



MILLWOOD PRESS

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church, 3223 North Marguerite Rd, Spokane, WA 99212
www.millwoodpc.org mcpc@millwoodpc.org 509-924-2350

Mark Your Calendar:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1: WOMEN'S EAT & GREET at Nancy Goodwin's home, 5315 N Vista Ct., at 6:30 pm. The main dish will be provided, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Childcare isn't provided, but if that keeps you from coming, call Nancy at 924-7328

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 9:30AM & 11:00AM WORSHIP & COMMUNION
We'll conclude our series on the book of James

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL
The service will include communion and the tradition of receiving ashes. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 9:30AM & 11:00AM WORSHIP, FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
We will begin a new Lenten Series, following Jesus on his journey to the cross in the book of Mark. Lent in the Living Room groups will also begin this week.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 12:00PM, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN THE SANCTUARY
We will discuss the budget for 2008 and vote on changes to Pastor Craig's terms of call.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 7:00PM, PASTORS LENTEN CLASS IN THE CHAPEL.
Pastor Craig will lead the group in a reflection on the upcoming week's sermon text. Class members will learn and reflect as well as contribute to the shape of the following Sunday's worship experience and sermon. There will be no dinner during this six week midweek series, but there will be children's classes.

SUNDAY MARCH 23, EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:00am at Arbor Crest Winery and 9:30am & 11:00am in the sanctuary

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church
3223 North Marguerite Rd
Spokane, WA 99212
www.millwoodpc.org

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE, WA
PERMIT 903

Unreasonable Prayer

By Rev. Nancy Goodwin

What if after hearing the sermon on Sunday we went home and actually lived out what we heard. As Craig recently suggested it would be appropriate for a preacher to respond to the affirmation, "good sermon," with the challenge, "that remains to be seen."

I don't know about you but our current sermon series on the book of James has really got me thinking. I wonder how my life might be different if I were to regularly become a doer of the word and not merely a hearer of it.

This past year I became convicted of an area in my life that was stuck in the "hearing" mode. In sharing about it with you I hope it will encourage all of us to be doers in this area as well. It has to do with prayer.

The fact is I love to pray. I'm so grateful that when life hits hard for me or someone else I can pray and entrust the situation to God. So often while listening to someone's story of something really difficult they are going through I stop and say, "Can we just pray for this right now?!!!" Either I say this because I notice my daughters chasing each other around the crowded coffee-drinking reception hall and I have to end the conversation right away or I truly believe prayer is what we need to do. I like to believe it's the latter. ☺

So I was feeling pretty good about my prayer life until it came time for the women's weekly bible study to study Mark chapter 9. That week the lesson asked, "How are the words, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' relevant to your prayer life?" That question and input from the others made me realize there are certain things I don't really trust

God for (if trusting God means living out that trust), and consequently I am much less likely to pray for those things.



Don't get me wrong, I believe God is a miracle working God and I do pray for miracles. But at the same time I'm embarrassed to say there are certain things I've written off as too big for prayer to make a difference. For instance there are certain people in my life who are so turned off to the church and Christianity that it's hard for me to see them embracing the faith. And then there are those I've prayed and prayed for, but they're still in the same predicament they were twenty years ago. It's hard to keep praying when there is little evidence that God is really doing something.

The bible study in Mark 9 was a wake-up call I needed to make me more of a doer of the word and a doer of my faith. What kind of faith do I have if I'm only trusting God to do what's *reasonable*? Is that what faith is? Is that who God is? A reasonable-acting God? I don't think so.

So I decided to pray expecting God to work beyond my doubts and beyond my own reasoning, beyond what I think God's answers to my prayers should be. I started a sort of "unreasonable prayer" list which I shared with a couple of friends who commit to pray as well.

I'm not sure how to articulate just what has happened since my Mark 9 conversion. But I will say this: God is faithful.

.....Continued on page 2

Unreasonable Prayers (Cont.)

Doors have been opened and prayers have been answered in ways I never thought possible. I wish I could be more specific, but many of the people I'm praying for are reading this newsletter right now (could be you!) and I'm not finished praying for them/you yet.

