

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah November 2014

A Word from the Pastor

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

-Psalm 34:1 (NRSV)

Let me make a little confession:

Sometimes pastors repeat things they have said before! Okay, maybe that is not a big revelation to many of you. (Perhaps you have noticed that sometimes I repeat a sermon illustration I have given before!)

Anyway, for my Bell article this month, I have chosen to essentially repeat one I have used before during November. I did freshen it up a little bit, but I am largely repeating it because I think it expresses a truth which bears repeating: *true*

Thanksgiving needs to be more than a one-day-a-year holiday.

So here is my somewhat reworked version of some old thoughts:

November is the month of Thanksgiving, the time we have set aside as a nation to give thanks for all God has done for us. However, the above Scripture reminds us that, while Thanksgiving is a wonderful Holiday, it's not enough to fulfill what God calls us to do in relation to thanking Him: “I will bless the Lord *at all times*; his praise shall *continually* be in my mouth.” We should constantly be aware of all we have to be thankful for.

We sing a hymn about this from time to time, *Count Your Blessings*. I love the words (v.1): “Count your many blessings – name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” Then verse 2: “Count your many blessings – every doubt will fly, and you will be singing as the days go by.” If we could live by this song, how do you think it would affect our celebration of Thanksgiving?

Not long ago I read a book by AJ Jacobs called *The Year of Living Biblically*. The author is a former agnostic who tries to live by every law and rule in the Bible for one year. While he found some laws puzzling and even frustrating, others he found to enrich his life, and seeking to thank God at all times was one of the latter. He writes, “I’ve never before been so aware of the thousands of little good things, the thousands of things that go right every day.” That’s what taking seriously the above Scripture can do!

Perhaps as we look forward to our celebration this year, as a way of acknowledging that thanking God should be more than a one-day-a-year activity, we can at least spread out the activity a little. I would like to propose that EVERY DAY IN NOVEMBER each of us focus on a different thing we

have to be thankful for. Maybe it's a person in your life (Our family is really thankful this year for Abel!). Maybe it's a personal experience you have had recently, an encouragement or a dream fulfilled. Maybe for you it's our church's new facility and the great Grand Opening we had recently. Maybe it's a way you believe God has blessed you personally. Focus on a different one every day. What I would suggest is that you start each day thanking God for what you are focusing on that day. Then during the rest of the day pay special attention to that person, item or blessing. Consider why it is so

special to you. If it's a person, *tell them* that you are thanking God for them especially on that day. Then at the end of the day, thank God again for this blessing.

I am planning to do this in November myself. The rest of you who try it, will you let me know how it affects you, and especially how it affects your celebration of Thanksgiving? This might well be a year where we will all be, as the song says, "surprised by what the Lord has done."

-Pastor Keith Madsen

Returning Thanks

After a family sat down for breakfast, the father offered his standard prayer of thanks. Afterward, though, he began his usual grumbling about financial hardships, the food's poor quality, how it was cooked and so on.

One of his children interrupted: "Dad, did God hear what you said a while ago when you were giving thanks?"

"Certainly," the father replied confidently.

"And did he hear what you said just now about the bacon and the coffee?"

"Of course," the father said, more hesitantly.

"Which did God believe?"

Art Needed for New Church's Reception Area

CCI members/friends are invited to donate or loan examples of their art work to decorate the reception area in our new church building.

Please contact Charlotte Scherer

425-392-1185 hm or 425-974-0135 cell



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

The next Mission for which we are asking donations is the Retired Minister and Missionary Fund. We will be taking donations to thank our RM&M for their years of service to bring God's word and love to all the people of this world. Help thank them for all their years of service by donating in the month of December.

WMF Mission

Although the Women's Mission Fellowship is now inactive we are still doing missions work. After missionaries to Haiti, Nzunga Mabudiga and Kihomi Ngwemi spoke at our church on October 12th, \$250.00 was presented to them from WMF.

Community Outreach

Issaquah Food Bank—Holiday Gift Giving

The Holidays are upon us! Can you believe it? Starting Sunday, November 9th, there will be a box in our entryway for the Issaquah Food Bank Holiday Gift Giving. The food bank will take all the unwrapped gifts to Pickering Barn. The gifts are then separated by age groups for display. Parents will be given a certain amount of points to "buy" gifts for their children. Donations should be brought and placed in the decorated box in our Church entryway anytime from November 9th through December 8th. The gifts that you donate are strictly up to you. There are no "wish lists." As you are out and about pick up a gift and bring it to church. This will be the only holiday drive we are doing as a church this year. Help put a smile on a less fortunate child's face this Christmas.

Compassion House Auction

Join Compassion House for a catered BBQ dinner, live pie auction, and silent auction. Sat, Nov 8, 2014, 5:30-9:00 pm at the Mystique Ranch, 26815 SE Duthie Hill Road, Issaquah. Theme: Cowboy Up! Tickets \$20/person, \$150 for a table of 8. Purchase tickets by Nov 1, none available at the door.

ABCUSA—United Mission

“The United Mission giving sent from local churches to ABC supports the administration, planning, and organizing that keeps the denomination running smoothly. Without these behind-the-scene efforts, we wouldn’t have the glue that keeps us together as the American Baptist family.

When you send funds to United Mission, you support the work of the Board of General Ministries—the only representative board in the whole denomination! You have a board member from your region there. United Mission supports our General Secretary to represent us at ecumenical councils and he bears public witness on issues that affect how we live out our faith in the world. United Mission advocates for women in ministry and assists churches with transitional/interim ministers when they are seeking new pastoral leadership. United Mission funds help to maintain address lists and a leadership pool essential for a denomination to function well. United Mission funds also support regional ministries, our ABC website, and all those not-so-obvious ministries.

