

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah February 2015

A Word from the Pastor

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

-1 John 4:10 (NRSV)

February is the month of Valentine’s Day, the month of love. But we get so many confusing messages from our culture and those around us about what love is.

Of course, much of our culture identifies love with sex. Sex is good and created by God, but is it the same as love? Many people today use sex as a weapon, not only in sexual abuse, but in using sex as a commercial or manipulative lure. AIDS, unwed mothers on public assistance, incest and rape, are all societal problems we have because of the abuse of sex.

Others use a false kind of love to manipulate. Marie on the sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond*, is an example of the kind of person who manipulates her family and then says, “I only do this out of love!”

With so many abusing the concept of love, how do we know what real love is? The Bible tells us that we know what love is by seeing how God loved us! Because God loves us he made the beautiful world we so much enjoy in Issaquah. Because God loves us, he gave us friends and

family to care for and support us. Because God loves us, he sent his Son Jesus Christ to face the injustices we have to face, to suffer like we sometimes suffer, and to die on a cross. As we think about what love means in this month of Valentine’s Day, we should think first and foremost of what God has done for us, and then seek to emulate it. Like God loves us without any self-focused motivation, so we should love. In the Greek language (the language in which the New Testament was originally written) there were three words for “love”: *eros*, which refers to sexual or romantic love; *philia*, which refers to brotherly (or sisterly) love; and *agape*, love which is unconditional and hence like God’s love for us.

Like God showed his love in action (creating our world, sending his Son to die on a cross), so we should show our love in action, not just empty words. That’s why we get involved in helping Haiti.. That’s why we help with the winter clothing drive, the Mayor’s Month of Concern, the Tools for School drive and the Holiday Gift Barn. And that is why we seek to show interest and concern for every person who visits us in worship, regardless of their economic status, their age or the culture out of

which they have come. Like God gave of himself sacrificially, so sometimes love is not always “convenient” for us, and we must give sacrificially.

This February, let’s give a “Valentine” to the community of Issaquah, by seeking to love the people around us in the same way God loves us. Let’s do it through helping the needy through the winter

clothing drive. Let’s do it through just opening our hearts and loving our neighbors. Let’s do it through showing extra patience with the hard-to-love in our own families. Maybe in this way we can help our world get a clearer view of what love is.

-Pastor Keith Madsen

Pacific Northwest American Baptist Women’s 2015 Conference

A Time to Serve, *Building Relationships*. Registration deadline March 31st, conference dates April 24-26, 2015, Red Lion (Hanford House), Richland, Washington. Rev. Mylinda Baits will be the Bible Study and Missionary Speaker. Wrapping the scriptures and the practical applications of those Holy Words is Mylinda’s forte and you will be blessed by her insights.

This year’s project: Healing Arts Toolkits for Mylinda Baits’ upcoming training sessions in Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Chile. Each kit costs \$125 and supplies the organization or group leaders with both a curriculum to help survivors of trauma gain skills in emotion regulation, identity and interpersonal skills. The art supplies help with healing of trauma in 11 different expressive arts interventions. . . Mylinda will speak more about the Toolkits in one of her presentations.

We will have lots of great music, a special concert on Saturday evening followed by a hymn sin, morning devotions (printed and in a group setting), and lots of good fellowship.

