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February 2010 Newsletter

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People of the Book

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

After church on a recent Sunday I chatted with someone who is fairly new in her journey with our church. She commented, "I wanted you to know that I'm reading my Bible again. I read a little bit every day." The implication was that in the process of worshiping with us and becoming familiar our community that she felt led to pick up her Bible and start reading.

This is very encouraging news. One of our core values at MCPC is to regularly gather around God's word, with our primary expression of that being our weekly worship gathering. When I arrived here five years ago I said the following in my first sermon:

Someone asked me if I always preach through a book of the Bible in that we are starting with a series on the book of Philippians. There will be times when we go through a book of the Bible and there will be other times when we have a more topical series, but we will always have a text and our primary task together will be to listen for God's word in that text. With that in mind I want to ask everyone to bring a Bible with you to worship. We have Bibles in the pews also, but it's helpful to have our own so you can put pencil marks in it and become familiar with it. The average American household has 6 ½ Bibles so I want to encourage us all to identify one of them as our study Bible. If you need help in getting a Bible please let me know.

We are in the Reformed Tradition of theology, in which the proclamation of

God's Word is central. That doesn't mean that I'm central, rather it means that we look to God's Word as our authoritative center.

As we look ahead to the season of Lent I want to reaffirm that the Bible is central to our life together. It anchors us in the story of God's faithfulness and helps set our trajectory as we are launched into God's unfolding story today.

The bible has never been more accessible than it is today. I open my web browser to www.biblegateway.com and in flash I have access to over a dozen translations of the Bible. At a recent Bible study someone forgot their bible. I let them use mine and in with a few passes of my finger I pulled up the Bible on my iPhone. We are surrounded by ease of access like never before, but this has not necessarily resulted in the Bible being read more than ever. Just as it's easier to access the Bible, it's easier to access everything else. Our attention spans have never been more challenged. It's harder than ever to pay attention to what God has for us in the Bible.

In light of that I want to invite us into a season of intentional gathering around God's word. On Sunday, February 7 we will begin to work our way through the gospel John in worship. We will also be forming Lenten small groups that will also take up studying Jesus' life in the book of John. Take a look inside the newsletter and go to the church website for more info on this.

I look forward to seeing how God speaks to us in this upcoming season in the Word.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Second Harvest Food Distribution, February 12**
Volunteers meet at 11 am to prep for the noon to 2 pm distribution.
- **Congregational Meeting February 14**
Between our 9:30 am and 11 am services February 14, 2010, we will be holding a Congregational Meeting to vote on the change in terms of call for Pastor Craig.
- **Ash Wednesday Service February 17, 7 pm**
Join us in the Chapel for Ash Wednesday worship. Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent.
- **Pastor's Lenten Class, begins Wednesday February 24, 6:30 pm**
Pastor Craig will teach this class on the life of Jesus through the season of Lent.
- **Connections Event, Sunday February 28, 4 pm**
This monthly event is dedicated to connecting with people who are new to the MCPC community.

Youth News

By Brandon Comella

We have some exciting things happening this month in our ministry here at MCPC. Since this is the second semester of the year for the youth, we are inviting the 6th graders to our weekly *Wyldlife* youth group night on Tuesdays. We have waited to give them a semester of school to get more comfortable with the 7th and 8th graders. We are also looking forward to our "Wyldlife Blitz" that is happening on February 26. This is an all-nighter with our middle school students where we will stay up all night swimming, eating pizza, playing at wonderland, and of course having some time to share the gospel. This is a great night for evangelism and inviting many non-Christian's to have lots of fun, but also hear about Jesus Christ.

We are preparing for our annual 30-Hour Famine which will be in late March. Both the middle and high school teenagers are really looking forward to this event. This seems to be their favorite event over the whole year, which is pretty great.

February 8, we will have our first Mexico Mission Trip meeting. This meeting will be an informational meeting about our trip this summer, including; fundraiser's planned, timing for the trip, passport requirements, etc. So if you know of any high school students who would like to go on a Mexico Mission trip, please have them come with a parent/guardian at 6 pm on Monday February 8 at The Crossing Youth Center.

Stay tuned to the Millwood Press for further information and also the church website where I am working on putting up a youth blog.

