

“HONORING THE PASTORS”



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

September 2024

“HONORING THE PASTORS”

Introduction

Throughout a century of ministry, excellent pastors have faithfully served the Lord and this community of believers.

Pastor John Harland said it well on the occasion of the church’s sixtieth anniversary (1984),

“Together, we are a family committed to SERVING JESUS CHRIST and fulfilling God’s will on earth as it would be in Heaven. The challenges are great, and yet there is much to encourage... We are a large and diverse family with many interests and needs. Together, we may look forward to the future with hope and faith, for we know there is much promise ahead... Trusting the love and grace of our Lord, we “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus,” believing with the Apostle Paul that “He who has begun the good work in [us] will bring it to completion.”

We thank the Lord that pastors have heard His call and committed their most precious treasure (time and talent) to the ministry of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church.

The purpose of this compendium is to acknowledge their faithful service.

We have chosen to divide the “pastors” into three groups. The first group we have chosen to define is “**Foundational Pastors.**” The second group includes all those pastors who met or currently meet the traditional definition of a “Presbyterian Pastor.” The third group includes all those for whom pastoral duties were ancillary to their primary responsibilities (e.g., Choir Directors and Youth Directors).

This compendium concludes with messages from past and current pastors and directors, as well as some closing thoughts from Rev. Flach and Rev. Graham. There is also an acknowledgment at the end that recognizes and thanks all those who contributed their efforts to Lake Grove Presbyterian’s Centennial Celebration.

Lastly, while this compendium “honors” the pastors, we would also like to honor all the volunteers who have given their time, talent, and treasure to support the ministry of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church over the last 100 years; well done, good, and faithful servants.

Foundational Pastors

“Foundational Pastors” are those pastors who created “foundations” upon which the ministry of Lake Grove survived, flourished, or was changed in some material way.

We have chosen to identify ten pastors as “Foundational Pastors.” We do not do this to glorify these pastors but to highlight how we see their contributions as God working through His servants to support, encourage, and change this ministry to His purposes. Through the lives and ministries of these men and women, we believe you can see God at work here at Lake Grove Presbyterian and worldwide.

The ten “**Foundational Pastors**” are as follows:

1. Elbert E. Flint (1926-1933)
2. Walter Van Nuys (1940-1944)
3. William R. Lindsay (1944-1950, 1986-1987, and 1989-1991)
4. Donald J. Peterson (1941-1942, Pastoral Assist.; 1955-1966, Senior Pastor)
5. John R. Harland (1973-1986)
6. Robert P. Sanders (1991-2015)
7. Elizabeth Boatwright (2003-2013, Assoc. Pastor)
8. Mark McIlraith (2017-2024)
9. Graig Flach (2001-present, Assoc. Pastor)
10. Susan Graham (2007-2015, Children’s Ministry; 2019-present, Assoc. Pastor)

Elbert E. Flint and Walter Van Nuys

The historical record during Lake Grove's early years is incomplete, and it is difficult to discern important facts about the early days of the church with any degree of certainty. What is known is that several pastors¹ contributed to the establishment of the early church.

- **Wilder Nutting** was the pastor of Calvary Community Church, which ultimately evolved into Lake Grove Presbyterian Church.
- **R. D. Everett** helped the church receive Presbyterian sponsorship in 1924.
- **Thomas McCamant** was the interim pastor when the church was formed on September 10, 1924.
- **Arthur Baskerville** was called on November 1, 1924, as the church's first "permanent" pastor.
- **Elbert E. Flint**² was called in 1926 and was pastor through 1933. He oversaw construction of the church's first Sanctuary.
- **Walter Van Nuys**, who was extensively involved with the Presbyterian Church, may have helped secure a Presbyterian loan for the church's Sanctuary. He delivered a sermon at the Sanctuary's dedication on January 6, 1930. He also left retirement to help the struggling church in 1940 during the Great Depression. He helped guide the church through the war years and retired in 1944 due to health concerns. In the '50s, the church built a Christian Education building named the Van Nuys Wing to recognize Rev. Van Nuys many contributions. He was also the church's first Pastor Emeritus. Notably, he recruited **Donald J. Peterson**, who became one of Lake Grove's most significant and successful pastors.



Walter L. Van Nuys

It is important also to highlight Rev. Van Nuys' contribution to the Presbyterian Church in Oregon. During his fifty years of ministry, he served as a Commissioner to the General Assembly six times, was Christian Education Secretary for the Pacific NW for twenty years and was elected to serve as the Moderator of the Oregon Synod in 1905. He also shepherded the development of five other Presbyterian churches in Oregon in addition to Lake Grove. One of these was Parkdale Presbyterian. Parkdale also named a building in honor of Rev. Van Nuys.

