

# The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah January 2015

## A Word from the Pastor

Those who enjoy late night TV today are familiar with Top 10 lists. David Letterman is particularly known for the funny lists he and his writing staff come up with. Well, in light of that, I thought I would make the following “Top 10 List of Scriptures for New Year’s.” (Not funny, like Letterman’s, but hopefully more uplifting!):

**#10** – Matthew 9:16-17 – New times demand new ideas. Jesus says we can’t put new wine into old wine skins. That is an important thing to remember as we head into the New Year. Jesus was rejected because he didn’t fit into the old way of thinking of the religious leaders of the time. Let’s keep our minds open to the new ideas God sends our way.

**#9** – Isaiah 43:18-19 – God’s new thing. Some talk of “the good old days”, but Isaiah tells us that focusing on “the things of old” sometimes causes us to overlook the new things God is doing in our midst.

**#8** -- Lamentations 3:22-23 – God’s mercies new every morning. What a refreshing thought – God’s mercies are new every morning! That means that a new year means 365 new blessings God will bring to our life!

**#7** – Psalm 40:3 – A new song in our heart. This is a logical follow-up to God’s mercies being new every morning. God gives us a new song – new reasons to praise him with all our heart.

**#6** – John 13:34-35 – A new commandment to love. This is more than a new obligation. It’s an invitation to be part of a new kind of community – one that loves each other as God loves us in Jesus Christ.

**#5** – Jeremiah 31:31-34 – A new relationship to God. The old relationship was based on law and obligation; the new one comes out of a heart renewed by the mercy of God in Jesus Christ.

**#4** – Ezekiel 11:19 – A new spirit and a new heart. I really like the phrase, “I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh...” Oh, that we could leave the stone-cold hearts of previous years in 2014, and prepare ourselves to the warm, loving hearts God would give us!

**#3** – Romans 6:4 – Newness of life. Life can certainly become old at any age. But God would give each of us in this new year a fresh new outlook on life that looks forward in hope to what God will do.

**#2** – 1 Peter 1:3 – A new birth. All of what we have said before, makes it like we can be re-born into life. It is a birth into a world of love and hope, and out of a world of oldness and despair.

**#1** – and the **NUMBER ONE Scripture for New Year’s is...2 Corinthians 5:17:** “So if anyone is in Christ, he is a new

**creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”** God created the original creation to be perfect, but we messed it up. Still, God is not defeated. He is building a new creation to restore the goodness of the original, and we can become part of it by believing in Christ and following Christ’s way of love and mercy.

Does it seem to you that nothing is ever new, and that the New Year will be just the old year, warmed over as leftover? Then post this list where it can remind you of what the New Year can be if you let it!

-Pastor Keith Madsen

**From Mission Partnership Team Communications Advocate and Convener,  
Dennis Shewell, Nzunga and Kihomi Ministry**

“Dear Friends of Issaquah Community Church

My name is Dennis Shewell and I am the Convener and Communications Advocate for Nzunga’s and Kihomi’s Missionary Partnership Team (MPT).

We are charged with promoting their ministry in the USA encouraging churches to adopt them as their partners in ministry. You have heard of all the wonderful things God is doing in Haiti during their visit with you. I pray you will consider joining them to bring the hope of Jesus to the poorest nation on earth. *We humbly ask you to pray for them and include them in your budget for 2015.* Those who make their work possible are just as important [as] the ones who God has called to go into another land. The bible says happy are the feet that brings good news. This is what they do by showing Gods love to our Haitian brothers and sisters who have to struggle everyday. You know their story and all the things they are doing to improve the lives of “the least of these”.

Please join us in this exciting work of the Lord and help keep Nzunga and Kihomi in the field where God has called them. They have labored there for over 16 years. If you have any questions please contact me.

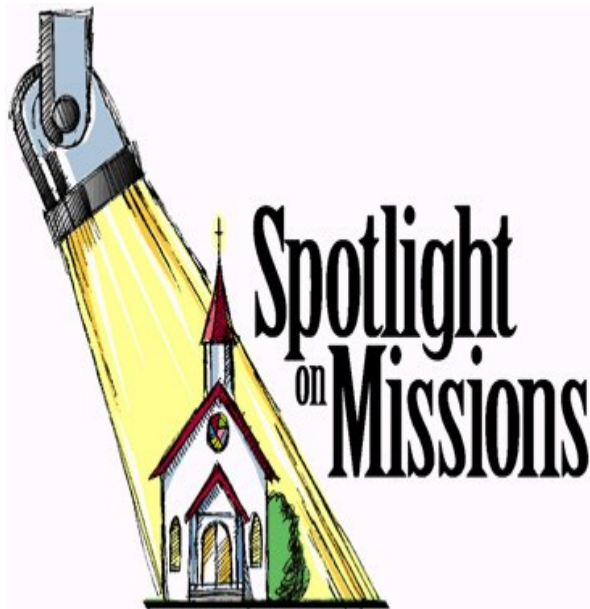
In His Grace and Peace.”

