

Church of a Thousand Trees



With Deepest Gratitude

Between the two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, two of our Deacons called Leisa and me into my study. They had a matter to bring up to us. We sat down, wondering what might be on their minds. They then gave us a Christmas card and a little box. They said that this was from our congregation and that our congregation loved us very, very much. The generous gift inside the box nearly knocked my socks off! Deepest gratitude to all of you who participated in the gift. It meant more to us than you could ever know. Thank you. With much love, Tim.

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A New Beginning CD by Blaine Lee

Many of us have been greatly moved by Blaine Lee when he has blessed us with solos during our worship services. Last summer Blaine recorded a CD, using our social hall, sanctuary, and narthex as his studio. The new CD is complete now and available should anyone wish to order one. The CD is entitled "A New Beginning." It is available to download on iTunes. It is also available online at: www.cdbaby.com. The website describes it as: "The anticipated first CD featuring Opera arias, English and French Art Songs, and German Lieder sung by the expressive, lyric tenor, accompanied by small ensembles and piano." Blaine refers to himself as a: "public school teacher, private teacher, recordist, tenor, pianist, organist, guitarist, woodwork hobbyist, bicyclist, walker, fix-the-kitchen-sink-er, burn the garbagist, feed the dog-ist."

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Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, January 25th. We will have a church potluck lunch in the social hall and convene our meeting after everyone is well-fed. We hope you will put this on your calendar and plan to stay. It is important that as many members as possible can make this meeting.

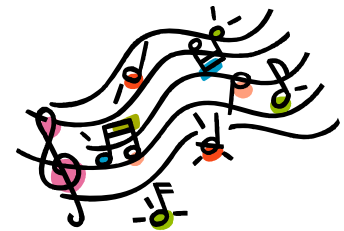
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Session Retreat

The Session will hold its Retreat on Saturday, January 10th, at the church. It will begin at 9:30am and end around 2:30pm. Lunch will be provided. We need to have all the session members present. This will be our planning and dreaming meeting for the coming year.

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Senior High Youth All Nighter

There will be a youth event in Anchorage on Sunday night, January 18th. There is no school on the 19th, so there is a lock-in at the Alaska Club on Tudor. This event is planned by Daulton Morock from First Presbyterian Church in Wasilla, along with other youth pastors in Anchorage. It will cost \$20.00 for the evening. Times will be announced. It will start in the evening and end early morning. We will arrange car pools for those interested. Please let pastor Leisa know if you are interested. There is a pool, plus all the equipment in the club which will be available for our play! Invite your friends for a fun night!

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30 Hour Famine

On Friday, February 20th and 21st, the senior high youth group will participate in a 30-hour famine to raise money and awareness for world hunger. We will be participating with our neighbor church, First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla. High Schoolers, please put this event on your calendar. The location of the event is yet to be determined, but it will be nearby. The 30 hours will be filled with activities related to hunger. We will do service projects, worship together and play games all related to hunger. More information is coming!

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"Strike the Pose"

Work has begun on the new church directory. This is a great tool that helps us to keep connected with members of our church family. The directory provides addresses, phone numbers and pictures. It is a great way to "put the face with the name". You do not have to be a member to be in the directory. We'd like for everyone to be represented.

If you've had an address, phone number (including cell phones) or email address change in 2008, please give Luz a call. Otherwise, we will be using the information that we have on our database.

Generally, the most time consuming task is getting everyone's picture for the directory. There are people taking pictures after the worship service. If you already have a family picture, you can send it to us by email. The church email address is upchurch@mtaonline.net. We can accept pictures that are in jpeg format. You can also bring in the chip from your digital camera and Luz can load that onto our computer. Please call Luz, 745-3822, to arrange a time to drop of the camera chip, as this is not something that can be done after church.

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Women's Retreat

There is nothing planned for a Women's Retreat this year. If some women want to get together and plan something, that would be great! Leisa will be in an out during the month of January, but she can also advise and help out.

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Ladies Book Club

This month's selection is Quaker Summer by Lisa Samson. Meeting time and place TBA.

Birthdays

Jim Colver	1/1	Marilyn Mapes	1/14
Cedar Rozzi	1/1	John Rozzi	1/22
Kris McCune	1/2	Leeann Dodds	1/25
Vic Fondy	1/3	Nathan Porcello	1/25
Sarah Krug	1/8	Lawrence Stanton	1/27
Joe Behm	1/10	Alice LaRue	1/28
Holly Corbin	1/12	Gayle Rowland	1/29
Brooke Isborn	1/14	Matthew Behm	1/31

Anniversaries

Alice LaRue	1/03
Rolf & Lilly Dagg	1/8
Ben & Muriel Wattum	1/17
Sevard & Sandra Wagenius	1/19
Les & Mary Jane Klebesadel	1/22
Jerry & Carla Cunnington	1/31

From Your Deacons

Happy New Year to you all from your Board of Deacons. We thank Sevard Wagenius and Sally Koppenberg for their service on the board over the past few years, and welcome Howard Burger and Kathleen Yerbich who now join us for the next three years. Over the past year we provided support to many organizations, including Family Promise, Hospice, and the Palmer Food Bank locally and Ronald McDonald House, the Red Cross and Alongside Ministries which have a larger reach. Your contributions to our Deacon's Fund at the Christmas Eve services and throughout the year have made this work possible, and we thank you for your continued support.

This new year may prove challenging for many more people as our state and country face uncertain financial times. If you know of someone in our congregation or community that could use a caring contact please feel free to call the church office or one of us, and we will do our best to help them.

The deacon's freezer will be restocked with new food in the next week or so, so do take advantage of these meals for yourself, or a neighbor you know needs help. The bulletin board is being used and we encourage you to take a look at the things posted there, or post something of your own in the appropriate category.

We still have tote bags with a beautiful picture of our church stitched on them for sale. The cost is \$30.00, and all the proceeds from these sales will go directly to paying down the building fund loan. These make great gifts, so keep them in mind as birthdays you celebrate come around.

Once again, happy new year, and may God bless you, as we all work together to be Christ's body here in Palmer.

submitted by Barb Brown, President

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(Presbyterian) Church**

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Return Service Requested



**Worship Stewardship
January 2009**

1/4	Greeter:	Muriel & Ben Wattum
	Refreshments:	Muriel & Ben Wattum
	Nursery:	
	Communion Wash-up:	
1/11	Greeter:	Maria Benson
	Refreshments:	Nancy Macfarlane
	Nursery:	
1/18	Greeter:	Grace Christ
	Refreshments:	Rolf & Lilly Dagg
	Nursery:	
1/25	Greeter:	Gena Straayer
	Refreshments:	Gena Straayer & Dee Brown
	Nursery:	

Family Promise

As we ended the old year and began the new, we hosted two families (a total of 12 individuals) for Family Promise. One of the children commented to Dee Brown and told her that living in the church was just like living at a real home. Dee and Debbie Melton would like to thank all the volunteers who make this program a reality. There are many hands that have provided meals, made quilts to be used by the families, arranged and cleaned the rooms where the families sleep, washed laundry and served as hosts to the families. Thank you for being a blessing to these families.