

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



February, 2013

Important Dates:

- February 9: Youth Activity
- February 10: Ladies Relief Society Meeting
- February 16-18: Regional Winter Youth Retreat
- February 22: Wives of Priesthood Appreciation Dinner
- February 28: Women's craft / fellowship night
- March 31: Easter
- April 12-14: Regional Women's Retreat
- June 7-9: Regional Men's Retreat

**Welcome, Elizabeth
Rose Herren**



*Brother Kevin and Sister
Elizabeth*

On January 7th, 2013, the congregation was blessed with a new addition. Elizabeth Rose was born to Brother Kevin, and Sister Trina Herren. She weighed 7 lbs., 8 ounces, and was 20.5" long on her birthday. Congratulations Kevin and Trina on a beautiful baby girl. May we all rejoice in this precious gift, and thank our Heavenly Father for His goodness.

Caroling and a Good Cause

by Brother Brian Herren



Some of the Saints gather to carol

On December 14, 2012, a number of the Saints gathered together to worship the Lord and herald the hope we find in our Savior by singing Christmas hymns. Twenty-four souls gathered together to praise the Lord, and collect non-perishable food items along the way, caroling from house to house. One-hundred and twenty-four pounds of food and cash donations were collected and given to the Marion Polk Food Share, a non-profit group helping to feed those in need within the community. It was a particularly solemn day, as the details of the horrendous act in Connecticut unfolded in measures in the media. Nevertheless, it seems the awful nature of those deeds would have only been compounded if the worship of the Saints had been muted, their tongues of praise silenced, or their message of hope gone unsung. They chose to gather and sing, despite heavy hearts, knowing well that the light of Christ was

needed as much in that moment as it ever had been. Refusing to let darkness prevail, the Saints bowed their heads and opened their mouths in honor of the Lord. We began with a prayer for those mourning the unthinkable loss in Connecticut. It was truly good for us to be together, and to witness for the Lord. In advance of our caroling, a flyer was distributed throughout the neighborhood in order to notify the residents of our intentions and offer to pick up non-perishable items for the Marion Polk Food Share. The address of the Church website was printed on the flyer, which is undoubtedly where one particular neighbor found my email address. On December 15th, I received an email from one of those who had received us the evening prior. Her name is Carla...and she wrote the following:

Good Morning...

What a special blessing to hear members of your church caroling outside our house last night...with the sadness of recent school shootings, it lifted our hearts to hear traditional Christmas carols...in our 41 years of marriage we have never had carolers. Thank each and every one of them for standing in the cold to bring the true meaning of this Christmas season to us!!! If we hadn't been in our jammies we would have gone out to chat with them...(we were the ones with the barking Poodle dog)...Carla



Sisters Cessaries, Sue, and Trina



A wheelbarrow of food is collected



Brother and Sister Scuito

Christmas Tree Deliveries and a Special Thank You

By Sister Melissa Herren



Sisters Carla and Sue make a fresh cut

In December the LRS made their annual delivery of Christmas trees to three appreciative families. The trees and tree stands were stubborn and wily, but the ladies' strength and diligence prevailed. Fellowship with the families and each other was thoroughly enjoyed. Members of the LRS also joined forces to make some goodies to give as a gift to Mr. Tabor, the attorney who freely gave his time to update our branch's by-laws. The ladies abundantly gave, and we were able to fill a large box and round container of delicious treats. Thank you ladies for your constant willingness to serve and provide to others. I am honored to labor with you and humbled by your generosity.

A Letter from Friends of Pioneer Cemetery



Members of the youth group have taken time to involve themselves in various service activities within the community. One of those activities included volunteering at Salem Pioneer Cemetery, where they used wooden paddles to remove moss from concrete capped plots, and wooden styluses to carefully clean headstones. A letter

from Elisabeth Potter, of Friends of Pioneer Cemetery, was received by Church representatives. In the letter, Ms. Potter commends the youth for their hard work, writing: "The City of Salem and we Friends of Pioneer Cemetery greatly appreciate the help given to us by leader Kevin Herren and Cessaries Galusha, Melissa Clark, and Michael Livingston...we are grateful...they did their job very well and we enjoyed working with them very much indeed..." Ms. Potter concluded, "Please pass along to your team our heartiest thanks and good wishes."

