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May 2010 Newsletter

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A Confessional Church

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

“What is a Presbyterian?” That was the question the high school student asked me as we handed out food at the food distribution last month.

“How do you spell Presbyterian?” That was the question at the counter of the store last week as a clerk wrote up an invoice.

It’s interactions like these that remind me that, while those of us in the church have become familiar with our Presbyterian label, for many outside our circles, the name is mysterious and maybe even a little strange. (It is on the Spelling Bee’s hardest words to spell list after all.)

The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word for elder. It points us to our form of government in which the church is governed by a board of elders with the pastor as moderator. It points us to our connections to the other churches in our Presbytery, whose elders and pastors join together to oversee our mission in the Inland Northwest. And beyond that it points us to the national Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination to which we belong, and which is governed at a national level by elders and pastors from churches just like ours.

Our name points us to the Presbyterian *Book of Order* that helps guide our decision making. For example, the nominating committee will be meeting in May and June to nominate elders and deacons, who will then be brought before the Congregation at our Annual Meeting to be presented and elected. This process is outlined for us in the *Book of Order*.

But our name does point beyond the mechanics of our church governance. It points us to our central commitments, with Jesus as Lord and head of the church, the Scriptures as the authoritative witness to Jesus, and to our *Book of Confessions* that helps us as we go about the task of interpreting Scripture.

This spring through sermons and Sunday worship, we’ll learn about these Confessions of the church. Each week we will focus on one of the 9 confessions, exploring scripture and hopefully deepening our understanding of Jesus as Lord.

Here’s a helpful statement from the introduction of the *Book of Confessions* explaining the role of the creeds in our life together;

“The church’s commitment to its confessions is an expression of its determination to shape its life in faithful response to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the “koinonia” of the Holy Spirit. The church’s confessions are far more than ecclesial artifacts or intellectual abstractions, for;

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) states its faith and bears witness to God’s grace in Jesus Christ in the creeds and confessions in *The Book of Confessions*. In these confessional statements the church declares to its members and to the world;

who and what it is,
what it believes,
what it resolves to do.”

I guess we’ll leave the question of spelling “Presbyterian” to Webster’s Dictionary. ☺

Mark Your Calendar

May 7 & 8 Rummage Sale, Bake Sale and Luncheon

Please call Becky Anderson at: 922-1218 if you want to volunteer or have items to donate.
Contact Barbara Wilson at: 924-1680, to sign up to make baked goods for the Bake Sale and Luncheon.

Second Harvest Food Distribution, May 14

Volunteers meet at 11am to prep for the noon to 2 pm distribution.

Pumpkin Patch Community Garden Grand Opening, May 15

Come help us celebrate May 15, at 9 am

Millwood Farmers’ Market Opening Day, May 19

3 pm to 7 pm in the church parking lot.

Sunday, May 23, 9:30 am & 11 am

Pentecost Offering

Youth News

By Brandon Comella

What a busy month it was in April! We had an extremely successful dinner and auction which was a fundraiser for our Sr. High Mexico Mission trip. Thank you to everyone who came and all who supported and helped in any way. It looks like we made around \$5,000. I hope that every year we can continue to grow and this will soon be our only fundraiser, which would provide for all the summer youth activities. We have quite a bit more money to raise before we leave at the end of July, so if any of you have any ideas about more fundraisers I am always open to it. (We have a few planned but I always want to raise more).

Friday April 23, we had an extremely successful 30-hour famine! There were 25 middle school and high school students who joined us. I have such a great leadership team, and eleven of them showed up to help. Between lots of kids and many leaders, I truly believe this was one of the best youth events I have been a part of from the past couple of years. We had tons of fun, learned a lot about hunger, and really had good times where the kids and our leaders made a great connection and had some deeper conversations about God and things that are bigger than us.



Don't forget that Sunday, May 16, is our annual Youth Sunday. We will continue having weekly groups but will be transitioning into summer schedule and will get a summer calendar out soon.

Please continue to pray for the ministry to the youth at MCPC and in West Valley. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please feel free to contact me at: Brandon@millwoodpc.org or 481-5720.

Young Lives Update

By Shauna Edwards

Mother's Day is coming soon! The girls loved the mother's day dinner we did for them last year so much that we are doing it again this year! We will still have two clubs but the night will be spent enjoying dinner, feeling special and winning prizes... The NW club will meet May 6, at 6 pm and the Valley Group will meet May 13, at 6 pm- same locations as always.

For those of you who weren't around last year, here's the recap of the dinner... we did a sit down dinner where the girls had the dinner served to them. We had different mentors host tables- they brought the table settings, silverware, and centerpieces for their table and table cloths to decorate the table. The dinner was donated and throughout the night we gave away lots of nice goody bags. The girls dressed up and had a great night and felt treasured! All the goodies and the dinner were donated by supporters of Young Lives.

Here are some things we will need for the Mother's Day Dinners:

- * Donations of anything that might make nice prizes for the girls.
- * Volunteers who would like to serve the tables food for the evening.
- * Little candies, note cards, notepads or other small samples or lotions for the goody bags- I find a lot of these at Target and can track them down unless people have the urge to make candy or have little things to add.

