

The Connection

Volume 5, Issue 2, February 2007

from Pastor Mike...

Stepping out

In *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* when Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) goes after the Holy Grail, there is a final test where he has to take a step of faith to get to the Grail. He has to cross a chasm over what appears to be a bottomless pit in order to claim the cup so he can use it to heal his father (Sean Connery) from a fatal wound. The riddle he and his father have figured out has convinced him he must take a step out into the abyss – has to put his full weight into it – and as he does, sure enough, a bridge appears out of nowhere and his step lands on something solid that was not visible until the instant his foot came down on it in mid-air. All issues of faith are like this. It's not enough to believe, you have to put your whole weight into it. And when you do, you risk falling, but you find something solid.

So there is a risk involved. The risk is always around what will happen if God doesn't do his part. The Bible says that faith "is the evidence of things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1) It's the bridge that we step out onto even if we cannot see it. Maybe that bridge is love for someone unlovely. Maybe it is the words we don't think we have until we open our mouths in front of the person we need to address. Maybe it is courage to face a responsibility that seems impossible. Maybe it is the power to overcome a bad habit. But it's there – the bridge of faith is there – even though we can't see it.

Hebrews 11 goes on to mention 18 individuals by

continued on page 2



Do you remember when there used to be church programs on Christmas and Easter? It was a special time to bring family and friends for something that had taken months of preparation and was considerably out of the ordinary. Hopefully, it caused you to see something in a new way and uplift the significance of such a holy day. We hope that will be true of the Easter Memorial Presentation now in its infant stages.

The Worship Commission has been working on an original script and program that will incorporate drama, music, dance and more in a retelling of the purpose of the cross. It is at times joyful, tearful, and challenging.

However, it cannot be done with just one person. There are needs for actors, readers, musicians, dancers, painters, builders, light and sound technicians and computer wizards. Auditions for the roles are Feb 9th at 6:30 PM and 10th at 10:00 AM. If you are interested in participating at any level, contact Mike Hanford at 525-4375. The more people who get involved, the more events like this will occur.



We just had our semi-annual church business meeting. In case you missed it, here's a snapshot of how we are doing financially so far this year:

FORECASTED INCOME: \$388,014.26

ACTUAL INCOME: \$316,577.10

FORECASTED EXPENSES: \$388,014.26

ACTUAL EXPENSES: \$279,482.63

Our expenses are \$108,531.63 less than our forecast for the half-way point in our church year. Our income is \$71,437.16 less than we forecasted for the same time period. This puts us \$37,094.47 in the black at this point in our 2006-2007 fiscal year.

There should be additional copies of the actual report that we distributed for the business meeting available at the Welcome Center in the lobby of the Worship Center.

If you have any questions about this information, please don't hesitate to call me at the church or email me at bmcc_dan@charter.net.

OTHER NEWS:

As of the end of December, we had received \$238,604.91 toward the \$1.8M in pledges toward the new building. Also, tithing envelopes for 2007 are still available in Baker Hall.

Until next time...

Pastor Dan

continued from page 1

name, plus all the prophets, the children of Israel, and the early martyrs who accomplished impossible things by faith. All ordinary people – all with their own flaws, fears, and excuses to overcome. And the conclusion for us is to realize that these people and their examples are a huge crowd of witnesses surrounding us and telling us to “strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run the race that God has set before us.” (Hebrews 12:1) What a cheering section!

What is it in your life you need to address by faith? What is the invisible bridge God is asking you to cross? With this kind of encouragement, take a risk and step out.



Wait to Judge by Pastor Sharon

I was talking with a friend when her daughter came home from school with a dilemma. The daughter explained what had happened at school and asserted, “How could God allow this to happen?” and quickly passed judgment.

This reminds me of a story about a man who was the sole survivor of a shipwreck that was cast upon an uninhabited island. He built a crude hut in which he placed the little he had saved from the sinking ship. He prayed to God for deliverance and anxiously scanned the horizon to hail any ship that might chance to pass. One day, upon returning to the hut for food, he was horrified to find that his hut was in flames. All that he had was gone. To his limited vision, it was the worst thing that could happen, and he shook his fist at God. Yet the very next day a ship arrived. The captain told the man, “We saw your smoke signal and came to rescue you.”

In the Bible there are many verses that tell us to wait on the Lord: Psalm 130:5, “*I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.*” And Isaiah 130:18, “*Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!*”

In our limited vision, we are quick to pass judgment and shake our fist at God. We often find it is hard to wait on the Lord. Yet the Bible assures us that God is faithful and will bless those who wait upon Him.

The key point: Parents need to help their children learn to wait on the Lord and not to be quick to pass judgment in rough situations.



Missions Commission Report by Ron Groom

This month we continue with another article in a series on the missionaries and mission organizations that our church helps support.