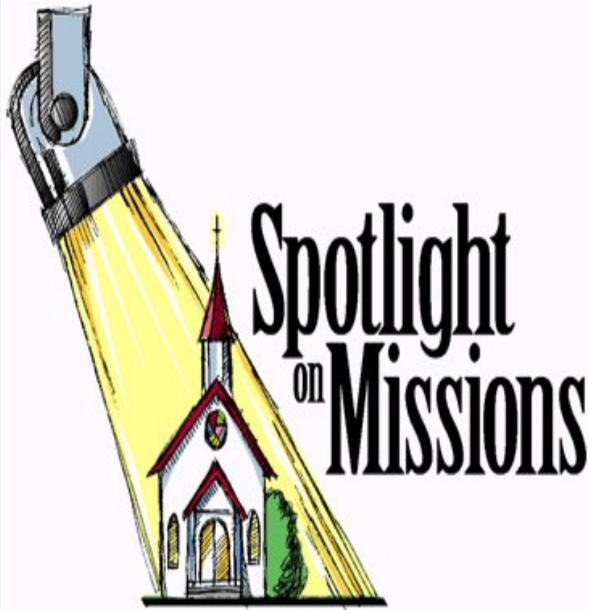
Contact Linda at the church office for more information if you’re interested in attending.

Loves me not?

A girl asked a boy if he loved her, and he replied, “Yes, of course.”

“Would you die for me?” the girl wondered.

After a brief pause, the honest lad said, “No, mine is an undying love.”



Men's Winter Clothing Drive

In partnership with 6 area churches, spearheaded by Issaquah Christian Church, we are collecting items for the Men's Winter Clothing Drive. This drive will benefit Seattle's Union Gospel Mission and the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank. Please bring new or gently used Men's winter clothing (coats, shoes, boots, hats, gloves, rain ponchos, warm shirts or sweaters, socks, and underwear) during the month of February and place in the barrel in our foyer. If you need a receipt, put your contact information on the form on the clipboard near the door.

Mission Project

Several months ago the Women's Mission Fellowship of CCI voted to "go dormant." However, members of the inactive WMF, along with members of the CCI congregation, still did a mission project.

If you will recall, the WMF sponsored a toiletry project for YouthCare Bridge Continuum in Seattle. YouthCare Bridge Continuum is an organization that provides services to sexually exploited youth in the Seattle area. Our Church family had donated many toiletry items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, lotion, etc. We still had 270 items on hand to be donated.

At the January 21st Sharing the Adventure meeting Janet Olin from The Sophia Way, located in this area, was the guest speaker. The mission of this organization is to assist women from homelessness to independence (see handouts in the office). After a wonderful program, the remaining items were presented to her to carry back to The Sophia Way.

Once again our church family has reached out to help others. Thanks!

America for Christ Offering

Coming in March. The America for Christ Offering 2015 theme—"Discipleship: A Journey of Grace," based on Titus 2:11-13—is a wonderful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting with and caring for people in need. Together, we can make a difference by supporting impactful home missions through the America for Christ offering 2015.

February Church Events

Sharing the Adventure Fellowship

Our Sharing the Adventure fellowship will be on hiatus for a couple of months. Keep your eyes on the website, bulletin, and newsletter to learn when we will start up again. Life, at any age, is an adventure, with new things to learn, new challenges to meet, and exciting things around every corner! In this group we will share in that adventure together. We start by sharing together in a potluck lunch (sandwiches, salads, or soup), then move in to our prayer time, singing, and devotions.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 8th. Please plan to be present for this important time together. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, board members, and Pastoral Search Committee members; approve our 2015 operating and outreach budgets; and vote on a Constitutional Amendment regarding the Memorial Gifts Committee.

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 10:00 a.m.

Other Church News

Our Building

We are still seeking final approval from the City Planning Dept and the Fire Marshall for occupancy. An inspection is scheduled for the 1st week of February. We will know more after that meeting. This month we expect to see progress toward installation of our bookshelves/cabinetry by Grette Custom Woodworking.

Over the edge

In Iceland, a country filled with many spectacular waterfalls, Godafoss stands out. Water plunges from 40 feet high, across a width of almost 100 feet.

The story behind that natural wonder's name is impressive, as well. In the year 1000, a handful of Iceland's leaders chose to follow Christianity rather than paganism, setting the course for the entire nation. When a former pagan priest converted to Christianity, he chucked his idols into the waterfall. Civil war was averted, and the waterfall came to be known as Godafoss, or "waterfall of the gods."