I'm very excited about this night and think it will be amazing! Let me know if there are ways you are willing to help out by calling me at: 326-2859.

Camp White Opening Soon

By Mae Johnson

Spring is here and summer is right around the corner. It is time to open up Camp White for the summer. For those new or those who have never used Camp White please go to the churches web site and click on Camp White. Following are some common questions asked about using the camp.

Q: Do I need a reservation?

A: If you are a member of MCPC or a regularly attend just come on out.

Q: What does it cost to bring my RV or tent?

A: As a member/attend regularly there is no cost. But we always appreciate donations to cover cost of water/electricity.

Q: What if a group has reserved the facility for the weekend I want to camp or go out for the day can I still use Camp White?

A: Yes. When a group reserves the camp it is made very clear they do not get exclusive use of Camp White.

Q: How many camp sites are there?

A: We have 32 camp sites, some are full hook ups and some are water and electricity only. Tent camping is unlimited (to some extent).

Q: Is there flushing toilets?

A: Yes. We have two bathrooms. One has showers and is handicap accessible.

Q: Is there a lifeguard?

A: No. We have a designated swimming area and children must have an adult with them at all times.

Q: What about dogs?

A: You can bring your dog but you need to follow the rules-on a leash at all times, not allowed in the swimming area and pick up their waste.

Q: Who maintains Camp White?

A: Camp White committee. The members consist of a session member, anyone interested, and most of those who leave their RV at camp all summer. Current chair is Mae Johnson.

Q: Can I leave my RV all summer? Do I have to pay?

A: You can leave your RV all summer only if you put in "sweat equity hours" and use it weekly. If you are interested you can call Mae for the details. If you have ever owned a lake place you know there is always work to do so it is not hard to earn "sweat equity hours". There is no fee for leaving your RV but most of those who do leave their RV have donated money to Camp White, paid for the lawn to be fertilized, or bought a new picnic table, etc.

Q: What if I want to bring out a large group of people to swim or stay overnight.

A: It would be better to make a reservation. Shari Dawkins can help you with that.

Q: Who do I call if I'm interested in helping out?

A: May 15, 2010 starting at 9am, we will be opening up camp which means a lot of cleaning and raking. We will have a pot luck lunch. This is a good time to see what a beautiful facility we own. Contact Mae Johnson at: johnsmm@msn.com or at 928-2274 with questions.

Membership Exploration

Make-Up Class

If you missed the membership exploration event in April and are interested in learning more about membership we are holding a make-up session to accommodate many folks who were unable to attend. Please contact Pastor Craig at: craig@millwoodpc.org, if you are interested in attending or need more information. The tentative date is May 16 at 4pm in the afternoon.

Children's Ministry

By Kim McGiveran

Wanted: Space explorers to join a cosmic adventure praising God!

We'll be blasting off this summer during our exciting week of Vacation Bible School. This year our theme is outer space at Galactic Blast. The cadets will be spending a whole week on the starship Galactic Praise traveling through the wonders of space and exploring God's incredible creation. This cosmic mission comes complete with out-of-this-world adventures, exciting challenges, great music, and lots of fun!

VBS will take place June 21-25 from 9:30-12:00. Remember that 5th-6th graders join our Youth Director, Brandon, at Camp White. We do need more volunteers to be walkers who travel with each group to Crafts, Music, Bible story, Science, Outdoor Games, and Snack. This is a great opportunity to join in the fun at VBS while interacting with the children. No preparation or previous experience needed! Please see Kim if able to help.

Our church wants to encourage children to attend Camp Spalding, a Christian camp at Davis Lake. If you'd like more information about Camp Spalding, there are brochures as well as scholarship request forms available in the Church Office or in the Sunday School classrooms with me. Please fill out a form ASAP if your family would like a scholarship.

During July we will be having Day Camp out at Camp White. For children going into 4th-6th grade, the dates are July 5-8 from 9 am-2:30 pm. For children going into 1st-3rd grade, the dates are July 19-22 (same times). The cost is \$30 and includes lunch, snack, and transportation. Forms for Day Camp will be available June 1.

Please join us for the West Valley S.C.O.P.E. Annual Parade and Carnival June 5 at 11 am.

We would love to have lots of MCPC children walk with us in the parade and help hand out VBS brochures. Our plans are to have MCPC children sitting on a flat trailer with one of our VBS rocket displays. Parents are encouraged and welcome to join children in passing out candy and brochures to Parade onlookers. We then will continue on to the Carnival at the Millwood Park at 12 pm.



Women's Eat & Greet

We are taking a break for the summer from our monthly Women's Eat & Greet. We will start back up in the fall. Keep watching the bulletins and newsletters for more information.

Navigators

MAY 21

Meet us May 21, at 12 pm, in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck and fellowship. The Navigators usually meet the third Friday of every month.

PW Picnic

JUNE 3

Join us Thursday, June 3, at 11 am, in the Reception Hall to share a potluck picnic. If your last name begins with A-G, please bring a favorite dessert; if your last name begins with H-N, please bring a favorite salad; if your last name begins with O-W, please bring your favorite sandwich.

