



# ***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 11

November 2010

## **Alternative Gift Giving**

Once again the Mission Committee will be sponsoring an alternative gift giving project to help further the work of Rwanda Partners. This year, there are four projects from which to choose:

1. **E**ducation **P**roject that will pay the salaries of four to five teachers who are working with the street children in Kigali. This costs \$400 per month.
2. **R**econciliation **P**rograms that are ongoing for all those affect by the Genocide. These make such a difference for the Rwandan people's lives.
3. **C**hickens and **c**orn which give a source of income for them. Last year's projects purchased a corn grinder so that they can now make cornmeal to sell in the markets.
4. **A** **C**assava **P**lantation (cassavas are similar to our potatoes) which would before the orphaned heads of households to provide work and a source of income. This would be similar to the pineapple plantation that our Men's Breakfast Fellowship got started.

You can make donations to any of these projects and receive a donor's card telling about the project that you can then give to the person you wish to honor in his or her way.

Rwanda Baskets will again be sowed at our Boutique on Nov. 13th as well as in Heritage Hall after church during December. This year gift certificates of the baskets will also be sowed so the recipient can then pick out the type and color they prefer.

**fellowship, fun & S N W !**

Thanks to everyone who made reservations for Tall Timber. If you haven't paid a deposit yet, please do so by placing your payment in the collection basket or by giving it to Pauline Williams. To people who are still interested in signing up for the Family Snow Weekend, reservation forms can be found in Heritage Hall and the church office.



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Sometimes, when we think of our life lived for God, we think of those great heroes of the Bible like Moses, Joshua, King David, Elijah or St. Paul. Hard to measure up to them, we think.



But we need not think we must be a St. Paul in order to be a worthy servant of Christ. Theologian and seminary professor Dr. Fred Craddock is quoted by someone as saying, "To give my life for Christ appears glorious. To pour myself out for others . . . to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom – I'll do it. I'm ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory."

"We think," Craddock continues, "giving our all to the Lord is like taking a \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table – 'Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all.' But the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$1,000 for quarters. We then go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid's troubles instead of saying, 'Get lost.' Go to a committee meeting. Give a cup of water to a shaky old man in a nursing home. Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of faithful love, 25 cents at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul."

When you think about it, St. Paul also put in his full thousand dollars 25 cents at a time. It was not easy. Why did he do it? What kept him going? One thing and one thing only – his love for Christ.

- Pastor Dave

*Holiday Boutique*  
*Nov. 13th, 9 am - 2 pm*  
*HH*

# Please add...

**Bill Hughe's new contact information:**  
Please contact the church office 679-3579.



# ...to your August 2010 Directory.

by Kurt Imbach

I have been struck recently by the powerful portrayal of our “worthy” God in chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation. We often ignore this great book of the Bible because of its complexities, controversies and misuse, but we do so at serious expense. Revelation presents the most extended and exalted images of our sovereign Lord God in Scripture.

In chapters 4 and 5, we are shown all of the created universe including 24 representatives of the “people of God.” the world of angelic beings, countless saints from every tribe, language, and nations and every creature in heaven and on earth and in the sea and all that is in them all “singing with full voice” “to the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.”

There is a little gem of a book I found in our church library which reflects



A signed copy of *What Brings Us to Water*, Poetica Publishing Company’s 2010 Annual Chapbook Winner, has been given to the church library by author Lois Parker Edstrom. When Kurt Imbach asked if I would interview her for *The Log*, I was delighted at the prospect.

We met at Miriam’s in Coupeville where an hour and a half flew by as we “talked poetry.” Lois, already a longtime writer of children’s books and sermons, came upon writing poetry in a serendipitous -

or shall I say providential - way when a nature writing class she hoped to take was cancelled and a poetry class was offered to her as an alternative. That 2004 class sparked an instant love affair with writing poetry.

