



What: Tasty Thursday All Church Dessert Pot-Luck
When: Thursday, February 15th
 6:00 to 7:30 PM
Where: Fellowship Hall

Our annual pre-Lenten All-Church Dessert Pot-Luck (previously known as Fat Friday, more recently Sweet Sunday) has a new day and name but expect more great desserts, and even better comedy skits presented by our very own (and yes, Ready for Prime Time) Youth Groups. Bring friends, family, and your favorite dessert (the gooey and sweeter the better!) to share, and your sense of humor for an evening filled with of food, fun, fellowship and laughter!

Donations to support the youth group trips and activities are more than welcome.



Dear Friend in Christ,

Have you noticed? Have you sensed it? It's nothing flashy. Nothing to "write home about." Like trying to take a picture of wind, it's nothing you can really pin down. Nevertheless, 2006 has marked a year of deepening commitment to Christ in many areas of our congregational life.

During 2006, old anxieties waned, new energy waxed. Worship attendance is up; involvement in small-group prayer and study has increased; intergenerational activities have flourished; youth involvement is on the rise; financial commitment has grown to meet the mission challenge; outreach ministries have remained strong; and a fresh vision for our future has begun to emerge.

Could it be that ministry is what happens while we're making big plans? There are myriad church-growth-gurus offering foolproof plans for re-vitalizing congregations. But the bottom line is that God (not us) will bring His Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." Commitment to Christ does not come in pre-packaged programs. Discipleship does not depend on memorizing the "great ends of the church." Faithfulness is not the same as religious busyness.

"...run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Hebrews 12:1 & 2)

"The Letter to the Hebrews" invites us to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (12:1 & 2) We are not given the option of what "race" we want to enter. We must run "the race that is set before us." The problem is that we are easily distracted by the rat race—chasing after false gods. That's why we need the disciplines of worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and service. These are habits of the soul which help us to keep our "eyes on the prize." What does that mean?

"It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!" (Hebrews 12:2 & 3 *The Message*)

Grace & Peace,

YOUTH NEWS & EVENTS

Mission Trips, Tastee Thursday and more...

Dan Purdom, Director of Youth Ministries

Note regarding Youth Group Schedule for Sunday afternoon:

We added an informal worship session for Sunday afternoon that takes place from 4:30pm to 5:00pm. **This worship session is intended for everyone, not just youth.**

The worship session is followed by a meal, from 5:00pm to 5:30pm. All are invited for this meal.

Immediately after the meal, the youth fellowship groups meet from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

All youth are welcome to any part of the Sunday afternoon events. You can come to the worship, skip the meal and then join us for youth group. You can also join us for the meal and attend youth group, or you can just come to youth group. If you have any questions about any part of this schedule, please contact Dan Purdom, 561-3140, or send an email to dpurdom@versizon.net or to the church office, presbychurch@verizon.net.

Please note there will be no Youth Group meetings on February 18th & 25th due to the Washington DC Mission Trip and Winter Break. See you in March!!!



The Washington Seminar Center on Capital Hill

Established in 1978, the Washington Seminar Center (WSC) is centrally located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and within walking distance of the U.S. Congress, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and Smithsonian Institution. The Center was chosen as a host because one of their goals is to educate participants of diverse religious backgrounds how faith can be put into action. We expect to take part in programs that will help our youth understand how their faith can make a difference in the world, which will help further define their faith journey.

Since we will be in Washington, DC, we plan to take advantage of all the city has to offer, including attending a ballet practice, basketball and hockey games, museums, and other activities.

PRAYER FAMILIES FOR FEBRUARY

Please keep all our church family in your prayers every day. Throughout the month of February please say a special prayer for these church families:



- ✝ *Marcia Desotelle*
- ✝ *Barbara Doh*
- ✝ *Debra and Miles Donahue*
- ✝ *Thelma Douglas*
- ✝ *Karen and Tim & TJ Dragon*
- ✝ *Cynthia and Mark & Britany & Kaley DuBrey*
- ✝ *Judy and Gil Duken*



February Birthdays

If you were born in February you share your birth month with notables such as Clark Gable(1st); Ayn Rand (2nd); Elizabeth Taylor (27th); Abraham Lincoln (12th); Ronald Reagan (6th) and Bob Marley (6th).

Happy Birthday to all February celebrants!



THE DEACON'S BENCH

In the coming months you will see a set of questions and responses from your deacons about themselves. To help put names with faces, the deacon's pictures will also appear in fellowship hall and on our website <http://www.presbyplatt.org> for you to match the deacon with his or her responses. Look for the pictures to be in Fellowship Hall and on the web in late February.

