

Kenilworth @ Work!

July & August 2024



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

**From the desk
of Pastor
Susan
McDougall**



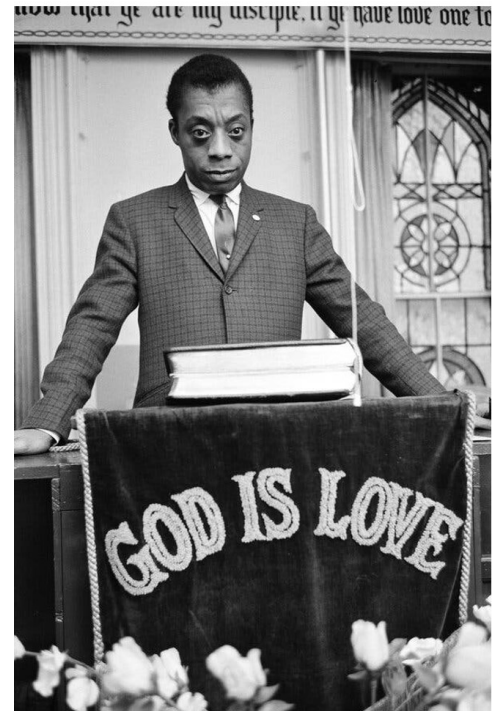
Dear Kenilworth Friends—I invite you to rediscover the joy of immersing yourself in something...

Since we live in a world of soundbites and quick fixes, we sometimes lose sight of what we actually think, and what God wants us to do. I invite you to take a deep dive into something this summer, be it a book of passing seriousness, or an activity that you love, like gardening. This can give us time to enjoy and reflect, and may slow us down enough for God to get our attention. I love reading, so I'm going to read James Baldwin. What might you do?

On Sunday, June 23rd when I said, *"if you wonder why I don't overtly acknowledge Pride month and Juneteenth in sermons at Kenilworth, it's because I think this congregation has much more wisdom to impart to me on these topics than the other way around."* It was the truth, not idle flattery. But as always with God, *be careful what you say, or God will make you think about it.*

I found myself thinking about the writings of James Baldwin, the fiercely intelligent Black writer and Preacher, who was born in 1924 in New York, and died in 1987 in France from cancer. I knew him by name but not by oeuvre. There was also a meme about him that kept cropping up on my Instagram feed, but I am not, having been raised elsewhere, entirely familiar with the American literary scene. Baldwin had me intrigued since he addressed 3 points that frequently intersect today: race, religion and sexuality.

For Baldwin, themes of masculinity, sexuality, race, and class intertwine to create intricate narratives that run parallel with some of the major political movements toward social change in mid-twentieth century America, such as the civil rights movement and the gay liberation movement. At the age of 14, "Brother Baldwin," as he was then called, first took to Fireside Pentecostal Assembly's altar. It had been at Fireside Pentecostal, during his mostly extemporaneous sermons, that Baldwin "learned that he had authority as a speaker and could do things with a crowd", says biographer Campbell. Baldwin delivered his final sermon at Fireside Pentecostal in 1941.



In his writings, Baldwin's protagonists are typically but not exclusively African American, with gay and bisexual men featured prominently in his work. His characters often face internal and external obstacles in their search for self- and social acceptance. *"Go Tell It On The Mountain,"* first published in 1953 was Baldwin's first major work, a semi-autobiographical novel that has established itself as an American classic and has been ranked among the best English language novels.



Two of many articles about Baldwin caught my eye. (links below) One article, which was written by a famous American conservative pastor, suggests that Baldwin went “from child evangelist in a store-front church in Harlem...to dying in France, his life a “witness to the power of Christian roots and the tragedy that comes when the root is severed.”

The other article, written by a woman journalist for the New York Times in 2020, neither downplays Baldwin’s sexuality nor his complicated relationship with religion, but notes, among other things, that perhaps Baldwin left the church because he knew he would not have survived its stifling rigors, and had little desire to try...and yet the church imprinted him with its music, its pathos, its soaring rhetoric, the stalwart and fragile souls of the faithful. These were dear to him and find full expression in “Go Tell It on the Mountain.”

