



# REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- Seeking to be Faithful Followers of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century -

February 2012

## With Prayer and Trust

Rev. Dr. Larry Grounds

*"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, we'll come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."* Philippians 4:6-7 The Message

*"Give your attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up, when the time comes."* Matthew 6:34 The Message

I know very few people who do not worry too much. That why it's remarkable to consider how free from worry the Apostle Paul was as he languished in a Roman prison awaiting trial and possible death. He writes from prison advising the church he founded in Philippi to trust their difficult situation to God. His letter to the Philippians carries convincing force because Paul was displaying the very qualities he was encouraging the Philippians to exhibit.

I hope you pray when you worry. This seems to be chief among Paul's words of advice for the anxiety-ridden church in northern Greece that was facing great division within its membership. I know that when I pray in the midst of stress and uncertainty, I usually feel strengthened and comforted deep within. It's as if my prayers to God help me to put my immediate concern in perspective. My prayers often remind me to take myself less seriously and to

take God more seriously. A mysterious sense of confidence and empowerment sometimes washes over me. I attribute this to the Holy Spirit responding to my call for help. Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount may have influenced Paul's perspective about dealing with worry. Jesus advises his followers not to worry about tomorrow. His assurance to us worry-prone believers is not to guarantee that our present circumstances will necessarily work out just as we hope, but rather he promises that God will always watch out for us. I like to remind myself that God has the last word in my life and in all things.

***It's as if my prayers to God help me to put my immediate concern in perspective.***

A famous systems theorist named Edwin Friedmann, *From Generation To Generation*, writes about the family dynamics of relationships within congregations and synagogues. He says that the best leaders in these communities are those who carry a non-anxious presence. These are leaders who don't overreact or take on the anxiety of the people they lead.

In countless stressful situations that I have faced in my many years of ordained ministry, I

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Highlights

- \* Small Group Leadership Training Jan. 28th
- \* Presbyfest @ Mercer Island PC Jan. 28th
- \* Knitting group is meeting on Feb 4th at 10:00AM
- \* Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb 5th
- \* Super Bowl Party at Ground's House Feb. 5th (p. 6)
- \* Orientation classes led by Pastor Larry Feb. 5th and 12th
- \* A note of thanks to the congregation (see insert)

## Inside This Issue

Children's Ministry/ Souper Bowl of Caring	2
Youth Ministry/What's Your Response?	3
Adult Spiritual Formation	4
Mission /Beyond These Walls/Reflections from the Deacons	5
Fellowship	6
Calendar	7

## Join Us for RPC's 4th Annual

### Shrove Tuesday

### Mardi Gras

### and Pancake Dinner

**Tuesday, February 21st**

**6:00 - 7:30PM**

### Ash Wednesday Service

**Wed. February 22nd 7:00PM**



See insert for more information





## Children's Ministry News

January was a busy month with New Year's Day, Family Communion Sunday, a *snowy* Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend and a special class about storytelling from Pastor Larry.

This month we return to our regular routine on Sunday mornings, a much welcome opportunity to get involved between services, if you haven't already. Check out the details about Sunday mornings below; and I pray that this month may be renewing and helping us to prepare for the season of Lent, which is fast approaching!

Blessings,  
Jessica

### What's happening in Children's Church? During worship on Sundays @ 9am & 11:15



This month, the children are finishing up a unit about giving humbly and fully as the Poor Widow did in Mark 12:38-44. In conjunction with this theme, the children are also teaming up with the Deacons to support a local ministry of the children's choosing. The entire monthly offering collected during Children's Church will be matched by the Deacons and donated to Hopelink. Updates and details on the progress of the mission will be located in The House, Room 26.

### WAM & The Puppet Ministry Between worship services on Sundays @ 10:20am-11



Between services, the puppet ministry (4th—6th grades) is working to prepare a presentation. We hope to see them in the services by the end of the month! WAM is working on various songs and prayers that we hope to share during worship. WAM is now open to children 4 years and older. If you have questions about our format and if it is right for your child, please email [jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org](mailto:jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org). We sing, read scripture, make crafts, and learn all about ways to worship God!

