



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 7, Issue 8

August 2011

Summer



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



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

Welcome, Bethany Popkes!

Our new Director of Youth Ministries



The Personnel Team and Session of WPC are most pleased to introduce Bethany Popkes, who is arriving in early August to begin serving as our new Director of Youth Ministries on August 8th!

Bethany comes to us with a strong educational background and a wide range of ministry and leadership experience with youth, children, and families. Over the last several years she worked in local church settings, camping ministries, and engaged in short-term mission and cross-cultural experiences in various U.S. states and six countries around the world. She is excited to join us in continuing to build “a relational youth ministry marked with authentic discipleship.” She considers “all ages in the church to be the people of God *currently*, not the ‘future’ of the church.” (emphasis added) Therefore she looks to engage the children and youth in the ongoing life of the congregation in as many ways as possible.

Bethany has served in many roles while working with children in summer Vacation Bible School programs. She has led middle school and high school youth groups and been both a counselor and a program leader in summer camping ministries. In the process of developing ministry Bethany has not only communicated with parents and church members, but has intentionally recruited and built a team of adult leaders to assist with programs and be mentors to the young people in the group.

Bethany is from Sheldon, Iowa, and has a B.A. degree in Christian Education from Northwestern College. She also recently completed a Master of Divinity degree at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. She is a long time member of the Reformed Church of America, and is under their supervision as she works toward ordination in that denomination.

Please join us in welcoming Bethany and supporting her work with us as she leads us in ministry with the children, youth and families of this congregation and our community!

Pastor Dave



By Kurt Imbach

It has always been a pleasure and huge challenge for me to fill in for Pastor Dave while he is on vacation. This year, I have been powerfully impressed by how well our church body is interconnected with supporting networks of personal contacts and volunteer workers in so many areas.

I was making a call on Bob Warnock the other day and while I was there they mentioned that Dorothy Bradfield had been in contact and had sent over the weekly church bulletin for them. Moments later, the phone rang and John Rohrer was calling to inquire about their well being. That was impressive.

There is often someone here working on Church grounds for pick-up of clutter and for weeding. Anita Juan and Lois LaBarge are two who come to mind. And there are those who regularly help with repairs and maintenance, like Larry Porter and LV Tozer. Kent and Stephanie Williams have been incredible with their heading up of plantings around Heritage Hall, the Sanctuary and Blue House. When Oak Hall use was decided upon, many contributed things and time to dress it up and make it very attractive and livable. Many have helped with office duties, phones, reminding people of responsibilities (worship assistants, etc.), and foldings and mailings. People come in every week to count and handle money that has come in and once a month for the LOG folding and mailing.

Others have contributed greatly in the transporting of older people to services, and making contacts by phone and personally to support those needing encouragement. The Young's, Barb Grossman, Allen's, Bobbie Tedrow, Betsy Knight, Joan Burns, Dorothy Bradfield, Ingram's, Kuhn's, Townsend's, and others are fabulous help in these areas.

Then, of course, is VBS. We have had 18 or more adult leaders, and attendance has been up over last year. We averaged 18 last year, and this year we started with 36, then 40 on Tuesday, with the rest of the week yet to be recorded. I am so grateful for all this help, and especially for some (who in the absence of our regular youth minister have stepped far outside their comfort zone to keep this ministry going. I think especially of Andrea Bakke, Anita Juan, Matt Nienhuis, and Woody Bakke who have taken leadership to make sure it happened, for Norm McCrea and Ellen Peters who carried on despite a lot of physical discomfort, and for craft people, food providers, teachers and assistants, game directors, etc. This has truly been a team effort, including more people inviting outside kids, and it has paid off in a great year of VBS, and a great example of the "every believer a minister" concept. This feeble tribute does not do you justice. I know I overlooked some people and some other areas of effort, but fortunately, God knows and remembers.



