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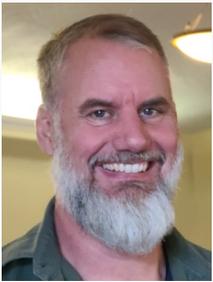
FAITH
Presbyterian Church

Vol. 18

April 2025

FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

CHANGE

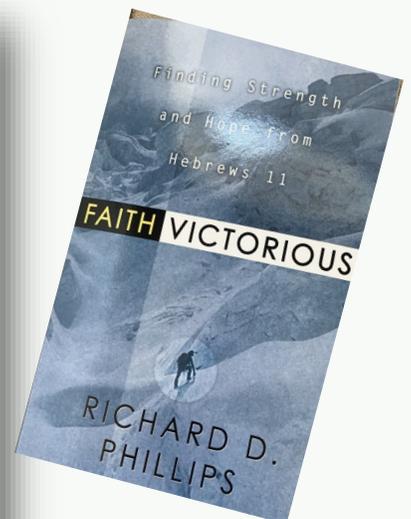


Pastor Karl Thompson

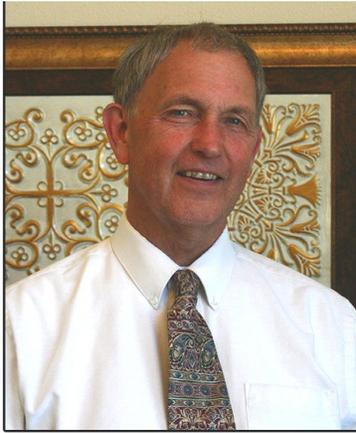
It is very easy to get into a consumer mindset these days. Everything is bent toward the consumer, and you get used to getting what you want. But a consumer mindset when it comes to church is as out of place as a screen door on a submarine. Now, we all have expectations of what we think church should be, and to the degree that those expectations are reflective of what scripture teaches, those expectations are good. But when those expectations are not met, what should you do. A consumer demands a change, but a churchman (or church person) works toward that change. Prayer is key. Any progress of the church is a spiritual matter, and God is the one who does it. So ask for His help with persistence. Secondly, engage with your elders on the subject. We are a presbyterian church and the buck stops with the elders. Encouraging them to prayerfully consider a particular subject will allow them the opportunity to provide some help for you. Finally, be patient. Good lasting change always takes time. I often say that the church is a big ship that turns slowly. It is a great blessing to have a church that is not jerked back and forth by the hot subjects of the moment, but it also means that good change also requires patience. The church is at its strongest when all the members strive together for the glory of God

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

In December 2024, the Ladies Bible Study enjoyed a leisurely morning celebrating Marj and her 90th birthday. Happy Birthday Marj. We started a new study in January, *From Bondage to Liberty*, the Gospel according to Moses and finished in April. Our new study is *Faith Victorious* by Richard Phillips on Hebrews 11 using the book . Please feel free to join us any time. We'd love to have you.



GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANT—EMERITUS FRODE JENSEN



Frode Jensen

Frode Jensen has served as an elder at Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church for over 42 years and at the Congregational meeting, he retired and is now emeritus status. Thank you Frode.

Frode Jensen: A Pillar of Faith and Devotion

For over 42 years, Frode Jensen has been a steadfast elder at Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Grants Pass, Oregon. His journey of faith and dedication to the congregation is a testament to his unwavering commitment and selfless service.

Frode's story begins with his upbringing in a Christian family, where he was baptized and catechized as a youth. His early years were marked by a deep understanding of God's sovereignty and the doctrines of grace, which eventually led him to embrace the Reformed Faith and become an integral part of Faith OPC.

Throughout his tenure as an elder, Frode has been a beacon of wisdom and guidance for the church community. His love for God's word and His people is evident in every aspect of his service. Whether teaching Sunday School, leading Bible studies, or offering counsel to those in need, Frode's dedication has touched countless lives.

Beyond his formal duties, Frode's personal life is a reflection of his devotion to God and his community. He has been blessed with a loving wife, Jessie, two children, and five grandchildren, all of whom share in his faith journey. Frode's passion for teaching, writing, and publishing has also allowed him to share his insights and knowledge with a broader audience.



In addition to his spiritual contributions, Frode has a unique hobby that brings joy to his life—beekeeping. This pastime not only connects him to God's creation but also serves as a metaphor for his role in the church: nurturing, protecting, and guiding the congregation with care and diligence. Frode's legacy at Faith OPC is one of unwavering faith, selfless service, and profound impact. His dedication to the church and its members has created a lasting foundation for future generations to build upon. As Frode continues to serve, his example inspires others to live out their faith with the same devotion and love that he has demonstrated for over four decades.

He has had a passion that helps children and adults alike learn with Jensen's Grammar. Writing several books and reading several books with reviews on Goodreads and purchasing books for the church library.

