

The Connection

Volume 6, Issue 8, August 2008

Play With a Purpose

by Keri Wyatt Kent

One of my favorite spiritual practices is one you don't hear much about: the practice of play. But it seems an appropriate topic to consider during summer.

Play is an important part of what I call Sabbath Simplicity—a sanely paced, God-focused lifestyle. To live in Sabbath Simplicity means we have slowly crafted a life-giving way of life—and it may look different in your life than it does in mine.

But this lifestyle includes spiritual practices that create some space for God. So along with prayer and meditating on God's word, I include other spiritual disciplines like service and play. I don't serve all the time; I don't play all the time. It is the rhythm between these two things that creates a cadence I can dance to.

Play helps us fight the temptation of sins that Jesus prohibited in his teaching—things like worry, fear, or lack of joy. You've perhaps not thought of play as a spiritual discipline. But then again, perhaps you didn't consider worry a sin, even though the command most often repeated in the Bible is “do not be afraid.”

The Bible tells us that one day Jesus disciples came to him and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” In response, Jesus “called a little child, whom he placed among them. And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes a humble place—becoming like this child—is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever



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From Your
Administrative Pastor

Before I give you the recap from receiving the Rejuvenation Commitment Cards recently, let me refresh your memory on where we were before.

With the "Building For Eternity" campaign, we initially had 154 pledging units that represented \$1.8M. Those initial pledges dropped to 145 pledge units equaling \$1.4M. After almost three years we have had \$306,376.00 of actual money come in toward those pledges.

Here's where we are now...99 previous pledging units have not responded to the revised campaign. 46 pledges were received in with a total of \$137,500. These pledges are to be fulfilled by October 2009.

We have the potential to receive \$437,500 by October 2009 for the Rejuvenation Building Campaign. The remodel is expected to be in the \$1.4M range.



**Congratulations to
our Scholarship
Recipients**

Josh McDaniels
Michael Huie
Stephanie Klundt
Emily Brown
Jared Burns
Jennifer Stewart
Danielle Hulser

Aaron Burns
Jennifer Riggle
Shanie Bushman
Stephanie Harmon
Chole Robinson
Daniel DeBroek
Stella Miranda

**News from the
Flying H Youth Ranch**

If you are still constantly amazed by God and if you daily want to be conformed into the image of Christ, I have the perfect mission field for you, come visit us at the Flying H Youth Ranch and see what I am talking about.

We daily see changes, big and small, in the youth God has placed in our care; things from disrespect to self mutilation are laid before the feet of Christ and surrendered to Him. Though the journey is far from over, we have had several young men make commitments to Christ while at the ranch, some of which desire to make a public confession of baptism.

We are constantly encouraged by your prayers, here are some things that you can specifically pray for:

*Two of our boys are currently into self mutilation, pray for protection for them and a change in their hearts.

*Our Executive Director is still out on medical leave, pray for healing.

*We have a boy on leave for a family emergency, pray that while at home he would make wise choices.

*We have a boy lined up to come into the program, but has run away from home, pray that he is found quickly and unharmed.



Family Fun Festival & School Supply Scramble

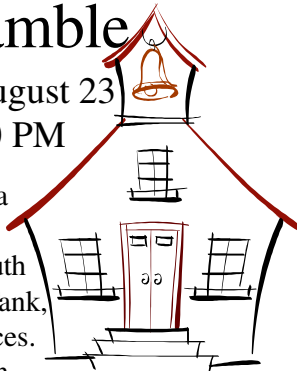
Saturday, August 23
Open 4 – 10 PM

Old fashioned fun with a modern flair. Outdoor family competitions, Youth sporting events. Dunk Tank, Local talent performances. Custom Car Competition, Games for all ages. Tractor rides. Cycle jumping demonstrations. Face painting. Live music. Outdoor family movie at dusk.. We promise many ways to cool off from the August heat while enjoying time with your family. Lots of great prizes – Wii games, iPods, certificates, DVDs, and much more! Have your name put in for a prize when you donate school supplies for Walla Walla students. Come help us Celebrate Education at this free community event.

If you have a fun activity that you would like to do, or you just want to be involved, please contact; Cheryl Drumheller, Penny Hood, Stacie Larreau, Ken Paine or Amy Freeman.

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.



MISSIONS CORNER



Young Life of Galena

By Jeanne Fox



Young Life is an international evangelistic outreach to teens based in Colorado Springs, CO www.younglife.org. Young Life is not affiliated with any denomination, nor does it seek to replace, or compete with the local church. Young Life seeks to evangelize young people who are outside the usual sphere of the local church. When a teen comes to the Lord, Young Life provides them with basic discipleship training and encourages them to join a local Bible-believing church.

