



SERVAN

“Loving God, Loving People, Serving The World In The Name Of Jesus”

A Monthly News Publication For Members And Friends

The Hole In Our Gospel

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker

When I was a freshman in college, my life was forever changed. I gave up my pursuit of the “American Dream” and exchanged it for the much more promising and exciting adventure of following Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In a fairly rapid series of events, I realized that following Jesus was not just really good fire insurance so that I could go to heaven after I died, but that Jesus was calling me to live my life for him. Even though I had been saved by grace, my life now belonged to Jesus, and I was supposed to give my life to service in Jesus’ name. This vision has shaped my entire experience of the Christian life.

Living in Jesus’ name is not about waiting to get to heaven, but living the life of heaven on earth today. It is about life, more and better life than we ever imagined. Jesus calls us to service and love because He wants to bless us. When he calls us to serve the least of these, this is a gift intended to bless us, not an awful burden. When Jesus calls us to pick up our cross, it is because God’s power is manifested through sacrificial love. It takes the eyes of faith to see these as blessings; from a worldly point of view, none of this obvious.

In his book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*, Richard Sterns shares his own story of being transformed by a whole Gospel that isn’t just about fire insurance, but the call to live the life of heaven on earth. Good News that isn’t just words, but offers heal-

ing and justice, even as it draws people into spiritual union with the living God. It is a call for us to recognize that if we feel like something may be missing in our lives, it may be because there is a huge hole in our walk with Christ.

As we continue this month with this study, I want to encourage you. If you find this series challenging, if you find it intimidating, convicting, and even a little scary, the reality is so do I. I like being comfortable. I like instant gratification. I like things to be easy, predictable, and manageable. But there are some things more important than comfort. There is a type of gratification that comes from working hard and giving everything you have that instant gratification can’t touch. Predictability gets boring. Manageability doesn’t inspire.

We are going to be faced with tough questions. Questions about how we actually live, because the way we live actually reveals what we believe. What are our real priorities? Who am I really living for? How does the way I spend my money, manage my time, and expend my energy demonstrate the God or gods I worship?

One response is just to feel guilty. To feel bad because, “I’m not doing enough,” and assume that God is disappointed with me. But I’m convinced that’s not what God wants for us. To me, this book and this



This Issue:

Spiritual Discovery.....	2-3
Women’s Ministry.....	3
Men’s Ministry.....	3
Senior Adults.....	3
Children & Family.....	4
Shoeboxes For Children.....	5
Youth & Family.....	5
Calendar.....	6-7
Thanksgiving Baskets.....	8
Thanksgiving Dinner.....	8
Missions In Mali.....	8-9
Ingalls Creek Lodge.....	9
Denomination Changes.....	10-11
Fields Of Grace.....	11

January 2012: Discovering Your Spiritual Formation Journey

By Rev. Dan Wodrich

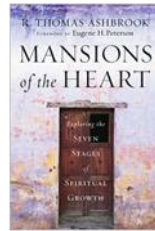
West Side Church & Imago Christi are Hosting:
“*Discovering Your Spiritual Formation Journey*”



You're invited to participate in either of two 3-day events, to be held the week of Jan. 17-21, 2012 in our West Side Church North Sanctuary. **Dr. R. Thomas Ashbrook** and other members of the *Imago Christi*

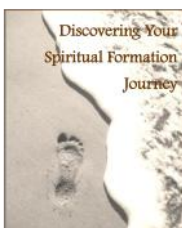
team have graciously accepted the invitation of our Christian Growth Committee to come and facilitate two “Discovering Your Spiritual Journey” regional events. To make it possible for more people to participate, two “Discoveries” will be offered – a “Weekdays” option Jan. 17-19 and an “Evenings/Weekend” option Jan. 19-21.

In his book, Mansions of the Heart, Tom asserts that a “*problem facing Christians today is that the process of the spiritual life is not clearly understood or taught in most of our churches and seminaries. Followers of Jesus are left without clear reference points for spiritual maturity or processes to aid progress in their spiritual journey... Christians who desire to grow into spiritual maturity desperately need materials to help describe our overall journey with Jesus so that we can find ourselves in process, and discover how better to cooperate with God as He leads and transforms our lives.... We've all longed for a description for lifelong spiritual transformation, a roadmap for our growing relationship with God.*”



Tom's assertion resonates with the “voice” of our West Side Church family – heard through the REVEAL spiritual life survey we conducted in the Fall of 2009. The survey revealed four high priority desires and requests of our congregation:

- *Help us grow in our relationship with Jesus*
- *Help us grow in our prayer life*
- *Challenge us to grow*
- *Provide us with a clear pathway for growth*



Dear friends, I have good news for you! The two Imago Christi Discoveries in January are aimed at providing just such assistance for nurturing your growth in relationship with Jesus. The Discoveries provide “a clear pathway for growth” – a kind of “roadmap” for Spiritual For-

mation passed on from saints who have walked before us. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, two 16th century Christian friends, shared their wisdom about the Christian journey with other followers of Jesus, and their counsel has proven beneficial and edifying to countless Christians since. Listen to what two of *our* contemporaries say about the help they received from Teresa and John...



Dr. Eugene Peterson reflects, “*When it came to relationship with God, being with God, listening to and answering God, I found that I was reduced to what I had learned rather piecemeal on my own, supplemented with a few slogans and anecdotes I had picked up from others. It wasn't enough. I knew I needed help. Help came through a friend who introduced me to Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, two masters of the spiritual life, masters in understanding the soul and the nature of prayer. I hadn't heard of either one of them... They gave themselves to discerning the illusions and pitfalls that interfere with receiving what God is giving and reducing prayer to a self-help project with little concern for relationship and love, adoration and mystery... Tom Ashbrook's Mansions of the Heart immerses us in this old but wonderfully contemporary holy wisdom. It is a gift to the Christian community.*”
(foreword to Mansions of the Heart, vii-ix)



Dr. Dallas Willard testifies, “*I first studied Teresa of Avila's Interior Castle twenty or so years ago, after many years of efforts to understand, live, and communicate what the spiritual life portrayed in the Bible was meant to be. I had, by then, found many helpful companions on the Way, spread across time and space and from many 'denominational distinctives.' But this book and this author immediately announced themselves as a unique presence of God in my life. The book provided instruction on a living relationship with God that I found nowhere else. I think it very likely that you will experience the same refreshing shock as I did....*”
(The Great Omission, 206.)

By participating in a January Discovery, you will receive assistance in finding answers to the following:

- *What is Spiritual maturity?*
- *Where am I on my Spiritual journey?*
- *Where is my journey headed?*
- *How will I get there?*

(cont. pg. 3)

Women's Ministry

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

Morning Glory. Join us Thursday mornings, 9:00-11:00 am, WS North, for fellowship, fun, prayer, laughter, and enlightenment. Come discover the golden nuggets God has for you! Need childcare? Contact Faye Serene (946.4656).

Sarah Circle. Wed., Nov. 9, 11:30 am, WS North Narthex. Come join us for delicious food, faith-enriching devotions, mission outreach programs, and good fellowship.

Miriam Circle Lunch Bunch. Tues., Nov. 15, 12:00 pm, Hanford House (Richland). Questions? Contact Patty Eastham (627.4248).

Craft and Fellowship Days. Fri., Nov. 18, 3:00-10:00 pm, and Sat., Nov. 19, 9:00 am-9:00 pm, WS



North Narthex. Ladies of all ages are invited to gather for crafting and fellowship! Bring sewing, quilting, knitting, cross-stitching, scrapbooking—whatever you would like to work on.

Questions-contact Jodi Hassell (628.1820).

Women's Retreat. Save the Date-Apr. 20-22, 2012

Senior Adult Ministry

FOF-Folks Over Fifty potluck Fri., Nov. 4, 5:45 pm, WS North Narthex. Please bring your table service and a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Ralph Curran will present on the SIGN effort in Africa. He and his wife Miriam accompanied Dr. Lewis Zirkle to a SIGN site in Tanzania last summer and produced the video that will be shown.

Person To Person lunch Mon., Nov. 14 & 28, 12:00 pm, WS North Narthex. Call the Church Office (946.4656) if you need a ride.

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast Bible Study. Saturday mornings, 7:30 am, WS South Upper Room, for breakfast, fellowship, and a Bible study.

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

Tri-Cities Men's Ministry Conference Sat., Nov. 12, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Bethel Church (Richland). Contact Dave Marsh (627.4162).

Six members of our pastoral staff participated in an Imago Christi Discovery this past year. Each of us were deeply blessed and encouraged through it, and it is having a lasting impact on us. Our pastoral staff and Christian Growth Committee, together, wholeheartedly commend to you the "Mansions" pathway and Discovery experience. Please prayerfully consider participating with us and the Imago Christi team in January 2012.



Discovery Option 1 - "Weekdays"

Jan.17-19, 2012 (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

\$160 per person

Discovery Option 2 - "Evenings/Weekend"

Jan.19-21, 2012 (Thurs, Fri, Sat)

Thurs/Fri 6-10 pm; Sat 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

\$120 per person

More information about the Discoveries can be found in brochures at the Welcome Tables in our Narthexes. You can also go to the following webpages for information and to **REGISTER:**

- www.imagochristi.org/Discoveries.aspx
- www.westside1.org/grow

Please REGISTER as soon as possible and consider personally inviting others to participate. Registration is not limited to West Siders, but is open to all. Invitations are being extended to other area and regional churches, to our Central Washington Presbytery, and beyond. Some "scholarship" funds are available if the registration cost is an issue for you. Please contact me (946.4656) if you have any questions.

May our Triune God of Grace continue to form Christ in us by His Spirit - carrying on to completion the good work He has already begun! To Him be the glory - now and forever! Amen.



CFM

UPCOMING EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT

Tues., Nov. 1-Play Group (WS North)
Come for a fun clay craft and free-play with other children & parents.

Sun., Nov. 6-3 Year Old Class Bible Storybook Ceremony
Each will receive his/her own Bible Storybook during Sunday School.

Wed., Nov. 9-Wednesdays@West Side: Fall Session Ends
Our Fall Session concludes; the Winter Session begins Feb. 1, 2012.

Sun., Nov. 13-3rd Grade Faith at Home Event
3rd Grade students and parents will learn more about their child's new NIV Adventure Bible!

Tues., Nov. 15-Parent Enrichment (WS North)
Come for adult fellowship and to learn more about winter children's activities in the Tri-Cities.

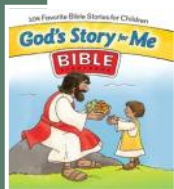
Sun., Nov 20-3rd Graders Receive Bibles in Worship and Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due!
Join us in worship to support our 3rd Grade families as they receive their Bibles and remember to turn in your Christmas shoebox!

Sun., Nov. 27-No Sunday School or Children's Church
Worship at 8:15, 9:45, or 11:15. Childcare available for children 0-5. A Children's Sermon will be done during services.

Wed., Nov. 30-Advent Celebration
Come for a family-friendly meal, an Advent Devotional craft, pick up Advent resources for your family, and have fun serving the church as we decorate for Advent!.

Bibles For Our Children

By Heather Smith



If you were to ask my Promised Land Sunday School teachers what is their favorite Sunday School Unit, they would declare in unison, "The Bible Skills Unit!" Each November we teach our Promised Land children the importance of God's Word and how to use the Bible. And kids and teachers alike enjoy this time!

And what is my favorite event with kids? It would be a tie between our *Special Sunday School Faith At Home Event for 3rd Grade Families* and the special ceremony when we give our "3 Year Old Class" their Storybook Bibles. Both of these events are sacred and not to be missed! In fact, I have a 4th grade student who attended this event last year who keeps asking me when he can do it again!

When a child is baptized or dedicated at West Side, we promise that we will "guide and nurture" each child "by word and deed, with love and prayer." One of the tangible ways in which we can do this is to give our 3 year olds and 3rd grade students Bibles.

