

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah November 2015

A Word from the Pastor

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

-Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 (NRSV)

Since we have our pastoral candidate preaching the first Sunday of this month, I am taking the sermon I planned for that Sunday, and condensing it for this message. I have finished my five challenges I am leaving this church with, and am now ready to share five encouragements I would leave you as you face those challenges. The first encouragement is to remind you that *you are not alone!*

Nobody likes to face uncertain times alone. And sometimes it's easy for members of a small church like ours to feel relatively alone. But that is not the case. First of all, you have each other. I have come to appreciate the strength so many of you have, strength which comes from a faith with deep roots. And you do an excellent job of supporting each other

– calling each other, praying for each other and checking in on one another during times of stress. You have learned the truth of Ecclesiastes 4:9: “Two are better than one...” To some that may sound like a truism, but there is that part of American culture that denies it – “American Individualism.” Doing everything by one's self, without getting help from others, is vaunted above every value. Our heroes are John Wayne, the Lone Ranger and the cowboy who rides off alone into the sunset after single-handedly making everything right. We hold up as admirable those who don't seem to need anyone. When we need someone our self, we hold back in shame, thinking our need shows weakness. This church knows better than that. You find strength in the bonds you have with one another – like the song we sing at the end of each communion – “Blest be the tie that binds!”

But also this church is not alone because you are part of a supportive denominational structure. The Evergreen Association stands with this church. Already Executive Minister Marcia Patton has provided resources to help this church find the pastoral candidate you will be meeting and

voting on the weekend of October 31st to November 1st. But the Evergreen Association will continue to be supportive of this church as the church moves forward in the months and years to come.

And finally, you are not alone because you serve a victorious, risen savior! Christ has told His followers, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). And we know Christ is true to His promises. A popular poem is "Footprints in the Sand." It's a poem about a person having a dream where they see their life as a walk on the beach with the Lord. Most of the time they see two sets of footprints; their own and those of the Lord walking beside them. But during the hard times of life, there is only one set. The person assumes that during those

tough times God really wasn't there and that he walked alone. But the Lord's response to that is, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you only see one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." There will be times for this church when Christ will indeed be carrying you!

So, this church does indeed have a "threefold cord" of strength: (1) the support of each other; (2) the support of the Evergreen Association of American Baptists; and (3) the support of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are then encouraged that "a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

-Pastor Keith Madsen

Thank You!

Thank You!

Since the death of my Nancy, I have felt & appreciated your prayers, caring & cards.

Her visits on weekends meant so much to me & my family. She especially looked forward to attending church & making new friends at CCI.

Many of you knew she was dealing with a heart issue. Apparently she wasn't aware of its seriousness and when the mitral valve collapsed it was instantly fatal. She has been cremated and her ashes will be put in her favorite places in Port Angeles, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Canada.

There will be a memorial at the Eagles Lodge Hall in downtown Port Angeles, November 15th at 2:00 pm.

Again, Thank All of You for your love and thoughtfulness.

~ Cherie Vivolo

November Church Events

Meet & Greet Potluck - October 31st

Saturday, October 31st, 12:00-2:00 pm we will have a Meet & Greet potluck. This is an opportunity to get acquainted with the candidate the Pastoral Search Committee is proposing we call as Interim Pastor.

Called Congregational Business Meeting—November 1st

There will be a Called Congregational Business Meeting November 1st following our worship service. The purpose is to consider the Pastoral Search Committee's recommendation of Interim Pastor. She will be filling the pulpit during worship this day.

2016 Board & Committee Positions

We are approaching the end of the current calendar year, thus the end of the current Board terms. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve on the Board or a committee. Let Mary Cline, Moderator, know if you'd like to serve.

Office Staffing—week of Nov 2nd

Linda will be having foot surgery Nov 1st, the office will not be staffed the balance of that week.

Pastor Keith Retirement Open House

A retirement open house is planned for November 29th, 1-4 pm to honor Pastor Keith for his years of service in the American Baptist fellowship. All are invited.

