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October 2009 Newsletter

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Marked as Christ's Own Forever

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

Jurgen Moltmann, a theologian I hold in high regard, was recently asked at a conference what he thought about cyber-church, the idea that church can be experienced through sermons and podcasts and chat rooms on the internet. His simple response speaks volumes; "A cyber church is a church without Eucharist." In other words, you can't share in communion, the Lord's Supper, from your perch in front of a glowing computer screen. I would add that a cyber-church church is also a church without the waters of baptism.

The significance of the sacraments, of baptism and communion, can easily get lost in the shuffle of advances in technology. It might be easy to imagine that there are better ways to commune with God today. But the wisdom of the church through history has been to put the sacraments front and center in our life together. During the Reformation in the 16th century, as the church sorted out what it meant to be a church apart from the Pope in Rome, leaders came up with three marks of the true church; preaching the Word of God, practicing discipline, and administration of the sacraments.

The sacraments serve as a reminder that Jesus came in the flesh and that the work of God's grace in bringing new life is real, just as the waters of baptism are real. They help remind us that God is not just a theory or an idea that we learn about, but rather God is alive and at work in our lives.

You may have noticed that the communion table is always front and center in our worship services as a reminder of its importance. Baptism is just as important but truth be told, we probably don't give it the attention it deserves. While we place the

communion table in the middle of everything, making it unavoidable, like many Presbyterian churches we put the baptismal font off to the side, tucked away and unfortunately less prominent. While we excel at exalting the Lord's Supper, perhaps we have some lessons to learn from our Baptist friends who celebrate baptism with a large tank or tub full of water in the middle of the worship space, conspicuous and unavoidable.



I'm not advocating that we reconfigure the Chancel to accommodate a hot tub, although I'm open to suggestions on how we might make the baptismal font more visible. I am recommending that we find ways to remember our baptism, for the baptized among us, and to lift up the sacrament of baptism as a central part of our life together for those yet to be baptized. And let's remember that we do this by baptizing children, celebrating God's grace at work in our lives before we are able to respond, and in baptizing adults, lifting up the call in all of our lives to respond in faith to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

October 18th we will do something new in my time here by having a baptism emphasis Sunday. Our children will help lead us in worship and we'll celebrate the baptisms of children brought by parents, a young person who is stepping forward in a public profession of faith, and an adult who will also come forward for baptism.

One of the phrases we use around baptism is that in these waters we are "marked as Christ's own forever." This is certainly something worth celebrating on October 18th and every Sunday.

Mark Your Calendar

Membership Exploration Event, October 11

Meeting after the 11am Worship Service in the Upper Conference Room.

Hosting Interfaith Hospitality October 11-18

Please contact Anne Krueger at: annemkrueger@comcast.net or 928-1069 or contact the Church Office if you are willing to serve.

Session Meeting, October 13

Please note that this is a change from our normal 3rd Tuesday meeting time.

Baptism Celebration Sunday, October 18

We will baptize children and adults and our children will help lead us in worship at both service.

Reformation Sunday October 25

The Angus Scott bagpipers will help lead us in worship at the 11am service on this Sunday.

Trunk or Treat October 31

6pm in the church parking lot.

Youth News

By Brandon Comella

We have officially kicked off for the fall and the youth are super excited. We had a great kickoff week with both our Jr. High and Sr. High.

For Sr. High, we had our first club of the fall at the *Spokane Shock Practice Facility* located in the valley. Most teenagers love watching the Shock play, and so they were able to experience where the team practices and were able to play games and run around on their turf field. They all had a lot of fun playing games, watching funny skits, singing songs, and listening to a talk about whom Jesus is.

The Jr. High youth are always full of energy and there was no exception on our Wyldlife kickoff night. We met at The Crossing and had a non-stop night with many new kids there; and it is quite obvious how excited they are for the rest of the year.

On Rally Day we officially started up our *Coffee House* (Sunday school) for the Jr. High and Sr. High youth at The Crossing during the 11 o'clock service. We are going through the book of Acts and are learning quite a lot about how to live out our faith as well as the impact that the Holy Spirit has in our daily lives.

We have a couple retreats coming up in the fall and winter: Jr. High youth are heading to Riverview Bible Camp November 20-22, and the Sr. High youth are going to Camp Spalding December 4-6.

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 email me at: Brandon@millwoodpc.org.