So my charge to all of you is the same charge God gave me, and that is to pray, even (and especially) when things look hopeless. Even when it seems unreasonable. What you'll find is that God is much closer to you and the situation than you think. My prayer for all of us is that we'll step out in faith to pray, and in so doing discover the joy that comes from partnering with God in the amazing things God is up to in this world, and in Spokane, and in our church and with our neighbors, and in our homes, and with our kids – even as they chase each other around the reception hall. Amen!

If you are interested in praying with others for our church and community, we are gathering folks to pray Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in the Library. Join us!

Pastor Nancy works 15 hours a week at MCPC doing Pastoral Care, visitation, assisting in worship, and leading women's ministries.

Lent In the Living Room

Lent is a season for reflection and spiritual renewal that begins, Sunday, February 10 and goes for six weeks, culminating with Easter Sunday March 23. This year to help us on the journey of renewal we are inviting you to join a short term small group for study and fellowship. We are looking for participants interested in making new friends and growing in faith, leaders to lead the pre-prepared studies, and hosts to open up their living room for a group to gather. If you have been interested in being part of a small group this is a chance to try one out and see what it is like. Please contact the church office if you are interested or make a note on the Friendship Pad, indicating your interest in

Building Plan Update

by Herb McIntosh

Two Church Committees have been very busy working and planning towards a building program to replace the existing the Christian Education Building with a new larger community life building. The plans also include the possible creation of a new community park to the west of our main campus and upgrading bathroom access for Children and Adults. Session has authorized the Capital Campaign Team to plan for a fund raising campaign this fall and we anticipate that culminating next November.

The other team, the Design Team, is now in preliminary discussions with the Town of Millwood as to what will be allowed, required parking, the possibility of a community park, etc. The conceptual site plan was submitted to the Millwood Planning Commission in January and over the next several months we will be working toward getting approval from the Millwood Town Council to move forward with our plans. This process will include official public hearings hosted by the city and unofficial neighborhood workshops hosted by the church. This team is also starting to look for an architect for design and pricing.

One important part of the process will be getting input from the congregation over the next couple of months. It will be a time to dream dreams about our mission in the community and the part existing and new facilities can contribute to that. In the Reception Hall and on the bulletin board outside the church offices, you will find preliminary drawings for you to view and offer comments or suggestions. A Suggestion box is located in the Reception Hall. We hope you will use this box and help guide this process with your input. We will also be holding several town hall meetings in the coming months. The members of the Design Team are Herb McIntosh, Allison Esvelt, Don Richner, Garman Lutz, Gary Matthews, Clay Swisher, Andrea Naccarato, Chuck Simpson, Dave Schultz, and Craig Goodwin.

Christian Education News

by Phyllis Von Ebers

BIBLE BASICS begins February 3rd from 10:45–Noon. This class is for 3rd graders and anyone older who has not had this class and would like to know more about navigating through the Bible. The class will meet in the Noah's Park room on the middle floor of the main building. Children will receive a new Bible on Children's Emphasis Sunday, March 2nd.

Our first Wednesday night class for children grades 1–5 is February 13 at 7 pm. We will be learning about discipleship and character traits that God wants for us. Class will end when the adult class ends, between 8:15 pm and 8:30 pm. This class will run Wednesdays through March 19 and TeamKID will begin April 9 at the same time.

LIGHTHouse is in need of anyone who likes to teach cooking, games, science, computer, drama, storytelling, Bible knowledge, crafts, music and more. Teachers would teach 2 Sundays at a time, so you might teach in February and not have another class until May for only 2 Sundays. This rotation workshop is designed for the children to learn through various mediums and also for leaders to be able to teach through a method they enjoy. The time for classes is 10:45 am – 11:45 am on Sundays. If you are interested in sharing Christ through your passion or interest, please contact me at 924–2350 or phyllis@millwoodpc.org.

VBS planning is beginning! Please be in prayer for our Vacation Bible School as planning is underway. Please pray for our choice of curriculum, for God to bring us our planning leaders and volunteers who will be working in VBS in June. VBS is June 23–27, 9:00 am – 12:15 pm. If you are interested in planning for VBS, please contact me at 924–2350 or phyllis@millwoodpc.org.



