



# ***The Log***

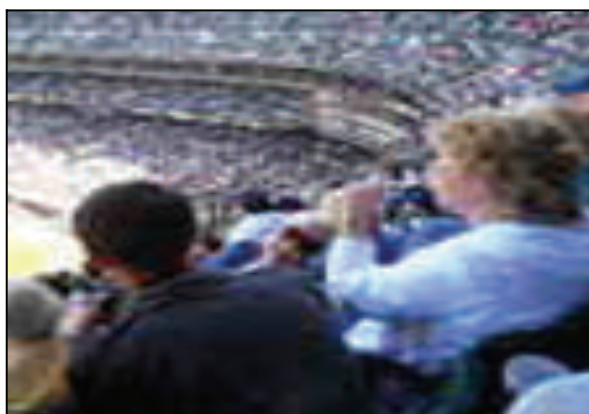
*The mission of the Whidbey Presbyterian Church is to be a faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ and His eternal love. We glorify God above all and trust the Holy*

Volume 7, Issue 9

September 2011



Oak Hall Dedication



WPC at the Marimer's



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*By Dave Templin*

As we move forward into another “year” of ministry I find it good to pause a moment to take a look in the rear-view mirror. We’ve had a very busy spring and summer with some significant transitions taking place. That meant that a lot of people were putting in extra time and effort to see that everything needed was getting done. So, some “thank-you’s” are in order:



The search for a new Director of Youth Ministry was conducted beginning early in the year and successfully concluded in late June with the hiring of Bethany Popkes who arrived to begin work with us on August 8. A big “Thank You!” goes to Personnel Team Chairman Charles Gordanier and the YD Search Team formed just for this task. Life was full of frequent meetings as we read about 40 applications, conducted several telephone interviews and four on-site personal interviews before making the final selection. Charles kept things organized and moving forward as things took longer to develop at points and our energy lagged. Lots of prayers and conversations went into the in-between spaces as well. God was certainly leading us and strengthening us in this important task.

In the meantime, we hired Matt Nienhuis to serve as Interim Youth Director for what we thought would be just a short time before having a new person on board. Matt knows the students in the youth group and has been on mission trips with them. He was a great fit to maintain fellowship activities and summer camp and mission connections with Tall Timber Ranch. As time stretched out Matt kept the students connected and even supported the Vacation Bible School in July. Another big “Thank You!” goes to Matt for his steady and faithful work with our youth during this transition.

While summer means vacation for families and schools, for the ministry of Christ’s church it means shifting to some different “gears” as we continue to worship God and to teach Christian faith to our children. Our Sunday school teachers and helpers concluded their work in June and headed into the summer already committed to conducting Vacation Bible School in late July. Many other volunteers stepped up to join them in a very active week of ministry with 35 children from our church and community. A big “Thank You!” goes to our Sunday school teachers and helpers and the many other volunteers who joined in providing a successful week of Vacation Bible School as well!

At the same time, many other leaders and volunteers in the congregation continued in ministry and mission work helping in the office operations, supporting fellowship events and a membership class, beautifying the grounds with new plantings and fix-ups, preparing the Oak Hall for residence of a family in need of transitional housing, leading small group ministries, providing special music for summer worship, fixing breakfasts and running the audio/video for the early worship each Sunday of the summer. A special “Thank You!” goes to all you faithful ministers and missionaries who work often behind the scenes to see that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared and proclaimed.

An added “Thank You!” goes to Norm McCrea and Dick Gholston for meeting every weekday afternoon with people who come to the church seeking help with life’s needs. Their ministry of care and prayer is right out of Matthew 25. Also, a big “Thank You!” to Will and Pauline Williams for providing housing for Bethany in the early days of her arrival before securing an apartment.

