



REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 2012

Stepping Into God's Call on Your Life in the New Year

Rev. Dr. Larry Grounds

"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

Ephesians 2:10

"He was a good piano player. People came out just to hear him and his trio play. But one night a patron wanted to hear them sing a particular song. The trio declined, but the customer was persistent.

He told the bartender, "I'm tired of only listening to the piano. I want that guy to sing!" The bartender shouted across the room to the piano player, "Hey buddy! The patrons are asking you to sing! If you want to get paid, sing the song."

This jazz piano player, who had not sung in public, sang a song that changed his career. Nobody had ever heard Sweet Lorraine sung the way it was sung that night. He may have lived the rest of his life playing in a jazz trio in clubs and bars. But because he was forced to sing, he went on to become one of the best-known entertainers in America. His name was Nat King Cole. (adapted from Steve Goodier, *Joy Along the Way*)

Although very few people can sing like the late Nat King Cole, everybody has talents and God-given gifts to share in doing the work of God in the world. Our church wants everybody to be involved in some form of

ministry. No matter how old, how young, how inexperienced, how busy, or hampered by the setbacks, everybody has an important role to play in the ministry of our church.

This month our church will send out a special survey to each member and friend of the church. This survey will be sent via email to most and as a hard copy to all others in our congregation who do not use email. Our church's leadership needs to draw from your natural gifts, God inspired

Our church wants everybody to be involved in some form of ministry.

passions, and developed talents to carry out the ministry which our faith community has been called to do. We want everybody to share in carrying the load and in experiencing the joy of personally making a difference in ministry. Everybody has a part to play. Everybody gets to participate —this is the way God designed the church from the beginning.

(Continued on page 7)

Highlights

- * Annual Reports due January 5th
- * Dinners for Homeless Men's Shelter Monday nights in January.
- * Knit one ~ Pray too meets January 7th to make scarves and hats for the homeless men at Redmond Methodist Church.
- * Youth Snowed In January 13 – 16.
- * Puget Sound Blood Drive at Meadowbrook Church January 18th.
- * Presbyfest, January 28th, Mercer Island PC

Inside This Issue

Children's Ministry	2
Reflections from the Deacons, Worship News	3
Youth Ministry/Blood Drive/Annual Reports	4
Spiritual Formation	5
Mission	6
Fellowship/Presbytery News	7
Preaching series/ Session Update/Beyond These Walls	8
Calendar	9

Happy New Year—Annual Reports Due Jan. 5th

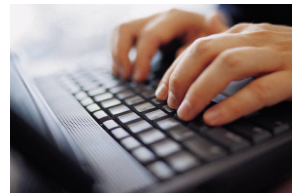
In preparation for our annual meeting in January, all ministry chairs, fellowship group representatives, and ministry leaders are asked to submit their reports summarizing the past year's activities.

Please plan to include, if applicable, the following in your reports:

- Goals and hopes that were met
- Goals and hopes you have for the future

In addition, please remember new members may not know the history or details of your particular group, ministry, or commission so please be thorough in your report.

Let's use our annual report as a way to communicate who we are!





Children's Ministry News

Blessings to you all in the New Year! We have a fun semester planned from January—June with great Children's Church units as well as activities and programs to help our children grow in their faith. Check out the information below and make sure to pick up a more detailed brochure on the table in the Sanctuary.

Blessings,
Jessica

Family Communion - January 8th @ 9:00 & 11:15AM



January 8th is our first Family Communion Sunday of 2012! Elementary aged children (1st-5th) will remain in the service for an opportunity to worship with their family and partake in communion! Children's Church is provided for Kindergarten and preschool aged students and the nursery will be open to infants and toddlers. Materials will be available on the back table to help children engage in the morning message. Please contact Jessica with questions.

