



# The Spire

A monthly newsletter published by Magnolia Presbyterian Church:  
A welcoming community of caring Christians in service to God...  
A well of faith and renewal.

December 2014

Volume 7, Issue 9

Pastor's Column:

## The Time is near!

Once again we find ourselves in the season of Advent, looking forward with great anticipation to celebrating the birth of Christ. Advent hymns, like our Advent Scripture texts, speak of waiting and watching, longing and preparing for this all-important event: The incarnation of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. One of my favorites, "People Look East," begins with images of preparing our homes to celebrate Christmas:

*People, look east, the time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east, and sing today.  
Love the guest is on the way.*

By the final verse of the hymn, all of heaven and earth are getting in on the excitement of preparing to celebrate Christ's birth:

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.*

May you share in the hopeful anticipation of humming mountains and the joyful praise of excited angels as you prepare for Christmas this year.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Deb



## Christmas Banner Returns

The handsome gold and blue banner designed and created by a team from our own congregation returns for Advent and Christmas this year. Featuring the wisemen and town of Bethlehem, the banner was designed by Brom Wikstrom with Mona Owen, Pete Smith, Freda Clark, Robin Maddox, and Mardell Smith making up the creative team. Thanks again for this beautiful new tradition.

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## Save the Dates

**Advent Party**  
**Children's Christmas Pageant**  
**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 7th**  
**December 14th**  
**December 24th, 7pm**



### **Kids and Christmas!**

It's hard to believe but in a matter of weeks we will be enjoying our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. This year we will be bringing back one of John Obourn's pageants from many years ago:

**The Animals' Christmas.**

We will have 25+ children participating this year so you will want to see this joyful event! The pageant will be performed on Sunday, December 14 during the worship service so mark your calendars!

Families please note that we will have an all-cast rehearsal on Sunday, December 7 during the Advent Party after worship, so please plan to attend that as well. I am looking forward to a wonderful Advent and Christmas season with our precious children of MPC!

**BLAST**

**December**

**14<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 10:30 a.m.**

**Children's  
Christmas Pageant**

***"The Animals'  
Christmas"***





## Consider “Amazon Smile” for Holiday Shopping

If you shop with Amazon.com, did you know that you can make a small contribution to Magnolia Presbyterian Church with every purchase? Simply follow the link on the “Contribute” page of our church website [www.magpres.org](http://www.magpres.org) to make any Amazon purchases via Amazon Smile and a portion of every purchase will be donated to the church. Questions? See Deb Sunoo.

# Christmas *is coming*

## Christmas Eve Service by Candlelight

At 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve, we will enjoy a traditional service of Lessons and Carols featuring familiar Scripture readings and hymns. Toward the end of the service, the sanctuary lights will be dimmed as we sing “Silent Night” by candlelight. If you will be in town for Christmas this year, we hope you can join us – feel free to invite family and friends!

### Alternative Holiday Gift Catalogs – Help Yourself!

If you are struggling to come up with ideas for everyone on your gift list this Christmas, or simply looking for meaningful gifts that will please the recipient as well as make a difference in the world, help yourself to any of the catalogs available in the hallway here at church, and consider ordering a few “alternative gifts” this year.

*How does this work?* You make donations to worthwhile causes, helping people in need around the world. Your recipients receive gift cards explaining that donations have been made in their honor to the causes that you have selected. Questions? Feel free to ask Pastor Deb Sunoo in the church office.

# Eagle Scout Fence Project

Have you seen the new fence on the south side of the church? The fence is an Eagle Scout project built by Jack Whipple and Scout Troop 80 as a community service. This was the final step for Jack to earn the Eagle Scout Rank, Scouting's highest award. A member of MPC, Jack is a senior at Kings High School and has been part of Troop 80 since first grade.



