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November 2009 Newsletter

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A World That Wants to Know

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

I sat down for coffee with a friend recently who happens to be agnostic, meaning he's not sure if there is a God. Somehow our conversation turned to issues of faith and he said something that really caught my attention. In addressing his agnosticism he said, "Don't get me wrong, I want to know that there is a God, I'm just not sure it's possible to know."

His open and honest comment should give those of us in the church pause for reflection. We too often misunderstand our mission of sharing faith as somehow convincing people that they should want to know. We envision the challenge as somehow nurturing in people a desire for God, as if the thought hadn't occurred to them. We too often assume that friends and family who aren't connected to church are not really all that interested in God or things of faith.

If my friend is representative at all, the desire to know is already very present in most people's lives. We live in a community full of people who want to know the God of the universe but struggle to see how this is possible. What a wonderful opportunity we have as people with good news to share that God is known and can be known in Jesus.

I hate to use the word, because I know it is incredibly intimidating to most of us, but in a world that longs to know, we are called to be "evangelists." Contrary to popular belief this does not mean being a sales person for God. This word comes from the Greek, *euangelion*, meaning *eu* (good)-*angelion* (messenger). It is the simple and natural act of sharing good news that the God we long to know is known in the person of Jesus.

As we march forward into the holiday season, I want to challenge all of us to take up this great commission to be "evangelists" in the best sense of the word. No street corner and soap box is necessary.



And if you're having a hard time knowing where to start I'd like to recommend a quote from Presbyterian pastor Frederick Buechner;

"If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, that is to say like artists, we must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces. Here it is love that is the frame we see them in."

— Frederick Buechner

-Whistling in the Dark: An ABC Theologizea

In other words, before we go about sharing our story, we need to settle into the rhythms of listening and hearing the stories of others. When we think of evangelism our default mode is to wonder what it is we should say. Buechner offers a different default mode of listening and paying attention, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

I look forward to hearing about your own experiences of listening and loving.

God Bless,
Pastor Craig

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *1 Thessalonians 5*

Mark Your Calendar

Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale November 7 & 8, 9 am

We will be offering many things for the home and gifts for the holidays.

2nd Harvest Food Distribution November 13, 1-3 pm

Food distribution begins at 1 pm and ends at 3 pm.

Stewardship Commitment Sunday November 22, 9:30 am Unified Worship

Don't forget that we have Unified Worship Service at 9:30 am followed by a light breakfast and tours of the recent renovations to facilities.

Advent Party November 29, 4-7 pm

Millwood's annual Advent Party will be held Sunday, November 29, from 4 - 7 pm. The Advent Party is held annually on the first Sunday of Advent. It includes many crafts for children and adults as well as singing Christmas carols and sharing in a bounty of snacks. Put the date on your calendar and spread the word to your friends. For information, call Diane Williams at 448-1309.

Youth News

By Brandon Comella

The end of October finished with a bang! We had both Sr. and Jr. High Halloween Clubs, and the energy was at its peak to say the least. We had 31 high school students at our High School Club on Monday the 26th, and we had an astounding 51 Jr. High students at our Middle School Club on Tuesday the 27th. We have been having many new faces each week. My leaders have been doing a great job at being patient and forming relationships with many of the students, as well as taking time and going to the school for their school lunches and attending their sporting events after school. There is something special when three youth leaders show up at a C-Squad volleyball game to root on a few of the girls. It means so much to the youth when we take time to go into their lives and be on their turf.

Coffee House has been fluctuating in the number of students that show up, but we have had a great time going through the book of Acts and learning more about the foundation of The Church, as well as how we are supposed to live our lives.

We have a couple retreats coming up in the fall/winter: Jr. High youth are heading to Riverview Bible Camp November 20–22, and the Sr. High youth are going to Camp Spalding December 4–6. Finances are always an issue for these kids who attend our program, so please pray specifically that they can find enough money to attend our retreats. These weekend-long youth retreats with the other Presbytery Churches around Spokane are really key to having them get away from home and get closer with the leaders and hear the Gospel of Christ all at once.

If you have any questions about the Youth Ministry or would like to get involved in any way, please feel free to call me or email me at: 481–5720 or Brandon@millwoodpc.org.

Children's Ministry

By Kim McGiveran

October 18th was Baptism Sunday in which the children participated in leading worship. They did such a great job reading Scripture and a baptism litany question-and-response. Conner and Bailey Glenn, along with their mother Jennifer, were baptized that morning.

Thank you to all who helped provide a trunk at our "Trunk or Treat" event October 31st. The children braved the weather in their costumes as they went from trunk to trunk collecting goodies.

October was the ending of some of our units in our workshop classes. The 9:30 am elementary *We Believe Workshop* class has finished studying their unit on Lydia. The 11 am elementary *Lighthouse* class finished their unit on Daniel. Something new we began is a "So What Did You Learn?" memo on the windows of each classroom. This is a description of what Bible lesson was taught that day. We hope this is helpful in providing families with communication about what their child is doing during Sunday School.

Our Advent Season begins this month as Christmas Program rehearsals and Advent curriculum begins. Both our preschool and elementary classes at the 9:30 am service will be practicing for our "Special Delivery" Christmas program. The children will come down to the Fellowship Hall where rehearsals take place from 9:45–10:30 am, each Sunday morning. On December 13, we will perform our "Special Delivery" play to our church congregation during the church service. We hope to see you there!

Deacon Food Bank

The Deacon Food Bank commodities for November are: canned yams and stuffing.

NEW 11 am Adult Class

It is called "Into the Week." Join in on the conversation as we dive further into the Scripture text and theme of Pastor Craig's sermon to explore together how we might take it with us into the week. We'll meet in room. 410, up the stairs to the office, turn right and down the hall until you reach the last room.

Project Linus Quilt Group

Meeting Saturday, November 14, from 9 am to 3 pm, in the Reception Hall to sew quilt tops for Project Linus. Feel free to join us for part or all of the day. Fabric will be provided. You will need to bring a sewing machine, basic sewing supplies, and a dish to share for the potluck lunch. Contact Laura Miller at: thequiltlady.laura@comcast.net or 710–2953 or for more information.

Young Lives

By Shauna Edwards

Hey everyone, October Club was a lot of fun we had 9 girls and 2 new dads!!! The dads are going to try and get together with Nick, my husband, once a month to have breakfast which I am super excited about! I am encouraged by the girl's excitement about Club and although they are a long way off from realizing that they are special and unique creations of God and that no matter what he chooses to love them, they are coming and today I went to Barker and they were talking about it and asking about the next club...I cannot express my appreciation enough for each of you, from the food to holding babies to loving a girl who is struggling or smoking or closed off to the idea of God. I thank God for each of you and your involvement in this ministry.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

The Deacons have begun holiday preparations for gathering food items. Please help us to help others in need by donating holiday food items to our pantry as the holiday shopping/sales days approach. Please stock up on canned goods such as sweet potatoes, cranberries, evaporated milk, pumpkin pie mix, packaged stuffing mix, olives, and pre-formed graham or vanilla wafer pie shells. Also watch for those frozen turkey bargains. We will need about 40 turkeys. Please take your food donations as well as any names of families that need a basket to the Church no later than Sunday November 15. During the weekday, your donations can be placed in the Deacon Food Bank box located in the Entryway or taken to the Church Office.

Endowment Trust Update

By Gary Sardam, Treasurer

"The gift that keeps giving."

Once again I am under the gun from Ms. Christy for an article. All of the bright ideas for an article have vanished, nothing, blank flashing cursor and gone the way of the Do-Do Bird. Then I see it, Google in the tool bar. Type in "Endowment Trust" and go with the first or second reference. Much to my chagrin, this doesn't work either. The first reference is us!! Right here in Millwood. HHMMM better click the link and see what it is. Oh yeah, pretty cool our mission and story about the ET. Uh Oh! That is not the current Board, or even our current numbers! LOOK OUT..... God calling, you may be number one in this search, but you are a false prophet!!!!

Try it. We are that easy to find. The link must be on our MCPC page as well. Come see us, and I will find out from the Web Page Angel how to update our information. More work, but the article wrote itself this time.

When I leave this world . . .

Will I have made a difference?

Decorate the Church for Christmas November 27

The Worship & Music Committee will be meeting at 8:30 am, November 27, to decorate the Church for Christmas. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining us to help with decorating. For more information, please call Carolyn Sheppard at: 928-2355.

Singles Group Gathering

Meet us at The Crossing Youth Center for a potluck and a movie. If you have a movie request, please call Camilla and let her know. As always, bring a dish to share and a friend! Call Camilla at: 924-1931, if you have questions.

Ushers Needed at 11am!!

We are looking for people who would like or would be willing to serve as Ushers at the 11 am Service. The Usher role is to hand out bulletins, assist with the offering and helping visitors and others who have questions regarding program, class and room locations within the Church. If you are interested or would like more information, please call the Church Office at: 924-2350 or Frank Nearing at: 924-9796.

Greeting Cards Wanted

Did you know that the Handcrafters can re-purpose your used greeting cards? Greeting cards are welcome any time and are used by the Handcrafter's to make items during the year. If you have any greeting cards you would like to see re-purposed, please place them on the table under the Deacon mailboxes. Thank you!

Advent Party Needs Buttons

The Advent party needs colored buttons (1/2 inch or bigger) and 12 oz. orange juice cans. If you can help, please call Diane Williams at: 448-1309.

Advent Party 2009!

Millwood's annual Advent Party will be held Sunday, November 29, from 4 - 7 pm. It's a great time of fun and fellowship where we make several types of Christmas crafts to take home and an Advent Calendar to count down the days until Christmas. It's for all ages. There's something for everyone! After crafts we gather around the stage and sing Christmas songs and hear a special Christmas story geared to the younger set. There is no charge for the afternoon but we ask each family to bring a plate of snacks to share. We will provide punch and coffee. Put the date on your calendar and don't miss this special day.

It takes many people for the Advent Party to be successful. Many of you have participated before and I hope you will consider it again. If you haven't participated maybe you can volunteer this year. We need people willing to help with easy crafts in each booth as well as volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up. "Many hands make light work." To volunteer, please call Diane Williams at: 448-1309.

MCPC to Host Food Bank

November 13, 1-3 pm

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, is hosting a food distribution for the Millwood area November 13, from 1 to 3 pm, in the MCPC parking lot. There will be free produce and perishable products for low income families and those in need of food assistance. No appointment or documentation is necessary to participate. You must be present in order to receive food. We will be distributing food rain or shine! Please bring a box to take your food items home in. Don't forget to tell friends and neighbors you know who may be in need. For more information or to volunteer, please call Randy Schacht, 2nd Harvest Representative at: 252-6247 or Pastor Craig at: 924-2350.

Women's Eat & Greet

November 20, 6 pm

Join us at The Crossing Youth Center, November 20, at 6 pm for Women's Eat & Greet. This is a great time of food and fellowship also a great opportunity to get to know each other beyond Sunday mornings. Please bring a main dish or salad to share. Dessert will be provided. Hope you can come!!! Please call Cindy Ames at: 892-4051 to R.S.V.P. or for questions. See you there!

Kids Clothing Exchange

Have your kids or grandkids outgrown clothes that still have some use in them and could benefit other children in our Church and community? Want a fun way to replenish your kids' clothing supply and add new ones to the mix? Come to the kids clothing exchange at The Crossing on Saturday, November 14, from 10 am to 1 pm. Clothes, shoes, outerwear, toys, and kids welcome. We'll have a chance to give and take and enjoy good conversation over a pot luck lunch. If you are unable to attend, you can still contribute items. All items not needed by our families will be donated to the MCPC Rummage sale. Questions? Call Jillian at: 483-4282.

Don't Forget!

The Union Gospel Mission Barrel is in the Reception Hall, waiting to receive your canned food contributions for the 2009 Fall Food Drive.

The Union Gospel Mission is one of many ministries in the Spokane area that we as a church support. Union Gospel Mission reaches out to those in need in our community with love and the power of the Gospel so that they may become God-dependent, contributing members of the community. Last year, we were blessed to be able to fill up the barrel twice! Thank you for remembering the ministry of Union Gospel Mission in your gifts and prayers.



Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale

The Annual Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale will be here at the Church, Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, November 8 after the 11 am service. We will have many special "things" for the home, and gifts for the holidays. We are also accepting any handmade items you wish to donate. Lois Noble and Barbara Wilson will be happy to take your name for our bake sale. Be sure and mark your calendar for November 7 and 8. Come and join us!

Presbyterian Women

Our Guest Speaker on November 5 was Melody Biehl who shared a presentation titled, *Because There is Hope*. All women are invited to the monthly gathering the first Thursday of every month, beginning at 10 am. Circle groups meet at homes once a month- call the Church if you want to get connected with a circle at: 924-2350.

PW Christmas Project

The Presbyterian Women of Millwood will be collecting books for the Liberty Park Child Development Center (LPCDC) as their 2009 Christmas Project.

LPCDC is a Christian outreach mission of the Inland Northwest Presbytery, serving children and low income families in the Spokane area. Books containing children's stories, as well as Bible stories, appropriate for children ages 3-5, will be most welcome. Please gift-wrap your gift. We need 65 books to ensure that each child receives their very own book. All extra books will be donated to the LPCDC Library. Please be sure to label your gift for Liberty Park and leave your donation in the Church Office not later than December 8. Questions, please call Lois Batson at: 926-8079. Thank you!

Stewardship Commitment

Sunday, November 22

Every fall we take time to reflect on our stewardship of time, talents, and finances. In the coming weeks you will receive information on the 2010 goals for our shared efforts to support the mission and ministry of Millwood Presbyterian. November 22, we will ask members and friends of MCPC to consider submitting a pledge card, expressing your financial commitments for the coming year. This helps us to set our budget and ministry priorities.

