

**Washington
Plaza
Baptist Church**

**Rev. Elizabeth
Evans Hagan,
Pastor**

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- **Hypothermia
2012**
- **"Congratulations,
You're Gifted"
class**
- **Friday Night Din-
ners**
- **Epiphany Services**
- **Grief Study**
- **Voice of the Mod-
erator**
- **2012 Church In-
tentions**
- **News from Your
Deacons**
- **Chad & Ellie
Surekla Update**
- **Worship Leaders
for January and
February**

**Where you find
Pastor Elizabeth:**

- ◆ **Mon-Weds = in
office**
- ◆ **Thursday =
day off**
- ◆ **Friday = ser-
mon prep at
home**

Cutting Edge

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JAN-FEB 2012

The Pastor's Pen



Happy New Year! Recently I shared these thoughts in our annual "State of the Church" address—both what makes me happy about the past year that we've completed together and what we all need to look forward to in the year ahead.

I am proud to be the pastor of a church who welcomes people. Washington Plaza is never a place to come where your doubts or questions will be trivialized -- which never ceases to amaze me, even after all this time. Though the faces may change in worship, the spirit of Washington Plaza has stayed the same throughout. "There's something in the air here," a recent visitor told me, "I just knew I felt welcomed and loved just as I was from the moment I first walked in the doors."

In the same way, I am proud of our growth in intentional Interfaith partnerships. 2011 was a great year of learning more about Israel and Palestine from an Interfaith perspective and getting out in the community and talking to our neighbors of other faiths through discussion groups, special programs or shared mission projects.

I am proud to be the pastor of a church that is willing to try, start and embrace new traditions. We've done a lot of work in the past year as a Church Council and in particular the worship ministry to make the high holy times of the Christian calendar to be special spiritually focused events for all of us.

So, what does this mean for us as we look toward strengthening the state of our church in 2012?

It would be easy for me at this point to talk numbers -- to say that we need to start more Sunday School classes for children or offer more community welcoming Bible studies or give more money for our building fund or that we need to be together more often than Sunday mornings if we are going to grow in fellowship with one another.

And, even if all of this is true (and it is), such specific topics and goal oriented numbers would really cut short the blessings of what it means to be a baptized body of believers called the church at Washington Plaza if we don't start with first things first.

So, this is my charge to you as a church. Are you ready? Live into your baptism. Simply live into it. For some of you this means actually being baptized for the first time. For some of you, living into your baptism means moving from a "spiritual" person to a "faith-filled" person. Rather than being a compliant participant in the unseen things of this world, I challenge you to be a facilitator of faith. Move from responding to God questions to asking God questions of others, move from showing up when you are asked at church to volunteering to serve at church, and move this day from praying in crisis mode to praying with an eye on the future mode.

As a community baptized in Jesus' high calling of discipleship, there's much work ahead of us, but also much joy! So, in the name of the one that we were baptized—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—let's get to it!

Pastor Elizabeth

Every Person Involved at Washington Plaza

Some opportunities for fellowship, service and learning at church this month and the near future.

Next Hypothermia Project
February 12

WPBC is repeating the service we did last year in providing an evening meal and bagged lunches one day a month: Sunday February 12 and Saturday, March 31, 2012. Yes, even in one of the richest counties in America, there are homeless who need our help!

On these dates, we will meet at the church at 4PM to make 40 bag lunches to deliver to the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston for the following day's meal, along with taking a dinner meal to the homeless at the Government Center at 5:30PM. We'll serve dinner at 6PM and stay to cleanup until 7PM. It is a great opportunity to get to know new friends and share God's love in our community. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Nancy Mohl at 703-938-0412.



January's project was a great success! Thank you to all that participated: Kirby Yarbrough, Rainy Barsella, Mary and Peter King, Darrill Anderson, Leah and Michelle Garcia-Brown, Janine & Janie Mohl, Kevin Hagan, Nancy Mohl, Mary Mass and Yvette and Alexis Spans.

