

**Ring Praise Music Ministry**  
**Presbytery of Eastern Oregon**  
**October 5-7, 2014**

**Community Presbyterian Church – Ukiah, October 5**

It was a beautiful drive, especially from LaGrande to Ukiah across the Blue Mountains. There were 14 people at the concert including several energized children. They were very attentive and asked great questions. One wanted to know if the chime they had for ring along was theirs to keep. We told them no, but went on to explain about the handchime loan program available through Area 10, Handbell Musicians of America. Phyllis sent them the necessary form to apply for the 2015-2016 school year. It would be very exciting for the small school to have a set to use for a year.

During *Glory Bound*, the kids and adults with the sand blocks were having a blast dancing and moving around as if they were trains. And the kids loved the bigger bells. After the concert, Phyllis rang one and gently touched each kid's shoulder so they could feel the vibration. Giggles abounded! Since the kids had so much fun with the ring along, instead of an encore, we did more ring along at the end. Everyone enjoyed delicious coffee cake and refreshments afterward.

The church is in the center of the small town and houses a very active food bank in the back of the sanctuary. Each month they put together 48 food boxes for the community. We stayed at the Antlers Inn and had a couple of meals at the local restaurant, The Thicket. It is always fun to eat at local restaurants.

**Community Presbyterian Church – Pilot Rock, October 6**

After a leisurely day of getting some work done at Starbucks, we picked up sandwiches and had dinner with Todd and Lyla Benzel at the church. It is always very special going to Pilot Rock – it was where we gave our first concert when we began our mission trips 10 years ago. The wonderful reception afterward gave us an opportunity to visit with all those who attended. The youth are raffling a doll house made by a church member and the drawing will be held when they have sold 500 tickets. Tickets sell very well at sports functions. All of the money goes toward the youth program. The youth were given the doll house, and they came up with the raffle idea.

The church has two beautiful instruments in the sanctuary – a new upright piano and a Clavinova (electronic piano). Sean used both instruments to show the versatility of them. After the concert, Sean helped the pianist with some of the buttons on the Clavinova. It is always nice when we can help the musicians at a church.

**Two Rivers Correctional Institution – Umatilla, October 7**

About two weeks before we were to leave for Ukiah, the chaplain we know at Two Rivers sent Phyllis an email saying that a birdie told him we were going to be in the area and was there any possibility of fitting them into our schedule. That birdie was another chaplain who occasionally preaches at the Umatilla church. We worked it out for a 2:00 pm concert! This time we were in the chapel instead of the visiting room which had both an organ as well as electronic piano. Sean used the organ for the accompaniment on *The Lord's Prayer*.

About 50 guys were able to attend. More had signed up, but because of the afternoon concert time, many had work detail and were unable to attend. The guys loved the program and many had heard us the last two times we were there. They were so uplifted and praised the Lord with raised hands and quietly singing during some of the songs. We were blessed by their genuine enthusiasm. After the first song, there were already questions. We did *Lauda Anima* which has “alleluia” in it and someone asked if the beginning and ending were the “alleluias.” Phyllis said yes and went on to explain that the part was a change ring. To demonstrate a change ring, she had four guys come up and gave each one of them one of the bells she used at the beginning and end of the piece. By playing in the order they were standing and having them move in a pattern, they slowly played the change ring (called plain hunt). At the end there were so many questions and we ended up playing 2 encores, one by Sean from requests.

During the concert, there was an anger management class next door that got out during our last piece, *Symphonia on Hyfrydol*, where Phyllis strings together 10 bells for an incredible bell tree racing with the piano at the end. The guys from the class stood outside the chapel watching and listening as we performed.

Our printed program has on it that the concert is sponsored by the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon. One gentleman asked about our funding and we told them about your generous grant. He said to please thank the presbytery for sending us.

### **Community Presbyterian Church – Umatilla, October 7**

We were blessed to be at the Umatilla church two times in 2014, in February for the mission presbytery meeting and again in October for a concert. Norma Busler, our contact, works so hard at the church. She told us about the flood in the fellowship hall. Sometimes with disasters come blessings. Insurance fixed many areas, and some of those damaged items were in need of replacing. The preschool teacher retired, but that setback opened up a new opportunity for a person to take over the school who needed the job and whose kids had gone through the program.

The church’s pianist, Carolyn, has been playing the dulcimer and adding new things in the worship service. They have also purchased some of the new Presbyterian hymnals. Sean had a chance to go through some of the new hymns in it.

With only a handful of people attending worship on a Sunday morning, it was nice to see so many from the community at the concert – there were 25 people! During questions, we were asked if we played for weddings. That was a first! It is always gratifying to us to see all the smiles as we play and the great fellowship afterward with a wondrous spread of treats.