I suppose what struck me the most was that in every picture I saw of Baldwin, he had these incredibly sad eyes. I have not yet read his works, but I might venture a guess why: here is an incredibly intelligent, gifted preacher who some religious folk would call an abomination. I do not ascribe to that point of view. And I think it is cruel to try and part a man from his God, regardless of where one falls down on the political/ethical divide.

I shall let Baldwin have the last word:

Love is at the heart of the Baldwin philosophy. A few words in Baldwin’s voice:

The longer I live the more deeply I learn that love, whether we call it friendship or family or romance, is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other’s light.

Gentle work. Steadfast work. Life saving work...

In those moments when life and shame and sorrow occlude our own light from our view.

But there’s still a clear-eyed, loving person to beam it back.

In our best moments we are that person for one another.

Amen

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-tragic-path-of-james-baldwin>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/04/t-magazine/james-baldwin-pentecostal-church.html>

(Sources: Wikipedia, Goodreads)



Hot Topic Discussion Group - Wednesday, July 24 7:00 pm

For discussion this month: “Worshipping at the Church of Taylor”

Ten people gathered at the Jewel Crow’s Nest for the June Hot Topic discussion. We focused on the question of whether we should judge people’s contributions to society by their personal behavior. It was a hot topic, indeed. The group decided that they enjoyed meeting in person and plans have been made for the July Hot Topic Gathering.

Rick and Barb will host the Hot Topic discussion on Wednesday, July 24, at 7 pm. The article prompting the July discussion is “Worshipping at the Church of Taylor,” from Christian Century magazine, January 2024. It will be an opportunity to explore the issue of teen hero worship.

The article will be available in the narthex or can be emailed on request. RSVP to attend by contacting Barb or emailing the church at kenilworthpc@gmail.com.



Men’s Retreat at Menucha Retreat Center in the Columbia River Gorge Friday to Sunday, October 11–13

The Rose City Park Presbyterian Church (RCPPC) Men’s Retreat Committee is in the process of planning a Men’s Retreat at Menucha Retreat Center from Friday evening, October 11 to Sunday morning, October 13. We are inviting men in other Presbyterian churches in the Portland area to join us. Tim Winslea will be our retreat leader. The specific topic of the retreat is under discussion and is expected to be related to men’s spirituality.



Timothy Winslea is an instructor at the University of Portland where he teaches across the curriculum for the School of Nursing and Health Innovations and, for the Theology Department, a course on the Theological Dimensions of Suffering and Death. In addition, he serves as a Fellow for the Dundon-Berchtold Institute for Moral Formation and Applied Ethics. Tim is a registered nurse specializing in Behavioral Health and a minister member of Cascades Presbytery. He serves the Presbyterian Urban Network as their Nurse Theologian. He has experience both as a parish nurse and in the training of parish nurses.

For those of you who have not been to Menucha it is a wonderful venue for a retreat at the head of the Columbia River Gorge a short distance from the Vista House.



Rose City Park Presbyterian Church Men’s Retreat Survey 2024

Please respond to the questions below soon so the Committee can continue to plan for the retreat. The expected cost is about \$190 per person.

Name _____ Church _____

Your email _____ or Tel. Number _____

I am interested in attending: _____ Not sure yet _____ No: _____

Please respond to: robertgblack@coho.net; or to office@rosecityparkpres.org. RCPPC Men’s Retreat Committee: Bob Black, Nat Kerr, Woody Richen, Doug Robertson, George Johnson and Jim Moiso.



