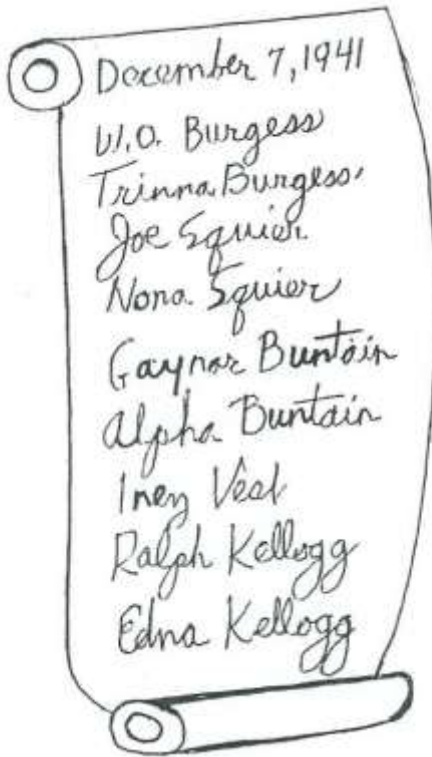


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I: 1941-1991	2
CHURCH ORGANIZATION	2
PARSONAGE AND GROUNDS	5
SCHOOLHOUSE ERA	8
THE LITTLE CHURCH.....	12
THE NEW CHURCH	18
PLAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH TODAY	24
MISSIONS.....	31
FIFTY YEAR CELEBRATION	33
PART II: 1992-2016	35
PASTOR GARY AND MARGY HESSE	36
PASTOR ED AND DELORIS ANDERSON	38
PASTOR PHIL AND LYNETTE STRONG	43
PLAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH TODAY	47
CHILDREN	49
YOUTH	53
ADULT.....	57
COMMUNITY: THE PANTRY.....	59
MISSIONS.....	63
SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR CELEBRATION	67



CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Plain Community Church was organized on December 7, 1941. Prior to organization, Sunday School and church services were held for several years in the Plain schoolhouse. Ralph and Edna Kellogg (sister to Trinna Burgess), and their three children, David, Margret and Donald, drove the forty miles from Wenatchee every Sunday to hold services. They would pack a picnic lunch or eat dinner with church families and stay for the evening service. Those weekly services became an important part of the Kellogg children's lives, molding them during the teen years and directing them into service for the Lord. David is presently Vice-President of Administration at World Gospel

Mission in Marion, Indiana.

For twenty years, he and his wife Helen were missionaries to Kenya, Africa, where their three children were born. David's son Steve is now connected with Sports Outreach Institute, which coordinates sports-oriented ministries for the youth of Africa. The ministry of the David Kellogg family has had continuous financial and prayer support from our church since David went to the mission field in 1950.

Margret Kellogg, along with our first official pastor, Willis Barney, held the first Vacation Bible School at the church in 1943. As a high-school girl, she wrote all the material and played the piano for the children's choruses. Margret became an accomplished marimba player. She ministered musically in churches, camp meetings, and evangelistic services all over the United States. During the eighteen years she traveled, she faithfully conducted Vacation Bible School and held puppet shows for children. Today Margret is a partner in a pear orchard in Dryden and is the minister of music at Dryden Community Church.

Ralph and Edna Kellogg's youngest son Donald presently serves as a volunteer in the evangelism program of a large Nazarene Church in Concord, California, where his son Dan is pastor.

As we follow the lives of the Kellogg family through the years, we see where God has blessed them, and has blessed our church through them. What a heritage they have left all of us!

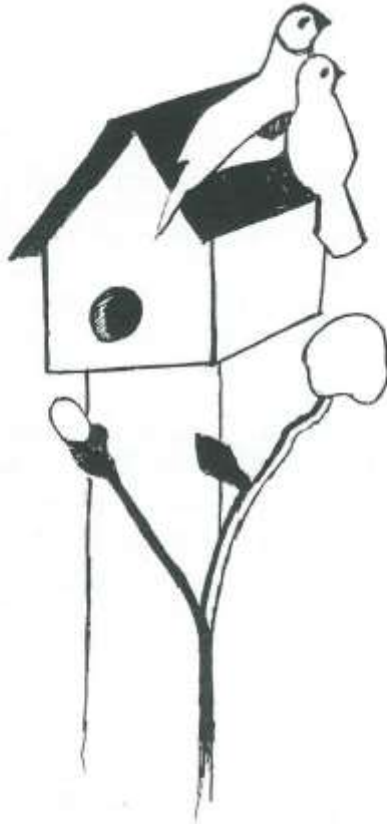
The Kelloggs were present Sunday, December 7, 1941, the day chosen to officially organize the church. The morning services were followed with a potluck dinner, and plans were made to meet that evening at the Joe Squier residence for an organizational meeting. Upon returning home that afternoon, the worshipers learned over their radios of the bombing of Pearl

Harbor.

The evening meeting to discuss the purpose of organization and The Articles of Faith was a somber and prayerful one, not for the church organization alone, but for the fact that the United States was at war.

That evening the first board of directors was elected. They were W. O. Burgess, Joe Squier, Maude Newell, Gaynor Buntain, and Inez Vest. Trinna Burgess was elected secretary and Alpha Buntain was elected treasurer. Alpha held the position of treasurer for twenty-six years, after which Betty Newell was elected. Betty continues at that job today.

By December 31, 1941 there were 33 believers enrolled as members of Plain Community Church, many of them the young people of the community.



PARSONAGE AND GROUNDS

Soon after the church was organized, three acres of land and a small house along the river came up for sale. The decision was made to purchase this land from Isabelle Darling for a grand total of four hundred and seventy-five dollars. She received two hundred and thirty-six dollars and the former owners, the Wenatchee-Chiwawa Irrigation District, received two hundred and thirty-nine dollars. Since four hundred and seventy-five dollars was a lot of money in the early 1940s, church members were asked to canvass the area looking for donations. Many neighbors were willing and glad to help. The debt was paid off

in four years. Tax on the property in 1942 was fifty-nine cents. Our church today enjoys a tax-exempt status.

The little house became home for our first pastor and has served as the parsonage for every pastor since then, with the exception of the Hesse family. Improvements were made when each pastor moved in, but major remodeling was done three times. It was Otto Sather who tore off the screened-in porch and transformed it into a living room. During the Sathers second year in the cottage, Otto put in a bathroom. Elvett Brown had gotten cold water into the house during his stay.

During Otto's years as pastor he built the garage, which housed firewood as well as the pastor's car. On one end was a tool shop and a guestroom, which was complete with its own little wood stove. Otto dubbed the little room the "Prophet's Chamber". Besides serving as a guestroom, this room was a Sunday School classroom for Junior Highers taught by Betty Newell. Today the "Prophet's Chamber" is used for storage.

When the Erickson's came in 1980, the little house had the upstairs attic transformed into two tiny bedrooms to make room for their four children. In 1990, major changes included rewiring, updating the bathroom, replacing the kitchen cabinets (retiring the ones built by Pastor Sather), and installing new vinyl and carpeting. The estimate for improvements was five hundred dollars. It actually ran into a little more than three thousand eight hundred dollars, making a delightfully livable home that is now called "the cottage".

When the new parsonage was built, the cottage became home to the Ministers of Maintenance, Roger and Joanne McKinley, followed by Jim and Karen Beach, and presently Rich and Cindy Cram.

On January 8, 1985 the church board officially voted to build a new parsonage. The groundbreaking party for the new parsonage was held on March 16th, 1985-a significant day for one of the founding members of the church. W.O. Burgess was celebrating his 87th and final birthday. He was there for the groundbreaking, and was so interested in seeing the new home completed. Though he went to be with the Lord a month later, he was a major contributor to the project.

Volunteer labor from the likes of Chuck Warnock, Al Mellon, Earl Marcellus, Dave Leonard, Dirk Andersen, and many others brought the actual cash cost of the new parsonage down to forty-seven thousand dollars. Of that amount, only ten thousand dollars was borrowed from Cashmere Valley Bank, and that was paid back fully in less than a year.



SCHOOLHOUSE ERA

In 1942 Willis Barney was called to pastor Plain Community Church. He received six dollars per week, with the promise of vegetables from the gardens of church members. By 1943, Pastor Willis was receiving ten dollars per week.

Church services during this time were being held in the schoolhouse. We rented it from the school district for four dollars per month. That fee was reduced to just one dollar per year upon the arrival of a new superintendent to the school district. (As a side note, the last school year in the Plain schoolhouse was 1950-51.) After we got our own church building, we used the schoolhouse as a gym until 1974, when it was sold to the Grunewald Guild. They have maintained the building much the same as it was originally.

Wood heat was the only source of heat for the church services held in the schoolhouse, and the men of the church would work

to supply the three cords of wood that were burned each winter.

We were a busy church, with Sunday School, morning worship, evening worship, cottage prayer meetings on Wednesday nights and revival services once a year. In those days, there was no Pobst Canyon Road, and the only way to Lake Wenatchee was by way of the Chiwawa Loop Road. The Board of Elders saw a need for a Sunday School at Lake Wenatchee and endeavored to meet that need, but, try as they might, it never really was a success.

Willis Barney left our church in 1945. The church first considered calling David Kellogg to be our pastor. He was the son of Ralph Kellogg, who served as our pastor prior to being an organized church. But since it was during the war years and he had a pastor's deferment, there was concern that he might not be readily accepted by the community. So Willie Thomas came to our schoolhouse pulpit. It was during Pastor Willie's first year, 1946, that our church was incorporated. The church board members personally took on the responsibility of furnishing the parsonage for him. They did this from their own homes, or by providing funds for new linoleum, a stove, furniture, dishes and other household goods. Trinna Burgess, with the help of daughters Carol and Barbara, painted the woodwork.