Sad News

A Memorial Service was held at CCI on October 25th, celebrating the life of Joe Shultice who passed away on September 30, 2015 in North Bend.

Some perspective

We can be thankful to a friend for a few acres, or a little money; and yet for the freedom and command of the whole earth, and for the great benefits of our being, our life, health and reason, we look upon ourselves as under no obligation.

~ Seneca the Elder (54 B.C.—39 A.D.)

November Church Events (con)

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:



*Sharing the
Adventure*

November 4th—We will have a speaker from Seattle's Union Gospel Mission to talk to us about their work with the homeless.

November 18th—We will watch the DVD "An Act of Faith" and hold a Q&A session after with Yosh Nakagawa of Japanese Baptist Church. This will be an extended session to allow time for discussion after the showing.

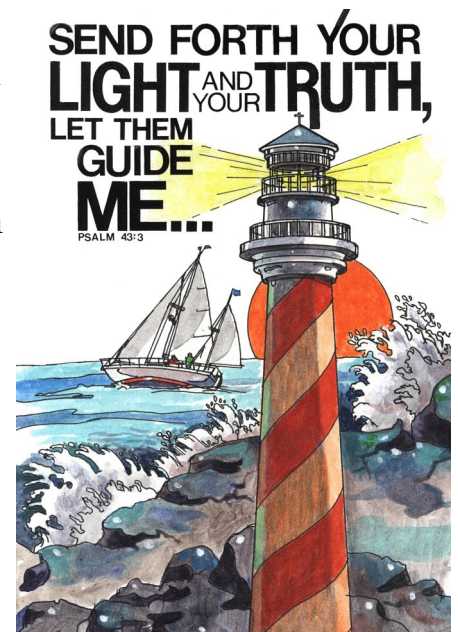
Think about other experiences you would like to have us schedule and let us know.

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 life of Christ, chronologically.

Guide My Words

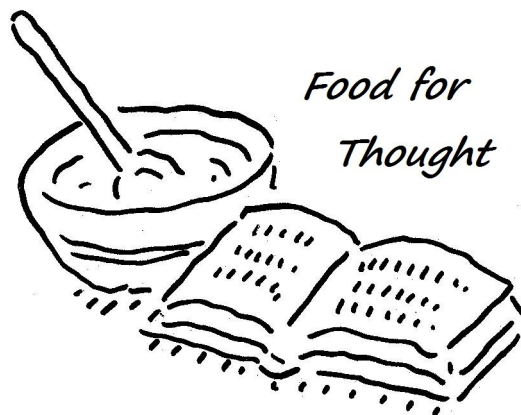
Father, I face another day in which I will be called upon to use my words wisely and well. May they encourage those who listen. May they speak truth but also be said in love. May I pause before I pounce. May I be bold enough to speak when I would rather run away. Lord, I give my mouth to you today. May what comes forth be sweet and not bitter. May the journey each word takes from my mind to my heart to my lips be guided by your hand. May what comes out be life-giving rather than causing death. May my words make you proud and bring you glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Food for Thought

Love, Loss, and the Power of Food

Most of you know that I am a high school counselor in a large urban school district in south King County. But, what you may not know is that I also serve on my school district's crisis team. There are about 15 members of the team that includes school counselors, social workers, and nurses. We receive specialized training in how to respond to a variety of events in our schools. In October, I was called to be part of a team that responded to the death of a high school football player. We arrived onsite to a shocked and mostly silent student body and their stricken teachers. Students congregated in small groups in the main hallway of the school and they could also go to the school library where counselors were available.



You can imagine how emotional and impactful this loss was for all concerned. As a member of the crisis team I was dispatched as needed to different areas within the school. Part of my assignment was to observe and let the crisis team leadership know what was happening and what students and staff needed. As I went from classrooms to hallways and the library over two days I had an opportunity to witness the community response for their school and the healing miracle of food.