PARENTING TIP

Suggestions for Influencing Teens

Even the best of parents must make some changes in the way they parent as their children grow up. The old methods of relating don't work the same way anymore. In fact, they seem to cause problems instead.

Of all the changes teens make, the most important one is probably the adjustment in their relationship with their parents. They're moving from a parent-child relationship to an adult-adult relationship. Unfortunately, some parents never make the shift. They continue to treat their teens as if they're still eight or nine years old.

Although you may be able to "control" young children, the key word for teenagers is "influence." Here are five words that describe different ways you can influence teens.

Teach – provide them with new information or help them understand another facet of life.

Encourage – remind them of the benefits of moving in the right direction.

Entreat – earnestly ask them to act in a mature, responsible, and wise way.

Admonish – warn, caution, or advise them by anticipating possible negative consequences.

Persuade – use relationship, rewards, and consequences to motivate them to make a wise choice.

Remember that you don't have to accomplish everything in one interaction. Change takes time and your influence over time will produce the greatest results.

This parenting tip is taken from the book, "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes, In You and Your Kids," by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller RN, BSN.

Mission News

Through your Mission giving, the Mission Committee has contributed \$1,000 to the Guatemala Mission for sewing machines to allow the women to earn money through the work of their hands, and \$1,000 to Kargel and Baedeker, the Russian School in St. Petersburg for its programs with Christian day school, Russian language school, and street children. Rev. Garth Moller is the contact person.

Thank you for your contributions to Baby Food Month during January. Once again the boxes brimmed with food for the little ones. It's a wonderful feeling to deliver the food to Mission Avenue Community Outreach and know that each bottle or canister will help to keep a baby in our community healthy and well fed. The next baby food drive will be during the month of May.

Watch your bulletin for information about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be received Palm Sunday, March 16. Inserts in the bulletin will tell you what this offering will accomplish. The inserts will begin February 24 and will be included each Sunday until March 16, when an envelope for your donation will be included in the bulletin. Let the information made available in the inserts guide your giving, knowing that everything you give will be used to the best possible purposes.

Homework Partners began January 22 and will continue through February. Participants gather Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to meet with children at Orchard Center School and read with, work with and show God's love to some of the 2nd graders that need a little more nurturing. If you can help, there is still room. This year we are coordinating with Zion Lutheran Church and Hutton Settlement.

Treat of the Month for February will be Sunday, February 3 and the March date (this being Leap

Year) will be Sunday, March 2nd. Remember Treat of the Month is the first Sunday of each month. January was exceedingly successful. We ran out of cookies long before everyone got a package. We'll try to do better in February and March.

Preparations have begun for the Millwood Farmers' Market. One additional mission aspect to this year's market will be its participation in the Women, Infant, Children (W.I.C.) food program. Member of the community with W.I.C. vouchers will be able to get fresh fruit and vegetables at the market. This will be one more way for us to connect in a meaningful way with families in our neighborhood. The Farmers Market planning team meets the first Tuesdays of the month at 5pm. The next meeting will be February 5th. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is continuing to be a great success. If you have any questions, wish to help with the purchase of yarn, or would like to be one of the knitters/crocheters, please contact Betty Allen who is in charge of the program. Help is always needed to complete these shawls, whether it is in the form of contributions or busy hands. All forms of help are greatly appreciated.

Crop Walk is April 27. Watch this column and your bulletin for more information. Let's better last year's number of walkers and fundraisers. Remember that a portion of everything raised stays here to help with hunger in our own community and another portion is distributed throughout the world to improve conditions everywhere.

Have you seen the Mission Bulletin Board? It is right at the foot of the stairs by the Lower Conference Room and heading towards the nursery. Take a look at some of the information we have posted there. It would also be nice to update our bulletin board on adopted/foster children of members of our church, whether they are through *Bibles for the World, Feed*
(continued on page 5)

Mission News.....(continued)

the Children, or Compassion International, if you could leave your pictures in the church office with Maureen Schneider's name on it, she will see that copies are made and the original picture returned to you. Please turn in pictures as soon as possible so that this display can be updated.