In light of where God is guiding CFM, towards

Faith At Home: Equipping Parents for Spiritual Nurture in the Home, we desire to partner with parents in giving a Bible to their children which we will do in worship on Sun., Nov. 20. And on the prior Sun., Nov. 13, we will have a *Special Sunday School Faith At Home Event for 3rd Grade Families*. This will occur during the elementary Sunday School hour. As families, they will play together and learn about the importance of God's Word, and the parents will have time to prayerfully write a personal message in their child's Bible and pick out a life verse for their child.

Since it is never too early to dig into God's Word, we are giving a Bible Storybook to our "3 Year Old" Class again. We have a special ceremony planned for our young children and their parents on Nov. 6 during their Sunday School class. They, too, will learn about the importance of reading God's Word regularly, and the parents can write a brief note in their child's Bible.

Please be in prayer for all of our children and young families that they would continue to fall in love with God's Word and live in light of its truth.

Operation Christmas Child - It's Shoebox Time!

By Colleen Strachan

Once again we have the opportunity to bless children around the world by filling a shoebox with toys, candy, school supplies and toiletries. Many of these children will also have the opportunity to participate in a 12-week Bible study and receive a Bible in their own language. All of the children receive information about God in their shoeboxes. Please consider filling a box or two this year. Every box filled means another child is touched by God's love. For information, look for the Operation Christmas Child tables in both WSN and WSS Narthexes.

Youth and children's Sunday School classes as well as those who attend on Wednesday nights are especially encouraged to help fill a box. We will be collecting the shoeboxes Sun., Nov. 6 through Sun., Nov. 20 at the Narthex tables .

How do I pack a shoebox?

1. Grab a shoebox.



2. Choose a **BOY** or **GIRL**.

3. Fill the box with gifts.



4. Include your \$7 donation.

5. Return your box by

Nov. 20 to either Narthex.



Turning To The Bible For Answers - A Message For Youth

By Erica Cox

The other day, I picked up a book that was lying on my shelf, waiting to be given away as a prize at either BASIC or Fuel. The book is titled "Bible Promises for Teens." As I flipped it over and read the back, I was struck by what it said. *"The words of the Bible speak to us at a depth no other words can quite reach—a place where our needs are the greatest, but God's provision is greater still. A place where the decisions can become incredibly complex, but God's wisdom is amazingly available. A place where life has the ability to frustrate and fracture, but God has the power to mend and rekindle."*

Scripture, being the word of God, is powerful in the lives of those who study it and learn from it. However, as I have been noticing more and more, students in middle school and high school are not turning to the Bible for answers, nor for peace and knowledge. They look for those things in the media, through relationships with peers, or in society and its standards, but, too often, what they find does not line up with what God has laid out in his word. Before and during the teenage years, decisions do become complex and life can become frustrating, but it really is true that God's provision, wisdom, and power are greater. This is something

that youth should not wait until adulthood to realize. With this in mind, we are launching into a 4-week teaching series about spiritual disciplines in Fuel and BASIC, which includes having regular, scriptural devotions.

As my grandfather, Vincent Cox, said of the Bible, "Handle it, caress it, read it, bend it...Let its touch share your moods of anger, joy, frustration, loneliness. Let it measure your failure and your success. Let it absorb and let it inspire. It is the inspired and inspiring word of God." This is fantastic advice for Christians of all ages and something that we should continue to encourage our youth to strive for.

SlamQuest is Nov. 11-13!

All 6th-8th graders - look for registration forms. Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy a weekend at Ghormley with other students from across the state!