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### Calling All "Souper" Heroes



### Souper Bowl of Caring February 5th

On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> RPC will unite with thousands worldwide who are putting God's love into action, by collecting money for an important cause. This year's Souper Bowl of Caring will benefit Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. Remember to bring your \$1.00 on February 5<sup>th</sup> and drop it in the soup pot!





The month of January was full of excitement as our youth went on our annual winter retreat, *Snowed In*. It was truly a blessing to see God at work in the lives of our 23 youth and the amazing adult leaders during the trip. We hit the slopes, were well fed, got some bumps and bruises, and even a couple big bumps; yet still, everyone was smiling and laughing the whole time. Our talks each night of the retreat were about God's rest for His believers. We dis-

cussed how rest does not have to be a single moment, day, or action. Rest in God can continue through our lives even amidst the hardships at home, and stress from school and work we face each day. We also talked about how we have to learn to find different kinds of rest for three distinct parts of ourselves: our *bodies*, *minds*, and most importantly, our *souls*. Each require a different type of rest and energy, and all of them come back to our God who loves us and wants us to find peace in Him.

We look forward to the following month as we continue our regular Jr. and Sr. High groups, as well as our Sr. High Bible studies. Also, we are currently preparing for our Sr. High mission trip to San Diego, July 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information on that soon! Thank you all for your support and prayers, and please continue to keep us in your thoughts.

Grace and peace,

*Daniel*

### Youth Events in February

#### Junior High Events

Ascent - Wed 7:00-8:30PM

Jr. High Fellowship - Sun 10:20AM, Youth Room

#### Senior High Events

The Hall - Sun 7:00-8:45PM

Gals Bible Study - Tues 6:30 - 8:00PM

The Brotherhood - Tues 7:30PM

## What's Your Response?

**Nancy Anderson, Pastoral Associate**

We've made our way through two movements of a worship service so far: *Gathering around the Word* in which we come as we are and receive the opportunity to be called to worship and to clear and cleanse our minds and hearts, receiving forgiveness; and *Proclaiming the Word*, as we hear the word read, sung, enacted and opened to our minds, hearts, and spirits through a sermon.

Now, that we have heard the word and been moved by its power to change our lives, we are ready to **Respond to the Word**.

Our Presbyterian *Book of Order* says that, "The response to the proclamation of the Word is expressed in an affirmation of faith and commitment."

There are many ways that we can affirm our *faith* in God and here are a few: the congregation can sing a hymn or other type of musical response declaring our continuing faith in God; we could say or sing one of the creeds, such as the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed. This is also a place where the choir could sing an anthem.

The congregation may also renew and express their *commitment* to God. There are many ways to do that: by receiving new members at this time; by the ordination and installation of church officers (elders and deacons); the commissioning for service in the church (i.e., Sunday School teachers for children and adults) and to the church around the world (i.e., sending members and friends to the mission field, whether long or short-term). Our faith in and continuing commitment to God may also be expressed through prayer and intercession, for each other in our local church and for the Church in general, those in distress around the world, and our nation, state, and local communities.

Our most common and frequent way to express affirmation of faith and commitment is through the offering. The thought is that when we hear God's word proclaimed we are so moved by faith and trust that we want to offer to God our resources and ourselves so that His work might be done.

There is a separate movement that occurs periodically in our service that can be considered part of the Response to the Word, called *Sealing in the Word*. It includes our two sacraments: *baptism* (including reaffirming the commitments made at baptism) and *the Lord's Supper*. These are also ways of expressing and renewing our faith and commitment. They are in a different category, however, because they involve more than just us. While the parents may present their child for baptism (or others may present themselves), *God is doing the work* of enfolding us into His family by His grace. We respond to God's call by presenting ourselves or our children but God does the work. Similarly with the Lord's Supper; as we come forward in response to God's drawing us with His love, He renews His presence in our hearts and spirits as we take the bread and cup, His body and blood.

