

KINGDOM BUILDERS

Youth group commits to ‘Kingdom Worker Card Challenge’ to keep themselves accountable to the life-changing spiritual truths they heard in San Diego



By Rick Lund

The worship songs have been sung. The words of truth have been spoken. The dynamic preaching, the powerful worship, and the engaging conversations our group of 10 students experienced less than two months ago at “Unite West” are now in the rear-view mirror.

“The Rest of Your Life” – the theme

for the five-day Evangelical Covenant conference for high-school students – has begun. As summer melts into fall, will those memories merely fade into the southern California sunset? Or will the lessons learned in San Diego provide a firm foundation, a springboard, for leaps of faith and new growth?

The “Kingdom Worker Card Challenge” is a tool that is holding our

youth group accountable to the God who wants to be the center of all the days of our lives. The “KWCC,” as it is called, was inserted into a business card-size envelope. Cards with 75 unique challenges were distributed to all 1,300 students at Unite West. No two cards were alike in the set passed out to Bethany’s youth group

“And there’s a bit of a twist,” said
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Keep showing generosity, the harvest is coming soon

By Adam Deitz
 BCC Treasurer

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all

people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”
 – Galatians 6:9-10

This verse encourages us not to give up on the labor of God’s good work because we will reap a harvest at the right time.

On June 30, the books officially closed on Bethany Covenant Church’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The fiscal year (July 2023-June 2024) was remarkable for difficult shortfalls and significant building expenses that were both expected (overdue roof repairs) and unexpected (the January church flood). But

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PIPE DREAMS

Pastor Randall’s visit to Europe’s grandest pipe organs > Page 4

Getting to know ...

Peter and Tricia Cisneros

With ties to Abraham Lincoln and William Clark, this couple brings unique gifts to Bethany Covenant

By Rick Lund

She loves the minutiae of crafting constitution language, the rewriting of bylaws, and is a planner of all things. He's an arts major, creative, a gifted musician, and has a quirky sense of humor.

She was raised in the Christian Reformed church, the daughter of a longtime Christian school teacher and a member of the 10th graduating class of Mount Vernon Christian High School. He's the son of a Covenant pastor, a relative of a famous U.S. president and a well-known explorer, and spent his childhood bouncing between small towns in the Midwest.

Just how did Tricia and Peter Cisneros manage to meet and marry in the Land of Lincoln (more on that later), only to move to the Skagit Valley and play integral roles in the ministries of Bethany Covenant?

It's yet another example of life's surprising twist and turns, but also a testament to God's faithfulness and divine providence.

Tricia did what many Christian Reformed young people do – she attended the denomination's college, Dordt, in Iowa. Peter, likewise, enrolled at the Covenant denomination's college, North Park, in Chicago.

It would be after college graduation that the two would meet as employees at Covenant Headquarters in Chicago. That certainly wasn't a stretch for North Park grad Peter, who was working in the print shop for the Covenant's Communications Department. But for Tricia, who had no Covenant connections, that was another matter.

Tricia had returned to Mount Vernon after graduation from Dordt, only to find after one year "general feelings of discontent staying in Skagit County." At the invitation from college friends



Peter and Tricia with sons Lincoln and William in front of the Lincoln Memorial statue in Washington, D.C.

who were living in Chicago, she packed all her belongings in her car and drove to the Windy City without a job, which was a little uncharacteristic for the self-proclaimed planner.

Looking for work, she connected with a temp agency in Chicago. Covenant headquarters, meanwhile, was looking for a temporary admin assistant to the vice president of administration.

"My first day was September 11, 2001," said Tricia. "They

(ultimately) decided to keep me."

Her bosses were – name-dropping alert here for longtime Covenanters! – Mary Miller, Donn Engebretson (whose father, Milton, was a Covenant president), Evelyn Johnson and presidents Glenn Palmberg and Gary Walter.

Tricia organized various Covenant boards, oversaw the board of pensions for Covenant pastors, and coordinated Covenant annual meetings. She

also helped rewrite bylaws, which would be crucial in Walter's move to restructure the denomination.

