

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah May 2015

A Word from the Pastor

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

We often hear of post-Christmas let-down, and how people sometimes crash emotionally after that holiday. But I think the same can sometimes happen after Easter as well. We get all excited about the hope of the Resurrection, we get together with family members, and we see the excitement in the eyes of our children and grandchildren. And then it's over.

But in the Bible, Easter is not the end of the story, it's just the beginning (In the more Liturgical churches, “Easter Season” lasts until Pentecost, which this year is on May 24th.) Paul tells us, in relation to Christ's Resurrection appearances, in 1 Corinthians 15:5-8: “... he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.” In a key appearance in the first chapter of Acts, Jesus talks to his

disciples about what comes next. Some of the disciples had thought that if Easter were not the end of the story, at least it was pretty well *near* the end. They thought all that was left was for Jesus to finish up human history, run the end credits and inaugurate his heavenly kingdom. So they asked Jesus in verse 6, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” (They didn't understand yet that Jesus' mission was much bigger than that!)

Jesus told his disciples, “It ain't over 'til it's over!” He said all that was happening was he was passing the baton on to them. The Holy Spirit would come to help them, of course, so it wasn't ALL on their shoulders, But they would be expected to take his work not only to Jerusalem, but also to “Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” That last phrase very specifically corrected the notion that it was all about just the kingdom of Israel.

We in the Community Church of Issaquah are part of the church that has inherited this continuing task. With the power of the Holy Spirit we are to take the gospel into “Issaquah, all of Washington State, the Pacific Northwest and to the ends of the earth.” So our mission extends beyond just those who

presently gather in our rented space on Gilman Boulevard. It extends to those needing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout Issaquah. It extends to people who are homeless at Tent City and Camp Unity, as well as those who get assistance through the Issaquah Food Bank. It extends to the work of our sister churches throughout the Evergreen Region. It extends to our whole country through the America for Christ Offering we took up recently. It extends to Haiti, where we have had two different mission trips (and

planning another in 2016!). And through the work of American Baptist International Ministries it extends to supporting 1800 missionaries in over 70 countries worldwide, including Nepal, the scene of the recent devastating earthquake).

Easter isn't over. It's just beginning, as people throughout the world find new life and new hope through Jesus Christ!

-Pastor Keith Madsen



A Prayer for Mom

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he'd prayed about the matter. "That's good," she replied. "If you ask God for help to not misbehave, he'll help you."

"Oh, I didn't pray for help behaving," said the boy. "I prayed for God to help you put up with me."

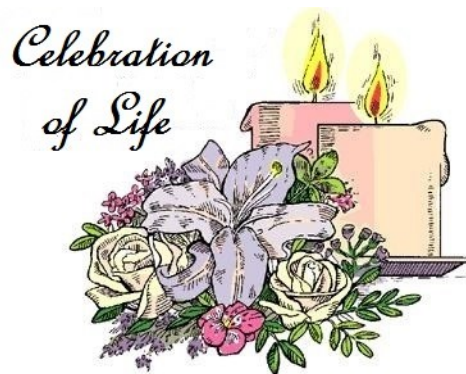
Celebration of Life—Emily Agnew

Thursday, May 14th, 2 p.m.—Celebration of Life at Champions Centre, 2649 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue (near the main entrance to Bellevue College, behind the Shell station at Eastgate).

Saturday, May 31st, 2 p.m.—Garden Party at the home of Charlene and Mac Fletcher, 4539 186th Ave SE, Issaquah.

Thank You

From Charlene Fletcher and Ryan Agnew, a heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity during this difficult time.





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.

News from Haiti:

“We have safely arrived home. What a relief! . . .

When we look back on our days in the States, we praise God for the wonderful blessing He pours on us on a daily basis. We covered so many air miles, road miles, ferry boat miles and train miles. This would not be possible without your genuine love and support. We are well aware of this fact, and we don't take that for granted. Thank you. . .

We are now trying to find our way in the midst of thousands of things we have to do. Thank you for loving us and accepting to partner with us in being the feet and hands of Jesus in Haiti.

Yours, Nzunga & Kihomi”



May 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:

May 6th—Issaquah Community Services (ICS). Lori Birrell will talk to us about the work of ICS, a service our church was instrumental in helping to start, when it was “Issaquah Church and Community Services.”

We had such a great time with our talent show, it got Pastor Keith thinking about what other events we could do that were participatory in that way, and one idea that came was that some of our members have been to the Holy Land or other biblically important countries. What if we had a Wednesday to share pictures and artifacts from those trips? 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.



