

**FEBRUARY
2009**

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER



LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM PEGGY VERMAAS, VICE-PRESIDENT

Greetings to all,

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As I sit down to write this article I am reminded once again how "out of my comfort zone" this public stuff is. I admit that it is nice to rely on our President, Diane, to do the writing and announcing and public stuff. Is God calling you to take a chance and try something new???? Ushering? Helping to count the offering? Joining a committee? Joining the choir - even for just a holiday event? Helping make kids Christmas costumes for next year? Helping our cleaning crew? Did you know that council meetings last 90 minutes once a month??? There are lots of 'help wanted' here at SOV. Is God calling you to step up and step out of your current level of involvement at SOV?????

I like January. Aside from the fact that it is my birthday month (and I get presents), January has been a beautiful month of winter. I like the way the cold weather brings us all indoors as if encouraging us to spend more time connecting with one another. Not rainy days but "people" days . . . touching others for Christ. I like the way our church backyard looks - as though we aren't living in the middle of the city. As a congregation, we are blessed in our setting and with each other. The view always reminds me of that.

We are off to a good start this year. Here are a few highlights of the month.

BUDGET: We passed our budget and now are beginning the process of enacting the changes. Unfortunately, we are facing more financial challenges as we ended 2008 falling short of meeting expenses by \$5,000 plus dollars. The council decided to allow the month of January for some transition time to put the changes into place - knowing that it puts us a bit more behind. And, there will be some additional expenses related to calling a new pastor, i.e. moving and possible transitional housing expenses. Still, as we stated at the congregational meeting, we will be watching the budget closely and providing the information to you in the weekly bulletin. So, our financial status is not a mystery - we are starting from behind even after making significant cuts. If you feel you can make an additional contribution to SOV to help offset this deficit and help meet expenses, it will be very helpful.

FUNDRAISING: "New to You" clothing resale continues to benefit from regular clothing contributions and so is generating regular income. Keep the donations coming. We are accepting spring items now and the next trip is scheduled for March 7th. The Mike Maynard book sale program is going well.

LETTER FROM PEGGY (CONT.)

December yielded \$80 and January \$206. Please consider including family and friends in these two programs by soliciting donations. These dollars will not be added to the general fund. The council will be making decisions around where to allocate these funds at the February meeting. Some ideas include beginning the sabbatical fund and the emergency fund.

CALL COMMITTEE: The meet and greet for Pastor Randy was very well attended and participation was high. After receiving feedback from the congregation, the Call Committee will make their recommendation to the council. If all goes well, a congregation meeting will be held on February 22 after the second service. Please mark your calendars with this tentative date.

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM: The KOK staff and board are working hard to maintaining a high quality program while exploring many options for change. They continue interviews for the director's position. Rudy Wagenmann completed the repairs on two of the institutional tricycles so they are now available for the kids to use. One of our youth volunteers will begin re-painting the kids chairs to match the updated color scheme. Hopefully the painting of the KOK entrance will be completed this next month ready to welcome new students and a new director. Step by step, progress is being made. If you have time to volunteer in this program, let us know.

COUNCIL: We have our audit committee in place and the annual audit will begin soon. Social Concerns is proposing the same programs as last year and so a request for funds from Thrivent will be submitted. We need a new volunteer to serve as a Thrivent coordinator for the church. We also need to have a Thrivent membership drive. When asked, please consider becoming a Thrivent member as it will help with our funding requests as well as provide you some good information about the for Lutheran's financial organization. Ken requested that the nominating committee begin to get organized and the congregation begin to consider leadership and committee opportunities. We are continuing to clean and organize our church files moving from the downstairs to the upstairs storage area. Ann Smith is completing the resource books for all of the committee's - a binder with all of the important reference documents in it. The Worship Committee will be notifying the service daycare folks that the funding has been cut and we will return to the old practice of parents volunteering to provide daycare during the second service. Plans for Easter are progressing. Linnea and Dave on the Building Committee continue to work on easement issues. More to come on this next month.

Blessings to all as we work together in service of Christ.

Peggy

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Upcoming Events Offered by Northwest Oregon Group, Thrivent Financial:

<u>February 19, 2009</u> -To Be Rescheduled-	Thrivent Retirement Workshop	
<u>March 3, 2009</u> - 6:00 pm	Medicare Supplement Workshop	Lake Oswego Office
<u>April 23, 2009</u> - 12:00 pm; 6:00 pm	Quarterly Investment Update	Lake Oswego Office

You are invited to join us for one or more of these informative events to be held at our Lake Oswego office, 4000 Kruse Way Place. Please call to reserve a space no later than the day before each workshop. Phone us at 503-635-2003 if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

Shepherd's Light Shines Bright Around the World

Submitted by Terry Wagemann

Greetings from afar*

In December Pastor Michelle told us about a phone call received at the church from a resident living in one of the apartments across the street. It seemed that this person noticed that the light was out on Shepherd's cross on the roof. After receiving notification of the burned out light, it was told that Cal 'No Fear' Sugiyama eagerly scaled up to the roof to replace the light. Thank you Cal!

