

PCF...So Far

***A history of
the first twenty years of
Peninsula Christian Fellowship***

***3114 45th St Ct NW
Gig Harbor WA 98335***

***Founded: 1976
Incorporated: 1976***

***Founding Pastor: Dennis Cramer
Current Pastor: Dennis Fuqua***

reprinted August 2011

Foreword

You've read the words on the right hand mirror of either your car or another car you have driven. "Caution objects in mirror are closer than they appear." It seems as though some things do appear closer than they really are when we look back at them. However other things look further away. Part of safe driving and safe growing is knowing the actual size of the object we look back at. In a desire to move forward safely, we thought it was time to write some things down about the first twenty years of PCF. We hope we have represented their size properly.

However, the real history of Peninsula Christian Fellowship is not told in this book. The real history has taken place in conversations and actions that few if any people have really seen. It has been lived out in the lives of people who have had a real desire to grow closer to the Lord and closer to other people. Some of that has happened because of some things we did together, but most of it has happened individually and invisibly. It will not be known or told until we get Home. The best we can hope for here is that we have written some things down that can stir up some memories of the real history. We trust reading this will stir up memories for people who experienced some of the events as well as people who experience them for the first time as they read, whether you have walked with us from the very beginning just met us.

By His grace we have accomplished some of His desire for us. We have seen the Kingdom of God be birthed in some people and grow in other people. For this we are thankful. However, there have been many opportunities we have missed. It is our hope that as we reflect back on the first 20 years, it will spur us on to make the next 20 much more productive for the Kingdom and pleasing to the King.

We know we are not though with Him, and we know He is not through with us. But this is where He has brought us... So Far.

Dennis Fuqua

How and why PCF was established

by Dennis Cramer, founding pastor

After the Lord filled Janette and me (along with several others) with the Holy Spirit early in 1975, the direction at Rosedale Union Church began to change. We gradually moved from a more traditional church to one that flowed more freely in the things of the Spirit. This brought great excitement to many, but also gave concern to some. Because of the changes, those concerned felt we were revising our doctrine and moving away from the long-standing beliefs of Rosedale Church. Every attempt was made to assure people that sound doctrine was not being threatened, and that God was just giving us redirection in certain areas. However, the schism grew wider between the majority who loved the fresh move of God and a minority who felt very concerned by what was happening. Finally, to avoid a church split, Janette and I felt we should leave and begin a new church. Leaders of the old guard felt comfortable with us remaining in the Gig Harbor area, so on August 22, 1976 we began PCF at Peninsula High School. In preparation for the departure from Rosedale, the following letter was sent:

August 18, 1976

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this letter to you I realize that it will be the most difficult letter that I have had to write. Most of you have already heard the news announced this past Sunday, but I want to carefully explain everything so there will be no misunderstanding.

...As God began...to make me more aware of the way He was working today, I began to see things in a way I had never seen them before. A new joy began to fill my life as God's Word, prayer and worship took on a whole new meaning. Along with these changes in me there also came changes in my leadership here at Rosedale. All of these changes were not appreciated by some. The introduction of the Scripture choruses, a more demonstrative form of worship and other things were different from what had been previously done at Rosedale...Every effort was made on my part to bring us all together, for, truly, this is God's desire. However, if anything, the division intensified...

...Janette and I made the decision to resign and let God take care of it all. The next day I consulted with several church leaders to seek guidance on whether or not I should stay in the area. The consensus was not only "yes," but three elders (Marlin Cram, Keith Black and Joe Hardwick) and Dennis Fuqua (Director of Christian Education) decided to resign with me to form a new church. The feeling was that the considerable differences between the two groups would legislate against any competition...

Therefore...details of separation were worked out between representatives of both groups...There is a unanimous feeling of happiness and anticipation among the leaders of both groups. No doubt this is God's will. Love has permeated the whole separation process and only the best of relations are assured for the future.

Some of you, no doubt, are wondering where you should go to church now. That decision is between you and God. The new church, under my direction, will continue to function as it did under my leadership at Rosedale. Rosedale Union Church will return to a more formal, more

structured worship service similar to the one present when I first became its pastor. You need to seek the Lord on where you should identify yourself...

I will be praying for each of you during the next weeks. God bless you.

I love you dearly.

Pastor Cramer

God provided for the new church in a very special way financially--we left all moneys and other resources at Rosedale. Also, He gave us people committed to a more charismatic direction for ministry. Dennis Fuqua and I provided the pastoral oversight during this time, and congregational leaders were appointed before long.

It was very exciting to be in a position where we would fail unless God worked. As we grew from one section of the high school auditorium to using all of it, we saw the Lord bring many into His kingdom and fill many with the Holy Spirit. Things central to those early years were prayer, openness to God's leading, home groups, and of course the weekly meeting at Mike and Carole Appleby's where PCF was really birthed.

One of the things that stands out to me during the early days was the strong loyalty that Dennis Fuqua gave me. We didn't always agree on everything, but I knew I could count on him to support the direction that God was leading us. He has always been a very faithful man of God, and that is why God has used him so effectively over the years. I would like a tribute to be given to Dennis as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, for without him I don't believe Peninsula Christian Fellowship would have survived. Dennis is a man of honesty, integrity, and unselfishness, with a strong commitment to his family and the vision of seeing pastors and Christian leaders come together for the work of the Kingdom.

Peninsula Christian Fellowship will always hold a special place in our hearts. Our first pastorate was there; we were filled with the Holy Spirit there; both of our children were born there; and some of our closest friends live there. I ask special blessings upon Peninsula Christian Fellowship in the days ahead, that they would continue to grow in their walk with God, one another, and the world.

With lots of love and prayers,
Dennis N. Cramer

The "years of wandering"

(Travels on the way to a permanent location)

Peninsula High School was the first meeting site for the newly formed Peninsula Christian Fellowship. The first Sunday's meeting was August 22, 1976.

Meeting at the school presented the typical challenges of using someone else's building: the sound equipment had to be purchased (some was donated) and then set up and taken down each week; all nursery equipment (playpens, carpet rolls, toys, etc.) was taken from a storage closet for use and returned after each service; baptisms took place wherever we found enough water (school pool, individuals' pools, in the Sound, at other churches). But worship and ministry took place just the same!

When the school began major remodeling, PCF had to move. Miracle Ranch graciously opened its doors to us and we had evening meetings in their chapel. Our first service there was June 28, 1981. Again, there were challenges: a wood stove for heat, concrete floors, meeting at night, walking through dark parking lots and along dark pathways, having classes and nursery in a separate building. Many activities were curtailed, but home groups continued to meet during the week. The atmosphere was rustic, one of being at camp--which we were! Again, worship and ministry took place!

Burton Park (the building where Performance Circle Theater is located) became available and we made the move back to Gig Harbor and a morning worship service on May 2, 1982. Sunday School classes were re-established. With the building more at our disposal (it was shared with Believers Fellowship, a child care center and Performance Circle Theater), more activities were scheduled: a Wednesday evening fellowship time called "Koinonia," a "talent" show, evening teaching times, and special speakers. Worship and ministry were happening at Burton Park!

As attendance grew it became clear that Burton Park no longer met our needs and another temporary meeting place was sought while we waited to build our own "home". Peninsula High finished their construction and permitted us to return to our first home. Worshipping our Lord in a school was once again a weekly occurrence beginning October 2, 1983, and the church office was moved back to Springhill Business Center--our old location was still available!

Our stay at PHS lasted until we moved into our own building on January 4, 1987.

The sound equipment originally purchased for the worship services traveled many miles: into the high school and out each Sunday and then repeat trips in and out each week at Miracle Ranch. After our last service at Miracle Ranch the sound system was stolen, but with the move to Burton Park, PCF would be sharing the sound system used by Believers Fellowship (who also met in the building), so we didn't "miss a beat".

Question box

This may seem like a strange request but please save your egg cartons for the next few weeks. (4/11/82 bulletin) WHAT? Why save egg cartons? For the answer, see [the last page](#).

In Search of Land, Land, Land

When PCF was first begun, consideration was given to indefinitely renting a building rather than purchasing property and building its own structure. Due to lack of rental facilities in the area, however, it was decided to rent only until a permanent building was constructed. PCF spent ten years renting facilities and purchased more than one piece of property before the final land was purchased on which the church was constructed. The first two pieces of property that PCF purchased are still vacant today and both are for sale.

Under most circumstances, the purchase of a piece of property brings the understanding that the buyer will build there, as evidenced by the following article from the Peninsula Gateway, June 1981:

The Peninsula Christian Fellowship Church has plans to build a church building "as soon as possible," said Dennis Fuqua, pastor of the church.

Fuqua added, however, that no specific timetable for completion of the building has been set.

The building is to be sited on a nine-acre plot on Burnham Road NW, just south of its intersection with State Route 16.

Until last Sunday, the 80-member congregation had been meeting at Peninsula High School since the church's inception in 1976.

Until the PCF building is completed the congregation will meet at the Miracle Ranch in Port Orchard.

Plans call for a first building of 3,960 square feet, said Fuqua. The building has been designed as a multipurpose facility to accommodate the church, banquets and sporting events.

The multipurpose building will have "the potential of conversion to a school later on," said Fuqua.

The pastor said he has "mental plans" for another, larger building with a larger auditorium and classrooms to be built in the future.

The first building should cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, said Fuqua, adding, "we want it to be as simple as possible."

Fuqua also hopes to build soccer and sports fields "a year or two down the line."

The building is to be entirely congregation-financed because PCF is not affiliated with a national church that could possibly pay for part of the construction.

He indicated the building is to be built on a pay-as-you-go basis.

However, PCF has other financial priorities, hence the uncertain groundbreaking and completion date, said Fuqua.

PCF's first priority is to support other ministries, explained Fuqua. The second priority is helping financially-strapped individuals. Third on the list is paying off the land for the church, he said.

Fuqua noted that construction of a church building was not terribly important to PCF. "If other alternatives (for meeting places) had been available we would have given thoughts to them.."

"But we simply need a place to get together. The sheep need a barn."

However the building is constructed, Fuqua wants to see maximum use made of the building regardless if it is the church or the community.

However, building on that piece of property did not take place. In fact, the property where the church now stands is the third piece of property PCF has purchased, as seen in the information to follow.

Swede Hill Property

After considering several pieces of property, PCF purchased 11.9 acres due east of the present Swede Hill interchange on Highway 16. The purchase price was \$69,000. The week after closing, a Peninsula Gateway article indicated the State had made the Swede Hill Interchange the number one highway construction priority from Tacoma to Bremerton. The value of the property increased immediately.

A site development planning committee was established in July 1979; it consisted of Bob MacLeod, Robert Spearman, Bob Thomsen, Ed Unger and Won Sup Yang. This committee was

<p><i>The first members were received on Sunday, September 14, 1980.</i></p>

responsible for all the planning of the site including buildings, parking, landscaping, recreation, etc.

One option considered for the property was the purchase of a building to be moved onto the site. In October 1979 Ken Marshbank became aware of a 145X170' building in Kent. It was built in 8X45' sections for easy mobility. This building was used for another project and was not available to PCF.

By mid-December 1980 power was brought in to the property. Improvements to the property also included clearing, drilling a well and rough grading. A building plan was drawn up and Al Parenti made a model for display.