“God, in His mercy, caused me to be born into a Christian family, to be baptized and catechized as youth, and to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. College, marriage, children, secular work, all of life really—God has been faithful even when I have strayed or been less than diligent. Coming to an understanding of God’s sovereignty and the doctrines of grace brought me to the Reformed Faith and Faith OPC many years ago. God has enabled me to be a teacher, an author, and a publisher; He blessed me with my wife Jessie, two children and five grandchildren. It is my pleasure to have served as elder for many years and to have been used in a variety of ways in people’s lives.”

Next page has the motion for Frode to enter Emeritus Elder status:

(Continued on page 3)

Motion:

Whereas Frode and Jessie Jensen have set an exceptional example in their ministry of hospitality, having invited countless people to their house to enjoy a meal and edifying conversation; (1Peter 4:9)

Whereas Frode Jensen has filled the pulpit in corporate worship when necessary, both leading worship and exhorting God's people; (2Timothy 4:2)

Whereas Frode Jensen has vigorously engaged in shepherding the saints at Faith OPC, engaging in loving relationships with the desire to fulfill the call to "Shepherd the flock of God under [his] care;" (1Peter 5:1-4)

Whereas Frode Jensen has been a vital part of the session these 42 years. He served as the Clerk of Session for nearly all those years, he has served as the institutional memory of the session for decades; (1Corinthians 14:40)

Whereas Frode Jensen has faithfully participated in the work of the Presbytery of the Northwest, having served on various committees, particularly giving a great deal of time to the Visitation Committee; (Acts 15:22)

Whereas Frode Jensen has labored to further the work of excellent Christian education by encouraging parents and providing resources that help parents homeschool their children; (Deuteronomy 6:7)



A luncheon honoring the service of Frode and Jessie Jensen will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 11-1pm at the church.



PASTOR'S SABBATICAL

Brothers and Sisters

The Pastoral Ministry has unique challenges and stresses that when not managed well can have negative effects on a pastor's family and ministry. It is with this in mind that the session has granted Pastor Karl a three month sabbatical. The goal of this sabbatical is for him to completely detach from the day to day responsibilities of the pastoral ministry and pursue sanctifying rest.

From April 20-July 20 in 2025 Karl and his family will be away on sabbatical rest. During this time Pastor Calvin Malcor will fill the pulpit most Sundays, and the elders will continue with the shepherding care of the church. There are many extra responsibilities to cover, so it will be a time for all hands on deck.

While on his sabbatical, Karl will continue to serve the Lord in Bible reading, meditation and study. There are some small writing projects he hopes to work on as well. His main goal is to rest with his family. He intends on spending a vast amount of time living a quiet life with very little to distract him from spending time with his family.

Some have asked if this is a precursor to Karl going to another church in the future. The answer is absolutely not. This kind of sabbatical allows a pastor the refreshment he needs to have a long and fruitful ministry in one place. It is our hope and expectation that this will be the case. Please be in prayer for the elders and Karl and his family as we make preparations for this time. Attached to this email, and in links below, you will find two helpful articles about the effect that a sabbatical can have on a pastor.

Your Brothers and Fellow Servants of Christ,

The Session

(below are articles explaining sabbatical time)

https://opc.org/os.html?article_id=884
https://opc.org/nh.html?article_id=1056

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

By Karl Thompson

A pastor's sabbatical is a great time for the congregation to see a freshness that Jesus loves His Church and takes care of it. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus teaches us that He will build His church, that is not dependent on the vocation of the minister (although that is important). It is dependent upon the Living God. The minister may need a break, but God never grows weary. The minister may lack wisdom in a given situation, but our God is all wise. The minister is a fallible human. The infinite, eternal and unchangeable God builds His Church.

It is with this hope that I encourage you toward the labors of the church during my time of sabbatical. There are a lot of little details that will need attention while I am gone. There are a lot of visitors who will need to be greeted, a lot of people who need to be encouraged. There will be a lot of ministry that will go undone, unless you, as you hope in the Lord, engage zealously in serving the Lord and serving each other.

It is my hope that when I return I will hear you say. We are glad you are back, but while you were gone Christ continued to build His Church.



Although we will miss our faithful Pastor Thompson it does not mean that we cannot pray for him and his family while he is on sabbatical. Below are a list of prayer items that was requested of him. The next few pages have a calendar of Karl's time away from our church body along with a prayer request for every day. Use this if you want, and be in prayer for a rejuvenating, refreshing sabbatical for our pastor.

To God be the glory.