Your deacons are:

- Sara Black
- Diana Boysen
- Karen Dragon
- Joyce Fox
- Linda Gonyo
- Dan Ladue
- Kimberly Larsen
- Susan Mikkelson
- Stephanie Moore
- Sally Pendleton
- Lynda Robertson
- Amanda Smart
- Barbara Stansbury
- Janet Young

If you think you know about your deacon go ahead and try our "Deacon Match" game. See if you can guess which deacons provided the following answers:

Deacon #1

1. Where were you born?.....Montreal
2. What will you not eat?Pickles
3. What was your favorite Television show growing up?.....Beverly Hillbillies & Get Smart
4. Hardly anyone knows thisI was a dirty blond

Deacon #2

1. Where were you born?.....Henry Ford Hospital
2. What will you not eat?Okra
3. What was your favorite Television show growing up?.....I Love Lucy & The Brady Bunch
4. Hardly anyone knows thisI'm a first generation American.

Presbyterian Women had a cozy meeting in the library on Saturday, January 27th. Thanks to the CT, which supplied a wonderful breakfast buffet for everyone. We discussed the new mission approach that has been adopted Church wide. It appears the concentration is "hands on" at the local level and more focused on finances at the international level. We will be searching for local projects and if you know of any worthy agencies or projects please contact Kay Haupt, Marjorie Mapstone, or Lynda Robertson.

Next month's meeting will be held on February 24, 2007 at 11:30am, at Minnie's Restaurant. Please call Janet Young, Kay Haupt or Nancy in the Church office to make reservations. Since many of the leaders will be out of town this will be a "Leaderless Lunch". As the saying goes, while the cat's away the mice will play, so please plan to join us for a time of fun and fellowship.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Valentines Day is V-Day: Eliminate Violence Against Women

Did you know...?

- Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.
- Every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.
- One in six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.
- 1 in 10 (10 percent) of sexual assault victims are men.
- In 2003-2004, there were an average annual 204,370 victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault.
- About 44 in 100 (44 percent) of rape victims are under age 18, and 8 in 10 (80 percent) are under age 30.

Why should we care?

As Presbyterians, we believe in justice for all people, including women. The rationale behind our communal denouncement of violence against women can be found in the *Book of Order* [W-7.4002].

Justice is the order God sets in human life for fair and honest dealing and for giving rights to those who have no power to claim rights for themselves. The biblical vision of doing justice calls for:

- a. dealing honestly in personal and public business,
- b. exercising power for the common good,
- c. supporting people who seek the dignity, freedom, and respect that they have been denied,
- d. working for fair laws and just administration of the law,
- e. welcoming the stranger in the land,
- f. seeking to overcome the disparity

- between rich and poor,
- g. bearing witness against political oppression and exploitation,
- h. redressing wrongs against individuals, groups, and peoples in the church, in this nation, and in the whole world.

This pronouncement also comes from our encouragement of social activism in the world as a sign of the community of God. The *Book of Order* states this in G-1.0200:

The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of human kind, the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the promotion of social righteousness, the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Proclaim Valentine's Day as V-day until the violence stops.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. It is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organization.

V-Day generates attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. V-Day's mission demands that the violence must end. It proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day until the violence stops.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WEB SITE & PULSE

Web Site

Remember to check out the church web site:

<http://www.presbyplatt.org>

Updates to the site are almost daily, so check the site out regularly. If you have any suggestions, comments or would like to help with the web site, please send a note to Jon Duncan (website@presbyplatt.org). (Remember, you can also send a note from the Contact Us page from the web site!)

Pulse

The Pulse is another way for our faith community to let keep in touch with one another. Some things to remember about getting your submission into the Pulse:

All submissions must be received by the 20th of the previous month. This has been flexible but we have to be stricter now so we can get the Pulse out by the first of the month.

If at all possible, your submission should be sent *electronically*. You can send pictures, articles, etc. to lpr8431@gmail.com, duncanj@presbyplatt.org, or presbychurch@verizon.net. Don't worry about format or layout, we'll take care of this part!



NAME THIS MEMBER!

Can you “Name This Member?”

If you think you know the members of our church family, try out your knowledge on this monthly feature. Each month we will reveal the previous month's featured member.

Go ahead, get to know them better!

This member of our congregation was born in Boston, MA and has lived in Argentina, Brazil, Central America, New York, Sweden, Norway and Oregon.

This member:

- ...is a parent of 4 children (and loves it)
- ...has been married for 15 years
- ...is an educator and graduated from the University of Delaware
- ...likes watching *The Unit*, and enjoyed watching *Mission Impossible* growing up
- ...enjoys football, biking, weight lifting and research
- ...favorite color is black
- ...lists “*What Dreams May Come*” as a favorite movie
- ...would like to be high school age again and drive a Hummer

This member has been a Sunday school teacher, Youth Group leader. Hardly anyone knows this member was an Alter server growing up.

Can you “Name This Member”

Last month's “Name This Member” featured *Kimberly Larsen*.

Did you guess right? Now you can take the time to get to know her better!





BUILDINGS & GROUNDS ACTIONS

Your Building and Grounds Council has been working diligently throughout the church; upstairs, downstairs, and across the way in the former Crisis Center. One of the Council projects is the upgrade of the sound system in the Sanctuary. Our goal is to create a better acoustic environment throughout the Sanctuary.

