

**College Place
Presbyterian
Church**

**Special points
of interest:**

- Greening of the Church - Nov. 27th at 10:00 AM.
- Children's Christmas Program - Dec. 12th @ 5:30 PM.
- "Come to the Quiet" Night Prayer Services will be lead by Skip every Thursday night from 7-8.
- Check out upcoming Adult Christian Education Classes that will begin in Jan. (pg. 5)

**Inside this
issue:**

Robin's Medical Update	2
The Wasser House Update	2
A note from Kriss Peterson	2
Youth Ministry report	3
Children's Ministry	4
A Note From Skip	5
Adult Christian Education	5
Greening of the Church	5

THANKSGIVING GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CPPC!

In all but one of his epistles, the Apostle Paul begins his letters with a special section of thanksgiving. The one I identify with the most for our congregation is from Philippians.

" I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." Phil. 1

Over the past 32 years that we have been in ministry together, God has woven our lives into a tapestry of love and service. Ephesians 2:10 celebrates: "For we are God's 'poema', masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do." From the earliest days of our life together, this congregation has had the courage and vision to accomplish wonderful things for the Kingdom of God, all to the Glory of Christ. In 1980 we were the first congregation in the Walla Walla Valley to sponsor refugees from Southeast Asia. The Manyrath family arrived in 1980 with their six children from Laos. Within a month, they would be living in a home, working at Iowa Beef and be financially self supporting. They live here to this day and we are still friends. Over the years, we have shared in mission and ministry in this community and beyond that is a legacy of obedience and sacrifice.

Living out our mission to "Grow Christian Leaders", we continue to support our young people seeking higher education and vocational talents. The Scholarship Program has dispersed well over \$200,000 since its inception and you continue to make that a significant work of faith and encouragement. We could list so many areas of ministry and mission that God has both prepared for us and provided for us to accomplish. The latest of these is the Wasser House. Elder Peggy "Colonel" Cox commented to me one day how she: "Understands what the mission of Growing Christian Leaders really means." Overseeing the daily work and renovation of the Wasser House, she has met and worked with nearly a hundred volunteers from the congregation and community who have given a labor of love to make this house a home away from home for cancer patients receiving treatment at St. Mary's Regional Cancer Center. This past year we have also raised over \$45,000 to send a mission team to Guatemala; raised and dispersed over \$20,600 for Haiti relief during our Lenten Season; raised over \$24,000 for the Scholarship Fund, over \$10,000 for the Campbell Farm; over \$2,000 for Young Lives Outreach and over \$10,000 for the Wasser House and other local mission needs. What a cause for Thanksgiving!

As we come to the end of 2010, I have a special request to make of all of you. With all of the special mission projects we have joyfully funded this year, we find that we have a \$30,000 deficit in our General Fund Operating Budget for this year. As we come to the end of 2010, I would ask all of you to prayerfully consider a special Thanksgiving or end of the year contribution to our church to erase this \$30,000 deficit and help us end the year with a balanced budget. Last year at this time, we were facing a \$21,000 deficit and we were able to make that up by the end of 2009. By the grace of Jehovah Jireh, the God who abundantly provides, I am confident that God has already provided the resources to meet this need and we will rejoice together, bringing in the sheaves to supply the needs of this portion of the Body of Christ. Thank you in advance for your ongoing love and support.

~ Robin

P.S. I just heard from Peggy "Colonel" Cox that we received over \$6,000 cash donations for finishing the Wasser House in the past 10 days. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND JOY IN SERVING GOD TOGETHER!

UPDATE AND SCHEDULE FOR ROBIN'S TREATMENTS

We have finally heard from the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA). After weeks of testing siblings and making decisions concerning the next steps to follow, we have a timeline for the next stage in our treatment. I will have the 4th R-CHOP chemo cocktail here in Walla Walla Wednesday, November 17th. That will keep my current cancer in remission until we return to Seattle December 14th. We have an appointment 11:00 AM on the morning of the 15th, so we will drive over a day early to make sure we don't have the stress of a time crunch on the 15th. I will have to have a Hickman Port installed in my right chest during that first week I'm there and they will undoubtedly run a myriad of additional tests as well. I will start the pre-transplant chemo December 29 while the stem-cell donor begins taking shots to manufacture surplus stem-cells which should be harvested January 4th and transplanted into my blood stream the same day. We would appreciate it so much if you would mark those dates on your calendars and keep us in your prayers, especially on those days and the days to follow. All four of our children will be tested and one of them will be chosen as my stem-cell donor. It is a relief to get some definitive dates lined up. Now we have to trust God's loving care to make this a life-saving and life renewing procedure. Thank you in advance for all your prayers and expressions of concern. You can follow along with the entire journey by connecting to the blog I write once or twice a week www.pastorpeterson.blogspot.com. May God bless all of you in our absence and we will look forward to returning as soon as my health will allow.

