

Fourth Notes

September 2011

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Come and Behold a Refurbished Sanctuary *Jubilee Service on October 2 Dedicates New Space*

There is always the sense of a new year when we step into September. That's why we typically go ahead and name a late September Sunday "Jubilee." This is a time of year to re-group, re-gather and start afresh.

Sound the trumpets. Finish summer travels. Embrace forgiveness. Step into a new season of ministry. Jubilee 2011 represents all of that, but also much more. This year, we also celebrate a rejuvenated sanctuary.

Our worship space gets used pretty hard, praise God. This is not only a place for Sunday gathering; it is a place for nightly services during Lent, regular music lessons, weekly theater rehearsals, and daily Bible stories for 130 kids during the Summer Meals Program. Not surprisingly, our robust ministry has worn out parts of our sanctuary. Last January, we held a town meeting to discuss the needs of this holy space and agreed to move ahead with renovations, some of which had been on the wish list a very long time.

Several months -- and one successful Fourth Fest Fund-raiser -- later, we are now in the midst of replacing old windows, installing new ones, re-painting, re-carpeting, and even adding new doors that meet Code. You can enter now and catch glimpses of what is on the way, but the best is yet to come.

We celebrate all of this on World Communion Sunday, appropriately enough. We will have Jubilee trumpets like usual, and maybe even some Jubilee trombones and French horns! We'll also have another great potluck lunch and a Jubilee reminder that in the forgiveness we know in Christ, we can thrive and shine in our witness to God's Love. AND, we will have the Lord's table, set up in a new, but familiar, place.

Save the date. (And note that we are not doing this on September 25 as originally planned!) Bring friends to behold new light and renewed Spirit.

church retreat! september 9, 10, 11

This year, the square dance will again be Irish. But we will most certainly continue The Dance!

It is time for the annual church retreat at Camp Wilmot in New Hampshire

Our theme this year is "River Wrestling;" and we sincerely hope all of you can join us in a study of Jacob at the Jabbock, and the holy endeavor of abiding in God (along with the holy endeavor of play...) There are chances to swim, canoe, play ultimate Frisbee, and much more.

Cost is \$55 per person over 12. (ages 4-12: \$35)

We gather Friday night at the retreat center for a Chef McKenzie dinner, 6:30-8pm. Come early if you like and rest. That night we will sing and pray in worship, and then create space for Dave's Friday night karaoke... Don't miss it.

Another concert?

Many, many thanks to all who helped with the August 13 Gospel

Concert. We had a good house, a cooled sanctuary, great food, and fantastic music. We also had Jimmie Lou Collins, generously sharing her spirit on her birthday, and getting a whole lot of well-deserved audience love.

On the money front, we have a little over \$6,750 right now with a good shot of \$2500 more coming in.. We need to raise 12,000 with this endeavor, so stay tuned; we just might have a November concert! Or December?

If we do, there are lots of good groups we might include since choirs are more available in the fall than in the summer.

That is to say, this concert might well be even more fantastic. More info is on the way...

prayers: food pantry

Our food pantry shifts to a 'by appointment' mode during the Summer Meals Program in July and August, but we have now resumed our major, bi-monthly distributions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We had a distribution on August 30 and will have the next on

September 13. Volunteers appreciated (contact Erik Jacobs).

Please keep this vital ministry in prayer. Federal budget cuts are reducing free USDA food, and we now have to pay to remove our boxes and rent a truck. The budget is VERY squeezed and we still expect 275-325 families.

Partnering with Perkins School..

We continue our partnership with the Michael J. Perkins elementary school. There are many ways you can participate, including...

- assistance with one-on-one reading and tutoring (see Karen Flaherty)
- assistance with a new robotics program through VSHI (see Burns)
- Help with a new theater production ("Evacuation Day: The Musical")
- The continuing mission of new relationships with parents...

We welcome your involvement! Talk to Burns, Karen, Tim, or Shirley.

PANCAKE PARTY and A Search for Buried Treasure

Sunday, September 18, 9am: A new year of Sunday School

While we don't stop Sunday School and maintain classes for different ages during the summer, September is a time for new classes and that is a great excuse for a party. Come Sunday morning, September 18 at 9am for a pancake party and introduction to your class.

Interested in helping with the pancakes?? Interested in helping with the kids classes? See Tim H or Kathy Burger. We launch a whole new season of exploring Bible stories, and for the next nine weeks we will be looking for "buried treasure" in the parables of Jesus. Kids get to do that through creating plays, filming videos, doing art, and more.

Chris Hoklotubbe is leading a great new series for teenagers, and a new adult class is in the works, as well.

WE WELCOME ALL AGES !!!

Come enjoy pancakes and start the treasure hunt!

Civic engagement Project

So last year, we had an amazing victory, increasing voter turnout by an average of 15% in two precincts. This year, we build on that foundation and again work with GBIO to increase voting in our neighboring precincts.

Our youth organizers will be deeply involved again, but this effort is strongest when we have adults out there, too.

We are trying to build the power of our neighborhood and do the holy work of civic engagement (in rich resonance with our Presbyterian Christian tradition).

We are gathering regularly to meet neighbors, hear their concerns for the community, and encourage them to vote. All welcome!

Tutoring program starts Wed., sept 21

Homework Help resumes on Wednesday, September 21 and continues every Monday and Wednesday for the semester. Light dinner at 5:30pm, help with homework from 6 to 7pm. Tim Hughes is the primary contact right now and he welcomes volunteers. It's a great way to connect with kids in the church and the neighborhood.

The Dramatic Word - Wed. study & theater!

Last year it was Esther. This year it is the classic tale of the Prodigal Son. But it is all part of engaging the *Dramatic Word*, and it is a blast.

For the first five weeks of our fall Soup N Study season, we are again mixing together Bible study, theater (for adults and teens) and the thrill of an October 23 performance gig.

So what does this mean? Come Wednesdays at 5:30 for a little food and a check-in time. From 6pm to 7:15, we will do Bible Study AND theater prep, all to get ready for a special dramatic presentation of the story of the Prodigal Son in October.

This is still a new kind of workshop for us, but as you can tell, it's combining some things that we do quite well.

What if you're new to theater? ALL WELCOME

What if you're new to the Bible? ALL WELCOME

What if you're dead set against public performing? COME ANYWAY,

Music & art sign up

It's time for the 2011-12 Music and Arts Program. Registration takes place on September 18 during the pancake party and on

September 19-20 (Monday and Tuesday), 5:30pm-7:00pm.

There will be classes in children's musical theater (Tuesdays), piano, violin, guitar, voice, art, and more. Returning is Tim's popular Video Class. Brochures with specific courses are on the way.

prayers....

Phyllis Curtis and Barbara Turcotte are in Marian Manor. They love calls and visits.

Prayers for Jojo Tegen, whose mother Barbara died in tragic circumstances.

Prayers also for Evelyn Freeman, who mourns the passing of her mom, Ethel.

Nancy and Kenny McLaren expect their second child in November!

Monica Titakum is now a full United States citizen. Congratulations!! She took her vows at TD Bank Garden this past week.

Thank you, Kenny Shallow, for doing so much to help with this sanctuary renovation project. Whew, what a huge job.

Kelly Schomburg is loving college in New York City.

Whenever you are on the subway, look for the Higashi School poster advertisement. It features Tatum Bezan! And she looks beautiful.

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