



REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 2011

Lilly Endowment Grant Awarded to Pastor Larry & Redmond Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Larry Grounds

"...those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31

The Lilly Endowment has awarded me and our church \$41,785 for my 2012 three-month sabbatical. Last spring I applied for this competitive grant given to pastors and the church they serve for a three-month sabbatical. Gratefully, the full support of our Session and church staff were integral in my application process. \$12,500 of this grant is earmarked for the congregation to hire a temporary pastor while I am on my three-month sabbatical. As designed in my proposal, a portion of this money also covers the basic expenses for an all-church retreat which I will design and oversee. This retreat is tentatively scheduled for October 2012.

When I was called to be the pastor at Redmond Presbyterian in January 2005, part of my contract with the church included a three-month sabbatical to be available after the completion of seven years of ministry here. In anticipation of my sabbatical for 2012, I decided to try for this incredibly generous Lilly Grant. This highly competitive grant is awarded to pastors and the congregations they serve. It includes over forty Christian denominations throughout the United States. Last year 150 grants were awarded.

The Lilly Grant asks pastors who apply to answer the question: "What will make your heart sing?" They look for a clear intention of how pastors will use their time of renewal. The Grant Foundation is also interested in renewing and strengthening the relationship of the pastor and the congregation. All applicants for this grant must pledge to continue serving the churches they are in when they return from their sabbatical.

I am still trying to appreciate what this tremendous grant means for me and for you, my beloved church.

Central to my application proposal was to pursue my work with designing and presenting stories. My doctoral dissertation (San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2000) was on "How to Design and Present Children's stories for Congregational Worship." In my doctoral work I developed a method to write stories which are rooted in the biblical text and which use Jesus' parables as the structural basis for crafting original stories. The stories I tell the

(Continued on page 4)

Highlights

- RPC is looking for a new Nursery Caregiver
- Pastor Larry teaching Sunday morning classes in Nov.
- Family Game Night is Nov 11th
- Youth Group Fall Retreat is Nov 5-6
- Nancy Anderson begins a new series of articles on worship, page 7
- New musical opportunity for singers and instrumentalists! page 10
- Knit One ~ Pray Too is making scarves and hats for Men's Homeless Shelter

Inside This Issue

Children's Ministry	2
Spiritual Formation	3
Youth Ministry	4
Beyond These Walls	
Mission	5
Fellowship	6
Session	
Worship	7
Stewardship	8
Reflections	
Music	9
Calendar	11

Alternative Gift Market

Sunday Before Thanksgiving



November 20th after Both Services

Honor a family member by selecting a gift from our many mission tables to help the needy locally and globally.



Children's Ministry News

This month, I encourage you to help your children be mindful for the many blessings the Lord pours over us every day. Take a moment each day to talk about what you are thankful for. There are also a LOT of fun events and programs coming up, so be sure to check out the calendar below!

nursery job open

RPC is hiring a new Nursery Care worker. Requirements include minimum age of 18 with current First Aid and CPR training, availability on Sunday mornings and some additional events and services. If you or anyone you know is interested in this paid



position please see our website homepage at redmondpres.org for the complete job description. This position reports to Children's Ministry Director Jessica

Ahnert. Special thanks to Katie Weinmeister and parents who are filling in during this search process!

WAM (Worship & Music)

We will begin preparing for the songfest starting November 6. If your child is interested in being a part of our presentation, please have your child join us between services!

Family Game Night -

November 11th

Alternative Gift Market—

November 20th

This is a great opportunity to accomplish some Christmas shopping and help a good cause! Come check out the mission tables after each service.

