

The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 4, April 2009

April 9th
Maundy Thursday Service
7PM Baker Hall

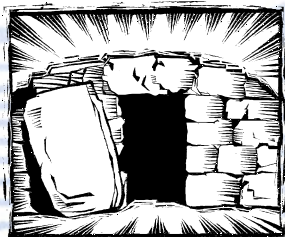
When Jesus met in the Upper Room with the disciples for the Passover meal, he washed their feet and encouraged them to wash each other's feet (John 13). Later that same night, Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion. Join us on this special evening as we carry on these remembrances.



April 12th

All are welcome at 7:00 AM to our first sunrise Easter service in the courtyard between the cafe and worship center. We will celebrate the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

If you feel like your life is stuck in winter — it might be time to take a fresh look at Easter. The holiday isn't about eggs and bunnies, but about a miraculous event that can renew your hope. This Easter we are going to explore the true story, its eternal implications and how it can make a real difference in your life today. Come join us and put some hope back into your spring. Services at 7:00 AM and 10:15 AM.



E A S T E R

Ner ocity

by Pastor Brent

Couples' Movie Night

Saturday, April 25th 4:00 PM Worship Center
Sherwood Pictures presents

FROM THE CREATORS OF FACING THE GIANTS

FIREPROOF

Here's what people are saying...

"Amazing! Action-packed, heartwarming, and a great resource to help strengthen and affirm marriages!"

Dr. Gary Smalley

"FIREPROOF is a beautiful picture of how God can use one partner to completely turn a seemingly hopeless marriage around. What an encouragement!"

Rebekah Land, Ph.D., Marriage and Family Therapist

"FIREPROOF went beyond my expectations! It captures the real-life issues of marriage in a moving, emotional, and riveting way. It inspires you to put your faith in action and fight for your marriage. I encourage anyone who is married or even thinking about getting married to see this movie."

Dr. Tony Evans, Senior Pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship

Please bring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! This is a great way to encourage and strengthen marriages in our community.

from Pastor Mike...

Spiritual Growth Is Not a Private Matter

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

Some of us hesitate to commit ourselves to developing an intentional plan of growth that requires accountability or relationship with others because we believe spiritual growth is a personal matter. We choose to believe each person develops in his or her own way at his or her own rate.



This is an aberration from the truth. The idolatry of individualism has influenced even the way we think about spiritual growth. So much of the teaching on spiritual formation is self-centered and self-focused without any reference to our relationship to other Christians.

This is completely unbiblical and ignores much of the New Testament. The truth is that Christians need relationships to grow. We don't grow in isolation from others. We develop in the context of fellowship.

Over and over again in the New Testament we find this basic truth: Believers need relationships with each other to grow! Hebrews 10:24-25 says, *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ...”* (NIV).

God intends for us to grow up in a family.



From Your Administrative Pastor

An article in the Winter 2009 Issue of the Viewpoint from Point Loma Nazarene University inspired me. It talked about spending: what we don't have, at the expense of others, to our own detriment, as communication and identity, and wisely and on others. But what I want to share is a section of the article that focused on six spiritual practices that put things in perspective.

1. **Embrace frugality:** Hebrews 13:5 reminds us not to love money; be satisfied with what we have, leading to contentment.
2. **Practice reflection:** Confession before God in prayer encourages us to be mindful of who we are and what we do. Fasting can also help us change our focus. See Phil. 4:12-13.
3. **Keep the Sabbath:** This practice provides a needed slowdown for physical, emotional and mental rest, as well as spiritual reflection and worship.
4. **Give thanks:** When we thank God for his many gifts, it helps us to remember what is important.
5. **Tithe:** We seem to have more money and less generosity. Tithing is a perpetual reminder that all we have is from God. It's obedience, and it sometimes requires denying our wants and trusting God's provision.
6. **Have faith:** Christianity offers an alternative means of shaping our identities, passions, and desires: faith in God.

This list of six spiritual practices can transform us in these uncertain economic times and help us to combat the dangerous excesses of our culture.

Upstreet Update

by Cailey Dumler

Thanks to Amy Freeman, UpStreet is transitioning quite smoothly. I appreciate the time she has invested in training me to lead this amazing team.

UpStreet provides children with the opportunity to build a trusting relationship with their small group leader. This format ensures a safe relationship in which the children are able to share trials and triumphs in a non-threatening environment. In addition, this program involves creative large group teachers, energetic hosts, and passionate worship leaders. We are also blessed to have an amazing registration team who are continually improving this process to ensure 100% safety. Multimedia is essential when teaching the next generation. Our technology assistants do a phenomenal job of providing this necessary teaching tool.