*What Brings Us to Water* is a lovely collection of poems with the subtle but strong underpinning of faith. Lois infuses simple, everyday events - from enjoying time with her granddaughter, to picking mushrooms, to standing pew side in worship - with an artist’s sensitivity to beauty

on the “songs heard round the throne” in the book of Revelation (a chapter on each of the songs) entitled “Songs of Heaven.” It is a reminder of how full of songs of praise the book is and reminds us of the many hymns and songs in classical and church music spawned by this great climax book of the Bible.

It is not hard to see that what we did in our “faith goes public” adventure on Oct. 10th put us into good company. To offer our praise to the One in all the universe recognized to be most worthy is the most important thing we can do. It is the very heartbeat of the universe, the rhythm of creation, the very essence of the meaning of life. In short, it pleases God. Not because God needs our tribute or is somehow incomplete without our recognition of Him, but because this is the way the universe is made. It is because God is love and our highest function is to give and receive that love. Such love is grateful for and sensitive to all that our divine Lover is and does. We love Him, therefore we praise Him.

Thanks to all of you who participated.

## A Poet in Our Midst

by Janis Lussmyer

and meaning. She spoke of “honoring the gift” - taking the time to record words of the moment before they are lost in the bustle of life.

Lois’s poetry makes one simple demand of the reader: to slow down. After perusing her 22-poem chapbook, I decided to read several poems aloud. With the gentle hesitations of line breaks and the round tones of syllables pronounced, speaking her poems releases their delicate flavors with a renewed intensity. Her poetry is meant not only to be tasted but also to be savored.

by Justin Ross

*November 1st marks nine years since I moved to Whidbey Island from Arkansas and started work at WPC. It is challenging to reflect on these nine years because so many life changing events have happened. Especially personally: meeting my wife in Heritage Hall, having a son and now expecting a daughter in March.*

*Aside from that, I have been reflecting on all of the students who have graduated from our ministry over the past nine years. They have literally scattered around the globe. Some are married, other are in college, many are in that in-between state that comes along with your early 20s. I still connect with many of them online and still pray for them when one of the many memories we created together comes to mind. After nine years, if I could gather each one of them in a room - those who were very involved and those who only came a few times during their high school tenure - this is the message I would give them:*

Dr. Seuss was right - Oh, the places you have gone and the things you have done. As you may have realized, life has a way of transforming big dreams into a lame reality. **Even still, remember, clutch, hold on to and never let go of those dreams you had for your life in high school.** It is imperative that you never confuse setbacks as failure. Remember Jacob - married to Leah but he desired, longed for, dreamed about Rachel. He was faithful and his dream was realized. Remember David, tending the sheep in the field while his brothers gained status while off fighting with the army. David was content in the field and when the time was right, he killed the giant. Stay faithful to Leah, to tending the sheep in the field, but hold on tight to the dreams God placed in your heart during those times we dreamed the impossible - because He is always faithful.

**SAT scores, GPA, and your IQ mean nothing right now.** It's simple. Work harder than those around you and you will succeed. Your future employer is watching what you are doing today. They are going to want to know - were you one of those knuckleheads crashing shopping carts on YouTube? Is your Facebook filled with pictures of you shirtless with an "I'm with stupid" arrow painted on your chest? That huge job interview tomorrow has already started today. They will be looking, what will they find? When you explain that you were busy taking care of your classes and holding down a job to pay for college, doors of opportunity will swing open.

Those of you still in college, take every class seriously. You are paying for it. (And if you are using student loans, you will be paying for it a decade from now.) Force your professors to give you their very best. Ask questions, send emails, knock on their office door. Make sure each one knows your name - and knows you are serious about your education. Do everything possible to wrestle though the temptation to sleep through class. Sit in the first row. Turn off the wi-fi on your laptop. Do your reading. Turn everything in. **Outwork everyone. You will be noticed.**

No matter if you are taking orders at McDonald's or if you are filing papers in an office, take your job seriously. The news tells us this is an awful job market but that does not mean you cannot do great things. **Work your job for the glory of God. Thank Him for it.** Be someone your fellow employees count on, smile at everyone, volunteer to stay late so the single mom with a sick child can leave early. (Remember, he who is faithful in small things....)

