

# The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah March 2015

## A Word from the Pastor

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.”

-Isaiah 53:5 (NRSV)

Lent is the time when Christians are called to pause a moment to identify with Christ in his time of suffering. It's only fair, because all of Christ's ministry, and particularly the suffering he went through at the end of his life, was so that he, and God his Father, could identify with us. Because of what Christ did, God can know what it is like to suffer in the way we suffer. Even more, God used that suffering to show us his love and forgiveness. Christ was what Henri Nouwen called “a wounded healer”. He wrote that the only kind of person qualified to truly help another person heal is someone who themselves has been wounded.

People identify with Christ's suffering in various ways during Lent. The best known and most common approach is “giving up” something for Lent. The idea is that by giving up something you like, you cause yourself discomfort, and are thereby reminded of the suffering of Christ. Another approach is to commit

yourself to serve people in need in a way you haven't been during the rest of the year. Whatever approach a person takes, it is a good idea to do something which reminds you of what Christ did for you.

But let me switch directions a little here and say that for something to enrich your spiritual life and move you closer to God, it has to be more than giving up something. If all you do is give up activities or pleasures, then you will be more and more conscious of what you have sacrificed, what you have lost, and that will not be an uplifting experience. So you also have to be conscious of what you are *gaining*. Paul says it this way in Philippians 3:8: “...I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...” He figured that what he was sacrificing was nothing in comparison to what he was gaining. So what can we gain during Lent?

***A New Appreciation for All We have been Given*** – Those who give up some pleasure for Lent, can better appreciate those pleasures the rest of the year.

Whether we give up a kind of food, a pleasurable activity, or some other luxury, we only have it to give up in the first place, because of the abundance of God's provision. When Christ began his ministry, he fasted for forty days, but the rest of his life he enjoyed the feasts, the wedding celebrations, the wine and all that life had to offer.

***A New Appreciation for Christ's sacrifice*** – Lent is the time which we set aside to especially remember this sacrifice. While it is important to our faith all year long, it is important to have this time to especially contemplate the significance of history's greatest act of love. Like a wedding anniversary is a

special time to remember how important your marriage is and the love you feel for one another, Lent is an opportunity to truly get in touch with how God showed his love for us in this act.

***A New Joy at Easter*** – Just like teammates who have been part of grueling practices together, can better savor the victory of a championship in baseball, football or some other sport, so those who have taken time to get in touch with the sacrifice of Lent can more fully savor the joy of Easter's triumph.

-Pastor Keith Madsen

### ***Indulge for Lent?***

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent—especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate—Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- ✦ Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- ✦ Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- ✦ Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- ✦ Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- ✦ Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.



## America for Christ Offering

This month. The America for Christ Offering 2015 theme—"Discipleship: A Journey of Grace," based on Titus 2:11-13—is a wonderful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting with and caring for people in need. Together, we can make a difference by supporting impactful home missions through the America for Christ offering 2015.

## Men's Winter Clothing Drive

Thank you to all who participated in the Men's Winter Clothing Drive. This drive benefitted Seattle's Union Gospel Mission and the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

## Adalia and Ray Schellinger-Gutiérrez, Deborah's House—Thank You

"We are so thankful for you and all that you have done for Deborah's House!

Without your generous support, this ministry would not be possible. Your faithful giving has meant the difference for all of our residents. In supporting us, you have helped to build much more than a temporary shelter for the 150+ families who have called Deborah's House their home over the last eight years. You have created a place where these women and children could find God's grace and love. You have given them the opportunity to escape horrific abuse and begin to build a new life, free of fear."

## Issaquah Community Services—Thank You

"Issaquah Community Services would like to thank you for your generous contribution to ICS.

All of us at ICS appreciate your continuing support. Last year ICS was able to provide nearly \$127,000 in funds to the most needy in this community, and that need continues to increase. Our clients benefit greatly in terms of emergency aid for rent, fuel, utilities, and medical assistance. You are helping many people through some difficult periods in their lives. Thank you again for your generosity."

Once again our church family has reached out to help others. Thanks!

## March Church Events

### *St. Patrick's Day Luncheon*

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship we will have a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon. Corned beef and cabbage with potatoes and carrots. There will be chicken for anyone who does not like corned beef. There will also be corn bread and dessert. Wear your green!

### *Re-Starting Sharing the Adventure Fellowship*

We took a short break from our Sharing the Adventure gatherings on Wednesdays and are ready to start back up. Our 1<sup>st</sup> gathering will be Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. As before, we will meet from 12:00-1:30 pm here at the church. We start by sharing together in a potluck lunch (sandwiches, salads, or soup), then move in to our prayer time, singing, and devotions, followed by a short program. Here is what is scheduled for the first two sessions:

March 18<sup>th</sup>—Duane Bowen will share some background on some of our favorite Christian hymns, especially hymns focused on the cross.

