

# MILLWOOD PRESS

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

## Financial Facts

### End of October Year to Date:

	INCOME	EXPENSES	OVER/ (UNDER)
Oct.	\$40,316	\$30,867	(\$5,012)
YTD	\$340,769	\$336,325	\$4,443
Budget	\$339,372	\$355,867	(\$16,134)

### Pledges & Regular Gifts:

	PLEGGED	RECEIVED	OVER/ (UNDER)
Sept.	\$34,630	\$39,643	(\$228)
YTD	\$301,638	\$304,356	(\$2,717)

Deacons Fund \$246.27

## Upcoming Events to Remember:

### Stewardship Commitment, Nov. 12

9:30 am Contemporary Service  
11:00 am Traditional Service

### TEACHER ENCOURAGEMENT NIGHT NOVEMBER 13

7:00 pm Meet in the Reception Hall

### SR. HIGH WINTER RETREAT NOVEMBER 17-19

8:30 am Meet in the church parking lot

### DEACON THANKSGIVING BASKET PREP. NOVEMBER 18

9:00 am Reception Hall

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE NOVEMBER 21

7:00 pm Meet for worship in the Sanctuary

### THANKSGIVING DAY NOVEMBER 23

Church office closed

### NAVIGATORS CHRISTMAS DECORATING NOVEMBER 29

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Sanctuary

### JR. HIGH WINTER RETREAT DECEMBER 1-3

8:30 am Meet in the church parking lot

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church  
3223 North Marguerite Rd  
Spokane, WA 99212  
[www.millwoodpc.org](http://www.millwoodpc.org)

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## A Challenge

By Rev. Craig Goodwin

Last week I had my second meeting with the West Valley School District community engagement task force. It was a gathering of principals and district officials, along with students and members of the community. In one of my table conversations I described how an assigned article relates to my role as a pastor. I mentioned in passing "the mission" of our church. In response, one of my table mates asked me directly and with great curiosity, "What is the mission of your church?" I was sort of taken aback, maybe even a bit defensive. I thought, "Doesn't everyone know what the mission of the church is?" I gathered myself under the weight of such a heavy duty question and said, "Our mission is to be in ministry to this community." She accepted that response with a nod of agreement, but I think she wanted to know more and I certainly wanted to say more.

This little interaction has got me thinking about two important realities for us as a congregation. One is that we no longer live in a time where we can assume everyone knows what the church is about. Our cultural landscape has changed and continues to change with such speed; it's enough to make your head spin. As a congregation we were born in the 1920's, an era when most people shared a common understanding of church. Today, especially for younger generations, church is a mysterious and unknown place. I am reminded of a Presbyterian minister who was recently shadowed by a graduate student studying "unusual occupations." The role of pastor has gone from equality with lawyers and doctors as a profession of great status, to being a novelty. Not that I have a chip on my shoulder or anything. ☺ I was especially amused by the students question to the pastor, "Why do you wear that robe?" There is no practice of the church that is not up for

questioning. This first reality means that our circumstances are challenging. It's not easy being the church these days. For everything we do we can expect a tough question; Why do you worship every week? Why do you sing those songs? Why do you give so much money to the church? Why do you base your life on a book that was written 2000+ years ago? How are you different from other religions? Why do you exist? The questions go on and on.



The other side to these challenging times is the opportunity we have to wake up to new life. Being surrounded by such questions forces us into thoughtfulness. It drives us to be proactive in sorting out our identity. It wakes us up from stale assumptions and into the living reality of the Spirit at work in the world today. It reminds us of Peter's words, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15). This is an exciting reality.

Of course we also have the opportunity to shrink back in stunned silence under the weight of the questions the world has for us. We can gather in an enclave of agreement and take solace in each others company. I certainly have my days when this sounds appealing. There are times when the questions and needs of our community overwhelm me. I'm sure this is true for you as well.

Last Sunday I preached on the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. I explained that the fatal error of the servant who buries what the Master entrusts to him is the failure to take risks. He gets so caught up in fear that he "hides" his talent.

## A Challenge (cont.)

This is a parable for our day. We stand where those servants in the parable stand, having been entrusted with many "talents" as individuals and as a congregation. We have a decision to make. What road are we going to go down? In the midst of uncertain times will we shrink back in fear, or will we step out boldly, investing, taking risks, moving out in mission. In this season of stewardship planning, I encourage us to reflect on the stewardship of our lives and the church.

