

Time to Grow

by Susie Beil

Looking out the window at this strange, warm winter weather, I am filled with anticipation for spring and summer. I can't help but look at my garden beds and make plans for them. The seed catalogues fill my imagination with possibilities. Meanwhile, I know the soil needs some replenishing, a little weeding, and a new layer of compost fertilizer. Getting the soil ready makes all the difference, I have learned. The best of seeds won't grow in lousy soil.

Jesus talks a lot about seeds and soil. He paints pictures of gardens, fields, individual plants – all to stir our imaginations of the kingdom of God as something that grows, that gives life, that reproduces its goodness in the world. In a recent sermon I talked about the seeds in those metaphors – the Word of God is the seed of the kingdom, our Lord tells us. But what about that soil? What about the rocks, the weeds, the birds that gobble up the seed? And what makes for *good* soil?

Some people are like seed sown along the path, Jesus says in the fourth chapter of Mark. As soon as they hear the Word, Satan comes along and takes it away from them. Others are like seed sown on rocky places – they hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. Others, like seed sown in

the thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life choke the word and make it unfruitful. Yet still others are like the seed sown in the good soil – they hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop: thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.

At first glance, this parable seems to tell us there are just different kinds of people in the world: some are hard hearted, others are too busy or have too many worries, while still others are prickly and difficult. We all want to be the people with the good soil in our hearts, ready to receive the Word at all times and in all places. My guess is that we are all of us at times each of these soils.

It's strange, really – when you put good, high quality garden mix in a raised bed or in the ground, there's some settling that happens. After a few weeks of rain and the effects of gravity, you can run your hands through what you thought was fresh, fabulous dirt – and find rocks. Where'd these come from?! Or weeds grow, prickly and pokey. The truth is, good soil doesn't just happen – it takes work and attention. Jesus gives us the parable of the sower as a gentle reminder to examine our hearts and see where the rocks of stubbornness or regret might lodge, or look for the thistles before they grow their thorns. And ask the Gardener to help us dig those out and fill us with fertile soil.

I said it in my sermon, and I'll say it again here: the kingdom of God is a place that grows. If we believe what Jesus says, that the kingdom is here and the time is now – then I believe it's time to grow. It's always time to grow in the church – as individuals, as congregations, and as Christ's missional presence in the world. It's time to turn our arrows out beyond

ourselves and sow seeds in our neighborhood, in our community. It's also time to pick out the rocks and pull up the weeds in our own hearts that would prevent us from growing. We know we have some rocks and weeds in the form of financial challenge to sort through this year.

What do you think? Are you ready to grow? We'll need all hands on deck – or in the garden, as it were. We'll need people on our new Outreach Team to help us discern our community's needs and build programs that meet them. We'll need men and women, young and old, to join our missions team to keep our hands and feet at work in service. We'll need folks willing to sow seeds in new places. And we'll all need to trust that God's desire and will is to grow us every day into that rich, life-giving soil that produces fruit and healing in the world. To the glory of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Susie

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Summit Life is a monthly publication of:

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church

403 S Summit Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98312
360.377.2740
office@summitave.net

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am	Adult S.S Classes
9:00am	Brass Handbells
10:00am	Chancel Choir
10:30am	Worship
11:00am	Children's S.S. Classes
11:45am	Coffee Hour
3:00pm	Summit Youth

Winter Sermon Series:

The Gospel of Mark

- Feb 1 Mark 5:1-6: 6
Feb. 8 Mark 6:7-56
Feb. 15 Mark 7:1-8, 21
Feb.22 Mark 8:22-9:13

Hearing Loop

Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop system!