During Pastor Willie's stay, we had our first special missionary speaker. Jacob DeShazer, a former Japanese prisoner of war, spoke on April 13, 1947. He had been a flyer for General Doolittle before being shot down. He was a POW for forty months, thirty four of which were in solitary confinement. He suffered torture and starvation and held bitter hatred in his heart for his captors. He spoke of getting hold of a Bible and becoming a Christian, which changed his outlook toward his captors. After his release and his health returned he went to Bible college, and then went back to Japan to minister to his

former enemies. Our church gave an offering of fifteen dollars, and Pastor Willie additionally gave his whole week's salary of fifteen dollars.

As a church, we managed to get by on little money during the 1940s. As an example of how little money there was, the church minutes show where the board decided not to purchase a photostatic copy of a map of our church property because of the two dollars and fifty-cents it cost!

Elvett Brown became our pastor in 1947. However, he had been around before that-- in fact, long enough to sweep our first pastor's sister off her feet and marry her! Marguerite Barney and Elvett were married, with her brother Pastor Willis performing the ceremony. When Elvett and his family moved into the parsonage, one of the first projects was to get running water into the parsonage. Elvett, Gaynor Buntain and Galen Pobst dug a well and built the pump house. Years later, in 1989, we found Elvett once again involved in drilling a new well for the church.

In 1948, the picket fence was built around the parsonage to keep the children away from the river and the road. Lots of little ones were coming along. Our first associate members were three-year-old Eileen Brown (Elvett's daughter), three-year-old Bill Newell, and four-year-old Gary Newell. In that same year, the pastor's salary had climbed to a big seventy-five dollars per month.

The schoolhouse served as our meeting place from 1942 until 1952. While we were glad for a meeting place, it wasn't always the best arrangement. Other groups would use the building on Saturday night and church members would have to arrive early Sunday morning to clean before services. For two summers we pitched a tent out in the grove near the parsonage, and held our services in it while the schoolhouse was being renovated for the

coming school year. We gave some consideration to having an army chapel delivered to our valley for a cost of twenty-six hundred dollars, but finally opted to start a building fund and make plans to actually build our own church.

The building fund was started in 1950. That same winter, the Elmer Tyler family was in need of a home. For four hundred dollars we purchased from O.M. Pobst a little red house that sat in the field now owned by Dennis Pobst. The house was put on skids and moved down river three miles to the Tyler building site. W.O. Burgess and Ralph Newell used their caterpillar tractors to move the house. Due to the cold weather, these tractors were kept running all night so that they could get a good early start on moving day. The day was a clear, bright sunny one, with a temperature of 30 degrees below zero. Betty Newell recalls walking along with Bill and Gary behind the tractors as they slowly moved the house down the narrow river road. That noon there was a potluck dinner for everyone involved in the project. The building fund was a little poorer, but the church was a little richer for the work they had done in the Lord.



THE LITTLE CHURCH

In 1950, Ralph Newell used his new D-6 cat to dig the foundations for the first church. It was extremely rocky ground and it hurt him to the very bone to work a new piece of equipment in that rock pile. Perhaps the rocks are one good reason that the church has that property today.

The county owned an acre-and-a-half triangle of land adjacent to the three acres that the first parsonage sat on. When the county put in the one-lane wooden bridge, they needed road right-of-way to access the bridge. The property they needed was owned by W. W. Burgess, so the county traded their triangle of land for a strip of access road.

W.W. Burgess had originally intended to use the triangle of land for a cemetery, but perhaps he too had found out how rocky it

was! After having the land surveyed, in December, 1946 Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Burgess gave that piece of land to Plain Community Church.

In the summer of 1951, Gaynor Buntain drew up plans for a church building and Slim Beard of Lake Wenatchee hired on as a carpenter. Gaynor, along with many volunteers, spent many hours working on this building. Those who were personally unable to work hired someone to take their place. Because of this help we were debt-free when the building was completed, at a cost of just over fifty-two hundred dollars.

The first service in our new building was our Christmas program. It was held on December 21, 1952 with over one hundred people in attendance. The building dedication was held on January 18, 1953 in the midst of a severe snow storm. Nevertheless, our former pastors joined fifty-five people in attendance at the happy event. Reverend Tom Howard of Marysville was the special speaker. He continued with evangelistic services for the following two weeks.

Furnishing the new church became the next project. Trying to find inexpensive pews for the little church posed a problem. W. O. Burgess heard about some theater seats in Portland, Oregon, so two men took pickup trucks to Portland and purchased 100 seats for three hundred dollars. The wood on them needed to be reconditioned and the seats needed new covers. The ladies' missionary society, along with Lydia Dailey, who was not a church member, headed up this tedious project. The old theater seats served our congregation faithfully for about thirty years before being passed to Cascade Mountain Bible Church.

Lincoln MacPherson, with a lot of advice from his father-in-law (W. O. Burgess), built the pulpit. This same pulpit was remodeled by Herb Schulze, and its appearance enhanced with the use of some American chestnut lumber donated by Earl

Marcellus.

Our church piano moved into the new building from schoolhouse days. Way back in history before the church there was a community club. When the club dissolved in July, 1949 they gave the piano to the young church. It was not until 1956 that we were thrilled to be able to furnish the church with a Hammond organ at the price of one thousand three hundred and eighty-five dollars. Betty Sather was our first organist. She was succeeded by Gladys Krakora, who still provides the organ music. We have been blessed over the years with many wonderful musicians, including Nona Squier, Esther Mae Thomas, Marguerite Brown, Betty Sather, Cheryl Erickson, Gladys Krakora, Char Townley, Carol Adamson and Merrilie Aho.

Our first telephone was installed on church property in 1959. Prior to that, Ralph and Betty Newell relayed messages to the pastor.

Our church basement became the hub of Sunday School activities, with the classrooms divided by burlap curtains from ceiling to floor. Years later someone must have found a good buy on pink velour, because the burlap curtains were replaced by heavy pink velour ones.

PASTORS IN THE LITTLE CHURCH

Pastor Claude Barrett came to Plain in 1952. He was the only pastor to preach in both the schoolhouse and in the new little church.

Standing out among memorable occasions with Pastor Barrett was the dedication of seven babies at one time. All seven were cousins and five of them were born in the same year, 1951. These babies were Billy and Linda Burgess, Byron Newell, Ricky MacPherson, Steve and Larry Willet, and Nancy Buntain.

There were sixteen members in the church when Pastor Otto Sather arrived in November, 1953. Under his ministry many more were added. We offered him the large sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per month. We were just nicely settled into our new little white church. Pastor Otto's entire 26-year ministry at Plain Community Church was in this church, with the exception of one month. That month was October, 1979, when he preached in the present sanctuary.

During these years we were introduced to many inspirational speakers. One of the favorite speakers that returned frequently was Frank Farley from England. Others included Alf Reimer, Lloyd Kilgore, Bob Shelton, Hal Bartram, and in more recent years, Don Demaray, Wentworth Pike, Oscar Brown and Talmage Wilson.

Otto and Betty always had an active youth group. The youth used the old schoolhouse as a gym, and there were many wild games of basketball with Otto among the wildest of players! Yet we were blessed with a lack of serious accidents or injuries. Following the activities, the youth would stampede back across the one-lane bridge to the parsonage. Once there, the little cottage would swell to bursting as the young people sang and conducted their meeting. Finally, they would break into two groups for Bible study. Betty would lead the 4th through 6th grades, and Otto would take command of the 7th through high school grades with the same intensity he had on the game court.

Occasionally the King's Teens from the Dryden area, led by Walt Goehner, would accept a challenge in basketball, volleyball or baseball. The game would then be followed by a hotdog roast or watermelon feast and a devotional. The young people also found competition during the summer months from the fire team at the local Forest Service.

Pastor Otto organized youth camps. One such was at the "Y" Camp on Lake Wenatchee where the youth were joined by a youth group from Marysville. Another enjoyable retreat was when the youth rode snowmobiles into Camp Camrec and had as their Speaker Frank Farley, the popular evangelist from England. The youth also looked forward to the King's Garden Valentine Banquet held at the Seattle Center every February. Pastor Otto would organize several cars to take them to this formal occasion.

Pastor Otto managed to keep up the church grounds and have one of the nicest, biggest gardens in the valley. Yet, each summer for years, the Sathers took young people to camp at Miracle Ranch. The camp was under the direction of Jack Geer of King's Garden, and he often asked Pastor Otto to serve as camp speaker. Mrs. Sather was always a counselor. The Sathers would pack up the station wagon with kids on Sunday afternoon and arrive at the camp, west of Tacoma, in time to settle into the cabins and have the dinner meal. Then following a week of "camping" they'd return home Saturday afternoon in time to repack and leave again following the Sunday service the next day, with a fresh group of kids!

It was Pastor Otto who started the tradition of holding the baptismal service down at the Big Rock. This was always during the last week in August, when the river had "warmed up". Pastor Otto also led a men's prayer meeting every Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. -- and no breakfast either! Additionally, all the years he was here he led the Adult Sunday School Class.

In 1961, it was Pastor Otto that built the church signs on Highway 207 and on top of Beaver Hill. Link MacPherson built the sign that stands in the garden in front of the church. Pastor Otto acquired the bell that is in the bell tower of our present church. He took on the task of hanging it between two trees outside the church. After the new church was built, Ralph and

Bill Newell transferred the bell to its new home in the bell tower.

