



A Welcoming, Come-As-You-Are, Christ-Centered Community Church

Agate Windows Newsletter

JULY EXTRA #2

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

Sunday, August 11, Worship AND the Church Picnic . . .

. . . will be held in the Pavilion behind the Commons. As usual, the hymn-sing will begin at 9:45 and worship will begin at 10:00.

For the picnic . . . chicken and beverages will be provided.

Please bring . . . a side dish, dessert, your own silverware **AND friends!**

Yikes! Two Corrections to the Regular Issue of the July Newsletter!

Apologies to Shirley O'Brien . . . I spelled your name "Shirly" in the article about the June Community Potluck.

In *The Immigration Dialog* article . . . As stated in the first paragraph, it was held at YCPC on June 13. The reference to June 23 in the third paragraph is a typo.

That said . . . Is there anyone out there who would be willing to proofread the newsletter before I e-mail it? It's hard to successfully proofread my own work no matter how many times I re-read it. A second pair of eyes would be most helpful.

If you'd be willing to proofread the newsletter, please call me at 541-547-3400 or e-mail me at agatechurch@peak.org. I am in the office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thank you.

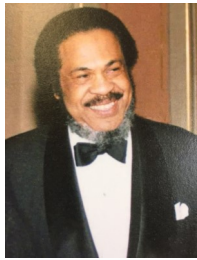
Jeannine



There is a new memorial plaque in the YCPC garden outside the east entrance. It says, “Beauty nurtures the depth of the human spirit.” These are the words of Rev. Dr. W. Hazaiah Williams, founder of the Yachats Music Festival.

The stone was originally placed at Tenmile on the 20th Anniversary of the Yachats Music Festival. It was later moved to a location in front of Bread and Roses Bakery, but it now resides here at YCPC, the home of the Yachats Music Festival for all of its 37 years.

The final concerts were held two years ago July 7, 8, and 9, 2017. If you’re not familiar with the Yachats Music Festival, a brief history appears on page three—an article written for an EXTRA issue of the June 2017 Agate Windows Newsletter. It answers the questions, “Why was the memorial plaque originally placed at Tenmile?” and “How did YCPC become the permanent venue for the Festival?”



Four Seasons Arts Presents - Yachats Music Festival Grand Finale

The last ever Yachats Music Festival by Four Seasons Arts will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 7, 8 and 9. For the past 36 years, Yachats and YCPC have always been home to the Festival. The Festival was first envisioned by its Founder, the late Dr. W. Hazaiah Williams, who directed the Festival from its inception in July of 1981 until his death in 1999. The Festival continues in his memory, with dedication to his vision and spirit.

Following is a collection of excerpts from *Oregon Coast Magazine* (1998); *The Sunday Oregonian/Arts Week* (2004); and *Oregon Coast Today* (2013) interwoven and edited as needed to tell from a historical perspective how the Festival came to Yachats and to Yachats Community Presbyterian Church.

In the early days of the Yachats Music Festival, one of the regular performers was William Warfield who immortalized “Old Man River” in the movie *Showboat*. Mr. Warfield appeared on Broadway in several musicals, made many recordings, toured with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, and appeared every July at the Yachats Music Festival until his death in 2002. Mr. Warfield was typical of the world-class guest artists who have performed at the Festival—he was used to receiving star billing but his appearances in Yachats were cameos; yet he faithfully performed every year and gave it his all. Why did he do it? Because Dr. W. Hazaiah Williams asked him to.

Dr. Williams was trained in theology and served as a professor for 17 years at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He always viewed music and religion as bound together and believed deeply in the power of music to enhance the quality of life. Williams was also a Civil Rights pioneer and was the first African-American impresario to head a concert-giving organization in the United States. Dedicated to racial and cultural integration, in both music and American society as a whole, he was the co-sponsor of Marian Anderson’s ground-breaking concert in San Francisco in 1958. **“The opportunity to hear, to know, understand and appreciate good music,” Williams said, “will lead to greater communication between races and people.”**

Dr. Williams had other qualities as well: teacher, preacher, promoter and “pastor” of artists of color. He was a theology classmate of Martin Luther King, Jr. at Boston University and believed that music had the power to uplift people. He died in 1999, but by then, his staff knew his philosophy well: **Make art available to everyone.** But why Yachats, a town of mostly white, mostly retired Oregonians and Californians? Because Williams liked the idea of combining music with natural beauty, and . . . he knew a couple of people in Yachats who could help his dream materialize.

The Yachats connection began in 1980 when Dr. Williams was a passenger in a row boat on Tenmile Creek south of Yachats with Bruce Bauer, resident and son of homesteaders at Tenmile. Williams was impressed with the beauty of the area and, in his words, *dreamed of bringing music to add to nature’s statement.*

Another Yachats friend of Dr. Williams was YCPC’s pastor at the time, Rev. Mickey McGuire.

Coincidentally, Rev. McGuire and Dr. Williams had known each other many years earlier in San Francisco. Dr. Williams, Rev. McGuire and YCPC Deacon Bob Bibler worked together to get the first music festival off the ground in July of 1981. [It is noteworthy that Rev. McGuire only served YCPC from December 1980 to December 1981 when he died of a heart of attack—long enough to help establish the Festival at YCPC.]

Dr. Williams and Four Seasons Arts have brought a diverse roster of world-class artists to Yachats to perform at YCPC. The 37th and final Yachats Music Festival is July 7, 8 and 9—your last chance to take in one of these amazing concerts.





Shirley and Jim O'Brien were received as members of YCPC at the June 26 Session Meeting. They are both musicians. They played their accordions as part of a music trivia game at our June Community Potluck. They played in the July 4 La De Da Parade. They will play Special Music during worship on July 21. And Jim is an enthusiastic Director of the YCPC Bell Choir.

Shirley submitted a video for her bio. A link to the video is included in the same e-mail message of July 19 sending the pdf of this EXTRA #2 issue of the newsletter.

Here is Jim's "bio" . . .

A few years ago, while Shirley was undergoing treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and I had lots of time on my hands sitting in our motor home, I penned another book. This was my autobiography (*Where the Train Goes: A Life Journey*), and it took me back over my life and all the varied experiences I've had.

Everyone has a story and it should be told. I've now told mine, which includes childhood in Oregon (Hood River and Mosier), great opportunities in academic and musical development to study at wonderful universities, and an exciting career in teaching, which included everything from kindergarten students to doctoral candidates.

There were many chances to develop side interests, including language study, professional writing, conference presentations, finance and marketing, tax preparation, real estate and land development, all the while serving as a minister of music in diverse congregations as well as sharing musicianship in professional gigs, festivals and recitals.

I've been able to travel to many places around the world as well as to explore the United States and Mexico. Although Oregon was my childhood home, Arizona became my residence (45 years now) after living in Australia for two years. Since retirement, I've enjoyed being a docent at lighthouses, volunteering at food banks, teaching ESL classes, and preparing income taxes for seniors and low-income households.

I enjoy physical activities, such as pickle ball and line dancing, and love staying physically and mentally fit. I used to be a runner but am now a cyclist and an avid walker, thanks to my trustee Fit Bit. Oh, yes, I'm a dog lover and have a rescue minpin (miniature pinscher) named Benson.

Life has been a blessing and we have now landed in Yachats for summers and continue to enjoy new experiences, find new challenges and make new friends. It is good now to be a member of YCPC.