



REDMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 2011

Big Changes for the RPC Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Larry Grounds

In the past two months our church has joyfully welcomed to our church staff a new Director of Traditional Music, Letitia Iakovenko, and a new Pastoral Associate, Nancy Anderson (see her article on page 4 of this newsletter). Most recently Daniel Griffin was called to be our full-time Youth Director. Here are Daniel's own words of introduction:

"The youth program at this church has been a blessing and a large part of my life over the past year and 8 months. I have been involved in youth ministry over the past 10 years; first as a student, and then serving as a volunteer in a variety of ways. To be able to do more by entering ministry as a full-time career path is an incredible opportunity."

We joyfully welcome
Daniel into the ministry
of our church!

My vision for this ministry is to create a comfortable atmosphere where youth may participate in a fellowship focused on encountering the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it relates to all lives of individuals in a unique and transforming way. The motivation behind my vision of youth ministry is the belief that the Gospel is for everyone, and all people deserve to hear it

as it connects to their own life story. The ultimate goal of this ministry is met by leading youth into an open discussion about the Gospel, challenging them to dig deeper into their faith, and to seek answers to their questions. There will always be growth in this program as long as building relationships and sharing the Gospel continues to be the main focus.

It is an honor to begin my journey in ministry as the Youth Director at RPC, learning, growing, and teaching in an atmosphere that has brought me much joy."

Daniel recently graduated from Seattle Pacific University, in June of 2010, with a degree in psychology. Alongside psychology, Daniel also studied in various courses of Christian theology, missions, and youth ministry. Over the past several years with work and school, Daniel has found time to lead Bible studies, to be a volunteer youth leader, to help plan camps and retreats, and to be available to the students he disciples. As well as being a volunteer for over a year and a half, Daniel has been a part of RPC's youth program as an intern during the Spring of 2010, the Creative Director for the summer outreach camp known as The Remix, and the Interim Youth Director over the past few months.

We joyfully welcome Daniel into the ministry of our church!

Highlights

- New Fall worship schedule (see below)
- Homecoming Sunday Brunch between services September 11th
- Ministry Fair after both services September 18th
- Family Communion Class September 25th
- Dr. David Nienhuis, guest lecturer Sep 25th (see p. 3)
- Puget Sound Blood Drive at RPC Monday, September 26th
- Welcome to our new Pastoral Associate (see p. 4)

Times They Are A Changing

The 2011-2012 program year begins on September 11th with our annual **Homecoming Brunch** between services. We return to two services, at new times, and look forward to the return of Spiritual Formation classes for students of all ages between services. Classes begin Sept 25th.

9:00 – 10:00AM	Traditional Worship
10:00 – 10:15AM	Transition and Fellowship
10:15 – 11:05AM	Classes or Special Events
11:15AM – 12:15PM	Contemporary Worship

Begins Sept 11th

See page 6 for more about the Homecoming Brunch!

Inside This Issue

Children's Ministry	2
Beyond These Walls	
Spiritual Formation	3
Youth Ministry	4
New Pastoral Associate	
Mission	5
Fellowship	6
Reflections	
Calendar	7



This Fall we have a lot of opportunities for children and their families to explore our traditions and to grow deeper in faith. The information below is a sneak peek of all that is to come! If you have any questions about the events below please contact me at jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org and pick up a Children's Ministry Fall Events Brochure at the Ministry Fair on September 18th, after both the 9:00AM and 11:15AM services.

Blessings, Jessica

New Office Hours!

Starting this Fall, I will be in the office on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will check email regularly throughout the week. The rest of my time will be spent teaching for Bellevue Christian School at Mack Elementary. I am excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to this new season of ministry!

Thank you, Gylah!

Twelve years ago Gylah began volunteering in the RPC nursery with the infants and toddlers. Throughout the years she became our regular caregiver and has continued to bless us with her presence each Sunday morning as she welcomes and cares for our little ones. This Fall, as she finishes her nursing program, she has a unique and *amazing* opportunity to take on more responsibility in the field of geriatrics. Unfortunately (for us!) that opportunity takes place on weekends so her last day at RPC will be September 18th. Please congratulate her and help us send her off with lots of love. If you are interested in contributing to a gift please contact Michele in the office 425-885-2811 or office@redmondpres.org, or Jessica at jessica.ahnert@redmondpres.org.

