

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE – PART FOUR, by Raymond E. Balcomb and Robert W. Burtner© (used by permission).

Women preachers have been an important part of Oregon and Idaho Methodism. Some revivalist preachers were women and over the years the conference (and its predecessors) have had many women who were “supply” pastors serving local congregations, some of whom had what was termed a “local Ordination.” The Idaho conference received its first woman, Grace Weaver, into full connection in 1956.

The Oregon Conference received its first woman, Ernestine Hitchcock, into full connection in 1960. In 1997 the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference was among the top 11 conferences with the highest percentage of women clergy (21.3% compared with the national average of 15.2%).

The style and content of preaching in Methodist churches in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference has evolved in many forms. The circuit riders and itinerant preachers preached a message aimed at the sinner to repent and be converted. Thomas Pearne, the longtime editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate wrote in his memoirs that Methodist preaching in Oregon stressed the guilt and danger of sinners. Humor and sentiment were common in preaching. It was said that a Methodist preacher judged his (there were no ordained women among the circuit riders) sermon by the number of people weeping, and thus ready to seek a new life. It took the pragmatism of an Oregon preacher, however, to remind his readers that it is not best to keep penitent people kneeling too long because they might “forget the sorrow of a broken heart by feeling the tortures of painful knees.”

The style and content of Methodist preaching gradually evolved from preaching for a conversion, and preaching the moral and good life, to preaching toward problems and issues facing the lives of people. Many preachers today use the Revised Common Lectionary as the basis for sermons.

Issues that the Oregon-Idaho Conf. has dealt with have varied from how to keep the many schools and academies afloat financially, how to increase membership in the conference, how to increase the life of the Spirit among Methodists, and how best to organize themselves for effective ministry. Over the years, the Conference recognized the importance of camping experiences for young people. A camping program using several camp and retreat sites in both states has been developed that is currently one of the finest in United Methodism.

Many social issues have concerned the conference through the years. The internment of Americans on the west coast at the outset of World War II was denounced by several Methodist clergy who brought the issue to the conference. A couple of them paid a severe price for their advocacy of justice for the Japanese-American people. Various forms of pacifism were advocated in conference debates during World War II, culminating in official censure of Willamette University for its acceptance of an Air R.O.T.C. training program on the campus. At the end of the twentieth century, the liveliest debates were on issues surrounding homosexuality. (continued inside, 4th column)

Methodist Dimensions

RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

208-436-3354

FEEDING MIND, BODY, SOUL

Volume VI - Issue VIII

August 2018



Creation vs Science
Rev. David Madden

How can we believe in both creation and science? We need to understand that both science and faith are necessary for wisdom in this modern world, and belief in one does not necessitate the rejection of the other. Science is concerned with asking questions in order to get data and find answers. But, life is about more than the physical processes of our world, and true life comes by faith in God. And faith is a huge step for some scientist and all atheists. If they can't touch it, taste it, smell it, or see it on YouTube. It simply does not exist for them.

Science can help us understand the building blocks of the universe, but science cannot tell us why it was created or who might have created it, only faith can do that. Some scientists say that the big bang just happened. My question to them is who started the big bang?

Having said all that, Brothers as Sisters, we need science. Science has provided us with antibiotics and computers. Science provides us with airplanes and cell phones, and consistence medical breakthroughs. Would we want a world without science? My answer is no. Who wants to live in a world with no scientists and no engineers? No one would be researching and inventing anything. We would just be standing around looking at each other wondering why life is hard. On the other hand, would we want a world without religion or faith? Again, my answer is no.

Faith tells us that we are made in the image of God and that we are valuable, our lives have meaning, and that God loves us. Faith tells us that life does exist after death and this gives us peace of mind and security. So, how can we believe in both science and creation? My answer to that question is called intelligent design.

Everything has a beginning. Everything in the universe is created, and it takes something to begin the creation process. I believe that God is the intelligent designer. I believe that God created and started the big bang. I also believe that God continues to create today. Amen

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
RUPERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
605 H STREET - RUPERT
FRONT LAWN AREA
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 - 6:00 P.M.

SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM/CAKE
GREAT LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
THE VARIATIONS &
ALAN HALE @ THE PLANO

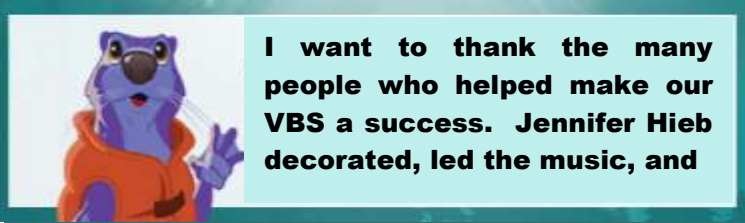
United Methodist Church
605 H Street
P. O. Box 804
Rupert, ID 83350
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 14

Radio Station KUMC LP 101.7 FM owned and operated by the Rupert UMC
Listen to live broadcast of Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m.
Service re-broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays
Access Sunday sermons and special music at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/RUMC83350>