"Congratulations, You're Gifted" class



Beginning Sunday, January 15th and continuing through Sunday, January 29th Pastor Elizabeth will be teaching the Bible Class at 9:30 am on the topic of "Congratulations, You're Gifted!" It will be a three-part series focusing our attention on the spiritual gifts that God gives each of us. If you know what your spiritual gifts are or have studied them before or have no idea what this is, this class is for you. All Church Council Members are strongly encouraged to attend.

WPBC Friday Night Dinner Mini Retreat

Friday Jan 27th 6:30pm

We'll gather at 6:30 pm for a Chili Cook-off with all the fixins' . Volunteers are needed to help with the set-up and clean-up. Consider making a small donation to cover plates, napkins, beverages and dessert if you are attending but not cooking. Remember to put **"Hospitality"** on the envelope or check memo line.



We will welcome special guest, Beth Dotson from Chattanooga, TN who will lead a session of "Congratulations, You're Gifted" as an extension of the Sunday morning discussion. Beth, is currently the Director of Client Services at Channels of Love, an AIDS outreach ministry and serves alongside her husband Danny, in the summers as a leader of the Son Servants Youth Camp ministry. Beth has known Pastor Elizabeth for over 15 years as her teacher in high school and co-leader on mission trips. Our pastor knows first hand that you will be blessed to learn from Beth.

Everyone will leave knowing what their spiritual gifts for ministry with confidence to begin to use them for the good. Childcare will be provided if we know you are coming.

Worship in Epiphany



God Calls You

When we talk about who is welcome at Washington Plaza, a phrase we often use is "whosoever means you" which is a way of saying that we are a church where all people are welcomed. But, what about us, who are already here? What does God call us to do? Throughout the season of Epiphany or the season otherwise known as "revelation," we'll be uncovering together aspects of what God calling us looks like for each of us. We'll consider how every Christian has been given particular gifts in our special Bible study classes on Sunday mornings and during our Friday night dinner in January. The hope for this "God Calls You" series is that each friend of Washington Plaza Baptist will come to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all our might and to love our neighbors as ourselves, just as Jesus commanded us to.

| Date | Scripture Text (s) | Topic and Sermon Title |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|
| Jan 15 | I Corinthians 6:11-20 | God Calls You to Take Care of Yourself |
| Jan 22 | Jonah 3:1-5 | God Calls You to "Those" People |
| Jan 29 | I Samuel 3:1-10 | God Calls You to See What Others Don't |
| Feb 5 | Isaiah 40:21-31 | God Calls You to Renewal |
| Feb 12 | 2 Kings 5:1-4; Mark 1:40-45 | God Calls You to be Well |
| Feb 19 | Isaiah 43:18-25 | God Calls You to Get Creative |

Sowing Tears, Reaping Joy, the Bible and Brahms's German Requiem—New Class Beginning Soon!

Loss seems to come with living, and loss forms the basis of the greatest challenges to faith as we grieve that which is no more. Although loss comes in a variety of forms (job, health, finances, etc), death is its prototypical form. It is a form we all face in actuality or expectation. It is thus not surprising that it became focused in the liturgical form of the requiem. The *German Requiem*, which Brahms himself suggested that he might better have titled "the Human Requiem", is the focus for an exploration in music and scripture of Paul's exhortation not to "grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). I hope that we can join and share and grow, personally and theologically, through this study.

Each session is approximately 90 minutes long with the time divided about equally among study of Scripture, discussion, and music. The sessions, each of which is keyed to one movement of the *Requiem*, are:

1. February 1: Blessed Mourners—Matthew 5:1-12 and Psalm 126
2. February 8: Fading Flowers—1 Peter 1:1-25, Isaiah 40:1-11, James 5:1-11, and Isaiah 35:1-10
- February 15: We have to be Carefully Taught—Psalm 39 and Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
BREAK for Ash Wednesday
4. February 29: A Glimpse of Glory—Psalm 84
5. March 7: A Mother's Comfort—John 16:16-23, Isaiah 66:6-13, and Ecclesiasticus 51:13-30
6. March 14: Our Heart's True Home—Hebrews 13:7-16, I Corinthians 15:51-57 and Revelation 4:1-11
- March 21: The Last Word—Revelation 14:13-20

We gather at 7:00 p.m. and conclude before 9:00 p.m. Please consider joining and learning together. Study guide for the course are \$13.00 each.