November

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

	<p style="text-align: center;">Tri-Cities Men's Ministry Conference - Nov. 12, 8:00 am, Bethel Church</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 1 Play Group 9:15am-WSN Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Property Mtg 5:15pm-WSN Small Group 5:30pm-WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSN ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS Worship Mtg 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Knitters' Group 1:00pm-WSS 2 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS Wednesdays @ West Side: 5:15pm-Dinner in WSN 6:00pm-Classes for all ages CFM, MS, Adult Deacons 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Faith Mtg 12:00p HS Drop-In 3:00p Pure Desire 4:30 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 11:00am-WSN New Member Class 12:30pm Youth Worship Team 4:30pm Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS 7</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 8 Adult Bible Study 10:30am-WSN Small Group 5:30pm-WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSN ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS Youth Mtg 6:30pm-WSN</p>	<p>Sarah Circle 11:30am-WSN 9 Sarah Squares 11:30am -Sterlings Restaurant Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN/WSS Wednesdays @ West Side: 5:15pm-Dinner in WSN 6:00pm-Classes for all ages CFM, MS, Adult</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Fellowship Mtg HS Drop-In 3:00p Pure Desire 4:30 CFM Mtg 6:30p Missions Council 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 11:00am-WSN New Member Class 12:30pm Youth Worship Team 4:30pm Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Person to Person 12:00pm 14 -WSN Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 15 Parent Enrichment 9:15am-WSN Adult Bible Study 10:30am Miriam Circle 12:00pm Small Group 5:30pm-WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSN ESL/Citizenship Party 6:30pm Property Mtg 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Tool Time 3:00pm 16 -WSN/WSS Mali Celebration-WSN: 5:15pm-African feast 6:00pm-Presentation by Rev. Adama Diouf 7:30 pm-Optional Fellowship Time</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 HS Drop-In 3:00p Pure Desire 4:30 Missions Prayer 6 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 11:00am-WSN Christmas Shoeboxes Due! Youth Worship Team 4:30pm Fuel (HS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 22 10:30am-WSN Small Group 5:30pm-WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSN</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Church Office-C Thanksgiving Dinner -WSN </p>
<p>Worship: 27 CS 8:15am & 9:45am-WSS NO Sunday School TS 11:00am-WSN Youth Worship Team 4:30pm </p>	<p>Person to Person 12:00pm 28 -WSN Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 29 Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Small Group 5:30pm-WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSN ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS Session 6:30pm-WSN</p>	<p>Tool Time 3:00pm 30 -WSN/WSS Advent Celebration-WSN: 5:15pm-Family dinner 6:00pm-Advent activities 7:30 pm-Optional Fellowship Time</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Thurs., Nov. 27 Contact John your spot b what to bring</p>

WEST SIDE church

day	Friday	Saturday
Study Men's -WSS 7:00am-WSN 8:00am-WSS 9:00am-WSN 10:00am-WSS 11:00am-WSN 12:00pm-WSS	3 Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN FOF-Folks Over Fifty 5:45pm -WSN	5 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Rogalsky Recital 2:00pm-WSN
Study -WSS 7:00am-WSN 8:15pm-WSN 9:00am-WSS 10:00am-WSN 11:30pm-WSN 12:00pm-WSS	10 Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN Faith Mtg 12:00pm-WSS  Veterans Day	12 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Tri-Cities Men's Ministry Conf. 8:00am-5:00 pm -Bethel Church (Richland) Cross-Currents 80s Night 5:00pm-Koussa's Fields of Grace Celebration 6:00pm-Cathedral of Joy
Study Men's -WSS 7:00am-WSN 8:00am-WSS 9:30pm-WSN 10:00pm-WSS	17 Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN SERVANT Newsletter Deadline-5:00pm WSN  Ladies' Craft & 3:00-10:00pm	19 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Essential Tenants Training 9:00am-WSN Fellowship Days-WSN 9:00am-9:00pm
CLOSED Dinner 1:00pm Thanksgiving 	24 Church Office-CLOSED	25 Cross-Currents Thanksgiving Party 6:00pm-Schlahta's

giving Dinner with your West Side Family:

Nov. 24, 1:00 pm, WSN Narthex

Call Ann or Harriet (375.5776) to reserve
 for Nov. 22. They will let you know
 the cost and your share of the turkey cost.



Special Events Wednesdays @ West Side



If you have not joined us for our Wednesdays @ West Side, we encourage you to try one of our up and coming special events. For every event, we will have dinner together at 5:15 pm and then assemble for the main event at 6:00 pm. All events will take place in the WS North Sanctuary.

Mali Celebration - Wed., Nov. 16

5:15 pm - Join us for an African Feast

6:00 pm - Hear Rev. Adama Diouf from World Vision speak about West Africa.