No one expects anything from your generation. Rise above that. No one is going to come along and hook you up with anything. You are going to have to hook yourself up. Work hard though the next five to six years of your life and you will reap rewards for decades.

**The church needs you desperately.**

I did my best to teach you the Word of God practically and plainly. Some of you soaked it up like a sponge and some of you didn't. That's alright though because I'm confident you picked up more than you think you did.

Find a local church, get involved, and do your part to reach their community. You have gifts that the church not only wants to have, but needs to have. If you are looking for a church to get involved in, trust your instincts. You'll know it when you find it. **Requirements are simple: they love God, teach scripture and have the audacity to believe that Jesus really changes lives.** Your church will not be perfect, nor should you expect it to be. (You should know this, I screwed up youth group plenty of times.) You don't have to be comfortable with everything they do. However, I guarantee if you become active in the life and ministry of the church and give what you can, the church will begin to feel like home.

See 'We also spent time,' pg. 8

Our Bible studies on Revelation are up and running. Nov. 4th, we meet in the Blue House at 10:30 am and Kurt will lead us in Lesson 3. Margie's class will meet on Nov. 18th at 10 am. More women are welcome at both classes, we have quite good discussions.

Boutique time! Sat., Nov. 13th this year. Workers arrive at 8:30 am and we open for sales at 9 am and close at 2 pm. This year, we will not offer lunch so we will only occupy Heritage Hall and have no stairs to run up and down. Pauline is making lunch in Fellowship Hall for our workers. Please remember money earned goes to various charity groups. (Reference the past Annual Reports.) We will be asking for help as usual.

Thank you and please pray that our work be a blessing,  
Suzanne McCrea

November SCHEDULE:	
Nov. 4th	10:30 am Bible Study (BH)
Nov. 13th	Holiday Boutique
Nov. 18th	10 am Bible Study (BH)



## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The Stewardship Committee has presented a proposed 2011 Budget to Session for \$384,809, a 2% increase over 2010. The final budget will be adjusted according to our pledges to the 2011 Mission and Operations of the church. Additional adjustments come from any carryover from 2010, plus increased expenses of maintenance, utilities, and insurance.

Pick up your pledge packets at church, Sunday, Nov. 7; then, return your completed pledge cards the following Sunday, Nov. 14. If you are going to be away, pledge cards can be mailed or dropped off at the church office through the month of December.

### Financial Report as of 9.30.2010

Please call the church office for more information 679-3579.

## GIVE A LITTLE BIT

Please continue to be generous in your givings to the Deacons' Fund as the holidays draw near! Already, a rise in people asking for financial assistance is occurring. In October, \$334.88 aided six people/families with nights in a hotel, a gas voucher, filling a prescription and assisting with someone's water bill. As of Oct. 28th, there is \$670.23 in the fund. **Shoebox Ministry:** Four shoeboxes filled with necessities such as food and toiletries were given to people in need of assistance. Thanks, Life Group!



What is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is a person of compassion. A Stephen Minister has received training to learn more about lovingly and effectively extending that compassion to someone who is going through a crisis, change or extra stress in life. A Stephen Minister is someone who listens without criticizing. A Stephen Minister puts hands and feet to the generous love shown by God through Jesus Christ.

A Stephen Minister is an ordinary person like yourself. A Stephen Minister is not perfect. A Stephen Minister has good days and bad days and lots of ordinary days. A Stephen Minister puts self aside to focus on you and your concerns. A Stephen Minister is one who will laugh with you, cry with you and pray for you.

A Stephen Minister can be your oasis in the desert, offering you a healing and safe place to be yourself and grow closer to God.



To talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Anita Juan,

Bebe Gholston or Pastor Dave (679-3579.)

God Meant It for Good

*Random Reflections*  
*Random Reflections*

by Janis Lussmyer

After feeling unusually blue and blah one Saturday in September, I asked God to show me if there was anything wrong in my heart. It didn't take Him long to answer.

A wedge of bitterness, like some forgotten splinter in my soul, surfaced the next morning. A distant series of offenses and betrayals presented themselves in an unexpected insight that was orchestrated, I'm sure, by my loving Father. Though I had hoped the splinter was long gone, it was buried deep, the infection rooted in my unforgiving heart.