Looking back, as we have come to worship God as we are, to hear His word proclaimed and to respond in love, faith, and renewed commitment, we are now ready to see how we can take our renewed hearts and spirits out into the world *to share with others*. We'll take a look at that next time!

# Adult Spiritual Formation



## Weekly Opportunities for Adult Education

Small Group at the Wickert's - Sundays 6:30PM  
*Book of Revelation (Jane or Dave 425-898-9721)*  
Tuesdays 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study - Tully's Bella Bottega  
*Psalms/Prison Letters of Paul (Jim Glass/Jeff Anderson)*  
Tuesdays 10 AM Bible Study - Prayer Library at RPC  
*1 Corinthians (Pastor Larry 425-885-2811)*  
Wednesday 7:30 PM Women's Bible Study - Rm. 14 CE Bldg  
*Genesis (Pat Prophet 425-861-6746)*

## February Offerings

The next thirteen-week Precept Bible Study: *Listening to God in Difficult Times* will begin between services on February 5th. Are you concerned about the economic and political upheaval in our country? Disturbed by the direction of the culture? Worried about your future? This study of the book of Jeremiah will challenge you to know your God in a deeper way and also to listen to Him, not the voices around you, in the hard times of life. Please contact Lew Conerly [emalyconerly@hotmail.com](mailto:emalyconerly@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

This month Nancy Anderson will present a six-week Precept Bible Study: *Being a Disciple*. Through this eye-opening study by Kay Arthur, you will better understand the cost of being a disciple as you follow Jesus into a response of radical living. If you are unable to attend each session, come as you can. No homework will be required.

Looking forward to March, Adult Spiritual Formation is hoping to offer several nights of Lenten Dinner Groups, meeting in members' homes for a shared meal as well as discussion centered on focused topics. Our goal is to provide a venue for expanding and deepening relationships among members. Would you be willing to open your home for one to three weeks for a total of 6-8 guests? If hospitality is one of your spiritual gifts and if this would work for you, please contact Katie Schmidt 425-968-8753.

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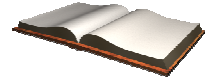
## Book of Genesis is this Month's Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

Come revisit Sunday School stories of our past as we study the book of Genesis. We meet every Wednesday evening in Room 14 of the CE Building at 7:30PM. Come early at 7:20PM for tea time. A time of prayer follows at 8:30PM. Call Pat Prophet 425-861-6746 for questions or to suggest a Women's Bible study you might be interested in.



## Seekers

### Women's Book Discussion Group



Join us this month at our lingerie "shower" for the women of Mary's Place. You are invited to bring new and used bras and panties to our February meeting as we take advantage of the January sales and provide Mary's Place with some much-needed lingerie.

Date: Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00PM  
Selection Leader: Katie Schmidt  
Host: Barbara Taylor

**February Selection:** Our book for February is Empire of the Summer Moon by S. C. Gwynne. The rise and fall of the Comanche nation occupied about 170 years - from 1706, when a force of Comanche raiders rode into historical notice after attacking the Taos pueblo in northern New Mexico, to 1875, when the last free Comanches carried the white flag into Fort Sill, Indian Territory. While S.C. Gwynne chronicles the long tribal saga, Empire of the Summer Moon centers on its last 40 turbulent years, the years before Quanah Parker—"the last chief of the most dominant and influential tribe in American history,"—led his Quahadi band to surrender to the white victors.

You are invited to join us! This book can be found in the library or your local bookstore.

**March Selection:** My Losing Season by Pat Conroy.

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## Small Group Leadership Training Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM-12:00Noon

Nancy Anderson will be leading a workshop called "Introduction to Small Group Leadership" in the Upper Room. **Picture this:** you want to be part of a small group of people that look into the Scriptures together and that support and care for each other. *Why not start one yourself!* This is for *you* if you are interested in starting a small group now, if you are thinking about starting a small group in the future, or if you just want to see what it's all about and have no idea if you want to start a small group or *even if you want to learn how to bring more to the small group you're already a part of!* We will look at topics beginning with choosing a study guide all the way through to celebrating the completion of a particular study. Contact Nancy [nancya.rpc@gmail.com](mailto:nancya.rpc@gmail.com) or 206-937-3339 if you are planning to come or especially if you are interested but can't come this time. If there is enough interest, it will be offered again in March.

