

2017 Presbyterians for Earth Care Conference

Blessing the Waters of Life: Justice and Healing for Our Watersheds

Thursday, 28 September

Gathering and Worship

Jim Strathdee, music leader

*praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day.*

*praise for the singing,
praise for the morning,
praise for them springing
fresh from the word.*



Plenary

A Theology of Water and Life

Reverend Doctor Barbara Rossing

Eschatology

Mark 5:23 "...at the point of death." (eschatos)

Revelation 22:1-2 Jesus is leading us to a new world on "the river of the water of life."

Revelation 11:18 time has come "for destroying the destroyers of the earth."

What you do to the waters eventually comes back to you

Babylon future – funeral for Roman Empire

Chapter 18 dirge

18:4 3-fold laments

the doomed trajectory

the alternative trajectory Rev 18:14

"This world is definitely our home."

Revelation 21:6 "the water of life without payment" – a gift for everyone, a gift without price

Revelation 22: "the river of the water of life" – a common for all

Corbett Wheeler, Nez Perce

"We'll go away with better and higher spirits."

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Taking a break



On the Wright Hall front patio



and on the front lawn

Group photos



Northwest Group
Pacific Group



Three more Groups

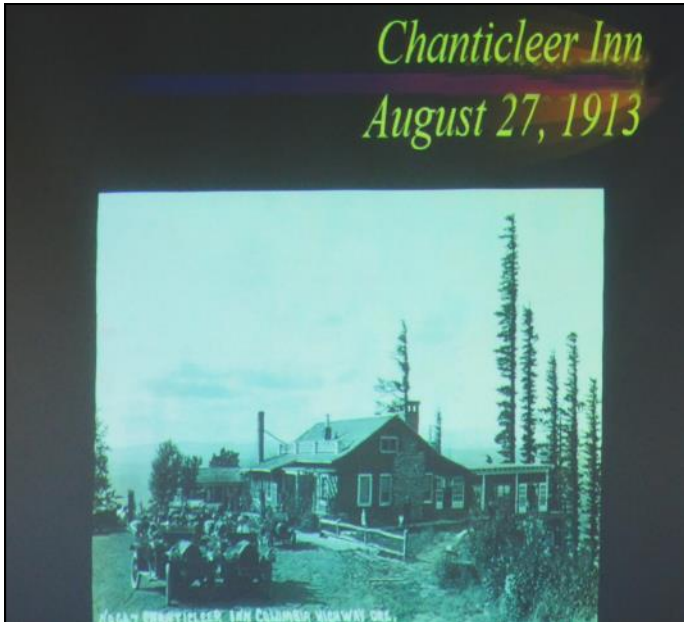
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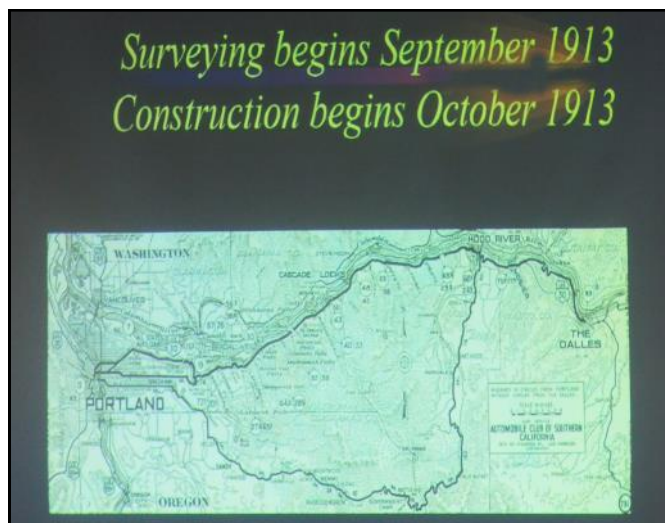
For the Beauty of the Earth: Protecting the Columbia Gorge

“The Making of a World Class Adventure”

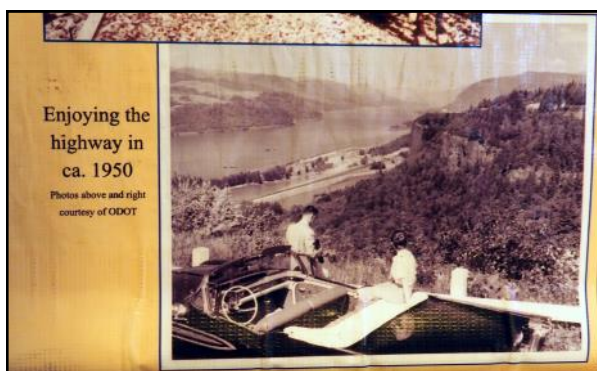
Building the Columbia River Highway



Chanticleer Inn was on Chanticleer Point, adjacent to Menucha and along the new highway



Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway poster



Poster photo view of the Columbia River Gorge from the highway near Chanticleer Inn and Menucha

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Hikes at Menucha

For the Beauty of the Earth, Part II

Led by Warren Aney, Ryan Rittenhouse, Dana Eglinton, and Barry McPherson



Columbia River Gorge from the Vesper Viewpoint on the eastern edge of Menucha



Hikers at Vesper Viewpoint



Hikers on the Rim Trail (a firebreak on the eastern and northern rim of Chanticleer Point — created in the 1930s to help protect Menucha from forest fires)

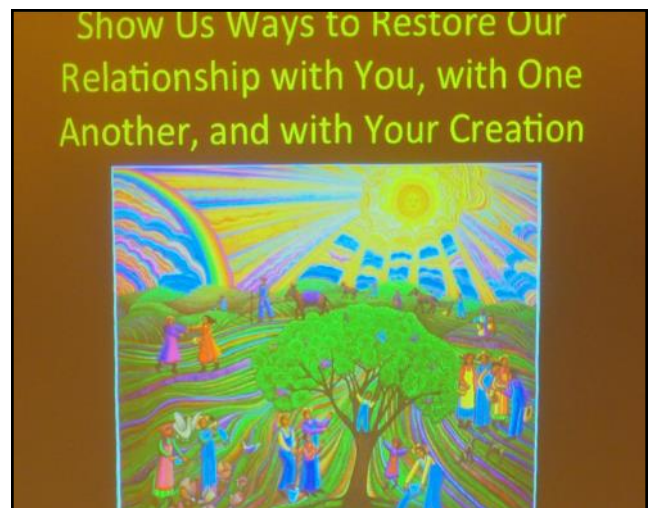
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Evening Worship

Jim and Jean Strathdee, music leaders

*Take, take off your shoes, your standing on my holy ground.
For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness there of, from the waters beneath to the heavens above.
So, take, take, take off your shoes your standing on my holy ground, your standing on my holy ground.*



Posting our ideas on the waterfall curtain

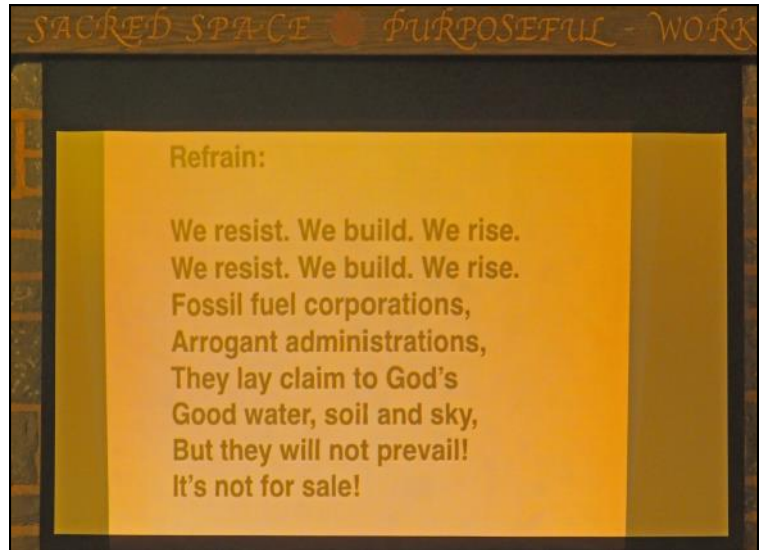


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John Pitney of McMinnville, Oregon
Guitar player and song leader



Like swords beat into plowshares,
 We'll retool and we will save,
 Making pipelines into panels
 And power from sun and wave

And coal mines into wind farms
 And workers all retrained
 If we have the nerve!
 If we have the nerve!

We will resist non-violently
 The greedy and uncouth
 Like King and Chavez, Black Elk,
 Dorothy Day, Sojourner Truth.
 The damage of 100 days
 May take 100 years to make it right.