I talked with God about it as I drove the winding miles to church. I told Him that I wanted to truly forgive those who had wounded me and my family. I repented of my unforgiveness. I told Him that I wanted to cooperate with Him in the removal of the splinter and the healing of the wound.

Some things take time. This particular splinter has festered for a period of years. I'd like to say that I'm ready for Him to remove it right now, but I still have to relinquish my last desire for revenge, the very thing that keeps the splinter firmly embedded. I can't do it on my own (believe me, I've tried). But He can if I'm willing to let Him. I hope someday to be able to echo, sincerely, Joseph's words to his brothers who had sold him into slavery: "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20a, NRSV.)

## • 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!!

Nov. 7th: *Parish 9*,  
Deacon Sarah Templin

Nov. 14th: *Parish 1*,  
Deacon Carolyn Lesh

Nov. 21st: *Parish 2*,  
Deacon Lois Imbach

\* Nov. 28th: *Parish 6*,  
Deacon Joan Burns

\* indicates changed Deacon/Parish from  
Quarterly Deacon Schedule

**Attention Life Groups!**

For 2011, we, the Mission Committee, would like to adopt out for prayer and reading emails or newsletters of our missionaries. Without the Barnabus Group meeting regularly, we have not upheld our Missionaries in prayer nor have we been people of encouragement.

If your group is interested, here is a list:

1. Larry and Diane Burke in Chad - translating God's Word
2. The Ranys in Papua - working for Mission Aviation Fellowship
3. Richard and Bittina Collins in England-writing Christian radio broadcasts and working with small groups
4. Dr. Marta Bennett in Kenya - teaching and counseling graduate students at the Nairobi International School of Theology
5. Greg and Tracy Stone-working for Rwanda Partners in the U.S. and Rwanda
6. Sandra and Ray Vanderpol - working for World Relief and heading the Haiti Task Force in Seattle and Haiti

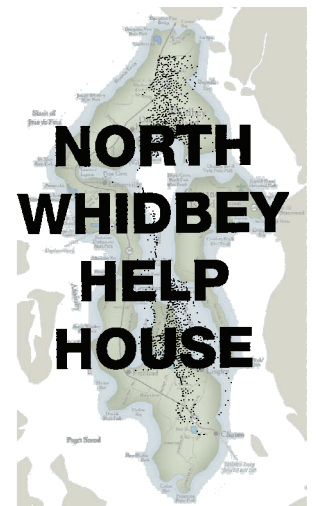
If your group is interested, please contact Norm McCrea.

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you for your donation to Help House. As a non-profit agency, we depend heavily on contributions to feed the hungry in our community. Last month, we gave out 598 food baskets which is the second highest monthly total we have ever done.

With the economy still trying to recover, we truly appreciate your generosity. Thank you so very much for your continued supported.

Sincerely,  
 Jean T. Wieman  
 Executive Director



**Holiday Meal Deals**

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are again approaching, this is a good time to begin thinking about providing holiday meals for those less fortunate than ourselves. This year's Meal Deals are \$14.99 each with a choice of either turkey or ham. Each Meal Deal includes:

**HAM**

- 4 lb. Fletcher's Boneless Black Forest Ham
- 5 lb. Bag russet potatoes
- .75 oz WF gravy mix
- 20 oz can WF pineapple
- 15.5-16 oz. can green beans or corn
- 6 oz. WF stuffing mix
- 6 oz. can WF ripe large pitted olives

**TURKEY**

- 10-12 lb. Jennie-O Turkey, frozen
- 5 lb. bag russet potatoes
- .75 oz WF gravy mix
- 16 oz. can green beans or corn
- 6 oz. WF stuffing mix
- 6 oz can WF ripe large pitted olives

Most of the Meal Deals will be distributed by Help House; depending on the perceived need within our own church, a limited number may be held at WPC for distribution by Deacons, ministerial staff and the church office.