Audio sermons available at
www.summitave.net

Communion February 1

Liturgist

- Feb 1 Ann Sveen
Feb. 8 Tim Taylor
Feb. 15 Nathan Perry
Feb.22 Sue Hall

Usher & Greeters

- Feb 1 Joyce Hersch, Bud Taylor
Delcea Wills
Bethany Nupen
Feb. 8 Aggie Schultheis
Pam Morton
Ken & Sue Davis,
Feb. 15 Sue Kela, Alison Bowling
John & Jeannie Lemm
Feb.22 Mike & Bev Kelly
Shannon & Jennifer Griffin

Time For Young Disciples

- Feb 1 Nathan Perry
Feb. 8 Tineke Dahl
Feb. 15 Tim Taylor
Feb.22 Rick Chapman

Acolyte

- Feb 1 Jonathan Beil
Feb. 8 Ruth Ross
Feb. 15 Jayke Kelly & Jonah Griffin
Feb.22 Caleb Beil

Organist

- Feb 1 Woody Bernes
Feb. 8 Joann Richardson
Feb. 15 Woody Bernes
Feb.22 Woody Bernes

Hospitality Team

- Feb 1 Audrey Robinson, Ann Sveen
Ray Goodale, John Lemm
Feb. 8 Sue Hall, Mary Jensen
Shannon & Jennifer Griffin
Feb. 15 Paul & Shar DuFresne
Kent & Terese Edmonds
Feb.22 Chuck & Jean Feth
Larry & Chris Hall

Lenten Worship Services

Lent is a time of reflection, study and prayer. One of the spiritual disciplines during Lent is to gather for worship and meditation with our community of faith. Please plan to join us this Lent . . .

Ash Wednesday - February 18 6:00 pm

A brief service of song, scripture, meditation, and the imposition of ashes.

Maundy Thursday - April 2 6:00 pm

Potluck dinner and communion service in the Robinson Fellowship Hall

Good Friday - April 3 6:30 pm

Tenebrae service of candles and meditation in the sanctuary

Easter Morning! April 5

9:00 am & 10:30 am

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A Grace-full Winter's Eve

February 28 6:30 pm

In last month's newsletter it was announced that the Hospitality Team is putting on a night in which we can share those graces that God has blessed each of us with.

Graces are the unique skills, talents and abilities that God's Spirit has gifted us with. This night will allow us to come together as a community and get to know one another and celebrate God's many giftings. There were three ways mentioned last month in the newsletter that people could share graces:

Music, poetry, performance

We will have a stage of sorts set up for people with graces that include a musical performance whether that be singing or playing an instrument, an acting performance, reciting poetry, or any other talent that would involve a microphone and/or stage.

Displays

We will have tables set up around Robinson Fellowship Hall for people to display a sample of your artwork, craftwork, photography, etc. Ideas might include woodwork, stained glass, quilts, photography, etc.... If the grace you were blessed with is too large to bring to church – take pictures and let us see what you can do! Also, don't think things like mara-

thon running, building a home, excelling at a sport, etc.... are not a grace..... Bring pictures!



Potluck Desserts!

One grace we all enjoy in our church is consuming tasty treats. Bring a dessert to share with everyone. Hospitality will provide the drinks!

Just a reminder....some of us have graces we no longer do but have samples or pictures around the house of things we did in the past. Please let us see and feel free to bring them to show off too. This is a night to make connections. Perhaps you are trying to learn how to knit but are having problems – this could be the perfect opportunity to find someone who might be able to help you.

This event gives us something to look forward to in the long Northwest winter! Eating and enjoying fellowship together is a grace we all share, so even if you don't bring anything to show and share, we need you there!

In order to prepare for our Grace-full Winter's Eve, please let us know what you would like to share that evening! Mark the card that started appearing in your bulletin on the 25th of January, email the office, or contact Sue Hall at 627-8540, susieq257@comcast.net. We are looking forward to an evening of sharing and fellowship.

The American Guild of Organists presents:

Raleigh McVicker Memorial Organ Recital

April 19, 2015 - 3:00 pm

Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church

Featured Artist: Douglas Cleveland





Greetings Summit Ave!

New Year, New Resolutions!