Family Advent Festival—November 27th

Join us at 4:00PM for a potluck chilli feed before we dive into some Christmas crafts. We will focus our time on preparing our hearts for the season of Advent.



upcoming events

Sunday, November 6	WAM @10:15am Children's Commission @12:30pm	The Rock Conference Room
Friday, November 11	Family Game Night @5:30pm	The Upper Room
Sunday, November 13	WAM @10:15am	The Rock
Sunday, November 20	Alternative Gift Market No WAM	The Upper Room
Sunday, November 27	WAM @10:15am Family Advent Festival @4pm	The Rock The Upper Room
Sunday, December 4	WAM @10:15am Open House @2pm	The Rock Pastor Larry's House
Sunday, December 11	WAM @10:15am	The Rock



Adult Spiritual Formation

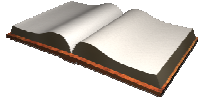


Weekly Opportunities for Adult Education

Small Group at the Wickert's - Sundays 6:30PM
Daniel (Jane or Dave 425-898-9721)
Tuesdays 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study - Tully's Bella Bottega
(Jim Glass/Jeff Anderson)
Tuesdays 10 AM Bible Study - Prayer Library at RPC
Gospel of John (Pastor Larry 425-885-2811)
Wednesday 7:30 PM Women's Bible Study - Rm. 14 CE Bldg
Galatians (Pat Prophet 425-861-6746)

Seekers

Women's Book Discussion Group



Date: Monday, November 14th
Time: 7:00PM
Selection Leader: Brenda Smith
Host: Katie Schmidt

Our November selection is *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. *The Forgotten Garden* is about a very young girl who is abandoned on a ship headed for Australia in 1913. She arrives completely alone with nothing but a small suitcase containing a few clothes and a single book — a beautiful volume of fairy tales. She is taken in by the dock master and his wife and raised as their own. On her twenty-first birthday they tell her the truth, and with her sense of self shattered and with very little to go on, Nell sets out on a journey to England to try to trace her story, to find her real identity.

Next Month's Selection: *Breakfast at Sally's* by Richard LeMieux

CALLINGS Will Return!

CALLINGS Groups will meet again in February and March 2012. Over twenty people participated in CALLINGS groups between services in October. The groups explored how God continues to deepen our spiritual journey through connection with others who share a particular passion/area of life commitment (e.g. Parenting, Addressing Injustice). CALLINGS groups will meet again between church services in the New Year so plan ahead and join us as we respond to how God calls us to live out our lives in faith. Want to determine how God is calling you? Contact Pastor Larry or Nancy Anderson through office@redmondpres.org.

Sunday Morning Classes in November

November 6th:

Pastor Larry's three-month sabbatical will be the subject explored in the Upper Room this week. You are warmly invited to hear all about The Lilly Endowment Shared Grant for Pastor and Congregation. A review of Pastor Larry's itinerary will be outlined, and highlights on the thematic focus on story will be discussed.

November 13th

A review of the Lilly Endowment Shared Grant for Pastor and Congregation will continue this week in the Upper Room. This discussion will center on the church's benefits. An overview of plans for passing on the art of creating stories structured after the parables of Jesus will be highlighted as well.

November 20th: Alternative Gift Market between services and after the second service.

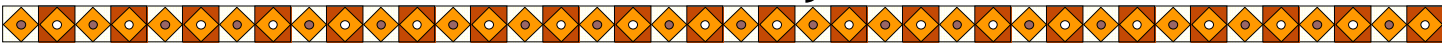
November 27th: Thanksgiving

A Precept Bible Study: Free from Bondage God's Way began on October 2nd. This 13-week inductive study leads participants to discover the only way to the freedom given by Christ from hypocrisy, bad motives and habits, and things we do or don't do, through knowing God's truth. A study of Galatians will conclude the first week in November followed by 7 weeks of Ephesians. This class, meeting weekly at 10:15AM in Room 8, is led by trained Precepts facilitators Lew and Carlos Conerly. This study requires weekly commitment for study outside of class.

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

will continue its study of Galatians in November. We will not meet November 23rd or 30th—taking a break over the Thanksgiving holiday. We welcome all women of the church to join us. For further information, please call Pat Prophet 425-861-6746.

The Adult Spiritual Formation Commission 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.



Hello RPC!

Going into November, our youth program has a lot to be excited about! We are heading off to our fall retreat entitled *Autumn Leave 11*, and will be spending the first weekend of November learning about God and hanging out in an awesome 3-story ranch house on the Warm Beach campus in Stanwood, Washington. Many of you have been praying

for our retreat and I cannot wait to return with our leaders and students to share our experience and growth with you . We will be talking about what it means to let go of our struggles in life and instead hold on to Christ. Jesus says in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We want to encourage one another to let go of our worldly troubles and give them up to Christ who has overcome the world for us. Let us remember the unique struggles that come up in life for Jr. and Sr. high students as they grow up—struggles we once experienced. Only when we surrender our worries and problems to God, can we truly live the life God intended us for.

