

OCTOBER
2008

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS... SUBMITTED BY MINDY OTT

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Sunday School: A New Year and New Programs!

The Sunday School kicked off the new year with Rally Day on September 7th. We owe many thanks to Kristi Ray, who organized the activities and handled registration, and Theresa Kotvis, who kept things running smoothly.

With the new year, we are trying something different in the Sunday School. Instead of breaking up into smaller classes, the Kindergarten-6th grade classes are being taught as one. Lisa Ramsay-Barnes, Kristi Ray and Theresa Kotvis have taken on the challenge of teaching the group as a team—although additional teachers and helpers are always welcome! This year's curriculum is "Seasons of the Spirit," which follows the lectionary reading. A benefit of this is that it will reinforce downstairs in Sunday School what children are hearing upstairs during worship!

The pre-schoolers are once again being taught by a dedicated group of parents in the "Pre-School Co-Op," which is organized by Sokha Kwan. For lessons, they are taking the lead from "Seasons of the Spirit," but modifying the material to appeal to our youngest Sunday Schoolers.

Debbie Johnson is teaching the Confirmation Class, which is now being offered as a two year program. We are continuing with the "Here We Stand" Confirmation materials that we introduced with our last confirmation class. This class is meeting upstairs in the youth room.

Post-Confirmation Sunday School is back and it is CAFFEINATED! Because of space constraints at the church, Mindy Ott is taking our confirmed youth to Starbucks for java and discussion. We are using the ELCA's "Faith Lens" curriculum, which takes the lectionary readings and applies them to current events.

We have a number of activities coming up for the Sunday School and Youth programs, so mark your calendars and look for further details for these events in the Sunday bulletins!

October 25th – Carvin' for the Starvin' – the Sunday School classes will spend the afternoon carving pumpkins, which will be up for sale the next day during Church service. Do you want a jack-o-lantern, but don't want to deal with the mess? Be sure to check out what our kids create during the services on October 26th. All money from the event will go to our Shepherd's Storehouse to help provide food for those in need in our community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS CONTINUED

October 26th – The Middle School and High School youth will be heading out to the corn maze! This event is a go, come rain, shine or mud—so dress accordingly!

Also...in late October (dates to be announced soon!) come check out our very own Jacob Tabor playing the lead role in the musical version of “*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*” at Westview High School. Please see Jacob Tabor for tickets for this event.



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Upcoming Events Offered by Northwest Oregon Group, Thrivent Financial:

<u>October 16, 2008</u> - 6:00 pm	Medicare Supplement Workshop	Lake Oswego Office
<u>October 23, 2008</u> - 6:00 pm	Quarterly Investment Update	Lake Oswego Office
<u>November 13, 2008</u> - 6:00 pm	Thrivent Retirement Workshop	Lake Oswego Office

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for any of these events, please call 503-635-2003.

THANKSGIVING DINNER...Submitted by Larina Hoffbeck

SOV’s annual **Thanksgiving** dinner is coming up on Sunday, November 2nd at 5:00 pm.

We hope you will join us for turkey, ham, prime rib, dressing, potatoes and other yummy Thanksgiving treats! Please bring either a salad or dessert to share.

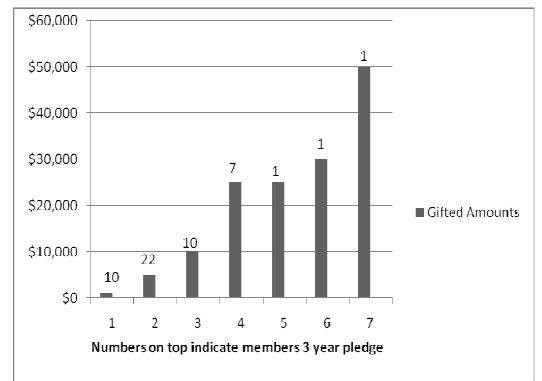
We need five people to roast turkeys (we also are happy to take donations of turkeys), someone to take any left-overs to the Union Gospel Mission, a couple of people to help in preparing the meal, and lots of help with cleaning up afterwards. If you would like to help with any of this, please contact Larina Hoffbeck at :

hoffbeck@verizon.net or (503) 617-9297

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GRAPH

The graph indicates the 52 responses to the capital campaign we are currently at \$335,645.00 of our \$500,000 projected goal.