With a new year comes new goals. Often our goals help orient us back to what is most important in our lives. Like more time with family, being a better spouse, neighbor, friend...

Maybe this year you want to read through the entire Bible or to pray more. Goals also help us determine what accomplishments we wish to look back on by the time the year is over.

Do you remember your resolutions last year? Did you keep them? If not, what kept you from keeping your resolutions? Whatever the reasons are I believe there a couple things that we all need in order to be successful. Its community and determination.

When gym memberships are up in the New Year, it's usually the ones that have a partner or group around them that are pursuing the same goals or holding each other accountable that are still in the gym

months later. When we miss a day or two, its community that helps keep us focused. Ecclesiastes 4:10 says, "If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

We also need determination. Let's not fool ourselves. We will fail, but that should not stop us from getting back up and pursuing our goals once again!

If Marshawn Lynch on the Seahawks gave up every time he pursued the in zone we'd get rid of him! But Lynch seems to know obstacles are coming and he chooses to run right through them until he can't run anymore. Then he gets back up and does it again! Proverbs 24:16a says, "For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again." Like the Seahawks in their NFC Championship game, the odds were against them. They performed way under their own expectations yet they kept believing in one another, lifting each other up, and they finished with a determination that only comes from a strong vision and close community. What goals do you have this year? And how can you pursue them with intensity? Who can you share your resolutions with? And how can we as a church make this year the best we can for the Glory of God and the

good of the community?

My Resolutions!

My goal this year is to be a better husband. To be more gentle, humble, and patient! I wonder how many people put "patience" on their resolution?! I also want to be more disciplined in my studies as well as to work out more consistently. For the ministry, I want to see a deeper hunger for God in the lives of our students and Spiritual growth. Since I told you in the newsletter, you have my permission to hold me accountable! Next time you see me, feel free to ask, "Hey Nathan, have you been more patient lately? Have you exercised this week?" Have fun with it. And let me encourage you in your own goals; don't give up!

YOUTH MINISTRY

By the time this Newsletter comes out, we will be packing up and getting ready to head to Cle Elum for our Youth Winter Challenge Retreat. We will have turkey bowling, snowball fights, snowmobiling, horizontal bungee jumping, and much more. Stay tuned for photos of our retreat in next month's newsletter

In Christ's service,
Nathan Perry



Who's WHO?

This month's Who's who is Collin Beil. Collin has been to a majority of our events including last year's trip to Skymania. Since then, I've seen a young leader at heart. His leadership also comes naturally because he is very relational. I can tell his peers like to be around him and Collin can easily get a group of his friends to participate in any of our events. His sense of humor, and character really has a big influence among those around him, especially his sense of humor. On top of that, Collin has also helped during Sunday school and has shown a genuine desire to know

God more and to grow in his faith. Collin Beil is a stud! Let him know next time you see him that we are so proud of him.



What is an interesting fact about yourself most don't know?

I really enjoy doing trick shots and posting them on YouTube. You can find them by searching "Collin Beil" and clicking on my YouTube channel.

What are you passionate about?

I am definitely passionate about the Seahawks!! Maybe a little too much.

What is a highlight you have had in youth or even serving with kids (Sunday school or VBS)?

The youth nights have definitely been a highlight for me! I really enjoy playing the games, learning lessons from the Bible, and getting to spend time with my friends!

Groups are a great way to connect and grow! Lenten groups go for SIX WEEKS starting the week of February 15

Lenten Groups			More Groups!		
1. Lenten Study Leader: Sharon Peterson (479-4479)	Thursdays 7:00 pm	6333 Pine Rd E Bremerton	7 New Beginnings Leaders: Sonia Turner (698-9511)	Sundays 12:30-2:30 p	Don Serry Room
2. Lenten Study Leader: Joyce Hersch (895-2002)	Thursdays 3-5pm	2002 SE Richmond Ln Pt Orchard	Description: We'll discuss what it means to follow Christ, be Presby-	Mar 1 -Mar 22	Lunch pro- vided
3. Lenten Study Thursday Study Group Leader: Kathy Kuyper, Barb Benjamin	Thursdays 10:00am	Youth Rm At the church			
4. Lenten Study Leader: Judy Wieck (373-9976)	Saturdays 4:00pm	5303 5th St Bremerton	8. Life Together by D. Bonhoeffer Leader: Rev. Susie Beil	Sundays 9 am	Don Serry Rm
5. Lenten Study Leader: Seth Clawson (214-1280)	TBA	TBA	9. Isaiah Leader: Judy Wieck (373-9976)	Sundays 9 am	library
6. Lenten Study Leader: Jerry Benjaim	Thursdays 7:00 pm	Don Serry Room	10. Presbyterian Women Leader: Ellen Middents	1st Tuesdays 2:00 pm	Don Serry Room
7. Lenten Study Leader: Sandy Bochonok /Mary Fischer	Thursday* 7:30*	TBA P.O. or Bremerton	11. Book Club <i>The Bible Tells Me So</i> Leader: Judy Wieck	Thursdays 10 am	Robinson Fellowship Hall
?????? You have an idea for a time and place and willing to lead it? Let us know!			12. Caregiver Support Leader: Maxine Warren (479-7012)	2nd Sundays 1:00 pm	Choir Room
			13. Moms Bible Study Leader: Susie Beil	Wednesdays 9:30 am	Youth Room
			14. Tool Time Leader: Bud Taylor (613-9820)	1st Saturdays 8 am breakfast 9 am tools!	FPH on Kitsap Way church



Online Church Community

We are online with Realm! Some of you have been able to login and set up your account easy breezy no problem. Others of you have run into some bumps. Here are a couple of tips we've discovered so far:

- Login at onrealm.org
- Check your internet security settings to be sure to allow onrealm.org. Most people will be fine, but we've had a couple of people who have had to adjust this setting.
- If you get a message that says "that email is already in use," please contact the office and we can fix it. For some reason, a handful of accounts have had double emails assigned, and as soon as we delete one of those, things clear right up.
- People with hotmail accounts (and probably some others) need to check their spam or junk mail inboxes for their invitations.

Online Giving

One of the exciting features we can use with Realm is online giving. You can certainly still write checks or give cash as you already do. But for those people who are comfortable with online banking, you can set up payments to be sent directly to our church bank account. There are two options for giving online:

Directly from your bank account. This is called an "ACH" transaction, and basically you authorize Realm to transfer an amount you designate from your account into the church account.

Debit cards. You may use your debit card to set up a giving payment as well. This transaction runs the same as a credit card payment. We of course do not wish to encourage use of credit cards, but we will not be able to differentiate between debit and credit.

With both ACH and debit card transactions, Realm records your giving on your Realm account for both your record keeping as

well as for our Financial Secretary. Realm also provides options for you to direct your giving to particular funds, from Operations to Special Capital Projects to any one of our special Missions offerings.

For church accounting and bookkeeping purposes, we would ask that if you set up an online payment schedule, you would choose that payments occur on

the 5th or the 20th of the month.

When you login to Realm, under your profile there will be a "Giving" tab that you can use to set up online giving. Also, we will post a link on our website (summitave.net) that members and guests can use to give online.

We anticipate it will take us a little bit of time to get all of this figured out and running smoothly, so if you have any questions, please let us know and we will do our best to figure things out together!

It's Souper Bowl Time!

Our Hawks are in the Super Bowl again, and what a great time for us to celebrate with them with our annual "Souper Bowl" food drive to really focus on Bremerton Foodline donations. Canned goods, packaged food, household paper products, and toiletries are all needed. We'll keep track of how many pounds of donations are collected between now and Super Bowl Sunday.

So, in the next few weeks, bring in your donations, and let's keep filling up the grocery cart! Thanks!

