

The  
**GRAPEVINE NEWSLETTER**  
January 2020

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### From Your Interim Pastor

Dear People of God:

It's time to say, "Goodbye". You have called Pastor Jean DeVoll-Donaldson and she has accepted. That's the ultimate purpose and point of interim ministry. Hurray! Hallelujah! It has been accomplished! Pastor Jean will begin work the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> and her first Sunday at Beautiful Savior will be February 16<sup>th</sup>. So exciting and so much to look forward to! God bless this new beginning.

That means my last Sunday at Beautiful Savior will be January 26<sup>th</sup>. God bless this ending. I will be available for consultation with staff and leaders and for pastoral care emergencies up until February 10<sup>th</sup>, but it's best to have a break between the interim pastor serving on Sunday mornings and the new pastor's first Sunday. Thanks to Pastors Susan Gerow and Phil Yokers for preaching and leading worship February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> -- and thanks to them for all the ways they support BSLC in their "retirement". It has been a joy to work with them during this interim. It has been a joy to work with Beautiful Savior's very fine staff. It has been a joy (most of the time!) to work and serve with all of you.

Most of us don't like to say, "Goodbye". There is some sadness—even grief—in parting. It's important we embrace that and what it means in an "interim" situation. (And, remember, "we're **all interim!**") It means my wife, Suzie, and I will leave Beautiful Savior and not return—unless for some unforeseeable, unimaginable reason Pastor Jean or another future pastor should ask us to. Once we're gone, we're gone. We'll miss you. That's life—or at least that's interim ministry. We have grown very

fond of all of you. You have been very kind and gracious to us—for which we are very grateful. Thank you. As newlyweds, this was Suzie's first experience as a pastor's spouse, and you all gave her space and support to be herself and grow in the role and grow in faith. I have enjoyed journeying in faith with you and the chance to share my spiritual gifts. Again, I urge you to discover your spiritual gifts and use them in God's service. From that we never "retire"...and there is no greater joy! I hope I have served you well. I ask your forgiveness for ways I have not. I know some of you have been offended by things I have said or done on occasion—please know that it was never my intention to offend and in that I apologize. I urge you to be gracious and kind to your new pastor and to your staff and to each other—especially in these divisive and volatile times in which we live. The world desperately needs the witness of people who can remain in community and disagree. If the Body of Christ cannot be such a community, God help us! Suzie and I will be praying for all of you.

Many of you have asked about our plans for the future. I intend to serve another interim, however the details have not been finalized at this writing. As Co-Director of Celtic Spirit Northwest, I will be part of a team leading another Lenten retreat. (Many of you attended the retreat last year). Registration forms will be available very soon and you are welcome to attend this retreat, "**St. Brigid's Fire!**", **Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, on the beautiful grounds of the Ainsworth House in Oregon City. Suzie and I will also be leading a **Tour of Ireland, "Journey of the Heart", September 13-23**. You are welcome to be part of it-- we'd love to share Celtic culture, traditions and spirituality with you in the emerald isle! As well as a "wee dram" in a real Irish pub! You can email me at [sdunfee855@aol.com](mailto:sdunfee855@aol.com) and I will send you the information, or you can pick

up a brochure in the narthex at Beautiful Savior while they are available during January. A number of folks from the Beautiful Savior community are already planning to participate. Space is limited but there is still room.

In closing, I lift up God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11—words that seem fitting for all of us as we say, “Goodbye” and move forward in faith: “For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” And remember what “Goodbye” actually means. It's a contraction from the Old English meaning, “God be with you!”

With much love and prayers in Christ,

Pastor Scott Dunfee

P.S. I wrote to you last month encouraging that Beautiful Savior “Finish Strong” financially. Just wanted you to know: You all did it. Giving for the month of December was \$50,006.15 with a total for the year of \$420,280.55! Thank you ... and thanks be to God!



## Youth and Family Ministry

-Kirsten Larsen

We had a unique opportunity to serve teens in our community this December. Karen Cleveland received a \$800 grant from the Windermere Foundation to purchase winter clothing items to donate to Janus Youth House.

Two of our youth met with Karen to shop for socks, hats, and gloves. They grabbed two carts and headed off through the store to find the socks. The students calculated which socks were the best deal, and loaded an entire cart with multi-packs of tube socks. They did the same thing with the hats and gloves. In the end, they were able to purchase **440 pairs of socks, 128 pairs of gloves, and 40 hats.** Wow!

After we finished checking out (many, many thanks to the clerk who scanned all those items for us!), we were looking at the mountains of bags in the carts, it made me think of the youth who would receive those items. I may not know their names and their stories, but I pray that these socks, gloves, and hats bless the fingers, toes, and souls they will cover, and provide warmth and safety to these youth experiencing homelessness.

Many thanks to Karen Cleveland for organizing this service project!

