



First Presbyterian Church

950 N. Boones Ferry Road

PO Box 333

Woodburn, OR 97071

## *October 2015 Newsletter*

First Presbyterian  
Church of Woodburn

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by fellowship time at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Peter Blank

Organist/Music Director: Debra A. Huddleston

Secretary: Laura Harryman

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# October 2015

S M T W Th F S

					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lay reader: Betty Soule Greeters: Mark Williams and Hazel Moore  <b>SOUP LUNCH</b>				Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage			
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Lay reader: Harley Piper Greeters: Evelyn White and Irene Scott				Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage			
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Lay reader: Sally Klein Greeters: Johanna Samson and McKenzie Samson <b>FOOD BANK SUNDAY</b>			Session 6:00 p.m	Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage			
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Lay reader: David Arbuckle Greeters: Harley and Marian Piper				Men's Lunch 12:30 –1:30 Country Cottage			

Dear Friends,

I am graduating midlife shortly (the ages of 35-60). Here are some thoughts on midlife experiences that have shaped my Christian faith journey through this. Author Lynne Baab says, "In midlife we start to look back as well as ahead wondering if we have lived the first half of our life wisely and pondering what we want to do in the second half" (*Refresh: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*, 2009). She suggests that there are common midlife experiences though which we live: losses, discoveries, and questions. I will only cover these briefly here.

+Loss – When I was turning 50, I experienced a string of deaths (both my parents, my aunt, and colleague) in a brief amount of time. I had shoulder surgery and weeks of recovery. It's common to experience losses. Job issues, family crises, health problems and deaths tend to challenge faith in midlife years. And, it seems, faith can't quite keep up with the demands.

+Discoveries – A second common midlife experience is that of new and enriching discoveries. Diana has recently completed her Bachelors degree in Nursing. She has found learning is fun.

+Questions – midlife is a time of questioning because of these losses and discoveries. Where is God? Why do I feel abandoned by my church? Why do I feel so discouraged?

Some suggest midlife is most likely whenever we start to look back wondering "did I live wisely?" and looking ahead pondering "how will this end?" Research shows that only about ten percent of people have a full-blown midlife crisis. But many more people experience the 'messengers of midlife': increased tears, sleeplessness, and a sense of loss that may be focused on work, family life and personal life. These messengers are a call to look deeper and to spend some time on nurturing our inner life of faith.

Now, on to what's next – later life.

Warmly,

*Pastor Peter*

Pastor Peter J. Blank



## Sermons On-line

Pastor Peter's weekly sermons are now recorded and available to listen to on the internet.

They are available by clicking on each week's link at this page:  
<http://www.firstpreswoodburn.org/first-pres-woodburn/sermons/>

Announcing The Third Annual  
**"Love INC"**  
Dinner and Auction

**AUCTION**

Featuring  
Music by

Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>  
~ 5:00 pm ~

*Billy & The*

Wellspring Conference Center  
1475 Mt. Hood Ave. Woodburn

*Rockets*

Tickets: \$30 per person~\$225 For Table of Eight  
Includes: Catered dinner by *Country Cottage*  
Auction, Door Prizes, Raffle and Entertainment

Purchase tickets at The "Love INC" Office  
979 Young Street, Woodburn  
Or from: Jim Howland 503-341-6644  
Nora Crauthers 503-390-3220

## September 15th Session Meeting Highlights

- Annual Records review is due and will be done before next Session meeting October
- Session approved the transfer of the balance of the Presbyterian Women's bank account to the Improvement Fund.
- Woodburn Senior Estates and Golf – Advertising in Directory – Session discussed it is a good investment and approved the advertising in the directory for \$260.
- Presbytery of the Cascades – will be hosting 222nd General Assembly in June 2016 and looking for donations to help with costs. Session approved a donation of \$222.
- Bids have been received from Nagel's Floor Covering and Tim's Carpet to remove and replace carpet in Head Start office and classroom, and install new linoleum in bathrooms and kitchen areas of classroom. Pastor Peter, Mark and Walt will meet soon to discuss what should be done.
- Session decided to improve signage on the property by placing signs at our North and West entrances to the building. There would be no cost to the budget.
- Pending contracts with Head Start, Woodburn School District and Puerta del Ceilo are waiting final changes and then will be signed.
- Larry Harryman has informed us of her intent to resign her position as Church Secretary by the end of October. Pastor Peter will begin process to replace her.
- School supply distribution will be done once again on Sept 26th. Love INC sent out messages to other churches to help with supplies. We have al-



ready provided 46 backpacks loaded with basic supplies.

- Landscaping, flooring for Head Start, and fixing the red doors all needs to be completed with funds to come out of improvement fund.
- Smell of mold in the kitchen area of Head Start classroom. It was found to be wet under sink. Leak needs to be fixed and board replaced.
- We have asked Puerta del Cielo to help with cleaning and landscaping.
- Session discussed guests staying for coffee, and requests that all regulars consider sitting with guests so they don't sit alone.
- Next Meeting Date: Oct 20th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

### **A Little Biography About Session Member Mark Sterling**

**Where did you grow up?** Woodburn  
**What do you call your best skill?** Multi-tasking although the older I get the harder that is.

I'd like to say golfing but if you've seen me golf you'd know that isn't true.

I like to work in the yard.

I like to cook when possible.

As a parent I'm pretty proud of our kids and the lives they lead as young adults, I believe Marcy & I did a pretty good job, wasn't easy by any means as any parent knows.

**How did you settle in Woodburn?** Parents & my three brothers moved to Woodburn around 1952. I was born, raised & married in Woodburn

**What is your greatest dream for yourself?** To retire, watch my granddaughter grow up & any other grandkids that happen to come along.

**What is your dream for this congregation?** Growth, update the buildings and property

**What is on your 'bucket list'?**  
Be there for the grand kid(s), travel, be out of debt (Ha), stay healthy.