

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah July 2015

A Word from the Pastor—A Giving People

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For... they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints – and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord...”

-2 Corinthians 8:1-5a (NRSV)

The people in the churches of Macedonia were truly a giving people. They weren't a rich or particularly fortunate people – Paul refers to their “extreme poverty” – but rather they were a people who understood the importance of financial generosity to doing God's work.

The situation out of which Paul wrote this passage was that the church in Jerusalem was in great need. There had been famine in that part of the world, and many were in need. Paul was taking up an offering from all of his churches in order to help them. This was the “Mother Church”, where the faith had started. But it was also a church made up of mostly Jewish

members, while churches like those in Macedonia and Corinth were made up of mostly Greek members. These were traditional enemies. How would Greeks respond to the needs of foreign Jews?

Corinth said they were going to help, but in reality they were dragging their feet and not showing much enthusiasm for giving, and so Paul set an example before them, the example of the churches of Macedonia. These churches “overflowed in a wealth of generosity”! In fact, Paul says they didn't just give what was expected, according to their means, but they gave “even beyond their means.”

There are two phrases I especially like in this passage. The first is in verse 4: “...begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints...” The Macedonians viewed it as a *privilege* to give financially to help others in the name of Christ! Too often we view it as an obligation rather than a privilege. How much is my minimum obligation here? But to view giving as a privilege is to understand that God's world and people-changing work is a privilege to be part of.

The second phrase I really like is there in verse 5, “...they gave themselves first

to the Lord...” Giving *ourselves* to God is the most important giving we do. But from that follows our other giving. We give our money to God’s work because we have already given ourselves to God, and we know all we have is his.

At the Community Church of Issaquah we have many opportunities to be part of the privilege of giving. We have just finished taking the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which goes toward emergency relief around the world. We are currently

collecting backpacks, to help children and youth in low-income families, to have the school supplies they need to start school next Fall. And every week we take our offering to further the work of this church. When you are asked to give, don’t think of it as being burdened with another obligation. Think of it as a privilege to stand in the tradition of the church in Macedonia, and to be blessed by the opportunity to give.

-Pastor Keith Madsen



One Great Hour of Sharing

We collected \$ 375 during the month of June for One Great Hour of Sharing, including \$100 designated for Nepal.

From the EBA Newsletter—News bits from Haiti

✚ Because of various changes in Haiti, it is no longer helpful to receive used eyeglasses or pill bottles. A new source has been found to provide these items at a low cost (in our terms).

✚ Shipping costs to Haiti are high, be aware of

this when planning shipments.

- ✚ Please continue to pray for the individuals and families in Haiti struggling to survive, especially after the 2010 earthquake.
- ✚ Pray for Kihomi’s physical and emotional strength as she travels long distances to visit and help the people of Haiti.
- ✚ Thank you for your love, prayers, and support.

“Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.”

~ Corrie ten Boom

Tools4School

We will be collecting backpacks through July 28th for kids in need of school supplies. There is a box in the entry in which to deposit purchased backpacks for later delivery. The backpacks are



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filled with supplies from corporate donors. Janine has volunteered to purchase backpacks for those who wish to donate cash toward that purpose. Volunteers are needed to help fill the backpacks and hand them out. Talk to Pastor Keith if you'd like to volunteer.

Outreach Committee Seeks Your Help

The Outreach Committee would like your input and help. If you have a mission that is close to your heart, please let Woody or Janine know. If you are willing to help by contacting specific organizations to find out their needs, and if they are having a specific drive to meet some of those needs, there will be a signup sheet at the church.

“ Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use.”

~ Charles M. Schulz

“How we walk with the broken speaks louder than how we sit with the great.”

~ Zig Ziglar

Life at the table

I have found that this life
is short enough and long enough
to laugh at honest clowns
and to weep at requiem,
to break bread with a beggar
and to accept a gift from a king,
to walk with a child at her pace
and to stretch to the step of the wise.
This life with all its graces is a table is

a table spread for feasting.

A Host who asks our presence has meat
and bread
and brimming cup we can never taste
until we take them into ourselves with
costly pledge.
Some look through the window and
walk by,
while life is at the table.

~ William Hogg

July 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 the next session:



*Sharing the
Adventure*

July 1st—This will be another game day. Come prepared to share in the fun of various board games with your church friends!

July 15th – Duane Bowen and Velma Walker will present a musical program.

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

Guest Preacher

Pastor Keith attended the Mission Summit in Overland Park, Kansas at the end of June, be sure to ask him about it. Our guest preacher, Brandon Hall, was in the pulpit on Sunday, June 28th. See the notes for his sermon on "Finishing Well", as well as Pastor Keith's past sermons, on our website at www.commchurchiss.org.

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, chronologically.

Summer Picnics

Summer is here! If you would like to host a potluck picnic at your home or have an idea of where to meet, please let Teri Hansen or Janine Cooper know.

Church Retreat

This year's church retreat will be held on Saturday, August 1st, 2015, at the Reeves' cabin located at Lake Kachess. Anyone willing to drive or who needs a ride should let Janine know. A car caravan is planned to meet at the church at 9:45 a.m. and scheduled to depart the parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

Our hostess, Janine, will provide a light lunch for everyone shortly after our arrival. A potluck dinner is planned for 5:30 p.m. People are welcome to stay or leave if they wish after the potluck. There will be a campfire at night for anyone wanting to stay after dinner.

