

DECEMBER 2008

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY

NEWSLETTER



Parish Education News December 2008

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SUBMITTED BY MINDY OTT

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Anniversary**

First off, thanks to everyone involved in our Carvin' for the Starvin' event. The pumpkin masterpieces brought in approximately \$300 for Shepherd's Storehouse! A great big THANKS goes out to Lisa Ramsey-Barnes, who organized the event.

There has been a lot happening downstairs in the Sunday School!

Thus far, the Preschool class has studied the importance of following Jesus by forgiving others, the importance of prayer in our daily lives, the importance of gathering with other believers, loving God and neighbor, and letting our light shine.

The pre-school children created their kite project, that is still hanging on the Sunday School bulletin board downstairs. This fun kite shows children, pets, and dads bound to God (the diamond-shaped portion) by hanging onto Jesus (symbolized by the string on the kite's tail). The logo for that week's study was that we are "bound by the love we share with Jesus" but this is a message that will be true for always.



The elementary children have studied the Beatitudes, finished prayer bowls so that they can be ready for God's arrival, and have learned ways to use their talents to fill the earth with God's Love. They are now beginning to study the Christmas story and prepare for their re-telling at the second service on December 14.

The children bring gifts of their own to us each day, the gift of a smile, energy, and opening. They are excited to be a part of learning!

Our Sunday School teachers are Kevin Huggins and Sokha Kwan (pre-school); Lisa Ramsey-Barnes, Kristi Ray and Theresa Kotvis (elementary grades); Debbie Johnson (Confirmation) and Mindy Ott (High School).

December article from John Cross



Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

It has been a couple of months since I have written to you but I want you to know that you have been in my thoughts and prayers – everyday! The Lord continues to provide as you have endured some challenges. The Call Process can be a challenging one and you certainly have experienced that first hand. I join each of you in prayer for the continued work of the Call Committee. In God’s time you will have your next pastor and, in the meantime, I know that you will seek to remain united and focused on the ministry opportunities that are present every day.

Your faithful giving to the general fund and to the **Building on Christ our Foundation** capital campaign is a key factor in keeping **SOV** strong and vital during this time of transition. These are difficult times for our country and for the world, with economic challenges that impact millions of lives. Remember that it is during time such as these that people need the Lord more than ever. People need the community of faith as a place to come for worship, prayer, hope and a gospel message. People need **Shepherd of the Valley** more now than in any time in your history – and you need each other.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth he referred to Christians who were living in the poor country of Macedonian, north of the thriving city of Corinth. But it was not the Corinthians who were models of biblical giving. Contrary to logic, it was the Christians of Macedonia, during a time of severe affliction, who gave with generosity that could only come from God. In fact, Paul wrote that they first gave themselves to the Lord – then gave beyond their needs, begging earnestly for the privilege of financially supporting the Lord’s work. (2 Corinthians 8: 1- 6)

Take heart, friends in Christ – the Lord is with you! Keep the faith. Pray without ceasing. Give like the Macedonians. Serve with the heart of Jesus. Be kind to one another. Rally around your mission. Give thanks even when walking through the valley. Thank your leaders. Invite someone new to worship. Uplift Pastor Michelle with prayer. Be the people of God!

I look forward to being a part of your journey over these next three years. More important than writing newsletter articles four times a year, I thank God for you every day and continue to work with the campaign leadership team.

May the Lord bless and keep you!

John Cross

Your partner with Kairos



Graph submitted by
Aaron Zahrowski

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Submitted by Ann Saalfeld

Christmas Eve Services

To better accommodate everyone's busy schedules and to make the Worship services more comfortable, Shepherd is offering three Christmas Eve service times:

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm

The 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. services will be identical services with choir (no communion)

11:00 p.m. will be a more reflective, candlelight service which will include communion (no choir).



Wednesday Night Advent Services and Soup Suppers

Dates: Wednesday December 3, 10 and 17

Soup/Bread Supper at 5:45 pm.

Worship at 6:30 pm

Please sign up in the narthex to bring soup or bread



Christmas Poinsettias/Remembrances

Worship Committee will be accepting donations for Poinsettias to decorate the church

Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex and include your remembrance

Place your donation in the offering plate

Clearly mark your donation with "poinsettias"



Sundays December 28 and January 4

Regular Service times at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events Offered by Northwest Oregon Group, Thrivent Financial:

<u>December 2, 2008</u> - 6:00 pm	Medicare Supplement Workshop	Lake Oswego Office
<u>January 22, 2009</u> -12:00 pm or 6:00 pm	Quarterly Investment Update	Lake Oswego Office
<u>February 19, 2009</u> - 6:00 pm	Thrivent Retirement Workshop	Lake Oswego Office

We would love to have you join us for one or more of these informative events.

