

Shoebox effort wraps another season of giving

East Oregonian

More than 17,000 gift-filled shoeboxes were given by people in the Tri-Cities/ Eastern Oregon region for the 2016 Operation Christmas Child collection drive, which were collected shortly before Thanksgiving.

The project is part of an international effort coordinated by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief agency.

The gifts will then be delivered to needy children throughout the world.

Out of the 17,745 shoeboxes of goods, 1,029 came from Pendleton donors and 1,684 from the Hermiston area, said Fay Smith, regional media coordinator.

"While this year's overall regional collection total is 339 less than in 2015, it still reflects a very generous-hearted community that wants to send a message of hope and caring to thousands of children whose lives are wracked by wars, terrorism, famine and extreme poverty," said Trisha MacFarlan, regional Operation Christmas Child coordinator.

The gift-filled containers came from youth and adult service and athletic groups, private schools, medical and dental offices, retirees, churches, families and individuals.

All were ultimately brought to



People participate in a shoebox filling party in November at the Stanfield Baptist Church. As part of Operation Christmas Child, gifts are sent to needy children across the globe.

Photo contributed by Barb Wattenburger

Bethel Church in Richland, loaded into two freight trucks and driven to the Los Angeles-area processing center for shipment.

Operation Christmas Child began in the United States 23 years ago by the organization founded by Franklin

Graham. The project now involves supporters in a dozen countries. In 2015, donations added up to 11.2 million globally.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

BRIEFLY

Faith Lutheran supports ministry projects

PENDLETON — Several local and international projects benefited from the generosity of Pendleton's Faith Lutheran Church.

During its November church council meeting, the group directed \$500 each to be disbursed to: Pregnancy Care Services of Pendleton, Rev. Rod Harwood and the Pendleton Sunridge cross country team, The Salvation Army Pendleton Corps, Rev. Joy Punnoose for missionary outreach to Nepal and India, and Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization.

Faith Lutheran Church meets each Sunday for a Bible class at 9 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Oregon Trail Room at the Red Lion Hotel, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton. Harwood, former chaplain St. Anthony Hospital chaplain, has been serving the congregation.

Everyone is welcome to join for worship and fellowship. For more information, call Bob Wright at 541-276-6459 or 541-915-7154.

Mitten Tree collects donations

PENDLETON — A Mitten Tree is set up at the First United Methodist Church in Pendleton.

People are invited to bring mittens, gloves and scarves to decorate the tree. After Monday, Dec. 19, items on the tree will be donated to The Salvation Army to be given to those in need.

The church is located at 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton. For more information, contact 541-276-2616 or preachervet@gmail.com.

Aglow celebration of holiday fun

WALLA WALLA — A holiday celebration featuring Christmas carols and the viewing of a comedy DVD with Ken Davis is planned for the December Walla Walla Aglow Community Lighthouse meeting.

The public is invited to attend Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. at Whitman Court, 305 Ash St., Walla Walla. A freewill offering will be taken for the event, which includes lunch.

The author of 12 books, Davis heads up Lighten Up Ministries, which produces inspirational and motivational live shows, DVDs, books and conferences designed to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Aglow, which started in 1967, is an international organization that seeks to minister to its members and share God's word in the community. In addition to the regular meetings, there are prayer groups and Bible studies.

For more information, call Kathy at 509-540-2684, Lora at 509-540-0212 or visit www.ecwaglow.com.

BOARDMAN'S LIMEY PASTOR

My father's enigma

It is over ten years now since my father passed away, but it is this year that I discovered the truth of my father in a more complete way when my sister visited us from France for our son's wedding.

My sister is a past school principal and a historian. She told me the rest of our family story that she had received from our father in his passing.

I had known before that my father had been involved with Bletchley Park, the code-breakers, and I had known some of the areas of the world he had been in from photographs of his. I had not known the extent of his work. He had been with Sir Winston Churchill in the War Room in London serving there as well, as an Enigma operator.

It explained why our neighbor across the road when I was a boy had been one of Churchill's bodyguards, Mr. Holloway, who had slept in the War Room when the bombs dropped on them. Mr. H's fireplace was adorned with Churchill's cigar butts.

When I visited the War Room that had just been opened in London for the first time there were two beds for policemen there. One bed had a name they knew but not the other. I was able to tell the curators the name of the other policeman who had slept in the bed.

This secret of my father's, unknown to me, explained why when I had gone abroad in Europe I had been followed and my hotel room searched.

It explained why when I had held some meetings at my house in Hackbridge, near Carshalton, I had been joined by a man from MI-6, and also a man with Signals



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Intelligence from the British Army. It seemed so friendly of them. My father was very good at keeping secrets and I was very bad at catching on.

I didn't understand why my Uncle Robert gave me a massive book of Churchill's on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Now, as all of this is apparent, I feel so foolish. I couldn't fathom why my father was so eager for me to be successful in mathematics; he had a friend of his try and teach me, not just math but even Einstein's theory of relativity. My father didn't live to see me work as an IT security person for an American bank. I think he would have liked that.

Now of course, I am following my father's other passion. The Lord was his shepherd and Dad traveled the world with the

Word on his lips. He had been so pleased when I started properly going to church when I was in America and when I told him I was studying to be a preacher.