Lastly, my personal thanks to our faithful staff members: Kurt Imbach, Connie Jones, Sarah Russell, Sharon Burge, and Bob Hughes. Their steady effort and striving to learn and grow in their work for Christ’s church makes them a great team with which to work. And as we welcome Bethany Popkes to the team, I give thanks to God for the rich opportunity to work with you and among you as we serve the Lord and bear witness to his saving grace in Jesus Christ.

- Pastor Dave

*By Kurt Imbach*

Our life group has just finished study of a wonderful book by Phillip Yancey entitled "Reaching for the Invisible God". There has been much in the book from which to benefit, but one concept late in the book has been particularly helpful for me. He suggests that the story of the universe can be summed up in three statements, and any world-view or understanding of life needs to be seen through that tri-focal.

First, it must be recognized that God's creation was initially good. So all created things come from a good design, have good potential, and DNA. So all that is must be seen from that point of view. It all has good in it somewhere, and even bad is but good distorted or misused. A simple example is man, created good with all the value God attaches to that, and though in a less than perfect state right now, still retains the image of God.

Second, God's creation is fallen. The distortions referred to in the above paragraph attests to it. The hurts, misfortune, pain, humiliation, damage, tragedy, violence, injustice, oppression and death all demonstrate it. This world is not as it ought to be, and all the evil we experience shows us how real and extensive that infection has penetrated into the human race, the created universe and history. Nothing in our world has escaped unscathed.

Third, God's creation can and will be redeemed. "Redeemed" is a marvelous word, indicating not simply "fixed", nor even "restored", but it has been "transformed" into something even better. An example is in the case of the crucified Jesus whose new life was superior to previous life restored (resuscitation), but new and expanded/improved life (resurrection), in which old limitations are no longer relevant.

This 3-fold truth prism is a wonderful tool with which to view the life we experience. When good things happen to us (such as the spectacular Saturday of August 20) we are prompted to affirm the overwhelming goodness, beauty, and vitality of all God's creation, and our souls are filled with praise, wonder, and gratitude. Because of truth #3 we are also given a glimpse of what can and one day will be – the perfect ultimate good of a redeemed recreated world. In that world to come not only weather, but people, even myself, the material universe and all systems governing life will be made perfect, just, good, loving and whole. Such a perspective fuels Christian hope (vision for what will be). So from these two truths all good things can be better appreciated and enjoyed.

When bad things happen, the same lens is at work to help us understand. If God made all things originally good, then all evil is not to be understood as a separate, out-of-control malignant adversary or misfortune, but as a good thing twisted or abused. It tells us that there is good in it somewhere, and that what is wrong is even more wrong because of its distortion. With that help we are able to understand evil better, yet dislike it even more.

With the addition of truth #3 we remember that all things are redeemable, and will, one day, be redeemed (transformed), in the spirit of Romans 8:28 wherein we are told that God is at work in all things to bring good out of evil. We can remember that and bask in the hope of His promise to make all things right, heal all hurts, wipe away all tears, and reconcile all things into perfect unity. Moreover we are invited to participate with God in His work of redemption even now. Redemptive work takes place in miracles of instant healing, or through God's empowering of us to "overcome evil with good", or by capitalizing on His promise to be with us through a difficulty providing peace, joy, love, grace in the midst of trial, or sometimes (as He did) absorbing the evil, draining it of all hurtful power.

All was originally good, all things have been distorted by evil, and all things are redeemable. Nothing has ever happened to us nor ever will that will not be redeemed (recreated) by a loving, all-powerful God. It is all a matter of time, and He is eternal. Life is a process, and we are not victims, but conquerors, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Arrow Prayer**

*By Suzanne McCrea*

O.K., I'll admit it. I'm not a very organized person, and it's very difficult for me to pray and read my Bible at a certain time every day. But, that does not mean that I do not pray. I know God is with me all the time, and I talk (pray) to Him all the time.

