

MAR
2011



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www.westside1.org

The Prodigal God - The God Who Chooses Us

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker

A.W. Tozer reminds us, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” For what we think about God will ultimately determine our destiny. That’s why, if you look at Jesus’ public ministry and consider what he was trying to accomplish, the simplest answer is that he was trying to set people straight on the facts about His Father. He had a message He was trying to communicate to all who would listen. People had a lot of preconceived notions that made it hard for them to understand and accept what Jesus was saying.

Jesus did, however, have a way with words. He gave talks. He told stories. He performed word pictures with the twist that His words literally accomplished what he said—the blind saw, the lame walked, and even the dead were called back to life. His message was Good News! Not that everybody heard it that way, but it was Good News nonetheless.

There is one story in particular that captures the heart of His message. It has come to be known as the story of The Prodigal Son.

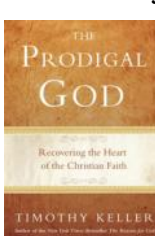
The word “prodigal” literally means, “wastefully lavish” or if you like “recklessly wasteful”. A prodigal is one who is given to extravagant spending; they recklessly and lavishly spend until they have nothing left. While this term was used to describe the younger son, the twist and surprise of the story is that the father is the true prodigal. And this father helps us see the fundamental fact of Jesus’ Father—the one true God is literally a Prodigal God. He is recklessly waste-

ful with His grace. He is lavishly reckless with His willingness to not count our sins against us, but instead, delights in cancelling our debts and receiving us, His children, back into His embrace.

We have a lot of preconceived ideas about God, and I am guessing none of them begin with God being reckless or wasteful. But if we miss these facts, there is a great chance we have missed the Good News Jesus was trying to share with us.

In the season that leads us up to Easter, we are going to be focusing our attention on this story. Timothy Keller has written a book, called *The Prodigal God* which we will make available. Sermons and Life Group lessons will help us dig deeper into the parable as well as the book—with the goal of helping us to come to know the Father as He really is.

Since this story captures so well the heart of Jesus’ message, it has been life-changing for countless people. But here is the surprising part. It has not only changed people who are just beginning in their faith, but it has also transformed the lives of people who have spent their whole life in the church. I would like to encourage you to take advantage of this focus on the parable—read the book, participate in a Life Group, and most of all listen to the facts Jesus shares about His Father. As



Timothy Keller shares, “the reckless grace of God is our greatest hope, a life-changing experience”, and is the subject we will examine together.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph

Ash Wednesday - All-Church Meal, Fellowship & Worship

By Heather Smith

Do you feel as though you are struggling in getting to know others at West Side? Join us for a night of fellowship on Wed., Mar. 9, as we gather together for a meal and activity from 5:30-6:30 pm. Mid-High (Basic) and High School Small Groups will be joining us for the evening. Last year we had a beautiful time of intergenerational fellowship as we played All-Church Bible Trivia. Who will win this year?

Are rituals and traditions important in your faith? Come and join us for a simple worship service to prepare our hearts for the Lenten Season. Many children and adults are touched by the tradition of receiving an ash cross on their foreheads as we leave the service in silence. Worship will be from 6:45-7:30 pm in WSS Sanctuary. Childcare will be available.

Have you been longing to have your family dig into God's Word together at home? Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the seven weeks that lead up to Easter. This is a perfect time to start family traditions of Bible reading and prayer each night. We will have resources available during the Season of Lent on the Parenting Resource Table.



Souper Bowl of Caring

By Heather Smith

Three of my passions in life are intergenerational ministry, church unity, and play. It may seem like a random list, but all are important to me. And all aligned Sun., Feb. 20, during the Sunday

School hour when Kindergarten through High School students gathered together to hear the grand totals from our Souper Bowl of Caring mis-

sion project. We brought in over 300 lbs. of food for 2nd Harvest! Way to go West Side! In competition with adults and youth, the children brought in the most cans. They were quite motivated by the prize: being able to vote for the leader of their choice to receive a pie in his or her face. After a vigorous campaign, led by me, the children voted for Youth and Family pastor Stu Strachan to receive the pie. This leads us back to why we had all our students gathered in one room: we were all united together in play as we waited to see Stu "pied." While Stu may not have found the experience as delightful, it was beautiful to see children of diverse ages in one room having fun together. I pray we are able to align and do more things together as a church.

Camp Ghormley: Mark your calendars NOW!

