



# Cordata Beacon

A Publication of **Cordata** Presbyterian Church

August, 2023

## Message from Pastor Greg: “H L P S M (Help Some)”

Since many of you commented on my recent sermon on aging, maybe the Lord has a word for us about aging well. As you'll recall from Luke 2, the elderly Simeon sees the long-awaited Messiah as a very young child; Simeon's whole life's mission has been to watch for, and then proclaim before God, this Jesus. What about you? Are you more ready to proclaim to God with your life when you see something amazing? Or are you like many people as we age--more apt to complain before others than to proclaim before God? Maybe after thinking of Simeon's long wait, we'll be a bit more ready to proclaim.

The Apostle Paul also offers perspective on aging, writing to the church in Corinth not to lose heart: “Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16 NRSV) Paul describes the suffering being endured by the church as a “slight momentary affliction” and says the purpose of the suffering is to prepare us for an “eternal weight of glory beyond all measure.” Paul isn't just giving a pep rally speech. He is describing the underlying nature of reality in Christ. He says that “because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus (from the dead) will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us... into His presence”, we, therefore, are encouraged “to look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” Do we realize that whatever we are suffering as we age, God is doing an eternal work in us? God wants us to focus on more than our suffering; and instead to look past all that to the eternal life that God is slowly but surely producing in us day by day as we follow Jesus, as we wait like Simeon on Christ to show up. As we keep that life-giving vigil, here are some questions to ponder:

- What HOPE do you carry for the future?
- What do you LONG for?
- What are you and I PROCLAIMING with our lives as we age?
- What SACRIFICE are you willing to give for a younger generation?
- What is your MISSION for your future aging years?

H (hope) – L (longing) – P (proclamation) – S (sacrifice) – M (mission). Not a perfect acronym but maybe HLPSM might remind us that whatever our age, we can always “Help Some.”

Joyfully in Christ, Pastor Greg



**Rembrandt - Simeon Blessing Jesus**  
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### **Praise God!** **A New Worship Director Has Been Hired**

Her name is Sarah Allen, and she is moving to Bellingham from Texas, where she served as Director of Children's Music at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church. Her first Sunday will be August 27.

Let's make her feel welcomed!

## Pollinators

By Carol Lawrence

Each year it seems my daughter adds some new species to the collection of animals on her farm. It started with chickens, then pigs were added, then more pigs, then a couple of cows, then turkeys. One day she challenged me to guess what new creatures had been added. I asked her how many of them there were, and she replied, "Hundreds." I was hoping they had not added hundreds of pigs or cows. Turns out, they had set up a beehive, to keep their large vegetable garden well pollinated.

Just now, as summer has finally arrived, those of us with gardens welcome a variety of pollinators. Bees, wasps, flies, bats, even wind and water can spread that essential pollen far and wide. In my flower garden, it's mostly butterflies and hummingbirds I see flitting from plant to plant. The butterflies and hummingbirds are so fun to see, and it's heartwarming to know their activity ensures future flowers.

One day, mysteriously, my daughter and son-in-law found their beehive empty. As it turns out, bee colonies are subject to a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder\*. Apparently there are several essential factors that must be present for a community of pollinators to thrive. These include a safe place to live, diversity, and nourishment from appropriate plants.

This month, watching the pollinators in my garden, I'm proposing an analogy for you to consider. Perhaps the requirements for a colony of pollinators to survive are essential for a congregation as well. We need a safe place, where we know we will find comfort and support. In conversation with folks of diverse backgrounds, we can both find our spiritual growth 'pollinated' and perhaps become 'pollinators' ourselves. Finally, nourishment, from that wonderful, ever-present source, God's word, is essential. So, let's all take seriously our individual roles as pollinators and spread some of God's blessings to those around us, in the spirit of the Scripture verses known as the Great Commission:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age." Amen (Matthew 28:19,20).*

\*<https://homesteadandchill.com/help-save-pollinators/>



Thank You all so very much for joining together and really "stepping up" with extra giving during our June special giving campaign. Your gifts will allow us to further the efforts we have begun to reach out to the community around us. Over 50 families made a special donation and one family made a very large and generous gift of \$40,000. All together we raised over \$63,000 in gifts and pledges to give. We are truly blessed by the generous response of the entire congregation. We rejoice and celebrate the provision of God and the wonderful giving of this faithful community of believers. Through your generosity we can continue to share the saving love of Jesus Christ with those both near and far.