**Evergreen Association**

Monday, January 19th, 6:00 PM. Join Evergreen Churches and our communities for the **12th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Worship Service.** To be held at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 19300 108th Avenue SE, Kent, WA.

Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Executive Director ABCUSA Ministers’ Council, preaching. **THEME: Reclaiming the Legacy (of Dr. King and American Baptists!)**

Bring the youth and young adults so they, too, can hear the call and perhaps be led to step up to the challenge!



### Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

Thank you for your contributions to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. We collected a total of \$530.

### Merry Christmas Issaquah—Issaquah Community Services

Thank you for your contributions totaling \$150 in December to support the Merry Christmas Issaquah fund of Issaquah Community Services (ICS).

### ABC President Don Ng

“...The United Mission giving sent from local churches to ABC supports the administration, planning, and organizing that keeps the denomination running smoothly. Without these behind the scene efforts, we wouldn’t have the glue that keeps us together as the American Baptist family.

When you send funds to United Mission, you support the work of the Board of General Ministries—the only representative board in the whole denomination! You have a board member from your region there. United Mission supports our General Secretary to represent us at ecumenical councils and bears public witness on issues that affect how we live out our faith in the world. United Mission advocates for women in ministry and assists churches with transitional/interim ministers when they are seeking new pastoral leadership. United Mission funds help to maintain address lists and a leadership pool essential for a denomination to function well. United Mission funds also support regional ministries, our ABC website, and all those not-so-obvious ministries.

... In just a few months, the ABC family will once again gather for the 2015 Biennial Mission Summit in Overland Park, Kansas. Give to United Mission and help ABC provide a Spirit-inspired time of celebration and fellowship when we gather next June. Give to United Mission and help ABC sustain all the ministries we are blessed with as we serve as the hands and feet of Christ. **Give to United Mission** and help ABC continue to prepare all our spiritual meals for our blessed family.”

“If God were small enough to be understood, he would not be big enough to be worshiped.”

~ Evelyn Underhill

# The Greater Community

## ***Multi-Faith Coalition to Address Human Trafficking***

***You are invited!*** Thursday, January 8, 2015 1:00—3:00 PM; Isaac Orr Conference Room, 910 Marion Street, Seattle, WA 98104

***Mission:*** To raise awareness and inspire action in faith communities in Western Washington to address human trafficking through the lens of compassion.

Learn from dynamic speaker Amanda Hightower, Executive Director of Real Escape from the Sex Trade (REST), about her experience as an advocate for trafficking victims and survivors and how you and your faith community can help.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, brainstorm how faith communities can work against trafficking, and receive practical resources.

The Coalition meets four times each year to educate members about human trafficking, to showcase the action taking place in faith communities, to provide new and available resources, and to promote upcoming events and programs. The Coalition seeks to bring into everyday practice *Twelve Steps in Compassionate Living* by Karen Armstrong as applied to human trafficking. Future meetings: March 26, June 25, October 8.

**For more information**, please contact Sr. Joyce Cox, BVM at the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle at 206.382.4829 or [joycec@seattlearch.org](mailto:joycec@seattlearch.org).

## ***Issaquah Food Bank—Holiday Gift Barn***

*From Cori Walters, Executive Director:*

“Thank you so much for your generosity! With your support we were able to support 650 families and get brand new toys, clothing, stocking-stuffers, socks, underwear, scarves, gloves, hats, games and books to 1300+ children. We appreciate your generous gifts and time. Together the Issaquah and Sammamish communities created a gracious space for families to shop in a holiday-spirited and dignified environment...

As the director of the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank I have the privilege of connecting with each of the families we serve. After 4 years at the IFCB I’ve had the opportunity to meet our clients newborn babies and I have seen those children grow and thrive. I’ve seen those kiddo’s eating carrots pulled fresh from Seattle Tilth’s Pickering Barn Garden at our Summer Lunch Program. I’ve been lucky enough to hold many infants and toddlers while parents shop for groceries. I’ve also been fortunate to be a part of a team that has helped many families with children remain housed or go from being homeless to being housed...