Primary (gr. 2-4) July 10-13

Mid-High (gr. 6-9) July 17-23

July 17-23

Junior (gr. 5-6) July 24-28

High School (gr. 9-12) June 26-July 2



Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets Saturdays, 7:30 am, WS South Upper Room. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a Bible study.



Sarah Squares, spouses of Sarah Circle ladies, will meet for lunch on Wed., Mar. 9, 11:30 am, Sterlings Restaurant.

Senior Adult Ministry

FOF-Folks Over Fifty potluck dinner Fri., Mar. 4, 5:45 pm, WS South Upper Room. The Swinths and the Moens will share about their recent trips to Turkey. Come for a good time of fellowship and bring your own table service and a main dish, salad, or dessert. Questions-George and Edna Sehmel.

Person To Person lunch Mon, Mar. 14 and 28, 12:00 pm, WS Activity Center. Call the church office (946.4656) if you need a ride.

Women's Ministry

Morning Glory. Join us on Thursdays, 9:00-11:00 am, WS North Room 2-4, for women's Bible study, fellowship, prayer, laughter, and enlightenment. Need child-care - contact the church office.

Knitter's Group. Wed., Mar. 2, 1:00 pm, WS South Upper Room. All are invited to join and share their projects.

Sarah Circle. Wed., Mar. 9., 11:30 am, WS South Upper Room. Join us for delicious food, faith-enriching devotions, and mission outreach programs.

Miriam Circle Lunch Bunch. Tues., Mar. 15, 12:00 pm, Sterlings Restaurant.



Save the Date. The Women of West Side are organizing to attend the Women of Faith Conference Sept. 16-17 in Spokane. More details to follow.



Care Packages. Sarah Circle will be sending care packages to our military families here and overseas. We have some names from the church bulletins, but do you have other children or grandchildren in your family that we could honor? Contact Roberta Adams (627.1098) before boxes are packed in mid-March.

LIVING Free



BETH MOORE

Women of the Word. A new Bible study will begin on Sun., Mar. 27, 9:45 am, WS North Room 2-4. This is a six-week Bible study using Beth Moore's study guide, *Living Free: Learning to Pray God's Word*. Have you ever felt the need to revitalize your prayer life with God, but just didn't know what would help? Then please consider joining this class with other women who also want to grow in their prayer life with our Lord. We will learn how to pray using the Scriptures and discover five key benefits that God intends for His children to enjoy. You will be blessed through this study and never look at prayer the same way again. We hope you will come and join us. Facilitators: Bertha Rachinski, Marian Holm, and Diane Pratt.

Youth & Family Ministry - Raising the Next Generation of Leaders

By Rev. Stuart Strachan

At a recent boys mid-high small group session, Gene Dudley, one of our amazing mid-high volunteers, shared a bit of wisdom from his lifetime experience working in schools: “One of the few learning laws that exist is that people get better at what they practice.” Gene was referring to one of our students who really wasn’t interested in praying. Many things may have caused this, but it definitely included a healthy dose of insecurity. Who hasn’t felt uncomfortable praying in public? But after Gene’s comment, another student decided to step up to the plate and pray for the group.

This little incident caused me to think about our youth ministry here at West Side Church. A part of me thinks that we could have amazing turnout, a vibrant program, and still completely fail our students. Why is that? Because if the only opportunity we offer our students to “practice” their faith is a 30-second prayer once a week, they will be completely underprepared to become the leaders God wants them to become.



Now, don’t get me wrong, God can clearly use people later in life and develop them into amazing leaders in the church. But if our youth program is supposed to be in charge of “raising the next generation of church leaders,” then we are going to have to provide opportunities for them to practice their faith before they leave us.

With this in mind, we are moving in the direction of bringing students alongside our ministries, helping them own their faith as they partner in ministry. Starting this spring, three students will be joining the Fuel leadership team. Their primary area of responsibility will be to help plan future “Fuels” as well as upcoming retreats and Youth Sunday. We also have a deputation team that includes five student leaders (see Summer Deputation Trip article below)! All of this is a bit of a stab in the dark, but we trust that God will use it for His glory in days to come,

