

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah March 2016

A Word from the Pastor

—*Snacks & Surprises*

As many of you know, right now I am living with our family friends, the Rogers. What you might not know is that the Rogers also have two other people living with them. Will is from Brazil, Sofy is from Bolivia, and they are both students at Northwest College. We have three languages (English, Portuguese and Spanish) spoken under one roof!

A few weeks ago, I was slicing cheese and apples for a snack when Will walked by. “Oh my gosh!” he exclaimed. “What are you doing?!” Since the only thing I was doing was slicing cheese and apples I said, “Will, I’m just slicing cheese and apples.” “You’re going to eat cheese and apples *together*?” Will asked, shocked. I laughed and said yes. He called Sofy over. “Sofy, have you ever seen anyone eat cheese and apples *together* before?” She had not and was equally shocked. Though I offered, neither Sofy nor Will would try the combination and thought it absolutely unappealing.

We don’t know what might be strange about the way we do things until we meet people who do things differently. I never would have guessed it, but apples and cheddar cheese are not a universally common snack. Who knew!

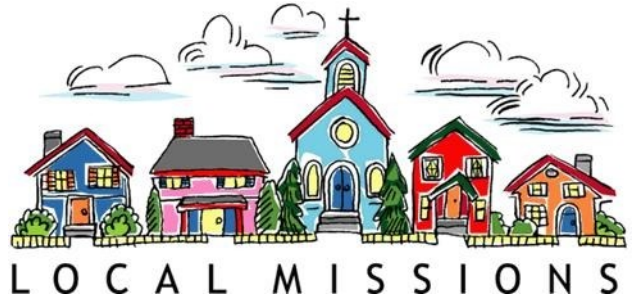
“Who knew” is a phrase I often find myself repeating in my discipleship to Christ. Who knew that Jesus would choose an adulterous woman over pastors and theologians (John 8:1-11)? Who knew that a fisherman would be the first person to recognize Jesus as the Messiah (Luke 9:20)? Who knew that women would be the first preachers of the resurrection (Matt 28:1-10)? We—like the first disciples—try to follow Christ, but Jesus is always a few steps ahead of us, doing things we are not sure if we like or not.

Getting to know Jesus means being open to being surprised. It means being open to suddenly seeing that we are off-kilter. It means being open to trying things we might have wrinkled our noses at before encountering Christ. Jesus does things differently than we do. And that’s a good thing. It means we’re not limited to live the lives we’ve always known. The question then is: are we willing to try the new life that Jesus is giving us?

—Pastor Britt

Men's Winter Clothing Drive

Thank you to all who contributed to this drive, your contributions are much appreciated!



Camp Burton

From Outgoing Executive Director, Kathleen Hendrickson:

“I’m happy to tell you we have ordered and received new chairs for Grisham Hall, using your donation from last year toward this purchase. They are black stackable chairs and are sturdy as well as comfortable. Thank you again for your thoughtful donation!”

Walking the Faith

As spring buds and temperatures rise, it’s fun to get outside and walk. Walking is great for both body and mind.



“To solve a problem, walk around,” advised St. Jerome. Naturalist Henry David Thoreau agreed, saying, “The moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow.” Indeed, walking has been linked to improved creativity and reduced anxiety.

Some Bible versions translate Ephesians 5:8 “Live as children of light,” while others use “walk”: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (NKJV). What a great rendering! Living is something we often do passively and without much thought, while walking is an intentional, active pursuit; we must choose when, where and how we do it.

Now that we’re children of light—newly alive springtime people, Easter people! - Jesus urges us to not just live the faith but to walk it. When our faith becomes active, new thoughts flow, anxiety decreases and we make strides in our relationship with Jesus.

~ Heidi Mann

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST
EPHESIANS 2:10



**AMERICA FOR CHRIST
OFFERING 2016**

America for Christ Offering

We will be collecting the America for Christ Offering during the month of March. This year's theme—"Becoming More Like Christ" - is based on Ephesians 2:10: "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" (NRSV). The theme is a wonderful biblical reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about engagement and compassion for people in need. Through the work of ABHMS, which is supported by the America for Christ Offering, we can participate with our Lord in serving our neighbors in our churches and communities. ... Together, we can promote the hope and love of Jesus Christ in word and deed. This offering is used to support American Baptist ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Haiti Mission Update

"... The truck was fully loaded, and we were to cover some of our Baptist Churches in the Central region ... The goal was to visit the different ministries of women and men in those churches. We were also teaching about the Self Help Group (SHG), an economic development project and we would spend some time on leadership training. The roads were in pretty rough condition. It takes courage to drive on those roads. Everywhere we went, we were well received and many people were eager to learn. ..." At the end of the week we were to visit some other locations, "but due to some strange feeling and some inexplicable reasons, we all felt we needed to cut short our trip... It was only the next day that we learned God was really with us and was sparing us of what was to come. We learned that just after we left, some unknown armed people were crossing the border and didn't want the customs people to know what they were carrying, so they opened fire. And that has caused panic in the area. ... Thank you for keeping us in your daily prayers. It is only because of those prayers that we are safe now."