Also a special thanks to Chris and Larry Hall for transporting all of our donations to the Bremerton



Kitsap Rescue Mission

First Sundays of the month at 3 pm we partner with Kitsap Rescue Mission to feed the hungry and homeless in Kitsap County. If you would like to be on one of our monthly teams, please let us know on a blue card, or contact Aggie Schultheis or Ellen Middents.

Deacons Offering

Is collected the first Sunday of each month. The Deacons offering is used to help people in need through our local mission outreaches.

Helping Hands offering

Third Sunday of each month. The Helping Hands offering is used to purchase Safeway cards (*that can only be used for food or fuel*) then enables us to give to the people that

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women will be meeting on Tuesday, February 3 at 2pm in the Don Serry Room. Our study is from the Horizons Bible Study, Lois Kroehler will be leading the lesson.

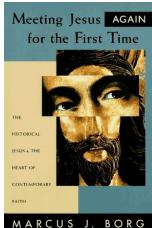
Refreshments and fellowship after the study.

Library Corner

As we move toward Lent it would be a good time to become more familiar with our SAPC Main Library. The books marked with an R are to be used in the building if possible – If you do take them home please don't keep them very long. All other books should have cards and pockets for check-out. All the books in the Bible section now have cards and pockets. We are working on making sure all books in all sections have cards and pockets soon. In the meantime, if you find a book you want to take and read and it doesn't yet have a card and pocket please take it with you and return it when you are finished.

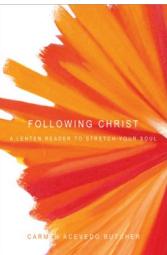
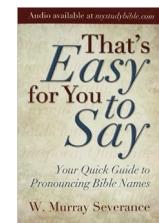
Now for a few suggestions: You might find it fun to browse the Bible Versions section to see how particular passages, e.g. The Gospel of Mark, are treated in different versions or translations. A good place to start would be looking at *The New Layman's Parallel Bible* which has King James (KJV), New International (NIV), Living Bible, and Revised Standard Version (RSV). For a fresh, sometimes exhilarating treatment see *The Message* by Eugene Peterson, well known to Seattle Pacific alumni.

If you want to do some serious study, say of The Gospel of Mark, then look into *The Interpreter's Bible*, vol. 7, *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, *The Abingdon Bible Commentary*, found in the Bible: Study Resources Section.



Marcus Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* has proven stimulating for many readers. Professor Borg, from Oregon, recently died at the age of 72.

A book you might find enjoyably helpful (it has a CD as well) is *That's Easy for You to Say*, by W. Murray Severance. It helps untie some of those tongue twisting names we find in the Bible.



To get a head start on Lent you will find in the Church Section rather than the Bible Section Carmen Butcher's *Following Christ: a Lenten Reader to Stretch Your Soul*.

Keep reading, it's a way of loving God with your mind!

Til next time, Paul

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 February newsletter, we report on December:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over/Under Budget</u>
Dec.2014	\$24,797.67	\$21,698.99	\$3,098.68
	<u>Expense</u>		
	\$22,670.85	\$20,071.26	(\$2,599.59)

Statistical Report of December 2014

Average Worship Attendance: 123
 Lord's Supper: 124
 Christmas Eve: 7pm: 87
 11pm: 57
 Kids: 4
 Kid's Christmas Pageant: 8

Annual Reports Available

Annual Reports are available in the narthex and in the church office if you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting on January 22.

Financial Status Update

At the Annual Meeting in January, our Finance elders shared with the congregation that, as sometimes happens with churches, we are facing a season of financial challenge this year. We spent a good deal of our savings in 2014 fixing things around the building that needed fixing. We also had a couple of months where we had to dip into savings simply to pay the bills. Our pledges, which usually come in higher than expected, actually came in at about \$10,000 less than anticipated. Some of that is the reality that we lost members in 2014. People also face personal financial challenges. We understand and we know God is at work in this process.

