



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.

May 2016

Volume 9, Issue 4

Pastor's Column:

Comings and Goings

"The only thing that is constant is change," said Heraclitus. This is certainly true in the life of our congregation this year with a number of significant changes underway.

As hard as it is to say goodbye to dear friends moving to other parts of the country, we have also been delighted to welcome a number of new faces and new families to the church over the last few months.

Likewise, each departure from our church staff is a big deal; we treasure the talented, professional people we have been privileged to work with over the years, and are very sorry to see them go. Yet God continues to bring to us wonderful new staff members to serve our congregation as well.

To all of you who are heading toward new places and new adventures, we send you with our blessing: May God be with you there!

And to those of you who are newest to our church family, welcome aboard. May God be with you here!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Deb Sunoo



Highlights

John Obourm Retiring	2
Justin Beatty Ordination & Pentecost	3
Celebrating Lori Sawyer	4
Mexican Dinner & Dessert Auction	5
Vacation Bible School Registration	6
Remembering Kathy Vitez	7
Final Reminders	8



June 12th Retirement Celebration for John Obourn



Our extremely talented and much beloved Music Director John Obourn will be retiring from his position on Sunday, June 12th. We will celebrate John's amazing 35-year career at MPC with a Retirement Party during Coffee Hour. Please spread the word to friends who have sung in our choir in the past; we'd love to have them join the celebration!

John has expressed his desire to remain connected to this congregation he loves, and where he has worshipped for so many years. He will take a leave from Sunday Worship to allow the new MPC Music Director an opportunity to develop his music program, and then we look forward to John returning to sing in the choir for Christmas.

One Great Hour of Sharing Thanks!

We are delighted to report that **\$238** was collected in our Fish Banks and more than **\$1000** in all was given to this special offering. Your generous OGHS gifts will support the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance wherever hope is most needed around the world.



Welcoming Zib Marshall



How pleased we are to welcome Zib (Elizabeth) Marshall as our new Office Administrator. Zib lives right here in the neighborhood and worships with our friends at the Magnolia United Church of Christ. Zib's church connections and neighborhood connections will be a great asset to our staff. We appreciate her friendliness, her professionalism, her dedication to her work, and her fantastic organizational skills.

A very warm MPC welcome to you, Zib. We are glad you are here!

Justin Beatty Ordination Service Sunday May 22nd



Our Youth Director Justin Beatty has completed all of the necessary steps toward ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is now ready for ordination. The presbytery is planning a special service at 3 pm on Sunday, May 22nd here at MPC and everyone is invited to celebrate this milestone in Justin's life.

The Session is pleased to extend an official ordained call to Justin to serve as our Temporary Associate Pastor for Youth under a one-year renewable contract as he continues to lead our youth classes at his current salary. We also look forward to inviting Justin into some new roles in the church following his ordination, such as helping to lead our monthly communion services and visiting members who are unable to be with us regularly for worship.

Congratulations, Justin! It will be a privilege to celebrate your ordination with you, Liina-Ly, and your family and friends.

Pentecost Sunday, May 15th:

In Acts 2, we are told that when the early disciples were celebrating Pentecost together the Holy Spirit came among them like the sound of a rushing wind, and tongues of fire rested on each of their heads. The disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, began to speak in other languages so that Jews from many nations who had gathered in Jerusalem were able to understand them. The good news of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection was proclaimed to all, and many people were baptized that day. Along with Christmas and Easter, Pentecost is one of the great holy days of the church year.

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. It is a holiday with its own color: **Red**, to signify the tongues of fire that rested on the heads of the disciples when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. And it is a holiday with its own images: fire, wind, and the dove, each of which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to wear something **Red** to worship on Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate the gifts of God's Holy Spirit!



Artwork by Brom Wikstrom

Children's Ministry Updates

Summer is coming which is great news! That also means my last day as Children's Ministry Director is coming soon as well, which is not so great news. My last day will be on Sunday, June 12th, and until then I plan on enjoying every minute with these kids. We will be presenting our 4th graders with their Bibles, and we will continue to learn, share, sing and play.

If I have one prayer for these kids and the time we have spent together, it is simply that they have known without a doubt that I love them and God loves them. It has been a privilege to spend Sunday mornings with these wonderful children. I look forward to visiting and catching up whenever we are back in Seattle. The entire MPC church family will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your love and support!

-Lori Sawyer, Children's Ministries Director

Say Goodbye to Lori Sawyer Sunday, June 5th

Our Children's Director Lori Sawyer will be moving to Spokane with her family this summer, and we will certainly be sorry to see her go! Lori's five years as our Children's Ministry Director have seen our program grow from a small core group of children to a thriving children's ministry with multiple classes and as many as 20-30 kids with us on Sunday mornings. She is a gifted teacher and has been a friend to us all.



