summit avenue presbyterian church

Growing disciples in all generations by loving God, loving others, serving the world

SummitLife

April 2016

Vol 4 Issue 4

Of Seeds and Soil

On our way home from school today, we drove by a neighbor spreading a truckload of fresh garden soil in her yard and flower beds. "Oh!! Dirt!" I shouted. "I love spring and dirt and growing things!" My boys rolled their eyes at me. But, oh, how I love the richness of a good batch of garden soil! All that potential in a garden bed freshly planted with new seeds, vegetable starts, new life basking in the sun and ready to grow!

In his many parables, Jesus used the realm of soil and seeds, vines and branches, even fruit trees and manure to show us God's heart to grow beauty, grace and kingdom in this world and in every generation. This past year, the elders and I spent an hour or more each month at Session examining the soil, seeds, roots and branches of our ministries, contemplating what God might want to grow in and through us here at Summit in the coming years. The Office of Church Growth of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has provided us with a thoughtful and challenging resource to lead our discussion and guide our process. The "Starting New Initiatives: A Discernment Process" booklet has led us through a series of Bible study, prayer, and reflection about who we are as followers of Jesus, who we are as Summit Avenue Presbyterian, and who our neighbors are in Kitsap County and Navy Yard City. It has been powerful, insightful, and encouraging for all of us, and we are excited about the second phase of the process, which might just involve YOU!

Starting April 17, we are beginning an eight week "New Initiatives" group open to anyone – members, friends, new visitors - who would like to join us. Our goal is to gather at least 20% of our worship attendance; since we average 110-120 in worship each week, we're looking for 22-30 people, from all generations, backgrounds and perspectives, who will commit to come and be part of this discernment process. We'll meet most weeks from 9 am – 10 am in Robinson Fellowship Hall. One or two of the meetings will be longer so we will meet for dinner instead. Our time together will be spent in Bible study, prayer, discussion and thought-provoking "homework" that will ask us to look at our neighborhood, our community, and ourselves to listen for how God might want us to grow in mission and ministry in our city.

What shall we say the kingdom of God is like?
Mark 4:30

If you are inspired by the idea of digging into the soil of who we are as God's 21st century followers and growing in our mission and ministry to Kitsap County, we would love to have you join us! Please let us know by calling or emailing the office, or dropping a blue card in the offering place. If you need childcare, please let us know the ages of your children so we can prepare accordingly. We will print out booklets and have them available for all who wish to participate.

I'm eager to watch my neighbor's garden grow as I drive past her home in the coming months, and grow my own flowers and vegetables at home. I'm even more excited to see what the Holy Spirit grows in our hearts and in our church as we continue to follow Jesus together and participate with God to multiply his grace and goodness in the world.

Susie

Summit Life is a monthly publication of:

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Newsletter Articles are due at the church office the 3rd Monday of each month.

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Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am	Adult S.S Classes
9:00am	Brass Handbells
10:00am	Chancel Choir
10:30am	**Worship**
11:00am	Kids Sunday School
11:45am	Coffee Hour
3:00pm	Youth Group

Audio sermons available at www.summitave.net

Every Member a Minister

As Presbyterians, we believe God calls and equips all of us to serve and lead in the church. The following list of names is a reminder to those who have signed up to serve in the coming weeks. Like to be on this list? Give the office a call or mark a blue card with your name and how you'd like to help, and we'll contact you!

Communion

April 3 Bethany Nupen, John Lemm
Ruth Martin

Liturgist

April 3 Paul DuFresne
April 10 Jeannie Lemm
April 17 Nathan Perry
April 24 Griff Ames

Usher & Greeters

April 3 Joyce Hersch, Bud Taylor
Bethany Nupen, Bev Pratt,
April 10 Ken Davis, Aggie Schultheis
Sue Davis, Peggy Hitchcock
April 17 Sue Kela, Alison Bowling
John & Jeannie Lemm
April 24 Mike & Bev Kelly
Shannon & Jennifer Griffin

Time For Young Disciples

April 3 Bethany Nupen
April 10 Tineke Dahl
April 17 Tim Taylor
April 24 Pastor Susie Beil

