the GRAPEVINE

First Presbyterian Church
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Find us on Facebook

"I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Those who abide in me
and I in them bear much fruit…"
John 15:5a

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February **Volume 2012, No. 2**

From your pastor

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is February 22nd

I don't know how to talk about Ash Wednesday and Lent other than in poetry. They are a kind of ethereal rituals that speak to our deepest humanness and Christ's deepest divinity. Yet, they are also often so steeped in theology that the heart gets lost. Therefore I will refrain from explaining and lift up our liturgy from The Book of Common Worship.

> "Friends in Christ,
> every year at the time of the Christian Passover
> we celebrate our redemption
> through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
> Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
> and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
> We begin this holy season
> by acknowledging our need for repentance,
> and for the mercy of forgiveness
> proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
> We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
> This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,
> and marks the penitence of this community.
> I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
> to observe a holy Lent
> by self-examination and penitence,
> by prayer and fasting,
> by works of love,
> and by reading and meditating on the Word of God."

As believers, let us journey with our heart into the season of Lent. Let us begin with Ash Wednesday, a time of remembering. As ashes are placed "Remember that thou art dust, and to dust thou shall return," Gen. 19:3. Remember God's creation and remember God's covenant.

As you walk forward into Lent, remember the Word that was with God, and that was God. Remember the birth of Christ. Remember the life of Christ, healing, justice, and love. Remember the Last Supper, and our continual celebration of communion. Remember Christ's death and resurrection. Remember the communion of the saints. Remember the flames of Pentecost. Remember your Baptism by water. Remember Easter is coming. Let us prepare. Let us begin by remembering.

Traveling Mercies on the Journey through Lent,
Katy

Good news from the Treasurer!

This is the previous month's Treasurer's Report, as reported to the Session.

	December	2011
Receipts	$24,440	$164,128
Expenses	16,381	177,557
Net	$8,059	($13,429)
Projected Pledges	$6,603	$79,234
Actual Pledges	$7,012	$87,783
( ) Indicates a negative balance		
Beginning Balance 1/01/11		$28,112
Balance 10/31/11		$14,683
Rent Fund Balance		$1,734
Pre-School Fund Balance		$4,750
Money Market Balance		$33,324
Brokerage Fund Balance		$1,457,655

The 2012 per capita is $25.00. Our church pays this amount per member. If you would like to pay yours, this contribution would be welcome.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

ELDERS

David Terry	Business Administration
Bob McKim	Buildings and Grounds
LaVonne Yeoumans	Clerk of Session
Trish Nichols	Worship
Betty Kimbell	Fellowship
Amber Martell	Outreach
Jean Geddes	Stewardship
Nanette Lehman	Christian Education
Mark Ferns	Mission
Gary Ball	Mission

DEACONS

Sharon Defrees	Marcie Cook
Edie McKim	Linda Moxon
Clarissa Talbott	Arlita Jewell
Molly Smith	Roxanna Swann

Betty Duncan

January Attendance	
1-Jan	55
8-Jan	69
15-Jan	94
22-Jan	84
29-Jan	91

Pew Pads and Attendance Please sign the pew pads when you attend church services each Sunday. The information you provide on the pads provides an important link to our attendees, and allows us to be more aware of the composition of our community. It helps us to keep track of our visitors and keep our rolls current. It is also needed by the national PCUSA and our local church for statistics. We also use the information to design the services and programs we provide.

Please write the name of each family member in attendance. Adding your address and other information is only necessary if there has been a change.

Sunday school and Bible study leaders – please list those in attendance, and leave your dated list in the secretary's office. *Thank you*

Highlights from the Jan. 17th, 2012 Session Meeting

Eastern Oregon Presbytery will be meeting in February 18th in Tutuilla. The main focus of this meeting will be our Presbytery's mission. Mark Ferns will be our Session delegate to this meeting, joined by Liz and Katy.

There will be a women's evening Bible study group starting in February. They will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays in Roger's Hall.

