

# BEHOLD!!

Smyrna

**A Newsletter of Smyrna United Church of Christ**

**Ministers: All members of the church**

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**31119 S. Highway 170, Canby, OR 97013**



No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

## January 2016

Dear Friends,

Happy Anniversary, everyone! January 2016 begins a year of celebration for the 125 years of ministry that Smyrna has offered, and of looking forward to the years of ministry ahead. Many thanks to the committee that has volunteered to help coordinate some activities and opportunities for this anniversary year, including: Joel Daniels, Rick and Levonne Gano, Jeff Marshall, Irene Schriever and Virginia Yoder. All ideas and volunteers are welcome. This will be a good year.

One wonders what possessed people to start a church back then! Their lives were already filled to the overflowing with farming, running mills, running stores, gardening, canning, cooking, and the myriad tasks that pioneering involved, not to mention taking care of the kids! But they didn't have social media to stay connected, and church was an important part of that connection. Plus, there must have been some very scary times in those days before cars, electricity, and indoor plumbing, not to mention cell phones, the internet and antibiotics. I think that the pioneers of our state, and every other, needed to know that they were not alone – that they had neighbors who cared about them, and that God was with them, no matter what.

That's a message we still need today, perhaps even more, in the clutter of our modern lives, with e-mail and Facebook and Twitter and Instagram and CNN and Fox News and OPB and The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal and the Canby Herald and the Molalla Pioneer, and the Oregonian, etc., etc., etc. It's not that having information and connectivity is a bad thing, it's just that sometimes we need to connect with real people, in real time. Sometimes we need to connect with a presence larger than the internet, and much, much wiser and compassionate. Sometimes we need each other, and God. That's why church was a good thing 125 years ago, and why it's still good for us today.

May God bless us this anniversary year, as we seek to love and serve God, and our neighbors as ourselves, and may we be a blessing this year, and in the years to come.

In peace and grace,  
Pastor Deb





Levonno Gano and Ethel Henderson holding a prayer shawl that Levonno made for Chelsea Steiner, Ethel's granddaughter who is battling cancer. Ethel purchased the yarn and Levonno provided the labor.

## Smyrna: 125 Years

In early 1897, the minutes from the last meeting in 1896 were read, but the treasurer's



report was not given as the treasurer had moved from the community. The yearly salary reported by Rev. Dick was \$71.30. Before the meeting had adjourned, there was discussion as to the state of affairs of the finances and the lack of reports. It was decided that it must be done more systematically thus an envelope system was devised for listing each member's contribution in the treasurer's book. A vote was also taken and passed that the treasurer would send each member an account of their contributions each quarter. The Ladies Aid Society was requested to purchase the envelopes for regular church services. [How many times has the congregation been reminded that Smyrna has *never* used a pledge system.]

Another bit of outstanding business from 1893 was resolved. Jonathan Yoder accepted \$10 as settlement of his bill for sawing and declared the rest of it a donation. The church expressed its thanks by a "rising" vote.

--from an unpublished history of Smyrna

The Stitch Club will not meet in January.

The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on February 2, at Barbara Daniels'.

The Health Committee is seeking volunteers who are willing to visit some of members who are shut-in. It only requires a commitment of an hour or so once a month, but which will brighten the lives of our members who can no longer be active in Smyrna.



We are planning on teams of two or three who can go visit together, thus making it a little more comfortable to make conversation, perhaps take a little treat or even a brief devotion and/or prayer. There will be a brief training session by Pastor Deb after we have completed our list of volunteers. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please consider joining this loving community of volunteers.



The prayer group continues to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Pastor Deb's office. Come with any questions or concerns you may have, or come join us just to be a part of this important ministry. No commitment is asked, just come when you can and

soak up the love and concern that is always present.

## ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

9:45 am in the Pastor's Study



**January 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Finding Balance in Life:  
Led by Ione Jenson

**January 10<sup>th</sup>** – The Music of Hildegard of Bingen

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** – Mystery

**January 24<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Meeting:

A Look at the Opportunities

**January 31<sup>st</sup>** – Bible Study with Steve Patterson





**THANK YOU** to Audrey Yoder for coordinating the Christmas program on Sunday, December 20, and all those who helped to make this a special service. Thank you to the youth who participated in leading worship. And thank you also to those children and youth in the Christmas "Nativity with a Twist," including (in alphabetical order): Lulu Anderson, Lucia Bangs, Spencer Chapin, Hope Itami, Alexander Maurer, Anna Maurer, Cooper Pease, Julian Pease, Tavi Robinson, and Nick Sano.



