



# REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 2011

## An Experience of a Lifetime

Rev. Dr. Larry Grounds

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7*

I was sitting on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee watching the sun rise above the mountains on the opposite side of the large lake. It was 5:00AM in the morning and I was out of rhythm with the time change on my first day in Israel. At least a dozen sparrows hopped at my feet, chirping joyfully. Tiberius, the city built by Herod in 14 AD, was immedi-

ately behind me and I could see the little town of Capernaum to the north shore of the lake. I watched in wonder as the sun peaked over the hills of the Golan Heights before me. I marveled to think that Jesus himself must have gazed upon this same early morning glory on countless occasions, since this was the general location where he headquartered his itinerant ministry. Even the little sparrows at my feet made me wonder if their diminutive ancestors inspired Jesus to use them as metaphors for God's care for the most humble among us.

This occasion marked the first time I sat foot in Israel, about seventeen years ago. I returned the next year with my wife and 33 people from our church in Southern California to visit the holy places of Jesus—places like Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Masada, Jerusalem, Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, the Wailing Wall, the Temple mount, Bethlehem, and Caesarea. Our traveling church family had so much fun together and each one of us felt tremendously enriched spiritually by this Holy Land trip we took together. There is something incredibly soul stirring to actually see these biblical locations, and to smell the soil, and to hear the sounds from places you previously only read about in scripture. The days we spent in Israel with fellow believers, sharing the sights and our reflections together at each holy place, made our trip to Israel an experience of a life time.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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### Highlights

- CROP Walk on May 15th
- Pick up a special grocery bag for End Summer Hunger Campaign beginning May 8th
- VBS curriculum is "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid"
- Worship time changes coming next fall
- Presbytery of Seattle meeting at RPC on July 19th
- Pastor Larry leading a 10-week bible study at Emerald Heights (pg 6)
- Puget Sound Blood Drive at Redmond Methodist May 25th

## Ladies Tea Party

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2:00 - 4:00 PM

We are holding our annual Ladies Tea on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00PM in the Upper Room for the ladies of RPC and their guests . . . but it won't be a party if you are not there! Please register to attend using the signup form at RPC or by calling one of the Tea organizers: Lujean Whitmore 425-885-4388, Jo Anna Birmingham 425-867-1473 or Elaine Price 425-885-5773. Can you hostess a table? Or bake some cookies or scones? Maybe you can make tea sandwiches or bring a plate of fruit. There is a sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary on the Conference Room window. We don't want our younger ladies to feel left out so we are opening up invitations to girls ages 5 and up. Do you have a special hat or bonnet? We would encourage you to wear it to the Tea. Come and be a part of this wonderful tradition.



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# Children's Ministry News

This month in Children's Church, we will learn about Jesus' specially chosen friends, the disciples. As we learn about the ways the disciples served God's people, we will focus our outreach on the CROP Hunger walk. All of the offering donations that the children bring from May 1st through 15th will be combined with the congregation's donations in helping support this mission. On May 15th we will gather as a church to participate in the walk event, here in Redmond. This event provides a tangible way for our children to see how the steps they take in their lives can help share God's love with people around the world. As we walk together we will help those who are far away and engage in fellowship with other congregations in the Redmond area. Please let me know if you have any questions and if there is a way I can help your family to be able to participate in this event. Hope to see you there!

Many blessings,

**Jessica Ahnert**

check  
it  
out!

- 5/1 **New Unit on *The Disciples***  
**Mission Focus** on the CROP Walk  
**VBS Registration Begins** forms are online and in the sanctuary
- 5/15 **CROP Hunger Walk** 1:00PM Registration 1:30 Begin Walking
- 5/22 **3rd & 4th Grade Bible Distribution**  
**Congregational meeting** (between services)
- 5/29 **Memorial Day Weekend**—No Children's Church
- 6/5 **Last day for Early Bird VBS Registration**  
**Puppets in Service**
- 6/19 **First Sunday of Summer Schedule**—One Service @ 10:00AM
- 6/26 **VBS/All Church Picnic** after the service  
VBS Monday—Thursday from 9:30AM-noon



## Vacation Bible School

**Sunday, June 26th**

**All-Church Picnic @ RPC with VBS Registration/**  
**Check-in and theme (following the 10am service)**

**Monday, June 27th**

**9:30am-noon VBS Program: Games, Crafts,**  
**Snacks, Songs, Stories & more!**



If you are interested in helping us with VBS, we always need more hands! Please contact Jessica at [jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org](mailto:jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org) and let her know where you would like to help (leader, preparations, registration . . . etc.)



