



FAITH  
Presbyterian Church

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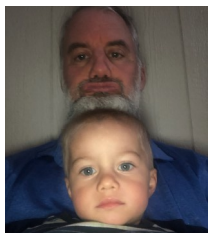
## FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

### A Note

Welcome to the first issue of the new Faith Family Forum II. It is modeled after the original Faith Family Forum that began in 1983. It is our purpose to honor God through this publication by uplifting and strengthening the church family with communication of His Word. Certain articles will appear with regularity; others will be random. You may be asked to provide information which will be used as the basis for an article. This newsletter is for all of God's family, and we want you to be part of it. Many hands will be involved and each article will have the writer's name but if you have other questions please contact Linda Gay. Lord willing, we pray this publication will be scheduled bi-monthly.



God is gracious to give us the ability to communicate with each other. **"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."**  
Ep 4:29 NKJV



### Pastor Perspective

Prepare for "Something New in 2022!" Reading God's Word is a crucial part of our Christian faith. Without it we will not grow in grace, and without that we will suffer spiritually. So, we need to read God's Word!

Starting in 2022 we will be encouraging you to read God's Word by publishing and promoting a Bible reading plan that we will all read together. There will be two tracts: Tract 1 will be "Through the New Testament and the Psalms". This will require one chapter of reading each day. This is entry level, and even children can join us for this tract. Tract 2, which will add reading the Old Testament to the Tract 1 reading, adding three chapters of reading a day. This will require

*(Continued on page 2)*

### From the Library



Goodreads:  
Frode's review  
Apr 23, 2015



*This book is available in the church library or to purchase online.*

Sometimes funny and sometimes preachy, but the message was clear. The Benham boys offered good advice backed by Scripture and experience. They play off of one another quite well, and it was obvious that their dad was a tremendous influence for good in their lives. Baseball, real estate, and a TV reality show are the major backdrops for their experiences, but in each case God mercifully cares for them and shows them the best way. Pray, trust/repent, and act; that seems to be the Benham formula. Their convictions stand high.

They discover that the sacred-secular division commonly accepted in the Protestant community does not exist, so their business became the vehicle for their ministry. They found out that having an opinion was no big deal but expressing it created a furor. Well done, fellows. Keep running the race! Frode



(Continued from page 1)

discipline, but will also provide the amazing blessing that comes from reading God’s Word through in a year.

To add to that, we will be starting “The Faith Academy” during the evening service time on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. During this time, we will push your knowledge of the New Testament further, as we examine closely the reading for the month. Though this will require some work, it will be greatly beneficial to everyone who participates. Consider this your reading plan for 2022, and let’s plan on doing something new together. *Pastor Karl Thompson*

## Help Needed—Your opportunity to serve the church body

Your church could really use some helping hands. The specific areas are:

- ◆ Kitchen cleaner – every few weeks clean the counters, run the dishwasher, set the self-clean on the oven, clean out the fridge.
- ◆ Coffee maker – Sunday mornings make coffee.
- ◆ Bulletin & Announcements – familiar with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Email? We could use a back up person for Marylou.
- ◆ Prayer Requests – someone who is willing to send out the prayer requests Sunday evening.
- ◆ Missionaries – we need someone to keep track of the Missionary board that changes out monthly.
- ◆ Pamphlet Ordering – order pamphlets as necessary and keep the display stocked and organized.
- ◆ Someone to post the Bulletins & Announcements to the church website.
- ◆ Anyone handy enough to build two bookshelves for our library, see Linda Gay.

## What’s happening here?



The church’s storage container was delivered mid-October, and that will create much needed storage for excess chairs, tables, decorations, boxes, etc. We are so thankful to the men in church who procured this purchase and got the ground prepared for this 8,500lb storage container. God is gracious and answers prayers.



## Coming up in November

November 6—Tyler & Angelica's Wedding 2pm

November 7—Turn your clocks back an hour

November 11—Veterans Day

November 25—Thanksgiving

10am Tuesdays—Ladies Bible Study

1:30pm Tuesdays—Stand for Life

6pm Thursdays—Bible Study

## Teaching Moment by Pastor Karl Thompson

All of my children, except for one, love to hike. That makes perfect sense: Hours of exhausting labor, poison oak, the challenges of stick-sides. Who wouldn't love to hike? upsides, but there are some genuine Statistics show that only about 15% last year. How is it that 87.5 % of I have trained them to love hiking. been on the trail. We have carried soon as they could keep up, they have endured the pain and faced the dangers with very little complaining. The fact is, they don't know a life without hiking.



ing together, and dangers on all Don't get me wrong, hiking has its challenges every step of the way. of the US population went hiking my family loves to hike? Allison and From their earliest days, they have them in all sorts of carriers and as would go on their own steam. They

That is the way it is with all manner of Biblical living. **Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."** This is the way it is with everything. We train our children every day. We teach them how to act and what to love. Our patterns become their pattern; our motivations become their motivations. This is not a hard and fast law as there are always exceptions. In my own hiking family, we have one who would rather do something else. Yet as a rule, this is how it works.

