

MEMORIAL DAY This Sam Vitale FOR VOICES 5/9

Memorial Day is a sacred day for all war veterans. None need to be reminded of the reason why Memorial Day must be recognized. Far too often our Country as a whole takes for granted the freedoms all Americans enjoy. Those freedoms were paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew. The white crosses in the military cemeteries and our local cemeteries represent freedom bought and paid for. Memorial Day is for honoring those who have died serving in uniform during wartime. As Vietnam veterans our journey has been long, our bonds remain strong. We who remain will remember our brothers and sisters who have been called to their final home. The memory of our own will live on in us. This is what we do-- it's called remembrance; it's called honor; it's called family. I am sure that veterans of other wars feel the same way.

Gold Beach VFW Post 4439 will be conducting a ceremony at the Curry County Veterans Memorial at the Memorial site on Shirley Lane on Monday, May 29th at 12:00 noon, rain or shine! There will also be a flyover and everyone is invited. If you have any questions, you

can call me at 541 469-6443. YOUR LISTENING TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST
Radio station 910 AM AND 95.3 FM AND 104.1 FM HAVE A BLESSED DAY!
God Bless America--Home of the Brave and Land of the Free!

Sam Vitale
Vietnam Veteran
Brookings

Father Bernie Lindley

May 18, 2017

Church

This is Father Bernie Lindley from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, for Voices.

I can't help but notice that there isn't a Methodist Church in Brookings. This seems strange because every other town in America has at least one Methodist Church. In fact, there are nearly 35,000 Methodist Churches in the United States.

There is a Methodist Church in Crescent City that was established well over a hundred years ago. There is a smaller Methodist Church in Smith River. But no Methodist Church in Brookings, Gold Beach, Port Orford, or Bandon.

You might have also noticed that there is no Presbyterian Church in Crescent City. Apparently, 150 years ago, the missionary boards of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches sat down in a room on the east coast and came up with a strategy for expanding their congregations into the west. It is almost as if they experimented with setting up a "do not compete" agreement. The Presbyterians staked a claim to the southern Oregon Coast, agreeing to hold off on any attempts to establish congregations on the Northern California coast and the Methodist stayed out of the Southern Oregon Coast in exchange for the Presbyterians staying out of the Northern California Coast.

What surprises me is that this agreement from the 19th century is still essentially in place even as Brookings has grown. It isn't as if new churches do not ever get started in Brookings. We have over 20 churches in Brookings, many of which were started less than 20 years ago. Yet it surprises me that the Methodist Church doesn't start a congregation in Curry County because I suspect that we are the only county in the United States without one. After all, with a little over 3,100 counties in our country, that means that there are 11 times more Methodist Churches than there are counties.

Maybe someday we will see a Methodist Church in Brookings. I hope so.