In a former study group we looked at prayer and learned that there is a type of prayer which was called in our study book "arrow prayer". That means that whenever and wherever we think about God we can pray. So I learned that I can pray for poor drivers, that they improve before they hurt someone. I pray for good drivers, thanking God for them and if they have pulled over to help someone I pray that they will be kept safe and be a blessing to the folk that need help. I pray for people whose name pops into my head, asking God to protect them, keep them healthy, and that He would bring some joy into their lives. I pray to thank God for natural beauty that touches me. I pray for calm when I get angry, and I pray a thank you to God for whenever a child makes me smile. I also praise God for His Son whenever I see a cross.

I am still learning by reading the Bible, but I don't believe that God won't listen to me unless I have read my Bible first. I know that I can talk to Him anytime, anywhere and I believe He delights in "arrow prayers". I know I do.

By Bethany Popkes

Welcome to Bethany's LOG! Also known as bLOG from here on out! I have been so very blessed by this community already and am so proud to be a part of such an actively caring congregation. As I settle in, I am excited to share with you my approach to youth ministry—an initiative that requires a congregation like you! As you read, consider why I think this is a great fit, particularly in my list of goals.

While being a small group, the ministry exists in order that students' lives may be transformed by Christ. It is my hope that each student can grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. To do this, the ministry program goes Deep and Wide. We deeply enter into one another's life as we go deeper into Scripture. This pushes us wider into the world as we develop God's heart for people. We are communal in nature and exist to share and experience life alongside of students. We seek to enter into each other's suffering and together as the family of God, we enter into the world's suffering. It is in this setting that the tenants of our faith are transmitted. The student thus becomes an integrated and integral member of the church, globally and locally. Ingrained in the pursuit is theology. Beyond a creedal download, this theology will help teenagers and myself to know, understand the significance, feel, and live the basics of their Christian faith. It is holistic and brings mission, action, passion, and initiative to youth ministry efforts as we learn, prepare ourselves for God's service to the world, act in the world through relationship (with each other, church, and community) and reflection.

In embracing youth as disciples of the Triune God, my ministry aspires to provide Christ-interactive community, spiritual nurture, discipleship, and active service to the glory of God through the Holy Spirit. It seeks the integration of the individual into the total life of the church and the Priesthood of all Believers through acts of place-sharing.

Set of Goals:

- To create experiential encounters with God as youth experience Christ in relationship with others.
- To create a context for discussion that involves the whole life.
- To create healthy encounters and place-sharing relationships between people **across the lifespan in the congregation.**
- To integrate youth **into the congregation** as **integral members.**
- To provide discipleship and community within the **congregation** and outside of it.
- To create a space that encourages questions and dialogue.
- To encourage unyielding passion for the Kingdom of God.
- To create room for the Spirit to transform **all our lives.** (not only the adolescents')

"To glorify God and enjoy him forever" **together.**

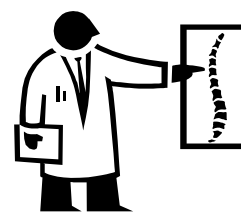


**Moving Day**

By Joyce Kuhn

## SAIL – Stay Active and Independent for Life

Several months ago I asked a friend what she had been doing and she said taking a class on falling. I told her I could do that without a class. Then she told me about SAIL.



Twenty percent of all calls to 911 for ambulance services are related to falls. That breaks down to 4 ambulances going out in response to falls each day in our area. How many friends, neighbors or family members do you know that have helped make up these statistics?

The Deacons are sponsoring a series of lectures/classes starting in mid-September that deal with safety in the home, exercises, nutrition and other subjects relevant to seniors and caregivers of seniors.

The program for this series has been developed by the Washington State Dept. of Health and is coordinated by Whidbey General Hospital to help 65 plus residents learn how to live a safer, healthier life. There will be five weekly 1 to 1 1/2 hour sessions starting September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall. **There is no charge for these classes and you can attend any or all.**

A panel of speakers including, physical therapists, nurses and paramedics, will present the various topics.

