

MARCH 2011

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

Shepherd's Office Hours;
Mon-Thurs 9:00—2:00

Pastor Randy's Office
Hours;
Tues-Fri 9:00 -12:00
(by appt after 12:00)

Office phone;
503.645.4994
Sovlutheran.com

Worship Services
8:30 a & 11:00 a
Sunday School for all ages
9:45 a

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*"A caring community
touched by Christ,
touching others for Christ"*

SOV YOUTH GROUP goes bowling...

February 20th



SOV Youth Group

Next event;

Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday

Pancake dinner @ SOV, March 8th

5:30—7:00

Come have pancakes and listen to the Youth Choir

Entertain while you enjoy your dinner.



PASTOR'S PAGE

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19
(paraphrase)

In a very short time, March 9th to be precise, it will be Ash Wednesday. The words quoted above will be spoken again and again as we begin the season of Lent. Have you noticed how late that season begins this year? It is about as late as it can be. Why is that you ask? (Alright, so I am doing the asking.) It is based on when Easter is celebrated, and the celebration of Easter is a "moveable feast". In 325 AD (according to the First Council of Nicaea) Easter was established as the first Sunday after the full moon following the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox. That is based on the date of March 21st (although it happens on March 20th most years). So, the date of Easter will fall between March 22 and April 25, and this year Easter is April 24th, or just about as late as it can be. That is why Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is so late.

That is all offered because it seems that sometimes it is good for us to recall our history and try to recognize why it is we do the things we do.

A little more history. Lent lasts for 40 days (excluding Sunday's, which are always feast days celebrating the resurrection). The word originally meant "spring". It is a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The length of the season is suggested by Jesus fast at the beginning of his ministry, by Moses stay on Mount Sinai and even the years of the people of Israel wandering in the wilderness and Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God.

We have the opportunity to use the season of Lent as a time for rebirth and renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. We may give something up that means a lot to us, or we may add something that enlightens us. Anything that would help us focus all the more on the great gift of the cross and resurrection of the Christ.

These are rich times and we have been richly blessed. Help us Lord to recognize your presence in the whole of our lives.

In the peace and power of the cross,
Pastor Randy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Peggy Jo Vermaas

Greetings and God's peace to all. While, as always, there is lots going on at Shepherd and lots I could talk about, I am going to let the other contributors speak to current happenings. Please review Lee's article (the Vice President's report) for specifics on the Building Renewal project. More information is coming. Progress.

As I have sometimes said, I like to look back but work on moving forward. This time last year the Council revisited our long term plan and, at that time, re-focused our efforts on four goals. These goals were: to increase and improve our connecting with one another; to grow our congregation in numbers, programs and spirit; to improve our financial stability; and, to maintain and improve our existing facility while planning for expansion. We have tried to stay on track with these goals. While I believe we are making some progress and can site examples (this activity or that program), what is really important is what do you as a member see? Do you believe that Shepherd is on track with not just the SOV plan but God's plan????? Discernment. What about God's plan for each of us as individuals but also as SOV members? Not always easy or clear. Moving forward in our visions. Building. How do we really build? By working together. Soooo, these goals are really for the congregation and benefit from the action steps of members. What's your next best step??



March is the time when our nominating committee begins to work to fill Council positions and fill our committee's with both returning and new members who will continue the work. God always wants us to be in prayer and working together. Thru our prayerful work, we connect. Through our connecting we grow. We enrich one another and we enrich the family of SOV. We move forward and we build. Are you ready to be a part of this process in some way that may be "New to You"? As you are shaking out that un-used garment and adding it to our narthex closet, how about shaking out a skill, talent, or treasure and making an offering? How about a 'yes I will give it a try' when asked by Diane and Cal? Wouldn't it be a real sign of how SOV has grown if our nominating committee came away from the experience of asking folks to help with a sense of joy!!! If every job we do in his service, and every step we take in his service, lifts us up spiritually??? There is room for joyful giving and balance in life.

