



The Log

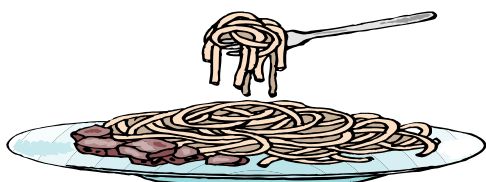
The mission of the Whidbey Presbyterian Church is to be a faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ and His eternal love. We glorify God above all and trust the Holy

Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2011

Faithfully Fit 4 My King

**Relay for Life Team
Spaghetti Dinner
All Proceeds to
Relay for Life**



**Friday, May 13th
5:30—8:00
Heritage Hall**

**\$8 Per Person
\$5 for Children 10 and Under
(Suggested Donation Only)**

Tickets at the Door



**May 7th
8:00—4:00**

Wal-Marc Mini Storage"

1401 North Oak Harbor Street

**ALL proceeds from the DONATED
items will go to Relay for Life. We
have anything you could possibly
want/need here.**

Come on by and support us!



Vacation Bible School

July 18-22

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	2
Imbach's Outbox	3
Justin's Corner	4
Summer Happenings	5
Stewardship	6
Steven Ministry	7
Random Reflections	8
Presbyterian Women	9
Special Dates/Prayers	10
Staff/Session/Deacons	11

1148 SE 8th Ave
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Phone: 360-679-3579



E-Mail: wpc@whidbepres.org
Website: www.whidbepres.org

“I had never really comprehended the utter loss and darkness Jesus’ followers must have felt when he was dead. I have a fresh sense of the surprise and power of His resurrection. . . . Those moments there in the sanctuary after Death made his exit made me realize just what an empty, dark world it would be without Jesus’ resurrection.”

(a worshiper’s comments following the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Drama)



In those early days following Jesus’ resurrection, surprise and some confusion continued as Jesus revealed himself to his followers. “Disbelieving” is a better translation of that word “doubted,” not just for Thomas, but also for some among the followers who gathered with Jesus on the mountain in Galilee at the close of Matthew’s Gospel. After all, “seeing is believing,” we always say. And even then we hedge our bets.

Then we are encountered by the amazing power of God. And things change! We take baby-steps forward in our faith... to a new level. Not every question is answered, but we are more sure today than yesterday. Yet, even these small gains can be tenuous.

What it takes is practice!... continued practice of our faith through these new-found ways with a faithful community.

Such is the fruit of the renewal we felt in the practices of prayer and sharing of experiences of God during our study of *Unbinding Your Heart*. In the disciplines of daily prayer and regular sharing we were truly seeking to have our hearts and lives unbound... released from the old limitations of long habits and of skepticism, from uncertainty and, yes, even fear.

And Jesus met us on that road. He still does... with refreshment, profound joy, and even excitement as you are reporting from your groups. Whenever we seek Jesus we discover anew that he is walking right beside us... that he is already on the beach cooking breakfast while we are still in the boat. That he is all about providing the spiritual nourishment we need for the journey and the tasks of faithful living still ahead. For, if anyone is faithful it is our Lord Jesus!

The season of Lent may be over, but the lessons learned still remain. The road is still before us. The steps taken will lead us even further in faith. The practices begun, no matter how haltingly, have shown us a better way. We have experienced the growing light of Jesus’ presence which now beckons us onward to greater life, greater joy, greater peace.

Once we’ve begun the journey we don’t want to look back... there’s just too much good to be discovered with Jesus.

- Pastor Dave

Church Chuckles



The Best Way To Pray

A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best position for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

“Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray,” the priest said.

“No,” said the minister. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.”

:You’re both wrong, “ the guru said, “The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor.”

The repairman could contain himself no longer. Hey, fellas,” he interrupted. “The best prayin’ I

Ever did was when I was hangin’ upside down from a telephone pole.”

Helpful Hints

Microphone Use

Several members and friends of Whidbey Presbyterian church are hearing-impaired. Some of us wear hearing aids, some use the portable ones that are available from ushers and some just try to tough it out. Those who wish to share prayer requests with the congregation need to be aware that the portable microphones do not work unless they are held close to the mouth of the speaker. If you hold the microphone lower, these requests are not heard by worshipers in the sanctuary nor are they heard by those who listen to the tapes, according to Jim Riney.

Hearing aids do not work as perfectly as human ears, they just help.

And the microphones help some more, if used properly.