For these reasons and many more, **we designated Elbert E. Flint**³ **and Walter Van Nuys as "Foundational Pastors."**

¹ In addition to the pastors list below, it is apparent from the Session minutes that many Presbyterian pastors from all over the area helped the young church, including (but not limited to) J. A. Smith, B. Seeley, and Bissell.

² Alberta Fogdall's book, "A Golden Anniversary," referenced (page 5) a minister by the name of "E. E. Fleet," who joined the church in 1926. There is no record of such a person in the Session minutes, so it is assumed that the reference incorrect and actually refers to E. E. Flint, who also joined the church in 1926.

³ No photograph of Elbert E. Flint could be found.

William (“Bill”) Lindsay

The Great Depression ended with the commencement of WWII, and America's great economy kicked into gear. The Oregon economy grew, driven by urban manufacturing centers, beef production, and timber, most of which supported the war effort. During the '40s, Portland's population increased from 305,000 to 374,000. This growth created explosive growth in Oswego and Lake Grove, two separate towns at this time. Rev. Van Nuys' ministry during this time met the needs of the growing population, and the church experienced rapid growth. As a result, the congregation felt confident enough to call its first full-time pastor. In June of 1944, **William R. Lindsay** was installed as Pastor. After twenty years of being a “mission church,” Lake Grove Community Presbyterian Church became a “self-sustaining” church.



William R. Lindsay

His ministry could best be described as "community centered." He started Sunday evening "hymn-sings" and small group Bible study programs (called "Homebuilders"). He even acquired an old school bus and drove around to pick up children waiting to attend Sunday School. He also encouraged a strong commitment to missions, even returning as a guest preacher for missions under Rev. Peterson.

As an apprentice carpenter, he became known as the "Carpenter Pastor." He worked with the men of the church to finish rooms in the basement and attic of the Sanctuary. The membership in the church grew from about 75 when Rev. Van Nuys took over to roughly 400 by the end of 1946.

Rev. Lindsay's love for the church manifested itself twice in later years. He returned to be an Interim Pastor from 1986 to 1987 and again from 1989 to 1991.

For these reasons and many more, **we designated William R. Lindsay as a “Foundational Pastor.”**

Donald (“Don”) Peterson

Donald J. Peterson began his relationship with Lake Grove Community Presbyterian Church in September of 1941. He was a student at Lewis & Clark. When Rev. Van Nuys offered to step out of retirement to help the struggling church during the Great Depression, he had one stipulation: Lake Grove needed to hire Mr. Peterson as his assistant. This was an unusual request because Mr. Peterson did not have any formal religious training at the time. Nevertheless, the church hired Mr. Peterson in September 1941.



Donald J. Peterson

A few months after working at the church, Rev. Van Nuys asked Mr. Peterson to offer the Sunday message while he went to see his son, who was leaving for overseas military service. The fateful date was December 7, 1941, the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Mr. Peterson's gifts for ministry were evident, and the church recommended him to Presbytery for ministry training. He subsequently graduated from Lewis and Clark and the San Francisco Theological Seminary. After serving at churches in Portland and eastern Oregon, Rev. Peterson accepted a call from Lake Grove in July 1955. He became known for his preaching, his beautiful operatic voice, and his skill as an administrator. Shortly after his installation, Rev. Peterson hired the church's first Choir Director, **Velma Uhl**, in 1956. Music had long been an important part of worship at Lake Grove, but the hiring of Ms. Uhl solidified this tradition, which continues to this day.

A few years after Rev. Peterson joined the church, the citizens of Oswego and Lake Grove voted to merge, and the new city became known as Lake Oswego. This merger benefited both cities, and the area continued to grow in population and economic activity. However, the decade of the '60s was one of the most tumultuous and divisive of the country's modern era. It was characterized by domestic violence, civil rights protests, increasing engagement of the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam, and social upheaval.

As a result of these demographic changes, the uncertainty caused by societal factors, and Rev. Peterson's skill, the church continued to grow. At this time, the church, under the leadership of Rev. Peterson, decided to move forward with the work started by Rev. Peterson's predecessor, **Chester A. Tolson**, to build a new sanctuary. The work was completed with the dedication of the new sanctuary on December 6, 1959. The cost of the new sanctuary was \$250,000 (about \$3 million today). The church became known as the "heart of the community." This Sanctuary continues today as the "heart of our congregation."

For these reasons and many more, we designated Donald J. Peterson as a “Foundational Pastor.”

