

BIRTHS

Dec. 11, 2015

To Megan Howland and John Jones of Cottage Grove, a son.

Mistletoe for sale

The Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment group will support Beds for Freezing Nights for its current community service project, a mistletoe bunch sale that continues Dec. 16-17 and Dec. 21-23 at the Cottage Grove Walmart. The public is invited to purchase mistletoe bunches, arranged by the youth, for \$5 a piece. The members of Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment are 11-14 years of age. The group aims to support the development of the members' innate spiritual qualities. Further information about the Junior Youth Empowerment Group can be obtained from Paula Mance at 541-968-2047.

IN MEMORIAM

Lillian Evelyn Premazzi  
1933-2015

Lillian Evelyn Premazzi, 82, of Albany, Ore. passed away Dec. 8, 2015. She was born Jan. 15, 1933, in Portland, Ore. to William and Pauline (Foged-Andersen) Lindley. Evelyn graduated from high school in Portland. On July 25, 1959 in Portland, Ore., she and Lloyd Premazzi were married. She wrote insurance policies for a company in Portland and was a homemaker. Evelyn's favorite thing to do was collecting antiques, she loved her dogs and enjoyed baking for her family and friends. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church



and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Cottage Grove. She is survived by her daughter Judee (Paul) Barnes of Albany, Ore., son Louis Premazzi of Cottage Grove, daughter Nancy (Bill) Keldsen of Scottsdale, Arizona, sister Nancy Hance of Winston, Ore., seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband Lloyd Premazzi on Jan. 15, 2007, and grandson David Rossiter. Visitations will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14, 2015, at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel and at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15, prior to a funeral mass at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1062 Charnelton St. in Eugene, Ore. with entombment following Mass at Springfield Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Fish tale

Jane Bailey of Cottage Grove caught the biggest Brown Trout in Wickiup Reservoir in 2015. Bailey is pictured here with the 12 pound, one ounce trout, which earned her a Diawa fishing rod and spinning reel combination in a contest sponsored by Twin Lakes Resort.



MOVING UP HIGHER  
with  
Joyce Meyer



Frustrated? Get humble

God's grace is amazing, but sometimes I wonder if we have forgotten how truly amazing it is. The word "grace" is often so common in church or other religious settings that it can become familiar, causing us to forget its true value. Romans 5:8 (AMP) says, "But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us." God sent His Son to die for us before we were even following Him, which is amazing! I believe that when we have a true revelation of all God has done for us, we can overcome any frustration in our lives.

Frustration happens when we're trying to do something in our own strength that we cannot do. It is a work of the flesh because we're trying to make something happen that only God can do through His grace. My personal definition of grace is: God's power made available to us free of charge, enabling us to do with ease what we could never do on our own with any amount of struggle or effort. We all need the grace of God so when He calls us to something, we'll be equipped to do it.

When I first started my ministry, I thought I had to make everyone like me, and the pressure was more than I could stand! I would get discouraged when it seemed like someone was giving me a funny look or left during my teaching because I would think they didn't like what I was saying. One day I finally said, "God, it is not my responsibility to make people like me; it is my responsibility to do what You are telling me to do." The pressure I had put on myself to please people was released when I got this revelation: God is not just with us but in us and He will do through us what needs to be done when we stop trying to do it ourselves and let Him work.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (deliv-

ered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God" (AMP). We are saved by the grace of God through our faith in Him; our faith does not buy our salvation, it merely receives it. As Ephesians 2:8 says, salvation "is the gift of God." It is impossible to buy a free gift and this can be hard for us to understand. Our flesh wants to earn and deserve this free gift and take credit for being worthy.

Salvation is given to us freely, by God's grace, and the same way we receive Christ's salvation is the same way we have to live—by grace. God gives us His forgiveness and grace daily; we just have to believe and receive it.

When God forgives your sins, it means all your sins: past, present and future. You do not have to be afraid of sin because God has taken care of the problem. Some may worry that if we don't fear sin, we will keep sinning on purpose, but that's not true. If you are truly born again and really have a relationship with God, there is a new nature inside of you. Second Corinthians 5:17 (AMP) says, "If any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!"

Now, no one is perfect, and we all make mistakes sometimes. But if the Holy Spirit is living in your spirit through salvation, you won't be comfortable with those mistakes because God's nature is at work in you. The devil would love for us to feel like God is mad at us for our mistakes, but the truth is God is love and we need to humbly accept His love and grace.

When we humble ourselves before the Lord and understand

Please see **JOYCE**, Page 10A

Elizabeth Jean Black  
1944-2015

Elizabeth Jean Black, 71, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away December 9, 2015. She was born April 25, 1944, in Cottage Grove, OR to Wayne and Thelma (Merrell) Gates. She married Bill Black on February 6, 1978, in Carson City, NV. Betty is survived by her husband Bill Black, Cottage Grove, OR, daughters; Michelle Wisely and Mindy Roberts both of Cottage Grove, OR, son Brennan Black, Creswell, OR, sister Evelyn Shrock, Cottage Grove, OR, brother Jerry Gates, Cottage Grove, OR and 6 grandchildren. Betty worked in the Gates family custom meat business until partnering with her husband in the logging industry. In her younger years Betty enjoyed horseback riding and participating in the Cottage Grove Riding Club with her father. Betty was a Cottage Grove Rodeo Queen and two time indoor Archery State Champion. While in high school she developed her love of music. She played both the piano and trumpet which she continued throughout her life. After high school her love for outdoor activities grew. She enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing with her husband Bill, family members and pets. Betty was a skilled gardener, at one point raising over 100 tomato plants while managing a 3000 square foot garden. Like her mother she was an amazing cook. It was rumored by many family members that she had the best peach pie, and her grandkids claim the best grilled cheese. She was an avid supporter of Cottage Grove High School sports, and enjoyed watching her kids and grandkids participate. "Go Beavs!" A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday December 16, 2015, at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you donate to a charity of your choice. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.