## The Christmas Season at Smyrna



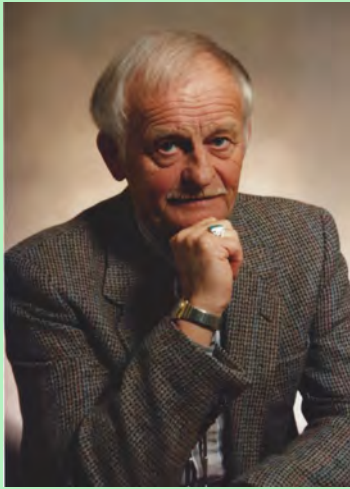
Carly, Hope, and Nick Itami lighting the candles during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



Adam Maurer, on trumpet, with Smyrna's choir, during the Candlelight Service



**"See You on the Trail"**



**Robert Julius Kyrk**  
**April 29, 1924 —**  
**November 23, 2015**

Robert Julius Kyrk, age 91, passed away peacefully. He had been under the loving and watchful care of Gabe Blazsovsky and his staff, at the Elder Care of Wilsonville home since Sept, 2013.

Robert was born April 29, 1924 to Arthur and Gertrude (Hansen) Kyrk, at the family farm on Schneider Rd, near Yoder, Oregon. When he was 13, his father passed away. He graduated from Canby

High School in 1942. At the onset of WWII, Robert was issued a deferment as the oldest son of a widow living on a family farm. Instead of attending OSU, he managed the farm and began a commercial turkey and turkey egg hatching business while his two younger brothers served in World War II.

In 1946, Robert married Barbara Jean Woodford in Portland, OR. They lived on the family farm raising two daughters, Julia and Juliana. In 1954, after a back injury, Robert began a new career with the Oregon Farm Bureau Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau moved him and the family to Pendleton in 1956. Robert and Barbara subsequently divorced in 1971.

Robert moved to Idaho and in 1971, married his second wife Ruby Capps Parks. Together they raised her youngest daughter, Layna. They moved to Yakima, WA, where Robert worked for Brown Brothers Ins. Co. In 1976, Robert and Ruby formed an independent insurance adjusting business, serving Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. He retired in August 1986, turning the business over to Layna, who had joined him as an adjuster. After a divorcing Ruby in 1988, he moved to the family's second home on Elk Creek near the Little Salmon River, ID. He worked with Idaho Co. and the State of Idaho to construct a new bridge over the Little Salmon River connecting Elk Lake Road and the Highway.

He was reacquainted with a lifelong friend from Yoder, OR, Ethel Rosetta Eyman Mattison whom he married in 1995. They spent time on Ethel's farm at Yoder and Robert's home in Idaho. They enjoyed many road trips around the western US, as well as Canada, Hawaii, the east coast, Portugal, and Spain. Ethel passed away in 2004.

Robert passed his value of learning and education on to his children, grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

Robert was active in civic organizations. As a member of FFA he developed his skills as a farmer. He was president

of the PTA when his daughters attended District 91 "Whiskey Hill" Grade School. Robert served as President and Secretary of Kiwanis in Weiser, ID. He also was a member of Blue Goose and the Idaho Adjusters Association.

Life was an adventure for Robert. He excelled at sports, earning letters in wrestling and tennis in high school. He planned vacations around golf. He volunteered as a tour guide and chaperone for the annual Cambridge high school senior class Hell's Canyon week-long trek along the Snake River for several years with step-daughter, Linda Mink. At 65, he purchased a John Deere tractor and a Big Tex trailer. Robert and his tractor assisted family, friends and neighbors countless times with yard, garden and light construction projects. He enjoyed snowmobiling, white water rafting, boating, fishing, hunting, camping and hiking. The 1959 blue P14 speed boat holds a special memory for every child and grandchild who learned to water ski. Robert kept a diary of his daily activities. Consequently, he remembered dates and events with amazing accuracy. He was always ready with a joke or an entertaining story about his exploits with family and friends.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel Eyman Mattison; Ethel's son, Allen Mattison; and his first wife, Barbara Woodford Kyrk Luisi. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Arthur George Kyrk and Gertrude Elvira Hansen Kyrk, and his brothers, Warren Kyrk, and Howard Kyrk.

He is survived by his daughters: Julia (Bill) Peterson and Juliana Kyrk; his step-children: Layna (Jeff) Hafer, Linda (Roy), and Larry Parks. Robert is also survived by grandchildren: Jennifer Peterson Rouda, Robert Peterson, Vinson Svetich, and Christopher Svetich; step-grandchildren: Anne Marie Hafer, Katie Hafer Sexton, Rob Blazier, Nathan Mink, Jason Mink, Chad Mink, Tanner Mink, Taylor Mink, Aaron Mink, Larry Parks, and Heidi Parks Mitts; six great grandchildren and 23 step-great grandchildren; niece Susan Kyrk Geister, nephew Richard Kyrk, numerous nieces, nephews, surviving brother-in-law, Herman Woodford, and sister-in-law, Leona Woodford Dammen.

