



The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah February 2011

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 this month we are working with Mountain Creek Christian Fellowship and “Serve Issaquah” to collect men’s winter coats for the Union Gospel Mission and the local food and clothing bank. 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. 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

Special Dates for February

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 13, 2011
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2011
- Presidents' Day, February 21, 2011

Annual Meeting
Sunday February 6th
with a Pot-luck
lunch After church



LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. Marge Armstrong, Lake Hills Family Home
2. Faye Cooper, at Marionwood
3. Rose Matthai, Aegis Assisted Living
4. Robert (Bob) Pusch, Group Home, Burien
5. Ken Schmelzer, at home
6. Dorothy Swearson, Issaquah Care Center
7. Sylvia Olsson, living with daughter in Maple Valley
8. Florence Watkins
9. Martha Nordhagen Adams House, Oregon
10. Geri Hardesty

We are planning to start having a once a month night to just get together with other church friends and have some fun together! We want these to be cross-generational family experiences. We will start Saturday, February 12th (Happy Birthday Abe!) at 4 pm. Our first gathering will be a Wii/X-Box tournament. Then we will end up with



a pot-luck meal around 5:30 or 6 pm. Invite family members, friends – whoever would like to be part of a fun evening together. Bring what you would like for the potluck, and if you can contribute a Wii or other game console for the evening (with relevant games) or a TV monitor, talk to Stephanie.

February 2011 at CCI:

- WMF Meeting - Tuesday 2/8..... at 1:30 pm
- Deacons Meeting - Thursday 2/3 -----at 2:00 pm
- Trustees Meeting– Sunday 2/ ----- at 12:30 pm
- Council Meeting - Sunday 2/13----- at 12:30 pm
- Young At Heart-Thursday 2/17-----at 11:30 am
- Bell Deadline - Wednesday 2/23

Happy February Birthday to.....



3 Don Good
9 Robert Eastlick



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