A building permit application was made to county authorities in April 1981.

In June 1981 PCF owed \$41,000 on the property with a balloon payment of approximately \$36,000 due in January 1984. The owner contacted PCF and offered a \$5,000 discount if the balloon payment was made as soon as possible. This would save not only the \$5,000 but about \$10,000 in interest. Because of this and other events, the Elders and Deacons strongly believed God was saying to pay off the property as the first priority and put building on it on the "back burner".

A full nine months ahead of schedule, the land was paid for: Ted Wilder, PCF Treasurer, signed papers and paid off the balance on April 4, 1983. On Sunday, April 10, 1983, a copy of the promissory note of June 1979 was burned in celebration of the event!

Where did the money come from to do this? As Pastor Dennis looked back to that time, two things stood out in his memory: 1) a piece of property in Port Angeles had been donated to PCF and it was sold for about \$10,000, and 2) a church in Federal Way wanted to bless us through an offering which amounted to \$4,400! All other monies came from PCF members and friends.

After the property was paid for, several real estate agents encouraged PCF to sell the property because of its increased value. With the profit thus made, a smaller piece of property could be purchased and a significant amount of money would thus be available for construction of a building. Leadership responded by not putting the property on the market, but felt that if a prospective buyer came forward with an offer it would be considered. In November 1983 an offer was made to purchase the property. Through offers and counteroffers, the price settled on was over \$200,000.

The actual proposal was this: Selling price would be \$267,500, all cash at closing time less \$25,000 for commissions and closing costs, leaving PCF with \$242,500. PCF would also receive \$7,500 compensation for an easement across the property from another source, for a total net income of \$250,000 cash at closing time of April 30, 1984.

After many hours of serious consideration both together and individually, and after many hours of prayer, all of the Elders and Deacons were in unity, believing the sale of the property was the next step God wanted PCF to take.

Two contingencies needed to be removed for this offer to become reality: the buyers wanted to do a feasibility study and PCF needed approval of the church membership. A congregational meeting was scheduled for January 22, 1984 to take care of PCF's contingency.

The buyers for the property removed their contingencies in January 1984 and the property sale went into Escrow. Once again, PCF was looking for property on which to build a church.

Investments brought large dividends

During that time the interest rate was phenomenal. Proceeds from the sale of the Burnham Drive property had been placed in long-term CD's and were collecting a very nice interest. The increase in investment was being enlarged to be used toward a future purchase.

The land search resumed

During the search for another piece of property, consideration was given to a location on Hunt Street. This land was presented to the congregation as an option, but upon further investigation it was discovered that there were reasons why it would not work for us, including: the water supply would not meet fire flow code and a large rise in Hunt Street in front of the property would have to be lowered, at PCF's expense. As this was presented to the congregation one Sunday morning, along with a request for prayer for locating the right property, a gentleman who was in church for the first and only time came forward with information regarding a piece of property he owned that was for sale.

54th Avenue

A congregational meeting was held on September 23, 1984 resulting in a 96% vote to purchase property on 54th Avenue then occupied by Chaco Mobile Homes. The purchase price for this property was \$100,000.

Earnest money was deposited on the property. The congregation approved the purchase on September 23. The deacons contacted Forrest Hedden, who had recently begun attending PCF and who was available to help, to develop this land. As Forrest relates:

Loren Tait and I went over there and started digging perk holes. After about an hour we knew we were in trouble because the soils were bad. We finally found a small area we thought would work but nothing that would meet code for a church. Next I found out that there was a building moratorium at that site. Then I was told we had no way to supply (water) fire flow to the site as required by code.

I called Steve Albright and asked for another Deacon meeting. At the meeting it was decided to find another tract of land and the hunt was on (again).

Dennis Fuqua had given me the name of a realtor to work with and we fed into the computer all the facts PCF would need. For the next few weeks we looked and looked. Most property was too expensive. We did make an initial offer on a building but we turned down (not a good location). After looking at all locations we felt suitable, we still had nothing.

I had been praying about this and felt the Lord say to take some time off. I went to Dennis and told him the situation and he said to take the time off. Shortly thereafter, the realtor called and asked me to meet him at the present site. I told him we had already looked at it and we could not afford it. He said to meet him there anyway. We traded six acres of land we could not use for seven acres we could use.

45th Street

The original asking price for the seven acres was \$350,000 and the agreed-upon price was \$275,000 (\$85,000 cash and the 54th Street property).

The purchase of the 45th Street property was approved by a 97% vote at a congregational meeting held on October 6, 1985.

A congregational meeting held on January 26, 1986 resulted in a vote to sell 2 of the 7 acres to the Peninsula Library. The selling price for those two acres was \$175,000. The final sale to the library was 2.5 acres at a price of \$205,000.

A Home at Last And How It Was Built

In 1986 the beginning stages of planning for the current building took place. In a report to the congregation, these beginning steps were revealed:

On March 5, approximately 120 people related to and interested in PCF met together to hear and share about our Building Program. Through the music, food, reports, testimony and spiritually warm atmosphere, we came away with a real awareness of God's divine direction in building our building.

Pastor Dennis shared some details about the building itself as well as the anticipated time frame of breaking ground toward the end of April with a construction period of approximately six months, therefore looking at occupation late in October. He also pointed out that the way God is doing this is by Him doing the "Lion's share" that we could never do on our own; while allowing us as the sheep to do enough to feel like we get to help in the process. Specifically, God has given us approximately \$650,000 toward the \$833,000 value of the project making our present responsibility approximately \$115,000.

We also heard about many people that God has called to help in the process, specifically Forrest Hedden, who came to us with the time, ability and desire to do much work behind the scenes. A highlight of the evening was to hear Phil Augé share how, with no prior construction experience, God spoke to him in 1977 while he was digging a ditch and told him to build a church building. Over the years God has given him opportunity to learn from others and also directly from the Lord the specific skills necessary to do what God had asked him to do. Then without "lobbying" in any sense of the word, God raised Phil up as a deacon and gave him the responsibility to follow through on the specific call. Thank you, Lord, for such direction.

The response was also encouraging and exciting. Approximately \$1,000 per month for the next year was pledged toward the building as well as countless hours of labor in a variety of skills. I believe God was pleased because He saw people giving not grudgingly, but cheerfully...

In June 1986 an Interior Design Committee was established for the new building under construction! Members of this committee included Judi Ammerman, Janet Chandler, Tyree Hayes, Catherine Kasemeier, Tiara Murray, and Diane Wilder. Meetings were held on a regular basis to make decisions regarding wood choices, paint colors and...carpet color. The choice of emerald green for the carpet was an easy one (see inset), but finding that color was the difficult part. Several carpet stores were visited, samples were collected and reviewed, but each shade of green seemed to be "dead" in comparison to what the committee had selected. After much searching, the color was found and purchased.

Also established under the authority of the Deacon Board was a building committee, consisting of Jim Niesz, Phil Augé, Steve Albright and Randy Parrett (link between the Elders and the building committee). Forrest Hedden was hired as the job foreman; he met with the committee.

The foundation slab was poured -- and it was time to celebrate. Everyone was invited to "a fun-filled evening you'll not soon forget. We will start at 6:00. Bring refreshments and goodies to share. Park on the paved road leading into the site (the dust is terrible). Come one, come all." And celebrate we did! Randy Parrett did the calling as we square danced and did the Virginia Reel!

After the fun and celebration, it was time to get serious about getting the building up.

Those who were instrumental in the construction process included: Phil Augé (foreman), Forrest Hedden (job foreman), Gary Way, and a host of volunteers. The majority of the construction was accomplished by members and friends of PCF: Bill Boll and Bill Gilchrist, heating and air conditioning; Orv Krussow and Tom Piwonski, cabinets; Steve Albright, final electrical; Loren Tait, ceiling arches (and lots of advice!); Mark Smith, roofing and sheetrock. Work parties were held in addition to the regular aspects of construction as the building came together.

The inaugural service in the new building was held on January 4, 1987. Plastic hung in the doors, the floor was cement, and the walls were bare. Pastor Dennis' sermon was entitled "Building That Which Cannot Be Shaken." Of that sermon, Dennis stated: "As we rejoice in our inaugural Sunday morning service of our new building, it is right that we appreciate the physical structure God has given us. But it is more appropriate that we remember that it is a facility to facilitate the building of things of an eternal nature."

The building was dedicated on May 24, 1987.

The Peninsula Gateway ran the following article on Wednesday, May 20, 1987:

After ten years of temporary meeting places, Peninsula Christian Fellowship has a permanent home. Fellowship members will dedicate their new building at 3114 45th St. Ct. NW, Gig Harbor, on Sunday, May 24, at 6pm.

Campbell McAlpine, internationally known author and conference speaker, will be the guest speaker for the evening. Zo-Ann Wilkie will provide music.

Founded 10 years ago, Peninsula Christian Fellowship has met in temporary quarters in various locations. The fellowship moved into its new church in January. Most of the basic work on the building was recently completed, although finishing touches such as landscaping are still in progress.

Pastor Dennis Fuqua extended an invitation to anyone who has had contact with the fellowship to join the group for its dedication Sunday.

Often referred to as the "green church," here's how the decision was made on carpet color. At our first meeting where decisions were made, it was stated that the carpet color would be our first decision because wood choice, paint colors, everything else would need to tie in with the flooring. Tiara Murray then asked, "What color carpet does the Lord want us to have?" Seated around the table, each of us in turn said "green," picturing in our minds a shade of green nearly identical to what carpets the church today. This was a time when the major carpet colors were mauve and forest green (not emerald). And to have seven women, each with their own individual ideas of decorating, all come up with the same color and shade, was an encouragement to each of us that God was in the planning of this building, even down to the color of the carpet!

Diane Wilder

Campbell McAlpine also will speak at Peninsula Christian Fellowship services on Saturday, May 23, at 6pm and Sunday, May 24, at 10:30am. Child-care for youngsters through kindergarten age will be available at all services. For information call 851-9972.

Building Updates

April 6, 1986

It's possible (depending on the weather) that the road may be paved this week. The building site has been cleared and excavation will start soon...

There will be a general meeting for all those who are interested in volunteering time to the Building Project. It will be held on Friday evening, April 18, at 7:00. This is for those who want to give input and those who will be volunteering their labor. Please plan to attend. We will announce the place of the meeting next week.

A groundbreaking ceremony...This ceremony will be held at the church property at 1:30pm on April 20. You might consider bringing your lunch to eat after church. B.Y.O.S. (bring your own shovel)

April 13

"A lot is happening." Hopefully it is possible the road will be paved by the end of the week. Utilities are in the process of going in and the building site should be together by the end of the week.

We will be seeking financing during the next couple weeks. Your prayers will be appreciated regarding this...Marcia Stitt has been an instrumental part in putting together our financial package and in helping us to obtain financing...

Lloyd Megee (who is in charge of our electrical work), through his connections with an electrical contractor, has provided us with electrical equipment that will save us many thousands of dollars on this project. Our thanks to them and the Lord for His provisions. We would also like to show our appreciation to Mark Anderson and Paul Casey (architects) for the many hours of labor in designing this building and for their anticipated input in the future...

