

Ring Praise Music Ministry

When we arrived at Grace Presbyterian Church in Milton-Freewater about an hour and forty-five minutes before the concert, there were people there waiting to help us with whatever we needed.

This congregation has a couple of big changes happening and has a very positive, supporting attitude. For several years they shared the building with another church. That church has just moved to Walla Walla because more of its members are there. In addition, on September 1 their pastor, Ginger Johnston, is retiring.

The church has a Rodgers organ which Sean played for prelude. They also have a beautiful Steinway piano that was made to fit in slightly smaller homes because it is missing a few keys on the top. It complemented the bells beautifully and sang out during Sean's solos.

They had worked hard on advertising with posters in several churches, article in the local newspaper and announcements on the local NPR station. It paid off with 45 at the concert with the majority coming from outside the congregation. Following the concert there was a lovely reception with many delicious cookies and punch.

The youngest person at the concert asked the first question – How many bells are on the table? (36) She also came up afterward to be able to ring one. Phyllis explained how the entire casting vibrates then rang the biggest bell so she could feel the vibration as Phyllis touched it to her back.

After everything was packed up, we had a magnificent dinner with Sean's hosts. Also part of the party was Phyllis's host, the pastor, and the couple who has been the contact and hosts for our other concerts here. Great fellowship! Then we had a phenomenal breakfast at 7:00 Monday morning with Phyllis's host. It needed to be early because Sean had to be at the College of Idaho to teach a class at 1:00 pm. As we traveled home, we praised God for all the opportunities we've had to share the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ.