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With Open Arms Moving Forward

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

I'll never forget the first night of informational meetings for our With Open Arms capital campaign. It was about a year ago on September 29. If you look up that date on Wikipedia you'll find the following entry.

2008 - Following the bankruptcies of Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual, The Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 777.68 points, the largest single-day point loss in its history.

It was a historic day for the stock market but it was also a historic day for us as a church. Despite the uncertainties of the economy we chose to move forward with the campaign trusting that God would lead us and provide for us. We received pledges for over \$636,000 toward our building projects. To date we have received campaign donations totaling over \$146,000. You will find detailed information on the current status of giving to the campaign on the one page insert in the newsletter and everyone who is participating in the campaign will receive a giving update in September. Thank you for your faithful giving.

Since last spring the capital improvements design team has been working to implement phase 1 of the project which includes;

- replacing the library off the Reception Hall with men's and women's bathrooms,
- moving the library to the area outside Kim and Brandon's offices and opening that up for use as a new gathering space for fellowship,
- renovating the church office to accommodate more staff and volunteers and to create a more welcoming

environment with windows to the hallway, and completing the bathrooms next to the children's ministry rooms that were plumbed and framed during the renovation in the late 80's but never completed. The old kid's bathrooms at the end of the hall will be converted to storage.

The design team contracted with Paul Matthews to design the renovations and put the project out to bid. We received three bids for this first phase of the project and hired Small's Construction with a bid at right around \$149,000 for all of the renovations. There may be some changes along the way but the contract has the work being completed before Thanksgiving and the holidays. They started construction on August 31 and it will be fun each week to see the progress.

The design team will now turn its attention to what you might call Phase 1B. The scope of our potential renovations has expanded since the campaign began last fall as explained in the insert regarding the proposal to raise the level of the entryway. The consensus at the annual meeting is that this is a great opportunity given the special offer of a significant donation and that we'd like to pursue it in addition to replacing the Christian Education building. The committee will also be turning its attention to the design of the new multi-purpose facility and will keep the congregation up to date as things progress.

In the midst of all the construction it's helpful to remember our hopes are not for beautiful facilities but for a mission and ministry that is alive with the hope of the good news of Jesus. I am excited for how this work will serve that hope.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, September 13 Rally Day & Return to Two Worship Services

9:30 am Contemporary Worship

11:00 am Traditional Worship

September 26, Ground Breaking for Presbyterian Habitat for Humanity Build

Look for information on ways to get involved in this partnership of Presbyterian churches from around the Spokane area.

September 27 after 11 am worship

Baptism Preparation Class for Children and Adults

October 4 after 11 am worship

Membership Exploration Event

October 11 - 18

Hosting Interfaith Hospitality

Youth News

By Brandon Comella

What a fast summer is has been! I can't believe that I have been the Youth Director here at the church for two years already. I absolutely love this job and the youth that I am ministering to. We are officially done with summer camps. In total we took 25 Jr. High kids to camp, as well as 10 Sr. High students. The relationships that have grown from these experiences have been amazing. The relationships between the kids and the leaders, but especially the relationships formed between the kids and God. We had a total of 7 kids accept Christ for the first time, as well as around 10 others who recommitted their lives after their experience at camp, and many more who aren't quite there yet, but have made several steps closer.

I want to thank everyone who had a hand in helping these kids go to camp. We raised over \$10,000 for camper scholarships. The majority of these kids could not afford to pay the full amount for camp. This could not have been done without your support of our mission for the ministry, as well as your involvement in the chili feed, auction, pancake feed, and the rummage sale. Even though these summer camps are extremely tiring, they give me more energy heading into the school year with the deep relationships we formed and the plans for helping disciple these new believers further in their walk with Christ.

Trevor Walter, our summer intern, has truly done a great job. He has formed extremely close relationships with several of the Jr. High boys and is starting a small group Bible Study with them this fall. Trevor learned a lot about ministry and has helped me a lot in planning and running youth group and drop-in's this summer.

Please be praying for this upcoming school year and the kickoff of our weekly Jr. and Sr. High clubs. Some of my leaders are coming back into town from being gone all summer and are excited to get back into ministering to the kids in the Millwood and Valley areas.

Don't forget to meet us in the front rows of the Sanctuary at 9:30 am on Sundays for Worship and then starting September 13 at 11 am, we will head over to The Crossing for Coffee House after Worship.

If you have any questions about the youth ministry or would like to get involved in any way, please feel free to call me at: 481-5720 or you can e-mail me at: Brandon@millwoodpc.org.

Fall Schedule:

Youth Drop-In at the Crossing:

Tuesday-Thursday 2:30 pm to 5 pm

Senior High Youth Group: Starts May 21

Mondays 6:30 pm 8:15 pm at the Crossing

Junior High Youth Group: Starts May 22

Tuesdays at 6:30pm to 8:15 pm

Sunday Morning Coffeehouse 11 am - Noon

Mission Tidbits

- On July 31 we partnered with Second Harvest and other area business and churches to distribute 11,651 pounds of food to 156 households representing to 532 household members. We are exploring the potential of future food distributions

- We will host Interfaith Hospitality families from October 11-18. Stay tuned for opportunities to volunteer.

Young Lives

By Shauna Edwards

July 17, we embarked on a journey to camp for the weekend. We packed up 5 cars, 14 people, 5 babies, pack-n-plays, portable high chairs, car seats, diaper bags, and plenty of snacks and headed to the Mountain River Lodge just outside of Easton, WA, for the weekend. We played crazy games, were visited by two silly Sheilas from down under, ate delicious food, spent an afternoon relaxing, crafting and being pampered and heard the amazing story of God's love and his expression of love in his son Jesus Christ.

The girls had a great time, and so did the leaders! Even childcare seemed to be having fun! For some of the girls from Spokane the talks were hard to handle because of past experiences or misconceptions of who Christ is and what it means for their life. For one of the girls this was her first time ever hearing anything about Jesus, and she has questions and has gotten a taste of who her Savior is! We had other girls who came knowing about Jesus and believing that God exists but whose lives aren't walking with Him and for them, this weekend was encouraging and showed them what life to the full is!

Pray that these girls will continue to encounter Jesus and that their hardness will continue to soften and receive His hope. The others who believe in Jesus were affirmed in their belief and had these hearts of absolute gratitude. It blows me away how hard some of these girls work, holding multiple jobs with no car, they struggle to pay bills, and yet they pay for some of their camp and were so overflowing with thankfulness that we had scholarship money available to them for the rest of their camp! Pray for them to keep seeking this path!

Thank you for praying, supporting and loving these girls with me!

Annual Meeting Report

On June 28 we held the Annual Meeting of the congregation and made some important decisions. As usual we elected new officers, Deacons, Elders, and Endowment Trust board members. The new class of elders includes Jean Anderson (one year), Anna Comella, Dan Hansen, Rich Harvey, Brad Krueger, Mike Lobb, Diane Williams and Tana Young. The new crop of Deacons includes Joni Alexander, Bev Bonner, Shari Dawkins, Joyce Edwards, Mary Ellen Hopkins, Mary Lou Lobb Cindy Noble, Peggy Smith and Mike and Barbara Wilson (one year). The Endowment Trust Board members serving new three year terms are Larry Esvelt, Marilyn Highberg and Frank Koth.

The congregation had an extended conversation about the potential sale of the home owned by the church on the corner of Dale Rd and Euclid. The church currently has control of all the homes on Dale Rd. west of the church and there were hopes that we might develop that property as part of the church campus someday. We pursued such a plan two years ago and it became clear that because of the residential zoning of the property requiring a conditional use permit for church use and resistance from residents that prospects for developing the property were limited. Based on this information and after much discussion the congregation voted to approve the sale of the home on Dale and Euclid with the intent that proceeds be made available for the capital campaign projects.

The other major discussion revolved around a proposal to raise the level of the entire entryway to match up with the level of the sanctuary, reception hall and new bathrooms where the library used to be. We have a member of the church who has offered to pay 2/3 of the cost of such a project. See the insert for a conceptual drawing. While there was no vote the congregation expressed a desire to pursue this option while clarifying the details.

Children's Ministry

By Kim McGiveran

Summer started out with our VBS Camp Edge at the end of June. What a great week this was with over 150 kids registered. Thank you to all the volunteers for devoting an entire week to our children. One thing that really stood out to me was seeing how members of many different generations come together to serve our children. From young moms to grandmothers, teens and grandfathers, it was awesome to see us all working together. It really takes our whole church family to put on this awesome ministry. Thanks again to everyone for a great VBS week!

After VBS it was time for our summer day camps at Camp White. I can't believe my first time out to Camp White was on July 4th for the Family Picnic. Camp White started to feel like my "home away from home" after having two weeks of Day Camp and Family Camp. Day Camp is a wonderful time for the children to enjoy fellowship with each other as they learn more about God's Word. We enjoyed the beautiful weather and had a fun time swimming at the beach.

With the new school year coming upon us, I am excited to announce a change in the curriculum used for some of our children's classes. We will be using a new curriculum at the 9:30 am elementary Sunday School class and 11 am preschool class. The new curriculum is called "*We Believe: God's Word for God's People*" and is the denominational curriculum published by the PCUSA. *We Believe*, created specifically for Presbyterians by Presbyterians, focuses on our Reformed heritage. In different ways, each age level includes content from Reformed creeds, confessions, catechisms and statements of faith.

CE Committee (which is still looking for more members – see Kim if interested) will soon decide

on a date in which an overview meeting of all Sunday School curriculums will take place. At this meeting, I will explain the curriculums for We Believe, Noah's Park, and Lighthouse/Workshop Rotation classes. All who are interested in serving as a teacher for our Sunday School classes are asked to come. Look in the upcoming bulletins for a date to this informative meeting.

It's time to prepare for Rally Day. Rally Day is our annual carnival that kicks off the upcoming Sunday School year. Rally Day will be on September 13, and you'll see some new carnival games and activities this year, in addition to traditional favorites such as the jumping castle. I hope you all enjoy these last weeks of summer – it's gone by so fast!

Opportunities to Grow in Your Faith

9:30 am Sunday School Class: We'll begin September 20, with a study on the book of Genesis. Come prepared to dive into the text, ask questions, and engage in a lively discussion as we consider what God might be saying to us through this book.

Join a Small Group! Whether you're new to the church or have been at MCPC forever, small groups are a wonderful way to grow in your faith and in our relationships with one another. The groups vary in size, meeting times and study options. Call Nancy at: 924-7328 to find out more!

Men's and Women's Bible Studies: The men's study meets at 7 am, at Perkins, on Argonne and will begin Tuesday, September 22. The women have two groups that you can choose either Wednesday evenings or Thursday morning. (Read more in this newsletter under "Attention All Women!")

Weekly Women's Group

We'll be studying Beth Moore's *Jesus the One and Only*, at both Wednesday evening (6:30 pm) and Thursday morning (9:30 am) sessions. These studies have been a great way to grow in God's word and in our relationships with each other. Refresh your soul! Join us in these wonderful times of engaging discussion and spiritual growth. Wednesday evening classes will start September 16 and Thursday morning classes will begin September 17. The workbooks cost \$20 but if money is tight don't let that deter you from coming. Call Nancy for any question you may have at: 924-7328.

Presbyterian Women

Our Bible Study for this year will be from *The Horizons Bible Study Guide* and is titled: *Joshua, A Journey of Faith*. Join the Women of Millwood the first Thursday of each month, September through May, at 10 am, for an overview of that month's study with one of our MCPC pastors. Then, come to a circle meeting either on the second Thursday or third Wednesday of each month to discuss the month's study further. For more information or to join one of the Bible Study circles, please call Sylvia Barney at: 891-1045.

We are happy to announce that our Church has once again received the Macedonian Award from the Union Gospel Mission Women's Auxiliary. This award is given to churches that have contributed in five areas of giving. Receiving the award for Millwood were Sally Larson and Lois Combs. Also awarded to MCPC member, Jewel Haskins, was the Ellen Fusetth Founders Award for fourteen years of service to the Union Gospel Mission as an active member of the Auxiliary Board. Thank you, Jewel, for bringing this award to our church family. Both of these awards may be viewed in the Women of Millwood information case in the Reception Hall.

Stretch & Flex!

Starting September 21, 2009

Do you at times feel like the Tin Man who was accidentally left out in the rain? How's that balancing act? Hips rotating on that golf swing? Can you touch those toes? What about laughing and exercising at the same time? YES OF COURSE WE CAN experience ALL the above and have FUN doing it during STRETCH & FLEX classes!

STRETCH & FLEX is a total body conditioning class combining Pilates, Yoga, Cardio and Basic Stretching. We focus on body awareness, flexibility, range of motion, balance and stability, while improving overall muscle tone. –We do a complete stretching and stability workout, ending with a relaxation exercise. You won't know what you're missing until you try Shavasana.

All levels welcome. Modifications and power options are offered. This is NOT a "gals only" class. Talk to Gary Harris to get the male perspective. Bring a stretching mat or beach towel. Hand weights and dynabands provided but of course are optional.

These classes are taught by Sandy Weiss-Plass, a nationally certified ACE Group Fitness Instructor who holds current certifications in Yoga, Pilates, Silver Sneakers – Muscular Strength & Range of Movement, Zumba, Cardio Step, and much more.

STRETCH & FLEX meets M/W/F, from 9 –10 am. The cost is \$60, that's 21 classes at less than \$3 each. Drop-in cost will be \$5 per class. *Call Sandy for more information at: 927-8187. See you on the 21st!*

Priscilla Quilt Workshop

The Workshop will resume meeting September 22, from 10 am to 2 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping or learning about quilts is welcome. Bring a sack lunch.

