

LIMEY PASTOR

Down by the riverside

Greetings beloved friends of Eastern Oregon and beyond. May God's peace be dripping on you like a spring rain in this warm weather! May Christ be in each of your homes!

I missed you last week. I have been on holiday, taking a bit of a break. This week I did my 15th session of cardio-rehab and have another 15 to go. All is well.

Except I had a holiday from church and missed my friends. Missing church is a sad gap. Reading holy books doesn't meet that essential need. The living stones of a church are its people in their variety of personalities.

I really want you to consider showing up at the marina in Boardman at 10 a.m. on the Sunday of the weekend after Labor Day. I think Christians are called to let their walls down and let the spirit flow between each person, reminded by the water of our baptismal rejoicing.

Other pastors have been invited, and I hope we can figure out how to celebrate our life in Christ on this good earth together. I have been fortunate enough to meet Pastor Bill of the Baptist church and other pastors of the LCMC who I understand will be coming.

Many years ago, when I was an pastoral intern down the hill, I assisted in the concoction of a celebration called, playfully, "Circus Church-us" — and besides our church service, we had afterwards a fair-like atmosphere with fire jugglers, hula hoops, a picnic, games and even a dunk tank, which I had brought /in — in the hope that my then Lutheran bishop, Bishop Dave, would be lured into the trap.

Unfortunately Bishop Dave was smarter and avoided taking the plunge — but many others enjoyed the plunge into cold, cold Clackamas water. It shook up the status quo and brought some excitement — especially to the young.

Our plan on September 10 is to gather together at 10 a.m., I believe, and I hope we can rope many people into the event, making Christianity the joy it really is for people. It will be a celebration of the living Christ in a waterside atmosphere not dissimilar from Capernaum, the fishing village on the northern shore of Galilee where Peter is said to have lived and we know where Jesus walked.

I am going to bring some drops of water I gathered from the Jordan River in 2006, at the site where it is thought Jesus was baptized by John, and sprinkle them in our Boardman water to mingle the rivers before we start our service.

In the 19th Century there were nationwide revival meetings, where people were brought into a milieu of Christ-loving people. In the 20th Century we had Billy Graham converting millions. Talking we just have a tumult of bitter voices filling the public air, and we need voices of love, friendship and proclamation of salvation instead.

In Eastern Oregon we have an opportunity to breach divisions of class, race and language, because Christians are in every segment of the population.

We have the chance to make Boardman a salvation city, and open hearts and unclasp hands for each other's holding. We have the chance of being something new that wakes up a sleeping giant, the giant of Christ's Love and Peace. Amen.

Colin Brown is the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Working across faiths, churches shift beds for homeless

By RACHEL ALEXANDER
The Spokesman-Review

SPOKANE VALLEY, Wash. — What happens when a Mormon, a Catholic and a Seventh-day Adventist walk into an apartment complex? Last Thursday, the answer was: Something good.

Members of the three churches did some heavy lifting, moving 200 bed frames and mattresses into a new 50-unit apartment building for homeless families in Spokane Valley.

Teenagers, retirees and plenty in between marched lines of boxes and rolled-up mattresses into apartments as coordinators with clipboards managed the chaos and tracked the flow of furniture.

The project started when Cheloye Penwell, community service director for the Spokane Valley Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, called Catholic Charities in early June asking how they could help with that group's latest effort to build houses for homeless people.

The project, Pope Francis Haven, finished construction earlier in the summer and Catholic Charities was readying units for families to move in.

"I said, here's what we

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— Cheloye Penwell, community service director for the Spokane Valley Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

don't have. We don't have mattresses and we don't have bed frames," said Monique Kolonko, Catholic Charities' executive vice president of stabilization and housing.

Penwell decided she'd take care of it. The local stake applied for \$50,200 through the church's humanitarian fund in Salt Lake City. She got word the request had been approved one week ago, and found out the following day that the truck would be delivering the goods July 20.

"We had six days to put this together," she said.

Some of the volunteers were young people participating as part of their time as missionaries for the Mormon church. Missionaries are expected to complete a significant amount of community service.

Sister Litchford, 20, who did not give her first name in keeping with LDS tradition for missionaries, said most of the community service work she does is more solitary. She liked the community aspect of

outfitting the new apartments. "It's super fun," she said.

The Pope Francis project, built for \$10.2 million, will be the fourth apartment building Catholic Charities has opened in recent years for homeless people in Spokane. Two more projects are under construction or in the permitting process, Kolonko said.

Families will begin moving into the two- and three-bedroom units soon. Thirty-five have been approved so far, and Kolonko expects the units to be full by the end of summer.

This particular flavor of interfaith collaboration is fairly regular. The Valley's Seventh-day Adventist church runs a 2-acre garden near the development to feed people in poverty, and Mormon missionaries regularly volunteer there.

