

# The Connection

Volume 6, Issue 3, March 2008

## The Empty Egg

Author Unknown

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool, and make grunting noises.

One day she called his parents and asked them to come in for a consultation. As the Forresters entered the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems."

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they had left. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family, she thought.



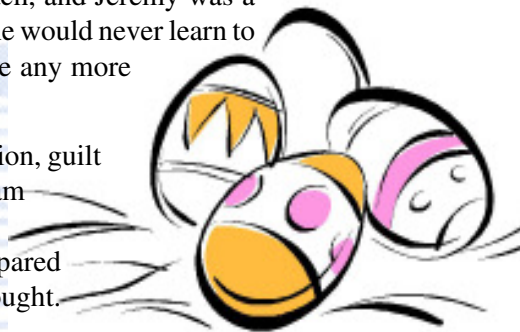
## REJUVENATION UPDATE

Results of the vote taken at the business meeting held February 3<sup>rd</sup> gave us a vote of confidence from the congregation to move forward with the remodeling of the northeast wing. Current schematic drawings are available on the website and a bulletin board in the foyer.

The building committee, Board of Elders and representatives of the CE Commission met on February 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the many suggestions which have been made by various members of the congregation. We were very successful in incorporating those ideas into the proposed facility. Thanks to all of you who have been so supportive, and who have given such well thought out advice.

February 8<sup>th</sup> we met with officials from the City of Walla Walla. The city officials will work with us to determine what, if any, street setbacks, curbs and gutters, fire hydrants, and sprinkler systems might be required. We also discussed installing fire doors to isolate the new facility.

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Skip Harrold, Pastor Dan and I met Jay Ramirez and Chris Hopkins, our designer, at the church. The city had asked us for specific square footage measurements which will be used to determine water requirements for hydrants and sprinklers. It will also fine



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## *From Your* Administrative Pastor

Spring will be here soon...we get to set our clocks ahead an hour on March 9<sup>th</sup>, we get to start cleaning up our yards and get the lawn mower ready to go for another season.

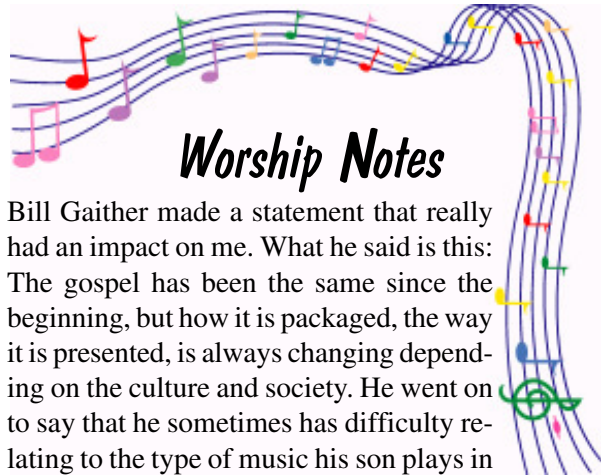
It is also budget planning time around the church. All commissions must have their 2008-2009 proposed budgets to me by Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. I will get them to the Board of Elders by April 16<sup>th</sup>. If you need help with this process, please contact me or Bob Loar.

Claudia and I will be gone March 26<sup>th</sup>-April 7<sup>th</sup>...keep us in your prayers as we take a much anticipated break. I love traveling with my wife. We have a great time together. She is such a blessing to me!

The Board of Elders will be headed to Wallowa Lake April 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>...pray for them and their spouses as they meet to get a little R & R.

The deadline for annual reports is May 30<sup>th</sup>. They will be released for distribution on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Our Annual Business Meeting is planned for June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Until next time...Pastor Dan II



## *Worship Notes*

Bill Gaither made a statement that really had an impact on me. What he said is this: The gospel has been the same since the beginning, but how it is packaged, the way it is presented, is always changing depending on the culture and society. He went on to say that he sometimes has difficulty relating to the type of music his son plays in church. It's a bit too aggressive for Bill. However, he admitted that he could not deny the fact that his son is reaching people that Bill will never be able to reach. We must admit that even though we may prefer some styles of music over others, the others are not necessarily wrong. Music is simply a cultural vehicle.