WAM & The Puppet Ministry - January 8th @10:15



January 8th WAM (K-3rd grades) will resume and the Puppet Ministry (4th-6th graders) will return! We are excited to start off 2012 with some wonderful opportunities for children to engage in learning about Worship and Music @ WAM, and for our older students to explore the writing and telling of children's stories. Both groups meet between services from 10:15-11AM. For more information, please check the bulletin or contact Jessica Ahnert: jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org.

Bible Story for January 15– February 12

The Widow's Offering

Children's January Mission Mary's Place



Worship News



The Main Course: Proclaiming the Word

Nancy Anderson, Pastoral Associate

Last month we looked at the way we are invited into God's presence as we begin worship. What is the purpose of having the Confession and the Assurance of Pardon early in the service? Why do we have a 'Call to Worship'? For the last few weeks when you've come to church, have you been paying attention to how the call to worship and the hymns or praise songs affect your heart and spirit as you begin the Prayer of Confession and then receive the Assurance of Pardon? I hope that your mind, heart, and spirit were cleansed as you gathered around and prepared to hear the word and meet God.

With that time of invitation and preparation, we are now opened to *receiving* the Word—which happens in the next movement: **"Proclaiming the Word."** We have finished with the "appetizers" (that which enhances our appetites) and it's on to the main course! In our Reformed tradition, "Proclaiming the Word" could be seen as the primary reason we even come to church!

While *gathering around the word* appears to be more oriented to what the congregation does, *proclaiming the word* seems to be what the preacher does—or is it? Let's take a look . . .

In the *Book of Order* there are many suggestions of how to Proclaim the Word, all or some of which may be included in this movement. First, as preparation for the reading, proclaiming, and hearing of God's Word (and as a bridge between *gathering* and *proclaiming*), **a prayer may be spoken or sung seeking the illumination of the Holy Spirit.**

Next is the time when our Lay Reader (Worship Leader) may read the **Scripture lessons** suitable for the day or they may be read by the congregation responsively, antiphonally, or in unison. Our Lay Reader reads one selection and the preacher (usually Pastor Larry) reads the one introducing the sermon.

Psalms or anthems, and other musical forms or artistic expression which proclaim or interpret the Scripture lessons or their themes, may be included with the reading lessons. Our wonderful choir, Praise Team, soloists and other musicians may share in this aspect of proclaiming the word! Have you ever considered doing a dramatic skit or reading in order to proclaim the word? Our children are part of this when they hear Pastor Larry's children's stories. What other ways might the word be proclaimed in our midst?

If none of these other elements happened, I know we would need to hear the Word as interpreted in **a sermon preached by the pastor** (or other designated preacher). The sermon may take on forms other than the typical sermon we have become accustomed to which has been authorized by the Session and the pastor. Usually the proclamation concludes with a prayer but could also close with a time of rejoicing and praise. It is appropriate here to call the people to discipleship, to challenge them to incorporate into their lives what they have just heard.

Wow—how do we respond to all this? That is what we will look at next month!

Reflections from the Deacons

~Julia Steeples

Singing the Blues

I read several articles online offering tips on how to combat the depression that often sets in after all the excitement of Christmas and New Years Eve has passed. Most listed; stop shopping, start exercising, and even start making plans for next year's holiday. One particular article, by Plane Williams, caught my attention and offered more realistic and less cliché tools. He suggested that we should, "continue to help others," and "look forward to something else". These two ideas rung a bell with me. I immediately thought of ways to apply them in my local community and church.

Service: Sandy Palmquist currently has a sign-up sheet on the Conference Room window to cook meals in January for the homeless men staying at the Redmond United

Methodist Church. I'm sure Mary's Place, Hopelink and the YWCA still have great needs for services and goods. Another good idea is to write a random note of kindness or appreciation to someone you think could use a word of encouragement. I know receiving a letter in the mail that isn't an advertisement will make my day all the better.