Faith Promise supports Young Life of Galena, Alaska. Galena is a village of about 650, located 280 air miles west of Fairbanks and 335 miles nw of Anchorage. It is accessible only by air most of the year. The state of Alaska has established a boarding school for high school age students from the villages of the Middle Yukon River region. Approximately, 135 students attend this boarding academy; this inflowing of village teens from all over the state presents an amazing outreach opportunity.

A missionary effort focused on the boarding school has the potential of planting seeds of the Gospel throughout Alaska. It's a fun, sometimes crazy, but always-safe place for high school and middle school kids.

The Young Life ministry in Galena covets the consistent prayers of God's people. The work there is difficult. Satan does not willingly give up a geographic stronghold or the souls of a people he has dominated for centuries. David Pavish, the adult volunteers and the teens of Galena need continuous prayer.

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Steve Hood
Julianne Hoppen
Burl Wallace | 16 | Naomi Jardon
Vi Loar
Jodi Stewart | 24 | Linda Clark
Jackie Lancaster
Sarah McNeil |
| 2 | Matt Bennett
Laura Rice | 17 | Wes Hibner
Lee Lynch | 25 | Kobee Carrillo
Joel Redman |
| 3 | Nelma Dimino
Vi Scott
Karen Smeed
Jim Tackett
Larry White | 18 | Shelby Grewell
Robin Sherrod | 26 | Dave Conklin
Jo Ann McAlvey |
| 4 | Britt Adkins
Carolyn Criss
David Elmore
Matthew Hutcherson
Heather Smelcer | 19 | Robin Harris
Vonette Miller | 27 | Gary Simmons |
| 5 | Kelsie Davisson
Rick Jones
Florence Lamb
Erica Rice
Jennifer Stephens
David Stewart | 22 | John Berger
Renee Krivoshein
Michelle Paine | 28 | Austin Hutcherson |
| 6 | Tammie Buchanan | 23 | Karen Skifstad
Matthew Wallace | 29 | Jerry Eyestone |
| 7 | Samantha Brink
Rich Eagon
Abigail Graves | | | 30 | Zarabeth Bierman |
| 8 | Steve Irwin | | | 31 | Scott Napier |



August Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Thomas & Valerie Vicari | 20 | Donavan & Karen Skifstad
Scott & Sheila Woelfle |
| 4 | John & Noralea Ordway
Ron & Kim Skifstad | 21 | Roy & Melanie Clark
Jeff & Mindy Neissl |
| 5 | Matt & Shaunna Bennett | 22 | Steve & Penny Hood |
| 6 | Ed & Zenada Voss | 23 | Raymond & Zelda Kelso
Rich & Kris Eagon |
| 8 | Bob & Phyllis Branscum | 24 | Rick & Carol Grubb |
| 10 | Kraig & Sharon Kushar | 25 | Myron & Wanda Rogers
David & Chalene Waltner |
| 11 | Delmer & Carolyn Criss
Dana & Vonette Miller | 27 | Dave & Sharon Hale
Randy & Carrie Knudson |
| 12 | Dave & Jean Conklin
Orvil & Gloria Wilson
Ron & Marilyn Groom | 30 | Dave & Stephanie Sept |
| 13 | Ike & Amy Freeman | 31 | Brent & Cailey Dumler |
| 16 | Jerry & Shirley Musick | | |
| 18 | John & Bridget Blom | | |

Monthly Events

- 3 Reception for Dumler Family after service
- 6 Willow Creek Leadership Conference
- 7 Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 9 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 11 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 12 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 14 Senior Adult Ministries 10:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16 Musick 50th Anniversary Celebration 1:00PM
- 19 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 21 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 23 Family Summer Fun Day 4:00 PM

Weekly Events

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

Thursday

- Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Friday

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



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welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”
(Matthew 18:1–5)

Jesus said we are to be like little children. What does that mean? Little children are dependent, needy, immature; sometimes selfish. They are also, at times, carefree, trusting, or humble. There is a difference between childish and childlike.

Brennan Manning, in his book *The Importance of Being Foolish*, helps us understand the cultural context of Jesus’ remark about being childlike. “*There is no mistaking that one must learn to resemble a child in order to enter the kingdom,*” he writes. “*But to grasp the full force of the phrase ‘like little children,’ we must realize that the Jewish attitude toward children in the time of Christ differed drastically from the one prevalent today. We have a tendency to idealize childhood, to see it as the happy age of innocence, insouciance, and simple faith. In the Jewish community of New Testament times, the child was considered of no importance, meriting no attention or favor.*”

How can we cultivate humility but still be people who exhibit the “joy of the Lord?” I believe the answer lies in our ability to play. Play forces us to loosen our grip on our ambitions, and our worries. It is a call to trust.

