

the Spire



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New Deacons Installed



Earl Collins, Sarah Madill and Catherine McCollister are the newly elected Deacons who are beginning a three year term. They will join Dave Bowman, Leanne Devitt, Laura Mills, Kay Ramsay, Suzanne Tyler and Robin Whipple to complete the 2009 Board of Deacons.

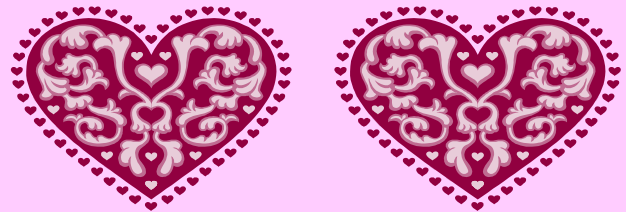
The Board of Deacons started the New Year with a Saturday January 17th meeting. They welcomed newly installed Deacons and thanked the retiring Deacons Mardell Smith, Ruth Trail and Terri Wong for all their hard work and loyalty during the recent time of transition.

It was a productive meeting in which the Deacons prioritized mission projects. To clarify time-lines and goals, Laura Mills put together a planning calendar. The following people were assigned to coordinate each of the efforts to make sure that all tasks are covered:

<u>Special Offerings:</u>	Kay Ramsay
<u>Church Family Needs:</u>	Laura Mills
<u>Operation NightWatch Liaison:</u>	Suzanne Tyler
<u>Food Bagging Program:</u>	Earl Collins
<u>Red Barrel/Mary Magdalene:</u>	Catherine McCollister and Sarah Madill
<u>Burundian Family Projects:</u>	Leanne Devitt
<u>Fund Raising:</u>	Robin Whipple
<u>Financial Planning/Postcards/Lillies & Poinsettias:</u>	Dave Bowman

The group named Leanne Devitt, Moderator, Dave Bowman, Treasurer and Robin Whipple, Secretary. We are looking for help in getting the muffin ministry going. Could you help? We would also like to do some other things like sending care packages to our college students. Please feel free to get in touch with any of the Deacons with your concerns or ideas.

All Church Valentine Party February 8th



The Valentine Party was such a fun celebration last year; we are doing it again on Sunday, February 8th. Following the church service and a delicious lunch, we will decorate cookies, make cards, and put together Valentine gift boxes for our home bound members. Any cookies left over will go to NightWatch on February 11th. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, and we need you to be at the Valentine Party on the 8th. Please come!!

Three Women Join Church

The congregation welcomed Eloise Haug, Hwa Kang-Crosby and Mona Owen into membership at worship on January 25th.



Eloise Haug

Many people were surprised when Eloise became a new member because most have thought that she was already one. As one of the Session members said, "She's the most faithful non-member we have ever had"! Eloise trained at Central Washington University along with Marge Stapp. Little did either think that they would meet in later years. Eloise taught grade school for 30 years in the Highline and Seattle districts. In later years she was a Teaching Consultant and worked with Western Washington University in their teaching program. She finds it great joy to be stopped every now and then by one of her former students. They recognize her but it sometimes takes her a minute or two to remember them. Now that she's retired she is well known for her home made custard, which she takes to anybody who is feeling a little unwell. When her eyesight was better, she would hand make patchwork baby blankets. She even has a list of 60 people to whom she has given them! So welcome, Eloise, we always have plenty for you to do to keep you busy.



Hwa Kang-Crosby and Mona Owen

Hwa Kang-Crosby is well known to many families in our church as a beloved 2nd grade teacher at Blaine. She has always lived in this area and is a long-distance runner. Before the baby was born she was also a track coach for Blaine. She and husband Aaron have two little ones, Clara and Cole. Cole was baptized on Sunday the 25th of January. Welcome to the whole family; we are so glad you found our church.

Mona Owen was born in Minnesota and when she was 12 her family moved to Tacoma. After high school graduation she lived in France for a year and worked as an "au pair." Mona moved to Seattle to live with her grandmother while she attended the Art Institute. She graduated from the Institute in design. Mona and her husband Kurt have two children, Caidee (named after her grandmother) and baby Finley. Mona has already said that she would like to help with the directory. You couldn't ask for a better member than that! We are pleased to welcome you all.

The Red Barrel Returns! In March we will again have the Red Barrel out for people to donate items. We have taken on a new mission partner, Baby Boutique, a non-profit organization that helps pregnant women and their children from birth to 18 years. We will be asking for donations of diapers, formula, bottles and other baby items.

