

The Broadcaster

100th Anniversary Edition

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church



A Message on the Occasion of Our 100th Anniversary:

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church today is celebrating her 100th Anniversary, on a Sunday closest to our charter date of July 9, 1909. Our motto: “Blessed By the Past, Promise For the Future” reminds us that while looking back, we need to also be looking forward.

The Rev. Paul C. Johnston preached, “in our heritage we discover our destiny.” The past is prelude, in each of our lives to be sure, but certainly in our life together. And your past in this place may represent decades, a few years, or even more recent than that. It may make no difference in this moment, but may to some in every moment. In our heritage we discover our destiny, and so we will spend this season with greater or lesser emphasis, looking over our shoulders in order that we may look to the horizon, where God is calling each one of us, and more so together as a body in Christ, where the journey might continue with faithfulness and joy.

We stand on the shoulders of giants. I am grateful for their ministry and their stewardship of a certain legacy, for their gifts and for their shortcomings. But as we all know, a church is so much more than its ministers, and this story is about people – saints and pioneers whose gifts of energy, intelligence, imagination and love leave us filled with the song of gratitude.

Our predecessors did grand things on grand stages – they made sure the mentally challenged were included in Sunday School and worship. They made sure that our youth were taught the truth about sex. They were peacemakers, tying a large ribbon around the building, writing letters to politicians about hunger and food issues, and building houses that would become homes. They fought for women’s rights, battled racism, showed concern about the elderly, the hungry and farm workers. They wanted to be a more inclusive congregation making the image of the Great Banquet a reality where all people regardless of our human-imposed barriers are welcome to sit at the table. And they did modest things on modest stages – they gave birth and presented their beloved babies for baptism. They raised children, and grew up themselves. They discovered mates here. They served on committees – the Presbyterian way. They found jobs and lost jobs. They buried their parents and their children. They got old and got sick. And they died here, knowing fully the love of God, experiencing that love in the blessing of this community.

The Apostle Paul wrote to a fledgling group of followers almost 2000 years ago: “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . grace to you and peace.” Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann contends that the Bible is our script, and that as we read the script, together, in community, we add to its pages, we become scriptwriters even as we are the plot and the characters.

The ones who have gone before us have stood their watch, written their script, stewarded their legacy. The stage is empty now save for us, for our moment, our time. What myth shall we craft? What story shall we write? What symphony shall we compose?

**Blessed by the Past,
Promise for the Future**

BLESSED BY THE PAST:

The current Rose City Park Presbyterian Church building doesn't resemble its first wooden structure; men no longer wear only suits to worship and women rarely wear hats and gloves; we don't divide children's classes by gender; our church officers and ushers are women as well as men; our children worship with the whole congregation; we pass the peace each Sunday morning welcoming newcomers and old friends with handshakes and hugs; and we sing music with varied tempos and originating from many cultures accompanied by a newly-acquired organ with 80 virtual stops and 99 memory levels.

We have grown and changed as a congregation, but we love to hear about the past because it acknowledges that we are a part of the one story of Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. The Anniversary Committee asked members to submit written memories of church life. Following are excerpts from many of the submissions.

Getting to Church



The old front doors.

Dick Roberts remembers walking to church during World War I: "Gas rationing was an issue, and people walked when it was possible."

When **Ethel Rieken** moved to Portland in

1947, she looked up the closest Presbyterian Church and walked the nine blocks to attend.

When **Marcia and Jim Dennis** and their five young children moved into the house on 44th, the church across the street was an answer to prayer. "We were a little scared that Sunday, but we marched across Sandy for our first time at Rose City. It was raining and slippery inside the front door. 'Hang your coats downstairs,' we were told. I stepped on the first stair and tumbled all the way to the bottom, breaking my thumb. Everyone knew the seven of us had arrived."

Baptism

Carolyn Mauchley tells this story about her first husband Bob's family: "Each of the Day boys had attended Rose City and Bob's brother Chuck had hoped to have his little son, Tom, baptized at the church, but **Dr. MacCluer** and his family were on vacation. So the extended family headed to the cabin on Still Creek near Zig Zag. While hiking up the creek path, the family noticed smoke coming out of the chimney of the MacCluer cabin. They stopped to talk and the subject of baptism was mentioned. Dr. MacCluer suggested that this was the perfect time and place. He filled a lovely antique sugar bowl of pink

depression glass with cool water from the stream. And there, in a sanctuary of sunlight shimmering through the vine maples and onto the sparkling waters of the stream, he baptized Thomas Loren Day."