Children's Ministry

By Kim McGiveran

We kicked off this year's new Children's Ministry programs on Sunday, September 13, with our Rally Day Carnival. God blessed us with beautiful sunny weather, and many children and families enjoyed the popcorn, root beer floats, games, and of course – the giant jumping castle and slide! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a very fun event.

Our new curriculum programs are under way as we made a few changes to our Sunday morning routine. An info board is in the entry way to help families know what classes are available for their children, and where the classes take place. A few things to note is that Children's Ministry will not be using the Fellowship Hall this year. All classes take place in the CE wing of the church – where parents drop off and pick up their children.

The 9:45 am preschool class (Noah's Park) now meets in Room 201 by the nursery. The 9:45 am elementary class (We Believe) meets in Room 216. At 11am, the preschool class Wee Believe meets in Room. 211, and the elementary class Lighthouse meets in Room 216.

Thank you to all those who signed up to be Sunday School teachers. There are still opportunities that need to be filled with the 11am Lighthouse elementary class. Please see Kim McGiveran if you are able to help.

Young Lives

By Shauna Edwards

We are currently putting together a fundraiser for Young Lives to raise diapers and wipes to give to the girls at club... It's called "Get Pampered" and the idea is that women will come and get pampered for an hour and in exchange for the pampering they will bring us a Costco-size box of pampers and wipes. We are looking for some more volunteers in the spa world who can come and donate a three hour block of their time to pamper the ladies who are coming to the event which is October 24. The three services we are offering for the fundraiser are Pedicures, Mini- Facials, and Mini- Massages. If you know anyone who may be willing to come for three hours would you send me an email with their info or call me at: 326-2859.

We are close to having enough volunteers but need a few more! If you are interested in coming and getting pampered yourself or have some friends that would too let me know.

Our first Club will be October 8. It's so exciting to see where God is taking this ministry, I can't wait!! For more information and updates, please call me at: 326-2859.

Deacon Food Bank

The Deacon Food Bank commodities for October are: canned pumpkin and evaporated milk. The Deacon Food Bank is a way we help those in need in our Church and in our community. Thank you for supporting the Deacon Food Bank with your faithful giving.



New Member Event Oct. 11

Paul talks about the nature of church membership when he says, *"...in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* (Romans 12:5) Anyone who is interested in exploring the commitments of membership at MCPC is invited you to join us.

On Sunday, October 11, we will gather at noon in the Upper Conference Room of the Church for what we call a Membership Exploration Event. (The Upper Conference Room is next to the Church Office.) We'll reflect together on our commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the unique ways that commitment is expressed at Millwood Community Presbyterian Church. Childcare will be provided and we'll have a light lunch.

There is no obligation to join the church in attending this event. This initial inquiry event will be followed with a meeting for those interested in officially joining the church. Feel free to contact Pastor Craig with questions or to RSVP, craig@millwoodpc.org or 509-280-3081.

Endowment Trust Update

"The gift that keeps giving."

By Gary Sardam, Treasurer

The Board of Directors is diligently reviewing the investment strategy for the trust funds. We are in the process of selecting an investment advisor that can help preserve the principal gifted to the trust. This in turn will help the Board to be able to give Session funds for the mission and purpose of Millwood Community Presbyterian. More details to come.

*When I leave this world . . .
Will I have made a difference?*

Take a Survey

Help Us Evaluate and Plan

By Craig Goodwin

Several years ago we took a survey called the Missional Readiness Survey as part of our strategic planning process. In an effort to continue in this work I want to invite you to fill out the same questionnaire. For some of us it will be the second time and for others the first. It doesn't matter. What's important is that we get as much feedback as possible.

The easiest way to fill out the questionnaire is online using the web link provided on the front page of our church website, www.millwoodpc.org. When you click through to the link, fill in the username as "millwood" and the password as "future" without the quotes. It's best to fill it out in one sitting so don't click submit until you've made your way through all of the questions. If filling it out online isn't possible, paper copies of the survey will be available in the entryway of the Church.

All responses in the survey will be anonymous and confidential, and any comments will be printed exactly as they are entered. Thanks for participating.

Trunk or Treat October 31

Please sign up to bring your car and candy and/or goodies for everyone to enjoy for our annual Trunk or Treat. The fun begins at 6 pm, Saturday, October 31, in the Church parking lot! This event is for everyone, so bring your friends and family. Contact Kim McGiveran at the church if you would like to help.