Session voted to eliminate the Youth Director part of Liz's position and double her time organizing and leading our church in mission as a Mission Program Manager. The change will take effect right away. Session voted to approve the proposed 2012 budget with changes in the hours for our custodian and youth and missions positions.

Session voted to elect Trisha Nichols, Betty Kimbell, and LaVonne Yeoumans as our Church Treasurers for the coming year. All three have volunteered to serve without compensation. The next Session meeting will be February 21st, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd
We will host a joint Service with the United Methodist Church
"Finger food" potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Service at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup Suppers will begin February 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor Katy Regularly Scheduled Office Hours
Secretary Laura's Regularly Scheduled Office Hours

Tues. Wed. and Thurs.	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Children's Bazaar

With winter soon over, "spring cleaning" can begin.

	Morning 8:30 -12:00	Afternoon 12:30 – 5:00
Mon.	Off	Off
Tues.	Off	Off
Wed.	Communication Administrative	Office
Thurs.	Visitation	Office
Fri.	Office	Office
Sat.	Sermon at Manse	Study
Sun.	Sunday School Worship Fellowship	Sermon Prep. Bulletin Prep. Church Events

The Deacons would like to start collecting items for a "children only" bazaar. This will take place in December and only children could shop for presents for their friends and family. There will be a box in the narthex for your donations.

Prayers for the armed forces

We are continuing to pray for those we know in the armed services. Please call the church office if you have any updates or a name to add to this list.

** Peter and Ginger Ellingson's daughter, Captain Kelsey Ellingson Kramer and her husband, Major Joseph Kramer who are serving in the Air Force. Joe has returned home.

** Commander Tom Monroe Navy submarine service, is the son of the late Jim and Martha Monroe.

** Gunnar Klaudt is with the Idaho National Guard, part of the 116th Cavalry.

** Shane Tuttle serves as a warrant officer in the Army. He returned from Iraq.

** Edgar Tuttle is at home, based at Gowen Field, Boise

** Ben Swindlehurst is now stationed in Germany.

** Zack Swindlehurst is serving in Korea.

** Marcie and Dick Cook's grandson, Glenn Cook and his wife, Doris are now stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscon, AZ.

** Diana Eccles is serving in Iraq.

** David Miller serves with the Washington Air National Guard.

** Cole Burgess, grandson of John and Fran Burgess, serving in the Oregon National Guard.

Nursery Attendant Schedule

Feb. 5th - Smith Boys
Feb 12th- The McClaughry's
Feb 19th- Melissa Irvine
Feb 26th- Clarissa Talbot

Thank You

Thank you for your gift of $304.50 to the Peacemaking Offering. Your gift supports peacemaking ministries in Christ's name throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

As Christians, we long for a more peaceful world. We are inspired and thankful for the ministries of peace and justice that you are doing. Your contributions to the Peacemaking Offering support those ministries and allow us at the national level to assist you through education, conferences, networking, workshops, print and electronic resources and in other ways.

May Christ's peace be with you as you continue your good work as his faithful followers.

Evolution of Church Youth Group

By Sharon Defrees

Evolution - a process of gradual, progressive change over time.

I love being in a church where we can use such a word without evoking negative connotations! I am writing this as a representative of our church's Youth Advisory Board to discuss with you the ways our youth program continues to evolve.

A few years back we came to you and asked that you financially and prayerfully support a youth director position. To make this position full time, we added a mission component. You quite wonderfully agreed. Over the past couple of years, the youth group participation has declined in numbers but our mission outreach has grown considerably. The challenge for the Youth Advisory Committee, in light of this information, was to determine, "Where do we go from here?" Our recommendation to Session was two-fold:

1. Since youth group participation is low, in the short term, eliminate the youth director position and have the parents and congregation take over running the youth group and Sunday School responsibilities, and

2. Bump the mission director position up to half time so that we may expand upon our very successful mission projects such as Open Door and Learn and Grow to Go.