*Report from the
Mission Field*

Serving the Master in Haiti,
Nzunga & Kihomi

March 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 March:

March 2nd—Poverty Awareness

March 16th—Packets for the Homeless

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

St Paddy's Day Luncheon

Join us after worship on **March 13th** for a St. Paddy's Day luncheon. We will be having a traditional corned beef and cabbage main dish. Wear your **green!**

Board Meeting

Our monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 20th, shortly after worship. Board members please plan to attend.

Holy Week Worship & Potluck

We will be celebrating Holy Week with a service on Wednesday, **March 23rd**. Our service will be preceded by a potluck beginning at 12:00 p.m., wrapping up by about 1:30 p.m.

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.

ABW-PNW Annual Conference

April 22nd-24th, Red Lion Hotel, Richland, WA. Registration deadline is **March 31st**. Theme: "See ... A vision for our future." There will be a Bible study, project, workshops, White Cross work party, and game/craft event. The Bible study will be led by Evelyn Anderton, Calvary Baptist in Spokane, Pastor Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko, Japanese Baptist in Seattle, and Ganè Bourgeois, Terrace Heights Baptist in Yakima. The project is to give financial support to the national organization for American Baptist Women's Ministries. Small scholarships are available on a first-come basis. See Britt or Linda for a registration form.

The Greater Church Community

Evergreen Baptist Association—from Evergreen Notes

- Evergreen thanks Charlotte Scherer, Former Volunteer Coordinator. From Charlotte “I just want to thank you for the opportunity to work with you for these past years as the Volunteer Coordinator. It was a great honor and gave me a sense of being grounded when my world was rather difficult. I will continue as a regular volunteer.”

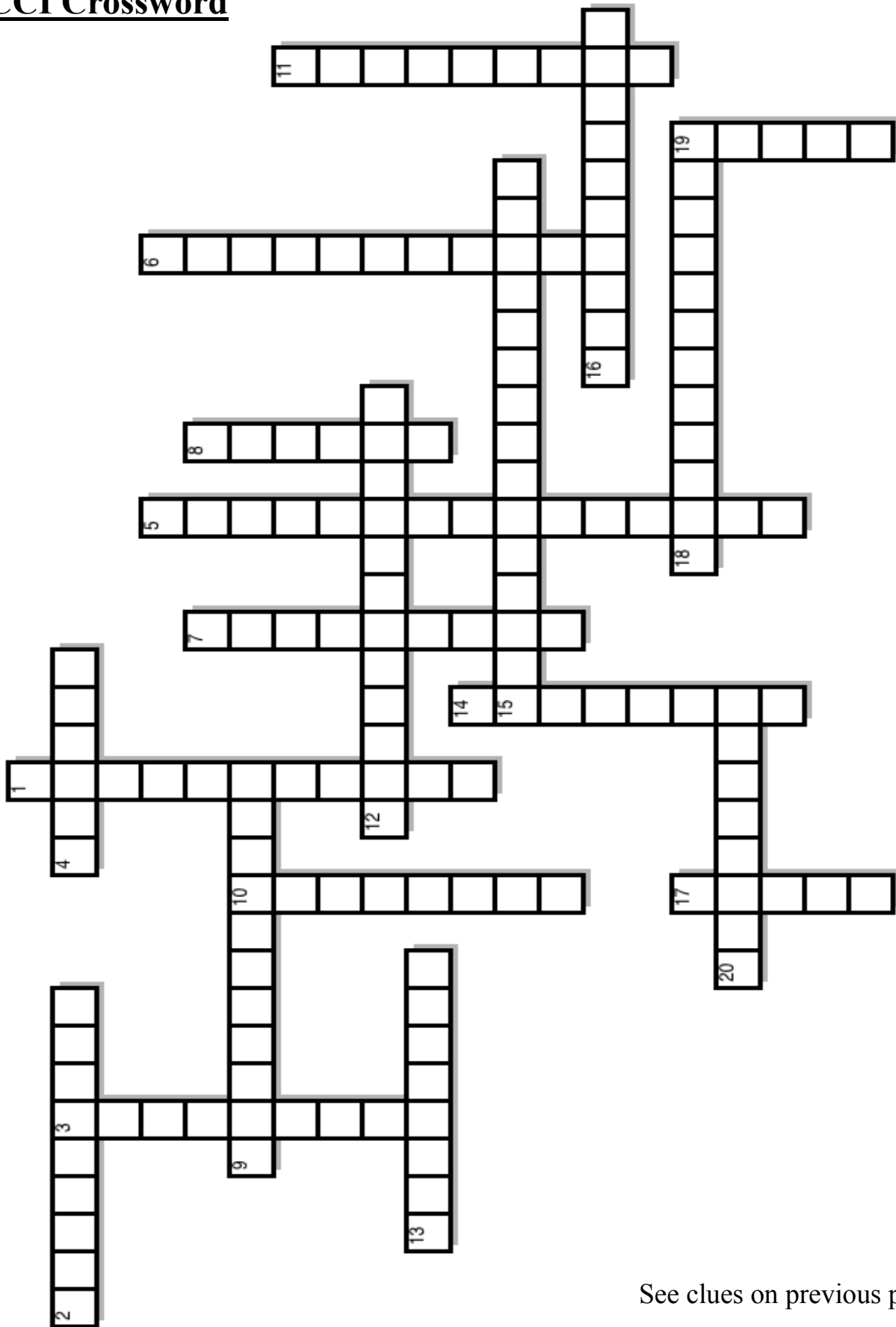
If you have a few hours per month that you are willing to contribute as a volunteer at Evergreen, please contact Clem at (253) 859-2226 or email clem-ba@comcast.net.

