

Support the grand piano fund

By David Robinson
Lead Pastor, Cannon Beach Community Church

Cannon Beach Community Church celebrates the gift of music in our local community by announcing the intent to purchase a new "concert quality" grand piano in 2017 for the church sanctuary to benefit our whole community. This season, give our community the gift of music by donating to the grand Piano fund established at Cannon Beach Community Church. The total fund to be raised is \$50,000, for a new concert quality grand piano. A gift of \$500 buys one of the 88 keys of this new piano. Community Church has already received \$10,000 gift towards this gift of music. Funds may be designated to "Grand Piano Fund" and sent to Cannon Beach Community Church, P.O. Box 37, Cannon Beach,

OR, 97110, or made online at www.beachcommunity.org. Clatsop County has a limited number of performing arts musical venues, especially venues with excellent acoustics, concert-quality musical instruments, and aesthetic beauty. One of the favorite such venues in the South County for music events is the sanctuary of Cannon Beach Community Church located at 132 E. Washington next to downtown Cannon Beach. Bono declared that "music can change the world because it can change people." Cannon Beach Community Church has been helping to change the world through music since 1931, when the Community Church sanctuary was originally built. The sanctuary was remodeled in 1997 with the design help of a renowned sound engineer, Ron Sauro, to improve the acoustic

quality of the space for music events. Weekly, Cannon Beach Community Church provides space for two of our finest community music groups to rehearse, including the Cannon Beach Chorus and the North Oregon Coast Symphony. These music groups attract musicians from Tillamook County, Clatsop County and Pacific County. Annually, Cannon Beach Community Church hosts multiple music events, including music recitals, solo-piano concerts, choral concerts, touring music groups, classical concerts, and seasonal music events, such as the solo-piano concerts featuring jazz piano reflections on Christmas carols, Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, at noon. These noontime piano concerts are offered free and are open to the public. In addition, the Cannon Beach

Chorus holds their annual holiday concert at Cannon Beach Community Church Sanctuary on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. Of course, the most frequent world-changing music offered at Community Church Sanctuary is the music of weekly worship, including Contemporary Worship (Sunday, 9 a.m., featuring acoustic piano, vocals, hand-drums, acoustic guitar, and electric bass); Classic Worship (10:45 a.m., featuring acoustic piano and organ); and Evensong Worship (1st/3rd Sundays, 6pm, featuring acoustic piano, acoustic guitar, and vocals). We invite you to join us some Sunday for worship or for a holiday concert this Advent and Christmas season. Aldous Huxley expressed the wonder of the gift of music when he wrote, "After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

Cannon Beach Food Pantry fills a need

Folks seem surprised when I tell them I volunteer at our local food pantry. "Why do you need a food pantry in Cannon Beach?" is their startled question. Well, I'll tell you a little about our customers at the pantry: Client A is the elderly gentleman who has spent most of his life in Cannon Beach. His social security has definitely not kept up with inflation. Even with as much government assistance as he is eligible for, most months he has to choose between purchasing his medications or buying food. The food pantry helps provide food and essentials. Client B is the single mom who works locally to support her 2 children. Even though she works full time, she still struggles below the poverty line and has difficulty making ends meet. When she or her children fall ill, she misses work. She has no sick leave available to her, so even missing one day of work means cutting back on essentials. She often falls behind on her monthly utility payments. The pantry helps support her. Client C is the disabled gentleman in our community who lives well below the poverty line and struggles to keep a roof over his head and in groceries. Sometimes he is too ill to come into the pantry and we deliver food to him. Client D is the hard working family man who works two jobs to support his family. He is a "seasonal worker" for our local tourism industry. July and August mean full employment. When the flow of tourists lessens, so does his work. He may work only four hours a day a few days a week. The food pantry helps keep his family fed in the down times. He tells us there are many days when he eats almost nothing so that his children may eat. Clients E are the homeless. They may be passing through our town on their way to somewhere else. They may be living in tents in the woods, in their cars,

or in local campgrounds. They may work part time, but don't earn enough to afford to rent, if there were any places to rent. And there are very few places available to rent. Clients F are the unemployed. They may have been downsized from living wage jobs and have moved here to live with friends or family and look for work, having exhausted all other resources. They may have worked jobs locally, but are seasonally laid off. They may have worked for a now closed business. They may not be able to get jobs based on their age. Clients G are the mentally ill. They cannot get or keep jobs. They receive government assistance, but there is never enough to eat. Many of them cannot drive so they walk to our pantry and carry their supplies home. Some do not do well in the company of

others, we make deliveries to their home. These are simple descriptors of the many customers served at the Cannon Beach Food Pantry. They are our neighbors. We smile and wave when we meet at the post office, bank or grocery store. Mostly their hunger doesn't show. To look at them — and you have looked at them — you cannot see their struggle. The mission of the Cannon Beach Food Pantry is to provide food and essentials to the hungry in our community in a loving and compassionate manner. The pantry is able to fulfill its mission thanks to the generous support of community. Our thanks go out to the many individuals who drop dollars and change into our donation jars, who come by the pantry to make a cash donation, and to those who mail a check to PO Box 852. Those who place food and

essentials in barrels around town help provide our services. Local businesses donate time, materials, food and essentials. Dedicated volunteers work hours each week to allow us, ensuring we are ready to open our doors every Wednesday of the year. If you would like a short tour of our facility stop by any Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. If you or someone you know is in need of a little help every now and then or if your home could benefit from extra food each week, we are here to help. Please call us at 503-440-8592 with questions. The pantry is located in the old Cannon Beach Elementary School and is open every Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. Our pantry is here to help. Nancy Littell, Co-chairwoman, CB Food Pantry Judy Wood, Co-chairwoman, CB Food Pantry

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