Family Communion Class



Join us on September 25th between services for the Family Communion class where children and their parents will learn about and prepare for Family Communion Sunday on October 2nd.

WAM (Worship and Music) and Puppets



Children's programs between services begin October 2nd. 4th-5th grades will continue with the Puppet Ministry while K-3rd grades will explore Music and Worship at WAM.

More information on both offerings will be at the Ministry Fair, September 18th after both services.

Family Advent Festival



This year, Children's Ministry is hosting a gathering for families during the advent season. Through crafts, food, and a reading of the Christmas story we will celebrate the season. Details coming soon!

Session Accepts the Request from Congregational Life Surveys

Our church has been identified as "part of a small—and very important—group: growing Presbyterian churches!" We have accepted the request from our denomination to survey our Sunday morning worshippers on October 16th in order to find out the factors that are contributing to our growth. Our Session discussed whether it was warranted to contribute 10 minutes of out of each worship service so that each attendee could be given time to fill out the survey. Our Session felt honored to be recognized and included in this study that focuses on the minority of "growing Presbyterian churches," and we also knew that our congregation's information could help the denomination as a whole. We hope you will attend on that Sunday in October—first and foremost, to worship—and also, to participate in the survey.

Beyond These Walls

Jeffrey Kuebler and Polo the Guide Dog

As the month of September approaches there is a change in seasons . . . from summer to fall. When you get up in the morning there is a feeling of fall in the air and you hear the crunching of leaves under your feet. With the changes of the seasons, we go through changes in our lives. I had a big change in my life recently. As you may or may not know, Polo injured himself and has been at the Guide Dog School in Boring, OR getting therapy and treatment. It has been most challenging without him but I am managing. In life we are thrown challenges and curve balls, and if you are able to overcome them, then you will be a better person. When Polo comes home I know it will strengthen our bond together because we have been apart. If you have a relationship with the Lord, it can grow stronger each day because He is there for you, just like Polo is there for me. Until next time . . . Jeffrey and Polo



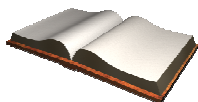
Adult Spiritual Formation

Weekly Opportunities for Adult Education

Small Group at the Wickert's - Sundays 6:30PM
Book of Daniel (Jane or Dave 425-898-9721)
Tuesdays 6:30AM Men's Bible Study - Tully's Bella Bottega
Gospel of John (Jim Glass/Jeff Anderson)
Tuesdays 10:00AM Bible Study - Prayer Library
Gospel of John (Pastor Larry 425-885-2811)
Wednesday 7:30PM Women's Bible Study - Rm. 14 CE Bldg
Philippians and Galatians (Pat Prophet 425-861-6746)

Seekers

Women's Book Discussion Group



Date: Monday, September 12th
Time: 7:00 – 9:00PM
Hostess: Jane Wickert 425-898-9721
Selection Leader: Anne Oppermann

September Selection: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

In her witty and wise debut novel, newcomer Helen Simonson introduces the unforgettable character of the widower Major Ernest Pettigrew. The Major epitomizes the Englishman with the "stiff upper lip," who clings to traditional values and has tried (in vain) to pass these along to his yuppie son, Roger. The story centers around Pettigrew's fight to keep his greedy relatives (including his son) from selling a valuable family heirloom – a pair of hunting rifles that symbolizes much of what he stands for, or at least what he thinks he does. The embattled hero discovers an unexpected ally and source of consolation in his neighbor, the Pakistani shopkeeper Jasmina Ali. On the surface, Pettigrew and Ali's backgrounds and life experiences couldn't be more different, but they discover that they have the most important things in common.

October Selection: *Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson

Seekers 2011-2012 Reading List

Nov 14 – *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton
Dec 12 – *Breakfast at Sally's* by Richard LeMieux
Jan 9 – *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress*
by Rhoda Janzen
Feb 13 – *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne
Mar 12 – *My Losing Season* by Pat Conroy
Apr 9 – *The Outside Boy* by Jeanine Cummins
May 14 – *The 19th Wife* by David Ebershoff
Jun 11 – Planning meeting
Jul 9 – *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck
Sep 10 – *Cutting for Stone* – by Abraham Verghese

All-Church Activities Planned for September

Following our return to two services and a Homecoming Brunch between services on September 11th, a Ministry Fair will be held on September 18th to introduce everyone to the myriad of offerings designed to encourage spiritual growth in all RPC members. All commissions and groups within the church will present possibilities for involvement.