Please receive this encouragement: Be very careful in training up children. The example you set for them will last a lifetime. If you are diligent to seek the Lord, they will learn that from you. If you are patient and gentle, they will learn that too. If you persistently love the things that are valuable, they will have a good starting point when, we hope, the Holy Spirit causes them to be born again. Train your children in walking with the Lord. *Pastor Karl Thompson*

## Business Highlight

This month we highlight Secure Storage, who delivered our sea train, storage locker. Mac was thoughtful and careful with his delivery and assured us if there were any problems he would get them addressed. Thank you Mac.

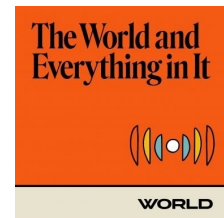


## Recommended Podcast

### *The World and Everything In It*

Listen Here: <https://wng.org/podcasts>

By Tami Quinones



One of my favorite ways to get the news from Christian broadcasting is through WNG.ORG. It consists of sound journalism grounded in faith and Biblical truth. There is daily news, interviews, commentary, and original features reported from around the world, delivered every weekday morning in a 30-minute podcast.

Each day of the week features a different topic from Monday Moneyboat, Social Docket, Classic Book of the Month, World History Books, Washington Wednesday, World Tour, and Culture Friday.

There is also content for kids and teens on their website, "World Teen" at [teen.wng.org](http://teen.wng.org). Other good content is: [God's Big World](#), also [World Watch](#), which is a ten minute daily news program grounded in a Biblical perspective that aims to keep America's school age children up to date on current events. They have a Facebook page too.

If you like to know the "real" news, I highly recommend this podcast. **T.O.**

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**Need some gift ideas? Visit Marge Robertson, she has gathered lots of hand-made items and all are for sale.**

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## Small World

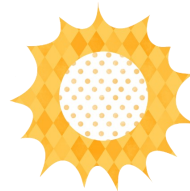


Marj Robertson wrote an article in a prominent canine magazine called *Dog Fancy*; January 1981. It's a lovely article about this interesting breed.

Well done Marj!

Ever heard of a Basenji? Well, you most likely haven't, but two people in our church have owned this unique dog, Marj Robertson and Linda Gay. The Basenji is known as the "barkless dog," which is somewhat true, because of their vocal cords they don't work like a normal canine, but that's not to say they are quiet; they yodel and sound like a squealing small child.

**We are happy to announce the Baptism of Charlotte Bucknell. God is good. 10/17/21**



## Ponderings by your Pastor

It is called connectionalism. As Presbyterians, we are connected to other churches, not simply by the informal bonds of fellowship, but by formal bonds of support and accountability. In the Northwest there are 17 churches with which we hold these close bonds of fellowship and mutual support. When one church suffers, we all suffer with them. When one church rejoices, we all rejoice together. If you have spent any time in the church, you know that problems arise. Occasionally problems arise that are too big for an individual church to handle with her own resources, so the other churches we are associated with help bear the burden.

There is a real cost involved in this. By God's grace, over the decades of our existence, Faith OPC has been more about giving help than needing help. Over your history, your pastors and elders have been useful resources to help other churches in need. Just in my limited knowledge of our history, I know that Pastor Conard and Pastor Sumpter worked diligently to help many churches of the presbytery. For years Elder Jensen would sacrifice time at home to go and visit churches in need and provide wise counsel to them. Your other elders have served in many functions that have helped other churches. I am proud to be part of this long line of elders from Faith OPC who sacrificially give to help our sister churches in their time of trouble.

This is not just the way it is with inter church relationships. It is also the way it needs to be in our Christian Fellowship. See how 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 teaches us to help one another! **"14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."** Pastor Thompson

## Our very own Missionary—Rachel VanderWall, in her own words

I hope to begin 2022 a little differently than I've welcomed in previous years – likely in an Indian airport, slightly jet-lagged, wrinkly, and hungry, as I travel to a hospital North Eastern India to spend a month there.

Why am I going? I'm glad you asked...