# Adult Spiritual Formation

## Weekly Opportunities for Adult Education

Small Group at the Wickert's—Sundays 6:30PM  
Ephesians (*Jane or Dave 425-898-9721*)

Tuesdays 6:30AM Men's Bible Study—Tully's Bella Botega  
Gospel of John with Pastor Larry (*425-885-2811*)

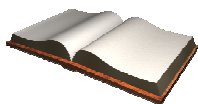
Tuesdays 10:30AM Bible Study—Prayer Library  
Gospel of John with Pastor Larry (*425-885-2811*)

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study—CE Build. 7:30PM  
Journey Through the Bible (*Pat Prophet 425-861-6746*)

Thursdays 9:15AM Bible Study at Emerald Heights  
Gospel of John with Pastor Larry (*see page 6*)

## Seekers

### Women's Book Discussion Group



Date: May 9th  
Time: 7:00 – 9:00PM  
Selection Leader: Margaret Javier  
Host: Megan Casey

**May Selection:** *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama is a moving, quiet and yet intense coming-of-age novel of a young Chinese woman who is sold to a house of silk by her poor parents.

**June:** Our annual book selection meeting. We will be choosing 10 books to read in the coming year. Please bring three book selections.

You are invited to join us for our book discussions. These books can be found in the library or your local bookstore.

## Sunday Morning Classes in 2011

The Seattle Pacific University *Lectio* series on the Gospel of Matthew, by Dr. David Nienhuis, continues on May 1st, 8th, and 15th. Facilitators for this guided Bible study at 9:15AM are Nancy Anderson or Jason Foldvik. At 11:00AM, facilitators are Jane Wickert, Dave Wickert, Katie Schmidt, or Claudia Grauf-Grounds. This has been a dynamic, thought-provoking study. It is not too late to drop in on any given Sunday.

To culminate our study, Dr. Nienhuis will present a "wrap up" of the Gospel of Matthew at RPC. The date and time is to be set soon, so watch for more specific information.

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**The Adult Spiritual Formation Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Conference Room (off the Sanctuary) at 7:00PM. We are in the process of seeking new members and invite you to consider using your considerable gifts in planning for opportunities for spiritual growth. We are already beginning to plan for next fall, and we need your input! Please contact Katie Schmidt at 425-968-8753 if you need more information. Current members include, Jane and Dave Wickert, Nancy and Jeff Anderson, Jason Foldvik, and Claudia Grauf-Grounds.**

## Sunday Morning Schedule Changes for Fall 2011

Responding to concerns and suggestions from the congregation at large regarding the structure of Sunday morning worship, education and fellowship, the Adult Spiritual Formation Commission sought input from Pastor Larry Grounds, Worship Commission leader Sally Bastine, Fellowship Commission leader Elaine Price, Praise Team leader Bill Phillips, Youth Director Jeff Dennis, and Children's Ministry Director Jessica Ahnert, as well as reviewing the recommendations of the Worship Task Force of 2008. After prayerful review and deliberation, the ASF Commission felt that the schedule used for Sunday morning worship during the 2009/2010 church year would provide the church community with better opportunities for worship, education and fellowship (see box to the right).

The Commission recommended and Session approved this format which will begin following the summer schedule.

**Beginning in September 2011,**  
our Sunday morning schedule will be:

**Traditional Worship 9:00AM-10:00AM**

### Fellowship & Education Hour

10:00AM-11:05AM All-church fellowship time following worship in the CE Building.

