

The Bethany Beacon

MARCH 2010

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Bethany Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

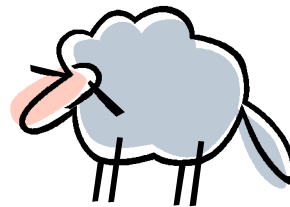
A 23-year tradition continues its success

The Heavenly Stew Feed

I thank everyone for "singing praises" to me, literally, but there are many of you here at Bethany who made me look good because you all worked so hard making my job as organizer easy. Let's not forget that Marilyn Moore drove down from her Baker County ranch to make the lamb stew for us. Due to an excellent turn-out of workers, the vegetables for both the lamb and the beef stews were all prepared by noon on Friday.

Cali Burzota and B&B Printing donated the colorful tickets and posters to get us started. Ray Burzota provided the onions used for both stews. Carol Robertson donated the beef for the beef

stew. Jean Oakes made two recipes of bean soup, which was so well-received that we actually ran out.



Beth Magrini wrapped nearly 200 sets of the plastic flatware in spite of the fact that she was scheduled for heart surgery. Marilyn and Bill Clausen took care of salad and the dressings, Pat Looney chaired the roll, dessert, beverage committee.

Andy Moore ran the Country Store. He deserves special

recognition for his 23-years of service to the store. Jeanette Moore and Harold Clayton gave him helping hands. With the help of Tim and Judy Grim and Conrad and Nancy Anderson, Andy set up tables and chairs after Mariners' meeting. And if that wasn't enough, Andy, with the help from Pastor Karen, delivered posters to area churches.

Bob Feasel and Carol Robertson each took an hour at the ticket table and many more of you served, worked in the kitchen, dished up the wonderful desserts; and some washed dishes, cleared tables, and reset tables. Nearly every one of our session members

(Continued on page 2)

Lenten Lunches

3/11—St. Matthews

3/18—Community Methodist & First Methodist

3/25—1st Christian

4/1—Bethany

Additional Lenten and Holy Week Events

Wednesdays @ 12:30—Lenten meditative prayer

April 1—Maundy Thursday worship

April 2—Good Friday worship

Going deeper—encouraging and equipping

Karen's Corner

"Going Deeper- experiencing the heart of Christ through John's Gospel" is the theme of the Northwest Small Church Conference taking place May 4-6, 2010 at Hilton Garden Inn, Boise, ID. The key verse is John 17:26 "I made your name known to

them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." This is a conference for all those who have a desire to grow closer in relationship to Christ, experiencing his heart and reflecting his love into the lives of others. The confer-

ence is particularly geared for those who live and worship in a small church setting (under 200 members).

As your pastor, I am very excited about this event and will be attending myself. At Bethany Presbyterian, we have

(Continued on page 2)

A 23-year tradition (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

and our deacons helped in some way. And we all had a great time with the fellowship!!

Leftover desserts were served at the Sunday morning coffee hour or some sold in the store. The small amount of leftover stew was all sold by the time church services were over.

Attendance was slightly up from last year. We served 150 and made up twelve take-outs. There are a lot of events and fundraisers scheduled every week in our area so I think we can feel good about how we

did. More important than profit is the friendship and fellowship we enjoy while keeping in touch with our community. I wish I could name and personally thank each of you who helped including those who attended and brought family and friends.

Nancy Anderson summed it up well saying that we seem to be serving the number of people that works for our size of congregation and available workers all while keeping the event a lot of fun to put on. The Heavenly Stew Feed and Country Store began 23-years ago as a way to help fund the building of the

new church. We have successfully built it, furnished it, and finished it. Now proceeds can go toward other worthwhile organizations such as this year's recipients, Love INC.

and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PDA is especially important at the present time as it seeks to help with the immense needs brought on by the Haiti earthquake.

With sincere appreciation to all,

Marilyn Rowe

General Chair

Preliminary stew feed financial report

INCOME

- Dinner — \$1,070
- Country Store — \$1'002
- Gross — \$2'072

EXPENSES

- Expenses — \$445.95 (there are still some expenses to be turned in)

NET INCOME—\$1,626.05

Karen's corner (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

been graced with a variety of deep spiritual gifts among our members and friends. This meeting encourages and equips us in our ongoing mission to share those God-given gifts not only with each other but also with our local community.

