

MPC News

November 2011

What Makes Us Church?

One Sunday, I listened as a colleague asked a congregation to say why they were there. For me, the easy answer was “to worship God,” but I soon noticed that each person seemed to have a different answer for why they had come. The answer that surprised me the most was the guy who called out, “family history!” I never thought of that as a reason to be a part of a church, but for that man, family history and faith were intertwined.

It’s weird to think about how the place we go to practice following Jesus is an institution that humans created after Jesus’ lifetime. We say that the church isn’t a building, that it’s the people who gather as the body of Christ to worship and serve together. But our church does have a building, and the body gathered here changes every week. How does being a part of this community of faith impact your life?

In the book *The Practicing Congregation*, church historian Diana Butler Bass writes:

...in the Protestant mainline into which I was born, congregations were the equivalent of Rotary or the Chamber of Commerce, a kind of family club that you attended on Sunday morning. The congregations of my youth had Christian practices. Those practices tended to be implicit and assumed, a kind of accident of birth. And Christian practices were also blurred. That is, they took on the ‘practices of the world’ with little or no theological reflection. Thus for much of the twentieth century (if not longer) the Protestant mainline had flattened Christian practices through both lack of attention to such holy habits and by depending upon the surrounding culture to teach and support a Christian way of life.

What is a congregation if it isn’t a club, a hub of social life? How are congregations different from other community groups? Is this a place where we gather to learn and be supported in a Christian way of life? What does it mean for you to belong to a community of faith?

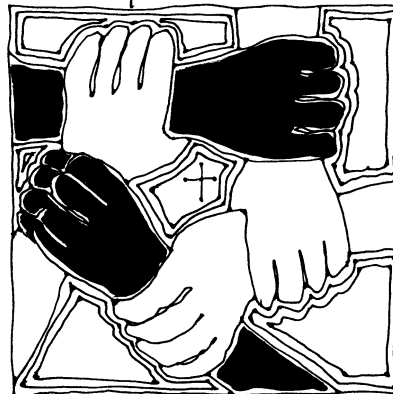
Grace be with you!

Katie

Giving Update

July 1—October 26, 2011 (incl. payroll)	Actual	Annual Budget (session approved)
Income	67,623	218,867
Expenses	<u>70,197</u>	<u>255,711</u>
Difference Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>(2,574)</u>	<u>(36,844)</u>

...but that you be united in the



same mind and the same purpose

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

Session

Administration

Dave DeVore (chair)
Verne Duncan
Ross Cottrell (Personnel)

Communications

Diana Bennett (chair)
Marilyn Zetterberg

Congregational Min.

Melissa Thomsen

Christian Education

Cherie Kennedy (chair)
Rusty Garrison (clerk)

Community Ministries

Claire Hobson

Stewardship

Kevin Bixby

Worship

Nancy Killian (chair)
Kelley Gutman

Deacons

2012

Dave Adams
Jan Braman
Phyllis Zimmerman
Chris Didway
Ruth Young

2013

Nancy Seigneur
Marlene Graham (chair)
Winnie Thomas
Sarah Carver

2014

Jan Bunte
Wayne Sabin
Sharon Wullbrandt

Sunday Mornings

November 6th

- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship with Communion; the Rev. Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland preaching
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Adult Education: Panel Discussion, Pat Carter and others: "MPC's Third Generation as a 'Cool' Congregation; Updates and Ways to Join In." See separate announcement on page 6.

November 13th

- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal for preK-5th grade with Kevin
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Adult Education: Comments from three of you, moderated by Sam, "Sheep Versus Goats! Yikes! Is this hard or what?!" [See Matthew 25: 31-46]

November 20th

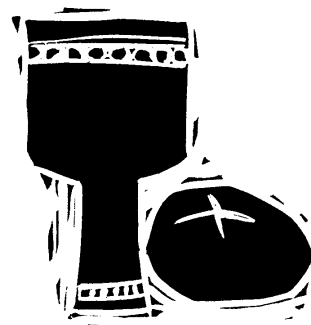
- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship (Church school for all ages following worship)
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Adult Education: Kelley Gutman, "The Spirit of Christmas Boxes"

November 27th

- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal for preK-5th grade with Kevin
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Adult Education: Moderated discussion with Sam, "This Year's MPC Advent Theme: God is with us. Hope is restored."