Are we taking risks? Are we playing it safe?

Craig Barnes sums up the challenge well when he says, *"Let us resolve not to be more careful. Let us make resolutions to devote ourselves to taking risks with a life we cannot keep, in order to experience more of the love of God we cannot lose."*

God Bless, Pastor Craig



## Stewardship Commitment Sunday, November 12

This week you will receive a pledge card along with our final stewardship letter. On Sunday, November 12 we are asking members of the congregation to fill out this card for 2007, bring it to church, and put it in the offering plate. If you do not receive one in the mail, they will be available at church, along with all the mailings, on Sunday November 5.

Please let us know if you have not been getting our mailings for some reason. If you have any questions about our stewardship campaign, please contact Keith Kager at 927-4863.

## Christian Education News

### Concert and Children's Program, Dinner and Caroling

On Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 pm, the Chancel Choir will present a 30-minute Christmas concert. Our Chancel Choir will be celebrating the season with some familiar carols and other selections during the program. Elizabeth Gale, our organist, will also treat us to some light and festive music on our beautiful pipe organ!



Following the concert, our children will present the drama, "Our Family Memories of Christmas." We will explore the different Christmas memories that are treasured by the members of our own church community. Between now and December, the children will interview some of our church members and these Christmas memories will be shared throughout the drama.

After the program, a light supper will be provided for anyone wishing to stay and then we will go Christmas caroling in the neighborhood. We would love to have everyone participate!

### TEAMKID and Childcare

TEAMKID and Childcare on Wednesdays will end for this session on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our LIGHTHouse classes sponsored a mitten drive for kids at Arthur B. Ness Elementary, an area school whose children are in need. Our goal was to collect 345 pairs for kids in grades K through 5. We collected 139 pairs! Thank you for participating in this mission project. With your help many little hands will be given warmth this winter.



## Youth News

### Winter Retreats for JH & SH!

#### JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT

The theme of this year's Junior High winter retreat is "Abandoned: An Adventure on the High Seas." The camp goes from December 1-3 and will take place at Riverview Bible Camp. This will be a fun weekend to hang out with friends, meet new people, and learn about how spiritual disciplines fit into our personal lives. The camp cost \$65 per person and \$73 if you want to include a game of paintball (\$8 a game). The registration deadline is Monday, November 27. If you have any questions, please call Katie Skattebo at 327-3810, or at the church, ext. 107. Hope to see you all there for our pirate adventure!

#### SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

This year's SH Retreat will be held November 17-19 at Riverview Bible Camp. Registrations are due November 13 to reserve your spot. See above details regarding cost. If you have any questions please contact JT Holderman at (425) 941-3711 or at church at ext. 107. You can also email JT at [jholderman07@whitworth.edu](mailto:jholderman07@whitworth.edu).

### The Festival of Giving

Kick off the holiday season with a shopping and entertainment extravaganza! A \$5 ticket is your all access pass to the North Town Mall, Spokane Valley Mall, and Silver Lake Mall for an after hours opening of the malls with special store discounts, door prizes, music, and a silent auction. Your ticket purchase not only guarantees you savings while you shop, but also allows you to support The Arc of Spokane and their programs for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Whitworth College students are doing a service learning project with The Arc to raise money through the Festival of Giving. It will take place on Sunday, November 19 from 7:00-10:00 PM. To purchase tickets or to give donations, Please contact Morgana Seidita at 509-328-6326 ext. 209 or by email at [mseidita@arc-spokane.org](mailto:mseidita@arc-spokane.org).

### Jr. High and Sr. High Parent's Meeting

Parents! We want to meet you and answer your questions! Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a meeting to discuss what the rest of the year looks like for both the Jr. and the Sr. High ministries. Meet us in the Chapel, at 6:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

### Prayer Partner Program

Have you signed up to be a prayer partner for one of youth? We are still in need of adults to pray for our youth through this program in which you will be assigned a student. You will get a picture and a name and all that we ask is you keep them in your prayers. Contact the church office if you are available for this ministry.



### Female Youth Leader Needed:

We are looking for one more female leader for our Junior High youth ministry. This includes helping on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30pm for youth group. Please contact Katie at 327-3810 if you are interested.