Mrs. Sather directed the youth from our church in a youth orchestra for several years. She also took on the responsibility of directing the Christmas and Easter programs as well as Vacation Bible School. She started our first ladies' Bible study, that today has blossomed into three or four studies that go on each week.

During the Sather years our church maintained a Cradle Roll Department. This was the responsibility of Trinna Burgess. From the time babies arrived in our community until they were of Sunday School age she visited the families and sent out birthday cards, keeping track of each family and encouraging them to become involved in Sunday School. The children of the Cradle Roll inevitably grew into graduating high school seniors, and their achievement would be honored at our church on a spring Sunday.

We have always had a greeting chairman who, on behalf of the church, remembers the sick with cards and flowers. We also send out Christmas cards. In the past we have used a snapshot of our church, usually in a winter scene, but recently we have been using the talents of our own artist, church member Bob Adamson, to create Christmas cards.

In 1971, we set three goals as a church: to construct a new church building, a new parsonage, and a recreation hall or youth center. Now, in 1991, twenty years later, we have by the grace of God a new church building, a new parsonage, and a sport court, along with Burgess Hall for recreational activities. We owe tribute to our pastors and our congregation, who with God's help have been able to bring about these goals.



“Love and faithfulness meet together” –Psalm 85:10

THE NEW CHURCH

By January, 1978 we had saved thirty-eight thousand dollars for a new log church. By the end of that year the basement walls had been poured and covered to protect it from winter weather. It was at this time the board decided to go with wood frame construction instead of logs.

The following summer the work began. Jewell Satterfield was the building contractor. Dick Wood-cock was chairman of the board and, with the help of his wife Lois, took responsibility for the construction work. They spent many long hours-- in fact the whole summer -- working on this building. Their handiwork is evident throughout the whole building.

When plans were made to build a new church, all agreed that, since ours was a country church, we wanted a country design. We wanted to use native materials that would enhance our mountain and woodland setting. This was accomplished by

selecting an architectural design patterned after a Swiss mountain church, drawn by Gordon Nickell of Seattle.

Rocks were gathered from a large rock slide on the north slope of Nason Ridge and were used to face all concrete areas. John Ware, with the help of Jim Krakora and Lee Anderson, put up the rock work around the sides and front of the church. The back side was completed recently by Michael Miller.

Since timber is important to our area, we wished to have our forests represented in this building dedicated to God. Douglas fir trees were cut from land belonging to W. O. Burgess and Ralph Newell, and were sawn locally at the Sid Fritz mill on Shugart Flats.

The timbers, most evident in the four massive trusses that support the roof, were used in the structure, and the lumber went into much of the framing of the new building. All the finishing trim in the church including the window casings, stair railings and wooden light fixtures, are of white pine and Douglas fir that was sawn locally and given by Ralph Newell. The wood was left rough to maintain the rustic motif, but there was a lot of hand-sanding done before they were stained.

The three stained glass windows were designed by Dick Woodcock. The sunburst effect emanating from the center of the cross symbolizes our new life in Christ. Will Martinell of Leavenworth did the actual construction of the glass.

The wood used around the stained glass windows is American chestnut from New York, furnished by Earl Marcellus. This wood is extinct today because of a blight that killed the American chestnut in the early 1900s. The exterior door handles, the trim on the pulpit, and the large wooden cross which is in the center of the stained glass window are all made of the American chestnut.

It also makes up the wood carvings on the doors of the church, with the actual carving having been done by Cal Blackburn of Leavenworth. Close inspection of the carvings will reveal such aspects of our Lord's creation as the mountains, water, forests and wildlife.

Though weather vanes have been used for years (especially on rural churches), the weather vane atop our church is unique. It was designed by Dick Woodcock and built by Gwin "Easterly. The large copper ball comes from the Woodcock family and represents the world. From below, it looks much smaller than its actual eighteen-inch diameter.

The banner above the globe represents God's banner over all the world as expressed in Song of Solomon 2:4, "His banner over all the world is love". At the very top of the weather vane stands a cross --a prominent reminder of the source of our hope and faith.

Dick and Todd Powell lent their bricklaying skills to the fellowship room in the basement. The cross within the brickwork sets off the hand-built cast-iron wood burning stove donated by the Bob Mackenstadts.

The actual dollar amount to construct our church was one hundred and forty-two thousand dollars. It is estimated that seventy-five thousand dollars' worth of labor was donated, to bring the total value of our church building to two hundred and seventeen thousand dollars. In order to complete the building, it was necessary to borrow thirty-five thousand dollars. This was paid back within one year.

It was a happy day when we moved into our church in the fall of 1979.

PASTORS IN THE NEW CHURCH

Warren and Cheryl Erickson and their family arrived in 1980, in time to take part in the dedication of our new church on September 14, 1980. Pastor Sather returned to give the dedicatory sermon.

Prior to the arrival of the Ericksons there was a span of about 11 months in which our church was undergoing the selection of a new pastor. During that time there were guest speakers, but the majority of services were either led by Bill Newell or Bryce Townley.

It was also at this time that Bill started teaching a community Bible study in his home on Wednesday evenings -- ending each season with the now famous potluck dinner! Bill was the chairman of the board at this time, and for several years following.

Dick Whitney followed Bill as chairman, and today our able chairman is Jim Adamson. Jim, as those before him, is very active and ready to help on any project. We have been blessed with quality leadership.

Under the leadership of Pastor Warren, our church's organizational structure was divided into three commissions: Programs, Missions, and Buildings and Grounds. A member of the board chairs each commission, and two members elected from the congregation serve two years. Volunteers are encouraged to attend and take part in all commission meetings. This has brought more involvement of our members into the workings of the church as the commissions meet to plan church activities.

There were many firsts for our church at this time. Pastor Warren instituted the use of the first church bulletin, which led

to the need for our first ushers. Amos Lewis took on the responsibility as the first usher and was followed in that work by Tommy Randolph.

Karen Andersen and Theda Pobst put out our first newsletter, a task taken on by Shirley Bratton in more recent years. Chuck Warnock's inspiration gave us our first church directory.

In 1980, Glenn and Florence Hoffman organized the first AWANA program in our church. When they moved to Leavenworth, Darrell and Ellen Barker became the AWANA leaders, followed more recently by Cindy Cram. When Darrell and Ellen moved up to the AWANA leadership, they left a vacancy in the Sparks group which was filled by Mike and Claire Burke, who have been in that position for seven years.

There has also been an active prayer chain in our church organized by Lois Adamson and Louise Bolser. Two of the most noted links in the chain are Mary Ware and Trinna Burgess, known for their faithful prayer lives.

The Missions commission recently organized a missionary conference, with most of our seven missionaries taking part over several Sundays.

We have enjoyed a marriage seminar led by Greg and Candy MacPherson of LifeTrac Ministries.

We have all looked forward to the visits of our friend Talmage Wilson, known for his wit and wisdom. He can make humor of any situation, as was the case when he fell on ice in the Newell driveway and exclaimed how glad he was that none of his congregation were around to see their "back-sliding" pastor!

Our Valentine banquets have brought such notable speakers as Eugene Robinson of the Seattle Seahawks and Dan Miller, the

former principal of Osborn Elementary school turned inspirational speaker.

It was during the Ericksons' five years here that we had our first Christmas tree decorating party. Following a chili feed, each family took part in decorating the tree as the congregation sang carols. Then the "entertainers" in the church would perform for the rest of the church family. Sometimes the acts would be serious, but more frequently there have been hilarious antics, such as the time Forest Corey sang soprano and Nita Corey sang bass! The tree decorating continues to be a popular event.

In August, 1986 Gary and Margy Hesse and their sons Gavin and Colin moved into our new parsonage, making it their new home. They were grateful to the church body for so generously giving of their time and finances to complete the project so quickly. They have been serving the community and our church family up to the present.



PLAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH TODAY

In May, 1981 a basement was dug and the old church building was moved into an east-west location, opposite of its initial north-south setting. The work to settle it in a new location took two years. The building was renamed Burgess Hall, in honor of W. W. Burgess who had given the land to the church many years ago. New bathrooms and carpeting were installed. The cost of the total project was around fifteen thousand dollars, not counting the hours of donated labor. Phil Clark spent many donated hours on this project. Later, Chuck Warnock and Al Mellon would construct the annex on the back of Burgess Hall, and Dick Whitney took on the task of building the ramp into the new church.

Today, Burgess Hall is used for AWANA, Sunday School classrooms, nursery, art classes, community school classes and

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Originally two voting machines were brought into Burgess Hall by the Chelan County Auditor. They were eventually moved to the old grange hall, which is today known as the Grunewald Guild.

The new parsonage was just completed when Gary and Margy Hesse and sons moved to Plain in August, 1986 to assume the pastorate at Plain Community Church.

On the Labor Day weekend of that year, our church gave a flagpole to the Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club in memory of W. O. Burgess. Dave Leonard was instrumental in the work of getting the flagpole, and Bill Newell (grandson of W. O.) and Trinna Burgess took part in the dedication ceremony.

Our church family has taken pleasure in preparing Christmas baskets for the community. In recent years, Margy Hesse and her helpers have been actively involved in spreading the Christmas spirit.

The men's Saturday morning breakfast, held twice a month, has been well-attended. There have been special speakers, but other times they have enjoyed the testimonies of their own group.

The Buildings and Grounds commission invites the congregation to attend the annual Pine Cone Festival each spring. This is a time for clean-up of the church grounds, as well as the church building itself. Lois Adamson has been faithfully taking care of the flower beds and planters, and was even named the Queen of the Pine Cone Festival one year! Lois has also been faithful to provide the beautiful flower arrangements each Sunday morning in the sanctuary.