A change in the groundbreaking and the volunteers meeting. We are going to consolidate! Instead of meeting on April 18, the volunteers will have a brief meeting after the groundbreaking ceremony on April 20. The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be at 4:30pm (please note the change in time) on April 20. Since this is a congregational project, we want as many as are able to please bring your own shovel so we can all participate in the groundbreaking time.

April 20

The power and phone lines are in and the water will be in shortly. We are still waiting on the road to be paved--we do expect it to be soon, really.

April 27

Closing on the sale of the 2.5 acres to the Pierce County Library is scheduled for this Tuesday. Praise the Lord!

This week footings for the foundations will begin.

The Road will be paved someday (perhaps this week).

Water lines are in.

Mark Smith wrote "Jesus is Lord" on the highest point of the wall in the sanctuary.

May 11

Footings for the foundation should be ready to pour this week.

Phone line is in, power is to be in Monday.

Bill Gilchrist and others have prepared the bus for use as a job shack.

We need 4 men to volunteer between 6 and 8:00 Monday evening to help prepare the foundation work.

Guess what??--The road's not in, but it MAY be in this week. No one knows but the Lord.

May 18

One bank has given us a verbal commitment on our loan and we are still waiting on others to come in. More specifics about the loan will be coming in the next few weeks.

The footings have been poured! For the next two weeks we will be putting the plumbing and electrical hookups in that will be in the slab.

Report on work parties: A HUGE thank you to the men who have volunteered! Monday evening (in the rain) 10 men worked for two hours to complete the preparation work to be able to have the footings poured. Also, Saturday a number of men worked to take off the forms. These two work parties saved the church hundreds of dollars! Thanks, Guys!

June 29

The slab has been poured!

All who volunteered to work on framing the building or anyone who is interested and willing please come to a "framing party" Tuesday evening at 6:00 at the job site. Phil will be giving lessons on the basic "how-tos" of doing a good job. This is an important and necessary meeting to facilitate the flow of the work.

The walls are going up. The building will be looking different every day. If you would like to take a look and keep up on the changes you are invited to come out to the job site. When you come, please park on the paved road (*evidently the road did get paved*) because the dust is terrible closer to the building.

Worship Ministry

From the very first Sunday, worshipping God in spirit and truth has been part of life at PCF, especially the corporate services. Over the years, the most common comment of appreciation has been, "I love the worship."

Exaltation and joyful praise, quiet worship filled with awe and wonder, and silence before an awesome God are some of the ways worship has been expressed as different people, worship teams and special musical presentations have made worship at PCF varied and, well, worshipful.

Corporate worship was originally led by Dennis Fuqua on guitar. Carol Toews joined along with him in November of 1976 as she played piano. Others who were involved in leading worship in the earlier years included Pete Dahl (bass guitar), Deane Knapp and Dave Bothwell (trumpet), Mark Ranstrom (drums), and Al Allen (organ).

Question box

*In the early years, PCF has had two adult choirs. Who led them?
(See the last page for the answer.)*

Sherman Hayes and his family began attending PCF early in 1978. He filled in on the worship team playing bass on occasion. Soon Dennis and Sherman began meeting nearly every week to talk about worship and to learn songs.

At that time, Sherman "was greatly impacted by the worship at Orv Krussow's Monday Men's Meeting." Shortly after this, Sherman began to occasionally lead worship. "I remember the first time," he says, "I was pretty scared. After starting the first song, it was like hanging onto the bed of a wagon being pulled by a strong, eager team of horses. Whoa!"

After Dennis Cramer left, Sherman began to lead worship more frequently, and after PCF began meeting at Burton Park, it was decided that Ron Robertson (the youth pastor) also lead worship. Sherman stepped aside for a while. When Ron left PCF to work with Young Life, Sherman again began to lead worship.

During the time he was not leading worship, he spent time seeking the Lord for His direction. Also during this time, according to Sherman, "as I was carpentering with George Murphy, the Lord was pulling a band together, building relationships first -- Robin Murphy, Gary Way, Jeffrey Johnson and Jay Munger. It was at Miracle Ranch when we were playing for the incoming counselors (Carol Toews on piano, Jeff on bass) that Gary got saved at the invitation from Ray Mansen."

When Eldon and Carol Toews left the area, Linda Long began to fill in on piano and soon became the regular pianist, continuing for years.

The current worship team consists of Sherman and Tyree Hayes, Steven Majeski, Jean Martin, Jay Munger, Robin Murphy, Joe Riggio and Gary Way. Joining on a "semi-regular" basis are Marty Christesson, Randall Ireland, Kim Kendrick, Kevin Kendrick and Chellé Velez.

Reaching out to "one another"

(Ministries of PCF)

As stated in the mission statement and our vision statement, reaching out to those in need of God's touch is of primary importance to the life of PCF.

In the more formal sense, this is associated with those who are called "missionaries," but it also includes other means of reaching out. Though the years, PCF has been involved in many ministries within the congregation and to the community, some of which are mentioned here.

A Mission Board was officially set up in July of 1987 to oversee and pray for PCF's mission outreaches. Current members of the Mission Ministry Team include: Dick Fuqua, Don & Florence Seifert, Ray Mansen and David Smith.

Special musical performances

Christmas Cantata, 1987, directed by Tyree Hayes

Christmas Cantata, Directed by Randy Greco

Easter Celebration, "I Have Seen His Glory," 1990,

directed by Sherman Hayes

Joy Choir, 1992, directed by Chellé Majeski

"For Unto Y'all," a cowboy rendition of the Christmas story, Dec. 1993

Question box

"For Unto Y'all" trivia questions....

- 1. Who starred as the "Lone Angel"?*
- 2. Josh Hardwick, during the last performance, changed one of his lines from, "I have just one question to ask, Who is that masked man?" to what question asked in well-known TV commercials?*

(Answers are on the last page.)

Office Ministry

The *ministry* of the church office is twofold: to minister to the Lord and to the local body of Christ at PCF. Practically speaking, this involves communication of information to the congregation that will encourage spiritual growth and helping leadership individuals and teams accomplish their ministry tasks.

The church office was located at Springhill Business Center from 1976-1982. The original office was only 350 square feet!

In June 1977 the office was moved to a separate building at Springhill Business Center owned by Dr. Dubey. This site was about 600 square feet and offered private offices for both Pastor Cramer and Pastor Fuqua, a reception area, and a room for the mimeograph machine, as well as a storage area. Bulletins and other publications were typed on stencils on an IBM Selectric typewriter (*how this editor appreciates the computer age!*) and reproduced on the mimeograph.

During the time PCF met at Burton Park, the office was moved there: an upstairs room was divided into three rooms for a reception area, pastor's office, and a multi-purpose room. Quarters were cramped, but the bulletin got done (on a mimeograph machine!) and ministry happened.

In July 1984 the office was moved back to Springhill, with a few changes: offices and reception area were rearranged, staff was increased and office space was found by setting up dividers and using the closet/old X-ray room. (*Brad Scheidt, who interned with us, and spent many hours using that small space as his office, recently visited and shared that God really worked in his life to cause much growth there; he loved his office/closet!*)

The office remained at Springhill until the church building was completed in January 1987.

In the new location the office upgraded its equipment and, therefore, its ability to expand its communication/facilitation ministry. Step one was an electronic typewriter and photocopy machine. Next came a small computer and a dot printer. The computer and software were upgraded and a laser printer was added to the list of equipment.

PCF Library

The church library began at the Springhill office location in 1978. Jan Larson spent much time getting books together, organizing them and establishing the library system. As the library grew it became a secretarial responsibility to process the books and operate the library during office hours. Wally and Marneen Tallman, owners of the local Christian bookstore, set one Sunday aside to display books to be purchased for donation to the library. Today the library contains over 2,000 books and is under the supervision of Carol Moller, who dedicates many hours processing books into the library, replacing damaged books and keeping the library in order. Catherine Kasemeier helps with the library by adding decorative touches that make it a warm and welcoming place.

Bulletin Announcements

Will the person who left \$50.00 in Diane's desk drawer (anonymously) please get a message to us as to what it's to be used for! Thanks. (4/27/80)

Important information needed! We still don't know the purpose of the \$50.00 that was anonymously left in Diane's office desk. If this is to be used properly, we need some information, somehow! Any way may be used to get the information to Dennis or Diane. Please???? (5/4/80)

Eight tapes appeared on Dennis Fuqua's desk on Tuesday. Would the person who placed them there please contact Dennis and let him know what their intended purpose is. (12/10/78)

Directory Assistance, please...

From the June 4, 1978 bulletin: A baby-sitting co-op is under consideration for PCF. If you are interested in a co-op of this type please call Peggy Hobbs at 265-2715. (Try and dial that number!)

Prayer Chain

The first prayer chain was organized in June of 1978. The June 4 bulletin stated that the prayer chain was being formed "so that immediate prayer can be given for needs as they arise. It will be faith-building and exciting to see the ways God answers the prayers of this chain and we will pass on the answers as well as the needs. There is a sign-up sheet on the hall table today." Carol Moller was instrumental in beginning this ministry and continued with it many years. Although going through many changes, the prayer chain is still used as a means of praying for needs. And indeed, being involved with the prayer chain does build faith and God does answer prayers in exciting ways.

Prayer Chain "A" in 1978 consisted of:

*Carol Moller
Janette Cramer
Marneen Tallman
Dorine Knapp
Lois Cheney
Joni Niesz
Robin Murphy
Barbara Gorzoch
Pam Thomsen
Linda Bothwell*

Women's Ministry

Bible studies, retreats and fun activities have always been a part of the women's ministry of PCF. Under the leadership of several women over the years, the central theme has always been to help women build their relationship with the Lord, with their families, and with others.

Leaders of this ministry team have included Nancy MacLeod, Donna Moen, Carol McLaughlin and Carole Appleby. Others involved in women's ministry have included Sharon Molin, Jan Krussow, Trudy Jerdal, Evie Felt, Carol Moller, Teri McGee, Pam Thomsen, Jean Martin, Ruth Mansen, Catherine Kasemeier, Karen Walker, Laura Lease, Bodil Lovoll and many more.

The first women's retreat took place in the spring of 1977 at Pilgrim Firs. The retreat has continued to be in the spring and has met at other locations, primarily at Island Lake. A wide variety of speakers has set an atmosphere each year to minister to the women in a special way as they spend a weekend away from regular responsibilities to concentrate on the Lord and to develop relationships with sisters in the Lord.

We look forward to growing to know God more intimately--to living our lives as women who are doers of the Word. We desire to be encouragers and to help one another spiritually, physically and emotionally. We hope you will participate in Bible study, prayer times, fellowship evenings, showers, work projects for special needs, etc.. Remember, one practical way to bless one another is to call or send a note of blessing. I'm sure one of our missionaries would love a note from you. Let your prayer be, "Lord make me a blessing to someone today."

Carole Appleby,
Women's Team Leader, 1996

Preschool Ministry

by Marilyn Fuqua

The care and teaching of preschool age children has always had a goal of more than just child care. It has been the ambition of THE GENESIS DEPARTMENT to enable these children in the genesis of their lives to experience the lessons of love, trust, and security outside the home and to help build a solid foundation for a lifetime of walking with the Lord. As we seek to meet the child's physical and emotional needs we also desire to help foster healthy attitudes and values regarding this place called *church*.