"I love bylaws," Tricia said. "It's inviting, when things call for change. It's my own version of 'where is it written?' I thrived in that, and loved my time there."

Peter, meanwhile, was also thriving at Covenant headquarters. He spent the last two years of his 10-year stint there working for the "Covenant Kids Congo" project, a partnership between the Covenant Church and World Vision that creates a better future for children through clean water, health care, education, agriculture and nutrition.

Peter inherited a heart for ministry from his father. Noel Cisneros was pastor of Covenant churches in Minnesota, Kansas, Wisconsin, Texas and Washington, where he planted New Hope Covenant in Yakima just as Peter was heading off to North Park. Later in life, Rev. Cisneros returned to military service as a chaplain in the Army Reserves. He saw active duty in Kuwait in 2003 as a part of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Peter's rich heritage doesn't end there. He's a distant relative of President Abraham Lincoln. Peter's mother's parents were Civil War history buffs. They took him and his brothers to Gettysburg and Springfield, Illinois, even though the family connection wasn't known at the time. The Cisneros' oldest son, 13-year-old Lincoln, is named after the president.

"We didn't know he was a relative until the Ancestry thing came out," said Peter, who because of his grandparents' influence has always been interested in the 16th president of the United States. The Lincoln tattoo on his upper arm was his 30th birthday present.

Peter says he's more closely related to William Clark, one half of the Lewis and Clark explorers. Peter and Tricia's youngest son, who is 11, is named – you guessed it – William.

If the Lincoln and Clark connections don't impress you,

See **CISNEROS** on next page

Adult classes: ‘Jesus and the Victory of God’ and ‘Roots’

Two adult Christian Formation classes begin September 8.

“Jesus and the Victory of God” is a year-long study of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that will be taught by Dwight Nelson, Don Robinson, Tom Moser, Randall Wilkens, Amy Muia, Ken Wagner and Elizabeth Weston. The Bible study class will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

The fall quarter begins with “Jesus, the Prophet Mighty in

Word and Deed,” who proclaims “repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Dwight will cover that theme during the month of September.

On October 6 and 13, Don will help us explore the “Parables of the Kingdom.” Then Tom Moser will lead a study of the Gospel of Mark from October 20-November 24. Mark writes about Jesus as God’s Servant who came as a ransom for many. The focus is on his identity and authority starting with John

the Baptist and ending with the resurrection.

From December 1-22, we will study “The birth of Jesus in Hymn, Pageant and Scripture,” singing Christmas carols together and reading the accounts in Luke and Matthew.

A second class is called “Roots,” and will be taught by Pastor Brad Bergfalk.

You’ve heard it said, “we’ve got to get to the root of the problem.” When someone says this, they are referring to addressing an issue below the surface that may be creating a negative outcome somewhere else.

In Psalm 1, the Psalmist describes a healthy person as being like a tree planted by streams of water whose roots are

well nourished.

Pastor Brad will introduce a series of sermons on the basics of Christian faith to help us pay attention to our roots. We will look at some of the basic components of Christian faith that encourage us to connect with God, the church, and our purpose.

In addition to the sermon series, he will lead a small group during our Christian Formation hour so that we can explore in greater detail the characteristics of a “rooted” faith.

This class will be limited to ten people. If you are interested in joining the rooted group, please send a note to Mariah at Bethanyreceptionist@bccmv.org. The first ten people to sign up will be included in our rooted experience.

CISNEROS, from previous page

here’s another one. Peter and Harrison Ford were both born at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago. They also share the same birthday – July 13.

Lincoln and William were also born at Swedish Covenant. In 2013, when William was just three months old, Peter and Tricia decided to move to their current home in Burlington. The move meant “free day care,” thanks to Tricia’s family and siblings. More significantly, the couple desired a simpler life. They had grown weary of their 45-minute, commutes each way to work while trying to manage family life.