What this means to the church is that we will need to continue to support our youth and their parents with not only prayers but with help when asked. What this means to Liz is that she will be employed only half-time, so as a church we will need to continue to support her through prayers, warm hugs and help.

What do these changes look like now and what will they look like in the future? Currently, Mark Ferns and Liz Romvedt are putting together a mission team to focus on current and future projects and mission trips. If you are interested in being on this committee, please talk to either Mark or Liz. The Presbyterian Youth Group will continue to meet. There is a planning dinner with the youth and their parents to schedule both fun and educational events the first week in February. Christian Education has lined up Sunday school teachers for the PYGs. In the future, the Youth Support Group does not rule out again hiring a youth director, but we are going to take some time to determine our needs and see what direction our youth would like the program to go.

Charles Darwin said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, or the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change." We have continually shown as a congregation that stagnation is not our direction. Our changes occur through prayer, active discussion, and I hate to say it - committee work. It is a great comfort to me that with God, we do not have to be strongest or the most intelligent to survive…just open to change.

Please take a moment to thank Liz for all of the work she has done to support the youth of our church and our community and for her continued work in mission. Our church is blessed to have such a wonderful young woman on our staff.

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TIE DYE CLASS! Ginger Rembold will be hosting a tie dye class after church on Sunday, February 12, down in the PYG Pen. We will start around 3:00 p.m. and should only take an hour or so. The cost will be $6 to cover dyes and soda ash, but you can dye as many as 5 items! Bring t-shirts, handkerchiefs, socks, towels, you name it! Items to dye should be pre-washed and at least 75% cotton. You will take all your items home with you with instructions on how to wash them out the next day. This is a great chance to make one of a kind gifts for someone special! All ages welcome, but under 8 please bring your parent! A signup sheet will be in the fellowship hall on the 5th, so Ginger knows how many to prepare for.

Youth Ministry- A Job Given to the Whole Church

By Liz Romvedt

I will open my mouth in parables, / I will utter hidden things, things from of old— what we have heard and known, / what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; / we will tell the next generation / the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, / the Lord's power, and the wonders the Lord has done. The Lord decreed statutes for Jacob / and established the law in Israel, / which God commanded our forefathers / to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, / even the children yet to be born, / and they in turn would tell their children. (Psalm 78:2-8, NIV)

As I step down from the position of Youth Leader, it strikes me how many leaders are in our midst. We have a wonderful wealth of wisdom in our congregation. Now is an important time for you to share stories that you haven't shared before. Seek out a parent of a young person, or a young person, and share with them something profound about God in your life; about struggles, hard times, and overcoming obstacles. Share about your childhoods, your parents, the issues you faced raising your children, and don't hold back. "God commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them (the stories of God), even the children yet to be born and they in turn would tell their children.

It would be valuable to survey our own alumni to find out where they are today. When we study our own youth, present and past, we can discover real solutions to the 'youth retention crisis' facing churches across America today. Also, consider that the talk about retention is focused on people in our churches. What about youth in our communities who don't know any follower of Christ on a personal level? How many of the youth in our communities have a chance to hear the gospel, or watch it being lived out? 10 percent? 20 percent?

So please, find a personal way to reach out to the parents and youth in our church (and in your neighborhood.) Remember the oaths you took at the baptism of these children, and when their families joined the church- we are all called to enrich each other's faith lives and build an experience that brings these people closer to knowing God. Come on down to Open Door (Mon-Thur 7-8 a.m.) to be a rare example of a follower of Christ for the kids to get to know. Take these opportunities to strengthen our community, so that the wonders of God may be felt today and passed on to our future generations.

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INVITATION TO JOIN BYOOBS! The Wednesday morning Bible Study (Bring Your Own Breakfast and Bible Study!) welcomes new members! We are currently working through a glossary of religious terms, so previous knowledge of the book is not necessary! The coffee and water are always hot, and early morning spirits high! No need to dress up…come as you are – sweats and slippers great. We meet from 6:30 to 7:30 ish in Rodger's Hall. Contact Ginger Rembold if you want more details.

