

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah August 2014

A Word from the Pastor

“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

-1 John 4:12 (NRSV)

I hope by now most of you have seen the new sign over our future home at 660 NW Gilman Blvd., Unit C-5. The sign includes the logo of American Baptist Churches USA (the world with a cross superimposed) and it can be seen very clearly. I will help people to clearly see that they have found our building. There is also a small 8 ½ X 11 sign on the door which helps people see that this is the future home of our church family, and which includes our contact information for people who are interested in learning more about us. These are important signs because they help make people aware of our plans as a church.

Still, these are not the most important “signs” our church has.

Our church’s most important signs are you, our members. That’s right, you also are one of our church’s signs. You are a sign because your life points to what the true nature of our church is, and beyond that to the nature of the God we worship. The passage above from 1 John tells us that if we love those around us, then we help the people around us see an un-seeable God. So, another way of saying that is that we become a sign for who God is and how God can be found. A song

we frequently sing in worship declares, “They’ll know we are Christians by our Love.” It’s a great song with an important truth. But even more important is the similar message in the above passage of scripture: *They’ll know who GOD IS by our love.* When we love in Christ’s name, people learn there is a God who not only *IS* love, but who loves *THEM* in particular.

Let’s be good church signs, which point people to a loving church and a loving Lord. There are many good ways to do this: (1) when you see someone in need, ask that good old question, “What would Jesus do?” and then respond to them in love. Remember Christ said that inasmuch as we love the homeless, the hungry and the one without adequate clothing, we do it to Him; (2) when you see someone who is new to the community, welcome them! Point them to our church as a place where they can find a true, caring spiritual family. Remember Christ also said that inasmuch as we welcome the stranger, we welcome Him; and (3) listen to people with the ears of our Savior – show you are interested in them, in what they think, what they believe, and in what they long for. These are not “church marketing tricks” designed to grow our church, regardless of the needs of the people we meet. Rather, this is what we are called to do in order to point to the reality of God’s love, regardless of whether our church directly benefits.

The blue sign over the entrance to our new building we will occupy will do that home will be an important tool for us in our ministry for us. That job will be ours alone. ministry. But neither that sign nor the

-Pastor Keith Madsen

Just Come Near

Rev Stuart Sacks was serving in Paraguay when Rafael, a Maka Indian, came and sat on his porch. Sacks, who'd been inside eating, went out to see what the man wanted. Rafael said, "Ham, henek met," which means "I don't want anything; I have just come near."

The pastor, not understanding the significance of that statement, again asked what he could do for Rafael. But the answer was the same.

When Sacks later shared the incident, a veteran missionary explained it was Rafael's way of showing honor. He didn't need anything in particular; he just wanted to sit on the pastor's porch. He found satisfaction and pleasure merely by being near him.

Sacks points out that the phrase "Ham, henek met" also reveals the heart of true worship. When the Lord asks, "What brings you here, my child?" we don't need to mention or ask for anything specific. We can reply that we simply want to come near our God.

Rhythms of the Spirit

Nurturing a Contemplative Life

From ABCUSA Connections:

Do you struggle for balance between prayer and activity? Do you long for more silence and solitude in your life and ministry? More energy for compassion, peace and justice?

The Rhythms of the Spirit conference, offered in a retreat style and in two locations for 2014, provides a unique opportunity to explore and practice the contemplative life together. We'll focus on your own spiritual practice providing time to develop solitude and silence, creating the expansive space necessary to welcome God's voice. If you desire spiritual direction, each conference will provide the opportunity for you to meet one-on-one with a spiritual companion. Please join us.

- Fall: November 3-7, 2014; Redwood Glen, California

CCI Outreach

From American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Thank you for your generous donation to assist with the Washington State Landslide. In cooperation with One Great Hour of Sharing, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies will use 100% of your donation to provide immediate emergency response to area in Washington State. One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries. The Committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work, and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Rest assured that the American Baptist family will continue to provide support in the areas devastated by Washington State Landslide long after news coverage has ceased. If you choose to make future donations you may use our website or write a check payable to “One Great Hour of Sharing—Washington State Landslide” to be given to your church, or mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 9482-0851. For more information, visit www.abhms.org or phone Kim Wilkins at 1-800-222-3872, x2413.

Again, thank you for your partnership and generous support. Together we are touching lives devastated by [the] Washington State Landslide.

Audio CDs

The Deacons purchased some CDs for use by members of the congregation and friends in fellowship. Available for check-out are: Grace Happens Here and He Still Moves Stones by Max Lucado, and The New Testament, NKJV, read by Johnny Cash. Stop by or contact the office if you'd like to check one out.

How to be holy

If you think you can walk in holiness without keeping up perpetual fellowship with Christ, you have made a great mistake. If you would be holy, you must live close to Jesus.

~ C.H. Spurgeon

August Church Events

Painting Party

We have tentatively scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday, August 12th and 13th, as painting days at our new facility. This means we'd love to see you join us and help out. Bring your painting supplies (paint trays, rollers, brushes, drop cloths, etc.). We'll provide beverages and munchies.

Board Meeting

Our Board meeting will be Sunday, August 17th, after worship and coffee fellowship; 2:45 p.m.

Adult Forum

We are studying the book of Acts. Acts is about what the church did after Christ's resurrection. All are welcome to join us. The Forum meets Sundays at 12:30 p.m. downstairs.