On September 25th, Dr. Dave Nienhuis of Seattle Pacific University will be our guest lecturer between services. Everyone is invited to hear of the excellent SPU Lectio Series of Guided Bible Studies which can be viewed and heard through a computer link. Old Testament as well as New Testament topics are presented. Dr. Nienhuis wrote the 11-week presentation on the Gospel of Matthew which many RPC members participated in last spring, meeting weekly to discuss and review the week's lesson. Although sharing was meaningful and productive, one does not have to meet with a group to benefit from the studies as each may be accessed individually. Dr. Nienhuis will also review the Gospel of Matthew and its significance in the New Testament.

Stay Tuned for October Offerings

Pastor Larry Grounds will present the first of three small group presentations on the Holy Land: *Exploring Where Jesus Walked*. Although this will be especially meaningful to those interested in traveling to Israel in February, all will benefit from this study.

Small **Callings** groups will follow God-given passions for exploring such topics as Parenting, Injustice, The Arts, Education, Practical Help, or many others.

Concurrently with the small groups listed above, an in-depth 13-week **Precepts** class will begin. Lew and Carlos Connerly, who have been trained in the Precepts series of inductive Bible Studies, will be the facilitators. This study will require weekly commitment for study outside of class.

The Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume meeting on September 7th at 7:30PM with a study on Philippians and Galatians. We meet in Room 14 of the CE Building. All women of the church are cordially invited 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 425-968-8753.

Hello RPC!

Well, it is the beginning of a new school year and this means a lot of exciting changes for the youth program. We have a group of incoming 9th graders who at long last are able to attend The Hall, our Sr. High youth program, on Sunday evenings. Also, incoming 6th and 7th grade students will now be able to join us on Wednesday evenings for The Ascent, our Jr. High program.

I am also glad to announce that weekly small groups are in the works and will be available for Sr. High students. There will be a guys group and a girls group. We separate by gender to allow for openness and confidentiality. Having a bond with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the strongest tools we can use in our faith journey. Our female leader Meg Wright, who has been volunteering with the

Youth Events in September

Junior High Events

Ascent - Wed 7-8:30PM

Sunday School - Sun 10:20AM, Youth Rm
Begins September 25th

Senior High Events

The Hall - Sun 7-8:45PM

youth program at RPC for just over a year now, has enthusiastically offered to lead the girl's small group. I am very excited to lead the group of our young men. Both groups will start by going through the basics of our Christian faith and learning to become familiar with the Bible.

RPC is blessed with a number of amazing volunteers in our youth program. They help in a variety of ways with the Youth Group, and many will be involved in upcoming small groups as well. Particularly through the past few months of being in an interim period, it was their help that made our program so awesome! These adult volunteers include Meg Wright, Andrew Appelwick, Colin Dorn, John Stolarczuk, Tommy Weinmeister, Katie Gysler, and Kyle Gysler. Two high school students, Andi Ducharme and Mitchell Stolarczuk, have been volunteer leaders for the Jr. High program for a long time now as well. Last but not least, I have to say thank you to the support of the church and parents of this program who have also invested a lot of their time. Remember to say thank you to all these people and keep our youth program in your prayers as we aspire to create an atmosphere where youth can encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Daniel

Welcome to Nancy Anderson, our new Pastoral Associate

Nancy Anderson and her husband have been a part of our congregation for several years. As Nancy continues to actively seek a call as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church, I invited her to join me in asking our Session to use her gifts and training in our church during this "waiting period." With the Session's approval, Nancy is now on our church staff. This title, "Pastoral Associate," has no official capacity in the Presbyterian Church, it is not an ordained position, and it involves no payment of a salary. With gratefulness to God for this new staff member in our church, I reserved the final portion of this announcement for Nancy's own words.

You've probably seen me around RPC for a few years: assisting in the Sunday worship services, bringing the message when Pastor Larry has been away and leading or attending our Adult Education offerings. Now let me tell you a little bit more of "the rest of the story"!

After having lived in a number of cities around the country, I graduated from high school in Palo Alto, CA. I attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art. Then I was off to Regent College in Vancouver, BC where I earned a Master of Christian Studies in theology and the arts. Before going to seminary, I worked as an administrative assistant at a variety of businesses including two churches in Seattle. I was also the Associate Director of Community Life at University Presbyterian Church and most recently, I did a short stint at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue in the Chris-

tian Growth department. It was after I stopped working at UPC in 2003 that God called me into ordained ministry. Since I had been to Regent College, I knew its international reputation, its academic excellence, and many of the faculty and staff. I knew that this was where I would go to pursue my Master of Divinity degree (which I received in 2007).