Babies Loraine & Cole Baptized

The families and friends of Loraine Greenough Park and Cole Logan Kang-Crosby attended worship January 25th to see the babies baptized and welcomed into God's church by Pastor Elaine.



Loraine is the daughter of Marc Greenough and Steven Park and sister to Caleb and Mimi.



Cole Logan is the son of Hwa and Aaron Kang-Crosby and brother to Clara.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report

Since their May 2008 election, the Pastor Nominating Committee -- Don Bailey, Doug Bain, Steve Bass, Barbara Bily-Parr, Kay Ramsay, Pete Smith and Suzanne Tyler -- have been working to carry out the mandate given them by the congregation.

The Committee's first task was to create a new mission statement for the Church, and prepare a Church Information Form ("CIF"), which is essentially a resume of our Church and congregation, to be posted on the Church Leadership Connection website, which is run by the national Presbyterian Church. In doing so, we built on the excellent work of the mission study groups headed by Pete Smith and Sharlene Bathum.

We met many times over the summer, and by the end of August, had a final draft of our CIF. The Session approved the CIF in September, the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery approved it shortly thereafter, and it was up on the Church Leadership Connection website by the beginning of October. By the end of October, we were "matched" with 50 prospective candidates through the Church Leadership Connection website. We had also received 21 resumes directly from candidates. Candidates came from as far away as Scotland, and as close as our own backyard. To date, the Pastor Nominating Committee has received 94 resumes or other submissions. We are currently looking at several candidates very closely, with another dozen or so held in reserve. In the meantime, resumes continue to arrive almost every day.

We are very gratified with the responses we have received, and very optimistic about the prospects for finding a wonderful new shepherd for our "welcoming community of caring Christians." Magnolia Presbyterian Church is truly blessed to have members such as these who are willing to put in the effort required for a successful search process. All of us on the PNC continue to listen for the voice of God guiding us in our work and leading us to the person that God is calling to be the Pastor of Magnolia Presbyterian Church.

Donald A. Bailey, PNC Chairperson

MMY Teens Move Back to MPC Basement

The Magnolia Mission Youth (MMY) high school age group, **Leap**, will start the New Year meeting Sunday nights at 7:00 pm right here at MPC. They will gather in the youth room in the northwest corner of our basement, starting February 1st. On Jan. 24th MMY leader, Buzz, and several MMY youth re-painted the room to give it a more calming tone and are planning on adding amenities such as a music system as funds become available.

In order to keep both groups meeting on Sunday nights, it became obvious this past fall that the older kids needed a more intimate meeting space away from the younger middle school group. Both groups were using the same space in the youth room at the Lutheran church. The group of younger kids, the **Verge**, can be quite large some nights and have less need for quiet time and more desire for loud interaction and game-playing. As you might imagine, the older teens were a bit frustrated at times trying to carve out a niche in the middle of this "kid energy"!

For those of you not familiar with MMY here is a brief overview.....

About 6 years ago, some of the churches in Magnolia began a conversation around their common concerns about how difficult it had become to provide a relevant Christian experience for the youth in their churches. Unlike the heydays of the 50's and 60's, when congregations were much larger and programming much broader, the relatively small Magnolia churches were each struggling to sustain individual youth programs on their own. With God's hand leading the way, three Magnolia churches took the bold step of putting aside any theological differences and pooled their time, talent, and financial support to form a truly ecumenical youth program, Magnolia Mission Youth. Eventually a fourth church joined the group and now we have Presbyterians, Lutherans, Episcopalians, and United Church of

Christ "folks" coming together to serve the youth of our community.

Each church provides about \$6500 a year to the program. In my opinion, it is the most well-spent \$6500 in the MPC budget! It is also a true mission because it leads non-churched kids to experience, often for the first time, a faith-based world that is non-judgmental and fun. On any given night, regular attendees may bring a new friend. I truly believe MMY has and will continue to create new Christians, simply by providing good clean Christian fun, with the occasional Bible lesson tossed in for good measure!

What kind of activities do our kids engage in? Well, most importantly they do a ton of mission work. Here is a sampling: They work at food banks, collect dozens of grocery bags of donated food, participate in the World Vision 30 hour Famine, create and perform Christmas devotional programs, build and staff a Halloween Haunted House for the community at large, raise funds to dig wells in Africa, and take a week out of their summer vacations to travel around the country on mission trips where they work hard in often rough conditions.

