



The Pilot Light



"Columbia Presbyterian Church: encouraging you to enter into a life-changing relationship with Jesus, and helping you find your place in God's work."

January 2012

**This Year
Make a God Resolution**

Let your focus be on God!

Psalm 119:9-11

THE VIEW OUTSIDE MY WINDOW

Epiphany

Have you ever had an *epiphany*? An epiphany is a sudden insight in which you see or comprehend something that you hadn't before. Like a rush of awareness that you love somebody or perhaps you understand God's love in a new way. It can even happen in learning, like when a student finally starts to 'get' calculus, or sees the connection between a historical event and contemporary history. All of a sudden, it's like a light is shining on something that was right in front of you, but you'd never seen it before.

These are all called epiphanies. The word literally means for a light to shine on something.

There is a church season called Epiphany, too. It's about a different kind of light shining on something. It's about the light of heaven breaking in on us; the light of God's revelation in Jesus Christ. We tend to miss the full impact of this ancient practice because we live in a time when electricity has conquered most darkness. But in times past—when December and January were the darkest time of the year, when the night seemed to take over and people were genuinely afraid of the dark, when it was the time of year of illness and death, when the cold of winter was a threat, when spiritual darkness was more apparent—back then darkness was a threatening reality.

Light in the Darkness



All of which makes what the Christians decided to celebrate at that time of year very powerful. Right at the darkest time of year, the

Fitz Neal
Pastor



early Christians decided to celebrate *light*. They celebrated the light of the gospel, shining into the dark of individual lives and entire civilizations.

They lit candles everywhere, all day and all night as a way of bearing witness to their faith in Jesus—right in the midst of the spiritual darkness of other peoples' doubts. Rather than live in fear, they proclaimed an unshakeable hope that God's goodness will overcome evil and banish all darkness.

To us this may all seem ancient and quaint, but back then it was a bold announcement of the reality of God's triumph over sin, disease, death and evil.

Light Shining on 2012

2012 begins and much of the world seems pre-occupied with darkness—wars and rumors of wars, economic implosions, European debt-fears, the gloom of gray skies of winter and a certain lack of hope in a promising future. "This is the new normal..." I've heard this frequently. I don't believe it for a minute. The light of God's life and righteousness in Jesus is shining right now upon the year 2012. Jesus goes ahead of us into the year and we follow, but not with fear. God's plans are for good.

So, once again, enter into this year with gladness, with joy, with the light of Christ shining through you into the darkness all around. Do you remember what Jesus said? "You are the light of the world! Let your light shine before people that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven..."

I, for one, can hardly wait to see what God has in store for 2012. What an epiphany...

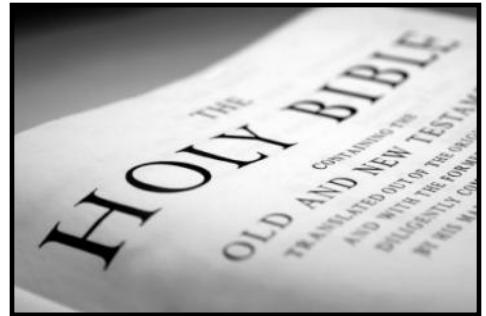
Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fitz'.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Tim's Bible Club - 2012

You are invited to join Tim Mauer and friends to read through the Bible in 2012. "There aren't any meetings or committees - we just read the Bible." The group will begin on January 1 and will use a chronological daily reading schedule. If you are interested, send Tim an email at timothy.mauer@comcast.net to join the club.



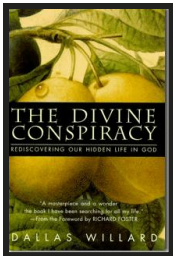
Sunday Morning Winter Classes

Beginning Sunday, January 8

9:30 AM

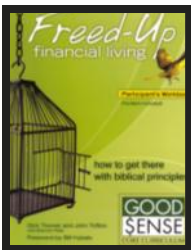
Divine Conspiracy - Mt. Rainier Room

This class will resume beginning on January 8 and will continue through the preaching series by the same title (approximately March 25)



Freed-Up Financial Living - Chapel

In Freed-Up, you will find a refreshing new approach to stewardship that adapts and focuses the unique content of the *Good Sense Budget* Course. Through six engaging sessions on DVD, you'll discover tools and develop skills to help you control your finances so your finances don't end up controlling you. This course combines encouraging, grace-filled teaching with an excellent balance of biblical principles and practical application.



11:00 AM

Book of Acts - Chapel

Whoever said that the Bible was boring obviously didn't study the Book of Acts! Where else will you find an action-packed, fast-moving book packed with miracles, visions, heroics, outpourings of generosity, persecution, resurrections, teleportation, standing before kings, being shipwrecked then surviving the bite of a poisonous snake, traveling through some of the most beautiful real estate in the world...all while following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church! Sound like an adventure worth studying? Then let's dig in together! Sundays during the 11 AM service, led by Pastor Brian Craker and Laurel Neal.