In Jesus Christ our Lord, Rev. Stu

Summer Deputation Trip

By Rev. Stuart Strachan

It would be unfortunate to share about student leadership without mentioning our upcoming deputation trip. Having worked alongside Rick Pratt and three West Side students (Chad DeLeon, Kristine Popielarczyk, and Devin Rodgers), we have decided to go to UrbanPromise Ministries in Camden, New Jersey. After a number of meetings to clarify our gifts, weaknesses, and desired experiences, we ultimately landed on UrbanPromise. We are extremely excited to partner in ministry with UrbanPromise, who run a variety of programs including a private school for children living in the poverty-stricken city of Camden, NJ. Both my wife and I have had several experiences with UrbanPromise, including with its president Bruce Main. We both have been blessed by his love of God and desire to care for the poor through education and spiritual formation. There are many excellent programs run by UrbanPro-



mise, but one in particular is their “Street Leaders” program, which employs 100 teens in Camden to help tutor, mentor, and coach the school’s younger students. In their own words, “by involving teens in the leadership process, UrbanPromise is creating a new generation of young, visionary leaders who embody a commitment to change their own community.” The leaders of UrbanPromise have come to learn what we are still trying to grasp here at West Side: if we want our students to grow, they can’t simply sit in a classroom and be talked to. Instead they must begin to embody the very things they are taught with on-the-ground leadership experience.

As a church that invests heavily in education and desires to empower its young people, we found Urban Promise to be an excellent fit for our congregation.

ShareFest 2011 - Serve! Give! Love!

By Bob Tibbatts

Locally, ShareFest started six years ago with a vision of: Demonstrating the love of Christ in the Tri-Cities by uniting the churches to meet the needs of the community and thereby live out scripture. "The idea is simple. Assemble as many churches as possible and light up (Matthew 5:16) the Tri-City community with as many good works as possible in a concentrated period of time. Don't preach. Prove! Serve! Give! Love! Put flesh on the Word of God. Make it tangible, observable, and undeniable."



In addition to the work projects, West Side Church gave over \$1,700 to the Juvenile Drug Court (the designated non-profit recipient in 2010).

Overall ShareFest 2010 results:

- 41 churches participated
- 3,000 volunteers completed 225 projects all over the Tri-Cities
- 205 units of blood collected for the Red Cross
- 3,220 pounds of food donated to Second Harvest
- \$40,000 donated to Juvenile Drug Court

West Side Church participated in ShareFest for the first time in 2010. We "got our feet wet" by taking on two projects: cleaning up the Richland Parkway business district, and visiting residents of the River-ton Retirement & Assisted Living facility. Thirty volunteers experienced the joy of working together in doing things for someone else. We enjoyed great fellowship and felt really good about what was accomplished. Both projects were "family friendly", so that all ages could participate. Comments from last year included:

- "It was fun to work [yesterday] and see the difference that was made."
- "We enjoyed the morning of exercise, usefulness and fellowship. We hope we can help out next year."

ShareFest 2011 is scheduled for Mar. 26. Mark your calendars and plan on joining others from our West Side Church family in a day of serving our community. It is important to sign up as soon as possible. We don't want to commit to a project until we know we have the needed number of volunteers to accomplish it, but we also want to ensure that there are enough projects for the volunteers that sign up. Individuals, families, and small groups are encouraged to participate.

If you have questions or want to sign up, please stop by the information tables in WS North and WS South between services, contact Bob Tibbatts (946.9905 or ngaire3@frontier.com), or call the Church Office (946.4656).

West Side Preschool - Registration for 2011-2012

West Side Preschool will begin registration for the 2011-2012 school year on Mon., Feb. 28.

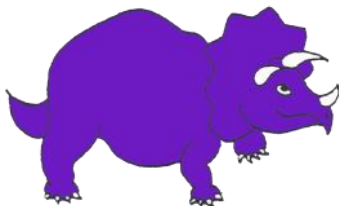
Families currently enrolled in the preschool program and/or families with children presently involved at West Side Church may register on that date. Registration will begin at 9:00 am in the WS North Sanctu-

ary. Doors to the church will open at 7:00 am; you may pick up a number at that time and return at 9:00 am to complete the registra-

tion process. Children who turn 2, 3, or 4 *on or before* Aug. 31, 2011, are eligible to enroll. Morning Pre-K and morning 3-4 classes usually fill quickly. **Public registration will begin the following week: Mon., Mar. 7, 9:00 am.**

Information and forms are available on the web at www.westside1.org under "Connect" and select "Preschool" and in pockets on the wall outside the Preschool office.