Acolytes

April 3 Caleb Beil
April 10 Maxx Kelly
April 17 Evan Howell
April 24 Collin Beil

Organist

April 3 Len Guyt
April 10 Woody Bernas
April 17 Woody Bernas
April 24 Len Guyt

Hospitality Team

April 3 Jan Postel, Jerry Dick,
Midge Kettle, Margaret Lefevre
April 10 Joyce Gearhart, Wayne Jordheim James & Alonda Droege
April 17 Wallace & Julie Ross,
Sonia Turner, Beverly Pratt
April 24 Joyce Hersch, Marsha Kane,
Bethany Nupen, Sue Hall
May1 Tim & Jennifer Taylor,
Sue Hall, Alison Bowling
May 8 Judy Wieck, Audrey Robinson,
Chuck & Jean Feth
May 15 Aggie Schulthesis, Barb Stark,
Mary Urwin, Brain Henerson
May 22 Russ & Maxine Warren,
Mary Fischer, Delcea Wills

Feasting on the Word

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Preacher
April 3	Acts 5:27-32 John 20:19-31	"Peace Be With You, or The Elephant in The Room"	Rev. Jerry Benjamin
April 10	Acts 9:1-6 John 21:-19	"Phoning It In"	Elder Rick Chapman
April 17	Acts 9:36-43 John 10:22-30		Rev. Susie Beil
April 24	Acts 11:1-18 John 13:31-35		Rev. Susie Beil

2016 Youth Mission Auction

Over 100 people and more than $6,000 raised for our mission trip!

Thank You

To everyone that donated items, and all who came out to support the auction! Also to the dedicated auction committee and volunteers that worked so hard to put on this wonderful event!

Please Pray for our Team

SAPC
Collin Beil
Susie Beil
Emily Hamilton
Dennis Kurzrock
Ryan Nguyen
Nathan Perry
Alex Refilong
Teagan Taafe
Kathi Walker
Rick Walker

Northpoint Church
Jacob Anderson
Rebecca Lipscomb
James Peterson
Liam Ratcliffe

DOXA Director
Alex Knopes

Day 1- Travel
Day 2- Level Foundation
Day 3- Concrete Slab
Day 4- Framing
Day 5- Framing/Paint
Day 6- Paint
Day 7- Key Ceremony
Day 8- Travel

Other Prayer Requests
Safety
Health
Team Unity
Encountering God
Deepening Faith
Blessings for
DOXA Ministries'
Orphanage

Purpose

By Nathan Perry

Easter Is For Everyone

Prayer
When I was little my dad taught me to pray a simple prayer. It became part of our bedtime routine. So from a young age I was taught to believe in God and to daily pray to him. My family did not really go to church much. Especially after my parent's divorce. We were what some pastor's call CEO's. Christmas and Easter Only Christians. We hardly set foot in a church other than that. However, even from a young age of 7 years old, all the way through high school I prayed every night before going to bed. It was the one thing that stuck which I believe was the one thing that saved my life years later.

Doubt
I've always believed in God and I believe I can say I've always trusted he was good. I really respected and valued those who had any form of devotion to him. But around 18 years old I went through a season of intense doubt. I remember one day asking my brother if he believed in God and confiding in him about all my doubts. During this time I stopped praying. I stopped reading my Bible, which I hardly read or understood anyway. Religion did nothing for me and if there was a God, I did not know him.

Rejection
By the time I was about 20 I had pretty much rejected God, but something happened in my life that made me ask the question again. Is there a God? I remember praying again for the first time in a long time. It was a very real and honest prayer. Not verbally, but in my heart, I asked, "God if you are real I need you right now. And if you are real I will give you my life because I know I am made for you."

Journey
My biggest obstacle was I felt that if there was a God I wouldn't know where to begin to look for him. There were too many religions!? So I began with my roots. But I doubted that Jesus was even a real person. I thought he was like Santa Claus who was just a magical man that my parents said was real but later found wasn't. It was after reading a book similar to *The Case For Christ* by Lee Strobel that I started a very real journey. When I found that Jesus in fact was a real man who walked this earth I began to really weigh the implications of who he was, what he taught, and I began to wrestle with the purpose of his death and more importantly the reality of the resurrection.