John (“Jack”) R. Harland

Between 1960 and 1990, the population of the combined communities, now known as Lake Oswego, rose by a factor of 3.4. However, the communities and the nation continued to be plagued by economic uncertainty and social upheaval. The ‘70s saw double-digit inflation and high unemployment (a.k.a. “stagflation”). The social unrest was marked by a heightened awareness of social justice issues, especially those related to the rights of women and minorities. The social protest movement and rebellions in fashion marked the period.



John R. Harland

Against this backdrop, many Americans were drawn to the stability of traditional values and fundamental Christian teachings. The Church Growth Movement emerged in the ‘70s and grew through the ‘80s to meet this need. Fuller Seminary played a key role in the new movement.

At this time, **John R. Harland** became the church’s Senior Pastor. He was installed in October of 1973. He graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio. His theology training took place at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He served at several other eastern churches before moving to Lake Oswego.

Reflecting the time, Rev. Harland believed that Christians should not only “recognize the existence of needs and injustices but should attempt to earnestly alleviate and, if possible, to remedy them.” As evidence of his commitment to this philosophy, he helped the church sponsor two Vietnamese families, including Nam Luong. He and **Edward T. Alora**, Associate Pastor, formed an effective team that encouraged spiritual growth.

In the early ‘80s, Rev. Harland instigated a long-range planning process, which led to the creation of multi-phase **Master Plan** for the facility. The theme was “Growing to Serve.”

During Rev. Harland’s tenure, a Hammond Concert Organ was added to the Sanctuary (1975), roughly coinciding with the church’s 50th Anniversary. The organ pipes were placed above the Sanctuary’s white screen. Adding this organ was a major (and expensive) decision by the congregation. Subsequent congregations have affirmed the church’s commitment to the importance of organ music to congregational worship. The organ has been upgraded many times; its pipes stand adjacent to the cross, and an upward-looking window is a focal point of the Sanctuary.

For these reasons and many more, **we designated John R. Harland as a “Foundational Pastor.”**

Robert (“Bob”) Sanders

Robert P. Sanders was installed as the church’s Senior Pastor on September 13, 1991. When he arrived, the church’s facility consisted of the first Sanctuary (built in 1929 and used for Christian Education and offices), the main Sanctuary (built in 1959), and the recently completed components of Phase I of the Master Plan. Phase I included the Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, an enlarged Gathering Area, new restrooms, and a roughed-in Youth Room.



Robert P. Sanders

Over the next 17 years, Rev. Sanders would lead the congregation through a series of building programs that completed the “Growing to Serve” Master Plan, developed in the ‘80s. This included a new Choir Room, Administrative Offices, and a Christian Education wing. In addition, the church completely remodeled its fifty-year-old Sanctuary in 2008 with many enhancement features. When Rev. Sanders retired in 2015, he left the church with excellent facilities. And, thanks to the help of many generous and faithful members, these facilities were passed on to the next generation debt-free.

Rev. Sanders was also known for his compassion for “the least and the lost.” He led the congregation to embrace missionary efforts both locally and internationally. His engagement with the Wolof people of Senegal through World Vision inspired many and served as a model for future mission efforts by the church.

He also helped the congregation grow spiritually and practically. For example, his preaching was a hallmark of his ministry. He inspired and challenged the spiritual growth of the congregation. In practical ways, he helped position the church for future spiritual and mission growth with a new church governance model.

Rev. Sanders also helped the church navigate numerous challenges over his nearly twenty-five years of service. His strong commitment to prayer and Bible study, the faithful support of his wife, and the belief that there is wisdom in many counselors guided him along the way. It would be difficult to overstate the importance of his legacy to Lake Grove Presbyterian Church.

For these reasons and many more, **we designated Robert P. Sanders as a “Foundational Pastor.”**

Elizabeth (“Libby”) Boatwright

The Presbyterian Church has a long history of ordaining women pastors. The first woman to be ordained a pastor in the Presbyterian Church was Ms. Margaret Towner on October 24, 1956. Since then, many women have been ordained Pastors in the Presbyterian Church.

That was not the case at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church. The congregation installed its first female pastor in 2003. Her name was **Elizabeth Boatwright**. Rev. Boatwright was installed as an Associate Pastor on September 14, 2003. Three other women pastors followed in her footsteps. These women have been a blessing to the congregation in ways beyond measure.



Elizabeth Boatwright

In addition to being the first female pastor, Rev. Boatwright offered a ministry of compassion and love while serving at Lake Grove. As an illustration of her ministry of compassion and love, she championed an affordable senior living facility, which became known as Oakridge Park Apartments. Thanks to Rev. Boatwright and several other committed Christians, Oakridge Park now provides safe, affordable apartments to over forty individuals (62+ years of age). Like her personal story, this was Lake Oswego's first affordable senior housing development.

