



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORT TOWNSEND, WA

*Good Busy-ness*



It's a busy fall season here at FPCPT!

In ways both small and large, we are on the move.

A great team of people are working on a project to provide us a new space for ministry and outreach. We're hoping to remove the walls of the old office in the narthex to open up what was originally the fellowship hall (before the edition was built in the 90's). We are planning on restoring that space for creative worship, education, fellowship, coffee, a family space during worship, a community space during the week, an open and welcoming space for those arriving and leaving on Sunday mornings, and whatever else the Spirit dreams up to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community. This project will restore the space to its former glory and enable faithful ministry for future glory! This is just a teaser. You'll hear much more about it in the months to come.

Along with this, we are evaluating, consulting, and planning a refresh to the sound system in the sanctuary. It has served us faithfully but is not quite cutting the mustard anymore. We want to update it so that everyone can hear clearly, and so that we can do more with it to support the ministry that takes place in our beautiful sanctuary. Again, stay tuned.

We have interfaith connections growing, efforts to work for peace and social justice happening, environmental ministry brewing, educational and fellowship gatherings sprouting, and prayer, worship & music guiding and empowering our faith.

And to top it all off, we are welcoming a new choir director to our leadership team! A faithful committee has completed our search over the summer and God has blessed us with the arrival of Sarah Moran. She comes to us with a beautiful voice, a boatload of gifts, and a desire to work with us in offering Spirit-filled worship. Her first Sunday with the choir in worship will be October 15. We are blessed!

It's a busy fall season, but it's a busy-ness that renews, stretches, comforts, and strengthens us for faithful living in this challenging day.

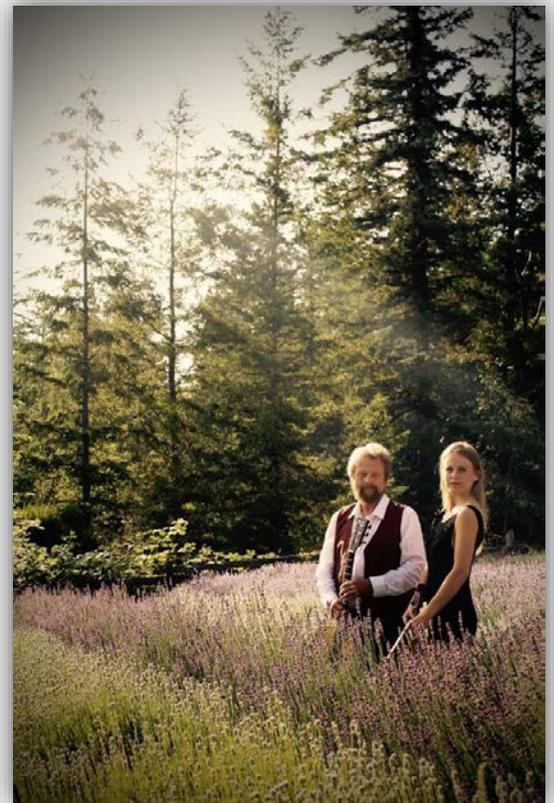
We worship a living God who offers hope, joy, and peace through immeasurable love and grace. There's nothing better than to be partners with our living God in bringing life. Join us. You'll be blessed too.

Peace,  
Pastor Paul



*The Thirsty Scholars Concert at  
First Presbyterian Church*

*Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00 to 5:00 pm  
Suggested donation: \$10-\$20 with 20% donated  
to our church mission projects. Marina Gittens  
on violin and Daniel Macke on guitars and  
mandocello, the Thirsty Scholars will be  
performing original compositions by Marina  
and Daniel, as well as classical works.  
You are invited to join us for this fabulous  
concert in our Sanctuary featuring the  
talented Marina Gittens and Daniel Macke.  
For more information about the musicians,  
visit: [marinagittens.com](http://marinagittens.com)*



**We Welcome Our New Choir Director Sarah Moran**

From Sarah: I feel truly blessed to be joining the congregation of First Presbyterian, Port Townsend as your new choir director. I look forward to meeting all of you and to forming new friendships.

I moved here with my husband Gregory Lewis and our two children Cora, age 2.5 and Seamus (pronounced Shaymus) age 6 in October of 2016.

Besides directing choir, I am a professional singer and voice teacher. I enjoy vegetarian cooking and I am attempting to take up sewing with what little free time I have!

So far we have found Port Townsend to be a warm and welcoming community and we are looking forward to spending many years here raising our children. The photo is from our first trip to Mt. Townsend. We are so happy to be here in this beautiful place.