Unconditional Love. Undeserved Grace
I spent most of my life feeling like I was not good enough. Feeling like I needed to earn approval, acceptance and love. Unknowingly I began to take this mindset into my relationship with God. I believed he was real but I was trying my best be accepted by him. I didn't know he loved me or even liked me. This created a deep sense of guilt and shame whenever I failed to live up to his standards. It was about a year after giving my life to Christ that a friend asked if I'd go to heaven when I died. I coughed up an answer like, "I think so." He asked why, and I stated that I was trying my best to be good, I went to church and I didn't do crazy stuff. His response was the biggest wake-up call of my life. He said, "If you could earn your way into heaven by doing good deeds *than why did Jesus have to die*?" Why would Jesus go through the pain and suffering he did if it was not necessary for us to be saved? I always knew I was a sinner, but for the first time in my life I had a deep sense of his love and his grace. It felt like He just embraced me in a hug and said 'I love you.' I realized he accepted me and loved me unconditionally and that we could have assurance of our salvation today. Not just when we died.

Isn't this what we all long for? This type of love? This type of grace and acceptance? And the hope of God's power overcoming death. I don't know how anyone could reject this kind of good news! Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For we are saved by grace through faith, not by works, so no man can boast." Salvation is a gift, not a reward.

In Christ's Service,
Nathan Perry

d.groups

D-groups are made up of adult leaders and a small group of students. They'll meet for discipleship, fellowship and fun. This month we are challenging the youth in their faith through PRAYER!

We meet at the church:

April 17th @ 3:00-5:00 pm

Serve Sunday April 3

2pm - 4pm

Join us as we serve homeless alongside with Kitsap Rescue Mission the first Sunday of each month.

VBS Kids Camp 2016

- June 27 - July 1
- 9am - 12:30pm
- ages 4 through 6th grade
- register for FREE at www.summitave.net or in the office

Volunteers Needed

In order to make this years Kids Camp a success we need your help. Please consider one of the following volunteer positions and sign up at www.summitave.net/vbs-2016/

- **Tribe Leader** Lead small groups of kids to the various camp stations.
- **Assistant Tribe Leader** Middle/high school youth assists with the tribe
- **Shopkeeper** Helps prepare snacks and serve snacks each day.
- **Josephs Journey** Tells of Josephs journey through the desert in fun creative ways. (scripts/prop ideas provided)
- **Pyramid Playground Leader** Leads games and discussions.
- **Shopkeeper** Lead crafts and interactive activities.
- **Celebration (opening/closing)** Lead scripts, dances and worships.

Join us this summer as we learn the full story behind Joseph the man with the amazing colored coat! We will travel with him on his journey from prison to palace! Along the way there will be games, songs, snacks, crafts and more! Register for free today at www.summitave.net/vbs-2016/

Under the direction of Gary Dahl, our choir provides leadership for the musical parts of the worship services. Pipe organ, piano, violin and other instruments accompany the singers. Anyone who would like to sing with the choir is welcome to attend rehearsal at 7 PM each Wednesday.

First Sundays - Deacons Offering

The first Sunday of each month. The offering is giving to organizations in our community. They in turn reach out to those in need.

Third Sundays - Helping Hands Offering

The third Sunday of each month. Helping Hands offering is used to purchase Safeway gift cards to be given to families in need of food. Perishable food items and basic toiletries are also welcome at any time!

Need a Night Out? We'll watch the kids!

- ★ April 22, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- ★ Children ages 4 and up.
- ★ We will provide entertainment, games, food, & snacks.
- ★ MUST sign up later than April 20th to youth@summitave.net with ages and names of children.

Coffee Oasis Taco Dinner Night

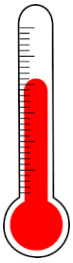
Sunday May 15th 6-9pm

Coffee Oasis will be helping host the Taco Dinner night once again. There will be live music and great fellowship.

Tickets are $15. Proceeds go to sending at-risk youth to camp for a week this summer

Food Bank Update!