One of the more interesting challenges that the Buildings and Grounds commission has faced has been the church building's

infestation by bats and bees! Recently, it appears that the bat problem has been solved but the bees are still around to interrupt the morning service.

Since 1985, we have rescheduled the start of our summer worship services. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, services begin one hour earlier, at 10:00 a.m. Our Sunday School is suspended during the summer and Junior Church is held during the church hour for the youngsters. To get better acquainted with our summer visitors, coffee and refreshments are served outside following the worship service.

For several years, Diana Newell has taken on much of the responsibility for finding helpers for Junior Church and Nursery. Whenever someone misses a tum, or help can't be found, Diana is always there. Also, one that serves faithfully has been Shirley Bratton, who each month provides the bread and juice for communion.

Since the early 1980s we have provided our pastors with the opportunity for continuing education. Most recently, Pastor Gary and Margy attended the Pastors' Enrichment Congress in Portland, Oregon.

Over the past few years, the youth group has been led at various times by Jay and Laura Holland, Rich Cram, Linda Marcellus and Margy Hesse. In 1990 the youth group had fifteen hundred dollars to put toward the building of a sport court. The church agreed to match the funds, and work began under the management of Mike McComas. It was dedicated on May 29, 1991 in memory of Dorothy Mellon, who, with her husband Al, was so interested in seeing the sport court completed.



MISSIONS

Plain Community Church has always been faithful to missions. This was demonstrated in 1953 when our pastor's wife, Lydia Barrett, helped to organize the Ladies' Missionary Society. This group made quilts for missionaries and for those who were in need in our own community. Later, boxes of clothing were sent overseas to the mission field and to orphanages through King's Garden. The ladies who worked so hard washing and mending this clothing were Betty Sather, Trinna Burgess, Nona Squier, Alpha Buntain, Gladys Parsons, Edna Moore and Betty Newell.

These ladies also took on the responsibility of planting flowers around the church grounds and doing the heavy cleaning of the sanctuary twice a year. It was during this time that Trinna Burgess volunteered many Saturdays to clean the church. Her grandchildren remember the fun of going with grandma to clean the church --back then, it wasn't work! This went on for a number of years, until it was finally decided that each church family would take a turn for one month. In later years we hired the cleaning done, until finally our Ministers of Maintenance took over the cleaning, yard work and snowplowing in return for the use of the cottage.

As early as 1950 we gave five percent of the general fund to the Kelloggs in Africa. This was soon changed to ten percent, and other missionaries were included. Additional offerings have been taken for the missionaries who visit our church. Through the years we have pretty much supported the same missionaries, adding new ones as we felt led to enlarge our giving. Today our missionaries are:

Peter and Anita Deyneka, Slavic Gospel Association
Jennifer and Dan Sidebottom, Things to Come Mission
Bob and Marilyn Finke, Colombia, South America
John and Shelly Bailey, Wycliffe Bible Translators
Leland Haggerty and Doris Brougham, Overseas Radio & TV
John Newman, OC International
Steven and Karen Kellogg, Sports Outreach Institute

During the 1960s we adopted a Korean boy. We sent him fifteen dollars a month for his support. We wrote letters to him and remembered him at Christmas and on his birthday.

Each year Vacation Bible School takes on a special missionary project. One year they contributed to the Heifer Project, which sends cattle all over the world so poor countries can start herds of their own. This year they are contributing to the Navajo

Gospel Mission, to provide tents that will be used as classrooms for their Vacation Bible School.

We have also remembered the hungry by sending funds to World Relief, World Concern, and most recently to the children of Romania through World Vision.

Several years ago, we sent eleven hundred dollars to the Slavic Gospel Association to provide Bibles for the Soviet Union. This was over and above our regular commitment.

Home missions have included the Hospitality House in Wenatchee and the Community Cupboard in Leavenworth. Mary Lou Whitney was acting coordinator for the Community Cupboard for several years.

The church has supported a number of short-term missionaries. Dave Leonard did construction in Tanzania for three weeks for Wycliffe Bible Translators. Deidra Corey spent a summer in Sweden and China with Youth With A Mission. Jill Townley went to the Philippines for a summer, and in December, 1990 she attended a major conference on missions in Urbana, Illinois. Matt Andersen spent two weeks on a trip to Mexico to help with an orphanage. Dennis and Karen Keith are spending ten months in Mexico on a construction project starting in July, 1991.

In addition, the church has sent these men and women to missions seminars and conferences: Elvett Brown, Bryce Townley, Warren and Cheryl Erickson, Jim and Gladys Krakora, Gary and Margy Hesse and Chris Townley.

Dick and Lois Woodcock also go out each winter on missions, using those same skills they used in the construction of our own church building as they help churches, schools and orphanages in their travel around the southwest.

It was October, 1983 that the Missions commission had its first missionary conference. However, our very first missionary conference was over twenty years before that, when in 1962 Lloyd Kilgore, the field director for Overseas Crusades, was our special speaker.

Elvett Brown first organized the missions garden in Plain. The garden's produce was sold, and all the proceeds went to missions. Al Mellon contributed beautiful nectarines from his orchard to this project. In conclusion, it is obvious that Plain Community Church has been a giving and a sending church.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

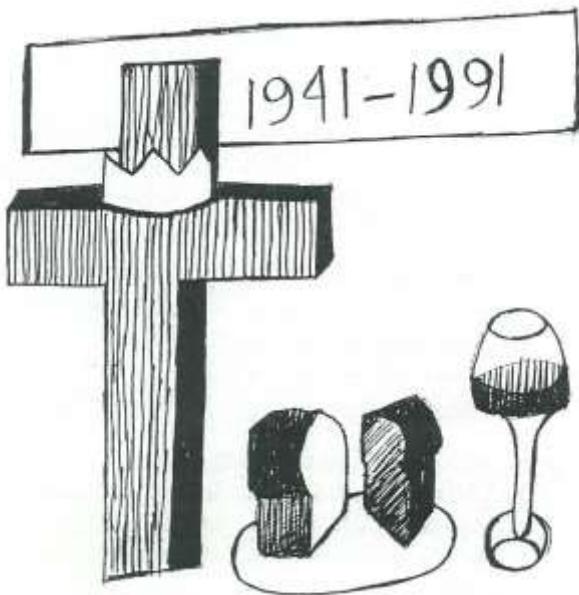
Our church has always had a Sunday School, and through the years God has blessed us with many excellent and willing teachers to fill the classrooms. Classes include kindergarten through adult.

Much of the responsibility for the organization of Sunday School activities has been that of the super-intendent. Our past Sunday School superintendents have been Trinna Burgess, Gaynor Buntain, Gladys Parsons, Orin Barr, Glenn Hoffman, Albin Moore, Karen Andersen and Mary Lou Whitney.

In 1980 the Sunday School was put under the direction of the Programs Commission. During these past eleven years, Mary Lou Whitney has been our very effective superintendent.

One of the Sunday School activities is the annual picnic. For several years we enjoyed delicious barbecued salmon that was flown in fresh from Alaska by Terry Reece, an airline pilot who attended our church with his family. More often the picnics have been potluck, which in other words could be called a feast in this valley of great cooks! There has always been lots of good food, good fellowship and fun times. Organized games have included three-legged races, gunny-sack races and, of course, volleyball.

Besides the Sunday School ministry to children, there has always been a Vacation Bible School. Families in this area have been consistently blessed by this summertime program. In the past, Betty Sather took a major role in organizing VBS . She set a high standard, as she spent many hours putting together materials that would plant God's word in the hearts of children. Following Betty, several other individuals, including Karen Andersen, Linda Marcellus, Laura Holland, Cheryl Erickson and Cindy Cram took on the job. Cindy has been the dedicated director for several years now. She has been blessed with wonderful support from the church members, including, among many others, Norm and Mary Rose, who have provided lots of wooden toys for craft projects. They have also provided their wood working skills to AWANA, and have created centerpieces for various church banquets.



FIFTY YEAR CELEBRATION

Our celebration of fifty years of ministry to Plain and Lake Wenatchee has taken many expressions:

August 17, 1991 **Pastor-Elder Appreciation Night**

Our former pastors return to reflect upon God's faithfulness. Margret Kellogg comes to represent the Kellogg family, which contributed so much in the church's earliest days. Byron Newell, with the help of Rich Cram, brings a multimedia presentation of the church's history which includes a special appearance by Trinna Burgess, the oldest living original member of the church.

August 18, 1991 **Celebration in Worship**

We praise God together as our former pastors lead us in worship; Otto Sather is special guest speaker. A children's choir, led by Kim Miller, calls us to rejoice in our Lord.

August 18, 1991 Church Picnic and Open House

Lois Adamson organizes an enjoyable afternoon of food and festivities for the church family. The parsonage and cottage are opened for visits. The Grunewald Guild leads tours of the schoolhouse.

December 7, 1991 Anniversary Banquet

Exactly fifty years from the day the church was organized, we gather for a dinner celebration. Jim Krakora and Darrell Barker are in charge of this evening.

Anniversary Quilt

Fifty years of Plain Community Church history is represented on this original quilt, presented to the church on August 17, 1991. It was initially conceived by Mary Lou Whitney. Work began March 18, 1991, and the quilt was completed July 9.

The following participated in the quilt's construction:

Sketches: Lois Adamson, Bob Adamson, Ann Baye, and Chuck Warnock

Quilt squares: Ann Baye, Cindy Cram, Margy Hesse, Maria Mihally, Linda Marcellus, Kim Miller, Mary Rose, Jean Saimons, Sabrina Solem, and Mary Lou Whitney

Calligraphy: Kim Miller

Border trees: Shirley Bratton and Maxine Styles

Quilting: Lois Adamson, Ann Baye, Alice Budge, Cindy Cram, Margy Hesse, Maria Mihally, Mary Lou Whitney.

