

## Ring Praise Music Ministry

After the correctional facility concert, we relaxed before heading to Umatilla for our evening concert at Community Presbyterian Church. What a gorgeous afternoon – temperature in the 70's. The Umatilla church has been without a pastor for 11 years, relying on various lay people and clergy in the area to fill the pulpit. Average worship attendance is under 15. So when there were 49 people at the concert, the most we have ever had there, a couple of members commented how nice it was to see the church full of people. Norma, our contact and tireless worker for the church, has been the backbone behind it staying open. It is always good to see her and the other faithful members.

The church is situated on a hill with both the Columbia and Umatilla Rivers in sight. What a beautiful location! The lower level does have a ground entrance which makes it convenient for the preschool that is housed there.

Two years ago when we were here, the Hammond organ didn't work. They had it looked at and discovered it needed oil which is a common problem for these older organs. So Sean was able to play a prelude on it.

There are a couple of churches in Hermiston that have bell choirs and some of the ringers came. Duane Brudevold, pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Hermiston, and his wife came. The two churches are only about 10 miles apart and they support each other's ministries. When we were in Hermiston last year, several from Umatilla attended.

As is true at all our concerts, the audience enjoyed ring along with the handchimes. Three kids came up to play the sand blocks on *Glory Bound*. Afterward there was a great array of cookies in their fellowship hall which is downstairs from the sanctuary. When we were done fielding questions upstairs and went down, we were amazed at the number that had gone down for the reception.