



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 Spirit for guidance in our service to God.

Volume 6, Issue 12

December 2010

The Good, The Bad, & Adult Sunday School

Don't miss out on this Advent Study for Adults - Christmas: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly by Richard B. Wilke.

"...this study...focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. There are those whom we associate with the joy and celebration of Christmas - the wise men, the shepherds, and Joseph. Yet the author reminds us not to forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story, and how it is because there is evil in our world that we so desperately needed - and *need* - a Savior.

This four-week study, appropriate for both group and individual use, provides one lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, questions for reflection or discussion, a suggested Christmas carol, and a brief prayer."

Sundays, 9:30 am
Blue House
Bring your Bible!



Tall Timber Family Snow Camp January 28th - 30th

Attention all Tall Timber Family Snow Campers!
Please pay your deposit if you have not done so already! The time for fellowship, fun and snow is near!

- Cabin space - \$70/person
\$35 for ages 5-10
\$0 for kids under 5 yrs.
- Private rooms - \$78/person
\$39 for ages 5-10
\$0 for kids under 5 yrs.

Registration forms can be found in Heritage Hall.
Please contact Pauline Williams for more information:
645-8653 (home) or 941-1451 (cell).

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by Pastor Dave Templin

Advent... an arrival... full of anticipation... Have you ever watched a young child trying to wait for some special treat or activity that they can see but not yet reach? It is impossible for them to sit still or stand in one place. Their eyes are fixed on the goal as their hands clasp and unclasp in anticipation of actually receiving and experiencing the gift. They might even dance or jump up and down in their excitement.

Is the Advent season full of anticipation for you?

Anticipation ... of the joy of family and friends celebrating ... well ... simply *being* family and friends.

Anticipation ... of a renewal of connections long languishing.

Anticipation ... of a refreshing in your relationship with God.

Anticipation ... of the promise of a new life ... a promise fulfilled because someone else, maybe a total stranger, did something nice for you.

Anticipation ... hoping for peace ... where there has been a history of conflict ... in your life.

Anticipation ... dreaming of a new day ... with new opportunity ... will this be the year?

Anticipation ...



Does it have you dancing? ...
 jumping with excitement? ...
 fidgety in the waiting? ...
 nervous with hope? ...
 daring to dream? ...

Long the people had waited ...
 weighed down with the darkness ...
 hoping against hope ...
 time and again,
 nearly giving up on the promise ...

ADVENT! **Light!**
Peace! **Joy!**

“Our” Cub Scout Pack 4062

They “belong” to us! Yes, they are a ministry of this church! It is a partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and each sponsoring organization that combines the organization and core values of BSA and the personal interaction and values of the church or other civic organization providing support and resources for the Pack or Troop. If you’ve been at the church most any Monday or Tuesday evening you likely have seen them and their parents arriving for Den or Pack meetings.

So how do we fit into the support picture? Well, more than just providing meeting and materials spaces, we can give them some assistance in small but very helpful ways. Here are some opportunities:

- Most needed at the moment is someone to manage the checkbook for the Pack. The title is “Treasurer,” but it is simply managing the checkbook and keeping a simple spreadsheet or bookkeeping record of income and expense transactions to balance with monthly bank statements. You will work with the Cub Master or others in the Pack who receive funds from monthly dues, Popcorn sales, etc, to record their deposits and make appropriate payments for materials, awards, and such. The time commitment is estimated at 2 hours per month.
- “Committee Chairperson” is someone who helps organize the Dens (age-groupings of children) and coordinates activities with the Cub Master.
- A “Newsletter” person could maintain communication with members of the Pack and with our church as its sponsor.

- Other opportunities are available as Cub Master or Assistant Cub Master as needs may arise.

You don’t have to have previous scouting experience, but that could be helpful. Would you be interested in helping support the Pack 4062 sponsored by our congregation? If so, please contact me (679-3579) or Andrea Bakke (679-3249), our Charter Organization Representative and member of our church. Thanks for your help with our ministry!
 - Pastor Dave

NAS Whidbey teams with churches

Recently, Justin Ross and I attended a special presentation at the NASW Chapel highlighting the wide variety of family and service member support services provided by the Fleet Family & Support Center and other organizations. The meeting was about partnering with the chaplains and other Navy services in our ministry to and with all the members of military families assigned here.