Session Highlights June 9, 2024



- Session voted to establish a new Finance Committee: Laura, Edith, and Rick. The committee will have two initial assignments: To research socially responsible investment opportunities, and to research more competitive savings plans.
- The Mission Committee requested permission to consult with an immigration lawyer to learn how KPC might be able to assist with two support requests. Session approved a one hour consultation at \$150.
- Serving as the Trustees of the Peterson/Kenilworth Endowment Trust, the Elders voted to offer one month's rent paid directly to a landlord to prevent imminent eviction proceedings.
- Session voted to apply for a Barnabas Grant of up to \$8,000 to assist with purchase and installation of a heat pump to serve the heating and cooling needs of the Sanctuary and basement fellowship hall.
- The last PC/USA General Assembly voted to require all PC/USA congregations to establish formal written policies dealing with 1) Harassment and 2) Racism. Session voted to approve a new anti-harassment policy as proposed. Session also voted to approve a new anti-racism policy as proposed.
- Session reviewed, amended, and approved the existing Sexual Misconduct Policy as amended.
- Session also reviewed and approved the existing policy dealing with child, youth and vulnerable adult abuse.
- The Preschool Parent Board has taken the lead finding a contractor to remove and replace the play yard fence. Session previously agreed to pay half the cost. Session has reviewed the proposed plans and recommended two changes. Work will begin soon and progress throughout the Summer months, to be completed before preschool classes resume in the Fall.
- Session agreed to promote participation in a Men's Retreat sponsored by Rose City Park Presbyterian Church at Menucha, Friday evening October 11 through Sunday morning, October 13. Rev. Tim Winslea will be the retreat leader on a topic related to men's spirituality. The cost is expected to be about \$190 per person.
- Session voted to pay \$650 registration fees for Rick and Barb Votrobeck to attend Stewardship Kaleidoscope to be conducted at the Hilton Portland, downtown, September 23 -25.
- Session approved purchase of a graduation gift from the congregation to Eve Ramsey.
- The next Session meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m., July 21, 2024 in the fireplace room.

Rick V., Clerk of Session



Kenilworth Prayer Circle

Mondays 4:00 PM via Zoom

If you have prayer requests, please email, text or call Barbara V. I will share the request with all who want to be part of the Prayer Circle via email. Barb

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18



BARB'S NOTE-ABLE NOTES



Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Psalm 66:1-2

“Why Do I sing About Jesus?”

The Christian life was meant to be a joyous experience. One of the most effective ways to demonstrate our inner joy is to carry a song upon our lips throughout our daily activities. It was my father who first taught me this truth. As a painter-decorator, Dad became known to his many customers as the “singing painter.” Singing his favorite hymns while he worked became his natural way of life. At his funeral, many of his customers, both believers and nonbelievers, told me of the impact my father had upon them as they observed his cheerful attitude while he worked.

It is important that we carry a song of the Lord with us. The world needs to see and hear the story of Jesus and His love. And the song that we carry on the inside will be reflected on our countenance. An inner song and a cheerful countenance are always the result of a life that is enjoying an intimate daily fellowship with our Lord and Savior - the One who sets us free!

Albert Ketchum - The author and composer of “Why Do I Sing About Jesus?” wrote this song while a student at the Moody Bible Institute during the early 1920s. The song first appeared in *Gospel Truth in Song*, published in 1922. It provides believers a fine vehicle for a musical testimony about their Lord.

*Deep in my heart there's a gladness - Jesus has saved me from sin!
Praise to His name, what a Savior~ Cleansing without and within.*

*Only a glimpse of His goodness, that was sufficient for me;
Only one look at the Savior, then was my spirit set free.*

*He is the fairest of fair ones, He is the Lily, the Rose;
Rivers of mercy surround Him, grace, love, and pity He shows.*

Chorus: *Why do I sing about Jesus? Why is He precious to me?
He is my Lord and my Savior; dying, He set me free!*

From Amazing Grace: “366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions”

By Kenneth W. Osbeck

Musically yours,

Barbara Votrobeck, KPC Music Director



³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you

with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. *Philippians 1:3-11*



GREEN TEAM NEWS

Cork Recycling



Did you know that cork is a natural, biodegradable, and renewable resource. The tree bark is harvested by hand every nine to 12 years for use in various products, most often wine corks. Not a single tree, each of which can live up to 300 years, is cut down during cork extraction.

Corks are very durable and offer plenty of possibilities for creative reuse. Next time you pop a top on a bottle of white or red, consider recycling that cork.

We have found a Portland location that is recycling corks, the natural ones, not the rubber or plastic ones. The Green Team has added a receptacle in the Recycling Center for corks. Please bring in your corks to recycle.
Becky J.