*Sharing the
Adventure*

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

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Our quarterly congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, shortly after worship. The focus of this meeting is missions—what do we as a congregation wish to support in the upcoming year in terms of missions—international, national, regional, and local. Please plan to attend.

Board Meeting

Our monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th, 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 book of Nahum. Your input is requested for our next focus of study.

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) continues working to establish the dynamics of the church. 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

Fiesta!!

Saturday, May 2nd, 6 pm at Ebenezer Fellowship (meeting at Burien Community Church), 16241 19th Avenue SW; Burien. Tickets: \$15 per person, \$30 per family available from Evergreen Association. This is a fundraising event of the Hispanic Caucus for benefit of Ebenezer Fellowship and Evergreen Association.

Joyful! Noise Choir Concert

Sunday, May 3rd, 2 pm at Seattle First Baptist Church. Join Joyful! Noise community choir as they sing songs grown in America. Ticket prices are adults \$20, youth \$15, under 12 free. Tickets available at the door or on Brown Paper Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1369881. The show runs about 2 hours, with intermission. For more information go to www.joyfulnoiseseattle.org.

Take your Pastor to the Ballgame!

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

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.

Food for Thought

Mother's Day Love and Food

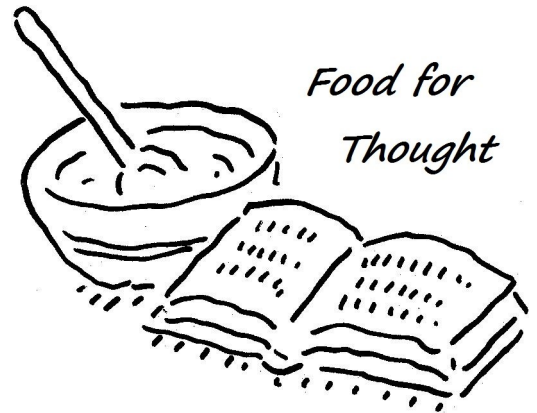
Welcome May! Welcome Spring! Spring brings us so many delightful things and one of the best is Mother's Day. Over the years I have read dozens of magazine articles that feature beautiful tables filled with tastefully cooked and color-coordinated dishes. Not to mention, a range of breakfast-in-bed options that always include a little flower in a sweet vase. I love those pictures and images. But, honestly, those magazine standards look pretty but they do not match up with reality.

Sometimes I like to think about how God chose to structure a family. I guess He could have done whatever he wanted, but he chose to give us all fathers and mothers. We all have both – there is no getting around that. And so how can we show our devotion and love to our mommas on Mother's

Day? Making food is always a great idea and it does not have to be strawberries dipped in chocolate (although they are a yummy option), but how about something your own mother would be happy to receive? I have always felt really loved and appreciated if someone made a tuna fish sandwich for me. It is a completely unexplainable thing. Sure, I can make my own tuna fish, but there is something about that tuna that actually tastes so much better when someone I love stirs up the ingredients and puts it all together for me. What is your special comfort food that spells love? Maybe at this time of your life you need to find a mother to honor or maybe you need a reminder of how that love felt when directed at you from a little child and you need to treat yourself. Do you know someone who needs a tuna fish sandwich? Whatever the meal, make it with some love and give it from your heart.

Happy Mother's Day!

~ Teri Hansen



Word + Spirit

We must not be content to have the Spirit without the Word or the Word without the Spirit. Our lives must travel along these two, as the locomotive travels along parallel rails. It is only by our devout contact with the Bible that we shall be able to detect the Holy Spirit's voice. It is by the Word that the Spirit will enter our hearts, as the heat of the sun passes into our homes when its beams of light enter the open windows.

~ F.B. Meyer

Special Dates in May

- National Family Week - 05/03-05/09
- National Day of Prayer - Thursday, 05/07
- May Friendship Day - Friday, 05/08
- Mothers' Day - Sunday, 05/10
- Ascension of the Lord - Thursday, 05/14
- Armed Forces Day - Saturday, 05/16
- Victoria Day (Canada) - Monday, 05/18
- Pentecost - 05/24
- Memorial Day - Monday, 05/25
- Trinity Sunday - Sunday, 05/31



TO...

- 1 Clem Winbush**
- 17 Keith Hansen**
- 18 Roma Bowen**
- 31 Charlotte Scherer**

May 2015 at CCI

- Quarterly Congregational Meeting - 05/03
- Sharing the Adventure - 05/06
- Board Meeting - 05/17
- Sharing the Adventure - 05/20
- Bell Article Deadline - 05/26

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*