Remembering Four Blessings

By Brother Brian Herren



Sister Tiffany Morehouse is baptized



Sister Dorothy Herren is baptized



Sister Jenny McKee is baptized



Sister Toni McKee is baptized

As we begin a new year, we might remember the many blessings that we received in the last. Not the least of these joys was the opportunity to witness the baptisms of Sisters Tiffany, Dorothy, Jenny, and Toni at Larwood Park in Scio, Oregon. Sisters Tiffany and Dorothy were baptized by Elder Brian Herren on March 25th and July 8th, respectively. Sisters Jenny and Toni were baptized by High Priest John Henderson on September 30th. Our sisters were confirmed at the hands of High Priest Bill Curtis and High Priest John Henderson.

"Yea, blessed are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins."

- Jesus

Christmas Giving

By Brother Ron Trammell



As another holiday season has passed, I would like to reflect on the opportunities that were offered to us. The Christmas families were again very appreciative of the gifts and spirit that was given by our church's outpouring. Daniel, Misty and their 3 children, Anthony, Michael and Trinity were overwhelmed with the giving of our congregation along with the help of Ron and Dorothy who went through the Salem Fire Department for the toys. Gifts were provided for all of the clothes, shoes and toys, as well as a washer and dryer that

Misty and Daniel had only dreamed of and asked that we pray for. The LRS, Brian and myself had the opportunity to deliver the gifts and set up the washer and dryer, the light in the children's eyes and the tears in Daniel and Misty's said it all. Our other family was also greatly administered to with gifts for the children and the help to pay some utilities. I would like to thank those who delivered these gifts for their efforts. I would like to thank all who helped with food, gifts, money, delivery, and prayers for our families this season. Please continue to remember these families in your prayers in the months to come.

Congregational Camping Trip 2013

By Brother Brian Herren

Sites have been reserved for the sixth annual congregational camping trip, July 26-28, 2013 at Devil's Lake State Park at the Oregon Coast. We have been very blessed at this campground, which is situated on D Lake, within walking distance of the crashing waves and sandy shores of the Pacific Ocean. Brother Ron Trammell will bring his boat again, allowing the Saints to fish and enjoy water sports on the lake. The young at heart can look forward to polar bearing in the lake at sunrise. Campfire services will allow those who are interested to fellowship each evening, and a church service will be planned for Sunday morning. Of course we can look forward to S'mores and singing! Meal assignments will be given at a later date to those interested, so that all of those interested may come together for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If everyone is responsible for one portion of one or two meals, the entire group is well fed in a more cost effective way, which also makes the most of our opportunity for fellowship. Even if one is unable to contribute to any of the meals, all are encouraged and invited to join together at meal time and break bread as one body. Because



Devil's Lake, Lincoln City, Oregon



*Brothers and Sisters Murnieks:
Deanne, Ginger (12), Charles,
and Donovan (9)*

of sustained and increasing interest, more sites than ever have been reserved this year. Some of the Saints have already committed and are looking forward to attending, including: the Brian/Melissa Herren family, the Kevin/Trina Herren family, Sue Herren, Cessaries Galusha, the Ron Trammell family, the Ron Herren family, the Jim Clark family, the Steve Scuito family, the Ken Long family, the Doug Williams family, the Gary Livingston family, the Willis Johnson family, the Delight Coburn family, Dave Hampton, and Robert Ellison. We will be especially blessed this year to have the Murnieks family joining us from Colorado. Brother Murnieks will begin his employment at Oregon State University in the fall. If you are interested in attending, please contact Brother Brian as soon as possible! For those who are able to meet the cost of a campsite, tent sites are \$21 per night (\$42 for the weekend), and full hookup sites are \$28 per night (\$56 for the weekend). Checks should be made out to Restored Church of Christ. If you are unable to meet the cost of a campsite, you are still encouraged to come. Be sure to bring warm clothes for the morning and evening hours (coats), camping gear, flashlights, swim suits, towels, your family and an extra snack to pacify the bears.

