

**JUNE
2008**



SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Sunday School News

By Linda Rasmussen

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May found the Sunday School children finishing our study of Pentecost. We learned about the Diaspora. We also learned how God's Spirit is at work in every age and generation including our own. We learned how wind and fire are the symbols of God's presence. We also learned that Pentecost proclaims that any unity in human society will always include diversity. Average attendance for May was 30 children. We collected \$42.02 for the Global Barnyard and 19 food items for the Shepherd's Storehouse. We closed our program year with a BLOWOUT party on the 18th. We had a volcano we made erupt, remembering the awesome power of our creator God. The "lava" reminded us of the fire of the Holy Spirit. We also had party blowers that helped remind us that the Holy Spirit can move as the wind; strong, powerful, but also gentle. We played some active games and had fruit juice bars to cool off. All children received a prayer book to take home to help them continue their conversations with God over the summer.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all our faithful Sunday School Staff this program year. These folks have been a blessing by sharing their time, commitment and love of God with our children. They are: Larina Hoffbeck, music; Kevin Huggins, Sokha Kwan, Angie Mitlehner, and Susan Vignolo, Preschool Parent Co-op; Brenda Plinke & Lorna Hodgins, kindergarten & 1st grade; Lisa Ramsey-Barnes, Debbie Johnson & Beth Kight, 2nd & 3rd grade; and Linda Rasmussen, 4th, 5th & 6th grade.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LOVES THEIR GLOBAL NEIGHBORS!

This program year, the Sunday School children contributed \$480.13 for the ELCA's Global Barnyard project.

SOV YOUTH CHOIR'S FIRST YEAR—WHAT A SUCCESS!

Submitted by Kevin Cope

SOV's very own Youth Choir began this past September, and we are about to complete our first school year. We started with five members and have now more than doubled in size! We have sung at various services, including special numbers throughout Advent, Lent, and Holy Week, and also performed at the SOV Variety Show. Our "Grand Finale" will be at the June 8th services when we will lead ALL the singing and worship, in the place of the Senior Choir who will enjoy a much-deserved rest. We will also help in teaching other kids the songs for our Vacation Bible School program, June 27-29th.

Our motto and key Bible verse is Psalm 100:2— "Come into His presence with singing." And, what a fine job of singing in His presence these kids have done! Tuesday evenings have truly been a high-point of my week. Not only has the singing been great, but the fellowship, the FUN (sometimes too much fun!), and just getting to know my little sisters (and sometimes a brother or two) has been rewarding and edifying. Calling all Kids: join us when we start up again in September.



Those involved in Youth Choir include the following: Carmen Hoffbeck, Mallory Hoffbeck, Katrina Tabor, Amber Kotivs, Julia Kotvis, Audrey Darus, Sabrina Heizenrader, Emily Vignolo, Lisa Kwan, Naomi Horn, Riley Horn, and Jonathan Ramsey-Barnes. Also, Larina Hoffbeck was of invaluable assistance as co-director, guitarist, and "choir-wrangler."

Thank you kids for all that you have given us this past year! Your ministry is beautiful, glorious and powerful. The Lord has truly used you.

VARIETY SHOW 2008—THE BEST EVER!

Submitted by Kevin Cope

Many have said that this year's Variety Show, on April 27th, was SOV's best ever. I agree! We had so much talent on display, and so much sheer enjoyment. The "O Brother, Where Art Thou" theme was a blast and the apple pie and lemonade afterwards, provided by Tammy McDonald, Kari Pinc and the fellowship committee, was delicious. SOV is truly blessed to be gifted with so many individual, and such a blend of talent and energy.

Much thanks to the following: Craig Zetterberg and Pelli, our favorite pelican, Jameson Tabor and his "Y-Chromotones", Karen McClendon, John Adamo, Skylar Johnson, Solveig Rasmussen, Chelsea Plinke, Katrina Tabor, the Plinke family, Sandeep Jonnakuti, Arden Tarum, Naomi Horn, the vonHoffbeck Family Singers, Richard Small, Patricia Nelson, Kevin Cope, Dan Nichols, Tom Barnes, Divine, Jenny, Anitha, the SOV Choir (Linda Garrett, Director), the SOV Youth Choir (Larina Hoffbeck, Wrangler), the ever-popular SOGGY BOTTOM BEAVERDAM BOYS, and all who participated and supported this great event. I know that many members are already making plans and schemes for their acts in 2009. See you next year!



Visiting with Corrine and Larry Gilbertson last evening Corrine said how excited she was about the commitment of the people of Shepherd of the Valley with their support to date of OUR Capital Funds Campaign.