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### Vancouver/Camas Lutheran Young Adults group

The Vancouver/Camas Lutheran Young Adults group will be meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM at Final Draft Tap House. All young adults and their friends are welcome to join us!

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## Wednesday @ Church Schedule -

### *Resumes January 8<sup>th</sup>*

4:30 PM	Cherub and Junior Choir
4:45 PM	Handbell Choir
5:30 PM	Dinner
	January's Menu
	<i>(freewill donation \$5 per person)</i>
	08 – Pizza
	15 – Chicken
	22 – Ziti
	29 – Chinese
6:15 PM	Dinner clean-up
6:30 PM	Adult Choir
6:30 PM	Confirmation

Please consider helping with a **Wednesday @ Church dinner** by helping to cook, provide the dinner, or creating your own menu option, clean-up afterward and putting clean dishes away on Thursday. Please contact Laura Snyder for more information.

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### **Peace and Justice Meeting**

The Peace and Justice Ministry will be holding their monthly potluck and meeting on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM at the home of Rick/Ann Giles (6132 Broadview Lane, 98661)

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### **Worship & Music**

#### **Committee Meetings**

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 PM

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 PM

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## **Congregational Book Club Coming Soon**

Starting with January 8, 2020, we'll begin reading together Rachel Held Evans' bestselling book "**A Year of Biblical Womanhood.**" Pastor Phil just picked up his copy for \$5 at Barnes and Nobles. Weekly discussions will be Wednesday evenings at Beautiful Savior during congregation dinner. Grab a plate. We'll eat. We'll talk. We'll be done in time for choir. If you can't make it, let me know and you can follow along at home! I'll have discussion topics and invitation for further research.

Our first session, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we will meet and just start with the book's introduction. Or join us on January 15<sup>th</sup> when we start with Chapter 1. Each week we'll talk about a single chapter. Jump in whenever you like!

Questions? Contact Eva Luchini at (360) 241-7168 or [eva.bigmama@gmail.com](mailto:eva.bigmama@gmail.com).

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## **Free Clinic of SW WA - Breakfast/Lunch Program**

Did you know that Beautiful Savior packs 250 sack meals a month to hand out to the clients of the Free Clinic? It's one way we can show hospitality to our neighbors! We can always use a few extra hands in the meal making process and delivery of the sack breakfast/lunches. It takes about an hour to make 30 lunches and 20 breakfasts per shift.

The times for making the sack meals are:

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

First and Third and Fifth Thursdays

Start time is either 3:30 or 4 PM, depending on the Team leader.

Team leaders are: Sue Calvert, Hilary Heizenrader, Martha/Gerald Hoffman, Don Houck, and Lynn Shebilske. Contact one of these people to volunteer and find out what time their team begins.

If you're not able to volunteer, the ministry welcomes your financial donation. Just use one of the "pew envelopes" and designate on the front, "LUNCH PROGRAM". Thank you!

## BSLC Winter Shelter:

We have begun opening our winter shelter on Monday and Tuesday nights, as well as being on call for severe weather nights this winter. We will hold another volunteer training in January, but if you have not been trained yet, please contact Cheryl Pfaff for training. Sign up with this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0849a4a623a2fc1-bslc2>



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## DID YOU KNOW?

**RIC ... Reconciled in Christ.** Where did this all begin? Thirty years ago, on January 22, 1990, three ordination candidates, Ruth Frost and Phyllis Zillhart of St. Francis Lutheran Church, and Jeff Johnson of First United Lutheran Church, were "extraordinarily" ordained at St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco. What was so "extraordinary" about this ordination? All three were openly gay in direct conflict with ELCA policy at that time. Without the Bishop's approval, 40 Lutheran pastors conducted the rite of ordination to a packed church filled with supporting clergy, laypersons, and congregants. Eventually the ELCA expelled both St. Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church.

Quite a story, huh? We all know that there's a good ending, though. In August 2009, the ELCA voted to change that policy. We now have LGBTQIA+ rostered clergy that are serving our churches and communities in many ways.

Stay tuned for next month's Newsletter for more information on the history of RIC.