Richard Williams

Voice of the Moderator



It is an exciting time for our Church as we turn the corner and head into 2012. Our new council members and ministry volunteer line-up will undoubtedly bring fresh perspectives and essential energy to carry out the Church's 2012 "Intentions." I look forward to working with this new team to achieve our intended results under "...the guidance of the Holy Spirit and Holy Scripture" (WPBC Constitution and By-Laws, Article III (c)). Likewise, as your moderator I look forward to supporting this wonderful congregation and our hard working Pastor. I thank the outgoing Moderator, Ernie Brunson, for his continued leadership and mentorship. His final efforts helped position the 2012 Church Council to achieve successful results. Likewise, the 2011 Church Council and the Pastor did a superb job identifying and negotiating the Church's "2012 Intentions." If you have not read these "intentions," then I encourage reading them (see below).

When I look around the Church I see much noteworthy activity that supports spiritual development, local ministries, and essential business management functions. That being said, the latter is crucial to support the preceding efforts. Therefore, I thank David Rickert for his eleven years of financial leadership and oversight of the Church's budget. Additional thanks also to Tom Pigg for his continued effort to significantly improve the Church's financial management processes and systems. So with a balanced budget, outlined intentions, and new council and ministry leadership, I am excited as the new Moderator to help usher in the New Year for our Church.

With Regards — *Craig*

2012 Church Intentions—Approved at Dec 2011 Annual Meeting

First Quarter: January, February and March

In worship: State of the Church Address, New Member Recognition, Season of Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent
 Spiritual Gift Emphasis: special Sunday School classes in January, Friday night dinner (January 27th)
 Outdoor workday with 20 participants TBA
 Three Hypothermia Dinners for Homeless
 Lent Spiritual Study (Wednesday nights) on Grief led by Richard Williams

Second Quarter: April, May, and June

In worship: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost Sunday & Congregation Appreciation Day
 Friday night Testimonial dinner TBA
 Participate in Fairfax and/or Washington, D.C. Pride Day
 Church Workday: Painting focus with 25 participants
 Two-day congregation retreat (Topic TBD)

Third Quarter: July, August and September

In worship: Possible Creative Worship Emphasis in July
 Friday night Pastor Conversation dinner
 Summer Children's activity- Time and length TBA
 Contemporary music concert (outside artist) in sanctuary (plan for 100)
 Pastor to lead Spiritual Study weeknight -- Time and length TBA

Fourth Quarter: October, November, December

In worship: Homecoming, Stewardship Month, All Saints' Day, Advent
 Friday night family game night dinner
 Stewardship Events in homes and in Sunday services
 (to increase 2013 pledge giving by 10 % above 2012 pledge giving)
 Christmas Concert in sanctuary (plan for 100)
 Fall outdoor workday with 30 people

News from Your Deacons



It been a little over a year since the deaconate was re-established at WPBC, and thus it is an appropriate time to update you on what we have been doing and plan to do. You installed Rainy Barsella, Leomia Brunson, Kevin Hagen, Don Mohl, Shirley Rees, Carolyn Rieth, and Jeffrey Thigpen as deacons; personal commitments prevented Jeffrey from continuing active service, and Richard Williams agreed to serve in his stead at mid-year.

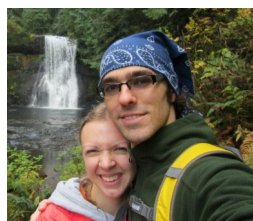
First and foremost we are all committed to our role as helpers to the congregation and the church. It has been our goal not to be noticed, but rather to quietly walk among you and provide support as needed. We see our primary task as being there for each of you in all the seasons of your life. It is this role that has motivated us to undertake a year long study of pastoral care and spiritual direction using Jean Stairs' book, Listening for the Soul. The study has added depth to our ministry which we hope to grow into fullness in the coming year.