Youth Events in November

Junior High Events

Ascent - Wed 7-8:30PM

Jr. High Fellowship—Sun 10:20AM, Youth Room
(will not meet Nov. 6)

Senior High Events

The Hall - Sun 7-8:45PM (will not meet Nov. 6)

Autumn Leave '11 Fall Retreat - Nov 4-6th

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to seek to glorify God in this ministry to youth.

Grace and peace,

Daniel

New Opportunities to Deepen Faith and Relationships

Men's Breakfast Club

Pastor Larry will facilitate a men's breakfast at the Family Pancake House (17621 Redmond Way, Redmond) every second Saturday of the month from 8:00—9:30AM. Our casual breakfast conversation will give us opportunity to share, laugh and encourage each other in our faith.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study @ 10:00AM in the Prayer Library

Pastor Grounds and a group of ten women and men gather every Tuesday for a 75-minute Bible study. We are embarking on a new study of Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians on November 15th. This exciting book of the Bible gives guidance and hope to those who experience life as difficult—who doesn't? We want to encourage others to try out our group . . . this would be a perfect time for you to give us a try.

Lilly Endowment, Continued from Page 1

children in worship are developed by using this technique. My grant proposal expressed my long-held desire to train others in this story-writing technique. The proposal also includes visiting various places where my imagination was born and where story telling historically flourished. During my sabbatical I will travel to Edinburgh, Scotland with my wife. I will spend a week in a conference on the work of story writer CS Lewis. Our three children will travel with us to Greece, the Greek Islands, and to Ephesus to explore the places of mythology and where compelling stories originated long ago. I am also headed for New Mexico and Ghost Ranch Conference Center to explore my story telling heritage. My father was a good story teller and his grandfather was an Osage Indian.

ing ahead, not just to next summer when I embark on my sabbatical travels, but to many years ahead, to the time when Redmond Presbyterian Church will celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. That's only four years from now. I'm currently working with leaders in our church, coupled with lots of prayer and reading, seeking to discern the particular way God wants our church to go and grow into the future. I do not think that wonderful things like this grant award just happen to us by chance. We have a destiny. May God renew my strength and your strength for the journey. Let us prepare to soar like eagles. We have a destiny.

I am still trying to appreciate what this tremendous grant means for me and for you, my beloved church. I am look-



Missions and Social Concerns



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

Mary's Place: canes (new and used), umbrellas, rain ponchos, cold medications, antacids (Tums, Pepcid), manicure tools and supplies, coffee, denture adhesive

Hopelink: canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals, spaghetti sauce and noodles

Alternative Gift Market



Get a jump on your Christmas shopping for your family at the Alternative Gift Market in the Upper Room, Sunday November 20th, after both services

Honor a family member by choosing from Heifer International's selection and discover what a small gift can do for a family or village; buy a shoe gift certificate from Mary's Place for

a homeless woman; or a hammer and nails for Habitat for Humanity. You may also select a unique handmade gift from 10,000 Villages. You may take a tag from the Giving Tree to purchase a gift for a child sponsored through Hopelink or for the child of the family we sponsor at the YWCA Redmond Family Village.

All kinds of unique gifts—a two-for-one opportunity—both a gift for a family member and a gift for someone who is in need. This is a great way to begin the holiday season! (Checks and cash only.)

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to the members of our generous congregation who have, again this year, contributed to Operation Christmas Child. We are well on our way to our goal of 100 boxes this year. The children filled most of these boxes during Children's Church on October 16th. They wrote letters to be included to the recipients of the boxes.

If you took a box home to fill, please return the box to the sanctuary by Sunday, November 13th. We will be delivering the boxes the following week. These boxes cost us \$7/box to ship to their destination. We are now accepting donations for shipping. Your check should be to "Redmond Presbyterian Church" with the words "Shipping OCC Boxes" on the memo line.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for these boxes and to the kids and adults who helped us pack. A special thank you to Jessica Ahnert for her help in coordinating this with our Sunday School families.

