

Ring Praise Music Ministry

After a tasty breakfast and conversation with Jack in Pendleton, we headed to Pilot Rock fighting a strong cross wind for a light lunch with Todd and Lyla Bensel before setting up for our 4:00 pm concert. Todd is the pastor at Community Presbyterian Church. The old sanctuary building burned to the ground November 11, 2007 but the Christian Education building next to it survived with just some damage on the side. Last year they were able to move into the new building with the sanctuary and fellowship hall on the same level and a beautiful covered drive up to the entrance. What a process this has been for Todd and the congregation.

There is a beautiful upright piano and state-of-the-art digital piano. Sean used the digital piano for *Breathe* and *Variations on Zacchaeus*. He always has a good time with pianos like this as he tries to find just the sounds he wants for these pieces.

In preparation for the concert, Todd, Sean and Phyllis prayed together and as always God's providence is magnificent. Sean had a lingering cough that seemed to surface during quiet songs at the earlier concerts. Phyllis prayed that Sean's cough would be silenced during the concert. There were many other people coughing during the concert, but not Sean! Praise God!

One lady who was at the Umatilla concert the night before came and brought her whole family. There were many kids which made *Glory Bound* especially fun as they shared 3 sets of sand blocks. It was a very ecumenical audience of 50 people representing many denominations.

Afterward there was a fabulous spread of assorted sandwiches, homemade pickles, fruits, vegetables with cakes and sweetbreads to satisfy our sweet tooth. They have enjoyed their new handicap accessible facilities which have opened up many new opportunities for this growing congregation to serve the community.