As we head into 2015, we are asking people to re-examine their pledge commitment for the year. If by chance you didn't turn in a pledge, it's not too late. You can email us or fill out a blue card with your pledge. If God stirs you to increase your pledge for the year, we obviously welcome that as well. Or if you have a creative idea (that you are willing to help make happen) for increasing our income in other ways, please let us know. *God is good, all the time! All the time...*

Summit Leadership

Elders

Sue Hall	Hospitality/Sp Events
Sue Kela	Worship/PW
Sharon Peterson	Personnel/Youth Team
Griff Ames	Building and Grounds
Bethany Nupen	Worship/Children's Team
Ray Goodale	Missions/Fellowship/Worship
Tim Taylor	BSA/Bldg & Grnds/acolytes
Judy Wieck	Clerk/Missions/Fellowship
Rick Walker	Worship/Soundboard
Brett Harrison	Mission/Outreach
Russell Warren	Worship/Groups
Paul DuFresne	Finance/Stewardship
Ken Davis	Outreach/Memorials

Deacons

Moderator: Delcea Wills	
Joyce Hersch	Mabel Richardson
Ellen Middents	Kathy Kuyper
Chris Hall	Ann Sveen
Sharon Plowman	Kurt Spitzer
Cheryl Sanlin	
Sue Davis	

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susie Beil

Parish Associates: Rev. Jerry Benjamin
 Rev. Barbara Benjamin

Youth & Children's Ministry Director: Nathan Perry

Childcare Ministry Coordinator: Kristen Hargett

Childcare Assistant: Solveig Dahl

Choir Director: Gary Dahl

Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Sanlin

Organists: Woody Bernas, Joann Richardson, Len Guyt

Office Administrator: Faith Parker

Custodian: Darlene Randall

Treasurer: Jennifer Taylor

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

Isobel Merchen

Wed. Joyce Hersch

Judy Wieck

Thurs. Mary Urwin

Sue Kela

Sue Hall

Subs: Ray Goodale, Alice Lord-Unruh, Bud Taylor,
 Sue Davis, Laura Blair

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

VBS Kids Camp 2015!

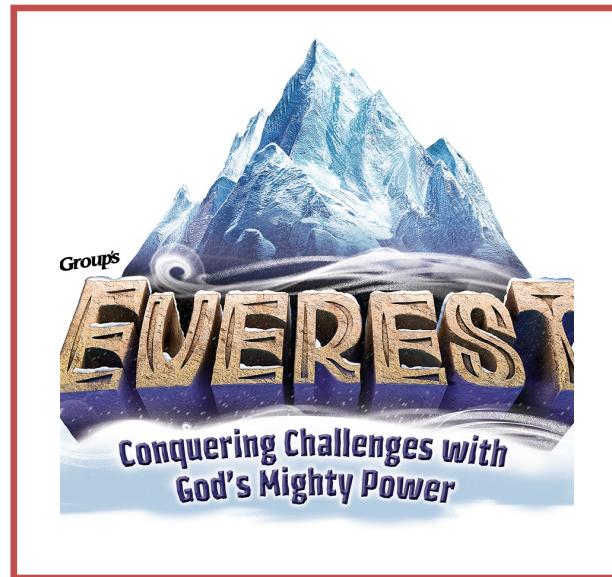
June 22-26

9:00 am - noon

Ages 4 yrs - entering 6th grade

Got kids? Know some kids? Spread the word now!

Our theme this year is Everest! Decorations will include trees, mountaineering and camping gear, hiking boots, backpacks, ropes, etc. If you have those kinds of items, we may want to borrow them. Also, if you have a fake Christmas tree you'd be willing to let us use that week, don't put it too deep into storage!



Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9am
- 2pm

Phone: (360) 377-2740

Check out our website at:

www.summitave.net

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Return Service requested

