

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah December 2015

WELCOME!

Yes a very huge welcome to Rev. Britt Carlson who is bringing her energy and enthusiasm to us as our interim pastor. Rev. Carlson comes to us with the highest of recommendations, and impressed your pastoral search committee with her obvious love and excitement for Christ.

We can expect a renewing of our own dedication to Christ, to His church, and to spreading the Good News of the wonderful Grace of a loving God.

As Rev. Britt starts her first full time pastorate we can learn much from her and hopefully she can gain fulfilling experiences by serving God with our congregation.

Duane Bowen, Chairman
Pastoral Search Committee

Small packages, big things!

Remember that candy commercial declaring, “Big things come in small packages”? The prophet’s message to tiny Bethlehem is similar: “Though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel” (Micah 5:2, NIV).

We’ve all felt too small for a certain role: too little to play with the big kids ... too skinny to make the football team ... short on the skills needed for a choice assignment. Perhaps we fear our gift of money is too little to make a difference, or the small amount of time we can volunteer isn’t even worth it.

But God brings big things out of “small packages.” From a newborn baby—merely six to eight pounds of helplessness—God brought salvation for the whole world. Rest assured, he’ll do big things through you, too.

December Church Events

Poinsettias

Please bring poinsettias to help decorate our church for the Advent season.



December Board Meeting

Our December Board meeting will be held Sunday, December 20th shortly after church.

RMMO Offering

We will collect this offering during the month of December. Your gift reminds the spiritual leaders who served you that they are not forgotten and provides assistance to those facing financial hardships.



*Sharing the
Adventure*

Sharing the Adventure Fellowship

Plan on joining us for our upcoming Sharing the Adventure fellowship session. 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 session:

December 2nd—We will hear from our new, interim, pastor Britt Carlson and sing Christmas hymns/carols.

December 16th—Keep your eyes on the bulletin and website for any planned program. Discussions are happening, nothing finalized, as yet.

Think about other experiences you would like to have us schedule, beginning in January, 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.

2016 Board & Committee Positions

We are approaching the end of the current calendar year, thus the end of the current Board terms. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve on the Board or a committee. Let Mary Cline, Moderator, know if you'd like to serve.

December—The Greater Community

Mary's Place

Taproot Theatre Touring Company—performance to benefit Mary's Place

Free performance, Sunday, December 6th, 2:00 pm. To be held at Denny Park Lutheran Church; 766 John Street; Seattle. In lieu of an admission charge, please bring a new pair of women's or children's socks in support of Mary's Place, an Outreach Ministry that we support. There will be beverages and treats following the performance. Sponsored by Denny Park Lutheran & Thrivent Financial.

Sing-Along Messiah

December 13th, 2:30 p.m., annual sing-along to be held at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, 325 SE Darst Street, Issaquah (off 2nd Ave, near the high school). Singers of all ages are invited to come sing, play or hear the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah and help raise funds for Issaquah Community Services through its "Merry Christmas Issaquah" fund drive.

Seattle First Baptist

From Seattle First Baptist's newsletter:

December 13th and 14th—Joyful! Noise community choir presents their sixth annual holiday concert, "All December Long," to celebrate the warm traditions of the chilly holiday season. Two performances take place in the Seattle First Baptist sanctuary on Sunday, **December 13th**, 3 p.m., and Monday, **December 14th**, 7:30 p.m. The program has something special for everyone, including an audience sing-along, a four-piece band, and flute and violin solos. It runs approximately 2 hours, including intermission.

Tickets are available at the door, from Joyful! Noise members, and on Brown Paper Tickets at [www.brownpapertickets.com].

December 19th and 20th—*Magnificat*—A Christmas Concert. Free Christmas concert Saturday, **December 19th** at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, **December 20th** at 1:00 p.m. J.S. Bach's delightful setting of Mary's song of gratitude and liberation features the Sanctuary choir and orchestra with three trumpets! The audience sings favorite carols with the choir. Childcare is provided at both concerts. No tickets are required; a freewill donation will be taken.

Outreach Committee

Seattle's Union Gospel Mission

Thank you to all who contributed to our Food Drive for Seattle's Union Gospel Mission.

*Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank—
Holiday Gift Barn*



“We hope you join us in bringing the joy and happiness to families during this holiday season. The goal of this program is to help all families with holiday cheer through the giving and sharing of gifts for children, birth-18 years old.

We turn Pickering Barn into a giant toy store and let families shop and choose gifts for their children.

We will collect gifts here at the church through Sunday, December 6th.

Here are IFCB Donor Expectations:

1. All gifts should be brand new, not used.
2. Gifts can vary in price and value. Our goal is to create equity in the gifts that each child receives—e.g., if a bike or iPod are donated, that would equal the value of three smaller gifts. Additionally, we will have a stocking stuffer section. Parents will not have to count items like socks, pjs, underwear, hats and gloves as the primary gifts for their children.
3. Please do not wrap gifts. We encourage donors to help us provide gift wrap and supplies for our gift wrapping station.
4. We encourage donors to help us place their donations on our store shelves after they check in at the Pickering Barn. This will hugely help us with setup.
5. Donation drop-off will be done by a CCI volunteer. There is NO storage at the IFCB.

Volunteers are welcome to help out with setup or with client shopping. Contact the IFCB directly to sign up for these volunteer opportunities.

“When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?”

~ G.K. Chesterton

Special Dates in December

- Second Sunday of Advent - 12/06
- Third Sunday of Advent - 12/13
- Fourth Sunday of Advent - 12/20
- First Day of Winter - Monday, 12/21
- Christmas Eve - Thursday, 12/24
- Christmas Day - Friday, 12/25
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night - Friday, 12/31



TO...

14 Kevin Lindsay

29 Woody Ross

**Happy
Birthday**

December 2015 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - Meet our new pastor/Christmas caroling -12/02
- Sharing the Adventure - Save the Date, TBA -12/16
- Church Board Meeting - 12/20
- Bell Article Deadline - 12/28

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** -

*350 N 190th St, Apt C215
Shoreline, WA 98133*

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 University House*

5. **Jane Forbes**

Kirkland, WA

6. **Don & Alice Good**

Bellevue, WA

7. **Geri Hardisty**

*Premier Adult Care
Sammamish, WA*

8. **Elvira Lindsay** - *at Aegis Living*

9. **Martha Nordhagen**

Adams House, Oregon

10. **Sylvia Olsson** (425) 793-5488

*Chateau Valley Ctr.
4450 Davis Ave S.
Renton, WA 98055*

11. **Dody Tweeddale**

Cascades Adult Family Home, Bellevue

12. **Cherie Vivolo** - *at home*