The daffodils are budding. Easter is coming. Each of us is a builder in God's plan for SOV. Please pray about your role in this journey.

Blessings to all, Peggy

VP REPORT...submitted by Lee

The Thrivent loan closed three weeks early, on 2/1/11, rather than 2/22/11. \$115,000 of “new money” came from the refinance. Together with a donation, the building renewal fund started with \$119,814.91. The Building Renewal Fund controls have been approved by the Council at the 2/17/11 Council meeting. A 50% down payment for three heaters and two air conditioners has been paid. There is some necessary electrical work to be done. A bill has not been submitted for that work, nor has a down payment been sent yet. As of 2/22/11, there is \$110,956.91 available for repairs.

There were no responses from the ad on Craig’s List for space to lease at SOV, nor from others whom I called. Finding a lessee will be an ongoing effort.

The SOV brochure has arrived and it is lovely; many thanks to Joe Hoffbeck for helping get that done.

Upon the suggestion of a congregation member, I arranged for Rebeka Skelly with the Oregon Energy Trust to come for a meeting at SOV. SOV may be able to get rebates for \$2,000 - \$2,400.00. Every bit of leverage helps in the repair effort.

On 1/31/11, I attended the Earth Care Summit at Neveh Shalom. The focus of the summit was “Food and Faith”. I attended round tables for community gardens and health. Materials from that summit are available for review in the church office. (Please make copies if you want to take information with you.) Available information includes guidance on solar power, congregational health, community gardens and more. The biggest obstacles for community gardens to overcome were paying for the hard scape, providing water and finding long-term, committed garden management. Some congregations were able to integrate their community gardens into stewardship, education and charitable activities.

Portland has just received \$125,000 towards a goal of 1,000 new community gardens. The Portland Community Garden website is pkcomgard@portlandoregon.gov, or call 503-823-1612. Also, there are OSU Master Gardeners who can help the community garden effort. That program can be contacted at 503-821-1150.

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has a website at faithandwellness.org, which has a Congregational Health Index form, and other health information. Oregon Interfaith Power and Light is concerned with proper energy usage and how congregations can assist with that. Their website is www.emorgeon.org/power_light.php. One Unitarian congregation was able to save \$7,760 in heating from 2007 to 2010 by properly insulating plus other items. Kathleen Newman has information on how that was done, Kathleenoipl@frontier.com.

Since SOV got information from the Oregon Energy Trust, I decided to get a home assessment as well. OET will do a free assessment and put in diffusers and shower heads that use less water for free. They will even go under the house, into the attic and check out the wall insulation for you. There are incentives for all sorts of things like duct leakage assessment, as well as more familiar incentives such as buying energy efficient appliances. Just to let you know, OET’s incentives are in addition to state and federal tax deductions for some things. So you can layer up and get a lower net for things like on-demand water heaters, etc. Please contact Nancy Myers at 1-266-311-1822 for home assessments.

Habitat for Humanity...submitted by Rod Stoltenburg

Habitat for Humanity is starting a project in Aloha. A total of 8 houses will eventually be built with the effort starting in early April. SOV is one of several churches in the Tualatin Valley Chapter of Thrivent that will be participating in building one of the homes. As the date gets closer, we will be given choices for build days. So far, eight individuals have expressed interest in helping. So, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact me (503-719-2543). The more help, the better.

In addition, each church is doing fund raising for this project. The total amount required for one of the homes is \$120,000.

\$66,000 provided by Thrivent grant
 \$42,000 provided by the West Willamette Affiliate for Habitat
 \$12,000 (10%) will be raised by the congregations participating in the build

For SOV, we will be raffling off a beautiful baby blanket, made by Betty Stoltenburg. On one side is an illustration of Noah's Ark. The other side is luxuriously soft faux chenille waves. This blanket will be on view at the church and raffle tickets will be available to purchase soon. Donations are \$5 for 1 ticket, or 3 tickets for \$10.

This would make a great gift for family or friends, and help build a home for someone in need.