Locations

- ◆ Pre-School - meeting in room next to the nursery; singing with Kevin 11:45-noon
- ◆ K-5 - meeting upstairs; singing with Kevin 11:45 - noon
- ◆ Middle School/High School - meeting downstairs
- ◆ Adults - Schmidt Hall



Youth Activities

Thurs., 11/3		High School Fall Retreat final registration deadline
Sun., 11/6	11:15 a.m.-noon	Youth Sunday School (hosting Moreland PC Youth)
	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Youth Group at the Theater
Sat., 11/12	9 a.m.-noon	Tree Planting Service Project @ Philips Creek
Sun., 11/13	9 a.m.-noon	Sunday School field trip at Moreland PC
Fri., 11/18-Sun., 11/20		High School Fall Retreat (CPYA) at Macleay Retreat Center
Sun., 11/20	11:15 a.m.-noon	Youth Sunday School
	3-5 p.m.	Thanksgiving Dinner with JOIN
Sun., 11/27	11:15 a.m.-noon	Youth Sunday School
	4:30-6 p.m.	Middle School Youth Group
	7-9 p.m.	High School Youth Group

More information—

Youth Group @ the Theater! Sun., Nov. 6, from 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Barclay Theater in Oregon City. We have the exciting opportunity to get "cultured" and see a couple of our friends; Lanie, Saylor, and Addison in the upcoming Krayon Kids' Production of "Foiled!" If we get at least 10 people going as a group the tickets will only be \$9 (normally \$15). So talk to Josh ASAP if you would like to go. Parents and families are invited too!

Philips Creek Tree Planting Service Project w/ SOLV Sat., Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-12 noon.- The MPC Youth will have the chance to plant trees and restore native shrubs with the SOLV organization at Philips Creek (SE 82nd Ave and SE McBride St in Milwaukie).

Sunday School Field Trip to Moreland PC Sun., Nov. 13, 9 a.m.-12 noon. In Sunday School this year we are emphasizing your questions about faith and what it means to be a Christian. A part of that is taking the time to experience worship services at other churches. So Sun., Nov. 13, we'll be taking a trip over to our friends at Moreland

(Continued on page 5)

(Youth Activities, cont.)

Presbyterian attending their worship service and then attending their Sunday School to talk with them about what it's like to worship at their church. We'll have the chance to return the favor as the youth of Moreland Presbyterian come to visit our church and Sunday School on Sun., Nov. 6.

High School Fall Retreat (CPYA) Fri., Nov. 18-Sun., Nov. 20, at Macleay Retreat Center in Salem. This is the annual MPC High School Youth Fall Retreat, and this year we have the pleasure of being able to get together with churches from all over the northwest. We also will have the chance to meet with the youth of Hillsboro Presbyterian, who we are partnering with on our 2012 High School Caravan Trip. The Registration deadline is Thurs., Nov. 3 (\$100). This is a mandatory event for those youth who want to go on the 2012 Caravan Trip to Memphis TN. Talk to our youth director Josh for registration forms.

Thanksgiving Dinner w/ JOIN Sun., Nov. 20, 3-5 p.m. Come help serve an amazing Thanksgiving dinner and share the meal with our friends at JOIN, an organization that works with helping people out of homelessness. This is an amazing event and is another of the great service projects we have planned this year. This event is hosted at Moreland Presbyterian.

2012 Caravan Trip: Well it's official, we are announcing the destination for our 2012 Caravan Trip. Our High School Youth Group is heading to Memphis TN the week of July 7-14, 2012. We will work with an organization called Service Over Self (SOS), and their mission is to help existing home owners repair their homes so they can stay in their neighborhoods, rather than be forced to move.

2012 City Camp: The 2012 City Camp will be the week of July 30-Aug. 3, 2012, and we will once again be hosted by First Presbyterian Portland and work with amazing service organizations throughout the greater Portland area.