Please continue to pray for the youth center and all the students that we are connecting with on a weekly basis. If you have any questions or would like to be involved in some way, feel free to email me at: brandon@millwoodpc.org, or find me at the church sometime.

Camp White

By Mae Johnson

MCPC is very blessed to have Camp White. For those not familiar with our property in Post Falls, go to our church web site and look at the pictures and description. Over the years there have been a lot of memories made at Camp White. In order to have a nice place to go in the summer, it means someone is doing the "behind the scenes" work that needs to be done to maintain the camp—that would be members of the Camp White Committee.

The Camp White Committee is asking for your help. We have some very old water pipes that need to be replaced and septic lines that need to be laid for camp sites. In order to do that we are not asking for money—although we wouldn't turn it down, but for physical help. We have a back hoe to dig the trenches but will need help with laying pipe etc. We would like to start in March so the work would be done before summer. Camp White is also in need of a volunteer to water and mow the grass and work other small odd jobs as needed around Camp White during the summer. Benefit/what's in it for me: use of the "cook's cabin" for the summer. Or if you have an R.V., park it at the camp for the summer. So if you have enjoyed Camp White in the past, hope to in the future or just like helping out, call Mae Johnson by March 15, at: 928-2274 if you can help.

Camp White will open for its program year May of 2009. Groups will be able to reserve Camp White in the following order: Jan 1 - Mar 31, MCPC Programs; Feb 1 - Mar 31, MCPC Member sponsored non-member individuals and groups; Mar 1 - Mar 31, Non sponsored Presbyterian USA groups/organizations; Apr 1, Non sponsored non-member groups. After Mar 31, all groups will be able to reserve Camp White if space is available. Reservation request can be made by calling the Church Office at: 924-2350.

Lenten Small Groups

6 week Short-Term Community Groups

We are in the process of forming small groups for the season of Lent. The groups will meet the week of February 21 through the week of March 28. There will be a variety of times and locations for the group meetings. Each week the groups will work through a study based on the life of Jesus in the book of John. The small group ministry team will provide training for leaders and hosts and will prepare a weekly study guide based on the sermon text from the previous Sunday.

As we make preparations we'd like to know of your interest in being involved. Look through the options listed to the right mark your preferences, cut it out and drop it off at the church or mail it in. You can also go to www.millwoodpc.org and register your interest there.

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. The practice of a forty-day preparation period began in the Christian church during the third and fourth centuries.

The number *forty* carries biblical significance based on the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through holy week, not counting Sundays (which are reserved for celebratory worship).

From the Worship Sourcebook

Lenten Small Group Registration Form

_____ I'd like to join a newly forming 6 week small group bible study that will meet in homes.

_____ I'd like to host a Lenten study group in my home.

_____ I'd like to be a discussion facilitator for a Lenten study group

_____ I'd like our existing group to use the Lenten Study.

_____ I'd like to participate in Pastor Craig's Wednesday night Lenten class where we will study the Sermon text for the coming Sunday.

_____ I'd like to participate in the Sunday morning Into the Week Class at 11 am where we will use the Lenten Study.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

LENTEN RETREAT MARCH 5-7

Take some time to walk into Lent. Our forty-day journey towards Easter winds through the wilderness, a privileged place where God beckons people to come close. Nancy Copeland-Payton will be the speaker at this Presbytery retreat. The cost is \$125. For more information or to save your place, please call 483-6495.

Annual Blood Drive

On March 14, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, we will be hosting our annual Blood Drive.

Over 70% of INBC blood is collected on mobile blood drives! All of INBC drives are hosted by volunteers. Organizations like ours work hard to ensure that our community's need for blood is met.

Did you know that each day INBC must collect 150 units to support over 30 hospitals and their patients' needs in the Inland Northwest! They must strive to achieve their goal at each and every blood drive. We have 22 slots available and our goal is 16 donors. Let's exceed our goal.

Help us make this a successful blood drives which help save lives! You can schedule your own appointment now on-line at: <http://www.inbc2.org/>. Save your time spot by registering early using this convenient way. Simply click on donating blood. If you have any questions on donating, please call Becky Clemens at: 990-9167.

Per Capita For 2010

Per Capita is a way for all Presbyterians to share in the costs of coordinating and evaluating mission and performing the ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions of PC (USA).” The Per Capita for this year is \$27.56. For more information, you can call Lesa Simpson at: 924-2350.