Ruth Behrendt's earliest memory "was being baptized by immersion in the baptistery when I was around 12 years old. The church which I attended didn't have one, so we borrowed Rose City's when we needed it. I often wonder how many people are aware that there is a baptistery under the floor of the choir loft." [It's still there.]

Sunday School

Dick Roberts remembers when classes were divided between boys and girls.

Sally Haggart remembers the unruly sixth graders

Paul Howe taught

in the balcony of the old church. "Chairs were lifted up and down, with someone hiding under them or poking at the child in front with the point of a shoe, all the while he strived to instill Christian virtues and love for mankind."

Stan Wheeler writes, "there were two rooms in the tower which were used for classrooms. **Dr. Luther Nelson** had his class in the top floor, and the boys kept moving their chairs around, making it difficult for him to teach the lesson of the day. During the following week, Dr. Nelson bolted all the chairs to the floor. The next Sunday he had their undivided attention." Sometimes teachers had to take drastic measures.

Graduating from one section of the church school to another was a big event. **Sally Haggart** recalls photographs of her class graduating from the Cradle Roll with "little girls in pink gowns and the boys in blue robes that covered scraped or bruised knees. There were even mortar boards balancing on our small heads with tassels hanging into our eyes."



Church school with teachers Della Perrin, Alice Gabriel and Catherine Collins.

Beverly Dale remembers another "moving up" day about **Catherine Collins**.

"Catherine realized the importance of Sunday School's "moving-up" day and wanted to walk her children to their new classes and help them



1930's Cradle Roll Graduation

SOME STORIES OF THE PEOPLE

get comfortable. Catherine was expecting her fourth child, but she made her way to the church ignoring a few pains. False labor, she wanted to believe; her babies never came on their due dates. Suffering greatly, Catherine depended on her stoic demeanor and God's will to make it through the day and back home, but she did not make it to the hospital. Andy was born at home. The following Sunday, **Dr. Shane** commended her dedication."

Bill Ardiss shared with **Karen Balmer** how he and his wife **Jerry** began teaching a church school class for the developmentally disabled, a class that provided important learning opportunities for many years.

David Bell remembers the importance of getting dressed properly for church in the 40's and 50's. "Both the worship services and the attire were much more formal than today. Even the boys wore suits, often with their shirt collars turned out over the coat collar."



The little church bank appears on Anniversary Sunday, 2009.

Celebrating birthdays in church school meant "dropping pennies for each year of age into the birthday bank shaped like our church," remembers **Sally Haggart**.

Catherine Collins remembers that "next door to the nursery and the three year olds was **Mrs. Brundage's** class for the mothers of the youngest group

(in case they cried for momma). From this group came teachers and leaders."

Marge and Jim Emery remember leaving a child in the nursery while they went to church. "It was a great place to meet other young families." They attended an adult couples Bible class taught by **Arthur Crookham**, and it was from that class that they were drafted to teach the 5th grade class.

Christmas Pageants

In the past pageants were extravagant and multi-generational. **David Bell** remembers **Arthur Crookham** reading in his sonorous voice the prophecies of the Messiah's



Christmas Program circa 1992.

birth from *Isaiah* while standing on the balcony just inside the side door. **Dick Roberts** grew up with the pageant, first as a little boy in a family, then a shepherd and later, a wise man.

Barbara Crookham Euler recalls this pageant story. "After Thanksgiving it was tradition to begin planning for the pageant. We had a big Sunday school, and everyone looked forward to participating in some way: costumes, music, speaking parts, staging, lighting. My husband, **H.M. (Marce) Euler** was Joseph for several years. Mary was always a senior high school girl. It was a high honor to be chosen. The third grade girls came into their own as the Heavenly Host, wearing gold tinsel circlets on their heads and starched tulle wings more or less secured by a harness around the chest and shoulders. The boys were all shepherds, wearing an assortment of bathrobes. For several years **Arnie Gabriel** played the innkeeper hidden behind a door. When Joseph loudly knocked on the door demanding accommodations for himself and Mary, Arnie hissed loudly: 'No, there's no room. And by the way, how come you are here again and every year with another pregnant woman?'"

Fellowship



S.S. Sternwheeler Mariners serving ice cream.