Thank you to those of you who have returned in YOUR Capital Funds Response Card.

As of May 21st we have received Response Cards with commitments totaling \$109,500.00

For those of you praying about your gift to this Work of God, we look forward to hearing from you.

Cal csugiyam@netscape.net and Caryl cmhusk@upwardaccess.com advise that Response Cards have been mailed.

If you have not received YOUR Response Card, please contact one them.

The Capital Funds Campaign is a three year program so your contribution may be staggered over that period of time. Should you need an additional year or two in order to contribute to this campaign for our new facility, please contact Cal Sugiyama or Caryl Husk for assistance.

Your Capital Campaign Committee also recognizes that times are tough for some of our congregation with escalating food prices and gasoline prices, employment issues and other personal issues therefore with your response to this campaign, when your life turns around in year two or three of this campaign you may be in a position or have the desire/wish to re-evaluate your gift to God and Shepherd of the Valley.

Whenever that occurs all you need to do is contact Tammy McDonald or Bob McFall.

Please remember that June 1st is Shepherd of the Valley's Celebration Sunday. The Goal of the Capital Campaign is to raise \$500,000 to be used toward the Building of our new sanctuary, classrooms and fellowship area for our growing congregation.

Funds received from this Capital Funds Campaign are being kept in a separate interest bearing account separate from the general operating fund of Shepherd of the Valley.

Thank you and GOD Bless You!

Bob R. McFall & Tammy McDonald

Co-Directors; 'Building on Christ our Foundation'

SOV RUMMAGE SALE—FRIDAY, AUG. 15TH & SATURDAY, AUG. 16TH

Each month, we will have a collection of known items. Please put your donated items in the Rainbow Room behind the screen. Items need to be clean and in good condition.

June.....bed and bath items. Sheets, pillow cases, picture frames, sewing items and craft supplies.

July.....costumes, holiday décor, vases, floral arrangements, gifts, Christmas cards, stationary, gift wrap, gift bags, children's toys, children's furniture, yard, equip., sports equip. and office supplies.

August.....clothing (if not good enough for "New to You"), jewelry, collectables and big items such as washers, dryers and microwave ovens.

REBECCA CIRCLE...submitted by Patricia Nelson

Rebecca Circle will be meeting June 5th with studying the beautitudes and then brown bag lunch starting at 11:15 a.m. We will continue meeting throughout the summer. See you there.

SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS

Submitted by Mert Warneking

We had 74 hours and 850 miles. We given \$1,291 in furniture, clothing, etc. We gave out 7 food baskets at a cost of \$285, which included \$235 in donated food. We gave help in the amount of \$271. If you attach a dollar value to the above outreach, it would be 43% of the outreach and offerings.

We assembled and shipped 25 health kits at a cost of \$281.



We are starting to work on backpacks this year. I attended an interesting meeting of several churches in the area. Some of the churches have over 2,000 members. Last year they assembled and gave 500 backpacks. There is a real need for backpacks for kids. Last year we gave 130 complete backpacks plus an additional 53 that were empty or partially filled. The empty backpacks went to a Hispanic organization. We were able to do it because we were given 160 backpacks, plus we had some left over from the year before. We will need money and backpacks if we are going to do that many this year. We will appreciate any money or backpacks you can give. You can put the money in the offering, but be sure to mark "Social Concerns—backpacks" on your check and add a sticky note. If you have any questions, contact Mert Warneking.

THANKS TO THE Tualatin Valley Chapter of Thrivent for Lutherans which has given Shepherd of the Valley \$200.00 to go towards our Vacation Bible School or other educational activities!

Greetings to all, ...submitted by Peggy Vermaas

This month completes my first year of involvement with the administration of our church. May I say, with few exceptions, it has been a delightful year. I have particularly appreciated getting acquainted with SOV folks in a new way. While I have been at Shepherd for about 19 years, I had limited my involvement to just attendance. So, this has been a year with a steep learning curve for me.

HIGHLIGHTS: Because I will attempt to keep this brief, I am going to just hit some of the highlights of this year for me. SOV has always been blessed with committed leaders and so I have made it my personal goal this past year to attempt to follow in those footsteps. To that end, we worked on improving the work space for our staff and creating new space for Kevin. We worked on employee and personnel issues. We are continuing to look at our filing system and how we archive church documents and information. We continue to keep our closets cleaned out, assess what and how we store things at the church, and are trying to keep the church looking inviting to all. We continue to work on improving the youth area, the parish nurse area, and improve our congregational connecting with our mission to children through the Kids of the Kingdom program. We have worked on fund raising in several forms. Working together with many folks on these projects has been a real pleasure!!