-Linda gay



1. Pray for physical rest and restoration.
2. Ask for protection from illness or injury during the sabbatical.
3. Pray for deep, uninterrupted rest and recovery.
4. Ask God to renew our strength day by day.
5. Pray for healthy rhythms of sleep, nutrition, and exercise.
6. Ask the Lord to guard us physically wherever we travel.
7. Pray for refreshing time in nature and creation.
8. Ask for safety for the whole family throughout the sabbatical.
9. Pray for renewed joy in God's presence.
10. Pray that we would delight in God's Word.
11. Pray for encouragement and hope to fill our hearts.
12. Ask for freedom from guilt or pressure to "produce."
13. Pray that God would rekindle passion for ministry.
14. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our prayer life.
15. Pray for sweet, meaningful time with Allison.
16. Ask for unity and peace in our family.
17. Pray that laughter and joy would fill our house or campsite.
18. Ask God to help us minister well to our children.
19. Pray for wisdom and patience in parenting.
20. Ask for shared moments that build lasting memories.
21. Pray for honest, grace-filled conversations as a family.
22. Ask God to deepen our bond as a couple and family unit.
23. Pray that our children feel particularly loved during this time.
24. Ask for spiritual renewal for each family member.
25. Ask for deep conviction and encouragement through Scripture.
26. Ask for humility and wisdom as we reflect on ministry practices.
27. Ask that we would return to ministry with a renewed heart and vision.
28. Pray for a good connection with our extended family.
29. Pray for the temporary ability to forget concerns for the church.
30. Pray that Allison get plenty of sleep.
31. Pray that our vehicle works well.



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Pastor Karl starts his sabbatical. Pray for physical rest and restoration.	22 Ask for protection from illness or injury during the sabbatical	23 Pray for deep, uninterrupted rest and recovery	24 Ask God to renew our strength day by day	25 Pray for healthy rhythms of sleep, nutrition, and exercise	26 Ask the Lord to guard us physically wherever we travel
27 Pray for refreshing time in nature and creation	28 Ask for safety for the whole family throughout the sabbatical	29 Pray for renewed joy in God's presence	30 Pray that we would delight in God's Word			



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Pray for encouragement and hope to fill our hearts	2 Ask for freedom from guilt or pressure to “produce.”	3 Pray that God would rekindle passion for ministry
4 Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our prayer life	5 Pray for sweet, meaningful time with Allison	6 Ask for unity and peace in our family	7 Pray that laughter and joy would fill our house or campsite	8 Ask God to help us minister well to our children	9 Pray for wisdom and patience in parenting	10 Ask for shared moments that build lasting memories
11 Pray for honest, grace-filled conversations as a family	12 Ask God to deepen our bond as a couple and family unit	13 Pray that our children feel particularly loved during this time	14 Ask for spiritual renewal for each family member	15 Ask for deep conviction and encouragement through Scripture	16 Ask for humility and wisdom as we reflect on ministry practices	17 Ask that we would return to ministry with a renewed heart and vision
18 Pray for a good connection with our extended family	19 Pray for the temporary ability to forget concerns for the church	20 Pray that Allison get plenty of sleep	21 Pray for physical rest and restoration.	22 Ask for protection from illness or injury during the sabbatical	23 Pray for deep, uninterrupted rest and recovery	24 Ask God to renew our strength day by day
25 Pray for healthy rhythms of sleep, nutrition, and exercise	26 Ask the Lord to guard us physically wherever we travel	27 Pray for refreshing time in nature and creation	28 Ask for safety for the whole family throughout the sabbatical	29 Pray for renewed joy in God's presence	30 Pray that we would delight in God's Word	31 Pray for encouragement and hope to fill our hearts



June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ask for freedom from guilt or pressure to “produce.”	2 Pray that God would rekindle passion for ministry	3 Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our prayer life	4 Pray for sweet, meaningful time with Allison	5 Ask for unity and peace in our family	6 Pray that laughter and joy would fill our house or campsite	7 Ask God to help us minister well to our children
8 Pray for wisdom and patience in parenting	9 Ask for shared moments that build lasting memories	10 Pray for honest, grace-filled conversations as a family	11 Ask God to deepen our bond as a couple and family unit	12 Pray that our children feel particularly loved during this time	13 Ask for spiritual renewal for each family member	14 Ask for deep conviction and encouragement through Scripture
15 Ask for humility and wisdom as we reflect on ministry practices	16 Ask that we would return to ministry with a renewed heart and vision	17 Pray for a good connection with our extended family	18 Pray for the temporary ability to forget concerns for the church	19 Pray that Allison get plenty of sleep	20 Pray that our vehicle works well	21 Ask for protection from illness or injury during the sabbatical
22 Pray for deep, uninterrupted rest and recovery	23 Ask God to renew our strength day by day	24 Pray for healthy rhythms of sleep, nutrition, and exercise	25 Ask the Lord to guard us physically wherever we travel	26 Pray for refreshing time in nature and creation	27 Ask for safety for the whole family throughout the sabbatical	28 Pray for renewed joy in God’s presence
29 Pray that we would delight in God’s Word	30 Pray for encouragement and hope to fill our hearts					