“Less traffic and less chaos,” said Tricia. “Chicago is not where we wanted to raise our kids.”

The Cisneros’ initially tried Community Covenant in Clear Lake, thinking the smaller congregation would more resemble Peter’s church upbringing in rural towns, and Tricia’s experience in Christian Reformed churches. But the couple preferred the kids’ programs at Bethany Covenant.

“We walked in (to Bethany) and said ‘this makes sense for our kids,’” said Tricia. “This is it.”

Tricia fairly early on joined the Leadership Team, using the skills she had learned at Covenant Headquarters to rewrite the constitution when Bethany shifted from an Executive Board to a Leadership Team model. Kent Egging was the senior pastor.

“I told Kent, ‘please don’t ask me to volunteer in the youth group. I’m not interested in other people’s children. But if you need things rewritten, that’s what I’m good at,’” said Tricia, who also served for six years on the Pacific Northwest Conference Executive Board.

Peter, a big fan of “The Beatles” and other British pop groups growing up, played



Peter with William, named for William Clark of the Lewis and Clark explorers.



Tricia with Lincoln, named for Abraham Lincoln, our nation’s 16th president.

in several bands in the Midwest. You now see him on Sundays playing guitar in the worship band. Peter is also in his second year on the Diaconate. Tricia is a “greeter” the first Sunday of the month. William helps in the nursery, and Lincoln helps the Fellowship Team serve coffee and cookies after church one Sunday a month.

Tricia works in commercial real estate. She is an executive assistant with Learned Commercial, Inc. in Burlington, a job that suits her strengths.

Peter at first worked for a photocopy firm in the area, but quit in 2016 to take on jobs

at Target and the thrift store Bargains Galore until he could find a permanent job. The thrift store job was an entry-level position, working the back door of the facility for when people dropped off donations.

“I hadn’t done manual labor for a while,” Peter said. “I would come home drenched in sweat. Eventually, they kept asking me to do more, and in the spring of 2017 a couple board members approached me about running the store.”

Peter is now the chief operations officer of Bargains Galore, which has flourished under his leadership. He supervises 20-25 employees, and just as many volunteers. Bethany’s Bonnies – Bonnie Wilkens and Bonnie Van Duyn work there – the latter as a volunteer. His social media posts promoting the Mount Vernon store are creative.

“It’s got its challenges,” said Peter. “It was hard getting through COVID. I became part-time therapist, watching people cry. But overall, it’s fun.”

And that’s where Tricia chimes in. “His dad was a pastor, and he (Peter) never felt called to ministry in that capacity,” she said. “But I feel like Bargains has been his own version of ministry. He’s hired high-school students who have never had a job before, people with some real mental health issues that he has supported and helped. He’s had people from New Earth Recovery who have been employees there. He has reached groups of people that other places would probably not have kept employed as long, or been willing to teach. He has created a safe space and fun space where people want to stay.”

The local girl from the Christian Reformed church and the boy from the Covenant church in Kansas, meeting in Chicago, of all places.

Together – with their different skill sets and God-given talents – they have made quite a team.

PIPE DREAMS

Pastor Randall has always wanted to play some of the grandest pipe organs in Europe. With his ministry renewal, he will now get that chance.

By Rick Lund

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Kid in a candy store. Over the moon. In seventh heaven.

Pick your cliché, and that gives you just a glimpse of the thrill Randall Wilkens is sure to experience when he fulfills his long-held dream to play some of the grandest pipe organs in Europe.

Randall will visit three historic organs at churches in France and the Netherlands during his Ministry Renewal Leave, which will run from August 19-September 30. Several months ago, he received assurance he will get to play at least two of the famous organs.

Randall remembers as a college student studying organ that his professors would return from trips to Europe with animated reports of the organs they played. Now he gets to experience that.

“They were as excited as we’d ever seen them get, as they showed us photos and described the amazing experience of playing the same keys and hearing the same sounds that our favorite organ composers played and heard,” Randall said. “It was like bringing them back to life. I always said I’d go play some of these organs someday. Finally, I’m doing it!”

