

Davenport Presbyterian Church

# NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Vol. 23, No. 5

Susan Broadway, editor



**Outreach.** Webster's Dictionary defines outreach as: *A provision of community services, the provision of information or services to groups in society who might otherwise be neglected.*

Many churches feel that outreach is just done outside the church walls to the community. While this is true, I want to suggest that outreach needs to start within the walls of our church first. It starts with our greeting of visitors. If we do not make our visitors feel welcomed and important they will not be back. All our hard work of outreach to the community will be a waste of time, effort and resources.

So, how do we fix this? How do we make sure that our visitors feel welcomed and want to come back? That is what I want to focus on with this first article from the Outreach Commission.

**Making visitors feel welcomed.** It is really a simple process. With just a few simple, conscious choices we can make a world of difference in how our visitors feel when they come through our church doors. The following is a list of ideas compiled while searching the web for information on this topic.

1. **Parking.** Since our parking spaces are limited, consider leaving the parking spots right in front of our church building open for visitors to park in. If a visitor has to walk a block away to reach the church because the church members have taken the spots right up front, they may not feel very welcomed. Let's leave some spots up front open for our visitors. We could even place some signs out each week to designate these spots as visitor parking.

2. **Greeting.** Greeters need to be stationed at—or near as possible to—the front door. Ideally, Greeters could open the door to everyone entering the building and say hello. This is a great opportunity for Greeters to recognize first time visitors.

If you see someone that you think may be a first time visitor, greet them with something like this: "Welcome, I don't think I have met you yet; my name is (insert your name here)." Avoid the question "Are you new here?" or "Is this your first time visiting with us?" This will save you the embarrassment of asking a long time member that is back after an absence if they are new.

Point out areas in the church that might be of use to a visitor. For example, the location of the restrooms or the water cooler may be less than obvious to a visitor. If the visitor has kids of nursery age, walk them downstairs to the nursery and introduce them to the nursery volunteers. Show them the sanctuary.

During the *Passing of the Peace* each one of us should seek out people we don't know and greet them. Avoid always saying welcome to those we know around us—but don't forget to say "Hi" to them as well! Sit in a different place each week. This will allow you to meet more people and get to know some wonderful folks in our congregation and sit next to potential visitors.

Share your hymnal with a visitor. Here is an example of what we do not want to happen: My father-in-law visited our church with his very social wife and was chattering with a few folks because his wife says hello to everyone. A week later he visited by himself without his very social wife. I am saddened to say no one said “Hello” to him. This was his second time visiting. People had just meet him the week before. Let’s not let this happen again. We need to make sure that each person is greeted and not standing by themselves after the service.

3. **Loving.** For a variety of reasons, people may have very different ideas about what is and is not appropriate to wear to church. Don’t let a new visitor feel that they are out of place because they weren’t aware of a particular “dress code.” If a visitor shows up not dressed as you would think appropriate, be gracious and look over it. Be gentle and use discretion: this is not the time and place to embarrass or belittle. Don’t stare, Don’t shun. Don’t whisper. Greet them in the love of Christ. Jesus did not hang out with the well to do and well dressed. He parked Himself right in the middle of the outcasts and criminals, the folk who were not like everyone else. If Christ cared for these people, we can make them feel welcomed and accepted for the people God created them to be.

4. **Caring.** During the fellowship time after service or during church potlucks, be considerate and avoid conducting church business that can be done over the phone or in a meeting on another day. This is a time to focus on greeting visitors and fellowshiping with everyone. Avoid just visiting with your groups of friends. This is a great time to introduce a visitor to the pastor and to talk with them about church activities. Get to know them. You may end up finding a really great friend. Offer to pray for the visitor. If not right there then find out if there is something they need prayer for. Most visitors come to church for three reasons—either they just moved to the area,

or they are just passing through, or they are at the end of the line and want to make one last attempt to give God a try. It is important that our actions not give a visitor a reason to give up on God.

Outreach is an important part of the Great Commission and our church’s mission statement. It ties very closely with Evangelism. I am hoping to make the Outreach Corner a permanent article in our newsletter. If you have any ideas for an upcoming article or would like to be a part of the Outreach Commission, please let me know or drop me a note in the outreach box located in the church library (the room just off the right of the stairs.) Together we can make outreach possible.

Tina West  
Elder of Outreach



### **MOTHER’S DAY TEA**

On May 8, the Deacons will provide cookies, breads, fruit and drinks. Everyone is welcome! **Wear a special hat** if you have one and we will take your picture!

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND OPEN DISCUSSION ON DISMISSAL ISSUE**

On Sunday, May 15, a Congregational Meeting will be held after worship. At the last Congregational Meeting, a vote to officially accept the Annual Report for 2010 was overlooked. The Session would also like to have a final open discussion of the recommendation that DFPC be dismissed from the PC(USA) to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. **Please plan to attend.**

**REMEMBER TO KEEP OUR  
SUMMER MISSIONARIES IN  
YOUR PRAYERS!**

**SUMMER HOUSE BUILDING IN MEXICO MISSION JUNE 15-22:** A small, but dedicated group of adults and high school youth venture into Rosarito, Mexico to build a house for a needy family.

