



Yachats Community Presbyterian Church

A Welcoming, Christ-Centered, Community Church

Agate Windows

And I will make thy windows of agates Isaiah 54:12

December 2016

Winter Wonderland . . . A Wonderful Evening and a Fundraising Success!

Winter Wonderland, the YCPC fundraiser held Saturday, December 3, at the Commons, was a lovely evening of beautiful table settings, delicious food and great music . . . attended by a good cross section of YCPC folks and the community at large. The dinner, prepared by Michelle Korgan and Anthony Velarde of Ona Restaurant, was standing rib roast, sole, scalloped potatoes, vegetable dressing, roasted vegetables, and apple strudel. The music by (YCPC Music Director) Milo Graamans was a delightful mix of pieces by well-known composers, including Scott Joplin, Chopin, Bob Dylan, and Milo.

Winter Wonderland was also a fundraising success, netting nearly \$6,000—well over the \$4,000 goal!

This happy outcome is the result of many things, including Michelle and Anthony providing the meal (and wine) at cost; \$771 in wine and beer sales (beer from Yachats Brewing); \$1,000 in underwriting from Mari's Books; donations of \$275 in lieu of attendance; \$1,145 from the silent auction; and robust ticket sales--the maximum 104 at \$40 each!

See page two for more about Winter Wonderland, including additional pictures and thanks to those who made it possible. Pictures of this grand event are also posted on the board in the narthex.



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More *Winter Wonderland*

In the November issue of the newsletter Nan Scott wrote, *Session has been “thinking outside the box” when it comes to church finances, and a committee has been hard at work planning a Winter Wonderland evening featuring a concert by Yachats’ favorite son, Milo Graamans, and a wonderful gourmet meal from Michelle and Anthony of Ona Restaurant.*

Winter Wonderland has happened and, in the words of various attendees, it was “Awesome!” “Fantastic!” “Great!” One person said, “The delicious food, the music, the warmth and sense of community made it a wonderful evening.” More than one person said, “I hope we/you do it again.”

Many thanks to many people for the success of *Winter Wonderland*

Pastor Bob who suggested a fundraiser with dinner by Ona Restaurant and music by Milo, and **Michelle, Anthony and Milo** for saying, “Yes!” to Pastor Bob’s idea.

The Committee that planned and implemented every detail in a short period of time—from efficient budget, theme and invitations to clean-up and washing the last dish: Bob and Lorraine Barrett, Sharon Bliss, Betty Groth, Pam Luderitz, Brenda Maxfield, Charlene McLain, DJ Novgrod, Nan Scott (with Michelle and Milo)

Table Decorators and Hosts who transformed the Commons into a lovely, festive venue for dining and a piano concert: Bob and Lorraine Barrett, Cecily Bernard, Sharon Bliss (and DJ Novgrod), Betty Groth, Meredith Howell (and Leon Sterner), Joni Landros, Pam Luderitz, Betsy Maxfield, Brenda Maxfield, Charlene McLain, Nan Scott, and Nina Toepher

Mari’s Books and . . . for underwriting

Yachats Brewing (Nathan and Cecily Bernard) for providing beer

Folks who did not attend but made donations

Silent auction donors (and bidders)

Jesse Badger and Sandy White who staffed the wine bar

Hannah Barrett for serving as cashier

Angell Job Corps whose behind-the-scenes help in the kitchen was tireless and greatly appreciated

Leon Sterner whose help and guidance on the Commons space was phenomenal

Everyone who attended!



Yachats Community Presbyterian Church Presents

Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 10, 2:00 PM



Seasonal Music Presented by

Choir

Handbells

Vocal and Instrumental Solos

(Refreshments Following)

YCPC/YYFAP /Families Together Ornament Night

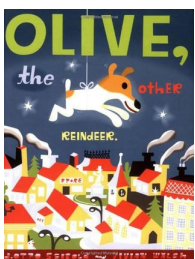
Friday, December 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall



Ornament Night features dinner, holiday story time and books, holiday crafts, ornament making, and . . . Santa! The ornaments made during the evening may be taken home or added to the tree in the Fellowship Hall.

Ornament Night began several years ago as part of YCPC's partnership with Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program. Ornament Night is a fun holiday gathering for children of all ages, and attendance is usually well over 100. Many thanks to the folks who faithfully make it happen every year.

This year the holiday story book is "Olive, the Other Reindeer."



Another Wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner!