Singles Meet February 14

We will have a potluck at The Crossing Youth Center February 14, around 11:45 am or 12 pm. The movie feature will be *The Proposal*. For more information, please call Camilla at: 924-1931.

Library Talk

By Velma Churchill

Yes! The new MCPC Library is OPEN!!! You may have seen books on the shelves in the new location. The Library - Lounge is just south (left) thru the double doors off the church lobby.

Shelves are labeled to help you find the material and recreational reading you desire. The Dewey Decimal System has been used since this library was first established many years ago.

Please do not re-shelve library books unless you know exactly where it goes. Books have a call # on the spines and are arranged specifically by that number. Therefore, an improperly shelved book is the same as a lost book when a patron wants to locate a certain book. You may place a book you have removed and do not want to check out, on an open shelf or on the table.

The basket for check-out book cards and the Book Return box is on the lower shelves by the storage cabinets on the south wall.

Feel free to make the Library-Lounge your favorite area to sit, relax, meet a friend - and yes, check-out a good book for these dreary days of winter.

Navigators February 19

Navigators will be February 19, at 12:45 pm, at the Timber Creek Restaurant. Go directly to the Banquet Room. Let the Cashier know that you are meeting with the MCPC Navigators. Lunch will be after entertainment. The *Sweet Adeline's* will be the entertainment. For more information, please call Marlene Shannon at: 226-0214.

Children's Ministry

By Kim McGiveran

Last Sunday, a teacher showed me a computer slideshow of photos she had taken during that morning's lesson. The children had just participated in a drama skit of young David's boyhood. I saw photos of the children acting out scenes of David's anointing, defeating the powerful Goliath, and soothing King Saul with his musical lyre. I was filled with such thankfulness and appreciation for how God has provided our church with such wonderful volunteers and teachers! Hebrews 13:15 states: "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." I am so thankful for each volunteer within Children's Ministry. From the nurturing volunteers who cuddle and play with the infants and toddlers, to the volunteers that teach Biblical stories and relate those teachings to children's everyday lives. Thank you for showing and teaching Christ's love to our children. I invite all volunteers to an appreciation luncheon on February 21 after the 2nd service (12 pm) in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on coming to this time of fellowship with each other. I want to hold a brief meeting following the luncheon to discuss topics such as strategies in classroom management, overviews of the curriculum, and provide open discussion on any concerns volunteers may have.

Bible Basics will begin February 28, for children in 3rd grade, or older children who have not yet attended a Bible Basics session. We will meet after the 2nd service around 12 pm for 3 Sundays. Class will be held for an hour and lunch will be provided. The children will receive their new Bibles March 21 which is Children's Emphasis Sunday. **If you would like to help teach this class, please contact me at kim@millwoodpc.org.**

Please be in prayer for our 2010 Vacation Bible School as planning is underway. Please pray for our choice of curriculum and for God to bring forth planning leaders and volunteers for VBS. VBS is June 21-25. **Please mark your calendars for VBS** as we need many volunteers to serve as activity leaders and children's guides. Each year we have more and more children attend our VBS - and we want to be sure we have enough adults for all the children who come to learn about God and His Word.

Children's Ministry

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH FEBRUARY 21

All Sunday School teachers are invited to a lunch on February 21, at 12 pm, after the second service, in the Fellowship Hall. Following the lunch will be a meeting where Kim will give an overview of all the curriculums (new and old) that we are teaching. Please R.S.V.P. to Kim if you are able to attend this luncheon and meeting.

Let's Get People To Church!

There are precious members of our congregation who would love to attend worship but cannot do so unless someone gives them a ride.

Might you be able to drive them? We have folks at Riverview Terrace off Upriver Dr. and a resident close to Argonne and Boone. Call Nancy at: 924-2350, if you can help.



Deacon Food Bank

The Deacons want to thank all the generous people at MCPC. Through your donations of food and money, we were able to provide food to families who are a part of our church and also to families in our community. What a honor to be able to help meet the needs of God's people in such a tangible way! Thank you for making an impact on eternity!