We recently lost former

Senior Pastor Kent Egging to Oregon. We’re losing our Associate Pastor of Worship and Arts for a few weeks to, ahem, Organ. The good news is Randall is coming back.

The first stop on Randall’s “Organ Trail” is the Cliquot Organ at Saint-Gervais in Paris. The instrument is the prime surviving example of a 17th century French classic organ, in the church where Francois Couperin was organist. Randall did his doctoral dissertation on Couperin’s music. Randall and wife

Bonnie will visit Saint-Gervais on September 6, and later that evening pay a visit to the Eiffel Tower.

Two days later, the Wilkens’ will visit the Organ of Saint-Sulpice, also in Paris. This organ was built in 1862 by the monumental French organ maker Aristide Cavaillé-Coll, whose instruments were the prototype for the sound of our organ at Bethany.

Randall is looking forward to hanging out in the organ loft during a service with one of Saint-Sulpice’s current organists, Karol Mossakowski, who himself is a world-famous organist. This is the one organ Randall may not



The pipe Organ of Saint-Sulpice in Paris was built in 1862 by French organ maker Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. His instruments were the prototype for the sound of our organ at Bethany. Charles-Marie Widor – of the famous “Widor Toccata” – and Marcel Dupré were organists at Saint Sulpice. (photo by Randall Wilkens)

get to play. He was told playing time on the instrument is limited in the summer because of the effects of the heat. But because Paris has had a relatively mild summer, he remains hopeful.

On September 10, Randall and Bonnie will travel by train from Paris to Haarlem, Netherlands. Haarlem is the home to the Organ of Saint-Bavokerk, arguably the most famous organ in the world. This instrument was built by Christian Müller in 1738, and played by Handel, Mozart and Mendelssohn, and is similar to the finest organs Bach played.

St. Bavo’s, as it is more commonly called, was also Corrie Ten Boom’s home church. Randall is very excited that he has been promised two hours to play this organ.

As grand as the organs are, Randall knows they merely point to the God who is glorified by the music they create.

“After all, these aren’t just organs,” Randall said. “They

reside in houses of worship where for centuries God was and still is worshiped through the music of these grand instruments. That makes visiting them all the more meaningful.”

After taking some personal time off, Randall and Bonnie on September 4 will fly from Vancouver, B.C. to Paris, arriving in the “City of Light” just three weeks after it hosted the Summer Olympic Games. Bonnie will fly back on September 15, but Randall will stay on another week at the Taizé Community in Taizé, France. Bonnie and Randall together attended the Taizé sessions in 2015. Randall will fly back to Vancouver on September 23, then complete his Ministry Renewal Leave with a week of rest.

Part of the trip is being paid for by the Covenant denomination. Randall was awarded a matching, sabbatical grant from the Covenant in partnership with Bethany to help with expenses.

Two months 'outside'

By Ken Wagner

As I write this, Rueben has been out of prison for two months and one week. After years "inside," he is finally out! The OPOP team members have made dozens of trips to Bridges of Hope, the Christian group home in Lynden, where Rueben now lives. Since his release, he's gotten a cell phone to talk and text with family and team members, an email address, and so much more.

As most of you know, Rueben has been prohibited by the Department of Corrections (DOC) from living in or even passing through Skagit County without prior DOC approval. But he has worked to deal with prior infractions that caused him to have a suspended driver's license, complied with and met



Rueben now has a roofing job.

weekly with his Bellingham-based Community Corrections Officer (CCO, or what we used to call "parole officer"), and is viewed by his CCO as a model

parolee. In less than two months, he has gotten his driver's license restored, developed payment plans for prior infractions, deepened relationships with his mother, sister, and daughter, and endeared himself to the pastor and members of the church next door to the group home.

