



SERVAN

"Loving God, Loving People, Serving The World In The Name Of Jesus"

A Monthly News Publication For Members And Friends

Major Changes

By Rev. Ralph Kieneker

As was shared in the August newsletter, at West Side we don't focus a lot of attention on the national denomination. We are, however, a Presbyterian Church and part of the P.C. (USA), and we have had some major changes occur within our denomination. Changes that are significant, troubling; and the Session believes need to be communicated to the whole congregation.

These issues were first shared at an informational meeting in June, and I am going to give you a summary of that meeting with the expectation that we will be able to answer questions and give greater information at future meetings as we continue to respond to issues coming from these national changes.

The P.C. (USA) in many ways is structured like the United States government. Our church sends representative leadership to the Presbyteries, which help direct policy and govern over a region of churches. Likewise, Presbyteries send delegates biennially to a national gathering called the General Assembly (GA), which then sets policy and directs agenda for all P.C. (USA) congregations. The GA is the body that must first approve changes to our church constitution. If GA approves a change to the constitution then all 173 Presbyteries are required to vote. If the majority of Presbyteries agree with the GA motion to change the constitution, the constitution is then amended.

This last June two significant changes to the constitution occurred through this process. The first change to the constitution concerned a longstanding, contentious issue dating back to 1970's: standards of ordination for church leadership. It is related to the first article in this series, where we talked about a Christian response to homosexuality (Aug. 2011). There are two different views within our denomination on how God calls us to love people who engage in same-sex sexual relations.

On one side, there are those who say biblical standards don't apply to this situation, and so the loving thing to do is to affirm people in their choice. On the other side are those who say the Bible very clearly says that engaging in same-sex sexual relations is a sin; therefore, the only loving thing to do is to turn away from sin and turn to Jesus as our Savior and Lord. These two different views have therefore looked at the issue of ordination of leadership in the church (elders, deacons, and pastors) very differently.

In the 70's and 80's, this issue slowly built in momentum, becoming more and more of an issue that dominated the attention of the national church. In the 90's, the divide was a deep fracture that threatened to tear the denomination apart. Church leaders finally decided to make it a constitutional issue, with the hope to decide the matter once and for all. In 1996, an amendment was sent from GA to the 171 presbyteries of that time to vote on adding a standard of ordination to the constitution that required all officers of the church to be committed to "remaining faithful" in marriage or "chaste" outside of marriage. It passed by a vote 97 presbyteries being in favor of and 74 being opposed to adding this standard to the constitution.

Instead of settling the issue, it intensified the debate and disagreement, as every presbytery would have to repeatedly deal with this issue on an almost yearly basis as those opposed to the standard tried to remove it from the constitution. While the first few attempts to remove the standard showed that churches were siding with upholding the standard (in 2001, 73% of presbyteries were in favor of the standard), other factors, including the national leadership's refusal to enforce the constitution and the weariness and frustration of having to deal with this issue instead of focusing on the important issues of proclaiming the gospel to an increasing secular society, were deepening the fractures and divisions within the denomination.

With all of this tension, new proposals of how to
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The Spiritual Formation Discovery - Coming January 2012

By Dan Wodrich

Discovering Your Spiritual Formation Journey. In January 2012, West Side Church will be hosting "The Spiritual Formation Discovery." The Discovery will be facilitated by Tom Ashbrook (author of the book, "Mansions of the Heart") and other members of the **Imago Christi** team. Our West Side pastoral staff were greatly blessed to participate in a "Discovery" last January and highly encourage your participation!

The Discovery is an interactive group process of assessing where you are in your spiritual journey by bringing clarity to your past spiritual experience in light of a paradigm for spiritual growth and then discovering how you can cooperate with God more intentionally in your ongoing Spiritual Formation. The Discovery is aimed at helping you better understand:



What is spiritual maturity?
Where am I on my spiritual journey?
Where is my journey headed?
How will I get there?

Save the Date!
January 2012
"The Spiritual Formation Discovery"
Discovery Option 1 "Weekdays"
January 17-19 (Tues., Wed., Thurs.)
8:00 am-5:00 pm
Discovery Option 2 "Evenings/Weekend"
January 19-21 (Thurs., Fri., Sat.)
Thurs. & Fri. 6:00-10:00 pm;
Sat. 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Registration for the event will commence in October. Watch for more information in Sunday bulletins, contact Rev. Dan Wodrich (946.4656), or see the Discovery brochure online at <http://www.westside1.org/sites/default/files/Discovery%20Brochure%20Rev.%204.pdf>.