The plenary speakers are:

- F. Dale Bruner, Ph.D. is a Master Bible Teacher. He earned his degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and taught for 11 years at Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines, then 22 years at Whitworth College.
- Lynn Ziegenfuss is a leadership development and spiritual formation specialist. Her passion is to encourage, equip and empower followers of Jesus to move to-

ward spiritual maturity and Kingdom effectiveness. She is a Presbyterian elder from San Diego and received her B.A. from San Diego State University and holds a Masters degree in Christian Education. She will be teaching as well as shaping our group experiences.

- Sean Martin is a gifted worship leader and musician currently serving The Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood in Ketchum, ID and will be our worship leader.

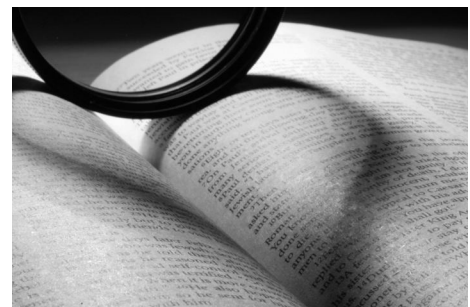
Do you have a passion and enthusiasm for Jesus Christ? Do you feel God calling you through Bethany Presbyterian Church to live a deeper, richer life in Jesus Christ? Then this could be the event for you!

For the first six people, we pay only \$99 for early bird registrations per

person before March 5th, and only \$119 per person after March 5th. Deadline for registrations is April 25th. Presbytery scholarships are available until April 25th, and session approved \$50 scholarships for the first six people from Bethany who apply.

For more information, see the leaflet on the bulletin board outside our sanctuary and/or contact Pastor Karen Francis or Elders Richard Trimble and Terry Warrington.

Blessings, Pastor Karen



Karen to be keynote speaker at PW Gathering

Karen Francis will be keynote speaker at the PW in the Presbytery Gathering in Weiser on March 27. Karen will lead an interactive experience helping participants deal with everyday busyness using contemplative practices of holy women from a previous age bringing these practices into the present day.

Her topic, which is entitled "Rediscovering the Heart of the Sacred," will certainly address the theme of the Gathering, "Calming the Storm Within Us" and interpret the scripture

focus from Psalm 131:2, "...I've cultivated a quiet heart. Like a baby content in its mother's arms, my soul is a baby content."

The day begins with registration and refreshment at 9:30 a.m., and is scheduled to conclude at 1:30 p.m. A quiche luncheon with dessert will be served at a cost of \$5, and child care will be available.

Please RSVP by March 15 to Naomi Field, 208-549-0386 or email at wplumb@qwestoffice.net.

An additional reason Bethany women might consider attending this particular gathering is that Joey Mills will be installed as PW in the Presbytery Moderator.

See you there!



Session notes

Session met for its regular meeting on February 11.

The Christian Education Committee has hired a nursery attendant. Her name is Christy Grimaldo, a senior at Fruitland High School. Be sure and welcome Christy when you see her on Sunday mornings. She will be available for both worship services.

The Mission Committee's name has been changed to Mission and Out-

reach Committee to encompass both mission and evangelism ministries.

Elders Marilyn Blair-Clausen and Richard Trimble were appointed commissioners to the meeting of Presbytery.

Session continues to study "Living Your Strengths." It is interesting to learn one another's strengths and to build upon individual gifts.

DEACONS' REGULAR MEETING NIGHT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M.

The food pantry

The Mission Committee hopes that you find our new set-up for the food basket and "Conrad's corner" helpful. The committee felt that Bethany's strong commitment to fighting hunger needed a more "cared for look."

During January and February, Bethany donated 42 pounds of food to the Next Chapter Food Pantry. Marilyn Blair-Clausen, Mardell Phillips, Ruth Ann Alm and Marilyn Rowe all helped during Bethany's February shift.

The Pantry Board is planning a "Progressive Dinner" that will take place Saturday evening, April 10, to raise funds for the pantry operation. Those churches who serve at the pantry will be involved and serve as a location for each course of the meal. Bethany will host the appetizer course. The board hopes to sell three hundred tickets at a cost of \$10.00 each.