Other items we are recycling at KPC

- Batteries
- Screw top caps
- Clear #1 plastics
- Bread bag tabs
- Eyeglasses and cases
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs



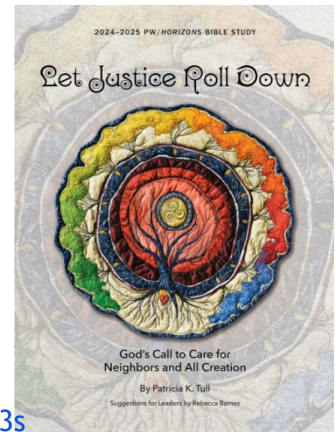
Short-term recycling

Save your toilet paper rolls.

A friend is making Christmas Crackers (a British tradition) for a fundraiser. Bring empty toilet paper tubes to church and leave the container for them in the Recycling Center.



2024-25 Presbyterian Women's Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.*



Looking ahead: Kenilworth Presbyterian Women's Bible study will begin again in September. If you'd like a copy of the Bible study guide, please contact Allison Z. or email the church at kenilworthpc@gmail.com. The guide is available in regular or large print. To learn more about the Bible study, check out these links:



Video introduction from Patricia Tull

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qieBTa9hzEw&t=53s>

Blog #1 from Patricia Tull with notes about lesson one

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/2024/06/05/let-justice-roll-down-lesson-one/>



Birthdays



July

- Eleanore Ramsey 18
- Rebecca Jewel 26

August

- Frances Broberg 23
- Jody Lane 28
- Ann Duran 30

The *steadfast love* of the LORD NEVER CEASES,
His *mercies*
never *come* to an END;
they are new every morning;
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.

Lamentations 3:22-23

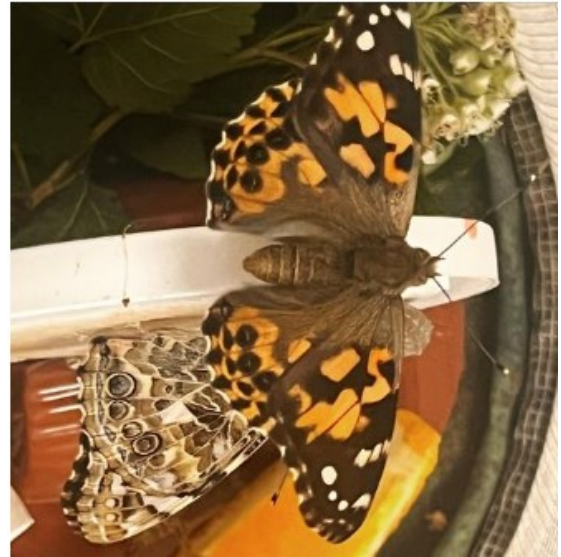


Kenilworth

Community Preschool

One of the treasured end of the year projects at Kenilworth Community Preschool is hatching and releasing butterflies. The students love to observe and learn about all of the stages and releasing the butterflies is a very special moment.

from Kenilworth Community School
Facebook page



Greetings,

June 2024

I am Margaret Wade, a new neighbor who moved into the Marigold Apartments next door a few months ago. My apartment looks out over the backyard of the church and the church chimney.

I am an avid birder and noticed about two weeks ago that Vaux's Swifts are using the brick chimney on the east side of the church as a roost. I don't know if they are nesting in the chimney but they do use old, uncapped brick chimneys as nesting sites in Oregon. If you aren't familiar with Vaux's Swifts, they are tiny, aerial insectivores who live in the Portland area in the summer and then congregate in large numbers in September, the most famous location being Chapman Elementary School in NW Portland, before migrating south.

Vaux's Swifts are estimated to have lost half their population in the last 50 years, and now there are only about 870,000 birds left. Every single bird is precious. My plea is that Kenilworth Presbyterian preserve the chimney as it is to provide habitat for the swifts, both during the summer nesting season and during the fall migration in September and early October.

I also wanted to say that I am thoroughly enjoying living next to the church. I work from home some days and it's great to hear the children in the preschool playing outside. Also, there are many native trees at the back and side of the church property and they provide a microhabitat for wildlife and birds. I have heard 42 different species of birds from my windows this spring!

I am Quaker myself but my parents and their parents belonged to Presbyterian churches. I will come join you for worship some Sunday this summer.

Peace,

Margaret Wade



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