Imago Christi is an international and cross-cultural spiritual formation ministry of Church Resource Ministries.

October Is Ministry Staff Appreciation Month

This year, we have many opportunities to show our Ministry Staff how much we appreciate them at West Side Church. Ministry Staff that we will be appreciating are Ralph Kieneker, Dan Wodrich, Faye Serene, Stuart Strachan, Karel Coppock, John Lipp, and Heather Smith.

Prayer. The most powerful and meaningful thing we can do for our Ministry Staff at West Side is to pray for them and the programs they are involved in.

Meal with a Ministry Staff. This year for Ministry Staff Appreciation, we would like to invite West Siders to take a Ministry Staff Member to dinner or lunch with them. This can be a meal shared at home or any other special place - individuals or small groups are welcome to partic-

ipate. The fun is to get to know your Ministry Staff better, and share your appreciation for who they are and what they do for the ministries at West Side Church. Please contact Annette Barnes (554.1819) to reserve your Ministry Staff Member today!

Baskets of Blessings. Through the month of October, baskets will be located in WS South and WS North to fill with items or notes of appreciation. Notes of appreciation that are specific and personal are the most meaningful and encouraging. Remember to put the name of the ministry staff member on your gift or note of appreciation.

Thank you all for your support of our loving community here at West Side church.



Women's Ministry

Knitters' Group. Wed., Oct. 5, 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., Oct. 12, 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., Oct. 18, 12:00 pm, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland). Questions? Contact Patty Eastham (627.4248).

No Festival of Tables this year. The Women's Ministry Advisory Committee has decided to put our efforts into a spring retreat instead. Look for more information when a date has been decided.



- ◆ Build deeper friendships with a few folks!
- ◆ Same group shares one meal per month in January, February, March & April
- ◆ Choose from home-based, restaurant, and church location options
- ◆ Sign up as a family, a couple, a single, or single paired with one partner
- ◆ Join together just for fun conversation over great food—there's no program, topic, or study
- ◆ Mix in with newcomers, old timers, folks from different worship services
- ◆ Contact the office if you have *not* received a letter with full info & sign-up form by Oct. 8
- ◆ Submit your completed form by **Nov 1** in the narthex "Bread Baskets" or to the Church Office
- ◆ Email questions to coordinator Kelly Rauh (kellyrauh@gmail.com)

QUOTES FROM 2011 SURVEY: *Very nicely organized. Length of time was perfect.* Nice break between Christmas & summer activities. *Very enjoyable for all of us! First time we've had in-home church group experience & it was fabulous.* GREAT FUN! *Ya meet some nice people this way. Great experience!* It was a joy to be a part of our group. *Very blessed by these meetings; thankful we got to know three couples on a different level. We were the youngest; felt like we had many aunts & uncles around us--loved them all. Relaxing, comfortable, nurturing. A really good experience for everyone. Felt companionship. LOTS OF LAUGHTER. All shared different ideas on things, yet found a common bond. Inspirational & prompted growth in our faith.* Felt we created an ongoing, comfortable relationship. Now when I see them at church I have something to talk about.

Senior Adult Ministry

Person To Person lunch Mon., Oct. 3, 17, and 31, 12:00 pm, WS North Narthex. Call the Church Office (946.4656) if you need a ride. Are you tired of the same old PB & Jelly sandwich and Chicken Noodle soup for lunch? Then join us for a deliciously prepared lunch every other Monday. Depending on the conversation and good company, we are finished about 1:30 or 2:00 pm. Everyone is welcome ... come and enjoy!

FOF-Folks Over Fifty dinner Fri., Oct. 7, 5:45 pm, WS North Narthex.


Please bring your own table service and a main dish, salad, or dessert. The Rauh's will be speaking about and giving a video presentation about the biblical aspect of bees. Bring a friend to this informative time.



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., Oct. 12, 11:30 am, Sterlings Restaurant (Richland).



Tues., Oct. 4-Play Group (WS North)
Come for fellowship and complete a fall leaf rubbing with your child.

Thurs., Oct. 6-Child Security Training (WS North)
Do you need to be trained? Sign-up and come on out.

Sat., Oct. 8-Child Security Training (WS North)
Do you need to be trained? Sign-up and come on out.