Gretchen Gubert remembers **Marla Clark's Supper Club**. "On Wednesday evenings kids and their friends would gather in the fellowship hall where group games broke the ice and set the tone for the rest of the evening. We enjoyed wonderful meals prepared by **Kay West** who made some of the best casseroles I've ever eaten (sorry, Mom). When it was time for supper, there were lots of rules about how to sit down together at each table, who was to serve, and which way to pass the food, but the rules were presented in such a fun way that no one realized that they were actually being taught table manners. I have lasting memories of fun and silliness, but also of life lessons – about sharing, acceptance of other's differences,

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Barbara Crookham Euler and
Rev. David Dornack.

BLESSED BY THE PAST: THE LITTLE PUMP ORGAN

“In Junior Church we sang songs led by Miss Irie Welch, accompanied by the little old pump organ,” recalls long-time member Sally Haggart. The organ, which was acquired prior to 1922, was used in children’s worship until teachers became tired of pumping it and held teas to raise money to purchase a piano. Falling into disrepair, the organ was restored and again used in the 1950’s when Barbara Crookham Euler would play it to accompany children’s hymn and carol singing.

For the last several decades the pump organ was unusable and fell silent. In recognition of our blessed past and in honor of our 100th Anniversary, Barbara Euler graciously donated money to restore the pump organ so that it can be played again and enjoyed by new generations of children.

During the 100th Anniversary Program, Rev. David Dornack played on the restored organ a medley of old-time hymns juxtaposed with a bit of Scott Joplin. Arranger and current church organist, Sarah S. Shay, accompanied David on the piano.

HISTORY RECAP

During the Anniversary Program, Rev. David Dornack gave an entertaining overview of the past 25 years, gleaned from Session minutes. Here are excerpts:

Dr. Shane passes away in 1984. The Session supports reproductive choice for women. Virginia the organist resigns. Remember her? She played the avant garde *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. A young upstart, Ralph Nelson becomes the organist of the mighty Wurlitzer.

Rev. Patten and the Session spend several meetings discussing their opposition to the proposed Topless Juice Bars. Meanwhile, Barbara Shibley recommends a study of the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry Report. While Bob is off dealing with juice issues, the church is wrapped with a Peace Ribbon.

Betty Greer is a delegate to the General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN. She will later become moderator of our Presbytery. We have supported several women in their work toward becoming Ministers of Word and Sacrament: Sally Balmer, Martha Wilson, Anitra Kitts-Rasmussen, and now Amanda Golbek.

Peg Vance retires – Glenda McKibben arrives.

It’s raining outside and inside in 1990...we need a new roof. Maybe we can sell the Rollins House – sale delayed...call Rep. Ron Wyden. While we wait to do our building we get involved with Habitat For Humanity.

WOW! Bicentennial Funds exceed \$80,000.00!!!!!!

May 1991, Rev. Patten is hospitalized. What will we do? John Harland and Barbara Shibley have everything under control. We need someone to direct the Bell Choir... Glenda does it. Romalia will do church school music...we looked for a long time. John Harland breaks his leg. What will we do? Barbara Shibley has everything under control.

In 1992, the Session reaffirms its stance on Reproductive Choice. Church members march against ballot measure #9. Here we go...we are discussing the ordination of gay and lesbian persons.

September 1994 – the elevator is installed. And people say, “Your elevator doesn’t go to the top floor.” Are we to take that personally? In 1995 Worship and Arts meets with Eleanor Van De Water. \$5,000 for the work hanging above the narthex entrance. Then Eleanor creates the dossal. It’s 10’ x 12’ and it’s a steal at \$12,000.

After 26 ½ years Bob Patten announces his retirement. There are jokes, but hugs and tears as well. Board of Deacons reorganizes. We commence with the roof repair.

We adopt the following statement which then is sent to all congregation members, all sessions in the Presbytery and to the Presbytery in February 1998: “We are committed to striving to be an inclusive people who encourage all to participate fully in the life of the church.”

The Pastor Nominating Committee is close to finishing its work. We are ready to introduce the congregation to our new pastor. And it all falls through. Here we go again. February 1999 – the PNC has a candidate to be introduced in April. Some guy from Iowa becomes our seventh pastor.

The New Century: We reconfigure our boards, reducing numbers and creating a unicameral system where the elders are also trustees.

We co-sponsor the Hollywood Farmers’ Market. Our

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Lining up for the start of the parade: (starting at front left, counter-clockwise) Emma, Dulce, Robin, Paige, Laura, Cameron, Josh, and Donovan.

