



# 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.

October 2017

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## **Pastor's column:** *Sabbatical Thanks*

What a joy to be back with you in worship on Sunday! And to those I haven't yet seen, I look forward to catching up with you very soon.

Thank you again and again for the important time of rest, refreshment, and renewal you offered me over these last four months.

While I have missed you all, it was a great privilege for me to be a participant rather than a worship leader for a time. I return inspired by what I've seen and heard in other congregations, and with a number of exciting avenues for follow up here at MPC. I have also been busily studying Hebrew and Greek, and reading widely, and I thoroughly enjoyed opportunities to spend time with my family both here in Seattle and on a few memorable trips. Finally, the month of September found me diving more intentionally into preparations for the new church year.

A more detailed overview of my sabbatical, including the list of churches I visited, is available for anyone who wishes to learn more about what the last few months looked like on my end.

Meanwhile I am eager to hear what has been happening in each of your lives and here at the church. I hope you'll help bring me up to date?

It is a great blessing to be your partner in ministry, and part of this church family.

Gratefully,  
*Pastor Deb*



### *In This Issue...*

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Pastor Janine</b>         | <b>2</b> |
| <b>All Church Picnic</b>     | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Looking Ahead in Oct.</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Did You Know...</b>       | <b>6</b> |
| <b>What's Happening</b>      | <b>7</b> |

## From: *Pastor Janine Moriarty*

Wow... four months already!

I am not the best at writing articles for church newsletters, in fact I'm horrible. This very article is a prime example. I had this nearly written I just needed to put the final touches on it and send to Nancy & Zib. Well, I just tossed that article out and I'm starting over.

The opportunity to be with you as your pastor for four months was a gift, and even more than that, it was an honor to serve in ministry alongside you. You welcomed me with open hearts, you were willing to try different worship for the summer so we could include the kiddos, you wore hats for Jesus, offered prayers of healing through laying on of hands, laughed, cried and much more. There were times I forgot things, or messed up, made you mad, preached not so great sermons, well basically I failed expectations, but you forgave my shortcomings and we moved through the summer learning and growing together.

As Deb returns from the gift of her sabbatical, I encourage you to continue with the willingness for new ideas that you gave me. One of the many goals Deb had for her time away was to visit other churches and come away with some new ideas. If she brings those to you be open to try new things, you just never know what God might be doing through those new ideas. Give her space. You are all excited for her return, to hear about what she has been up to, to fill her in on your lives, but give her a chance to get her ministry feet back under her. We all know she has probably been preparing for her return but she will still need a bit of time to catch up. Remember, she is returning to a building that is half under construction. That in itself will take a bit to get used to.

One final thought... Thank you for my final Sunday, September 24th. Thank you to the Deacons & Session for the gift of Brom's painting – what a surprise. Thank you for your hugs, cards, gifts and words of encouragement as I wrapped up my time with you.

And finally, thank you for ministering to me this summer. You have blessed my life in ways that I can't even begin to explain. I will treasure this time with you and I'm grateful that y'all will forever be part of my journey.

Until the next time...

Blessings,

*Pastor Janine*



## All Church Picnic

The threat of rain didn't stop picnickers from gathering after Worship on September 17<sup>th</sup> for the annual **All Church Picnic** at Magnolia Park.



**Grill master in action!  
Thanks Jerry!**



**What a spread! Great job Sharlene!**

**Seconds anyone?**

**Say Cheez!**





## Plumbing/Roof Project Update

We are happy to report that currently **\$102,600.00** has been pledged to the Plumbing and Roof Project. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously!! If you haven't had a chance to participate, more information and pledge cards are on the table in the hallway.

### Currently Out-of-Service

The eastside bathrooms (nursery, back office) will be out-of-service for the remainder of October.

