

WHAT'S INSIDE

From Pastor Gregg.....	1
Family News.....	2
Men's Work Day.....	2
Women's Ministries.....	3
Job Seekers' Seminar.....	3
Children's Ministry.....	4
Children's Events.....	4
Sonshine Express.....	4
Awana.....	5
ESL.....	5
Missions.....	6
Library News.....	7
Thank You.....	8
In Memoriam.....	8
Rivergate Invitation.....	8

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY



There are moments in life that can change you forever. Kelly and I got to experience one of those moments in 2000 when we attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Bavaria; neither of us had previously spent such a concentrated, artistically stimulating and spiritually challenging time focused on Jesus' death and resurrection – it is powerful.

The Passion Play Story: A Promise Kept Through the Ages.

“In 1633 the Black Plague swept through Europe leaving in its wake untold misery, panic and hunger. In a

small village nestled amidst Germany's Bavarian Alps, the townspeople of Oberammergau made a solemn vow to God that if they were spared from this plague they would present a day-long play every 10 years depicting the last week in the life of Christ. Since the first play was performed in 1634, the villagers have kept their promise and will again present their Passion Play Masterpiece in 2010.”

Kelly and I are excited to offer you some moments like ours as the 2010 Passion Play draws closer. We are hosting a trip to The Passion Play July 16-27, 2010. We will be touring the most historically significant cities in Italy, experiencing the beauty of Bavaria, including the Passion Play, and concluding our journey in the breathtaking city of Lucerne, Switzerland. We anticipate an adventure where we all grow spiritually, connect with history and have a lot of fun in the process. Make plans now to join us and let's share some moments that could change us forever. Brochures about this trip are available on the information counter. Please contact either Cindy Berger, administrative assistant or me at Mountain Park Church.

Gregg Borrer

Senior Pastor



MPC Offices and facilities
will be closed

Monday, September 7
in observance of Labor Day



FAMILY NEWS

VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS: Earl & Sandy Wilson



Earl and Sandy Wilson just celebrated their 50th anniversary. They were high school sweethearts in Nyssa, OR and got married in 1959. They both began their post secondary education at Multnomah School of the Bible, where Earl graduated with a bachelor's in Theology and Sandy received a diploma in Bible. They moved to Eugene for grad school, where Earl earned his Master's in Counseling and a Ph.D. in Counseling/Psychology at the University of Oregon. Sandy worked at Weyerhaeuser and in 1964, they adopted their first child, Marcie, when she was six weeks old. Earl's first job out of grad school was in Pocatello, ID where he was a counselor in the counseling and testing center at Idaho State University. Here, in 1965, they adopted their 2nd child – a baby boy, Mark, only 18 days old. Two years later, they moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where Earl was a professor at the university, training professional

counselors, for ten years. In 1968, they adopted their third child Michael. One day, while reading an InterVarsity publication, Earl noticed that a replacement was needed for a counselor at the National University for Teacher Education in Iran. Off they went for a one year leave of absence! There, they adopted Melissa, their first Persian daughter. They returned to Lincoln, NE and in 1975, they got the last of their five children, a second Persian daughter they named Michelle.

In 1977, they moved back to Oregon and Earl taught in the doctoral program at Western Seminary for five years. They first came to MPC in 1978 because Bob Westgate was recommended to them. They have stayed here ever since because of the people. They feel connected to the body here, supported in their ministries and appreciative of the freedom they feel to come and go as necessitated by their ministry schedules. They have co-taught adult Sunday school classes, and Sandy was briefly the head of Women's Ministries and directed the Lay Counseling program for a time. Earl continues to lead the Men's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. In 1984, Sandy went to Multnomah School of the Bible, and graduated with a BS in Biblical Studies. She received her Masters in Counseling from Western Seminary. She then went to work for Western, where she taught counseling, and in 1989 became director of counseling. In 1998, she received a doctorate in ministry from Denver Seminary and in 2005, she retired.

It was in 1989 that Earl's "moral failures" came to light. With honesty and the help of counseling, accountability partners and a spiritual care team, Earl got his life back and then their marriage healed.

In 2002, Tuff Stuff Ministries was born. In this ministry, Earl and Sandy help others deal with sexual temptation, moral failure, betrayal, and broken relationships (family, friends, church, and more) by using three key components: prevention, intervention and restoration. In 2004, Earl had his first conference for Christian leaders, entitled "Steering Clear." Sandy has since created a women's conference dealing with the same issues, "Betrayal Redeemed." They are currently traveling for speaking engagements, where they teach on the impact of pornography. They both do counseling part time now in their own business, Wilson Counseling Services, where they specialize in sexual addiction. The Wilson's are believers who learned from the heartache of their own experience and share with others who are headed down the same dangerous pathway. We are grateful to both of them for their transparency and their willingness to help others avoid the pain they have been through...and to heal from it.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

MEN'S WORK DAY

A Fall Clean-Up Day has been scheduled for Saturday, September 12. We will work from 8:30 AM to 12 PM, with a BBQ at noon to reward your hard work! If you would like to be a part of this event please contact Ralph Lohman at the church office at 503-635-3443.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

IT'S EASY! IT'S CONVENIENT! IT'S FUN! AND IT WORKS!