Law's or love?

Businessman John Barrier, unrecognizable in jeans and a T-shirt, cashed a check at his longtime bank. But the teller refused to validate his parking ticket, saying Barrier hadn't made an official transaction. A manager agreed, saying rules were rules.

Barrier then performed a major transaction, withdrawing \$1 million and taking it elsewhere. He got his parking ticket validated after all.

What a great illustration of the perils of legalism, when man-made laws become more important than people. Jesus repeatedly healed and "worked" on the Sabbath, much to the dismay of religious leaders. He was concerned about people's hearts, not their appearance.

What matters more to you: laws or love? Appearance or substance? A heart examination may be in order!

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

The Church Board has proposed amending the constitution in relation to how Memorial Gifts are handled. Presently, Article IX, Section 4, of the church constitution says:

“The Memorial Gifts Committee shall consist of three members, elected annually. Each year this committee shall select one of its members as Chairperson.

- a. Duties and responsibilities of the committee are:
 1. To record all gifts to the church designated as memorial gifts.
 2. To disperse the gifts as designated by the giver (if the purpose of the gifts was not indicated by the givers, the committee may disperse them in the interest of the church on its own discretion up to the amount of \$1,500; if the amount is higher, Church Board approval is necessary);
 3. To acknowledge gifts through thank you cards, letters or other communications.
 4. To encourage the giving of memorial gifts.”

The proposed amendment would eliminate this committee and give the Deacons the responsibility of supervising the use of these gifts. This amendment will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on February 8th.

Lenten living

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth—a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

Camp Burton Conference Center from Kathleen Hendrickson, Executive Director

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent annual donation of \$524.88. What a wonderful gift! We will place your gift in our Designated Projects fund and that means it will be used toward some or all of the following: major cosmetic improvements in Grisham Hall, upgrades to the campfire benches and trail, and/or new couches for the Retreat Center. Your thoughtful gift will come in handy as we get all of these things accomplished!

We have been blessed by your years of dedication and support. May the Lord bless you now and for the New Year. Thank you again for your gracious and long-time commitment to the ministry of Camp Burton.”

“What *can* you do?”

Paul Smith (1921-2007) dug deep to summon incredible gifts of creativity and perseverance. Born with severe cerebral palsy, he started making art at age 11 on an old typewriter. Steadying one hand with the other so he could use one finger to make one deliberate keystroke at a time, he typed symbols, such as # or @, using a black or colored ribbon. In this painstaking way, he “painted” stunningly detailed pictures.

In a TV report from 2004 (search “Typewriter Artist” on YouTube), a friend says Smith found joy in being creative, and saw that as his life’s purpose. When someone would say, “*I could never do that,*” the artist would answer, “What *can* you do?”

Whatever our challenges, God has given us all gifts to share with the world. Perhaps you can’t “paint” pictures with a typewriter . . . But what *can* you do? Do it!

Special Dates in February

- African American History Month
- American Heart Month
- Groundhog Day - Monday, 02/02
- Boy Scout Sunday—Sunday, 02/08
- Valentine's Day - Saturday, 02/14
- Transfiguration of the Lord - Sunday, 02/15
- Presidents' Day - Monday, 02/16
- Ash Wednesday - 02/18
- 1st Sunday of Lent - Sunday, 02/22



TO...

3 Don Good

9 Robert Eastlick

14 Alice Brenenstahl

15 Bessie Burton

February 2015 at CCI

- Annual Meeting - 02/08
- Bell Article Deadline - 02/23

Providing proof

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

~ William Barclay

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** - *at home*
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**
*Bethany at Silverlake
Everett, WA*
5. **Jane Forbes**
Kirkland, WA
6. **Don & Alice Good**
Bellevue, WA
7. **Geri Hardisty**
*Premier Adult Care
Sammamish, WA*
8. **Elvira Lindsay** - *at home*
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*