By Kurt Imbach

In preparation for worship at Regency last Sunday I got caught up in the Easter appearance of Jesus in Matthew 28:1-10 and its message of hope. And today I am still absorbing it. For me, hope is the most powerful message of Christianity, and the resurrection fact is the essence of that hope. If the stone blocking access to the tomb represents all that blocks us from God and all that would seem to make a circumstance appear to be hopeless, then the empty tomb obliterates all of that. The risen Christ states clearly that from now on the potential for any situation, any person and any time is absolutely unlimited. In Jesus what could happen next for me is beyond my wildest imagination. My hope/expectation can be as big as my limitless, loving God.

I may feel impossibly trapped in my circumstance, my limited capability, my age bracket, my past sequence of experiences, or my profound lack of resources; just as trapped as the crucified Jesus behind the stone, a set of guards, the power of the Roman empire, and the proven power of death. But the Easter shout "He is risen" shatters all those barriers in a New York minute! They are as nothing in the face of omnipotence and resurrection, eternal, irresistible life.

The promise is not that we will experience that life whenever we wish, but we will, whenever He wishes. They did not see the risen Christ where they expected (at the empty tomb), but as "you go" (see 28:7, 10, and 19-20). Looking for Him as we go He can appear when we do not expect Him, will certainly appear as He promised, and can appear at any time because He is with us always, even "until the end of the age".

you with all joy and peace", Romans 15:13. My life can be like a perpetual hike on one of the magnificent Cascade trails in which the magic (magnificence) is in what might be just around the next bend. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace.

Romans 15:13

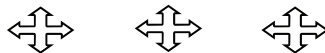


NOTICES

A very heartfelt thank you to all of you who have been so supportive during Ben's illness and since his death on March 30th. Your prayers are holding us.

We are so appreciative of the many cards and notes of encouragement and love. And thank you to all who attended the memorial service, and for the lovely reception afterward.

Ruth & family of Ben Lindenstein



Congratulations to Ashley Smith on her upcoming graduation from Whitworth University on May 15th. She has earned a B.A. in Theology, a minor in Biblical Languages and a Certification for Ministry.



Dear WPC, VBS children, Mission Committee & church members:

Thank you so much for designating the raised funds from your VBS to the children of Siguatepeque Honduras. We were able to purchase 100 good quality backpacks and fill them each with 2 notebooks, 1 bottle of glue, 1 box of colored pencils, 1 regular pencil, 1 pen, 1 eraser and 1 pencil sharpener.

The backpacks were given out in February, at the beginning of their school year. This allowed children that cannot afford school supplies to attend, and helped shoulder the financial burdens for other families. The children were delighted with the the backpacks and supplies, and the families were very grateful. Attached are photos we took of the backpacks before we left Honduras. Because of timing and other events within the church, the backpacks were given out the Sunday after we left. Photos of the children receiving the supplies were taken and we hope to be able to pass those on to you soon.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children of Siguatepeque.

Peace of Christ,

Jonathan & Kristy LaBarge

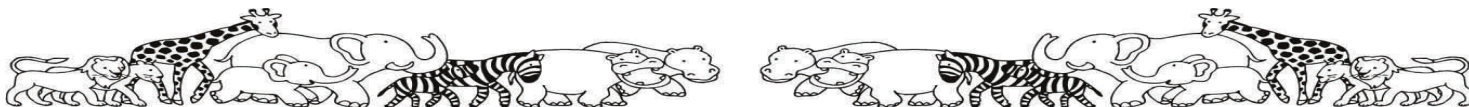


***** Save the dates! *****

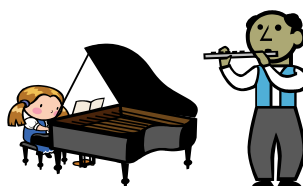
Join the Safari July 18-22

Plan to be part of the Kingdom of the Son Vacation Bible School! Help our children learn the “Lord’s Prayer” with songs, games, stories and snacks.

Adults can lead, teach or prepare snacks. To volunteer call: Anita Juan, 675-0697 or Andrea Bakke, 679-3249.



**Whidbey Presbyterian Church
Summer Music Ministry**



Whether Mother Nature realizes it, summer’s fast approaching! You are being alerted to this fact because after 12 June the Whidbey Presbyterian Church Worship Services will transition to its summer schedule. Instead of the Chancel Choir offering music, between June 19 and September 4th, you will hear heartfelt family members and visiting guest musicians. If you would like to share your God given musical talent during the summer interim, this is the time to reserve a date to share your music. To learn more details with how to become an active participant in this Summer Music Ministry Opportunity, call, WPC Music Director, Sarah Russell at (360)929-4845 or send an email to: sarah@whidbepres.org.

It’s time for a bridal shower luncheon celebrating Ashley Smith!

We will be stocking Ashley and Brendan’s kitchen as well as growing a money tree.

When: Saturday, May 28th at 12pm.