I am really impressed with the help that is available to address a wide variety of situations and needs. I have a couple of folders of information and contact numbers for programs for children, youth, adults and whole families. The topics range widely from deployment and “re-entry” concerns to mentoring or marriage enrichment and personal growth retreats; from child and youth safety to life skills education or counseling assistance.

I’ve put in our church office those folders of information I received. If you are interested or know of someone else who might be, please stop by during business hours to peruse the flyers for useful information and the names of numbers of people who can help. - Pastor Dave

by Kurt Imbach

I have always loved trails. Find me a trailhead and it is almost impossible to turn me away. I suppose it goes back to early childhood where in Oregon I grew up next to a huge stand of virgin, old-growth timber the like of which we just don't see any more. One characteristic of such greenery was miles of beautiful, winding-wandering deer trails. I used to run along those trails for hours.

One fascinating mental twist to these experiences was coming to a trail fork. How does one choose one fork over the other? Yet, though the two trail forks began at the same spot, the divergence occurring only slightly at first, so that one could still visually follow the other for awhile, eventually, the separation became radical, perhaps a 180 degree difference. After all, the same Pacific Crest Trail leads both to the Mexican and Canadian borders.

It gets me to wondering how often our miscalculation, misjudgment, misunderstanding, or missing the hearing of but one crucial word in a sentence can lead me to a conclusion that drastically misses the intended mark. The first slightly inaccurate steps, deviating ever so little from the route of accuracy, is formative for our preconceptions, first impressions, hasty labels we attach, or colors of the lens through which we see thereafter, the pursuit of which can lead to destinations we do not at all desire. They might result in devastating conclusions, broken relationships, lost opportunities, and impoverished enjoyment of the world in which we live.

But, we were almost right! We were so close. We had almost all the facts. We almost saw the whole picture. We thought we knew that person. We were so sure we understood what just happened. For instance, exactly what did the "people say" in the recent election? We all observe the same facts, but end up with hugely differing conclusions.

Perhaps we all need to be more careful, less hasty, less rushed to pontificate, less tended to final conclusion, and less tempted to allow opinions, expressions, or events to totally define a person or, even less groups of people. Red/blue states? Not exactly. We need not suppose that everything and everyone are freeze-framed. People grow, change, develop and become. Our ideas, impressions, memories, and judgments need to be given Equal time and scope to be refined, modified and fine-tuned. We are usually not as smart nor gifted with infallible intuition as we think we are. We, too, appreciate being given a second and third chance.

Now, look back at what you were thinking when you began to read this article. Can you still see yourself from here?



Worship and Caroling at Regency

Sunday, Dec. 19th

3 pm

Thank you, thank you to all who participated in the Boutique. We raised a little over \$5000 for PW and \$1237 for Rwanda Partners. PW will spend wisely.

Our December meeting is on the 16th. Lunch starts at noon. The hostesses are your executive board and Marilyn is making soup for us. Please bring about a dozen cookies to share for dessert and we will do cookie plates for shut-ins again. No speaker on December 16th - just chatting and a quick business meeting. Also, please bring hats, gloves, scarves and socks for men, women and children in need. If you have used (but in good condition,) children's books, we will take them to Margie's House where they are always needed. One last thing "needed" in December: please bring a picture of yourself as a child in an envelope.

The study groups are both on Lesson 4 of Revelation. Kurt's group will complete Lesson 3 as well. Kurt's class meets on December 2nd at 10:30 am and Margie's class meets at 10 am to on the 16th.

Let us share our joy of Christ Jesus throughout December and clear into the end of Christmas on January 6th.

- Suzanna McCrea

December SCHEDULE:

Dec. 2nd	10:30 am Bible Study (BH)
Dec. 16th	Meeting/Soup Lunch
Dec. 16th	10 am Bible Study (BH)

Wills & Endowments

Column information removed before publishing to website. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 679-3579.