Dr. Judson Cornwall had been to tribal regions in Africa to minister. For the music portions of their worship services they use what he referred to as "steel bands," any large metal objects they can beat on to produce sound. Dr. Cornwall admitted that he preferred to have two aspirin before worshipping like that, but he could not deny the fact that the people were wholeheartedly giving themselves to God in worship. It was not his preferred style of music, but it was perfectly within the experience and understanding of that culture and society. (from *The Worship Leader's Handbook* by Tom Kraeuter)

Your Worship Commission wants to promote an atmosphere of praise for God within our congregation. Our vision is to be relevant to the current generation while still honoring the music of past generations. It is a challenging goal! We welcome your comments, concerns, and compliments.

Your worship commission members are: Elissa Stites, Melanie Berger, Vonette Miller, Dona Rahn, Marty Huie, Rod Harmon, and Nicole Redman.



by Pastor Sharon

### What if God made a TV Commercial?

What do television commercials mean to you? Are they a great time to grab a snack? Run to the bathroom? Finish that chore your mother is complaining about?

Television advertisements were created by companies to convey a message about a product, person, or service. The first television advertisement was broadcast in New York on July 1, 1941 for the Bulova Watch Company for \$9. Today, advertisers pay \$2.4 million for just 30 seconds of airtime on the Super Bowl to communicate an idea.

Now, what if some famous television commercials were transformed to communicate important concepts about God.

**God is like** Bayer Aspirin. . . He saves lives.

**God is like** a Ford. . . He has a warranty that works for you.

**God is like** Coke. . . He's the real thing!

**God is like** Tide. . . He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

**God is like** General Electric. . . He brings good things to life.

**God is like** Sears. . . He has everything.

**God is like** Scotch Tape. . . you can't see Him, but you know He's there.

**God is like** Allstate. . . You're in good hands.

**God is like** VO-5 Hairspray. . . He holds through all kinds of weather.

**God is like** Dial Soap. . . Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

**God is like** the U.S. Post Office. . . Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet or ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

Remember this Easter season how **God is like** Red Star Yeast. . . He guarantees to perform with consistency.

Have a blessed Easter!

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*I want to thank Don Groat, John Ordway, and Donny Snider for helping with extensive roof repairs caused by the early January windstorm. Thank you, Pete Erb, for the use of your equipment, which made our work much easier. I also want to thank all of you who responded to the call to help in various ways with your time, skills, and material possessions. All of this is a shining example of what living in community means — walking the talk.*

— George Thomaston, We Care Coordinator

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tune our next set of plans. The next morning this same group met to go over specific modifications we wanted made. Chris will be working on those revisions over the next two weeks or so, and Jay will work on factoring those changes into the estimated construction cost. We expect to have an update to present to the congregation sometime in early March.

We're making great progress! Thank you for your support, prayers and financial contributions.

In His service  
Larry Wachtel



## *Celebrating March Birthdays and Anniversaries*

12 Gary & Diane Miller  
 15 Daniel & Cheri Rockwell  
 19 Allen & Christine Alexander  
 21 Steve & Kathy Nelson  
 22 Rick & Neosha Guse  
 25 Rob & Joeline Voeks  
 27 Joshua & Brianna Branscum  
 28 Scott & Marcia Napier

1 Deanna Aichele  
 2 Humberto Miranda  
   Joseph West  
 3 Bill Saager  
   Michael Swenson  
 5 Andrea Pellicer  
 6 Leslie Culbertson  
   Penny Knight  
 7 Dee Haun  
   Dan Witherow  
 8 Mike Jones  
   Laura Schulz  
 9 Penny Filan  
   Nicholas Nelson  
 10 Ty McEuen  
   Ed Stites  
 11 Shari Greiner  
   Houston Sherrod  
   Ryan Tackett  
 12 Tansen Branscum  
 13 Cody Josifek  
   Lucas Larreau  
   John Ordway  
   Curtis Voeks  
 14 Bob Benfield  
   Joshua Voss  
 15 Bette Durham  
   Barbara Parker  
   Harold Raugust  
   Jesse Williamson

16 Zenada Voss  
   Betty Whitney  
 17 Cindy Stewart  
   Ashley Wallace  
 18 Wanda Augustine  
   Cheryl Drumheller  
   Ed Gossen  
 19 Michelle Montgomery  
 20 David Cline  
   Bethany Voss  
 21 Timothy McEuen  
   Kyle Miller  
   Linda Reyburn  
 22 Barbara Taylor  
   Jack Wallace  
 23 Jeraldine Emerick  
   Jeff Neissl  
   Bradley Nelson  
 24 Brailyn Alexander  
   Rod Harmon  
   Myranda York  
 25 Tony Gonzalez  
   Sharon Kushar  
   Caiden Leamy  
 26 Hunter Graves  
 27 Rebecca Hoppen  
   Sharon Loar  
   Michael Stewart  
 28 Gail Silva  
 29 Brandon McNeil  
   Karli Plucker  
 30 Janice Davisson  
   Don Redman  
   Cager York  
 31 Barbara Kinman  
   Wanda Rogers