Also, along with other committed Christians, she championed the church's involvement with peasant families in Latin America through Agros International, whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty and create paths to prosperity for farming families in rural Latin America. Lake Grove's involvement with Agros continues to this day.

Rev. Boatwright's ministry of compassion and love continues to serve as an example to all men and women.

For these reasons and many more, we designated **Elizabeth Boatwright** as a “**Foundational Pastor.**”

Mark McIlraith, Graig Flach, and Susan Graham

An unprecedented national and local disaster began on January 18th, 2020, when the first case of COVID-19 was found in Washington State. On February 19th, approximately one month later, the first case of COVID-19 was found in Oregon. On March 8th, Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency, and on March 23rd, she issued a statewide stay-at-home order. The church leadership decided to suspend in-person gatherings at the church. The statewide stay-at-home order remained in effect for most Oregon counties until March 14, 2021. In spite of the church's suspension of in-person gatherings, the work of the church continued, and the church retained all of its staff.

Lake Grove Presbyterian re-opened its doors on April 25, 2021. Nearly 10,000 Oregonians died from COVID-19, and the national figure exceeded 1,200,000.

The pandemic was an unprecedented event in the history of Lake Grove Presbyterian. Effectively, the church was closed to in-person connection among its members for over a year. The magnitude of this event on Lake Grove and other churches cannot be overstated. The only parallel challenge occurred during the Great Recession when the financial challenges were so great that the Session entertained a motion to sell the church property.

The pandemic exacerbated a long-term trend in America: declining church attendance. To mitigate the challenges posed by this trend and the church's closure, the pastoral leadership, spearheaded by **Mark McIlraith**, worked with the Session and church staff to create a vibrant and compelling online worship experience.

Mark McIlraith, **Graig Flach**, **Susan Graham**, and **Robin Garvin** also developed creative ways of connecting with the congregation during this period, including systematic phone calls, drive-through activities in the church parking lot, friendly visits with members on their doorsteps, etc. In addition, this group worked with lay leaders to create and launch a new modern worship service. These efforts and others helped the congregation stay connected with the church and now provide a platform for future growth. Simultaneously, pastoral leadership and the Session managed the church's finances to ensure its survival. While the church is still climbing out of the hole created by the pandemic, the trends suggest that the church is moving in the right direction.

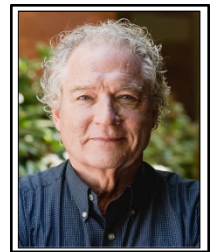
When Rev. McIlraith resigned in 2023, Rev. Flach and Rev. Graham admirably stepped up to provide effective leadership while the search was underway for a new Senior Pastor. In addition, Rev. Flach has long been an advocate for the church's mission efforts, and Rev. Graham has lovingly come alongside church members who needed pastoral support. It should also be noted that Rev. Garvin provided pastoral leadership for over six years, most of the time spent after Rev. Sanders retired. She was a gracious and extremely competent leader during a difficult time for the church.

The congregation is grateful for the tireless and inspiring work of these pastoral leaders.

For these reasons and many more, **we designated Mark McIlraith, Graig Flach, and Susan Graham as "Foundational Pastors."**



Mark McIlraith



Graig Flach



Susan Graham

Pastors

Wilder Nutting	Temporary Pastor
Thomas McCamant	Temporary Pastor
Arthur P. Baskerville	Temporary Pastor
Elbert E. Flint	Temporary Pastor
Roy W. Nelson	Interim Pastor
William Gearhart	Interim Pastor
John Anderson	Interim Pastor
Walter L. Van Nuys	Pastor (Part-Time)
Donald J. Peterson	Asst. Pastor
William R. Lindsay	Pastor (Full-Time)
John Anderson	Asst. Pastor
Chester L. Tolson	Pastor (Full-Time)
Robert Harvey	Asst. Pastor
Lemuel Putnam, Sr.	Asst. Pastor
Donald J. Peterson	Pastor (Full-Time)
Lemuel Putnam, Sr.	Asst. Pastor
James C. Petersen	Assoc. Pastor
Robert Groves	Pastor (Full-Time)
Wayne E. Wattman	Assoc. Pastor
John Pressly	Interim Pastor (Full-Time)
John Harland	Pastor (Full-Time)
Edward Alora	Asst. Pastor/ Assoc. Pastor
Donald H. Mills	Asst. Pastor
Glenn C. McGee	Interim Pastor (Full-Time)
William R. Lindsay	Interim Pastor (Full-Time)
Stephen P. Kliewer	Pastor (Full-Time)
William R. Lindsay	Interim Pastor (Full-Time)
Robert P. Sanders	Pastor (Full-Time)
Roger J. Newell	Assoc. Pastor
Mark Valeri	Parish Associate
Steven Beard	Assoc. Pastor
Michael O'Brien	Interim Assoc. Pastor
Bruce Armstrong	Interim Assoc. Pastor
Matt Hilgaertner	Assoc. Pastor
Mark Frey	Parish Associate
Graig Flach	Assoc. Pastor
Elizabeth Boatwright	Assoc. Pastor
Jeffery Bridgeman	Interim Pastor
Mark McIlraith	Pastor (Full-Time)
Robin Garvin	Assoc. Pastor
Lillian Pak	Assoc. Pastor
Susan Graham	Assoc. Pastor
Conley Zomermaand	Bridge Pastor (Part-Time)