Here's a great way for you to help our scholarship program and help fund our Bible study childcare without costing you anything. You buy gift cards and Women's Ministries gets a percentage of the costs. We made over \$800 for our scholarship fund last year! We'd like to double that this year to \$1,600.

Consider the places you spend money for food, clothes, sports equipment, toys, office supplies, fix-it items for your home, car washes, movies or restaurants. Chances are we have gift cards for those very places. Forms are on the Information Rack in the lobby. Check them out.

We're now setting up a regular schedule for orders, beginning September 20th. Orders will be sent in on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month until June and once a month during the summer. We'll be in the Lobby on the dates below to collect your forms and money.

If you have any questions, please call Kathleen Lofstrand at 503-313-7873 or leave a message at the church office.

Remember, you don't pay for anything you wouldn't spend anyway, so please support our Ministry.

DATES TO TURN IN YOUR GIFT CARD ORDERS:

September 20	January 3	April 4
October 4	January 17	April 11
October 18	February 7	May 2
November 1	February 21	May 16
November 15	March 7	June 6
December 6	March 14	
December 15		

Tue. Morning Women's Bible Study

Opening Brunch

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 9:15 AM

Family Center Fireside Room

Wed. Evening Women's Bible Study

Opening Potluck

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6 PM

Family Center Fireside Room

JOB SEEKERS' SEMINAR

ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS!

The kids are heading back to school and now it's time concentrate on you! Start by attending this job seekers' seminar that will help you be on the right track to securing a new and great job opportunity. Michelle Best is the Manager at AppleOne and has been helping people find jobs at AppleOne for over 14 years. She has given two previous seminars here at Mountain Park Church and has had excellent feedback. Previous attendees have mentioned how helpful this seminar is. You will leave with some booklets full of valuable information that will not only help you with finding job opportunities but will also help with having a successful interview, setting up your resume, etc.

If you are not looking for a job but know someone who is, please tell them about this great seminar. The seminar is free but please RSVP at mbest@appleone.com. Refreshments will be served. Please bring your resume. Join us in the Mountain Perk Café on Monday, September 28, at 9:30 AM.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SEPTEMBER Events Calendar

Thursday, Sept. 3

Awana New Leader training,
6:30 PM, Room 112

Sunday, Sept. 6

Family Worship for 1st-5th graders,
11 AM

Labor Day Barbecue,
12:15 PM

Thursday, Sept. 10

Awana ALL Leader training
6:30 PM, Room 209

Sunday, Sept. 13

PROMOTION SUNDAY!
Bring your registration cards &
come to your new classroom!

Thursday, Sept. 17

First Awana Club night
6:30 PM, Gym

Thursday, Sept. 24

Awana, 6:30 PM, Gym

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 13TH!

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men."*

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Like Noah, who came to the adventure of a lifetime on the Ark by faith and obedience, through trust and hard work, I am praying for God's intervention in the staffing needs of the Children's Ministry Department. While we make some revisions to the staffing rotation, classroom assignments, and curriculum, please ask for God's provision in bringing strong men and women who hear the call and know that nothing transforms a young life more than building a relationship with Him! Can you answer His call to teach a class or be a secondary helper? How about adding your name to the Substitute list? Fun positions for teens are available on a rotational basis as well. Everyone with a heart for children is welcome, and all commitments are invaluable as we strive to serve Him first and foremost! Please call Mary Adams or Carolyn in the office for more information. A display of our curriculum for both hours, provided in a teacher and student friendly format by Gospel Light Publishers, will be available for preview in the Lobby. Please come by, ask questions, and sign up. Our students are depending upon you! Parents, registration packets should be arriving in your mail this week. Please complete your child's registration card, return it/them to the office as soon as possible, or bring all pertinent forms with you on Promotion Sunday, September 13.

Mary Adams

Interim Children's Ministry Director

SONSHINE EXPRESS PRESCHOOL



Getting your child into a good preschool program is important in helping your child learn skills that will make their transition into the first grade a smooth one. Even more important is equipping your child with valuable lessons on who they are in Christ – lessons that will stay with them for their entire life. By enrolling your child in the Sunshine Express Preschool, you will be giving them an enormous head start in their introduction into the primary school systems, both private and public.