— *Joshua Dunham, Youth Director*



Other Announcements

New church directories are in the Narthex (coffee bar area) with names on each.

Help us be good stewards of our budget dollars by picking yours up the next time you're at church.

Community Thanksgiving Service, here, Tues., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Greg Lund, pastor at Oak Hills Presbyterian, will be preaching. Bring a dessert to share.

ARE YOU 'COOL' YET? On Nov. 6 at 11:15 our First and Second Generation Green families will meet in Schmidt Hall to share successes (and not-so successes) and strategies as we attempt to reduce our "carbon footprints." This is the third year MPC has participated in our denomination's Creation Care Ministry.

2012 Chinook Books on Sale Now as a youth fundraiser for the 2012 Mission Trips.

Regular Chinook Books are \$20 or the new "digital" version is only \$10 (for iPhones and other smart phones). Help our youth reach their mission goals. It's win-win!

Christmas is coming! Save some time after church on Nov. 20 to help put up our Christmas tree and the garlands around the sanctuary... the Hanging of the Greens!

Children's Pageant rehearsals: Sun., Nov. 13, 11:10 a.m.; dress rehearsal at noon, Sun., Nov. 27 (lunch included). The pageant will be during worship, Sun., Dec. 4.

Older Adult Opportunity Successful: Sixteen adults went to see "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Lakewood Theater. Those who attended had a simple soup supper at the DeVore home and carpooled to the show. Happy faces and hummed Irving Berlin tunes were indications of how much everyone enjoyed the play and the fellowship. Look for more opportunities for adults to be together in differing ways.

Buy a special gift for Habitat for Humanity in honor of a friend or relative at the table in the Narthex.

From the North Clackamas School District: On Wed., Oct. 20, Milwaukie Presbyterian Church was "recognized by the North Clackamas School District for providing volunteers to the Backpack Buddy Program at Oak Grove Elementary. For the last 1½ years, MPC members have packed food bags for children who need extra food in their households over the weekend when they aren't getting free/reduced lunch at school. Thank you MPC volunteers!"

Three Newsletter Choices – What's your choice?

- ◆ We want to hear from you! **Please return this form to ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter.** Check a box below to choose a format.
- ◆ Opting to pick up your newsletter at church or receive it by email will help reduce our operating costs and environmental impact.
- ◆ So far, 43 of 225 households have opted to receive the newsletter by email. This is good news! This also means that we will no longer qualify for a bulk mail permit.
- ◆ Mailing to fewer than 114 addresses will make it cost effective to send newsletters by first class mail.

Email Distribution

To reduce operating costs, we'd like to distribute the newsletter by email. If this method works for you, please clearly print your name and email address below.

Name _____

Email address _____

Pick up Newsletter at Church

Copies of the newsletter will be available for pick up on Sundays. If you plan to pick up a copy of the newsletter at church, please clearly print your name below.

Name _____

Receive Newsletter by U.S. Mail

If you don't have access to email, or prefer receiving a paper copy of the newsletter in the mail, please clearly print your name and address below, if your address is different from what is on the label on the other side of this page.

Name _____

Address _____

Please mail this form to the church or drop it in the offering plate. Questions? Contact the church office, 503.367.7682, or office@milwaukiepres.org.

Milwaukie Presbyterian Church

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office@milwaukiepres.org

Office Hours

Tu.-Th. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Fri., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Mon.

Church Staff:

- ◆ The Rev. Katie Pate, Pastor
pastor@milwaukiepres.org
- ◆ The Rev. Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland, Pastoral Visitor
hamland123@frontier.com
- ◆ Sam Cole, Christian Ed. Director
ce@milwaukiepres.org
- ◆ Joshua Dunham, Youth Director
youth@milwaukiepres.org
- ◆ Kevin Lambert, Music Director
music@milwaukiepres.org
- ◆ Ann Waterman, Office Coordinator/
Bookkeeper ◆ Marilyn Barnes, Office
Assistant/Custodian ◆ Apsara Long &
Sopheap Yin, Nursery Attendants

LOVE
The LORD
YOUR GOD
with all your
HEART
SOUL
and MIND



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