As we have done in previous years, all monies collected for the Meal Deals will be combined and whatever amount is available by Nov. 22nd will be used for Thanksgiving Meal

Deals and whatever amount is available by Dec. 20th will be used for Christmas Meal Deals.

If contributing by check, please write Meal Deals (or something similar) on the notation line. If contributing cash, please use a pew envelope (or any envelope) and write Meal Deals on it. Thank you for your past support of this very worthy project.

- Your Mission Team



# Faithfully Fit

## Healthy Holiday Eating Tips

by Joan Bay Klope

As the holidays near and celebrations are planned, how can we avoid putting on extra weight while still having a great time?

Here are some holiday tips so you can remain healthy without depriving yourself of all the holiday treats.

### Don't Go Hungry to a Party

We often eat faster and more when we are hungry. Therefore, eat a healthy breakfast and lunch on the day of a party to avoid overeating at the celebration.

### Watch Your Portions

Choose a small plate, go for a variety of small portions, and refrain from going back for seconds. Visit with those around you and you will most likely find you are full, after all, without eating more food.

### Make a Conscious Effort to Limit High Fat Items

High fat can be found in fried foods, cream-based soups, cheese-filled casseroles, pies, processed meats and other pastries and baked goods. Choose small amounts, very carefully. Don't forget to include fresh fruit and vegetables in all of your meals.

### Drink Plenty of Water

Be aware that alcohol and caffeine drinks dehydrate our bodies. Drink water above all else.

### Remember Physical Activity

Take walks with your loved ones and enjoy their company this holiday season.

### Faithfully Fit Meeting Schedule for November

#### Regular Meetings:

Tuesday, November 2 / HH / 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 16 / HH / 4:00 p.m.  
(Tentative)

Tuesday, November 30 / HH / 4:00 p.m.

**ALL** are welcome to attend!!!

#### Holiday Cooking Classes:

Saturday, November 6 / HH Kitchen / 9:00 to Noon\*

Saturday, November 20 / HH kitchen / 9:00 to Noon\*

\*Please bring a healthy holiday recipe and ingredients to prepare and share!

Questions? Call Marcia Townsend at 240.0167 or Joan Bay Klope at 675.3817.

**We also spent time** thinking critically about the world around us. This is a valuable skill the church needs. Remind other Christians what the Bible says and hold them to it. The book of Acts is not just an adventure story, it is possible today! **See things that need to be fixed in the world and take responsibility to right wrongs. Never, ever put faith in political answers to our deepest problems. Never allow anyone to put an adjective in front of the gospel** - (social, prosperity, American, etc.) - allow the Gospel alone to stand and dictate the world you long to see. Don't be consumers - be doers of the Word.

### I am still here for you.

When you were in school, one of my functions was to be here for you even when you felt the rest of the world had turned its back. This still holds true. If you ever need someone to talk to, pray for you, or offer advice, I am here. If you don't that's fine too. Just know you are prayed for each time the Spirit brings you to mind.

**I have staked the past nine years of my life in a fundamental belief in your generation.**

You have made it all worth it.

You make me so proud.

You make Jesus smile.

**cont. from page 4**

For more information, please call the church office 679-3579.



*Prayers for Our Military...*

Updates to the prayer list:

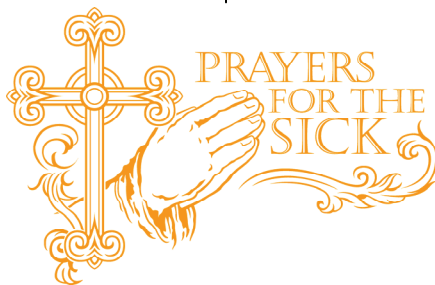
- Rev. Dan Link, Navy Chaplain, stationed at NAS Whidbey
- Megan McKinley, Navy Corpsman, stationed at NAS Whidbey
- Sgt. Solomon Gholston, stationed in Iraq
- Lt. John Decker (Gibbons' nephew), stationed in Afghanistan
- Dwayne Korthuis Smith, stationed in Iraq



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

*Church members*

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



*Church members' families and friends*

- Margarie Elgin *Former member*
- 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**