We are at 175 pounds! Let's keep pushing hard so we can reach our 300 pound goal for our winter food challenge! Please continue to drop your donations into the blue wagon in the Narthex. Thanks for your support!



Because Jesus was in a small group...

Why groups? Groups are at the core of what we believe it means to follow Christ. Jesus gathered a group of 12 friends to spend time together, study, pray and serve. And the world was turned upside down!
Select a group that fits your schedule, or pick a topic that interests you. If there is a group you would like to see happen, let us know!
Check out the current 2016 Spring Groups Guide to get started today!

New Beginnings

This month's featured group is our New Beginnings class, which is a four week long group offered every October & March.
Hosted by Sonia Turner, and led by Pastor Susie and your elders, it's a great step toward connecting at Summit and finding your place on the mission! You will also be spoiled with lots of wonderful food! Call or email the office to sign up!

Summit would like to welcome new members Marilyn Saba and Dennis Kurzrock.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our Treasurer's report reflects what was approved at the previous month's Session meeting, giving us a month's lag time. So for this newsletter, we report on:

February 2016

	Actual	Monthly Budget (expected)	Year to Date
Income	$32,016.36	$22,100.91	$90,461.04
Expense	$25,789.64	$23,233.82	$48,826.25

You'll notice our income is almost twice that of our expenses at the end of February. This is due to a Presbytery grant we received for the Youth Director position, as we well as a handful of members who pay their tithe in one lump January sum. While of course this is great news, these funds are meant to be stretched through the end of the year.

Statistical Report of February 2016

Average Worship Attendance: 110
Lord's Supper: 103
Nursey:3
Kids: 7
Youth: 7
Sunday School - Adults: 12
Groups: 185
Ash Wednesday: 26

Congregational Meeting
April 10th

after worship in the sanctuary
for the purpose of electing a new Deacon and at-large members of the Nominating Committee.

Happy Moments
Praise God

Difficult Moments
Seek God

Quite Moments
Worship God

Painful Moments
Trust God

In Every Moment
Thank God

Submitted by Aggie Schultheis

Summit Leadership

Elders

Sharon Peterson	Personnel/Youth Team
Griff Ames	Building and Grounds
Bethany Nupen	Worship/Kids
Tim Taylor	Youth/B&G/Acolytes
Judy Wieck	Clerk/Missions
Brett Harrison	Mission/Outreach
Russell Warren	Groups
Paul Du Fresne	Finance/Stewardship
Ken Davis	Mission/Memorials
Ruth Martin	Outreach/Hospitality
Dan Kranenburg	Personnel/B&G
Rick Chapman	Finance
Bev Kelly	Youth/Personnel

Deacons
Moderator: Delcea Wills

Joyce Hersch	Jeannie Lemm
Ellen Middents	John Lemm
Audrey Robinson	Jerry Dick
Chris Hall	Ann Sveen
Kurt Spitzer	
Cheryl Sanlin	
Sue Davis	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susie Beil
Parish Associates: Rev. Jerry Benjamin
Youth & Children's Ministry Director: Nathan Perry
Childcare Ministry Coordinator: Robyn Achevarra
Choir Director: Gary Dahl
Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Sanlin
Organists: Woody Bernas, Joann Richardson, Len Guyt
Office Administrator: Faith Parker
Communications Coordinator: Julie Mirth
Custodian: Darlene Randall
Treasurer: Cathy Best
Kitchen Facilitator: Sue Kela
Sound Technicians: Rick Walker, Tineke Dahl, Karl Jensen, Rick Chapman, Oliver Dahl
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Mel Lord-Unruh
Choir Director Emeritus: Audrey Robinson

Desk Volunteers:

Monday	Aggie Schultheis & Bethany Nupen
Tuesday	Sharon Plowman & Joyce Hersch
Wed.	Phil McGaughey & Judy Wieck
Thurs	Mary Urwin, Sue Kela, Sue Hall

Subs: Ray Goodale, Bud Taylor, Laura Blair

Growing disciples in all generations by loving God, loving others, and serving the world.

An Easter Celebration!

Over 200 people joined us for Easter at Summit!

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am - 2pm
Phone: (360) 377-2740

Check out our website at:
www.summitave.net

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