Brian Craker
Interim Associate Pastor



NEWS FOR YOU-TH

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M I D D L E S C H O O L

- ♦ January 11—Winter Olympics Night
- ♦ Middle School Back Toobin' Retreat:
January 13 @ 7 PM until January 14 @ 5 PM
- ♦ February 1—Winter Birthday Night
- ♦ February 15—Luau Night!

H I G H S C H O O L

- ♦ HS Super Souper Bowl Party—February 5,
3 PM - end of game. Bring Soup to donate!
- ♦ High School Ski & Snow Retreat—February
17-20—Bend, OR
- ♦ High School DIG groups—Sundays at
9:30 AM

YOUTH MISSION TRIP AUCTION

For one week in July, Columbia's High School Youth will take an active part in transforming lives through work and ministry. We invite you to attend the annual Work Camp auction on Sunday March 11th, to show your support for this awesome mission. All proceeds from this auction help defray travel expenses and pay for work projects. Any left over funds are used for youth service related projects. This is a wonderful opportunity to come with family, friends and small groups, and enjoy the food, fellowship and "entertainment", plus many merchant and congregation donated items guarantee an afternoon you won't want to miss! If you have any questions, or would like to donate items

to the auction, please contact Kelly Christel, 696-3029 or kellychristel@comcast.net. We would like items by March 1st. See you there!



Matt Overton
Associate Pastor
Youth & Family Ministries



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

There's an APP for that!

Want to use those digital devices to engage your children spiritually? Here's some kid "apps" that you might want to check out:

Parent Cue—iPhone, iPad, Android (This is for you to help you engage your children through everyday activities. Also includes encouragement and resources)

- ♦ itunes.apple.com/us/app/parent-cue/id433066482?mt=8

Adventure Bible—iPhone, iPad (This is the Bible we give kids – this app helps them memorize Scripture – you can even record verses in your own voice)

- ♦ itunes.apple.com/us/app/bible-memory-for-kids-lite/id431102178?mt=8

Kids in Mind—iPhone (Objective reviews of movies with kids in mind)

- ♦ itunes.apple.com/us/app/kinds-in-mind-movie-reviews/id380868894?mt=8

Bible for Children Trivia Quiz—iPhone (Trivia style games on the Bible—hours of interactive learning)

- ♦ itunes.apple.com/us/app/bible-for-children-trivia/id333584607?mt=8

Noah's Big Boat—iPhone, iPad (Kids can read the book or have it read to them. Games & sing-a-longs)

- ♦ itunes.apple.com/us/app/noahs-big-boat/id376162902?mt=8



Communion Training

We will be scheduling a time soon for communion training for children in February. If your child is interested, please let Sharon know. Generally 2nd graders and older are our target audience but your younger child may be ready. Talk to us if you have questions. This is a 1 ½ hour workshop on a Sunday, includes lunch.



Dates to Remember:

Many of you are already planning your spring and summer vacations. Here are some dates that may help you:

- ✦ Easter—April 8
- ✦ Last day of regular Sunday School—June 17
- ✦ Vacation Bible School—June 25-29
- ✦ 3rd & 4th grade Camp and 5th & 6th grade Camp—July 15-20



Sharon Franklin
Director of Children's
Ministries



Circle of Friends Preschool



Creating that Special Christmas Surprise

Savvy's mommy is helping Miss Monica and the children make a special Christmas gift for their mommy and daddy. This year they are giving them a glass ornament with their handprint formed around the ball. The fingers are turned into little snowman. No two ornaments are the same.



A Season of Joy

What a blessing to be in the presence of children during this holiday season. The classrooms were filled with excitement. Our custom-made Christmas tree adorned the hall and glitter was everywhere. The sounds of holiday tunes could be heard coming from each classroom.

Practicing our finale of "Away in a Manager"

Grandma's and grandpa's, mommies and daddy's, as well as siblings and friends gathered to enjoy our Christmas Celebration programs. It was standing room only. Nothing puts the joy of the season more into perspective, than watching little ones, dressed in their finest, singing songs about the birth of baby Jesus.



Performing our finale of "Away in a Manager"

Registration for Fall of 2012

It just cannot be! What do you mean it is time to start thinking about registration for fall? We are still contemplating New Year's resolutions and reviewing events from 2011. We have just completed our fourth month of the school year and now must start to focus on our fall registration. Families currently enrolled will have the first opportunity to register (in-house) on Saturday, January 28 from 9:00—10:00. New families interested in enrolling may call the school, 696-9926, to set up a personalized tour. Children must turn three by August 31 to enroll. Open registration (new families enrolling) is Saturday, February 25. Circle of Friends opts to hold placement opportunities on Saturdays so that every family has the same opportunity to enroll their child. Registration forms are available at www.cof-preschool.org.