Supervised play and conversation and supervised activities, as well as formal teaching, have provided learning in a variety of ways during both Sunday School and the worship service. Though it is the desire of the teachers to give spiritual input, a greater desire is to be a supportive

arm of the teaching and example you, the parents, give in the home, working together to fully convince our children of the superiority of the Christian walk.

Some of those dedicated teachers have been:

- Marilyn Fuqua, who has had the responsibility of administrator since the beginning and is currently teaching 2 to 3 year olds;
- Diane Smith has been leading the 4 through Kindergarten class, however is currently taking a leave-of-absence.
- Linda Bothwell in the past taught the 2 to 3 year old class, and currently is involved with the infants through 18 month olds.
- Some others who have been involved are Carol Moller (Teacher Grandma), Diane Ganey, Terese Garrett, and Denise Tait. There have been many other volunteer care givers including a host of Jr. and Sr. High School students over the years who have given many hours in service to our children.

Elementary Ministry

Ministry to elementary age children has always been a key part of the ministry of PCF. Those who have been involved have seen the value and the need to get children established in the truths that have become so important to them as adults. Sunday School has been the mainstay of ministry to these kids, but it is not the only means that has been used. There has been special prayer times designed for them, week night programs, support groups for those home-schooling their children, Vacation Bible Schools and other children's crusades, as well as classes and sermons on the importance and the process of raising healthy kids. Over the years many people have stepped forward to help with this age group. Some of these people include:

Tony Arns	Cynthia Hill	Bob & Cindy Renkley
Judy Augé	Peggy Hobbs	Mona Sarrensen
Debi Baum	Mike & Camille Hutchison	Judy Sizemore
Sue Black	Randall Ireland	Sandy Sleeper
David & Linda Bothwell	Diane Johnson	Christ Smith
Frank Cirnski	Kevin Kendrick	Wendy Smith
Janet Detmer	Corina Lease	Jina Stremmer
Greg & Jayne Dittmer	David Lewerke	Kris Thompson
Carol Ewens	Steven majeski	Bethy Thomsen
David & Julie Freiheit	Ruth Mansen	Bob & Pam Thomsen
Andrea Fuqua	Ron & Teri McGee	Holli Thomsen
Angela Fuqua	Jay Munger	Pat Tveter
Josh Fuqua	Elya Murphy	Susie Tveter
Diane Ganey	Alyssa newton	Carol Vander Meulen
Roger Griswold	Amy Newton	Annie Way
Edith Haney	Darwin & Anne Newton	Charlene Weber
Josh Hardwick	Joni Niesz	Sherri Wetzell
Lorraine Harvey	Dan & Shirley Pepin	Ted & Diane Wilder
	Maureen Pfaff	

Those currently serving our elementary kids as Sunday School teachers are Debbie Christesson, Jim Hagman, Russ Sleeper, Pat Tveter, Susie Tveter, and Ed Vander Meulen. Those who serve them in other capacities include Sherri Wetzel (Administrator) and Debi Baum, who assists Sherri in many important areas including the Children's Bulletins and the elementary department bulletin board. Randall and Regan Ireland and David and Angela Lewerke are currently heading up the junior church program.

Youth Ministry

If we fail to pass our faith on to the next generation, it is one generation from nonexistence. Therefore, providing a place for kids to understand and live the Christian life has been an emphasis of PCF's ministry. In the early years many people, including Tom Maguire, Randy and Marci Parrett, Tom and Peggy Piwonski and Eldon Toews, gave of themselves to accomplish this goal.

There were times when, because we did not have many people in one age group, we teamed with other churches or simply encouraged our kids to be involved with another church's youth group. This is one of the reasons why Jeff Chandler pursued the Presbyterian ministry. He attended both PCF and Chapel Hill Presbyterian, benefiting by both.

In the early 80's we saw the need to have someone focus on youth ministry. The first person we "hired" for that position was Ron Robertson. Ron had much experience with Young Life and had also attended YWAM's Discipleship Training School. His heart for kids caused him to accept a "live by faith" job with PCF which officially included his involvement with Peninsula area Young Life. After four years of dual hat wearing, Ron accepted a full time position with Young Life in Snohomish county. Ron's relationship skills allowed kids to feel accepted yet challenged to move forward in their walk with Christ.

Jim Boskovich came to us in 1987. He also had background with Young Life as well as experience as a parole officer. (No, the kids were not that bad!) He had also been involved with Tacoma's Peoples Church which touched many young peoples live in the 70's. Jim began to build a team of adults to work with the kids. His musical ability also encouraged them to worship the Lord. When a parole officer position opened up in Tacoma in the late 80's, Jim accepted it.

Shortly after that, David and Sherry Booker moved from California to Gig Harbor so David could finish his degree at the University of Puget Sound. Because of contact with Anne Newton at work, Sherry found out about PCF. They tried it and stayed. Soon, David mentioned to Pastor Dennis that he had worked quite a bit in youth ministry in the recent past. He volunteered to help "however you see I'd fit best". At this point there were people on a Youth Ministry team, but they needed some direction. David provided that direction. By the time he graduated in 1990, we felt that he was too valuable to lose. So we hired him. However, because of his strong interest in missions, he was also on staff part-time with Forward Edge, a ministry based in Vancouver, Washington. On paper it was an 80/20 percent arrangement. Realistically, it was about a 100/30 arrangement. He spent one day per week driving to Vancouver and back, as well as taking care of youth ministry here.

David continued to build the youth ministry team. He also began to take kids on summer missions trips. They went to Salem, Oregon, Kelowna, B. C., Mexico, the Makah Indian Reservation at Neah Bay, and Hoonah and Palmer, Alaska. David developed the "RAW" (Rise And Walk) team to challenge older high school guys to grow in leadership. While David was here, the youth ministry became known as "Under Construction" with *Romans 12:1-2* as a theme verse.

In 1993 David and Sherry moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to fully develop the high school aspect of Forward Edge. Both David and Sherry made lasting friendships during their time here and were a great blessing to us.

After extensive prayer and searching, at just the right time, we heard the name Marty Christesson. The Lord got our attention by causing the spirits of the elders to "lean forward" when we simply heard his name. After phone calls and visits, Marty and Debbie, Ashley, Mindy and Matt moved to Gig Harbor in June of 1993.

Marty continued to work with the Youth Ministry team, took kids on summer missions trips, led Under Construction, and gave renewed emphasis to the area of worship and prayer. Relationships among the kids and with the adults continued to grow as well.

In the summer of 1995, several factors, including the poor health of Debbie's mom, the Christessons moved to Long Island, New York. There they assisted Debbie's parents in the operation of a YWAM base. In the beginning of 1996, they began to feel released to come back to Gig Harbor and PCF. The timing of those decisions was remarkable so that just after Debbie's mom went home to glory, they returned to Gig Harbor.

During the months they were gone, we sought God's direction regarding the youth ministry. We received no clear direction other than to encourage and support the present youth ministry team. During that time they grew in both number and strength. They kept things moving forward, culminating with the hosting of a King's Kids team from Denmark. In place of going on a missions trip, we hosted this group for ten days.

Upon Marty's return, he has again joined the staff, presently on a part-time basis. He is still supported by the very capable team made up of Carson Abell, Jennifer Banchi, Marty and Debbie Christesson, Josh Fuqua, Josh Hardwick, Kim, Kevin and Nina Kendrick, Howard and Rhonda Mackert, Joe and Connie Riggio, and Bob, Pam and Holli Thomsen.

Other ministry

Events over the years have centered around furthering PCF's ministry of building relationships with the Lord and one another have included:

- Family campouts, begun in 1977: these are times where several families go to a state park for an informal weekend of fellowship and worship
- Hallelujah Food Coop, begun in June of 1977--this coop, formed for the purpose of being a financial blessing to those involved, continues today apart from PCF in the form of Sunshine Coop
- Anniversary celebrations
- Home meetings
- Conferences
- Guest speakers
- Concerts
- Retreats (for adults, men, women, youth, singles, couples)

Throughout PCF's history, home meetings have played an important part in building relationships and encouraging one another to follow the Lord. In September of 1981 these groups became known as FOLDS (Fellowships Of Local Disciples). The name has "folded," but home groups continue to use a variety of formats to meet a variety of significant needs.

Reaching out to the Community

Deacon Fund

See the Deacons, page 41.

Share Closet

A ministry called "The Share Closet" was established by Marilyn Fuqua in March 1978.

"What is a Share Closet? It is a place where people can share what they no longer are using with other people in the body. What you no longer are using might be just the thing someone else needs (3/5/78 *bulletin*)."

Clothing was hung on clothes racks and was stacked in piles; household items were stacked in boxes on the floor and shared shelf space with office paper and supplies; the mimeograph hid behind the racks of clothes. The Share Closet was available during the time the Southeast Asian refugees were arriving, so those families were able to find clothing and supply some of their household needs from that crowded room. Many people were blessed and encouraged through the generosity of those who gave.

Here I Stand

H.I.S. Project (Here I Stand), 1983, involved several churches who banded together to help those in need in the Gig Harbor area: houses were painted and repaired, yards were spruced up, errands were run, people were transported, food was provided, and many other kinds of needs were met in an effort to show forth the love of Jesus to the community in which we live.

Hosanna Christian School

by Ruth Abell, Principal

Peninsula Christian Fellowship opened its doors to Hosanna Christian School in 1988. The school began in 1982 in the Hilltop area of Tacoma as part of Agape Force and later under the covering of Hosanna Christian Fellowship. The school was small and basically "in-house".

In 1988 a group of Christian families in Gig Harbor wanted their children to attend the school and asked that the school be moved to Gig Harbor. They said there was a church that had the foresight of building to code for a school when their church was built in 1987. After school and church leaders met, it was decided that a school would begin in the fall of 1988, providing for preschool through grade 7.

The school is independent from the church and serves families from ten to twelve congregations. Even though the school functions independently from PCF, the two enjoy a warm working relationship. For nine months of the year, thirty plus hours a week, PCF hosts a ministry that serves Christian families.

For the 1996-97 school year there are 55 families with a total of 73 children enrolled in Hosanna.

The HCS staff consists of five teachers (Denise Opitz, Peggy Hobbs, Marilyn Fuqua, Ruth Abell and Randall Ireland) covering grades K-8 and one secretary (Audrey Turco). The Board of Directors is made up of Ruth Abell, Dennis Fuqua, Dick Fuqua, John Nowlin, David Smith, Joe Turco, and Ted and Diane Wilder.

Reaching out to the World

Missionaries

Since its inception, PCF has financially supported a variety of missionaries and "tentmakers" working in countries throughout the world. In addition to financial support, many other mission organizations and individuals have been supported through prayer.

The PCF mission statement is as follows:

1. Whereas God has directed all of us to have some involvement in missions:
2. The purpose of the Missions Team of PCF is to help the elders lead the congregation to have a growing and vital involvement in spreading the Gospel to people culturally distant from us.
3. Within this framework we will strive to:
4. Be a 2-way communication link between our missionaries and the congregation.
5. Be a resource through which people can find out more about missions.
6. Be a channel for persons going out to the mission field.
7. Direct the giving of finances to missions activities from the general fund.
8. Organize and participate in fund-raisers to generate additional finances for missions activities.