The back story, which I'll give you briefly, is that this is a step that I hope to be helpful in preparation for long-term medical mission-work in the future. For those of you who don't know, I'm originally from Michigan and moved to Oregon in August of 2020. The Lord put missions into my heart in my late teens and as I have grown in relationship to Him over the years, that burden has grown increasingly stronger. I finished my Nurse Practitioner degree in the end of 2019 and the Lord led me to Grants Pass, where I hope to spend some time before going overseas longer-term as a missionary. In the time the Lord has me here prior devoting my time to long-term missions, I hope to continue to grow in missiological, spiritual, and medical

*(Continued on page 6)*



maturity for the work that lies ahead – and one of the ways that I hope to do that is short-term medical mission trips.

The Lord opened up an opportunity for me to visit a mission hospital in India in January of 2022 and offer my time and medical training to them for a month. The hospital is called the Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research, located in Northeast India. The needs that I plan to devote my time to are in development and teaching in areas that I have some experience in and that the hospital has indicated as areas that would benefit.

My primary areas of focus will be:

1. Burn care: Teaching nurses and students on burn and wound management and helping to develop their burn unit.
2. Cardiac (Heart care): Nursing training in cath lab and cardiac care protocols
3. Assisting in their development of a Pulmonary Rehabilitation program
4. Assisting with a Nurse Educator Program Curriculum with a focus on whole person care.

There will also be some opportunities for me to do some learning while I am there, by spending time with the specialists that are at that hospital – this will be very valuable for me as I learn medical care specific to that part of the world. Some of these specialties are Internal Medicine, Outpatient medicine, Cardiology, Dermatology, Palliative care and Community Medicine. Other specialties in which I hope to spend some time are the quality management, communications, and spiritual training team. Some of these opportunities may open doors for me to do more long-term work with this hospital or to carry over some of what I learn to other places.

For the months leading up to the trip, I have a lot of preparation to do. I am currently working on gathering educational materials for teaching nurses who work in cardiology and have been putting together burn training. I plan to start focusing more on the pulmonary rehabilitation material in November and Nursing Education in December. Meanwhile, I am currently working on the visa application and specifics of my travel plan.

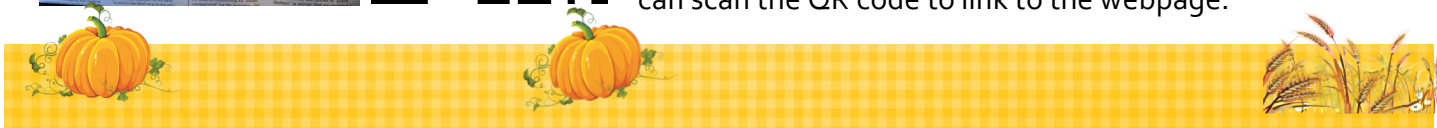
The hospital has offered to provide room and board free of charge during my stay there in exchange for the work that I'll be doing for them, which is a great blessing. The Lord has also provided many contacts in the specialty areas that I'll be teaching in and these contacts have been invaluable resources to me as I prepare.

Please partner with me in praying for the preparation and for the time that the Lord has for me in India. Specific requests include: Getting approval for the visa, continuing to put my focus on God's agenda for my time and not my own agenda, maintaining a missional and spiritual focus in the midst of a large load of medical objectives, and safety during travel. *Rachel VanderWall*

## Local Read



Looking for a great local newspaper that will tell the truth? Then take a read of the Josephine County Eagle. Our own Richard Emmons is the Publisher and Editor and in this newspaper brings up some articles to ponder. Subscribe today. You can scan the QR code to link to the webpage.



## Testimony Time—Lisa Pelessier



Lisa Pelessier

I grew up in a Baptist church. The price of salvation was “praying the prayer”. Once you do that, you’re good, I understood. Of course it would bring with it things like obedience to God and submission to His will. That was the downside. So in my pre-teen mind I decided I would wait until just before I died, then I would say the prayer. That way I could live my life the way I wanted, without any interference from things like “the will of God”, and still avoid Hell after death. It seemed like a good plan.

I was slow to grasp the concept that I didn’t actually know when I was going to die. Once it was pointed out to me that I could die from something other than old age, I decided I had better get my “fire insurance” and I prayed the prayer. The prayer would work. The prayer was what would save me. I had great faith in my prayer.

God, however, does not call us to faith in prayer. He calls us to have faith in Himself. Once I discovered the Reformed faith, things made sense. My prayer wasn’t what saved me. Jesus saved me, and He did it by Himself, without my help.