Property management would like to **THANK** Jim T., Patricia N. and Beth K. for cleaning the chair upholstery.
 The chairs look like new again.

Thank you for your volunteer services.

Shepherd of the Valley is proudly sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive Friday, March 25th, 1:30 – 7:00 pm.

We encourage all eligible persons to help our local community by giving the gift of life. The blood donation process takes about an hour of your time and could save up to 3 lives.

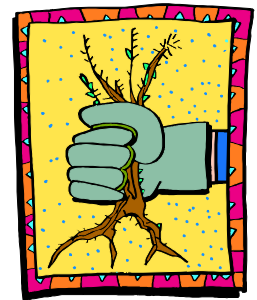
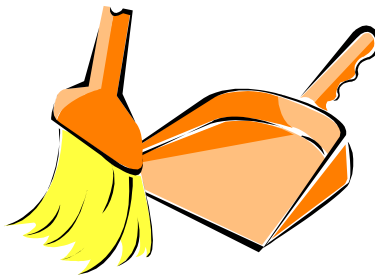
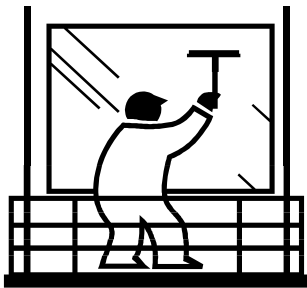
First time donors are welcome! For more information and/or to schedule your appointment to donate blood please call 800-787-9691 or 503-284-4040.



Walk-in's Welcome

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT...Submitted by Jeff Wagemann

It is time to set a date for our pre Easter indoor and outdoor work at SOV. **April 16, 9-noon.** The "to do" list consists of; window washing, inside and out, knock down cobwebs, clean grime prints on doors and push plates. Dust window sills and ledges, wipe walls around wastebaskets of beverage splatters and other miscellaneous grime. For the exterior, clean up of leafs in flower beds, on the parking lot up against the curbs, litter patrol on the grounds. These items are a starting point.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...

Open to men, women and youth~

Will meet; March 21st, 7:00 pm

@ New Seasons Market/Orenco Station

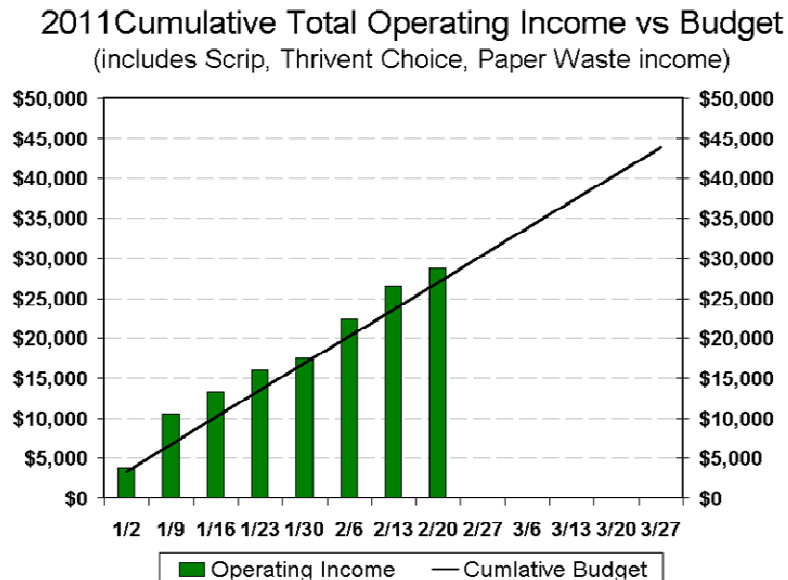
No experience required...