This article focuses on the Mediterranean Bible College. This school was started in 1984 by Rev. Fouad Melki who envisioned a school similar to Lebanon Bible Institute that had closed its doors in 1972. Located eight miles north of Beirut, the school is located in one of the most dangerous and volatile areas of the world, given the many radical religious and political ideologies that exist. However, God has planted this school in the middle of all this turmoil in order to train missionaries to go back to their home countries and proclaim the “good news” that Jesus died and rose again for all mankind, that through Him we can have forgiveness of sin.

Mediterranean Bible College (MBC) has a four year degree program that strongly emphasizes the practical aspects of ministry. While it remains a small school, MBC has several hundred graduates that are serving throughout the world in Lebanon, Switzerland, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, the Bahamas and the United States.

A recent letter received from MBC told of the difficulties of starting the fall term due to the 36 day war that engulfed that region this summer. The fall schedule on campus was cancelled, including dedication of the new Johnson Chapel. The new school year was relocated to Egypt, at the King Mariyut Church of God campgrounds.

Please pray for the leaders and the finances that are needed to ensure that God’s work will continue in this part of the world.

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|---|--|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Jamie Nachtigall
Elissa Stites
Nick Swisher | 7 | Rachael Adkins
Rebecca Mize
Phillip Somers | 18 | Joshua Hinrichsen |
| 2 | Peter Erb | 8 | Willis Goodwin
Marilyn Groom
Abby Larreau | 19 | Ed Hendricksen |
| 3 | Alex Carias
Scott Haen
Jared Pattee
Rose Paul
Levi Sands
Evelyn Wallace | 9 | Rick Grubb
Leanne Howard
Adam Voss | 20 | Terry Burner
Zachery Harris
Sarah Rice |
| 5 | Bob Conwell
Amanda Gorze
Walter Zier | 10 | Dan Kilmer | 22 | John Bender
Cheryl Pfeiffer |
| 6 | Bill Keyser | 11 | Aaron Grubb | 24 | Kaeldra Caton
Marcia Napier |
| | | 12 | Kathy Wood | 25 | Paula Hoppen
Talitha Kelly |
| | | 13 | Emily Larreau | 27 | Corey Hobbs
Claudia Huntley
Jackie Kuljis
Darlene Mings
Abigail Williamson
Rich Young |
| | | 14 | Phyllis Branscum
Linda Joshlin | 28 | Chad Jerald
Gail Johnson
Erika Swenson |
| | | 16 | Joseph Watson | | |
| | | 17 | Davin Sands
Jack Sands | | |



- 20 *Bill & Christene Thrasher*
 21 *Steve & Rebecca Mize*
 22 *Don & Lee Lynch*
 28 *Mike & Kriss Pettyjohn*

Weekly Events

Sunday

GriefShare 3:00 PM
Middle School Group 6:00 PM
Marriage by Design 6:00 PM
Sunday Night Live 6:00 PM
Prayer for Missionaries 6:00 PM

Monday

Health 2007 7:00 PM

Tuesday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM
Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM
High School Group 7:00 PM

Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM
Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

Saturday

Financial Peace University 10:00 AM

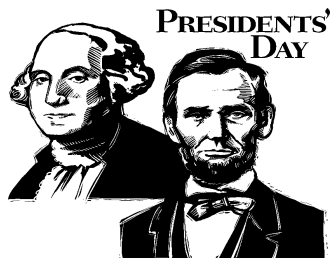
Special Days

2 Groundhog Day
14 Valentine's Day
19 Presidents' Day
21 Ash Wednesday



Monthly Events

- 1 SAMS 10:00 AM
Worship Team Meeting 6:30 PM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
- 4 Super Bowl Party 3:00 PM
NO SNL, Middle School Group,
Marriage Class or Prayer for Missionaries
- 8 MOPS 9:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
Revolution 7:00 PM
- 13 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 15 SAMS 10:00 AM
Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
- 17 Prayer Partner Breakfast 8:30 AM
3D Inc Cafe 7:00 PM
- 19 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 21 Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22 MOPS 9:00 AM
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 24 Revolution 6:00 PM



From the Pacific Northwest Association

Did you know that our church is part of a larger organization? We are members of the Church of God-Anderson and our local district is called the Pacific Northwest Association. Among other things, PNA owns and maintains a retreat center called Double-K. Below is a letter from the caretakers of Double-K.

Dear Churches within the PNA,

Our richest blessings to you in this new year of 2007. Thank you for trusting us with the leadership and care of your property at Double-K Christian Retreat Center. It truly has been a blessing to us and we have served with joy and thanksgiving.

Over the past few years we have increased in the number of camps and people. We have an urgent need right now and are asking for help. We need more staff. Our main concerns are kitchen and maintenance help.