### Liturgists Needed

At the beginning of each church service someone reads the call to worship. The text is sent ahead by e-mail so "hard" words can be reviewed--no pressure!! We try not to call any more often than once a quarter (four times a year). If you would be comfortable helping with this please let Pastor Paul, Rosalie Branigan or Mary Maltby know.



### Prayers & Squares

The purpose of Prayers and Squares is not to make and distribute quilts, but to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Their motto is: It's not about the quilts; it's about the prayers. If you know of someone who could use the comfort of prayer and a quilt requests can be made with a form found in the Prayers and Squares mail box in the narthex.

The quilt is constructed by members, the ties put in but left free. The quilt is dedicated in a church service, and the ties are tied with a square knot in the fellowship hall following the dedication, and a prayer is offered for each knot. What makes the quilt special, is not the pattern color or workmanship, but the fact that prayer is symbolically tied into each one.

We do have a stash of quilts to draw from and a quilt room with many pieces of fabric, batting and crochet thread for tying. It is located upstairs in the old narthex. You do not need to be a quilter to help—remember this is about the prayers—willing hands to help match colors, to cut out or put in tie are needed too.

We would like to plan a work party early this fall and will get more information to you in the bulletin. If you have any questions you can call Mary Maltby, 385-3110 or Geri Eekhoff: 379-0987.



### Dinner for Eight at Six on October 27th

The Fellowship Team is again planning an enjoyable evening in which groups of eight meet for dinner at hosts' homes at 6 pm. Each group of randomly selected guests provides the food from a menu supplied by the host. Adults of all ages, singles and couples, are encouraged to participate. Newcomers are especially welcome. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex for the fun and an opportunity to meet and get better acquainted with members and friends of our church family. Hosts needed. Contact Margie Gormly with questions, 437-9619.



### Faithful Endings: Conversations on Faith and the End of Life-September 17th

Join us for a presentation and discussion on Palliative Care led by Dr. Joe Mattern of Jefferson Healthcare. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. The event will be Sunday, September 17th at 11:30 am, following Worship.

### Community Memorial Service Scheduled for October 26th

Jefferson Healthcare Hospice will hold its annual community memorial service on Thursday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

All community members throughout Jefferson County are invited to join with friends and family in attending this nondenominational service of remembering and honoring loved ones. The service will include music, candle lighting, a program of responsive reading, poetry readings, reflections and sharing. During the service a memorial a quilt, made by the Cabin Fever Quilter will be displayed and family members and friends will be encouraged to place a photo or memento on the quilt to honor and remember their loved one(s). The quilt is used as a symbol of hospice and represents the long held American traditions of home, family, community and caring, all of which are hallmarks of hospice care. Names of loved ones will be read and additions of names will be encouraged from those present.

For more information please call Margie Gormly, 437-9619 or email: [mjgormly@gmail.com](mailto:mjgormly@gmail.com)

# Mission Team

Imagine working in the church office and trying to help people calling and coming to the church doors, desperate for a place to stay overnight to get out of the rain and cold wind. These people can't even begin to think about tomorrow, they are in desperate need now. They are tired, cold and hungry. Many times these urgent calls come in on a Friday, leaving little time to reach out to any possible resources before the weekend.

On one such Friday, Vicky received a call from a young father, searching for housing for his family of 5: a four-month-old daughter, a 4-year-old daughter, his wife and his terminally ill mother. The family came from the Midwest, hoping for a better life when their vehicle broke down. This family of 5 spent their first night in front of Safeway in Port Townsend, out in the damp cold. The next day the 4 month old daughter was in emergency hospital care after coming down sick from being outdoors all night.

The father called our church, reaching out for help. Vicky called all possible resources and went to the Olycap office to try to get in-person help for this family. Olycap could offer only a tent to this family, they would need to find a place to stay outdoors with it. That was not an option with 2 very young children and an ill mother. Vicky checked with all the hotels, it was an event weekend and all the hotels were full.

As a last effort, Vicky contacted chaplain Rich Nordberg who she has worked with on many occasions to help desperate families. Rich and his wife Connie have 6 acres in Port Hadlock they lovingly refer to as "The Cool Water Ranch". For 3 years now, Rich and Connie have provided emergency shelter and meals for those in need. At the time of Vicky's call last year, the Nordbergs were already housing 21 homeless individuals but Rich realized the critical need with the young family and agreed to take in the family of 5. The Nordbergs provided food, transportation and a warm safe place for this family for 3 weeks until the family could find housing.

Rich and his wife Connie do this amazing work in response to God's call to "Share bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house" (taken from Isaiah 58:7). They cannot do it alone. The health department instructed the Nordbergs they must get a new septic system installed to handle the number of people living on the property. The Mission Team financed the design and permitting of this project, which is now ready for final approval. In the meantime, Richard has cleared the land is ready to begin building as soon as he receives approval.