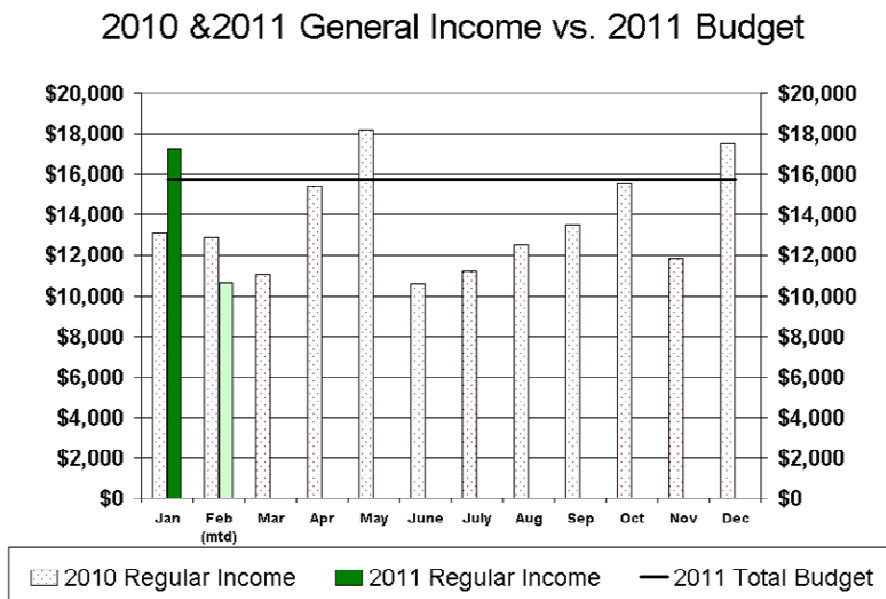
APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MARCH 22, 2011

TREASURERS REPORT...Submitted by Betty Stoltenburg

As of 2/26, Our income (General, Scrip, Thrivent Choice & Paper waste) is consistent with our 2011 budget. The graph below shows our cumulative (each week is added together) income vs. budget



The following graph is showing this years income compared to 2010. January was above budget and we have one more week for February.



Facing the truth, Following Jesus...

Submitted by Larina Hoffbeck

We all know that following Jesus is never a bad thing. It can be challenging and sometimes scary, but it is never bad. The same can be said for facing the truth. Most of us probably think that "facing the truth" is going to be painful. Usually we use that phrase when the truth is something we've done wrong or when there is a big disappointment or trial lurking in the wings. One of the most recognizable movie lines of recent times is "You can't handle the truth!"

But sometimes, the truth can be a pleasant thing to face.

For instance, 45 families and individuals in our congregation made a pledge towards SOV's regular offering in 2010. While some of those were not able to meet their pledge, an equal number made up the difference to end up 2% above total pledged amounts. Some may have had to face a hard truth of unexpected lower income during the year, but God provided through the increased generosity of others in our community of faith.

For 2011, 39 families and individuals have pledged. 29 of those also pledged last year with 26 maintaining or increasing the amount pledged. 10 are new pledgers this year. (If you would like to pledge, you can do so at any time. Just ask Bob McFall, Diane Lewis, Larina Hoffbeck, Deb Mueller, Terry Wagemann, Pastor or Tammy for a form.)

While most of the churches in the Oregon Synod have shown a marked decline in attendance over the last six years, SOV's attendance rate has remained stable. At just one Sunday in February at second service, we welcomed eight visitors (three families).

At least 80% of SOV's regular attendees over the age of five have volunteered at or with church in some form over the last year. At our recent Souper Bowl service blitz at the Oregon Food Bank we had more people want to volunteer than we had space for. (We'll be arranging another opportunity in April or May.)

So, thank you for following Jesus so faithfully as a congregation. Let us continue to work together and be good stewards of the many gifts God has given us. Let us continue to grow even closer as the body of Christ and let our light shine before others so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (Matt 5:16).

And that's the truth!

APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE MARCH 22, 2011

Kids of the Kingdoms

In March, the preschool class will be going on a field trip to Whole Foods to see how a grocery store works and learn about where our food comes from. We will be planting seeds and making a hypothesis on how tall the seeds will grow. We will also be learning about Jesus and His friends. The 3's will be making a book entitled "Jesus said" with the stories of Zaccheus, Jesus and His sheep, Jesus and His disciples and Jesus calms the storm. The 4's will be making various projects about Jesus and His friends. The preschool will be closed March 21-25 for spring break.

Bible verse: *"Let all that you do be done with love."*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



Teachers Mrs. Halligan and Mrs. Murray

Fall enrollment: We are currently accepting fall registrations for all of our classes. We are expanding to a 2 day Three's, 3 day Four's, and a 4 day extended day Pre-K/Kindergarten class. We are also offering a Friday 90 minute Two's class. Check out our website for more information- www.sovlutheran.com/kok. Registrations are available online. Please share this information with your family, friends and neighbors for this community outreach ministry.

Directors Linda Rasmussen and Wendy Roeder



PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY...

Living a Generous Life Through Prayer

The Prayer Team met on Feb. 15th and here are some of the items that were discussed:

Prayer Requests: We will be putting together prayer request cards and a prayer box. While these may be located in the narthex, we are looking at having some available at the ushers' station for those who would like their request included in the service during the Prayers of the Church.

Phone Prayer Chain: We will continue to send out prayer requests through email. However if you would prefer to be on a phone prayer chain, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Prayer Partners: We will be having prayer partners available after services to meet one-on-one and pray together with anyone who has a need. If you are interested in serving as a prayer partner, please let me know. We will have a short coaching session at the next Prayer Team meeting on Tuesday, March 1st, at 6:30 p.m.

Blessings,

Sandra Carasco



SCRIP PROGRAM... Submitted by Linnea Harmon

The scrip program has proven to be a successful addition to the fund raisers at SOV. Participants purchase scrip for face value – no added cost! – and the merchants donate a portion of the cost back to SOV. Since the program started in April of last year, we have realized an income of \$1,897.

Check out the list of participating stores and I'm certain you will find more than one that you frequent on a regular basis. Shop at Fred Meyer or Safeway or Albertsons or, perhaps, New Seasons; all are on the program. Stop by Starbucks occasionally or perhaps Krispy Kreme; they are there, too. And what about all of those plants you intend to buy at Home Depot or Lowes this spring? Pick up some scrip before you go shopping, and SOV will benefit as well.

We have been placing orders monthly, but want to try something new. For the months of April and May, we will be placing orders bi-monthly. The planned schedule is:

Sunday, March 6
Sunday, April 3
Sunday, April 17
Sunday, May 1
Sunday, May 15

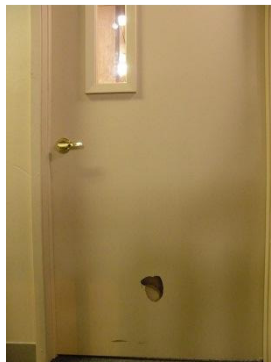
Because the Scrip Program is run through the Tigard/Tualatin School District, they only receive orders monthly during the summer months. However, if our April/May trial is a success, we'll continue bi-monthly orders beginning in September.

Give the program a try. Purchase one scrip card for a store you visit regularly. You'll see how simple it is. Imagine how SOV's income would grow if each family could do this.

Thank you to all who have supported the program. You are the ones making it work for SOV!!

SOV Vandalism: SOV has incurred some recent vandalism in the upstairs loft in the youth room. Several months ago the door was kicked in and this past week the words "pray, wish" were broken. This is considered vandalism; meaningless destruction of property. To smash for no reason at all. Its important all youth be supervised by their parent/s at all times.

We should all take pride in our church home and work to keep it clean, repaired, updated and in best condition. Just like the sign in the retail store, If you break it you buy it...in the church this means the same.



SOCIAL CONCERNS...Submitted by Larina Hoffbeck

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing items for Community Warehouse. We'll continue to collect until March 6th. For information on what things they most need, please see the Social Concerns bulletin board (there are lists you can take with you on the table directly below the board) or their web site at: <http://www.communitywarehouse.org/howyoucanhelp/index.html> Don't forget, they're open all year, so if you have something to donate later, you can always take it to one of their two donation sites.