~The Operation Christmas Child Team, Sandee Palmquist, Dave & Jane Wickert, and Lori Dorn



Hopelink Needs Calendars for the Adult Literacy Program.

The collection basket is in the main entrance.

VOSH Mission to Mazatlan, Mexico

Carole Rich

On September 16th, Ed and I led a team of 24 volunteers from VOSH NW (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) on a mission to Mazatlan, Mexico. The primary mission of VOSH-NW (one of 33 chapters of VOSH International) is to facilitate the provision of vision care worldwide to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care. The team took 10,000 pair of glasses and sunglasses for use during the mission.

Each day as we approached the worksite (a baseball stadium), we saw people waiting in long lines for a chance to have a free eye exam and a free pair of glasses. The temperature was in the 90's with humidity the same. Our hosts had provided a large tent with 3 portable air conditioners for the doctors' work area. Doctors need a dark working environment to do exams. The glasses dispensing area was in the visiting team's dressing room. All other work was done outside under the stadium entrance.

We worked from 8:30AM until 5:30 or 6:30PM each day for 5 days and saw 2,518 patients. Eighty-seven needed no glasses. Approximately 250 were referred for medical problems (glaucoma, cataracts, and pteryguims). The referred patients were taken care of by local doctors. A major problem that was detected was a brain tumor in a 4 year old boy. He was given an MRI at a local hospital and had surgery last week. The latest update we have is that he is in a comma and the outlook is not promising. Pray for him and his family.

Each time Ed and I go on a VOSH mission we know God has a hand in our work. The grin and smile you get from a child that can now see the world around him, the hugs and kisses from people who can now read their Bible's, and the touch of a person that says, "I want to touch you because you are going to heaven, and I want to go with you." I shed tears on each mission for the love I have received helping someone receive better vision.



Fellowship News

Knit one ~ Pray too



We have chosen to make scarves and hats to distribute at the dinners for the homeless men in January. We made these last year and the men were extremely appreciative. They were snatched up very quickly. We invite anyone who would like to participate to join us in this project.

We welcome anyone who wants to join our knitting fellowship to our meetings on the first Saturday of the month from 10 – 12. However, you don't need to attend our gatherings in order to contribute. There is yarn in the Prayer Library for anyone who would like to make a hat or scarf for these men. Please bring your completed project to the Prayer Library by Sat. Jan 7th to be included in the delivery. Please contact Lori Dorn 206-931-2887 or dorns5@comcast.net.

Weekenders

Fellowship for Empty Nesters & Retirees

Christmas Concert and Dinner

Sunday November 20th

Weekenders is a fellowship group for empty nesters and active retirees at our church. We have occasional activities throughout the year. If you would like to host an activity please call or email Barbara and Del Taylor 425-885-6059 and we will help you organize the event.

This month you are invited to start your Christmas early with Lyric Arts Ensemble's Christmas Concert at Faith Lutheran Church in Redmond. RPC members, Kris and Steve McGaw, are part of this choral ensemble. Please join us for dinner afterwards.

Concert: 4:00PM, Nov 20th

Tickets: Free

Place: Faith Lutheran Church, 9041 - 166 Ave NE

Dinner: following the concert, please RSVP for dinner to Bertie & Jim Glass 425-881-5643

It's Time to Fall Back!

Daylight Savings

Time
Ends
Nov 6th



Session Update Notes From October 11th

Session voted to:

- Approve the job description for the Infant and Toddler Caregiver position.

Other news:

- The Fall retreat for Jr. and Sr. High students will be November 4-6 at Warm Beach.
- Family Game night will be Friday, November 11th at 5:30PM in the Upper Room.
- The corner sign landscaping has been completed as an Eagle Scout project.
- The Fall grounds clean-up is scheduled for November 19th.
- The Harvest Dinner is October 30th at 5:00PM in the Upper Room.
- The Christmas Open House will be held at Grounds' home December 4th.

November Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Nov 4 - Ken Christensen | Nov 17 - Taylor Phillips |
| Nov 4 - Steve McGaw | Nov 21 - Elizabeth Ducharme |
| Nov 5 - Ryan Wilson | Nov 22 - Doris Christensen |
| Nov 5 - Kevin Gysler | Nov 22 - Peter Williamson |
| Nov 5 - Lois Aroian | Nov 23 - Eric McGaw |
| Nov 7 - Dan Weinmeister | Nov 23 - Andrew McGaw |
| Nov 7 - Vivian Lane | Nov 24 - Megan O'Connell |
| Nov 8 - Aye Aye Tay | Nov 25 - Emma Goode |
| Nov 10 - Chuck Lee | Nov 25 - Jeff Price |
| Nov 11 - Lori Dorn | Nov 29 - Rob Linsky |
| Nov 13 - Lonnie Thompson | Nov 29 - Marian Merrill |
| Nov 16 - Jean Strachan | Nov 29 - Kim Hilke |
| Nov 17 - Johann deVilliers | Nov 30 - Mitchell Stolarczuk |
| Nov 17 - Betty Koenig | Nov 30 - Michael Tiffany |

Family Game Night

RPC's Family Game Night returns on Friday, November 11th at 5:30PM in the Upper Room. Families are asked to bring a "finger food" to snack on, such as chex mix, veggie sticks, grapes, etc. Pizza and refreshments will be served for dinner around 5:45. Games begin at 6:15 and run till 8:30, (or until Clue has been solved.) Please RSVP to Julia Steeples at jsteep01@yahoo.com or call Julia at 425-242-1055 so she can arrange for enough pizza.



Worship News

The Worship Service: “A Suggested Order”

Nancy Anderson, Pastoral Associate

Have you come to church one Sunday morning and wondered “Why do we always have the confession at the beginning of the service?” or “Why do some people think the offering should come after the sermon?” Well, you’ve come to the right place! This is the first of a series of short articles in our monthly newsletter to answer those and other questions about why we do what we do during our worship service.

Recently, Pastor Larry mentioned our mission at Redmond Presbyterian Church. You’ll find it at the top of the bulletin insert titled *Happenings!* It says:

Our mission: *Seeking to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. Structuring our discipleship according to a triad of practices: weekly **worship**, personal **spiritual formation**, and regular acts of **service**.*

This series of articles will address primarily the “weekly worship” part (although it might also result in some personal spiritual formation . . .).

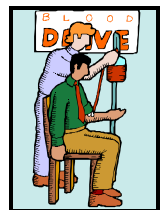
Our Presbyterian *Book of Order* suggests five areas or “movements” in a worship service: *gathering* around the Word; *proclaiming* the Word; *responding* to the Word; the *sealing* of the Word; and *bearing* and *following* the Word into the world. For the next few months, we will look at what goes into each movement and what they accomplish in our mind, our heart, and our spirit.

Do you see that there is a certain flow, a certain direction to the movement? Coming in, receiving, and going back out changed. It’s kind of like a hospital, a restaurant, or even a gas station. We come in with a need, we receive what is offered (healing, nourishment, a fill-up for the car), and we go out again, strengthened to continue our life. The purpose of this order in our worship service is basically the same: we come to church needing to know God, we receive the Word, we worship, and we go back out into the world strengthened, knowing God better and ready to serve Him.

Next month we’ll look at “*Gathering around the Word*” and we’ll see how that happens at RPC.

Opportunities to Serve in the Name of Christ

- **Hopelink Food Collection Sunday**—November 6th is the first Sunday in the month and the time for each of us to bring a non-perishable food item for Hopelink.
- **RPC Fall Grounds Clean-Up**—Join us Saturday, November 19th from 9:00AM—noon to spruce up our campus. Bring your gardening gloves and tools, including rakes and help beautify the grounds.
- **Blood Drive Monday, November 28th 1:00-7:00PM** (break 3-4pm)—this is an opportunity for you to share your life-giving blood. The Puget Sound Blood Center needs 800 units every day in Western Washington and that means we would love you to donate blood at Holy Cross Episcopal Church (11526—162nd Avenue NE, Redmond). Most people can donate . . . medications usually don’t prevent donation. Email: blood@HolyCrossRedmond.org or call Tina Paul 425-485-5620 for an appointment. We always have homemade cookies! Drop-ins are welcome also.
- **Habitat for Humanity-Building houses in Issaquah**—On December 3rd from 9:30AM-4:30PM Pastor Larry and our Mission Commission will lead a group of adult volunteers from our church to help build houses. Please email or call Pastor Larry if you are interested in sharing your love, time and energy to help those in our community who need housing.