Navigators Meeting

November 20

The Navigators are meeting November 20, in the Fellowship Hall, at 12 pm, to share a potluck lunch. Mike Alfano will be sharing his traveling experiences while sailing the Pacific Ocean. For more information or questions, please contact the Moderator for November, Jeannine Carmichael at: 924-1714.

Creative Connections

November 13

Do you have photos waiting to be put in your memory album? An unfinished cross-stitch project? Would you like to get an early start on your Christmas cards? This is for YOU! Creative Connections meets on the second Friday night of the month for fun, laughter AND finishing those craft projects you just never can find time for. Join us at 7 pm, in the Reception Hall, November 13. Stay for an hour or stay all evening. We usually break up before midnight. Come and bring a friend. It's a great opportunity to get better acquainted and get those projects finished. Join us! For more information call Diane Williams - 448-1309.

LIBERTY PARK CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRESENTS DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT

Featuring Whitworth University Choir

Friday, December 11, 2009 at 6:00 pm

Once again you are invited to Liberty Park Child Development Center's annual "Dinner by Candlelight...a dinner that makes a difference" which will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Spokane, 318 S. Cedar.

The concert is a wonderful way to enjoy the Advent Season. Come early for a festive and delicious dinner and avoid the rush for parking and seating.

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit Liberty Park Child Development Center's ministry to children and families. Call now to reserve your places at both the dinner and the concert.

For dinner reservations: Call Marianne Frase 466-2555. The cost is \$25.00 per person. (Tables for eight are available by reservation.)

For Concert tickets: Call Dick Barney 467-9397 to purchase tickets or at: www.whitworth.edu/musictickets. Tickets go on sale early November and you are encouraged to order early. The cost of the choir tickets is \$18.00, discount for seniors and students \$15.00.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of the Center!

Missions Monthly Update

By Bronwyn Worthington

The October Peacemaking Offering total received was \$427.00. The funds will be used for peacemaking efforts throughout the world; with 25% of everything we received remaining with MCPC for use where we see a need.

The Farmers Market had another very successful summer season. The vendors have requested to continue with another indoor Farmers Market this year. The market will continue every Wednesday from 2 to 6 pm at The Crossing Youth Center. Please come by to buy a squash or pumpkin or maybe a loaf of that wonderful bread and all the other things that will continue well into the fall and winter season. Then we'll be back in the spring in the parking lot when the weather warms up.

Interfaith Hospitality during the month of October went very well. Thank you to everyone who helped drive the vans, serve a meals, supply food, stayed as an overnight host, or helped in any other way. This is a much needed ministry to local families who just need a place to stay until they get back on their feet. Our next opportunity to host will be in January, 2010.

Operation Christmas Child is underway. Can you fill a shoebox for a child? Watch the table in the Narthex for suggestions and be sure to pick up your label at the Operation Christmas Child table. Last year we sent 55+ boxes. Can we beat our own record this year? We will once again accept cash to help in the mailing for those who cannot afford the \$7.00 on top of the items that are needed to fill a box. Collection week is November 15 to the 22. That is the week we must take all our boxes to the local pickup depot. That means the absolute last Sunday to collect boxes is November 22. Hurry to get your boxes ready. It is suggested that the box be a plastic shoebox that the child can use afterwards for his/her treasures.

They can be purchased at most Dollar Stores. However, you can still use any shoebox for you gift. This year many items were collected at VBS that will be included in our gifts and all of those boxes will need shipping funds. If you can't prepare a box, please pray for those that are doing so and for the children who will receive the gift box.

Stop by the Treat of the Month table November 15 for some more yummy cookies. Because of the support of all of those who purchase the Treat of the Month cookies each month, the cookie sales have continued to do very well and the Mission Committee, on behalf of the MCPC, is now not only sponsoring Hang, but also a Russian girl named Olga as well as a student of MCPC. What a blessing it is to bake every month, knowing that your support is making a difference in the lives of these students!

Remember the mission of our Deacons. Help fill those Thanksgiving baskets for people in our community. No family should go hungry during the holidays or at anytime. Sharing with others is a wonderful way to show our thanks to God for everything he has given us.

Your Mission Committee is very active and is always searching for new members. We undertake the job of placing your money in important services within your community and world very seriously. If you wish to become a part of this committee, please contact any member to find out more about what we do. We always welcome new members and want to serve you and God with our mission funds. Members of the Mission Committee are: Betty Allen, Sylvia Barney, Ina Grunwald, Jewel Haskins, Dorothy Jones, Maureen Schneider, Caroline Sheppard, and Bronwyn Worthington. We usually meet on the third Monday of each month in the Lower Conference Room, at 1 pm.