



# MILLWOOD PRESS

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church, 3223 North Marguerite Rd, Spokane, WA 99212  
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## Looking Ahead .....

- PC (USA) Constitution Forum February 11, 7 pm:
- Congregational Meeting February 22: Between our 9:30 am and 11 am services February 22, 2009, we will be holding a Congregational Meeting to vote on the change in terms of call for Pastor Craig, and to elect new officers for the Endowment Trust, Deacons and Elders.
- Ash Wednesday Services February 25, 7 pm: Join us in the Chapel for Ash Wednesday worship. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. At one time Lent was primarily viewed as a period during which converts prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday, but later the season became a general time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Ash Wednesday worship, then, is filled with gospel truth. It is a witness to the power and beauty of our union with Christ and to the daily dying and rising with Christ that this entails.
- Alpha Course Begins Wednesdays, March 4, 2009, 6 pm: Anyone interested in learning more about the Christian faith, making new friends, and getting answers to the tough questions of the faith will enjoy Alpha. It is a 10 -week practical introduction to Christianity. Join us for dinner at 6 pm, followed by an engaging lesson and a small group discussion where no question is too simple or controversial. You can register on line at [www.millwoodpc.org](http://www.millwoodpc.org) or you can contact the Church Office.
- Sunday, March 8, 2009 Day Light Saving Time Begins Don't forget to set your clocks forward, we wouldn't want to miss worshipping with you!

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Spokane, WA 99212  
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## Unprecedented?

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

Many of my conversations these days, and probably yours, tend to gravitate to the topic of our ailing economy. With each week that passes, the generic news of the downturn becomes more personal as I debrief with folks from the church who have lost jobs or are in the unenviable position of having to lay off employees. One of the questions I hear arising in these conversations is the difficulty of knowing how to respond. Should we hope for the best and keep it positive? Should we hunker down and expect the worst? We are a little off balance right now. Many have observed a loss in our collective confidence.

I have noticed there is plenty of advice available to us. In part I'm glad for this. We are ripe for some good solid advice. We are receptive and open in this vulnerable time, to both the best and worst advice. In response to that I will lead us over the next four weeks into the treasure trove of advice for living known as the Wisdom books of the Bible; Ecclesiastes, Job, Song of Solomon, and Proverbs. If we're going to go searching for advice right now, let's go for time tested, Spirit refined wisdom available to us in Scripture.

In a preview of this Sunday and our reflection on Ecclesiastes 1, I want to remind us that while we are quick to label these as "unprecedented" times, the wisdom of the weary King of Ecclesiastes is that there is "nothing new under the sun." History may not repeat itself, but as some have said, each era as it unfolds certainly rhymes with the ones that preceded it.

I was intrigued to find the following historical account the American Protestant church's response to the circumstances of the Great Depression.

University of Chicago divinity dean Jerald C. Brauer described it like this as he looked back in 1965:

For too long (the church) preached and taught a rather shallow message which was a watering down of the full insights of the gospel...

Though liberal theology and the social gospel contained many valuable elements necessary for their age, they also played into the hands of the age by their emphasis. People of the '20's were convinced that Christianity meant literally following the Golden Rule -- doing to others as one would wish to be treated; that it stood for the gradual building of the Kingdom on earth by men (and women) of good will...

Suddenly the Protestant Churches were confronted with the stark reality of the failure of their dreams. Under all the supposed goodness and friendliness of the prosperous '20's were to be found greed and pride...In place of a new stage in the Kingdom of God men had arrived at a shattered economy. The consequence was a new look at some old Protestant doctrines that had been largely ignored -- sin, faith, and justification were once more relevant.

Our times are different. It's no repeat of the 1930's. But our times do rhyme with those that went before us. There is wisdom in the saying, "There is nothing new under the sun." There is a proper humility in such advice. Such advice invites us to look back on our history. I wonder what we might learn by looking back. Such advice leads us to look back on God's history of faithfulness. I wonder what future might open up to us in the midst of such reflections. Join me on Sunday as we find out.