Are you interested in helping the Mission Committee as a member of the congregation? We have many things to consider and appreciate all the help and input we can receive. If you would like to join us, please contact any member of the committee and they will advise you when and where meetings are held. Members of the Mission Committee are: Sylvia Barney, Chair; Dorothy Jones; Jewel Haskins; Bob and Carolyn Sheppard; Betty Allen; Ina Grunwald; Garman Lutz, and Maureen Schneider.

Endowment Trust

"When I leave this world, will I really have made a difference?"

This motto of the Endowment Trust says it all! Yes - All of us want to make a difference each in his or her own way!

For those financially able, leaving a legacy to either the Church or the Endowment Trust through your will is an excellent way. Gifts to the Endowment Trust are invested with only a portion of the earnings spent. Thus the gift lives forever and keeps on giving!!! Gifts to the Church generally speaking, will be used for a special project or as part of the operating budget.

Most churches do not have an Endowment Trust or Foundation. MCPC is truly blessed in many ways this being one of them Please consider the Endowment Trust in your estate planning.

The Per Capita Challenge

Per Capita is defined by the Presbyterian Church USA as: "A means for all Presbyterians to share in the costs of coordinating and evaluating mission and performing the ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions of PC (USA)." While it is a voluntary contribution, the expectation as participants in our Presbyterian connectional system is that we will distribute Per Capita to the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. We do this over the first six months of the year.

Per Capita for 2008 is \$25.75 per member. Of that amount \$14.50 is used to support our local Presbytery operations and staff. The Presbytery offices are housed in the MCPC owned building next to our parking lot. The Synod of Alaska Northwest receives \$5.46 of the per capita amount which goes to support regional ministries like offering web site applications for all churches in our region. The church's web site runs off this Synod sponsored program. The General Assembly receives \$5.79 of per capita to support the administration of national ministries. While our denomination is far from perfect, its great strength is in the connectional bonds that give us accountability, historical anchors for our faith, and the coordinating of mission that we couldn't do on our own.

At our budget meeting this year the session decided to intentionally raise awareness of Per Capita and encourage every member to make a contribution to cover their family's portion of Per Capita over and above pledged and regular giving. These are NOT membership dues, and we will not be keeping track of who has given Per Capita. The intention of the session is to free up money for mission and ministry in our 2008 budget. If everyone paid per capita, it would free up and additional \$9,000 for mission and ministry in our budget. Please designate Per Capita contributions by indicating on your check or envelope.

Youth News by Brandon Comella

SUNDAY MORNINGS

11 am – Coffee House has been a big hit and continues to meet in The Crossing Youth Center Sunday mornings. This Coffee House time is for any and all Jr. and Sr. High youth who are interested in growing deeper with Christ and learning more about life and how God is apart of it. Jr. and Sr. High are split up into age groups, but parents can pick their kids up at The Crossing around noon.

SENIOR HIGH

Sr. High youth have been meeting Thursday nights from 7–8:30 pm at The Crossing. We just transitioned into our outreach and discipleship structure; by having one week of Young Life on Thursday night, and Young Life Campaigners the next Thursday night. We are also already getting ready for our Mexico Mission trip which is happening this summer in July. If you are interested in going on the mission trip, please contact Brandon Comella via the church.

JUNIOR HIGH

All the leaders are back from their winter break and we are back into our regular schedule for Wyldlife nights. We have continued in our approach to evangelism and discipleship, by having Wyldlife on one Tuesday, while the next Tuesday is Wyldlife Campaigners. Please come by to check it out, or talk to Brandon or Ian if you have any questions.

DROP-IN @ CROSSING:

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 2:30–5pm is Drop-In at The Crossing. This time is for any Jr. High or Sr. High students who want a safe place to come and hang out after school. We are also beginning a new aspect of drop-in on Wednesdays when the first hour or so will be devoted to helping students with homework. Please spread the news about the drop-in, so we can have many youth know that they have a safe place to go after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Budget Report

The Session met on January 15 to set the annual budget for 2008. Here are some of the results of that process.