Patty Hottmann is the founder of Sunshine Express Preschool and has been the school's director since its inception 27 years ago. The school is for 2-year olds through kindergarten and focuses on a spiritual, scholastic and social approach to a child's early education.

The school is presently accepting applications for registration. There will be a Parent Information Night on Wednesday, September 9, at 7 PM. School will start on Monday, September 14. If you are interested in enrolling your child or know someone who might be interested, you can call Patty at 503-635-3761 to set up an appointment for a tour of the classrooms.

AWANA

WHY AM I INVOLVED IN AWANA?

A.W. Tozer wrote “It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he does it.” So why do I do Awana?

The simple answer is because Awana brings together my passions for knowing and serving the Lord, for inviting everyone in the world to follow Jesus with me, and uses my skills of organizing, teaching, and connecting with people to build an effective Awana program which meets many of the needs of all who are touched by it. These are needs of both kids and staff for belonging in a caring atmosphere, for doing something that is worthwhile, for growing in relationship with God.

Being the Commander is too big a responsibility to be done in my own strength and wisdom. It forces me to get my marching orders from the Lord and to trust Him to work in the lives of kids and adults to give them the desire to grow and serve in Awana. It is very humbling as I don't always do it right, but God comes through. Hallelujah!

At this time of year I feel like I am working to put together the pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle, building the staff, talking with kids, encouraging church members to think about kids to invite who would benefit from Awana (neighbors, friends, grandchildren, etc.) This is such a privilege, and one that sometimes moves me to tears to experience God's hand guiding the pieces into just the right places to build the structure. I see God orchestrating in the people I talk with and the timing of those conversations with me or with other Awana participants. I call it “God's nudges,” which get more persistent if I don't contact that person right away. Sometimes I can predict the result, but often I can't. I love the surprises. And I love to hear how God is working in people's lives, whether they can participate in Awana, or if He has other plans for them.

I am thankful that our church offers Awana because it is an ideal way to grow kids who know, love and serve the Lord. It isn't just kids who benefit. It's their families and friends who notice a difference in their lives. God also uses Awana to grow us adults who serve. In the second grade handbook for Sparks Club, there is a vivid graphic of what the future holds. Seeing the 6 steps with a Scripture from Revelation and a picture for each, clarified these future events for me. I am excited that Jesus really is coming again. I can share that hope whenever I work with a child on that section.

Why am I involved in Awana? Because kids matter to God. And we're all just His kids.

Cynthia Kenyon
Awana Commander

ESL

THURSDAY NIGHT ADULT ESL CLASS

This class is designed for adults at all levels of English who want to improve their skills by learning more about the Bible. A new team is forming to lead it. Contact Cynthia Kenyon at 503-245-2299 for more details about enrollment or to join the leadership team. Class starts September 17th. Children can enroll in Awana at the same time.

MISSIONS

SUMMER '09 MISSION TRIPS



This past summer, two MPC college students, Conner McCroskey and Hannah Stephenson, spent a part of their vacations as members of mission teams working in Thailand and Dubai, respectively.

Conner returned to Thailand for the third time as a part of Westside Christian High School's Westside Outside program. He writes, "While in Thailand our team was able to teach English for a week at the local school. This brought us into contact with over 2,000 Thai kids. It was rewarding to see Thai kids learning some English and then attempting to stumble through 'Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes' as our team yelled, 'faster' at the end of every cycle.

"Towards the end of our stay we traveled to outlying village schools, handed out clothes, and fed all the kids lunch. This was one of my favorite times during the trip, because I was able to interact with kids who are considered poor by a country that is poor.

"But for most of the trip we were simply living with the forty Thai kids at the Grace Ministries Home. Our team played volleyball, soccer, swam, ate meals

with them, and occasionally, when it was too hot to sleep in our separate rooms, we all crammed into the hall and talked until we fell asleep. Relationship building is difficult, because of the language barrier, but in the end it was rewarding beyond words. I learned that to understand a person's heart, words are not always necessary. To see a girl who one month ago was almost raped, and who would not look anyone in the eye when we first arrived, laughing and playing by the end of the trip and crying as we left is something only Christ can accomplish.

"I have had the opportunity to see how poverty, homosexuality, and witchcraft cripple a society, and at the same time how Christ's love has the power to rebuild the most broken of lives. As I interacted with the kids I realized that this is what truly makes me come alive. I have learned so much from my visits. Most importantly I have seen Christ take kids who have never known love, open up their lives to a love that is far greater than any person could offer."

Watch The View for the next installment of Missions '09, "*Summer In Dubai*", featuring Hannah Stephenson.