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"Man is born to live, not to prepare for life."  
— Boris Pasternak

Marjorie (Margie) Noreen Parks  
1931 – 2015

Marjorie (Margie) Noreen Parks of Middlefield Oaks in Cottage Grove, passed away on December 2, 2015. She was 84. She was born on August 21, 1931 to Elsie & Niels Nielsen in Sutherland, Nebraska. Her early years were spent in and around Nebraska, mostly Boelus. At age 9, her father passed away and a few years later the family moved to Oregon. At the age of 18 she met and married Herbert Crump in Skamania County Washington on December 27, 1949. That marriage ended in 1976. Together they had five children, Ronald, Carrie, Kenneth, Bruce and Shirley. In 1963 the family bought a home at London Springs, Oregon where the children went to school and grew up. Throughout her life she drove a race car, worked in a cannery in Salem, Oregon, she drove a school bus for the London School, a Dietician at London school, a retirement center in Bend, Oregon and a Dietary Manager in Dillingham, Alaska before retiring.

Margie is most remembered for her infectious smile, her laugh and making friends. She enjoyed Bingo, Crafts, time at the coast but most of all she enjoyed her time with her family.

Margie is survived by 3 children: Ronald of Payette, Idaho, Bruce of Goshen, Oregon and Shirley of Eugene, Oregon, a sister, Anita Becker of Woodburn, Oregon, a brother, Dallas Nielsen of Grants Pass, Oregon, 11 Grandchildren, 28 Great-Grandchildren and 2 Great-Great Grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Carrie Ernst (daughter) of Oregon City, Oregon, Kenneth Crump (son) of Cottage Grove Oregon and Dennis Nielsen (brother).

A Celebration of Life for Margie will be held at Smith-Lund Funeral Home in Cottage Grove, Oregon on January 9, 2015 at 10:00am, a Pot Luck following.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to ask that donations be made. All proceeds will go to Shriners Hospital in Portland, Oregon and to The Wounded Warrior project.



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In person: 116 N. Sixth Street, Cottage Grove  
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MICHAEL THOMPSON  
April 3, 1945-December 13, 2015

Michael Thompson was born in San Diego, California April 3, 1945 to his parents Bernice and Marshall Thompson. He was raised in Montana with his two brothers. Michael graduated from Absarokee High School in 1963, the University of Montana with a Zoology degree in 1967, and from the University of Oregon Medical School (OHSU) in 1970, where he met and married his wife, Janet. After completing this internship in Spokane, Washington he served in the Navy as a general medical officer at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. He then served his residency at Contra Costa County Hospital in Martinez, California.

In 1975 Michael came to Cottage Grove, Oregon and practiced medicine for 31 years. He loved serving his patients and community. During his professional career, Michael served as a board member for many organizations including, the South Lane Education Foundation and the Cottage Grove Hospital. He was an advisor to the Cottage Grove Medical Health Clinic as well as Medical Director of the clinic and Medical Advisor at Coast Fork and Creswell Care Centers. He also volunteered as the CGHS football doctor for 15 years. His reputation was one of compassion, commitment, and caring for all with a strong sense of ethical values. He was seen as a mediator and peace maker within the medical community, and his work ethic was renowned.

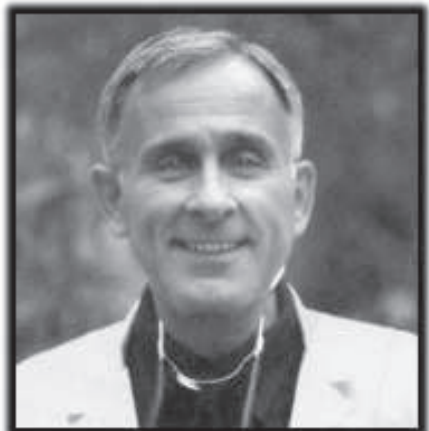
Michael loved the outdoors. The beauty of water, stone, and wood fueled his creative expression in and outside of his home. He fished as a boy, built trails in the Forest Service, skied and hiked with his family, grew Christmas trees, took care of horses, cows, and sheep. He tended a large garden which allowed him appreciation of the seasons.

Michael found his deepest joy in practicing his faith and studying the Bible. At Trinity Lutheran Church he served as a Sunday School teacher, Congregation President, and Trustee. His involvement in Bible Study Fellowship grounded him. He treasured the relationships, fellowship and leadership opportunities. His three trips to Israel highlighted his Biblical studies and interest in archeology.

Michael is survived by his wife Janet of 45 years; his brothers John Thompson and David Thompson; his children, Ryan Thompson (Amy) of Grants Pass, Oregon, Sarah Riznyk (Nicholas) of Holualoa, Hawaii, and Sam Thompson (Rosalee) of Canby, Oregon; and his eight grandchildren Morgan, Sophia, Emma, Jacob, Noa, Hannah, Jack, and Madeline.

Memorial contributions may be made to South Lane School District Scholarship Fund or to the Trinity Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund.

A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 2:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 675 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove, OR.



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