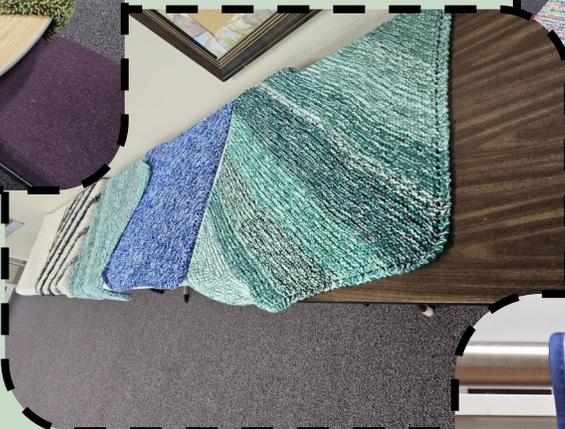
July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Ask for freedom from guilt or pressure to "produce."	2 Pray that God would rekindle passion for ministry	3 Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our prayer life	4 Pray for sweet, meaningful time with Allison	5 Ask for unity and peace in our family
6 Pray that laughter and joy would fill our house or campsite	7 Ask God to help us minister well to our children	8 Pray for wisdom and patience in parenting	9 Ask for shared moments that build lasting memories	10 Pray for honest, grace-filled conversations as a family	11 Ask God to deepen our bond as a couple and family unit	12 Pray that our children feel particularly loved during this time
13 Ask for spiritual renewal for each family member	14 Ask for deep conviction and encouragement through Scripture	15 Ask for humility and wisdom as we reflect on ministry practices	16 Ask that we would return to ministry with a renewed heart and vision	17 Pray for a good connection with our extended family	18 Pray for the temporary ability to forget concerns for the church	19 Pray that Allison get plenty of sleep
20 Pray for physical rest and restoration.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



TALENTS

Several talented ladies from Bible study made items to share with each other. Marj Robertson knitted lap blankets of which she also donates to nursing homes. Elaine Moore made the cutest kitchen towels and Linda Gay sewed some boxy zipper bags. Marlene picked up some amazing breakfast treats and Janine and Marylou made coffee. It was a wonderful time.



PRAISE FOR OUR DEACONS



On February 23rd the Congregation voted Steve Carmack into office as our Deacon at Faith OPC. He will serve alongside Deacons, Clyde Petty and Tom Velasquez. We thank the Lord for bringing these helpful wonderful men to serve at our church.



Dear Faith OPC family,

When asked to consider being a deacon I knew I had to carefully weigh matters and before long I gladly and without reservations stated that I was indeed interested in becoming a deacon 'again'. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity.

After being interviewed by the session it was decided to move forward.

In 1971 I experienced a genuine Christian born-again conversion entirely by God's grace and mercy. Our Lord has always been faithful to take hold of this errant, stubborn, rebellious, ungrateful, prideful and arrogant young man and God's mercies are new every morning. Every Christian will agree that we don't deserve His goodness and kindness and steadfast love toward us. Only by God's grace, I finally made it to age 73 and thankfully I'm in relatively good health in many ways.

I was born in Oceanside, California to a working-class family and enjoyed my early years in an idyllic environment living close enough to the beach to visit there as often as desired. Sometimes we just don't know how good we have it.

Working in my grandfather's summer garden was my first job starting at around 5 years old.

Reaching the mid to late 1960's in my rudderless early teens coincided with the perfect storm of a catastrophic cultural sea change in America.

For me, it had a calamitous impact on my morals, my already weak religious compunctions and my self-discipline. All along I thought I was cool, wise and hip. By the time I reached 19 years old I realized the party was over and just how dumb the hippy philosophy really was.

Despite this late start I got serious and in pursuit of answers and came to understand we are each accountable for our choices and actions.

I came to terms with the Lordship of Jesus Christ and how His Lordship transcends the given cultural norms which can grip and sway us in untoward ways.

The constant battle that every Christian must embrace began – put off the old man and put on the new.

Again, by His grace and over the years, the Word of God and His faithful ministers and teachers guided me toward a comprehensive Reformed outlook. Reading theology and Christian apologetics have been my favorite form of devotionals. I started out in Romanism and left that when 13 years old, as mentioned, in 1971 I was called into the Kingdom in a charismatic church, and gradually grew more and more reformed.

Experiences: Sky dived out of airplanes and dove in the deep blue sea (scuba), sold real estate with Coldwell Banker. Along with Mary coordinated events for Ken Ham as we worked with Answers in Genesis outreach around the world. At AiG I enjoyed meeting and working with some of the most brilliant scientists and dedicated staff who love the Lord and the truth of His Word in every field of science and humanities.

I started a small cleaning company in Grants Pass and ran it for several years then took a hiatus for 3 years to manage a private security company (a family business) in downtown Portland and seeing first-hand the damage a radical leftist Marxist government can do through its policies to a once beautiful American city.