Stewardship News

“Giving to be faithful. Giving to make a difference.” What is the inspiration for your life and how you use your gifts? Is it your faith, your commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

We strive to use our gifts to change the world that we live in—for our family, our friends, our neighbors, all the people God created. Our gifts—both financial and our talents—create opportunities for everyone to participate in the life of our church, helping people within and outside our church community in so many wonderful ways.

In 2002 Redmond Presbyterian Church established a vision for what our campus would become. We grew from a single building with a half-paved parking lot to our current campus with a bustling Christian Education Building and a well-lit and safe parking lot. Here are some of the events that our expanded campus has hosted this year:

1. Wednesday Night Live - A time of education and fellowship for our entire congregation, youth and adults.
2. Seattle Presbytery Meeting - Over 150 leaders of Presbyterian churches throughout the Seattle area met on the RPC campus in July.
3. VBS – Summertime faith and fun for youth from Kirkland, Woodinville, and Redmond. Many of our VBS children were outside of our church family.
4. Harvest Dinner – Annual church social with trick-or-treating for UNICEF.

With excellent church staff our children’s and youth ministries are thriving; the RPC Choir and Praise Team is flourishing, and our church’s relationship with the Boy Scout Troop 520 has become a tremendous mutual blessing of hospitality and service.

In keeping with our vision, we’ve made a difference for ourselves and our community. Help continue to drive towards our vision which has evolved from the establishment of RPC in 1965 and was crystallized with plans and drawings in 2002. Please help enable the practical necessities of driving towards our vision with your pledges to the building and general funds. Thank you.

Yours in Christ, ~ The 2011 Stewardship Campaign Team

Reflections from the Deacons

Kelly Dietsch, Deacon

After years in the military, volunteering still doesn’t come easy to me. But I have found that by being open to doing Christ’s work, no matter how small, I open doors that might otherwise remain closed to me. When I first moved back to the US after the death of my husband, I asked to volunteer at the church where my niece attended preschool. They found me a job in the office, and opened their arms to me. I am convinced that if I hadn’t taken that first step, it would have taken me much longer to become a member of that faith family. I have been attending RPC for well over two years now. I didn’t feel connected at first because I lived so far away and wasn’t able to partake in any of the community building activities that RPC offers. This was difficult for me, as I am used to being highly involved in my faith community. I was approached last year and asked to consider becoming a deacon at RPC. Wow, was I ready for that step; to become “responsible” for a cohort (care-group) of people in RPC? I prayed and meditated on what such a commitment would mean to me. Sure, moving to Redmond had gotten me closer to RPC, so that I could participate, but I had become awfully busy with my own career and family... maybe I didn’t really have time. But as I reflected and listened while I prayed I felt God telling me that His work, taking care of His people, was important, and that

He would help me. So I said yes! I joined the team of dedicated deacons—I sent out my letters, and started praying. Did you know your deacons spend quite a bit of time praying for you? I’m not very good at sending out cards yet—I am working on that—I am still learning the ropes of being a deacon. I hope that my care group will forgive my lapses and keep me in their prayers! God is working in me and through me so that I can be Christ with skin on, to His children in RPC. One of the things I found out when I became a deacon is that we deacons have to depend on the members of RPC to help us out. There is no other way we could get God’s work done—we deacons have families and jobs of our own, so we don’t always have time to make meals to take for shut ins, or to drive a member to a medical appointment. While we are praying for you, and reaching out to you, we ask that perhaps you might consider reaching out to someone else? I feel like RPC is a big family . . . from the minute I walked in I felt at home. And since we are a family—the family of God—we all need to be there for each other—supporting and lifting up not only in prayer, but also in action.