Richard and Connie Nordberg have been a true blessing for those in our community that have found themselves in urgent need of food and housing. They joyfully share their home and their meals with those most in need.

Rich Nordberg will present a Minute for Mission with our congregation to share news of the work he continues to do to help others at the Cool Water Ranch.

## Cool Water Ranch



*Thank you for helping us!*

*Mike Billert*  
*Harry Williams*  
*Chris & Rita*  
*Niede Buchfeld*  
*Mark*  
*Not Pictured - Bret & Tanny Rittner and Tina G. Moore*  
*Scott Buchfeld*  
*Rich & Connie Nordberg*  
*Paul J. Mac*  
*Jerry & Jackie*

## More Mission News.....

Hello dear sisters and brothers of First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend (WA)

Greetings in the name of the God of Peace!

I want to write a thank-you note for your faithful financial support to my ministry here in Colombia on June and July.

During the past months the Implementation of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and FARC (Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia) is going well in spite of some issues. But, we can say there is progress in the implementation: a) FARC members are in the process of reincorporation into the civil life which include an Amnesty Law. This is a clear signal from the Government of willingness to build a sustainable peace on the reconciliation path; b) the FARC's weapon turnover are now taken place. Thanks God, ceasefire has held also. More than 8,112 individually arms have been stored by the United Nation mission (see picture from Semana.com; 08/15/17); c) Teachers are bee selected to provide Elementary and High school Education to the formers FARC members (se picture from Semana.com; 08/15/17)

A big issue behind of the Peace agreement are the great inequalities between rich and poor, and the extreme poverty reality of thousand of families, women and children victims of violence (see picture from El tiempo; 06/12/17). Thousand of these are selling whatever they can sell at the streets in several cities in Colombia.

Others have fallen on drugs and delinquency. I see this group at every city I visit in Colombia.

I ask you to join me on prayer for this particular group, the most vulnerable one, whose reality I don't think is going to change with the Implementation of the Peace Agreement. I have them in my heart.

Thank you again for you support to my ministry here. Without your support I could not continue working at the God's mission in Colombia.

Peace. César



## KNOWING OUR NONAGENARIANS (AN ONGOING TRIBUTE) BOB MOLISE

According to his daughter, Dorene, Bob Molise is a disciplined, conscientious, tenacious, patient, humble, loving and kind man. We can all say that we wholeheartedly agree.

In San Francisco on March 16, 1926 John (a “high-climber” lumber jack) and Opal (a kind, loving woman) Molise welcomed Robert “Bobby” Bruce into their lives. Joyce, his sister, completed the family. Until the age of 15 Bob lived in multiple logging camps (some without electricity or toilet facilities) and small towns, attending 10 different schools before entering the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Some camps were only accessible by logging railroad. On one trip into town Bob, age 14 months, was thrown from his mother’s arms when the “speeder” in which they were riding jumped the tracks. He hit his head on a tie, breaking his nose and jaw and splitting his tongue, as well as knocking out the buds from some of his permanent teeth. Speech difficulties have remained with him ever since.



Bob’s love for fishing began at the age of three. In the second grade, he won the 25-cent-contest prize for catching the biggest trout. His love of nature and solitude began in the remote homes of his childhood. His voracious reading began with week-long, yearly visits to his grandparents home where “Gran” read to him and his sister until she became hoarse. Zane Grey and cowboy and sports stories found in pulp magazines were his first loves.

With the country gearing up for war, his family moved to Richmond, CA where his dad became a naval shipyard rigger, and his mom joined the ranks of Rosie the Riveters as a burner. Twenty days after his high school graduation, Bob enlisted in the Army. He experienced the horrors of war in the Pacific as a soldier and later as a paratrooper. His return to civilian life was troubled, as he suffered from PTSD, decades before it had that name.

Bob’s career was remarkable. Over the years he moved up the ranks of California’s DMV, from office manager in a small town, to Chief of the 150 DMV offices in California.

Bob remembers that his blind date, Kay Hildreth, “was very attractive, with nice long legs and beautiful hair”. Their marriage produced three boys and two girls, followed by three lovely granddaughters. Bob states that the loss from flu of their seven-month-old, third born led him to become a Christian. Bob and Kay retired, filling pleasant hours together RVing, playing golf and doing volunteer work. When Kay’s Lewy Body Dementia was diagnosed, they moved into Seaport Landing to be near a daughter. After sixty years of marriage Kay died with Bob lying beside her and remembering aloud their first date, their marriage, their children and the myriad of events they had experienced together.