Around the parish....submitted by Ann Smith

There is the story of the Pastor who got up on Sunday and announced to the congregation "I have good news and bad news." The good news is we do have enough money for our new building program. The bad news is "it is still out there in your pocket."

Sunday, August 24th, Jim and Marge Allgaier's great granddaughter Riley Brown was baptized here at SOV. A beautiful child and a beautiful ceremony.

Does anyone know?? What do backpacks and coffee urns have in common?

Rebecca Circle met on September 4th. We enjoyed a brown bag lunch and discussed prayer and how it affects our lives. The difference of opinions is inevitable among humans, but spiritual unity is essential. God is not limited, he doesn't live only in a house of worship, but wherever hearts are open to receive him.

The next Rebecca Circle meeting will be Thursday, October 2nd at 11:15 am with studying from our September books. Please bring a brown bag lunch - all women are welcome.

Rally Day was September 7th. The youth choir, with now 10 members, sang "Shout to the Lord". Then we had a couple of songs by the Soggy Bottom Beaverdam Boys. "Higher Power" went over pretty good with the crowd here. Then we had Pelli the Pelican who kept things lively - thanks to Craig Zetterberg and Kathy Tabor. Food was great and I think the water balloons were enjoyed by many. In the middle of all this, we had a Town Hall meeting. What a day!

Baptism of our own Holly Rowyn Haydamack was on September 14th.

On September 16th, twelve SOV ladies met for a German dinner at Gustav's Restaurant. Our waiter, David, was from Jamaica. What fun we had! Our waiter brought in the drinks balanced on his head. What an act! I thought Aggie was going to challenge him, but she remained calm and smiled sweetly. We started off with cheese fondue which was great. OK ladies—where next?

On September 26th and 27th, we will listen to some fine music put on by the "Transport Trio". It starts at 7:00 pm and is a fund raiser for our building fund. A free will offering will be taken.

Prayer chain: from September 1st to 25th—members or friends who needed our love and support via the prayer chain were: Jacob Tabor, Charlotte Harris, Christine Edgar, Ron Farnsworth, Aaron & Nicole Lee, Bob McFall, Carol & Henry Streed, Holly Haydamack and Delores Austin. We want all of you to know that we are keeping you in our prayers.



Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 2nd at 5:00 pm. Mark it on your calendar. Here again, we are ready for sharing Thanks-giving dinner with our church family. With some of our members being alone and some of our families living a long distance away, this is the time for us to share dinner and holiday cheer with each other. The Thanks-giving dinner has been and continues to be an important event for our members. It is important that our church family take time to look one another in the eye and say "Thank you for your involvement in my life. Your presence makes my life easier, happier and more full, but like most families we don't say the good things often enough. We will have an old-fashioned dinner with turkey, ham and prime rib added for those who don't want the traditional. The last couple of years—you—are members have outdone yourselves with those special family dishes your brought to share with all of us. We hope you will continue to do that this year. We will have the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, cranberry sauce and dressing, plus the ham and prime rib. Coffee, tea and lemonade will be served. The salads, veggies and dessert will be your contribution. Please join us on November 2nd at 5:00 pm.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, it has been less than 72 hours since the congregation of Shepherd of the Valley voted to reject the proposal to call Rev. Kathleen “Kit” Neeley to be the next pastor here. In response, people’s thoughts and emotions are “all over the map.” Some are confused about the process and/or about the outcome. Others are disappointed or angry for various reasons. Still others are feeling some combination of all these emotions.... Just as people’s thoughts and emotions differ, so do our ways of dealing with matters like this. Some of you are quite calmly removed from the situation. Others of you seek to understand. Still others among you would prefer to put the problem behind you and move on. To those who have questions and concerns, please know that SOV’s Call Committee and Council leadership has heard your voices and is working on a way to respond quickly and clearly. Stay tuned for more information!

