

# Presbytery of the



# Inland Northwest

www.presbyinw.org

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Volume 33, Issue 6

December 2009



Nobody could have been more surprised than I was, when at the end of September I was asked to return, after eleven years of retirement, to be the Acting Presbytery Executive. That was not in my plans, but God does have a sense of humor and so here I am.

Let me give you a run down on where the Presbytery is in replacing three key positions.

1. Dave Hamilton, our long-term Stated Clerk, is retiring December 1. The Presbytery at its November meeting will be voting to elect The Rev. Forrest Claassen, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarkston, to be the new Acting Stated Clerk.
2. The expanded Personnel Committee is now interviewing three finalists for the position of Transitional Executive and may have a candidate by the time you read this. Depending on those interviews and the speed with which the nominee can begin, we should have a Transitional Executive on board in January or February.
3. At the end of September, Sandy Riebe replaced Mike Copas as the Interim Financial Administrator. We are fortunate to have Sandy, a former Presbytery financial officer and present financial officer for Camp Spalding and Hamblen Presbyterian Church, now managing our finances. The plan is for the Personnel

Committee to look for a permanent financial administrator sometime early next year. We are thankful to have Sandy serving again. She knows the Presbytery and its finances.

When these positions are filled, we will all enter a time of transition for the entire Presbytery. Except for Joyce Bippes, we will have a totally new staff. Each new person will have to learn their position, how to work together as a staff team, and get to know the Presbytery, its congregations and people. We will all have to be patient and let a new staff jell and begin serving us. The good news is that our Administrative Assistant, Joyce Bippes continues to hold us all together and on track. Thank you, Joyce!

This is a great Presbytery. Every day, I continue to be amazed at this

Presbytery, its congregations, ministers and elders. You are serving our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully and honorably.

May each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a holy Christmas.

*Bill Ailes*



## Comings and Goings

Rev William Stonebraker is the new

Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church, Hayden ID. Rev Sue Keim is the new Pastor at Northwood Presbyterian Church. Rev Jeremy Sanderson is the new Associate Pastor at Spokane First Presbyterian. Rev Cecil Corbett and Rev Andrea Saccoccio have transferred their membership into our Presbytery.

## Dates for the Calendar

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 3  | CLP Committee meets at the Presbytery Office        |
| December 8  | COM meets at Millwood Church                        |
| December 8  | Mission Study Task Force meets at Presbytery Office |
| December 16 | CPM meets at the Presbytery Office                  |
| December 24 | Office Closed                                       |
| January 12  | COM meets at Millwood Church                        |
| January 18  | Office Closed                                       |
| January 19  | Council meets at Presbytery office                  |
| January 19  | Meeting Committee meets at Presbytery Office        |
| January 20  | PIN Newsletter deadline                             |

## New in the Resource Center

### BOOKS

**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP FOR CHURCH OFFICERS**, by Joan S. Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly of the PC(USA). This handbook challenges church officers to see themselves as spiritual leaders and equips them for leadership.

**HYMNS FOR TODAY**, by Brian Wren, examines forty hymn poems and shares insights they provide for Christian faith. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

**THE TURNAROUND CHURCH: Inspiration and Tools for Life-Sustaining Change**, by Mary Louise Gifford, is the inspiring story of the remarkable turnaround of a formerly dying congregation that, in a few years, survived and was revitalized.

**WE GET TO CARRY EACH OTHER, THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO U2**, by Greg Garret, offers examination of the spirituality that drives the band U2 and its music and how their influence has spread beyond music into AIDS activism, debt relief for developing nations, and the crisis in Dafur.

**BONHOFFER for Armchair Theologians**, by Stephen R. Haynes and Lori Brandt Hale, tells about Dietrich Bonhoffer, a German theologian, imprisoned and hanged by the Nazis in 1945, whose life and thought continue to impact Christianity today.

**YOU LEARN BY LIVING: Eleven Keys for a More Fulfilling Life**, by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, presents commonsense ideas and heartfelt ideals that are as relevant now as they were 50 Years ago.

**JOHN CALVIN REFORMER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**, by William Stacy Johnson, provides a deep understanding of John Calvin's impact on the development of Christian faith and on society. Includes discussion questions and a glossary.



## New Presbytery Acting Stated Clerk

At the November 20 Presbytery meeting, Rev Forrest Claassen was elected as the new Presbytery Acting Stated Clerk. He is replacing David Hamilton who was the Clerk for nine years. If you need to contact Forrest he will be in the Presbytery Office on Tuesdays and his Presbytery e-mail address is [forrest@presbyinw.org](mailto:forrest@presbyinw.org).