Praise be to Him, through whom I can do all things—even be a deacon!
In God’s love, Kelly



Good Reasons You Should Sing in RPC's Choir by Letitia Iakovenko

Have you ever considered joining the choir here at RPC? Have you ever wondered what it would be like? Whether you have or not, I hope you will take a few minutes to read my thoughts on why I believe singing in the choir would be beneficial to you, and why joining the church choir will have spiritual growth benefits for you as well. As I was thinking about my past experiences with church choirs, my mind was drawn to the memory of a dear family from the church I attended in Kentucky before my husband and I moved to Washington. Sung and Jong-Youn and their two daughters were from South Korea, and moved to Lexington, Kentucky so that Sung could attend Asbury Theological Seminary. When they decided that our church would be their family's church, Sung and Jong-Youn immediately joined the choir. Jong-Youn barely knew English, and was struggling with limited time as she was raising two young daughters at home, taking ESL classes, adjusting to a totally new culture and environment, plugging her children in to programs for ESL kids, doing homework with the girls, etc. Yikes! She was a busy mom. And Sung was busy at seminary full-time plus working. But, every week, they were at choir rehearsal, and every Sunday morning they were singing in church. Later they told me that choir had been their lifeline in their lives, that the choir family had truly become their own, that joining choir had given them a way to do something for God, and that singing in the choir was one of the best choices they had ever made. That is just one story. I could tell many more because I have been around church music and choirs my entire life. You see, church choir is essential. The following are some benefits of choral singing I would like to share with you, which I have discovered across the years. I think this will encourage you to consider joining this vital ministry in our church.

So, why is singing in church choir beneficial to you?

It will create a sense of community and belonging for you. In every choir I have been a part of, it became my second 'family'. Really, it did! We carried each others' burdens, rejoiced in each others' joys, cried when one of us was in pain, prayed for one another, and loved each other dearly. I was hospitalized for two months from November – December, 2009, because as doctors soon discovered, I have a blood clotting disorder which caused me to acquire Budd Chiari Syndrome, causing all three of my hepatic veins in my liver (which transport blood and fluids from my liver to heart) to completely clot. My life literally hung in the balance until my doctors figured out what to do with me to make my vascular system function again. It was a very long recovery and I still have to deal with manage-

ment of this syndrome for the rest of my life. I told you that story to help make my point of choir being a vital community and support. Out of all the programs I was involved in at church, guess who from church was there to help me the most? You guessed it – my choir family. They visited me, sent me cards, prayed for me, sent me emails, came and sat by my hospital bed, and told me they were holding my chair for me in choir until I got well enough to sing with them again. You see, when you sing in a choir, you have a special bond with those people because you SING together, which takes me to my next point.

Singing is one of the high points of human expression.

I have seen young teenagers in my public school classroom be moved to tears by the act of singing. We sing sometimes because we just have to LET IT OUT! I have seen people whom I know were having a personal conflict with one another unite hearts while singing an anthem together. Our hearts unite when we are singing. Almost every occasion and celebration in the human experience is marked with singing. I'm certain God gave us music so we can express ourselves when we just simply can't find the words.


Singing is good for you – both your body and your spirit.

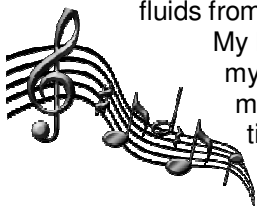
Singing is a physical exercise. You will learn to relax as you breathe deeply, you will gently use muscles in your upper body that you always took for granted! Plus, singing is good for your spirit and soul. Bob Koenig, an RPC choir member, recently told me something that just sums up for me how vital singing is to our well-being. He said "When you sing, everything else in your mind just goes away." How true that is! Singing is like God's therapy. Some people pay big bucks to get the same effects that choir rehearsal provides for FREE! There's something about singing and making music in choir that will enthrall your soul and cheer your heart.

Singing in RPC's Choir will be a way for you to honor God and provide a vital ministry to others.

The main purpose of a church choir is to provide music so that the congregation will be drawn into the worship of God. You will find yourself lost in the message of the text that you are singing and God will use your time singing in the choir as a way to bless your week. I'm sure that you will find meaning and purpose as you immerse yourself in church choir. But, more importantly, God will use you to be an instrument of leading others in praising Him. He will be glorified!

To amateur musicians, choral music is the most accessible of all musical art forms.