In addition, one of the board members of Bridges of Hope has a roofing company, and heard Rueben speaking with the Mexican workers in one of his crews. He asked Rueben if he was "literate" in Spanish, which Rueben is. That encounter resulted in a job for Rueben. The owner has Rueben doing residential and commercial roofing, and is grooming Rueben to become his safety compliance person to train Spanish-speaking workers on safety procedures. Rueben's driver's license

restoration also enables him to drive work trucks for his job. Roofing is hard work, but Rueben is growing, and those of us on the OPOP team have had the opportunity to witness God working in and through Rueben, and the Holy Spirit changing Rueben from the inside out.

Rueben still has significant challenges ahead. Our team is now learning about "LFO's," or legal financial obligations. In addition to serving time for one's crimes, the state of Washington imposes fines—huge fines—six figure, soul crushing fines. But we are working with Underground Ministries and Skagit Legal Aid. We are trusting God to complete the work He has begun in Rueben's life. When I was with Rueben recently, he wanted to make sure I thanked Bethany for their prayers and care for him. Rueben is grateful for Bethany and the OPOP team who he calls his "Familia," and is looking forward to the day when he can come and worship with us.

Confessions of a 'Covenant Junkie': Ten reasons why I'm glad I went to the annual meeting

By Jo Wolfe

The 138th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church was held June 27-29 in Covington, Kentucky.

"The Annual Meeting is where official denominational business is conducted; the reports given, discussions conducted, and decisions made set the course for the employees, ministers, boards, churches, conferences, and affiliate organizations of the Covenant. This year's theme was "Faithfully Forward," drawn from hallmarks of the first-century church in Acts 2—teaching, fellowship, generosity, and prayer."

—from *Covenant Communications*

For those of you who don't know me, here is a little history. I began attending Hillcrest Covenant Church in Lake Stevens when I was 2 years old! It wasn't even a church

yet—a Sunday School. A man in our neighborhood drove a bus around picking up children each Sunday. I used to say I started in 'Cradle Roll', but my sister (who is 11 years older than me) said that she was 13, so I was 2—no Cradle Roll!

Hillcrest became South Lake Stevens Covenant when I was in junior high school. I lived in Oregon for a few years and attended Tigard Covenant. After Lake Stevens church closed, I went to First Covenant in Everett. OK—I've been a Covenanter for a long time!

When I moved to Skagit County, I knew I would attend Bethany! I have a lot of good friends here who I met through Covenant connections—mainly Circle C Ranch!

I can't count the number of Covenant Annual Meetings I have attended. Gary Walter—a former leader in the denomination—referred to people like me as 'Covenant

Junkies'! I love the Cov!

The annual meeting is like a family reunion and business meeting all rolled in to one. If given the opportunity, I would encourage everyone to attend one in person!

Ten reasons I'm glad I went to the Covenant Annual Meeting 2024—in no particular order:

1 Seeing old, dear friends—and making new friends from all over the country.

2 Celebrating the ordination of new pastors—Like Rev. Becca Worl!

3 Honoring those who are completing their ministry—like Karen and Carl Groot retiring after long service in Thailand.

4 Being a part of discussing and approving (or not!) things like budget, hiring of new employees, and electing leaders who will lead our denomination in the next steps.

5 Opportunity to learn more about the amazing things our denomination is doing around the world.

6 Visit the displays of all the ministries in the Covenant—everything from National Covenant Properties to Covenant Publications.

7 Stepping outside of my comfort zone—forcing this introverted extrovert to pray with a stranger!

8 Participating in powerful worship, hearing from incredible speakers like Rev. Howard Burgoyne, Rev. Dani Flores and Rev. Susie Gamez.

9 Mourning the passing of pastors and leaders who have touched my life.

10 Continuing the discussion of challenging issues that face our churches and denomination—including restructuring of upper level administration and financial challenges.

KINGDOM BUILDERS



The group prays over a student outside the arena at San Diego State University after an evening session.

Continued from the cover

Unite co-leader Amber Schubert. “Each person had to commit to completing the challenge prior to opening the envelope, or seeing what their challenge is.”