Those receiving financial support from PCF in the past have included:

- Steve Cheney, YWAM *Anastasis*
- Ranjit & Iona de Silva, Sri Lanka
- Marty & Sharon Erickson with radio station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador
- Dick & Dolly Fuqua, YWAM
- Sam & Carol Hartt, Haiti
- Randy & Marci Parrett, Ramallah, Israel
- Tom & Peggy Piwonski, Ramallah, Israel
- Chellé Majeski (Velez), Israel
- Darwin & Anne Newton, YWAM, Bolivia
- Kate Sims with Campus Crusade for Christ, Chico State, California

Those currently being supported financially by PCF include:

- The Bob Blincoe family, Northwest Medical Teams International, ministering to the people of northern Iraq
- The David Booker family, Forward Edge, networking people to go on short-term mission trips around the world
- The Howard Brant Family, SIM, ministering to countries in Africa in the name of Jesus
- The Phill Butler family, Interdev, networking "tent-makers" around the world and placing these people in "sensitive areas" of the world
- The Ramzi Janeh family, Gospel Missionary Union, ministering the gospel to people in North Africa via the radio waves
- The Kevin Kendrick family, YWAM, ministering to churches and mission organizations that need help in the area of "bricks and mortar"
- The Miles Musick family, New Beginnings Home, reaching out to women in crisis pregnancies
- The George Otis, Jr. family, The Sentinel Group, networking and publicizing the need for prayer among Christian churches and other organizations

- The Ivan Taguchi family, Mountain Tom ESL, ministering the gospel to Asian people through a schoolroom atmosphere
- A brother from PCF who ministers to Muslims in Damascus, Syria
- A family from PCF who minister to the Muslims in Tien Jien, China

Missionary speakers brought words of encouragement and challenge as PCF was privileged to hear of the expansion of God's kingdom throughout the world.

ACTS (Active Christian Training School)

In the spring of 1986 Darwin and Anne Newton, Marcia Stitt, Greg and Kathleen Schwartz, David and Carol Smith and Dennis Fuqua attended an ACTS for an eleven week course and then in July went to Vancouver, BC for a World's Fair Outreach. Door to door evangelism in Muslim communities and street ministry through song and testimony were very effective.

Rancho Sordo Mudo

David Smith, Joshua Fuqua and Dennis Fuqua spent a weekend at Rancho Sordo Mudo in Mexico. This "orphanage" is home to many children who are deaf, some literal orphans, but many whose parents simply cannot take care of them. As a result of this investigative trip, two teams from PCF went down over the next two years to do construction and other work at the ranch. Among those making the trip included a busload of children, Steve and Amy Albright, George and Sherri Heitman, Dennis and Marilyn Fuqua, David and Carol Smith, Don and Florence Seifert, Loren and Denise Tait, Dan and Karen Georgiades.

Native Americans of Washington

In July of 1990 the Mission Team reached Native Americans of Washington coastal villages through community barbecues and worship services.

Southeast Asian and Russian Refugees

With the inpouring of political refugees from Southeast Asia in the late 1970s and from the Soviet Union in 1990, representatives from other parts of the world came to the Gig Harbor area. PCF and individual families reached out, in turn, to these people who found themselves leaving their homelands to come to America for asylum.

In October of 1979, a letter was mailed to the congregation, a portion of which read:

The biggest news that has happened in the last week or so is related to the refugees. On Tuesday the 16th, several of us met with a representative from World Concern to get information about sponsoring refugees. We were told it would take four to six weeks from when we decided to sponsor a family until the family would actually arrive here. Last Tuesday the 23rd we met again to make a decision about our involvement with them. Three houses were made available with a possibility of a fourth. Since the need is very great, and is a matter of life and death for some of the people, it was decided that Ted Wilder should contact World Concern and let them know that we want to move as quickly as possible and yet be good sponsors. The outcome is that there are three refugee families (and possibly a fourth) on the way and will be here as early as when you read this letter! The families are from six to nine people and there is basically no English spoken. We really praise God for this opportunity. Some of you have already made yourselves available to help, but more help is needed in the following areas: 1) pray that the refugees will adjust rapidly to our culture; 2) pray for the families with whom they will be staying (Groffs, Wilders,

Yangs and possibly Niesztes) that they will adjust and be good Christian witnesses; 3) transportation and assistance to various appointments and interviews; 4) other needs that we are unaware of that will probably come up. If you can help in transportation, please contact Ted or Diane Wilder or the sponsoring family closest to you so they can contact you when a need arises.

What we as a Body can do is show understanding, interest and love so that they will see Christianity demonstrated and desire our God because they've seen our lives.

Youth With A Mission

The Tacoma Youth With A Mission (YWAM) base opened shortly after PCF was formed. Because of Dennis Fuqua's relationship with people at the base and because quality training was available, YWAM became an important part of equipping and enabling the members of the congregation to reach around the world (South America, Asia, Europe, and so on). Within the first ten years, over 50 people associated with PCF attended YWAM Discipleship Training Schools.

King's Kids, the YWAM outreach program for those ages 10-18, has also played a large part in the training and equipping of several young people from PCF. Outreach destinations through King's Kids have included (among others): China, Philippines, Hong Kong, Chile, Canada, Barbados, Mexico, Albania, Macedonia, Italy, Spain, several of the United States, with additional ministry taking place in airports around the world.

Kurdish Outreach

In 1989-1990, during the height of the Iraqi war, the missions team (Greg Lease, Randy and Marci Parrett, Don and Florence Seifert, and David and Carol Smith, along with guests and friends) began to pray for the Kurdish people. "As we sat in amazement and watched the Kurdish people on the news being demolished by their own leaders, our hearts were stirred with compassion. We had long been seeking God for a specific people group to target. We began to concentrate our missions effort on the Kurds, known as the 'people who had no friends.' As we began to pray and seek God about how we could best help the Kurdish people, astonishing things began to happen. People and needs began to come out of the woodwork until our hands were full." (David Smith)

This is the time when the Mission Team first met Adel and Allah, two young men from Iraq. The story began years before in the city of Baghdad as these men worked with their families in this war-torn country. In order to escape being inducted into Saddam's war machine which was preparing to invade Kuwait the two men decided to escape to Iran. They found temporary jobs on the shipyard loading freighters. It was on the freighter that they decided to make a break for the free world. Leaving behind their families and friends they hid themselves in the anchor locker of the freighter. When the ship was sailing down the Persian Gulf the captain discovered the two stowaways. The captain decided to put them on another ship headed for Tacoma, Washington. Little did the Kurds or the captain know what the Lord had in mind for their future. As a result of months of prayers, the Parretts received a call stating that two young men had been taken off the freighter by the immigration department and placed in the Seattle Gospel Mission. A friend had stopped by the mission on that particular day and heard of the plight of the men. Randy and Marci were on their way to Seattle to meet the Kurds.

Within a short time Adel and Allah were living in north Tacoma with the Parretts. Learning English and other adjustments to American culture were a challenge to our new friends. Much time and energy were spent by the Parretts to give Adel and Allah everything they needed.

Randy became a father figure to them and taught them many things. Marci provided much spiritual nurturing. As the months went by other Kurdish friends came along. The Lord has used PCF to reach out to the Kurds in a unique way that only He could orchestrate.

In 1992, the Mission Team "adopted" the Kurds as a people group to reach out to and support in prayer and whatever means God gave to do so. As part of that, a trip to Turkey was undertaken by seven people from PCF (Dennis Fuqua, Chellé Majeski, Diane Pesta, Don and Florence Seifert, and Paul and Pat Tveter).

In Turkey they met Matthew Hand and Mike Niebur, who were their escorts for three weeks. Both Matthew and Mike were fluent in the culture and language of Turkey and had ministered there for at least seven years.

The purpose of the PCF team was to be impacted by the Kurds so they could continue to help PCF minister effectively to them and to impact the Kurds in ways that would be appropriate to their degree of openness to the Gospel. As tourists, this team set out to intercede for and interact with the Kurds as opportunities arose. Upon arriving at a site, they would be instructed regarding its historic, biblical or cultural impact on the area and then pray or praise in a specific manner. They also walked the streets praying for people, talking with those who knew English, observing the sights and smells and a sense of who the Kurds were. On a couple occasions, some of the group were able to spend time with families after being invited into their homes. They also spent time with shop owners or customers as they browsed the market places.

As a result of this outreach, of the time spent sharing God's love, there are many Kurds who no longer believe the proverb "The Kurds have no friends."

Also, as a result of this trip, a year later Dennis Fuqua returned to Turkey and led an intercessory team as part of the "Praying Through the 10/40 Window." Carson Abell and Chris Smith joined him .

Mission Conferences

In an effort to build missions awareness and effective activity in the congregation, PCF has had an annual missions conference for several years. Speakers and topics for these times have included George Otis, Jr., the 100/40 Window; Dean Sherman, attacking enemy strongholds; Dale Kaufman, King's Kids vision; and David Booker, sending youth teams.

In 1996, in an effort to broaden the base of interest and emphasis from missions to outreach in general, PFC's first outreach conference, Light Your World '96, was held. This conference maintained the same emphasis on traditional mission work while also emphasizing the responsibility of each ministry team and individual to be involved in reaching out to those around them. Howard Brant was the guest speaker, using the woman at the well as the basis for messages on meeting the needs of those we come in contact with.

Raising funds to support outreach ministries

Missionaries and short-term outreaches (both by teams and individuals) have been supported by PCF in a variety of ways in addition to the traditional bake sales and car washes.

A "Tithe Fund" has been built into the bylaws. Ten percent of the general fund income goes into the Tithe Fund where it is directed to missionaries and outreaches as determined by the Mission Team.

Beginning in May 1989 the Talent Auction and Baked Potato Feed was introduced as a fun and exciting method whereby funds were raised to further the giving towards outreach to the world around us. Donations of "talent" included hand-crafted or baked items, time and effort

(yard work, word processing, auto repair, etc.), fellowship times (picnics, boat trips, weekends at a cabin, tickets to a ballgame, etc.) and other talents to be bid on by members. Potatoes and toppings were served prior to the auction, thus giving yet another opportunity to develop relationships while in the process of raising funds.

Along the same line, the Pizza Auction was also established as a fund-raiser. As people gathered in the fellowship hall, home-made and purchased pizzas were auctioned off. Families and friends shared pizza with one another as the evening passed. Fun and funds abounded, and everyone was fed.

Pastors

Dennis Cramer and Dennis Fuqua were the founding pastors of Peninsula Christian Fellowship -- Dennis Cramer was the senior pastor and Dennis Fuqua the associate pastor.

In October 1978 Dennis Cramer began what was stated as a one to two year sabbatical. That sabbatical changed into a time of training and being on staff at the Church on the Way in Van Nuys, California. In 1984 he began pastoring in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dennis Fuqua became the interim pastor until a new pastor could be found during Cramer's absence.

In December of 1979, Dennis Fuqua shared the following in a letter to the congregation:

...In January things were a bit unsettled. Dennis Cramer was gone, I planned to leave, and we were looking for another pastor. As I see it, things began turning around in February, when Orv (Krussow) and I attended a conference at Mt. Hermon, California. God used that in our lives to produce a real vision and hope and showed us that the very pressures we were experiencing were the very things necessary to make us as a body more effective for Him. Several events over the next two months confirmed the fact that I was to cancel out all other plans and pastor PCF...