Other Church News

Our Building

We have received our Certificate of Occupancy! This means the City and Fire department have given us the final sign-off. Work on our custom cabinetry by Grette Custom Woodworking is still in process.

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) has completed its survey of the church and continues to meet regularly to identify our needs and take the steps necessary before identifying prospective pastoral candidates. We encourage individuals to let us know what they would like to see in our new pastor. Comments may be given to any of the PSC members: Moderator Mary Cline, ex officio, Chairperson Duane Bowen, Bessie Burton, Juanita Frye, Woody Ross, and Charlotte Scherer.

Graduation and Upcoming Wedding

David & Stephanie Hansen are excited to announce their son Joshua Aaron Kenneth Byle graduated from Harbor High School on June 11, 2015 and is engaged to Alexandra Smith. The wedding is planned for September 17th, 2016.

The Greater Church Community

Bar-Be-Que Bake Off and Dessert Auction

July 18th, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the Cedar River Trail Park Picnic Shelter (behind Boeing, near The Landing Shopping Center in Renton). You are invited by the Evergreen Black Caucus for some of the best barbeque in the NW and greatest time of fellowship possible on a Saturday afternoon. Tickets are \$20/person.

Evergreen Association call for Volunteers

Please consider whether you have some time to devote to volunteering at the Evergreen office. The work is mainly collating and preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing. To join the volunteer team please contact Charlotte Scherer at 425-392-1185 or scherercm@q.com or Clem Winbush at 253-859-2226 or clemeba@comcast.net.

Clergy News

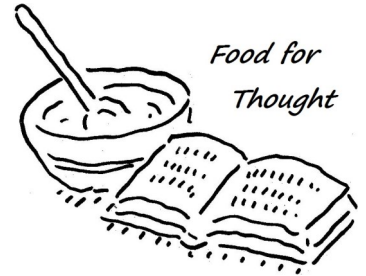
Congratulations to the Rev. Adalia Gutierrez Lee in her new ministry as Area Director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. She is the first woman Area Director with International Ministries.

On July 12th, Jose Ramirez will be installed as Pastor of Confraternidad Ebenezer, Burien, WA.

Food for Thought

If You Can't Stand the Heat, Get out the Slow Cooker

Happy July! Is it warm enough for you? I fully appreciate that we have been blessed with some amazing sunny days, but when it gets up to 80 degrees it brings out a lazy streak in me a mile wide. I just want to sit around working on my summer reading list and try to stay cool drinking iced tea. Another weird fact about me is that I completely lose my appetite. But, over the years it's been made quite clear that hot summer days do not affect my family the same way. They still show up hungry for dinner every day. This is when I pull out my slow-cooker and put her to work. (I love my slow-cooker – she is always there for me year-round.) This week I am making an easy pulled chicken recipe that I plan on stretching out for a few days. You can use this dish with taco shells or flour tortillas, slider buns, or add it to pasta with veggies and cheese for a quick dinner. You can put this together in the cool(er) hours of the morning and then spend some quality time with a good book. Enjoy!



Lazy Summer Slow Cooker Chicken

4-6 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (or a combination of breasts and thighs – cook's choice)

1 – 18 oz. bottle of barbeque sauce (I like Sweet Baby Ray's, but it is totally up to you)

¼ cup vinegar

1 teaspoon red pepper flakes

¼ cup brown sugar

1 teaspoon garlic powder

Mix all together except the chicken. Place chicken in slow cooker and pour over the sauce. You can reserve some of the sauce to drizzle over the chicken when you serve it. Cook on low for about 6 hours or until done. Pull the chicken apart and mix with the sauce. Continue cooking for another 30 minutes.

Stay cool and enjoy!

~ Teri Hansen

On vocation? Use GPS!

Many vacationers rely on a global positioning system to get them easily to a destination. But in every season of life, God sends us on *vocation*—following his call to both feed our passions and serve others. Our “calling,” Frederick Buechner said, is “where [our] deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

But is there a GPS for *vocation*? It’s not as detailed or predictive as we’d like. It doesn’t name our destination at the outset, and it offers general instructions rather than specific directions. And we may end up “recalculating” our life route more often than our vehicle GPS recalculates our vacation route.

Even so, we travel in safety. This “GPS” might stand for *God’s Peace and Strength*, or *Gospel Promises Sustain*, *God Provides Salvation* or *Go! Proclaim! Serve!* The GPS guiding our vocation speaks to us through Scripture, worship, trusted Christian friends, life events and the silence of our heart. Listening, we hear our Guide’s calm voice and continue on vocation.

~ Heidi Mann

Special Dates in July

- Canada Day - Wednesday, 07/01
- Independence Day - Saturday, 07/04



Birthdays

TO...

- 1 Linda Eastlick**
- 1 Dawn Weaver**
- 3 Lee Schubert**
- 6 Duane Bowen**
- 26 Robert Burton**
- 27 Alice Good**

July 2015 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 07/01
- Sharing the Adventure - 07/15
- Bell Article Deadline - 07/27

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** - *at home*
5. **Jane Forbes**
Kirkland, WA
6. **Don & Alice Good**
Bellevue, WA
7. **Geri Hardisty**
*Premier Adult Care
Sammamish, WA*
8. **Elvira Lindsay** - *at Aegis*
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*