Bob continues to remain active in many capacities in our church. His many volunteer activities include, among other things, cooking at the Senior Center, driving for ECHHO, visiting ill and grieving folks.

When asked how he would like to be remembered Bob stated, “as a kind person”.

His advice to his children, grandchildren and those to follow is: be yourself, realize that you are not perfect and will make mistakes, forgive yourself, have the courage to support unpopular positions on social and spiritual issues and have fun.

**Summary of recent SAJE activities:** Submitted by Ruth Whitney

On June 25, 2017, we began a month-long exploration in worship, discussion groups, and panels on the call to love our neighbor as ourselves, a call expressed in Mathew 25:35: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” During worship on each of the four Sundays, Pastor Paul focused his sermon on different windows to this topic.

During the Adult Ed hour, we hosted **four** meetings around this issue.

**1<sup>st</sup> meeting:** Law Enforcement with a panel of three: Troy Surber, Sergeant, PT Police Dept., Dave Stanko, Jefferson County Sheriff, and Melissa Nitsch, Community Relations Officer, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Seattle.

Surber and Stanko both described their focus as being on local crime, not on tracking down undocumented immigrants. They both said that more crimes are committed by members of the general public than by immigrants. Each said their main focus is creating a safe community here.

Nitsch said the job of ICE does include identification of undocumented immigrants. But she said that in this political climate, people tend to “gin up” fear and spread rumors. She cautioned us be careful of spreading unfounded rumors.

**2<sup>nd</sup> meeting:** Michael Ramos, Exec. Director of Church Council of Greater Seattle. In this role, he lobbies for social justice. He focuses on hospitality and works with many churches active in this work, encouraging efforts to stand with those marginalized, in particular undocumented immigrants targeted by the current Administration. Tacoma Detention Center has way too many people, now more than 1500, he says and asks: How do we create an “*us out of them?*”

**3<sup>rd</sup> meeting:** Libby Palmer, local social justice activist, and Rosa, here for 18 years, originally from Mexico. Libby described her work of many years, helping vulnerable people fight safety and justice. Rosa told her story of coming here, how it took her 12 years and \$25,000 to become officially documented. During all that time, she used a fake Social Security number and paid into Social Security. She and her husband have worked at a local family business. She describes the owners as a steady, loving support to her and her family during this long journey.

**4<sup>th</sup> meeting:** a congregation-wide discussion on how/if our church can welcome the stranger. Facilitators Pastor Paul and Elisabeth encouraged participants to be truly open-minded and try to look at the issue from the perspective of “the other.” The upshot: Almost all present favor supporting the undocumented who’ve committed no (other) crime. There was a general openness to short-term one or two night stays, if need is dire, and to other kinds of support: i.e. finding/funding legal support, hastening court appearances, ESL training, transportation, and looking into the Tacoma Detention Center, 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the country. Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, a group from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian will be joining an interfaith group on at the Detention Center. We’ll be there in support of visiting family members with sandwiches, water, fruit, and friendship. Margie Gormley is heading this effort.

Also, we’re creating a **Share List** to foster a church-wide sharing of time, talent, and goods. Let Elisabeth Heiner know what you’d like to share with others.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  2:00 pm Worship Team	2
3  10:00 a.m. Worship  11:30 am "Now What?" Conversation	4    Office Closed	5  7:00 pm Evening Circle	6  8:30 am Centering Prayer 8:30 am PT Ludlow Men 1:00 pm Knitting 2:00 pm Stephen Ministry	7	8  7:00 am PT Mens Group	9
10  8:30 am Adult Education  10:00 a.m. Worship & Youth Education  2:00 pm Memorial Service	11  5:00 pm Hand Bells  7:00 pm Boy Scouts	12	13  8:30 am Centering Prayer  10:00 am Shepherding Meeting  1:00 pm Knitting	14  10:00 am ECHHO Meeting  2:00 pm Mission Team	15	16
17  8:30 am Adult Education  10:00 a.m. Worship & Youth Education 11:30 am Faithful Endings	18  5:00 pm Hand Bells  5:00 pm Caravaners  7:00 pm Boy Scouts	19  7:00 pm Session	20  8:30 am Centering Prayer 8:30 am PT Ludlow Men 10:00 am Miriam Circle 1:00 pm Knitting 4:00 pm Deacons	21	22  7:00 am PT Mens Group	23  3:00 pm Thirsty Scholars Concert
24  8:30 am Adult Education  10:00 a.m. Worship & Youth Education 11:30 am "Now What?" Conversation	25  5:00 pm Hand Bells  7:00 pm Boy Scouts	26	27  8:30 am Centering Prayer  1:00 pm Knitting	28  6:30 pm Taize Worship	29	30