## Congregation Says Goodbye to Dolores Kiilsgaard

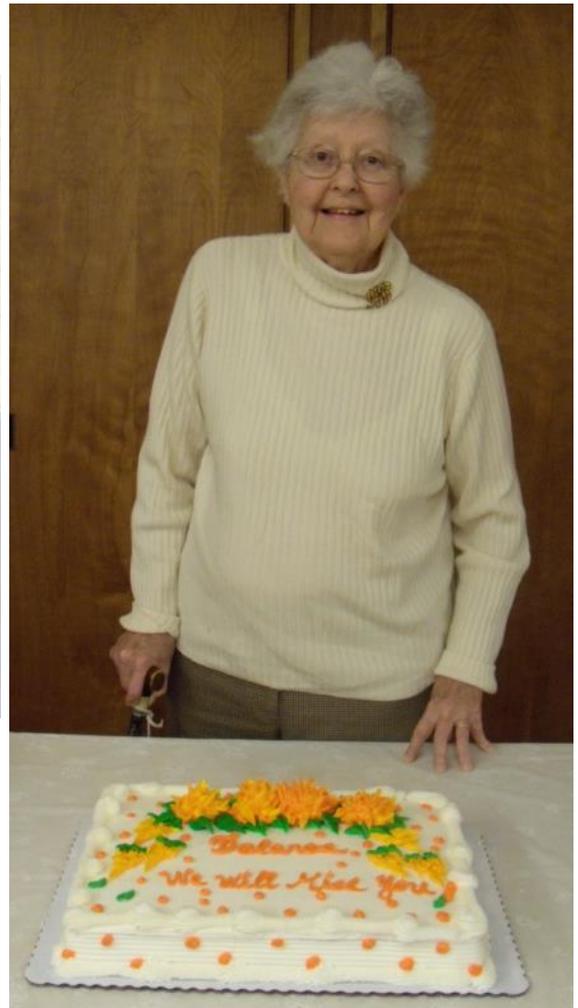
Dolores Kiilsgaard was given a special blessing at worship and a celebration coffee hour on November 16th. Dolores has been such an important part of our church family that we wanted to send her off with all our best wishes. Dolores and her husband Paul are leaving Magnolia on December 3rd to live with their daughter Teresa in North Carolina.

Be sure to make a note of Dolores' new contact information. She would enjoy keeping in touch with friends from church!

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Hendersonville, NC 28739  
(206) 498-5437



*Photo captions:* (Top) Goodbye cake for Dolores Kiilsgaard . (Right) Dolores cutting her cake at coffee hour with church friends. (Above) Dolores and longtime MPC friend Vada May Corkery, on a recent visit to Vada May's home.



## Cecile Neal Horman

June 24, 1919 – October 29, 2014

Cecile June Neal Horman passed away of natural causes at the age of 95 on Wednesday October 29, 2014. A memorial service and reception was held at 1pm on November 8th at the Magnolia Presbyterian Church.

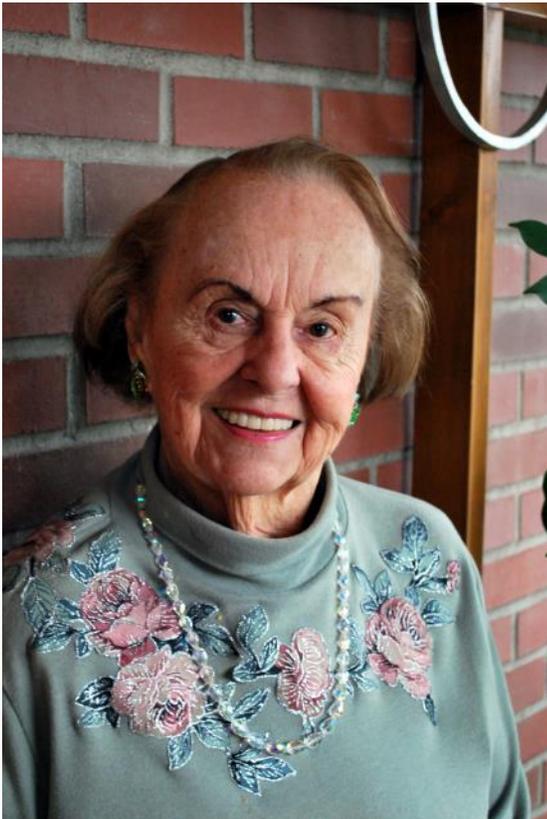
Cecile was born in Seattle to Fred and Neva Pittson on June 24, 1919. She married Norman H. Neal on April 6, 1940. The Neal's were married for 48 years until he passed away in 1988. They had 5 daughters: Luana, Donna, Trudy, Terri, and Susan.