Thanks again, Robin and Kriss Peterson

A Note from Kriss

Dear Church Family,

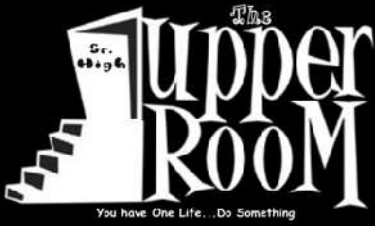
What a blessing it has been to be home for the past few weeks in light of my Labor Day Sunday mishap which resulted in a fractured right pelvis. Being on crutches for 6-7 weeks is a very humbling experience, but one that has allowed me to be ministered to in some very special ways - from helping me unpack suitcases, do laundry, sweep the floors, take me grocery shopping, lending an electric wheelchair to get out to the back of the barn, and **all of the wonderful meals** (*Cleo and Robin were most appreciative of these*)! I also want to thank the women of our congregation for the "box of love" delivered to me filled with cards, candles, goodies, and other fun things. I have felt very loved and cared for. I have been able to forgo the crutches as of Sat. Oct. 23 and am getting around, limping, as long as I don't try to go too far for too long, but am feeling better each day. So glad to be driving again and able to handle stairs as we look forward to heading back to Seattle in the near future. The love and support of all of you, our church family, helps to keep us going during this time of multiple medical issues. Life is hard, but God is good. Thank you for being God's hands, feet, arms and voice to us. ~ Love, Kriss

WASSER HOUSE

**OPEN FOR OCCUPANCY -
FIRST GUESTS ARRIVE 11/17/10**

A heartfelt "Thank You" to all of you who have worked and contributed to making the ministry of hospitality at the Wasser House a reality. We have been notified that we will be receiving our first referral and guest this week, November 17th. Due to confidentiality issues, we cannot reveal detailed information about our guests. However, we can ask you to pray for both the patient and family. The patient will be receiving both chemo and radiation during their stay with us. The hospitality team will be meeting this week to co-ordinate whatever levels of care that will be needed over the coming weeks. Thanks to all of you, we have received the financial resources to fund this ministry and provide the care and encouragement that will be a significant factor in the healing process. Pray for this family and all those who will be serving on the front lines in this vital ministry.

~ Robin, Peggy Cox, Nancy Klicker and all the Team



Youth Ministry Report

Life Together

I like the verse 1 Thessalonians 2:8. I like lots of Bible verses, but 1 Thess. 2:8 has become the foundational verse in my understanding of ministry and working with youth. It reads, "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well".

In our ministry to the youth of our congregation and Walla Walla, I have noticed that the Gospel of God is best understood when we share life together too. Earlier this week, Shannon and I had a group of kids over for Bible study, and while we were waiting everyone to get here, I just sat back and watched as the high school kids were playing with my children. I watched as Korinne (who knows many of them by name,) run up to give them hugs. Meanwhile one of the high school boys was sitting in our bean bag while Carson was running up and flopping onto his lap over and over again as they both were smiling from ear to ear. As a parent, I love seeing my children have older kids to look up to, play with, and learn from. As a youth pastor, I love watching as the youth group kids show and reflect the love of Christ back to others.

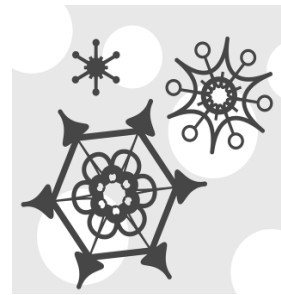
I think Paul was telling us not just that his ministry in Thessalonica was one of sharing both the Gospel of God and his life as well, but that the best way to share the Gospel is to do it while sharing life together. When we play together, laugh together, work together, cry together, eat together, struggle together, or succeed together, we form a bond that links our lives with one another. In these deeply formed relationships, we find a sense of authenticity which allows for the message of the gospel to become living in our lives and in the lives of those around us. And isn't that what this world needs the gospel to be, isn't that exactly what Jesus shows us His life is really about.

Jason Gray, in his song "More like falling in Love," writes:

*I need more than a truth to believe
I need a truth that lives, moves, and breathes
To sweep me off my feet, it's gotta be
More like falling in love than something to believe in
More like losing my heart than giving my allegiance*

Our world, our friends, our family, and our neighbors need a truth that is life transforming; one that lives and moves, and breathes. As we approach this season of Advent, we find a great time to open up our lives and share them with those that God has placed around us. As our friends, our families, our co-workers, and our neighbors see our love for Jesus being so much more than just a "religion", they encounter the truth that the Gospel is not just the words that we say and the thing that we believe but it is the love and life that we share.

~ In Christ, Doug



Important Youth Ministry Dates

Sr. High Bible Study 8-9pm:

- Nov. 29th
- Dec. 13th

No Mid High Youth Group

- Nov. 24th
- Dec. 22nd

No Sr. High Youth Group

- Dec. 26th

Kids Club!