As you can imagine, it requires a TEAM to effectively teach these children God's Word on a weekly basis. 1 Corinthians 12:12 reads, "*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*" (NIV). There is power when the body comes together, utilizing the gifts God gave. Incredible things transpire when we are willing to serve others.

I'm inspired by the relationships that are growing as these leaders give of their time so unselfishly. Children arrive excited to learn God's Word and how to apply it to their lives each and every day!

If you would like to join our TEAM, either on a regular basis or as a substitute, please contact Cailey Dumler @ bd_empt@yahoo.com or 301-4797. I promise that you will be blessed. If you would like to observe what God is doing in UpStreet, you are always welcome.



Pacific Northwest Association of the Church of God
Strengthening Churches and Leaders for Mission

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new summer camp and conference beginning this year!

Climb is an event for the entire family, one that provides our churches a unique opportunity for renewal, fellowship and recreation. Special attention will be given to the equipping and strengthening of church leaders. Climb '09 will be held July 21-26 at Double K Christian Retreat Center, and will be preceded by the Senior Adult Camp, July 19-21.



Climb '09
PNA Camp and Conference

More information will be available on our website at www.pnacog.org/climb

At the Church Library

The Last Christian Generation
by Josh McDowell

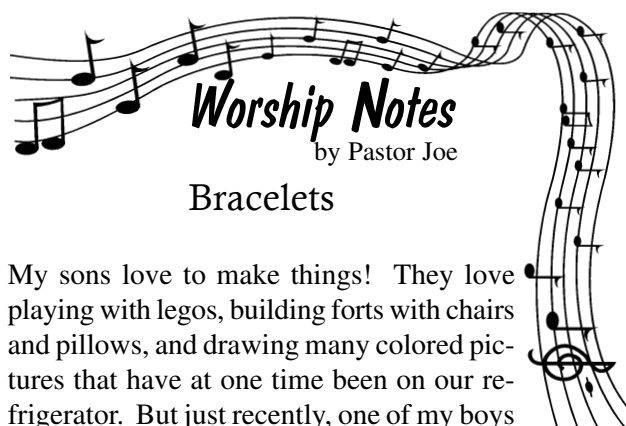
The majority of churchd young people do not believe Christ is the Son of God, do not believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity, and think "doing good" earns them a place in heaven. And just as disturbing is the fact that their attitudes and behavior are virtually no different than those of non-Christians.

The Last Christian Generation documents the urgency of the crisis but also provides a fresh revelation of the heart of God through seven lifelong responses of a true follower of Christ — a definitive "Christianity 101."

Celebrating April

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Bob Branscum
Gene Cowles
Brett Fleming
Seth Harris
Evan Jameson
David McDaniels
Dorothy VanStone</p> | <p>16 Allen Alexander
Pam Gregerson
Patty Harmon
Samuel Hinrichsen
Raymond Kelso
Pamela McBride
Tracy Shea
Matt Stephens</p> |
| <p>2 Nicole Culbertson
Joyce Paine
Carolee White</p> | <p>17 Christopher Eagon
Kayla Greiner
Larry Harris
Maddie Redman</p> |
| <p>3 Roy Clark
Grace Freeman</p> | <p>19 Wendy Baird
Ken Paine</p> |
| <p>4 Devin Howland</p> | <p>20 Timothy Hoppen
Betty Zier</p> |
| <p>6 Parker Eaglestone
Ernie Silva
Ariel Skifstad</p> | <p>21 Frank Trapani
23 Trey Erb
Paul Howard
Nya Neissl
Sierra West
Dan Wooton</p> |
| <p>7 Jami Brumbach
Marty Huie
Orvil Wilson</p> | <p>24 Angela Queen
Sonia Trapani</p> |
| <p>8 Brianna Elmore
Aimee Royse</p> | <p>25 Emily Redman
26 Zeana Miranda
Andrew Paine</p> |
| <p>9 Mike Adkins
Vic Phillips</p> | <p>27 Bob Stewart
Bill Whipple
28 Connor Dumler
29 Cindy Houk
Devin Paine
Jason Vicari</p> |
| <p>10 Donna Hendricksen
Mary Luisi</p> | <p>30 Scott Graves
Anna Pettyjohn
Robert Rice</p> |
| <p>12 Kailee Davisson</p> | |
| <p>13 Sandy Goodson</p> | |
| <p>14 Kyle Jameson</p> | |
| <p>15 Dorothy Palmer</p> | |
| <p>9 Don & Carolyn Groat</p> | |
| <p>12 Paul & Janice Davisson</p> | |
| <p>18 Ernie & Gail Silva</p> | |
| <p>21 Jim & Debi Evans</p> | |
| <p>21 Marty & Susan Huie</p> | |
| <p>23 Jeremy & Andrea Pellicer</p> | |
| <p>28 Gary & Kim Burns</p> | |