10:15AM-11:05AM Adult Education with one or more offerings weekly, with occasional guest speakers. Classes will not meet when all-church fellowship events are scheduled during this time.

**Contemporary Worship 11:15AM-12:15PM**

# Youth Ministry News



## Introducing Our Interim Youth Director

Hello everyone,  
My name is Daniel Griffin and starting this May I will be the Interim Youth Director at RPC. I have been volunteering as a leader for the Sr.

High youth program here for over a year now. It has been an absolute blast learning, playing, and engaging in discussions about our faith in God with the students and fellow leaders at this church. I am looking forward to being the interim director and working with everyone involved in our youth ministry to keep the program striving toward creating an atmosphere where youth can have fun, learn, and encounter Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace, Daniel

## Creation West 2011

The event this summer is July 20 – 23 at the Enumclaw Expo Center in Enumclaw, Washington. We usually leave on Wednesday morning around 9:00AM, and return Sunday morning, camping and having lots of fun!

If you would like more information, the creation website is: [www.creationfest.com/nw](http://www.creationfest.com/nw). Tickets are around \$110, and in previous years the total cost for tickets, camping, and food was under \$200. We will have a definite amount as the date gets closer. For more information, see Ron Dorn, Mary Kay Weinmeister, or Interim Youth Director Daniel Griffin. So, save the date, and get ready for more summer fun with your RPC Youth Group friends!

## Rummage Sale Thank You from the Youth Group

A big thank you to all who contributed to our Rummage Sale on April 30<sup>th</sup>. At printing time we do not have the amount raised, but we want to thank the congregation for your wonderful response and donations. We will use proceeds for our mission trip to the Yakama Indian Reservation in June, and youth programs and activities.

## Thank You!

Thanks to Andrew Appelwick, and UW students Colin Dorn, Kyle and Katie Gysler and John Stolarczuk who are assisting Interim Youth Director Daniel Griffin.

## Youth Events in May

### Junior High

Ascent—Wed 7-8:30PM

Jr. High SS will resume in September

### Senior High

The Hall—Sun 7—8:45PM

### **Sr. High Mission Trip to Yakama Indian Reservation**

June 19—24

### **Creation Music Festival in Enumclaw**

July 20-23

## *An Experience of a Lifetime, continued*

*(Continued from page 1)*

We are going there again. Claudia and I want many of you at Redmond Presbyterian Church, along with your friends and loved ones, to join us traveling to the Holy land on **February 13—22, 2012**. We will travel through Educational Opportunities Tours (an organization rooted in the Methodist Church which has been providing excellent tours to the Holy Land for over 20 years). A detailed brochure of the itinerary can be emailed to you by contacting the church office (or me) or by simply going to the “ministries” section on our Church website. The basic cost per person—flights (Seattle to NY to Tel Aviv), breakfast and dinner, hotels and coach transportation, trained tour guides—is \$3,500. (An itemized financial breakdown of expenses is also available through the Church office or our website).

Claudia and I will share more information about this Holy Land trip on May 15<sup>th</sup> between services @ 10:30AM in the Upper Room. Also, please feel free to ask me or Claudia

about the Holy Land Trip.

The three requirements to make this ten day trip of a lifetime are time, health, and money. If this Holy Land Travel we are personally hosting is at all possible for you, seriously look into it. Things like this are seldom convenient, or easy, or cheap. But the cost in time and money is well worth the spiritual, historical, and cultural enrichment you and your traveling companions will receive. We want to share with as many of you as possible what has already been for us an experience of a lifetime.



# Mission and Fellowship News

## Requests for Mary's Place and Hopelink:

**Mary's Place:** over-the-counter pain relievers, Benadryl, cough drops, Vitamin C, adult diapers, reusable grocery bags, deodorant, razors, underwear ( especially size 5-6), new or gently used socks

**Hopelink:** See End Summer Hunger Campaign →

## CROP Hunger Walk

**Would you like to be part of an effort to put an end to hunger? Mark your calendars for CROP Walk**

**2011.** We will be walking a flat 3 mile course on the Sammamish Trail in Redmond on Sunday, May 15th at 1:30PM (registration begins at 1:00PM). Last year we had 32 walkers of all ages. Add your name to our sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary. Can't walk with us? We will have a donation table to collect contributions in May. Helping to end hunger, even if it just for one day, can only happen if we walk this path together. Contact Lori Dorn [dorn5@comcast.net](mailto:dorn5@comcast.net) or Juliann Phillips [juliannph@gmail.com](mailto:juliannph@gmail.com) for more information.