Office
605 H St. - P. O. Box 804
Rupert, ID 83350
208.436.3354
umcluv@cablone.net
<http://rupertidumc.org>

Office Hours: Mon, Tues,
Wed., 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Food Pantry: Mon. & Wed.,
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Rev. David Madden is in the
office on Mon. thru Thurs.
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by
appointment. 436-3354
pastordavid@cablone.net



I want to thank the many people who helped make our VBS a success. Jennifer Hieb decorated, led the music, and

led the recreation activities, and planned the Sunday program. Terri Bruns decorated and told two of our stories. Kris Somsen and Sara Somsen-Fowler planned fun crafts. John Eilers was our science guy. Mary and Jack Zarybnisky, Lauren Tully, Michelle Johnson, Michelle Skaggs, Tully Munden, and Chris Paulson helped guide our kids from station to station. Trish Munden was our official photographer. Peggy Gulbranson was our puppeteer, and told one of our stories. Leanna Bruns and Peggy Hess prepared our snacks, and each told one of our stories. Barbara Rodgers, Sherrie Maloney, and Marion Weickum manned the registration table each day. I can't forget Sharon Crowe and Bryan Bruns for the extra work they had with a building full of children for a week, and Pastor David for his inspiration and offers of help. Thank you, too, to the congregation for supplying the things we needed for our snacks. You are all wonderful! Thanks! Nanette



VBS program during worship, Sunday, Aug. 8

The 2018 Mission Service Award presented locally by the United Methodist Women was awarded to Cliff Hieb on Sunday, Aug. 8th. Cliff is very generous with his time and talents for the Rupert UMC, and certainly deserves this award. Thanks, Cliff for all that you do.



Cliff Hieb receiving a Mission award from UMW President, Kris Somsen



Tori Bailes, daughter of Tony & Ruth Bailes, was presented the Girl Scouts, "God and Church" award on Sunday, July 8th.

The purpose of this award:
 To strengthen young people's relationship with Christ.
 To challenge young people to learn about and participate in the worship and ministry of the church.
 To have young people make a plan for daily Bible reading and memorize a creed or statement of belief or passage of scripture.
 To provide the opportunity for young people to experience the joy of serving others.
 Congratulations, Tori, You are an extraordinary young women.



Rev. Madden presenting Tori Bailes her God and Church award.



This year the Annual Rupert Methodist Camp Auction once again raised money for the camp fund which allows us to promote Sawtooth camping. Your generous contributions allowed the camp committee to approve camperships to sponsor Cameron Herbst, Kaitlyn Herbst, Martin Hernandez, Joey Yelton, DJ Duncan and Ashlyn Hieb as they attend camp. The \$1600 allocated for scholarships is an investment, not only in camping but the spirit as well. Please look forward to hearing about the adventures of these youth as they return from their camps this summer. Especially be on the lookout for a report from the camper who is seeking "fun for once" - try to guess who that might be. ☺



In the interest of saving a bit of money on paper, ink and stamps, the finance secretary & finance manager have made the decision not to send out mid-year donation records.

If you would like to receive your donation record at this time, please call Terri Bruns (208-436-3932), or the office (208-436-3354). We will send you a copy.



Time to begin planning Family Camp
 Aug. 31 thru Sept. 3
 Ask Terri Bruns about application forms
 208-436-3932
 Camp Team meets, Sunday Aug. 5th to plan meals - and
 Sunday, Aug. 26, the Camp Team meets with families going to camp.

(continued from back page - OR-ID Conf.)

Two preachers from this Annual Conference have been elected to the episcopacy. The first was Bruce R. Baxter, who was president of Willamette University when he was elected in 1940. The second person was Minerva Caracaño, who was serving as the superintendent of the Metropolitan District when she was elected by the Jurisdictional Conference in 2004.

What of the future? According to Shakespeare, "the past is prologue." But prologue to what? It is not given to us to know. Perhaps what we can be most sure of was summed up by a historian of Oregon Methodism, Robert Peters (a retired member of the Conference);

"This conference has had to think of the plodding task, the often disappointed task of seeing that we're not living in the glory days. Our glory, as a matter of fact, is not in spectacular achievement. It is rather in being faithful to the witness, to the word of hope. . . God called us to this place when it was a rustic frontier to remind each Indian, each settler, that God cared what happened here, how we live with our lives and how we built our society. And that God does not leave us alone ever, wherever we may be in seeking to be faithful."

That's our task. It's ever been our task, and it shall be our task on into our future.

(Note: I hope you have enjoyed this interesting history of the Oregon-Idaho Conf. - I was told by Rev. Pam Meese that when the Methodist & Episcopal churches began establishing church's up and down the coast of Oregon, they agreed not to have both denominations in the same town, and that is why the Methodist church is only found in every other town along the coast. Sort of like we'll take the even numbers, you take all the odd.)