Please join us in celebrating Lori's ministry at a Thank You Coffee Hour, Sunday June 5th.

Youth Class Update

The Connect Youth Class schedule for May will be a little different. We'll have class on May 1st and on the 29th. I'll be preaching on the 15th so will be unable to meet with the class that day. As you know I have been studying for the ministry and on the 22nd the Seattle Presbytery is planning my ordination service at 3 pm. I hope you will be able to come!

- Justin Beatty, Youth Director

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. She would be happy to find a 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.

Mexican Dinner and Dessert Auction May 6th



Mark your calendars for a fun all-church event on Friday evening, May 6th. A Mexican Taco Bar with all the fixings will be served at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Just \$3.00 per person is the suggested donation for a delicious family dinner.

A Dessert Auction will follow dinner, so come prepared to bid on a pie, take home a delicious cake, or score a sweet treat. The minimum bid on dessert auction items will be \$20.00. The dessert auction supports Deacons mission projects like Operation Nightwatch, Ballard Food Bank, and Mary's Place.

Again this year look for a Bake Sale Table operated by our very own MPC youth group with delicious treats for a dollar or less to support the Ballard Food Bank.

For more information or to offer a dessert for the auction, contact Laurie Trettel at lja.trettel@gmail.com



No Women's Walking Group May 7th

Our next meeting was scheduled for Mother's Day weekend. This seems to be a conflict for many of our group so there will be **no** walk in May. We look forward to seeing everyone in **June!**



Supper Club at the Bass Home May 14th

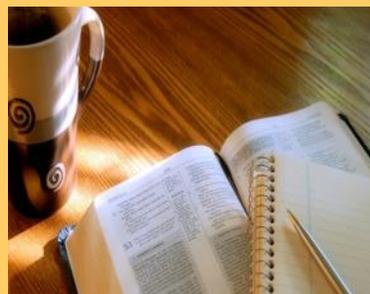
Steve and Stella Bass will host the May 14th Supper Club at their home 3447 - 37th Avenue West. You're invited to gather at 6:30pm for a potluck dinner and fellowship.

Please let the Basses know if you'll be at Supper Club by calling 206-284-1949 or emailing: steven_bass@comcast.net

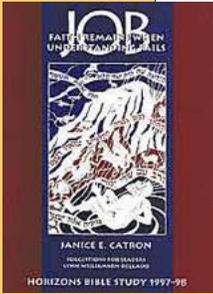


Women's Afternoon Bible Study May 19th

Our final study for the spring is coming up on Thursday May 19th at 1:30 pm. This year's curriculum is entitled "Come to the Waters" and our May lesson will focus on Lesson 9, "River of Life – Hope." We meet in the Mt. Rainier room on the main floor here at church. All are welcome, even if you haven't been to the rest of the study this year.



Come for Dinner with Evening Women's Bible Study Group



The final lesson in the book of Job will be on Monday, May 23rd. We'll meet at 6 pm for Potluck Dinner & Bible Study at the home of Sharlene Bathum, 1209 NW 120th Street. Please bring an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert to share. Barb Bily-Parr will lead the closing discussion on Job 42:1-6 & 10-17.

Register for Vacation Bible School

Registration is open for Magnolia Community VBS! We are excited to be celebrating our 40th year of this cherished neighborhood event. This Vacation Bible School is an ecumenical one, meaning that all Christian congregations in Magnolia participate in one large group. It is taking place a little later in the summer than in recent years, August 8th through 12th. This is a full day camp (8-3, aside from Friday's half day), run by the staff of Lutherwood Bible Camp and hosted by Magnolia Lutheran Church next to the village. This year's theme is "Seasons of Love".

We are expecting spots to fill up quickly, so sign up and let your friends know soon! All children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend; older children are welcomed to volunteer to help. The fee is only \$100 per child for an entire week of fun and games, arts and crafts, songs and lessons. (until May 31st, when the fee increases to \$130)

Parents or caretakers are expected to volunteer a bit. There are a variety of ways to do this and we have tried to reduce the amount of volunteer hours needed. There is a link on the website to sign up. If possible, please do this at the same time as you register your children.

Additional details and registration at <http://www.magnolialutheranchurch.com/vbs> or call the church at 206-284-0155.



Hope to see you all there!

Former MPC Member Kathy Vitez Passed Away February 29th

Kathy Vitez, former MPC member and one of the founding members of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Seattle passed away on Monday, February 29th.