Housing is available for either long or short term help. If you can help, contact us by email at doublek@doublek.org or regular mail at: PO Box 98 Easton, WA 98925.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

*Serving at Double-K Christian Retreat Center,
Chester and Donna Meeks*



February is National Scouting Month Don Gibbard

Tuesday nights, our campus is home to a national organization that has influenced generations of young men; growing them in skills that will help them become better husbands, fathers, and community leaders. They are the Boy Scouts and they are supported as part of Blue Mountain Community Church's desire to love the lost.

Why do we have Boy Scouts here? The answer is two-fold. First, it is an extension of our youth ministry, bringing boys who would not attend a church service into the building and introducing them to God. Second, it models the servanthood that Boy Scouts aims to inspire. By giving of our space, our resources, and volunteer's time, we show the joy and privilege of service.

There is no other organization that teaches young men what Boy Scouts can offer. More than earning badges and learning to tie fancy knots, Boy Scouts teaches leadership, teamwork, communication, and the value of community service. It teaches them about setting goals and following through. It teaches them to go beyond themselves and consider others first.

Our troop, #312, has been in Walla Walla since the 1920's. Currently, 15 boys ages 11-18 are involved in this troop. It is likely that many adults in this community had ties to this troop. As a matter of fact, many of the current leaders were once scouts themselves, and are now investing themselves in the next generation. Scouting can be a lifetime learning experience.

Boys ages 11-18 are invited to the District's Klondike Derby, a winter campout where some will sleep in snow caves and Igloos. The trip is February 3rd and 4th. If you are interested in Scouting, contact Julienne Hoppen, Scoutmaster, at 529-9174.



Celebrate Recovery

by Teri Stewart

Step 3: We made a decision to turn our wills and our lives over to the care of God.

“Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God —this is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12:1

Celebrate Recovery just held its biggest event of the year. January 26th was our 4 year kickoff. We enjoyed some of the best food this side of the Rockies, and great music from our church and our Celebrate Recovery worship team. We also had entertainment and opportunities to share what CR has done in their lives.

A few weeks ago, the ministry leader, Gary, decided to have “open share” at Celebrate Recovery large group time. Gary offered the mike and stepped back from the podium. The quiet was unsettling. Many of us had frightful expectations, having been to “open share” events before. We never expected what happened that night.

One after another, people made their pilgrimage to the microphone. It was so awesome! Easy talkers were expected at the mike, but it was the shy and quiet people that one after another brought tears to my eyes. We knew the sacrifice they were making getting up in front of everyone. Through people’s stories of encouragement, strength, and hope, we were all lifted up. I was given confirmation of my faith that God does care about us individually. There were tears and goose bumps and shivers all around. Oh yeah, and praise and praise and praise to the living God who in His mercy has touched us all.

That night we left large group time with a glow that seemed to last all night long. We ask for prayer for God to keep his hand on our endeavors so that we may succeed in His will.

What’s in a prayer chain?

Margie Watson



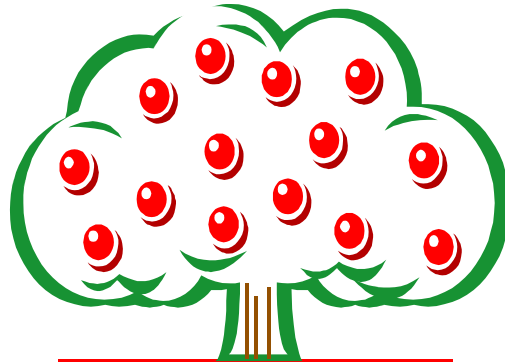
Usually when I hear the word *chain* I think of something heavy, harsh and cold. But our church’s prayer chain consists of tender, caring, praying and believing, dedicated members of our church who make themselves available to receive, pray, and pass along urgent prayer requests that come to the attention of our pastors and church office.

Once these concerned, dedicated prayer chain members are contacted it only takes a short time to have a great number of people praying for each request. If you would like to become a member of the prayer chain, now is the time! The Pastoral Care Commission is adding links and re forging this chain. Please complete the blue form available in your Sunday bulletin, or call the church office at 529-1212.

When the Prayer Chain booklets are “off the press” each person volunteering will receive one which will contain all the members and their place in the chain, who they will receive calls from and make calls to. What a great opportunity to serve our church family and bring comfort and inspiration to those requesting prayer.

Newsletter Deadline

If you have an upcoming event you’d like to promote, faith story or poem you’d like to share, or anything else that pertains to the life of the people of Blue Mountain Community Church, please consider writing a small article (300 words or less) and submitting it to the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



And the Lord make
you to increase and
abound in love one
toward another...

1 Thessalonians 3:12

*Our purpose is to help people become
passionate followers of Christ by:*
Loving the Lord
Lifting the Lord
Learning the Word
Living to Glorify God

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Children's Pastor — Sharon Wiles
Student Ministries Interim — Adam Hinrichsen
Worship Interim Pastor — Richard Easton

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