If you are interested, please give me a call, Joyce Kuhn 279-9801 if you need more information. If you know you are coming, let the office, or me, know so we can set up enough chairs.

### Sweet 'n' Hot Glazed Salmon

#### Ingredients:

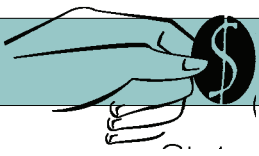
1 1/2 c. apricot nectar  
 1/3 c. chopped dried apricots  
 2T honey  
 2 T soy sauce  
 1 T grated fresh ginger  
 2 cloves minced garlic  
 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper  
 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon  
 1 3/4 lbs salmon filet (skinless)

#### Directions:

1. Pre-heat oven broiler
2. In a saucepan over medium heat, mix nectar, apricots, honey, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, cinnamon and cayenne. Bring to boil, reduce heat & simmer 20 min. Remove 1/4 c. for basting
3. Place salmon on broiler pan and baste. Broil 8-12 min. , turn once and baste frequently for the last 4 min. Serve with remaining glaze.

**Faithfully Fit** meets on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:00. We talk about food and nutrition. Offer each other support, encouragement, and prayer. During the coming year we are also scheduling "Faithfully Fit – friendly" potlucks, recipe exchanges, and guest speakers from our community who will cover a variety of health-related topics. As the weather and schedules permit, we're also looking forward to cooking events in our fabulous church kitchen and meeting at various locations around town to enjoy the outdoors and encourage moderate group exercise.

Please call Whidbey Presbyterian Church for more information - 679-3579.



## Deacons' Fund Update

As of August 23, 2011, there was \$560.86 in the Deacons Fund. During the month of August \$1,152.20. was distributed. Individuals in need of assistance for gas , night's lodging, tent sites, food , gift boxes, and partial rent deposits or utilities were helped. Parishioners contributed a total of \$433 to the fund in August. As you can see, the needs are growing significantly and funds go quickly . Deacons offering envelopes are placed in the back of the pews to expedite additional fund- ing for this purpose. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and pray for those who have come the past month. Thanks to all who have answered the call, enabling us to serve those less fortunate.

### Financial Report as of 7.31.2011

	<u>07.31.2011</u>
Total Account Balances	\$129,699.61
Undesignated Funds	31,963.68
Capital Improvement Fund	25,517.00
Pledge Income, July	23,636.00
Budgeted Pledge Income per mo.	28,061.00
Total Income, July	26,030.10
Total Expenses, July	26,037.98
Adjusted Net Loss YTD (2)	(8,558.60)



## MUSIC MINISTRY

### Fun Reasons to Join the Chancel Choir

- The 11:00 Worship Service is usually crowded and you want to make sure you always have a seat.
- You're running out of clean clothes and the robe saves on laundry.
- For years you've wanted to know who sits in the back of the church but were afraid to turn around and look.
- You've been known to nod off during the worship service and don't want Pastor Dave to catch you.
- Singing in the choir is not only heart healthy, its soul healthy.
- If you think you've done everything there is to do, and there are no great challenges left in life, try singing with the Chancel Choir and staying on pitch.
- If you think your singing in the shower sounds good, just wait until you've been singing with the Chancel Choir.
- The Whidbey Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir will resume regular rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>
- 7:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall (Basement of the Main Sanctuary)

To learn more about this Music Ministry Opportunity  
Contact Music Director, Sarah Russell

[sarah@whidbeypres.org](mailto:sarah@whidbeypres.org)



By *Suzanne McCrea*

Yes, there will be fewer meetings, but the bible study is still going strong. This year, we study the Beatitudes. What a difference from last year! We still meet at 10:30 am the first Thursday of each month, starting September 1st. Kurt Imbach is our leader.

Marilyn Arnsberger is our new moderator (go-to person) for questions. During our four meetings this year, eating, socializing, and making a few financial decisions will be on our agenda. September 15th, there will be no regular meeting, but October 20th we'll get back to business. The PW Boutique is set for November 12, 2011. Members, keep working on your projects at home and please join us at our regular meeting times—the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in preparation for the Boutique.