Financial Update Through August

Budgeted Pledges & Regular Gifts:	\$264,000
Actual Pledges & Regular Gifts:	\$261,629
Budgeted Total Income:	\$297,783
Actual Total Income:	\$295,081
Budgeted Expenses:	\$318,598
Actual Expenses:	\$328,214
Budgeted Operating Profit/(Deficit)	(\$20,815)
Actual Operating Profit/(Deficit)	(\$33,133)

Budget Update

The budget numbers above show that we are running a larger deficit than anticipated as of the end of August. While we budgeted to have a deficit of around \$20,000 we have a deficit of a little over \$30,000. This is due primarily to higher than expected fuel and utilities expenses after a very cold winter and a very large plumbing bill due to a major plug in our line that connects with the sewer. The good news is that our pledges and regular gifts are very close to expected and we anticipate that as we head into September we will begin to make up much of the current operating deficit. We will be sending out giving statements in September to help regular contributors to the church know how much they have given so far this year.

Financial Secretary Position

After over 20 years of serving as our Financial Secretary, counting the Sunday offering and maintaining our giving records, Jane Keevy is retiring at the end of September. The Staff Relations is accepting applications for this part-time position. Applications are available in the church office.

Endowment Trust Is Growing

The Endowment Trust of Millwood Presbyterian was established so that people could give gifts that would keep on giving. The trust board manages the funds in such a way as to preserve the principal amount and pay out for ministry and mission earnings on the principal. For example if someone donated \$10,000 to the trust, that money would be invested in such a way as to preserve that \$10,000 in the account but to distribute the investment earnings. The current payout policy of the trust has set a goal of distributing 4 percent of the three year rolling average of the trust's value.

The endowment has received a major boost from two long time MCPC members who made provision for the trust in their estate planning. Elaine Clark, who helped start the trust gave more than \$131,000 to the endowment through her estate. Marcella Smith left over \$200,000 through her estate to the trust. These donations have moved the endowment's current value to over 1 million dollars.

While there were no distributions in 2009 because of the downturn in the economy and the need to preserve principal, Marcella Smith and Elaine Clark have joined with many others to make a substantial contribution to the future of our mission and ministry at Millwood Presbyterian. Thank you to them and everyone who has made provision for the trust in their estate planning.

New Hand Sanitizers

As a public gathering space we want to be sensitive to concerns to about the spread of the flu during the upcoming flu season. Toward that end we have installed several hand sanitizer dispensers, one above the drinking fountain in the entryway and one in the Reception Hall in between the doors. They are automatic so you just put your hand under the dispenser and it will squirt a foam solution that you rub on to your hands.

A Crafter's Invitation

By Maureen Schneider

Please join us some Monday from 9:00 until noon We're all tucked away in the HandCrafters Room. Just go past the office (we mean for the church) And follow the hallway 'to the end in your search. There in the room at the end of the hall You'll find us together just having a ball.

We're chatting and laughing and having such fun. (And of course there's munchies for the hungriest one.)

We keep on a doing with gluestick and gun. Sometimes it's a wonder we get anything done. 'course, needles are handy, there's paints in great number, Then yardage and thread, and the jewels are a wonder.

But the best of rewards is the treasure we find When we help someone out who's in a tough bind. Be it stranger or neighbor at home or afar Each penny we send shows where our hearts are. So join us and help us send God's love to others, Our friends and our neighbors, our sisters and brothers.

We Remember...

Condolences to all the friends and family of these folks who recently went to be with the Lord.

Henry Baker - July 2, 2009
 Lorena Frost - July 29, 2009
 Virginia Miller - August 6, 2009
 Mary Ellen Hopkins - August 19, 2009
 Ella Schreck - August 14, 2009

Women's Conference 2009

Plan on Attending the Woman's Conference at the Clearwater Lodge September 25-27! We're hoping to get a large group of us to spend this wonderful weekend together. Be assured there will be lots of laughs, scrumptious food (without having to cook or clean up!), meaningful messages and plenty of time to connect with your Millwood sisters. We are particularly excited about the speakers this year, the members of the Door of Hope, who have led worship at the women's retreat for many years. Get a glimpse where we're headed from the caption below (from the lodge's website):

In recent years Door of Hope, a Spokane-based, all female Christian band, has had the opportunity to offer hope through Christ as they lead worship services for inmates at prisons throughout the Northwest. The women of DOH have come to realize that there are many who, although not physically incarcerated, live within their own private prisons: Do you buy into the myth that you must be all things to all people? Are you living with financial, emotional or physical limitations? Do you feel that life is passing you by? DOH has put together a weekend of inspirational messages and worship that will help you to identify and break the chains that keep you from living the life that God has intended for you. Be prepared to laugh, cry, relax and enjoy the company of your sisters!

The cost varies, from \$85 for the "classic cabins" to \$168 for the plush "B & B style" Clearwater Lodge rooms. There are lots of options in between as well. Go to www.clearwaterlodge.org to register. Call Nancy Goodwin at: 924-7328 or Marlene Shannon at: 226-0214 to hear more!

Deacon Food Bank

The Deacon Food Bank Commodities for August and September are: canned fruits, JELL-O, cereals, sugar and coffee. Thank you for your support.