Please call 503-635-2003 if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

Psst...the Bailout Includes a Chance to Give!

For those members who are 70 ½ or older, there is again an option for giving to the ministries of your choice. As part of the bailout package, congress voted to extend through 2009 your ability to give up to \$100,000 from your IRAs. This is done by "rolling over" the funds to charity and thus is excluded from the donor's taxable income. The funds rolled over to charity count toward the donor's minimum distribution requirement.

This opportunity could put Shepherd of the Valley on someone's Christmas giving list! What a wonderful way to give back some of what God has given us!

If you would like more information or help with making such a gift, please contact the Oregon Synod's Endowment Fund chairperson, Bonny Groshong at First Immanuel Lutheran Church: 503-226-3659 or at BonnyGroshong@yahoo.com.

REBECCA CIRCLE NEWS...submitted by Ann Smith/Pat Nelson

Rebecca Women's Circle... Once again, the Rebecca's met for our brown bag lunch. We decided that we have studied Ruth and Naomi enough. We are going to give Daniel a chance. After our meeting, we discussed what could we do to help out at the church. We talked it over and decided we would try to clean the sanctuary. We will vacuum, dust, clean the shelves, and see what we can do with the lower windows. Peggy said she has a small steam cleaner that might work on the chairs. We will meet on Fridays at 9:00 AM. If any of you...men, women...or children...want to join us, please feel free. The more the merrier. Just show up with a dust rag in your hand and we will figure it out.



On Friday, we started the cleaning program. Verna Wik, Beth Kight, Peggy Vermaas, Ann Smith and Pat Nelson were here. Larry and Bruce Gilbertson arrived with ladders, paint brushes and drop cloths. Of course, you know they sat around! Ha! I hope all of you take notice of the folding door between the Rainbow Room and the Sanctuary. We tore off the old covering—then Larry and Bruce put on the primer and the finish coat. Does it look better? I think so. Verna spent a couple of hours at the paint store just getting the colors to match. Rudy Wagenmann was here folding the bulletins and he covered the bar-b-que out on the deck. We started cleaning the chairs. We got 10 done, however, not all the stains came out but they do look a lot better. We plan on meeting November 20th at 9:00 am to continue with the cleaning.

Many thanks to Larry and Bruce, we needed their help. Peggy is doing the touch-up with paint on the wood work and the doors. We also painted (you notice I said we) the narthex wall. It really was Larry and Bruce. We are getting ready for the Christmas decorating group.

Rebecca Circle Meetings.....Thursday, December 4th and Thursday, January 8th—both at 11:15 am. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

Quit griping about your church. If it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

Busy, busy ladies! SOV has the buiest ladies in town. They are everywhere—got their noses stuck into everything. There were 13 ladies at the November women's dinner at Newport Bay. They were talking and visiting like they had not seen each other for weeks and they plan on getting together another party to clean the floors this week. Beth Kight got a new vacuum for this job. Pat Nelson is bringing the squeezie to clean the windows. Verna Wik is making a new red runner for the altar. Ann Smith's job will be to dust the plants (fake ones). Helen Jean is going to Calif. so we have plans for everyone.

PRAYER CHAIN....submitted by Ann Smith



These are the members who are on the prayer chain during November. We are all pulling for you.

Christine Edgar, Ron Farnsworth, Rachel Flath, Charlotte Harris, Bill Hessler, Caryl Husk, Bob McFall, Cyndi Peterson's sister, Lis Peterson, and Jacob Tabor.

AROUND THE PARISH...submitted by Ann Smith

Traveling ladies...our secretary, Nancy, took a vacation. Why would anyone want to take time off when they could have stayed here is beyond me. She went to Arizona, and we all know Beaverton is beautiful, warm and a real tourist spot. No need to go so far. She said she even stopped and visited beautiful Bakersfield. We are sure glad she came back. Joyce Allison came over the hill for a visit, came to church and joined in the potluck. We all enjoy having Joyce visit!!!

Don't let your worries get the best of you! Remember, MOSES started out as a basket case.



New To You...Can you believe we received a check made out on Oct. 15, 2008 for \$154.00? Our next check was sent Nov. 17th. We have a current list of what was sold as of Oct. 31, 2008. We have \$179.50. The next check should be a good-sized one. Not too bad huh? It is thanks to all of you who have been bringing in the garments. We have enjoyed the scenic ride to McMinnville every month—lunch too! If any of you want to join in, please call Peggy Vermaas.