Cecile and Norm were 1948 founding members of the Magnolia Presbyterian Church and helped start the Mariners. With her young family, Cecile taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, served as a Deacon in 1968, was elected an Elder in 1977 & 1988 and remained active in the church throughout her life. They traveled extensively to China, Russia, and South America.

Many will remember Cecile as an award winning artist. She painted, made jewelry and enjoyed pottery. Her paintings hang in the Mt. Baker and Mt. Rainier Rooms. Cecile loved her garden which was a gathering place for family and friends. She enjoyed shopping garage sales and thrift shops for bargains that were often given to the church for classrooms & preschool.

Cecile was married to long-time MPC member Ernest C. Horman on April 22, 1989 and they continued to be active in the church. The couple enjoyed being Arizona snowbirds for many years until Ernie passed away in 2012.

Cecile is survived by daughters Luana Butterfield (Woodinville, WA), Donna St. John (Kailua-Kona, HI), Trudy Berg (Glendale, AZ), Terri Miller (Seattle, WA), and Susan Burke (Bellevue, WA). She is also survived by eight grandchildren: Peter Butterfield and wife Lynette, Christopher Butterfield and wife Lorena, Kristy St. John and husband Rob, Cindy Gilbertson and husband Seth, D.J. Berg, Tracy Berg, Matthew Burke and wife Kate, Meagan Burke and husband Brian; and by 12 great grandchildren. Cecile's cheerful, loving spirit will be missed by all.



# What's Happening

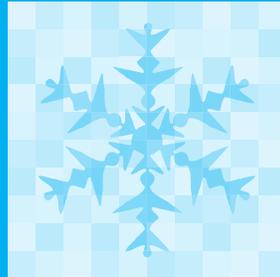
## in December!

### **Afternoon Women's Bible Study**

You are welcome to join us as our afternoon women's Bible study continues on Thursday, December 11th at 1:30 pm, upstairs in the Mt. Baker room at church. This year's study guide is entitled, "What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture." Copies are available from Deb Sunoo in the church office for \$6.00 each, if you wish to purchase one before our next gathering. Our December meeting will focus on Lesson 4 in the study book, "Prayers from the Heart."

### **Final Day for Mary's Place Giving Tree**

Be sure to drop off your gifts by the tree in the narthex this Sunday, as we will be loading them up for delivery immediately following worship. Thank you for helping the women and children of Mary's place!



### **Holiday Dinner & Bible Study December 15th**

Women's Evening Bible Study will meet at 6pm at the home of Sharlene Bathum for a Holiday Dinner and Lesson 4 of Luke's gospel. Please bring a salad or dessert and enjoy dinner before the group discussion of Luke 8:22-39. Sharlene is at 1209 NW 120th Street in Shoreline. Please RSVP at [s.bathum@comcast.net](mailto:s.bathum@comcast.net) or 206-362-2665.

### **Women's Walk & Coffee December 6th**

Keep up your exercise for the holidays by coming to the women's walk and coffee on Saturday, December 6th. We will leave the church at 9:00am with return scheduled for 10:00am, then coffee and pastries in the Mount Rainier room. We adjourn at 11:00. Childcare will be available starting at 8:45.

You are welcome to come for any portion of the time—you do not have to walk to join us for coffee. We hope to see on the 6th!