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Service reservations: If you are unable to work on an assigned Sunday please trade with another or call Trish Nichols 523-9416. If you are uncomfortable with an assignment, please call Trish.

FEB 2012	USHER/GREETERS	WORSHIP L	COMMUNION
5	MOON FAMILY	LINDA MOXON	
15	ROMTVEDT	LAVONNE YEOUMANS	
19	LEE/HARRYMAN	CANDI ARLEDGE	BILL F. /SHANNON M/ GARY Y./DENNY G.
26	TIM SMITH FAMILY	CAROLYN KULOG	
MARCH			
4	LEHMAN FAMILY	NANCY AMES	
11	AVERTT FAMILY	RICK REMBOLD	
18	COOK/SWANN	BILL FESSEL	CLARISSA/EDDIE M./ MARYALYS/CANDI
25	KAUTH FAMILY	MARK FERNS	

Rev. Katy Halliburton's ordination was at St. Andrew Presbyterian in San Antonio, Texas on December 18th, 2011

Laying on of hands during ordination

Katy and her husband Will at the ordination reception

Bob and Shannon Moon traveled to the ordination, and are seen here with Katy, Will, Katy's parents, her sister and the pastor of the church in Texas.

Rev. Halliburton's installation as pastor of our First Presbyterian Church by the Eastern Oregon Presbytery was on January 8th, 2012

Dear First Presbyterian,

Some folks say it's baptism by fire, others point to the general rush of church work. Either way, I am learning a lot, and learning fast. With everything from communion to funerals, from session meetings to staff meetings, from learning our church budget to learning people's names, you all have been so gracious with me, and helped teach me along the way. It has been wonderful and truly shows why the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. ordains lay people. It is not just me, as pastor, running the show. It is all of us together working toward in Christ's call. It makes me excited for the future of learning together, both pastor and congregation teaching one another, being gracious with one another. Many thanks for all the ways each of you has welcomed me to this call, and welcomed my family to this place.

Grace and Peace,
~ Katy

Presbyterian Youth Group Fun

Sarah gives a thumbs up to her scavenger hunt find
at the PYG family dinner hosted by the Averetts

.

Bryson, Patrick and Sarah
or Dazed, Cold and Confused
Where can it be?

After their productive(?) hunt, delicious lasagna warms and satisfies the PYGs.

PYG Planning Breakfast

All PYG families are invited to breakfast on February 5th at 9:30 a.m. in the PYG pen.

Bring your calendars and ideas for events. We will planning PYG events for the next six months.

RSVP to Nanette at 541 523-9427

SOUPER BOWL

The PYG held their annual Souper Bowl on January 29th. Rogers Hall was filled with folks who stayed after church for this fun occasion. A delicious soup lunch was prepared by youth and their parents. The PYGs performed a fun skit that helped build awareness of hunger issues. This event raised $390 and the PYGs send out a big THANK YOU for these contributions. They will be used for hunger relief in our community, with half going to the local food bank, and half going to the "Learn and Grow 2 Go" program run by our church.

Part of the Presbyterian Youth Group on Souper Bowl Sunday

Souper Bowl Fun on January 29th, 2012

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February 2012

Address Service requested

From the Parish Health Advocate
Arlita Jewell

February is Health Awareness Month. As we head into the new year, there is much to consider when it comes to our health. How are your activities of daily living?

- Can you walk or exercise at least three days a week?
- Are you getting at least one nutritious meal a day?
- Do you take the time to go someplace with friends and/or join in community activities?
- Do you go to church often, read your Bible daily, and have a prayer time?
- Do you get regular check-ups with your doctor, have routine tests as needed?
- Do you participate in any volunteer programs, and do you check on your friends and neighbors often?
- If you are taking daily medications, do you have a weekly pill box to take from so you know you are getting the dose you need?

If you are not partaking in any or all of these activities on a regular basis, perhaps you should consider your health. Can you add some activities to create a healthier routine?

God bless you! You are important to God and others.