During Lent, consider taking our Hunger Challenge. It's a great opportunity to learn more about yourself, your community, and the continuing problem of hunger throughout the world. Complete instructions are available on SOV's web site at: <http://www.sovlutheran.com/socialconcerns.php> . We also hope you'll take one of the "Lenten Prayers for Hungry People" table tents home to provide thoughtful ideas for learning, worship and action for you and your family during this season of reflection



We're looking for more people who would like to serve on the Social Concerns committee. If you have an interest in serving others outside the church walls we'd love to have you join us at our next meeting on Monday, April 4th at 7:00pm at church to see if Social Concerns is a good fit for you. Even if you don't want to serve on the committee, we're always looking for new ideas on how to reach out to God's children in our neighborhood and beyond. Please let us know where your passion to serve lies!

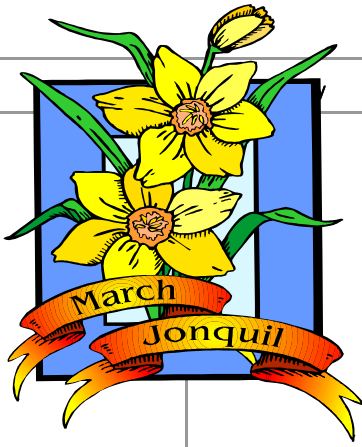
Contact Larina if you have any questions or if you'd like more information.

NEW SOV BROCHURE

The Evangelism Committee has developed a brochure to advertize our church and our programs. The brochures were part of the package for the church directories from Olin Mills, and they were free. There are some brochures in the holder outside of the front door, in case you want to see how they turned out. Feel free to take some to distribute to people who might be interested in SOV.

Joe Hoffbeck
Evangelism Committee

March 2011



		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00 p Food Basket Distribution 6:30 p Youth Choir Practice 6:30 p Ladies Dinner @ Grapevine Restaurant	2 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK 10:00 a Bible Study 11:15 a Rebecca Circle 6:30 p Vespers Service 7:00 p Adult Choir practice	3 6:30 p Men's Night @ Old Chicago	4 9:00 - 11:30 a KOK	5
6 8:30 a & 11:00 a Worship Birthday Sunday Blood Pressure check Scrip Orders	7 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK	8 12:00 p Sunset Cluster 1:00 p Food Basket Distribution 5:30 - 7:00 p Pancake dinner Youth choir	9 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK 10:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p Ash Wednesday Service	10 7:00 p Parish Ed Meeting	11 9:00 - 11:30 a KOK	12
13 8:30 a & 11:00 a Worship Daylight savings time/spring forward 	14 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK	15 1:00 p Food Basket Distribution 6:30 p Youth Choir Practice 6:30 p Executive Council	16 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK 10:00 a Bible Study 5:30 p Soup Supper 6:30 p Vespers Service 7:00 p Adult Choir practice	17 10:00 LLL 7:00 p Council Meeting	18 9:00 - 11:30 a KOK	19 Spring Vacation Begins 3/19 - 3/27
20 8:30 a & 11:00 a Worship No Sunday School Spring Vacation Week 	21 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	22 1:00 p Food Basket Distribution 6:30 p Youth Choir Practice April Newsletter Articles due	23 7:15 a Coffee Group 5:30 p Soup Supper 6:30 p Vespers Service	24	25 1:30 - 7:00 p Red Cross Blood Drive	26
27 8:30 a & 11:00 a Worship No Sunday School	28 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK	29 1:00 p Food Basket Distribution 6:30 p Youth Choir Practice	30 7:15 a Coffee Group 9:00 a - 11:30 a KOK 5:30 p Soup Supper 6:30 p Vespers Service 7:00 p Adult Choir practice	31 12:00 All Church Luncheon		