- Easter! Celebrate the Risen Christ! Join the Community ‘Sunrise’ Service, **March 27th**, 8:00 a.m. at St. Ignatius Chapel on the Seattle University Campus. Our own Pastor Britt will be bringing the message. Jim Ginn, the associate organist at Seattle First Baptist, will lead the music. There will also be special music provided by a quartet from Seattle First Baptist. Co-hosted by Japanese Baptist and Seattle First Baptist churches.

CCI Crossword (next page)

1. Who of these was not a nurse: Mary Cline, Jean Griffith, Juanita Frye, Charlotte Scherer, Carol Schubert, Marilyn Boone.
2. What’s the name of the Indian restaurant in our complex?
3. What person donated the rock that was used in our old church?
4. “Hymns for the Living _____.”
5. What was the name of the church bus?
6. What member was former mayor of Issaquah?
7. A pair sisters. A color, a flower.
8. At our Rainier Boulevard location, what did the kids love to watch?
9. Who did not work for Puget Power? Woody Ross, Lee Schubert, Al Hunter, Bob Burton.
10. What is our pastor’s full first name?
11. Who is our current moderator?
12. Whose parents were both pastors of our church?
13. Whose husband was the project manager when we built our Mountain Park building?
14. Whose wife threatened to divorce him if he sneezed in church?
15. Which pastor’s two children both served Baptist retreat centers?
16. Who made our cross?
17. Who is the head of our church?
18. Noah’s sign from God. Dick’s cherished dream.
19. A countess’s husband, a man in our midst.
20. We are _____ Baptists.

CCI Crossword



See clues on previous page.

Special Dates in March

- World Day of Prayer, Friday, 03/04
- Fourth Sunday in Lent - Sunday, 03/06
- Girl Scout Sunday - Sunday, 03/06
- Fifth Sunday in Lent - Sunday, 03/13
- Daylight-Saving Time Begins - Sunday, 03/13
- Palm/Passion Sunday - Sunday, 03/20
- Holy Week - 03/20—03/26
- First day of Spring - 02/15
- Maundy Thursday - Thursday, 03/24
- Good Friday - Friday, 03/25
- Holy Saturday - Saturday, 03/26
- Easter Sunday - Sunday, 03/27



TO...

- 8 Daisy Cox**
- 8 Stephanie Hansen**
- 21 Kevin Hansen**
- 23 Al Hunter**
- 24 Craig Akishin**
- 26 Dave Hansen**

March 2016 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 03/02
- St Paddy's Day Luncheon - 03/13
- Sharing the Adventure - 03/16
- Board Meeting - 03/20
- Holy Week Service & Potluck - 03/23
- Bell Article Deadline - 03/28

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

Taking up the cross

“That’s her cross to bear,” it’s said of someone’s hardship or inconvenience. The challenge might be as serious as poverty or as trivial as crabby neighbors. However, when Jesus called people to “take up their cross,” he didn’t mean it that way. Nor was he referring to anyone imposing suffering on another.

When Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24 and parallels), he spoke of a radical new way to engage a society that more often called people to take up swords and fight for self-preservation. He called people to peace, not violence—and from being self-focused to following him.

That is also Jesus’ call today. The cross isn’t a euphemism that lets us dismiss someone’s suffering. We don’t appoint someone else to bear it. When we choose the cross, we do so for ourselves in response to Jesus’ invitation that, one way or another, ultimately leads through death to new life.