Questions - call Patty Grandy or Ann Campbell at the Preschool Office (946.4656 ext. 232).



March

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<p>Ash Wednesday Mar. 9-WSS All-Church Meal, Fellowship, & Worship 5:30pm Meal & Activity; 6:45pm Worship</p>  <p>Join us as we kick-off the Season of Lent!</p>		<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 1 Playgroup 9:15am-WSN Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Alpha Intro 6:15pm-WSS ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSN College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans' Worship Mtg 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Knitters Group 1:00pm -WSS 2 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS Deacons 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Women's Alpha CFM Mtg 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p>
<p>Worship: 6 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am-WSS TS 11:15am-WSN New Members Class 12:30pm Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS Fuel (HS) 7:00pm-WSS</p>	<p>Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS 7 Letters from Dad 6:30pm-WSN</p> <p>PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION BEGINS-WSN</p> 	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 8 Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSS ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSN Youth Mtg 6:30pm-WSN College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Sarah Circle 11:30am-WSS 9 Sarah Squares 11:30am -Sterlings (Richland) Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS Ash Wednesday-WSS Meal & Activity 5:30pm Worship 6:45pm</p> 	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Women's Alpha Missions Prayer 6 Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p>
<p>Worship: 13 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am-WSS TS 11:15am-WSN New Members Class 12:30pm Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS High School Retreat ends</p>	<p>Person to Person 12:00pm 14 -WSAC Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 15 Parent Enrichment 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Miriam Circle 12:00pm Alpha 6:15pm-WSS ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSN College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN 16 Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Women's Alpha Life Group Lead Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p>
<p>Worship: 20 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am-WSS TS 11:15am-WSN Cong. Info. Mtg. 12:30pm-WSS Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS Fuel (HS) 7:00pm-WSS</p>	<p>Deadline for SERVANT Newsletter 5:00pm-WSN 21 Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS Letters from Dad 6:30pm-WSN</p> <p>PRESCHOOL CLEAN-UP NIGHT -WSN</p> 	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 22 Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSS ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSN Session 6:30pm-WSN College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN 23 Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Women's Alpha Missions Council Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p>
<p>Worship: 27 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am-WSS TS 11:15am-WSN New Members Class 12:30pm Youth Worship 4:30pm-WSS Fuel (HS) 7:00pm-WSS</p>	<p>Person to Person 12:00pm 28 -WSAC Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 29 Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSS ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSN College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN 30 Youth Worship 4:00pm-WSS BASIC (MS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p> <p>Trainee Applica</p>

Alpha Is Almost Here!

Introductory Dinner - Tues., Mar. 1, 6:15 pm, WS South Upper Room
Classes (with dinner) Begin - Tues., Mar. 8, 6:15 pm, WS South Upper Room

Come for a **great** meal, hear a **fantastic** talk, and learn all about **Alpha** at the Introductory Dinner. Looking for a way to make **friends** at West Side? Wanting to learn about **faith** for the first time or clean off the rusty edges? Want to join a team learning to **pray** ... or even brush up on your cooking skills? Alpha is THE PLACE for you! One guest fall quarter had this to say: *"Since coming to Alpha, my daily life has changed; I have a church family, I have a Bible study group, and I attend Sunday services. I know my God is an awesome God!"*



Alpha

Opportunities for YOU at Alpha:

- **Small group discussion** (10 weeks) for guests who are unsure about faith, frankly unbelieving, or wish to make connections at West Side in a friendly, non-threatening environment where everyone's ideas are heard.
- **ESOL** - Alpha for **E**nglish **S**peakers of **O**ther **L**anguages. *Live* Alpha talks, given slowly with frequent pauses for discussion designed for those whose first language is not English.
- **Beta discussion** groups for those who've already attended Alpha, teaching "The Sermon on the Mount."
- Separate **prayer** training for those who wish to learn about intercession. Dynamic, weekly teaching with practical small group opportunities.
- Friendly, **fun food prep teams** for those who love to cook with others and enjoy the fun and banter that goes along with it.
- **Clean-up crews** for people with the quiet spirit of service, whose joy is giving that gift to God and to others at Alpha.

Interested? **Reserve your place** at the Introductory Dinner on Mar. 1 by filling out an Alpha card in the pews or narthex on Sunday morning, or contact Karel Coppock (kcoppock@westside1.org or 946.4656).

The Bulletin Board

Church Around the World now available online. Go to www.westside1.org under "Missions" at the bottom of the page.