What does that mean for you? It means, quite simply, that even if you've never had a music lesson in your life, that you will still be able to experience the beauty and aesthetic satisfaction that usually only comes from years and years of musical training in other musical art forms. Choir music just works in that way. People from all ages and abilities can find a place in RPC's Choir. Don't believe me? Just try it, and you'll see I'm telling you the truth. 



🎵 Musical News (Continued)

My Vision For RPC's Choir

Provide social events outside of rehearsal and continue building a sense of community.

I have planned fun and meaningful social events for us and will continue to do so.

Involve people from all ages. Why not make choir a family occasion?

Choral music is beneficial to everyone. I was a choir teacher for 10 years, and the music that choral teachers across America are teaching school children is the same choral style that is used in church choir. Choral music is alive and thriving in public schools, affecting hundreds of thousands of school children in a positive way. I've seen my own students be transformed by the magic of the choral experience. Why not encourage your kids to experience choral music at church? RPC's Choir is NOT an adult-only choir, it is a CHURCH choir that seeks to include every generation.

Worship God so that He may be honored and glorified in the musical praise we offer. As you worship God in this way, you grow spiritually, which should be the goal of all Christians. The text of our song will uplift your heart and challenge you to grow.



If I had a dollar for each time I've heard the following phrases, I would have enough money to take an all-expense paid vacation to Hawaii: "Oh, you wouldn't want ME to sing in the choir. I sound terrible", "I just don't have time", "I'm sure choir will do just fine without me", "I have to play cards with my game group on the nights choir rehearses", "I just don't feel like going to rehearsals because I'm so tired", etc. The list could go on! Sound familiar? These are common excuses that I have heard from church congregants for years and years. My purpose is not to judge people that have excuses. Rather, my purpose is to see the church choir grow and make people realize that the benefits of singing in the church choir far outweigh any reasons to not sing in the choir!

So, there you have it! I hope I have inspired you and given you good reason to become more involved in this very important ministry. Rehearsals are Thursday nights at church from 7:00-8:30PM. If you have any questions or special circumstances you would like to discuss with me, please contact me at letitia78@gmail.com, or call me at 859-630-2089. You may also call the church office at 425-885-2811 and leave a message for me and I will return your call.

Announcing – A New Music Ensemble at RPC! Singers and Instrumentalists needed!

Purpose

To bring musicians together to glorify God. This ensemble will sing in church every 5-6 weeks and provide much needed and earned breaks for the choir. This ensemble is ideal for the very busy and overloaded person who wants to be involved in RPC's music program but cannot commit to a weekly obligation.

Style

We will perform a wide variety of music from the past 1000 years in a stylistically tasteful setting (early music, spirituals, traditional, contemporary, and everything in between)!

Time and Place

Two Thursdays per month at church: 5:30—7:00PM

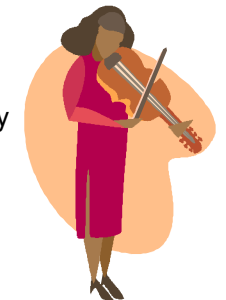
Requirements – requirements are based on the fact that there is limited rehearsal time.

Come to each rehearsal! Be committed, and faithfully attend regular rehearsals and performances.

Come prepared to each rehearsal - know your music. Have ability to read music or have access to resources to help you learn the music between rehearsals.

Demonstrate ability to read music (or learn it very quickly), match pitches, echo clap, sing a scale, sing your voice part while another melody is being sung, control vibrato appropriate to context.

Interested? Want more details? Have questions? Contact Letitia Iakovenko at letitia78@gmail.com. Or call her at 859-630-2089, or leave a message for Letitia at the church office 425- 885-2811 and she will return your call.



November 2011





REDMOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

10020 166th Avenue NE
Redmond WA 98052

425-885-2811
office@redmondpres.org
www.redmondpres.org



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

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:

Mary Hilke, Michele Bahr and Pat Prophet

Mark Your Calendars

Family Game Night
November 11th 5:30PM

Alternative Gift Market
Sunday, Nov 20th - 10:15 & 12:15

Family Advent Festival
Sunday November 27th 4:00PM

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 AM Traditional Service & Children's Church
10:15AM Education for All Ages & Special Events
11:15AM Contemporary Service & Children's Church



REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2011 Newsletter