Advent Celebration - Wed., Nov. 30

5:15 pm - Join us for a family-friendly meal

6:00 pm - Make a family devotional activity and decorate the church for Advent!

Christmas Caroling - Wed., Dec. 7

5:15 pm - Join us for a meal

6:00 pm - Break into groups for caroling

7:30 pm - Optional fellowship and hot cocoa

Mark your calendar
 for more Wednesdays
 @ West Side:



January 25

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 1

Winter Session Kick-off for
 Wednesdays @ West Side

Thanksgiving Baskets - Helping Our Neighbors

By Andy Minister

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

The holiday season is here and the Deacons are planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to help those that are less fortunate. In November, the Deacons are once again partnering with the Salvation Army to provide Thanksgiving Baskets to families in the Tri-Cities and West Side families that are in need. Last year we delivered 38 boxes. The Salvation Army will provide boxes with canned and dry goods. The Deacons will be providing turkeys or chickens for the boxes, and then delivering the boxes to these families. We will need your support with donating funds to help us purchase the turkeys or you can donate a



frozen turkey. If you write a check to West Side Church or use the Deacon donation envelopes in the pews, put "Turkeys" on the memo line, and place in the offering plate. We will also need help delivering the boxes on Sun., Nov. 20. If you purchase a frozen turkey yourself, call John Lipp (539.4659) or Andy Minister (308.7658) and they will be glad to pick it up for storage until delivery.

Food donation boxes will be placed in both narthexes for collection of non-perishable items for the Christmas food baskets by the middle of November.

The Angel Trees will be set up in December for donating gifts to children in the community who may not receive a Christmas gift. Please keep these needs in mind and prayers as you prepare for the holiday season.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Would the holiday be more enjoyable if you shared the meal with your West Side family? John & Harriet Lipp invite you to dinner on Thurs., Nov. 24, 1:00 pm, WS North Narthex. RSVP by Nov. 22 - we will call you about what to bring and your share of the turkey cost. Fill out a form available at the Welcome Stations or call John or Harriet (375.5776).

November 24

Would the holiday be more enjoyable if you shared the meal with your West Side family?

John & Harriet Lipp would like to invite you to dinner at 1:00 pm at the WS North Narthex. You will be called about what to bring and your share of the turkey cost. Reservations should be in by Tues., Nov. 22 - call John or Harriet (375.5776).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

No. in family _____ Adults _____

Ages of children _____

I could help with:

Advance set-up and decoration

Clean-up



God Is Great! - "Hello, Mali!" Results

By Kelly Rauh

We prayed to spread excitement about our partnership with World Vision throughout and beyond our congregation into the Tri-Cities, motivating action in prayer, child sponsorship, and Vision Trip participation. We asked God to help us raise \$6,000 by providing an elegant evening with sumptuous desserts, light-hearted entertainment, and through proceeds from an upscale silent auction. God blessed seven weeks of effort by over 60 staff and committee members, providing

over 220 auction items of which all but a dozen sold. Dozens of guests were from outside our congregation. The desserts were fabulous, the entertainment was a blast, and the financial result was twice what we aimed for: \$12,000.

We are deeply grateful to all who attended and look forward to doing it again in two years: October 2013.



Mali Celebration - Wed., Nov. 16

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us.” 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NASB). Do you think of yourself as an ambassador? An ambassador is sent to a foreign land to represent the King. An ambassador speaks for the King. Wherever an ambassador lives within a foreign land, it is considered sovereign territory of the King. How amazing to think that our God has called us to represent Him whenever we speak, wherever we go. For the last four years in partnership with World Vision, you have had an opportunity to be ambassadors to the villagers of Beledougou, Mali. You are representing the King of Kings as His kingdom of physical and spiritual transformation unfolds by your actions of child sponsorship, your words of encourage-

ment, your prayers, your funding of wells and a school, and your presence on the Vision Trips.

On Wed. Nov. 16, we have a chance to hear from Rev. Adama Diouf, World Vision’s Christian Commitments Advisor for West Africa. Dinner of an African Feast will be at 5:15 pm in WS North Narthex, followed at 6:00 pm with a presentation by Rev. Adama Diouf. Child-care will be provided. West Africa is one of the most challenging contexts in the world in terms of poverty, spiritual need, and freedom of religious expression. Come hear how God is at work in West Africa and in Mali specifically.