The Deacon Food Bank commodities for February are: dry pastas and sauces. The food bank is currently running low on basic food items. All donations are gratefully appreciated. Thank you for giving to your church and community through the Deacon Food Bank. Please remember to contact your Deacon or the Church Office if you need help with prayer, support, food, or if you know of someone who may be in need of the same. We love to serve but are only as effective as the communications that we receive.

Millwood Food Bank

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

We'll be doing our monthly food distribution Friday, February 12, between noon and 2 pm, in the church 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 the Church Office at: 924-2350.

Presbyterian Women

The PW of Millwood met Thursday, February 4 at 10 am. The program featured our own Randy Olson, who is Lieutenant in charge of Emergency Medical Services for the Spokane Valley Fire Department. He spoke on the goals and purpose of the Fire Department and how they serve the community. We heard about his role as an EMT and some of his on-duty experiences.

PW meetings open with Bible study lead by Pastor Craig and a brief business meeting before each program followed by one circle hosting lunch each month. All women of the church are invited to join us.

Women's Eat & Greet

FEBRUARY 19, 6 PM

Join us at The Crossing Youth Center, February 19, 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.

Creative Connections

FEBRUARY 19, 7 PM

Do you have an unfinished project you need to work on? This is for YOU! Creative Connections will be meeting February 19, at 7 pm, at The Crossing Youth Center for fun, laughter AND finishing those craft projects you just never can find time for. Stay for an hour or stay all evening. 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 at: 448-1309.

Missions Monthly Update

By Bronwyn Worthington

Interfaith Hospitality provided our church with a great way to begin a new decade. Senior citizens down to young children served delicious home-cooked dinners to our guests while others pitched in as overnight hosts. This is one of the most rewarding ministries to participate in at MCPC!

Cold and wet winter weather didn't stop you from helping with our **2nd Harvest** food distribution. On January 8 we had over 30 volunteers passing out fresh food. Mark your calendar for February 13, our next distribution date.

The Prayer Shawls ministry has now distributed over 66 shawls since its start. Betty Allen and her team passed out 19 of those shawls in 2009 to remind those struggling with illness that they are not alone. The ladies also made several blankets for new babies within our church. If you know of someone within our congregation who might benefit from this ministry contact the Church Office.

Can you believe **Treat of the Month**, led by Carolyn Sheppard, has been in existence at MCPC for over four years now? During that time we've earned \$6,679.75! Over \$4,000 of that amount has benefitted students in need, while some has gone towards the India Children's Choir and towards supplies to keep us baking. The next time you buy cookies, remember your purchase makes a difference!

The Millwood Farmer's Market provides a great place to buy gifts, soaps, lavender sachets, and jars of apple butter and the opportunity to give homemade gifts you might not have time to make yourself. Items like these would also make great Valentine's Day gifts. While you're there, don't forget to pick up a head or two of lettuce and a dozen farm fresh eggs!

Many of you remember **Transition's Gate** who visited us last year. Nancy Mortlock and her Romanian

Friend, Paula Opera shared about the devastating effects of domestic violence with our congregation. If you would enjoy supporting this valuable ministry while spending the evening of March 12th listening to Dave Dravecky, former San Francisco Giants pitcher, please call Bronwyn at 928-0176 or go to www.transitionsgate.org

Have you ever considered reaching out to a high school student from another culture? This summer, from July 24 – August 13, 150 **Japanese students** will arrive in Spokane. The students practice English through attending classes at Spokane area churches during the day. If you are interested in hosting a student in your home, please contact Bronwyn at 928-0176 or bronwor@gmail.com.

Young Lives Update

By Shauna Edwards

January club was a lot of fun! We made some of the cutest picture frames! The night wouldn't have happened without our volunteers who pour their time and help into club! From the door to the food and the talk to the baby holders (and calmers). The night wouldn't happen without you, thank you!!!

February club is coming and it's our annual spa night for the girls. Last year it was a special night where the girls felt so loved and cared for! It will be a joint club on February 11, at the Youth for Christ building at 6 pm. The YFC building should have plenty of space for pampering and childcare!

For this night to happen we need volunteers to do the pampering! We need volunteers to do mini massages, manicures, mini facials, and helpers.

If you or anyone you know are interested in coming to pamper the girls please let me know asap! I will be contacting everyone I can think of and if you do the same we should have plenty of volunteers! Thank you for helping make this special night possible!