It has been so good for both Mary and me to return to Faith OPC and to rekindle our friendships of the not so distant past and we look forward to meeting and getting to know more of you.

Steve Carmack



RESURRECTION BREAKFAST

Come and celebrate the risen Christ. We will have a **Good Friday Worship Service on Friday, April 18th at 5pm at Creekside Church in Rogue River** and **Resurrection Breakfast on Sunday, April 20th at 9AM** in our church Fellowship Hall. No Sunday school will take place. Bring a food item to share if you are able, but please come and enjoy this joyous occasion .

Here is an excerpt from Ligonier Ministries on the Resurrection.

Today we conclude our brief look at the work of Christ with a short study of His resurrection. Since our study has emphasized the work of Jesus as a man to merit righteousness for us and to atone for sin, let us first remind ourselves of the connection between our Lord's resurrection and those aspects of His work. As we noted in our examination of [Romans 4:25](#), that Jesus was "raised for our justification" is proof that His life and death were acceptable to God. Our Lord's resurrection is His vindication, the declaration that He indeed was perfectly righteous and was therefore a suitable offering to turn away the wrath of God and also the firm basis upon which we can be declared just before the Father. If Jesus had stayed dead, it would have proven that death had a rightful claim over Him, and since death has a rightful claim only over sinners, Jesus' remaining dead would have meant that He was a sinner and not our Redeemer.



In [1 Corinthians 15:20–28](#), Paul considers other benefits of our Savior's resurrection, namely the defeat of death and His being raised to life as the first fruits of the resurrection of His people. Here we see the *Christus Victor* motif of the atonement and resurrection—Christ as the conqueror of our enemies death and sin. Operating under the sovereignty of God, death is our foe. It is even God's foe as well, for He is the Lord of life. By our sin in Adam, we granted the right for death to claim us as part of the divine curse. By His righteous life, Christ destroyed any claim that death had over Him and those who are united to Him. Death threw its worst at our Lord, killing Him. But our Father was working in the midst of all that, using death as His instrument to pour out His wrath on our sin and raising Christ to life to prove that this wrath had been satisfied. By defeating the power of death, Jesus rendered it powerless over His people.

Thus, Jesus is the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (v. 20). Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification, yes, but He was also raised for our own resurrection. In other words, because Christ was raised from the dead, we will be raised as well. One day, our physical bodies will be resurrected, and we will be glorified, just as Jesus was. We have been united to Christ, having died to sin, and that union means that we are also united to Him in the resurrection ([Rom. 6:5](#)). Our bodies will not remain in the grave forever. At the last day, our spirits will be reunited with them to live forever in the new heavens and earth.

CORAM DEO

We must never downplay the glory and importance of our Lord's resurrection. Not only does it provide for His vindication, but it is also the foundation for our own resurrection and victory over death. We do look forward to being in the presence of God at our deaths, but our final hope is the resurrection in which our spirits will be reunited with perfected bodies and when we will forever experience the glorified state that the Lord intended for us from the very beginning.



The two words in the title have particular relevance to the various levels of commitment that one has to a given body, in this case, the church, in particular, the OPC and Faith OPC. Let's look at the definitions and then their application to the church.

Submission is pretty well understood. It means to place oneself under the authority of another, either a person or generally an entity. Subscription has a common meaning which is not applicable in the case we are discussing, but its secondary meaning is acceptance, as of articles of faith, often signified by the signing of one's name to a document. Understanding the meanings, these words can now be applied to the church.

There are three levels of commitment: attendee, member, and officer. The first applies to a variety of folks. Some are one time attendees; we call them visitors. They may be traveling through; they may be just looking about for a church; they may have been invited by a member to come for some particular occasion. Whatever the case, these folks are not in regular attendance. Others, however, have some regularity; they may be in church most Sundays, or once a month or some other pattern that suits them. This latter group may be deciding to join or not, but as attendees, they have yet to formally become members. In other words, they have yet to commit to the church in a formal way.

The second level of commitment is that of membership. Members take public vows in answer to questions, five of them at Faith OPC. The first three ask them what they believe. They affirm their belief in the Bible, that Jesus saves them, and so forth. The fourth question asks what they are willing to do such as serving God and attempting to live a godly life. These four questions are generic in the sense that any Christian should be able to give positive answers. The last question is different; it is OPC specific and asks, "Do you promise to participate faithfully in this church's worship and service, to submit in the Lord to its government, and to heed its discipline, even in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life?" Notice the submission part. When the applicant answers this question positively, he or she is agreeing to submit to the officers and heed their counsel. The applicant is committing to be under the authority of the officers in the church.