JUNIOR ROSE PARADE ENTRY GARNERS BLUE RIBBON

To commemorate the role Irie Welch and her Hollywood Neighborhood parade played in the roots of the Junior Rose Parade we know today, Rev. David Dornack and Rev. Donovan Burkert-Kerr led a group of children and parents from the church through the June 4th parade. The church's entry was a little red wagon carrying a small-scale replica of the church tower, a long-time neighborhood landmark. The Gillooly family (Josh, Cameron, Emma, Paige and mother, Laura) and the Del Rio Family (Dulce, Robin and mother, Victoria) joined David and Donovan for the sunny walk down Sandy Boulevard, past the church and on to Grant Park. Our entry won the blue ribbon (on display near the church office) for the wagon category.



On the parade route: Josh and David (sporting the blue ribbon).



Dr. MacCluer and Irie Welch organized the neighborhood children to parade in early June, 1925. This ultimately was combined with other neighborhood parades into the Junior Rose Parade.

THANK YOU

The Anniversary Committee wishes to thank John Thoma and Kelly and Peter O'Hanley for their generosity in making Phil and Julie GebbenGreen's visit from Minnesota possible.

Thank you to the members of the Anniversary Committee for their dedication in organizing our 100th Anniversary: David Bell, Gail Black, Kathy Conklin, Karol Elmore (Co-Chair), Linda Knepper, Linda Reinhardt (Co-Chair), Ethel Rieken, David Dornack (staff), Glenda McKibben (staff), and Sarah Shay (staff).

Many people's work made our anniversary events possible. They are:

Greg Baker, Clara Baker, Greg and Karen Balmer, Rebecca Bauer, Jan Beaudoin, Nancy Boeh, Tony Conklin, Victoria Del Rio with Dulce and Robin, Laura Gillooly with Josh, Cameron, Emma and Paige, Diane Hanken, Rick and Karen Harlow, Peggie Irvine-Page, Wayne Knepper, Susan Price, Jerry Reinhardt, Doug and Cindy Robertson, Steven Witte, and church staff: Tori Amling, Donovan Burkert-Kerr, Roberto Del Rio, Jenni Hayden, Gerry Mohr, and Romalia Stickney-Shibley.

JULY 12, 2009: FESTIVE WORSHIP

Sunday, July 12th dawned overcast and mild – the perfect setting to keep congregants cool as more than 200 gathered for communion worship. The sanctuary, with the chancel draped with aqua bunting and graced by a new theme banner, looked crisp and inviting. The dorsal and stained glass windows, complemented by the aqua drape, took on renewed vitality.

Communion elements were carried by four of our 50-Year members: David Bell, Susan and Stan Blair, and Della Perrin.

Joining the Rose City Park Presbyterian program staff of Pastor David C. Dornack, Program Coordinator Donovan Burkert-Kerr, Director of Choirs Glenda L. McKibben, and Organist Sarah S. Shay were several former clergy and program staff.

Betty Greer, Christian Education Coordinator (1970-75) assisted with liturgy. The Revs. Phil GebbenGreen, Associate Pastor (2001-03), John Harland, Outreach & Calling Pastor (1991-94), Rex Parker, Assistant & Associate Pastor (1962-67),

Robert Patten, Associate Pastor & Pastor (1970-96), James Stewart, Assistant & Associate Pastor (1959-62), along with Barbara Shibley, Church Educator & Program Administrator (1981-2000) assisted in serving communion.

The Chancel Choir presented an anthem, *The Mountain of the Lord*, based on the Book of Micah and composed for the occasion by Sarah S. Shay. Former choir members and staff joined the chancel choir.



Donovan Burkert-Kerr during *Time with the Children*.



Betty Greer



Barbara and Gilbert Shibley



Julie and Phil GebbenGreen



Bob Patten and Ralph Nelson

and the love of God.”

Dave Bell recalls playing on the church’s basketball team in the 1950’s, after he’d been cut from Grant’s freshmen team by Coach **Hal Ellmers**. **Curt Smith**, **Sharon Howe**’s dad, coached the church team.

Carmen Holub shares how *Mariners* became a huge part of their church life as she and her husband **Dutch** helped organize a *ship*. Participation in fellowship often leads to roles in church governance as Dutch became a deacon and elder. Carmen says “we raised our children in the church and have considered it our home for many years.”

Ethel Rieken writes about attending *Spires*, a newly-formed group for college-age young people. Most of the young men had returned from their wartime duties and it became evident that the members of the group were becoming couples. “We enjoyed social functions, roller skating, and much to my joy, trips to Mt. Hood where I learned to ski. **Stan and Millie Wheeler** married, and I remember attending a party for the group in their new home.” **Dick Roberts**, also a member of *Spires*, shares that the group disbanded “because we all got married to each other. My wife, **Caroline** and I were part of the group.”

