I’m privileged to make my second appearance in this year’s *Fellowship*; the first was in a member profile in September, and now this month as the Publicity Chair of the Leadership Team (LT). The Publicity Committee’s goal is to “create and maintain lines of communication to the membership to facilitate information flow between and among the LT, Alliance members and the church.” More simply, publicity should keep us all in the know as clearly, currently and completely as possible.

This position was filled last year by “a cast of hundreds.” You can imagine my trepidation in the filling of hundreds of shoes all by myself. (No bad jokes here about centipedes please.) I needn’t have worried, however, because among those hundreds were, and thankfully still are, a host of capable people who do most of the committee’s work. It definitely is a leadership team. Individual committee members are responsible for maintaining the bulletin boards (Peg Snyder and Leslie Pohl-Kosbau); providing Alliance information to the e-news and church bulletin (Veronica Williams); publishing this *Fellowship* newsletter (Sally Shorr and Julie Wunderlich); and designing and producing publicity graphics (Leslie Pohl-Kosbau). I applaud them all, vigorously and thankfully.

Meanwhile, I’ve taken on two projects myself. The first was to republish the informational brochure, which was last updated several years ago for the 150th anniversary of The Alliance. With the help of many members, the text was revised and photographs updated, and the brochure was published in September.

The second project is to maintain The Alliance’s computer website, which is a subsidiary section of First Church’s website. Although I began my career in computer systems in 1962 (when a computer with less power than a single cell phone filled a sizeable room), website maintenance has been a technological challenge, not to say adventure. One of the main outcomes of this project will be easing the process of updating for those to come. I urge all members to take advantage of the site to keep abreast of our current activities. It makes my work all more than worthwhile.

Yours in Fellowship,

Jim Smith,
Publicity Chair

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**LEADERSHIP NOTES: PUBLICITY**

**MEMBER IN PROFILE: Laurie Lester**

Laurie’s first language was Spanish. Born in D.C. between her father’s postings with the Foreign Service, Laurie lived primarily in Latin America until she returned to the United States after high school to attend college. She spent her first year at Antioch College, some time at U. of Maryland, and graduated from George Washington University with a BA in Studio Art and a minor in English.

Laurie’s career called on her various skills. Working primarily in communications, marketing and public relations for a variety of non-profits, her favorite job was her 15 years as Public Affairs Director of the Phillips Collection, a...
Laurie Lester, continued

prestigious D.C. art museum calling itself “America’s First Museum of Modern Art.” Founded in 1918 as a private collection of late 19th, early 20th Century American and European art, its permanent collection includes Renoir's *Luncheon of the Boating Party*, and a roomful of works by Rothko. Laurie directed the challenging work of setting up the formerly private museum to more public participation.

It seemed only natural to reconnect her membership with D.C.’s All Souls Unitarian, the church where her parents married. Laurie provided years of leadership with the large, diverse congregation. She served in significant roles with Religious Education, Worship and fundraising committees. She was Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Membership Secretary and Co-chair of a capital campaign. Recently, she admitted she felt “over-churched.”

Not that you’d know it! Here at First Church, she serves at our Welcome Desk and participates in the Immigrant Justice Action Group, expressing admiration for the work of its leaders. Last fall, she canvassed eastside Portland neighborhoods in favor of the affordable housing ballot measure and to preserve anti-profiling laws.

Indeed, Laurie and Bob have begun again. Their home on a hilly Portland street includes an iconic view of river and Mt. Hood. May Laurie’s enthusiasm for all the “friendly people here” be echoed by The Alliance. Welcome, Laurie Lester!

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Penny Moody

My welcome to Penny’s home included an invitation to pat Lily, her aging Golden Lab, and to enjoy the chirping of a pair of bonded parakeets. Walls and shelves of photos display Penny’s reverence for family and ancestors, her daughter and granddaughter in Portland, and her son and grandson in Cheyenne. Many artifacts reveal stores of Penny’s heritage and long career.

A wrought-iron lamp lights the living room corner and invites stories about Penny’s unique heritage. Her father, born in Wales, emigrated to New York with his family at age 12. He apprenticed to a blacksmith as a youth, and remained a lifelong smithy, hammering church gates, small ornaments, sculptures, etc. Penny’s mother, born in Vermont, was also Welsh, and Penny attended a Welsh church through high school. She stays in touch with the culture by subscribing to *Ninnau*, a Welsh newspaper published in New York.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Penny taught first through fourth grade children in New York and Colorado for more than 30 years. Devotion to her students and teaching shows in Penny’s memorabilia; she has carefully compiled decades of students’ class pictures and names of each student in photo albums and record books. Penny reminisces, “I loved reading to them.” She gestures to her own reading, a stack of books borrowed from Cedar Mill library to read for her book club.

Penny’s heritage even played a role in her initial visit to First Unitarian Church. Checking out our website, she caught a glimpse of our pipe organ. The brief look reminded Penny of the pipe organ’s chords from her childhood church. She loved “the organ accompaniment to those deep and melodious Welsh voices!” On her first visit, “I listened intently to the choir,” and was invited to the coffee hour by a friendly congregant. She joined our church in 2013.

Retirement allows Penny lighter moments too, preferably sunny days walking Lily and evenings laughing at the grumpy main character on *Doc Martin*. The BBC show was filmed in Port Isaac, Cornwall, a town Penny visited several years ago with an English friend.

Penny admits, “I am shy, but I always enjoy helping” with lunch setups or baking cookies for the Greens Sale and pies for the church auction. She earns treasurer Linda Nelson’s gratitude for being “my team.” We thank Penny for all her service to The Alliance.

Fellowship
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