With thanks,  
*The Generosity Team*



## Clubhouse Catch-Up

**CPC Kids Clubhouse** - Do you hear that?! It is the thunderous applause of thanks for everyone who has stepped out of their comfort zones and stepped up to lead our Sunday Kids Clubhouse! The weekly

lessons have gone great, and some extra creative storytelling has taken place with the entire class acting out the story! CPC Children's Director, Bonnie Hollingsworth, has been extremely homesick. She can't wait to be back teaching our amazing group of kiddos on August 13th!

### This month in the CPC Kids Clubhouse:

**Big Picture Question:** How do we know God loves us?

**Answer:** We can know that God loves us because He gave us Jesus to forgive the sins of the world.

**Key Passage:** Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**August Lessons:** Jesus Came to be the Sacrifice for Sin (Hebrews 10), Jesus Told Nicodemus about Eternal Life (John 3), Jesus Told a Woman about Living Water (John 4), God Loves All People (1 Corinthians 13)

**FUN in the SUN (F.I.T.S.)** - They say, "All good things eventually come to an end," and we are approaching the end of F.I.T.S. way too fast! This season of Fun in the Sun wraps up on Thursday, August 17th. If you have not yet stopped by on a Tuesday or Thursday from 1-2:30p... you have a few more opportunities to participate in the fun! The relationships (and trust) built during these afternoons together have a huge impact... not only on the kids who come, but also on the leaders and helpers! Don't miss out! (See more photos on page 7.)

**Save the Date for Our Annual Block Party!** The ending of F.I.T.S. means that our annual Block Party is in the near future. **Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 10th!** This relaxed and enjoyable outreach event is the perfect opportunity for us to be "salt and light"/"hands and feet" to our own congregation, our Mosaic church friends, and most importantly, our Cordata neighbors, who may or may not know how much Jesus loves them. Let's team up to love our neighbors! Be on the lookout for information about where and how you can make a difference!

**Hey CPC Crafty McCraftersons...** We may have missed a "Christmas in July" kick off, BUT it's never too late to get those CPC Ornament ideas going! We have 145 days until Christmas Eve!

Please send your ideas and suggestions for this year's CPC Christmas Eve Keepsake Ornament to Bonnie Hollingsworth (bonnieh@cordatachurch.org) by Mid-September!

\*Reminder: we always include a heart shape somewhere in the design.





## Smile ~ New Photo Directory in the Works

Every Sunday in August we will be taking photos in the foyer after the Worship Service for a CPC photo directory. Please come by to have your picture taken, and check your directory information to see if your entry needs updates or corrections. If you are not able to be here in person, please send a quality head/shoulders picture to [admin@cordatachurch.org](mailto:admin@cordatachurch.org).

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## Summer Book Read

Over 50 Cordata members are reading Mike Kuhn's book, *In Quest of the Rock*. We have already held the first engaging Zoom discussion of chapters 1 and 2. Anyone is welcome to join in the second evening review of chapters 3 and 4 scheduled for 7p on August 9th.

These two new chapters raise provocative questions about how Jesus changed Peter's expectations and used emotional moments to reveal himself more clearly to Peter. Kuhn's retelling of Peter's walk with Jesus becomes a reflection on how we, too, are being transformed through our life experiences.

The third and final Zoom discussion of Mike's book will be held August 30th at 7p and will cover chapters 5 and 6.