World War Two



Stan Wheeler

Stan Wheeler remembers: “It was approximately 12:20 on Sunday, December 7, 1941. I had just come from the choir room to the upper narthex after our 11 am service when someone told me that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. Some of our church members were already serving in the armed services, and many of us who were registered enlisted in the service of our choice rather than waiting to be drafted into the Army.”

“We posted on a service board the names of those in service; by the end of the war, the names of 180 men and 11 women were posted. At every Sunday worship, the Book of Remembrance, which listed the names of persons serving, was escorted by a color guard and laid on the communion table, opened to the name of the man or woman whose birthday was nearest that Sunday. During the presentation, the organist played the song of the honoree’s branch of the service.”



Stan Greer

The journey we remember, the journey we join, the journey we celebrate, began well before 1909. It will continue, by God’s grace, well beyond these days. It will become a journey of resolve and vision, that we may take our place in this pilgrimage of faithfulness, for the once and future church – for the church we are and the church we are called to be.

May we continue as a people blessed by the past, with promise for the future.

— From The Rev. David C. Dornack’s July 12th Sermon

Continued from page 4, History Recap.

program of gleaning from the market for FISH and Blanchet House is a nationally recognized program.

Barbara Shibley submits her request for retirement in May 2000. The Rev. Phil GebbenGreen comes in 2001 and leaves after two years to return to the land of the rounded O’s, and the Rev. Katie Pate comes to us from Rye, NY and, after four years, moves on to Milwaukie, Oregon.

We form a Committee on Inclusion. We adopt a statement of inclusion to be found in our bulletin and we become members of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and the local Community of Welcoming Congregations.

Rollins House is sold, affording us opportunities to do landscaping, signage, plan for a chancel expansion and to take care of tuck pointing, security issues, awnings, and the list goes on. The kitchen is remodeled. Yes, we have had sewer issues....big elusive rats in the downstairs women’s bathroom, sink holes, flooding.

More building use and Building Partners include: Blosser Center for Dyslexia, Portland Symphonic Choir, Witness for Peace, BroadArts Theatre, Oregon Farm Worker Ministry, United Farm Workers, Hollywood/Fook Lok Loaves & Fishes, Big Brothers, Big Sisters. This is a busy place.

We replace the Wurlitzer that served us well with a Rodgers Digital Organ. That upstart, Ralph Nelson, leaves us after 20 years to direct choirs for the Lutherans. But Sarah Shay (another composer) takes his place and introduces us to new and different styles.

And the Rev. Donovan Burkett-Kerr (a Methodist) comes to work with us as Program Coordinator. She must first convince the Methodists that working here would not be an “embarrassment” to them; she does. Tori Amling, a child of this congregation, is our new Youth Coordinator.

Throughout the Session minutes there are many references to baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths. These minutes are the record of our life together.

**Rose City Park
Presbyterian Church**
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP at 10:00 AM
NURSERY CARE at 9:30 AM
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP at 11 AM

CHURCH STAFF

- David C. Dornack, Pastor
david@rosecityparkpres.org
- Donovan Burkert-Kerr, Program
Coordinator
donavan@rosecityparkpres.org
- Tori Amling, Youth Activities Coord.
tori@rosecityparkpres.org
- Glenda L. McKibben, Dir. of Choirs
- Sarah S. Shay, Organist
- Romalia Stickney-Shibley,
Office Manager
- Jenni Hayden, Receptionist
- Roberto Del Rio, Custodian
- Gerry Mohr, Sexton

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES

The Anniversary Committee decided that a series of events throughout our centennial year would provide members and the wider community with a variety of opportunities to participate and celebrate. We kicked off our celebration with an organ concert on Pentecost, heard about our first fifty years in an Adult Studies session, participated in the Junior Rose Parade, enjoyed an old-fashioned church picnic, provided free ice cream cones at the Hollywood Farmers' Market, and on July 12th held a special worship service followed by a luncheon and program. We will continue with special events in the coming year:

- ✘ Sunday, September 13th—Potluck Luncheon & Historical Video
- ✘ Thursdays—September 10th/24th, 4PM, Rose City Writers invite you to an opportunity to reminisce and jot down your church memories
- ✘ Sunday, October 25th—Music through the Decades
- ✘ Spring 2010—Women's Tea, Adult Studies: The Second Fifty Years, Hollywood Idol VI



Church tower with anniversary banner, July 2009.