

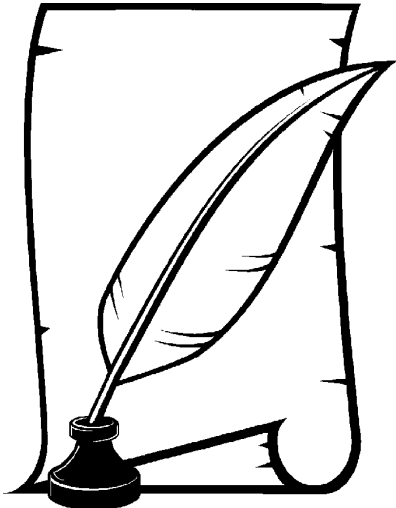
# The Bell



P.O. Box 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah June 2016



## A Word from the Pastor

### —Freedom

*“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36*

*“Won’t let my freedom rot in hell.” – Beyoncé Knowles Carter*

We Baptists love our freedom. There’s no faster way to make a Baptist mad than to tell one of us what to think or believe or do. We want our conscience and others’ consciences to be respected—and we will immigrate to new lands and protest before governments and sit skeptically in sermons until we’re confident that we’re being seen as people with our own voices and own thoughts.

We like our freedom, and will defend it to kingdom come. And yet isn’t sometimes the very person who tries to limit our freedom the most our own selves?

This point hit home for me the other day when a couple I know brought up the topic of fasting. I don’t fast, and haven’t even attempted to fast in years.

Fasting can be a spiritual discipline that draws a person closer to God. In the Old Testament it was a sign of remorse and sorrow before God for sin. Christians

have long held that the pang of fasting’s physical hunger can remind us of our dependence upon God and can bring us into solidarity with the hungry.

But still, I don’t fast.

As this couple talked about their own experiences of fasting and encouraged me to fast myself, I began to feel guilty. Had I been disappointing God for all of these years? Had I been missing out on the Lord’s blessing in my life? Was I a “lesser” Christian for not fasting?

In the midst of my guilt and confusion, a friend reminded me of 1 Corinthians 10. The believers there are also trying to figure out whether to eat or not to eat—in this case, with regards to meat sacrificed to idols. Paul tells the believers, “You have complete freedom. Do what is beneficial to you and what doesn’t cause your brother or sister in Christ to stumble.”

What freedom. We are free to do what is beneficial and truly brings us life. And we’re free *not* to do what limits us, or ties us up in spiritual knots, or may actually be harmful to us—even if that thing is good for another person.

See, there are reasons I don’t fast. In high school and college, I had several close friends with serious eating disorders. Eating and/or not eating is not

necessarily a straightforward thing for women and men who live in a culture that glorifies thin bodies and six-pack abs.

Because of those reasons and others, I choose not to fast. Perhaps in the future I will. Perhaps in the future fasting will be beneficial to me as I seek to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

But for now—I am free. I am free to fast or not fast. I am free to live without shame. Just like you are. We are free to do what brings us life. And no one can take that from us. Not the government. Not an authoritarian preacher. And not even ourselves.

For freedom, Christ has made us free.

-Pastor Britt

## Coming in June—Rotating Pulpits

Preaching from the CCI pulpit about Evergreen Values during the month of June (I'm so excited!) let's welcome:

June 5<sup>th</sup>—Mindi Welton-Mitchell, Burien Community Church—"Learning Community"

June 12<sup>th</sup>—Sean Brown, Queen Anne Baptist—"Unity"

June 19<sup>th</sup>—Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko, Japanese Baptist—"Cultural Diversity"

June 26<sup>th</sup>—Britt Carlson, Community Church of Issaquah—"Acceptance"



**L O C A L M I S S I O N S**

## Tent City 4 Needs

We have received a list of needs from TC4 and would like to help them out. The focus of our giving will include: quarters for laundry, gallon-size freezer bags for food storage, and 30-33 gallon garbage bags. If you prefer to donate something else, see the list

posted on the whiteboard by the refrigerator at the church. Bring items to the church by June 15th and we will deliver them to TC4 at their new location.

## Tools 4 School

Coming in July we will again be collecting back packs for stuffing and distribution by the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank for students in the Issaquah School District.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

It is time again for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. By the grace of God, we are given the opportunity to share our gifts and resources with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. All of us have the power to give back to God from that which God has given us, and in doing so, create a more just world for all of God's children. Through our gifts, we participate in the many ministries that serve the hungry, the poor, the distressed, the refugee.



The Hebrew Bible models this offering in the story of Ruth and Naomi, portrayed in the Book of Ruth. When faced with forced relocation, due to famine and political strife, Ruth said to Naomi, "Where you go I will go." Solidarity stands at the heart of their story. Solidarity stands at the heart of the ministries of One Great Hour of Sharing. Solidarity stands at the heart of this offering.

Like Ruth and Naomi, refugees today are confronted with dire situations in their homes, and are forced by the necessity of survival to leave behind their communities in order to seek safety and security. Currently, the United Nations estimates over 60 million of our brothers and sisters across the world are refugees or displaced persons. The number is higher than it has been since World War II, and is expected to increase as violence continues in the Middle East and parts of Africa.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing we embrace refugees around the world as our own. We say "where you go, we will go." This offering places us side-by-side with those in need. It offers us the opportunity to be Ruth for the Naomi's of the world. By supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, we answer God's call for us to bring wholeness to a fragmented world.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches across the globe. Sometimes it provides solidarity to those who have experienced loss due to disasters in our own community and congregation, and at other times it says tangibly "you are not forgotten" to our sisters and brothers on the other side of the world. Through our gifts, we can help ensure that all of God's children have what they need. Together, we accompany the refugee and stand in solidarity with the distressed, bringing about the world as God intended.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to this special offering.

### American Baptist Home Mission Societies

"On behalf of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), we thank you for your support of the America for Christ Offering 2016. Your financial support to home missions is making a transformational difference across the United States and Puerto Rico."

## 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:

June 1<sup>st</sup>—My linda Baits—American Baptist Missionary

My linda is a regional missionary with a particular focus on human trafficking in the Iberoamerica-Caribbean region. She travels extensively throughout Latin America investigating, articulating and coordinating efforts to address the situation of exploitation and trafficking of women and children in Latin America.

June 15<sup>th</sup>—Erica Maniez—Issaquah History Museum

*From their website*—The Issaquah History Museums (IHM) is a non-profit organization that operates the Gilman Town Hall Museum and the Issaquah Depot Museum, as well as the Issaquah Valley Trolley and numerous exhibits throughout the city. The organization's mission is "to discover, preserve and share the history of Issaquah and its environs."

Erica will share stories of the history of Issaquah's faith community and may even share stories that we haven't heard before about our own church history.

July 6<sup>th</sup>—Resident of Tent City 4 (Tentative)

July 20<sup>th</sup>—Marcia Patton—Evergreen Association: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

August 3<sup>rd</sup>—Mergara Potts of Hopelink—Everyday budgeting

Contact Pastor Britt if you have an idea for a future session.

### *Board Meeting*

Our monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, shortly after worship. Board members please plan to attend.

### *Adult Forum*

Are you seeking a deeper understanding of scripture? Join us as we follow Jesus through His ministry for an in-depth view of His words and actions. The forum meets at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. You are welcome.

## The Greater Community

### *Issaquah Singers—40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Concert*

Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. at Sammamish Presbyterian Church, 22522 NE Inglewood Hill Road, Sammamish. Join the Issaquah Singers to hear their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Concert. Admission is free and donations are welcome.

*From City of Sammamish newsletter:*

Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 p.m. at the Sammamish King County Library , 825 228<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. “Senior Transitions” - Making it Easier. Transitions can be hard, especially as we get older. Learn from a panel of experts about:

- Downsizing
- Selling in this market
- Finding the right place for loved ones.

Free and open to the public. This is NOT a sales presentation. Reserve your spot at 425-497-0900.

## Library Wall Art (Entry)

Anyone interested in joining a committee to solicit loans of artwork from the congregation for display on our library wall please contact Mary Cline, Moderator. We envision rotating contributions on a periodic basis.

Anyone interested in donating artwork, please contact Mary Cline, until we are able to put a committee together. Remember, artwork comes in a variety of forms: paintings, ceramics, stained glass, driftwood, knitting, sewing, metalwork, flower arranging ... You get the point. Please consider sharing your gifts for a period of time, we'd love to see them.

Answers to Bible Trivia on p.6 (don't look, yet, **try the quiz first!!**)

1. Pharaoh, at the time Joseph was in Egypt (Genesis 40:20)
2. The one at the court of Persian ruler Ahasuerus. The winner was Esther (Esther 2).
3. Stephen (Acts 6:7-8:2)
4. The dream of Abimelech, in which he was told to return Sarah to Abraham (Genesis 20:3-8)
5. The war of the kings of the north, led by Chedorlaomer, king of Elam (Genesis 14)

## The Greater Church Community

*From The Spire—Seattle First Baptist Church Newsletter*

### **Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents—The Jacqueline Tabor Quartet**

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at Seattle First Baptist Church. Jacqueline Tabor is an award-winning vocalist who lives and performs in the Pacific Northwest. This sultry alto has a voice that contains style, passion and sophistication. Expressive in her approach to a Jazz standard, she creates a memorable moment that lures you in wanting more. Admission is free.

### **A Special Organ Concert**

Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m., there will be a fun summer program of organ music and 4-hand duets, including the premiers of two American Guild of Organists award-winning pieces held at Seattle First Baptist Church. Admission is free.

## Bible Trivia

### **They Did It First**

1. What king had the first birthday party in the Bible?
2. Where was the first beauty contest in the Bible, and who won?
3. Who was the first Christian martyr?
4. What is the first dream mentioned in the Bible?
5. What is the first war mentioned in the Bible?

Source: The Complete Book of Bible Trivia, pp 19-20

“If you can only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.”

~ Fred Rogers

“I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren’t trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom.”

~ Umberto Eco

## Special Dates in June

- Flag Day, Tuesday, 06/14
- Father's Day, Sunday, 06/19
- First Day of Summer, Monday, 06/20



*Happy Birthday!*

**TO...**

- 11 Teri Hansen**
- 20 Peggy Wilson**
- 23 Genevieve Groshart**
- 24 Dylan Groshart**
- 26 Beverly Hansen**
- 28 Juanita Frye**
- 30 Don Schuller**

## June 2016 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure—06/01
- Board Meeting - 06/12
- Sharing the Adventure - 06/15
- Bell Article Deadline - 06/24

### So good

At the communion rail, a man held out his hand to receive the bread. His curious toddler by his side loudly asked, “Is it good, Daddy?” He smiled and nodded yes.

Indeed, communion is a good gift from Jesus, who wants us to remember his sacrifice for us. The next time you receive communion, remember to “taste and see that the LORD is *good!*” (Psalm 34:8, emphasis added).

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

## What can I do?

Pastor and hymn writer Phillips Brooks penned these words in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but they're just as relevant for Jesus' followers today:

"[People] are questioning now, as they never have questioned before, whether Christianity is indeed the true religion ... Can [Christianity] meet all these human problems, and relieve all these human miseries and fulfill all these human hopes?"

"It is for us, in whom the Christian church is at this moment partially embodied, to declare that Christianity ... can do for the world [that] which the world needs.

"You ask, 'What can I do?'"

"You can furnish one Christian life—so faithful to every duty, so ready for every service, so determined not to commit every sin—that the Christian church shall be stronger for your living in it; and the problem of the world be answered; and a certain peace come into this poor, perplexed phase of our humanity as it sees that new revelation of what Christianity is."