PLANNING AND BEING SPONTANEOUS: I have learned that we are a congregation with great planners!! I think the helpfulness of planning speaks for itself so I would like to focus for a moment on the benefits of celebrating our spontaneous side. Commitments help with planning but they can also feel like a ball and chain . . . like being tied down. I have often heard “I don’t want to commit . . . I don’t know where I will be then.” This is where I believe there is a yet untapped resource for SOV. Ushering, providing treats, cleaning in the church, and maintaining the grounds are some examples where we can **CHOOSE TO SEE, AND EVEN DEVELOP**, our spontaneous side **AS AN ASSET**. If you know you can get to church a bit early, will check to see if there are ushers scheduled and if not, fill in!! If you are baking for another occasion, could you set aside some treats, and when attending next, put them in the freezer at church for use as needed? Do you have an extra hour or two that you could spend cleaning the artificial plants at church or weeding or maintaining a small area of the church grounds??? Could you become a substitute Sunday school teacher??? Could you help with Daycare?? Planning is appreciated but if you have avoided participation because commitment creates problems then I encourage you to consider being spontaneous. There is a lot to do at SOV. There is room for our planners and our more spontaneous folks. Pray about this.

ISSUES AND PROBLEMS: Lastly, I appreciate the way the congregation has focused on strengths and appears to me to have seen our problems or shortcomings as just issues to be addressed. That has been very helpful to me personally. I believe it is that quality in our congregation that supports members taking a chance and trying something new knowing that we don’t have to be perfect – we all will have a learning curve.

Thank you to all for this past year. You are all a blessing in my life and I believe we, as a congregation, are doing God’s work.

Peggy Vermaas, Vice President

“In everyone’s life, at sometime, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.”
-Albert Schweitzer-

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

Dear Friends in Christ,

June 2008

By the time you receive the newsletter with this article, we will be on the threshold of the month of June! Time sure goes fast.... I've now been here at Shepherd of the Valley almost fourteen months. I don't think any of us thought in the beginning that the interim period would last this long, but God's timing is not our timing—thank goodness, God's in charge!

Now, as we look back at the past year and a half, it's possible to see how God has been working to heal this congregation from all your losses and transitions. Now, at the beginning of June 2008, we can see signs of God's resurrection power at work among the people of Shepherd of the Valley. As your pastor during this interim time, I consider it a great privilege to witness this rebirth. It's exciting to see new leadership and new ministry opportunities emerging here at SOV. It's wonderful to be able to give some of your long-serving, dedicated volunteers a well-deserved rest. Of course, it's also exciting to be nearing the end of the active phase of SOV's capital campaign to raise funds to help build a new sanctuary and improve your existing building so that you and future generations will have a welcoming place to worship and house your ministries. I look forward to celebrating with you and dedicating your pledges to the glory of God on Sunday, June 1st.

It's a good thing the active phase of the Capital Campaign is winding down a bit, because the work of SOV's Call Committee is ramping up! Assistant to the Bishop Susan Kintner has brought your Call Committee the names and profiles of four pastoral candidates to consider for the position of pastor. During the next few weeks, the committee will interview candidates and check their references. They will also be doing a lot of praying in order to discern the best match for the congregation. Please pray for the members of the Call Committee during this busy time: Arden Tarum, chair; Connie McFall; Valsala George; Daniel Carlson; Joe Hoffbeck; Linda Rasmussen; Dick Kuykendall, alternate; and Lee Bonacker, alternate. The committee members will keep the congregation apprised of their progress, but please respect the need to keep names of candidates confidential. If you have any questions about the call process, please talk to Arden or me.

After an extra busy festival season of the church year and all the end-of-school activities, I'm looking forward to the more relaxed pace of summer, and I hope you are, too. Remember that God wants each of us to have the rest we need, because we need rest in order to renew ourselves and our relationships. As you go on vacation this summer, I pray that you will travel safely and that your time away will be a time of renewal for you and your loved ones. Your SOV church family will be holding down the fort while you're gone and will be ready to greet you when you return!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Michelle

Upcoming Events Held at the Northwest Oregon Group, Thrivent Financial Office in Lake Oswego:

Submitted by Susan Rothe, Thrivent

June 12, 2008 at 6:00 pm – Thrivent Retirement Income Optimizer

June 24, 2008 at 6:00 pm – Medicare Supplement Workshop

July 10, 2008 at 6:00 pm – Quarterly Market Review

August 26, 2008 at 6:00 pm – Medicare Supplement Workshop

September 27, 2008 – *Tour de Build*

If you would like to sign up for any of these events, please contact 503-635-2003.