Sun., Oct. 9-Kingdom Care Training (WS North)
Are you a Kingdom Care provider? Come out for lunch and training.

Tues., Oct. 18-Parent Enrichment (WS North)
Join us for a tea party and fellowship!

Wed., Oct. 19-Wednesdays@West Side, Week 5
We will introduce a new unit and a new worship skill.

Sun., Oct. 30-Promised Land Starts a New Unit
We will kick-off our Bible Skills unit.

Sun., Oct. 30-Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off
This all-church mission project begins; boxes will be collected in mid-November.

Parent Connection - An Opportunity For Young Families

By Debbie Geelhood

If you are a parent of a young child, we would love for you to join our West Side Parent Connection activities this year! This is our second year coordinating play groups, activities, fellowship, and parent enrichment for parents with children who are infants through kindergarten age.

This October, we will kick-off our school year activities. We will offer Parent Connection Play Group and our Parent Enrichment every month through May. The Play Group will meet the first Tuesday of the month and Parent Enrichment will meet the third Tuesday of the month. Both activities are from 9:15-11:15 am.

At each Play Group, we offer moms and dads a chance to interact with their child/ren while meeting other parents from the church and community. We include an exploration table, an art project, and free play time. On Oct. 4, we'll have some fall art activities. Come ready to have fun playing with your child!

At each Parent Enrichment, childcare is provided to give parents the opportunity to learn more about topics that impact them as parents of young children. On Oct. 18, we'll have a Tea Party Social where you can get acquainted and learn more

about each other. We'd love for you to join us so we can get to know you!

We are also planning to host some more Mom's Night Out events to include moms who may be unable to attend during the weekday morning activities. We also plan to offer some whole family events to include moms and dads. You can learn more about these activities through notices on the Welcome Station in WS North or in the Sunday Worship Bulletins.

What? Christmas Already!

Yes, it's almost time to start practicing Christmas music! This is YOUR invitation to praise by singing with the choir for our special Christmas presentation, "Down from His Glory." This is a fun and lively collection of pieces that tell the Why as well as the Who, What, and Where of the Christmas story. Rehearsals begin Thurs., Oct. 13, 7:45-8:45 pm, WS North Sanctuary. All voices and instruments welcome—contact Brenda Welsch (554.4921 or bells4u@yahoo.com).

A Welcome From Your Youth Staff

Welcome. Whether you are new to West Side, or you have been around for generations, we want you and your kids to feel welcome. We also want to provide a strategic discipleship strategy that enables students to grow wherever they are in their spiritual journey. What is our end goal? Growth. We want to see our students grow both in the understanding of their faith, but just as importantly in the way that they live out that faith. We want to see our students move away from the me-first attitude of our culture and into “kingdom living,” where they put others’ needs ahead of their own (Phil.2). We want to see our students driven not by the gospel of our culture, but the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to that end we will strive to teach and model faithful Christian living. We think this is only possible by entering into the world of the American teenager, loving them where God has them and inspiring them not to be “conformed to the image of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds” (Rom.12:2).

We at West Side Church recognize that this is a somewhat messy project, not often measurable and often with setbacks. But we also believe that it is our *vocation*, our calling as youth workers. And we

are encouraged. We see the prevailing wisdom of our world; we know that the world provides negative influences at every moment, but we also trust, trust that our students, in whom God has begun a good work, will continue it until the day our Lord returns. Take heart! The Lord is at work among our youth! Let’s have a great year.

Stu and Erica

SlamQuest is Coming! Save the Date!

Open to all 6th-8th graders. Nov. 11-13 at Camp Ghormley. Look for registration forms soon. Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy a weekend at Ghormley with mid-high students from across the state!



SUPPORT SCOUTING BUY POPCORN!



Pack 299 will be selling popcorn at Albertson's (on Gage in Richland) Sat., Oct. 1, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Troop 237 will be selling popcorn at Yoke's (West Richland) Fri., Oct. 7, 2:00-6:00 pm.

Buy Your Christmas Wreath From A Scout!

Pack 299 is selling Christmas wreaths Oct. 17-Nov. 14. To purchase one or for more information, please contact Dick Nelson (420.4395 or dwnelson@meierinc.com) or review the flyer in the Narthex.



Eagle Scout Project

A special Thank You to Spencer Powers, a member of our Boy Scout Troop 237, as he completed his Eagle Scout Project.

