



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.

March 2015

Volume 8, Issue 2

Pastor's Column:

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Our theme in worship throughout this Lenten season is the Lord's Prayer.

As Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon remind us... "joining our voices with others in the repetition of this prayer, we are reminded that being a Christian is too tough to go alone. This is public theology."

The Lord's Prayer is something we say together "over and over again, week after week." While it may be something we do out of habit, "habits are important, particularly in a faith that is so against our natural inclinations, a faith that is so at odds with many of the deeply ingrained and widely held assumptions of this culture... Prayer is bending our lives toward God." (*Lord Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer and Christian Life.*)

I hope that you will join us for worship over the next several weeks as we seek new meaning in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

Let's encourage one another to "bend our lives toward God" in this season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Deb

Adult Class for Lent: *What Wondrous Love!*

Each Sunday during Lent, our Adult Class will study key scripture passages and events related to the biblical story of Holy Week. These biblical texts will be illustrated and interpreted by the beautiful artwork of John August Swanson with scholarly commentary from Emory University theology faculty.

Please join us to explore *What Wondrous Love* Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Mt. Baker Room.

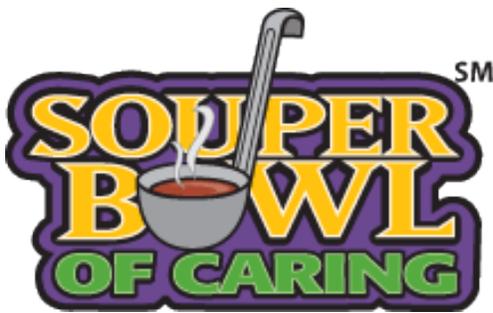
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Pictured above: Lori Sawyer, Children's Ministry Director

Pictured lower right: Justin Beatty, Youth Director



Souper Bowl of Caring Offering

MPC Connect Class members Brayden Kelly, Natalie Leighton, Zaidee Owen, Caleb and Mimi Park want to thank the congregation for their generous Souper Bowl of Caring donations totaling \$629. This special offering on February 8th went to the Ballard Food Bank.

-Justin Beatty
Youth Director

BLAST News

Boy, with this Spring-like weather we have been having, it isn't hard to believe that Easter is just around the corner! But first we have the season of Lent and that means fish banks! Fish banks were given out on the first Sunday of Lent, and the children are starting to collect coins and dollars in the banks.

On Palm Sunday we will gather all the fish banks together. This offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing, and the children have done a great job the last several years giving of their treasure for those in need.

We are so excited about some new developments in our BLAST Jr. Class! We are working hard to get the old second floor preschool room down the hall from the nursery back up and running, so our three to five year olds can have a true classroom of their own. We hope to be meeting in the new and improved classroom in early March. Thank you Jane Matthews and Cheri Yonich for your help with this project!

Looking ahead to Holy Week, I am hoping the children will be leading the congregation in a new song we have been learning for Palm Sunday. Stay tuned for more details! On Easter Sunday the elementary age children will be staying in worship for the full Easter Service. At MPC we value having the children be full participants in worship and what better Sunday to have their presence with us than on that glorious Easter morning!

-Lori Sawyer
Children's Ministry Director



Ministry & Leadership updates



2015 Deacons

Standing (from L-R): Greg Kelly, Alina Sunoo, Sally Cummings, Freda Clark, Sean Coleman, Pastor Deb Sunoo, Robin Maddox.

Seated (from L-R): Linda Keylon, Joy Selby, Barb Bily-Parr, Lisa Bowman.

Thank You from Session

Your MPC Session wishes to thank everyone who participated in our congregational conversations about same sex marriage on February 8 and 22. Moderated by Rev. Kevin Nollette, and informed by his presentation of historical and biblical background material, the discussions were friendly and respectful, and your individual comments were both honest and heartfelt. It is clear how much members of this church family care for one another, even when there are matters about which we disagree. We will have your input on our minds and in our hearts as we prayerfully consider how to move forward regarding this issue.

2015 Officers Retreat Highlights

Your Deacons and Session members spent a productive day at their annual Officer's Retreat. We are pleased to report a number of plans in the works, including a family game night, a full day mini retreat this summer, offering childcare for Supper Club, bringing back the Church Picnic at Magnolia Park and the Italian Dinner and Dessert Auction again this year, and looking into additional hands-on mission opportunities that can involve more of our church members. Stay tuned for more information as these plans begin to unfold.

Interested in Church Membership?