Thanksgiving Dinner...We had our church family kick off for the holiday season on Nov. 2nd. The Fellowship Committee plus Social Concerns teamed up. We did recruit Peggy Vermaas to help us. But, we did try our best to make this dinner a real special occasion for our family here at SOV. We wanted to share time and dinner with out friends here. We felt some folks may not have family close by and we wanted to be sure they had the opportunity to not only have a holiday meal but to share a holiday with our church family. We certainly want to thank our girls—Katrina Tabor, Solveig Rasmussen and Carmen Hoffbeck for helping us serve our seniors. They filled water glasses and cleaned up the tables. How proud we are to be able to have these girls help us. Thank you girls!

TRIP TO INDIA....submitted by Sandeep Jonnakuti

I am planning on a trip to India again in December. When I flew last time to India, as most of you are aware I gifted some Christian books to my church back home on behalf of Shepherd of the Valley and there was a good response from the Sunday School where these are books are being heavily used in ministry.

Taking that as encouragement, I would like to do one more of similar kind. In this process, I am collecting some good Christian story books with pictures, anyone's interest in support of this would be greatly appreciated.





2008 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sun., Dec. 7th—husband & wife team from Tanzania visiting SOV</p> <p>Congregational Meeting following 2nd service</p>	1	2	3 5:45 p— Soup Supper; 6:30 p Service 7:00p—Choir Practice	4 11:15 a Rebecca Circle	5 	6 Kid's Movie Night
7 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	8 6:30p— Men's Group meets at Old Chicago Pizza 6:45 p—Social Concerns	9 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	10 5:45 p— Soup Supper; 6:30 p Service 7:00p—Choir Practice	11 11:15 A— Rebecca Circle meets—brown bag lunch	12	13
14 8:30 a— Worship Service 9:45 a—S.School 10:00 a—Adult Class 11:00 a—Sunday School Program 6:00 p—Carol Fest and Concert	15	16 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:00-8:00 p KOK Christmas Program	17 5:45 p— Soup Supper; 6:30 p Service 7:00p—Choir Practice	18 7:00 p— Church Council Meeting	19	20
21 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	22	23 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00, 6:00 & 11:00 p 	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	29	30 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	31	<p><i>Tuesday, December 16th @ 6:30 p</i></p> <p><i>SOV Women's Christmas Dinner at the Embassy Suites</i></p>		

SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS.....submitted by Mert Warneking

We spent 80 hours and drove 850 miles. We gave out six food baskets.

About 150 people attended the Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone seemed to have a good time. We had a tremendous crew making it all happen. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED.

We assembled our Thanksgiving baskets on November 22nd. We will report on the results next month.

For Christmas, we will have a Christmas tree and ask for presents for children, but we will not do food baskets this year. You will be hearing more about the presents later in the bulletins. Some of the presents will go to homeless children in the area and children that we know need them here. Others will go to the "Hearts of Baghdad" organization which helps orphans and other needy children. Their toys need to be interactive toys, learning toys and toys to develop motor skills.

Sandeep is also working on a project to send more Christian children's books to India with lots of pictures for the Christmas season. The books he took with him on his India trip were greatly appreciated.

Please see Sandeep's article on page 5

KOK NEWS.....submitted by Ann Smith, Christine Edgar and Lisa Ramsey-Barnes

We are celebrating a new start at Kids of the Kingdom! We have cleaned out all the old stuff, painted, put in new carpeting, and remodeled the Toddler Area. We are now also licensed for Infant Care. Last, but not least, we have added two additional Board members - welcome to Christine Edgar and Linda Rasmussen.

As you may have heard, Linda George recently resigned as Director of Kids of the Kingdom. We thank her for her contributions, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Our enrollment has been trending downward over the past year. Road construction has certainly contributed to the problem, making access to and visibility of the facility difficult. And the current state of the economy makes it likely that enrollment will not return to past levels in the near future. In response, the Board has decided to restructure the position of Director to a Director/Lead Teacher role. We have posted this position on the Oregon Synod website and on Craigslist, and additionally have also posted a position for Part-time Toddler Teacher. To maintain continuity, church members are filling in on a part-time and/or volunteer basis until these positions are filled.

Now we are ready for your niece, nephew, grandchild, maybe your neighbor's child. If any of you know of a child who needs full-day child care, please suggest KOK. If we all keep this in mind, we may be able to give a child a new start.

Right now KOK needs your help with all kinds of things - cleaning, lunches, snacks. If you have an hour or so, maybe there is something you can do. For example, the cleaning and food-handling positions (which were formerly paid) will for the foreseeable future be on-going volunteer opportunities. Talk to any of the Board members (Debbie, Wendy, Linda R., Lisa, Christine) about how you can help KOK.