**SUMMER URBAN YOUTH MISSION JUNE 25 – JULY 1:** Youth (completing 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) and adults from Davenport and Reardan churches join to participate in the Portland Urban Ministries Project (PUMP) Summer Day Camp as day camp leaders and facilitators. The group will work with PUMP staff and summer interns to organize daily activities and outreach events (much like VBS) for children in a low-income NE Portland neighborhood.

**SUPPORT THE YOUTH:** Buy a share of stock or some See's Candy for Mexico; muffins for Portland—the youth are happy to assist you in the Narthex after worship. Look for the card table near the door.

**RUMMAGE SALE FOR MEXICO MISSION:** Please think about setting aside items for Saturday, May 28—but **please hold items** until the week prior due to lack of storage room.

**FUN GRADE SCHOOL MEETING:** Lutherhaven Youth Outreach Event (Grade School Youth Group) Tuesday, May 3 @ 5:30 at Zion Lutheran Church. Dinner, fellowship and Bible Study.

**PHONE NUMBER UPDATE:** Jim Linstrum has a new home phone number (509) 315-1742. FYI: The (509) prefix has to be dialed in order to make the connection.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER** May 15

*Congregational Meeting/Final Dismissal  
Discussion*

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF Easter** June 5

*Sunday School Teachers Recognition*

**PENTECOST SUNDAY** June 12

*... REMEMBER TO WEAR RED!!!*

*Birthday Party Potluck  
after church*

**June 15 - 22**

*Youth Mission Trip to  
Mexico*

**June 25 – July 1**

*Youth Mission to  
Inner-City Portland  
(P.U.M.P.)*

**July 20-24**

*Creation 2010 Christian  
Music Festival & Camping Trip*

**CAMP SPALDING:** The 2011 Camp Spalding Summer Camp schedule is on line at [www.campspalding.org](http://www.campspalding.org). Dale Wilson Fund Camperships are available for up to \$250 of the cost per camper. Parents are to pay \$75 up front for registration. Some camps cost less than \$250, but parents still need to pay \$75 and Dale Wilson picks up the rest of the cost up to \$250. Parents are responsible for any costs over and above \$75 + \$250. Note: Camp may have additional scholarships available. Contact person is Heather Panke at 725-0245.

**DON'T FORGET TO APPLY! DALE WILSON SCHOLARSHIP:** Due date TODAY May 1, 2011. NOTE\*\*\*\*Student needs to be a DFPC member to apply.

## **EASTER LILIES 2010: Symbols of Purity & the Glory of the Resurrection**

The following excerpt was taken from a booklet entitled, Symbols & Their Meanings, by Rudolph F. Norden. It is reprinted here for those who did not receive an Easter Sunday bulletin.

“Among the many symbols of Christ’s resurrection, the Easter Lily is undoubtedly the favorite and most familiar . . . [T]he Easter Lily is a flower of extraordinary beauty, its white color symbolizing purity. Plants make excellent symbols of the resurrection, both Christ’s and ours. The Savior said:

*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (John 12:24).

Christ’s dead body lay buried in the earth, but on Easter morning He returned to life. . . St. Paul wrote of the body:

*It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in power* (1 Corinthians 15:43).

—and raised in purity, as we are reminded by the white Easter Lily. . . Following the cold, cheerless winter of our sins there now emerges the springtime of our salvation in the risen Savior.”



This Easter season, the beautiful flowers decorating the sanctuary were given by:

Helen Farris  
In Memory of **James Farris**

Ernestine King  
In Memory of **Grover & Eleanor Coley**

Paul Gilliland  
In Memory of **Lucile C. Gilliland**  
In Memory of **Edith Newsome**

Gabe, Traci, and Blake Gants  
In Memory of **Lois Gants**

Friends at DFPC  
In Memory of **Ginnie Tibbets**

Jim & Darci Linstrum  
In Honor of **Tyson & Traci Linstrum**

Flo Smartt  
In Memory of **Tommy Smartt**

Cheryl & Howard Nelson  
In Memory of **Royal & Lucille Nelson**  
(Howard’s parents)  
In Honor of **Dale & Ruth Chamberlain**  
(Cheryl’s parents)

Elizabeth Balogh & Broadway Family  
In Memory of **Louis Balogh**

Rawleigh & Katy Fisk  
In Memory of **Lilie & Chester Teel**  
In Honor of **Matthew Fisk & Kayleigh Fisk**

Anne Moldrem  
In Honor of the **Karl Moldrem Family**

Connie Hilliard  
In Memory of **Harold Hilliard**

Enid Borck  
In Memory of **Thell Borck**

Marshall & Sharon Thompson  
In Honor of **Our Family & Friends**

Lois Aldrich & Family  
In Memory of **Robert Aldrich**

Rod & Penny Pankey