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

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## Mark Your Calendars

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 28, AT 12:15 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

Please stay for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 14, where we will vote on the terms of call for Pastor Craig. We will be meeting at 12:15 a.m., in the Sanctuary, after the Traditional Service.

### BIBLE BASICS: FEBRUARY 21 – MARCH 20

Bible Basics Class is targeted for 3rd graders (older kids who haven't taken the class are also welcome). This is a four-week class at 9:30 a.m., upstairs in Room 401. We will review the major events of the Bible, the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ, how to look up Scripture, and much more. All participants will receive their own new *Adventure Bible (NIV)*.

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
Good Friday, March 25, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, March 27, 7:00 a.m., at Arbor Crest Winery.  
Easter Egg Hunt, March 27, 10:30 a.m., at the church.  
Easter Sunday Morning Services, March 27, 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER  
A Quarterly Publication of Millwood Community Presbyterian Church

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## The Best Worst Questions

By Rev. Craig Goodwin, Pastor

Last week we started the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday worship service. When people came forward I placed my finger in ashes made from last year's Palm Sunday palm leaves, and then impressed them, in the shape of a cross, on their foreheads. At that time I spoke these words, "From dust you came, and to dust you shall return." This is a quote from Ecclesiastes 3, and I'll admit it's a rather odd way to start something.

If we think of Lent as a rigorous journey of renewal and reflection, we might expect to start with an inspirational speech like the words from the preacher in Hebrews, "run the race with perseverance," or James' encouragement, "Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds," or Paul's words to the Romans, "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Instead of these hopeful words of affirmation, we get the turbulent questions of the weary philosopher in Ecclesiastes who wonders aloud if our fate is all that different from the animals. He observes that "the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other...From dust we came and to dust we shall return."

Ecclesiastes is not the place we go in the Bible to find answers. It's the place we go to find, and be reminded of our questions. And in Ecclesiastes we find the best, or worst of them, depending on how you look at it.

The most important and vexing question comes just a few short verses after the "dust" passage. The teacher asks, "Who can bring us to see what awaits us after we die?" In other words, who can go to the other side of death and come back and tell us what to expect? Who can solve the riddle of death and dust? Who can do such a thing?

This Old Testament book of wisdom asks the question with, what was believed to be, the obvious answer at the time – no one can do it. According to Ecclesiastes, we are stuck with these questions, unresolved.

But we gather here at the beginning of the season of Lent and the dead-end questions of Ecclesiastes have been transformed into the onramp for the hope of the gospel.

We start Lent with the conundrum of these questions to prepare us for the truth that, today, we do know someone who made the journey to the other side of death and returned. We are familiar with the terrible questions that haunt, but we also know the fullness of God's response in his son Jesus. Because of Jesus we receive the ashes as signs of hope, reminders that there is one such person who cannot only show us the way but who is, himself, a bridge. He doesn't just give us answers to the questions. He is the answer to the questions.

May God bless us as we look forward to the celebration of Easter, the day when our most difficult questions are answered in the best way.

# Children’s Ministry News

By Kim McGiveran

February 24, a new after-school program for 2<sup>nd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> graders titled: *STAR Club* (Students–Activities–Relationships) will begin. This structured program will emphasize kids moving their bodies, having fun, and getting exercise while forming positive relationships with caring adults. Every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30–5:30 p.m., students can come to the *Millwood Community Center* for this free program. While the first half of the program is geared toward physical activity, the second hour will involve the kids learning different life skills during a breakout activity. These breakout activities are lead by a volunteer adult (perhaps you?) and may include a cooking class, *Leggo* and construction building, arts/craft projects, drama/theater, or listening to a read-out loud story. The goal is for the kids to learn or develop a life skill while forming positive relationships with caring adults.

**There is a strong need for adult volunteers to lead or assist in the after-school program.** While it would be wonderful to have consistent, regular volunteers to aid in forming relationships with the kids, I am also looking for volunteers to fill short-term positions. **If you have a skill, hobby, or talent that you could share with a small group of kids for an hour per week, please talk to Kim.** The possibilities are numerous and I’m excited to see how the Spirit calls forward plenty members of our church body who are willing to make a difference in the lives of our community’s young people. Please join us in prayer that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and lead the planning of this program, and that God provides for all the necessary components to make the *STAR Club* fruitful and successful.