## Thanksgiving Service

### November 21

On Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 pm we will gather in the Sanctuary for our annual Thanksgiving worship service. The choir will sing, we will have a time of sharing, and Pastor Craig will present a Thanksgiving Meditation.



## Thanksgiving Food Baskets are Coming

The Deacon Outreach Committee is beginning its holiday preparations for gathering food items.

Last year, because of your generosity, we prepared 32 Thanksgiving baskets. We anticipate the need will be close to the same this year. If you are in need or know of a family in need please send the name, number of family members, and their address to the office by November 10 so that we may shop appropriately.

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, vegetables, 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 that we can store in our church freezers.

Please take your items to the church before November 10, and place them in the bins that are located in the Reception Hall, or please take the items to the church office if the Reception Hall is locked. We will be assembling the Thanksgiving baskets Saturday, November 18.

God bless you and thank you again for helping to make the holidays a happier time for those in need.

## Missions News

The Peacemaking Offering collected October 1 was the first one in several years. \$ 193.65 has been forwarded to the Presbyterian Offices for distribution to areas to use for education. In caring for one another, peace can best be spread.

Plans have begun for our scholarship program for a Millwood Church student. A committee is preparing the necessary applications. Watch this column for information on this program. We should be ready soon after the first of the year.

Looking for a gift for someone that has it all? Check out the Heifer Project at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org). There you can purchase live animals in the name of someone special and know that a need has been filled for someone who has nothing.

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.

Operation Christmas Child is looking like a big success this year. Did you know we have a family that hopes to go to one of the central locations next year to help pack the boxes for final shipment? They are already getting excited.

Have you talked to our Guatemala missionaries? Ralph and Marlene Shannon had a wonderful time on their trip and have a lot to tell us. Be sure to ask them to tell you about it. In December, Jim Czirr will share about his mission experience in Guinea Bissau. Our church has assisted in both of these mission trips and we're happy to have an opportunity to hear from them. We can't all take a mission trip, but we can all rejoice with those that do and praise the Lord for the part we played in their experience. We rejoice in an opportunity to hear from them.

## Millwood Youth Center Update

We have come a long way in a short amount of time in the renovation of the old Millwood Post Office. The work so far can be summed up as demolition and preparation for the construction phase. This has included removing the old flat roof that is hidden by the trusses you see from the outside. We reinforced the remaining roof, and have done brick work. The stage is set now to begin the construction phase, which will include re-decking the floor, installing a new bathroom, putting in a new HVAC system, installing new windows and doors, and decorating.

We are currently waiting for the building permit. Pray for the wheels of Country government to work quickly so we can move forward.

Thanks to all those who have donated time and materials so far. We have put hundreds of hours of work in on this project and will need hundreds more.

While the construction is at a bit of standstill, the work of building partnerships in the community continues. The students of Hutton Settlement have agreed to be a part of our efforts to reach out to the community. Pastor Craig is working with the school district; so that we can make the center available to help our community better serve the needs of our kids. We have also been getting the word out to the community, and the Youth Center will be featured in an upcoming edition of the Valley Voice.

When we get the permit in the next week or so, we will resume our work schedule of Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm until we are finished. If you would like to help, please contact Roger Crawford at 999-9977, or call the church office.

## Liberty Park Dinner by Candlelight

You are Invited to  
Liberty Park Child Development Center's  
**DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT**  
Friday, December 8, 2006 at 6:00 pm

You won't want to miss  
A dinner that makes a difference.  
Join us at First Presbyterian Church  
Spokane!

This gourmet dinner precedes the  
Whitworth College Christmas Choir  
Concert. Come early for a festive and  
delicious dinner

Avoid the rush for parking  
and seating for the concert.  
Proceeds from the dinner will benefit  
Liberty Park Child Development Center's  
Youth Scholarship Fund.

Call now to reserve your places  
at the dinner and/or the concert.  
For dinner tickets: Call the Center,  
534-0957.  
For Concert tickets: Call Dick Barney  
467-9397.  
For general information about the evening,  
call Nancy Goodwin  
924-7328.

## Endowment Trust offering Sunday School class on Nov.

Did you know the MCPC Endowment has over \$800,000 dedicated to supporting ongoing mission and ministry? Do you want to learn more about our Endowment and planned giving?

The Endowment Board is providing an informative class on Nov. 19 at 9:30am in the chapel. Joe Dinnison, with the Whitworth College Foundation, will share about his experiences at Whitworth. It will be a helpful time for all of us. Please contact Gary Sardam at 710-0172 if you have questions.