Thrivent Retirement Income Optimizer

As you have approached or entered retirement, perhaps you have done some saving through 401(k) plans, IRAs, or other vehicles. You may also have some supplemental income in the form of Social Security, pension, or other sources. But there may be questions you are asking but don't know how to answer. You have some income sources and some assets for retirement, but you are not sure how to appropriately turn them into income. You may have questions such as: How much can I afford to spend each year? How will I know if I have enough? How should I invest my savings? What can I leave behind?

Join Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative Anthony Vece of Northwest Oregon Group for an informational seminar on how Thrivent may be able to help you answer these questions. This free seminar will be held at 6:00 pm on June 12, 2008 at 4000 Kruse Way Place, Lake Oswego, Bldg 3, Suite 155. If you are interested in attending, please contact Anthony at 503-635-2003 ext: 245. Note that no products will be sold at this informational event.

Quarterly Market Review

A look back at the previous quarter market performance and a discussion on current trends and market conditions in consideration of the next quarter.

Medicare Supplemental Workshop

Don't be overwhelmed! Thrivent Financial will be holding informational workshops explaining options for Medicare Supplements for anyone between 64 ½ and 65. This seminar will be held at 6:00 pm on June 12, 2008 at the Thrivent Financial, Lake Oswego office, 4000 Kruse Way Place, Bldg 1, Suite 230. If you are interested in attending, please contact 503-635-2003 ext: 245. Note that no products will be sold at this informational event.

Tour de Build

Mark your calendar for the ***Tour de Build***, Saturday, September 27, 2008.

This bicycle ride is being brought to you by an all volunteer crew with the all of proceeds going to the Greater Portland / Vancouver Habitat for Humanity Affiliates. The website will be available for registration as a rider or a volunteer on June 1.

This late summer ride features rest stops at active Habitat for Humanity Build sites in Portland, Hillsboro, Vancouver and Gresham. The course features urban, suburban, and country roads that will take you across the Willamette and the Columbia rivers and back to the starting point.

Choose from a Century, Metric Century, or the Family outing at 100, 62, or 20 mile respectively. The major sponsor of this event is Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Questions? Call or e-mail Mike Maidl, 503-635-2003, mike.maidl@thrivent.com



JUNE 2008 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px dotted black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST—CELEBRATION SUNDAY/GRADUATION RECOGNITION </div>						
1 8:30 & 10:30 a Worship Grad recognition between services 	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 Circle meets—brown bag lunch	6	7
8 8:30 & 10:30 a Worship Cong. Meeting after 2nd service	9 6:30p—Exec. Committee	10 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	11 1:00 p—Kruse memorial 7:00p—Choir Practice	12	13	14 Flag Day 
15 8:30 & 10:30 a Worship Father's Day 	16	17 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—SOV Women's Dinner 6:30p—Jr. Choir	18 7:00p—Choir Practice	19 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 3:00 P—SOV vs. Grace Point SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 5:00 P—SOV vs. Tigard Christian SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 5:00 P—SOV vs. St. Andrew SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 5:00 P—SOV vs. St. Matthew	20	21
22 8:30 & 10:30 a Worship 29 8:30 & 10:30 a Worship VBS—10:30 a Worship	23 30	24 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir	25 7:00p—Choir Practice	26	27 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 5:45—8:00 p—Friday 10:00 a—4:00 p—Saturday	28

FOR ALL SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY MEMBERS!

Congregational Meeting! June 8, 2008! After 10:30 service!

Submitted by Diane Lewis

We gather to share what has been happening in our congregation and elect new committees and officers for leadership for SOV. We will also vote on a new Memorial and Endowment document for our church!

The nominating committee has been very diligent to offer everyone an opportunity to serve on a committee of their choice and fill the vacancy of financial secretary. After the slate of officers and committees is offered, we will have a written vote. If you would like to serve on a committee or run for an office, please contact either Corrine Gilberston or Peggy Vermaas.