We could NOT do it without you. I hope you continue to participate and commit your time and resources to the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank. We need your support and participation year round. If you are interested in learning more about IFCB please e-mail me or call and I will give you a tour of our facility.”

## December Church Events

### *Sharing the Adventure Fellowship*

We will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, for prayer, singing, and devotions. Bring a soup, salad, or sandwiches to share with the group. Let's maintain our great attendance. We have invited Cori Walters, Executive Director, of the Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank to give us a short presentation and answer questions about their work. At our meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> we hope to have a representative from The Sophia Way to tell us a bit about their ministry with homeless women. The mission of the Sophia Way is to help end homelessness for adult women in King County by providing shelter, life skills training, social services and supportive permanent housing, offering a path from homelessness to stable independent living.

### *Board Meeting*

Our Board meeting will be Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, after worship and coffee fellowship.

### *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.

### *Annual Meeting*

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, after worship and coffee fellowship. Please plan to attend to elect Board members, approve the budget, and Pastoral Search Committee membership.

## Other Church News

### *Our Building*

We are still seeking final approval from the City Planning Dept and the Fire Marshall for occupancy. This month we expect to have our bookshelves/cabinetry installed by Grette Custom Woodworking, then we can add our final touches.

### *Nominations for Church Board*

It's time to nominate people for Board positions for 2015. Please prayerfully consider serving Christ through a position on your church board.

### *Pastoral Search Committee*

Pastor Keith will be retiring in about a year. It is time to start planning for that eventuality by seeking a new pastor. A slate for the Pastoral Search Committee will be presented at the Annual Meeting, and will begin work as quickly as possible.

## Food for Thought

### *Thursday Night Soup*

Happy 2015! It is always so exciting to launch into a new year. Do you make New Year's resolutions? Mine are easy because I usually pick the same ones. (I'm not ready to give up on myself yet) Healthier meals and more exercise. This year I added a new one because I felt convicted to figure out how to reduce our food waste here at home. It all started the other day when I cleaned and organized the freezer (the one on top of the refrigerator). I found so much old food – some partial packages of ice covered veggies, crazy purchases - why did I buy frozen beets when we don't even eat beets?!, and lots of other questionable packages. When I finished my discard-and-sort process, I had four entire grocery sacks full of food to throw away. I felt terrible. Those four bags held my disappointment and shame in all the wasted money, time, and food. At that moment, I resolved to say no more waste!

That very same night I came across a recipe for Thursday Night Soup. Years ago, factory workers were paid on Fridays. So, on Thursday nights they took whatever food was left over and put it all together in the soup pot. My mother-in-law (Bev Hansen) used to keep a scraps container in the freezer. She put in all the leftover bits and cooking liquids, and when the container was full she made it all into a soup. My husband tells me that he is looking forward to what we can create for our own Thursday night soup pot.

I wish you all the best for a wonderful 2015 and happy cooking!

~ Teri Hansen

## Not in a partying 'MOOD'

A Sunday school teacher shared the parable of the prodigal son with his class, pointing out how resentful the older son was when the father welcomed the wayward brother home with open arms and a party.

Amid the celebration, the teacher emphasized, someone in the story failed to share in the joy. "Can you tell me who that was?" the teacher asked.

Eagerly, a little girl raised her hand. "I know, I know!" she exclaimed. "The fatted calf!"

## Special Dates in January

- New Year's Day - Thursday, 01/01
- Epiphany - Tuesday, 01/06
- Baptism of the Lord - Sunday, 01/11
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 01/18-01/25
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance - Monday, 01/19



Happy  
Birthday

**TO...**

- 2 Sylvia Coulton**
- 7 Sue Jensen**
- 15 Dixie Rogers**
- 20 Janine Cooper**
- 23 Bill Wiegant**

## January 2015 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 01/07
- Sharing the Adventure - 01/21
- Board Meeting - 01/18
- Guest Preacher - 01/24
- Bell Article Deadline - 01/26

# 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. **Jane Forbes**  
*Kirkland, WA*
5. **Don & Alice Good**  
*Bellevue, WA*
6. **Geri Hardisty**  
*Premier Adult Care  
Sammamish, WA*
7. **Elvira Lindsay** - *at home*
8. **Martha Nordhagen**  
*Adams House, Oregon*
9. **Sylvia Olsson** (425) 793-5488  
*Chateau Valley Ctr.  
4450 Davis Ave S.  
Renton, WA 98055*
10. **Joe Shultice**  
*219 Cedar Ave S.  
North Bend, WA 98045*
11. **Dody Tweeddale**  
*Cascades Adult Family Home, Bellevue*
12. **Cherie Vivolo** - *at home*