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THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT "THANK YOU"



Once again you have proven your love for us during the month of Pastor Appreciation and we are so grateful. Chris, Steve and I have found joy, satisfaction and delight in the relationships we have with so many of you. We understand that ministry comes out of relationship and relationships take time, talk and shared experience.

So, please, know this: Our doors are always open for the fun conversations, the hard ones; those that involve solving problems and those that involve sorting feelings. Our hearts, doors and lives are open to you.

I know we often sound and act really busy (maybe even overwhelmed at times) but we always have time for all of you. We might have to make an appointment, but we want to spend time with you- that's the reason we are all in ministry and not just teaching or administrating somewhere. Our call is not to the institution of Mountain Park Church, but to the people of MPC.

We believe the best times for our ministry at MPC are in front of us. We have extreme confidence in each other and in what God wants to accomplish in and through each of us. We are excited to share worship experiences, cross-cultural experiences, intellectual, spiritual, relational, social maybe even FOOD experiences with you. We are sure there is plenty for us to share together and to celebrate the goodness of God in hundreds of ways.

So, thank you for the great "Thank You." Our wives share our feelings of support, encouragement and gratitude to be part of such a wonderful church family. Maybe we should institute a congregation appreciation month, but for now- we love you and what Jesus is doing in you and that we get to be a part of it.



The MPC Offices and Facilities will close at noon on **Wednesday, December 24** and will remain closed through **Friday, December 26** in observance of Christmas



The MPC Offices and Facilities will be closed on **Thursday, January 1** in observance of New Year's Day

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

Christmas is a wonderful time to honor a loved one. A beautiful way to remember those we love is to buy a poinsettia in their honor. The poinsettia will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas season, then you can take it home after Sunday service on December 21. If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia, please fill out the bulletin insert and place it in the offering along with your check. All poinsettias need to be ordered and paid for by Sunday, December 14. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15.00.



FAMILY NEWS

VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS: **Ron & Evvie Boys**



Ron and Evvie met at a Christmas InterVarsity foreign student retreat on Mt Baker, WA in 1959. They were married June 24, 1961. As newlyweds, they took jobs in the public schools of Cathlamet, WA

In 1964 Ron traveled to Turkey as a Fulbright Teacher. Evvie joined him a month later with 3-week infant Brian and toddler Douglas. Their family traveled to Australia in 1984 where Ron was an International Exchange Teacher. They both taught Arab students at the American International School in Kuwait and served 2 ½ years on a church planting team in the Arabian Gulf. Ron taught high school mathematics for 34 years in Washington, California and Oregon. Evvie has taught elementary school and adult ESL classes. She continues as a home school teacher with

three students. She has taught her own grandchildren plus other missionary children and Somali refugee children. At present they tutor children and adults who are recent immigrants to SW Portland. Ron works as a recruiter for relief and development workers to the Middle East.

They have three children and eight grandchildren and have been married for 47 years. They have lived in Turkey, England, Australia, Kuwait and Bahrain and have visited many other countries in Europe and the Middle East.

The Boys have fellowshiped with the Mountain Park Church family since 1985. Christian parents provided their early Biblical teaching and modeling which led them to accept Christ as Savior at an early age. Their three children and spouses are actively involved in church ministry. Ron presently is on the Elder board and Missions committee and is a discussion leader for their Community Group. They lead and host a home group. Evvie has taught Sunday School and Thursday night ESL classes. They enjoy reading, cycling, skiing and traveling. We are blessed to have them as part of our church family.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MADE EASY

Do you get nervous just thinking that Christmas is right around the corner and your list is longer than last year? Or are you one of those people who loves to shop? Well, either way, gift Cards are the answer. You can choose the amount you want to spend from stores that everyone loves and the best part – the person is able to get exactly what they want. You may shop for gift cards (scrip) November 30 and December 14 and then you can say "I have finished my shopping!" and enjoy the season. Orders will go in December 2 and December 16 and will be available the following Sunday.

Forms are also available any time in the rotating magazine rack by the information desk and may be turned in to Barb Gabler. If you have any questions call Barb Gabler 503 636-0285. Have fun shopping!

Also, don't forget to turn in those old phones, ink cartridges, etc. in the coat closet by the big plastic tub.

