

The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah October 2014

A Word from the Pastor

“As long as the earth endures,
Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
Summer and winter, day and night,
Shall not cease.”

-Genesis 8:22 (NRSV)

The seasons here in the Pacific Northwest don't always line up with what the rest of the country think of as the seasons. Our rainy time generally lasts through June and well into July, while our Summer just as often perseveres into October. Of course, being in the Pacific Northwest, one can never predict what will happen for sure!

The one thing we can say for sure, even in the Pacific Northwest, is that life is seasonal, and seasons change. The Scripture above from Genesis is meant as a reassurance after the destruction of the Flood of Noah: seasonal changes mean that life goes on. But sometimes we are not reassured by seasonal change. Perhaps we hate to see the signs that the sunny Summer is moving on and we are heading back to times of overcast skies. We can talk all we want about how the rains of the Northwest are necessary to keep our beautiful area of the country green, but we still hate to say good-bye to warm days of sunshine! Having said this, I realize that not all of us react the same. Some are glad to leave days behind that make them uncomfortably warm, and they prefer the

cooler climate. When the seasons change, some of us must adapt to a time of the year we like less well, while others make the more welcome adaptation to the time of the year they prefer.

All of life is seasonal. A traditional perspective is that our youth is like Springtime, when all around us is full of life and promise. Of course, sometimes we forget that Springtime is also full of storms which threaten to blow us away (I'm writing especially as a former Kansan here!) Our middle years are often seen as like Summer, a time of productivity, of going out and getting things done, a time which can sometimes also be grueling. Fall, perhaps representing our 50s and 60's, is a more laid-back time, a time of great beauty, but also a time when we start to see the signs that that which used to be alive is starting to die. Winter is a favorite time for many, a time when snow can add a gentleness to life, and where life slows down a little, but often in a way that each moment can be treasured. Each season of life has its beauty, but we often move from one to the other with regret.

Maybe it would be good to add a few insights to this seasonal view of life. One is that we do well to enjoy the beauty of the season we are in. Young people need to not try to grow up too quickly, and the older of

us need to stop pretending we are young. There is always something to enjoy. I like the bumper sticker which says, "If I knew how great grandchildren were, I would have had them first!" (No offense to my children, but I have really enjoyed Abel!) I know, it doesn't make sense, but the kernel of truth in there is that you cannot have the joy of grandchildren unless you are old. A second insight we might think about, though, is that not all aspects of who we are lives in the same season. For some of us, we have a creative side, or a sensitive, feeling side, which was not even born until we were well

into our adult years. Let it have its Springtime! And a third and final insight is part of our traditional hope: even as Spring resurrects Winter's world, so resurrection to a living hope waits for all of us beyond all the winters of this world.

-Pastor Keith Madsen

Rhythms of the Spirit

Nurturing a Contemplative Life

From ABCUSA Connections:

Do you struggle for balance between prayer and activity? Do you long for more silence and solitude in your life and ministry? More energy for compassion, peace and justice?

The Rhythms of the Spirit conference, offered in a retreat style and in two locations for 2014, provides a unique opportunity to explore and practice the contemplative life together. We'll focus on your own spiritual practice providing time to develop solitude and silence, creating the expansive space necessary to welcome God's voice. If you desire spiritual direction, each conference will provide the opportunity for you to meet one-on-one with a spiritual companion. Please join us.

- Fall: November 3-7, 2014; Redwood Glen, California

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



World Mission Offering

Thank you to all who contributed to World Mission Offering in September and early October. We collected \$510.

From International Ministries

“Thank you for your congregation’s participation in the World Mission Offering during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. We are blessed to have your partnership in ministry. Last year, the World Mission Offering provided more than \$2.7 million to support the work of more than 116 long-term missionaries and development workers, 1,800 short-term volunteers and 24 partner missionaries and Christian workers in over 70 countries. Most importantly, your generosity helps people to *come* to faith in Jesus, *grow* in their relationships with God and *change their worlds through the power of the Holy Spirit!*”

From American Baptist Home Mission Societies

“*Thank you for supporting the America for Christ (AFC) offering 2014.* Our American Baptist family has a profound heritage as a compassionate, engaging and benevolent people. Since 1824, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has been declaring and heralding the gospel of our Lord. Today, ABHMS remains rooted in that Word and committed to responding to the needs of our ever-changing world. The theme for the AFC Offering 2014 was an appeal to **“Seek Justice,” based on Isaiah 1:17, which states: “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow” (NRSV).** We continue to be faithful to the call for justice as exemplified by the American Baptist women and men who bore witness to the God who had transformed their lives. . . .”

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.