Joylyn Marcellus and Carolyn Smith assisted at various stages.

The quilt is to be on permanent display.

Church History Booklet

This history of Plain Community Church was compiled by Betty Newell and edited by Linda Marcellus. Final editing and printing was done by Gary Hesse. Our thanks to Rich Caemmerer of the Grunewald Guild for the cover and the sketches which begin each chapter; they represent individual squares from the anniversary quilt.



Part II: 75th Anniversary

1992-2016



PASTOR GARY AND MARGY HESSE

Gary and Margy Hesse faithfully led the church from 1986-April 1998. After a couple visits to Plain, the church extended a call to Gary to serve as the pastor. Gary and Margy dedicated themselves to home visits, church gatherings and serving Plain families. Loved by many in the church, Gary was known for his excellent sermons and activities within the community. He sang in the church choir and participated in Leavenworth Summer Theater in his spare time. When hosting folks at their home, the Hesse's made good use of an ice cream maker given by the Newell's. Gary especially enjoyed regular visits from Talmage Wilson, a retired pastor and friend of Bill Newell. The church would gather together for sessions with Talmage Wilson, which provided rich learnings experiences. During this time Nita Corey led the worship singing and continued to do so for many years. Children's ministry has always been a priority at PCC and this passion has continued on in the last 25 years through programs such as Awana, VBS, Kid's Church, Sunday School and Youth Group.

In the cold months the church organized firewood-splitting parties to provide sufficient fuel for the Hesse's throughout the winter. The running joke was that the church did not trust Gary with a chainsaw and had to provide the wood for him. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season the church compiled a list of families in the area and distribute food baskets, including substantial gifts for families in distress. Every year the Hesse's would host a large Christmas dinner with 25 or more people to celebrate God's gift to us. Pageants or adult choirs made the Christmas season special, not to mention the fun-filled evening of the annual chili feed and the Christmas Eve candle light service.

In 1991, for the 50th Anniversary celebration, the church buried a time capsule near the planter and the old flagpole. Today the contents of the time capsule are uncertain, but members remember including kid's drawings, bulletins and perhaps sermons on cassette tapes. Many children took turns scooping the dirt to fill in the hole. At the 100th Anniversary, the time capsule is to be dug up.

Pastor Gary was asked to resign in January of 1998 and continued to serve through Easter Sunday. When Gary announced his resignation, congregants had mixed feelings over the decision, but Gary encouraged the church toward unity. Thankfully, Gary and Margy moved only a short distance away to the Chumstick and members have continued to enjoy their friendship, appreciating Margy's care of their children as a high school teacher at Cascade and watching Gary in his performances with Leavenworth Summer Theater.



PASTOR ED AND DELORIS ANDERSON

CHURCH HISTORY

Ed and Deloris Anderson learned about the opening pastoral position at PCC and came for a personal visit, while on their visit, both felt called to pastor at PCC. 3 months later they were contacted to come for an interview. In July 1998, God fulfilled His will for the Anderson's lives when they were invited to come preach, sing and greet the people at PCC. Pastor Ed and Deloris Anderson began their ministry to help grow the church by nurturing believers and tending to the sick and needy. During their service at PCC the church grew to over 150 in attendance. Pastor Ed and Deloris' say their favorite memory is "the relationships built with the people of PCC which they still enjoy today."

During this time period the church is remembered as functioning as a family. The elderly fondly remember many families within the church visiting shut-ins as well as visiting other folks. Larry and Roberta Copenhaver were well known for

visiting members unable to attend church, always bringing along her homemade cookies. Some still claim Roberta made the best ginger snaps.

The church strove to help the community in tangible ways. When an evening fire destroyed a family's home, Ralph and Betty Newell loaded up their truck and headed to the site with food and blankets to help.

Chuck Warnock had a heart to provide financial support to local families in need as a way to show Christ's love to the Plain community. In 1999, Chuck started the benevolence fund by donating \$4,000 with the purpose of providing money for local families.

Also in 1999, Deloris Anderson saw a need to help bring retired locals together for fellowship and thus Just Plain Seniors began. The ministry sought to orchestrate fun events and historical outings to get the retired folks out of their homes. The ministry also functioned as an outreach as non-church members started attending. In 2005, Ann Davis kept the vision and became the director for 11 years. In 2016, Ron and Joanne Brown graciously stepped in to continue Just Plain Seniors.

One day Jeanne Heine asked Pastor Ed: "Do you print and fold the bulletins yourself?" From that point on Jeanne Heine took over the bulletin, from formatting to folding, having them ready for Sunday and even mailing bulletins to those unable to attend that week. Ann Davis also stepped into volunteer as Pastor Ed's secretary. A board in the foyer welcomed new babies by posting an announcement of their birth. Families would take turns hosting a once a month church potluck. It was an enjoyable time for the church to come together to build community.

Deloris Anderson started a choir to perform for Christmas Eve and Easter services. Easter Sunday was celebrated with two

church services with a breakfast in-between. Outreach continued to be a focus with Pastor Ed Anderson; just as the sign says: "When you leave this sanctuary you are entering your mission field." A harvest festival was started with carnival type games, cake walks, and cider pressing inviting the community to join in the fun. Taking place in Burgess Hall the event was over the top as everyone participated to help make the event possible. Outdoor movie nights, spread across the grass crunching popcorn, were another favorite activity as families were enjoying life together.

Weekly prayer meetings were held in order to pray for the church and pastor. Each participant had a prayer partner who they prayed with, which drew participants closer and covered the church in prayer. Sunday School began with everyone together in the sanctuary to sing songs before heading off to their classrooms. Kim Miller, Mary Lou Whitney, Dirk & Karen Anderson and Marsha McComas all took turns serving as the super intendent of Sunday School. Deloris Anderson became the volunteer Christian Education Coordinator in December of 1998 and served until Paula Lambuth.

Rich and Cindy Cram with their two children, Amy and Mark, faithfully served as caretakers for 11 years. In 2000 Ken and Sabrina Solem took over as caretakers for a short time until a full time youth leader and caretaker was hired in 2002. In 2004, Dave and Barbara Crane served as caretakers until Zachary and Cassie Miller.

In October 2000 Pastor Ed Anderson formed the Membership Covenant. He felt it was necessary for people to know what it means to belong to a church that has Biblical standards. He asked all current and new members to sign the covenant. This is the first time membership of PCC became an official act with requirements to become a legal member in order to vote.

BUILDING EXPANSION

With the growing church body more space was needed for fellowship and worship. The building expansion project was formulated which included a church wing and basement wing. Larry Kanikeberg, a local retired member, headed the project. Larry drew up the plans and applied for the permits. About two years later, after church approval, drawing plans and permit approval, challenges arose. The county overturned the final approval and new rules were applied to the church. The church now needed a bigger septic and drain field if the building was going to be expanded. Thankfully, the church was offered an excellent price for the property with the mobile home adjacent to the baseball field. In January 2003 the SIMS property deal closed and the drain field was built behind the mobile home, which today holds The Pantry. One prayer and complication answered, but final approval of the permits continued to delay because the drawings had not been drawn by an architect or stamped by an engineer. A local engineer approved the drawings and placed his stamp of notification, refusing payment for his services. Once the drawings were notified and Pastor Ed undertook numerous trips to the court house, the church finally received the approval from the permit offices to begin building.

The church tackled the building as a family. The finances for the expansion were all donated before construction began and volunteer labor saved a lot of money. Larry Kanikeberg oversaw the construction of the expansion. Every day except Sunday, men gathered to work. The workforce mostly consisted of retired folks, but those still employed came when time allowed. It was a time of strong fellowship and growing together as a church. The work was hard, but it was fun and enjoyable. The women's group would often provide lunch and Ann Davis, Deloris Anderson and Jeanne Heine made sure the workers were well fed. Ken Sturgess, Jim Adamson, Jerry Heine are just a few of the retired men who helped. Pastor Ed labored daily working right alongside everyone else. Bill Newell and Mike

McComas brought in their equipment to help with the excavating and foundation. Eric Warthen, Jeb Butler and Kris Norby came and went as they could. Jim and Kathy Click participated and even built the current podium. Through the efforts of many the church completed the building of the expansion within one year, by the end of 2004.

In September 2005 Pastor Ed and Deloris Anderson were one year past retirement age. With the completion of the addition to the church, they felt the timing was right for them to resign. Pastor Ed and Deloris Anderson moved to Arizona, but he continues to minister by preaching and occasionally visiting PCC.



PASTOR PHIL AND LYNETTE STRONG

With the resignation of Pastor Ed and Deloris, Board Chairman, Dan Oberg, offered Paula Lambuth, the Christian Education Coordinator position. Paula, the first non-pastoral hire, accepted the position in September 2005 and just a day and a half later the Anderson's drove away. The board recognized the need for a fulltime position to work in an administrative capacity between the church and the Board to perform the duties necessary for the function of the church. Paula's gifting in administration and children's ministry complemented the church's needs. During the period of transition, Dan Oberg oversaw congregational care and the worship service, and the board hired Michael Nash to preach the Sunday message.

By Thanksgiving of the same year Pastor Phil and Lynette Strong and their kids, Austin and Erin arrived. They were so engaging and so thrilled to be here that they quickly opened their hearts to the community as well as the church. Pastor Phil's heart for God, his life of prayer and worship, his ability to reach out to

people with such compassion and grace seemed exactly what the church needed in that season of PCC.