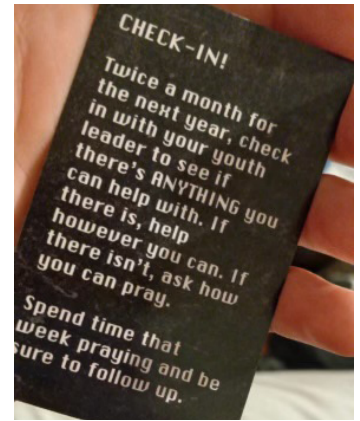
Examples of cards opened by students in our youth group included a challenge to start a Bible study in their church or school. Another was fasting once a month for a year. The student charged with fasting took that one on a couple weeks after the conference. The other members of our youth group prayed for him that day. The leaders were also given Kingdom Worker cards.

Unite West, which for decades was known as “CHIC” and has been held for the most part every three years, deeply impacted the group. Three students made first-time commitments, and six others recommitted their relationships to Jesus.

The youth group shared their experiences at Unite West in a video at the July 28 Sunday morning “youth service” that highlighted the July 15-19 gathering. While some students were a part of the worship team,



Above, Jarod Cooley with Claire Duley, Rylee Sakuma and “fun and games” emcee Aubri. They would be a part of Bethany’s entry in a Christmas skit contest. Selah Weston, left, sings a solo as a part of the group’s performance of “Do you want to build a snowman?”



The “check in” portion of what a Kingdom Worker card looks like.

six more wearing their “Unite West” t-shirts were locked arm in arm in the front row, belting out the lyrics to the praise song “I Thank God” as the service drew to a close.

“I felt the presence of God for the first time in my life,” said Braeden Jimmicum, matter-of-factly, just moments after the service. “The message was God will always be there for you, no matter how much you mess up. That touched me. That concept had always been hard for me to grasp. But hearing that message with a thousand different people, it hit me different.”

Said Claire Duley in the prepared video at the July 28 service: “It was so powerful to see so many people changing and choosing Jesus, and see them get all emotional about it and praying for those people. It was just really cool to go through that, and it was good for my faith.”

The group opted to stay an extra night, the day the conference ended. They rented a house on nearby Coronado Island, in part, to “process” what they had learned. The group also bonded with some play time up the coast on the beach at La Jolla.

“We got to watch them pray for each other and lay hands on each other, and really start to work as a team as we gathered the last night to share and read our Kingdom Worker cards,” said co-leader Jarod Cooley.

For those of us in the congregation who attended CHIC in years past, the students who attended Unite West face

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challenges we didn't have.

Social media, which magnifies the tendency to "compare" our lives with others, is just one example. Unhealthy doses of social media among teens can distract from homework, exercise, family activities and lead to depression. The pressure "to perform" in today's culture – whether it be in the classroom or on the sports field – has perhaps never been greater.

At Unite West, students learned to lay down their burdens and distractions, discovering that true rest can only be found in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Relying on God's strength, not our own, resonated with Sam Duley. He saw the familiar passage in Matthew 11:30 – My yoke is easy, and my burden is light – in a new light.

"On the screen the preacher showed a picture of two cows and a yoke, and I've always thought of that passage as Jesus is up in the cab, he's the one driving everything," said Sam. "But the preacher said Jesus is right here beside you, he's helping you, that the yoke is a device that when one cow isn't as strong, when one cow isn't doing as well as the other one, it (the yoke) shares their strength and basically Jesus will help you with whatever you're going through. That was a really cool analogy, I've never seen or thought about it that way."

Paul and Britta Burger, who served on Bethany's pastoral staff from 2013-2021 and are currently co-pastors at Newport Covenant in Bellevue, served as "campus pastors." In addition to their speaking and teaching roles in the morning sessions, the two were available for prayer and conversation. The afternoons were free for fun games and other activities, and then more speakers and worship music in the evenings.

Said Brendan Ellis: "It was fun and serious. It was a mix of everything I thought it would be."