## End Summer Hunger Campaign

Over 16,000 children in East King County receive free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch at school each day. We are cooperating with Hopelink again this year to help provide food for these children during their summer months at home.

You can help provide home lunches by donating food or cash to assist these children. Special grocery bags and cash donation envelopes will be available on the following Sundays: May 8th—June 12th at church. Fill the grocery bags with kid-friendly food and return them to the donation area at the main entrance to the church.

Your cash or check donation will provide many times more impact than food. Please make your check payable to Redmond Presbyterian Church and write End Summer Hunger on the memo line. Thanks for your concern for these children!



## Weekenders

Fellowship for Empty Nesters & Retirees

### Bellevue Botanical Gardens Spring Tour

Take an easy hour hike with us through blooming Rhododendrons and Azaleas and so much more at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Wear comfortable walking shoes. The outing will be culminated with an early happy hour dinner at Z'Tejas Southwestern Grill in Bellevue Square.

When: Saturday May 28th, 2:30PM

Cost: Donations to Bellevue Botanical Gardens

Host : Barbara Taylor @ 425-885-6059

RSVP: To our host by noon that Saturday

Carpool: 2:30PM at Barbara & Del Taylor's

## May Birthdays

May 4 – Michael Weinmeister

May 6 – Amanda Krum

May 6 – Bryan Bendix

May 6 – Charlotte Nozari

May 7 – Ben Thompson

May 9 – Verdilla Baer

May 9 – Larry Whitmore

May 9 – Emma Davis

May 9 – Matthew Fletcher

May 10 – Megan Dorn

May 11 – Virginia Reynolds

May 13 – Michael McGaw

May 15 – Jessica Grounds

May 16 – Christine Bunnell

May 16 – Sandy Loper

May 16 – Jim Glass

May 17 – Kyle Gysler

May 18 – Vicky Sanko

May 19 – Gloria Steeples

May 19 – Mariana Cooper

May 22 – Katrina Sanko

May 23 – Alex Birmingham

May 24 – Tommy Weinmeister

May 24 – Heather Fletcher

May 25 – Marjorie Danas

May 25 – Drew Harris

May 28 – Chloe Clowers

May 28 – John Stolarczuk

May 31 – Donna Thompson

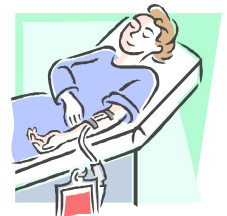
## Puget Sound Blood Drive at Redmond United Methodist Church

Date: Wednesday, May 25th

Time: 1-7 pm (closed 3:00-4:00 for technicians' break)

Location: Redmond United Methodist Church, Galley Hall, 16540 NE 80th St, Redmond 98052

If you have not already participated in this community outreach opportunity, please consider doing so: ONE HOUR of your time can save a life. Each day over 800 donors are needed to meet the transfusion needs in Western Washington. One out of every 10 people entering a hospital needs blood, and donating volunteers are the only source. You can give blood every 8 weeks, so if you haven't donated blood since March 30th, you will be eligible on May 25th. Appointments are made every 15 minutes. Drop-ins are welcome, but appointments are given priority. To schedule, call Toni Parson 206-369-2786. If you have previously participated in a Redmond Interfaith Blood Drive, you will receive an email invitation or phone call. Give blood, and give the gift of HOPE and LIFE!