Ed and I have attended Reformed churches since we were dating, way back before my hair turned white. (I found my first gray hair the day before our wedding...) Our first church was a tiny, beloved independent Reformed church that went up in smoke when the pastor fell into sin. Our second church was a URC church in Oceanside, which we attended when our oldest child was a baby. We moved from there to another lovely independent Reformed church a couple years later and were there for nearly twenty years, until our move to Oregon.

Through life’s difficulties, God has been faithful to us. Looking back, it seems impossible that I was able to homeschool four children, some with disabilities, and work as an analyst at the same time, but by God’s grace and with His strength, it happened. Looking forward, I have the same uncertainty I had at the start of my adult life, as we start over in a new location. But I believe that God led us to Grants Pass and to Faith OPC. I’m excited for the work He will do in us and through us here. Lisa



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***Have you had a good experience with a local business and want to recommend them or give a review? Let us know, email: [office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com](mailto:office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com)***

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## Family Highlight by Allison Thompson



Doris & Jake Vander Stoel

I had a wonderful phone interview with Doris Vander Stoel recently. Doris and Jake have been shut-in for quite some time now as they struggle with health issues. Here are a few excerpts from our conversation:

***How long have you been at Faith OPC?*** We were originals when it started in 1976.

***How did you come to be a part of it?*** We came from San Diego County, CA, from the Christian Reformed Church. When we came to southern Oregon, there was no church at all. We came with our children, and Debbie wasn't even in school yet, but the other three were, three girls and a boy.

We knew some people here. When we first got started, we met in Medford, and when we got a minister, it was Calvin Malcor, and he was the minister at both, Medford and Grants Pass. He would preach a sermon in Medford, get in his car and drive like mad up the freeway to Grants Pass and preach there.

***How long have you been married?*** You won't believe it...63 years! We were 18!

***What's the secret of being married so long?*** To love the Lord and put Him first in your life. It's very simple, but it works. Now we have 13 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren and two on the way!!! They just keep popping up! It's one of the great wonders of my life and the biggest pleasure, I think.

***How did you and Jake meet?*** We were kids! Just 14 years old. We met in 4H, my projects were sewing and sheep and beef cattle and I went to the San Diego county fair. Jake had dairy cattle and went to the same county fair. It was a long distance, telephone call kind of thing. We both tried to go to college. Jake went to Dordt College when it was just two years old and I went to the University of California at Davis, an agricultural school and home economics, that was my major. But we didn't last long, because we both decided to come home. We got married in April. We were very, very young and had our first baby at 19!

***Were your parents believers?*** My mother was of course. I have her to thank for bringing me up the right way. My father was the son of Italian immigrants who came before the turn of the century. There were 11 children. He was raised Catholic and all the years when I was young, he did not go to church with us except on Easter and Christmas. After I was married, my father retired and started going to church every Sunday with my mom. We were thankful for that. He was such a hard worker, had to be working, working, working all the time. He was a welder after he got home from WWI at a farm implement place. He always had a huge garden and cows and pigs. We had a "little farm". That's how I grew up, I was a "little farmer".

Jake was raised, of course, on a dairy farm. He and his father and his grandfather. They were immigrants and came before the war in 1934. Two of his sisters were born in Holland, then they came

*(Continued on page 9)*





here, they had four more children. He had one brother....all the traditional things that were from Holland, we brought a lot of them into our family.

**Was Jake's family Christian reformed?** Long, long background of it! His whole family and now another generation...they're Christian people. \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer and Praise

**Barb & Tom Keosababian:** For treatment of Tom's AFib, he has been given the option of the cardiac ablation and advised that it may fail and require a pacemaker and anti-arrhythmia drugs, which may also fail. The cardiac specialist warned Tom that, due to his AFib being persistent and long-standing, these treatments (at best) only have up to a 50% possibility of success. Tom is now on a waiting list (with 60 other people) and it will probably be 2 to 3 months before the ablation can be done. Meanwhile, we covet your prayers and

trust our Great Physician for His timing and outcome.

**Keith and Carol Heck** were most thankful for the prayers of our church family. They had a safe, uneventful roundtrip to Portland. Left at 6:30am, got home at 7:45pm. No specifics ... more testing to be done. We did find out today that we can do this all over again on Thursday (10/21). I'll be undergoing 2 hours of nerve testing. Thank each of you for your love and prayers.



A lot of care, time and effort went into the publishing of this newsletter and we would love to hear your comments, recommendations and thoughts. Drop us a line at:

[office.faihopc.gp@gmail.com](mailto:office.faihopc.gp@gmail.com)

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