

# The Bell



P.O. BOX 1191

ISSAQUAH WA 98027

The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah September 2015

## **A Word from the Pastor**

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

-James 1:17 (NRSV)

At a time when our stock market has been bouncing around like a ball going down a *steep* staircase, it's so important that we have a God who is there and reliable when we need Him.

Many of us rely to a degree on the stock market. Many people (such as Cathy and I!) have at least part of their retirement account invested in the market. Many churches (such as ours) have reserve funds invested in the market. Still others depend on stock market investments for regular income.

For people in all the above categories, this past week in the stock market has been a little unnerving. As I write this, it has lost over 2000 points in one week! Will it come back? A lot of people have an opinion on the subject, but nobody knows for sure. Even if it does come back, it could fall again just as quickly. The stock market is subject to changes that happen all over the world, and because of those changes its performance is not always reliable.

Christians know that our ultimate future is not in the hands of the stock market, but rather it is in the hands of a reliable God. James tells us that, first of all, God is reliable in all that He gives us. “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” Since God made all, all that we receive from anyone is ultimately from God. And Jesus tells us that God will provide what we need: “...indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

God's provision does not rely on the vagaries of what is happening in Greece, China or any other part of the world. With God, “there is no variation or shadow due to change.” About this change, famed Bible commentator William Barclay writes:

“[The Greek words Paul uses in this passage] have to do with the variation which the heavenly bodies show, the variation in the length of the day and of the night, the apparent variation in the course of the sun, the phases of waxing and

waning, the different brilliance at different times of the stars and the planets. Variability is characteristic of all created things. God is the Creator of the lights of heaven – the sun the moon, the stars... The lights change but he who created them never changes.”

In the midst of a changing stock market, let's rejoice that we have an unchangeable God on whom to rely!

-Pastor Keith Madsen



### World Mission Offering

We will be collecting for the World Mission Offering during the month of September. *“Two-thirds of the world still does not know the fullness of God’s love through Jesus Christ. There is an urgent need to stretch forward and be part of the new and surprising things God is doing through IM [International Ministries].”*

### From Camp Burton Conference Center

“Greetings to you from Camp Burton! We missed seeing many of you this past May when in years past you held your all-church retreat with us. I pray your church community is doing well.

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent donation of \$1,500 to be used for the purchase of new meeting room chairs for Grisham Hall. What a glorious gift! Your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated! We’ve had the same chairs in this building for many years and they were purchased used from another facility so it is definitely time to upgrade. We recently installed a heat pump system in Grisham and made cosmetic improvements as part of the process so new chairs will make the room look fantastic.

We are very grateful for your long-time support of Camp Burton and American Baptist Camping! Blessings to your congregation.”

Kind Regards,  
Kathleen Hendrickson  
Executive Director

## Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has disbursed the following funds budgeted for Outreach this year: Haiti school—\$1,000; Haiti general missions—\$500; Camp Burton chairs for Grisham Hall—\$1,500; and

Mary's Place Northend family resource center—\$1,000. Funds budgeted for Compassion House will be held by CCI—Compassion House may refer someone to us for car repair assistance, to be paid from the budgeted funds.



## International Ministries (from Evergreen Newsletter)

“Thank You to the Women’s Department of Community Church of Issaquah for the Donation of \*\*\$1,358.00 toward the Building of the School in Haiti!”

*From Nzunga Mabudiga & Kihomi Ngwemi*

“Greetings...The tropical heat and the high humidity reduce considerably the efficiency of our workers. Let us say that ‘it kills you while you are still standing’. This has been the case at our eye clinic...We have prayed, and we have wondered over this situation. Thanks to your [Evergreen Association’s] generosity, thanks to your love, thanks to your caring spirit, the eye clinic has the air conditioner units that furnish cold clean air in the patients’ waiting room. This has been a big achievement. Believe me...We all say thank you.”

## Other Church News

### *Our Building*

We are still hoping to see the installation of our custom cabinetry by the end of August by Grette Custom Woodworking.

### *Pastoral Search Committee*

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) is in the process of evaluating individual resumes of prospective pastoral candidates for fit. 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.

## September 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 sessions:



*Sharing the  
Adventure*

September 2<sup>nd</sup> —We'll have a game day. Come prepared to share in the fun of various board and card games with your church friends.

September 16<sup>th</sup> – Paul and Gail Aita will talk to us about their experiences in Burma and their work with Burmese refugees.

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

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.