Dennis Fuqua

Associate Pastors

In addition to those who have been on staff as Youth Pastor, there have been two men who have been on staff as Associate Pastors with me. Randy Parrett and I first met while we were still at Rosedale Church. He and Marci were an important part of PCF from the very beginning even though they were living in Yakima in August of 1976. Soon they moved back to Gig Harbor and were very involved in our fellowship. Randy spent time with the youth group, as a deacon, led home groups, and influenced many by his love for the Lord. They attended a YWAM Discipleship Training School, then lived in Israel as house parents for an orphanage. In 1982, they returned and Randy mentioned to me that he felt the Lord was leading him to return to Gig Harbor and simply "serve you and the Body of PCF". It did not take me long to figure out that was obviously the Lord!

Over the next five years Randy did just that. At first his income was supplied through designated gifts. Then a small salary, etc. During these years Randy also served as an elder. He preached often, counseled, was involved with the missions team and shouldered much responsibility. During a three month sabbatical I took in 1984, he took the full pastoral load. For a couple years beginning in 1985, he carried the bulk of the staff responsibilities related to the building. I am very aware that Randy was really a gift from the Lord of the church to us as a church as well as to me individually. I will always remember and greatly appreciate his willing and able heart to help.

In the early 80s when we met at Miracle Ranch, I first met Ray Mansen. A couple years later God led him to fellowship with us. Ray's heart for serving God's people was very evident. In

1989 he and his family moved to Morris, Minnesota to pastor a church there. After six years there, in July of 1995, the Lord led them to come back to the Northwest. It became very clear to both Ray and to our leadership that his gifts and our present need matched. In November Ray officially joined the staff on a half-time basis as associate pastor and elder.

Ray also serves as the United States representative of Salaam International, a ministry that focuses on serving an orphanage in South Lebanon. At PCF he preaches and helps with administration, as well as gives leadership to the prayer ministry and the men's ministry. Ray's presence is hard to miss, both physically and spiritually. And it is greatly appreciated.

Office Staff

Volunteers like Diana Tait, who typed the Sunday bulletins, helped get things done in the office during the first year of PCF's existence. However, no one really remembers the specifics of how all the office jobs were accomplished!

Shirley Thiel was hired late summer of 1977 as PCF's first secretary and bookkeeper.

In June 1978 a volunteer office staff was organized. Each volunteer (Linda Bothwell, Diane Wilder) staffed the office for about 2 hours each week. Diana Tait typed the bulletin each week and Carol Moller copied and folded it.

In October 1978 Diane Wilder was hired as part-time secretary. At that time, ten to twelve hours a week took care of all the office work that needed to be done. Diane continued as secretary until 1985.

During Gary Parrett's time as intern he filled in as secretary after Diane's departure until Sharon Molin joined the staff a few months later (June 1985). Sharon served as part-time secretary until 1991 when her husband retired and they moved from the area.

As office hours increased, it became clear that one part-time secretary was not sufficient to take care of necessary tasks.

In 1987 Diane Wilder came back on staff as a volunteer for one day a week and then as secretary three days a week. From this point on, two part-time secretaries took care of office needs.

For short periods of time Donna Moen and Liz Savitz worked with Diane in the office.

In 1991 Penny Majeski stepped in and she and Diane have worked as a team since then, dividing responsibilities and duties, but filling in for each other as the need arises.

In 1995, the Deacons decided to add a bookkeeper to the office staff and hired Jean Martin for this position. Although "on staff," Jean's workload is accomplished mainly during evening hours or filling in while Penny or Diane are not working. Bookkeepers, on staff and volunteer, have included: Dave Bothwell, Jean Martin, Shirley Thiel and Ted Wilder.

Youth Pastors

Ron Robertson became PCF's first Youth Pastor in the fall of 1981. He saw his part in the congregational ministry as that of "building relationships with kids in order to bring them into a closer relationship with God and their family."

Jim Boskovich began his responsibilities as Youth Pastor on June 1, 1987. Under his direction, the youth group became known as JAM -- Jesus And Me.

David Booker became the Youth Pastor in June of 1990. Under Construction became the name by which the youth group was recognized.

Bloopers

July 11, which will be our next Koinonia, we'll be having a special sinning group from Calvary Community Church entitled "We Are Family"... (6/17/84 bulletin)

In the rough draft of our bylaws, it was stated that the elders and deacons were to have a combined beeting every six months.

Marty Christesson continued the ministry to PCF and community youth when he became Youth Pastor in 1993. After a short time helping his wife's parents with their YWAM ministry in New York he has returned to PCF to again take on the role of Youth Pastor.

A more detailed description of these men and their ministry to the youth is described in the section on Youth Ministry, page 25.

Interns

One of the ways PCF has encouraged people in their ministry is to give them an opportunity to work as an intern, thereby learning by serving and observing. Interns are "student workers". They both receive and contribute. Some of these men interned on a volunteer basis; some receive a small financial remuneration.

Jeff Chandler	Gary Parrett
Shane Hansen	Brad Scheidt
Randall Ireland	Chris Smith
Don Moen	

Temporary Leadership Team

Before the official formation of the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons, a temporary team of married couples was formed for the purpose of encouragement and prayer. These couples included (in addition to Dennis and Janette Cramer and Dennis and Marilyn Fuqua) Mike and Carole Appleby, Joe and Margaret Ann Hardwick, Mike and Linda Lodjic, Lee and Libby Goehner, and Orv and Jan Krussow.

Elders

Our understanding of the biblical role of Elders is that they are the ones who are to "oversee" the entire ministry of the local church by providing leadership and pastoral care for them. Scripture also gives specific qualities that elders are to have. Over the years, this congregation has been blessed with men who have had a heart to shepherd God's sheep. It is a significant responsibility, and we are thankful for each of those who have walked in it.

The range of issues and decisions made by the Elders over the years has varied from practical matters like the issues related to purchasing land and building a building to theological questions related to how to help people in broken relationships. They have prayed for the sick, released people in ministry, taught by example and words, sought the Lord and then have sought to communicate to the congregation. They have cried tears of joy and tears of pain. They have rejoiced when they have been vessels of God's blessing and wept when they missed it. They have contacted people in private and responded to confidential matters brought to them.

There is no question that they have served God honestly. There is no question that they have been used by God. And there is no question that they have blown it at times. But there is also no question that without them PCF would not be what it is. We are thankful for each of the men who have served this Fellowship as an elder. They include...

Mike Appleby	Deane Knapp	Ray Mansen	Tom Piwonski
Marlin Cram	Orv Krussow	Steve McLaughlin	Art Rorem
Dennis Cramer	Bob MacLeod	Don Moen	John Sarrensen
Joe Hardwick	Ski Majeski	Randy Parrett	Eldon Toews
Sherman Hayes			

Deacons

In an effort to have a church government that reflects Scripture, our deacons have had four basic responsibilities.

First, they have been responsible for the physical aspects of the corporation. This has included vehicles (cars, trucks and buses!), but the most significant physical responsibility has been the building. They oversaw the planning and construction of the building, and continue to oversee the maintenance and improvements to the building.

Second, they have helped our members and friends with physical needs. This has included helping people move, fixing leaky faucets, cars, porches, roofs, etc.

Third, they have handled all of the financial aspects of the church. Everything from receiving the offering and accounting for it, to planning the budget has been under their care. Finally, they have helped individuals with financial needs. Over the years, at least 5% of our general fund has gone into the Deacons fund. With this money, as well as designated gifts, hundreds of people have been helped. In our history, over \$100,000 has been given by the Deacons to those in need. In addition to the cash given, they have led the congregation for many years in blessing people with food baskets at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many testimonies have come back to us about how the touch of Jesus through the hands of the Deacons was a real blessing and encouragement. Those who have taken on the responsibility of being Deacons at PCF include:

Steve Albright	Jim Elliott	Howard Mackert	Dave Smith
Mike Appleby	Dick Felt	Don Moen	Dennis Schaumann
Phil Augé	Tom Fifer	Jack Newton	Jeff Thompson
Bill Boll	Bill Gilchrist	Jim Niesz	Ed Vander Meulen
Dave Bothwell	Dwight Gilson	Randy Parrett	Gary Weber
Gary Diel	Gary Hobbs	Bill Shearer	Ted Wilder
	Brad Kasemeier		

Memories

A 1996 questionnaire brought forth a variety of "snapshot" memories...

What is your first memory of PCF?

Ed and Donna Long reaching out to us in welcome greeting.

Kim Hill

That first Sunday I remember feeling full of excitement, anticipation, and even a little apprehension at making this bold move to be part of a brand new congregation. Who would come? What would we do? What was ahead? Was God truly in this? As we gathered and started to worship, pure joy took over. There was so much praise and sharing I don't think we ever did get to the message Dennis Cramer had prepared!

Carol Moller

We were first brought here as refugees from Russia with Barbara Coates as our generous sponsor. The true Christian fellowship and love that is present here brought us back to this place six years later. When first entering American life, whether at PCF or at the grocery store, Barbara has always stood by our side, a true friend and companion.

Elena Federova

When I first sat down I had a strong impression of a body that cared and reached out (Easter, '77).

Barbara Coates

A warm greeting by a tall, skinny guy with a guitar slung over his shoulder and a feeling of "being home".

Diane Wilder

Dave and I were living on Tanglewood Island attending a YWAM Discipleship Training School. PCF was meeting at the high school. On Sundays our DTS would go to various local churches to sing or share in the service. We visited PCF many times -- there were many friends and connections. Randy and Marci Parrett were in the school with us. We began to meld into the PCF family. When we were no longer in YWAM we felt a "connection" with the great worship and teaching. We were still attending a church in Tacoma where we were married in 1978. In the winter of 1981 we were still going back and forth between the two churches. I had a hard time changing because the Tacoma church was my family and part of my heritage. One particular Sunday coming to PCF there was black ice on the road and lots of snow. We did one complete 360 degree spin before we left Tacoma, so I was a nervous wreck! It was the "slowest," most tense ride to church ever!! All I wanted to do was get there! After close to one hour we made it. Church was already in progress--we walked in the auditorium--everyone looked at us with BIG SMILES--and all of a sudden I felt "HOME". I released all my anxiety in changing churches, and I knew God smiled.

Carol Smith

My first memory of Peninsula Christian Fellowship was in Dennis Cramer's car. We knew that a new church was going to happen and we were considering names. I suggested Peninsula Christian Center. Dennis said "I don't think the word 'center' is right; it seems too exclusive. How about 'Peninsula Christian Fellowship?'" I was raised attending Rosedale Church. I accepted Christ because of their ministry. I was married there. It was a very special place to me. It was a real joy to be able to be on staff there after my graduation from Multnomah School of the Bible. On a Sunday night and Monday in August of 1976, the Cramer's the Teodoro's and the Fuqua's went to Mark Fey's cabin for a Rosedale staff retreat. When we returned that Monday night, we got a call from Dennis Cramer. He told me some of what had happened and that he felt he needed to resign from Rosedale. On Wednesday of that week, the single-wide mobile we owned began to be replaced with a new double-wide we just purchased. That same night, as we were staying at my mom's house, Marilyn went into labor. We went to the hospital and early on Thursday, Joshua was born. Thursday and Friday people were moving our belongings from our old place to our new place. Saturday morning, Marilyn came home from the hospital, new babe in arms, gave him to grandma Fuqua, and went to her brother's wedding. Sunday we said good

bye to the people at Rosedale church. In one week we had a new boy, a new home, a new church, a new sister-in-law, and a new job!