## HAPPENINGS

### Divorce Care Support Group

The Divorce Care support group will resume its regular schedule on Tuesday, September 6th. We meet in the Blue House from 7-9 pm. Hope all of our regulars and some newcomers join us. As last year, our discussions will center around your individual needs with time for sharing, questions and coping skills post the breakup of a relationship. Valuable texts are also available for your use.

Look forward to a workshop, “Surviving the Holidays” coming up on October 15th.

### New One Day Class

Ministry 301: A major re-development of the previous 301 course, explores the concepts of natural and spiritual gifts equipping us for ministry under the title of Body Building (Life Gifts and Spiritual Gifts). It will be offered in Heritage Hall on Saturday, October 15 from 10 am-2:30 pm. Come learn more about discovering and exercising the gifts God has given you.

### • Coffee Fellowship Schedule •

#### September

September 4: Parish 7  
Deacon Carol Chaplin  
September 11: Parish 8  
Deacon Joyce Kuhn  
September 18: Parish 9  
Deacon Barbara Link  
September 25: Parish 1  
Deacon Carolyn Lesh

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!!



### BAKKE FARM CAMPOUT

Labor Day Weekend  
September 2-4

No plans for the holiday? Join our church bunch for a memorable visit to the Bakke Farm. The forested setting is breathtaking, complete with cooking shelter, fully furnished cabin plus attached bathhouse, campsites, walking trails, beach and more. Come for the entire weekend, overnighter or daytrip. Throughout the time there, we will cook together and eat together. Bring food to share. A picnic is planned for Saturday at 1 pm (potluck).

Check-in: Friday, Sept. 2 at 3 pm; Checkout: Sunday, Sept. 4 at 5 pm.

\*\*\*For further info, contact Woody Bakke or Kurt Imbach at 360-679-3579.



## Body Building

By Janice Laussmyer

I want to be a body builder.

Now, before you laugh too hard, let me clarify. I'm not talking about ripped abs or bulging biceps. I have not taken out a membership in a spa or gym, nor do I have any home body-building equipment. Nonetheless, I am very interested in body building: that is, building up the body of Christ.

In June, I completed the nine-month Certificate in Lay Ministry course through Whitworth University. Last fall when I saw the course description and that it was being offered online for the first time, I was immediately interested. Almost before I knew it, I was enrolled.

It took a few hours of my time each week from October to June: listening to and taking notes from the DVD lectures, responding to the discussion questions on Blackboard (an online learning tool), and reading the recommended materials. I loved being a student again. I loved learning more about ministry as it relates to the Bible, theology, spirituality, church history, Christian leadership, management, administration, communication, and pastoral care (there you have it—the course description by monthly theme).

Those few hours every week enriched my relationship with Christ and encouraged me to exercise my spiritual gifts (God gives each one of us gifts, you know). In fact, one of the options for the course final project was to develop a spiritual gifts class. I will be teaching a Saturday workshop, Life Gifts and Spiritual Gifts, on October 15 in Heritage Hall. Look for further information in the coming weeks. We can all be body builders together.



## STEVEN MINISTRY

*He said, "Freely, freely, you have received;*

*Freely, freely give.*

*Go in my name and because you believe,*

*Others will know that I live."*

You may recognize this chorus from Carol Owen's song, "God Forgave My Sin." The biblical reference is Matthew 10:8.

Stephen Ministers extend compassionate care to the hurting, giving back what they have freely received. In one-on-one relationships, they live out Paul's words to the church: ". . . reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs" (1 Thessalonians 5:14, *The Message*).

When life is hard, people need a little extra help. Sometimes we are the givers; sometimes we are the receivers. Often we are both.

**If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact Anita Juan, Bebe Gholston, or Dave Templin.**