### *Summer Picnic*

Summer is almost gone! Sneaking in one last picnic before Fall arrives, weather-permitting, we will meet at the home of Linda Eastlick on Pine Lake, directly after church on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact the church office for directions. Remember, this is a POTLUCK picnic. In case of poor weather, we will meet at the church.

### *Church Retreat - THANK YOU!!*

This year's church retreat was held on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, at the Reeves' cabin located at Lake Kachess. THANK YOU to Lynie and Janine for hosting us. THANK YOU, also, to Oats for providing us with a short musical interlude.

## From *Connecting*

(a ministry of ABCUSA's Board of General Ministries)

### *10 Facts You Should Know About American Baptists*

1. American Baptists believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and that the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God that serves as the final written authority for living out the Christian faith.
2. For American Baptists, the local church is the fundamental unit of mission in denominational life.
3. American Baptists partake of two ordinances: Believers' Baptism and The Lord's Supper.
4. American Baptists believe that the committed individual Christian can and should approach God directly, and that individual gifts of ministry should be shared.
5. American Baptists take seriously the call to evangelism and missionary work.
6. American Baptists support religious freedom and respect the expressions of faith of others.
7. American Baptists acknowledge that God's family extends beyond our local churches, and that God calls us to cooperative ministries.
8. American Baptists have been called to be Christ's witnesses for justice and wholeness within a broken society.
9. American Baptist Churches USA celebrates the racial, cultural and theological diversity witnessed within its membership.
10. American Baptists heed the biblical call to renewal and the need for a vital witness in a new millennium.

## Blessings or burdens?

Interruptions can be viewed as sources of irritation or opportunities for service, as moments lost or experience gained, as time wasted or horizons widened. They can annoy us or enrich us, get under our skin or give us a shot in the arm, monopolize our minutes or spice our schedules—depending on our attitude toward them.

~ William Arthur Ward

## From *Connecting*

(a ministry of ABCUSA's Board of General Ministries)

### **United Mission**

***American Baptists have always been a people of Mission. Mission is in our DNA. United Mission (UM) is YOU, UM is YOU and your local congregation!***

As American Baptists, we are in covenant with each other to minister both to and with each other. UM is the bedrock, the bread and butter, of our joint American Baptist witness. Through it we support our work as the hands and feet and voice of Jesus regionally, nationally, and internationally. Think how much more we can accomplish if all American Baptist congregations commit to faithfully and generously support UM through their budgets. Our strength is in our numbers when we all work together!

We also encourage ABC congregations to fully engage in the four quarterly offerings, first to educate their members about the work being done in our name across the country and around the world, and then to allow individual members to financially support those components of our common mission and ministry about which they feel most passionate.

Congregations give to UM in two ways:

- **UM Basics** are undesignated contributions from local churches to the vital mission and ministry of American Baptists. Basics provide support for the extensive foundation of American Baptist missions.
- **UM Love Gifts** are contributions from American Baptist women in support of American Baptist ministry, given over and above United Mission Basics.

In addition to the Regional Offering, the other four special American Baptist Mission Support Offerings that nurture the good work of specific ministry partners around the world, are:

- **America For Christ**
- **World Mission Offering**
- **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering**
- **One Great Hour of Sharing**

## Special Dates in September

- Labor Day - Monday, 09/07
- Patriot Day - Friday, 09/11
- National Grandparents Day - Sunday, 09/13
- Historic Heritage Month - 09/15/2015-10/15/2015
- First Day of Autumn - Wednesday, 09/23

“Be prepared for God to direct you to something you do not like, and teach you to like it!”

~ J.I. Packer

“Don’t find fault. Find a remedy.”

~ Henry Ford



**TO...**

**3 Rose Cooper**  
**7 Cherie Vivolo**  
**10 Lynie Reeves**  
**11 Sarah Little**  
**16 Josh Byle [Hansen]**  
**26 Marge Armstrong**

## September 2015 at CCI

- Sharing the Adventure - 09/02
- All-Church Picnic - 09/13
- Sharing the Adventure - 09/16
- Church Board Meeting - 09/20
- Bell Article Deadline - 09/25

# LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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

1. **Craig & Karyn Akishin** -

*19303 Fremont Ave N  
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. **Joe Shultice**

*219 Cedar Ave S.  
North Bend, WA 98045*

12. **Dody Tweeddale**

*Cascades Adult Family Home, Bellevue*

13. **Cherie Vivolo** - *at home*