As a congregation you have reached a crossroads: You are at a place where you must do three things that will require some intentional, honest hard work, if you want SOV to move forward in a healthy way. First, you must reflect on how you got to this place. Ask yourselves and each other: “Why were we so divided on the question of calling this particular pastor? How can we do a better job of communicating with each other?” Second, you must take inventory: What strengths does the congregation have that can help you bind your wounds and continue your journey? What “baggage” do you have that needs to be jettisoned, so that you can lighten your load as you move forward? Third, as you stand at this crossroads, you must decide: Are you ready to pick up the cross and do the hard work of following our Lord on the road to new life?

The call process is not a perfect process, because it’s not run by perfect people. However, the process does work; it works because the Holy Spirit participates in the process, and in God’s time the Spirit will work all things for good for those who love God. As I mentioned in an e-mail to the congregation on Monday, another local congregation had a similar experience several years ago: The vote to call a pastor received a majority, but it wasn’t a 2/3 majority, so the call failed. The Call Committee and other congregation members were stunned. Over the next few months, a couple of things became clear: First, there were unresolved issues in the congregation that needed to be addressed before the members would be ready to call a pastor. Second, the pastoral candidate they voted on probably wasn’t the best match for the needs of the congregation at that point in time. Several months after that first call vote, that congregation experienced the joy of calling a pastor who has proved to be a good match for its ministry needs.... My hope and prayer is that Shepherd of the Valley will have a similar happy ending.

If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to take a moment to personally thank your Call Committee members for their service. Whether or not you agree with the process and/or the outcome, it is obvious that this group has worked very hard on behalf of the congregation. Like the rest of us, they are learning as they go through this process. I also urge some of you to communicate more clearly and directly with the Call Committee. While it’s true that some of us could have listened better, it’s equally true that some of us could have spoken up more clearly. Indeed, some did not express their opinions until it was time for a vote. Why is that? Can this be corrected as you go forward in the process, so that the Call Committee and Council will be better informed in making a recommendation for call?

So, what happens next in the call process? The good news is: The profile and interview questions have already been “hammered out,” so the process won’t take as long the second time around. Next, the Call Committee members will regroup and reflect on what they can do differently. Soon afterward, they will receive names of new candidates from the bishop’s office. They will review resumes and conduct interviews with the candidates. Once they have found a match, they will set up a forum for the candidate or candidates to meet the members of the congregation. The Call Committee will bring a recommendation to call a pastor to the Council, and the Council will vote on sending the recommendation to the congregation for a vote. Again, the vote to call a pastor must pass by a 2/3 majority of those present and voting. There are good reasons for this supermajority: A congregation wouldn’t want to call a pastor who didn’t have good support, and the pastor probably doesn’t want to come into a new call without broad support from the membership.

If you have questions, please know that my door is open and my phone is always on. As we go forward into the future God is preparing for SOV, let’s come together and go forward in hope and trust. You are a strong and gifted people, and when you come together, God can and will do amazing things through you!

A LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PARISH NURSE TO THE CALL COMMITTEE AND SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY CONGREGATION

Arden ---- Larry and I just want to thank you and the entire Call Comm. for your hard work . You followed the process as set before you by our Synod . It concerned me to see almost as many “no” votes as “yes” votes. This should be a concern to all of us. I only hope we as a whole congregation, will give this some serious thought! Larry and I will be praying for all the members of the congregation ---- praying that we are "one in the spirit" that our Lord will "Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken --- Bind us together in Love" ---- we sang those very words this morning @ worship service!!