Anticipation: Many of you may have packed away all your decorations, but go dig out your nativity scene. We celebrate the twelve days of Christmas starting December 25th and ending on January 6th with Epiphany, so you'll also need to bake a King's cake. Mardi Gras begins, and before you know it, we'll be starting the season of Lent. Wow, talk about looking forward to something! Christ's return and ascension into Heaven! We Christians are too busy to be bogged down with the after-the-holidays blues. We've got better things to sing about.



Greetings RPC!

Daniel Griffin, Youth Director

Our youth had a great month in December being able to participate in the annual Songfest, as well as our own annual Crazy-Christmas-Sweater Party. Also, being able to celebrate our Savior's birth with our church, family and friends is always a great blessing, and the perfect way to prepare for the New Year!

So, here we are, and there is a lot of excitement coming our way in January. We will be finishing up our *Underdog* talk series with the Sr. High, looking to scripture where God reveals true potential in average, and sometimes seemingly below average, people for His purpose. Also, our *God Is* talk series with Jr. High continues as we discuss the attributes of our Lord that make Him such an

awesome God!

Even more exciting is our annual youth winter retreat, *Snowed In*, coming up over the four-day Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, January 13th-16th! We will be staying at First Presbyterian Church in Wenatchee, Washington. There we will worship God while engaging in discussions, devotionals, meals, games, and shredding down the slopes of Mission Ridge! We will depart from RPC on Friday afternoon, hit the slopes Saturday and Sunday, and return Monday afternoon. Please keep us in your prayers that we will have safe travels, and a fun experience, bringing our youth back with a more abundant thirst for the Living God.

Youth Events in January

Junior High Events

Ascent - Wed 7-8:30PM

Jr. High Fellowship - Sun 10:15AM, Youth Room (no mtg on the 15th)

Senior High Events

The Hall - Sun 7-8:45PM (no mtg on the 15th)

Snowed In! - Jan 13th-16th

Grace and peace,

Daniel



Thank You to My Church Family

Words cannot fully express how much my church family has meant to me during my husband's brief illness and death. Your prayers, cards, and kind words of support are deeply appreciated.

Thank you to Pastor Larry, Michele, Mike Smith, Choir, Deacons, and Worship for the wonderful Memorial Service and reception.

I give thanks to God for you and Pastor Larry, who was with Larry and me during this difficult time.

God bless you, Lujean Whitmore



Puget Sound Blood Drive at Meadowbrook Church

All over our community there are accident victims, children with leukemia, surgery patients and others that need blood now, and most of us are eligible to help them!

Donating blood is simple and safe, the entire process takes less than an hour, and your single donation can help 3 people. Our next Interfaith Blood Drive is Wednesday, January 18th from 1:00PM—7:00PM (closed 3:00—4:00PM) at Meadowbrook Church, 17944 NE

65th St. Redmond 98052. Call Kristina Reed 205-572-2780 or email MeadowbrookBloodDrive@gmail.com for an appointment or for more information.



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 of Thanksgiving (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)

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES in 2012

The ongoing **Precept Bible Study on Free from Bondage God's Way** continues to meet between services through January 29th. Presently, the book of Galatians is being studied. Lew and Carlos Conerly, who have been trained in the Precepts series of inductive Bible Studies, are facilitating this class.

Also during January the following will be offered:

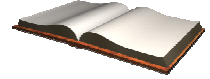
- January 22: The RPC Annual Congregational meeting will be held after the first service, followed by an all-church continental brunch organized by the Fellowship Commission.
- January 29: Have you enjoyed Pastor Larry's presentations on *The Art of Reading the Bible*? Are you ready to take the next step in response to what you have read? Nancy Anderson will begin a six-week Precept Bible study on **Being a Disciple** which may be a perfect fit for you. If you are unable to attend each session, come as you can. No homework will be required.



Adult Spiritual Formation 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 425-968-8753. Current members include, Nancy and Jeff Anderson, Ruth Jesson, Marjorie Gates, and Claudia Grauf-Grounds.

Seekers

Women's Book Discussion Group



Women book lovers! Here is your chance to fulfill that New Year's Resolution to read more!