A letter from the Oregon Food Bank has been received.** It says in part, "Oregon Food Bank extends sincere

gratitude for your gift of \$50 to support the Southeast Oregon Regional Food Bank serving Malheur and Harney counties. Your gift is already making a difference in people's lives, supporting a growing hunger-relief network that last year served an average of 2,000 individuals each month."

**The name of this donor is not known. If you are that person and want the full letter, let Kathryn or Jeanette know.

Per Capita: the Presbyterian covenant community fund

What is per capita?

Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians discern God's call in their lives. It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on GA committees and commissions. It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation" (*Book of Order*, G-4.0101)

Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church. Because it is rooted in the connectional and covenantal nature of the Presbyterian Church, as affirmed by the ordination vows taken by elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, per capita could be called the Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund.

Why is per capita important?

Per capita brings Presbyterians

together — literally!

Presbyterians are connected in many ways, including our church government. We believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as governing bodies, "seeking together to find and represent the will of Christ" (*Book of Order* G-4.0301). Per capita dollars pay for the costs of holding a General Assembly including paying for the travel, room and board of commissioners and advisory delegates, several of whom would not be able to afford these expenses on their own.

Per capita makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we do.

Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. By providing the primary means through which commissioners and advisory delegates can gather to do their work, per capita dollars help to undergird our governance system.

Our Constitution provides a moral and theological compass that builds community and calls us to Christian faithfulness in gratitude to God.

Per capita makes possible our effort for visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ.

The PC(USA), as with other faith traditions and denominations, is but a small part of the one church of Jesus Christ. We affirm that God's call is for the church to be one.

Per capita makes it possible for us to maintain our historical awareness.

Our historical heritage helps us make informed decisions for the future. The Presbyterian Historical Society is our national archives and historical research center. It collects preserves and shares the history of the American Presbyterian and Reformed tradition.

**PER CAPITA IS
\$24.54 PER MEMBER.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PAY
THIS AMOUNT ABOVE YOUR
REGULAR PLEDGING, IT WOULD
BE APPRECIATED.**

Edward Dunn says, "We cannot be complacent."

Speaking to the meeting of presbytery, on February 6, Edward Dunn, Presbytery Executive, said that churches cannot be complacent in their mission giving—that all congregations must seek ways to commit more dollars and time to a growing need.

Edward pointed out that while the total population in the Presbytery of Boise has increased by 23 percent in the past ten years, Presbyterian mem-

bership has experienced a 14 percent decline. He also noted that while there was a decrease in available mission dollars in 2009, the number of funded projects is growing.

If the Presbyterian Church is to remain a viable presence in our communities, congregations must recognize and commit to meeting needs, including the planting of new churches and welcoming people within their own

communities to learn about Jesus Christ.

Our per capita commitment meets many mission and evangelism needs. In brief, mission dollars are important to the ongoing health and vitality of the church we love. Please pray that we at Bethany will receive guidance and renewed energy to meet the challenge.

Growing churches deep and wide

The General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC) has approved the recommendation that the 219th General Assembly (2010) renew its commitment to Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide.

The recommendation, which came at GAMC meetings on February 24-25, calls for the Assembly to extend a churchwide commitment to participate in God's activity through Jesus Christ in transforming the Presbyte-

rian Church (U.S.A.) through the 2011-2012 biennium. The recommendation would also encourage synods, presbyteries, sessions, and all agencies, entities and networks of the church to commit to foster growth in evangelism, discipleship, servanthood and diversity

What's new in this recommendation is that each session will be requested to commit time on its agenda during 2011-2012 to cast a vision for each of

the four *Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide* emphases.

The recommendation also calls for the Assembly to encourage the GAMC to support the whole church's commitment to nurture the growth of Christ's church deep and wide in all of its ministries and missions.

Further information can be found at <http://deepandwide.ning.com>.

Bethany bulletin board

Dave Webster had successful surgery on his neck. Pray for his good recovery.

Madison Booth played a flute solo at the district music festival. She received a very good score.

Remember Harold Clayton in prayer. The editor has learned he has been feeling a little under the weather. Harold is the new co-leader of the prayer chain. Thanks, Harold!

Betty Roberts has now registered the Prayers and Squares ministry with the international organization. Bethany is Chapter 958. Several have indicated an interest in the group.

We are seeking an office volunteer for Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If you feel you can volunteer, contact Karen.

