



# Grace Notes

## Spirit Wind

*"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."* John 3:8

The following story was sent to me by e-mail. I think that it is a wonderful "Pentecost" parable

When I was quite young, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember well the polished old case fastened to the wall.

The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother used to talk to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person-her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know.

"Information Please" could supply anybody's number and the correct time.

My first personal experience with this genie-in-the-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer.

The pain was terrible, but there didn't seem to be any reason in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear. "Information Please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear. "Information."

"I hurt my finger. . ." I wailed into the phone. The tears came readily enough now that I had an audience. "Isn't your mother home?" came the question. "Nobody's home but

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Spirit Wind*

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### Special points of interest

- "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know
- Assemblies wouldn't be Assemblies if there wasn't something to talk about.
- Como iglesia basada en el mandato bíblico de respetar la dignidad humana de todas las criaturas de Dios



## Who Is God?

God doesn't change, but our children's perceptions of God change as they grow. A child's first impression of God is most often based on the behavior and beliefs of one or both of his or her parents. As children enter the middle elementary grades, they become aware of the beliefs of people outside their family. Their image of God may change as their beliefs are challenged and influenced by friends and teachers. But, even during this time, the beliefs of their family will have the strongest impact.

How can you help your child to know God as the leading force in their life?

Make God a central part of your family life. Talk about God in your daily conversations. Point out ways that God is present and active in the world. Pray and read the Bible together. Ask for God's guidance as you make family decisions. Faithfully attend worship. Serve God through your church and other organizations. If God is a central part of your family, your children will likely become adults who recognize God as the center of their lives.

*God doesn't change, but our children's perceptions of God change as they grow.*

### What Does God Look Like?

Invite everyone in your family to draw what they think God looks like. Stress that no one knows for sure, so there is no "right" answer. Have each person explain what he or she draws. Do some family members view God as happy and loving, while others have a more stern notion of God? Discuss where these notions may have originated. Invite everyone to brainstorm more ideas about what God might look like. With these ideas in mind, read aloud these Bible verses about the images of God:  
Numbers 11:10-13 describes God as mother;

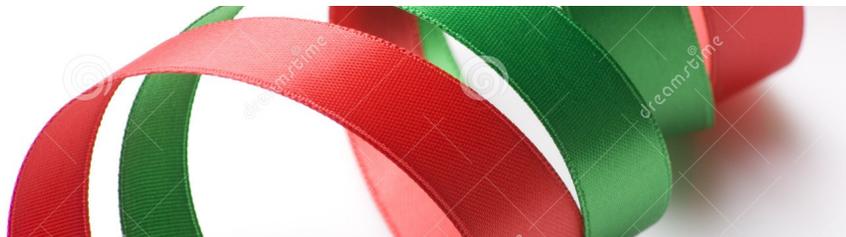
*(Continued on page 3)  
What Does God Look Like?*

## Color Me Red, Then Green

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down on each disciple as a flame of fire. That's why the color for the day is red. But it doesn't stay red! On the Sundays after Pentecost the color changes to green. Green is the color of growth, and it reminds us of how the church grows and works because of the things Jesus did and taught us. It takes a long time to consider all those things, and that's why Pentecost is not just one day. It is a whole season stretching through the summer and into the fall.

On Pentecost day, wear red to church, and see how many other things are red. There may be red cloths on the altar and the pulpit. These cloths are called paraments. The pastor may wear a band of red cloth on top of a robe. That band of cloth is called a stole. Pastors wear stoles to remind themselves that they are servants of the people who come to church. On the Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday, the color of the paraments and stoles changes to white. On the Sundays after that, all through the summer and into the fall, the paraments and stoles will be green.

On your calendar at home, put a red circle around Pentecost Sunday. Plant fire-engine red geraniums outside or in pots in a sunny window to remind you of the Holy Spirit's visit as fire. Remember that the Holy Spirit is active at home as well as at church. Plant them for someone else to show with your hands that the Holy Spirit visits them, too!





*What Does God Look Like?*

## Did anyone's ideas about God change after hearing these verses?

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*What Does Good Look Like?*

- Deuteronomy 4:24 describes God as fire;
- Deuteronomy 32:11-12 and Exodus 19:4 describe God as an eagle;
- Psalms 18:13 describes God as thunder;
- Psalms 91:4 describes God as a protective bird;
- Jeremiah 17:13 describes God as water;
- Luke 15:37 and John 10:27 describes God as a shepherd;
- John 3:8 and Acts 2:2 describe God as wind;
- John 8:12 and Isaiah 60:2 describe God as light;
- John 15:1 describes Jesus as a vine and God as the grower.

