

Presbytery of Boise

The mission of the Presbytery of Boise is to assist, support, equip, and challenge congregations to be disciples, and to make disciples for Jesus Christ

MARCH 2025

THE CROSS ROAD

Rachel's Reflections

They're Back!

There's something comforting about the rhythms of nature. As we march toward Spring – though this week's snow bursts make me question our progress – we see the familiar and predictable signs. Spring flowers are starting to poke out from the frozen soil; trees are budding.

My mother called last week to confirm ...[READ MORE](#)

Wildfire Relief: Your Generosity Abounds!

Thank you for donating through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to benefit our siblings in Christ in Southern California! Together **we contributed over \$21,000!**

Presbyterian News Service reports on the recovery: "The Rev. Matt Hardin and the Rev. Dr. Grace Park, who serve Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church, the only PC(USA) church destroyed by the January wildfires, led members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance solidarity visit during a sacred time Sunday to mourn their beautiful church, a complete loss in the Palisades fire.

"We're still in the wilderness," Hardin said, standing alongside the charred remains. "Every time I come here, I realize how long it's going to take."

"It's like visiting a gravesite," Park said. "It's painful and healing at the same time." Fifty-five church families lost their homes in the blaze. Church leaders are undecided ... [READ MORE](#)

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New Synod Grant Applications

The Synod of the Pacific offers valuable grants to help congregations respond to changing ministry needs. Their grant application forms have recently changed, so applicants are urged to use the website version of their forms found on the [Synod Grants](#) page.

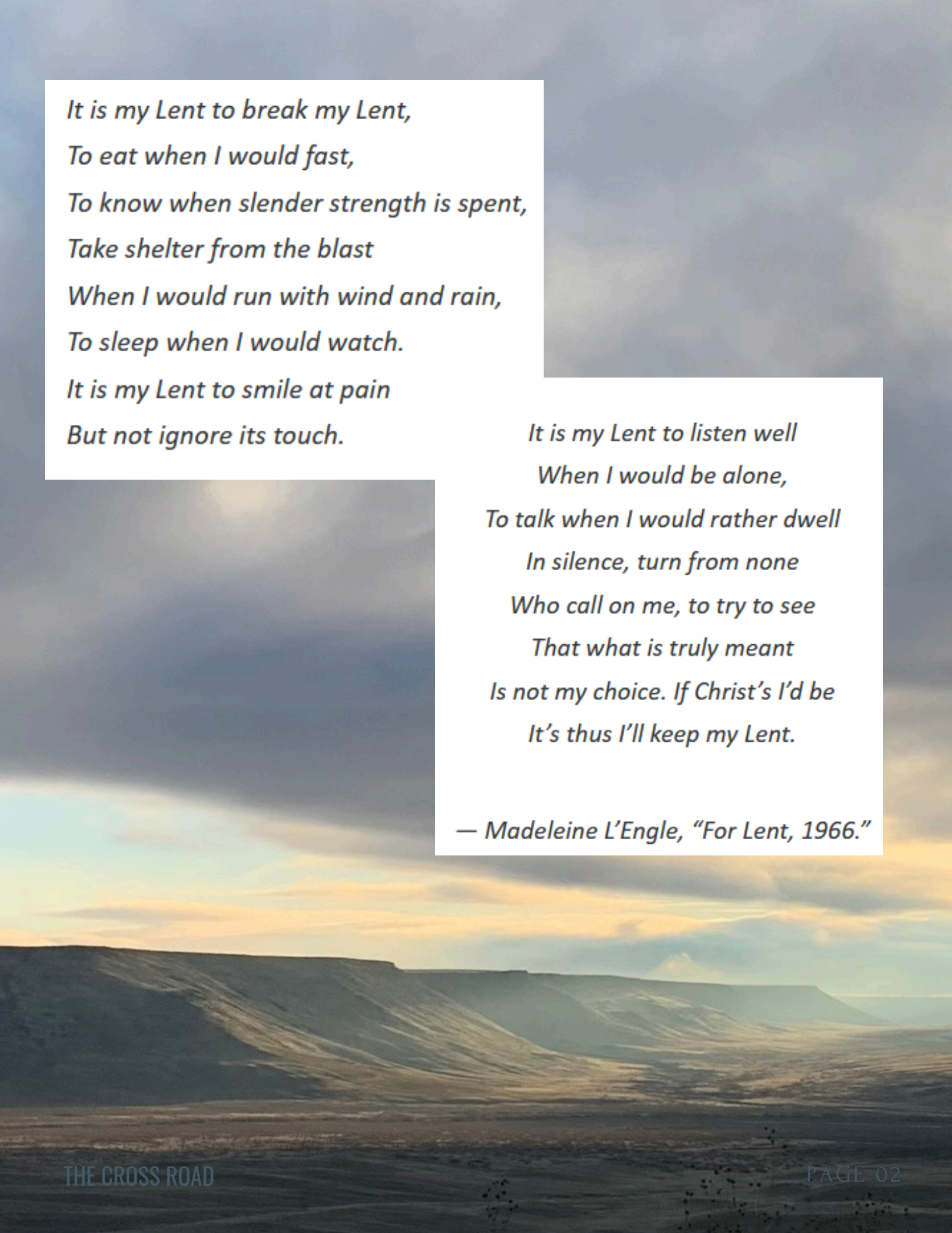
Property Cohort Forming: Buildings for Ministry

Last year, the Presbytery worked with Partners for Sacred Places to offer a workshop on how we use our church properties in ministry. Another ecumenical cohort is now forming, and the group is accepting expressions of interest. Please let [Rachel Yates](#) know if you would like to explore this opportunity.

Partners for Sacred Places explains: If your church needs to consider making a major change in the ways you use your property, discerning a path forward can be a fraught process with multiple decision points. Contemplating change may be necessary if: your building is sitting empty most of the week, the cost of maintenance and repairs to the building has become higher than the congregation can shoulder alone, and/or there is more space available than the congregation needs for its own use.

Partners for Sacred Places, a non-sectarian non-profit dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of America's older religious properties, employs the concept of a property mission statement as a tool for forging a path forward. The property mission statement, developed by a team within the congregation, is an internal document that will guide how the church property is leveraged to benefit the larger mission and vision of the church, and helps to ensure the legacy of the church is carried forward through new uses or initiatives. This one-day workshop will explain what a property mission statement entails and how it serves as a powerful tool for churches, the steps to develop one, how to form your team, and how to engage your broader community in the process. Participants will leave with the confidence to develop a property mission statement with their congregation.





*It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.*

*It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.*

— Madeleine L'Engle, "For Lent, 1966."