The Ash Wednesday service was well-attended and very meaningful. Thank you, Karen.

Pray for Beth Magrini as she recovers from heart surgery.

Thank you, Marilyn Rowe, for chairing the stew feed. Your willing and upbeat

leadership is unsurpassed!

Mardell Phillips is pleased to announce the birth of her first great grandchild. A phone call was waiting for her after she arrived at home from working on the stew feed throughout the evening. Congratulation, Mardell!

You couldn't have missed the news that Mark and Anna Van Weerdhuizen are expecting their first child in July. Mark coaches New Plymouth High School basketball. The team won their district title, and will move on to play for the state title.

Marilyn and Clint Rowe will become grandparents for the first time when oldest son, Greg, and his wife, Katie, have a baby in August. Greg and Katie live in Boise, so they will be close by the doting grandparents.

Dave and Barbara Henderson are anticipating the wedding of their daughter. The wedding will take place in July in Montana.

And Marilyn and Clint Rowe's daughter, Jennifer, will be married in September—a Colorado wedding. No wonder Marilyn has been grinning

from ear to ear.

The Deacons note that the January and February coffee hour hosts filled up nicely, but now help is needed for March and April. Remember, those who attend second service are always welcome to come at 10:00 a.m. and join the first service people for coffee and fellowship.

If you would like a Presbyterian Planning Calendar, please contact Kathryn Baker by March 25. She will be placing a money-saving order with the presbytery. The calendars have large spaces for notes and lots of useful information about the Church.

YOU ARE INVITED...

**CHUCK RUTH WILL BE
95 YEARS YOUNG, AND
HIS FAMILY WILL BE
HAVING CAKE AND
COFFEE IN HIS HONOR
ON MARCH 14 AT 2:00
P.M. NO GIFTS PLEASE.**

Putting the amazing back in grace

Karen's sermon on Sunday, February 28, "Beating Back the Buzzards," made me think of a favorite book of mine written by Ann Weems. The name is "Putting the Amazing Back in Grace." Ann tells in free verse the story of her childhood as the daughter of a Presbyterian minister who dared to speak the truth in love. The following is a short section from that book. (Ed.)

Some of the people in the church called my father names and my brother said we should beat them up, but my father said there's not going to be any of that sort of talk around this house. Then he told us that Jesus said forgive those who persecute you and speak all manner of evil against you for my sake. Then he went into his study and listened to a recording of organ music. We could hear him humming all the way outside.

When my father told my mother that he was being criticized for preaching

racial equality, my mother said she wasn't surprised. She also wasn't surprised that the businessmen were angry because he preached about higher wages for the poor. My mother said, "Let's go to the beach." So we did.

Sunday morning at the beach is very strange. Instead of my bathing suit, I wore a dress and felt sand in my patent leather shoes. My Daddy wore a suit. My mother said she was on vacation. So did the others.

I wanted to go to church because the only time I could sit with my father in church was when we were on vacation. When the minister said a long prayer, my father put his head in his hands. I looked at him out of the corner of my eye. I wondered if he was asking God to restore his soul. When he sang, he sang loudly just the way he did at the Hymnsings.

On the way home I asked him if his

soul was restored. He said God was always restoring his soul. He said he hoped I understood that he had to be faithful to his calling. So he had to preach what he thought was the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I wish I could preach something that would make everybody happy, he said, but I have to preach what I think is right. I have to preach what I think God wants me to preach. It's very hard sometimes, he said. I have to be sure in my heart that it's about Jesus and not about me. It's not when I'm resting that I feel peaceful; it's when I feel I've been faithful. I can't be the minister of a church where I'm asked not to preach what I believe is true. Do you understand that? he asked. Not really, I said. I'm only seven years old. The only thing I really understand is that it's about Jesus. That's enough, he said. That's really enough. It's all about Jesus, the grace of God.

Coat ministry winds down until next year



Since winter seems to be waning a little, the coat request has diminished some. We have given about 45 coats through our

church. I attended a "Gap Ministry" meeting recently. Kim reported there had been 114 coats given out through Love, INC this winter. What a blessing that is for those needing a warm coat. We will soon be boxing the coats up for distribution next

year. Thanks to all who have donated coats and for your willingness to help.