As the first step in this we have begun the practice of "shut-in" communion. Each of us who has participated has been moved and sensed joy in the expansion of fellowship to those who are unable to join in our services. It is this area-strengthening the ties that bind the WPBC community together-that will continue to be the focus of our ministry. It not our task to be substitutes for Pastor Elizabeth, but rather to be aids in ministry, tasked to insure that at no time does a need of this community go unmet. In this context, we encourage you to share with your deacon who stands ready either to directly help, or to seek spiritual or physical help as needed; for we believe that each one of you is most precious to God and WPBC.

--Don Mohl and Richard Williams, co-chairs

Note from Chad & Ellie Surckla

Dear WPBC family,



We received the most wonderful Christmas card in the mail from all of you just yesterday. It was such a beautiful surprise. We think of all of you often and how glad we are that our paths crossed.

We are doing pretty well here in Oregon. Chad's working as an RN for a home health agency. The first few months were tough since this position is so different from his work at the hospital, but he is starting to feel more comfortable with it at this point. I am working as an assistant in a Special Ed class again and I am just loving it!

Along with our jobs, we are keeping really busy exploring the natural beauty out here! We are also buying a house. We are still going through the tedious process of the loan, but hopefully we will be closing on January 9th. Even though we have met lots of wonderful people out here, we still hold a special place in our hearts for our family at WPBC. We just wish there was a way to move the entire church—people and all—here. That would make this place just perfect! Please keep us in your prayers and maybe send a special prayer for us that this house will be ours soon—we're getting a little stressed with this process!

We love and miss you all- Ellie & Chad

Address: Chad & Ellie Surckla
2435 Trade Street SE Salem OR 97301

Church Weekly Ministries

Sunday:

Adult Bible Study.....9:30-10:30 a.m.
Contact David Rickert
 English (ESL) Class [P]..... Winter hours 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Contact Nancy Davis
 Space Use-Community of All People [P].....4:00-5:30 p.m.
Contact: Rev. Mary Barrino-Smith
 Space Use-Iglesia Church [P].....6:00-8:00 p.m.
Contact: Rev. Nelzar Gallo

Monday:

Choir Practice [S].....7:00-9:00 p.m.
Contact Ken Williamson

Wednesday:

Noon AA.....12:15-1:15 p.m.
 English (ESL) Class.....2:00-3:30 p.m.
Contact Nancy Davis
 Evening AA.....5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Evening AA.....7:00-8:00 p.m.
 Evening AA.....8:30-9:30 p.m.

Thursday:

English (ESL) Class.....7:00-8:30 p.m.
Contact Nancy Davis

Friday:

Space Use: Iglesia Church Music rehearsal.....7:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday:

Alanon.....8:00-9:15 a.m.
 Noon AA.....12:15-1:15 p.m.
 Space Use: Iglesia Church Music lessons.....2:30-3:30 p.m.
 Space Use-Iglesia Church [P].....6:00-8:00 p.m.

Key: [P] = Plaza Room; [S] = Sanctuary

Worship Leaders

YOU ARE NEEDED!!!! Please sign up in foyer.

Jan 15

Usher: Bobby Jack Hopson
Usher: Brad Stooksbury
Liturgist: Ernie Brunson
Scripture: Kirby Yarbrough
Altar: Thelma Calbert

Jan 22

Usher: Nancy Davis
Usher: Jane Tatum
Liturgist: TBD
Scripture: TBD
Altar: Shirley Rees

Jan 29

Usher: Ernie Brunson
Usher: Mary Mass
Liturgist: Don Mohl
Scripture: Janine Mohl
Altar: Nancy Mohl

Feb 05

Usher: Barbara Schipper
Usher: TBD
Liturgist: Kevin Hagan
Scripture: Joan Sandvik
Altar: TBD

Feb 12

Usher: Cindy Fretwell
Usher: Kevin Hagan
Liturgist: TBD
Scripture: Don Mohl
Altar: TBD

Washington Plaza Baptist Church

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