Other Church News

New Worship Space

Things are moving along on the remodeling of our new church space. Grette Custom Woodworking (a.k.a Ginger and Dan Grette) have been busy demolishing, framing, and working with various subcontractors to get our space ready as quickly as reasonably possible. Our building sign has been installed. The stained glass panels, sanctuary furniture, and pulpit are in production. Our sound equipment, white board, and other miscellaneous items have been delivered. Decisions are being made about wall colors, flooring, and kitchen appliances. Duane Bowen has created a beautiful wall cross! The Aesthetics Committee consists of Bessie Burton, Teri Hansen, and Charlotte Scherer, as well as Pastor Keith Madsen and Moderator Mary Cline, ex-officio. Talk to one of them if you have questions or input.

Thank You

Thanks to Juanita Frye for providing funds for the walnut wood used in the new cross and to Duane Bowen for crafting it. It will be enjoyed for many years.

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.”
~ Mark Twain

Community Outreach

Tools 4 School

Our church donated 17 backpacks to “Tools 4 School”, sponsored by The Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank (IFCB). Thank you for your generosity to people in need on behalf of Christ. Your generosity will be felt by the many children benefiting from this program. Pastor Keith spent an afternoon filling those and other backpacks for children of low-income families.

Issaquah Community Services

Thank you to the CCI Deacons Fund for your generous contribution of \$100. “All of us at ICS appreciate your continuing support. Last year ICS was able to provide nearly \$127,000 in funds to the most needy in this community, and that need continues to increase. Our clients benefit greatly in terms of emergence aid for rent, fuel, utilities, and medical assistance. You are helping many people through some difficult periods in their lives. Thank you again for your generosity.”

The Greater Church Community

- † August 21st-24th—Interested in the topic of aging in a holistic manner—mind, body, and spirit? You are invited to the conference, *Giftng the World As We Age*, Seattle University campus. Go to www.sage-ing.org to learn more and to register.
- † September 6th—You are invited to a retirement reception in honor of **Roberta Stephens** upon her retirement from Missionary Service in Japan. If interested, contact the office for more information. It will be held at a private home in Normandy Park. Please RSVP: tornveil@comcast.net or 206.241.6414.
- † September 13th—Biennial Meeting of the Washington Baptist Convention will be held at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. The meeting will begin with lunch, followed by a workshop on new non-profit rules for churches.
- † November 15th—Evergreen’s Got Talent! Evergreen fundraising event, hosted by the Euro Caucus. Local and Geographically distant churches are invited to participate. Seattle First Baptist Church, 2-4 PM.

Food for Thought

This month I am continuing with the Scripture Cake recipe featured in last month's Bell (July 2014). Before I can start baking, I need to read through the Bible passages listed in the ingredients and try to figure out what is being called for in the recipe. Last month I told you that I saw an Internet "cheat" that said the first ingredient – 3 ½ cups First Kings 4:22 – was figs. Wrong! It is fine flour. What a relief because I have never bought figs before and it really didn't sound all that appetizing to have 3 ½ cups worth of them in a cake.

I think it is going to take me awhile to get all these ingredients deciphered because I was completely distracted by reading First Kings. The introduction in my Bible said that the lessons from this chapter are woven through the stories of four men. Once you get past all the passages about how they organized the kingdom, there is some very good practical instruction for our lives. I found Chapter One absolutely gripping! The story of King David and his son Solomon is a classic plot line for many movies and novels. I was really impressed by how Solomon treated Adonijah, the guy who tried to get the throne first. Solomon practiced forgiveness in a manner that is inspiring to me as I consider my own leadership skills. We are not kings (or queens), but we can rule humbly in our own little worlds.

I will keep working on my next ingredients. But, for now, I need to keep reading and see what happened to Solomon.

Keep cooking until next time, friends.

~ Teri Hansen

Unanswered prayer?

One day a little boy asked his pastor-mom why she always bowed her head for a moment before starting to preach. The mother, delighted that her son was so aware of what went on during worship, answered, "I pray for God to help me deliver a good sermon to the people."

Alas, her delight was short-lived and fizzled at the child's response: "So why doesn't God ever answer?"

Special Dates in August

None



TO...

10 Geri Anderson
13 Dick Birdsall
16 Jacquie Powell
28 Dody Tweeddale
30 Vernon Rogers
31 Talyn Little

“ Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it.”

~ Russell Baker

August 2014 at CCI

- Board Meeting - 8/17
- Bell Deadline - Thursday 8/28

Time to Make Up!

After an evening filled with vigorous sibling disagreements, three children finally turned in for the night. A few hours later, a major thunderstorm woke them all up. When their father heard the children conversing upstairs, he called to see what was happening.

A small, timid voice answered, “We’re all in the closet forgiving one another!”

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

Perhaps you would like to add these church family members to your prayer concerns:

1. **Marge Armstrong**
*16300 St Hwy 305, #37
Poulsbo, WA 98370*
2. **Sylvia Coulton** - at son Peter's
*8912 Wildwood Ave SW
Lakewood, WA 98498*
3. **Jane Forbes**
Kirkland, WA
4. **Don & Alice Good**
Bellevue, WA
5. **Geri Hardisty**
*Premier Adult Care
Sammamish, WA*
6. **Wilma Hill** - at home
7. **Martha Nordhagen**
Adams House, Oregon
8. **Sylvia Olsson** (425) 793-5488
*Chateau Valley Ctr.
4450 Davis Ave S.
Renton, WA 98055*
9. **Joe Shultice**
*219 Cedar Ave S.
North Bend, WA 98045*
10. **Dody Tweeddale**
Aegis of Issaquah
11. **Cherie Vivolo** - at home