On Sept. 17, he relandscaped the front south side of WS North assisted by 17 fellow scouts and 9 adults. They put in a total of 100 service hours.

Spencer said this project was in memory of his great-grandparents, Alton and Bessie Klucas.

Congratulations Spencer on becoming an Eagle Scout!



October

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

<p>Worship: 2 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am -WSS TS 11:00am-WSN Youth Worship Team 4:30pm FUEL (HS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Person to Person 12:00pm 3 -WSN Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS Hello, Mali! Mtg 6:30pm-WSN College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Playgroup 9:15am-WSN 4 Adult Bible Study 10:30am -WSN Facilities Mtg 5:15pm-WSN Alpha 6:15pm-WSN ESL/Citizenship 6:30pm-WSS Life Group Leaders 6:30pm Worship Mtg 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Knitters' Group 1:00pm-WSS 5 Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN BASIC Leaders' Mtg 5:15pm 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 Morning Glory 9 HS Drop-In 3:00p Pure Desire 4:30 Child Security Tr -WSN Adult Choir 7:00</p>
<p>Worship: 9 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am -WSS TS 11:00am-WSN Kingdom Care Training 12:30pm Youth Worship Team 4:30pm FUEL (HS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS 10 College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 11 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 12 -WSN Sarah Squares 11:30am -Sterlings Restaurant Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN Wednesdays @ West Side: 5:15pm-Dinner in WSN 6:00pm-Classes for all ages CFM, MS, Adult</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat 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: 16 CS & Children's Church 8:15am-WSS CS & Sunday School 9:45am -WSS TS 11:00am-WSN Meet The Pastors 12:45pm Tutoring Mtg 2:00pm-WSS Youth Worship Team 4:30pm FUEL (HS) 6:30pm-WSS</p>	<p>Person to Person 12:00pm 17 -WSN Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 18 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 6:30pm-WSS Facilities Mtg 7:00pm-WSN</p>	<p>Tool Time 3:00pm-WSN 19 Wednesdays @ West Side: 5:15pm-Dinner in WSN 6:00pm-Classes for all ages CFM, MS, Adult</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 HS Drop-In 3:00p Pure Desire 4:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p>
<p>Worship: 23 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 24 College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p>	<p>Tutoring 7:30am-WSS 25 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-WSN 26 Wednesdays @ West Side: 5:15pm-Dinner in WSN 6:00pm-Classes for all ages CFM, MS, Adult</p>	<p>Early Birds Bible 6:10am-Tibbat Tutoring 7:30am Morning Glory 9 Fellowship Mtg 1 HS Drop-In 3:00p Pure Desire 4:30 Missions Prayer 6 Adult Choir 7:00 Worship Team 7</p>
<p>Worship: 30 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 31 -WSN Cub Scouts 6:30pm-WSS College/Young Career Bible Study 7:00pm-Evans'</p> 	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Meet the Pastors - Sun., Oct. 16</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p style="color: white; font-size: 1.2em;">All visitors are invited to lunch at 12:45 pm in WS North for this wonderful opportunity to meet with our staff!</p> </div> </div>		

WEST SIDE church

day	Friday	Saturday
Study ts' :00am-WSN om-WSN pm-WSS aining 6:30pm pm-WSN	6 Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN FOF-Folks Over Fifty 5:45pm -WSN	7 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS Hello, Mali! 6:00pm-WSN 
		8 Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS
Study ts' :00am-WSN 1:15pm-WSN om-WSN pm-WSS m-WSN l 6:30pm-WSN pm-WSN :00pm-WSS	13 Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN 14	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS 15
Study ts' -WSS :00am-WSN m-WSN om-WSS om-WSN :00pm-WSS	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN SERVANT Newsletter Deadline-5:00pm WSN 21	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS TCPN Walk for Life 9:30am -Howard Amon Park 22
Study ts' -WSS :00am-WSN :15pm-WSN om-WSN om-WSS 5:30pm-WSN om-WSN :00pm-WSS	Pure Desire 5:30am-WSN 28	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 7:30am-WSS 29

Rivers of Ink Event Our own
 Patty Old West will be signing
 books Sat., Oct. 8, 12:00-5:00
 pm, Richland Community Center.
 All books, including her latest,
 Gibbins Brook Farm, are in stock
 at Adventures Underground
 (1391 George Washington
 Way, Richland).