The timing and symbolism of the shining light were very fitting for the Christmas season. But the symbolism also brought to my mind the fact that Shepherd's light also shines in another way. Through the weekly Godcast (podcast) that Shepherd is posting on its website, Shepherd's light shines around the world wherever an Internet connection is available.

Anyone, anywhere can receive Shepherd's light whenever they want; in their home, on the road, in a hotel, in a foreign country, on a speeding bullet train, or even on their Blackberry! We are in the 24/7/365 age! How wonderful is it to be able to receive Shepherd's light whenever and wherever?!

Those of us who have received Shepherd's light from afar are truly grateful for this ability!



So the next time you are in need of a little light, find an Internet connection and receive Shepherd's light: <http://www.sovlutheran.com/>. ?

Terry Wagemann

*Terry and family are living in Japan but are still members of Shepherd and keep in contact on a regular basis.

THANK YOU FROM PAT & MINDY OTT

We would like to thank the Fellowship Committee and everyone at SOV for throwing such a wonderful baby shower for us on the 25th of January. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful church family and can't wait until we can introduce our baby daughter!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN....SUBMITTED BY TAMMY MCDONALD



Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, Is from above....James 1:17

The Executive Committee would like to say "Thank you" to all Individuals who financially support the Building on Christ Capital Campaign. Your financial gifts received to date are \$59,971.00.

Total pledges are \$336,545.00 of our \$500,000.00 Goal.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

February 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

What an exciting time this is to be a part of Shepherd of the Valley! As I write this (end of January), you've just had the opportunity to meet a pastoral candidate who seems to be a good match for the needs of the congregation. Currently, the Call Committee is receiving feedback from members, and so far, the responses by members have been positive. February promises to be a very busy month as SOV's leadership moves forward in the call process. This coming Sunday, February 1st, the Executive Committee will meet with the Call Committee to receive the Call Committee's recommendation and iron out some details related to compensation and other matters. Next Thursday, February 5th, the Church Council will meet to consider details related to extending a call to Pastor Randy Schutt. At that time, the council will also move to bring the call to a congregational vote on February 22nd. In accordance with SOV's constitution, a letter will be mailed on February 9th to notify members of the special call meeting. At this meeting, the only business that will be addressed will be a vote on calling the candidate, and if that vote receives the required 2/3 majority, then the members of SOV will vote on the proposed pay package. The vote on the pay package requires only a simple majority.... I've just given you the "facts," but the most important thing that's happening is the work of the Holy Spirit, who works in, with, under, and through the seemingly mundane steps of the process to make good things happen! The Spirit is working among you here at Shepherd to help you discern the right course, and the Spirit is also working in Pastor Randy, helping him discern whether this is the place God is calling him to serve. Be sure to hold your sisters and brothers and Pastor Randy and his family in your prayers during this time.

As we move through February, we will also make the transition from Epiphany to Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Your Worship Committee is already planning for Lenten services on Wednesday evenings, and we are also beginning to think about Palm Sunday and Easter, which fall on April 5th and 12th this year. (Will you have a new pastor by then? It could happen, but we don't know for sure. Only God knows for sure what the timing will be! So, we are looking ahead and planning as best we can, and we are prepared to be flexible!)

As the people of Shepherd move closer to a pastoral transition, the Sunday adult classes will focus on preparing for the change that lies ahead. The past couple of weeks, we've been studying Peter Steinke's "How Your Church Family Works" and learning a bit about family systems and the dynamics of change. This should lay the groundwork for February's study, which will be based on the book "Discerning Your Congregation's Future: A Strategic and Spiritual Approach." Certainly, much of the work of discerning your future will begin after your new pastor arrives; however, it is helpful to begin thinking about your congregational identity and future even now, because YOU are a big part of that identity, and you will have a lot to say about shaping the direction of Shepherd's ministry in the future.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Michelle

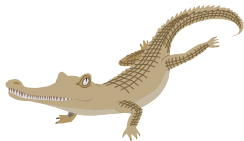
“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat ”

- February 26-28 and March 5-7...7:30 p. One of our youth, Jacob Tabor, will be performing at Westview High School in the musical “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. Tickets are \$10.00. You can either order directly from Westview High (503-259-5218—www.westviewtheatre.org) or ask Jacob to pick up tickets for you.