Prior to the hire of Paula, there had been a period of inactivity in kid's ministry with no midweek activities, Sunday School or kid's church. To begin with Paula prepared weekly activity bags for the children. When Stonewater Ranch moved into Alpine Boys Ranch in February 2006 our church had an influx of children again and from that period on other families continued to move to the area, increasing the need for children's ministry. Dan encouraged Paula to think outside the box and see what God was calling the church to do to minister to kids. Over time our mainstay VBS and Sunday school ministry were joined by Summer Kids Club programs and an after school program at Beaver Valley School. As a former preschool teacher, Paula even started a Storytime for preschoolers. Eventually No Plain Preschool with Jamie Sauer would open its' doors for several years. Elementary Kids church and nursery care were added to Sunday mornings. Cindy and Zelda organized a kid's choir for several years for Christmas. Barb Creasey always made the costumes for them. The church was alive with possibilities along with the liveliness of another group of children. Paula once heard that some thought Jackie Marcellus would be the last baby at PCC. But God was bringing in a new generation.

With a heart for girl's ministry, Paula began to meet with a small group of girls weekly. Eventually this turned into Girls Club, a time of fun with crafts, baking, and teas with Bible Study. Soon a small group of disgruntled boys were asking "Why do the girls have a club and we don't?!" Initially Pastor Phil brought the boys together under the guise of "Guitar Club," but soon it morphed into the "Boy's Club" where all young boys from 6-15 were welcomed. Phil desired to create some space where the boys could hang out with their Pastor and form a different vision of church by establishing healthy memories together.

Phil said "I didn't just want to be the guy up front, but rather the guy under a pile of boys."

PCC's favorite traditions continued with VBS, Baptism at The Rock, chili feed and talent night, the Christmas Eve service, and Pinecone festival. Kids continued to swing after church and Mike McComas headed up building a much needed new swing set. Every Sunday, when the weather allows, the swings are full of laughing children.

After 37 faithful years of serving the church as the treasurer Betty Newell stepped down. Joanna Norby filled in for one year and then Verna Lotts accepted a paid bookkeeper position. In January 2009, another new ministry, The Pantry, opened its doors, providing a wonderful opportunity to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

Phil states that one of his highlights was the privilege of identifying, calling out, and walking alongside Pastor Zachary, Cassie and Melanie in Zachary's ordination, the first time our church ordained a member. It was a special, unique opportunity for Zachary to be ordained by the church he grew up in with the people he loved. The ordination process and service was a significant moment in Zachary's life. The encouragement and support he felt helped to confirm his calling to be a shepherd.

In July of 2014 Paula came to believe that her season of full time ministry at PCC had come to its conclusion and that God had another plan for her with her family. With the hole Paula's departure left, Melissa D'Atre accepted a part time position as administrator and Pastor Zachary directed kid's ministry. The following December of 2015 Melissa D'Atre resigned as administrator and in 2016 the Board hired Kathi Bonallo as the church administrator.

Phil and Lynette loved the people of Plain and strove to build personal relationships with them outside of the pulpit. From their weekly walk to the Hardware Store for coffee, to Lynette's nail salon and Phil serving as a volunteer fireman for 10 years, they enjoyed each opportunity for lengthy conversation with folks in the community. Daily, Phil drove the Chumstick to McDonald's, bringing his newspaper, Bible and notebook. He spent countless hours in that McDonald's preparing Sunday's sermons. Phil's heart and preaching emphasized the overall picture of the Gospel which he referred to as "The Story." Constantly Phil called the church to live into God's redemptive story. Every Sunday at the end of his sermon, Phil asked the congregation to stand as he blessed them saying: *"And more than anything, I pray that you come to experience the love of God for yourself... although you'll never understand it! And the Lord is with you."*

Through many restless nights, tears and wrestling with God, Pastor Phil and Lynette felt God calling them to a new season of service at Woodinville Alliance. Though a tough decision, Pastor Phil and Lynette have always committed themselves to the pursuit of God's heart and in August of 2015 Phil announced his resignation. The beginning of October they departed for their next ministry.



PCC TODAY

With the Stong's resignation, another rough season of conflict began for PCC. The Board of Trustees hired Dave Anderson along with his wife, Tricia and daughter Kalena to serve at PCC as an interim Pastor. When Dave and Tricia arrived in early October 2015 they jumped right into their work here in Plain. Amongst both dissension and welcome, the Andersons continually put themselves in a place of vulnerability and loved our church.

After several meetings, Dave recommended revising our by-laws by forming a team to re-write them. In January 2016 the By-law Committee formed with Haakon Sorenson serving as chairman. The main focus of the committee is to restructure the leadership format by changing to elder and deacons. The church members are in strong agreement with the leadership structural change; however the greatest challenge has been the disagreement regarding women as elders. The church is almost

evenly split and it has been a struggle to love each other well as we discuss our different interpretations of Scripture. In December the church will be voting to ratify all of the changes in the by-laws. Our church began as non-denominational, joining many backgrounds together, with the goal to include all Christians by loving one another and sticking to the essentials to form one church fellowship. As we have grown, the struggle has become more difficult, but this is still the church's desire.

Throughout the ongoing by-law process, The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) has faithfully been meeting weekly since October 2016. Their goal has not been to rush, but to do things right by researching, setting up computer programs, surveying the congregation, creating a pastoral application and lots of prayer. Currently the PSC has whittled down the applicants from fifty to eight.

In September 2016 Dave Anderson accepted a full time pastoral position in South Dakota. The board hired Eric Warthen for two days a week to oversee congregational care and Sunday service. Bill Aho agreed to preach as well as opening the opportunity to members of the church.

The journey continues for both the By-law Committee and the PSC. This has been a season of uncomfortableness and tension for our church. But this is not regretful; families have periods of strife and conflict and this period is bringing us closer together and making us stronger.



CHILDREN

“PCC heart has always been children, community and missions. This has been our vision and priority in ministry. As you look at how our resources, time and energy are spent, this is where we dedicate ourselves.” ~Paula Lambuth

SUNDAY CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES (2005 TO PRESENT)

By: Paula Lambuth

Sunday ministries to children included Sunday School and Children’s Church divided into Kids Church (elementary ages) and Jr. Kids church (preschool ages). In full recognition that the primary role of training and discipleship belongs to parents, the church desired to partner with families through these ministries to love their children well. Sunday School aimed to minister through discipleship where the weekly teachings of scriptures and an ongoing relationship with a small group of children was

significant. Children's Church was the other arm to Sunday School and in its place as a whole was outreach providing an opportunity for families to reach out in our community and bring friends to church. Kids Church met, and continues to meet, in Burgess Hall. Building on Sunday school, Kids Church expounded upon the big picture of who God is and what He has promised. It was the whole of God's story: Genesis to Revelation, creation to heavenly glory depicted in flannel graph, puppetry, video, drama, story, and scripture reading. Songs, crafts, games, celebrations, and opportunities flourished.

Kids Church also became a place of leadership training. A dozen young people came to a class to learn how to begin to work with children and left having covenanted to show themselves faithful in their commitment to those younger than themselves. They learned to show up early and be prepared. They learned that prayer was their starting and ending place. They learned a lot through experience, about how long a lesson should be, how important it was to build relationship with the kids, and why boundaries were important. The younger children loved them. When these junior leaders were coached to lead, they led with joy. Though this is not an active program any longer, these young people will still show up in Burgess Hall to see if help is needed.

Currently, Kids Church at PCC is the singular arm to Sunday children's ministry and thus its teaching purpose is more of a Sunday school arm for training and discipleship.

ROYAL RANGERS

By: Pastor Bill Aho

Royal Rangers is a mentoring ministry for future men, providing Christ-like character formation and servant leadership development for boys and young men in a highly relational and fun environment. Our mission is to evangelize, equip and

empower the next generation of Christlike men and lifelong servant leaders. The structure takes the form of patrols, merit badges, service projects, camping, Bible studies, meetings of sports camp, crafts, pinewood cars and a summer Ranger Camp.

Beaver Valley Out Post 404 was birthed in 2007 when Bill Aho returned to Plain to find a large group of eager boys. Bill was trained in Rangers before serving in China. The fathers took on the challenge to help, including Eric Warthen, Jeb Butler, Greg Johnson, Kris Norby and Andrew Campbell. The boys and their leaders grew to be one of the best outposts in the state, winning successive top awards.

So far five young men have earned the Gold medal award, the highest achievable award. These men are: Max Warthen, Andrew Norby, Levi Butler, Josiah Norby and Dawson D'Atre. Royal Rangers is helping to train young men to be leaders and to be strong in their Christian walk.