CHRISTMAS
Joy Offering



*Don't miss this chance to give!
December 19th*

by Janis Lussmyer

This Christmas, let's remember that one of the definitions of *holiday* is "a religious feast day; holy day."

Can we make Christmas a holy day and not just a secular holiday? Is it possible to pause for a few minutes each day of Advent to contemplate the holy? As we make our purchases, can we remember to give to those who are in need? As we prepare our holiday festivities, can we include someone who may otherwise be alone? Will we remember James' injunction to care for the widows and orphans in our midst? (James 1:27)

Can we take the time to listen, really listen, to loved ones, to friends, and even to strangers? Can we smile and spread even the tiniest bit of the joy Jesus gives? Can we grieve with those who are grieving? Can we pray for those who are desperate? Can we show compassion and patience to each other?

There is no doubt that the holiday season can be the toughest time of year. Let's lighten the load so many feel with a little extra love and patience. Let's be Stephen Ministers to each other this Christmas.



To talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Anita Juan (679-0697,)

Bebe Gholston (679-2117) or Pastor Dave (679-3579.)

I Remember Gerald

Random Reflections
Random Reflections

by Janis Lussmyer

I remember Gerald Van Gelderen.

He lived in Belvedere Manor, a nursing home just north of Saugatuck, Michigan. Belvedere would never be licensed today, if for no other reason than that it was not handicap accessible. Gerald lived in a room on the old mansion's second floor. I don't remember if he was able to go down the stairs.

Gerald had cerebral palsy and had spent much of his life in nursing homes. Both speech and mobility were affected. He could walk: I remember his hunched over, shuffling gait. He could talk: I remember listening hard to understand him. What I don't remember is if anyone else visited him.

A church youth group good deed (visiting the residents at Belvedere) turned into a weekly commitment: I visited Gerald an hour a week for a few years. He died during my first semester away at college.

Gerald had a ministry. He mailed photocopies of a letter he had dictated years ago. That letter contained his testimony of salvation, and he sent it out all over the world to various missionaries and missions. Included in his testimony was his favorite Bible verse, John 5: 24 from the King James: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Each copy of the letter was laboriously signed in his wobbly round script. Each envelope was addressed by his own hand. Sometimes he would show me replies to his letter. Always he had his crooked smile and encouraging words.

I'll admit it: my teenage self sometimes grew weary of those weekly visits, but I kept going because I couldn't bear to let Gerald down. Always, by the end of our visit he inspired me in some way. His positive attitude in his bleak circumstances and his zeal for sharing Jesus were sure reminders of God's great love.

• Coffee Fellowship Schedule •

Here is the list of Parish numbers and the weeks of responsibility. You can learn the number of your Parish by checking the Church Directory and looking for the number just preceding your name or call the church office.

Please remember to label your package of treats with its contents, date baked and the word "Deacons." Leave them at the Blue House or put them into the freezer in HH. Thank You!!

* Dec. 5th: *Parish 5*

Deacon Noreen Warnock

* Dec. 12th: *Parish 4,*

Deacon Fran Schultz

* Dec. 19th: *Parish 3,*

Deacon Heather Habeeb

Dec. 26th: *Parish 7,*

Deacon Carol Chaplin

* indicates changed Deacon/Parish from
Quarterly Deacon Schedule

Dear Friends at Whidbey Presbyterian Church,

Your stewardship and partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Island County is an important part of our efforts to build decent, affordable homes and hope for deserving families living in Island County.

The stewardship of your time, talents, presence and contributions were vital to our 2010 Apostle's Build Project. Dede Strawn and family have moved into their new home. I visited Dede this week. She is "walking on air" with happiness and gratitude.

We value our partnership with Whidbey Presbyterian and look forward to sharing more rewarding experiences with you as together we build hope for a better future.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and partner families, thank you!