A Blessed Christmas

By Brother Brian Herren



the younger Saints after the Christmas service

On December 23, 2012, we celebrated the birth of Christ with much delight. Many of the Saints gathered for a potluck breakfast before Brother Jim Clark led us in a song service. At 11:00, Brother Bill Curtis preached a sermon entitled, "the Savior", bringing us into particular remembrance of the birth of the Only Begotten Son and His great work among men. It was a special privilege to have Staff Sergeant Jamie Leach with us from Korea. She will soon be stationed in Alaska, where her daughter Evelyn will be able to stay with her. We thank the Lord for His kind blessings.

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Birthday Greetings



Sister Dianna Clark



Brother Robert Ellison



*Sister Samantha
Livingston*

Special birthday blessings are wished to Sister Samantha Livingston, who was born on February 24, 2004; Brother Robert Ellison who is turning eighteen on February 16th; and Sister Dianna, who was born on February 18, but never seems to age.

A Virtuous Person

By Brother Bill Curtis



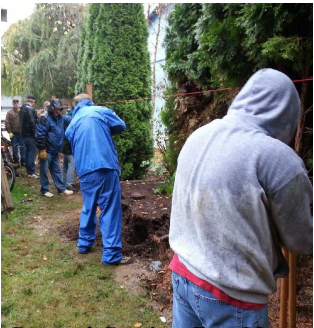
Brother Bill Curtis

Virtue is the quality of moral righteousness or excellence in all we both say and do. I believe the priesthood in Salem have taught and expanded on the principals of virtue and this along with your personal study have brought us to a closer unity. I feel that because we are striving through study, prayer and daily application of our understanding that we are enjoying together, the fruits of virtuous living, which fruits are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. This is how we

are seen and recognized by others as Disciples of Christ. Galatians 5:22-3 and Eph. 5:9. Referring again to virtue, Jesus being in the flesh was the ultimate example of virtue, thus showing all mankind that for us to take up our cross and follow him, it would require us to come out of our natural state and be transformed into a spiritual state. Matthew 16:25-30. Remembering that where your heart is, there also is your treasure, let us continue in the mind set of a laborer and disciple for our Savior that we may be counted worthy as an instrument in the hands of God. 1 Cor. 3:9-11

A Helping Hand

By Brother Ron Herren



Pictured: Brothers Ron H., Ron T., Travis, Gary, Robert, Jim, and Michael. Not pictured: Brother Brian.

Before I get into the project I'd like to talk about my neighbors Eileen and Will. When I moved into my house Eileen was the first person in the neighborhood that welcomed me. At that time she was widowed from her first husband. She reminded me of my mother and I took time to check on her and make sure she was all right. 3 years ago she married Willard Rice, so they both became my adopted parents. As a lot of you know, Will was a

retired minister and Eileen is the sweetest person ever. Last Fall Eileen lost Will and was once again a widow. Dorothy and I became aware that the fence between her lot and the rental lot next door was nearly falling down. She didn't have the physical resources to replace the fence - that's where the church members stepped in to help. On two successive Saturdays men from Church set posts then finished the fence. Eileen was thrilled to have a secure fence on all sides of her yard that keeps her little dog at home.



the completed fence

Gifts of Song and Melody

By Sister Cessaries Galusha



Sister Cessaries Galusha

The Salem congregation has been blessed with an increased measure of music ministry in the past few years as both young and the aged use the talents that God has placed within them. Every Easter and Christmas season the Saints get together to sing in a choir for such blessed holy days, and we have greatly enjoyed sharing in music together, and praising our Father for His matchless grace. Several Saints have been developing skills on various instru-

ments and delight to share these blessings with the congregation. Our brothers Kevin Herren and Michael Livingston have set their hands to playing the violin just this past year, and we have all been amazed at their progress! Michael has also continued to grow tremendously in playing the guitar and singing, and Melissa Clark has flourished with her beautiful voice and flute. And, the music of well-loved musicians continues to be enjoyed from our brothers Bill Curtis and Gary Livingston. Families are joining in song, and friends get together to enjoy past times in playing music together. The Lord is truly blessing us to these ends, and I hope to see continued strengthening of our bonds and further development of music among us. The ministry of music that was prepared for Christmas of 2012 was an experiment, which was both challenging and rewarding. It was an experiment because the music was an original composition arranged just for that service, using the choir and a string quartet consisting of two violins, viola and harp. Our string players and choristers worked diligently in separate rehearsals until we were ready to put it all together. It was wonderful to have our new violinists and our accomplished violist, Aaron Dukes, to form a complete ensemble! Our librettist, Kevin Herren, was inspired to write the poetry for this hymn. It conveyed the prophecies of Christ's birth and mission on earth, and the fulfillment of those prophecies in scripture. The final verse was a statement of personal and individual conviction to stand for Christ through everything in honor of His bestowed grace upon us, and it ends with a humble plea that the Lord be our help, and ever at our side. Let us continue in praise to our Heavenly Father, and worship in the gifts of song and melody.