Bible Basics, taught by Kim, will be starting on February 21, during the first service upstairs in Room 401. We will meet for four weeks with our final class on March 13. This class is targeted at 3rd grade, though any older child who hasn't yet taken the class can join. Please invite neighbors, friends, grandchildren, basically any 3rd grader you know that would like to learn the basics of the Bible. We will go over key biblical events including the promise God gave to Abraham, the Exodus, Israel during the reign of King David and Solomon, the exile, and the prophecies of a promised messiah which foreshadow the coming of our savior Jesus Christ. We'll also discuss the gospel message of salvation, practice memorizing the books of the Bible, and learn how to navigate and use the Holy Bible. This is a great class that will lay a solid foundation to help your child read and understand God's word. The class will give a brief presentation of what they learned on March 20, during the first service and receive their very own new *Adventure Bible* from Pastor Craig.

Dates to mark your calendar:  
VBS: June 20–24  
1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> Daycamp: July 11–14  
4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Daycamp: July 18–21

Easter Egg Hunt

March 27, 2016

10:30 a.m. between services

toddlers–6<sup>th</sup> grade

Bring your

Easter baskets!

# Youth Update

By Brandon Comella

The last newsletter ended by sharing with you my goal for kicking off the Drop-In middle school after-school program in January. January 12, we had our “kickoff.” Brian, the *Good Guides* program partner, and I made a little video explaining Drop-In. The video was shown to all the students at *Centennial Middle School*, and that first week we had 45 middle school students at the *Millwood Community Center (MCC)*! This was a bit overwhelming as we weren’t quite expecting that many, but things worked out well, and the past two weeks we have averaged 30–40; which is a good number for us to expect on a weekly basis.

We had our first experience with the *Spokane Country Library* “traveling kit” coming to Drop-In too. This is something that the library will bring to Drop-In monthly. They will provide a variety of different activities that will get the student’s minds working, as well as help them work together in small groups. This week their project was to take a limited number of supplies provided and build a boat that floated and carried as many coins as possible. It was a major hit and they are looking forward to the next time the Library team comes.

We currently have a good but unique predicament, we had 70 middle school kids show up for the January outing! We have been averaging 40–50, but 70 is a LOT! The next week, we took 65 kids to *Bear Creek Lodge*! Last Tuesday, we packed *Hugo’s Bowling Alley* out with 65 more! Needless to say, I am very happy that we are adding more leaders this month, and am excited for the annual leader retreat happening in February. It is going to provide a chance to fellowship, and plan what the vision for spring, as well as having some thoughtful conversations around how we can minister well to this many kids affectively while not forgetting about the kids who really want to deepen their faith get to know the leaders on a meaningful level.

A recent article in the *Spokesman Review* highlighted our MCPC youth programs; it was fun to share the great things we are doing. It also drew quite a few people who want to support us; in fact, we received \$1,500 from a Spokane foundation That has never happened before! ☺

During January, we stopped our regular weekly youth groups, and took middle and high school students on different activities. This gives everyone the chance to connect with each other. Something special happens when we can skate at the ice rink and talk, push each other down the tubing hill, and chat about what’s happening in their lives while walking back up to the rope tow. These times have laid a good groundwork for what spring will look like; all because that personal relationship was nurtured on the January trips. In February we start back up to our weekly youth groups, with our annual *30-Hour Famine* happening in April or May.

In May, we will experience a very unique leader situation. For the first time ever, ALL of my high school leaders will be done in May! All seven leaders have to leave, which means I have some work to do in recruiting fantastic people to fill the shoes of the amazing ones I have now. The good news is that God has had many things in the works before I knew of the need. The day I heard that MCPC Members and *Younglife* leaders, Jesse and Tricia Brouwer, won’t be able to serve anymore, God sent me another married couple looking to serve high school youth for West Valley! We also have a great relationship with *Whitworth*, and they have a freshman program called *Foundations*, where I get two to four new leaders. This has been so fantastic since these college students are already interested in youth ministry, and have already gone through training. This year, I have been blessed with seven new leaders from this class! This helps SO much with our huge jump in students attending each week, and allows me to not stress over not having enough high school leaders for next year... SO yes, God Is Good!.