*ASF meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Conference Room (off the Sanctuary) at 7:00PM. If you have questions or comments, or would like to join our group, please contact Katie Schmidt at 425-968-8753. Current members include, Nancy and Jeff Anderson, Ruth Jesson, Marjorie Gates, and Claudia Grauf-Grounds.*

# Mission and Social Concerns

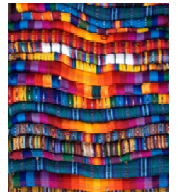
## *This Month's Requests for Mary's Place and Hopelink*

**Mary's Place:** Hot cocoa mix (bulk size), pajamas, slippers, bus tickets (\$1.25/\$2.50 value), razors, shaving cream, warm gloves, hats, scarves, movie passes, gift cards (small denominations), puzzle books, batteries (AA and AAA), nail polish and remover.

**Hopelink:** The following items are needed this month at the Redmond Food Bank—canned fruit and vegetables, plain pasta and canned beans.

## Blanket Collection for Redmond Family Village

It's already been a cold winter, and Redmond YWCA Family Village residents need more blankets than usual. Their supply room is running low of warm bedding. Please donate new or used blankets or flannel sheets for double or twin beds. The blanket collection will be held during the month of January. Please leave your blankets and sheets in the church entry donation area.



## Beyond These Walls

Jeffrey Kuebler and Polo

As the month of February approaches, we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. May you have a joyous and happy day with your special person. Enjoy your special person . . . tell them thank you, not only on Valentine's Day but everyday.

If you are single like myself, Valentine's Day can be a challenging day. But fear not, I have a special dog named Polo.

Polo and I have unconditional love. As you know, Polo and I have only been together a short time, a little over a year now. Our love and trust burns deep like the Olympic torch from sea to shining sea. On this Valentine's Day may you enjoy your special person and let them know how much you love them.

Until next time . . .

## Reflections from the Deacons

Cindy Pearson, Deacon

In 1983 my family was living in Ridgefield, Connecticut where the summers are hot and humid. For the two summers we lived there, I spent many an afternoon trying to stay cool at the village swimming pond with my children, 8 and 10 at the time. The pond, called appropriately the "Great Pond" came complete with a sandy beach and play area, a snack bar and a staff of lifeguards, a few of whom were strategically located around the swimming area at any given time.

The Great Pond was where the entire community spent its summers and you could count on seeing several young mothers with their children, from babies to teenagers. It wasn't just a swimming hole but a gathering place that provided me many opportunities to meet and interact with other young mothers.

One day my children and I laid our beach towels down by two little girls who were having a deep conversation about a red cross painted on the side of a large rock. One of the girls asked the other, "Why is there a cross on that rock?" The other replied with a whisper, "That's where they buried Jesus!"

There was a serious pause in the conversation as they

pondered this, and then, as kids do, they went back to playing in the sand. I was amused and amazed at how sincerely and quickly the question was answered. And I wondered if I should tell them that, in fact, the cross was there to designate the lifeguard headquarters, or keep quiet—what was my role?

In life and in honoring the role of Deacon I am still asking myself, "what is my role?" How can I support our congregation, where is the line between membership and service? I hope that I am finding that balance and helping the members that I serve. But I know that not all questions are answered so quickly and with such clarity as the meaning of the red cross at Great Pond!

I feel fortunate to have the opportunity, in even the smallest way, to serve and I want to thank the church and its members for letting me into your lives. Being your Deacon and friend is a wonderful experience.