A new Memorial and Endowment document for the congregation will also be presented, discussed and voted on at this important meeting. This is an opportunity for our congregation to have a well-established policy for Memorial giving as well as establish our first endowment fund. This endowment fund will create legacy-giving opportunities that eventually will help fund many different areas of mission and needs for our congregation. We have been part of only 10% of Lutheran churches that have not established an endowment to support a legacy for the future generations of our church. In just a short amount of time and with a wonderful and committed group of people in our congregation that was guided by Trisha Larsen from our Oregon Synod, we now have a wonderful new plan for Memorial giving as well as establishing an endowment that the congregation will vote on at our June 8 meeting! Copies of this proposed document will be available in our narthex prior to our meeting June 8.

Of course, food is always part of our congregational meetings, so we will be ordering pizza that will be delivered right after late service. There will be selections of vegetarian, cheese only and non-tomato based pizza so we can accommodate as many people's choices as possible. Beverages will also be available and we will have an offering at lunch to defray the costs of our lunch.

Come and gather as a family of Christ as we vote on the future of our congregation and celebrate all that our church members have accomplished this last 12 months!

We continue to be "Building on Christ... our Foundation!"

MANY THANKS! NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

By Diane Lewis

As I begin to thank a few of our members let me say first that there are many people that make things happen in our congregation and serve their Lord through many ways of service for our church! We are a church that has a great percentage of people serving in some capacity to make things happen for our congregation and the ministries that we support. Please know that each of your gifts of service and time is very needed and appreciated!

There are some members that are either leaving council positions or as the head of a major ministry for our church.

Wendy Roeder has served on Parish Ed in all capacities for 15 years! Linda Rasmussen has taught and led Sunday School, taught confirmation and been part of Vacation Bible School, all in the last 9 years! Dave Rasmussen has guided and directed Property Management for 9+ years! James Graham has been head of Evangelism and Outreach of 4 years! Kari Pinc, is moving to Vancouver this summer and has been co-chair of Fellowship! Larina Hoffbeck has been on Executive council for 3 years as Treasurer and Financial Secretary!

Our congregation has been truly been blessed with the talents, time and commitment of many hours of faithful service that these members have shared with our church family at Shepherd of the Valley! We want to lift up each person that has volunteered to make a positive difference in our congregation and make sure that they feel genuinely appreciated. I encourage you to offer your own support and words of thanks to these members!

Many Thanks!, New Opportunities! (cont.)

On June 8, we will be going forward into a new program year as we vote on officers and new committee's members. I encourage each SOV member to consider new ways to serve God through the opportunities that are available at Shepherd of the Valley. You might surprise yourself how your life will be enriched when you "stretch" yourself and volunteer for something new. We are so thankful for each member who brings their own style of leadership, time and commitments to our ministries! As a congregation, we celebrate and encourage each member to be involved with some area of ministry at Shepherd of the Valley and try things with your own ideas and style! As they old saying goes, "If you don't try it, how do you know you won't like it?"

We give God the glory and appreciate each of the "Builders" that have given so much of themselves to the ministries of Shepherd of the Valley!

By being involved in our church community, we build relationships. The church is not just a building.....it is the people and the relationships we have together in Christ that really build our church.

Memorial Giving Plan and Shepherd of the Valley Endowment

Submitted by Diane Lewis

Thy will be done Lord...In your time! It is amazing how a plan that was attempted over 9 years ago to develop a plan for Memorial giving and to create an Endowment for Shepherd of the Valley was put on hold all this time and now, we have a document for both these goals to bring for vote at our congregational meeting on June 8!

In March we learned that SOV was in the 10% of Lutheran congregations that did not have an Endowment in place. On April 13, it was brought to our attention that we really need to have this in place as soon as possible as we go forward. Trisha Larsen from our Oregon Synod office that works with congregations and individuals that need assistance with planned giving and other financial situations individually was contacted or as a congregation immediately. The meeting was set up that week with a task force of members that were willing to commit their time to work with Trisha to accomplish this goal. The council approved this document and we will now vote on our new Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Memorial and Endowment document on June 8. We will send this by email to the congregation, mail a copy to those not on our email list as well as having a copy available at church for any member interested in reviewing our plan.

This is an exciting opportunity for better planned Memorial giving and for establishing the Endowment that will help us create a living legacy for our congregation's ministries as we move into the near future of our congregation and for generations to follow us. Our members or families of members will have a well thought out and planned program to better serve the families and the church.

When the congregation approves this document, the next step will be to have the policies and procedures adopted by the council and a committee of 5 people voted on to be on this board. The terms will be for 1, 2 or 3 years so that we will have people rotating through the board to keep continuity. The only members that will not be considered for this board are current Executive Board members.