# International Missions Update

By Kate Vanskike



Last year, MCPC member Crystal Ducken traveled to the Dominican Republic to check out the work being done by a Christian organization called *Plant With Purpose*. Dominican Republic is one of seven countries where *Plant With Purpose* helps poverty-

stricken communities in three ways:

**Environmental Restoration** — Increasing farmers' success in preserving fruit trees and other plants, to improve their ability to produce food for their families and to provide income.

**Economic Empowerment** — Through education and assistance in establishing a community savings group (also called micro-financing), the organization is empowering families to break the cycle of poverty.

**Spiritual Renewal** — Focusing on a foundation of faith, *Plant With Purpose* helps community members to keep their hope in the Lord. Crystal returned to Spokane incredibly touched, and impressed, by the amazing way Plant With Purpose is supporting these communities, not by doing work *for* them, but by encouraging, educating, empowering and loving them. As Pastor Craig serves on the board of directors for this organization, we have a great deal of confidence in the way *Plant With Purpose* operates and see great potential for our congregation to support this work.

Session has been discussing two priorities for International Missions for this year and moving forward:

- To partner with another congregation in sponsoring a village through *Plant With Purpose*. This would include an annual monetary donation, as well as every-other year trips with delegates from our membership to go and experience the work directly. We are not tied specifically to Dominican Republic; we will talk with *Plant With Purpose* to find a community in a location that will be (relatively!) easy to travel to and that seems a good match for us.
- Providing international mission opportunities for our church's youth has a huge impact on the spiritual formation of our young people, and so we propose that on the years the congregation does not send delegates with *Plant With Purpose*, our youth directors would plan a trip to Mexico. These **youth trips** would be open to adults and families as well, for a unique cross-generational experience within our congregation.

In both examples, our vision is to create and sustain an ongoing relationship with specific organizations and with specific communities. This allows us to return to the same places year after year where we are developing a real connection with those whom we serve and support.

We have loved the opportunity to support Maria Naccarato in her service in Kyrgyzstan and now that she is wrapping up that appointment, those who have supported her mission are invited to consider allocating their gifts to the next phase in our international outreach: the partnership with *Plant With Purpose* and a youth trip to Mexico. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at: [kate.vanskike@gmail.com](mailto:kate.vanskike@gmail.com) or 720-3834, and thanks for your prayers surrounding these wonderful opportunities.

# Fall Bazaar Update

By Maureen Schneider

It is with great joy, praise and thanksgiving that we announce the outcome of the 2015 Fall Bazaar. On January 11, 2016, members of the Millwood Crafters and Priscilla Circle Quilters gathered to work with the balance in our account and disburse the funds to various charitable organizations in our area. We discovered we had over \$4,700.00 in merchandise sold. Along with our return from the Christmas Room at the Rummage Sale, and our participation in a garage sale this summer, we had over \$6,000.00 in our account. Advertising expenses were our greatest payout during the year, this year amounting to \$495.00. Seeking God's guidance and praising Him for the wonderful return on our efforts, we discussed where to send the funds. The final decision was as follows:

Within our church, funds were disbursed for Camp White, Young Lives and MCPC Youth Camp programs.

In the community, \$500.00 will be given to Liberty Park Child Development Center to help children and families in need of their service; Young Lives for teen parents with new babies; the Community Outreach Center to help low-income parents with small children; the Union Gospel Mission Women's Crisis Center for women in crisis; the Christ Clinic to help local Doctors to continue to supply medical help to low-income families and individuals; and Hearth Homes, a women's shelter in the Spokane Valley that helps women who are escaping abusive situations.

Thank you to each one of you who helped in any way, whether supplying material that we could up-cycle into new artisanal collectibles, wood cutting projects for painting and assembly, assisting on Friday with set up for the bazaar, contributing



hand-made items for the sale, or just coming by to shop. Without all of you, this bazaar could not happen.

As near as anyone can determine, this is year 28 of having the Fall Bazaar and we feel blessed to be in a church where this is possible. We hope you will feel just as blessed as we do.

Remember we can always use more hands throughout the year. Crafters meet every Monday from 9:00 a.m., to 12:00 p.m., from January to October. Priscilla Quilters Circle meets twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday from 10:00 a.m., to 2:00 p.m.

Many in-kind items were also given to various agencies including: Four lap robes for *Cancer Care Center*; six lap robes to the *VA Hospital*; four crib quilts to *Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery*; and eight items to *Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery* for the *Vanessa's Village* Fund Raiser.

What a great giving Congregation we have! Again, thank you!