April 1<sup>st</sup>—Pastor Keith will address some of the efforts contemporary atheists have made to debunk the stories of Christ's death and resurrection, and he will share why he believes we can rely on the authenticity of these events vital to our faith.

### *Board Meeting*

Our monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, shortly after worship. Board members please plan to attend.

### *Adult Forum*

We are wrapping up our study of the book of Acts. Acts is about what the church did after Christ's resurrection. Next we will investigate some of the prophecies of Christ's second coming and the end times. All are welcome to join us. The Forum meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

## The Greater Church Community

### *Easter 'Early Morning' Service*

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM at St. Ignatius Chapel, Seattle University Campus.  
"Peace be with You", John 20:19-29.

## Other Church News

### *Our Building*

We are still seeking final approval from the City Planning Dept and the Fire Marshall for occupancy. We have the closet/sprinkler issue to resolve before receiving final sign-off. This month we expect to see progress toward installation of our bookshelves/cabinetry by Grette Custom Woodworking.

### *Annual Meeting*

At our Annual Meeting in February we were provided reports from the Pastor, Moderator, sub-groups of the Board, and committees. In addition, we received the financial results for the year 2014, the proposed budget, with additional pastoral compensation and outreach details. We were presented the Nominating Report and a proposed Constitutional Amendment (see below). The Nominating Report, proposed budget, with revised pastoral compensation breakdown, and Constitutional Amendment were all approved by the congregation.

## Constitutional Amendment

The Church Board proposed amending the constitution in relation to how Memorial Gifts are handled. Previously, Article IX, Section 4, of the church constitution said:

“The Memorial Gifts Committee shall consist of three members, elected annually. Each year this committee shall select one of its members as Chairperson.

- a. Duties and responsibilities of the committee are:
  1. To record all gifts to the church designated as memorial gifts.
  2. To disperse the gifts as designated by the giver (if the purpose of the gifts was not indicated by the givers, the committee may disperse them in the interest of the church on its own discretion up to the amount of \$1,500; if the amount is higher, Church Board approval is necessary);
  3. To acknowledge gifts through thank you cards, letters or other communications.
  4. To encourage the giving of memorial gifts.”

The amendment eliminates this committee and gives the Deacons the duties and responsibilities outlined above. This amendment was approved at the Annual Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Food for Thought

### *The Gift of a Meatloaf*

I came across a tasty recipe for meatloaf while I was on a friends-field-trip to a knitting store in Port Orchard. We went to visit the yarn shop owned by Debbie Macomber, a local Christian and romance author. She is a huge fan of knitting and cooking – both for her friends and family. We were very excited to visit her store and searched for a glimpse of the famous author. Although we did not get the celebrity encounter we were hoping for, we did buy some beautiful, soft yarns and we signed up for the Debbie Macomber mailing list. This meatloaf recipe was in a collection that she sent out as a welcome gift.

I Wish I Could Eat It All Meatloaf has become my go-to giving food – as in, “you look like you could use a meatloaf”. I’ve made this for my aunt who was moving, our school nurse who was having surgery, my mom (just because I love her), and most recently, my son. I had two days off from work and decided to make some meatloaf for him; I delivered it to him at his workplace in Pioneer Square. We spent an enjoyable hour together walking through Pioneer Square received some Mardi Gras beads, got lunch and I met some of his coworkers. Even though I was the one making something for our son, the memorable hour together turned out to be a gift for me. From Debbie Macomber, here is:

### *I Wish I could Eat It All Meatloaf*

#### Ingredients:

- 1 box chicken flavor Stove Top Stuffing Mix
- 1 cup hot water
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup ketchup
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- Barbecue sauce

In mixing bowl, blend Stove Top Stuffing Mix with hot water. Add eggs, ketchup, and onion and stir. Add meat and blend together. Place in a 9” x 13” pan and top with a thin layer of barbecue sauce. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Excellent!

~ Teri Hansen

## Special Dates in March

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent - Sunday, 03/01
- World Day of Prayer - Friday, 03/06
- Daylight-Saving Time begins - Sunday, 03/08
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent - Sunday, 03/08
- Girl Scout Week - 03/08—03/14
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Sunday, 03/15
- St. Patrick's Day - Tuesday, 03/17
- First Day of Spring - Friday, 03/20
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Sunday, 03/22
- Palm/Passion Sunday - Sunday, 03/29
- Holy Week - 03/29—04/04



**TO...**

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

## March 2015 at CCI

- St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - 03/15
- Board Meeting - 03/22
- Bell Article Deadline - 03/25

# 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**  
*Bethany at Silverlake, home soon  
Everett, WA*
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*