Interested in Cub Scouts?

All boys 1st-4th grade are invited to Cub Scouts Monday evenings at 6:30pm in WS South. Contact Dick Nelson (420.4395 or dwnelson@meierinc.com) for more info.



The Joy of Belonging - New Member/Inquirer Classes

You are invited to come to our New Member/Inquirer Classes to learn more about West Side Church.

For three Sundays in March, following a lovely luncheon beginning at 12:30 pm, we will have teaching by Rev. Ralph Kieneker and time for questions.

March 6, 13, & 27 from 12:30-2:30 pm
West Side South - Upper Room
Childcare will be provided as needed.

You can respond to this invitation to the Church Office (946.4656), in the offering plate on Sundays, to Bob and Judy Tibbatts (946.9905 or rjtibbatts@yahoo.com), or sign-up in either narthex. Also, let us know if you will need childcare.



Summer Trainee Program - Applications Due March 31

Do you know of anyone who might be interested in the Trainee Ministry at West Side Church? The Trainee Program is a summer internship for



college-aged Christians who are seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and experience working with preschool, elementary, mid-high, and high school students as well as opportunities to work within other ministry areas. They will be working in a Christian community that will be full of accountability, prayer, worship, fellowship, training, and ministry. The 2011 program runs from Jun. 10-Aug. 19. Applications are due Mar. 31 and are available online at www.westside1.org under "Serve" and select "Trainee Ministry."

50 Years Of Trainees! - Mark Your Calendar

This summer marks 50 years since the start of the Trainee Ministry at West Side Church. To celebrate, we are hosting a reunion Aug. 6-7, 2011, for all the past Summer Staffers/Trainees and Committee members. If you are, or know anyone who has been, a Trainee or on the Trainee Committee, please let them know about the reunion. Also, if you have any contact information for a former Trainee or Trainee Committee member, please email it to wstrainee@gmail.com or give it to Pat Cassidy in the Church Office. Join our group on Facebook: West Side Trainee/Summer Staffer Reunion. Thanks for your help!



McIntosh Memorial Library

Library announces new website. It's like a grand opening without the punch and cookies—you're invited to come look around our new online home at www.MMLibrary.org. It's a great place to find out what's new, look up reference questions, get



McIntosh Memorial
Library
mmlibrary.org

daily inspiration, and talk books with other readers.

Back in WS North, our interim ink-and-paper

library is open when Room 2-4 is not being used by other groups and classes. [Closed Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 am, but open before and after that.] Self-check stations are always available.

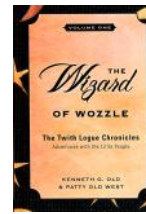
We welcome your library comments and suggestions. Please talk to Pam Cadd or Susan Carbaugh, or email Library@WestSide1.org.

Book Signing Event

Patty Old West invites you to attend a book signing on Sat., Mar. 5, 1:00-4:00 pm at Hastings (1425 George Washington Way, Richland) for "The Wizard of Wozzle."



This is a fantasy story about Little People only half a thumb high and their battle against a wicked wizard. Fun for all ages. Please note: books to be signed must be purchased at Hastings.



Can't make the event? Go to <http://littlepeoplestories.tateauthor.com> to visit the Little People website and order a copy from Tate Publishing.

FYI: Updates

Refresh. The Session, Property Committee, and Fellowship Committee are looking to hold an informational meeting on Sun., Mar. 20 after services. We are excited about sharing the general ideas of the Refresh Project as well as steps that still need to be accomplished before we feel ready to have a congregational meeting. More details will be given as we get closer to the date.

Sale of West Side Activity Center. The Murdock Trust has an on-site meeting with Gather4Him Ministries on Mar. 16. This meeting is expected to be the final part of their process of approving their grant so they can finish the purchase of this property. At this point, it sounds as if the projected timeline for completing the sale of the Center is early May.

Questions regarding Refresh or the Sale of West Side Activity Center should be directed to Mary Kay Britton.

Kitchen Project. As is apparent from the plastic and signs in WSN, the Kitchen is under construction. The projected finish date of construction is Mar. 20. We will then be moving equipment and supplies from West

Side Activity Center to the new kitchen. We hope sometime around Apr. 1 that we will have an Open House/Blessing for the completed project. We are also hoping to find a volunteer who will help coordinate use of the new kitchen.