Program Directors with Pastoral Duties

Ashimine	Corinne	(Discipleship)	Howard	Lee	(Discipleship)
Bamonte	Wendy	(Music)	James	Brent	(Discipleship)
Bilstrom	Leanne	(Music)	Kidd	Mary	(Music)
Brunson	Jean	(Discipleship)	Krawson	Abby	(Music)
Cackle	Merlin	(Music)	Mansley, Jr.	Cliff	(Discipleship)
Caldwell	Ryan	(Discipleship)	Marsh	Doris	(Discipleship)
Cotterill	David	(Discipleship)	Mayward	Joel	(Discipleship)
Craker	Brian	(Discipleship)	Martin	Jana	(Discipleship)
Craker	Allison	(Discipleship)	McClelland	Jim	(Discipleship)
Cumings	Tori	(Music)	Morrison	Matt	(Discipleship)
Cushman	Ken	(Discipleship)	Olson	Michelle	(Discipleship)
Dickson	Kelly	(Discipleship)	Reeves	Anthony	(Music)
Fast	Kathleen	(Discipleship)	Sanchez	Joe	(Music)
Foy	Mary Ann	(Music)	Seifert	Beverly	(Music)
Fuller	Laura	(Discipleship)	Stewart	Nancy	(Discipleship)
Graham	Jeannine	(Discipleship)	Sullivan	Susan	(Discipleship)
Gray	Peter	(Music)	Teague	William	(Discipleship)
Hale	Mike	(Discipleship)	Thom	Jeremy	(Music)
Hanscom	Leslie	(Discipleship)	Uhl	Velma	(Music)
Heisler	Matt	(Discipleship)	Waite	Aaron	(Music)
Hogue	Robyn	(Discipleship)	Walker	Lindsay	(Discipleship)

Excludes volunteer directors.

Pastoral Messages

James C. Peterson

In my first semi-rural church I had to prove myself, but when I arrived at Lake Grove, they simply assumed I was competent. That acceptance freed me up and grew me. Don Peterson worked with junior highs and I with senior highs in addition to sharing the rest of pastoral ministry. I'm still in contact with some of those bright kids, Moores, Staffords, Hales, and Webbers, who are almost all retired. (Ouch!) I lived in the manse that gave way to your fellowship hall. I expanded my training in counseling, group therapy and personal growth and gradually began to teach it at Lake Grove and other churches in the presbytery. I continued this specialty at Southminster, earned a D.Min. at S.F.T.S., became a Licensed Professional Counselor, and taught across the country and even once in Montreal.

After retirement, I wrote "Why Don't We Listen Better? Communicating & Connecting in Relationships," now in its third edition, nearing sixty thousand. It teaches acceptance, listening and counseling in universities to folks going into the world as pastors, teachers, counselors, military and prison chaplains, welfare workers and individuals and couples who simply want to get along better.

In the Acknowledgements, I wrote "my books owe their lives to the many people whose impact forced me to think, reflect, teach, and make it happen ... and to the Presbyterian Church that stresses learning and nurtured me my second pastoral job (Lake Grove) allowed me time to specialize in growth-producing groups."

I am immensely thankful for your unique ministry inside and outside the walls of the Lake Grove Presbyterian Church and wish you well on your roll into your second century of God's service.

John Harland

Congratulations on being a faithful and creative congregation that has faced many challenges and joys in these 100 years. You have warmly welcomed others to join a united congregation who seek to know Christ, to serve Him and make Him known.

When the Harland family with eight children joined, we were welcomed. You were open to new ideas and programs. This included an early informal worship service led primarily by lay leadership. Then there was a Lenten series with "Suppers Eight". More small groups were formed in new Mariner Ships. There was also Presbyterian Marriage Encounter which involved a weekend experience that made a good marriage even better. Then there were more choirs added: a Bell Choir and Children's Choirs. Then Adult Classes and a strong young people's program with great staff leadership.

My prayer will be that you will always be that warm welcoming community that sees needs and challenges both inside these walls and also outside in the wide world where your help will make a difference. Most importantly please provide inspirational worship with joyous music and meaningful messages from the pulpit. Continue to follow Christ who will show you The Way through the second 100 years. Blessings!