Church members have been taking this season's harvest, the first, to Catholic Charities in downtown Rupert Salmon, who runs the church's men's ministry and the garden

project, said the hope is to offer gardening classes for families in Pope Francis Haven and let them take the produce home in exchange for helping out.

"It'd be an opportunity for them to learn and give back," he said.

Geoff Julian, president of the Spokane Valley Stake for the LDS church, said helping homeless families through humanitarian efforts is part of the church's mission.

"It is set up to follow the message of our savior, Jesus Christ," he said.

Penwell ran around the complex with a clipboard she'd carefully prepared, with boxes to check for each unit when the beds were carried in, then assembled. Her thoughts were interrupted half a dozen times by volunteers with questions about which units still needed what.

"I worked hard on these lists and they're completely useless," she laughed.

Helping vulnerable children is a passion of hers, she said.

"The most exciting part for me has been an opportunity to work across faith boundaries," she said. "That was what I really wanted to do."

Contact Rachel Alexander at rachel@spokesman.com or call 509-459-5406.

BRIEFLY

Trinity Lutheran invites children to Bible school

HERMISTON — Kids are invited to learn about following Jesus as the light of the world during Vacation Bible School at Trinity Lutheran Church.

With a Cave Quest theme, children ages 4 through fifth grade will participate in crafts, singing, games, Bible stories and snack time. Children don't have to belong to the church to attend the sessions.

It runs Monday, July 31 through Friday, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at 485 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston. There is no charge to participate. In addition, a pool party is planned Saturday, Aug. 5 at 11:10 a.m.

For more information, call Nancy Carlson at 541-567-9660.

Methodist church hosts Sunday brunch

PENDLETON — People are invited to get their soul and stomachs fed during the Fifth Sunday Potluck Brunch.

The public is invited to attend the worship service Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Pendleton First United Methodist Church, 352 S.E. Second St. The brunch will follow in the church's dining hall. People are invited to bring a dish to share and visit with others.

In addition, the next Family Night is Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call 541-276-2616 or visit www.pendletonunitedmethodist.org.

Special lunch offers support to widows

HERMISTON — Fellowship and encouragement are featured during a special luncheon for widows.

As part of the church's women's ministry, the Merry Heart Widow's Lunch is Thursday, Aug. 3 at 11:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant, 800 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Women of all faiths are invited to the no-host gathering. The group meets the first Thursday of each month.

For more information, contact 541-567-3677 or hermistonnaz@gmail.com.

EU criticizes Russia over Jehovah's Witnesses ban

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is criticizing Russia over its nationwide ban on the Jehovah's Witnesses religious denomination, saying all must be able to practice their religion without interference.

Tuesday's EU comment follows the ruling of the Russian Supreme Court, which rejected an appeal against the ban.

The rejection of the religious group's appeal allows Russia to liquidate the 395 Jehovah's Witnesses congregations and seize their property. The group claims about 170,000 adherents in Russia.

The EU said "Jehovah's Witnesses, like all other religious groups, must be able to peacefully enjoy freedom of assembly without interference." Russia is bound by its constitution and international commitments to provide such guarantees.

Tennessee police department's Bible verse plaque to be moved

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A biblical passage that has long been displayed at a Tennessee city's police headquarters will be moved following a complaint from an organization that advocates for the separation of church and state.

The East Tennessee chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation filed a complaint in February over the Knoxville Police Department's plaque, which is located on a wall in a non-public area, news outlets reported.

Mounted near an employee deli, the plaque quotes Romans 8:31, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us then who can be against us?"

At a Wednesday news conference, Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch said the plaque would be moved to a new Hall of Inspiration that the department will create. It will be displayed alongside other inspirational quotes, religious verses and proverbs.

With the plaque, the police department has been promoting Christianity over other religions, argued FFRF chapter president Aleta Ledendecker.

"Please see that the verse is removed so that all who enter your police station may feel equally treated," Ledendecker wrote in her February letter to the city's police chief.

The city could have defended the plaque in court against the group's claim that it violates the U.S. Constitution's principle of the separation of church and state.

First United Methodist Church Pendleton
352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton OR
Sunday Worship 9am • 541-276-2616
Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am
Worship Livestream at www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton/ Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

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

Grace Baptist Church
555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497
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Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
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on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday

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in Mission for Christ LCMC
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Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM
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www.faithpendleton.org

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

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Worship Community

Community Presbyterian Church
14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250
Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School
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541-289-4535
Tom Inch, Pastor
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA (First United Methodist Church)
191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838

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

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

Faith Center Church
Worshiping God Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC
Sunday worship at 11:00 AM
420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
541-481-6132
Colin Brown, Pastor

Living Word Christian Center
401 Northgate, Pendleton
Celebration of Worship
Sundays 10:00 am
Youth: 0-6th grade
Midweek Service
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Youth: 0-6th grade
Overcomer's Outreach
Tuesday's 6:00 pm
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Pastor Sharon Miller
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