

"Christ is all and in all." Colossians 3:11

# Pres-Bits Newsletter

The Presbyterian Church of Washington

**March 2010**

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*As mentioned at the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Session is wrestling with issues of finances, staff, and direction of the church.*

*With the invaluable assistance of the Presbytery, the Session is engaged in work developing a ministry plan. A representative from Presbytery's Congregational Development Ministry Team has been meeting with the Session every other week, including giving us homework in between meetings.*

*The ministry plan seeks to claim a vision of what God is calling our congregation to be and do here and now, with specific action steps to take to help us get where we believe God is calling us to go. The ministry plan will outline implications for staff and leadership. The ministry plan will include financial implications and choices.*

*The intention is to bring a report to the congregation by the end of March.*

*In the meantime, you are invited to be in prayer for the Session, to be open to offering your support and input, and to be expectant and hopeful for what God is working in our midst.*

*Peace in Christ,  
Bill Vincent*

## Worship Notes

Throughout the month of March, as we progress on our journey of Lent, we will focus on and explore some of those things we have to let go of in order to embrace God and God's purposes for us.

Sunday, MARCH 7 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent: Letting go of hurts and grudges in order to embrace reconciliation and forgiveness.

Sunday, MARCH 14 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Letting go of "them" in order to embrace Him. (Remember to set your clocks *forward* for Daylight Saving Time, and don't be late for worship!)

Sunday, MARCH 21 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent - Letting go of *our* dreams and expectations in order to embrace *God's* hope and possibilities.

Sunday, MARCH 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday - Letting go of our lives in order to embrace God's new life.

Remember: We will celebrate Maundy Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling!) with a joint service at 7:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Communion will be served.

## At its February Stated Meeting the Session:

- Approved minutes from both January Session meetings as well as the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Approved all portions of the 2010 Tentative Budget with the exception of the Pastor's Terms of Call. This is still under discussion with representatives from Presbytery.
- Discussed legal implications of our current Alcohol Policy and rental liability agreements.
- Passed a motion empowering Amy Randal to rewrite our current Alcohol policy and rental liability release forms to be submitted to Session in the near future for approval.
- Approved four private rentals.
- Discussed recent damage to the Fellowship Hall floor and plans to repair it.
- Passed a motion allowing WHS Winter Guard to continue practicing in our Fellowship Hall through the end of this season as long as adequate precautions are taken and no further damage is found.
- Approved a grass-mowing contract with Whip Schultz.
- Passed a motion to reject another Lake Proposal from our neighbors.

## Fellowship Open House

Mark your calendar for our Fellowship Hall Open House on Sunday, April 11 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Plan to come and bring a friend as we welcome the community to our newly renovated facility.

Caterers, florists, decorators, and other vendors will participate, so if you know someone who is involved in planning events, bring him/her along, too. We will also need members to greet our guests from the community.

Come and enjoy the festivities!

## **WKDJ**

Washington Kids Discovering Jesus (Sunday school for all children grades 1-6) will be exploring the story of “The Resurrection” during the month of March. Activities will include watching the video *He Is Risen*, creating “stained glass” crosses, and testing our knowledge with Computer quizzes. On Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>), we’ll review the events of Holy Week and bake “empty tomb biscuits”. Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

## **Preschool/Kindergarten Class**

The Preschool/Kindergarten class will continue to learn about Jesus’ life and ministry as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. In March, their lessons will include: The Parable of the Fig Tree, the Prodigal Son, Mary Anoints Jesus, and Holy Week. We guarantee this class is full of energy and fun! Come and join Ms. Roni on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

## **No Sunday School Class on Easter Sunday**

There will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Youth**

The youth will gather for their monthly Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Café Mosaic.

## **Organist/Pianist**

At a special meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Session hired Tim Culp to serve as our new organist and choir accompanist.

Tim comes to us from Granite City, Illinois. He brings 24 years of experience playing piano and organ for worship and working with choirs in Presbyterian Churches. He also has had experience in the theater playing accompaniment for musicals.

Tim’s first official Sunday will be March 7<sup>th</sup>. You will have an opportunity to meet him on Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> at a reception to welcome him immediately following worship.

In addition, Marybelle Buescher, who has been our Secondary Organist for the past several years, has graciously agreed to serve as a substitute organist as needed. We thank her for her service in our midst, and for her willingness to continue to help us out when the need arises.

## **All-Church Potluck**

The All-Church Potluck met on February 10<sup>th</sup> with 23 in attendance. The next potluck will be March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. with Stew. Please bring a side dish to share. In case you haven’t noticed the name has changed from Adult Potluck to **All-Church Potluck**. The potluck is now open to all families to share in the fellowship. There will be a sign-up sheet up on the bulletin board in the foyer.