AROUND THE PARISH....SUBMITTED BY Ann Smith

The “chili” un-decorating party was Friday, January 2, 2009. We took down all the Christmas decorations, packed them, stored them out in the shed, and then vacuumed the floors. We had Peggy’s chili for lunch. We even listened to Christmas music, kind of a farewell for the season. Larry & Rudy did the “man” jobs. Beth, Pat, LeeAnn, Mert, Ann and Peggy were the big elves who helped. We are ready for the New Year now!



Traveling ladies this month...Diane Lewis went down under, guess who she took along with her? Eric, that’s who! I am just worried that Eric might become the first SOV Crocodile Dundee, but guess we will have to keep him in line. If he comes home with a bowie knife on his belt, we just have to pretend we don’t see it.

Bob McFall came to church and sang “We Three Kings” on a Sunday. It was good to see him. I’m telling you it’s hard to keep a good man down. Hang in there Bob.

“New to You”...Another month, another check. We received a check in December for \$169.75. I can’t get over how all of you are helping so quietly. We took another load over on Saturday. They are taking furniture also. We don’t have a way to haul it over there, but if you have some furniture to donate, remember to list it under SOV.

Rebecca Circle met in the Rainbow Room. We had 8 folks including Ginny & John Adamo and Darlene Anderson. We had a good discussion on the book of Daniel.

We finally had our Christmas party for the SOV ladies on Tuesday, January 20th at Embassy Suites. We had a great time, good food and of course the company was excellent. Charleen Kuykendall and Clara Mashek did a great job. We even played a game or two. What is in the walnut? Charleen said that her husband Dick filled the walnut shell with 17 items from home. What are they? Can you guess what items around the house fit into a walnut shell? We gotta find something for Dick to do.

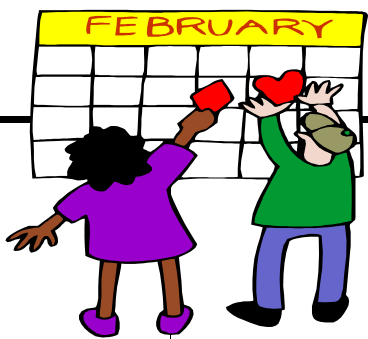




Amy Sugiyama graduated from nursing school in Hawaii. She hula’ed back from Hawaii and found a job in Salem. She is still working on wedding plans. She will let us know when she gets things settled.



2009 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
			<div>Congregational vote on Pastoral Candidate 2/22/09</div>			1
1 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Ser- vices 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	2 6:30p— Men's Group meets at Old Chicago Pizza	3 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	4 7:00p—Choir Practice	5 11:15 A— Rebecca Cir- cle meets— brown bag lunch	6	7
8 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	9 6:45 p—Social Concerns Meeting	10 9:00a—KOK Chapel 5:30 p—KOK Board Meeting 6:30p—Jr. Choir	11 7:00p—Choir Practice	12	13	14 Valentine's Day! 
15 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	16 President's Day! 	17 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir 6:30p—SOV Women's Dinner	18 7:00p—Choir Practice	19 7:00p— Church Council	20	21
22 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class	23	24 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	25 Ash Wednesday 	26 9:30 a— Rebecca Circle Project Day	27	28

THIS 'N THAT

The following timeline has been set after the Meet and Greet on Sunday, January 25th with Pastor Randy Schutt. This time table going forward is set forth by the Constitution and Bylaws of SOV.

2/1/09 Presentation of the recommended Pastor to the SOV Executive Council along with the proposed written pay package.

2/5/09 Meeting with the entire SOV Council for their vote and recommendation of hiring Pastor and pay package.

2/9/09 Written notice to be mailed to congregation of special meeting for vote of hiring Pastor with date of meeting **2/22/09**.

2/22/09 Vote of Congregation.



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES....are available at the usher station this month. Please pick up your copy as soon as possible. If you are unable to pick up a copy, please contact the church office (503) 645-4994 and one will be mailed to you.



CD's of *Transport Trio's* September Concert will soon be available. Place your order with Kevin Cope or Tom Ramsey-Barnes. Price is \$15.00 each and all proceed go to the new building fund.

The Transport Trio will be performing at the Sellwood Baptist Church on April 25th. All at Shepherd of the Valley are invited. More details to follow.

THANKS TO ALL who continue to offer their time, talent and treasure to Shepherd. It helps me tremendously to have folks who come in during the week and give of their time and talent to work on projects that I don't have time for. Nancy, church secretary

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

Phone: (503) 645-4994

Non-Profit

US POSTAGE

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08	Marty McDonald	23	Gary Graalum
08	Verna Wik	23	Meng Lee Huggins
10	Kathy Tabor	23	Marion Locke
12	David Rasmussen	28	Dean Kruse
16	Joe Hoffbeck	29	Skylar Johnson
17	Mitch Ray		
18	Bruce Gilbertson		
20	Divine Hezumuryango		



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

KEN & CHARLOTTE

HARRIS

FEBRUARY 9TH, 2009