The third level of commitment is for officers. Obviously they are already members and have answered the questions mentioned in the above paragraph. To be ordained and installed the new officer is asked a series of five questions. The first asks about their belief in the Scripture. The second question is as follows: "Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and Catechisms of the Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?" In short, the officer agrees to subscribe to the secondary standards used by the OPC. This is for deacons and ruling elders. Ministers are asked the same question. A member does not have to agree with the secondary standards although most do with maybe an exception or two; an officer, however, not only agrees with the standards, he is expected to uphold them.

In summary it is clear that anyone and everyone is welcome to attend Faith OPC. The only expectation is that those who attend practice general courtesy and are not disruptive. Members must express their faith in Scripture and Jesus Christ and also agree to be under the authority of the officers of the church. The officers commit to abiding by and upholding the secondary standards of the OPC, namely the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. The overall picture is one of increased commitment which provides a structure for authority in the church and insures a general cohesion of belief and direction for the leadership and thus for the church as a local body.



PRAISE THE LORD

We welcome new members and several baptisms.



Dec. 8, 2024

Julie, Charlie, & Hal Hannes



March 9, 2025

Eden Daggett



March 2, 2025

Welcome James, Ruth Ward; Laura & Mike Cent



Dec. 8, 2024

Breanne Van Delden



PRAISE THE LORD

We welcome new members and baptisms.



James-drowning victim

PRAISE THE LORD

We are blessed to have so many baptisms of the Daggetts.



Part 3 of 4

Putting Your Full Weight On The Surgery Leg - An Act Of Faith

When the time is near to go home from the hospital, you get a visit from the occupational therapist. Their task is to make sure you can function to some degree at home. One objective is to make sure you can climb the stairs into your home. At the hospital they have you practice on a small set of stairs that isn't particularly steep. On these not-so-steep stairs you can also assist yourself by pushing off the railing with your hand and arm. Once at home, stairs are part of the regular rehab routine and the time comes when you must fully use the surgery leg to ascend the stairs...no more "cheating" by pushing off the railing or pushing up with a cane.



My first full-weight stair-step using my newly implanted hunk of metal might not seem like much now, but it was a big deal at the time. I've never done this before! You really don't know what will happen. Will it be painful? Will the joint fall apart? Will I crumple to the ground? As I shifted my weight to fully stand on my surgery leg to push off and take the step up, I said aloud, "Putting your full weight on the surgery leg is an act of faith." But alas, the surgeon has precisely assembled the necessary infrastructure to ensure the joint is sound. And, with my step, the joint indeed holds. I need not have worried that the joint would fall apart. So it is with our Savior. He has given us the necessary spiritual infrastructure to walk our spiritual walk. He invites us to put our full weight on our "spiritual legs."



Grants Pass flooding 2025



GREAT BUSINESS

Recommendation by Linda gay



For the last several years I have been trying to be a good steward and clean up the underbrush, poison oak, and dead trees on my forested property. EV Excavation has been an immense help. A retired GP Firefighter knows how to clean up the forest floor. He has all the equipment, even a brush cutter, and is very honest with his time. So if you have a big or small job, Vinnie is the one to call. EV Excavation (541) 659-9999



AN ENCOURAGEMENT FOR WOMEN

By Sonja Anderson

The Joy of the Lord is my Strength: An Encouragement for Women

Nehemiah 8:10 says “The joy of the Lord is my strength” ...and I wish I felt that was true every single moment of every single day. It is very true on the days our family has a new baby born, or a beautiful wedding, or even when a believing friend dies. On those days I remember how blessed I am, and His love is my strength. But what about other days...harder days? Days when the only mail we get is the not so good kind from the IRS, or when computer problems have me pulling out my hair, or I have the stomach flu? When the house is a disaster, and Google Earth wants to know the name of the new mountain on my property....”Dirty Laundry” ... the mountain is called Dirty Laundry. On those days I am feeling less than joyful, and honestly, a lot more fragile than I want to feel.

I know the Lord understands when we feel fragile. Remember when Elijah was exhausted, on the run from crazy Queen Jezebel, who wanted to kill him? He was so tired and overwhelmed he just wants to give up and die...that’s about as fragile as you can get, but God gives him a nap and a snack, and then a SECOND NAP. That’s how well God understands when we feel fragile. The most fragile thing I can think of is a newly hatched chick. I keep chickens, but I don’t mess with newly hatched chicks because if you look at them hard, they might die. You must check their little backsides, because a thing called “pasty butt” can kill them. Yet in the care of a mother hen, they are safe and thrive and never die from poor hygiene. They are covered with her feathers, where they stay safe and warm.



Psalm 91:4 says, “He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” Under His wings, it is okay if you are terribly fragile. Whether you are tired from facing giant-sized circumstances, or just from climbing mountains of laundry, over piles of dirty dishes or from breaking up the 419th squabble the kids have had this morning. Having little ones, or dogs, or chickens, or just being alive can mean that circumstances get overwhelming. Maybe just occasionally, but when the little ones are sick and the dog ate the couch cushion, it can be really hard to remember the Joy of the Lord. On those days we just need help.