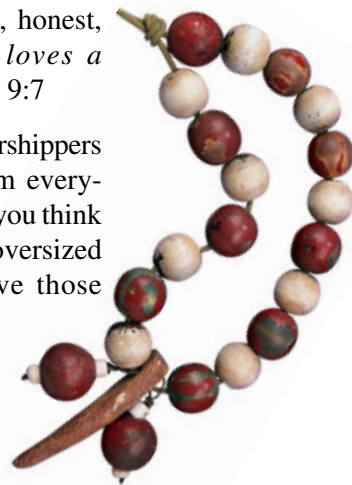
Bracelets

My sons love to make things! They love playing with legos, building forts with chairs and pillows, and drawing many colored pictures that have at one time been on our refrigerator. But just recently, one of my boys made me a present, a bracelet. They were making some for themselves and thought I would really like one. As he gave it to me, I was so thankful!

The bracelet was way too big, not exactly the most stylish jewelry, but I couldn't have loved it more! I quickly put it on, and left it on all day, through work, at the gym, and during worship practice. My son asked, "Dad, why are you still wearing that?" "It was a gift from you," I said, "and I love it!"

God loves our gifts! Life worship is a gift that we can give. So often, I think that what I have to give to God is insignificant, too small, and probably not as stylish as some others' offerings. But I am convinced that our God in Heaven has a similar heart for His children that I have for mine. God is not so much concerned with the gift as our hearts. He loves to receive any gift of worship from a loving, honest, joyful heart. "God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7

May we all be lavish worshippers of our God! Give Him everything you have, even if you think it's about as good as a oversized bracelet...Daddies love those sorts of things!





To tithe or not to tithe?

by Kathy Nelson

My husband and I made the leap of faith to tithe first and trust God for the rest. We have never regretted that decision — even through rough times. Malachi 3:10 says, “*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.*

Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’” This is the only time God says it is okay to test Him. This true story from our lives proves God’s trustworthiness.

Payday came and I wrote out our tithe check and the bills. I did not have enough money to pay one bill or to purchase a sweatshirt my son needed. I had a choice — adjust my tithe check so that I could solve this problem myself or trust the Lord. I told the Lord, “I trust you. I don’t see how this is going to work, but you say to test you in this and I am.” A few days went by and nothing happened.

One morning a friend handed me a check. She said, “This is from Jesus.” This was enough to pay the bill, buy the sweatshirt and cover any other expenses until the next paycheck. I told her I could not possibly take this money. She graciously and boldly told me that it was from Jesus and I couldn’t give it back!

I then had to present this gift to my husband — a hard thing for any man to accept. I explained that my friend had been led by the Lord to give this gift and we couldn’t refuse. It was sweet to see my husband humble himself and accept what the Lord had provided. I know without a doubt that if I had not tithed first, then God would not have led my friend to give. I would have robbed her and my family of the blessing that comes from obeying the Lord.

The moral of the story? You can never out give God. Be obedient to what the Lord lays on your heart regarding giving to others. Steve and I trust God’s faithfulness regarding our finances. We faithfully tithe and know that God will return our faithfulness with His own. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*If God is doing something amazing in your life that you want to share, please write it up and send it to
bmcc_newsletter@charter.net.*



IN ONE SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION, PASTOR KEN WIPES OUT THE MYTHS OF SANTA CLAUS AND THE EASTER BUNNY.

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Women's Ministry

by Cailey Dumler

Coming Events!!!

Beth Moore Conference

April 17-18 Rose Quarter in Portland, OR

Cost: \$60/person + hotel and meals

Contact Cailey Dumler if interested:

bd_emt@yahoo.com or 301-4797.

