B gave presentation on her concerns, and challenged the council to be more proactive and to address issue of lack of church's vision ---

\*Approved Northwest Construction to re-surface parking lot

\*Declined to have Fellowship hall re-carpeted, instead it will have a good cleaning

\*Water bill up –please be mindful of leaks, drips etc

\* Giving is down in June from last year but expenses were down as well.

## Little of This and That

The Mendocino County Art Association will be using our fellowship hall on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am until 5:30am. Please be respectful of their meeting times.

Will those who have as office key, please notify Lillian that you have one, even if you have to leave her a note on her desk or e mail her at the office.

Ants are still feasting on our droppings. Please clean up after your use of facility.

As a turtle, on taking risks in change--- "If you don't stick your neck out, you can't move forward." Pr Andy Olsen

The VBS staff wish to thank all the generous donors of scholarship funding, food and craft items. "Without you this ministry is not possible, again thank you!" See you next year!

'Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light of Christ gets in" *Leonard Cohen*.

## Mark your Calendar



**Pumpkin Patch** for kids of all ages  
**Saturday, October 24** beginning at 10am and concluding at 2pm

We reach out into the community via this event and it is becoming a fantastic fun time for all. We will need donations of pumpkins of any and all sizes and individual wrapped candy.

This popular event is spearheaded by Shelia Prax and Holly Conormon. Additional info will be in our Oct. newsletter

**Deadline for original works and inclusion into Gracelines is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month if submitted by e mail ([patriciaboesel@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaboesel@gmail.com)) or the Sunday prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> if submitted in longhand then placed in the B mailbox in fellowship hall. Team liaison's are encouraged to get your info submitted**

## Exercising and Challenging

Discover , then name the bible story that best captures our (GLC) own story of who we are and who God is calling us to be in one of the following:

Jonah	Jacob at Jabbok
Ruth, Naomi, Boaz	Romans 5
Mark 16	Good Samaritan

## Endowment at Grace

*by: Anne Barnes*

The generic definition of an endowment fund is a fund that is restricted. Only the interest from the fund can be spent, not the principal that anchors the endowment. Usually only a portion of the interest or earning from the endowment (typically 5%) are spent on an annual basis in order to assure that the original funds will grow over time.

Our Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund was established approximately 2002. Quoting from the fund by-laws, "The initial capitalization of the Fund shall be from the offerings of those individuals who wish to support this concept in our congregation. It is stressed that these offerings are to be above and beyond the member's ongoing commitment to the day-to-day running of Grace Lutheran Church."

Continuing funding can come from bequests, Wills, designated gifts, assignment and proceeds of life insurance policies, to name just a few.

Additionally, all non-designated bequests (memorials) to Grace Lutheran Church shall be added to and become part of the Fund principal. Along that line, if you or your family, or friends have an amount that we carry on the books under "memorials," and if there is nothing specific that this money is to be used for, and if all concerned are willing to turn it over to the Endowment Fund, please let the church office know, in writing.

This fund may be not be used to pay off any budget shortfall that we may experience.

Currently, we have 2 CD's and a passbook savings account. In 2014, these three accounts earned a total of \$65.55 in interest.



Pastor Martha's lesson Thursday was what food is best to eat before heading up EVEREST. She asked the trekkers to choose eggs or oatmeal? Everyone made their choice and put their footsteps up the path to the summit. Tonight as I delivered Brayden to his dad's....Isabella is spending the night with us, I asked what they wanted for breakfast tomorrow. All three decided unanimously.....OATMEAL with brown sugar and maple syrup as Pastor suggested on the way up to the summit. These lessons are awesome! As wild as the kids are sometimes (and they are) they are learning like little sponges!