Did any of the verses use images that were the same or similar to those chosen by your family members? Did anyone's ideas about God change after hearing these verses? Ask each family member to draw or create another image of God, choosing from the images above. Family members can draw pictures or they can create something that they think describes God, such as: a sand candle to describe God as light; a felt or paper banner with tongues of fire glued on it to describe the Holy Spirit; a wreath made of dried grape vines from your garden to describe God as peace. Note the related Bible reference with each creation. Point out that these images are not God, but that they serve to remind us of the greatness of God.

Ask each person to give thanks for one of God's images during a group prayer.

### Church Happenings

#### ***Tapping Into Faith***

Join us Friday evening, June 3rd @ 7pm @ the Hermiston Tavern for good company, drink and conversation. Join us as Jesus Rome leads us in conversation about cross-cultural worship.

#### ***Book Club***

The American Lady by Petra Durst-Benning, part of the Glassblower Trilogy, A sweeping tale that takes readers from the small town of Lauscha, Germany to the skyscrapers of New York and the sun-kissed coast of Italy, The American Lady is a tribute to the enduring power of family and what we'll do in the name of love. Join us in Tuesday, May 31st at 5:30ish pm in the Fellowship Room.

***May Benevolence Focus*** is **Martha House** as we lift up and seek to support those who suffer from domestic violence

#### ***Church Worship and Picnic***

As the school year nears completion we will gather as a congregation at Butte Park on **June 5** to celebrate the ministry of education at Grace and Mercy with open air worship, picnic, and celebration of those who have participated in Sunday school this year.

***Women's Appreciation Sunday and Dinner***—Sunday, May 15 @ 3pm @ G&M



Respondiendo con fe a las persecuciones de familias Centroamericanas para su deportación

Este mes, el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS, por sus siglas en Ingles) comenzó operaciones para buscar y deportar a familias Centroamericanas que llegaron a EE.UU. después del 1º de Enero del 2014. Sabemos que por lo menos 121 individuos fueron detenidos en la primera semana y se han reportado instancias en las que niños(as) han sido sacados(as) de sus casas a medianoche.

Como iglesia basada en el mandato bíblico de respetar la dignidad humana de todas las creaturas de Dios, estamos fuertemente en contra de priorizar a niños vulnerables y sus madres para su deportación. Estas tácticas no honran nuestro llamado como comunidad de fe a amarnos el uno al otro ni respeta la dignidad de nuestro prójimo.

Además, nos unimos a Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) declarando nuestra preocupación por asegurar el acceso verdadero a la justicia para estas familias en EE.UU. quienes tienen que navegar un sistema legal complejo, muchas veces sin el apoyo necesario. Este Diciembre, nuestra propia Obispa Presidenta, la Reverenda Elizabeth Eaton, fue testigo de la incertidumbre y el estrés que niños y familias enfrentan en la corte de inmigración en Chicago.

La ELCA vive la llamada de Dios de mandarnos al mundo acompañando a niños, niñas y familias deslazados (as) en EE.UU. y en Centroamérica a través de nuestras relaciones de compañerismo con iglesias y compañeros en fe. A través de estas relaciones, recibimos una perspectiva crítica sobre las realidades que enfrentan niños y familias que son forzadas a salir de sus comunidades por la violencia (como trazamos en nuestro reporte, Nuestras Comuni-

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## In Assembly....

As is often the case, one never knows what will transpire when people get together.

April 29—May 1 was the gathering time for Oregon Synod Assembly, ELCA. We met in Eugene, Or., in what looked at first to a rather quiet and dignified meeting—some 300 strong. As is often the case the gathering began with worship and communion, not only to remind us in Who's presence we gathered, but also to remind us of the sacred task that we have (all) been called to.

Around the theme of *Back To The Future: Which, Wert, and Art*, the Assembly was given the challenge of considering what it means to be the church today and where it is we draw our power. With apologies to Marty McFly and Doc Brown, we were reminded that our past is really our future—that our history/past comes to us from the future and that our God not only calls us forward, but comes to meet us now. It is this God who calls us and gives us what is needed to be the church today.

