

Re-introductions

Continuing an offering of short introductions of our members, young and old, new and not-so-new, this month featuring our church secretary, Alison Center

This is the saga of **Alison Center** — wife, mother, church member, community volunteer, and Administrative Secretary for The First Presbyterian Church of Cottage Grove, Oregon. She was born in Anchorage, Alaska, where her father was stationed as a member of the air force.

She traveled with her family to Washington, Ohio, Texas, and Germany before ending up in Virginia where she began her high school years. She later moved to Bellevue Washington where she graduated as valedictorian of her class. Alison matriculated to The University of Washington and graduated with a degree in zoology before traveling across the state to Pullman where she earned a masters degree in wildlife biology. The degree wasn't the only thing she got at Washington State — she met Scott, her husband to be, there as well.

They were married in 1988 and moved to Roseburg, OR, where Scott took a position with the forest service. During the four years they lived in Roseburg, Alison also worked for the forest service in research with small mammals. They moved to Springfield, Oregon, when Alison took a job with The Bureau of Land Management. It was during this period in 1993 that Tristen, their elder son, was born.

Needing more space for their growing family, they bought a home in Cottage Grove in 1994. Alison continued to work for the BLM, reducing to half time after Reid, their second son, was born in 1997. She retired in 2005.

When the former Administrative Secretary resigned unexpectedly, Alison was asked to fill the position until the Personnel Commission



could find a permanent replacement. She has proven to be very capable, and Personnel asked her to continue in the position. October will be her two-year anniversary as Secretary.

Alison has served the church as a session member and member of the Christian Education Commission. In the community, she is serving on the steering committee of the Coast Fork Water board Council.

As a parent, Alison occasionally needs to be away from the church office to care for sick children. It is helpful to have a cadre of volunteers available to answer the phones Tuesdays through Fridays in the morning. If you are not already on the list to help and would be available for emergency phone duty, please contact Alison or De Martysus.

Submitted by Ace Reporter, Bob Dill