Summer lends itself to play—although few of us have the luxury of doing nothing but play. And like a child on endless summer vacation, we may find ourselves ready to complain of boredom if we have only play and no work. I believe God calls us to live our lives in a rhythm of work and rest. We do our work heartily, as if we were doing it for him, but then we enjoy the rest that comes in relationship with him. (See Matthew 11:28–30.)

Rest is not just collapsing. I believe many of us work so much because we don’t see the value of play. We don’t know how to play, or we bring such an intensity to it that it is not joyful, relaxing, or replenishing. If you are taking a vacation this summer, will you

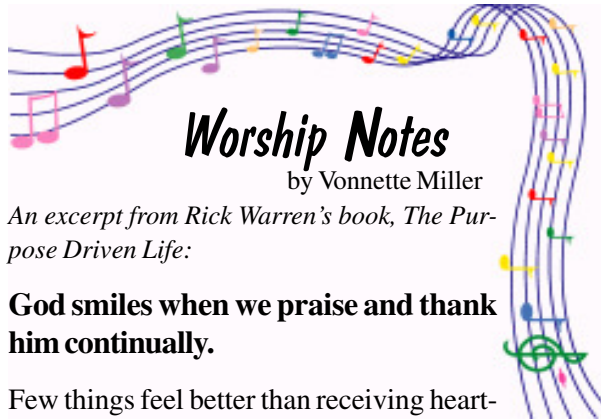


come home refreshed? Or more stressed?

Play is part of my Sabbath practice. In winter, that might mean a walk in the snow, or playing Scrabble in front of the fire. In summer, play shifts to outdoor activities that bring me joy while building relationships.

My kids and I play together in various ways—going for bike rides or going on adventures. Other times, simple pleasures like walking the dog together or playing a board game provide time to just connect. To play alone, I go to my garden, where I putter and plant, and notice the amazing creativity of God in everything from bugs to basil.

Play is an essential component of Sabbath Simplicity. If you’re not sure how this would look in your life, ask yourself this question: What do I like to do for fun? What’s rejuvenating and enjoyable? What activity, when I do it, causes me to forget about my stress and lose track of time? If you don’t know the answers to those questions, well, that’s something to pay attention to, because it may give you some clarity about where you are on your journey. Take some time to play this summer, and to see it not as a mindless escape or guilty pleasure, but as a spiritual practice that will help you grow in joy.



Worship Notes

by Vonnette Miller

An excerpt from Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*:

God smiles when we praise and thank him continually.

Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. He smiles when we express our adoration and gratitude to him.

Noah's life brought pleasure to God because he lived with a heart of praise and thanksgiving. Noah's first act after surviving the Flood was to express his thanks to God by offering a sacrifice. The Bible says, "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD . . . and sacrificed burnt offerings on it."

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we don't offer animal sacrifices as Noah did. Instead we are told to offer God "the sacrifice of praise" and "the sacrifice of thanksgiving." We praise God for who he is, and we thank God for what he has done. David said, I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD."

An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy!



REJUVENATION UPDATE

The building committee met with the city on July 31st. The results of this meeting will be made available to you as soon as possible.



Celebrate Recovery

By Melanie Clark

When I first started working a recovery program, I did it for someone else.

My own pain was too shameful. I didn't want to admit to myself what kind of hurts were happening in my life, let alone reveal it to others. After all, what would they think of me?

In my state of denial, I thought no one knew what I was going through, but they did. All I was doing by not reaching out was isolating myself. It took me a while to put the name of "denial" to what I was doing, but eventually God used lessons, scripture and a lot of love from a great group of people to show me where I was and what I needed to do for me.

We have a false belief that denying our pain keeps it at arms length, when in fact, it is the exact opposite. Denial just extends our pain and multiplies our shame and guilt. The answer to all this is simple. God created us to be in community and not to be alone. In Ephesians 4:25 he tells us, "Stop lying to each other; tell the truth, for we are parts of each other and when we lie to each other we are hurting ourselves." John Baker summed it up by saying that truth, like surgery, may hurt for a while, but truth brings a cure. God promises us the cure if we just reach out for the surgery. Jeremiah 30:17 says "I will give you back your health again and heal your wounds."

Remember, it is always better to tell the ugly truth than a beautiful lie and we are waiting to love you with God's grace.



Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Associate Pastor of Family Life — Brent Dumler
Student Ministries Pastor — Isaac Freeman
Worship Interim Pastor — Richard Easton

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