If you haven't previously been on the email list for the log in, please send a note to the church office at [admin@cordatachurch.org](mailto:admin@cordatachurch.org).

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## Fellowship News:

The CPC summer picnic at Fisherman's Pavilion was well received with over 80 people attending! We were blessed with yummy food, and although it was a cloudy, cool day outside, there was a warm, sunny atmosphere in the Fisherman's Pavilion with a beautiful view of the Bay. See photos on page 8.

**August plans include a "lunch bunch" dine around at local restaurants and a welcome celebration for our new Worship Director, Sarah Allen.**

Planning has also begun on our annual **Block Party** which is scheduled for **September 10th**. See page 3 for more information. Check the Sunday worship bulletin in August for further details for any of these events.

Do you want to put a smile on everyone's face after worship? Become a coffee host! Coffee hosts usually work in pairs, brewing coffee, getting the water hot for tea, and assembling a selection of cookies (some GF). After worship, hosting coffee is fun, because you not only get first crack at the cookies, but more importantly you get to say "Hello" to others in the congregation and facilitate their time of fellowship. Clean-up then quickly follows. Want more information? Ask one of the hosts who gives you a cup of coffee next Sunday.

**Coffee hosts are needed for November and December.**

## Meet Our New Members



**Grace Griffin**

Grace Griffin was raised on a farm in CA where her Dad was a professor of horticulture. Her husband Richard was raised on Angle Lake, SeaTac, WA, where his Dad worked with Northwest Airlines. In their youths, both attended Confirmation Class in the Presbyterian Church, but early adulthood saw each drifting away from the Christian faith of their youth and for over 15 years each lived without Jesus at the center of their lives. They met in Santa Barbara years later. Both miserable and lonely, God touched their hearts about the same time, and they began their journey towards a deeper relationship with Jesus, resulting in their marriage in 1982. It was a healing time of counseling, personal growth, and commitment to the Lord. Richard worked in the field of manufacturing engineering, and Grace worked previously as teacher then financial planner.

Grace and Richard moved to Bellingham in 1989 where Richard found employment at Anvil and then at Boeing and served as a volunteer with the fire department on Chuckanut. Grace was a realtor and served at First Presbyterian Church as deacon and elder, sang in the choir, and attended Talk Time with international students and Bible studies (including Bible Study Fellowship in the evenings here at CPC). Grace states, "Being a member of FPC for 30 years was rich, and I miss dear friends. However, I feel blessed to be welcomed here and hope to be able to call you dear friends as well." The Griffins live nearby at the Village at Cordata. Grace cares for Richard's needs as he suffers constant pain from spinal stenosis, the deteriorating effects of Parkinson's Disease, and prostate cancer.

Grace notes, "God truly has redeemed the years of the locusts in my life. For years I worried and wondered how WAS that little girl I had given up for adoption in 1965. After 30 years passed, I hired a search team to locate her address, so I could write to ask if she had questions for me. Amazingly she responded and for the last 28 years, God has given me a sweet relationship with my daughter Margaret, who is healthy, caring, and smart and has 3 grown children and a great husband in charge of the Union Mission in Colorado Springs. Best of all, Margaret is a strong Christian and loves Bible studies. Just a few weeks ago she visited here and we went horseback riding together. God is good. All the Time. God is good."



**Esther Jones**

Many will remember that earlier this summer Esther Jones' family joined us to celebrate her membership and the baptism of her 3-year-old daughter, Alexandria. Helping with Alex's baptism was Esther's father who is a semi-retired pastor of the Christian Reformed Church in Abbotsford.

Esther was born in Ontario, Canada, and spent her childhood in several areas including Lynden, Rochester (MN), and parts of Ontario as her father served in a ministry of starting churches. Later Esther found her way to Whatcom Community College.

Her family, including husband Casey and a feline pet named Theo, now resides in the Cordata area. Many members of her extended family on Casey's side also live in this area of Bellingham.