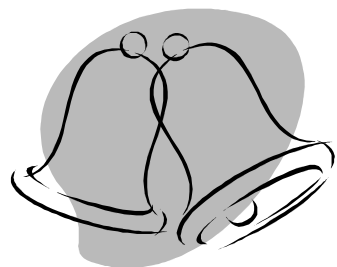
## New Defibrillator in Place

The Session would like you to know that the defibrillator has been installed across from the south elevator next to the entryway. The staff and ushers have been trained in its use.

## Navigators

The Navigators will be meeting November 18, at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship hall for a potluck lunch. Bill & Velma Churchill, Glenn & Bonnie Ackerman, and Davy Adamson will be our hosts. Dan & Kelli Hansen will be sharing about their 158 mile canoe adventure on Montana's Flathead River.

Don't forget the Navigators will be gathering Wednesday, November 29, at 9:00 am to decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas Season. For more information, please call Bob or Carolyn Sheppard at 928-2355.



## Millwood Concert Series

We are renewing our concert series starting in November. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 19, at 4:00 pm for a presentation of original music and nature photography.

The concert will feature pianists Rachele Ventura and Michael Young. Rachele is a member of Millwood, and plays for the Contemporary Service. Michael is a friend of the church, and an accomplished Whitworth professor, music composer, and performer. Michael is also a gifted photographer. This concert will feature Michael's original compositions accompanied by his beautiful original photography, displayed on our screen in the sanctuary. It will be a multi-sensory experience, and a blessing to all.

On December 17 we will have second concert of the year, featuring our own choirs, Elizabeth Gale on the organ, and our own children presenting an original Christmas drama, based on the Christmas memories of our very own members.

## Do You Have Muscles?

## Can You Read Music?

Tintinnabula, the adult Handbell choir at Millwood is looking for one very special person to help ring the large bass bells. We generally play for worship once a month and play a 30-minute concert Christmas Eve. We rehearse on Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. If you think you might be the one, please call Diane Williams (448-1309) as soon as possible.

## Men's Bible Study

Don't forget that all the men of Millwood are invited to join us for a Bible Study at Perkins restaurant on Argonne at 1-90 at 7am. We are currently studying the book of 1 Corinthians. We meet every Tuesday.

## Membership Exploration Event Coming November 6

This is a discovery event is for non-members interested in exploring stronger connections with Millwood Presbyterian Church. On Monday night, November 6 at 6pm, we will gather for dinner and conversation about the two commitments of membership; a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and a commitment to the life of the local church. It will be a time for questions and open discussion. There will be a follow up event for those who wish to formally join the church. Please contact Pastor Craig at the church to RSVP or with questions.

## Presbyterian Women Meeting

November 2, 10 am

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall. Ralph and Marlene Shannon Will be sharing with us about their Mission trip to Guatemala.



## Deacon Food Bank

The Deacon Food Bank commodity for November is canned yams and stuffing. All donations are appreciated. Thank you for giving to your church and community through the Deacon Food Bank.

## Priscilla Circle Meeting

The Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to work on quilts. If you like to quilt, bring a sack lunch and join us!



## Advent Party 2006!

This year's Advent Party will be held Sunday, December 3 from 4 PM to 7:30 PM. This is a wonderful, fun event for all ages where we make Christmas ornaments, sing Christmas songs, munch on goodies and have a great time. Put the date on your calendar now and plan to bring a friend to Millwood's annual Advent Party. For more information call Diane Williams, 448-1309 or Marilyn McIntosh, 928-8328.

## Advent Supplies Needed

We need chestnuts, acorns and *small* pinecones for the Advent Party. If you have some please save them for us. Let Diane Williams know and we will make arrangements to pick them up. Thank you!

## Order Your Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be used as part of the decorations in the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season. They may be purchased for \$8.50 each. The plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service so that you may enjoy them during the Christmas Season. Order forms are located in the church entryway on the information table. Please turn your payment and form in to the church office by November 24.

## Plan Ahead for Christmas Eve Services

Be a part of one of our worship experiences this Christmas Eve. This is a wonderful time to invite friends, neighbors and family. It won't be the same without you!

*6:00 pm-Family Service*

*7:30 pm-Bell Concert*

*8:00 pm- Traditional Service*

*Midnight- Candlelight Service*