Dennis and Marilyn Fuqua

The first time we went to PCF, Dennis Cramer said that if God didn't want us at PCF we shouldn't be there. That was so ironic because we had come from a church that appears to value membership over individual commitment to God. Also, the worship was joyful and as inspiring as any message I had heard from a pulpit.

Diane Smith

Visiting, playing piano with Royal Diadem Drama Team.

Linda Long

My first memory of PCF in the new building is the first Sunday we all brought folding chairs!

Carole Appleby

A cool January Sunday service with no heat and cold folding chairs. However, the people and service were very warm and it felt like home the first visit. That was ten years ago and I was a new Christian looking for a nice church. I think I'll stick around.

Teri McGee

A Murphy daughter wedding--I liked how Dennis officiated.

Ruth Abell

Meeting at the high school about 16 years ago; the friendliness of Tom Piwonski and the Moens.

Debbie Elliott

Ruth and I were invited by Mark and Jan Fey to the services in 1979.

Ray Mansen

Dennis leading worship.

Ruth Mansen

Jack Newton standing beside me learning the hand movements to a chorus. It was his family's first Sunday and we both felt pretty foolish and had a lot of fun. I will always remember Jack's excitement, his openness and willingness that was and still is an inspiration to me.

Maureen Morlang

What makes PCF special to you?

Family.

Barbara Coates

The many friends that we have made acquaintance with over the years. Also, the fact that PCF used Cheney Chapel at Miracle Ranch when I was Camp Director.

Ray Mansen

Family; peoples' hearts hungry for Jesus; youth group.

Ruth Mansen

This is where God directed me and He has never led me anywhere else. This is my church home and family -- it's where I am nourished and challenged. It is indeed very special to me.

Carol Moller

PCF is a family that will pray with me and believe with me. Sincere believers and doers of the Word. When Mike and I were out of building money for our house Orv Krussow organized work parties to help finish our home. Mark Smith, George Murphy, Dick Fuqua, Jeffrey Johnson, Orv Krussow blessed us more than they'll ever know.

Mike and Carole Appleby

It's family. We are committed to walk with the believers here, as long as we follow Jesus.

Diane Smith

What makes PCF special to us is the fact that Teacher Marilyn and Teacher Diane have been such a constant for our family. They have been there to share Jesus' love forever! Also, the worship team brings us into God's presence. They minister mightily to me.

Peggy Hobbs

People, worship team.

Kim Hill

I feel God is here. Each Sunday I feel touched by God and others.

Carol Smith

It is only here that we were able to discover the meaning of true fellowship with God and the people around us.

Elena Federova

Spiritual nourishment, relationships, and the good working relationships with Hosanna Christian School.

Ruth Abell

Long-time friends.

Maureen Morlang

PCF is my "family". God is so good to give us family when we don't have a family living nearby.

Teri McGee

Relationships and corporate worship.

Linda Long

Worship times are so wonderful.

Debbie Elliott

Relate an interesting/humorous story that involves PCF.

A group of us were meeting on a Wednesday night at Appleby's and the Lord was really with us. We were flat on our faces on the rug worshipping Him. It got very quiet and suddenly one dear sister started to snore. She had worked hard from early morning but didn't want to miss the meeting even though she was tired. It reminded me of His promise in Psalm 127:2b: "He gives to His beloved even in his (her) sleep."

Carol Moller

When we were involved in the building project one job was to "strip the forms" (take down the concrete forms). One man showed up with a paint brush and a gallon of paint. When asked what these items were to be used for, he replied, "They want us to paint stripes on the forms for concrete."

Ray Mansen

We decided to be part of PCF because Dennis and Marilyn were going there. We were new to Gig Harbor and met them one time at Rosedale. Marilyn and I were pregnant and that first Sunday we sat with our babies on our laps. Jaime was 9 days old and Joshua was 10 days old. There were a lot of young families. I remember being in the nursery for 3's and younger and having 25 kids to care for!

My first love has been teaching Sunday School. I first taught when Jaime was six months old. PCF had "teams" of teachers for the different grades. Linda and Dave Bothwell and I were the first and second grade teachers. We had Tammi Wilder and Steve Appleby in that first class. I also taught with Sandy Sleeper.

Judy Augé and I taught in classes next to each other for years and went to the Sunday School Convention each November in Tacoma. Judy was an inspiration to me. She loved teaching children about Jesus. Her classes were fun and creative.

Every once in a while the teachers were given a break so they could attend "adult Sunday School." But my mind would wander and I would always wonder what "my class" was learning.

There were many times I felt the Lord's presence. Kids can be so open and trusting in their faith. It was always a privilege to be in Sunday School with our kids.

Peggy Hobbs

Dennis gave an altar call and one-year-old Jonny toddled forward and was the only one in front.

Ruth Mansen

Beginning at age three, our grandson, Austin, began asking to "go to Grandma's church where they roll the stone away." (This is an Easter tradition.) On August 18 of this year, he asked, "How come the stone isn't here?"

Carolyn Hallstrom

When we were doing the sheetrock for PCF I had the job of using a screw gun on the walls and ceiling. It's called "screwing off" the walls and "screwing up" the ceiling. One morning I was up on the scaffold doing the section over the sanctuary doors. Phil Augé came along with about five other men (whom I didn't know). They talked a bit and one of them asked me how or what I was doing. I said, "I'm screwing off. I was screwing up, but now I'm just screwing off." The man smiled condescendingly and said, "Oh." Phil gave me this "I can't believe you said that" look and they moved on. Phil later came back and asked me, "Do you know who those guys were?" "No," I replied. "They were local pastors from the area wanting to see the church building." Oops.

Diane Smith

Dennis' humor is a lively touch to every sermon. It makes his message come alive for the people.

Elena Federova

When the office was at Springhill Business Center, I was the only woman among several men (Dennis Fuqua, Jeff Chandler, Randy Parrett and Gary Parrett). The mother of one of these guys (to be left un-named) brought each of them a rubber band pistol. She had not thought of the consequences of a lone woman surrounded by flying rubber bands...I had been left unarmed! Besides letting loose all those rubber bands, other office pastimes for the men included "bowling" down the hall with a softball. Needless to say, working in that environment was never dull!

Diane Wilder

A talent show we had at Burton Park...There were dueling banjos with Joni Niesz and Mona Sarrensen flashing penlights in their noses to the time of the music!

Carol Smith

My first memory of the PCF office was before I even attended there. I would come to the office on Women's Aglow Fellowship business because Pastor Dennis was an advisor. There was this nice lady there with a baby bassinet beside her at the desk -- Diane Wilder with her new baby boy, Charlie.

In early 1983 the Lord gave me specific direction that I was to start going to PCF and to attend there regularly until I was released. I had no idea why or what for, but I did feel He had something for me to do there.

In June of 1985 I was asked to come on staff as office secretary. At that time the office was in the Springhill Business Center. That office was very primitive in comparison to the one I left in

1991. For example, there was an old electric typewriter with no correction key--which, since I had not typed since high school, I desperately needed. I went through a LOT of whiteout! The bulletin was printed on an antiquated mimeograph machine (inking it was such fun!). The office had just acquired a well-used photocopier. Actually, the biggest challenge I had was to learn to decipher Pastor Dennis' chicken scratch penmanship.

I began to pray for more adequate office equipment and soon the Deacons told me to go shopping for a new electric typewriter and later even a brand new photocopier! A wonderful answer to prayer.

Then it was time to move into the new building and set the office up there. More challenges: decisions to make, a new phone system to conquer, lots of space to fill (which didn't take long). Soon other improvements began to come along. The computer age set in with many new things to learn, and I definitely needed a lot of help. I new I had really become an "old timer" when I could identify all the "stuff" stored in the closets, nooks and crannies of the building.

To me the best part of those years was being in a position to sense the heartbeat of PCF and to come into contact with God's people, to be able to share their joys and their sorrows, to be able to pray with them and just share their lives. Eventually this grew into a ministry and I moved into one of the extra offices to be able to minister more effectively and let others do the secretarial duties.

I also have wonderful memories of prayer times at PCF. My first experience in a group was one led by Carol Toews in the early 1980s. A group of women met at 5:30am in the PCF office at Burton Park to seek God for His will. Later another group of 6 or 7 women met in the sanctuary of the new building at 7:00am to pray for PCF. We prayed for leadership, for the men and for individuals and situations. Sometimes we saw immediate results and sometimes we would persevere for months, even years. We just kept knocking and asking. It is interesting that in just the past couple years I've seen the answer to many of those seemingly "unanswered" prayers.

From the time the new building was built until the time I left, I went to the sanctuary early Sunday mornings when only Pastor Dennis was in the building and I prayed for the worship time, for the Word to go out unhindered and for our unity as God's people. That was an extremely precious time for me.

My heart will always be grateful for the time I was allowed to be a part of Peninsula Christian Fellowship, for the dear, dear friends I have there and the wonderful times we have had together with the Lord.

With love, Sharon Molin

Our special moment came one night at our PCF couples retreat. When we went to climb in our bed after a long evening, we found we were "short-sheeted!" The next morning we had the privilege of praying for breakfast and Mike blessed the food and thanked the culprits behind our short-sheeted bed. Thank you Bob and Pam Thomsen. We love you, too!

Mike and Carole Appleby

A dear friend (Mary Ebat) invited me to go to PCF one Sunday night. I remember feeling very much t home and had a strong desire to return. Shortly thereafter our family began to attend together. Attending a home Bible study at the Murphy house helped create friendships that we still treasure today. We attended over seven years, the longest we ever stayed in one location or church.

At a talent auction we bought a night of board games with Phyllis and Dan Koger. That evening forged a lifetime friendship. We received great encouragement from the PCF body during times of high stress, injury, pain and the sudden death of my father.

The worship at PCF is very blessed and special. The Holy Spirit touched our lives deeply during our sojourn there. It's been more than tough to find a "home church" since our move to Florida.

Praying with the prayer chain was a service that helped me feel the pulse of the body and the needs, life, and events within the body.

When I think of caring sisters at PCF, so many names and faces come to mind. The Lord began the process for me with Sharon Molin, and what a prayer partner she was for over a year! I heard her pray at the National Day of Prayer which met in the library. I called the church the next day to describe her because I wanted to disciple with her. Guess who answered the phone and had time in her schedule to disciple me?

To all the PCF body, past, present, and future, I say, "Thank you, God bless you, and we love you!"

Paula Clark, Port St. Joe, FL
(attended PCF 1987-1994)

It happened sometime during the first year of PCF. I was with a group of guys, all from PCF on a Monday night. The conversation turned toward the Holy Spirit. A comment was made about how we needed to make sure that everyone in the church spoke in tongues. There was agreement from at least most of the people in the room. I remember saying, "That's not the biblical position!" The next night, I was at a Bible Study I was leading. Again, all of the people were from PCF. Again, the subject of the Holy Spirit came up. This time the comment was made about how speaking in tongues was of the devil. Again, there was agreement from nearly everyone in the room. I remember saying, "That's not the biblical position!" Later as I remembered those two nights, I felt like the Lord used them to tell me that a key part of our ministry was to present a balance in relationship to the gifts of the Spirit. Clearly, the biblical position is neither to impose nor ignore speaking in tongues and the other gifts. By His grace, we have been somewhat balanced.