October Church Events

Grand Opening

Our newspaper ads continue in *The Issaquah Press* announcing our Grand Opening celebration on October 19th. Please RSVP if you plan to be there, and ask any invitees to RSVP, as well. Please contact Teri Hansen, if you haven't already signed up, to help with any part of the fellowship meal (setup after worship, food/decorations, cleanup after meal).

Board Meeting

Our Board meeting will be Sunday, October 26th, after worship and coffee fellowship.

Wednesday Fellowship

We had our first Wednesday Fellowship gathering on October 7th. We have decided to name the gathering "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, October 22nd, 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Woody and Merry will lead in devotions.

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 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.

What a Wonder!

If ever I reach heaven I expect to find three wonders there: first, to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third—the greatest wonder of all—to find myself there.

~ John Newton

Community Outreach

Mayor's Month of Concern

The Mayor's Month of Concern Food Drive for the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank, held mid-September through mid-October, collected 23,799 pounds of food. Thank you to all who volunteered for this event and those who included it in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Thank you church family for your contributions to the fund to repay Woody, Mer-ry, and Janine for the food they bought, prepared, and delivered to Tent City 4. Thanks to these 3 who did a great job!

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.

Compassion House Thank you

CCI recently established a fund to help Compassion House residents repair their automobiles. "Because of this generous gift, our residents will have the opportunity to get their kids to school, go to work, get to the doctor, and countless other things most of us take for granted. Thank you again!"

The Greater Church Community

- † October 18th—*On the Doorstep of the Castle*, a play with dance and music by Elizabeth Clark-Stern. Set in 16th century Spain, a story of two women, a Jewish converso and a nun, discovering hidden dimensions in themselves and each other, transforming their humanity, their identity, and their belief in what is possible for women in the world. 8PM at Seattle First Baptist Church. 1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle (206) 325-6052. Suggested donation \$10-\$15. Proceeds to be used for special projects by Seattle First Baptist and Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue.
- † 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

Today would have been the perfect day for a pumpkin muffin. Through my office window, I saw gray skies and drizzly rain. Everyone in my department was working as fast as we could – eating lunch at our desks, having quick conversations as needed, and trying to keep up with the steady stream of students and parents who came to see us. At one point in my morning I was standing over the copier (could it print any slower?) and started thinking about pumpkin muffins. Yep, something sweet, something homemade, and the comforting scent of pumpkin that I always connect with the end of summer and the beginning of fall. For me, pumpkin is comfort, tradition, happy change, and reassurance. In fact, I'm pretty sure just standing there thinking about pumpkin is when my day turned around and became much sweeter. So, in keeping with good self-care, here is a recipe that is definitely going to the top of my cooking to-do list. From "Family Favorites, 1890-1990, Community Baptist Church, Issaquah, Washington" here is a contribution by Esther Lawson.

Pumpkin Muffins

Submitted by Esther Lawson

1 c. pumpkin

1 c. sugar

2 c. flour

1 large or 2 small eggs

1 tsp. soda (put in flour)

½ tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. vanilla

½ c. oleo (my grandma always used this word – in case you don't know, it is margarine or you could substitute butter)

1 c. raisins

½ c. chopped walnuts

In large bowl put pumpkin, oleo, lightly beaten egg, cinnamon and vanilla; stir well. Add flour and soda; stir well. Add raisins and walnuts. Put in muffin pan and let raise about 5 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees about 20 minutes.

~ Teri Hansen

"Faith goes up the stairs that love has made and looks out the window which hope has opened."

~ Charles Spurgeon

Special Dates in October

- World Communion Sunday - Sunday, 10/5
- Columbus Day Observance - Monday, 10/13
- Reformation Sunday - Sunday, 10/26
- Reformation Day—Friday 10/31



TO...

- 1 Kayla Madsen**
- 1 Abel (Madsen)**
- 11 Angie Madsen**
- 13 Arlene Birdsall**
- 19 Cathy Madsen**
- 21 Mary Cline**
- 22 Norma Arehart**
- 22 Steve Pepke**
- 24 Joe Shultice**
- 29 Neal Jensen**

October 2014 at CCI

- "Home" worship (Salmon Days) - 10/05
- Missionary Guests from Haiti - 10/12
- Grand Opening - 10/19
- Bell Article Deadline - 10/24
- Board Meeting - 10/26

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** - *at University House*

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. **Martha Nordhagen**

Adams House, Oregon

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

Chateau Valley Ctr.

4450 Davis Ave S.

Renton, WA 98055

10. **Joe Shultice**

219 Cedar Ave S.

North Bend, WA 98045

11. **Dody Tweeddale**

Aegis of Issaquah

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