Where: Heritage Hall

For gift ideas contact Becky Templin at beckytemplin@comcast.net or Sharon Burge at burgeel@whidbey.net.

Please RSVP by May 25th.



I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philipians 1:3-5

Writing usually comes fairly easy for me – yet I am having the hardest time writing this final LOG article. How do you express sincere and heartfelt thankfulness in an article? Maybe you don't. It would be silly and somewhat self indulgent to get nostalgic, but I would be remiss if I did not express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for all you have meant to my family. We have found a home here – the only one we have ever known as a family. If I could just express one thing, it would be what a blessing your love and support has been to us.

I will always remember our annual summer mission trips – and the way the congregation supported us prayerfully, financially, and excitedly. That enthusiasm was not only felt by our youth group, but also needed and desired.

The Melanie Porter Scholarship fund is one of the best things this church offers its young people. For my full 9½-year tenure, every young person who desired to participate was allowed, even when finances would otherwise prevent him or her from coming along. I relied on this fund often and it was never once depleted. Please never allow the vision of this fund to be forgotten.

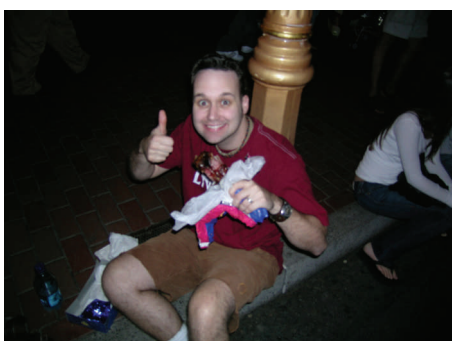
Tall Timber Ranch will always have a special place in my heart. Don't be surprised if I show up at camp in a few summers with a group from North Carolina. While I am sure the east coast is beautiful, I am not convinced it could ever live up to the beauty that surrounds us here. We live in what has to be one of the most beautiful places anywhere and Nicole and I will miss it greatly.

Finally, I will certainly miss each of you. I was thinking back over the students who have graduated our youth program over the past 9 years. They are literally scattered around the globe doing some amazing things to make this world a better place to live while shining the light of Jesus bright. They are the legacy of my time here. That is not to say I did such a great job, but that we as a church are living up to what we promise at baptism – and it is working! This is something of which we all should be proud. And what makes leaving such a great church so especially hard.

Be assured that you will be in my thoughts and prayers as the days, months, and years move forward. Whidbey Island has done something strange to Nicole and me – we love it here. We surely will be back to visit someday. (Especially since we still own property here, for the foreseeable future anyway.) I am so thankful God ordained my journey to cross yours. Know that I will treasure you all as I continue my journey. I would not be the person or the minister I am today without you. We know that even though our paths now diverge, there is a final destination for all the saints. The pathways of faith in Christ all lead to the City of God, where we will all gather once again in the presence of the Lord.

One final time, I am grateful.

Justin



By Janis Lussmyer

If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you. –1 Peter 2:20-21, NIV

It's better to suffer for doing good than to suffer from embracing evil. However, any suffering has the potential to draw us closer to Christ.

Our culture tells us to run from suffering. We don't want to feel pain or have discomfort nag away at our souls. We are experts at avoiding ourselves to mute our suffering. However, suffering builds character when we embrace it, when we face hard lessons and work through pain. It's when we are truthful with ourselves and with God that healing comes: not always quickly but always eventually. God helps us become real so he can really work with us.

A Stephen Minister will listen to your sorrows and encourage your honesty.

But we don't want to suffer with a martyr complex: "Look at how noble I am in the midst of my terrible suffering." That attitude often indicates fear of changing ourselves or changing our circumstances. We are afraid to admit the role we play in our own suffering. We get comfortable in having people feel sorry for us.

A Stephen Minister provides a safe environment for growth and change.

We like to think we understand reasons for other people's suffering. We like to explain the inexplicable away. We lay blame on the sufferer, or we say trite phrases that make us (but not the one suffering) feel good. We pretend to know God's purpose and to have an explanation for everything.

A Stephen Minister won't try to explain away your pain.

It is better simply to enter into others' suffering: cry tears with them; admit we don't know why; listen; love. Empathy is risky. Suffering hurts. But God has promised joy in the morning. And He can even give us joy in our mourning.

A Stephen Minister is ready to be your companion through the mourning

To talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Anita Juan,
Bebe Gholston or Pastor Dave (679-3579.)



We are finishing our Bible study of Revelation. This beautiful May, I'm thankful for Handel's Messiah. I don't know if I could get through Revelation without the Hallelujah chorus in my head. Thank you to Kurt for his work and view of this study. The early study group will meet on Thursday, May 5th at 10:30 am. Margie's class meets on May 19th at 10:00 am (unless they're going out for lunch). Both classes meet in the Blue House.