Robert has had a lifelong connection to Smyrna United Church of Christ. He volunteered his time caring for the grounds and serving on many committees over the years. Robert faithfully collected for the Women's Fellowship Lunches and never failed to say, "Thank you for your donation." Remembrances may be made to the Smyrna Church Youth Group at Smyrna U. C. C., 31119 S. Hwy 170, Canby, OR 97013. Phone 503-651-2131.

Many thanks to Pastor Deb Patterson, Joel Daniels, Barbara Daniels, and Audrey Yoder for helping with arrangements for the memorial service at Smyrna Church. A special thank you to Robert's friends, especially Rod Bullard, who continued to visit him, even as his health failed, but while he could still tell a tale or two.

## Welcome to Smyrna's Newest Members

It was a great pleasure to welcome four new members to Smyrna this past month, who joined by affirmation of faith.



On December 6<sup>th</sup>, it was our honor to welcome Allison Drake and her daughter, Sofi Davidson. Allison is the owner and President of Uptown Medical Billing in Canby, which provides medical billing services for medical practices in Portland and other cities across the US. Sofi is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Baker Prairie Middle School, where she continues her studies in the Spanish immersion program she had begun at Trost Elementary School. Sofi also plays basketball and soccer, and is learning the trumpet. She has attended Peace Camp at Smyrna for three years.

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, we were honored to welcome Steven and Jane Dahl, who are next door neighbors to Ernie and Ethel Henderson.



Steven is a native of Oregon, having been born in Portland, and growing up in Tigard. He is retired from over thirty years of service for Clackamas County, having served as the manager in Environmental Health out of Oregon City. Jane is a native of Longview, Washington, and is a retired RN, having worked for most of her career at Salem Health. She is a current volunteer on Wednesday mornings at the Canby Adult Center.

We are grateful to Allison, Sofi, Steve, and Jane, for joining us in ministry here at Smyrna. Welcome!

## January 8th Memory Café – Watching for the Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

Start the New Year with lunch and learning with friends. Come join us for our January Memory Café, which will be the SECOND Friday at noon – January 8<sup>th</sup>, when Megan Melady, Program Coordinator of the Oregon Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, will be our featured speaker. She will be helping us to understand what the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease are – and aren't.

In the meantime, this is a good time of year to make one change that will really help your brain. Do you remember what the healthy brain habits are?

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> to Pastor Deb at [debpatersonhome@gmail.com](mailto:debpatersonhome@gmail.com) or by calling her at 503-689-4450.

And thank you to Louise Adams, Barbara Daniels, and Genevieve Freeman for making possible the wonderful luncheon for each month's Café!

## Forgiveness Heals

### Year of Health

What are you going to do for your health this year? The New Year is a good time to look at your life and determine if you need to change or improve.

Research shows forgiving others makes you healthier by lowering blood pressure, stress, anxiety and chronic pain. It's not easy but with God's help you can make the choice to take control. Forgiveness takes time. Give it your energy and by next Christmas see what changes have been made to your health.

Every six months or 15,000 miles, a car is taken for a check-up. Certainly our God given body deserves the same care. You have the responsibility of keeping it healthy. Have the appropriate screenings to find any problems. The longer you wait, the harder it is to deal with problems.

Changing old habits or creating new ones is difficult but making healthy choices can improve your health. Choosing healthier food, losing excess weight, and adding exercise can make on healthier and happier.

What can you do to improve your mental and spiritual health? Volunteer in one of the many opportunities in community organizations. Giving of yourself benefits others as well as you — so start volunteering today!

[www.parishnurses.org](http://www.parishnurses.org)

Virginia Yoder, Health Committee

## Yummies for their Tummies.....

Stitch Club's January community service project is to provide nutritional breakfast items for children whose families come to the Molalla Service Center for food assistance.

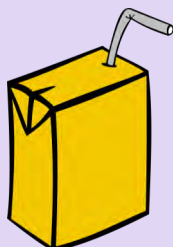
Children who come to school with breakfast in their tummies are more likely to become actively engaged in learning - and with the generosity of our congregation, we know that we can help kiddos get their mornings off to a good start with a nutritious break-

fast.

Suggestions for breakfast foods include:

instant oatmeal, boxed cereal (especially Cheerios), granola bars, packets of hot chocolate, juice boxes and containers of Pediasure or Boost.