Thanks to EVERYONE who signed up to do ANYTHING for the All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16. As always, there was delicious food and good company in a festive atmosphere. Joining us for dinner were family and friends, including folks from Angell Job Corps.

Special thanks to the members of our Fellowship Committee who, every year, plan and coordinate every aspect of the meal and the evening: Doris Gardenhire, Betty Jenness, Betsy Maxfield, Charlene McLain, Mary Emma Parks, Maren Porter, and Nina Toepher.



Matt Nakoa Concert

For the second time in two years, Matt Nakoa performed at YCPC on Sunday, November 27.

We were thrilled to once again host this extraordinary young musician, performer, and songwriter,



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 5:00 AND 11:00 PM



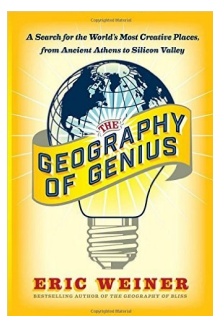
CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS AND LESSONS . . .

Put the Church on Your Christmas List

While the fundraising dinner and concert was a wonderful success that will enable us to balance the 2017 budget, we are in danger of ending 2016 in the red. Our regular committed giving in November was more than \$2,500 less than in October. If we can't make up the difference in December we will be in a deficit position at the beginning of the new year.

This drop in giving already takes into account those who are no longer with us. Please check your giving record to see if you might have inadvertently missed a payment and, if at all possible, give an extra year-end gift to the church so that we can continue to be a vibrant and loving presence in our community.

Nan Scott, Treasurer



Book Group . . . Next Meets in January

The Book Group will NOT meet in December. Our next book discussion will be January 20 at 10:30 AM in the Mickey McGuire Room.

Between now and January 20, the Book Group will be reading *The Geography of Genius: A Search for the World's Most Creative Places from Ancient Athens to Silicon Valley* by Eric Weiner.

“Tag along on this New York Times bestselling, witty, entertaining romp.” This is a traveler’s diary and a comic novel rolled into one that shows how creative genius flourishes in specific places in specific times. “The author sets out to examine the connection between our surroundings and our more innovating ideas.” A review labels the book as “fun and thought provoking.”

In February the Book Group will discuss books about presidents, in honor of Presidents’ Day. Because most of the books are quite long, some of the group have been reading them for the past couple of months. Pick out an autobiography or biography on any U.S. President and join us February 17 at 10:30.



Flickers from the Flame

Jon Nestor

“With”

Usually, “with” is a preposition—an ordinary word that augments, embellishes, or qualifies a noun or verb. Prepositions come in various sizes, but all of them begin phrases which signal conditions that answer questions like where, when, or how. They are typically background words, hidden amidst the nouns and verbs they serve.

Sometimes, however, “with” is an extraordinary expression of togetherness, for it conveys and proclaims the power of presence. As such, “with” is truly transformative for all those who experience it. For example, in the animal world, a fawn lay on the ground suffering in great pain from a wound which would eventually take her life. Sensing her offspring’s condition, the fawn’s mother came as close to her fallen fawn as possible, stretching her nose to the point where it touched her fawn’s nose. And there the two lay—sufferer and comforter—communicating with each other in the most extraordinary of ways.

To an impartial observer, this scene occurs every day everywhere in the animal kingdom. However, to the participants, it imparts incredible empathy. In it, even though no words were exchanged between sufferer and comforter, the fawn knew that she was not alone in her suffering. Furthermore, the mother doe knew that her offspring was suffering, and she was doing the best she could to, in effect, say, “I know what you’re going through, and I’m doing all I can to help you as you go through it.” Essentially, this action of the mother doe was why the fawn did not feel alone in her suffering. She knew that someone like her understood her situation and was *with* her in it. In short, she felt the power of her mother’s presence imparted through the awareness of “with”.

Similarly, the human realm is filled with its own versions of this same type of empathy. Mothers and fathers who know that their (adult) children have no home (or have no safe home) welcome their children into their own home. Conversely, children who know that their parents are aging and may need help in their aging, arrange to either have their parents move into the children’s own home, live in the same community as their parents, or have their parents move into the same community where the children are living. Again, these are human expressions of “with”.

In less difficult circumstances, participating together in activities of mutual interest such as walking, eating meals, playing games, visiting, or watching television together are other human examples of “with”. Just as in the animal kingdom, events such as these in the human realm are so common, so ordinary, that their extraordinariness is minimized. And yet, the power of presence conveys and proclaims the same message: namely, “with”.