The task force that participated in getting this plan into reality is Larina Hoffbeck, Mark Vignolo, Christine Edgar, Peggy Vermaas, Diane Lewis, Ken Harris, and Arden Tarum. Special thanks to each of these members for all the time and commitment to getting this accomplished!

This is another instance for our congregation that we can give God the glory and realizes that what we are doing for the planning of our church is in His time!

If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact Diane Lewis, Arden Tarum or Mark Vignolo.

CONFIRMATION 2008

Nidhi George's Biography

Hi, my name is Nidhi George I was born on December 14, 1994 and I have been, attending Shepherd of the Valley for my entire. I live with my mom, Valsala, dad, George, and sister, Neha. I attend Stoller Middle School, and I love to draw, and swim. My favorite SOV memory is making Easter breakfast with our Sunday school class.



My Faith Statement by Nidhi George

Matthew 6:25

Faith in my case has truly been defined by the lessons I have learned at Sheppard of the Valley. In my early years of Sunday school I learned that God would love me no matter what, that so long that I asked for forgiveness God would never hold a grudge. SOV has taught me many things, but the most important teaching I have acquired is how blessed I am. Besides the uncountable apparent things that God has given me including, a loving family, great friends, a roof over my head, food, clothes, and an education, the most important is what one can't see, my awareness of God. This is the gift that I unfortunately take for granted all the time, the gift that tells me no matter what happens I will have God right next to me to help and guide me whenever I need him.

Being a Christian means having a relationship with Christ, like any other relationship, it deepens over time. Mine began when I was baptized, and my parents promised to raise me in a Christian household, to teach me right from wrong, and to show me the ways of the Lord. For the last thirteen years my parents have fulfilled their vows, and now it is time for me to take over my journey of faith. As I begin this lifelong voyage, I go in with the beliefs that God is good, he only wants the best for me, and that I should not only trust him, but to allow his love to shine through me. God has placed amazing people in my life, they have taught me many life lessons that I will hold onto forever, many of these people are at SOV. They say that it takes a village to raise a child, and I am happy to say for me my village has always been Shepherd of the Valley, so I would like to take this time to say to this inspiring congregation, thank you.

**Nidhi George, Sarah Hurd,
Joseph Gilbertson & Aaron Sugiyama**

Joseph Gilbertson's Biography

I was born in Portland, Oregon on November 17, 1994, at 7:14 p.m. at OHSU. I have been attending SOV for over thirteen years, starting with my early toddler years at KOK, Kids of the Kingdom. I was also baptized here at SOV by Pastor Al Solmonson. I have no siblings and I have eight cousins. I am finishing 7th grade at Stoller Middle School. I played Little League baseball for seven years, league basketball for six years, and soccer for two years. Now I only play basketball year-round. My favorite sports teams are the Blazers, Ducks, and Mariners. My favorite memories are going to Sunday School, confirmation classes, and learning about Jesus.

Joseph Gilbertson's Faith Statement

I believe that God created the world. I believe God created me. I believe we are all children of God. I believe I'm a child of God. I believe in the ten commandments. I believe God answers my prayers. I believe that God is not just the starting point of my life he is the source of it. I believe God loves me. I believe that God gave his only son to die for our sins. I believe God loves everyone. I believe that God wants me to be happy. I believe that God wants me to share his love with others. I believe God wants me to do good for other people. I believe in the Apostles Creed. My experiences through the church with my family have been memorable, funny, and exciting. What my baptism meant to me was that I became a child of God. Who Jesus is in my life is the person I

CONFIRMATION 2008 (CONT.)

pray to. How being a Christian makes a difference in how I live is that I know he is with me, and where I go always. Praying is important to me because it gives me a chance to talk to God one on one. How would I see myself serving Christ in my life is by doing for others who need help. Each time I take communion my sins are washed away. My faith walk with Jesus is an on going journey. I give thanks to God for my mother and father.

Sarah Hurd's Biography

My name is Sarah Hurd. I was born in Saint Vincent hospital on September 15, 1994. I am in the 7th grade. I go to Rachel Carson Environmental Middle School. I am an only child. My favorite color is blue. My parents' names are Tom and Christine. I am currently 13 years old. My hobbies are sports. My favorite breakfast is pancakes. My favorite lunch is hamburgers. My favorite dinner is pizza. I like food. Most of the time, I play on the computer with my friends. My favorite confirmation teacher is Mindy. I have a dog, a cat, and one fish. My dog is a black border collie. My cat is part British tabby and ocelot

Sarah Hurd's Faith Statement

Philemon 1:6

Hello my name is Sarah Hurd and I am going to talk to you about my Faith Story. Things in this draft will include my experiences of church with my family, who Jesus is in my life, how important prayer is to me, and many other things. I'm going to take you on a long journey through my church and confirmation life.