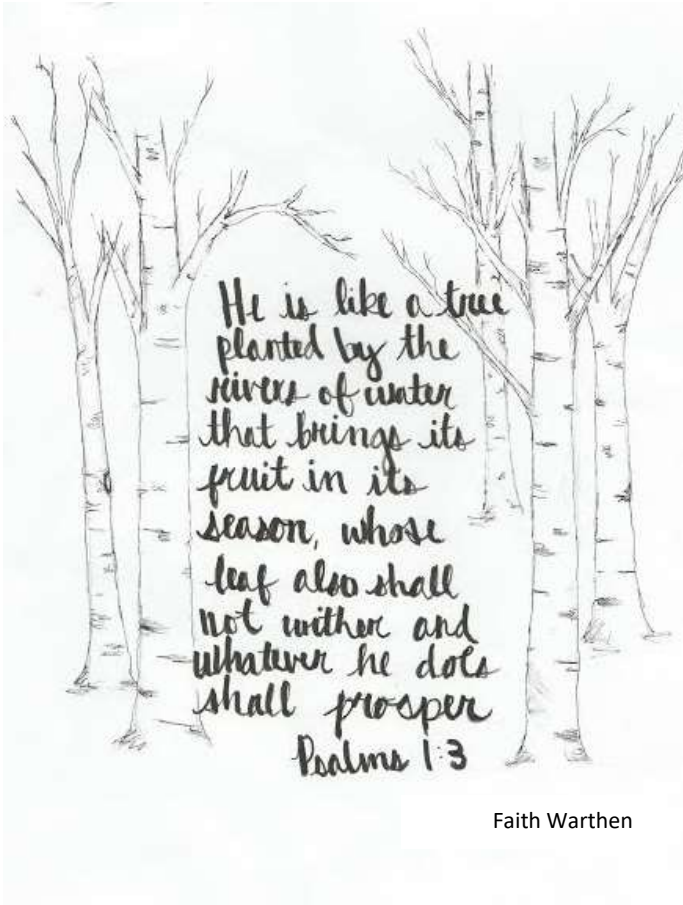
AWANA PROGRAM

By: Cindy Cram

The Awana program at PCC started on October 1, 1981. Glen and Florence Hoffman established this weekly outreach to children in our community and were our first commanders. An average of 60 kids, ages Kindergarten through 6th grade, came on Wednesday nights to have fun and learn of God's love through memorizing His word. Burgess Hall was used for many rounds of energetic games and classes were held in various parts of the building. The Awana circle for game time was actually a rectangle since Burgess Hall was not big enough for the standard circle! Rounding those corners in fast races was a challenge, but no serious injuries resulted! Our council time was held in the basement of the main church at the end of our 2 hour evening together. We sang, awarded prizes for memory work, games and good behavior, presented object lessons to

the kids and prayed together. We had special theme nights, banquets, and harvest parties. Our leaders attended regular conferences in Spokane and Seattle to train us to be our best at working with children. The annual Pinewood Derby was a big hit every spring. Many creative cars raced down the track and trophies were given for the winners. The top cars went on to a bigger competition with other clubs in our state. Jim Adamson, Sr., built our race track which is still in use today with the Royal Ranger club. Every year we also attended memory verse competitions with other clubs in the state. It was a joy to see the kids "hiding God's word in their hearts" week after week and then to celebrate with them as they were acknowledged in various ways for their accomplishments. A large team of adults volunteered to work with our kids throughout the years and their faithful service is much appreciated. Commanders that followed Glen Hoffman were Darrell Barker and Pastor Gary Hesse.

Awana ended in 1997 when it became difficult to find enough leaders to run the program. Plain Kids Club (PKC) was started by Paula Lambuth and Rich and Cindy Cram so that we could carry on a weekly youth program for our younger kids and continued for 4 years. Girl's Club started after PKC ended and soon after Boys Club came into being.



Faith Warthen

YOUTH

YOUTH: 1994-2001

By Jamie Krenz

In our church's history, youth group had been led by Rich and Cindy Cram, Ken and Sabrina Solem, and Mike and Marsha McComas. In 1994, Dan and Lois Oberg came to our valley and church at a time when a large group of us adolescents were entering our teen years anticipating whatever was next...while struggling with issues of self-image, peer pressure, fears, and

who God really was to us. When Alpine Boys Ranch brought the Oberg's to our valley, they fell in love with our crazy group and we needed them. Over the years Dan and Lois have poured love, friendship, care, prayer, and hours of time into so many of us "kids". Their friendship and counsel have continued through our college years, adulthood and even our parenthood. How blessed we are to be loved by a couple so deeply and consistently dedicated to their ministry and relationships. Beyond the lessons, songs and discussions, Christmas Caroling, overnights, 30 Hour Famines and mission trips, their love tangibly demonstrated God's love of us, our value in Him and His unique design in each of our lives.

YOUTH: 2002-2009

By: Angie Stay

Many youth were in our church and the desire grew to provide a full time person dedicated to the ministry. Jeff and Tiffany Graham were the first full time paid youth pastors, but only stayed a few short months until the beginning of 2003. In April, Kevin and Rachel Foss started as the new youth leaders and moved into the cottage. However, Kevin and Rachel resigned the following May, 2004. After the Foss' departure, the board decided to hire from within. Once again, Dan and Lois Oberg agreed to oversee the high school youth while Jeb and Sarah Butler led the junior high youth for three years from 2004-2007. At the end of 2007, the Board hired Ron and Julie Skylstad as full time youth pastors. Ron and Julie Skylstad served until November of 2009.

YOUTH: 2010-2014

By: Pastor Zachary Miller

Paula Lambuth asked Cassie and I to start a youth group with Shane and Kady Land. Pretty soon, Paula and Pastor Phil had me roped in to the joyful, wacky, and often frantic life of a

Youth Pastor. Over the next six years Pastor Phil, Paula, Shane, Kady, Angie Stay, and my wife Cassie would all go on a wonderful journey together of ministering to the youth at PCC.

Youth group was like a family and as family we all took on different roles. Every Monday, Cassie cooked for the whole group. Shane took on a majority of the teaching using games and activities that tied in with his lesson of spiritual truth. Kady had a deep love for the girls, and disciplined them well. When the Stay's moved to Plain, Angie took up the same mantel. I mostly ran around as the entertainment and overall nut-job in the group. My heart was for an authentic life together, so I opened up my schedule for as many intersecting points as possible. Large portions of the group often met two or three times a week for different activities. You could find us singing worship songs on the walking bridge connecting in Wenatchee or having deep theological conversations at 4:00 AM in the Church basement after a night of ballroom dancing to dubstep. One night we beat apart an old couch with baseball bats and then drug it behind my truck to the delight of everyone in attendance. Like I said, we didn't follow many normal patterns. But we loved God, and loved each other, and isn't that the mission of PCC?

The first moment I knew we were making an impact with the kids was in the summer after our launch. We still hadn't reached a real point of desiring the "God" part as much as the "fun" part of youth group. Honestly, I was feeling a little discouraged. We started reading the New Testament, and set the goal of reading the whole thing over the summer. After going through the normal rhythms of reading scripture while navigating the intruding tangents threatening to take us off track, I proposed we start a game of Ultimate Frisbee. Suddenly, Leah Norby said, "but can we come back to this after the game; I'd like to keep talking about this verse." That was the first expression of wanting to go deeper into scripture, and from that

point on it seemed that every element of our time together held a similar importance.

YOUTH: 2014-Present

By: Angie Stay

With the completion of Pastor Zachary's ordination in winter of 2014, God was moving his heart on to another ministry. He became the associate pastor of PCC dedicating his time to assisting Phil, preaching sermons, visitation and counseling. With his new role at PCC, a youth leader was needed. Emily Lundquist stepped up to fill in the gap for a year, until she moved to Spokane, WA. In October of 2015, Leah Norby volunteered to become the new youth leader, another one of PCC's homegrown kids returning to minister. Leah has picked up the mantel with zeal, not only running a weekly youth group night, but taking the students to Young Life in Leavenworth. Her goal, like Zachary's, is also to intersect with the students' lives as much as possible, living life authentically together. In August of 2016, Leah moved into the cottage (as the Miller's moved out) to oversee the caretaking of the church and provide even more opportunities for spontaneous hang out periods to share Jesus.



ADULT MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

By Marsha McComas

Plain Community Church had a small membership until a housing boom began about 2005. Our church saw many new families start attending on a regular basis and suddenly we found we did not know many of the ladies. In 2007 Paula Lambuth organized a group of six women to gather to vision and plan to see how God would bring us together. Women's ministry was born.

Prior to this time, an official group of ladies forming a committee was not needed. We enjoyed celebrating all aspects of life together and serving on the many ministries that Plain Community Church offered. The entire church would potluck downstairs. The adults of the church enjoy progressive dinners! Craft days, organized by Sabrina Solem, were one of

the ways to involve the community ladies. Women would join together to help organize alternative parties for Halloween, Awana carnivals, Bible studies, church socials, birthday parties, baby showers, and out of town road trips.

As our church grew, Paula Lambuth recognized the need to begin a ministry to bring together individual ladies into a community of multi-generational women. We have laughed together through lively activities and fellowship. Who doesn't love a good game, outdoor adventure, good food, Bible studies and lots of fellowship? PCC Women's Ministry has enjoyed the fruits of embracing one another and the Lord. The fellowship enjoyed by our women has once again helped in bringing us closer to one another and to our faithful Lord.

MEN'S GROUP

By Ken Solem

The Men's Group was formed to give men in our church and community an opportunity to get together on a monthly basis. This is typically done around breakfast on a Saturday morning. Our time together usually involves someone sharing their story and a time of prayer. The idea is to create a time when we could just be together, share some food and encourage one another. Our desire is for it to be a place where we can be open and honest about the daily successes and struggles that we as men go through and know that we are not alone in these battles.



COMMUNITY

THE PANTRY

By: Joanna Norby

It began as a dream. It was one dream, but when God was ready for us to have it, He scattered pieces of it around, lodging them at various times in individual hearts. We began to pray about building bridges. We began to contemplate what they might look like. We began to speak to each other about what God was stirring in our hearts. And the Pantry came to be.