Questions regarding the Kitchen Project should be directed to Paul Dotson, Dave Marsh, Manny DeLeon or one of the other member of the Project Team. Questions about the Kitchen Coordinator should be directed to Mary Kay Britton or Manny DeLeon.

Roof Repair. We hired Royal Roofing and Siding to fix the flat roof over the narthex and repair shingles on WSN. They removed three layers of flat roofing material as well as water-soaked insulation, taking it down to the laminated plywood. They resealed the flat roof (60mm TPO Membrane) and added a slope to improve runoff. The whole project was done in less than a week and cost just over 17K. Don't be shy in saying, "Great job!" to Tom Abrams and George Booth who represented the church and provided oversight to the construction.

Clerk Of Session Report - February 2011

By Ken Swinth

Following the Annual Congregational meeting, we begin our new year with a recently-approved budget and new members of the Session and of the Deacons. Session consists of 21 members with a third replaced each year on a rotating basis. The new Session member candidates, Elders, were presented at the Annual Congregational meeting, and this year we had one nomination from the floor. The Elders and the Deacons were installed and ordained (as appropriate; returning servants do not need to be ordained again) during the Feb. 20 church services. On Feb. 13, new Elders received orientation and briefing regarding ongoing activities before the first session meeting. At the session meeting on Feb. 22, we prayed a thanksgiving for the service of the retiring Elders and a blessing for the new Elders as they assumed their new roles.

The budget income looks OK for this time of the year, but we have not received the number of pledges that we expected. We expect that many of these are just late submissions, but it is important that pledges be turned in to facilitate the church's fiscal planning. We approved a small raise for the preschool teachers (3%) and an increase in preschool fees and tuition to

begin in September.

The roof over the West Side North narthex has been repaired (no more leaks!), and Bouten Construction is proceeding with the kitchen remodel which should be complete about Mar. 20. The completion of the sale of the Activity Center is proceeding slowly. Gather4Him Ministries expects a review by their funding trust in mid-March and availability of funds about a month later. In the meantime they are leasing the portion of the facility that they use, and we are entitled to continue our use of the facility.

The Missions Council has several items for our involvement in the Mali project that were approved by Session. They will be providing new opportunities for child-sponsorship, developing funding for additional well(s), and beginning plans and fundraising for a Vision team visit to Mali in January, 2012. Watch for more information on these events or contact Dave Shupe or another Session member.

Session approved a Youth retreat at Menuca Retreat Center (Oregon), heard a report on the recent Presbytery meeting, and selected new delegates and alternates as representatives to the Presbytery.

Introducing Our New Elders



Bev Baird
Fellowship



Dan Bell
Worship



Manny DeLeon
Property



Bob Macduff
Missions



Roz Rodgers
Trainees



Renee Root
Children & Family



Glenda Schlahta
Youth



Dave Shupe
Missions



Jeff Stevenson
Christian Growth

Introducing Our New Deacons



Ashley Case



Sheridan DeLeon



Ken Geelhood



Jim Hall



Stacy Hall



Marsha Popielarczyk



Patty Wilburn



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ASH Wednesday

All-Church Meal, Fellowship & Worship

Mar. 9, WSS, 5:30 pm Meal & Activity, 6:45 pm Worship

Come and kick-off the Season of Lent as we eat, play, and worship together. Mid-High (Basic) and High School Small Groups will be joining us. Childcare will be available.

West Side Staff

Rev. Ralph Kieneker ::
Lead Pastor
Rev. Dan Wodrich ::
Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Faye Serene ::
Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Stuart Strachan :: *Assoc. Pastor- Youth & Family Ministries*
Rev. Karel Coppock ::
Alpha Ministries, Presbytery
John Lipp :: *Lay Minister- Pastoral Care*
Heather Smith :: *Director-Children & Family Ministries*
Colleen Strachan :: *Ministry Assoc.- Children & Family Ministries*
Brenda Welsch :: *Director-Adult Choir*
Brad Goecke :: *Interim Leader- Worship Team*
Sharon Isaacson :: *Financial Specialist*
Diane Pratt :: *Financial Assistant*
Pat Cassidy :: *Administrative Assistant*
Wendy Puz :: *Administrative Assistant*
Colette Root :: *General Ministry*
Kiet & Ngan Dang :: *Custodians*
Izudin Porobic :: *WSAC Custodian*

*Want to receive our newsletter via email?
Contact us at info@westside1.org or call the Church Office.*

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