The Missions Committee is pleased that Mountain Park Church was able to have had a small partnership with both of these young people in their summer of service.

MARK 2 MINISTRIES

On Friday, September 18, from 7 to 8:30 PM, Mark 2 Ministries will be hosting ***A Night at the Improv***, a fundraiser at Mountain Park Church. The event will feature entertainment from The Random Access Comedy Troupe. Dessert buffet and beverages are provided. Admission is free.

This will be an opportunity for you to support the ongoing work of Mark 2 Ministries, Inc. through an offering and through pledges of support.

For more information about this event or to RSVP, contact Carol Faris at carol.faris@comcast.net or by calling her at 503-639-6660.

FALL EVENTS



Fall always seems to be a time for families to get “geared” up, and the church family is no exception. There are two events I wanted to briefly remind the “family” about. First is the **Small Group Leaders’ Seminar** coming up on Saturday, September 26. Tami Rudkin, co-founder of Heartbeat Ministries, will be here to help both our current small group leaders, as well as those interested in becoming small group leaders, to discover technique, inspiration and encouragement that will assist you in developing and maintaining small groups that positively impact the lives of people. This will take place here at Mountain Park Church from 9:00am to 3:00pm, with lunch provided.

Please attend this very important event! Brochures will be available with further information starting Sunday, August 30.

On a related note, we’re looking into launching the **Live Like You Were Dying** study as a 5 week church-wide series beginning the first week in October. This would potentially include all home groups, community groups, and what goes on in the main church service Sunday mornings. It’s a campaign that takes the deepest needs of people and the truth of scripture, and brings it all together during a focused period of time for spiritual transformation. The Bible teaches that we’re not guaranteed tomorrow, so how should we live? The *Live Like You Were Dying* campaign effectively addresses this very issue. Those attending the above mentioned Small Group Leaders’ Seminar will benefit greatly toward leading a series such as this!

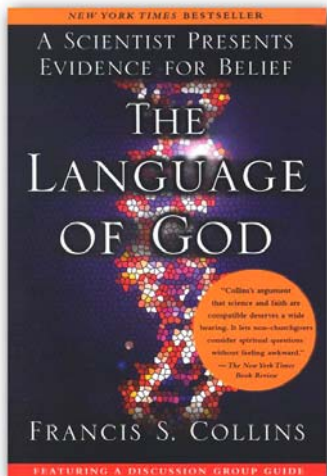
The second event I wanted to remind you about is the **Men’s Retreat**, which will be taking place from October 9 - 11 at the Canon Beach Conference Center. This should prove to be a memorable weekend, as Dr. Gerry Breshears leads us in topics relevant to all of us for the times we are currently facing. Gerry, among many other things, has been professor of theology at Western Seminary since 1980. He is co-author of *Vintage Jesus*, *Death by Love*, and *Vintage Church* with mark Driscoll. The weekend will also be adorned with lots of fun planned activities, great food, and awesome fellowship! Please SAVE this date on your calendars. Sign-ups will be starting soon. Plan on a great weekend geared for filling up your soul with things that matter!

See you there!

Steve West

Pastor of Adult Ministries and Worship Arts

LIBRARY NEWS



Book Discussion:
The Language of God

Sunday, Sept. 13

7 - 8:30 PM

Mountain Perk Café

Discussion Leaders:
Walk Gabler & Jerry North

THANK YOU

Jim & Anne Campbell

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, but even more, we thank you for your prayers for Jim regarding his shoulder reconstruction surgery. His recovery has progressed very smoothly. We know it is due to your intercession and our Father's gracious healing.

IN MEMORIAM

John Waalkes

(Ron Waalkes' father)
August 4

Harry Gustafson

(Charter MPC Member)
August 12

RIVERGATE CHURCH

REDEDICATION

Rivergate is having a celebration of what the Lord has done at our church, as well as what we hope to do in the future. We've been able to make significant improvements to the facility to make it welcoming to all and more functional for the next 50-60 years. We've had a new furnace installed, electrical updated, new siding, paint and gutters as well as the big project of a lift to make the building handicapped accessible. We want to celebrate the Lord's faithfulness as well as those who have supported the church for so many years. Anyone is welcome to come! It will be Sunday, September 27 at 1 PM with lunch followed by a celebration service. The church is located at 4737 N Lombard in Portland. Please RSVP to 503-285-3138 so we can plan for food.

Blessings,
Carren Woods, Pastor

P.S. Thank you for the school supplies! We deeply appreciate the support and it's a big encouragement to families in the neighborhood as well. If folks have not purchased supplies yet, we really could use more: markers and crayons, scissors, glue and tape, pencil boxes and backpacks. We do not need anymore spiral notebooks or paper.



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www.mtnparkchurch.org