New Keys for Camp White

Due to the large amount of keys for the gate at Camp White floating around the community, the CW committee voted to change the locks. The locks were changed October 1, 2009. The last two summers the committee has established a system of voluntary "Camp Hosts" that are required to be present for the weekends during the summer. During the week Joyce Buntain is almost always there. Next summer we are hoping to have retired people commit to a month of weekday hosting and/or those spending their vacation at Camp White. If that is something that might interest you please contact Mae Johnson at 928-2274. This should eliminate some of the key issues. If you are planning on using the camp the month of May before the hosts are on board please call Mae or the church office about a key.

Camp White Clean Up Day

Camp White had a busy, busy, season this year. We hosted several churches, both MCPC youth groups were ministered to by being able to use the camp for mid-week events and Bible Studies. Family Camp was a memorable time with over one hundred friends and family that came out to fellowship with us at Camp White. We also helped Family Promise in cooperation with Post Falls Presbyterian host homeless families. As a church body, we ate together, we had Vesper services, we prayed together, we swam, we boated, we skipped rocks, we marveled at the moon's reflection on the water, we watched fire works, we enjoyed campfires in the evening, and much more.

Fall is upon us once again, the weather is turning cool, and it is time to prepare Camp White for winter. We will have a camp shut down and clean up day October 17th from 9 am - 12 pm. We will clean out the refrigerators, put the tables away and other camp shut down activities. We will share a potluck when we are finished so bring your favorite dish plus a little extra to share.

Clearwater Lodge

Upcoming Conferences

Our Presbyterian Conference Center on Davis Lake has some great retreats and conferences coming this winter. To register go to www.clearwaterlodge.org.

Men's Conference, November 13-15. Joe Wittwer has pastored Life Center in Spokane since 1978. An engaging speaker and teacher, Joe has a gift for making the scriptures come alive, with real-life application and encouragement for daily life with Christ. Under his leadership, Life Center has grown steadily through the years, even as the church has established a number of successful church plants in the Spokane area. Joe is also pursuing his master's degree at Whitworth University.

Winter Renewal Weekend I, January 8-10, 2010. Rev. Earl Palmer has a national reputation as an exceptional preacher, teacher and author. Recently retired as Senior Pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA (1991-2008), Earl also had a long and fruitful ministry as Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, CA (1970-1991). In addition, he has written numerous, acclaimed books and Bible commentaries over the years. Now in a new chapter in his life, Earl devotes his time teaching, writing and encouraging to audiences throughout the country.

Winter Renewal Weekend II, February 5-7, 2010. Dr. Dale Bruner, distinguished international Bible scholar and inspiring conference speaker, returns to Clearwater Lodge with keen insights and practical application as he draws from selected Gospel passages. Author of an acclaimed two-volume commentary on Matthew, Dale is a sought-after Bible teacher in America. Emeritus Professor of Religion at Whitworth University, Dale and his wife live in Pasadena, CA, where Dale writes full time.

Presbyterian Women

Join us November 5, in the Fellowship Hall, at 10 am. Our Guest Speaker will be Melody Biehl who will be sharing *Because There is Hope*. Naomi Circle will be the Hostess Circle. All women are invited to the monthly gathering the first Thursday of every month, beginning at 10 am. The monthly meeting includes Bible study with Pastor Craig, intriguing speakers, and a yummy lunch at noon. Circle groups meet at homes once a month- call the Church if you want to get connected with a circle at: 924-2350.

Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale

The Annual Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale will be here at the Church, Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, November 8 after the 11 am service. We will have many special "things" for the home, and gifts for the holidays. We are also accepting any hand made items you wish to donate. Lois Noble and Barbara Wilson will be happy to take your name for our bake sale. Be sure and mark your calendar for November and 8. Come and join us!

Singles Group Gathering

Meet us at The Crossing Youth Center, October 11 for a potluck and a movie. If you have any movie requests, please call and let Camilla know. As always, bring a favorite dish and a friend and join us! Call Camilla at: 924-1931, if you have questions

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet 10:30 am, Wednesday, October 21, in the Handcrafter's Room. Hostesses will be Lil Lowrey and Lois Noble. Lesson 2 will be led by Linda Schultz.



Runners ready for the start of the first annual Millwood 5K run hosted at MCPC. MCPC member and elder Mark Esvelt was the winner.