# Reflections from the Deacons

Juliann Phillips, Deacon

You could call me a joiner. I have a hard time passing up a sign-up sheet. It is almost embarrassing how many groups I have joined over the years at RPC. But I think saying yes to the nominating committee by accepting the call to be a Deacon, has had the deepest impact on my walk of faith. I have had to let go of figuring everything out, of being independent and self-sufficient. I have learned that I need to ask for help as often as I offer help. But the amazing thing is the response I have had when I ask. I am so grateful to those who have said yes to preparing a meal for a family in transition; to driving someone to a doctor's appointment or a small group activity; to

spending some time visiting those who are not able to get to worship. In a few months, I will hand my Deacon list over to a new Deacon and I will be the one on the other end of the phone, saying yes when I can, lending a helping hand, giving back to my church family.

*Trust God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;  
he's the one who will keep you on track. Proverbs 3:5-6 (The Message)*



# Beyond These Walls

Jeffrey Kuebler

As the month of May approaches, we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day. As you may or may not know, my grandmother died last May. She and I had a very special relationship. I do not think it was because I am blind, I just think she and I bonded together. She had 3 daughters, and I think because I was her grandson . . . we were kindred souls. Later on in life she contracted macular degeneration—which is an eye disease. She started to lose her

eye sight and this was very hard on her. Any time my mom or my two aunts tried to tell her something, she would listen to me or one of my cousins instead. As Mother's Day approaches, may you remember your grandmother, mother and/or your sister. Even if you don't give elaborate gifts, just a simple "thank you" will do.

Until next time . . . Jeffrey and Polo

## The Presbytery of Seattle will meet at Redmond Presbyterian Church on July 19<sup>th</sup>

We have the honor of hosting the Seattle Presbytery this summer. This will be the first time in our church's 45 year history that we have hosted the whole Presbytery. The former space limitations of our one building complex and our parking lot prevented us from taking on this responsibility shared by about half of the larger churches in our Presbytery. But now, with the beautiful addition of our 1.6 million dollar Christian Education Building and parking lot, we are able to extend our hospitality to our neighboring Presbyterians.

Our Session unanimously endorsed the Presbytery's invitation for us to host the July meeting. The summer evening Presbytery meeting begins at 5PM and our church will provide a dinner serving approximately 160 pastors and elders from the 53 churches in our Presbytery. Now our leadership invites our whole church family to contribute to the help in some way—from preparing our buildings and grounds, to putting on the dinner, or to welcoming and guiding our guests on the day of the event. Please sign up when we make the pitch for help. We want to give the very best to our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ in the Seattle area.

~Pastor Larry

### Emerald Heights Bible Study

#### 10 Week study on John's Gospel with Pastor Larry at Emerald Heights

Ten one hour lectures (with questions and discussion) will be presented at Emerald Heights at their Thursday Bible study @ 9:15 AM on—May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, and 28. We welcome RPC members and friends to join many of our in-residence Emerald Heights church members for this engaging study. Classes are designed to help us understand the Gospel's historical context, theological meaning, and its author's purpose in writing the book. We also seek to apply our understanding of the text to our everyday lives in the 21st century. All are welcome to come—beginners or bible study veterans, residents or visitors to Emerald Heights (10901 176<sup>th</sup> Circle NE, Redmond).

**Knit One~Pray Too** will meet on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00AM—noon in the Prayer Library. Bring your yarn and needles and enjoy a time of knitting and fellowship. We have extra needles and yarn for new knitters too. Open to all ages! For more information, please contact Juliann Phillips, juliannph@gmail.com.

# May 2011

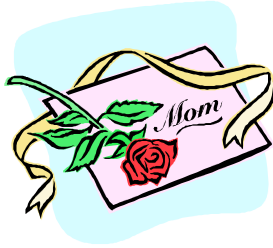




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**Jesus Medina, Custodian**

## Mark Your Calendars

**Ladies Tea:** May 14th 2:00 – 4:00PM

**Staff and Leaders Retreat:** May 21st 9:00AM

**Puget Sound Blood Drive @ Redmond United Methodist Church** May 25th 1:00 – 7:00PM

## Sunday Worship Schedule

9:15AM Traditional Worship & Children's Church

10:15AM Community Fellowship

11:00AM Contemporary Worship & Children's Church



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