

LIMEY PASTOR

Lost and found



COLIN BROWN
Faith

It has been a sad, strange week. Jesus said that “the Poor will always be with you.” They really are. Traveling down my road this last weekend I noticed two familiar balls of fur bouncing around on the road. I hadn’t seen them for a while, these two little Pomeranian dogs who look like Tribbles from Star Trek.

I pulled over to the kerb, looked out for traffic and got out of the car. “Go home!” I yelled at them. Much like ordering billiard balls back to their pockets or herding tiny sheep with even less directional sense, they were duly disobedient, so I danced lightly around on the road and slowly guided them back to their driveway. I used to do this dance quite a lot, but hadn’t seen them for several months and was glad to see that neither of them had been flattened by traffic.

I walked them up the driveway, as I had months before. I noticed the homeowner come out of his doorway. I wasn’t too familiar with him. I noticed that the house was much less kept, the lawn was no longer a lawn, but a bloom of dried grasses and two vehicles were there, apparently none too mobile.

“Hi,” I said. “I’m your neighbor from up the road. I’m Colin. I saw your little dogs were out, and I recognized them.”

“Hi” he said. “I’m ‘R’ and I haven’t been out too much. I don’t get out much.”

It turned out that “R’s” partner had passed away back in July, and “R” had been in mourning since then. “R” had a military background; he was a Marine. His partner’s husband had gone off with another woman, and then these two childhood sweethearts had been reunited after the long years. Both of them were in their early 50s, but he had come home to their new common home and found her lifeless on the floor. She had had a heart attack.

“R” had been suffering ever since, and other family members have claimed the house — and are trying to get rid of “R.” He is now living in a house without power, water and little food. He has a military disability income of a few hundred dollars a month. He is in limbo. His dollars are insufficient for much movement to anywhere else. I am looking at resources that may help, but there isn’t a lot. The post office changed his key on the mailbox so he can’t even get his mail.

Later on this same week I got a call from a woman in Portland who my wife and I had previously helped by housing her dog when she was homeless. She had been quiet for a number of months, having moved in with a gentleman friend. She was homeless again. She is bipolar and she had,

by her own admission, created problems where she was — and is there no more.

We got a call from her asking us to take her little poodle so she could get temporary help. We did. I drove into town and reclaimed our guest poodle, and met with this woman’s older friend who was opening her home to temporarily house our homeless lady. But she herself was in trouble. This woman’s landlords wanted to claim her place to re-rent for better money, so they had turned off her water and demanded that she vacate. She has a partial foot amputation, is disabled, and has also no place yet to go.

I was struck as I drove through the Portland streets as to how deteriorated things look in this stale, impoverished city. I notice half-clothed men lying prone on sidewalks, breathing but addicted and unconscious. It looked like a run-down Third World city. Police and ambulances passed these people by without stopping. The recent change in the Oregon law reducing possession of heroin and methamphetamine to misdemeanors instead of felonies has created a “Blade Runner” nightmare in the city where people are sliding into walking comas.

I stopped at a fast food restaurant to eat and a woman asked me if I could buy her some food. I said that I would be happy to help. The staff ordered her out as they didn’t like the ragged poor in their establishment. I managed to get the food and take it outside to her. No Christian spirit here.

To add to these local stories of being down and out, I received word from my colleagues in Puerto Rico who had been devastated by the hurricane. A team of people from England had flown out to help them in the reforestation effort in the forest areas. Unfortunately, U.S. immigration in Puerto Rico had stopped the team in the airport and sent them back to Limey Land where they could refrain from doing further good works.

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



Pope Francis, background center, celebrates a canonization mass for 35 new saints in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican, Sunday, Oct. 15. AP Photo/Andrew Medichini

Pope adds 35 saints to church, nearly all martyrs

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis, who often laments current persecutions of Christians, has given the Catholic Church 35 new saints, nearly all of them martyrs, from past centuries.

The latest saints were proclaimed Sunday during a Mass celebrated by Francis in St. Peter’s Square and attended by some 35,000 faithful, many of them pilgrims from the homelands of those being honored.

Thirty martyrs, including priests and lay persons, suffered anti-Catholic persecution in 1645 at the hands of Dutch Calvinists in Brazil, while three children, ages 12 and 13 who were indigenous persons in Mexico, were martyred in the 1520s for refusing to renounce their Catholic faith and return to their ancient traditions.