And for fun? How about eating ice cream out of rain gutters, snowboarding in the Cascades, getting stranded on weekend retreats in Port Townsend, shooting each other with paintballs, bowling at midnight, having sleepovers in church basements where they never sleep, seeing movies, having bonfires at Alki, hide and seek in the Village, etc.

Thank you all for your continued support of this fine ministry. It is truly a unique mission and though they may not say it yet, the youth of our community thank you. If you have any questions about MMY, or would like to know how you personally could help us out, contact Randy Devitt or Jerry Leighton, your MPC representatives on the MMY Board of Directors.

Mariners: Off to Africa

Cindy and Doug Bain will take the Mariners **Off to Africa** at their Feb. 6th meeting in the Mt. Rainier Room. We will accompany them on safari to Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa to see an abundance of wild animals in the African savannah. This program will give us an opportunity to visit the areas of Africa unchanged for centuries.

Everyone is invited. Come for potluck supper at 6:30 pm, followed by highlights of the Bain's family trip last summer. The Mariners group is open to all, so sign up now and plan to attend. Even come if you don't sign up! Bring a friend because we know this will be a program you will not want to miss.

Program Chairwoman Eleanor Miner has announced the March meeting will feature Rev. Ray Riess speaking about his experiences in Ethiopia. More about this later, but save the date of March 6th.

Another New Deacon Project!

The Deacons will soon be dividing our congregation into small groups of families. The purpose of the groups is to give the deacons a way to understand the needs and concerns of the congregation. Your deacon will contact you when the division is complete. Once you know your deacon you can call him or her with prayer requests or information about family members in need of comfort, care or visits. This is Deacon TLC and won't it be wonderful!

Deacons Need Bags

Deacons Need Grocery Bags to use in their monthly project for Northwest Harvest. The team headed by Earl Collins goes to the warehouse to pack food bags to be distributed to food banks. Please leave your bags under the coat rack outside the Mt. Rainier room.

Tuesday Morning Men's Coffee Group

"A cup of coffee commits one to forty years of friendship."
-**Turkish Proverb**

The Tuesday Morning Men's Coffee group is working on this proverb and several members are well on their way to meeting this goal, but don't worry, we have friendship for all right now! Snow, wind, ice, and even the President's Inauguration can't keep this group from meeting each week and having 90 minutes of discussion, solving world problems, and recalling (hopefully) highlights and humorous experiences in their lives.

However, several of our members have "slipped collar" and are off wandering around the United States and beyond:

- Brom Wikstrom has been off on a cruise in Florida and attended the Inauguration in Washington, D.C.
- Ernie Horman is enjoying sun and lawn bowling in Sun City, Arizona
- Ernie Wellwood stays awhile in Victoria, Canada
- Dick Gatchel is dividing his time between Big Bear Lake in California and Cottonwood, Arizona
- Don Strong enjoyed Hawaii and Seattle before returning to Sun City, Arizona
- Les Deibert (Cristwood) is 'up Nort' as they say in Chicago

Come back, we miss you all. The coffee is great!

Prayer Chain Requests: Please keep the following family and friends in your prayers this week: John Bily, Carol Boitano, Bridget Hopkins and Evelyn Wiley. Prayers and calls to these homebound members are appreciated: Merial Atkinson, Marion Bledsoe, Mildred Brown, Edna Carlson, Elsie Cole, Ken Eather, Wilma Egleston, Paul and Marnell Gray, Molly Langdale, Ada Nesbitt, Cora Nordquist, Liz Panteleeff, Dorothy Prince and Marge Stapp.

Greetings from Pastor Elaine

What a wonderful time of year to be alive to God. It is not really winter, but not yet spring. We have almost finished the interim time, but we are not yet ready to welcome our new installed pastor. We are not bursting at the seams, but we are growing. We have become financially stable, but we would still like to grow our budget and perhaps take on a capital campaign. It seems we are in those in-between times when we are not where we were, but not yet where we want to be.

I guess it is rather like the time when Israel was perched on the mountain waiting to go into the Promised Land. They could see it, perhaps even smell the milk and honey, but they were not yet there.

Not yet there is a wonderful time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. There is so much good that has happened in the past several years that we should be happy and proud of this little church on the hill.