By the summer of 2008, the tenants occupying the mobile home were relocating to a new area. The PCC Board of Trustees quickly decided not to offer the mobile as a rental anymore, but to explore how we as a church could utilize the space. Paula Lambuth and I had already had numerous discussions about an idea that we called a “whole foods kitchen.” The mobile seemed

like the perfect space for it, despite the current state of the building. But that is the beauty of dreams. With Pastor Phil's blessing, Paula announced a meeting to discuss the possibility of starting a food ministry at our church. We met on a Sunday in September and about fifteen of us gathered in the fireside room. It was a faith-building, exciting time. As we went around the table, everyone shared their own piece of the dream. We agreed upon the name "The Pantry" as it implied more than simply a food bank. I volunteered to try and organize our ideas into a draft proposal to the Board. We agreed to meet again the following Sunday.

The mobile was going to need a great deal of attention regardless of what its eventual use would be, so we scheduled a work party. It was a Saturday in early October. I had recently resigned as Church Treasurer, in part because of my growing family, but a leader was still needed for our enterprise. By the time I arrived to help, several people were already hard at work tearing out flooring and hauling debris to the dumpster. As I looked on the work being done, I had an encounter with God. His voice seemed almost audible to me. He said, "Go ahead. This is what I freed you up for."

The Board approved our proposal on the conditions that we do all of the work ourselves and raise all of our own funds. Work continued through the fall, and we set a goal to be ready to open by January 1. Ken Urness ripped off the rotting back porch and built a new one. Julie Helligso and Tammy Barga cleaned and cleaned and cleaned some more. Steve and Debbie Hollenbeck donated new flooring. Mark and Judy Gubrud painted over the paneling, even though Andrew Campbell told me "don't you dare!" Cathy Eldredge, Caren Karnofski and some others, oversaw decorating inside and out, giving it a homey, welcoming feel. Kris and I drove to Lowe's at 5 AM on Christmas Eve to buy enough flooring for the main food storage room. Roger Rumann, Mark Karnofski, and Joe Lemley laid a new sub

floor the day after Christmas. They installed it so it could handle the weight of appliances and large shelves full of food. Kelsey Urness secured a large donation of food from Food Pavilion in Wenatchee and delivered it with her truck. Erin Hagedorn stepped up to be the first Volunteer Coordinator. Donations of cash, a laptop, several large shelving units, and more food came in. The list goes on and on.

We put flyers up all over the area and had a feature on lakewenatcheeinfo.com announcing our opening. On the afternoon of January 1, 2009, many of us gathered at the Pantry. It was standing room only. Phil said a few words and prayed a blessing over the physical space and the endeavor itself. Volunteers gave tours and answered questions. It was a time of thanksgiving, celebration, and anticipation. The Pantry was officially open, the dream had turned into reality.

And then we waited. The first few weeks we were open were fairly quiet. Finally, the first need arrived and five of us swarmed into the food storage room to make up a huge box. It took all of three minutes, but it was an exciting three minutes! Then it was quiet again. I asked God “Did we hear you right? Is this what you wanted us to do?”

“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.”

*Hebrews 11:1,
the Message*

It wasn't long after that first box that we found ourselves busy more than not. There is an ebb and flow to the traffic in and out, but sometimes the quiet days are the best ones to pause and make a new friend over a warm slice of homemade bread, or put your arms, literally and figuratively, around someone who's hurting or anxious. I know there are folks who have never

walked inside the Pantry door, but they have walked away wearing a warm coat they found on our porch. I used to love it during Boys and Girls Club when moms would wander over, to pick up something from the co-op or grind some grain, and linger over a cup of tea and visit, maybe let me hold the newest baby.

Many people have made unique contributions to the Pantry over the years. Our first sign was a sandwich board that we placed out by Chapel Drive when we were open. Jim Adamson graciously made the permanent signs that help people find us and identify us as “A Mission of PCC.” Jerry Heine grew so much squash that for three years in a row every Thanksgiving basket included one. He would bring me information about how to prepare them and quiz me about the different varieties so I would be prepared to answer questions when I gave them out to people. I owe much of what I know about squash to Jerry, and to this day I can't look at one without thinking of him fondly.

In early 2014, God began calling me in a different direction, and calling Kim Miller to be the new Director, a role she officially assumed on August 1, 2014. Kim had been involved from that very first meeting in September 2008, and it was a natural fit. Volunteers come and go, but a few others have also been around since the Pantry opened: Erin Hagedorn, Jill De St Jeour, Jim and Leah Cook, and Dan and Lois Oberg.

The most exciting thing is that God is still giving us inspiration, vision, and opportunity. The Pantry is a work in progress, and the possibilities are abundant. As Kim and her army of volunteers continue this labor of love, may we all seek God together for the next pieces of the dream.



MISSIONS:

PCC has been and will always be a sending and giving church.

Over the past years our church has supported:

Slavic Gospel Association

Sports Outreach

Overseas Radio & T.V.

Overseas Crusade: John Newman

Dennis & Karen Keith in Acapulco, Mexico

Wycliffe Bible Translators: Roman & Jan Stefanie and John and

Shelley Bailey

Bill & Merrilie Aho as they taught in China

Bob & Marilyn Finke in Columbia
Things to Come Mission: Daniel & Jennifer Sidebottoms
Alpine Boys Ranch
Mark & Terri Judy with Africa Inland Missions
Alan and Lisa Skay with Stonewater Ranch

Today we financially support:

Youth Dynamics: Stonewater Ranch, Ken and Sabrina Solem and
Chris and Angie Stay
Gila Garaway with Moriah, Africa
Anita Deyneka with Family for Every Orphan
Guatemala's Mama Carmen Ministry
Niek and Teranne Arentsen with Jerusalem Center for Bible
Translators in Israel

Many youth, who have grown up in the church, have gone out to serve others on short term missions; Jaimi (Newell) Krenz, Amy Cram, Ariyl Steinke Doran, Jordan Solem, Ben Hopkins, Jacob Hopkins, Leah Norby, Joe Oberg, Grace Warthen and Kendra Hixenbaugh are just a few.

MISSIONS TRIPS IN THE 2000'S

Besides financially supporting missions our church has led many mission trips.

The summer of 1999, we (Dan and Lois Oberg) led a youth group mission trip to a reservation in Canada (British Columbia) in a town called Dog Creek. The trip to Dog Creek was mainly to bring a VBS program. We had just finished a castle themed VBS at PCC. We packed up all our curriculum and decorations and did the VBS program every morning. Every afternoon was capture the flag in the rain and every night was music around the fire. God worked in the hearts of every one of us in unexpected ways.

In 2001, Tom Fairbanks led a group to HopeHaven Lodge in British Columbia to run a camp.

Spring break of 2007 we (Dan and Lois Oberg) did another youth group mission trip, this time to Guatemala City to the Casa Bernabe orphanage. Jaimi Krenz and Adam Newell had previously gone on a trip to the orphanage and we thought it would be a good location to take the youth to. Jaimi Krenz returned with us. We did a multitude of things: giving house parents a break while the staff did a 2 day retreat, working on building and improvement projects on campus, and the last day we did a mini-Olympics with all the kids. It was a great trip but exhausting for many. God definitely worked in our weakness.

We (Dan and Lois Oberg) also did several weekend youth group trips to New Horizons Ministries, a Seattle based ministry that worked with youth on the street and is also where Dan and I worked and met prior to moving to ABR. It felt like coming home for Dan and I. Some trips we cleaned the center. Other trips we served food to the youth on the street. A staff member always came to give us a presentation about New Horizons and a tour around the center or even outside in the community NHM was located in. We always included some Seattle fun during these trips and on two occasions went to inner-city churches on Sunday morning, giving our kids another very different taste of church. These were profound experiences for the kids, seeing how God was working in dire circumstances in an area very close to home.

MISSION TRIPS IN 2010'S

We (Angie Stay) went on a mission trip with the youth group to Portland, OR. Shane and Kady Land led and organized the trip through Bridgetown: Because People Matter. The goal of the Bridgetown trip was to "Go, Learn, Return and Respond." We ministered to homeless and cleaned up the city of Portland. We

walked the streets handing out food and socks. We scraped stickers off of street signs. It was a new perspective for all of us and to have compassion for those close to home.

In March of 2014, I (Zachary Miller) lead a youth group trip to Belize. In what would become a great element to the story (although at the time hit me like a sack of bricks to the gut), our proposed work in Belize was not available upon our arrival. Luckily God had an even better plan for us, and we were able to work at the home of a wonderful woman named Anna. She fed 30 school children every day with her own limited resources. Only a block away from where we were staying, we walked to her house every day. Each sunrise brought a variety of blessings and challenges, and it was a perfect culmination of all the aspects of what the group had become: a loving family that was flexible, had a heart to serve, and did it with joy that is occasionally expressed through public dancing.

Mike McComas and Kris Norby with John Fishburne went to the Republic of Congo in 2015 for three weeks.



75th ANNIVERSARY

Dede Shilling with Joanne Brown and Damaris Bartlett oversaw our 75th celebration with the help of numerous women. Our celebration was held on December 3, 2016 in place of our annual chili feed. Ham, potato casseroles, dessert and families bringing a vegetable dish to share started the evening. Afterwards we sang Christmas carols, shared memories and decorated the Church Christmas tree with homemade ornaments. Kris Norby arranged a slide show presentation of old church pictures and Melissa D'Atre edited video clips of long term members sharing their PCC experiences.

Angie Stay led the history committee of Cindy Cram and Dawson D'Atre. The history committee gathered video and written interviews and authored, edited and formatted the church history booklet.

Merrilie Aho contributed her unique watercolor painting pictures for the start of each chapter. Faith Warthen sketched an illustration for the youth section. Marsha McComas and Teranne Arentsen edited the written history. Paula Lambuth assisted in writing the Pastor Phil and Lynette Strong chapter.

Special thanks to all who helped make this booklet possible by writing a section or participating in interviews.