Assemblies wouldn't be Assemblies if there wasn't something to talk about. The usual stuff—budgets and resolutions—provided some insight to where we see the Oregon Synod living its faith. Currently the Synod passes 40% of receipts onto the Churchwide expression;

by 2017 this will be at 41%, which is expected to be about \$416 thousand dollars. Much of this gets returned to the Synod as Churchwide support for a whole host of ministries.



### Some Assembly Required

There were five separate resolutions up for consideration: Environmental Protection; Allowing Additional LGBTQIA Voting Members; Supporting Universal Health Care; Sanctuary Synod and Denomination; New Assembly Format for 2018. All passed, some with amendments, but all with passionate discussion on all sides of each issue.

But maybe the best conversations were had by those who saw old friends or made new ones—in general, being reminded just how big and diverse and aware of the Church is as an expression of the Body of Christ in the world.

## We Are....

As part of each Assembly we receive reports of the many organizations that help make up what is known as the ELCA—seminaries, colleges, service organizations, youth organizations, camping. And the list goes on. Each year we also have a representative from Churchwide who shares part of their story, but also brings a word (usually televised) from the presiding bishop, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Joe Young, who is part of the ELCA World Hunger board, was tasked with this duty. After sharing his story of why he is a Lutheran—a church and school that saw what he could be, he guided us through a summary of Bishop Eaton's remarks. We are, Eaton says: Church; Lutheran; Together; For the sake of the world.

If Eaton's observations are true, for us, how might these shape the way we observe and engage the world around us?

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*Spirit Wind*

me," I blubbered.  
"Are you bleeding?" "No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts."  
"Can you open your icebox?" she asked. I said I could. "Then chip off a little piece of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.  
After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography and she told me where Philadelphia was.  
She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before would eat fruits and nuts.  
Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary died. I called "Information Please" and told her the sad story. She listened, then said the usual things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was unconsoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"  
She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Paul, always remember

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*Spirit Wind*



*"Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"*



Main street will come alive with entertainment, food booths and an assortment of artisans showcasing their mediums at the 12th Annual Eastern Oregon Arts Festival. Enjoy a mid morning stroll adorned with vibrant colors. Listen to the sounds of musical bands, nosh on tasty food and enjoy dancers and children's activities throughout this wonderful festival!

## 12th Annual Eastern Oregon Arts Festival

Main Street  
May 7, 2016

Don't forget to stop in at Grace and Mercy to see the art that is being supplied by Two-Rivers. It is one way that we can support ministry to the prison and prisoners.



### Relay For Life Hermiston, OR.

Saturday, June 25, 2016  
11:00am — 11:00pm  
Umatilla County Fairgrounds  
425 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston  
Contact Heather Farnworth for more information and registration—  
heather.farnworth@cancer.org  
(509) 783-1574

Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information  
about our services and ministries.

Grace and Mercy L.C.

POB 1108

Hermiston, OR 97838

(541) 289-4535 (church phone)

(509) 398-0258 (pastor's cell)

[gandmlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:gandmlutheran@gmail.com)

Visit us on Facebook at Grace and

Mercy Lutheran Church

## Light A Fire!

So, if the story of Pentecost is more than simply a celebration of the “birthday of the church”, but is actually a story of new/renewed beginnings— what lights our fire? What are we passionate about? What gets our juices flowing so much that we are willing to risk everything?

In a backwards way this is what the recent Synod Assembly was all about— exploring what gives us the power and will to risk all for the good news of Jesus; exploring that new beginning we have through the presence of the Spirit of Jesus in our midst.

Part of my process at the Assembly was to think about this in personal terms, but more importantly, my gifts coupled with those of the community. What I began thinking about was STREET.COM, a means of identifying and leveraging our collective gifts for the good of the world. But, more on that later. See you next month.



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*Spirit Wind*

that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone. "Information Please." "Information," said the now familiar voice. "How do you spell fix?" I asked. All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was 9 years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. "Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home, and somehow I never thought of trying the tall, shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall.

As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane touched down in Seattle. I had about half an hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now, and, without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information, Please."

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well, "Information."

I hadn't planned this but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?"

There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now." I laughed. "So it's really still you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time."

"I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me. I never had any children, and I used to look forward to your calls." I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister. "Please do, she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered "Information." I asked for Sally. "Are you a friend?" she asked.

"Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said, "Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago."

Before I could hang up she said, "Wait a minute. Is your name Paul?"

"Yes."

"Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you." The note says, "Tell him I still say there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean." I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

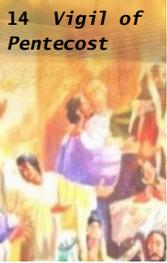
Never underestimate the impression you may make on others.

*"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

P.S. Thanks for the story Cliff

# May 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 6 Easter</b> 9a Worship/ Communion 10:15a Educational Hour	<b>2</b> 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0 5p VBS Mtg @ Faith Presbyterian	<b>3</b> 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Acension</b>  Cinco de mayo National Day of Prayer	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4p Handbell-Handchime Concert @ 1st United Methodist Church
Assembly—Eugene			Pastor—Hermiston			
<b>8 7 Easter</b> 9a Worship 10:15a Educational Hour	<b>9</b> 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0	<b>10</b> 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 6:30p Leadership Team	<b>11</b> 10a Gather Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Vigil of Pentecost</b> 
Pastor—Hermiston						
<b>15 Pentecost</b>  9a Worship/ Communion 10:15a Educational Hour 3p Women's Celebration	<b>16</b> 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0	<b>17</b> 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	<b>18</b> 9:30a Foot Clinic	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
		Pastor—Hermiston				
<b>22 Holy Trinity</b> 9a Worship 10:15a Final Educational Hour 5p Worship @ Prison	<b>23</b> 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0	<b>24</b> 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	<b>25</b> 10a Gather Study	<b>26</b> 1p Cluster Mtg @ Pendleton	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Pastor—Hermiston						
<b>29 2 Pentecost</b> 9a Worship/ Communion	<b>30</b> 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0  Memorial Day	<b>31</b> 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p Book Club				
Pastor—Hermiston						

### Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
May 1	Jerry McMichael	Jerry & Katja	Joseph & Lucas
May 8	George Meyers	Cindy & Jean	Daniel & Emilee
May 15	Janet Boyd	Barbara, JoAn, Janet	Laura
May 22	Steve Anderson	Joni & Steve	Micah & Chloé
May 29	Phil Schmidt	Cooper Family	Joseph & Lucas

### Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
May 3	Birthday	Jerry McMichael
May 3	Birthday	Phil Schmidt
May 6	Birthday	Dawn Largé
May 8	Birthday	Katherine Marks
May 12	Birthday	Tayzer Rosenberg
May 16	Anniversary	Dawn & Edward Largé
May 18	Birthday	George Meyers
May 18	Birthday	Candice Osborne
May 20	Birthday	Pablo Flores
May 26	Birthday	Katja McMichael
May 28	Birthday	Victoria Armstrong
May 29	Birthday	Daylon Osborne
May 31	Birthday	Dot Hensley

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dades en Crisis).

Hoy, la violencia en los países a los cuales estos niños, niñas y familias serán deportados continua siendo intolerablemente alta. El Salvador está enfrentando tasas de homicidios que no ha visto desde su guerra civil en los 80s. La Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña ha reportado que ha visto hasta 30 familias siendo desplazadas de sus comunidades en solo unos días. Honduras continua teniendo una de las tasas de homicidios más altas en el mundo, y en Guatemala, las Naciones Unidas reporta que dos mujeres son asesinadas cada día. Como iglesia con compañeros en fe que trabajan con niños, niñas y familias deportados en El Salvador y Honduras, sabemos que deportarlos no sirve para prevenir que salgan de sus comunidades.

En una declaración por la Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM), una organización compañera de la ELCA trabajando en un centro de repatriación de niños y familias en Honduras, explica que "durante este proceso de recepción [de niños(as) y familias], hemos visto las dificultades que [la deportación] ha significado para estas personas y sus familias, teniendo que regresar a la misma realidad de pobreza extrema, falta de oportunidades, violencia e inseguridad ciudadana que ha sido causa para emigrar fuera del País."

A través de nuestras relaciones en Centroamérica y porque somos una iglesia con raíces migrantes, seguiremos apoyando a nuestros compañeros en la región y en EE.UU. a través de testimonio, acompañamiento, rezo e incidencia política.