Women of Faith Conference

May 29-30 Spokane, WA

Cost: \$99/person (includes Friday and Saturday lunches)

Contact Carolee White if interested at 525-1650

The Ladies BUNCO night proved to be a HUGE success! 38 women arrived on February 28 for laughter, fellowship, and encouragement. Approximately 13 of those women do not attend BMCC...most of those did not claim to have a church home. It was beautiful to witness women genuinely enjoying each other's company, welcoming others in with open arms.

My prayer for Women's Ministry is that we can love those within our church family and our community, and seek ways to help hurting hearts to heal. In addition, it is imperative that we disciple others, empowering them to use the gifts and talents that God so graciously gave to us as His cherished children.

"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."

Hebrews 10:23-25



Celebrate Recovery

by Mark Farr

Principle 8: Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.

Before I got into recovery 17 years ago my mindset was, "what can I get out of life?" Everything revolved around having fun and partying. Life never seemed to be fair to me as my addiction to alcohol progressed. I became increasingly self absorbed with my problems and didn't seem to have time or compassion for yours.

One of the first things I learned in recovery was I needed to get beyond myself and the best way to do that was to volunteer to help others in some way. My first thought was, "I don't really want to. Besides, someone else will do it." But I wanted to change and God was now in control of my life, as much as I would allow at that time. So I helped by putting up chairs after meetings. That was my first experience with being in service and it felt good.



Through the years I have come to realize the importance of being in service to others. I "need" to be in service. I need humility in my life. God calls me to serve others. John 13:14-15 *"And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each others feet. I have given you an example to follow: do as I have done for you."*

Today I can honestly say that I get my greatest fulfillment out of serving the Lord by serving others. It isn't always easy and it isn't always fun, but God is pleased when I do. And when I'm in the middle. . . it's harder to fall off the edge.

How to Make a Good First Impression

by Jean Conklin

How do you feel when you walk into a group meeting for the first time? Awkward? Self Conscious? Conspicuous? Unwelcome? Lost?

When people walk into BMCC for the first time, we want them to feel welcome and at home! As they drive onto our grounds, are greeted at the door, take their children to the nursery or Sunday school, and get settled in the sanctuary, we want to provide an environment where people experience a friendly face, a genuine welcome, and get the information they need to make their worshipping experience meaningful.

Visitors make their decision about a church within the first 3-4 minutes. First impressions do matter! A warm welcome greatly enhances worship and community even before the worship service begins. It's no accident that our "greeters" have become the new "First Impression Team." Greeters experience the joy of saying hello to visitors as well as regular attenders.

Our "First Impression" team is growing, and we have room for more. We would like to have larger teams before and after services to provide a more personal welcome - to connect better with everyone!

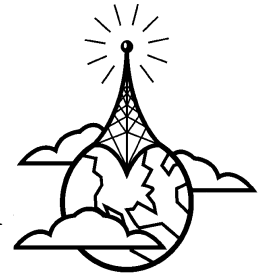
Do you like to meet new people and make them feel at home? BMCC's First Impression Team might be a good fit for you! Or maybe you would just like to 'test drive' the experience? Contact the coordinator, Jane Harrold - 525-8536 - skipjane@charter.net. Jane would love to hear from you!

Newsletter Deadline

Articles are always welcome from any member of Blue Mountain Community Church. Submit it to bmcc_newsletter@charter.net. The deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips



See the Vision

All missionaries have three basic needs: prayer, money and communication with their supporters. The Missions Commission wants to share the needs of our missionaries and encourage you to support their basic needs. Below are specific requests from just a few of our missionaries.

Flying H Youth Ranch

New phone system. Cost: \$5,000.

Uganda - Michelle Paine

Thank you for your support and prayers. I have been blessed by your love for me and the People of Uganda. We are beginning our school year and my role is changing at the school. Please pray that I can find my place and how best to help the school.

I'm adjusting well to life here. A visit from my dad and brother, Devin, exposed them to my daily experiences.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

These are a small example of the needs of the missionaries you support. There are many more. To get more information about missionary needs, stop by the missions table in the hallway between buildings or contact Vic Phillips at vicphillips@charter.net.

Monthly Events

- 1 Youth Mud Football 12:00 PM
- 2 SAMS* 10:00 AM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 7 Men's Ministry Meeting 6:00 PM
- 8 Commission Budget Requests Due**
- 9 MOPS * 9:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
- 11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 12 Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
- 13 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 16 SAMS* 10:00 AM
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 21 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
- 23 MOPS * 9:00 AM
- 25 Youth Game Night 7:00 PM

* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries

MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Group 6:00 PM

Financial Peace University 6:00 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 Group 7:00 PM

Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM