

# The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah June 2015

## **A Word from the Pastor**

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

-2 Corinthians 5:20 (NRSV)

There are few more prestigious honors than being appointed as an Ambassador to some important place, especially if that place is one of beauty, and a place where good people reside. In light of that it should be especially Good News what the above Bible passage says to all of us:

We are all appointed by God as Ambassadors to Issaquah.

And, hey, this is a place of great beauty, and what place can you think of that has better people? So, everybody, stand tall and proud! Keep your chin up and stick out your chest! There can be no more prestigious appointment a person could have.

Of course, with this prestige also goes responsibility. Your responsibility as Ambassador is to spread the word about God’s love expressed through Jesus Christ and lived out through The Community Church of Issaquah. And summer is really an important time to be doing this, because it is in summer that many new people move into our

community. We all need to be Ambassadors of Christ, welcoming them here. We need to keep our eyes open for people who are moving into our neighborhoods or our apartment or condo communities, and be bold to greet them with a smile and an invitation to our church.

At the Community Church we have some tools to help you do this:

- *Our Church Brochures.* These tell people about who we are and what we do, and can be found on the counter near our front entry, as well as in the brochure holder on our front window. These brochures also introduce people to me as Pastor, and give all the relevant contact information they might need.
- *Our Facebook Page* – Our Facebook page includes devotionals on a wide variety of topics. Maybe someone you know who is struggling would enjoy reading those devotionals, and they might encourage them to faith.

*Our Web page* – Our web page ([www.commchurchiss.org](http://www.commchurchiss.org)) includes sermons for the last year, which a person can read on their computer. Perhaps one of those sermons can speak to someone you know. The web site also includes our newsletters for the past


year, which can help a person learn more about us as a church.

When you welcome new people moving in, take a brochure, or refer them to our web site. But even more show concern for them as persons. People can experience the love of God through you, His Ambassador!

Of course, none of you need take on this task all alone. You are part of a team that is powered by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Remember the new song we sing

on occasion, which says, “There’s some building to be done, O Lord; Not with steel, not with stone, but with lives which are your own...”? This is an important step in doing that building! I am excited about how all of our ambassadors will respond!

-Pastor Keith Madsen

The logo features a hand holding a flashlight that shines a bright yellow beam of light onto a small, white church with a red roof and a steeple. The text "Spotlight on Missions" is written in a stylized font, with "Spotlight" in a large, bold, serif font, "on" in a smaller font, and "Missions" in a large, bold, serif font.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

What is One Great Hour of Sharing? A tangible way that American Baptists provide for the human needs of our world. The offering provides:

- Emergency Relief—available 24/7 for urgent or acute needs brought about by disasters of natural or human origin
- Development projects—focused on meeting chronic human need by enabling individuals or groups to establish or maintain a more adequate quality of life
- Refugee ministries—focused on holistic ministry to immigrants, refugees, and migrants in detention facilities and refugee camps in the US and in local communities.

We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during the month of June.

ABC-USA is currently collecting donations for use to aid those in earthquake-ravaged Nepal. If you want to contribute to this cause, please note this designation on your offering check or envelope.

## From Compassion House

“...thank you for your contribution of \$5,000 to be used to assist residents of Compassion House with car repairs. Your financial support helps us continue in our mission and to assist those in our community.



The generous support of Community Church of Issaquah makes it possible for Compassion House to exist and reach out to mothers and children recovering from domestic violence.”

## Tools4Schools

We will be collecting backpacks from June 1st through July 28th for kids in need of school supplies. The backpacks are 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.

## Awash in Sunlight

St. Francis of Assisi—perhaps best remembered for his love of animals and his belief that God cares about them in special ways too—was said to have lived with an exuberant “attitude of gratitude.” He wrote, “Such love does the sky now pour, that whenever I stand in a field, I have to wring the light out when I go home.”

As summertime begins, what natural wonders amaze you and make you grateful: sweet-smelling grass? warm, gentle rain? blooming flowers everywhere? pristine, blue skies? Just for fun, write an exclamation like that of St. Francis, glorifying God for his creation.

## June 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:

June 3<sup>rd</sup>—This will be our day to share pictures and slides of special trips people have taken. Pastor Keith would especially be interested in pictures and slides of the Holy Land or other biblically-relevant lands, but if you have something you would like to share from ANY place you have traveled, tell Pastor Keith, and we will plan for you to be part of the sharing.



*Sharing the  
Adventure*

If you have pictures in digital form or hard copy, we can help to put together a slide presentation with our projection equipment. **Do you have anything like this you would like to share?** Please let Linda or Keith (the office) know and we can plan from there.

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

### *Guest Preacher*

Pastor Keith will be attending the Mission Summit in Overland Park, Kansas at the end of June. We will have a guest preacher in the pulpit on Sunday, June 28th.

### *Board Meeting*

We will not hold a Board meeting in June, our next scheduled meeting will be held Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, shortly after worship. Board members please plan to attend.

### *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 around the corner. 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.

## Other Church News

### *Our Building*

We are still awaiting final signoff by the City and Fire department, but have completed all required work for this to happen. Work on our custom cabinetry by Grette Custom Woodworking has begun. The timing of installation has required some adjustments to be made in order to cause the least disruption of CCI work as possible.

### *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.

## The Greater Church Community

### *A Taste of Burma*

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at Panther Lake Community Church 10630 SE 204<sup>th</sup>, Kent. All are invited to *A Taste of Burma*, an event to include a report from Gail and Paul Aita on their recent trip to Myanmar (Burma); local Burmese immigrants will share music, dance, and food.

### *Take your Pastor to the Ballgame!*

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> Seattle Mariners vs NY Yankees. Tickets: \$21 each. Section 331, Rows 14, 15, & 16. Order your tickets through Clem at Evergreen Association.

### *Bar-Be-Que Bake Off and Dessert Auction*

Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-2:00 pm. Location to be announced. 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*

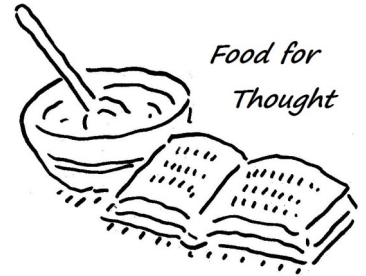
Please consider whether you have some time to devote to volunteering at the Evergreen office. The work is mainly collating and preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing. To join the volunteer team please contact Charlotte Scherer at 425-392-1185 or [scherercm@q.com](mailto:scherercm@q.com) or Clem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

## Food for Thought

### *Cake for a Strawberry Moon*

The month of June brings us the many promises of summer. Strawberries ripen in the fields, school comes to an end for the year (hurray!), and on June 2<sup>nd</sup> there is a Full Strawberry Moon. (The first full moon in June used to be a sign for the Algonquin Tribes to harvest wild strawberries.) Although strawberries have been available in the stores year-round, it seems that people generally tend to buy them in the summer when they can feel more confident that they will get a flavorful and aromatic berry. Strawberries have a rich history and archeological evidence shows that the wild, small strawberry was harvested as far back as the Stone Age. Filled with beneficial nutrients, this delicate fruit has also represented purity, passion, and healing. Strawberries have been used to treat many disorders from bad breath to fevers to melancholy. According to Psalm 19, verse 10, God's Word is something you'll like "better than strawberries in spring".

Our resourceful church cookbook has several recipes that include strawberries. I tried this one today and my house is filled with the sweet aroma of cake and berries. For me, the strawberry is a happy fruit and this recipe should put a smile on just about anyone's face. Contributed by Phyllis ("Auntie Phil") Harstam, here is:



### **Strawberry Cake**

#### Ingredients:

1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen strawberries or fresh strawberries	3 Tbsp flour
1 pkg. white cake mix	½ cup water
1 (3 oz.) box strawberry jello	¾ cup salad oil (I used canola oil)
	4 eggs

#### To make:

Thaw strawberries or crush fresh ones. Blend cake mix, gelatin, and flour in mixing bowl; beat in water, oil and eggs. Stir in all but 1/3 cup of strawberries. Spread batter in greased and floured 13x9-inch pan or layer pans. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. Cool cake.

### **Icing**

#### Ingredients:

2 cups powdered sugar	6 oz. Cool Whip
¼ cup melted butter	1/3 cup strawberries

#### To make:

Combine ingredients; mix well. Ice cake.

Note: I recommend keeping this cake refrigerated due to the icing ingredients.

~ Teri Hansen

### Staying spiritually fit

Prayer is like exercise: Neither is an end in itself. Just as exercise is intended to make us physically fit by strengthening our muscles so we can manage more activity, engaging in prayer leads to more prayer. The harder one works at exercise, the greater the results. But if we give up the routine, the results won't hold. The same goes for prayer.

Writes Rev. Kate Braestrup in *Beginner's Grace* (Atria Books), "There will be no moment—in this life, anyway—when I will be able to say, "That's it! I've prayed, and the prayers have paid off: I'm a fully conscious, totally grateful, and unstintingly generous person. I can just start stuffing myself as soon as the plate hits the table."

Rather, she notes, "The more you give, the more you will be able to give; the more you receive, the more you will be willing to receive; and the more you pray, the more you can ... Pray."

### Special Dates in June

- Flag Day - Sunday, 06/14
- National Refugee Day - Saturday, 06/20
- Father's Day - Sunday, 06/21
- First Day of Summer - Sunday, 06/21



**TO...**

- 11 Teri Hansen**
- 20 Peggy Wilson**
- 22 James Winbush**
- 26 Beverly Hansen**
- 30 Don Schuller**

### June 2015 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 06/03
- Sharing the Adventure - 06/17
- Bell Article Deadline - 06/22

# 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*