When the group left Unite West, they also returned home a united front. Students and leaders grew closer together through the experience.

"I just really enjoyed being



A worship band performs on the main stage during an evening session at Unite West on the campus of San Diego State University.



The group spent their last night in San Diego in prayer and "processing" their experience at Unite West.

able to pray for other people, knowing I could be there for others and support them in their feelings," said Emmalin Goodman. "We all bonded (as a group) closer. Myself, Claire and Riley (Sakuma), we would walk with each other and talk about life."

The life that is truly now the "Rest of their Lives," as the daily walk with Jesus continues ... with Kingdom Worker cards in hand.

Left to right, Zadek Scholz, Dylan Malyon, Braeden Jimmicum, Sam Duley, Claire Duley and Emmalin Goodman sing a praise song at the July 28 "youth service" at Bethany.



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GENEROSITY,

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through it all, the incredible generosity of the congregation shone through.

After the Leadership Team delivered difficult budget news during the summer business meeting, church members responded by stepping up their giving. Offerings in June were only \$1,150 below the \$76,000 of giving budgeted for the month. This positive trend slowed the church's giving deficit, which increased from \$82,624 in May to \$87,610 to finish out the fiscal year. Giving for FY23 totaled \$860,614.23. While total giving for the fiscal year was far below the \$936,000 budgeted for FY23, the outcome confirmed that the FY24 budget should likely be decreased by at least \$100,000 by December. Expenses for the fiscal year were \$946,578.14, which was within \$10,582.14 of the \$935,996 budgeted.

The Leadership Team has held numerous lengthy meetings

to carefully weigh contingency options for a mid-year budget amendment in December. A vote on that plan is expected within the next few months. The Leadership Team also respectfully reminds BCC Staff and other leaders to closely monitor their spending to ensure that expenses stay within budgeted parameters.

Rounding out FY23, the church held \$127,708 in working cash (still gradually sliding down from \$135,038 in May and \$149,565 in April), \$215,905 in designated funds, and \$75,025 in Emergency Funds. Continued giving to the church's General Fund as part of ordinary tithing will help to stymie erosion of BCC's working cash in the coming fiscal year.

This Treasurer and the BCC Stewardship Team continue to see God working through the generous people of this church. This is not the time to grow weary! Let's keep working together on God's good work. The harvest is coming soon.

FINANCES

CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 8:** Rally Sunday during Christian Formation hour.
- 11:** Wednesday night dinners start.
- 14:** Congregational visioning session led by Alan Muia and Nate Scholz, 9 a.m.-noon, Fellowship Hall.
- 15:** Ministry Fair after church.
- 19:** Thursday "Toddler Time" starts 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- 20-22:** Pacific Northwest Conference Women's Retreat @ Cascades Camp.
- 29:** Love Mercy, Do Justice Class, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 6:** Bilingual Service.
- 18:** Illuminate Workshop, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
- 19:** Illuminate Workshop, 9 a.m.-noon.
- 20:** Q & A Rev. Dori Brown during Christian Formation hour.
 - Taizé service, 6 p.m.
- 27:** Baby dedication during morning service; Love Mercy, Do Justice Class, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

- 30:** Next Step/New Member Class, 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 3:** Hymn Sing Fundraiser, 4 p.m.
- 7-10:** Pacific Northwest Conference Journey to Mosaic.
- 10:** Healing prayer service, 3 p.m.
- 17:** Baroque Vespers, 6 p.m.
- 24:** Love Mercy, Do Justice Class, 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- 27:** Thanksgiving Eve service with pie.

DECEMBER

- 6:** Noel Concert, 7 p.m.
- 8:** Bi-annual congregational meeting, noon.
- 13:** Christmas Musical, 7 p.m.
- 15:** Christmas Musical, 4 p.m.
- 22:** Singing of Lyssna during the morning service.
- 24:** Christmas Eve Service Family service, 5 p.m.; Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service, 7 p.m.

Events online: Check our website for upcoming events at www.bccmv.org