Thank you if you are giving to United Mission today and I hope that you will continue to give to United Mission in 2015. . . . Give to United Mission and help ABC sustain all the ministries we are blessed with as we serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Give to United Mission and help ABC continue to prepare all our spiritual meals for our blessed family.”

~ Rev. Dr. Don Ng, ABC President

From Evergreen Association of ABC

“. . . We have avoided inundating our supporters with letters requesting money and this is the first letter you have received this year. We note that when we send out an appeal we get more gifts, so do feel it is important to ask at least once a year, to remind you to give to Evergreen. We are always thankful for those of you who are regular donors. As you begin to plan your end of the year gifts, please remember Evergreen. We are dependent on you, our wonderful friends and colleagues, to give. [The annual report at the CCI office], will give all the details of what we accomplished this past year and what we have yet to accomplish. If you want this ministry of inclusiveness and hope to go forward, please know that your gift will make a difference. It will make a difference even around the world in places like Haiti and Venezuela. It makes a difference right here, too.

Thank you for your support and encouragement over the years and for the consideration of a gift today.”

~ Rev. Marcia Patton, Ph. D., Executive Minister

November Church Events

Wednesday Fellowship

We have decided to name our Wednesday fellowship “Sharing the Adventure.” Life at any age is an adventure with new things to learn, new challenges to meet and exciting things around every corner! In this group we will share in that adventure together as we pray, sing, and share in devotion. Our next gathering will be Wednesday, November 5th, 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring a soup, salad, or sandwiches to share with the group. Let’s maintain our great attendance. Eli Maupin will lead in devotions.

Board Meeting

Our Board meeting will be Sunday, November 9th, after worship and coffee fellowship.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Our church constitution calls for a Fall quarterly meeting of the church ... in October! Looks like we missed it! This meeting will be held Sunday, November 16th after worship. The constitution calls for this meeting to focus on our church fellowship. What thoughts do you have on what might strengthen our church fellowship? This could include our congregational meals, our fellowship hour, or other events to strengthen the fellowship of the church. Bring your ideas on November 16th!

Adult Forum

We are studying the book of Acts. Acts is about what the church did after Christ’s resurrection. All are welcome to join us. The Forum meets Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Other Church News

Our Evolving Building

Our new facility at 660 NW Gilman Blvd, Suite C-5, continues to evolve. We’re seeking final approval from the City Planning Dept and the Fire Marshall for occupancy. We still have some kinks to work out (e.g. sound system, projection) and final touches to make it feel even more like our church home. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped in this process.

“The foremost quality of a trusting disciple is gratefulness”

~ Brennan Manning, *Ruthless Trust*

“I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying.”

~ Nelson Mandela

The Greater Church Community

- † November 8th—Seattle Baptist Union Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Seattle Baptist Union will be Saturday, November 8th, at Panther Lake Community Church in Kent. Mary Cline and Charlotte Scherer will be our lay delegates and will attend along with Pastor Keith.
- † November 12th—Anne Lamott at Seattle First Baptist Church, 7 p.m. \$25/person admittance, includes a copy of her new book, *Small Victories*.
“Presented by Elliott Bay Book Company and Seattle First Baptist Church. Anne Lamott writes about faith, family, and community in essays that are both wise and irreverent. In her new book, *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace* (Riverhead), she offers a new message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Our victories over hardship and pain may seem small, she writes, but they change us—our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives. Anne Lamott writes of forgiveness, restoration, and transformation, how we can turn toward love even in the most hopeless situations, how we find the joy in getting lost and our amazement in finally being found. Profound and hilarious, honest and unexpected, the stories in *Small Victories* are proof that the human spirit is irrepressible. . . . Ticket proceeds also help support the work of Seattle First Baptist Church.”
- “Tickets available from October 10th at elliottbaybook.com, by phone 206.624.6600 or in person at Elliott Bay Book Company. Tickets will also be available for sale at the door on the night of the event. For more information, call Elliott Bay Book Company at 206.624.6600 or write to orders@elliottbaybook.com.”
- † November 15th—Evergreen’s Got Talent! Evergreen fundraising event, hosted by the Euro Caucus. Local and Geographically distant churches are invited to participate. Seattle First Baptist Church, 2-4 PM.

Food for Thought

Look for something in a future issue. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Special Dates in November

- All Saints' Day - Saturday, 11/1
- Daylight-Saving Time ends - Sunday, 11/2
- Veterans' Day - Tuesday, 11/11
- Christ the King Sunday - Sunday 11/23
- Thanksgiving - Thursday, 11/27
- First Sunday of Advent - Sunday 11/30



TO...

- 3 Angeline Schreib**
- 4 Ruth Hunter**
- 9 Keith Madsen**
- 13 Andy Tweeddale**
- 15 Karyn Akishin**
- 21 Velma Walker**
- 26 Merry Ross**
- 28 Susi Wiegant**
- 29 Geri Hardisty**
- 29 Lorene (Nancy) Perry**

November 2014 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 11/05
- Board Meeting - 11/09
- Quarterly Congregational Meeting - 11/16
- Sharing the Adventure - 11/19
- Bell Article Deadline - 11/24

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

Perhaps you would like to add these church family members to your prayer concerns:

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** - University House, then *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. **Jane Forbes**
Kirkland, WA
5. **Don & Alice Good**
Bellevue, WA
6. **Geri Hardisty**
Premier Adult Care
Sammamish, WA
7. **Wilma Hill** - *at home*
8. **Elvira Lindsay** - *Issaquah Care Center*
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*