## **Deaths**

Please keep in your prayers the family of Todd & Vivienne Beckett. Vivienne's father, Al Riazi, died on Friday, February 5, 2009.

## **Thank You**

A thank you note was received from the Scouts with all their signatures along with a donation to the church. You'll find it on the bulletin board in the foyer.

## **Recognition Sunday**

Recognition Sunday is May 9th. The High School Seniors will be recognized and the second graders will be presented Bibles.

## **Parents' Day Out**

We are considering adding a Monday PDO class. If you know of anyone who would be interested please have them call Pamela Kellermann at 239-7958 or the church office at 239-3178.

## **Office Hours**

Due to recent cuts in the budget, the office hours will be 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Appointments can be made for other times. The office is closed on Fridays.

March 22-25 and March 29 the office will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## **Volunteer Help**

Thank you to Laura Evans for helping with the bulletin on Fridays and to Todd Beckett who has volunteered to put the Newsletter together.

## **Church Security System**

For those of you who have a church key and code to the security system, the phone number for Sonitrol/Stanley Security has been changed to 1-866-874-3814.

## **Worship Attendance**

1-3	59
1-10	62
1-17	69
1-24	61
1-31	61

## **Fundraising Committee**

The Finance committee would like to re-activate the Fundraising committee. If you would be interested in helping to coordinate Fundraisers please contact Laura Evans at 390-9205 or the church office.

## **Fellowship Table Help**

The Church Life & Mission Committee would love to have some help with the Fellowship Table. We need donations of cookies or breads (home-baked or store-bought, we're not picky!) and help to serve them on the first Sunday of the month. One of the best ways to make friends and have great fellowship is over food! Please contact Gretchen Farrell with questions or to sign up, 239-0070. THANK YOU

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hat Day Coming in March**

Dust off your hats, everyone! Sunday, March 21, will be our 2nd Annual Hat Day to celebrate the first Sunday in Spring and to remember all of our members who may have lost, who are going through, or who conquered their battle with any kind of cancer. We saw so many different kinds of hats last year, you never know what will show up and spark a fun conversation. Wear any kind of hat, seriously, ANY kind, to worship on this day and let's see how joyful we can be! Questions? Just ask Gretchen Farrell or anyone else on the Church Life & Mission Committee.

## **PRAYER LIST:**

MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING NEEDS: Jack Lohan, Vic Kappelmann, Connie Conrad, Nancy Thater, Kaci Conley, Dan Pierce, Barbara Pierce, Barbara Roethelisberger, Glenda Nagel, Mary Eleanor Farrell, Jack Truesdell, Elsie Kresse, Roni Fowler, Joan Schultz, Ron Nagel, Brooke Tucker, Jamie Tucker, Janet Aaron, Lois Lohan, June Kleberger, Bev Stobie, Lucille Ronsick, Paul & Joyce Bock, the Stahlhuth family, Barbara Kidd, Gene Kopp, Elsie Truesdell, Mary Lais, family of Todd & Vivienne Beckett & Glenn Siebke.

NEW HAVEN CARE CENTER: David & Louise Mathews.

CEDARCREST: Ann Hartbauer & Mary Ann Schultz.

GRANDVIEW: Christine Lewis & Evelyn Walters.

### FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH:

Shawn Oppliger (son of Glenda & Ron Nagel),  
Trevor Grater (nephew of Paul & Lya Struckhoff),  
Dottie Jones (friend of Mauri Truesdell),  
Jerri Jones (friend of Mauri Truesdell),  
Sherry Schroepfer (friend of the Bugele's),  
Nancy Fisher (friend of the Farrell's),  
Olivia Billings (great-niece of Joan Shelby),  
Della Mae Probst (sister of Wilbert Schultz),  
Arlene Kehr (sister of Wilbert Schultz),  
Robin Tebeau (sister of John Ensor),  
Jill Haberberger (friend through Boehmer and Vogts),  
Bern Ruehman (mother of Jan Hardin),  
Barbara & George Peters (parent's of Nancy Thater),  
Larry Kleberger (son of June Kleberger),  
Barb Ebker (friend of Karla Becker),  
John Collett (friend of the Stahlhuth's),  
Kara Suter (daughter of June Kleberger),  
Lucian Uiese Matau (grandson of Roni Fowler),  
Jerry Lakebrink (friend of Struckhoff's & Vogts),  
Ardis Harnagel (friend of Karen Ladd).