Sowing a Garden to Grow Community

By Dan Hansen

Sometimes when people ask what church I attend, I skip a few words and just say, "Millwood Presbyterian."

But I'm growing to appreciate the importance of the word "community," and the church's role in helping good things happen. Good things, like the Pumpkin Patch Community Garden that's sprouting just north of the Spokane River.

You saw the work party if you drove Argonne Road on Saturday, April 10. The crowd spent hours building 30 raised beds. We were a group of strangers who started to feel like a community before the day was over.

Ten of the beds were claimed on Saturday by people eager to grow their own vegetables. They'll pay \$25 per bed - enough to cover the cost of an irrigation timer. Experts will be there from time to time, to give lessons on things like composting and gardening without chemicals.

Lower on the lot, we plan a pumpkin patch. Seeds for native flower species have been sowed around the edges of the lot - the only thing planted so far.

Several businesses have made key donations, including Idaho Forest Products (lumber), Wittkopf Landscape Supplies (topsoil), Northwest Seed and Pet (seeds), and Inland Empire Paper Co. (use of the land and water).

What's the church's role? Well, the effort would never have gotten off the ground without Craig's leadership.

Church member Gary Matthews is installing the irrigation system. Ken Williams helped at the work party and answered questions about the pumpkin patch his father tended on the same site. Others of us are helping where we can.

But mostly, this is not a church project, and the church's name will not be attached to the garden.

Which raises a few questions: Why is the garden listed under "missions" on our church web page? Why is the missions committee tracking its progress? Why should we, as a church body, even care about the project?

The answer: Because we are Millwood Community Presbyterian Church.

Note: Dan Hansen is the elder overseeing the church's involvement with local mission projects including the Farmers' Market, the Community Garden and the monthly food distributions.

As we witness to Christ and God's Kingdom in these activities let's pray for Dan, the missions committee and session as we explore these unique ways doing and being church.





Millwood Farmers' Market

OPENING DAY, MAY 19

Come out and join us for the Millwood Farmers' Market starting on Wednesday, May 19 and running from 3 to 7 pm in the church parking lot through September 19. The Market is hosted by the church and organized in cooperation with local area farmers and artisans. We have a wonderful variety of vendors including local farm raised beef, artisan breads, seasonal produce, honey, flowers, plants, herbs, sauces and more. We have 20 to 25 vendors on any given week, depending on the season.

Our hope is to contribute to the health of our community and the health of our local growers and economy. In the words of Jeremiah, our goal is to "seek the welfare of the city God has sent us to, for in its welfare we will find our own welfare." ([Jeremiah 29](#))

The market is a wonderful opportunity to interact with and get to know our neighbors. Along with coming by to purchase something make sure to take time to make new friends.

Our little farmers' market had a big impact on the whole state of Washington this past year when legislation was passed to allow non-profit organizations like churches to host farmers' markets without losing the tax exemption on their property. It was at our market that the Department of Revenue first discovered the growing trend of non-profits hosting markets. The story of the Millwood Market's experience and passing of the legislation was recently written up in the national publication of the Farmers' Market Coalition.

Deacon Food Bank

The Deacon Food Bank Commodities for May are: canned soups and boxed crackers. Thank you again for continuing to provide for and maintain the Deacon Food Bank for your Church and community.

May Is Baby Food Month

May is Baby Food Month for Mission Avenue Outreach. In January we helped to refill their shelves, but by now they are pretty empty once again. Boxes for your gifts for the little ones will be back in the Narthex as of May 2. Also, if you have or know of someone who has infant wear that still has lots of wearing in it, consider bringing it for our YoungLives program at The Crossing. Shauna Edwards would be very happy to add them to the free boxes there. Any of the young mothers is welcome to browse through the clothes boxes for items that their young ones can use.

Millwood Food Bank

FRIDAY, MAY 14

Our monthly food distribution will be Friday, May 14, between noon and 2 pm, in the church parking lot. Free produce and perishable products are available for low income individuals and families in need. 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.

For more information or to volunteer, please call: the Church Office at: 924-2350. You can find out more at www.millwoodfoodbank.org.

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE 2010

FRI MAY 7, 8 AM -5PM

SAT MAY, 8 AM-3PM

LUNCH served both days,
Homemade soups, pies and more.

BAKE SALE Choose from pies, breads, cookies, candies, muffins, and other items the cooks decide to make.

PLANT SALE You will find sets, potted plants, and those favorites that have sprouted up. We'll help make your yard colorful this summer.

PARKING LOT TENT SALE will include large items, such as furniture, tools, appliances, bikes, big-kid toys, and 'you-name-it'.



THIS RUMMAGE SALE IS BIG AS EVER.

YOU WILL FIND PARTS OF THE CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION,
BUT COME OVER AND WE WILL SHOW YOU WHERE TO FIND
THE GOOD BUYS YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.



FIND YOUR TREASURES

FANTASTIC BUYS



BRING YOUR SPOUSE, RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS

Don't miss out on the fun !!!

MILLWOOD COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3223 N. Marguerite Road 509-924-2350
(Located two blocks West of Argonne on Euclid)