May 19th at noon is our last P.W. for this time period. Come help plan for P.W. at WPC next fall. We can discuss some ideas and decide whether to have a boutique or not. This is a routine salad luncheon, so please bring a salad to share with about 5 or 6 others. Our hostesses, Mary Lou and Jo will provide dessert. We will meet in Heritage Hall so we will be able to close in song with Helen's talented help.

May God bless our work and efforts,
Suzanne McCrea

Fresh Is Best

by Joan Bay Klope



Even though a whole lot of us are complaining that spring is slow to bring her warm weather to our beautiful island, now is the time to say goodbye to heavy winter food selections and hello to new crops of fresh produce. The Oak Harbor Public Market opens Thursday, May 19 and in-season produce, which always contains the most nutritional value, will be plentiful.

Here are some things to look for:

Asparagus

Low in fat and high in fiber, the tender stalks are a good source of iron, B vitamins, and vitamin C. Asparagus are at their peak from March through June but can be purchased year-round. Once harvested, asparagus deteriorate rapidly, so place them in cool storage to retain freshness and nutrition. Delicious roasted, grilled, or lightly sautéed in olive oil, these seasonal spears make a tasty addition to any meal.

Peas

Fresh peas including sugar snap peas, snow peas, and green peas can usually be found year-round but are at their peak from April through July. Like most legumes, peas are low in fat and high in fiber and are a good source of plant protein. Their nutritional profile differs depending on variety, with green peas providing more B vitamins and zinc, while snow and snap peas offer more vitamin C. Peas are perfect as crudité with dips, tossed in salads, and served as a side dish.

Radishes

For a burst of flavor with very few calories, look no further than the radish. One cup of sliced red radishes will give you 30% of your daily vitamin C requirement in less than 25 calories. To choose the best, pick radishes that are deep in color with solid roots. This root vegetable is a flavorful addition to soups, condiments, and cooked dishes. You can also eat the green tops, which lends a peppery taste to salads.

According to Coupeville Farmers Market manager, Peg Tennant, it's been a record-breaking for their Saturday market, with more farmers coming each week as their crops come in. Expect, however, a late arrival of the island's much anticipated berries.



SET ON GOD

By Janis Lussmyer

Through [Christ] you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. -1 Peter 1:21, NRSV

My “faith and hope are set on God.” What does that mean?

It means that my faith and hope are not set on myself or on other people. It means that I am not asking myself or others to be God to me. All of us fail; none are perfect. When I let myself down or someone else lets me down, I remember that God is always faithful.

It means that my faith and my hope are in Someone who never changes. God is dependably God. He is not only the central reference point but the reason for my being. When everything and everyone is changing around me, and when I am changing myself, I can be certain that God is God. He never needs to change because He is perfect and He is love.

It means that faith and hope sustain me. Or, as I once experienced when I lost my faith and hope, God still loved me and beckoned me back. I would like to think that I will never lose faith and hope in God again, but I don't know that. What I do know is that God is worthy of hope and God is worthy of faith. And He is big enough to love me and persistent enough to pursue me if I ever lose that fundamental trust again.

Yes, my faith and hope are set on God, but I cannot say that with any sort of arrogance because I know that life can be unspeakably hard and that each of us live only by our Father's grace.

Birthday/Anniversary information removed prior to publicizing to the internet. Call the church office for more information—679-3579

Prayers for Our Military....

Prayer list:

- Rev. Dan Link, Navy Chaplain, stationed in Afghanistan
- Mike Porter, stationed in Afghanistan
- Sgt. Solomon Gholston, stationed in Iraq
- Greg Clown, stationed in Turkey
- Chad Asmus stationed in Afghanistan



Church members

- Ernie Freitas
- Harold Hart
- Anna Elliot
- Bill Hughes
- Gladys Barber
- Bill Townsend
- Chris Layport
- Mike Sullivan
- Larry Young



Church members' families and friends

- Deana Mitchell *Former member*
- Ron Thomas *Ed Thomas' son*
- Mary Brook *Ed Thomas' mother*
- Janna Kintzley *Former member*
- Margie Ervine *Former member*
- Mark Anderson *Marilyn Arnsberger's son*
- Randy Tedrow *Bobbie Tedrow's son*
- Frances Knaack-Day

Grief Counseling

If you have recently experienced a loss, check the bulletin boards for information on grief counseling resources. Or for further information call: HOSPICE OF THE NORTHWEST at 360-814-5550.

This month, for information regarding prayer requests or the Prayer Team please contact: Carolyn Gordanier at 679-6521 or Carolyn.rn17@comcast.net