God's will not mine, that is my goal,  
When I bow to him in prayer,  
I know He'll do what He deems best,  
When I cast on Him my care. - Fitzhugh

# Fellowship News

## Super Bowl Party

Everyone is invited to Pastor Larry and Claudia Grounds' home (17940 NE 22nd Way, Redmond—off West Lake Sammamish Pkwy, five blocks up 24<sup>th</sup> Street and left on 180<sup>th</sup> Place) on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th from 3:00—6:00PM for fun, fellowship and football.



Please bring snacks or beverages to share.

All are welcome . . .  
even those who don't like football.

### Orientation Classes

Orientation classes will be led by Pastor Larry between services on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:15 – 11:00AM. We invite people who are new to our church (within the last year) to join in an informal gathering to share our faith journeys and learn of the ministry and mission of our church. If you are not a member of the congregation, we would especially encourage you to get to know our pastor and for our pastor to get to know you and your family.

## February Birthdays

Feb 2 Debbie Flickinger	Feb 14 Rod Willson
Feb 5 Kirk Gysler	Feb 14 Leslie O'Connell
Feb 6 David Treadwell	Feb 16 Matt Eisenmann
Feb 8 Bill Phillips	Feb 22 Katie Gysler
Feb 10 Joe Javier	Feb 22 Taran Williamson
Feb 12 Ellowyn Williamson	Feb 23 Lujean Whitmore
Feb 13 Carolyn Zill	Feb 24 Samantha Willson
Feb 13 Amanda Karim	Feb 25 Meg Rich
Feb 13 Larry Loper	Feb 27 Jessica Ahnert

## Knit one ~ Pray too

Knit One ~ Pray Too is a ministry of yarn and prayer at RPC. We meet each month to knit, crochet, build friendships, and pray together. Our next meeting is Saturday, February 4th at 10:00AM in the Prayer Library at RPC. If you can't join us in person, you are welcome to knit at home. Just let us know so we can pray for your projects too. For more information, please contact Juliann Phillips 206-419-1050 or juliannph@gmail.com.



### Per Capita Assessment for 2012

The amount of the 2012 assessment is \$40.79 per member for General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery. Please make your check out to RPC and place it in the offering marked per capita.

## With Prayer and Trust, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

have often reflected upon Friedmann's insights. The only way for a leader to pull off a truly non-anxious presence is for that person to clearly differentiate himself or herself from the people who are exuding the anxiety. Perhaps the greatest example I can imagine of this kind of differentiated leadership was Jesus himself. Consider the many groups and individuals who threatened him or called on him in desperation or conspired to undermine him. Our Lord relentlessly carried out His mission, answering every anxious assault with a quiet confidence. He practiced what he preached in the Sermon on the Mount. He rooted his confidence, his perspective, his place of inner peace in his deep and abiding relationship with his Heavenly Father.

At this present time in our church's life we are confronted with a large gap of over \$30,000 in our 2012 church budget. But I'm not really feeling too much anxiety about this uncertain situation. Lately I have observed a seasoned wisdom among our church staff and in our elders as they

have grappled with the details of our budget deficit. They have displayed a kind of quiet confidence, a faith-filled resolve, and a definite unity as they consider the task which lay before us in closing this financial gap. Most importantly, I see in them a readiness to trust God with our uncertain situation and to simply share our financial situation with all of you.

Perhaps if Edwin Friedmann was still alive, he would applaud the non-anxious response of our leaders. Maybe our leaders response was just what the Apostle Paul was trying to elicit from the congregation in Philippi. Now I'm focusing my attention on our whole congregation. I am praying about your response to our church's need. And I'm really not too anxious.

(This article was submitted on January 17th)



# February 2012





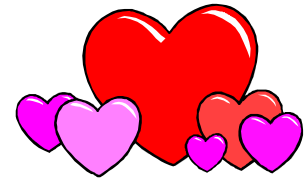
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**Mark Your Calendars**

**Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Pancake  
Dinner, February 21st 6:00PM**

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service  
February 22nd 7:00PM**

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00AM	Traditional Worship & Children's Church
10:15AM	Community Fellowship
11:15AM	Contemporary Worship & Children's Church



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