## **Community Easter Egg Hunt**

We are planning a big Community Easter Egg Hunt for Saturday, March 27 (this is the day before Palm Sunday!), from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the field behind our church (Fellowship Hall should it rain!) and would love to have two kinds of help: donations of plastic Easter eggs or small, individually wrapped, store bought candy; and volunteers to help stuff the eggs (on Friday, 3/26) and hide the eggs (early on the morning of 3/27). Look for our donation box in the church narthex and check out some advertisements in our local newspaper and radio and please talk to church friends and neighbors with young children up through age 12, who would enjoy this community mission event. Questions? Just ask Laura Conley, 239-4814, or Gretchen Farrell, 239-0070, or anyone else on the Church Life & Mission Committee.

## **Worship Assignments**

March:

Worship Leader – Lya Struckhoff  
Ushers – Laura Evans & Jane Stelzner  
Greeters – Barb & Joe Hagan  
Worship Coordinator – Roni Fowler  
Sound Booth – Jami Conley & Libby Farrell

## **March Birthdays**

3-2 Jon Farrell  
3-3 Anna Mae Boehmer  
3-3 Ryan Staiger  
3-4 Emily Bounds  
3-4 Bill Kellermann  
3-5 Jim Conley  
3-9 Matt Thayer  
3-10 Jean Van Der Kamp  
3-11 April Robison  
3-12 Molly Beuke  
3-13 Jack Lohan  
3-19 Tom Farrell  
3-20 Sharon Fenner  
3-20 Lola Sheppard  
3-23 Sam Brown  
3-27 Annette Bebermeyer  
3-29 Libby Farrell

## **Trivia Night and Silent Auction**

Let's all join together for a great FUNdraiser time with our church and community as we plan a Trivia Night and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 24, from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.! This is a wonderful time to invite friends, family and neighbors into our Fellowship Hall for some trivia fun and in between rounds, wander through our silent auction items to be displayed in the narthex and main entrance way, with all proceeds going to our general fund. We're going to need lots of volunteers for easy jobs, both at the trivia table area and in our silent auction area. Please call Gretchen Farrell to sign up and help. As always, we welcome all sorts of ideas!

## **Silent Auction Items Needed!!!**

Now that everyone knows about our Trivia Night/Silent Auction Event, we are in need of ANY items for our silent auction! Please contact Gretchen Farrell with any questions, but, literally, any NEW item that you may have taking up space in your home that you want to donate: extra items bought for Christmas/Birthday gifts, any SERVICE that you may provide (Just describe that service clearly on a page of paper and possibly have a gift certificate with it), any unused gift certificates, any food item (perishables will only be taken on event day to ensure freshness!). ANY size item, large or small, that you would like to donate to the church, we will be glad to see about getting into a gift basket or just putting that item out to sell. This is a fantastic way to raise funds for the church and we can all do something for it! Please call Gretchen to arrange any pick up, but for smaller items, please use the donation box in the church office. THANK YOU!!

## **2010 Per Capita**

The Per Capita for 2010 is \$25.98. This amount is due on each Active member on the rolls to help with the expenses on the Presbytery, Synod & General Assembly level. You will find an envelope in your packet of 2010 contribution envelopes for the Per Capita. Please help by sending in a check for each Active member in your family.

## **World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer service will begin at sunrise in the Pacific Region and follow the Earth's orbit to Africa and the rest of the world. Sponsored by the Church Women United of Franklin County, the local service will be held in our church on Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p. m. This year's service "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God" has been prepared by women in Cameroon. The speaker is Sheila Bleckman, President of the Parish Council of St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church. Also participating will be some members of the Combined Christian Choir. Plowshare Crafts will have crafts from many nations available to buy. All men and women are invited

We will be serving cookies and beverages. If you can help in any way, please contact Jean Van Der Kamp

# Lilies for Easter

We will be decorating the church with lilies for Easter, or you may choose to give to the Matthew 25 Hunger Fund. If more money is received than is needed to decorate the sanctuary, excess funds will be sent to the Matthew 25 Hunger Fund through the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.

A Lily will cost \$10.00, or you can choose to give to the Matthew 25 Hunger Fund.

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## LILY ORDER FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ donates

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily(ies)

\_\_\_\_\_ in loving memory of OR

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of (please check one)

name \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Matthew 25 Hunger Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ in loving memory of OR

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of (please check one)

name \_\_\_\_\_

Following the service on Easter:

\_\_\_\_\_ Have the lily delivered to a shut-in.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be taking lily home.

*Please return this form with your check to the church office by March 21<sup>st</sup>.*