

FROM THE ARCHIVES

*October 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the Lake Grove Presbyterian Church **Archives**. It is a **place** to contain documents and information of historical value to the church and a **program** to record current church events into LGPC's ongoing history.*

When the old church building was demolished in the year 2000 to make room for the new Christian Education wing, workers found a **time capsule** that had been buried in 1929. Most of the contents had turned to dust because preservation methods were not known at that time.

When the new CE wing was nearing completion in 2001, Church Administrator Donna Sooter asked Jane Vogland to chair a committee that would be responsible for producing another time capsule. This committee included Jean Barber, Betty Hagan, Bev Imper, and Jeanne Keevil, who all had worked on the celebration of the 75th anniversary of this church in 1999.

As it would take considerable time to explore possible contents, container, and placement, it was determined that the 80th anniversary would be the appropriate goal for the new time capsule to be completed. Carl Yackel was asked to join the committee to lend his engineering expertise, and a professional conservator was consulted about standards for this process.

Meanwhile, Glenn Chilcote offered his design/construction files to the church if security could be provided, and Lyle Cummins contributed his financial files as well. This vital information from the Long Range Planning for church expansion from 1950s through 1990s would be useful to administrators, contractors, and historians for years to come.

With Pastor Bob Sanders' approval, Donna Sooter then asked Jane Vogland to establish **the Church Archives**, and to develop a program for whatever action was needed to find and compile valuable documents and information about the history of this church, its pastoral staff, and its congregational membership. The committee would also compile albums of photos, news items, previous pastors, world missions, and write articles about our church history for *the View* and membership directories.

With no precedent to follow, long-standing church members were interviewed and copies of programs and memorabilia were collected to become historical records. Many interesting projects have been undertaken since then, as the Archives program has endeavored to support pastoral staff needs and church member interest.

The first assignment for Archives was to review documents in the church vault to determine whether all records should be kept indefinitely or some discarded after a period of time. An index was compiled to allow discussion with those concerned, and a **Retention Schedule**, based on rules of the National Presbyterian Historical Society, was developed for staff use.

In 2004, the 80th anniversary of this church, several events took place and projects were completed. The new **time capsule** was buried on church property on Sunday 9-26-04 with John Watts, of Building and Grounds, on hand to assist Carl Yackel with the placement of the pressurized container. Jeanne Keevil had researched data and determined what items should be placed in the capsule. A brief ceremony was held, with Pastors Bob Sanders, Graig Flach, and Libby Boatwright, who gave appropriate remarks and thoughtful prayers for this historic occasion.

Also at that time, a half-hour **DVD** was produced by Betty Hagan, who gathered old photos, added background music and captions identifying the original church building to portray a comprehensive review of the church's history. A **list of major events** in the history of this church from 1924-2004 was published, and **an exhibit** was presented to show many of the items collected by Archives such as early annual reports, membership directories, and photo albums of the many people involved in these events.

A book entitled *A Golden Anniversary* was written in 1974 by Alberta Brook Fogdall. This book provided detailed information about many aspects in the life of this church, which is fortunate as other records from those early years were limited. Being curious about the location of our church, Jane Vogland began a study of this region and in October 2009, she authored an updated *History of Lake Grove Presbyterian Church – by decades* – giving information about many events that took place and the pastors and church members who worked so diligently to establish this church and maintain its remarkable growth.

At the request of Mark Evers, the Executive Director of Ministries, an extensive review of **legal documents** in the vault was conducted, to ensure that all necessary forms regarding the real properties acquired by the church were available and in good order. Bob LeFeber was able to secure some missing documents, because of his real estate connections. A review of **Memorial Gifts** from early years to date was also compiled, without donors' names or amounts given. These included many works of art, other substantial gifts, even trees planted in someone's memory. Both of these reports have been placed in the church vault for staff use and for security.

This has been a **decade** of research, assessment, and documentation, and we are grateful for the guidance and support from Mark Evers, Executive Director of Ministries. During the past year, the previous Archives **Mission Statement** was revised and approved by the Board of Trustees. Briefly, this sets forth our mission to locate and preserve historical data of the church, and to update archival records when significant church events occur. The Archives Committee continues to welcome additional information received from within the church membership.