My experience of church with my family is good. My mother and I usually go to church every month at 2nd service. My dad would go but he is Catholic and goes to a separate church. Anyway, my experience with church is good so far and I hope that it will stay that way.

People who have been influential and encouraging during my faith journey are people like God and my mom. God has been encouraging to me because I knew how hard it could get and he helped me get through it. My mom helped me as well because she kind of made me do my homework and this Faith Story. She also helped me to remember the books of the bible. Jesus is a big part of my life because he taught me the value of life and taught me right from wrong. Jesus taught me right from wrong by telling other what was right and wrong. He taught me the value of life by dying on the cross. Jesus' death and resurrection means a lot to me. This is because he died for our sins. If he didn't do that then being a Christian makes a difference because I know I will always have someone to protect me and show me the right and wrong things to do. I wouldn't have anyone to guide me through tough situations. I also won't know where I would go when I die.

Prayer is very important to me because it is my way to speak to God. Without prayer I wouldn't be able to go to someone for help or ask for someone to get better when he is sick. It's His way of knowing when we need help.

I see myself serving Christ in my life by going to church every Sunday and helping out when a special event is going on. I will also help by donating things to the church. One thing I would donate would be money for a new safer church.

Aaron Sugiyama's Biography

Aaron Sugiyama was born on September 18, 1993 in Portland and has attended SOV with his family—his parents Cal and Karen and older siblings Aaron and Amy—all his life. He currently attends Highland Park Middle School and, next year, will be a freshman at Beaverton High School. His favorite subject is Science and in his free time Aaron likes to listen to music, talk to his friends and play sports. His favorite SOV memory is when he “pied” Gunnar Rasmussen and Jacob Tabor in the face during the SOV Thanksgiving Dinner.

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Aaron Sugiyama's Faith Statement

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower, the righteous run in and are safe. God is the role models of role models. He is always there when you have no one else to look up to. The verse above makes me think about the power and preeminence of religion. If you are a Christian, then HIS doors are open to you, and you can just run inside them and you are safe from imperilments and other nasty things. When you are in times of need, seek God, and he will provide you with a strong tower.

CONFIRMATION (CONT.)

I really like this verse. It talks of one of the benefits of Christianity. If you believe in the LORD, then you have a safe haven to look for when you need it. If you are righteous, then you can run in, if not, you must wait outside its doors, and deal with the hardships of life on your own. That is what this verse means to me. It means that I have a strong tower to run into, and knowing this is one of the greatest things about my faith.

Shepherd of the Valley has been a strong tower for me over the years. It is a second home with a second family. I walk inside its doors and I admire the entire feeling surrounding it. I come in here, and I am safe. I come here to learn about religion, and I come here to be with the very people that also come here. I have had great memories of this place. The festivals, the potlucks, the sermons, all of it. I have been through good times, as well as times of turmoil. The worst time I can remember in our church's history, was the passing of Pastor Kurt. It all affected us inside. But people still made it along fine. This reminds me of another verse in the Bible, it goes like this: *A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.*

People have really helped me along for the past years of my life. All my Sunday school teachers really encouraged me a lot from early Sunday school days, to the more recent middle school age years, from the corn maze visits at

Sauvie Island, to walks around the church. Every single moment of it I treasure deeply. The teachers, and classmates all have been there with me along my journey from child to adult. All the people of Shepherd have helped me grow over the years (some might question if I have grown much in maturity, but that is a different story).

Jesus's birth, life, and resurrection are easily the most significant things to happen in all of history, and in the lives of literally millions of people nationwide. They have affected the way I live and how I make choices here on earth today. He went through trials of suffering and humiliation so that our sins are forgiven. He acknowledged his death, and faced it. Jesus is a great hero, and a great spiritual icon around the world.

When I think of God, I have a little metaphor that pops into my mind. I see God as the training guy at the DMV, the one who is put in the passenger seat and braves the reckless driving of eager teenagers. He tells you where to turn, how to turn, when to stop, when to go, but he never drives the car, that is for you to do. That is like God. He guides you along your life, throwing traffic, accidents, dangers, and triumphs for you all along the way, and eventually you end up where you started. He doesn't have the wheel, you have the wheel, and you decide how to drive, and God will be there along side you, guiding you all the way.