Steve Kliewer

Lake Grove is such a wonderful church, with amazing people!

After Lake Grove I worked for Medical Teams International, got a Master's in Psychology, taught in the Department of Family Medicine at OHSU (I was there 10 years), and then became the mental health director for Wallowa County. A role I held for 13 years. I continued to practice mental health, specializing in anxiety and in pain management for another 8 years.

I send my best wishes to the congregation... Congratulations on 100 years! I hope your celebration is joyous. Lostine Presbyterian will be 140 years old next year (founded in 1885) --These milestones are worth celebrating!

Roger L. Newell

Greetings Lake Grove!!

On the grapevine we continue to hear good things about you and look back at our years at LGPC (1992-97) with grateful hearts. It was a tender time for our (then) young family to re-enter life in the USA after a decade in the U.K. and your heartfelt welcome and kindnesses to all of us were much appreciated. From 1997 to 2017 I taught in the Religion department at George Fox University in Newberg, with Sue joining the Social Work faculty in 2000. In retirement, we continue to live in Newberg. We are looking forward to our visit on September 15.

Bill Teague

"Best to LGPC on its celebration and for all of you as you look to the next 100 years."

Mark Valeri

So grateful for the invitation. Doubtful that I can make it. Please know of my deep affection for LGPC.

Steve Beard

Julie and I have so many fond memories of our time at Lake Grove. Please pass along my Congratulations for the Celebration.

Cynthia and Michael O'Brien

Grace and peace, and congratulations! It was a joy and privilege for Michael to serve as Interim Associate from 1997 to 1999, focusing on teaching, outreach and small groups. Our first daughter, Rachel, was born during our time here. Then in 2017, Cynthia served here part time, delighted to assist Robin with pastoral care. Today, Michael teaches advanced mathematics at Gresham High School, while Cynthia is the pastor of the Presbyterian churches in Aurora and Woodburn. We send all our love and prayers to our Lake Grove family.

Matt Hilgaertner

Grace and peace to you all, in the name of Jesus Christ! Congratulations on your centennial celebration of gospel ministry as a community of faith, worship, discipleship, and missions. Kris and I are so grateful for LGPC, and we have many fond memories of our time there (2000-2007), sharing life and ministry together. Our boys, CJ and Johnny, were born during those years and were blessed by all of Lake Grove's children's and youth ministries. Kris loved playing guitar and singing with Pastor Bob Sanders and still plays with other Lake Grove members in their "Acoustics Anonymous" music group.

Lake Grove was my second Associate Pastorate, having previously served at FPC in Peachtree City, GA. I appreciated serving on the pastoral team with Bob, Graig, and Libby at the dawn of the 21st Century!

After leaving Lake Grove, God called me to serve for a few years as the Solo Pastor over at Grace Pres in NE Portland. Around that time, we transferred our church membership to the newly formed ECO-Presbyterian denomination, where we've been ever since. Since joining ECO, we have been attending Cedar Creek Church, formerly Sherwood Presbyterian Church, which Lake Grove helped to plant over 20 years ago. I've been volunteering as a Parish Associate at CCC, while teaching high school math & Bible classes at various nearby Christian schools. Kris is now serving as an Elder for Worship. CJ graduated from Washington State in 2023, and is currently pursuing a career in law enforcement. Johnny is now a Junior at Arizona State pursuing a degree in Civic Economic Leadership & Thought (CELT).

We are now in our 24th year of living in Tigard, and grateful to maintain dozens of close friendships and ministry partnerships with so many of you at Lake Grove. We love that church and will always do our best to maintain contact with you.

Elizabeth ("Libby") Boatwright

Greetings and Happy 100th anniversary to Lake Grove Presbyterian! I am so honored to have been the first woman pastor at LGPC and delighted I can come back and be with you for the celebration.

I have just retired after 11 years as a palliative care chaplain at Stanford Health Care. I am currently a guest preacher and member of the Committee for Preparation on Ministry, and Missionary to Peru for the Presbytery of San Jose, as well as serving on the board of Sunnyvale Life, an affordable housing program for seniors, and pro-bono financial planning. In addition, I've been busy writing articles and finished a book

The Last Things We Talk About: Your Guide to End-of-Life Transitions which has resulted in podcasts, interviews and lots of seminars in churches and financial circles across the country. Frank joined the saints in heaven in March 2023 and my family and my son's families have blessed me with three grandsons and a new grand baby on the way next year.

What a joy to return to a community I continue to love. Can't wait to see you all. Ephesians 1:15-16

Brent James

Congratulations on Turning 100: Happy Birthday, Lake Grove Presbyterian Church!

