

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah August 2015

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)

As most of you know we are working on putting a new sign on our front window. It will feature an American Baptist logo, as well as the words “The Community Church of Issaquah.” While we already have a lighted blue and white sign high on the building, this new sign will be more visible to people walking by on the sidewalk, or by those driving by the front of the building. The two signs together will help people know they have found our meeting place. These are important signs because they help make people aware of our presence 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 home will be an important tool for us in our ministry, as will be the green (and white? And black?) sign on our front window. But neither those signs nor the building we occupy will do that ministry for us. That job will be ours alone.

-Pastor Keith Madsen



From American Baptist Home Missions Societies

“On behalf of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), we thank you for your support of the America for Christ Offering 2015. Your financial support to home missions is making a transformational difference across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Our theme this year, ‘Discipleship: A Journey of Grace,’ serves to remind us that mission and ministry

are rooted in service that manifests and extends the grace of God. Through the AFC offering, we can participate with our Lord in transforming lives and communities. ABHMS receives two-thirds of your AFC gift, ... Your regional office receives one-third.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and financial gifts that support ABHMS.”

From the EBA Newsletter—Bob’s Bits (Bob Sittig)

“...I was especially pleased to be present to see our own Executive Minister, Dr. [Marcia] Patton, receive the Kenneth L. Cober Regional Discipleship Award in recognition of faithful and effective leadership in discipleship education in an American Baptist Region.”

“I always wondered why somebody doesn’t do something. Then I realized I am somebody.”
~ Lily Tomlin

Tools4School

We collected & delivered 29 backpacks for kids in need of school supplies. The backpacks are filled with supplies from corporate donors. Volunteers are needed to fill the backpacks and hand them out.

Please see the recent email with details about how to sign up for this, or contact Keith for more details.



L O C A L M I S S I O N S

Outreach Committee Seeks Your Help

The Outreach Committee met recently to review the Outreach budget and determine how the budgeted funds will best serve the selected missions. We will be hearing from local mission representatives at some of our Sharing the Adventure sessions. Watch for details.

Other Church News

Our Building

We expect our custom cabinetry to be installed in week of August by Grette Custom Woodworking. They are waiting on some finish work.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) has a preliminary list of prospective pastoral candidates. They are now in the process of evaluating individual resumes for fit. We continue to encourage individuals to let us know what they would like to see in our new pastor. Comments may be given to any of the PSC members: Moderator Mary Cline, ex officio, Chairperson Duane Bowen, Bessie Burton, Juanita Frye, Woody Ross, and Charlotte Scherer.

Graduation and Upcoming Wedding (Correction)

David & Stephanie Hansen are excited to announce that their son, Joshua Aaron Kenneth Byle, is engaged to Alexandra Smith. The wedding is planned for September 17th, 2016.

August Church Events

Sharing the Adventure Fellowship

Plan on joining us for our upcoming Sharing the Adventure fellowship sessions. We meet here at the church from 12:00-1:30 pm. We will have a potluck meal, prayer time, sing some hymns or choruses, and have a short program. Please bring sandwiches, soup or a salad to share. Here is what is scheduled for the next sessions:



*Sharing the
Adventure*

August 5th —We will have a presentation on the work of Eastside Friends of Seniors by Liz Swanson and Ramona Lawrence.

August 19th – We'll have a game day. Come prepared to share in the fun of various board and card games with your church friends.

Think about other experiences you would like to have us schedule and let us know.

Adult Forum

We are having good attendance, all are invited to join us. The Forum meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m. We are currently studying the life of Christ, chronologically.

Summer Picnics

Summer is here! If you would like to host a potluck picnic at your home or have an idea of where to meet, please let Teri Hansen or Janine Cooper know.

Church Retreat

This year's church retreat will be held on Saturday, August 1st, 2015, at the Reeves' cabin located at Lake Kachess. Anyone willing to drive or who needs a ride should let Janine know. A car caravan is planned to meet at the church at 9:45 a.m. and scheduled to depart the parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

Our hostess, Janine, will provide a light lunch for everyone shortly after our arrival. A potluck dinner is planned for 5:30 p.m. We will wrap up the retreat by 7:00 p.m., anyone wishing to stay for a short time beyond that is welcome to do so.

The Greater Church Community

Kaufer's Religious Supplies

Moving August 11th. New location: 5201—4th Ave South, Seattle. (206) 622-3100. This is in the SODO/Georgetown area, south of Costco.

Evergreen Association call for Volunteers

Please consider whether you have some time to devote to volunteering at the Evergreen office. The work is mainly collating and preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing. To join the volunteer team please contact Charlotte Scherer at 425-392-1185 or scherercm@q.com or Clem Winbush at 253-859-2226 or clemeba@comcast.net.

Special Dates in August

None



TO...

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

August 2015 at CCI

- All-Church Retreat, Lake Kachess - 08/01
- Sharing the Adventure - 08/05
- Sharing the Adventure - 08/19
- Bell Article Deadline - 08/24

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

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