When Jesus came to earth, He was proclaiming and demonstrating a new dimension of “with”, a new dimension of the power of presence. Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus was both saying and demonstrating that God knows what we’re going through, and is doing all that God can to help us know that God is with us in it. Any one of his actions—let alone the combination of them—transformed the lives of humans everywhere. But even more amazing was his proclamation that we (as humans) are capable of doing what he did. Then he told us to go and do it.

So, was he in effect saying about himself “No big deal”? As an observer, it’s hard to imagine anyone saying this about Jesus. However, how many of you have thanked someone for something they did or said, only to get the response, “I was only doing my job.” I’m willing to wager that almost everyone who has honestly thanked someone has gotten a response like this at some (or perhaps more than one) point. If we interpret “Jesus’ job” as helping us to expand our awareness of God, God’s values, and God’s love for us, I think I can see how he tends to minimize himself, for he is only doing his job. However, what he is most surely not minimizing is the power of presence—and specifically God’s presence—demonstrated by Jesus’ multiple expressions of “with”.

In this Christmas season and beyond, I invite you to offer the power of your presence to someone – not in extraordinary ways, but in everyday, ordinary, and real encounters. These are essentially extraordinary acts hidden among the ordinariness of life. When you do these things with an attitude of trying to understand others (to meet them where they are), you will generate extraordinary responses in these others. Perhaps they will share these responses with you, even if they simply take the form of “Thank you”.

Your secret ingredient? The power of your presence communicated through the gift of “with”.

December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators	2	3 5:30 Winter Wonderland
4 10:00 Worship (Communion) 11:30 Fellowship 1:00 Communion at Sea-Aire	5	6 9:30 Leta's Legacy Quilters	7 6:00 Study: <i>Living The Questions</i>	8 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators 11:00 Worship/Music 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	9 10:00 Piano Tuning	10 2:00 Christmas Concert and Reception
11 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	12 10:00 Stewardship and Finance Committee	13 9:00 Building and Grounds Committee 9:30 Leta's Legacy Quilters	14 9:30 Deacons <u>NO STUDY Until 1/4/17</u>	15 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	16 6:00 Families Together Ornament Night	17 2:00 Organ-Aided Meditations w/Jon Nestor
18 10:00 Worship (Congregation Meeting) 11:30 Fellowship	19	20 9:30 Leta's Legacy Quilters	21 9:30 Session <u>NO STUDY Until 1/4/17</u>	22 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	23	24 Christmas Eve 2:00 Organ-Aided Meditations w/Jon Nestor 5:00 Worship 11:00 Worship
25 Christmas Day 10:00 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	26	27 9:30 Leta's Legacy Quilters	28 <u>NO STUDY Until 1/4/17</u>	29 9:00 Choir 9:00 Fabricators 6:00 Big Band Rehearsal	30	31 New Year's Eve 



December Birthdays

- 3 Sawyer Bernard
- 4 Chuck Lampman
- 4 Cheryl Waide
- 7 Ethel Linquist
- 11 Karen McDowell
- 11 Patsee Parker
- 13 Danika Simon
- 17 Janet Potter
- 20 Hailey Young
- 23 Texie Price
- 30 Ken Parks



Anniversaries

- 19 Donella & Karl Evans
- 30 Sylvan and Vern Simmons

A Congregation Meeting will be held Sunday, December 18, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, present and review the 2017 budget, and approve the Terms of Call of Pastor Bob.



Michelle Korgan and Anthony Velarde of Ona Restaurant prepared the delicious meal for *Winter Wonderland*, YCPC's recent fundraiser.

Michelle and Anthony have offered their services and gourmet food for several fundraising events in Yachats. When asked why, Michelle said, "I'm a community person. I believe in giving back to the community, and when I do I want it to have an impact."

"And," she said, "we consider YCPC to be our church. We don't always have a chance to attend worship, but we do consider it to be our church."

Heceta Head Lightstation Christmas Open House

Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11 and 17-18, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Heceta Head Lightstation will have its Annual Victorian Christmas Open House, with music and refreshments.

The poster for the event is on the board in the narthex.

YCPC is hosting the open house on December 17.



Christmas Joy Special Offering

Inserts for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Christmas Joy Special Offering

will be in the bulletins on December 11 and 18, together with envelopes for your gifts.

Whether providing opportunities for students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools or financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families, your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will shine the One True Light of Christ's love.

Christmas Joy Envelopes are also in your box of offering envelopes. You can put your Christmas Joy Special Offering gifts in the offering plate any Sunday through Christmas.