The other two new saints are a 20th-century priest from Spain and an Italian priest who died in 1739.

Since becoming pontiff in 2013, Francis has repeatedly paid tribute to Christians suffering or even dying for their faith in current times, especially in the Middle East.

At the end of the canonization ceremony, Francis hailed the new saints as “shining witnesses to the Gospel.” In recent decades, the Church has stressed that the latest saints can serve as role models for today’s Catholics.

BRIEFLY

Pastor’s collective offers church leadership event

HERMISTON — A rural pastor’s collective is hosting a Fall Gathering for church leaders of all faiths.

The event is open to pastors of all denominations, lay leaders or other people in church leadership positions. The Tumbleweed Colloquy includes workshops about end-of-life ministries, and communicating effectively with congregations, the community and the media. In addition, there will be trivia time focusing on knowledge about John Wesley and the Methodist movement, Martin Luther trivia and a best sermon title contest.

The Tumbleweed Colloquy is Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Lunch will be served.

There is no fee thanks to a grant provided by the Columbia District Extension Society. If the cost of gas would prohibit someone from attending, there are funds available to help defray the cost.

For more information or to register, contact Patty Nance at 541-561-3314, umctumbleweeds@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/umctumbleweeds.

M-F church hosts gospel bluegrass event

MILTON-FREEWATER — The public is invited to tap their toes during an upcoming Gospel Bluegrass Festival.

Featuring area gospel and bluegrass musicians, the free event is Sunday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St. The evening also includes refreshments and a time of fellowship.

For more information, call 541-938-3854 Monday through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Local churches celebrate Protestant Reformation

HERMISTON — A pair of local churches are hosting a Reformation Weekend 500-Year Celebration.

Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church and the Hermiston First United Methodist Church are hosting an event recognizing the Reformation. Also referred to as the Protestant Reformation, it was a schism from the Roman Catholic Church initiated by Martin Luther and continued by John Calvin, Huldrych Zwingli and other early Protestant

reformers in 16th century Europe.

The public is invited to a dessert potluck and movie event Sunday, Oct. 29 from 3-5 p.m. in Davis Hall at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Attendees may bring a dessert to share.

For more information, contact Michelle at magoo@presys.com, 541-297-0050 or Regina at marks@eotnet.net, 541-571-0685.

Chuckwagon cooks up meals for ministers

HERMISTON — In recognition of Clergy Appreciation Month, Chuckwagon Cafe is celebrating the impact of ministers and their families on the community.

Church leaders and their immediate family members will receive a 50 percent discount at the cafe during the entire month.

The Chuckwagon Cafe is located at 81027 Highway 395 North, Hermiston. For more information, call 541-567-6329.

Send information about local faith-related news and events, including concerts, special speakers and activities to community@eastoregonian.com.

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
PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

Peace Lutheran Church
210 NW 9th, Pendleton
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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
in Mission for Christ LCMC
Sunday Worship.....9:00 AM
Bible Study.....10:00 AM
Red Lion Hotel
(Oregon Trail Room)
www.faithpendleton.org

Living Word Christian Center
401 Northgate, Pendleton
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
Sundays 10:00 am
Youth: 0-6th grade
MIDWEEK SEVICE
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Youth: 0-6th grade
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

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

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”

Worship Community

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

Faith Center Church
Worshipping God Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Worship Service: 10:30am
Sunday School: 9:30am
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

PENDLETON LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH
Sunday Service: 10am & 6pm
Tuesday Kingdom Seekers: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
We offer: Sunday School • Sign Language Interpreters • Nursery • Transportation • & more!
Pastor Dan Satterwhite
541.377.4252
417 NW 21st St. • Pendleton, OR 97801
www.facebook.com/PendletonLighthouseChurch

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

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

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) 9:30 AM & 6 PM
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 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

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Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm
Celebration Place-6:00pm
Other Groups Available Weekly
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1911 SE Court Ave
541-276-6417
Assembly of God Church

BAHA’I FAITH
“The Unity of All Mankind”
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Devotions Sundays @
11:00am; Everyone invited!
(541) 276-9360 visit us at
www.pendletonbahais.org

To share your worship times call 541-278-2678

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