I had been adopted by my mother and father at the age of six weeks, so no DNA had supplied these interests I have now acquired, only the DNA of examples — which in this case were discipleship and love. I have no idea of my mother's true story. I can only guess it is still a secret.

It is only when we look back that we can begin to see a pattern in our lives, not just our own parents working behind the scenes but God himself moving chess pieces of fate for our ultimate salvation.

Colin Brown is the pastor of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

He had been so pleased when I told him I was studying to be a preacher.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

THE PENDLETON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & EAST OREGONIAN PRESENT:

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL PENDLETON-AREA BUSINESSES & HOMES

CATEGORIES	VOTING
BUSINESS	BUSINESSES: DECEMBER 10TH
CLASSIC RESIDENTIAL	RESIDENTIAL: DECEMBER 14TH
CONTEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL	

PRIZES INCLUDE:
 RESIDENTIAL - CLASSIC: \$75 GIFT CARD TO HANLEY STEAKHOUSE
 RESIDENTIAL - CONTEMPORARY: \$75 GIFT CARD TO VIRGIL'S AT GIMMYOTT'S
 BUSINESS: \$100 GIFT CARD TO PENDLETON COFFEE BEAN & BISTRO

PLEASE SEE FULL LIST OF PRIZES AT EVENT PAGE ON FACEBOOK.COM/PENDLETONCHAMBER

LET US KNOW WHERE TO GO!
 ENTER ONLINE AT FACEBOOK.COM/PENDLETONCHAMBER
 OR CALL THE CHAMBER AT (541) 276-7411

Worship Community

Pendleton FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Mid-Week Children & Youth • Weekly Adult Life Groups
 1711 SW 44th St. • 541-276-6015 • www.pendfmc.org

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
 215 N Main • Pendleton

Sunday Worship: 10:40a
 Bible Class: 9:30a
 Office 276-5358
 M-F, 8:30-12:30

WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG

Faith Center Church

Worshiping God Loving People
 108 S. Main • 276-9569

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
 Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston

Sunday Worship Services
 English- Pastor Dave Andrus 9:00 & 10:45 am
 Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loredó 9:00 & 10:15 am
 Classes for kids during all services
 For more information call 541-567-8441

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Saturday Services
Pendleton
 1401 SW Goodwin Place
 276-0882
 Sabbath School 9:20 am
 Worship Service 10:45 am

Community Presbyterian Church

14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR
 922-3250

Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

Grace Baptist Church

555 SW 11th, Hermiston
 567-9497

Nursery provided for all services
 Sunday School - 9:30 AM
 Worship - 10:45 AM
 6:00 pm
 Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
 "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH

585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868
 (541) 443-2500
prbcnline.blogspot.com
 Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Worship Service: 10:45 am
 Kids' Club: 6:00 pm
 Wednesday Services: Youth Group: 7:00 pm

St. Johns Episcopal Church

Join Us
 On Our Journey With Jesus.
 Scripture, Tradition and Reason
 Family service 9am Sunday
 N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
 Fr. Dan Ledwith, Pres. PH: 567-6672
 We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.org
 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery provided)
 Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School
 Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information
 541-289-4535
 Tom Inch, Pastor
 Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA
 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108
 Hermiston, Oregon 97838

Redeemer Episcopal Church

241 SE Second St. Pendleton
 (541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org
 Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
 Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

-Presbyterian Church (USA)-
 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton

Service of Worship - 10:00 am
 Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am
 Fellowship - 11:00 am
www.pendletonpresbyterian.com
Open Hearted... Open Minded

Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH

3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR
 541-276-7590

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM
 Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM
 Mon. Community Women's Study 9:30 AM & 6 PM
 Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)
 Wed Men's Study 6 PM
 MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service

Sunday Worship Service
 9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service
 Wednesday Bible Study
 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study

COME AS YOU ARE
 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369

First United Methodist Church
 Pendleton/Hermiston

352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton
Sunday Worship 9am
 541-276-2616

Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am
 191 E. Gladys Ave, Hermiston
Sunday Worship 11am
 541-567-3002
 Worship Livestream at herfumc.com
 Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
 Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM
 SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM
 712 SW 27TH ST.
 541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

Living Word Christian Center

Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm

Youth Classes:
 Nursery - 6th grade Sun & Wed
 Jr & Sr High Discipleship Program Wed

Overcomer's Outreach
 Tuesday at 6:00pm - Annex
 A Christ-centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group
 Pastor Sharon Miller
 401 Northgate, Pendleton
 541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

in Mission for Christ LCMC
 Bible Study.....9:00 AM
 Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM

Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room)
www.faithpendleton.org

Peace Lutheran Church

210 NW 9th, Pendleton, ELCA
 Join us Sundays

9:30 am Sunday Worship
 10:30 am Fellowship
 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class

~Come and be at Peace~
 on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday

BAHA'I FAITH
 "The Unity of All Mankind"

Pendleton Baha'i Center at 1015 SE Court Place
 Devotions Sundays @ 11:00am; Everyone invited!
 (541) 276-9360 visit us at www.pendletonbahais.org

To share your worship times call Terri Briggs 541-278-2678