WALK FOR JACOB TABOR

As you know, Jacob Tabor has been in and out of the hospital this year suffering from Crohn's disease. Please help sponsor Jacob Tabor, son of Jim and Kathy, brother to Jameson and Katrina, for the Crohn's & Colitis walk which will be Saturday, June 28th, Pioneer Square in Portland starting at 4:00 pm. Here is a website to register online:

www.active.com/donate/takestepsportland07/1jtabor1



June Softball Schedule

Sunday, June 1, 3:00p—SOV vs. Grace Point

Sunday, June 8, 5:00p—SOV vs. Tigard Christian

Sunday, June 15, 5:00p—SOV vs. St. Andrew



All games are played at Trinity Field in Hillsboro. Please come and cheer our SOV players on to victory.

AROUND THE PARISH....BY ANN SMITH

- Austin McDonald has been a helper here at SOV. You have no doubt seen him light the candles, help set up for fellowship on Sunday mornings and seen him help with ushering. Is he following in his uncle's footsteps? Or is it his mother or maybe even his grandfather? Hey there Austin—you do good stuff. Thanks for being you!
- A Rock Creek 2nd grader, seven year old Amber Kotvis recited a poem she learned at school. I do believe all of us here at SOV were duly impressed and enjoyed hearing her recite. In case you did not hear all of it, I will repeat.

"I am very special and unique. I am a designer original—one of a kind. Out of the billions of people in this world there is only one me. I will strive to be the very best me that I can be. I will respect myself and others. I will improve my life each day through my mind, attitude and behavior. I have a positive purpose, and the world will be a better place because of my life."

This girl loves all colors. Right now her favorite pastime is reading and drawing. I asked her several questions.

Question: What would you like to see happen at church?

Answer: People loving one another.

Question: What do you really like about our church?

Answer: All the music and songs. I love Sunday School and all the lessons we learn. The teachers make it fun.

She hit the nail on the head and this is a seven year old.

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OK, I have one for all of you. Can you tell me who it is that mows the grass between the church and the storage shed, around the dumpster area? Who makes burnt light bulbs disappear? Any drippy faucets, overflowing toilets...and if that is not enough...what about those ants? They never give up. It must be someone who is very quiet, yet very caring. This is one of those non-paying jobs. Who is responsible? Did he have his name put on a list to get this job? Anyone of you know? Well, I do. Thanks Jeff Wagemann—you are indeed a wonderful guy!!



We have set up a social table for anyone who would like to stop by the church and visit for a moment or two and maybe have a cup of coffee. When we get together and reminisce with each other, we may find that our recollections differ, however, sharing memories do bring all of us closer. I am grateful for the people who are in my life and share these moments.



Rebecca ladies met at the church on May 1st. We did remember that it was May day. Did any of you remember (as a child) taking a small plant or a few flowers to a neighbor—knocking at the door putting your flowers in front of the door and running away? I must say we have such a warm, friendly group. We enjoy each other's company so much that we have decided to continue meeting throughout the summer months.

AROUND THE PARISH...BY ANN SMITH (CONT.)

The SOV Rummage Sale will be August 15th and 16th. Please see the article in this newsletter. Look for the flyer about what and when we are collecting. You could put the list on the fridge (just in case you forget anything). We will keep you posted as to our plans.

What do you think about how the old whiskey barrel turned out? I don't know what possessed Verna Wik to go under the church. Thank goodness she did not get stuck under there. Anyway, she sanded, painted, and cleaned it up. Then before Mother's Day, Pat Nelson, Verna Wik and myself made a trip to Al's Garden spot and the Farmington Gardens looking for

just the right flowers to put in it. We had a great time picking out the plants for this project. Make sure you check it out. We are sure proud of it!



Notice "Help Wanted for KOK". KOK is looking for magazines so the children can cut out pictures for art projects. Please be sure the magazines are age appropriate. Linda George will put a basket out on the counter in the Narthex to collect them.



SOV 2008 GRADUATES

Sunday, June 1st, SOV is honoring their HIGH SCHOOL GRADS. During fellowship between services, 9:30-10:30 am, we can enjoy some cake and congratulate their accomplishments and wish them God's guidance in their future endeavors. SOV's graduates are:

Vivian Noller
Wesley Plinke
Jameson Tabor
Shayne Johnson
Kelsey Rizer
Jack Roeder

Please see newsletter insert for more information on the grads.

V a c a t i o n B i b l e S c h o o l

FRIDAY,

JUNE 27TH

5:45—8:00 P

SATURDAY,

JUNE 28TH

10:00 A—4:00 P

SUNDAY,

JUNE 29TH,

10:30 A SERVICE