

The Bell



P.O. Box 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah October 2015

A Word from the Pastor

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

-Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

Since we are not having worship the first Sunday of this month (due to Salmon Days), I decided to use a shortened form of the sermon I would have preached on that Sunday, for my Bell article this month. So this is the third in my series of five challenges I want to leave this church. This challenge is presented by what Paul says in Romans 12:2, which is, in essence, *Don't be a conformist church, becoming whatever the society around you wants you to be.* There are churches which seem to be trying to do just that. Surveys show people are “made uncomfortable” by the Cross and talk of Christ's death on that Cross. And so some churches, in order to conform to what “seekers” are looking for, take the Cross out of their worship area. Some “church growth” experts say that if you want to attract new people, don't say anything that might be controversial, and avoid saying anything which might make people feel guilty. Let me first say that, as

I think you know from our 4 ½ years together, I do not try to make people feel bad about themselves, or say a lot of things that are divisive to the church fellowship. However, sometimes you need to challenge people to take “a step higher” than they are. Sometimes you have to take a stand – a stand which will have some disagreeing with you. You keep on loving each other and you keep on affirming the value of the fellowship. But you still take a stand.

A Christian church should not be about forming itself into whatever it seems people want. Companies that serve the public might want to do that. When they make a hamburger for you, they want to “do it YOUR way.” But a church exists for a different purpose. We are seeking to find the “will of God” – not the result of the latest marketing poll! “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, *so that you may discern the will of God...*” That doesn't mean you totally disregard the tastes and opinions of the people in your community. The kind of music they like, the décor which might attract them, the activities we might want to sponsor as a fellowship – all these can be adapted to the people we want to attract. But we should not forget

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. The early registration deadline for loyal supporters is October 15th. 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

We have collected 22,500 pounds of food and \$1,900 thus far in our food drive campaign. There is one more weekend of collections scheduled for the weekend after Salmon Days weekend.

International Ministries (from Evergreen Newsletter)

From Nzunga Mabudiga & Kihomi Ngwemi

“... We invite you to celebrate the miracles of God’s love to His children. ... The Cap-Haitian eye clinic received a brand new refractometre. ... Looking at this machine, I am thinking about the thousand of patients who have received help from our caring staff and those patients who will benefit from this brand new piece of equipment. What a joy!

“This piece of eye machinery is really the fruit of your love, your support and your prayers. Without you, it would be impossible to talk and to think about replacing/upgrading the equipment that helps our staff make exact diagnoses of eye diseases.

... On behalf of the past, present, and future patients and our family, we say thank you for your love.”

“Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the Autumn trees.”

~ Emily Brontë

that our purpose is not to conform to people, but rather it is to help people be *transformed*, to change according to God's call to them.

Of course, the church must do this, tempered by a certain amount of humility. It is all too easy for a church or church leader to take the attitude, "I know what God's will is, and you just need to fall in line with what I tell you!" People find spiritual renewal not by being told the truth by the "enlightened", but rather by

having someone walk alongside them as they search. Churches are not for people who have "arrived", but for people who are on a journey seeking God. But that, the will of God, is the destination. Life is not about what "the people" want; it's about what God wants.

So my challenge to this church as you move into the future, is to seek transformation over conformity.

-Pastor Keith Madsen



World Mission Offering

We collected \$475 for the World Mission Offering during the month of September. Thank you to all who contributed for helping to spread the Word.

American Baptist Women's Ministries—N Puget Sound—FALL RALLY

Saturday, October 3rd, 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at Panther Lake Community Church (no stairs involved). 2015-2017 Ministry Focus: "See ... " Guest Missionary Speaker: Lori Mann, Laos. Special Offering: HOPE Home for Girls, a drop-in center for girls who have been sexually exploited or who are at risk of being sold by people in their families. Cost: \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Contact the church office for registration information.

A simmering idea

During a lesson on 1 Kings 18, a Sunday school teacher explained the confrontation between the prophet Elijah and the false prophets of Baal. He described how Elijah built the altar, placed wood on it, prepared the bull, laid it on the altar and instructed God's people to pour water over the altar.

"Now," the teacher asked, "can anyone tell me why they would've poured water over the animal?"

A girl eagerly raised her hand and answered, "To make the gravy!"

October 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:



*Sharing the
Adventure*

October 7th—We will have a speaker from Seattle's Union Gospel Mission to talk to us about their work with the homeless.

October 21st—The Rev Dr Monica Corsaro will speak to us about the work of Mary's Place, an organization that we support through our Outreach budget.

We are working on scheduling a showing of the DVD "An Act of Faith" with a Q&A session. 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.

Other Church News

Pastoral Search Committee—UPDATE

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) has received resumes and is currently scheduling visits to hear some of the candidates preach. This work is to remain confidential so we ask that you not ask our opinions of the various candidates during this process. We continue to 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. Please continue to pray for this process.

Memorial Service—Joe Shultice

We received word that Joe Shultice has passed away. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers during this time. Plans are in process for a service of remembrance. We will provide details once we have them.

From *On Location*

(a newsletter of International Ministries)

The Fruits of Discernment by Reid Trulson, Executive Director

“... For the past 18 months, American Baptist International Ministries (IM) has been engaged in spiritual discernment. Similar to that in the first century, this discernment process has been grounded in Scripture study, reflective prayer and listening for God’s voice through the body of Christ. In our process, the body of Christ came together through ***Responding to the Call*** [a new statement of vision and priorities for 2015-2020 and beyond] interviews conducted across the United States and Puerto Rico and around the world. This issue of *International Ministries ON LOCATION* summarizes the vision and key focused growth areas arising from ***Responding to the Call***.”

Responding to the Call by Courtney Davis Olds

“***Responding to the Call*** identifies four areas for focused growth that reflect IM’s vision, purpose and core values and the particular realities of mission in the 21st century:

1. Inviting People to Be Disciples of Jesus
2. Proclaiming God’s Reign of Justice, Peace and Abundant Life
3. Equipping the Body of Christ to Engage in God’s Mission
4. Pursuing Organizational Excellence

Responding to the Call challenges IM to build upon its strengths, move into new territory and be transformed—all while faithfully pursuing the vision “On Earth as in Heaven.” Please join IM in celebrating this new statement of vision and priorities for 2015-2020 and beyond. Stay tuned for updates as IM’s spiritual discernment and strategic planning initiative moves into Phase 2, which will incarnate ***Responding to the Call*** in an operational plan. There’s more to come!”

Unprecedented love

Whether you understand it or not, God loves you, is present in you, lives in you, dwells in you, calls you, saves you and offers you an understanding and compassion which are like nothing you have ever found in a book or heard in a sermon.

~ Thomas Merton, *The Hidden Ground of Love*

Special Dates in October

- Hispanic Heritage Month - 09/15/2015-10/15/2015
- World Communion Sunday - 10/04
- Columbus Day Observance - Monday, 10/12
- Reformation Sunday - Sunday, 10/25
- Reformation Day - Saturday, 10/31



TO...

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

October 2015 at CCI

- Salmon Days—NO Worship Service - 10/04
- Sharing the Adventure - 10/07
- Guest Preacher - 10/11
- Church Board Meeting - 10/18
- Sharing the Adventure - 10/21
- Bell Article Deadline - 10/26

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** -

Shoreline, WA 98133

2. **Marge Armstrong**

Poulsbo, WA 98370

3. **Sylvia Coulton** - *at son Peter's*

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

Renton, WA 98055

11. **Dody Tweeddale**

Cascades Adult Family Home, Bellevue

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