A Note From Cheryl

“Turning our grays to blue”

Recently I moved into a cute little house. Before the purchase, my grandparents (being the wonderful grandparents they are) asked what the address was so they could go check it out. Well of course I was unsure about the address at the time, I’m still trying to get that memorized, so I told them what street it was on and that it was the blue house at the end. Apparently they were rather confused because to them the house was definitely not blue but GRAY.

It made me think of the way people see things differently. The four gospels are a great example of how people had different views, they all told a little different version of a very important story. But what was important? They all believed that Jesus was the Son of God. I always think of this example; looking at a house. If you have four people, and they are all standing on different sides of the house, they will all describe it differently-from their perspective. Sometimes I get frustrated, “Why can’t everyone just think like me? Why can’t they always see things from my perspective?” But I need to remember to put myself in their shoes. You know, having the four different gospels sure gives us a much bigger, broader (yet detailed) picture.

This last week Romans 12:10-13 really jumped out at me. “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another, above yourselves. Be joyful in HOPE. Patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” I know it was sent from above, a nice little reminder that I need to “be devoted to all in brotherly love”. No, it’s not always easy, but my mom reminded me today that if we are “faithful in prayer” we tend to be more patient, more forgiving, and definitely more loving.

My grandpa wrote me a nice little poem for my 26th (tradition has it he writes us a poem for our birthdays-which is pretty impressive since he has a TON of grandchildren!). He ended it with the phrase, “turning our grays to blue”. I am holding onto that quote!

Love to all of you through Him!

Cheryl

Cheryl_thonney@hotmail.com (509)520-9601

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 12th

5:30 P.M.

Location: CPPC

Please come and join us for this traditional Christmas Program! Along with the children's singing, Pastor Robin will be reading the Christmas Story.

Following the program, we will be having a dessert potluck!



A Note From Skip

What a joy it is to be part of this church family. As I count my blessings during this season of Thanksgiving, being a member of the CPPC family is one of the most cherished. The joy you exude in serving others is contagious and a true blessing. Watching the Wasser House be transformed in anticipation of serving those who come to our community to receive care from The Cancer Center is just one of the many examples. It's amazing what can be accomplished when willing individuals respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit. What I learn over and over again is that the greatest joys and blessings are realized in going beyond one's self and serving others. And there in lies reason for being thankful for an abundant life. Thank you for being a loving, caring, and giving church family.

- For the Holidays Night Prayer will focus on the Advent of Christ. Held from 7-8 every Thursday night, Night Prayer offers a quiet place; to listen to scripture, pray, reflect, contemplate, and break bread with others. I hope you can join us.
- And, looking ahead to January there are a couple of new classes being offered.

Beginning Tuesday, January 4, 2011 - Paul for Everyone - 2 Corinthians an 11 week study 7:00 PM

"Paul's second letter to Corinth is very different from the first one. Something terrible had happened, and we feel his pain from the very opening lines. In this letter he goes down deeper into sorrow and hurt, and what to do about it, than he does anywhere else, and he emerges with a deeper, clearer vision of what it meant that Jesus himself suffered for and with us and rose again in triumph. The letter itself comes through the tragedy and out into the sunlight, and has a lot to teach us as we make that journey from time to time ourselves." Tom Wright

Beginning Sunday, January 9, 2011 A Christian Life in Balance a 6 week course 11:00 to noon

Jesus asks us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and then to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31 paraphrased). This six week course explores the unique balance between the physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and relational aspects of the Christian life. The interactive format will provide you an opportunity to examine how wholeness can lead to holiness.

As we enter the Holiday season I hope and pray it will be a time of reflection, counting of blessings, thanksgiving, and renewal of faith and the reality that God is faithful.

Warmly,
Skip

Greening of the Church

Sat. Nov. 27th
10:00 AM @
the church



Come help us as we transform our the foyer and sanctuary into a celebration of the session. We need people to help hang lights, decorate trees, set up manger scenes, etc. Call the church office if you have questions (529-3210)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT FEBRUARY 25-27TH



College Place 1st Presbyterian Church

September 2010 Monthly Newsletter, Volume #10 Issue #10 published monthly

Rev. Robin Peterson, Sr. Pastor; Skip Pritchard, Staff Associate; Doug Hayes, Youth Staff Associate

Children & Family Ministry: Cheryl Thonney Music Ministry: Dr Evelyn Mariani & Jeffrey Townsend

325 N.E. Damson College Place, WA

Email: cppc@bmi.net Website: www.cppc.us

To notify us of an address change, or for more information about our church, please call our office at 509-529-3210.

Session Meeting

Monday, December 6 7:00 PM

At the church

Retired or Wish You Were Potluck

Friday, December 17

Noon @ the church

Silver's at the Country Club

Tuesday, December 14 @ Noon

Call Judy @ 529-0539

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 18

7:30 AM at the church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

325 N. E. DAMSON

COLLEGE PLACE, WA. 99362

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG., PERMIT #25

POSTAGE PAID AT

COLLEGE PLACE, WA. 99324