Isaiah 40:13 says

(Continued on page 19)



(Continued from page 18)

“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do Not Fear; I will help you. (emphasis mine) I was thinking about when I hold hands. Keith and I often hold hands when we sit in a movie theater waiting for a show to start. When I held my children’s hands it was with the firm grasp of a mother knowing that this same child has sportingly run toward busy traffic and the edges of cliffs. I like to call it “the death grip of love”. When I first read this verse in Isaiah, I confess, I immediately imagined Jesus grabbing MY hand with the death grip of love, to keep me away from temptations, out of danger, away from trouble, but then I remembered my father’s funeral. My sister came with her 14-month-old son, who was barely walking. My house had a yellow lab puppy, about 8 months old, who wiggled more than he breathed. I was terrified he would be knocking the baby over and hurting him, so I watched carefully as they met each other. The wiggling puppy stopped wiggling, and the baby made happy gurgle noises, reaching to touch this fun new friend. As he reached out, the puppy took his entire pudgy baby hand in his mouth. The baby started squealing with joy, as the puppy slowly backed up, leading that baby gently all through the house. The baby did not care where the puppy led him, he simply shrieked his joy with every single step....and I realized that I should also be shrieking with joy, that the Lord of the universe is gently holding my hand, smiling at me, leading me where I should go, and I really don’t care where that is, as long as I keep my eyes firmly on Him. He loves us when we are joyful. He loves us when we are fragile, and most of all, He loves us with an everlasting love that HELPS US as he leads us, and that is what gives us joy in His strength.



Thanks for reading!
Sonja

**Special Happy Birthday to Don Bierbower
who turned 90 this year!! He has joined the
ranks as a nonagenarian**



WHAT'S NEW

In February the church received a new roof on the old section and it looks beautiful. If you have noticed at certain times a small section of the roof looks buckled, well no need for concern. It's where the old roof meets the new roof and it is not a structural problem. It's been there for quite awhile, but only shows up on occasion. The geese seem to love the roof. :)



COMING UP

April 12 — ~~CANCEL~~ 7am Men's Breakfast

April 12 — 1pm Luncheon for Frode

April 18 — 5pm Good Friday Service

April 20 — 9am Resurrection Breakfast

April 26 — Memorial Service for Jake VanderStoel

April 28 — 6pm Men's Meeting

10am Monday — Stand for Life

10am Tuesday — Ladies Bible Study

6:30pm Tuesday—Young Adult Discussion Group

~~6pm Wednesday — Cancel — Family Worship~~

To view the church calendar— [CLICK HERE](#)

FAITH OPC LADIES RETREAT

By Sonja Anderson

On April 10-12, the ladies enjoyed a three-day retreat from Thursday afternoon through early Saturday morning. We stayed in a beautiful house located on Water Gap Road in Grants Pass, with a breath-taking view of acres of pasture, woods and a large pond. Our first evening we shared dinner and began our study of Nancy Guthrie's "Saints and Scoundrels in the story of Jesus". This video series began with "The Voice", about John the Baptist. After watching the video, we enjoyed searching through the scriptures and answering questions as well as a lively discussion time.

Friday morning began with the joyous honking of a pair of Canadian Geese on the pond next to the house. We shared an amazing breakfast and the arrival of several ladies joining us for the day. Our second study session was on "The Family", looking into the many different people who made up Jesus' family both through the Old Testament and during his time on earth. Again, we enjoyed the study with questions and discussion.

We had lunch and while a few ladies needed to leave, several more came. We had an afternoon study session on "The Rock", learning about the Apostle Peter, and in the evening on "The Priest", Caiaphas, marveling at the irony of the high priest Caiaphas meeting Jesus, our great High Priest. This video series was such fun, we hope there will be a time later when we can finish the remaining chapters.

Overall, it was a wonderful getaway, and a very sweet time of fellowship for all who attended, with prayer, study, laughter, tears and beautiful memories made. We very much appreciated the nine ladies who attended, whether they stayed the entire time, or if they just dropped in as they were able. We were able to take walks through the beautiful scenery and hope to return to this same location next year, possibly to even enjoy trail riding or visiting the large on-site garden nursery. Best of all, was getting to know our sisters in Christ better and making sweet memories together.



(Continued on page 22)

FAITH OPC LADIES RETREAT

By Sonja Anderson

Location was Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyous that is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, which has been serving the community of southern Oregon since 1999. A unique 420-acre natural reserve, it is a nature center, botanic garden, educational site, and community center.

You can drive right up to the door and the main living area is on one floor. A very accessible location.