Date: Monday, January 9th
Time: 7:00 – 9:00PM
Selection Leader: Lori Dorn
Host: Anne Oppermann

January Selection: We are starting the year with Mennonite in a Little Black Dress by Rhoda Janzen. Not long after Rhoda turned forty, her world turned upside down. It was bad enough that her brilliant husband of fifteen years left her for Bob, a guy he met on Gay.com, but that same week a car accident left her with serious injuries. What was a gal to do? Rhoda packed her bags and went home. This wasn't just any home, though. This was a Mennonite home.

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

February Selection: Empire of the Summer Moon
by S.C. Gwynne

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study will begin the new year by starting at the beginning! We'll be studying Genesis. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7:30PM in Room 14 of the CE Building. All women of the church are invited to join us. Please call Pat Prophet 425-861-6746 if you would like further information.

Habitat For Humanity Recap

Missions work involves going into the community and helping others in need. On December 3rd, eleven people from Redmond Presbyterian Church did just that by volunteering their time and talents at the Habitat for Humanity jobsite in Issaquah. Scott Coats, Scott Gremmert, John and Nicole Lesh, Stephan Human, Jennifer Goode, Susan Wisen, Aaron Moore, Dan Birmingham, Peter Lawson, and Pastor Larry Grounds each worked a full (very cold) Saturday doing various construction jobs that ultimately will help Habitat for Humanity reach its goal of finishing the house at 2538 NE Magnolia Street, in Issaquah, WA, by early 2012.

Mission and Social Concerns

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

Mary's Place: Hats, gloves, scarves, earmuffs, underwear (size 5-8), hot cocoa mix, coffee, deodorant (all sizes), diapers and baby wipes, Bibles (new and used).

Hopelink: The following items are needed this month at the Redmond Food Bank—2011 calendars, canned fruit and vegetables, plain pasta and canned beans.

Hopelink Food Collection Sunday

The first Sunday of every month is Food Collection Sunday. On January 1st, please bring non-perishable food items to donate to Hopelink for the new year.

Hopelink Needs Calendars for the Adult Literacy Program—The collection basket is in the main entrance.

Mary's Place Has Another 'loaves and fishes' Christmas Breakfast

As many of you know, our church, sponsored by Seekers, provides breakfast for Mary's Place, a day shelter for homeless women in downtown Seattle. We serve on the second Saturday of each month, which means in December we served at their Christmas celebration. This day usually brings twice as many women as we normally serve. The women bring children and family members—it is quite a celebration. This was our third Christmas with the women. I usually plan for extra pastries and eggs, and this year I asked for even more as I have seen the numbers grow at the shelter, expecting a huge crowd.

This was the 'Christmas of the eggs'! I asked half of our egg donations be deviled eggs. With everyone cooking extra, 2 dozen hard boiled eggs turned into 4 dozen deviled eggs. With several people preparing them, we probably had 200 deviled eggs, along with another 6 dozen hard boiled eggs. Our cars were packed with food.

Food and Volunteers Needed for Men's Homeless Shelter in January



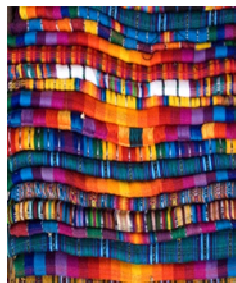
RPC will be providing food for five Monday nights in January beginning the 2nd at the Redmond Methodist Church. We still need more food, especially salads, bread and dessert. You can bring the food with you when you come to church on Sunday.

Please leave it in the Youth Room refrigerator and it will be picked up when we go down to serve on Monday night. If you are able to help out, see the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. If you have any questions, call Sandee Palmquist 425-867-1310.