## Youth News

By Brandon Comella

In about a week, my leaders and I are heading to the annual Young Life Regional training retreat. This weekend is crucial for our leadership heading into the rest of winter and spring with the youth of our church and the community. It is here where we will have the chance to collaborate together and brainstorm different ideas for serving our Jr. and Sr. High kids. The other great thing about this time together, is we get the opportunity to spend time in worship with God as a team. We are allowed a time to take a deep breath and realize that God is in control of our ministry. Please be praying for our time together and pray that it can be a time of rejuvenation and preparation for a great semester of ministry ahead.

February 9, we will be starting our usual Monday night Sr. High program back up on a regular basis. I am looking forward to getting back into the swing of things, especially since I felt that just before Christmas break we really started to have things click together with the usual kids as well as some of their friends. My Sr. High leaders seemed to really step up and were extremely consistent. I am looking forward to this consistency continuing.

February 10, we are launching our Wyldlife Club. In the fall, we averaged 40-50 kids on a weekly basis. We have not invited the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to come yet, but now that they have a semester of middle school under their belt, my leaders and I will be talking about starting to openly invite them to come every week. We will continue going back and forth on our evangelism Wyldlife nights and our discipleship Campaigner nights.

Sunday morning Coffee House (Sunday School) is going back to the basics! I am wanting to revert back to the things that are most important in our faith. One of those things is Scripture.

We will be diving into the Bible every Sunday morning at 11AM. Please come and get involved. Please come and check us out.



## Young Lives

By Shauna Edwards

Club January 14, was great, the girls finally relaxed and started talking. Thank you for all of your hard work, and help with club! The girls are really enjoying it and I'm so excited about how God is working in this ministry. We had 13 girls and 12 of them had come before! We also had another teen dad make it to club! It's really fun to start growing relationships with these girls and their babies! Childcare went great again, thank you to everyone who came to help! We also received toys, a television and a dvd player.

Next month we want to do a pampering club- something nice for the girls... we are thinking of doing appetizer type food- such as wraps, fruit skewers, ect.- that people will serve to the girls as they get pampered. I am contacting the beauty schools to find out if their students who are almost finished but need hours will come volunteer their time... and we are looking for any other spa, or massage people you may know who might be interested in helping out- last year at school massage therapists would come and give us teachers massages in these massage chairs, so I'm looking into that too.

If anyone is interested in helping me plan for next club let me know and we'll find a time! Thank you again for all of your help!

## Christian Education

By Kim McGiveran

This month I wanted to share with everyone what is being taught in our Sunday children's programs. No matter what class your child attends, you can be assured that they are receiving strong Christian teaching from our awesome volunteer teachers at Millwood Presbyterian! I have posted on the Christian Ed. Bulletin board in the Reception Hall a summary of what is being taught each Sunday. I encourage parents and families to stay connected with what your child is learning each Sunday, and to discuss with your child the lessons he/she is receiving. That added reinforcement of your interest and conversation with them can help solidify their learning.

In Noah's Park, children are hearing of how God as our creator knows us and made us to be wonderfully different. They will hear the story of as Jacob and Esau. They are learning how God wants us all to appreciate and welcome our unique talents and individuality, and to get along with each other. The stories of Joash, Ezra, and Solomon will help the children understand how we can worship God by giving, learning His word, and praying.

In Adventure Kids, the older children have been reading the parts of the gospels that relate to Jesus' childhood and "growing up" years. They are making Jesus growth charts, and learning that by looking at Jesus' childhood, they can better understand and see that Jesus is the Son of God. In February, they will read about some of Jesus' teachings, and how the stories and teachings that Jesus' shared, help us understand how followers of Christ should live.

In Lighthouse Rotation class, the children are studying a unit on the "Jesus the Miracle Worker". In this unit, the children are learning that Jesus used miracles to point people to God's power

and love. When we trust Jesus as the Miracle Worker, our perception and faith are opened to miracles today.

And in our Bible Quest class, the children are reading stories relating to Jesus' birth and His teachings. They will read about Anna, who sees the baby Jesus and knows she has seen the Messiah. Children are shown the excitement and feeling of God's presence when Anna saw Jesus. Children will read verses that focus on the joy of giving, and reaching out to others. They will hear about Jesus calling the fishermen to be disciples. They will also hear the story of the lost sheep and about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Please stay informed about what your child is learning about in class. The Sunday School teachers are committed to helping your child deepen their knowledge and understand of who God is, His tremendous love for each of them, and how the Bible helps us understand how to follow Christ and live our lives today.

