



Dear Ward Parkway Presbyterian Family,

It seems that just yesterday we were marveling over our infant Lord at Christmas and now our Lenten journey is about to begin. Ash Wednesday, February 13, marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40 days, plus Sundays, before Easter Sunday. It is a season of preparation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ and our need for our Lord's saving grace.

Traditionally, Lent is focused on repentance, changing our attitudes, words, and lifestyles. We remember that the Christian life is a life of repentance and we constantly turn away from sin and self-centeredness and turn toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We intentionally examine our hearts and consider our spiritual health:

***What are my besetting sins, and how can I work and pray for change?**

***What idols have captured my imagination so that my love for God has grown cold?**

***In what ways is my devotion to Christ less than wholehearted?**

Often people give up things for Lent as a spiritual discipline, to heighten their awareness of their need for Christ. We can also add things to our routines like daily bible reading, participation in service to the church or community, enhanced prayer time, or acts of compassion.

I encourage you to participate in one of the six week disciple groups which will consider the scripture from worship on the previous Sunday. In our individualistic culture, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that Christianity is a communal faith. We help one another learn, grow and receive God's grace.

During Lent this year, my prayer for you is that this would be a time of genuine and significant spiritual growth for you and for your family. May God grant you peace and joy as you trust in him.

Yours in Christ's love,
Connie

Member Spotlight

By Sarah Guthrie



Bob Skillman

Have you ever wondered why Bob Skillman wears bow ties? It isn't a fashion statement – it was sheer practicality.

"I was working at Cook County General Hospital in Chicago on a fellowship studying blood diseases," he said. "We dressed up for work and long ties got in the blood."

He noticed that another doctor wore bow ties; he's been wearing them ever since.

Dr. Bob Skillman and his wife Liz, who passed away in 2009, first came to Ward Parkway about 40 years ago. They joined a group of their friends who all lived around 104th and High Drive. Dr. Bob remembers attending Frank Barker's Sunday School class – 150 strong – that was held in the Fellowship Hall because it was the only room large enough. He also remembers great parties at the homes of church friends – masquerades and trivia games with questions from the Bible.

Although Dr. Bob was encouraged to become a doctor by his mother he found that he liked the work. He enjoyed meeting the families and watching the kids grow up. He also had his share of unusual questions and funny experiences.

"One young lady asked me "How do you know you are in love?" he said. Another time he got a call in the middle of the night – but it wasn't a medical question. It was a sleepless patient who needed a friendly ear. "How could I say no?" he remembered.

Dr. Bob remembers when all doctors made house calls – and twice daily hospital rounds. That's why he didn't join the choir until 1994 – after he retired.

But retirement hasn't really slowed him down and he's a firm believer in staying busy. He exercises daily, went on medical mission trips up until a few years ago, reads the Bible, and tries to socialize whenever he can. He also says "Take every opportunity to help someone – when you help people it's like looking in a mirror. It will come back to you."

Treasurer's Report

WPPC Financial Report as of December 31, 2012

	Budgeted YTD	Actual YTD	Over (Under)
Current Pledges	\$195,000	\$215,729	\$20,729
Total Operating Income	\$218,700	\$250,007	\$31,307
Total Operating Expenses	\$218,594	\$228,689	\$10,095
Net Income (Loss)	\$106	\$21,318	\$21,212

We have been blessed! 2012 was a very good year. WPPC finished the year in the black, with no funds drawn on the Andrews Memorial.

We finished 2012 with very strong December collections, including (i) \$51,900 in pledges received (27% of budgeted pledges for the entire year), (ii) a onetime unrestricted gift of \$5,000 from a relative of a deceased member, and (iii) a \$3,539 reimbursement from the preschool for liability insurance expenses. For the full year ended December 31, 2012, WPPC received pledge revenues of \$215,729, versus a YTD budget of \$195,000, resulting in a final surplus of \$20,729 in pledge revenues received. Total operating income of \$250,689 also exceeded the budget of \$218,594, resulting in a final \$31,307 surplus in revenues received.

Total expenses for the year were over budget. For the full year ended December 31, 2012, WPPC had total operating expenses of \$228,689, versus a YTD budget of \$218,594, or an excess of \$10,095. We made year end disbursements of \$9,800 for PCUSA and Local Mission Funds to fully fund this budgeted item. Repairs and maintenance expense for 2012 totaled \$24,700, or approximately \$10,700 over budget. As discussed in the September 30 Treasurer's Report, our liability insurance expense was over budget by \$14,200, as we prepaid for insurance coverage through August of 2013. On the brighter side, electrical and gas utilities expenses came in \$1,300 and \$5,900 under budget. Since Joe Wilkinson left this summer, there were also savings in organist salary expense, partially offset by increased expenses for guest musicians.

Looking Forward to 2013

We received 2013 pledges (or their equivalent) of approximately \$220,000 or a \$25,000 increase over 2012 pledges. Note that this is very much in line with the \$215,000 of actual pledge revenues received in 2012. An increase of 13% in pledges for 2013 is impressive given the size of WPPC. Thank you! In December, the Session approved a \$244,500 budget for 2013. This includes a significant \$32,500 increase in repairs and maintenance expense, a budget item that we have consistently under budgeted and over spent in recent years. The approved 2013 budget also includes some long due increases in staff compensation.

Preschool News



February will be a busy month as we begin enrollment for our 2013-2014 preschool year. We are grateful for the wonderful response we had to our Open Houses in January and for the many tours we have scheduled in the last few weeks.

Valentine's Day provides lots of fun activities and our preschoolers will celebrate with parties in each classroom

and Valentine card exchanges. The parties will be on February 13th & 14th. There will be no school on Monday, February 18th, due to Presidents' Day.

During the following week, we will have Chapel Services and also a visit from a special storyteller, Jo Ho. We wish everyone a very happy Valentine's Day!

Kathy & Kim

Preschool Board

Harriet Plowman, **Chairperson** Sean Stoy, Candis Lochmann, Ramona Nelson, Connie Happell,
Kathy Montgomery **Co-Director**, Kim Manford **Co-Director**, Leslie Bullington **Teacher**, Patty Quick **Teacher**