So imagine my shock when we got to Immanuel Lutheran Church, where the celebration is held, to find only 15 women sitting and waiting for breakfast. We were told that some women would be coming by public transit while others were arriving in the Mary's Place van. No worries! The food would get eaten. Gradually the place began to fill up. We doled out the food, as usual, by asking that women only take a couple of things, to make sure there was enough for all. Then, when everyone had eaten, we invited them up for seconds. But, halfway through our serving time, Rachel, one of the staff members, told me that they were no longer allowing 'seconds' due to some incidents at the shelter. So, there we were with LOTS of food left. What to do? We asked if we could circulate and offer more to the women, but quite a few had gone upstairs for the services. We asked if the lunch group could use any of the food, but they had prepared their own meal. The shelter staff could not keep the food because they were not in their own facility and would not be going back to the shelter until Monday.

Blanket Collection for Redmond Family Village

It's going to be a cold winter, and Redmond YWCA Family Village residents will 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 during the month of January. Please leave your blankets and sheets in the church entry donation area.



As I was relating this story to Jessica Ahnert, she said, "It sounds like the story of the loaves and fishes, when they had so much food, they couldn't give it all away." And I realized that is what had happened to us. We brought back what we were able and looked for appropriate places to use the food. Some of the eggs went into casseroles for the men's shelter. The sweets have been frozen and will be used for the Men's Shelter desserts. The deviled eggs were enjoyed at the Session's potluck dinner.

Once again, the generosity of our church—as well as the culinary skills—overwhelms me. Your generosity to our homeless neighbors means the world, even when we have more than we can use. This has never happened before! Thanks once again for the wonderful food!



Fellowship & Presbytery News

Seattle Presbytery Presents: Presbyfest January 28, 2012

Featuring:

- Keynote speaker Bruce Reyes-Chow
- Immigration & the PS(USA) with Julia Thorne
- Healthy Church Growth with Tobin Wilson & Eliana Maxim
- Theology & Culture with Jeff Keuss
- NFOG (New Form of Government), Finance, Clerk Training
- Mission Fair and more!

Registration and more information at:

www.seapres.org/presbyfest

9:00—4:00, Saturday, January 28th

Mercer Island Presbyterian Church

3605 84th Avenue SE, Mercer Island

January Birthdays

Jan 1 – Jesus Medina	Jan 15 – Paul Stolarczuk
Jan 5 – Darleen Johnson	Jan 15 – Thomas Brown
Jan 6 – Andrew Rohrbach	Jan 16 – Heidi Linsky
Jan 6 – Katie Rohrbach	Jan 18 – Jean Hirtzel
Jan 7 – Sophia Dietsch	Jan 19 – Sally Bastine
Jan 7 – Robin Thompson	Jan 22 – Pat Prophet
Jan 7 – Carole Rich	Jan 23 – Megan Culbert
Jan 9 – Dave Wickert	Jan 23 – Michael Culbert
Jan 10 – Bethany Williamson	Jan 24 – Jean Latham
Jan 11 – Gene Hall	Jan 25 – Gerhardt Smith
Jan 11 – Bill Bastine	Jan 26 – Irene Menghini
Jan 11 – Jan Stoebe	Jan 28 – Ed Rich
Jan 13 – Dick Swope	

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. We will meet January 7th at 10:00AM to knit scarves and hats for the homeless men. Please bring any scarves or hats you have finished.

New members are always welcome and if you don't know how to knit or crochet, come and learn. If you want more information, please contact Juliann Phillips 206-419-1050 or juliannph@gmail.com.

Stepping Into God's Call, *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

When you receive the survey, just mark the boxes for the things you would consider helping us to do. We won't force you to sing (or to do anything)—as in the case of Nat King Cole. But we will encourage you to step into God's call in your life right here and right now. Please begin by filling out the survey when it comes to you in a week or so. This will be a good start to making 2012 a very Happy New Year!