Navigators October Meeting

By Bob Sheppard

The Navigators' October 16 tour of the Kroc Center has been moved to Friday October 23. MCPC vans will leave church at 10:15 am. Deadline for sign-up is October 18. Lunch will be \$7.00. We will not be having our regular meeting on the 16 of October.

Call the Sheppard's at: 928-2355 for any questions.

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.

Wedding Coordinator

Position Open

We're looking for someone interested in coordinating MCPC weddings. This includes working with the bride and groom in making preparations for the use of the church facility and coordinating activities at the rehearsal and the wedding. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

Stated Clerk Position Open

The Presbytery of the INW is looking for an Acting Stated Clerk. This position will start in November. Training will be provided. This person would work in the Presbytery Office on Tuesdays. A complete job description can be obtained from the Presbytery Office. If you are interested, please send your resume to the Presbytery Office, 8910 E Dalton Ave., before October 5.

Meet Your Deacon Sunday

Sunday, October 18, is the annual Meet Your Deacon Sunday. It is the opportunity for all members of a flock to meet their Deacon and visit in person. The Reception Hall will be set up with flock lists and the Deacons will be ready to greet each and every one of you. And there will be treats! So come after the first service at 10:30 am or after the second service at noon, and meet your Deacon!

Creative Connections

Do you have photos waiting to be put in your memory album? An unfinished cross-stitch project? Would you like to get an early start on your Christmas cards? This is for YOU! Creative Connections meets on the second Friday night of the month for fun, laughter AND finishing those craft projects you just never can find time for. Join us at 7 pm, in the Reception Hall, October 9. Stay for an hour or stay all evening. We usually break up before midnight. 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 - 448-1309.

What's Reformation Sunday?

On October 25, we'll observe Reformation Sunday. To many of us this means we'll get to enjoy bagpipes at the 11 am service, but there is more to it than that.

On Reformation Sunday, we remember our history and roots in the Protestant Reformation during the 16th century. This history includes Martin Luther posting his ninety-five theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg, Germany. And, French-Swiss theologian John Calvin, who refined a "Reformed" theology that came to be known by the five *solas* (alone); *Sola Fide*, salvation by faith alone; *Sola Gratia*, salvation by grace alone; *Sola Scriptura*, scripture alone as the authority for faith and life; *Sola Christus*, Christ alone as the one who saves; and *Sola Deo Gloria*, glory to God alone.

John Knox, a Scotsman who studied with Calvin in Geneva, Switzerland, took Calvin's teachings back to Scotland where the Presbyterian church was born.

Reformation Sunday

Choir Opportunity

Our Chancel Choir will be preparing some special music for Reformation Sunday. If you like to sing this is an invitation for you to join us for 3 Thursday evening rehearsals from 7 - 7:30 pm, to celebrate this very special Sunday! Call Jesse at: 466-4624.

New Curriculum For Children's Ministry

For parents interested in learning more about our new curriculum for children, you can go to www.pcusa.org/webelieve/ for an overview.

Missions Monthly Update

By Bronwyn Worthington

Over the past month our church grounds have welcomed many neighbors. The Millwood Farmer's Market held within the MCPC parking lot has offered vegetables of many varieties, eggs and meat throughout the summer. Local crafters shared items such as jams, soaps, and jewelry. Volunteers from MCPC have faithfully served Christ Kitchen through maintaining a weekly booth. Aside from supporting our neighbors, the farmer's market allows us to engage in a form of ministry that can only happen outside of church. Although our outdoor summer market is leaving at the end of September, The Crossing will be hosting an indoor market, beginning October 7. Make sure to check it out soon.

Another exciting event hosted in our parking lot occurred August 28, 2009. The first Millwood Wellness Run, benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, enabled more than 350 participants to gather together. A sizable group of MCPC members, including first place winner, Mark Esvelt, ran in the race. The event closed with a Millwood business owner applauding Pastor Craig's involvement in the community. Our church is indeed becoming a light upon a hill.

Throughout the month of September we focused on collecting baby food. If you happened to miss this opportunity, remember MCPC hosts a baby food drive several times a year. This small way of assisting mothers and children in our community has an amazing impact.

Mark your calendar for Interfaith Hospitality, October 11-18. Aside from dinner hosts and overnight hosts, we are currently looking for individuals who are willing to wash bedding and provide janitorial duties. Contact Ann Kruger for more information at: 928-1069.