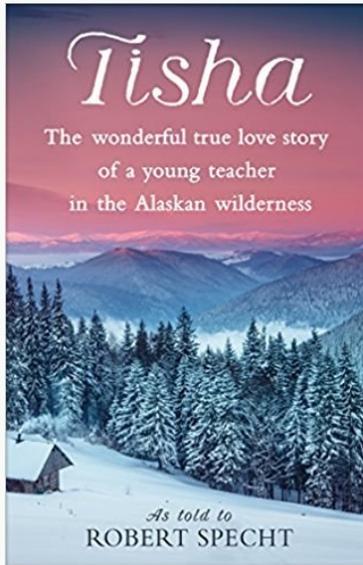
TISHA: THE STORY OF A YOUNG TEACHER IN THE ALASKAN WILDERNESS BY ROBERT SPECHT



March 5, 2023 [Frode](#) rated it 4 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is in the church library.



It displayed the worst in people, and it displayed the best in people. Love and hate, prejudice and sympathy, both sides of the human condition are in evidence as Anne Hobbs takes a job in Chicken, Alaska, in 1927 when she is 19 years old. At the time Alaska was still pretty raw with isolated communities scattered out in the wild countryside. Chicken was a gold rush town that was on the decline in those days; the 2020 census shows 12 people, up from 7 ten years before. It is west of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, really in the middle of nowhere.

The story encompasses just one year in her life, the year spent as a teacher in Chicken. It ends up being the last year the school exists in Chicken due to so few children. Anne has sparse materials to work with, but she is creative. Her sense of justice causes her to make some choices that are poorly received by the whites in Chicken. She has her struggles but turns out to be a pretty good teacher in spite of the hurdles she faces with the locals.

The story is populated with a variety of characters: a few old timers who came in with the rush in the 1890's, some men and women who are pretty tough cookies to endure the life there, and some Indians and half-breeds that live in the area. It complicates matters in Anne's life that she sees equality in the people whereas most of the local population doesn't. The local school board is made up of three white folks; they don't like Indians or half-breeds in their school; Anne sees it differently, so issues arise.

There is a love story involved, a harrowing sled journey and a rescue, and some good times at the dances in the schoolhouse. The story was told to the author by Anne and written when she was in her 70's. She is rather naïve upon arrival but gets pretty seasoned during her year in Chicken and is told by others that she is a real Alaskan at the end. There is no mention of Christianity except for on old-timer who on his deathbed says he wants nothing to do with preachers or religion when they have his funeral. It's doubtful Chicken never had a preacher or a church. I liked the book; it seems pretty truthful, and the characters are portrayed realistically. Enough things go on that at least I wanted to keep reading to find out what was going to happen next.



FAITH 2025 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading starting last year. You will be given a chart each week. It will be on the church website, www.faithgp.org, sent via email, and in print on the table in the foyer each Sunday. The reading began in the Old Testament but we paused and read in the New Testament for December 2024 but now back to the Old Testament. The reading will consist of about a chapter per day except for Sundays. Sunday will be a review day; you will not have to read anything but a good review day. The session is asking you not only to read the Bible but also to react to it. The goal is to get you to think a little about what you are reading. You will find space to write on the chart; we are asking you to do two things; see below.

You will be asked to generate a short thought about the reading, probably 15 words or less will fit in the space given. It can be a summary, a reflection, whatever you decide. For instance, let's say you were asked to read Leviticus 25. It is relatively long being 55 verses, and it covers a lot of material: the Sabbath year, the year of the jubilee, and the redemption of property and of the poor and enslaved in that year. You could make a summary statement about content. *It covered the Sabbath year and the year of Jubilee.* You could reflect on the chapter's content. *God gave them specific rules for redeeming property and people. The 50 year redemption is a shadow of Christ's ultimate redemption. I don't think the jubilee system would work today.* You might even ask a question? *How would this affect investing in property in year 48?* The point is to get you to think a bit about what you have read.

The second thing you are asked to do is copy a verse you like. You are not asked why you liked it. Just pick a verse you happen to like for whatever reason and copy it down with the reference, v 14 for instance. Sundays are review days. Again, you are asked to write two things. First, look at your chart and make some sort of statement about the reading for the week. Second, pick one of the six verses you had previously copied down. Write this verse in the review section and think about and maybe even jot a note as to why you picked it. At the fourth Sunday evening service of the month, we will talk about your review items, 1st week, 2nd week and so forth. It would be helpful for you to bring your sheets with you to that service. This is an experiment. We think it will take about 15 minutes or so per day to read and fill in the chart. After a time, maybe a couple of months, we will take a bit of time for evaluation of the process. Our desire is to get you involved with your Bible on a daily basis. If you have some other reading plan already in place with which you are comfortable and believe is profitable for you, that's fine; you can continue to follow that in lieu of what we are proposing. We will be continuing through 2025 in finishing the Bible reading.

Date	Chapters	Instruction	Notes
1-Jan	Review		Finish 2022 Reading
2-Jan	Gen 1	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	
3-Jan	Gen 2	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	

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.faithopc@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and article writer Frode Jensen.

Feel free to write an article anytime, just email to the above link.

