

# The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah January 2016

## **A Word from the Pastor—Homes**

I've been thinking a lot about homes recently.

Perhaps it's because I'm new to the area. When you move, you have to find a place to live. So a month ago I was spending way too much time on websites like Zillow and Craigslist searching for apartments in the area.

It's not just that, though. As your new interim pastor, I've been able to start visiting with you. One of my favorite parts of visiting is getting to see where you live. You get a sense of a person when you see their home. Does artwork cover their walls? Do they spend their mornings contemplating the trees swaying in the wind or the cars zipping by? Who are the people in the pictures around the living room? By seeing these details, I have the privilege of seeing what makes where you live special to you.

Jesus also had a place he called home. Right now we are going through the Gospel of Luke on Sundays. If you haven't noticed, go back and read the first few chapters: everything circles back to the temple. It's where Zechariah receives the angelic message, where Mary and Joseph take Jesus to be circumcised, and where the holy family goes for Passover.

The temple is Jesus' home. It's the particular place that centers his life. It is a holy space.

Here on Gilman Blvd, we have our own holy space. This building, wedged between a kickboxing gym and a home renovation firm, provides us with the safe space we need to draw near to God. It is a space that can center our lives if we let it.

Yet, just as Jesus returns to Nazareth from the temple, we can't stay in our snug church forever. We are sent out of our church into the world, but we carry with us the holiness we receive here in our church home. Perhaps that holiness will teach us the importance of other homes. Perhaps it will give us renewed concern for our homeless neighbors. Perhaps it will draw us into advocating for those who are in danger of losing their homes.

And just perhaps, when we finally return to our own homes, to the pictures in the living room and the artwork on the walls, we might find that Jesus himself has left the temple and is coming to our own homes today.

-Reverend Britt Carlson



Thank you to all who contributed to the following mission projects:

- Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering—\$320 total received.
- Seattle's Union Gospel Mission Food Drive
- Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank—Holiday Gift Barn

The Greater Church Community

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship Service—New Beginnings Christian Fellowship*

Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm You are invited to gather at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 19300 108th Avenue SE, Kent, WA. Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Minister, ABCUSA American Baptist Home Mission Societies.

*From ABCUSA Connections, Fall 2015*

“Groups related to *Transformed by the Spirit* are meeting across the country and are working on a number of challenges related to mission and ministry in today’s world. Through meeting together in teams, pastors, staff members and lay people are having tough conversations about important issues.

***Transformed by the Spirit*** is an initiative that engages local congregations across the denomination in a journey of identifying the significant challenges that face our churches, our regions, and our national bodies in today’s culture, and wrestling with the changes that will be required of all American Baptists if we are to seize opportunities to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.”

“I believe that appreciation is a holy thing—that when we look for what’s best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we’re doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we’re participating in something sacred.”

~ Fred Rogers

## January 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 our first session:

January 6<sup>th</sup>—Pastor Britt will facilitate a Circle discussion looking at ways that God may be leading us in the New Year.

What other experiences would you like to have us schedule for future Wednesdays?

### *New Year's Potluck*

We will have a New Year's Potluck, Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, after worship. We'd love to see you here. Come ready to celebrate the New Year!

### *Board Meeting*

Our monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, shortly after worship. Board members please plan to attend.

### *Adult Forum*

Did you know that the Trinity is never mentioned in the Bible? Join us January 10<sup>th</sup> and listen to Ben Dillon, PhD explain why we believe God is Father, Son & Holy Spirit and how this is supported by scripture. We will continue our study of the life of Christ the following week. The Forum meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### *2016 Board & Committee Positions*

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve on the Board or a committee. We have the following positions to fill: Trustee, Deacon, and Pastoral Relations Committee member. Let Mary Cline, Moderator, know by January 17<sup>th</sup>, if you'd like to serve.

## The Greater Community

### *Remodeling Expo 2016*

Friday– Sunday, January 15-17. Once again this year we have received free tickets to the Remodeling Expo, held at the Washington State Convention Center. If you would like tickets, please check with Linda in the office.

## Food for Thought

### *Morning Happiness*

Happy New Year! I am so excited about the new year ahead and I hope that you are, too. In the mornings, when I open the door to my office at work, I always think (and often say out loud) “it’s a new day!” And a song from church stick in my head: “This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.” (This song is based on Psalms 118:24.) I truly believe that each morning is a gift and that it comes from God who faithfully creates them for us each and every day. But, maybe your mornings need a little spark and one of the best ways to feel glad about morning is having breakfast.

Yesterday my in-laws came over and shared an article with us about the health benefits of eating a good breakfast every morning. Most of us know this, but we are not always very conscientious about sitting down and starting our day with a healthy meal. Several years ago I was researching easy microwave breakfast ideas for our son who was at college. I came across the Omelet-in-a-Cup recipe and it has become a reliable favorite in our household. It is easy to make and very nutritious. According to the Egg Board the egg is a nutritional powerhouse: they contain just about every essential vitamin and mineral along with several other beneficial food components.

Here is my easy recipe that you can modify as you like. It is great for using up any leftover veggies or cheeses in your fridge. I hope this recipe will give you some added spark in your mornings so that you can rejoice in each day. Happy 2016!

### **Teri’s Omelet-in-a-Mug**

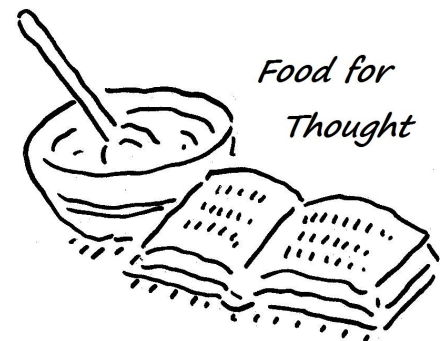
Use a microwaveable coffee mug. Coat the inside well with cooking spray. Add the following ingredients and stir together:

- 1 egg
- 1 Tablespoon milk or cream
- 1-2 Tablespoons of diced veggies and/or meat
- 1-2 Tablespoons of shredded cheese of your choice

Cover with a small microwaveable plate or wax sheet. (I try to avoid using plastic wrap in the microwave.)

Microwave for 1-2 minutes depending on the power of your microwave.

Serve with anything else you might like to eat. We like the vegetarian breakfast sausages in the freezer section of the grocery store.



~ Teri Hansen

## Special Dates in January

- New Year's Day - Friday, 01/01
- Epiphany - Wednesday, 01/06
- Baptism of the Lord - Sunday, 01/10
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance -  
Monday, 01/18
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 01/18-01/25



**TO...**

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

## January 2016 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 01/06
- Happy New Year Potluck - 01/10
- Board Meeting - 01/17
- Sharing the Adventure - 01/20
- Bell Article Deadline - 01/25

# 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. **Daisy Cox** - *at University House*
4. **Jane Forbes**  
*Kirkland, WA*
5. **Don & Alice Good**  
*Bellevue, WA*
6. **Elvira Lindsay** - *at Aegis Living*
7. **Martha Nordhagen**  
*Adams House, Oregon*
8. **Dody Tweeddale**  
*Cascades Adult Family Home, Bellevue*
9. **Cherie Vivolo** - *at home*

## The meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.