The first thing the session did was assess our end of year results from 2007. We ended the year with essentially a balanced budget. We spent \$500 more than we brought in. While the session was encouraged by this, there was a concern that our projected pledges and regular gifts were around \$20,000 less than we projected. This deficit was made up through \$10,000 savings in expenses and \$10,000 in additional rental and endowment trust income.

The next step in the budgeting process was looking at the results of our stewardship campaign and pledge drive. Most significantly we received over \$37,000 in new pledges from folks who did not pledge in 2006. Based on the pledges and projected non-pledged giving we are projecting pledges and regular gifts of \$405,000 for 2008. This is a \$25,000 increase over actual pledges and regular gifts in 2007. While the session feels confident in this projected income we will follow it closely throughout the year.

Based on the above results the session was able to create a balanced budget for 2008 that includes a cost of living adjustment for staff and a 10% increase in direct mission support to organizations like the Union Gospel Mission Women's Crisis Shelter.

While our governing rules don't require congregational approval of the budget the session will present the budget for discussion at a February 10 congregational meeting in the sanctuary at 12 noon following the 11:00am worship service. Our governing rules to require that the congregation votes to approve any changes to the Pastors Craig's terms of call so we will take action on that.

Thank you for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of God at MCPC.

Handcrafters Resuming

The Handcrafters have resumed meeting after taking a winter break, and they are ready and eager to create new designs for home décor and gifts. They meet every Monday at 9 am in the Handcrafter's Room. All items the Handcrafters make are sold at our annual Fall Bazaar and the profits are used to fund different ministries in the community and our church. If you enjoy painting, cutting, sewing, creating, and fellowship, this is the place for you! For more information, please call Doris Harvey at 926–0983.

Priscilla Circle Meeting

The Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall to work on quilts. If you like to quilt, or want to learn, bring a sack lunch and join us!

Navigators

We will be meeting February 15, at the Old Country Buffet in the Franklin Park Mall for lunch, at 1 pm. Lunch will cost \$5.96 per person. Van transportation is available and will leave the Church parking lot at 13:30 pm. Please tell your caller if you would like to ride in the van. The program will be Brandon Comella, Youth Director at MCPC. Brandon will speak about the program work he is doing with the youth at Millwood. The hosts are Carl & Linda Schultz, Norm & Elizabeth Barnhart & Neil & Lil Lowrey. The hosts will contact members so that they have a total count. For more information, please call one of the hosts.

Annual Blood Drive March 16

This year's Inland Northwest Blood Center drive will take place Sunday, March 16th from 9 am to 1 pm. A sign up sheet will be forthcoming in the next 3–4 weeks.

Deacon Food Bank

The Deacon Food Bank commodities for February are dry pastas and sauces. Thank you for supporting your church and community through the Deacon Food Bank.

Calling All Young Adults

The staff and session of MCPC is in the midst of planning several fellowship and outreach events for young adults in the West Valley. We will experiment in the month of March with several gatherings on Sunday evening at the Crossing. In order to get the word out we need to build up our network of Young Adults in the area. We are asking you to give us the names and contact information for the young adults in your life that might be interested in participating. We are also looking for leaders that might be interested in ministry with Young Adults. You can contact the church office or elders Randy Olson at 928–7724 or Nancy DeLaurentis at 927–5866.

Singles Meeting February 10

The Singles group will meet Sunday, February 10, at 12:30 p.m. at the Valley Mall Food Court. We will experience some fine dining, and then take in a movie. If you need more information, please contact Camilla Mounts at 924–1931 or camillam@peoplepc.com.

Rummage Sale Request

Thanks for your faithfulness in donating to the Rummage Sale at MCPC every year. Because of your generous giving over the years, many ministries in the Church and services in the Spokane Valley have been supported. Because of the rate that technology has been changing, we are no longer able to accept computers or computer monitors. Last year at the Sale, no one purchased them and we had to pay to dispose of the computers properly. We want to be sure that all of the money that the Rummage Sale brings in continues to go to the ministries and services of the Church and Community instead of expenses. Thank you in advance for your help. For more information, please call Becky Anderson at 922–1218. The Rummage Sale this year is May 9 & 10.