Having completed all requirements, I am currently a candidate for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and am actively seeking a call throughout the country. During this time of seeking a call, I have been taking opportunities to develop my gifts and skills in ministry. This was the motivation for Pastor Larry and me to work out a plan for me to take on responsibilities as a new "Pastoral Associate." This is not an ordained position and does not involve a salary. I am looking forward to serving RPC in various capacities related to Worship, Spiritual Formation, and pastoral visitation.

When I have a little free time, I enjoy painting and drawing, photography, traveling, and camping with my husband, Jeff. I also love to knit and have enjoyed being part of the "Knit One ~ Pray Too" group that meets monthly here at RPC. Most of you also know that we have three very friendly cats that traveled with us from Seattle to Canada and back to Redmond where we've been since May 2008. I look forward to getting to know more of you as we serve the Lord together!



Missions and Social Concerns

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

Mary's Place: Socks (new and used), bus ticket booklets (youth and adult), diapers, baby wipes, coffee, Ziploc bags (all sizes), \$5.00 gift cards to stores that have pharmacies, travel size shampoo and conditioner, and razors.

Hopelink: School supplies such as 2 inch three ring binders, erasers, rulers, binder dividers, and wide & narrow markers.

Update from the Mission Commission

Come visit the Missions table at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 18th after both services. At our table you will receive a Missions Calendar so that you too can find a place in missions doing God's work in the world.

In July, the Mission Commission met and voted to send \$1000 to each of the two missionaries we have pledged to support this year, Phil Nelson with the Mission Aviation Fellowship and Susan Emory with the Robleato Childcare Association. Phil Nelson is a pilot that works for the Mission Aviation Fellowship which is a recognized airline of about seventy planes that provide aviation support to missionaries around the globe. Susan Emory is a nurse and counselor working with children at a program in Costa Rica that provides daycare and services for 600 children.

In August, Mission Chair, Peter Lawson, volunteered for one 4-hour shift, at the Jubilee Community Serve service day. Volunteers helped teachers at the Sherwood Forest Elementary School prepare for the upcoming school year by building a playground box, labeling books for distribution to classrooms, and helping put up paper and borders on bulletin boards. We invite you all to consider joining Jubilee next year.

Also please keep in mind that to kick off the Christmas gift buying season, the Alternative Gift Market "AGM" will be held at RPC on November 20th, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Shoppers at the AGM who are looking for Christmas gifts supporting Missions can choose to buy gifts supporting Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project, 10,000 Villages, Mary's Place for Homeless Women, and the Redmond Food Bank.

Operation Christmas Child Packing Day October 16

Once again, our congregation will be filling shoeboxes with treats, toys and school supplies for children in distressed regions of the world for Operation Christmas Child.

We need everyone's help for our project to continue to be successful. The last two years we have filled close to 100 shoeboxes, which helped children all around the globe to know the love of Christ at Christmas.

We will have wrapping tables during Fellowship time from now until the end of September, or until all the boxes are wrapped.

We still need approximately 50 shoeboxes—the kind that have the removable lid. We also need wrapping paper, tape, treats, toys and school supplies. There is a complete list for requested donations in the back of the Sanctuary and a box for donations by the front door.

Once boxes are wrapped, we will return them to the Sanctuary so that families can take boxes home and fill them as a family project. There will be a sign-up sheet near the boxes to let us know that you have one. We can then provide due dates and labels so they are all ready to go.

The boxes will be filled during Children's Church on Sunday October 16th. This is always a fun day so we encourage families to join in with their children. Boxes will be delivered for shipping during the first week of November.

Another way to support the project is to donate funds to help purchase the treats and supplies needed. In addition donations are welcome to cover the \$7.00 postage fee needed to ship each box.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in this project in the past! We look forward to having another successful Operation Christmas Child this fall.

Mary's Place Needs Volunteers!

We still need 1 pastry chef and 2 egg cooks for September 10th breakfast for Mary's Place. If you could help out call Sandee 425-867-1310 for more details.