Prayer Chain
 Contact any of the follow-
 ing co-chairs: Margaret
 Mace (943.0447), Lil
 Leggett (375.1791), or
 Ann Forsythe 545.5589).

Dear West Side Family:
 Thank you each so much for the
 notes of remembering and thank-
 ing for the 40th album! It was a
 huge surprise and blessing for me
 and again, what a great [Reunion]
 weekend the Trainee Reunion
 Committee created for us all!

- Pat Cassidy

New Members Class - begins Sun., Oct. 23

**Come 12:30-1:45 in WS North for
 lunch and to learn more about West
 Side, our beliefs, what the Bible
 teaches you about church, and more!**



Volunteer Today! - Tutoring Program Begins Oct. 18

By Phyllis Strickler

Consider a child with a bright and cheerful face running to greet you, eager to start tutoring each Tuesday or Thursday morning! OK... for the start of the program, that's a bit of an exaggeration. Often the child might be bleary-eyed and look rather disheveled, having just gotten out of bed, or be a second or third grader who is very shy and not eager to enter a new situation, maybe even tearful the first day. But as tutoring continues, relationships are established, often hugs are offered, and children are excited about their own progress. In our shortened year last spring, we had a number of students who made amazing progress, both emotionally and academically.

West Side Church is gearing up again to provide tutoring for Marcus Whitman students. Tutoring will begin **Tues., Oct. 18**, and continue each Tuesday and Thursday following the school district calendar. Tutoring will take place in West Side South.

The tutoring program begins at 7:30 am with a few math drills for 5-10 minutes (this portion of the program is new and will be done on a trial basis, with no great math skills required of the tutors). The following 30-35 minutes, the student and tutor

work on reading skills. They are then read a story while they eat breakfast before walking over to school at 8:30 am.

On Tuesdays, we schedule one-on-one tutoring, with tutors working with the same student each week. This helps in the establishment of relationships which generally benefits the reading/learning progress of the students. On Thursdays, students work in groups of two or three with a tutor.

We are eager to have volunteers sign up as tutors for Tuesday and/or Thursday sessions. We hope to have 20-25 students sign up for the program. Please prayerfully consider being part of the program this year by being a tutor. It is an opportunity to have a profound impact on a student's life. Contact Phyllis Strickler (946.2444 or 420.0649) or Sue Hinkle (946.1019) to sign up as a tutor or to get more information. There is an orientation/training session scheduled for **Sun., Oct. 16**, 2:00 pm, WS South Upper Room.

Please also be in prayer for Paul Dann, the Principal of Marcus Whitman Elementary. He is battling cancer and, because of treatment, will probably not be at school this entire first semester.



Off To A Great Start - West Side's ESL/Citizenship Program

By Robin Morris

Thanks to the undergirding of prayers, God's faithfulness, and the willingness to serve by new and veteran volunteer teachers, the 15th year of our program started Sept. 13. Enrollment is up, with both new and former students, with 47 adults and 12 children registered as of Sept. 20. Our numbers even necessitated the addition of a new class.

We offer classes ranging from beginning to advanced English language study as well as the citizenship class for those who are considering becoming American citizens. The citizenship class heard a presentation by officials from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Yakima.

Study materials published by the U.S. government were handed out to the students who immigrated to America from six different countries.

Special thanks go to Jim and Patty Eastham who have returned as our snack coordinators and to Debbie Mellinger who created a banner advertising our program.

With increased enrollment comes the opportunity for additional volunteers, and we welcome new members to our team at any time. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve in a mission without ever leaving the Tri-Cities. Call Robin (943.9942) to see how you can be involved in this exciting outreach.



Mali Child Sponsorship Opportunity - Begins Oct. 1


Every 3 seconds a precious boy or girl dies from hunger or a preventable disease. But there is hope! West Side Church sponsors children in the Beledougou area of Mali, Africa. By sponsoring children in this one area, we can make a tremendous difference by providing nutritious food, clean water, health care, education, and working opportunities for parents and community members.

Sponsorships bring life-saving changes to more than just one child; it extends to your child's family, community, and other children in poverty in

the village. You'll have a chance to build a one-to-one relationship with your sponsored child that will transform both your lives through letters, photos, birthday cards, and more.

Watch for our Sponsorship Tables at the Hello, Mali! Event on Sat., Oct. 1, and in the narthexes beginning Sun., Oct. 2.