Farewell to Ernie Freitas



I wanted to take this time to "Thank" everyone who sent cards and made donations on Ernie's behalf to the Church or to American Cancer Society Research and anyone that helped to make Ernie's service so special. My family and I will never forget all the time and hard work it took to put this on.

Thank You

Pat Freitas

Not only were the snacks served at Vacation Bible School a huge hit with the kids, but the large variety of “snackables” served to the adults proved to be enjoyable as well. Top of the list: Bells Farm strawberries. With the weather-shortened season, we all dug in. Their color and high natural sugar content brought the volunteers great pleasure. Yummm!

Another favorite was hummus, served with crackers and vegetables. By popular demand, the Faithfully Fit small group offers the following recipe for your snacking pleasure. Hummus is high in [iron](#) and [vitamin C](#) and also has significant amounts of [foliate](#) and [vitamin B6](#). The chickpeas make it a good source of protein and [dietary fiber](#); the tahini consists mostly of [sesame seeds](#), which are an excellent source of the amino acid [methionine](#), complementing the proteins in the chickpeas. Vegetarians and meat eaters all agree: it's a great dip and spread for sandwiches. Enjoy!

Hummus

Makes about 3 cups

4 cloves of garlic

2-15 oz. cans of chickpeas (garbanzo beans), drained. Reserve liquid

to thin later if the mixture is too thick.

1/3 cup tahini (roasted not raw)

Juice of 1 lemon

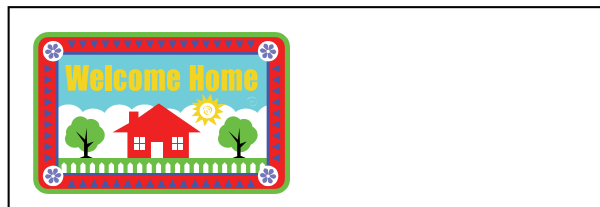
1/4 cup olive oil

salt and pepper to taste

Sriracha hot chili sauce, to taste

1/2 cup parsley tops

Combine all ingredients in a food processor and process a couple of minutes until the mixture is smooth. Serve with crackers and vegetables or pita bread.



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Presbyter  an Women

Presbyterian Women who are a part of the Presbytery Coordinating Team will meet in Heritage Hall on Wednesday, August 17 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is the Fall 2011 Planning meeting. Bring a sack lunch. For further information contact Marilyn Arnsberger.

• **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!!

August



- August 7: Parish 3
Deacon Heather Habeeb
- August 14: Parish 4
Deacon Ruth Lindenstien
- August 21: Parish 5
Deacon Mary Reynoso
- August 28: Parish 6
Deacon Joan Burns

By Matt Nienhuis

In my previous Log entry, I had mentioned I wanted to have a more active youth ministry program. Recently, the youth group has been tight-knit and enjoys working directly with the community during mission trips to San Francisco and work weekends at Tall Timber. However, these opportunities are not as common as they once were. I knew once I signed on the dotted line, I would not have much time with the youth; only a few months. I understood building both relationships and a unique direction take time to develop, but with such a short amount of time in this position, it was imperative that my own personal goal of creating a consistently active and hands-on environment needed to be moved upon immediately. I felt a realistic approach in making this happen was to organize one volunteer project each month.

As you know, I, along with plenty of help, was able to take the youth to Tall Timber in May. They had a great time and were able to get plenty of work done at the camp. The next project, which you may not have realized occurred, was doing yard work, touch-up painting, and staining a picnic table/bench for the Help House in June. Although it was only for an afternoon, the Help House appreciated our time and work we had done for them. Being a local, non-profit food bank, any contributions and related aid the community provides is a blessing to them and the area they serve. What I have come to realize after participating in these events is just how scripturally-based these service projects are. This statement may sound a tad obvious; of course we are the hands and feet of the Lord! Though, personally, I am not a scripturally savvy Christian. I am unable of telling stories or relaying verses off the top of my head. My gifts lie in living by example. I may not know particular verses and parables, but I grasp the meaning of Christ's redeeming work and loving qualities He has taught us through the Word, and I do my best to express these traits in my own life.