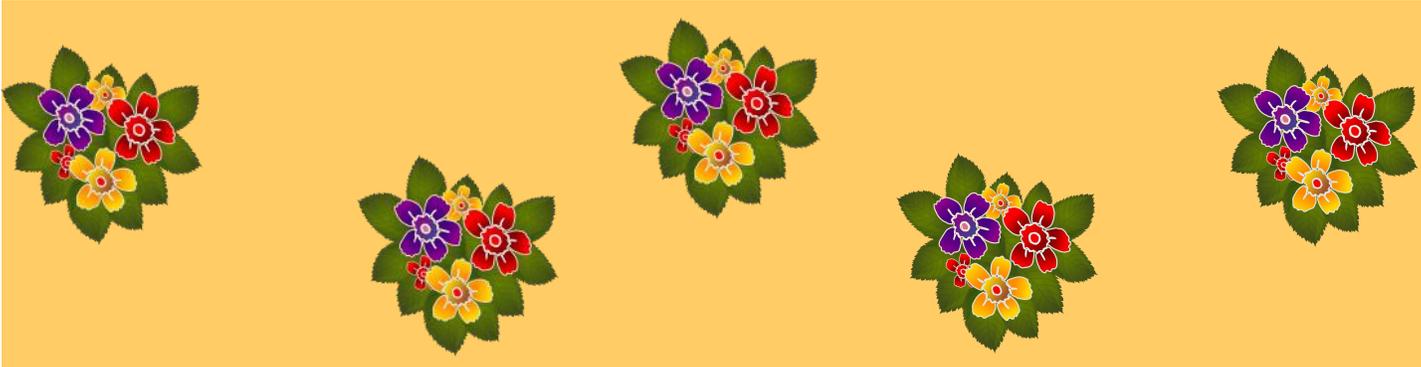
Kathy Vitez joined Magnolia Presbyterian Church in 1979 and was active in Presbyterian Women and added her cooking skills and energy to many event committees. Back in 2004 Kathy met with our Session to ask for permission for the Hungarian Reformed Church to meet quarterly in Seattle at MPC. The church began holding worship services here in December of that year, and continues to meet quarterly for worship in 2016.



Kathy Vitez with Bishop Rt. Sandor Szabo and his wife.

Kathy will be remembered by her many friends and family for her vivacious 'life-of-the-party' personality, peppered with her quick wit and temper, her fun-loving spirit, her generosity, the many parties she hosted, her great cooking, her work with the Hungarian Association, the Hungarian Reformed Church in Seattle she pioneered, and, most of all, as a loving mother.

Kathy is survived by her children Eva Anderson, Martha Cummings, Alex Vitez, Cynthia Flynn, and by seven grandchildren.



Sunday, May 1st Lisa Bowman	Friday, May 20th Jericho Matthews
Monday, May 2nd Bill Cummings	Tuesday, May 24th Alex Bailey
Tuesday, May 3rd Charlie Phares Mark Whipple	Thursday, May 26th Jonathan Mak
Wednesday, May 4th Madeleine Coleman	Saturday, May 28th Mona Owen Suzanne Tyler
Tuesday, May 10th Diane Tinker	

Did You Know...

The beautiful music that fills our sanctuary is funded by the money we give?

Here's what that means:

All the love you feel during worship is deeply connected to the music we make and each hymn we sing together. Every time the piano begins and every time we stand to sing, all of that is because of our contributions.

But what does that really mean?

It means that the sheets of music read by those lovely ladies and sometimes a few men belting out anthems during the service are purchased by the donations collected each week in our offering plates. Our fantastic choir director? We pay that person. And our wonderful pianist? Yep, our money pays for that person too. Every time someone opens their mouth and a song comes out, we can say: "we funded that!" Now that's music to our ears.



How can we help?

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

- **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
- **Donate online** – through PayPal – what's easier?

Remember, each week is your opportunity to support us all, including our ministry of music.

An advertisement for Amazon Smile. The background is a vibrant floral pattern with pink and red roses. In the center, there is a white rectangular box containing the text: "Make Mom Smile" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, it says "Buy your Mother's Day gifts at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates." At the bottom of the white box is the Amazon Smile logo, which consists of the word "amazon" in its signature font with a curved arrow underneath, followed by the word "smile" in a simple, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Final Reminders

Session Meeting

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

Mexican Dinner & Dessert Auction

Friday, May 6th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Nightwatch

Wednesday, May 11th at 7:30 pm

Supper Club

Saturday, May 14th at 6:30pm at the Bass' Home

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 15th at 10:30am

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Thursday, May 19th at 1:30pm in the Mt. Rainier Room

Justin Beatty's Ordination Service

Sunday, May 22nd at 3:00pm

Women's Evening Bible Study

Monday, May 23rd at Sharlene Bathum's Home

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:

- Charlotte Ferguson
- Dorothy Fergusson
- Evelyn Freeman
- Katherine Hoagland
- Nancy McPhaden



The Spire is a monthly publication issued by Magnolia Presbyterian Church

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 Find us on Facebook! 

We welcome you to join us any Sunday!

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