### **Supper Club Holiday Dinner**

Cindy Bain will host the annual Supper Club Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 20th. Please come for dinner at 6:30 pm, bring a dish to share and join us for Christmas music and holiday fellowship. Please let Cindy know you'll be at dinner by calling 282-2699 or e-mail [skippybain@comcast.net](mailto:skippybain@comcast.net)



**December MPC Birthdays**

**Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Mimi Greenough Park

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Dolores Kiilsgaard

**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Allison Bain

**Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Sue Leet

Jackson Hollingsworth

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Alex Cooper

**Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Annette Youngkin

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Sarah Yonich

Steve Bass

**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Robin Obourn

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Jack Whipple

**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Ken Sunoo

**Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Marcus Bathum

Tripp Madill

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Deb Sunoo

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Clara Mak

**Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

Esther Cooper

**Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

Marie Barnes—101<sup>st</sup> Birthday!

**January MPC Birthdays**

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

Hannah Tyler

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Robin Maddox

Marion Wright

**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

Charlotte Ferguson

**Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Robin Whipple

**Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

John Youngkin

**Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Kim Wakefield

**Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Muriel Wellwood

**Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

Jarrad Matthews

**Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Grace Youngkin

**Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Andrew Whipple

**Installation of New Officers, Sunday December 7th**

Join us in worship on December 7th as we ordain and install new Elders and Deacons who will be stepping into leadership roles in the church in the coming year. Thank you, Steve Moore and Anné Wikstrom (incoming Session members) and Sally Cummings and Alina Sunoo (incoming Deacons) for answering the call to serve!

**Advent Luncheon & Decorating Party**

Following worship on Sunday, December 7th the whole church family is invited to come to Fellowship Hall for lunch featuring soups, sandwich makings, and a dessert table. Please take a moment after lunch to sign Christmas cards for our homebound members. The greetings will be delivered with small poinsettia to each person for the holiday. Many hands will be needed upstairs after lunch to help decorate the tree and put up other Advent decorations in the sanctuary. Come join the Advent fun on Sunday, December 7th.

**Poinsettia Orders**

The Deacons will once again be providing poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special in your life, please fill out one of the order forms you will find in the bulletin on Sunday morning, or contact the church office. Poinsettias are \$10 each, and checks should be made out to Magnolia Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. Note that the final date for orders is Sunday, December 14th.

**Still Time to Turn In 2015 Pledges**

Many thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge card indicating your expected giving to the church for the New Year. If you were not able to be with us on Pledge Sunday, there is still time to turn in your pledge. Extra cards are available in the narthex as well as in the pews. Completed pledge cards can be left in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you!

**\* HAPPY BIRTHDAY! \***



# Final Reminders

## Women's Walk and Coffee

### Group:

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am  
in the Mt. Rainier Room

## Installation of New Officers:

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30  
am during morning Worship

## Advent Luncheon

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30  
am in Fellowship Hall

## Nightwatch:

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at  
7:30 pm

## Women's Bible Study:

Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at  
1:30pm in the Mt. Baker Room

## Children's Christmas Pageant:

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30  
am in the Sanctuary

## Supper Club:

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at  
6:30 pm at the home of Cindy  
Bain —2401 Rosemont Place  
West

## Women's Evening Bible Study:

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00 pm at the home of Sharlene  
Bathum at 1209 NW 120<sup>th</sup> Street

## Candlelight Christmas Eve:

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

## Men's Coffee Group:

Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Mt.  
Rainier Room

## AA Meetings:

Two AA groups are now meeting  
at MPC—Tuesdays at 8 pm and  
Wednesdays at 6:45 pm. All are  
welcome to attend.

Prayers, cards, and calls to those  
who cannot be with us regularly  
in worship are always  
appreciated:

- Marie Barnes
- Vada May Corkery
- Dorothy Fergusson
- Evelyn Freeman
- Katherine Hoagland
- Molly Langdale
- Nancy McPhaden
- Ruth Weitkamp



*The Spire* is a monthly publication issued by Magnolia Presbyterian Church

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### We welcome you to join us any Sunday!

9:15 am	Choir Practice
10:30 am	Worship Service
11:30 am	Coffee Hour