Ingalls Creek News

Ingalls Creek

Lodge Completion set for May 31, 2012

- Mary Robinson began as director July 5
- Sheetrock, tape, and texturing has been finished
- Apartment is 80% complete
- New office building is fully functional
- Completion date for the lodge is set for May 31, 2012

Find us at www.ingallscreek.org
 Call us at 509.548.3306
 Email: mary@ingallscreek.org

God continues to bless the ministry at Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center with the news of a \$40,000 donation and another \$40,000 **matching gift**. Any amount we raise up to \$40,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by the donor. We will then have \$120,000 in addition to our current Lodge account, enough to **FINISH THE LODGE** at Ingalls Creek by May 31, 2012.


Hallelujah! After more than a decade in progress, the end is within sight!

Would you give prayerful thought to what you might be able to give to help us reach our goal and have the Lodge ready for a full 2012 summer of active ministry? Our new Director, Mary Robinson, has several exciting ministry events planned—but they all depend upon completion of the Lodge.

All gifts, large and small, are matched. \$100 becomes \$200, \$1000 becomes \$2000. Every donation will double in value with the matching funds.

Thank you for your consideration - we are so grateful for the generosity of donors like yourself





Thanksgiving Baking

Will you pray for solar ovens in Beledougou villages as you do your holiday baking?

Without electricity or gas, charcoal from burnt trees is used for cooking fuel. Deforestation results in erosion of critical farm land, increasing famine. Serious burns & lung damage from inhaling smoke are common. Inexpensive solar ovens are a healthy, tree-saving alternative.

Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center is a non-denominational Christian retreat center near Leavenworth, WA and is a specified Mission of West Side Church. It has served as a retreat center and campground for many Christian churches and groups since the mid-1980s. The Center has been used for all-church campouts, junior and senior high mission work projects, retreats for youth groups, scout campouts, and the annual West Side **Wild & Rugged** campout over the 4th of July weekend. Please contact current WS board members, Bob & Vicki Stenner, Greg Patton, Roger & Carol Johnson, Steve & Sandra Critchlow, Alan & Anna Waltar, or Ward Hughes for more information.



We are within striking distance of completing a Lodge that will enable us to carry on year-around ministries—to substantially augment the summer camping ministries that have meant so much to many groups. **Please join with us today to complete this vision.**

Report On The Fellowship Of Presbyterians

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker

On Thurs., Oct. 20, elder Dan Hultgren, Rev. Dan Wodrich, elder Dave Shupe, and I gave a report to the congregation, on *The Fellowship of Presbyterians Gathering* that was held in Minneapolis, Aug. 25-26. We were sent by Session in response to the major changes that are occurring in our denomination (see Servant article, Oct. 2011) and the vision being held up by the Fellowship of Presbyterians.

This Fellowship began with seven senior pastors from seven of the ten largest churches within our denomination. Concerned for our denomination, they felt called to stand together and offer direction for a new way of being the church. To summarize their concerns and passions, they have said:

- The denomination is deathly ill. We have gone from 4 million members to 2 million members in the last 45 years.
- We need to rediscover our core-theological convictions. Theological pluralism is blunting our witness and mission.
- We need to encourage and equip congregations to be more missional, stimulating creative ways to reach lost people and lost communities.
- We must hold each other accountable for ministry to the poor and take a stance for biblical social justice, the Church God calls us to be.
- We need to change organizational structure to be less bureaucratic and more supportive to the mission of local congregations.

This movement emerged not as a response to any one theological issue, but to the seemingly inevitable demise of the denomination. With the changes in the ordination standard, *The Fellowship of Presbyterians* recognized that in order to stay true to our reformed biblically-orthodox heritage we are going to have to find new ways of relating with P.C. USA, including the formation of a New Reformed Body.