It's wonderful to see you reach this milestone—a century of ministry! Michelle, Jack, Kate, and I wish we could be there with you today to celebrate, but know that we are celebrating with you from afar.

Thank you for ministering to me and my family. I often tell our elder board at Peninsula Bible, as well as our congregation, how serving with Bob Sanders, the incredible ministry team there, and the tremendously gifted session uniquely prepared me for the work I do now. Many times when I'm presented with a challenge, I first think, "What does Jesus want?" But that's usually followed by, "How would Bob Sanders deal with this?" If I follow that guidance, I end up seeming smart!

We pray that this is just the beginning of the story, and 100 years from today, there will still be a church that mightily proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ in Lake Oswego, throughout the Portland Metro Area, to the glory of God!

Kathleen Fast

Congratulations, Brothers and Sisters of Lake Grove, for 100 years of godly influence! I am grateful to have served with you for many years with our youth at a time that felt like a golden era at LGPC. Your support allowed our youth to participate in important Kingdom work as they represented Christ in their schools, in our neighborhood, in Portland, and stretched themselves abroad. I am proud - and you should be too - that we have greatly shaped generations to come that will continue the good work of the Church. For another 100 years, may we still

Go in Peace, Go in love, Go enjoy!

Robin Garvin

As you may remember, in the fall of 2021, I left Lake Grove to accept the invitation of Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Portland to serve as their Transitional Pastor as they prepared to call their next installed pastor. We shared 2 1/2 very fruitful years together. After 35 years of pastoral ministry in various capacities, I retired in July 2024. I am just a few months into retirement, but I think I am getting the hang of it! Roger and I will continue to live in Lake Oswego and are looking forward to retirement adventures and spending more time with our family...especially our two-year-old grandson, Connor, who lives with his parents, Erica and Josh, in Atlanta, Georgia. I am deeply grateful for the seven wonderful years I served at

Lake Grove, and I am so happy to participate in the 100th anniversary of this congregation and its faithful witness to Christ our Lord.

Lillian Pak

It is with the utmost joy that I send you this greeting as you celebrate the incredible milestone of your 100th anniversary! For a century, you have faithfully served the community, bringing comfort to the brokenhearted and guiding countless lives with the love and light of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

I fondly remember the impact of your ministries such as the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, Heart 2 Heart Ministry, the weekly prayer meetings, and the Care Team, to name just a few. These ministries, along with so many others, were vital in fostering a strong sense of community and spiritual growth. And who could forget your resilience through the pandemic and your ability to adapt in ministry and care for one another and the community. Through you the faithfulness of God was evident!

This centennial celebration is not just a reflection of the past but a testament to the goodness of God and the dedication of the many generations who have nurtured and sustained this congregation. From the first gathering of believers to the vibrant and diverse community today, you have been a living testimony to the power of God's love and grace.

Since moving to Republic, WA, I've been serving the Northwest Coast Presbytery, which is the largest geographic presbytery of our denomination, as Stated Clerk. I've also continued in ministry as pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Republic. It's been an exciting journey, and I am grateful for the experiences and opportunities that have come my way. However, I often think back to the deep connections and shared moments at Lake Grove with a sense of gratitude and nostalgia. The summers here are majestic so come surprise me one Sunday for worship.

May this centennial year be filled with joy, reflection, and renewed purpose as you continue your ministry. May the next 100 years be filled with continued blessings, growth, and the spreading of God's word and love.

With heartfelt congratulations and blessings.

Mark McIlraith

Happy birthday, my dear Lake Grove Presbyterian Church! What an immense moment in history to celebrate the centennial year of this beloved congregation. It is in this monumental season of the church that I remember and honor the legacy of those who came before us, following Christ's leading to lay the foundation of the church. I also want to honor those who have grown Lake Grove Church to what it is today. Countless names and faces come to mind!

In all of this, I find myself humbled to be numbered among your Senior Pastors who have had the privilege of journeying alongside you through this past century. Since leaving Lake Grove Church, we have remained in our home in Lake Oswego. Paige has started her marriage and family therapy practice in town, and I am having a blast launching a nonprofit ministry (www.somadigital.org) as I continue shaping other community initiatives.

I looked back through my notes and found that my final sermon series with you was called “Releasing a New Era” – and that’s exactly what God is doing with you right now in this very season! God has you poised for an exciting adventure ahead as he releases a New Era through you. Because of this deep truth, I am leaning forward with anticipation to see how God dares to use you in the next 100 years!

I praise God for you, and I miss you so very much. As you have blessed me during our wonderful years together, I pray that God will continue to bless you so that he can use you to bless this community and bless the world in the name of Christ for generations to come!