DECEMBER

Events Calendar

Thursday, December 4

Awana, 6:30 PM, Gym

Thursday, December 11

Awana, Store Night #1, 6:30 PM

Friday, December 12

Family Caroling, 7 PM to 9 PM

Tuesday, December 16

Upward Basketball Evaluations

#2, 5:30 PM, Gym

Thursday, December 18

Deadline to turn in shoeboxes
for "House of Zion"

Sonshine Express Preschool
Christmas program, 7 PM, WC

Sunday, December 21

Birthday Party for Jesus

OPERATION SHOE BOX

Please support our annual community outreach of the Children's Ministry and Sonshine Express Preschool as we partner together to support the children of migrant families in Woodburn. Shoe boxes filled with useful and festive items will be distributed by the House of Zion to boys and girls ages 2-11 during Christmas week, and we need your help to meet an ever growing need while spreading the hope, joy, and true meaning of the season. Lists of suggested items along with instructions are available in the Children's wing and the lobby to fill a box or boxes to place under the lobby Christmas tree no later than December 18. Please remember to wrap the top of the box separately so additional items may be added.

FA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA

Join us as we fill the air with a heavenly chorus and much excitement at our family oriented neighborhood Christmas caroling party on Friday, December 12th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Stroll with us as a church family for singing and fellowship or remain behind to prepare for the after-warming of nose, toes, and hearts with hot chocolate and warm cider. We will have popcorn to string for your family tree and a small gift for the little ones. A postcard will be forthcoming with further details. Please join me in thanking Larry and Lynne Dee Bricker for their dedication to planning these once-monthly events. October's Harvest dance and potluck drew over 50 people from every Community Group and gave us all the opportunity to meet new people and strengthen the bonds within our church family.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

The most anticipated birthday party of the year will be held on Sunday, December 21st! Friends are welcome to celebrate the birth of Jesus during the second service at 11:00 a.m. Make plans to join us in the Children's wing as we anticipate Christmas Day with a cake, candles, and a special tribute to the Lamb of God.

Last year, my first as the interim Director of Children's Ministries, I wrote about the beautiful carved lamb which found its final resting spot on top of my computer after journeying far from the Holy Land. This year, he has an added patina, a burnished hue from resting in my hands as I often pray for each and every child in our Mountain Park Church family. Unique and one-of-kind, I imagine the pleasure he brought to the carver who crafted him out of an inanimate piece of wood. So too, I see His face as He gazes upon each of the special children fashioned in His image and given to our spiritual care and nurturing, both individually and as a church body. This year I have so many more people to thank and call by name for the lending of their spiritual gifts and valuable time to Children's Ministries, and I hope to grow in relationship with more of you as time passes. As we all wait with held breath for the birth of the Messiah, I pray for the myriad blessings of the season to be with all of you. ***Like a shepherd He will tend His flock. In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom.*** Isaiah 40:11

Mary Adams

UPWARD BASKETBALL CHEERLEADING

Upward Basketball is looking for Cheerleaders. We need girls ages K-6th grade to cheer on our Upward Basketball teams. We also need high school girls and adults to coach the cheerleaders. If you are interested in cheering or coaching, please contact Michelle Dolan at 503-313-2959 or email me at cmcdolan@yahoo.com. You can also sign up at the next Upward evaluations on Tuesday, December 16. Go Team!



THANK YOU

Chuck & Carol Rall

Thank you to our MPC family for your loving words of encouragement, cards and prayers throughout Chuck's surgeries.

Devon & Willie Harless

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for the flowers and prayers during Gregg's battle with cancer and his death last month. We feel loved and truly blessed.

NEW ARRIVALS

Isaac Tepper

Chuck and Candace Tepper are proud to announce the birth of their grandson, Isaac, on November 9. Born prematurely at 26 weeks, Isaac weighed in at 2 lbs., 4 oz..



40 McNary Parkway
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

IN MEMORIAM

William Strode

Carol DeBoer's father
October 28

Lori Malizsweski

Wife of Steve Malizsweski
Former MPC Worship Band member
October 29

DECEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, December 6

Women's Christmas Brunch
9:30-11:30 AM

Sunday, December 7

Jr. High & High School
Christmas parties, 5-8 PM

Tuesday, December 9

Forever Young Christmas Potluck
12-2 PM, FCFS

Wednesday, December 10

MERGE, 7-9 PM

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve service, 5 PM



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