Daylight Savings Time?

A Spokane visitor to Africa was told, "You have all the watches, but we have all the time."

As you set all your clocks back, consider how much of a hurry we're in most of our days. In Mali, their daylight is close to 12 hours year round, while ours varies from 9 to 17 hours with the seasons. Their culture concentrates less on time left to accomplish tasks & more on relationships. We, too, can choose to set our minds on NOW instead of springing forward to NEXT.



We know that every life is precious! The Tri-Cities Pregnancy Network (TCPN) invites you to be a part of the *2011 Let There Be Life!* Campaign to support them in continuing to provide a place of help, hope, and healing to our community. The Walk for Life is Sat., Oct. 22, 9:30 am, Howard Amon Park (Richland). Contact Ken Geelhood (371.0614) for more information, to get registered, and to start raising pledges right away. Or register at www.TCPNetwork.org. Be a part of changing lives—Walk for Life!





McIntosh Memorial
Library
mmlibrary.org

Classic Books for Christians. Are there definitive books every Christian should read? The editors of *25 Books Every Christian Should Read* selected what they think are the most outstanding books of the past 2,000 years, presenting wisdom about the Christian faith and following Jesus. The editors introduce each book with background about the author, why the book is essential, how to read it, an excerpt, and a brief study guide. This book is one of the library's new titles, along with several books that it recommends, including:

- A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, by William Law
- Mortal Beauty, God's Grace*, writings by Gerard Manley Hopkins

The Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan
The Seven Storey Mountain, by Thomas Merton

October New Titles. Other new titles include:
A complement to the current sermon series, *God's Call on Your Life—The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*, by Os Guinness
The Christian Mom's Idea Book: Hundreds of ideas, tips and activities to help you be a great mom, by Ellen Banks Elwell.
The Mercy, by Beverly Lewis, new third novel in The Rose trilogy.
Souls in Full Sail: A Christian spirituality for the later years, by Emilie Griffin
Sanctuary of the Soul: Journey into meditative prayer, by Richard Foster

The library is located in WS North Room 2-4, near the staff offices. It's open when the room is not being used by other groups and classes. We welcome your suggestions: Talk to Pam Cadd or Susan Carbaugh, or email staff@mmlibrary.org.



Deacon Beacon

The Salvation Army. Most everyone has heard of the Salvation Army; particularly we recognize those brave souls who endure inclement weather to remind us of the opportunity to give to those less fortunate. The Salvation Army was founded in 1865, is an international movement, and is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible, motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

In our own mid-Columbia community, the Salvation Army provides services such as Back-to-School Supplies and KNDU Coats-for-Kids drive for students, Food Drives and a Clothing Bank, Emer-

gency Shelter programs, Disaster Services, and the Angel Tree at the Columbia Center Mall.

In recent years, West Side Church has partnered with the Salvation Army to provide a complete meal through Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to individuals and families in need in our community. Your generous support in the spirit of giving to others has truly been an outpouring of love and blessings for those who are less fortunate.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we will again partner with the Salvation Army to provide meals to families in need. Look for upcoming announcements and ways that you can help us with this ministry in our community.



The Basic Call - Helping Neighbors In Need

By Sheridan DeLeon

What a blessing to know that we are in a church family that answers a call for help. I woke up one morning to see that my neighbor's yard had been papered during the night. The man of the house is disabled, and his wife had just gone through foot surgery. Something needed to be done. My daughter grabbed a trash can, and I picked up the phone to call West Side Church to see if we could find some much-needed help for this huge mess. In less than 15 minutes, Devin and Brian Rodgers answered the call and with willing spirits were helping clean up a yard of someone they didn't know.

The greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is "Love your neighbor as yourself." The story does not end here. My neighbors were so grateful that they made a monetary donation to the church for the Deacons Fund. The Deacons work to serve our community and neighbors when help is needed.

Acts of kindness and blessing are like ripples in the water that will continue to spread.

Fields Of Grace

Our harvest has been late, but now we are being asked to glean more every week. Set aside a Saturday, and there's a good chance we'll have something for you to do. We also have gleanings during the week. Come help feed our hungry neighbors. Check out www.fields-of-grace.com.

Fields of Grace provides the hands of service that pick fruits and vegetables for residents in need. Since its incep-

tion in 2006, we have trained over 900 volunteers for 6,000 hours of service to harvest over 400,000 pounds of produce.