**We will begin collecting breakfast items on January 3.**



**Smyrna Annual Meeting and Potluck – Sunday, January 24, following worship, at Smyrna UCC.**

*Bring a dish to share and your own plates and silverware.*



## Treasurer's Report

Balance 10/31/15	\$8,118.48
Receipts	7,987.35
Expenditures	<u>(9,391.89)</u>
Balance 11/30/2015	\$6,713.94

## Annual Reports needed:

**Deadline January 5, 2016**

Pastor

Moderator

Board of Trustees

Grounds Committee

Stitch Club –

President's Report  
financial report

Diaconate

Scholarship Committee

Finance Committee

— 2016 Fundraising dates

Clerk's Report

Mission and Outreach

Staff/Parish Committee

Building Use

Board of Christian Education

Board of Christian Nurture

Youth Group

Women's Fellowship Report

— Financial Report

Nominating Committee

— Officers, Board & Committee Members

Memorial Committee

Heartline

Cemetery Committee

Treasurer Report — separate from annual

Coffee Hour Volunteers — please sign up

Flower Volunteers — please sign up

Health Committee

Environmental Committee



## The Smyrna Youth Cookbook is in production!



Copies are expected to be ready sometime this month. Questions?

Contact

Amber Enfield — 971-283-9008 or  
ammaro13@yahoo.com



# January 2016 at Smyrna

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Dec 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Feb 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

**1**  
Happy  
New  
Year!!

**2**  
10 a.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna  
b.d. David  
Schriever  
Linda Younger

**3**  
9:45 a.m. Adult Education  
11 a.m. Worship and Sunday  
School  
Coffee Hour: Volunteer  
needed Flowers: Jeannie  
Rogers

**4**

**5**  
10 a.m. O.A.  
meeting at  
Smyrna  
**Annual  
Reports Due!**  
b.d. Don  
Blatchford, Tavi  
Robinson

**6**  
3:30 p.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna  
Deadline for  
Memory  
Cafe  
Reservations

**7**  
**8**  
12 Noon  
Memory Cafe  
@ Smyrna  
b.d.  
Christine  
Foster

**9**  
10 a.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna

**10**  
9:45 a.m. Adult Education  
11 a.m. Worship and Sunday  
School  
b.d. Liz Chapin  
Coffee Hour: Volunteer  
needed Flowers: Volunteer  
needed

**11**  
b.d. Helen  
Odell

**12**  
10 a.m. O.A.  
meeting at  
Smyrna  
9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Group  
in the  
Pastor's office  
b.d. Morgan  
Rogers

**13**  
3:30 p.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna  
b.d. Ryan  
Yoder

**14**  
Wedding  
Ann. David  
& Irene  
Schriever

**15**  
b.d.  
Nicholas  
Stanbro

**16**  
10 a.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna  
b.d. Julie  
Stanbro

**17**  
9:45 a.m. Adult Education  
11 a.m. Worship and Sunday  
School  
Coffee Hour: Volunteer  
needed Flowers: Volunteer  
needed

**18**  
**Martin  
Luther King,  
Jr Holiday**

**19**  
10 a.m. O.A.  
meeting at  
Smyrna  
b.d. Anne  
Schuebel  
Bangs,  
Matthew  
Emmert

**20**  
3:30 p.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna  
**Behold!!  
deadline**

**21**  
**22**  
b.d. Diane  
Potter, Cari  
Wooley

**23**  
10 a.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna  
b.d. Carol  
Schultz

**24**  
9:45 a.m. Adult Education  
11 a.m. Worship and Sunday  
School  
**Annual mtg & Potluck**  
Flowers: Volunteer needed

**25**

**26**  
10 a.m. O.A.  
meeting at  
Smyrna  
9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Group  
in Pastor's  
office

**27**  
3:30 p.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna

**28**  
b.d. Dave  
Aamodt  
12 noon  
Women's  
Fellowship

**29**

**30**  
10 a.m. Tai  
Chi at  
Smyrna

**31**  
9:45 a.m. Adult Education  
11 a.m. Worship and Sunday  
School  
Coffee Hour: Diaconate  
Flowers: Volunteer needed



Beverly Madeiros  
Orville and Dorothy Krebs  
Lucia Schuebel  
Jean Epley  
Joe and JoAnn Gribble  
Pat Bullard  
Terri Millerin, Kaelin Millerin,  
Rich  
Joe and JoAnne Beck  
Chuck and Helen Odell  
Mickey Hester

Debbie Hancox  
Larry Grant  
Lindsay Miller  
Nancy Mauer  
Dick Hall  
Audrey Yoder's sister  
Chelsea (Ernie & Ethel's daughter-in-law) and Tabitha (their grand-niece)  
Nick Schilling  
Rachel Homan  
and Eileen Boss

### **Mission Statement**

Smyrna United Church of Christ  
is striving to be:

- ♦ A place of peace where we teach the word of God and the story of God's love.
- ♦ A spiritual haven where we accept and care for all humanity in an outreach of grace.
- ♦ A lighthouse of God's light, where worship, teaching, learning and spiritual growth take place in community powered by thought and action.

- ♦ A Christian people, working for God's realm in ecumenical harmony with other people of faith and conviction.