If you have been worshipping with us regularly and would be interested in becoming a member of our congregation, please let Pastor Deb know (deb@magpres.org). She would be happy to find time for conversation with you to include an orientation to this church and to our denomination, the meaning of church membership, and the steps we would take to welcome you to membership at MPC. We are glad you are here!

What's Happening

One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians in supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, an opportunity to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Your generous gifts to this special offering provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food for the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

We will collect our contributions, including coins and dollars collected in our "fish banks," on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Be sure to note "One Great Hour of Sharing" or "OGHS" in the memo line of your check, or use one of the designated envelopes we will provide in the bulletin that day.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important offering. If you will not be with us on Palm Sunday, feel free to make your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing at any time.

Women's Walk & Coffee

Join us for the women's walk and coffee group on Saturday, March 7th. 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 you on the 7th!

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

We gather upstairs in the Mt. Baker room on the second Thursday of each month, at 1:30 pm. All are welcome! This year's curriculum is ***What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture***. Our March 12th study will focus on the words of sisters Martha and Mary in the gospels of Luke and John.



Women's Evening Bible Study

The March 23rd meeting of the Women's Evening Bible Study will focus on Luke's healing ministry. The Bible Study will be at the home of Marion Wright 2518 – 36th Ave. W. We'll gather at 7 pm for refreshments and the discussion. See you on Monday the 23rd.

**Women's Evening Bible Study pictured to the left.*

March MPC Birthdays

Monday, March 2nd

Cherryl Towey

Wednesday, March 4th

Donna Leet

Friday, March 6th

Sarah Madill

Saturday, March 7th

Claire Johnson

Wednesday, March 11th

Dave Bowman

Thursday, March 12th

Vada May Corkery

Saturday, March 14th

Allison Sopko

George Keylon

Friday, March 20th

Eleanor Miner

Ruth Weitkamp

Monday, March 23rd

Greg Kelly

Tuesday, March 24th

Ruth Trail

Thursday, March 26th

Leigh Canlis

Friday, March 27th

Scott Madill, Jr.

Tuesday, March 31st

Jim Mills

It's a
GIRL!!



Please join us for a very special baby shower coffee hour celebration in honor of Sean and Katie Coleman, following the worship service on Sunday, March 8. We invite everyone to attend and to bring a gift of their favorite children's book to share with baby Coleman. Sean and Katie are also registered at Babies R Us. Please mark your calendars to celebrate this joyous occasion with the new mom and dad to be!

Supper Club March 14th

Supper Club is looking forward to beginning our 2015 gatherings on March 14th at the home of Cheri Yonich, 3030 24th Avenue West (cyonich@msn.com). Couples with children who would like to have a Supper Club night out are especially invited to come to the March dinner. Child care will be provided for the evening at our church. Please give Jane Matthews's (janejmatthews@gmail.com) a 'heads up' so she will have enough babysitters for the evening.

We will gather at the usual 6:30 pm time for potluck dinner. It will be great to see some new faces on March 14th. If you plan to be at Supper Club, please let our hostess and childcare coordinator know you are coming. Looking forward to seeing everyone for a fun evening!

* **HAPPY** *
BIRTHDAY!



Magnolia Ecumenical Vacation Bible School: Rock On

June 28 - July 2

9 am to 3 pm

Mark your calendars now for Magnolia Ecumenical Vacation Bible School **June 28 - July 2**. Sessions will run from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm** and will feature a whole new program. Registration opens April 1st. If you would like to take a role in planning or volunteering for the summer VBS please contact Jenna Bratcher at (206) 240-0581. Jenna notes, "We'll look forward to seeing you all again this year!"

Final Reminders

Session Meeting

Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Mt. Rainier Room

Women's Walk & Coffee Group

Saturday, March 7th at 9 am in the Mt. Rainier Room

Coleman Baby Shower

Sunday, March 8th at 11:30 am during coffee hour

Nightwatch

Wednesday, March 11th at 7:30 pm

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Thursday, March 12th at 1:30pm in the Mt. Baker Room

Supper Club

Saturday, March 14th at 6:30 pm at the home of Cheri Yonich

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, March 22nd at 12pm in the Mt. Baker Room

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
- Eleanor Davison
- Dorothy Fergusson
- Evelyn Freeman
- Katherine Hoagland
- Molly Langdale
- Nancy McPhaden
- Eleanor Miner
- 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
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Worship Service
11:30 am	Coffee Hour