## Thank you!

At the November 20 Presbytery meeting, I was presented with a monetary gift for serving as the Administrative Assistant at the Presbytery office for the past 19 years. I was overwhelmed at that moment and unable to fully express my appreciation for the gift. Not many people can say they love their job, but I do! This is my way of serving the Lord. The Presbytery staff has always worked together as a "team" to serve you. It takes all of us to make things work. Again, thank you for the gift and allowing me to serve you in this position.

*In His Name,  
Joyce Bippes*



## Presbytery Office Hours

The week between Christmas and New Year, the office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon. If you will be needing assistance other than these hours, please call ahead and arrangements will be made for you.



## "Perspectives" Mission Course Offered

"Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" is an invigorating 15-week course providing an overview of missions from biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic perspectives. Begun by presbyterian missions expert Ralph Winter, the non-denominational course has received national and international acclaim. The class meets January 12 through May 4 (Tuesdays), 6:30-9:30 pm, 2010, at Valley Fourth Memorial Church, 2303 S Bowdish Rd, Spokane Valley. It provides excellent study materials and outstanding missions speakers from around the Northwest. Cost is \$224. It's the best study on mission I have ever encountered. Ten people from our church would concur. For more information and/or registration, contact Chris Sheeran at (509) 898-3334 or by e-mail at [spokaneperspectives@gmail.com](mailto:spokaneperspectives@gmail.com).

*Dick Avery, Shadle Park Pres.*

NEWSLETTER  
Published Bi-monthly  
Presbytery of the Inland Northwest  
8910 East Dalton Avenue, Spokane, WA 99212-3401

*Purpose: to encourage, support and inform the churches of our Presbytery*

December 2009  
Vol. 33, Issue 6  
Cindy Enos, Editor

# The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning provides resources, training, and encouragement for clergy and laity. In addition to sponsoring the annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry, the Weyerhaeuser Center provides workshops, short courses, reading groups, certificates and a diploma, and other programs designed to renew clergy and lay leaders and equip them to serve Christ in the church and the world.

## Pastors' Reading Group

The purpose of the pastors' reading group is to help pastors and interested laypersons explore the themes of vocation and ministry through the reading and discussing of books related to these topics. This reading group is designed to provide intellectual stimulation and personal enrichment by engaging in significant conversation regarding the nature and purpose of the church as it moves into the 21st Century. The reading group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. A book and light breakfast is provided to each participant at minimal cost. All pastors and interested laypersons are invited to join. Next group begins February, 2009.

## Certificate in Teaching the Bible

Church leaders are expected to teach the Bible in various settings with a variety of different constituents. The Certificate in Teaching the Bible is designed to give pastors, lay ministry leaders, and Sunday school teachers greater insight into how to teach the Bible more effectively with children, youth, and adults. The certificate is specifically designed to provide an overview of the narrative and key theological themes of the Bible; practical skills and tools to teach the Bible with power and effectiveness; and support in ministry and networking opportunities with others who regularly teach the Bible. Topics include:

- Major Themes in the Old Testament
- Major Themes in the New Testament
- Major Themes in Christian Theology
- Teaching through Catechesis and Mentoring

- Teaching Skills 101
- Teaching the Bible in Small Groups
- Teaching the Bible to Adults
- Teaching the Bible to Children/Youth

The program meets every other Saturday (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) beginning February 2010.

## Preaching Clinic

Good preaching is at the heart of effective ministry. The preaching clinic provides a great opportunity for pastors to come together with peers for the purpose of sharpening preaching skills in a safe and supportive environment. We will talk about the art and dynamics of good preaching and work at strengthening and honing preaching skills through the use of sermon videotapes and in class preaching and reflection. Topics include:

- Understanding and developing God's gift of creativity
- Enhancing one's sermon delivery
- Ethical issues involved in preaching
- Interpreting biblical texts
- Sermon introductions and conclusions
- The use of language in preaching
- Understanding and using stories in preaching
- Sermon structure
- Theological foundations for preaching.

The program meets every other Thursday (9:00 – 1:00) beginning February 4, 2010.

## Master of Arts in Theology

Whitworth's M.A. in Theology program is designed around:

Classical Theology – rooted in the disciplines of Biblical studies, theology and church history.  
Practical Ministry – focused on addressing contemporary ministry challenges  
Spiritual Formation – learn together as a praying, worshipping community.

## Spring Course 2010

## The Theology and Practice of Lay Ministry

Class meets Friday evenings (5:00 – 9:30) and Saturdays (8:00 – 4:00) on the following weekends: February 12, 13; March 12, 13; April 16, 17; May 14, 15

The Bible teaches that all Christians are called to ministry; some are called to be pastors of local congregations while others are called to ministry on their jobs, in their communities, or in the wider world. One of the most important roles of a pastor is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). One of the most important tasks of the saints is to become equipped. This course is designed for both pastors and lay leaders who seek to develop a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of ministry for all God's people. We will look at some of the biblical foundations, theological issues, and practical and pastoral responsibilities of ministry. Special emphasis will be placed on the nature and role of lay ministry, ways to equip and empower lay men and women for ministry, and some of the practical skills necessary to be effective in lay ministry in congregations, Christian organizations, the marketplace, and in other contexts.

