

**Pat Janssen**

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**From:** Pat Janssen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2008 12:01 PM  
**To:** Pat Janssen  
**Subject:** North West Regional News from The LOGOS Ministry

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**The LOGOS Ministry**  
North West Regional Newsletter  
Fall 2008  
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Dear LOGOS Friend,

Our regional newsletters are now electronic! We hope that you will share this newsletter with the folks in your congregation, your community and your region. If you have news to share, please contact **Kathy Price** at [pakprice@yahoo.com](mailto:pakprice@yahoo.com).

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**Family Time at Tualatin Presbyterian: A Party We Share with God**  
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LOGOS at Tualatin Presbyterian Church in Tualatin, Oregon began two years ago using the LOGOS model as our youth ministry on Sunday evenings. We started our search for a youth ministry program after examining the history of our twenty-five year old church. We realized that our youth ministry was strongest when we had an enthusiastic director and that the ministry fell off a cliff when that person left. We were interested in developing a ministry that we could sustain, that would not revolve around one person, which could be shared by all members of our congregation. We believe that this is a perfect, practical way to live out the baptismal promise that we make to raise our children in Christ.

We also examined the roadblocks to success. They included lack of materials, lack of training, offering too much too quickly, lack of enthusiasm, and lack of appeal to our children. We believe that one of the strongest attributes to the LOGOS ministry is the availability of training and support materials. Yes, you can do LOGOS without attending regional training programs, but the enthusiasm is contagious, the flow of ideas is wealthy and the example is outstanding. Training boosts ministry, and boosted ministry makes God smile!

Our plan for implementing the LOGOS ministry was a phased approach, feeling that it would be better to start with what we could handle and do well rather than make a big splash that could not be sustained. In fact we began with only middle school students with only one week per month and quickly there was feedback from families that they wanted more, so we added a second Sunday.

The first year we included only Recreation Time, Bible Study and Family Time in a buffet format. We experimented during that next summer with Family Time (still buffet) and a new element we called Kairos (God's Time) that we would incorporate into the ministry the next fall. Kairos takes the place of Worship Skills--it's actually a half hour youth-centered worship service. It quickly became one of the favorite pieces of the program for many of our group. It has provided a unique opportunity for our pastor to explain elements of the worship service as we participate - why we do things the way we do them, what is the historical purpose, what is the connection to Christ, what does this mean for us now. Our children feel free to offer their joys and concerns with our adults actively listening and supporting our young ones.

The next fall there was demand for an expanded ministry, so we added grades down to third and up to high school and we completed the LOGOS package with all four elements in place moving our Family Time to a themed event with decorations (often over the top!), Table Parents, table game, sung graces & thanks to the cooks, hoppers and moppers.



One of our favorite themes was "Jurassic Night" where we hung silk ivy from the ceiling, accumulated many of the silk plants in the church placing them in the middle of our meeting area, placed an inflatable T-Rex with the plants and in the center, embedded a computer which played dinosaur roars, and added dry ice in hot water which covered the entire floor with fog! It was incredible! We learned that you should elevate the dry ice off the floor so it doesn't freeze to the carpet!



Our table decorations included fossil rubbings and dinosaur skeletons from model kits. We print the words to our sung grace & thanks to the cooks on slips of paper that lay on the plates. We include a table favor at each place setting and a piece of candy that goes with the theme with a "You are a child of God" sticker attached. For the dinosaur theme, we found chocolate Pop Rocks--amazing, looks just like dirt, and hey, it's rock and it's chocolate! Yes, it is a lot of work! We often say that Family Time is a party that we share with God. Our kids are so worth all of this effort.

We try to have some sort of decoration in place on Sunday morning as a tool for letting the congregation know about LOGOS that night - creates some buzz. We also place a LOGOS sandwich board on the walk in front of our church on LOGOS nights.

We consciously made the decision not to have the same folks participate as Table Parents each week, feeling that it was important to include parents from families with no children in their home. We feel that it is critical to have a multi-generational program so that our children understand that there are many adults that love and care about them. Now they can look across the congregation on Sunday morning and be able to place names to faces they did not know; many new relationships are being formed.

We're looking forward to our next LOGOS where we'll be dedicating the purchase of a Heifer Ark! We have created our own curriculum for Bible Study that night that will focus on the Heifer Program as well as prepare the children for our special Kairos. We are jazzed to include a blessing of the animals-yup, the whole congregation is invited to participate by bringing pets for the service. We'll celebrate the joy that our animal family members bring to our lives with some history thrown in about St. Francis. We'll learn from this experience and hopefully continue this theme in years to come, hoping to invite first our neighborhood and then perhaps the community. It's gonna be great!

*This issue's article was written by Dr. Craig Bowen, LOGOS Director at Tualatin Presbyterian Church in Tualatin, OR where there are sixteen children and youth enrolled in LOGOS from third through twelfth grade.*

### Up Coming Events

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**July 24-26, 2009**

#### **The LOGOS Experience**

First Presbyterian Church  
 Sheridan, WY

### North West Regional Support

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 We welcome your questions, concerns, ideas, support, or anything regarding your local LOGOS Ministry.

In the North West Region [OR, ID, WY, WA, MT], please call **Kathy Price** at 208-736-6297 or email her at [pakprice@yahoo.com](mailto:pakprice@yahoo.com).

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