## Serving Others in Diversity

Many members of Grace serve outside the church building, utilizing their God given gifts in service to the greater community. Some of those are:

- \*Don Bettencourt and Walt Wilcutt currently serving at Plowshares
- \*Roger Coate as one of board of directors of Redwood Empire Fair
- \*Gladys Telschow a member of the (NAMI) National Alliance for Mental Illness
- \*Pat Boesel serves as an intern for Mendocino County Sheriff's Office
- \*Bear Conormon procures all food items for holiday meals at Project Sanctuary.
- Jon Telschow serves in many ways for the South Ukiah Rotary
- \*Carol Mordhorst serving as CEO for Manzanita as well as MendoFuture Management Operational Team
- \*Diane Pauli, recently retired from the board of First Five and from the Farm Bureau, political arm.
- \*Dave & Joannie Dunn and Meryl & Janet Carlson serve as foster parents
- \*Tom Kuppa volunteers weekly at Ukiah Senior Center as well as with Ukiah Early Iron
- \*Holly Connormon serves for P.E.O, locally (philanthropy, education organization "helping women reach for the stars"
- \*Bill Yoder acts as building maintenance (Property)leader at the Elks Lodge

Seriously now, on **STEWARDSHIP**  
The Lord says, "I have called you by name, you are mine."

We are

Stewards of God's Grace  
Stewards of His story  
Stewards of His Creation

We are also

Stewards of talents He gave us  
Stewards of time allocated to us  
Stewards of money  
Stewards of stuff

We are to be

Stewards of justice for others  
Stewards on behalf of our local & global communities

**How can we steward differently as a community of ordinary people?**

## VBS 2015, a great success

VBS reports that registration was down a bit on the first day, according to Pat Boesel and Lillian Lollar, however we had an abundance of teen helpers that assisted. Holly & Bear Connormon served snacks that were fantastic, the songs led by Joannie Dunn were exciting and action packed, climbing experiences led by Dwight Cauthorn, Carol Mordhorst, Gladys Telschow with the scientific facts and experiments led by Pr Martha. A Visit from the MCSO K-9 officer and handler were appreciated by all.

## Kids learn like sponges by Janet Carlson

Wednesday's lesson in Dwight's class was about Leprosy. The kids had erasable marker 'spots' on their hands. They dipped their hands in the buckets 7 times and their spots went away. CURED! This is Sierra's translation of the story as told in picture form. Look closely: LEPORD SEEDS. Her seeds are spots that grow on flowers, daisies and roses. Out of the minds of babes.....

*Call Team*—reports they met with a potential candidate in late July--- the candidate declined to accept their offer-----Sigh!!!! But the good news is that the call team continues its work on behalf of GLC and are being diligent and faithful in their search for our next pastor and urge continued prayer.





What is it to be in-filled in the power of the Holy Spirit? **COME AND SEE! COME AND LEARN! COME AND BE FILLED! COME AS YOU ARE!**

Lutherans as other more orthodox seem to teach about the Holy Spirit in the abstract. NOW is the opportunity to learn more of the workings of the Holy in your life.

**Beginning Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am sharp**, Diane Pauli will be teaching on the Spirit. For those attending the 1<sup>st</sup> service, stay a little longer, and for those who attend the 2nd service come earlier---

Also on **September 13 at both services of worship**

Blessing the Backpacks and Lunch Boxes for all the Sunday School Students, Interim Pr, Martha will also bless the adults briefcases etc at same time.

### GRACE'S WEB SITE Makes Difference



A visitor to worship on 8/9 from Lake County found our congregation by going to the web, finding our old web site and clicked on that and said the new site just 'blossomed'. And "it answered all my questions that I wanted answered".

With fall weather approaching, please check out the web site for yourself and spread the WORD to your co-workers, neighbors, friends and family.

Thanks Again to Cheryl Johnson for all your hard work on the WEB.

### Your Council at Work in August

Treasurer reports that giving is down in July but expenses were lower than budgeted.

Fellowship—Pumpkin Patch, Ham it Up and Movie Night have been firmed up—(see elsewhere for more info )

Property—Faulty toilet to be looked at and repaired in the original bathrooms

Paving invoice paid and was lower than expected (\$7200) General fund to repay property fund at \$600 per month passed.

Outreach—Oct 18 to benefit our local food bank in honor of the ELCA's national "Bread for the World Day" campaign. (details in Oct )

Stewardship—"Pay if Forward" program with pledge cards was approved and will begin in October.(further details in Oct) this will be spearheaded by Ann Stolpe

Pr Report--- Martha will be contacting our high school students about starting a high school group. VBS count down , possibly due to other churches re-starting their own programs,



**Note:** As with all council meetings, they are open meetings and anyone can attend ( but not vote) Executive sessions (usually personnel related) are closed to all but officers. A portion of each meeting ( at the beginning) is set aside for non-agenda presentations or discussions by visitors. Council meetings are scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, starting promptly at 7PM