One part of this project that will be a great benefit to the hearing impaired is a new Hearing Assisted FM 72 MHZ System. This system consists of a transmitter, antenna, and four receivers, and we will add a headphone, one over the ear phone, and two neck loops. The receivers will be kept in the church and distributed to members as needed. Headset/headphone equipment will become the property of the user. Watch for a survey in the Sunday Bulletin to help us determine how many users of this assistive technology we have in our congregation.

Our hope is this system will help members and guests who join us for worship and other church activities in the Sanctuary to hear speakers and singers better. When the new system is in place, we will let you know and set a time aside to inform those who are interested in its use.

*Anne Bailey and Herb Cottrell, Co-chairs, Building & Grounds
Jim Fox, Sound Technician*



Session Highlights; January 17th, 2007 meeting

(Please note these are excerpts of meeting minutes. Complete meeting minutes are available by contacting Clerk of Session, Jon Duncan at 563-8431.)

Meeting opened with request by Pastor Paul for prayer joys and concerns; raised were Jim McKee; energy of recent Sunday afternoon activities; advances in cancer research.

Elder Jim Fox spoke about the need to raise awareness of changes in IRS regulations regarding making direct IRA contributions to organizations such as the church. It was suggested that an article could be put in the Pulse regarding this change.

Elder Jim Fox presented Trustee report. Trustees suggest re-establishing Finance Committee, made up of 2 Session members and 3 congregation members. Elder Stuart Voss suggested the Committee be comprised of 3 Session members and 3 congregation members. It was moved and passed that the Finance Committee, made up of Session members Jim Fox (Chair), Stuart Voss, and Bob Davis. Trustees proposed and Session passed congregation members John Summers, Frank Bahre, and Alan Booth.

Buildings & Grounds presented report on sound system. One concern is providing hearing impaired with ability to hear church service. It was moved and passed that funds be allocated for the purchase of hearing loop equipment and other sound system improvements.



Vision Team presented a final version of their report. It was moved and passed that Vision Team be continued and shepherd discerned vision. It was moved and passed that once Vision Plan is finalized it be placed on church web site and printed for distribution to the congregation. There was discussion about the logistics of having the Vision Team present their report at the Annual Meeting and get input from the congregation. Elder Voss provided assurance the report and ensuing discussion would be not be lengthy.

Assignment of Session members and chairs form Committees and Councils was moved and passed with exception of Stewardship and W/M. Session representatives to Stewardship and W/M, Elder Voss, representative for Stewardship, and Elder Deeb, representative for W/M, respectively accepted the task of finding chairs for these Councils.

There was discussion about the proposal to hold 2 meetings per month. The proposal was postponed for further consideration. Elder Voss proposed and it was passed that Session meetings could be improved if they were held the fourth Monday of the month.

Member concerns were raised for Clara Johnson and Nancy Collin as they move.

The meeting was closed with prayer and singing of Go With Us Lord and sharing of the peace. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm. Next scheduled Session meeting will be on: Monday, February 26, 2007.

“Parenting Teenagers for Positive Results”

Eight week study beginning Tuesday, January 9th from 7-8pm in the Church Library

This Biblically-based, 6 session study by Jim Burns, Ph.D. has received wide acclamation as a helpful tool in improving Parent-Teen interaction. Dan Purdom will serve as facilitator for the course which will meet weekly on Tuesday evenings through February 13th. Please contact Dan or the Church office if you have any questions.

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm Choir	2	3
4 9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Litrgl Dance Practice 4:30-5pm; Progress Worship for all ages; 5-5:30pm Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:30pm Youth Fellowship Groups <i>Tastee Thursday Preparation</i> 5:30-6:30pm "Beginnings" Adult Study	5 7pm Bible Study 7pm Nurture	6 7pm - 8pm Parenting Teens for Positive Results led by Dan Purdom	7 4:30-5:30pm Communion Service 5pm Community Meal; Trinity Church	8 7pm Choir	9	10
11 9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11am ANNUAL MEETING 4:30-5pm; Progress Worship for all ages; 5-5:30pm Fellowship Dinner 5:30-6:30pm Youth Fellowship Groups <i>Tastee Thursday Preparation</i> 5:30-6:30pm "Beginnings" Adult Study	12 7pm Bible Study	13 7pm - 8pm Parenting Teens for Positive Results led by Dan Purdom	14 4:30-5:30pm Communion Service	15 6-7:30pm Tastee Thursday Fellowship Dessert Pot Luck 7pm Choir	16 6pm TGIF; Fellowship Hall	17
18 9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Litrgl Dance Practice No Youth Group	19 Office Closed	20	21 Ash Wednesday	22	23	24
25 9am Church school 10am Worship Service 11:30am Praise Band/Litrgl Dance Practice No Youth Group	26 7pm Bible Study 7pm Session	27 7pm - 8pm Parenting Teens for Positive Results led by Dan Purdom	28 4:30-5:30pm Communion Service	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>If you have any changes, additions or deletions to the calendar, please call the church office 561-3140. Updates to the calendar appear on the web site, www.presbyplatt.org.</p> </div>		