## Special Days

- 9 Daylight-Savings Time begins
- 16 Palm Sunday
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 20 Maundy Thursday
- 21 Good Friday
- 23 Easter Sunday



**Pre-Renovation  
Used Book Sale!**  
All month long  
Check out Baker Hall for  
fantastic books at  
ridiculous prices

## Monthly Events

- 1 Leadership Lifter 10:00 AM
- 5- 8 Junior High Camp
- 6 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
- 8 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 10 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
- 11 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 13 MOPS 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 17 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 20 SAMS 10 :00 AM
- Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
- Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
- 23 Easter**
- 27 MOPS 9:00 AM

\* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries  
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

## Weekly Events

### Sunday

Families in Training 5:30 PM

### Tuesday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

### Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth Group 6:30 PM

### Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM

### Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM



**MARCH**

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Lord, please help me to be more patient with Jeremy. From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares.

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller," the children responded enthusiastically — all except for Jeremy. He listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment?

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My daddy helped me," he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his

parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up."

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the schoolyard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket... all of them empty.

Story taken from  
<http://gatewaytojesus.com/stlouischurchesmenu.html>



"Besides calling every Sunday 'Easter', does anyone else have ideas for improving church attendance?"



## *Celebrate Recovery*

by LaVonda Hinrichsen

Hi, my name is LaVonda. I'm a believer in Jesus Christ and I struggle with co-dependency and enabling. Yes, I'm the pastor's wife, I have hurts, habits and hung-up and I am one of those people. Celebrate Recovery has been such a blessing to me as I have worked on my issues and witnessed others as they have grown in their relationship with Christ.

CR is a place to build relationships. The step study groups I have been a part of have kept me accountable in my recovery. I have learned the importance of sharing my secrets because holding the secrets inside is hard on me physically.

God never planned for us to walk the road through life alone. Being a part of Celebrate Recovery and working the 12 steps has been life changing for me. Not only do I depend on my CR sisters, I also depend on God as it speaks of in Proverbs 3:5 & 6. God has directed me and I have grown spiritually because of this ministry. It has been so exciting to see how God has done such a transformation in people's lives and I would not give up my experience the past four years.

You might want to consider coming to CR and see how God is changing lives. He just might have something special for you to experience.

### **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.



## **From Pastor Ike**

I like it here in Walla Walla...if not for the simple reason that the weather keeps you guessing. Now I originally come from Centralia, Washington. Centralia is right smack in the middle of Seattle and Portland on I-5. Over there I became used to the consistency of the weather...I could rely on rain from the end of September to the middle of June. Then there is Walla Walla...I remember a night not too long ago when I had some things to do at the church and decided to just pull a late night. Well when I rode my scooter over to the church all of the snow and slush was deciding to re-freeze and it was getting cold. But, go figure, by the time I was done in my office and got all bundled up for what I thought would be a freezing scooter ride back home, I got outside and it felt like it was about 60 degrees outside and all of the snow was melting really fast. In our short time here in Walla Walla we have seen the sun, dry, rain, snow, dry, snow, dry, dry, snow, rain... its really starting to mess with me. Throwing me off my paradigm, and I like it!

The High School and Jr. High School students of BMCC are going on a summer mission trip to Guatemala. If you are student and you are interested, or you know of a student that may be interested you can find an "official" Guatemala mission trip application/info packet on the counter at Ministry Central.

Also there will be a Jr. High winter retreat on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>, at Ken Payne's family cabin at Lake Cle Elum. There should be a lot of snow, and some cold showers... not to mention good food, fun and Bible studies! The cost will be \$20.

Lastly on March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> is a conference called "Survive" put on by Dare 2 Share ministries, for High School students. More details TBA.



*Our Ministry Team*

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

A monthly publication of **Blue Mountain Community Church** 928 Sturm Ave., Walla Walla, Washington 99362, (509) 529-1212, [www.bluemountainchurch.com](http://www.bluemountainchurch.com), Editor: Julie Caton, [bmccbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bmccbulletin@gmail.com). Deadline for submissions: The second Wednesday of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Unsolicited materials welcome.  
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