Puget Sound Blood Drive at RPC on Sept 26th

The Puget Sound region needs 900 donors per day to supply enough blood for accident victims, children with leukemia, surgery patients and others. Here is your chance to be a donor at Redmond Presbyterian Church on Monday, September 26th from 1:00 – 7:00PM (closed 3:00 – 4:00PM). This is a simple way to demonstrate how much RPC members and friends care about the community. To make an appointment call Michele Bahr 425-885-2811 or email of-office@redmondpres.org. Thank you for supporting this important blood drive for others in need!

Fellowship News

Homecoming Brunch - Sept 11th



Everyone is invited to join us at 10:05 in the Upper Room between worship services September 11th to enjoy food and fellowship. Please sign up on the Conference Room window if you are able to help oversee the event, set up, clean up or bring a food item to share. If you have any questions or would like to help contact Elaine Price 425-885-5773 or Susan Wisen 425-351-1411.

Calling All Families to a fun day at Remlinger Farms!

Please save **Saturday, October 8th** from **10:00AM to 1:00PM** (or whenever everyone has had their fun) for an exciting day at Remlinger Farms! We will meet at 10:15AM at the Puppet Barn for a quick meet-and-greet and devotion time.



This will be a fun chance to meet and play with other families from RPC! There is a restaurant at the park or you can bring your own lunch (must be eaten outside at the picnic tables). If you have any questions about the park, check out their web site at www.remlingerfarms.com. Please RSVP to Rachel Foldvik rfoldvik@frontier.com by **Thursday, September 29th**. Hope to see you there!

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sep 3 – Theodore Gremmert | Sep 15 – Gina Culbert |
| Sep 5 – Beverly Lang | Sep 24 – Rileigh Geffken |
| Sep 5 – Kevin Mayer | Sep 24 – Tanner Steeples |
| Sep 8 – Hannah Linsky | Sep 25 – Allison Goode |
| Sep 9 – Karis Grounds | Sep 30 – Marilynne Brown |
| Sep 15 – Mary Hilke | |

Knit one ~ Pray too



Do you knit? Crochet? Would you like to learn? Knit one ~ Pray too is a Ministry of Yarn and Prayer at RPC. We meet once a month to knit, crochet, talk, and pray together. Last year we knit hats and scarves, prayer shawls, prayer pumpkins, and eye glass cords.

Join us on for our first meeting of the school year, Saturday, September 10th from 10:00AM—noon in the Prayer Library. Contact Juliann Phillips for more information 206-419-1050 or juliannph@gmail.com.

Ministry Fair

September 18th Upper Room

10:00AM (between services) and 12:20PM (after our 11:15AM service)

The ministries, missions, and study groups of the church will display their ministry. Join us in the Upper Room to see what is going on at RPC and discover the many ways you might serve God in this place and time.

Reflections from the Deacons

Jeffrey Kuebler, Deacon

What is it like to be a Deacon at Redmond Presbyterian Church? Do you need a degree in Deaconship? No . . . all you need are two good things: 1) a big heart and 2) good ears to listen to people. Two years ago I was asked to become a Deacon and I wasn't sure I could accept, but I decided to do it and it has been very rewarding. Currently I am Co-moderator of the Board of Deacons. This will be most challenging for me, but I feel I have answered the call. The people trust me in my Care Unit; I call them and say this is Jeffrey and Polo and ask if there is anything we can

help them with as their Deacons. People enjoy receiving a simple phone call from me. This world we live in today is filled with texting, tweeting and email. Seeing people in church or giving them a call is appreciated, because they know you are thinking of them. If you are asked to do something at Redmond Presbyterian Church, think deep in your heart and answer the call. Hopefully in the months to come, my fellow Deacons and I will find many opportunities to provide care to the members of the congregation. I look forward to serving the congregation in many capacities.



September 2011





REDMOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

10020 166th Avenue NE
Redmond WA 98052

425-885-2811
office@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:

Mary Hilke, 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

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

Gylah Davis, Infant & Toddler Caregiver
Jesus Medina, Custodian

Mark Your Calendars

Homecoming Sunday Brunch
Sep 11th - 10:05AM in the Upper Room

Ministry Fair—Sep 18th
After both services in the Upper Room

Thank You! Thanks to everyone who responded to our newsletter survey. Due to your responses, no major changes to the newsletter are planned at this time.

Sunday Worship Schedule
Beginning September 11th

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

September 2011 Newsletter