On the first day, a table in the library was stocked with food, snacks, juice drinks, and coffee all supplied by a nearby church whose pastor is also the high school girls' basketball coach. (She spent the day at the school meeting the needs of the students and staff. Later that night she led a candlelight vigil for hundreds of students and families on the high school campus.) Across the courtyard, the students who had stayed in their school building were asked to gather in a large classroom. Someone (we do not know who it was) went to a fast food restaurant and bought dozens of burgers and fries and brought them to the kids. As they ate, I watched them start to come back to life - talking and even doing a little laughing and joking.

The next morning I arrived a little after 6:30 am and entered the library where a very pregnant young woman was heaving armloads of food and snacks out of her car and into the library. She said she graduated from that high school and her husband played football in high school. When they heard the news about the injured student they knew that they needed to go to Costco and buy food for the kids. Once

again the table in the library was filled with food and ready to meet the needs of hungry students. I later found out that someone else from the community had bought sandwiches, cookies, and water for the teachers and administrators.

On the first day of our response I experienced a strong message to “bear witness”; to be present and to stand alongside those who were grieving. On the second day a phrase kept repeating in my mind: “*abide in Me*”. I will never know what other messages went out to those kind folks who brought food to the school over those two incredible days. But, my faith tells me that God is good and continues to work in unseen ways through every-day people. We are here to help each other. Sometimes it’s hard and we don’t know what to do or to say. Sometimes, it is as simple as a burger and fries.

~ Teri Hansen

Outreach Committee

Compassion House Pie Auction—Compassion House will be hosting its annual **Benefit Dinner and Pie Auction**, Saturday, November 7th, 5:30 pm at the Mystique Ranch on Duthie Hill Road. While they are able to comfortably accommodate up to 150 guests, the hope is that tickets will sell out quickly. If you would like to donate something to the silent auction, there is a form available to let them know. See the office to obtain a copy of the registration or donation form, if interested.



Mayors' Month of Concern

26,562 pounds of food were collected during the recent Mayors' Month of Concern food drive benefitting the Issaquah Food Bank. This compares to 23,799 collected in 2014.

Mary's Place

Taproot Theatre Touring Company—performance to benefit Mary's Place

Free performance, Sunday, December 6th, 2:00 pm. To be held at Denny Park Lutheran Church; 766 John Street; Seattle. In lieu of an admission charge, please bring a new pair of women's or children's socks in support of Mary's Place, an Outreach Ministry that we support. There will be beverages and treats following the performance. Sponsored by Denny Park Lutheran & Thrivent Financial.

Special Dates in November

- All Saints' Day - 11/01/2015
- Daylight-Saving Time ends - 11/01
- Veterans Day Observance - Tuesday, 11/11
- Christ the King Sunday - Sunday, 11/22
- Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, 11/26
- First Sunday of Advent - Sunday, 11/29



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**
- 28 Geri Hardisty**
- 29 Lorene (Nancy) Perry**

November 2015 at CCI

- Interim Candidate, All-Church Meeting -11/01
- Sharing the Adventure - Union Gospel Mission -11/04
- Church Board Meeting - 11/15
- Sharing the Adventure - DVD: Act of Faith—11/18
- Bell Article Deadline - 11/23
- Retirement Open House - 11/29

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** - **NOTE the change**

*350 N 190th St, Apt C215
Shoreline, WA 98133*

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 University House*

5. **Jane Forbes**

Kirkland, WA

6. **Don & Alice Good**

Bellevue, WA

7. **Geri Hardisty**

*Premier Adult Care
Sammamish, WA*

8. **Elvira Lindsay** - *at Aegis Living*

9. **Martha Nordhagen**

Adams House, Oregon

10. **Sylvia Olsson** (425) 793-5488

*Chateau Valley Ctr.
4450 Davis Ave S.
Renton, WA 98055*

11. **Dody Tweeddale**

Cascades Adult Family Home, Bellevue

12. **Cherie Vivolo** - *at home*