

# The Bell



205 MT PARK BLVD SW

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah October 2011

## Changing Seasons

“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!" 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! The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:16, "Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day." That sounds a little like Spring, doesn't it? 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

# **WORLD MISSION OFFERING**

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**October 9, 16 and 23**

**WMO supports the global work of American Baptist International Ministries.** Our gifts make possible the ministries of nearly 100 long-term IM missionaries and more than 1,500 short term missionaries and volunteers. They work in more than 70 countries along with 220 partner organizations that include evangelistic associations, hospitals, schools, publishing companies and others responding to Christ's call.

### **Mission Committee Report:**

#### **Home Missions:**

To date in 2011 we have sent \$350 each to Camp Burton, Cascade Meadows, World Vision (KidREACH Sea/Tac), Mary's Place (Women's Homeless Shelter in Seattle).

Mission Committee: Carol Schubert and Roma Bowen. Representative from Deacons is Charlotte Scherer

- ▶ **Live the Word**
- ▶ **Proclaim the Word**
- ▶ **Be Transformed**



**THANK YOU TO ALL  
WHO HELPED  
AT THE CCI WORK PARTY  
AND SOME OTHER DAYS BEFORE THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER.**

WORKERS WERE: LEE (ORGANIZER); DUANE, ROMA, BESSIE,  
NEIL B., CAROL, EARLE, VERN, CRAIG, KARYN, CHARLOTTE,  
WOODY AND FROM MT. CREEK WERE RICK AND WALLY.  
TWENTY TWO MAINTENANCE JOBS WERE COMPLETED!

## **LONG TERM PRAYER LIST**

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

1. Marge Armstrong, Lake Hills Family Home
2. Rose Matthai, Aegis Assisted Living
3. Robert (Bob) Pusch, Group Home, Burien
4. Ken Schmelzer, at home
5. Dorothy Swearson, Issaquah Care Center
6. Sylvia Olsson, living with daughter in Maple Valley
7. Florence Watkins, 240 S Silke Rd Apt 105 Colville, WA 99114
8. Martha Nordhagen Adams House, Oregon
9. Geri Hardesty
10. Roger Frye, 6200 123rd Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98006

## October 2011 at CCI:

- Deacons Meeting - Friday 10/7 -----at 10:30 am
- Trustees Meeting– Sunday 10/2 ----- at 12:30 pm
- Council Meeting - Sunday 10/9----- at 12:30 pm
- Bell Deadline - Wednesday 10/26
- Harvest Festival– Sunday 10/30 —————- After Church

## Happy October Birthday to.....



13 Arlene Birdsall  
19 Cathy Madsen  
21 Mary Eastlick Cline  
22 Norma Arehart  
22 Steve Pepke  
24 Joe Shultice  
25 Faye Cooper  
29 Neal Jensen  
31 Florence Watkins



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*The Bell is published monthly for members and friends*