Through these service projects, I am reminded of Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV):

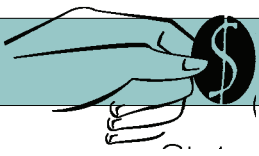
³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

When we take time out of our day, providing a meal, clothing, or simply maintaining an organization so they are able to provide for a community in need, we are doing the Lord's work. This is truly what Jesus meant when he spoke to His disciples. It is about being the hands and feet of the Lord. And isn't being the Body of Christ amazing in itself?! How God is not simply a distant being, leaving us with Words to guide us, but rather He is a *living* and *active* God, *trusting us* to be His tangible presence in the lives of others? I believe this is one of the most incredible things about God. Although He teaches us to trust Him with all our heart (Proverbs 3:5-6), we need to also understand He *trusts us*! Despite our sinful nature, He sacrificed His own Son (Himself!) to save us, and has now put His own trust in us to continue His work as He, His Son, and the Holy Spirit walk along beside and in us.

How great is our God!





The next Stewardship Financial Report will be published in the September LOG. No Session meeting was scheduled in July, thus the delay in approval.

Deacons' Fund Update

As of July 22, 2011, there was \$886.86 in the Deacons Fund. During the month of July \$613.34 was distributed. Individuals in need of assistance for gas, night's lodging, food, gift boxes, and partial rent deposits or utilities were helped. Parishioners contributed a total of \$330 to the fund in July. Thanks to all who contributed enabling us to serve those less fortunate.

More Signing on for "A Simple Way to Make Your Contributions"

A new option now offered to members and friends of our Church is the ability to set up a procedure whereby your contributions to the Church are automatically transferred from your checking account into the Church's checking account. This is known as an electronic funds transfer, or **EFT**. A majority of people are familiar with this payment method as they receive payroll or Social Security income via **EFT**, and it is also widely used by households to pay mortgages, utility bills, and other monthly obligations.

EFT is all about convenience for you and consistency for the Church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The Church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the Church Office.

"Several of our members have already signed up", according to treasurer Gaye Litka. "It's a great convenient tool for many of them who frequently travel. Now they can give their contributions automatically and systematically and not have to be concerned with mailing their pledges and other donations while they are away."

GROWING IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE



"Walking Ancient Paths of Spiritual Growth"

Discover how to live more joyfully in our busy, mobile world by walking ancient paths of spiritual growth. Along the path of prayer, learn to deepen your life with God by discovering ancient patterns of prayer and beginning to practice these patterns with others. Along the path of sacred study, experience patterns of *lectio divina* as a key way to grow your spiritual life. Along the path of hospitality, discover ways to transform your world by offering hospitality, welcoming Christ in others and growing in your spiritual life with others.

Host:: The Priory Spirituality Center, Cannon Beach, Oregon.

Lecturer: David Robinson, Presbyterian pastor & author

Registration: by prior Friday \$210 (min. 8) max. 15, if willing to share a room. To register call: 360-438-2595.

Send 1/2 or full cost to: The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St. NE, Lacey, WA 98516

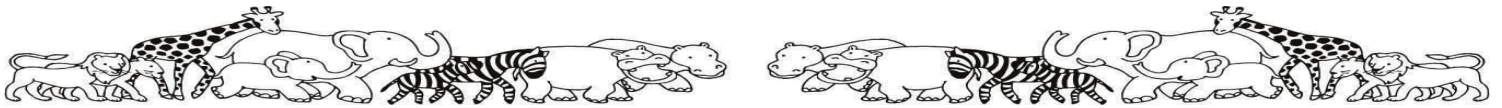
Vacation Bible School 2011

“Kingdom of the Son” Vacation Bible School was held July 18-22 with 42 children registered. The safari program interpreted “The Lord’s Prayer” through bible stories, games, crafts and snacks. Openings and closings featured skits, on-screen stories and active songs by Woody and Andrea Bakke and Sarah Russell. Norm McCrea interpreted the mission offering

for Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Center helpers were: Margaret Dilly, Lois LaBarge, Suzanne McCrea, Mollie Anthony, Pauline Williams, Joan Klope, Nancy Collins, Terry Smith, Jeannie Lupien, Guini Lupien, Matt Nienhuis, Anita Juan, and Amber Bakke. Registrars were Marcia Townsend, Mary Neuman, and Carol Chaplin. Shirley Taft and Charlotte Graham provided artwork. Guides were: Ellen Peters, Sylvia Tozer, Jean Allen, Dorothy Waite, Karen Everett and Robin Thomas.

Thanks to all who participated!



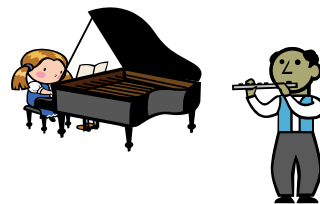
Summer Special Music

We have the pleasure during the summer months to host local talent at our 10:00 am Worship Service. Featured during the month of August are:

7 August: Carolyn Lesh & Sharon Burge

14 August: Janis Lussmyer

21 August: Sue Riney, Gaye Litka & Susie Thompson “The Prayer”



Save This Date

The Annual WPC All Church Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 11th. This will also serve as our Official Welcome for the new Director of Youth Ministries, Bethany Popkes. We hope to see everyone there, so please mark it on your calendar!!



Annual Summer Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the Town’s Annual Summer Picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

“This baked ham is really delicious,” the priest teased the rabbi. “You really ought to try it. I know it’s against your religion, but I can’t understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don’t know what you’re missing. You just haven’t lived until you’ve tried Mrs. Hall’s prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?”

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, “At your wedding.”

SET ON GOD

By Janice Lussmyer

Praying from the Potholes

It wasn't pretty. But it was necessary.

I almost slipped into pious jargon as my car bounced down the potholes in the driveway. Fortunately, God jarred me back into reality. It was time to come clean.

I admitted my anger and resentment. I talked about what was rattling me. Speaking my real thoughts and my real emotions to the Father who loves me is a real relief.

Because I want God to think well of me (as if I had to earn His love!), it is easy for me to try to skip past my less-than-lovely emotions. I want to do a slick cover-up so God won't notice my sin-darkened heart. If I say the right words to Him right away, shouldn't that be enough?

No, it is not. So I talked at length (it's great that He is such a good listener) about all I was feeling: the good, the bad, the ugly. I told Him everything that was rumbling around inside me and in the process recognized once again how hopeless my case is without His grace.

For much of my life I have struggled with prayer: Why should I pray? Does it make any difference? What should I pray a bout? I tended to live in the "no prayer zone" except when guilt and duty prodded me on. But my brain would wander off on its own adventure while I tried to get through the obligatory prayer as quickly as possible. Feeling like a fraud, I eventually stopped those insincere prayers. Later, I decided to try talking to God about what was really on my mind instead of what I thought should be.

Being honest with God opens a new pathway of communication. When I talk with God about what is going on this moment, He opens up more moments for discussion. There are all kinds of things to talk about with Him. And it is great that He is no gossip: I can pray about anything and for anyone with no worries about confidentiality. I'm starting to understand prayer as relational time with my heavenly Father, which is far more satisfying than placing my orders for a perfect world (no potholes, please).

However, sometimes it takes a pothole to jar my attention back to the God who never promised a smooth ride but who offers something even better: journeying with Him right now and forever.

Stephen Ministry

One second everything is fine. The next it is not. Your world has changed.



Old routines are gone. What was familiar and expected and assumed is no longer familiar, expected and assumed. It is difficult to navigate new territory. Sometimes it is the smallest thing that can trip you up in your attempt to resume your stride.

When you are learning to walk a new path, it helps to have a guide to help you regain your footing and eventually, find your new pace. A Stephen Minister can be just the person you need to walk alongside you.

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