Brothers Kevin and Michael

Youth Ministry at Simonka House

By Gary Livingston



Sister Melissa, Brother Robert, Sister Lilly, and Brother Michael

On the evening of January 19, 2013, our youth provided a worship at Simonka, our local women's homeless shelter. The youth who provided this ministry were: Melissa Clark, Michael Livingston, Robert Ellison, and Robert's friend, Lilly Barnes.

The youth planned the

entire worship service and chose for a theme, "Trust in the Grace of God." For scriptures they read from Proverbs 3:1-10, Psalms 31:19, and James 4:6-7. For each reading they explained what the scripture meant to them. Sister Cessaries accompanied us on piano as we sang, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," "Trust and Obey," and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." For a ministry of music, Michael played "Higher Ground" on his violin. Before playing, he read each verse aloud so everyone present could hear the beautiful words to this glorious hymn. Brother Gary ended the service by sharing a few words pertaining to the worth of each soul in the sight of God and the great love God has for each person. The ladies who were present openly expressed their appreciation for each part of the service and shared how impressed they are with our youth and the desire they have to minister and serve God. I believe we can all agree that we truly have been abundantly blessed by the youth in our congregation. It is such a joy to witness their growth in the Lord.

A Baby Shower

By Sister Melissa Herren



On January 19 the women of the branch along with some friends and family gathered to celebrate the birth of Elizabeth Herren at a Welcome Baby Shower at the home of Brian and Melissa Herren.

Fun and challenging

games were played, delicious food was enjoyed, adorable baby items were ooooh'd and aaahh'd at, but most treasured was each woman's turn to hold our newest sister. She is surely a glorious gift from God, and we could never express our thanks for her to our Heavenly Father adequately. In closing, I would like to send my most whole-hearted thanks to the ladies of the LRS for their help in planning and preparing for the shower.

The Branch Votes to Purchase Property

By Brian Herren

At a business meeting on January 13, 2013, the membership voted to purchase the bare lot adjacent to 3725 45th Ave. NE in Salem, Oregon for Church use. As a condition of the purchase agreement, the Church has been granted six months of due diligence in order to obtain the conditional use permits necessary to build a church building upon the property. This does not obligate the Church to build during the period of granted conditional use, but serves to ensure that such building is permissible under the present ordinances. Should Marion County decline the conditional use permits, the Church is under no obligation to the real estate purchase. These permits are not the same as building permits, which must be obtained in the future, in conjunction with the submission of detailed blue prints. At this point, a site plan is being developed by a land use attorney to be used in concert with the conditional use application, demonstrating the feasibility of building upon the property in harmony with existing law and code. The initial parcel was priced at \$75,000, but the Church requested a property line adjustment, to add 39.5 feet of ground to the east, effectively adding 3,450 square feet to the lot being considered. The seller divided the asking price per the original square footage and applied the price per square foot to the additional ground being requested. He arrived at a new asking price: \$87,600. Through negotiations on behalf of the Church membership, the seller ultimately accepted \$75,000 for the original parcel in addition to the extra 3,450 square feet to the east. This sale will be recorded as the least expensive purchase of like/comparable property in Marion County in the last five years, price per unit of measurement: \$2.61/square foot. The purchase agreement obligates the Church to paying those fees associated with the property line adjustment, up to \$1,350. The seller has agreed to pay all of the surveying cost. There are sure to be many obstacles that remain, and demands placed upon the membership to proceed with sacrificial care, but we wish to thank the Lord for every good provision of His hand to this point. The branch will be under a new burden as we seek the means whereby to financially realize these blessings. In recognition of these matters, we would invite any who receive this news beyond the local branch, to help. Those who have the ability and desire to assist by way of financial contributions to this end, please contact me at (503) 949-2484 or drbrianherren@gmail.com.