The Wednesday night TeamKid program will begin again in March. This is an excellent class for your child to build relationships with other church youngsters, have fun, and learn more about God's Word and Christian living. Please see or call Kim if you would like to help by being a leader in this program, or if your child would like to participate.



## Craig's Article *Continued from page 3*

### Handcrafters Resuming

#### February 16<sup>th</sup>

If you enjoy artistry, sewing, embroidery, creating flair, fun and fellowship, this is the place for you! After taking a winter break, the Handcrafter's will resume meeting February 16<sup>th</sup>. They are ready and eager to create new designs for the holidays, home, office, garden and gifts. They meet every Monday at 9 am, in the Handcrafter's Room. All items the Handcrafters make are offered for sale at our annual Fall Bazaar and the profits are used to fund different ministries in the community and our church. All experience levels are welcome! For more information, please call Doris Harvey at 926-0983.

### Library Talk

By Velma Churchill

THE SHACK by William P. Young, has been on the "Best Sellers List" for over a year, and it is still the talk in book reviews and readers' circles. While some find it controversial, others find it spiritually uplifting.

This is a book of fiction; the paperback edition is only 250 pages. But it carries a real punch. On a camping trip in northeastern Oregon, Mack's young daughter is abducted and believed to be murdered. Four years later he receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, asking him to return to an old cabin in the area where she disappeared. What he finds and experiences must be read to grasp the true spiritual theme.

Was it a dream, was it hallucinations, or did it really happen? That is for you to ponder. The Shack is a book that must be read to the last page.

You will find an abundance of reading materials for these cold days and nights. Stop by and check out

## End of Year Financial Update

Budgeted Pledges & Regular Gifts:	\$405,000
Actual Pledges & Regular Gifts:	\$403,721

Budgeted Total Income:	\$477,850
Actual Total Income:	\$482,134

Budgeted Expenses:	\$477,819
Actual Expenses:	\$480,777

Anticipated Net Profit/ (Loss)	\$ 31
Actual Net Profit/ (Loss)	\$ 1,356

We ended up 2008 with a balanced budget and small surplus of \$1,356. Thank you all who have given so faithfully. The session has set the budget for 2009 and was able to give staff a 2.7% cost of living increase. We adopted a conservative budget because of the uncertain economy and will be monitoring income and expenses closely. In addition to the Operating budget, the session voted to fund a Maintenance Reserve fund with \$19,000 for planned maintenance in the future. There has been much conversation about the need to better plan for and fund major maintenance.

## Capital Campaign Update

As of the middle of January we had a balance of \$125,000 in the With Open Arms Building Fund. We have so far received almost \$50,000 in pledges to the With Open Arms campaign. The Construction Planning Team has begun meeting and will quickly be moving forward on the projects in the existing facility starting with the new bathrooms. The Property committee has been managing parts of the project as well and is managing the replacement of the 800 watts light bulbs that currently light each fixture in the Sanctuary with Compact Florescent bulbs that will require around 120 watts. We had anticipated costs of close to \$10,000 for that part of our project but our actual costs will be less than \$3,000.

## Mission News

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.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** received this year will be used by the Synod to help support ministers from small churches that are on smaller incomes through tough times. With joy we have helped in the amount of \$552.45. What a very special joy to say that our church helped another church ministry along the way.

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 the Children*, or *Compassion International*, if you could leave your pictures in the Church Office.

Watch your bulletin for information about the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** to be received Palm Sunday, April 5. Inserts in the bulletin will tell you what this offering will accomplish. The inserts will begin March 15 and will be included each Sunday until April 5, 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.

The **Winter Farmers' Market** is going strong! It is open on Wednesdays from 12-5 pm at The Crossing. Watch for the return of the outdoor Farmers' Market in May. It was a great success last

summer. Let's see if we can make it even better this year. If you have any suggestions, please write them down and see that they are received by this committee or the Church Office soon so they can be incorporated into this year's program.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is continuing to be a great blessing to those who receive shawls. 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.

**Crop Walk is April 26.** 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.

With the end of 2008 and the beginning of the New Year, the Mission Committee wishes to thank every member and friend of the church for all the support you have given us throughout the year. We try hard to put all of your funds that you give to mission to good use and to continue to find special places that may seem special to you for your personal giving. If there is any way we can help you better understand what or where any funds and/or donations are being given, or if you have any special place you wish to have considered, please contact a member of our Mission Committee.