I have been working on some areas in my life that I feel the Lord speaks to in His sermon on the Mount.---like Patience, Kindness, gentleness, love, obedience, goodness ----- those are good things for all of us to be keeping in mind as we all, together, as one, go forward and continue our search for a Pastor for SOV.

Larry and I will continue to pray for the Call Comm. and for each and everyone here @ SOV.

Proverbs #3 --verses 5&6 say

Trust in the Lord with all your Heart ----- do not depend on your own understanding!
Seek his will in all you do and he will show you the right path!

We are one family -- let us count our Blessings. This is an exciting time, a happy time ---not a sad time! Let us not be anxious but rather seek his guidance and peace!

Love in Christ, Corrine and Larry Gilbertson

Most of you already know that not so long ago I have been to India for a few days. It was a hectic and yet a fun filled 10 day trip (08/23 to 09/04).

TRIP TO INDIA....submitted by Sandeep Jonnakuti

It was so kind of the Social Concerns Committee to accept the idea of donating Christian story/picture books and extending support to international evangelism.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who donated picture and story books. With the weight limits I had on the Airlines I was flying, I could manage to carry over 30 books.

These books went as donations to:

St. Matthew's West Parish Church Sunday School, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

There was lot of excitement and cheer amongst the Sunday School staff and children at this fabulous gift that would be of great aid in their regular ministry efforts.

Sunday School Superintendent Mr Roosevelt Raja Bhushanam along with the teachers (20 nos.) and Sunday School students (120 nos.) requested me to carry their heartfelt gratitude all the way to the Social Concerns Committee and all the members of Shepherd of the Valley.



OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>TEMPLE TALKS: OCT. 12TH—JIM ALLGAIER</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCT. 19TH—LARINA HOFFBECK</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>OCT. 26TH—MARK VIGNOLO</i></p>			<p>1 7:00p—Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 11:15 A—Rebecca Circle meets—brown bag lunch</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class</p>	<p>6 6:30p—Men's Group meets at Old Chicago Pizza</p>	<p>7 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir</p>	<p>8 7:00p—Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir</p>	<p>15 7:00p—Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class</p>	<p>20 Exec. Council</p>	<p>21 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir 6:30p—SOV Women's Dinner</p>	<p>22 7:00p—Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 7:00p—Church Council</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Choir Retreat</p>
<p>26 8:30 & 11:00 a Worship Services 9:45a—Sunday School 10:00a—Adult Class</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:00a—KOK Chapel 6:30p—Jr. Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Newsletter Day!</p>	<p>Come support Jacob Tabor. He will be playing Charlie in Willy Wonka at Westview High School on Thursday October 23rd thru Saturday October 25th. Call Westview High School (503) 259-5225 for ticket information. Admission: \$6.</p>	

SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS

We spent 253 hrs. and 1135 miles which included the time spent on the backpacks. We spent \$1,190 on the backpacks—\$500 of that was from Thrivent. We had donations of approximately \$1,100, most of that being the backpacks themselves.

Our next project is the Thanksgiving dinner on November 2nd which we will be doing together with the Fellowship Committee. Also, we will be putting together Thanksgiving baskets on Saturday, November 22nd.



“Our next project is the Thanksgiving dinner on November 2nd.”

OPEN FORUM OPPORTUNITY, OCTOBER 5, 12:30 PM

Submitted by Diane Lewis

We have had requests from some of our congregation for the opportunity to have some dialog about the outcome of our vote on Sunday and the status of our call process.

In order to facilitate these requests we will be having an open forum after church on Sunday, October 5. This is an opportunity to keep us all informed and on a positive path as we go forward in our “Call” process.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and can not attend the open forum we encourage any member to contact any one on the council, the call committee or Pastor Michelle for the opportunity for conversation about our “Call” process.

Sharing and caring for each other has always been part of who we are as a family of Christ at Shepherd of the Valley. Please continue to pray for our congregation as we continue the “Call” process and discerning how God is directing us in this journey.