Members of the Spokane community who are not enrolled in the MA in Theology program are welcome to participate in this course.

For additional information about these programs, call Michelle Pace at (509) 777-3275 or mseeffried@whitworth.edu. or Dr. Tim Dolan at (509) 777-4676/tdolan@whitworth.edu.



## Pianos Needed

We have a request for two pianos for families in the Coeur d'Alene area. If you have a piano that you are not using and would like to donate to a family, please contact Joan Hust at (208)765-9689.

# GUATEMALA

*"God's peace is real, and it becomes a reality  
whenever men and women turn to Christ and  
follow Him as Lord."*

*Share the message of the Prince of Peace  
with your friends and relatives this Christmas season.*

*Billy Graham*

Have you read? If not, why not?

He Gives He Takes Away, Joseph Anfuso

This is the true story of Guatemala's controversial former President Efraín Ríos Montt. You must read this book. His 16 months as president was one of the most controversial in Guatemala's turbulent history. The first speech he made when he began his presidency he said that it was God who gives and takes away authority. With these words he began his term as Latin America's first born again president. He was a general, political candidate, ambassador, school principal, national leader, and fervent Christian.

Mayan Folk Tales, James D. Sexton,  
Editor

Anthropologist Sexton (Ignacio) has compiled nearly 40 folktales from the Mayan Indians, focusing on the Quiche-Maya of Lake Atitlán in Guatemala. In so doing, he reveals a rich and complex culture that is still very much alive. Many of the myths, according to Sexton, are designed to reinforce behavior considered positive by the society.

I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala, Elisabeth Burgos-DeBray,  
Editor

This is an easy book to read as told by Rigoberta, a young Guatemalan peasant woman. She tells about the common experiences of many Indian communities in Guatemala. She suffered gross injustice and hardship when she was young. Her parents were murdered by the Guatemalan military. This book is the only one of its kind in contemporary literature that records the details of everyday Indian life. She is the winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize.

Silence on the Mountain: Stories of  
Fear, Betrayal, and Forgetting in

Guatemala, Daniel Wilkinson

This book reveals a buried history that has never been told before that focuses on those who were most affected by Guatemala's half-century of violence. Untold history is told of the long civil war that followed its roots back to a land reform movement, to the origins of Guatemala's plantation system that put Mayan Indians to work picking coffee beans for our American and European markets.

Long Life, Honey in the Heart, Martin Prechtel

This is a story of initiation and eloquence from the shores of a Mayan lake. This is a true story of Martin Prechtel who was raised on an American Indian reservation. He moved to the Guatemalan village of Santiago Atitlán and lived there for thirteen years. He was accepted inside the secret world of the Tzutujil Mayan culture village and became a member of the tribe, married a Mayan woman, and became a village chief and shaman. His writing has passion, humor, and wisdom of the local people.

The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from  
Torture to Truth, Sister Dianna Ortiz

This is a precious memoir of an American nun, her torture in Guatemala, Her campaign to reveal the truth, and her struggle to heal. She was abducted by security forces and brutally tortured, but she escaped and was able to reveal the details that attracted international attention. What she was able to do is a story in itself of faith, friendship, and the quest to prove that at the core of the human spirit there is a force stronger than violence and fear.

A Field Guide to the birds of Mexico and  
Adjacent Areas: Belize, Guatemala, and

El Salvador, Ernest Preston Edwards

If ornithology is your love this is the book for you. Guatemala is rich in bird life. The species of birds, and the tropical species includes parrots hummingbirds, toucans, woodcreepers, tropical species of hawks, woodpeckers, jays, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, orioles, and last but not least the state bird, the resplendent quetzal that you will find in the cloud forest and other dense humid mountain forests.

Tikal: A Handbook of the Ancient Maya  
Ruins in English, William R. Coe

This is a small 125 page paperback book with a wealth of information. Tikal is the prime city of the Maya people in the Peninsula of Yucatan. The massive ruins of Tikal are concentrated at the center of the Tikal National Park. The park is 222 square miles and the first such park in Central America. There is much to learn as you read about the fascinating discovery of Tikal and the Ruins.

Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: Memoirs  
from the living heart of a Mayan village,  
Martin Prechtel

This is a very powerful memoir of an American that was adopted by a shaman, and was given the opportunity to study the secrets of a Tzutujil Mayan village in Guatemala. It is a delight to read how the most famous shaman in Tzutujil history accepted him as a student, and he became a famous shaman.