Janelle Petersen  
RIC taskforce member

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We are a  
**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**  
Congregation

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## Reconciling In Christ News -

Our next meeting is planned for **Sunday, Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00** at the church. Help us plan educational and advocacy events. For questions contact Linda Anglin at 360-597-6093 or [nwpeacenik@gmail.com](mailto:nwpeacenik@gmail.com)

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**Pastor Scott quoted from LOW: An Honest Advent Devotional by John Pavlovitz in his sermon on Christmas Eve and several people asked for a copy of the quote. Here it is (with a few of his adaptations):**

"We remember that this is the story of an olive-skinned baby, born amid the smell of damp straw and animal dung because no human-worthy welcome could be found; of a child of young Palestinian Jewish parents, desperately fleeing politically ordered genocide. It is the story of a poor, itinerant, street preaching rabbi spending his days dining with the lepers and prostitutes, enlisting the doubters and the backsliders, and comforting the bleeding and the grieving. It is divinity coming low to inhabit humanity. When we place our feet firmly in the dirt and dust of the everyday within the gospel stories, we see Jesus getting low to meet us there. The spiritual journey is spent largely in the low and shadow places. We are there in that beautiful lowness when we live humbly or are humbled despite our attempts to be in control. We are there when we seek forgiveness and when we are afraid. We are there in our own grief and suffering. We are there when we kneel in reverent awe. We are there when we spend ourselves on behalf of someone else. When we find ourselves in these postures, our perspective changes, our attitude toward people shifts, and we become agents of love in a way that actually

resembles Jesus. We perpetuate the character of Christ through our very lives. When Jesus offers the prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven", Jesus reminds us that as we walk the road of this life the invitation is not to escape this place to some elevated heavenly sanctuary; it is to bring heaven down low. Immanuel means "God with us." In other words, it is Jesus coming low. This is really good news for us here on the ground. Let's head to the low places together."

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## **Devotions from Council Secretary, Sue Nolan**

Have you been watching or reading the news lately? There sure is a lot bad stuff. Another shooting or hate crime in our neighborhood. Natural disasters. Refugees imprisoned. Nations at war, and our own nation divided. Some days, I want to just stop -- stop watching, stop reading, just STOP altogether! It's depressing, and I feel helpless to fix any of it.

Except if I had stopped, I would have missed two stories just recently that stood out to me, and reminded me that there is kindness in this chaotic world we live in. There is hope.

The first was in the Columbian. Students at Hockinson High School raised over \$6,000 to buy an electric wheelchair for a very special substitute teacher of theirs. She is battling a degenerative neurological disorder that makes it increasingly difficult to walk....which means, it affects her ability to work and earn an income, which directly affects her ability to pay medical bills. These students found a way to give her something she needs, and in the process also learned a lot about how our current medical and insurance systems work. (Maybe one or more of these kids will go on to help fix our broken systems!)

In another local story, Elementary students went caroling at the home of one of their teachers who

is battling breast cancer and at a very low point in her struggle. She has shown love and kindness to each of her students and this was their turn to give a little joy back to her.

Amid all the turmoil, we don't need to look very far to see the good, but the point is sometimes we DO HAVE TO LOOK! And it also gave me pause, as these kids who did these great things, were inspired by people like you and me in THEIR lives who had themselves demonstrated love and caring for others, as a way to live life every day.

What we do makes a difference. THAT is what this season is about. THAT is what Christ teaches us. The suffering will always be here, but the love and kindness are here too, don't lose sight of that! I'm challenging myself to find ONE current event every day that shows kindness, compassion, joy. Don't put down that paper or close your laptop til you find a HAPPY story! And then share it...in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ....AMEN!

Galatians 6:9 – And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

1 Corinthians 13:13 – So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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## NOTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING

The first night of operation for this season for **BSLC's Emergency Shelter** was December 11th. Ten guests were provided a warm, dry, safe place for the night. Watch for opportunities to volunteer during January and February, Monday and Tuesday nights.

We are one step closer to obtaining a **Defibrillator** to keep in the Narthex for emergency use. Mary A. has been researching to find the best unit for our needs, suitable for adults and children.

BSLC's partnership with Crestline Elementary, arranged by our Outreach Committee, provided food for kids in need during the holiday break from school thanks to your generous giving. Now, one of our members is knitting hats for the kids! The love of Christ abounds!

Council meets the 2nd Tuesday evening of every month. You are welcome to attend a meeting, or talk with any Council member if you want to know more about what's going on. If we don't know.....we'll find out!

## January Birthdays & ♥ Anniversaries ♥

*(Sorry if we missed your name; please contact the church office)*

01/01	Patti Brockman Ray Smith Laura Votava
01/02	Donald Conner
01/06	Nancy Evans
01/09	Jane Keith Parker Wubbena
01/10	Kate Coley
01/12	Don Houck
11/13	Theo McMillan
01/15	Teague Coley
01/16	Milt Fuhr
01/17	Andrew Newell
01/19	Ava Logue
01/20	Carol Bitz Ginger Buzzell Randy Conner Cheryl Knight
01/22	Patt Combs Martha Hoffman
01/23	Lynda Harriman
01/25	Sheila Jacobson Pastor Scott ♥ Suzie Dunfee
01/26	Bill ♥ Shanti Potts
01/27	Pam Harrison
01/29	Vito DeCicco Karen Fraser Ryan Welch
01/31	Andrew Holmbeck Joyce Lounsberry Lee Vining