Graig Flach

Congratulations, Lake Grove, on 100 years of existence and Gospel impact!

It startles me to realize that I have been with you for almost a quarter of that century, having just passed my 23rd anniversary with you. I will forever be grateful that God placed me with this congregation. You have provided a wonderful church home for my family, all of whom have been active in various ways. We are grateful for the loving guidance and care received by our daughters Ariel and Zoe as they came through the children’s and youth programs. Both of them also had opportunities to participate in worship, especially in music. And both of them still know Jesus as Lord. Laura and I are grateful for the way this congregation has “loved on” our girls.

It has been an honor to serve alongside colleagues in ministry, elders on Session, and other staff members. In the arena of Mission Outreach, I have been proud and humbled by our congregation’s willingness to come alongside the vulnerable no matter where God has led us—into inner-city Portland or to “the end of the earth”. Our partners at World Vision appreciated that we were willing to go where other churches might be reluctant to go: Senegal, Zambia, Bangladesh. This willingness to take on challenges is part of our congregation’s general DNA, I think, and I hope it will serve us well as we “embrace the future”. It is no longer easy to be the Church in America, in the 21st century, post-pandemic, not as easy as it once was. But I have confidence that as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will have the wisdom, energy, and courage to press on toward the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. May God hold us together and keep us strong and faithful for His purposes.

Susan Graham

What a joy it is to mark this particular inflection point with you — 100 years! It has been a blessing and privilege to grow in my faith and in my vocation as pastor with all of you. I remember when I was first joining the staff of this congregation as the Director of Children’s Ministry and thinking, “This place will be a tremendous place to grow. I can learn so much from those who are here.” How true that has been. I have been inspired by you and your commitment to God, your commitment to sharing the gospel, to serving one another, and this community. I’m proud of how you keep Christ at the core and seek him even in challenging and changing times. We can step into those changing times confident of God’s faithful leading and compassionate presence. God is always up to good. Grateful and honored to be with you as we step into this new century.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:10-11

Closing Thoughts

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Bible is full of stories and storytelling. The ancient Israelites were encouraged to remind each other of God's goodness to them by retelling the stories of their religious forebears.

In a way, that's what we have been doing during 2024, leading up to the celebration of our congregation's centennial: retelling the stories of our faithful forebears right here where our church now sits. They persevered through thick and thin and faithfully bore witness to Jesus Christ in worship, witness, and service. These courageous Christians overcame many challenges and handed off to us the legacy we enjoy today. They are our "great cloud of witnesses," cheering us on as we continue to run the race of faith.

With God's help, let us prepare ourselves with hope and thanksgiving for the work that lies ahead. We are not alone; God is at work among us! As the Apostle Paul told us through his encouraging words to the Philippians, we can be "confident of this, that He who began a good work in [us] will carry it on to completion until the day of [His return]" (Phil 1:6).

As our Centennial Celebration winds to a close, we want to thank each of you for your faithful service and support. We look forward to continuing this journey with you, watching the great work God will surely do in the next century through His faithful servants here at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church.

Graig Fleck. Susan L. Juban

Acknowledgements

Over the past eight months, the church has been intentional about its efforts to celebrate its Centennial Anniversary. We have "honored the past" by telling many of the "stories" that make up our great inheritance. In doing so, we highlighted the struggles and successes of the saints who went before us. In them, we have seen God's hand at work. Similarly, we have "embraced the future," which we see as being the hands and feet of Jesus in a fallen world, by undertaking monthly service projects.

As our Centennial Celebration concludes, it is fitting and proper that we acknowledge and offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make this celebration a success. To the faithful and dedicated Christians listed below, we say, "Thank you. Well done, good and faithful servants."

Dick Aradine	Susan Gage	Pat Nichols
Janet Aradine	Melinda Gordon	Rev. Dave Peterson
Wendy Bamonte	Rev. Susan Graham	Terri Peterson
Mike Bays	Kathy Grant	Julie Russell
Jean Brunson	Elizabeth Hartman	Rev. Becca Sanders
Diana Burke	Glenn Hascall	Dave Strong
Barbara Cullicott	Kathy Johnson	Don Titterington
John Cullicott	Pete Johnson	Laurie Washburne
Mark Evers	Shelley Johnson	John Watts
Rev. Graig Flach	Kati Knudsen	LuAnn Yocky
Rev. Mark Frey		

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of **Alberta Brooks Fogdall**, who wrote "*A Golden Anniversary – A Brief History of the Lake Grove United Presbyterian Church*," and **Jane Vogland**, who wrote "*The History of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church*." In addition, Ms. Vogland and her team collected and organized the archives of Lake Grove Presbyterian. Without these information sources, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to create this historical review. We are grateful for their efforts.