Sharon Wallenborn
Circle of Friends Preschool
Director

Quotable Quote: A young little friend hurried up the stairs after playing in the gym and gleefully announced "You know what is great? Knowing that your friends are coming over after school. You know what is greater, God's love!"

Presbyterian Women's Association

So who are Presbyterian Women, anyway? The short answer is, every woman who does now or might consider calling Columbia Presbyterian her church home. All that is required to get involved with Presbyterian Women (PW) is a desire to spend time with other women who share CPC's mission: encouraging you to enter into a life-changing relationship with Jesus, and helping you find your place in God's work.

What does PW do? Here at Columbia, we sponsor five small groups of women, called Circles, who involve themselves in Bible study as well as mission activities, both local and international. We also involve ourselves in services to our congregation and community such as the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Scholarship Program. Our rummage sales, held twice a year in May and October, are our most visible church-wide activity and fundraiser. In 2010-11 more than 90% of the proceeds of our fundraising activities went to mission activities, primarily within Clark County.

PW also holds four Saturday events each year, called Gatherings, which include good food and good fellowship plus interesting programs. Our Christmas Gathering attracted more than 90 women for lunch and featured a talk on the history and cultures of the crèche along with a Christmas Marketplace to benefit our Scholarship Program and missions.

Interested in joining us to see what we do? Our Circles meet monthly as follows:

- ◆ Elizabeth Circle - third Thursday, 7:00PM - Pat Jacobson (326-4410)
- ◆ Lydia Circle - third Thursday, 9:30AM - Helen Elieff (635-3078)
- ◆ Marian Circle - fourth Thursday, 1:00PM - Mary Lange (882-0551)
- ◆ Naomi Circle - fourth Wednesday, 1:00PM - Sheena Brooke (571-4170)
- ◆ Ruth Circle - fourth Monday, 7:00PM - Jane Erickson (503-502-6615)

Our first two 2012 Gatherings will be a brunch on Saturday, March 17, at 10:00AM and a lunch on Saturday, May 19, at 12:00 noon. Our Spring Sale will be held May 3-5, with volunteer help needed beginning April 29. Please contact the Circle Chairs listed above or Karen Washabaugh (604-5706) for more information. We'd love to have you join us!

ET Scholarships



March 1 is the **new due date** for persons applying for the Ellen Torongo Scholarship monies. Scholarships are available for youth of a single parent, women over 30, and first generation students going to college. All applicants must be active in the life of the church. Applications are available online at www.columbiapresbyterian.org.

MILITARY PRAYER MINISTRY



Thanks for those who have served our country through the years, and continued prayer for those in our church family currently on active duty. Keep in prayer:

- **Capt. Richard Ian Porter, USMC**, continues in his second deployment to Afghanistan (cousin of Susan Horton).
- **Chaplain (Capt.) Nathan Whitham**, US Army, currently serving in Afghanistan (brother-in-law of Julie Mauer).
- **Lt. Steven Whitham**, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA., recently returned from Iraq (cousin of Julie Mauer).
- **Scott Matthews**, US Army, serving in Afghanistan. His wife Amanda and two children Mattea, age 4, and Sawyer, age 1, are staying in their house on base at Ft. Benning, GA. while he is deployed (son-in-law of Pauline Wolfe).
- **Capt. Ryan C. Laughton**, US Air Force, Vandenburg AFB, CA (son of Gary & Sherry Laughton).
- **MIDN Matthew VanEerden**, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD (son of Ted & Sharon VanEerden).
- **Seaman Alasdair Stuart**, US Navy, Virginia Beach, VA learned of his pending promotion on his birthday. He will be deploying to Afghanistan in 2012. (son of Robert and Geri Stuart).
- **Major William F. Byrd IV**, and family, deployed in Iraq (grandson of William and Catharine Byrd).
- **1st Lt. James V. Elieff**, US Army (son of Jim and Helen Elieff).
- **Navy Seal Jake Roberts**, and family, now stationed in Guam (son of Dean and Annmarie Roberts).
- **David Michael Murray**; David is making progress in his recovery. He has been discharged from active duty but continues with medical care to complete his healing from combat injuries. Please pray for his continued recovery and re-entry into the civilian world (great nephew of Terry and Marilyn Robertson).
- **MST SGT Geoff T. Robertson** and family, currently serving in Okinawa (son of Terry and Marilyn Robertson).
- **David Weddel, Ass't Deputy Chief of Naval Operations**, Pentagon (son of Marge Weddel).
- **Lt. Drew Ziccardi, U.S. Army**, deploying to Afghanistan this summer (godson of Pastor Fitz Neal).

If you know of a service person who is not listed here, please contact Viva Dennis in the church office, 694-7549 ext. 213.