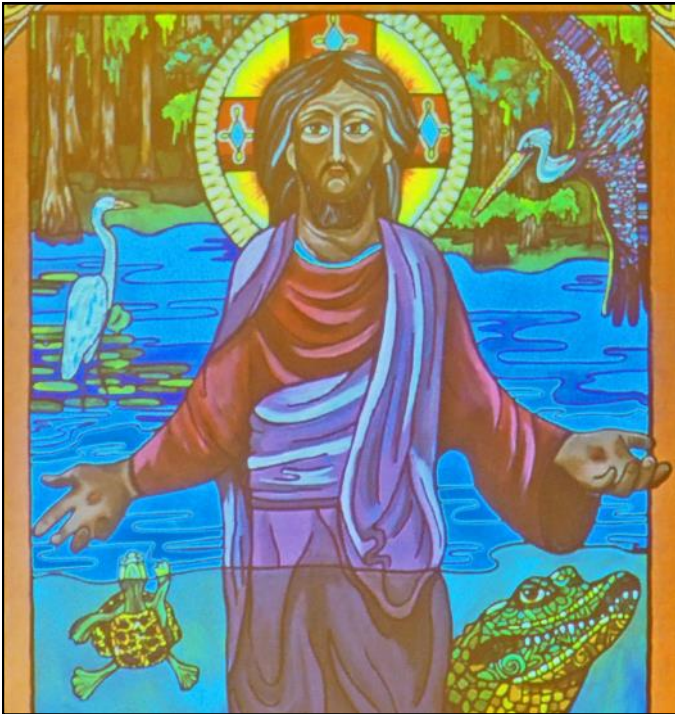
Will we keep our Paris Promise
 Or in hubris turn our back
 And like Antarctic ice shelves
 Leave our dreams to shift and crack?

Or let God's justice roll down,
 Then like a rising tide
 Out of our demise
Yes we will rise!

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Awards Presentations



To a young artist:

**Emerging Earth Care Leader Award
for Outstanding Leadership Potential
Given to
Lauren Wright-Pittman**



**William Gibson Eco-Justice Award
for Leadership in Environmental Action
Given to
Dennis Testerman**

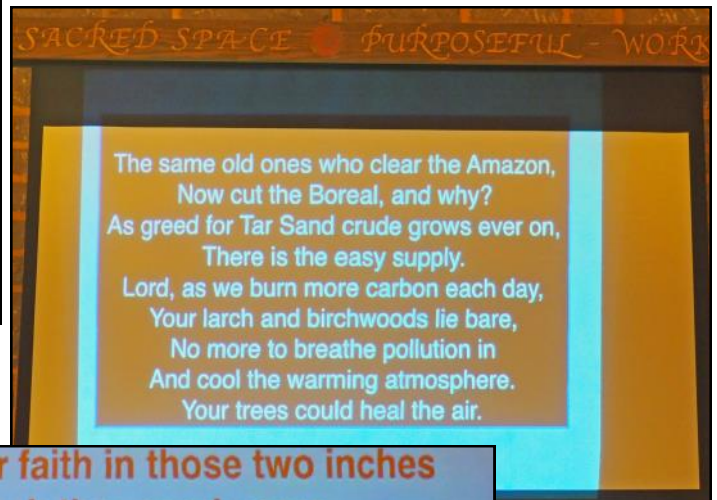
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The leaves of the Tree
 Are for the healing of the nations
 And the leaves of the trees are for
 The healing of the land

And if a tree or forest falls,
 And if no one's there to hear
 The clear cut buzzing chainsaw calls,
 Did they really disappear?
 God, we see the teeming Amazon climes
 Made into hamburger plains.
 Help us see increasing treely crimes
 Done 'round the Earth for short-term gains
 God help us heal the pain.



John Pitney
Guitar player and song leader

**We place our faith in those two inches
 That build each thousand years
 Beneath your trees of leaves and finches
 And bones and mushroom tears.
 Invest us God in things that renew,
 Sustaining treely grace.
 We die to humus, satisfied.
 Our lives are holding ground in place!
 God, heal your land in place.**



God help us toil with fire & banyans,
 With cypress and alder anon,
 Whose roots keep soil from silting canyons
 And stream beds so fishes can't spawn.
 God help us stand like shelter belts brave,
 To face eroding winds
 And slow the greed so the trees can save
 Creation from arboreal sins
 And your trees can heal again.

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Awards Presentations (continued)



A gift award presented to Jenny Holmes of Portland, Oregon: leader of the Pre-Conference Immersion planning team key planner and local host for the main Conference

Presbyterians for Earth Care Steering Committee