Men's Breakfast Club



Our informal men's group will meet Saturday, January 14th, in a private room at Emerald Heights from 8:00—9:30AM. (We will always meet on the second Saturday of the month). The cost for a great breakfast is only \$6

and all men are welcome. Our gathering is intended to bond as men. There is no set agenda, just men talking honestly about struggles and joys in life. In our informal conversation, we seek to foster honesty, no judgments, confidentiality, and genuine caring support for every man who attends.

~ Pastor Larry

Preaching Series and Beyond These Walls



The Community Jesus Founded

the Church's beginnings according to Matthew's Gospel
winter sermon series January-February 2012

January 8	Matthew 3:13-17	The Waters of Baptism Jesus sharing our brokenness "Come as you are"
January 15	Matthew 12:1-8	The Temple Overshadowed Jesus exceeding the Sabbath "Who or what defines us?"
January 29	Matthew 16:13-20	The Rock On Which We Stand Jesus calling for faith "The endurance of believers"
February 5	Matthew 18:15-20	The Forgiveness of the Saints Jesus moving in our midst "Cultivating deeper relationships"
February 12	Matthew 10:16-31	The Sheep Sent Out Jesus delegating us "Our missional community"
February 19	Matthew 19:16-30	The Family We Inherit Jesus assuring us of a secure future "What we always wanted"

Beyond These Walls

Jeffrey Kuebler

As the year ends and the clock ticks toward midnight to begin a new year, many people make new year's resolutions or goals or challenges regarding their health or relationships or family. I do not make any new year's resolutions . . . I am just happy that it will be a new year.

most people don't achieve them either! That is why I do not make new year's resolutions. I am just happy to greet the new year. Until next time . . .

This past year has had many challenges for myself and Polo and I'm hoping that 2012 will be a better and more prosperous new year for myself and all who attend Redmond Presbyterian. If you make resolutions but do not achieve them, don't feel badly because



Session Update

Notes from December 13th

Session voted to:

- Change the minimum age requirement for the Infant and Toddler Caregiver position from 18 to 16 or 17.
- Serve communion on January 8, 2012 (instead of the first Sunday of the month).

Other News:

- Presbyfest will be held on January 28, 2012 at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church from 9:00AM—4:00PM.
- Twelve people helped at the Habitat for Humanity project in Issaquah on December 3rd.
- The Fall grounds clean-up on November 19th was very successful with church members, Scouts and Youth Group members helping.
- The total collected for the various mission causes at the Alternative Gift Market was \$4,116.00.
- Hopelink food bank donations totaled 34 lbs. in October and 160 lbs. in November.
- About 20 children and parents attended the Family Advent Festival November 27th. Thanks to Jessica Ahnert for a great event.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 25—June 29, 2012.
- A Youth mission trip is being planned for summer 2012.



January 2012





REDMOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

10020 166th Avenue NE
Redmond WA 98052

425-885-2811

office@redmondpres.org

www.redmondpres.org



This newsletter is published 11 months a year (September–July) by Redmond Presbyterian Church. Newsletter articles due the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Please send them to newsletter@redmondpres.org or drop them by the church office.

Newsletter Staff:

Michele Bahr and Pat Prophet

RPC Staff

Rev. Dr. Larry Grounds, Pastor

pastor@redmondpres.org

larrygrounds@msn.com

Jessica Ahnert, Children's Ministry Director

jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org

Daniel Griffin, Youth Director

griffd1@spu.edu

Nancy Anderson, Pastoral Associate

nancya.rpc@gmail.com

Michele Bahr, Administrative Assistant

office@redmondpres.org

Letitia Iakovenko, Director of Traditional Music

letitia78@gmail.com

Mike Smith, Organist

organpianoplayer@frontier.com

Bill Phillips, Praise Team Director

bill.phillips@redmondpres.org

Jesus Medina, Custodian

Mark Your Calendars

Annual Reports Due—Jan. 5th

Youth Snowed In—Jan. 13th

Puget Sound Blood Drive at

Meadowbrook Church—Jan. 18th

Sunday Worship Schedule

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



REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2012 Newsletter