Members of the Mission Committee are: Sylvia Barney, Dorothy Jones; Jewel Haskins; Bob and Carolyn Sheppard; Betty Allen; Ina Grunwald; Garman Lutz, and Maureen Schneider.

## Navigators, February 20

The Navigators are going to meet at Timber Creek Grill Buffett, 9211 E. Montgomery Ave, at 1 pm, Friday, February 20. Our Moderator will be Jeannine Carmichael.

Steve Ackerman, with Alpha Omega Tours, will be discussing his most recent trip to Israel and sharing photos of his adventure.

The cost for the buffet including tax is \$9.01 per person. Our hosts for this event are Lois Combs and Dick & Helen Runsvold.

## Singles Meeting February 8

The singles will be sharing a pot luck at the home of Joyce Colclough's Sunday, February 8, at 1 pm. Please bring a favorite dish to share. You can R.S.V.P. to Joyce at: 927-4673. Her address is 3111 S. Progress. All singles are invited. Bring your friends!

## Naomi Circle Meeting February 18

Naomi Circle will meet at 10:30 am, Wednesday, February 19, 2009. Lil Lowrey will host, Lois Noble will co-hostess. Jeannine Carmichael will lead the bible Study, please read lesson 6.

## 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.

## Presbyterian Women

Join us Thursday, February 5 at 10 am, in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will open with Pastor Craig leading the study from the Horizon Bible Study "Jubilee!". Luke, chapters 10 and 17 are the selected Bible references.

Hostesses for lunch will be Martha Circle and Ruth Circle will provide the Fellowship. Moderator Sylvia Barney will lead a short meeting prior to the program.

Prison Ministry is the topic of the program to be presented by Kolin Kissell, volunteer with Prison Fellowship Ministries. He visits Pine Lodge Facility for Women and Airway Heights Correctional Center on a regular schedule to bring the Christian message and Bible Study to these people. This should prove to be a most interesting and informative program.

All women of the church are invited to join us the first Thursday of each month for fellowship.

## Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle donated eight twin bed size quilts to Daybreak, a half-way house for teenagers with addictions. Five crib quilts were donated to Mission Community Outreach Center as well as \$125.00 that was raised during a quilt drawing at the Fall Bazaar. The staff at Mission Community Outreach extends their very grateful thanks to the Congregation here at MCPC for the many ways we have supported them. Priscilla Circle is a quilt workshop that meets at 10 am, here at the Church the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to be a part of the Priscilla Circle, you are invited to pack a lunch and join in the fun. All experience levels are welcome. If you can tie a shoe, you can help tie quilts. Quilt tiers are most needed right now.

## Mission News

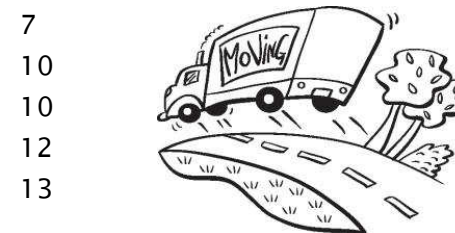
## Address Changes

Beverly Bonner  
2301 N Wilbur Rd Apt 112  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Craig and Deborah Stephens  
3611 Country Club Dr NW  
Olympia, WA 98502

## February Birthdays

- 1 Haleigh Edwards
- 2 Jodi Vessels
- 3 Marilyn Gillam
- 3 Joan Harris
- 4 Sherry Esvelt
- 4 Billie Pierce
- 4 Charles Schreck
- 5 Lillian Lowrey
- 6 Lovella Hansen
- 6 Mae Johnson
- 6 Camilla Rickman



*(If you've moved or your address has changed, please let the Church Office know so that we can update your information.)*

- 14 Aaron Olson
- 15 Roma Gemmel
- 17 Doris Cole
- 18 Samuel Modica
- 19 Florence Hollis
- 21 Nathan Beres
- 22 Elvera Felgenhauer
- 22 Teresa Herman
- 23 Molly Matthews
- 23 Tudi Pitman
- 23 Joyce Senechal
- 24 Arolyn Rowe
- 25 Marlene Shannon
- 25 Miranda Wilder