Produce is donated by local farmers and distributed to local food banks and has included apples, sweet corn, carrots, sweet cherries, apricots, plums, grapes, prunes, tomatoes, watermelons, and potatoes. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Major Changes - cont. pg. 1

live together while this deep divide over biblical authority existed within the denomination began to be proposed. Ideas like local option, where each Presbytery can do what it thinks is right with ordination, were offered by GA, only later to be struck down by the church courts who said that this proposal would make our constitution meaningless. Churches, disillusioned by the lack of theological integrity within the denomination, began leaving in waves in 2008. In some instances, the denomination stepped in and took over churches who were thinking of leaving, redirecting them towards the position of the national governing body. From 1998-2009, our denomination has lost more than 500,000 members and 603 churches.

So when the 2010 GA convened, there was a two-pronged approach to try to change the way the P.C. (USA) approached our ordination standard. For the fifth time in 14 years, presbyteries would have to vote on the ordination standard. But a second attempt was to replace the old constitution which didn't allow for local option with a new constitution, named new Form of Government (nFOG). By replacing the old constitution, we would be replacing 200 years of collected wisdom and precedence in how to be the church together.

In June of 2011, the 173 presbyteries finished voting on these two amendments. With the exodus of churches and the loss of membership, it seemed only a matter of time until the ordination standard of "fidelity and chastity" would be removed. With its removal by a vote of 96 presbyteries approving and 74 affirming to maintain the standard, a major shift has occurred in our denomination. This change has created a crisis of conscious for those who hold that the Bible should be our final authority in matter of life and faith. With this change in the ordination standard coupled with the National leadership affirming that the door is now open for presbyteries to ordain people who actively engage in same-sex sexual relations into leadership in the church, the church is now in contradiction to the love and grace of God revealed in the Bible.

The issue, by itself, is of such significance that our Session believes that we must as an entire congregation wrestle with what our response should be to remain faithful to Jesus Christ in the face of this change in the national church. But not only was the ordination standard changed, but the presbyteries approved replacing the old constitution with an entirely new Form of Government by a vote of 87 to 81.

One of the first questions asked was, how can a simple majority of presbyteries change the entire constitution. The answer is that only a change in our Confessions requires a 2/3 supermajority. So, by a slim margin, our entire constitution along with authoritative interpreta-

tions of the constitution, as well as court precedence of interpretation have been wiped clean, and we are now starting over with something entirely new.

While, we cannot be sure of how significant the changes will be on congregations with this new constitution, there are a number of troubling indicators in the changes that could dramatically change the way we experience being Presbyterian. I will list these in brief bullet summaries:

- ♦ Local option. Each presbytery is going to be given relative freedom in applying its own standards of ordination and other governing matters. This appears to be a move away from the Presbyterian principle of the larger church governing the smaller church.

- ♦ Top-down versus bottom-up. Presbyterian heritage has been inherently bottom-up, representational leadership. The genius of this type of church government is to trust that those at the frontlines (local congregations) are going to be best able to discern the way God is calling them to be the church in their context. In nFOG, it is clear that powers are going to be taken away from Sessions and congregations, Presbyteries are going to be empowered to direct congregations on what they must do, and the national church will be more responsible for setting the direction of ministry and mission of the church.

- ♦ Tension over money and supporting the national church. While the original draft enforced a tax upon churches in place of a voluntary gift (per capita), this language was modified, but there are still statements within the document that indicate a mandatory nature of financial support.

- ♦ Theological fuzziness. In trying to instill inclusivity in the constitution, it now actually states that theological conviction can no longer be a barrier to membership.

- ♦ Loss of due process. Presbyteries have been empowered to have the power to step in and set aside pastors and Sessions apart from congregational communication.

These are just some of the more troubling issues that confront us with nFOG. In many ways, it completely redefines our understanding of Presbyterianism.

While these changes are deeply troubling, there is no need to panic. In our next issue I will share about things that are happening in response both nationally and in our local Presbytery that gives hope and possible direction for how the Lord may be calling us to follow him through these tumultuous times. As a Session we want you to become informed on what is happening so that we together can best be able to discern how Jesus is calling us to respond. Please consider coming to future meetings when announced, talk with elders and pastors about your questions and concerns, and make recommendations on how we might improve on communicating these issues to you. ~ Ralph



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