Calvin Hewitt

Habitat for Humanity Executive Director

Friends at WPC,

All continues to go well out here. Dominic and Vanessa are also doing well in PA with my parents. They are also enjoying al the love and affection of their other grandparents, aunts, uncles and extended cousins.

Look forward to seeing all of you in late December or early January.

Sincerely,

Rich Vaccaro

Many thanks for all the thoughts and prayers, cards and visits during my recent surgery at Whidbey General and rehab at Carriage. I've been home since November 4th and am improving. Hopefully, soon I will be able to be back to a normal routine.

God Bless,

Phyllis Savage





Christmas Communion

Family Service
5:30 pm

Traditional Service
9 pm

Come glorify Christ our Savior at our Christmas Eve services. Both services offer a candlelight communion.

Angel Tree returns

This is how it works: The trees go up in the Sanctuary and Heritage Hall on Sun., Nov. 27th. Take an ornament off the tree, buy the gift and wrap it, taping the ornament to the gift. Bring the gift back to the church by Sun., Dec. 18th. With clothing items, get gift receipts to put in the package. Be a cheerful giver and give hope to a family in need! “Complement your faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love.” - 2 Peter 1

Donate a delicious meal to those less fortunate

Purchase a Christmas Meal Deal for only \$14.99! By doing this, a ham dinner will be distributed to someone in need by either Help House, the church office or our very own Deacons. If contributing by check, please write Meal Deals on the notation line. If contributing cash, please mark an envelope “Meal Deals” and give to the church office or put in the collection basket. Sponsored by your WPC Mission Team.



Alternative Gift Giving

1. Education Project
This gift pays the salaries of four to five teachers who are working with Kigali street children.
2. Reconciliation Programs
Rwandans are still being affected by the genocide. Help make a difference in their lives!
3. Chickens and Corn
Provide a sustainable source of income!
4. Cassava Plantation
Similar to potatoes, this crop gives orphaned heads of household the opportunity to work and a source of income. (Similar to last year's pineapple plantation.)



Sponsored by the Mission Committee, these four alternative gift giving projects help further the work of Rwanda Partners. Make donations to any of these projects by writing which gift you'd like to give in the memo line of a check or in a marked envelope. You'll receive a donor's card that explains the project to give to the recipient of this unique and life altering gift. Gift cards for both the alternative gifts and Rwanda Baskets will be sold in HH during December. For more information, contact Mollie Anthony (279-0514.)

Which gift will *you* donate?



Birthday and anniversary information removed prior to publishing to website.



Prayers for Our Military...

Updates to the prayer list:

- Rev. Dan Link, Navy Chaplain, stationed at NAS Whidbey
- Megan McKinley, Navy Corpsman, stationed at NAS Whidbey
- Sgt. Solomon Gholston, stationed in Iraq

As always, prayers for those keeping the home fires burning...



Church members

- Nancy Bitting
- Gladys Barber
- Ernie Freitas
- Harold Hart
- Mike Sullivan
- Anna Elliot
- Bill Hughes



Church members' families and friends

- Deana Mitchell *Former member*
- Ron Thomas *Ed Thomas' son*
- Mary Book *Ed Thomas' mother*
- Janna Kintzley *Former member*
- Margie Ervine *Former member*
- Mark Anderson *Marilyn Arnsberger's son*
- Randy Tedrow *Bobbie Tedrow's son*
- Brian Anderson *Marilyn Arnsberger's grandson*
- Raine Barber *Gladys Barber's daughter-in-law*
- Benjamin *Janis Schulte's grandson*
- Frances Knaack-Day

For information regarding prayer requests or the Prayer Team please contact: Carolyn Gordanier or Carol Chaplin or the church office, 679-3579.

There are a number of Prayer Chain recipients who have had Verizon.net as their internet provider. It is my understanding that Verizon is no longer serving in this area and that their customers will now have new email addresses as a result of that change. If you are a Verizon customer and have not already notified me of your new email address, please email me at carolyn.rn17@comcast.net as soon as possible so that our Prayer Chain list remains up to date and you do not miss an important request.

Thank you, Carolyn Gordanier