Submitted by Merlyn Ashby

The Mission Committee thanks Merlyn for her willingness to coordinate the coat drive and boutique here at the church. (Ed.)

And now a word from the Décor Committee



"Décor" is yet another church committee that offers opportunities to serve. Members work to enhance the appearance of areas of the church

or to decorate for seasons and holidays.

Pat Looney is the chair. Members are Marilyn Blair-Clausen, Merlyn Ashby, Neva Lzicar, Mo Yost, Marilyn Rowe and Kathy Penne.

The committee would welcome new members. If you would like to help with this much-valued ministry, contact one of the committee members.

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 Coffee hour fellowship after each worship service 7 9:00 worship 10:30 worship 5:00 youth group	1 6 p.m. Esther Bible study 8 5 p.m. Long Range Planning 6 p.m. Esther Bible study	2 Noon-Building & Grounds 7-8 a.m. breakfast Bible study 9 7-8 a.m. breakfast Bible study	3 6-7 p.m. The Shack study 10 6-7 p.m. The Shack study	4 Noon Lenten lunch 3-4 p.m. YES 11 Noon Lenten lunch 3-4 p.m. YES 6 p.m. Long Range Planning 7 p.m. session	5 12	6 Sterry auction & gravy feed 10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Healthcare Screening 13
14 9:00 worship 10:30 worship 2 p.m. Chuck Ruth's birthday 5:00 youth group	15 6 p.m. Esther Bible study	16 7-8 a.m. breakfast Bible study	17 6-7 p.m. The Shack study	18 Noon Lenten lunch 3-4 p.m. YES 6 p.m. Mariners	19	20
21 9:00 worship 10:30 worship 5:00 youth group	22 6 p.m. Esther Bible study	23 7-8 a.m. breakfast Bible study 3 p.m. worship committee 7 p.m. deacons	24 6-7 p.m. The Shack study	25 Noon Lenten lunch 3-4 p.m. YES	26	27 9:30 a.m. PW Gathering @ Weiser
28 9:00 worship 10:30 worship 5:00 youth group	29 6 p.m. Esther Bible study	30 7-8 a.m. breakfast Bible study	31 6-7 p.m. The Shack study	April 1—Noon Lenten lunch Maundy Thurs. worship (time to be announced)	April 2—Good Friday worship (time to be announced)	April 10—Food Bank progressive dinner

"I SLEPT AND DREAMT THAT LIFE WAS PLEASURE; I WOKE AND SAW THAT LIFE WAS SERVICE; I SERVED AND DISCOVERED THAT SERVICE WAS PLEASURE."
—RABINDRANATH TAGORE
 (PROVIDED BY MARILYN ROWE)

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The church office now has its
own email. Please direct email to
bethanypresoffice@gmail.com.

Bethany Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Report on Haiti & Chile

Bill Clausen, Karen Francis and Kathryn Baker all "attended" a Webinar regarding the PC(USA)'s response to the earthquake in Haiti. Presenters were Randy Ackley, Coordinator of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Pix Mahler, Haiti Regional Liaison and Ruth Farrell, Coordinator for the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

In addition to funds and Gift of the Heart hygiene and baby kits, plans are coming together about next steps. People wanting to help need to be patient and not rush in. Haiti's infrastructure cannot support people coming in just yet and Haitians need to be included in the rebuilding process. This will address the immediate

unemployment problem. Skilled workers from the U.S. will be needed as rebuilding gets underway.

Meanwhile, Presbyterians can help by praying for Haiti and Haitians who are in the United States, many who do not know if their family and friends are alive. Financial gifts are essential as are Gift of the Heart kits. Financial gifts can be given individually (mark your check "Haiti, DR000064" or a donation to the One Great Hour of Sharing will support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Hunger Program (as well as Self Development of People).



Bill Clausen & friend take part in Haiti Webinar

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, an earthquake measuring 8.8 occurred off the coast of Chile in the Maule region approximately 115 kilometers north of the country's second largest city, Concepción. Early reports are that there were several hundred casualties. Our partner church in the region, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Chile reports no victims. The church in Talca has been destroyed. (Talca is located between Concepción and Santiago.) We currently have no PC(USA)-appointed mission personnel deployed in Chile. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is monitoring events and is ready to work together with our partners as they assess the situation. Please pray for the people of Chile.