The Gathering in August was the opportunity to share in greater detail the vision, developments, and next steps of this movement. Nearly 2,000 Presbyterians from around the nation, representing 830 congregations, were in attendance (8% of congregations in the P.C. USA). The overall experience of worship, teaching, prayer, and discussion was inspiring, giving a flavor of how this group

believes we should seek to be a denomination.

If you are interested in gathering more specific information this group has been very open in putting out their documents and explaining just what they are about on their website: www.fellowship-pres.org. I would offer the following impressions from this event:

- **Hope.** This was a group that is humble, straightforward, is willing to face the problems ahead of us, and holds up a way forward that has real promise of being faithful and fruitful.
- **Grace.** Unlike some other response groups in the past, they are committed to love and grace instead of anger. They have been in communication with denominational leadership as well as other groups within the denomination with whom they are in sharp theological disagreement.
- **Christ-Centered.** The two main pillars of this group are a biblically orthodox commitment to following Christ, and a commitment to be Christ's missional people, bring life and hope to a broken world.

In January, 2012, *The Fellowship of Presbyterians* will be holding a Covenanting Convention in Orlando. This will begin the process by which churches and perhaps whole presbyteries can begin to formally commit to join with this group. There will be two main options of joining in the near future, with some variation depending on context. Option one is to stay in the P.C. USA, but affiliate with this group. The second is to leave the P.C. USA and become a member of a New Reformed Body.

At this point, neither our delegation nor the Session are making any recommendations to the congregation on how we might join with this group. In November, they will be releasing foundational documents of polity and confession, so that we can begin to have a clear picture of what they believe and how they will be structured. What was presented at the meeting is that the leadership of the church is encouraging the entire congregation to be informed about what is happening and recognize that we are going to have decisions to make in the future.

(cont. pg. 11)



A Million Servings Provided!

You're invited to help Fields of Grace celebrate a year of God's blessings! Join us at our 3rd Annual Harvest Meal Celebration Sat., Nov. 12, 6:00-8:00 pm, Cathedral of Joy (1153 Gage Blvd., Richland).

Please RSVP online at www.fields-of-grace.com or call JoAnn (627.0577).

The Hole In Our Gospel - cont.

series is a wake-up call. God is saying:

We are missing out on life, and so put your whole life in my hands and trust me. I have a larger purpose for you. You have a part to play in the redemption of creation. I want all of you to experience all of the Gospel. I am sending you to help the poor and needy. I am sending you to use your gifts and talents to help people see and hear my good news. I am calling you to

give joyfully, generously, and sacrificially so that my Kingdom will be advanced.

I pray for us, that we all might know this life. No more excuses. No more holding back. No more hole in our Gospel. Instead, a whole new life: the one God has planned for us.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph



Report On The Fellowship Of Presbyterians - cont.

Ultimately, in light of the changes that have occurred in the P.C. USA, we will have to decide whether we will stay or go. With the emergence of *The Fellowship of Presbyterians*, our delegation

believes that this group represents a hopeful and valid option for us to consider.

Blessings in Christ, Ralph

Church Basketball:

Calling all boys and girls!
Join church basketball!
If interested, contact Don Fankhauser (943.6052 or fanks@frontier.com).



Women of West Side:

We need YOUR input! As emailed at the end of October, we're asking one adult woman per West Side household to please complete a fun, 10-minute survey by Wed., Nov. 2, to determine if we have a feasible market for a new micro-enterprise idea in Mali. Here's the survey link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PMLXF3D>. Thanks!



615 Wright Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
509.946.4656

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHLAND, WA
PERMIT NO. 172

Operation Christmas Child

Fill your shoeboxes by Nov. 20!

How do I pack a shoebox?

1. Grab a shoebox.
2. Choose a **BOY** or **GIRL**.
3. Fill the box with gifts.
4. Include your \$7 donation.
5. Return your box by Nov. 20.



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-CFM Ministries*
Colleen Strachan :: *Assistant to the Director-CFM Ministries*
Erica Cox :: *Intern-Youth Ministry*
Brenda Welsch :: *Director-Adult Choir*
Alyson Reich :: *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*

West Side Church
615 Wright Ave, Richland, WA 99352
509.946.4656 www.westside1.org

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