Our preschool is thriving, our Children's Ministries are flourishing, worship is vibrant, friendship and fellowship groups are doing well, our Deacon's have really taken bold new steps in the area of missions, our session is strong in faith and leadership, new members are joining us in our adventure of faith and God is preparing someone to come as pastoral leader of the flock.

Rejoice in this time. Take time to reflect. Take time to dream of the wonderful future God has planned for us. Thank God for the care and leading the Holy Spirit has provided. And, never forget how much you are loved!

With peace on the journey,

Pastor Elaine

Lent begins on February 25.

Plan now to spend Lent in thinking through your commitment to Christ and how you walk with God. Beginning with a quiet service of contemplation and the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 25, we will observe Lent with an offering of spaces for contemplation (of art, music and visuals), prayer and walking the labyrinth each Wednesday until Holy Week. Plan to come on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm during Lent to renew your spirit and prepare your heart for Easter.

Dear members of Magnolia Presbyterian Church

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to remind you of one of our common commitments to our church – not just Magnolia Presbyterian Church, but the wider church. Each year at this time we are obligated to send to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly a per capita assessment which is our responsibility in order to maintain our connectional church.

Although each of you pledges your time and money to the local church there is a lot that goes on at the regional and national level that needs our help. Ecumenical work, mission beyond our boundaries, education programming, mentoring of candidates for ministry, guidance and help for churches, help with placing Interim Ministers and other temporary supply pastors, help with struggling congregations and more happen when we work together as the connectional church.

This Sunday will be "Per Capita Sunday." Please help us pay our assessment by sending or bringing a check for your portion of our assessment. This year the per capita is \$40.44 – that is for each confirmed member of the congregation. Together the 127 of us that make up the congregation of Magnolia Presbyterian Church will pay \$5,135.88. Thank you for doing your part to help us meet this obligation.

Your Session

Session Highlights for February

The February 3rd meeting opened with prayer by Pete Smith and a presentation from the Spiritual Formation Workbook on practicing the virtuous life lead by Pastor Elaine.

Session has authorized a three person audit team from the congregation to be assembled. Steve Bass met with Marc Greenough to discuss future financial contributions for MPC from the Presbyterian Foundation and the Endowment giving.

Pastor Elaine reported on her visit with John Bily and other homebound members of the congregation. She has also been making calls to inactive members. Deacons meetings have been moved to the first Wednesday of the month.

There will be a Valentine party after worship February 8, 2009.

A traditional Maundy Thursday service has been scheduled for April 9, 2009.

Elder Anné Wikstrom asked the session to look into getting the front doors refinished by volunteers from the congregation. Other members talked about projects in the building that need repair and if they should be done professionally. The discussion moved to the need for a capital fund to set the foundation for restoring the facility. A consensus agreed to look into a developing a capital campaign.

Pete Smith talked about the one room Sunday school program that he is developing. There was discussion about adding a second person to the nursery prior to and during worship hours. Due to the weak demand for evening classes during the week, Don Bailey suggested placing emphasis on adult education through the Sunday morning adult class.

The meeting ended with the ancient practice of Examen and prayer.

Quick Notes:

NightWatch team will be feeding the homeless on Feb. 11th. Please call Cheri Yonich if you can donate food or will go from the church at 7:30 PM to help serve.

Coffee Hour Service needs your help! Your church group, friends or family, anyone can do the coffee hour. Pick a date and sign up for a time that works for your group. All it takes is simple treats like crackers, cheese, fruit, cookies or quick bread. Someone will even make the coffee for you if you need help. Check with Sharlene Bathum with questions.

The Wired Word is an adult class discussion of contemporary issues from a Christian perspective. Join the group on Sundays at 9:45 in the Mt. Rainier Room.

Women's Evening Bible Study will meet Monday February 23rd at the home of Ruth Trail, 3601-24th Pl. W. They will do Lesson 7 in the "Develop a Closer Relationship with God" Study Guide" Study Guide.

A Preschool Rummage Sale is planned again for May. Please start cleaning out those extra children's items to add to the sale. Your donations may to dropped off downstairs on Preschool days.

Calling all Magnolia Thriftway shoppers: Please save those receipts from your purchases, they are as good as money for the church budget. Bring your receipts to the office where they will be collected and turned in for cash.

Supper Club will not meet in February. Watch for upcoming dates.

Presbyterian Women will meet on Thursday, February 12th to share lunch and fellowship in the Mt. Rainier Room.

The Spire

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www.orgsites.com/wa/magpres