Setting this new direction for KOK has involved the diligence, thoughts, and prayers of many people, and the KOK board would especially like to recognize and thank the Church Council for their support during these challenging times.

ARTICLE FROM DIANE LEWIS, CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

As I begin to write, it occurs to me that before this newsletter is sent to the congregation, we will have celebrated Christ the King Sunday, the end of our church year. From here, we enter Advent, the season to prepare for Christ's birth, then Christmas arrives to celebrate His birth.... all before the January newsletter is mailed! It reminds me how full and fast moving our church calendar is as well as how our personal calendar of commitments keep us on a fast pace in our own lives.

Where do we place God in all the hectic schedules in our church calendar and our personal calendar? It is easy to be so busy, trying to do so many things for our church, our friends, our family and ourselves that sometimes we forget to allow Christ to be the center of all we do.

As we go into Advent and prepare for Christmas and a new year in the life of the Christian church, I invite each of us to make the commitment to keep Christ as the center of all we do personally, as committees and in all our ministries at Shepherd of the Valley.

Being "centered in Christ" is how we will grow, how we will become stronger and create growth in our

ministries in more directions than we can imagine.

It is exciting to look at all we have worked through this last 11 months as we go into December! There have been times of elation, times of sadness, times of wonder, times of doubt, times of planning and times of excitement. This journey had given us opportunity to look within ourselves as a congregation and evaluate where we have been, where we are and where we want to go. We are growing stronger and healthier as a body of Christ as we define or confirm who we are as a congregation as we work together for building all areas of SOV ministry.

There is no doubt that God has a plan for Shepherd of the Valley! It is exciting to know that whenever we come together in Christ our light shines brighter and we have no limits on what we do and how far we can expand the ministry of Christ through the people of Christ at SOV! More and more people are joining the circle of involvement and participation in almost all areas of our ministry! There is excitement as we build a stronger foundation in Christ!

Life within the church will continue to move quickly as it will in our lives away from SOV. We are preparing for the celebration of Christmas. It is a

perfect time of our year to come together as we plan for a new calendar year in our church. We will be creating a new operating budget, working to strengthen our committees and ministries, explore new opportunities, work through challenges, and continue the "call" process. We do this with God's promise that through Christ and together in Christ, all things are possible for the ministry and dreams of our church.

Thank you to each of you that share your faith in so many areas of our congregation! Each of us brings a special gift to God through the gifts of the Spirit that you share with your SOV family. God blesses each of us so that we in turn, may be a blessing to others.

May your Christmas be merry and bright with the light and gift of Jesus Christ.

Congregational Meeting! December 7, at Noon....submitted by Diane Lewis

We will gather after 11 AM church to discuss and vote on the 2009 General Operating Budget. Pizza, salad and beverages will be served at Noon. The meeting will start as soon as the pizza is served. We will have a free will offering to help defray the costs of the pizza. We hope to have day care available during the meeting.

Our council will be available to answer questions and be part of the discussion about our general operating budget for 2009. All members are encouraged to study the proposed budget that is available for review.

The council's goal was to give the congregation a clear picture

of what it takes to run the ministry, programs and pay for the staff of our congregation.

In the economic world that we live in now, the council is clear that the congregation needs to have time to review and discuss the needs and direction of our church as we go forward into a new operating budget for 2009. This is a time for discussion and look at creative input in order to carry on the programs and needs of maintaining our church. As we come together for discussion and vote, we hope that you will pray about the financial needs of our church and the reality of how we can work together to find solutions for building our ministry, take care of our current

building and build towards the future of Shepherd of the Valley.

Together we can build a plan to find solutions and work as a family of Christ. If you have any questions, concerns or input please come to the discussion between services on November 30 and to the congregational meeting on December 7. Your council members are always ready to hear your views and encourage everyone's participation in our budget. Come be part of the excitement as we plan our financial future for 2009.

Together in Christ, all things are possible!

Diane Lewis,
SOV Council President

FROM THE DESK OF THE PARISH NURSE...

SUBMITTED BY CORRINE GILBERTSON

Please mark your calendars for December 6th and 7th SOV will be entertaining a couple (husband & wife) from Tanzania. Their names are: Eden and Rogathe Koambwe. He is a school teacher in Monduli.

Petersburg Lutheran Church in Alaska invited them to be their guests for three weeks in Petersburg, Alaska. Pastor Al Solmonson met Rogathe when he taught at the school in Monduli for a few weeks during the time he was Pastor here at Shepherd. Shepherd of the Valley was actively involved in the establishing of the first all-girl secondary school in Monduli. What an opportunity for us—to spend some time with these two special people.

More news regarding their visit with us at SOV will follow. They will be house guests of Larry and Corrine Gilbertson.