Dennis Fuqua

Our arrival at PCF began when I quit my job in Salinas, California and was forced to enter the job market. I had a number of options, but the most intriguing was an opportunity to take a position in Tacoma. I had (since my college days) a desire to move north to cooler, greener surroundings, so when the opportunity arose Diane and I headed north to check out the job. I had known casually the gentleman who ultimately hired me and in the process of our business dealings he had become aware that I was a Christian, but we had never discussed doctrine, church affiliation or any other specifics during that time. I did know that Harold had been affiliated with First Covenant in Tacoma before moving to California.

Diane and I arrived in Tacoma in early August of 1976 to look at the job and the area. During our first day I went to lunch with Harold. We had not had any conversation about spiritual things during the job evaluation, so it came as a surprise to me when over lunch Harold told me that there was a church that was just getting started at the high school in Purdy and that I might be interested in it. Since I didn't know where Purdy was I filed the information and moved on to other subjects. Meanwhile, Diane was at lunch at the Shoreline in Gig Harbor with

the office manager (a member of Central Baptist church of Tacoma) and she told Diane about this new church in Purdy that we might be interested in.

We agreed to take the job and move to Tacoma, so in preparation we rented an apartment so that we would have a place waiting when we arrived in early September. Since we were moving quickly and were only going to live there until we found a house to buy, we rented the first acceptable apartment which happened to be in Purdy.

We were intrigued by the coincidences surrounding Purdy, so it wasn't surprising that we checked out PCF on the second Sunday of September. I don't remember much of that first service except that a skinny guy with a guitar met us at the door and that the church was acceptable to our beliefs and worship style. However, we had just left a church which had struggled following a split and I was not interested in getting into another similar situation, so the next week we went to People's church and I loved it (Diane didn't agree, she wanted to go to PCF, but she didn't say much). As we were getting ready for church that third week Diane asked me where we were going and I said "to People's church." Later that morning as we left for church I turned right instead of left and went to PCF. To this day I do not know why I went to PCF that morning, because it was my intention to go elsewhere, but we have been here ever since.

Ted Wilder

While looking for a church in Gig Harbor (I was driving to Tacoma at the time), on three different occasions three people mentioned I should try PCF because it was a nice church. However, none of them attended PCF!

Teri McGee

Recalling past memories, I am instantly taken back about ten years. A time when the shell of our existing building was erected and was in the stage of sheetrock and pre-finish. I remember with warm fondness many all-evening prayer vigils which took place in the "now" storage area next to the alternate nursery and the sanctuary. We currently call it the Resource Center. The room where a stairway pulls down from the ceiling to reveal a storeroom for Christmas decorations, financial records and a bed for extra lengths of base/door trim, etc.

Brothers and sisters of PCF climbed to the "upper room" to observe special seasons of prayer, worship, weeping and fellowship. In fact, if my memory serves me correctly, we had prayer times that began at 7:00 pm and lasted until 6:30 am. These "upper room times" served two purposes: 1) as a built-in security system against vandalism until such time as the building was finished and made secure, and 2) an anointed time to get together with Jesus and pray for upcoming ministry opportunities and to plan for PCF's future!

I remember praying one night with George Murphy and Randy Parrett. We brought our sleeping bags, several thermos bottles of coffee and generous portions of snack foods (to get us through the long evening). I recall laughter, tears, silence and fellowship that I desire even to this day for myself, my family and for PCF!

One day some folks came up with a very good idea--before the walls were textured and painted in the sanctuary the congregation was encouraged to write their favorite Scripture verses, hymns and praise choruses on the bare sheetrock walls. There is something exciting and exhilarating about taking a Crayon, ball point pen or magic marker and scribbling on sanctuary walls! The body enthusiastically became involved and began transforming these white, expressionless expanses into Holy (graffiti) Writ right out of God's Word and hymn books. It was

such fun and at the same time interesting to walk around the sanctuary (without pews or carpets) and read the various verses, blessings and prayers written thereupon.

One evening as I was taking my turn at "church building sitting" I put a cassette tape entitled "Worship" by Steve Chapman in the player. As I was praying in the Spirit the song "Sacrifice of Praise" began to play and I immediately shot to my feet and began dancing and singing at the top of my lungs (that is extremely loud!). I was alone, yet I sensed that I was in the presence of a myriad of people (perhaps the "cloud of witnesses"). It was wonderful, and was an experience that cause goosebumps and a deep sense of awesome respect for what God was doing in my life and in the body at PCF. It was as though God was saying, "Ray, praise me, talk to me, dance before me, give yourself to me and encourage others to do likewise."

Ray Mansen

In Memoriam

In Psalm 116 there is a verse that seems to be slipped in between some other thoughts. It would be easy to read right over it and miss its significance except we have all been touched by its topic. And because we have, the verse not only makes sense, but it gives us great comfort. Verse 15 says "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." When our loved ones die, it leaves such a gap in our lives we don't always feel there could be anything good or precious about it. But God says their homegoing is precious.

In the process of remembering our history, we want to remember the eight people who have been part of this fellowship, who have "fought the fight" and have beat us to heaven!

Tom Maguire

I remember the fresh love for the Lord that Tom Maguire had. I remember his commitment to serving young people. Tom was part of our Fellowship from the very beginning. Soon his love for Jr. High kids was very evident and he spent time with them. He taught their Sunday School classes and he was with them doing crazy things during the week. In preparation for a New Year's Eve party in 1977, Tom and his "Younger Life" group were at his Tacoma apartment making cookies. He took the kids home that night, went home, went to bed and woke up in Heaven. His mom gave his life insurance check to us as our first building fund contribution. Our Youth Chapel is officially named the Wm. Thomas Maguire Youth Chapel.

Dora Roby

I remember the caring, giving nature of Dora Roby (Milt's first wife). I remember watching her discover God through worshipping Him. Since she was my cousin (by marriage), I have very early memories of her. I won't elaborate, but I will say they did not include her expressing love for the Lord. I remember very clearly in the late 70s when, through the influence of her youngest son, Greg, she began attending PCF. Her love and commitment to the Lord became very obvious. She often had very sincere questions about Scripture and loved to talk about how God saved her and was changing her. It was a bad heart and lungs that caused her death in May of 1987, but to all who knew her, there was no question about her real heart or her spiritual lungs. The tile work in front of PCF is a memorial to Dora.

Chris Augé

I remember the friendliness and willingness of Phil and Judy's son Chris Augé. I remember his quiet, but very real drive for life. The beyond-capacity crowd that attended and participated in his memorial service reflected his impact on those who knew him. There were friends from his PAA sports days, his middle school and high school sports teams, his school teachers, his classmates, his parents' friends, family, etc. Their statements of his caring, friendship and fun gave evidence of how very much he was loved. He went to be with the Lord in June of 1990 after his junior year in high school in a tragic drowning accident. The stairs that lead to the library from the PCF parking lot are a memorial to Chris' life.

Leona Fey

I remember the well-used smile and mind of Mrs. Fey (Mark and Virginia's mom). Her love for the Living and written Word of God not only served her well but also was served well by her to others. The final years of her life were spent in the Gig Harbor area. Both adults and children heard her share God's Word for more years than most people live. Even when her body was giving up, she was not. Her wheelchair was a welcome sight at the high school and in our building. It also did not stop her from having a group of ladies gather at her house on a regular basis and share the Word together. Many lasting friendships and spiritual growth came from those times. On a personal level, I knew when I was preaching the Word because she would be smiling. If she stopped smiling, I knew I'd better carefully weigh my words. In late summer of 1990 Mrs. Fey finally met face-to-face the Living Word she knew so well because of the written Word.

Russ Martin

I remember the gentleness and tenacity of Russ Martin (Jean's husband). If it didn't come easy for him, he didn't quit. Russ was often quiet in a group, but in one-on-one conversations he not only had very good things to say but was very sincere in saying them. He was an electrician by trade. Russ struggled with addictions. My memories of him include a very sincere desire to please the Lord, and also a real consistent life of pursuing Him. There seemed to be a lot of barriers in his way but he never let them stop him from seeking to move forward. His kindness, willingness to serve others and willingness to keep walking are evidence that he was on the right path. Russ died just before Christmas in 1990.

A.B. Walker

I remember the combination of wisdom and zeal for the kingdom of God in A. B. Walker (Karen's husband). Others sort of wondered how he could do so many things, he just did them. His memorial service in April of 1991 was another testimony of how many lives he touched. There were people from many walks of life and from several states and nations stating how A. B.'s letters, gifts, advice, and friendship made a difference in them and for the Kingdom of God. Six months before his death, he told me that when he was first told he had cancer (about 18 months earlier), he had 19 major projects going. At the time of our conversation he had them whittled down to three. Because of his love for his family, he prepared for the worst while still believing for the best. Cancer took his life, but not the impact of it. That is still being felt in many ways, particularly through his family.

Manuel Bonilla

I remember the wisdom and love for the Lord and His church that "Brother B." (Mrs. Bonilla's husband) demonstrated. I still hear him praying that God would bless them "from the top of their head to the sole of their feet!" After years of effective ministry in Southern California, Gig Harbor was blessed by the move of Manuel and Evangeline Bonilla in the mid-80s. They and their daughter Deborah made PCF their home in the late 80s. Manuel (known as "Brother B.") was not retired, he was retreaded. His heart was to serve His Lord however he could. For the last two years of his life he served here as an elder. However, his compassion, understanding and genuine love gave him many opportunities to minister in many settings, including the Pierce County Jail. In March of 1993, on a Sunday afternoon he told his family he was going to "go in and sleep". He did. One moment his heart was beating here, the next moment it was beating with Jesus. As Heb. 11:4 says, "... He still speaks, though he is dead."

Barb Hundley

And I remember the joy and energy of Barb Hundley (Kim Dunbar's mom). I remember how, even though cancer took her body, she did not let it take her spirit. Barb began seriously developing a relationship with the Lord later in life. But she certainly made up for any lost time. She knew that cancer was an issue, but she would not let it be her master--that place was reserved for Jesus. Though we never knew her as being fully physically healthy, she was much more emotionally and spiritually healthy than many of us. She did not complain, she did not live for our sympathy. She did trust God fully and did not fear death. God took her home gently and at just the right time. She did get to see her newest granddaughter and her death was used by the Lord to bring others to Himself.

I am thankful for each of these people. I am thankful for how they impacted me.

Dennis Fuqua

Answer box

- *Egg cartons were saved to use as sound insulation in the temporary walls installed in the offices at Burton Park.*
- *Mike Ellis and David Bothwell led the adult choirs.*

"For Unto Y'all" trivia answers:

1. *Marty Christesson*
2. *"Do you have any 'Gray Poupon?'"*

Postscript

And thus PCF has reached up to God and out to man for twenty years. We have learned, we have grown, and sometimes we have been found wanting. We have come so far, but we have so far to go.

It has been a joy to look back over the years -- to recall people, places and events that have played a part in molding PCF ... so far.

It is a joy being involved with people, places and events that will continue to help PCF follow where God leads, which is ... so far.

I love you all.
Diane Wilder