MISSIONS

Churches in Partnership (CIP)



Tom Ortman from CPC and First Presbyterian's Dr. John Greves on our last day of harvest at the Churches in Partnership community garden on November 19th.

Our totals for the garden are as follows: 6.9 tons (combination of potatoes, corn, tomatoes, winter & summer squash & onions) from the 78th Street garden and an additional 4.4 tons of corn from a member of First Presbyterian's garden. He agreed to plant corn if we helped with the harvest...we did and the 4.4 tons of corn all went to the Clark County food bank...it was a great harvest!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with Churches in Partnership, please consider attending our first meeting of the New Year on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 9 AM at First Presbyterian Church. We thank everyone who helped out at the garden this year. We also want to thank everyone who attended the wonderful Thanksgiving service at East Woods Presbyterian Church. Close to \$1000 was collected at this service to help support the Churches in Partnership mission program.



CPC NEWS

Session Member Contact Information

Doug Heitschmidt	835-3141	Dale Johnson	253-2206
Dave Nacke	254-8136	Chris Keinath	750-1234
Nancy Bishoprick	695-8589	Ron Peterson	883-5310
Jan Kennedy	335-1193	Mary Lou Williams	576-5364
Jim Dillon	225-1162	Linda Markee	735-7663
Tom Hill	954-5621	Katie Morehouse	433-5094
Julie Mauer	521-0945	Jeff Tatum	953-4903
Bruce Farnsworth	833-0463	Julie Wilcox	210-7073
Jerry Hofer	521-7944		

Clerk of Session:
Donnetta Spink 944-6716

Friends at CPC...We want to thank you for your support this past year. It has been a rough one for us but we were upheld by your prayers, notes, visits, and delicious meals. Carol is making slow but sure progress; the doctors say it could be a year before we know how complete her recovery will be, but we trust in God's faithfulness and healing hands.

~John VanZytveld

How are we doing?

We continue to receive Pledges and Offerings ahead of 2010, however November 2011 was somewhat lower than our historic value for this pledge period. Having said that, we are about \$18,000 lower in P&O year to date. We will need about \$135,000 in the last weeks of this year to break even. Last year we received \$140,000 in December, so it is possible.

~Dave Nacke



CPC

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 20

"Mama Mia"

6:00 PM - (BYOBBD) Bring your own brown bag dinner

7:00 PM - Movie starts

CONTACT INFORMATION



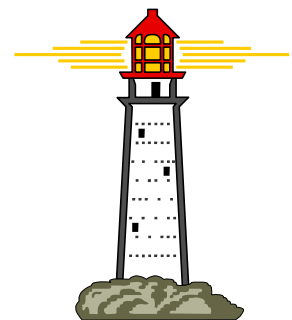
Cut out and put in your directory

How to Reach Us:

Please call the church office at 694-7549 to reach any of the church staff. Staff can also be reached via e-mail by using the person's first name followed by @columbiapresbyterian.org. *Example: fred@columbiapresbyterian.org.* The only exceptions to that rule are Sharon Franklin, Sharon Wallenborn and John Ignoffo. In those cases, use their first name with the first initial of their last name.

		Phone Extension
Fitz Neal	Pastor	x 206
Brian Craker	Interim Associate Pastor	x 209
Matt Overton	Assoc. Pastor to Youth & Family Ministries	x 208
	<i>Direct Youth Line</i>	823-0220
Jeff Haagenson	Minister of Worship & Music	x 210
Sharon Franklin	Children's Ministries Director	x 211
Terry Robertson	Church Administrator	x 207
Jo Coila	Head of Staff Admin. Asst.	x 201
Jennifer Neal	Children/Youth Admin. Asst.	x 204
Viva Dennis	Communications Specialist	x 213
Marilyn Roberts	Bookkeeper	x 222
John Ignoffo	Media Ministry Specialist	x 205
Rich Raitano	Facilities Manager	x 216
Katie Phelan	Nursery - 833 -0634	
Anna Haagenson	Kingdom Kids - 891-1494	
Sharon Wallenborn	Director, Circle of Friends Preschool - 696-9926	x 212

The next Pilot Light deadline is **January 17, 2012** with a **mail out date of January 27**. *Articles turned in after the deadline will not be published and all articles are subject to editing.* Whenever possible, announcements and articles for publication should be sent via email to: info@columbiapresbyterian.org.



The *Pilot Light* is a monthly publication of Columbia Presbyterian Church.

Visit us online at www.columbiapresbyterian.org



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Vancouver, WA 98664

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DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Please make the following changes to your pictorial directory.



Charles, Bill & Kathy
kbcharles@centurylink.net

***If you or someone you know has a
change in their contact information,
please contact Viva in the church office.***

**info@columbiapresbyterian.org
694-7549 ext. 213**

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