## Millwood Community Center Update

We are entering an exciting season in our church’s outreach through the Millwood Community Center. It’s is bustling with activity every day of the week, from youth basketball practices, to dozens of women gathered for a mix of Zumba classes and Bible Study, and important community events like a recent memorial gathering for a 250 people who needed a place to grieve and celebrate the life of young man who drowned in the Spokane River.

When the family of the young man came by the church office to drop off the keys, they expressed their appreciation for the space and explained that there is nowhere else nearby for these kinds of gatherings. When we launched plans for the Center we believed that this facility would fill a gap in community life, offering a unique space to meet underserved needs. As the requests come in every week to use the facility we can see how the vision of the congregation is truly bearing fruit in the lives of people in our neighborhood and beyond.

Along with hosting community events, we have been making preparations for two “cornerstone” afterschool programs for youth and children in the Community Center that are run by the church. A few months ago Brandon led the launch of the Middle School and High School programs in partnership with Goodwill Good Guides mentors. This partnership is flourishing with over forty students regularly participating in the middle school program. Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation we are now set to launch our elementary afterschool program, STAR Club, on February 24. This will be an innovative collaboration of the church, West Valley School District, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest. Please be praying for both of these programs.

While the major construction on the Community Center and Crawford Community Kitchen is completed, there are still a few projects in the works.

In March we will install sound panels to help deaden the lively sound in the room. We received a quote of \$15,000 to purchase sound panels, but thanks to the work of Jim Anderson and Everett Allen, we have designed our own panels that we will build and install for under \$5,000. Special thanks also to those who have given to the Neal Christian Memorial Fund that will fully cover the costs of the panels.

Another ongoing project is creating some organization around the Crawford Community Kitchen that will make the most of this amazing resource. Beth Aaron, an MCPC member and past elder and Deacon, has agreed to help organize a committee that will get the kitchen organized and manage the ongoing operations. The Session is grateful for Beth’s willingness to serve in this way. Please contact Beth at [chaddock1@yahoo.com](mailto:chaddock1@yahoo.com) or 509-230-6001 if you are interested in being part of the committee.

The Session also recently updated all of our facility use policies. Look for these updates on the church website soon.

## Financial Update

Thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of MCPC we finished 2015 with a small surplus. We had the largest December giving in recent history of the church, which puts us in a great financial position going into 2016. This year, it will be a challenge to take on a larger portion of the mortgage for the Community Center in the Operating Budget. With continued generous support from the congregation we should be able to meet those commitments and continue to grow in the mission God has called us to.

## Spring New Members Class

We are inviting people to take the step of membership at MCPC in late April. If you are interested in learning more about joining the church please contact Pastor Craig at [craig@millwoodpc.org](mailto:craig@millwoodpc.org).

## Deacon Easter Baskets

By Leigh Ann Langley



The Deacons want to thank you for helping with Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. We were able to bless 34 families during Thanksgiving and 45 at Christmas. It is time to think about Easter Baskets. For Easter, we make baskets for the adults and kids. We need chocolate, small stuffed animals, baskets, potatoes, stuffing, canned or fresh fruit, hams or Turkey and gravy. If it is difficult to get shopping time in and you would like to

help, monetary donations are thankfully received too. We would not be able to help these families if it were not for each one of our members loving care for others. From the bottom of all of our hearts, we say thank you! Your Deacons.



## A Rough Winter For Camp White!

By Donna Snodgrass

Between the November wind storm and the December snows, Camp White sustained quite a bit of damage. Several trees where toppled by the wind or succumbed to the weight of the snow. A few roof shingles were lost, every light in the Pavilion was blown down, and soggy grounds abound. Lots of hands are needed to prepare for opening day of Camp White this year in May! Please save a couple of weekends at the End of February and into early March for scheduled clean up days. We will place notices in the bulletin, e-mails and the newsletter for the exact time and days for volunteer help with Camp White the storm clean-up.

## Per Capita 2016

You may be wondering, what is Per Capita? The Presbyterian Church USA defines it as: *A means 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 our church this year is \$34.00 and we send that amount for every member on our church roles, (around \$17,000.00) to support the mission of our Synod, Presbytery and denomination. If you would like to give you or your family’s amount to cover Per Capita, you can use an envelope from the pew and indicate “Per Capita” on the memo field. If you have questions please call Lesa or Christy at: 924-2350.