Esther is a stay-at-home mom (looking for part time work) with a lot of prior experience working in sales, jewelry making, and administration. For a number of years she owned her own small jewelry business; Esther is clearly a craft and arts person who loves doing crafts with kids. Her primary creations these days are in jewelry, miniature peg dolls, and miniature block sets. She is also refurbishing a giant dollhouse for Alex.

Esther enjoys being in the neighborhood of her church. Cordata Church kids events were the beginning impetus for her to connect with us. Give a warm welcome to Esther next time you meet her.

## Cordata Missions on the Move

Your Missions and Outreach team recently decided to give an extra boost to the Whatcom County Rebound summer camp for teens held at Shuksan Middle School. Cordata Church will be providing camperships for 3 youths who will participate in this week-long program that occurs this month. Rebound is a Christian faith-based organization which seeks to encourage children who may be especially challenged with home and school issues or simply need friendships, confidence, and self understanding.

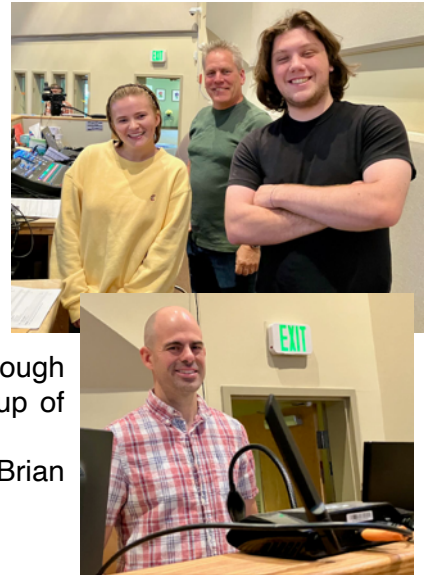
From time to time your Missions and Outreach team will report back actions such as this in the use church funds in support of service and evangelism programs. If you would enjoy serving on the Missions and Outreach Committee, please contact Dan Sanford, sanford46@comcast.net.

## Unsung Heroes - The Tech Booth

Our thanks to Brian MacKay, Isaac Ruble, and the volunteers who operate the equipment in the tech booth each Sunday. They are responsible for the lights, sound, and screen information in the Worship Center as well as the cameras and equipment to enable the livestream and Zoom.

**More volunteers are needed**, however. Each Sunday, there is a need for a camera operator, sound technician, and ProPresenter operator (who brings up words to songs, scripture, as well as graphics, photographs, and video). Operating this equipment is easy to learn, and volunteers receive thorough instruction from Brian. Best of all, you will be serving with a wonderful group of people.

For more information, stop by the booth after worship or contact Brian MacKay at brianm@cordatachurch.org.



## Palm Room - Bev Baller and Anne Slee

Palm Room table coverings—clean, folded, sorted and put away!! It took Bev Baller and Anne Slee a very long time to complete this large task. Our thanks to you both!



## Many Hands Make Light Work

A huge “thank you” to the nine volunteers who helped with the outdoor cleanup in July. We worked on general cleanup, trimming and pruning plants, and weed eating and whacking around the wetlands and outer perimeter of the church.

**We have scheduled an outdoor cleanup August 26 from 10a to 12 noon** to clean up our grounds before our annual Block Party and before Bellingham Christian School opens for the school year. Please join us for a few hours.

To let us know how many to expect, please sign up in the foyer. Any questions? Contact Roger DeSpain at roger.despain@gmail.com or Margaret Rudy at margru3410@aol.com.

**More Fun in the Sun!**



**Games!**



**Lemonade!**



**Crafts!**



**Origami!**



**Even Fun in the Rain!**





**Jack Bloss**



**Mike Neelley**



**Mike Kuhn**



**Sandy and Bob Hiorns**



**Jayme Fergoda Leads Barbara  
DeSpain, John Risser, Stan  
Humphreys, Jake Larson and  
Karen Block**

**The CPC  
Summer Picnic at  
Fisherman's Pavilion**