I bought the above books in local and online book stores, thrift shops, and received the issue of the National Geographic from a friend who has saved all her back issues for years. I trust you can do the same.

Check out some of these books from your local library. Hopefully this will touch your heart and you will want to join the team that goes on the next Guatemala Task Force mission trip.

Till the next time—which will be 2010—let's count our blessings that we have another year to serve Jesus.

*Joan*

*God's Word was given for  
our good  
And we are to obey,  
Not choose the parts that  
we like best,  
Then live in our own way.  
—Hess*



## News from Camp Spalding/ Clearwater Lodge

The 2010 Camp Spalding Summer Camp schedule is on line at [www.campspalding.org](http://www.campspalding.org). Take a few moments and look at it to get registered early.

Here are upcoming events at Clearwater Lodge. To register go to [www.clearwaterlodge.org](http://www.clearwaterlodge.org) or call 1-509-447-4388.

### Winter Renewal Weekend I January 8-10, 2010

Earl Palmer has national reputation as an exceptional preacher, teacher and author. Recently retired as Senior Pastor at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA (1991-2008), Earl also had a long and fruitful ministry as Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, CA (1970-1991). In addition, he has written numerous, acclaimed books and bible commentaries over the years. Now in a new chapter in his life, Earl devotes his time expanding and widening his ministry of teaching, writing and encouragement to audiences throughout the country.  
Worship: Jamie Mann.



### Winter Renewal Weekend II February 5-7, 2010

Dr. Dale Bruner, distinguished international Bible scholar and inspiring conference speaker, returns to Clearwater Lodge with keen insights and practical application as he draws from selected Gospel passages. Author of an acclaimed two volume commentary on Matthew, Dale is one of the most sought-after Bible teachers in America. Emeritus Professor of Religion at Whitworth University, Dale and his wife live in Pasadena, California, where Dale studies and writes full time.

Worship: Elaine Meyer & Jonathan Moneymaker.



## Live Nativity Scene

The Latah Valley New Church Development (at 202 East Meadow Lane Road in Spokane) will host A LIVE NATIVITY on Sunday, December 20, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The event will include donated animals, lights, ragamuffin actors (playing the parts of Mary, Joseph, the magi and the heavenly host) as well as festive cookies and hot chocolate.

All are welcome to this drive through experience, just off of Route 195. For further information, please contact Scott Kinder-Pyle at 509.481.8119 or [scott@latahvalley.org](mailto:scott@latahvalley.org).



## May 2010 Board of Pensions Seminars Coming

In May we will be sponsoring two Board of Pensions seminars. May 4 and 5 will be "Growing In Tomorrow... Today" for clergy and lay benefits plan members age 50 and older and their spouses. May 6 will be "Getting in Shape Fiscally" for clergy and lay benefits plan members under age 50 and their spouses. Information on these will be mailed out to all plan members around the first of the year. Please put these dates on your calendars and plan to attend.

## Dinner by Candlelight

*Save the Date!*



Once again you are invited to Liberty Park Child Development Center's annual "Dinner by Candlelight...a dinner that makes a difference" Friday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. preceding the Whitworth University Christmas Choir Concert. Both will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Spokane, 318 S. Cedar.

The concert is a wonderful way to enjoy the Advent Season. Come early for a festive and delicious dinner and avoid the rush for parking and seating.

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit Liberty Park Child Development Center's ministry to children and families. Call now to reserve your places at both the dinner and the concert.

For dinner reservations: Call Marianne Frase 509-466-2555 for dinner reservations. The cost is \$25.00 per person. (Tables for eight are available by reservation.) For Concert tickets: Call Dick Barney 509-467-9397 to purchase tickets or order them on line with a credit card at [www.whitworth.edu/music-tickets](http://www.whitworth.edu/music-tickets). Tickets go on sale early November and you are encouraged to order early. The cost of the choir tickets is \$18.00, discount for seniors and students \$15.00. Thank you for supporting the ministry of the Center!

Presbytery of the Inland Northwest  
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## Presbytery Scholarship

*Offered by Presbyterian Women*

This scholarship is designated to encourage and nurture Presbyterian students seeking a college education at a 4-year accredited college in the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest. Any student who is a member of a Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, has a 3.0 GPA or better, has completed 2 years of college, and is entering his/her junior or senior year of college or is in graduate school. The application must be completed in full and submitted by March 1 of each year. Please visit the Presbytery website [www.presbyinw.org](http://www.presbyinw.org) under Resources, Forms or contact the Presbytery offices to get an application at (509) 924-4148.



## What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

You are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to your congregation's offering. If for some reason that is not convenient, feel free to support the offering directly.

## General Assembly Mission Yearbooks

The Presbytery Office has 2010 GA Mission Yearbooks for sale at \$6 each and the Children's Mission Yearbooks for \$7.50 each. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call the office at (509) 924-4148.