## MPC Sunday School Classes

The BLAST and BLAST Jr. classes have a fun new curriculum which the teachers and children are really enjoying – *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*. Following the "Time with the Children" in the Worship Service, the children head downstairs with their teachers. The class starts with singing led by our wonderful music director Andrey Spichak in the Children's Worship Room. After the singing, the children are divided into BLAST JR (Preschool, K and First Grade) and BLAST (2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 4<sup>th</sup> grade). We welcome volunteers to help with either group!!

## Remembrance Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>

"For All the Saints, who from their labors rest...." Join us in worship on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> as we remember those in our congregation who have passed away in the last year. On Remembrance Sunday we will read each name, ring a chime, and observe a moment of silence to give thanks for these friends who have meant so much to our church family. You will also have an opportunity to share aloud the names of others dear to you who have died in the past year.

### Afternoon Study Examines our Jewish Roots

The Thursday afternoon Women's Bible Study is investigating our "Jewish Roots: The Heritage of the Christian Faith," led by Janet Friedrich. Through videos, readings, and discussion, this fascinating study explains how so many of our Christian traditions have roots in the Jewish faith. You will learn some amazing things in this class! Please join us on Thursday, October 5th and Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Mount Rainier Room.

### Evening Bible Study October 23<sup>rd</sup>

**God's Call to Serve** – a call to Moses and to us -- is this month's lesson in our **Abiding Hope** series. The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet in the Mt. Rainier Room at the church at 7 pm on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> for fellowship and our lesson. Study guides will be available at the class.

## Did You Know?

That “pledges” are not only a wonderful way to demonstrate our commitment to God and to our church, but are actually the basis for how we plan our yearly spending as a congregation.

### *Here’s what that means:*

Every year our Session (church board) sets an annual budget that includes staff salaries, Sunday School materials for our kids, music for our choir, building maintenance, funding for outreach ministries to those in need ...you get the picture. The pledge cards you fill out in early November let us know how much money will be coming in to cover our expenses for the coming year.

### *But what does that really mean?*

It means that the church doesn’t run on prayer alone. Your elected officers take church finances seriously and make decisions responsibly, based on real forecasting, budgeting, and analysis of what is truly needed. The more we each give to MPC, the more effective we can be in serving those within our church family and reaching out to those in need beyond our walls.



### *How can we help?*

Commit to our community. You built it, let’s keep it going. It’s easy!

In preparation for Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 5th:

- **Fill out a pledge card** and let us know how you are budgeting your own giving to the church for 2018.

*Weekly or monthly:*

- **Put cash in the offering plate** – like a good amount!
- **Write a check** – if you carry them with you
- **Auto-withdrawal from your bank account** – like your cable bill or a car payment

*Remember, each week is your opportunity to support the ministries of this church we love, all year long.*



**Women's Afternoon Bible Study**  
 October 5th at 1:30pm  
 in the Mt. Rainier Room

**Deacons Meeting**  
 October 8th at 12:00pm  
 in the Mt. Baker Room

**Operation Nightwatch**  
 October 11th at 7:30pm

**Women's Evening Bible Study**  
 October 23rd at 7:00pm  
 in the Mt. Rainier 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  
 6:45pm. All are welcome to  
 attend.

**Remember our friends at home:**

- Earl Collins
- Les Deibert
- Alice Eastman
- Charlotte Ferguson
- Dorothy Ferguson
- Barbara Kivi
- Nancy McPhaden
- Joy Selby
- Muriel Wellwood



|                |                  |       |               |       |
|----------------|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| <b>OCTOBER</b> | Jim Glaser       | 10/4  | Helen April   | 10/22 |
|                | Rebecca Sunoo    | 10/5  | Scott Edwards | 10/23 |
|                | Radka Novak      | 10/8  | Brayden Kelly | 10/23 |
|                | Justin Beatty    | 10/9  | Vienna Jones  | 10/25 |
|                | Brom Wikstrom    | 10/13 | Muriel Kelly  | 10/26 |
|                | Bethany McDermid | 10/15 |               |       |

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

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| 9:00 am  | Choir Rehearsal |
| 10:30 am | Worship Service |
| 11:30 am | Coffee Hour     |