"Debemos abogar con nuestros gobiernos y autoridades para el trato humano [de migrantes], y para [que se realice] una investigación real en los casos que necesitan las personas ser aceptados como asilados, no por políticos, si no, para la seguridad y protección de sus vidas." Dijo el Obispo Medardo Gomez de la Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña en una llamada a reconocer los derechos y vulnerabilidades de aquellos que salen de Centroamérica hoy.

Nuestro socio, Church World Service, sugiere que usen los recursos siguientes para responder a el tratamiento de familias Centroamericanas:

Conozca Sus Derechos

Si tiene vínculos con congregaciones encabezadas por migrantes, es muy importante que las comunidades migrantes entiendan sus derechos. La información más importante es NO LE HABRAN LA PUERTA a agentes de Inmigración y Protección de Fronteras (ICE) o a cualquier otra gente que no tenga una orden firmada por un juez.

# American Cancer Society Relay for Life Silent Auction

## Please join us for the Silent Auction

When: Saturday June 25th 11:00am to 1:30pm

Where: Umatilla County Fair Grounds, Hermiston, OR

Winning Bidder Must be present at 1:30pm to pay and pick up Merchandise

There will be between 300 and 500 Items in the Silent Auction. Items range in Value from \$25 to \$400+. Something for Everyone. Partial listing of items below. Below listed items may be auctioned individually or be part of basket of combined items. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

- One Night Stay & Traditions Buffet Resort Package at Wildhorse Casino Resort
- Garden Supplies
- Variety of Wine Baskets
- Fruit Trees
- John Deere Items
- Handmade Baby Quilt by Maxine Cole
- 18 Holes of Golf for 4 at China Creek Golf Course, Arlington
- Relay Logo/Pink Ribbon items
- Gift Certificate from The Chuck Wagon Cafe
- BBQ Items
- OSU Logo Items
- U of O Logo Items
- Ornamental Trees & Bushes
- Variety of Flowers & Plants
- Variety of Tools
- Overnight Stay at Columbia River Inn at the Bridge of the Gods
- 4 Upper Box Seats for Tri-Cities Dust Devil Game
- Gift Certificate for Jerry's Rogue River Jet Boats
- Kitchen Baskets
- Specialty Baskets for Girls, Boys, Men and Women
- Much, Much More!

# Grace & Mercy Volunteer List Coordinators and Committees 2016

## Leadership:

(Usually the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM)

Chair - Regina

Treasurer - Cindy

Financial Secretary - Flora

Secretary - Michelle

At Large - JoAn, Flora, Phil, Regina, Rosaline, Dot

Budget -Katja, Cindy, JoAn, Rochelle

Scholarship - Kathleen, Dawn, Cindy

Church computers/wifi/webpage: Kevin

Pastor

## Committees

### Building Committee:

General Building: Phil

Aesthetics/Windows: Flora, Joni

Windows parking lot side: Michelle

Sound: Kevin

Phone: Kevin

Cleaning:

**Worship Committee:** Rosaline, Jean, Katja, Pastor

**Hospitality Committee:** Rochelle, Dot, Dawn, Michelle, Geri, Cindy

**Education/Sunday School Committee:** Pastor, Dot, Michelle, Kathleen, Katja, Rochelle, Dawn, Amber

## Church Activities:

**Altar Guild/Acolytes:** Geri and Maxine

**Card Ministry:** Dorothy Lee

**Benevolence:** Rosaline

**Choir:** Rosaline (usually Mondays at 1 PM )

**Piano:** Rosaline

**Newsletter:** Pastor

**Bulletins:** Rosaline

**Prayer Requests:** Pastor, Dot, Michelle

**Facebook:** Michelle and Rochelle

**Visitation:** Pastor, Rosaline, & Phil

**Communication for non internet people:** Geri

**Foot Clinic:** Rosaline

(usually 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30)

**Kiva Project:** Jerry, Kevin

**Church Scrapbooks:** Flora

**Quilters:** Ruth, Dorothy

(usually Thursdays at 9:30 AM)

**Gather Bible Study:** Rosaline

(2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10 AM at Jean's)

**Novel Ideas at G & M (Book Club):** Kevin

(usually the last Tuesday of the month  
open by 5:30, program starts at 6 PM)

**Tapping into Faith:** Kevin (usually last Friday of  
month 7 PM at Hermiston Tavern)

**Next Text:** Michelle, Kevin, Pastor (Every Monday  
morning 6:32 AM at The Pheasant or Monday at 10 AM  
at Grace and Mercy)