

# The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 10, October 2009

## Harvest Carnival Returns

By Dana Miller

It's not too early to be thinking about it! Blue Mountain Community Church will be hosting our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest Carnival on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

This event is one of our largest outreaches to the community. It is open to all youth and adults in the Walla Walla valley, and there is no cost to attend. This is our church's opportunity to provide a safe and fun alternative to traditional trick or treating. It is also a great way to introduce families who might not attend church or have a church home to Blue Mountain Community Church.

Jesus promises in John 12:26 (NASB) that, "*If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*" What a wonderful promise and challenge for those who wish to be His hands and feet!

How can I help?

**Pray!** Please pray that this event may bring families and students to Jesus and the relationship He longs to have with anyone who seeks Him.

**Sign Up!** Look for sign up sheets coming the first week of October to help run game booths, registration, hospitality, clean up, etc. Most jobs only need about an hour and a half of your time!



**Bring Candy!** We need your donations of bagged candy (no lollipops, please!) Please bring bagged candy to the church office during business hours or to Pastor Brent Dumler.

**Donate!** If you are a business owner or manager, we would appreciate donations of gift certificates and/or prizes. These prizes may be raffle giveaways or for use in a silent auction to benefit church ministry projects.

Feel free to contact Pastor Brent at church or Dana Miller at (509) 629-0331 with any questions about the event.



*From Your*  
Administrative Pastor

I was reading Psalms this morning (09.09.09) in my devotions and paused to let the following verse resonate. V.14 says this...Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace and work to maintain it.

I need to realize that evil is going to confront me constantly. I must choose to turn away from it and oppose it by doing good. I would see the phrase "doing good" as doing the things that would honor and please God.

Searching is an adventure. It is intentionally looking for something and in this particular verse, we are reminded to intentionally look for peace. And then when we find it, it takes work to maintain it.

Peace sometimes doesn't come easily...it can seem very hard to find. It is only when we allow the Holy Spirit to help us search for it that we will find it.

To maintain something, we must give it constant attention. To maintain peace we must learn what God's peace maintenance program is for each of us and follow it. Following it will require focus and obedience.

Until next time...  
Pastor Dan Huntley II

Dear BMCC Members

I feel that as members of Blue Mountain Community Church we must forgive, let go and move forward. Mike and LaVonda will be sorely missed by myself and Bill. God has told them to move on and we must all respect that directive. Don't let this wonderful Church be split by this.

We come to Church to worship the Holy word of our Living God and the trinity, not a building, and not a person. We all wish Mike and LaVonda well and wish they could return but if they can not then God go with them. He has another road for them to walk.

As my Mother always said "When one door closes another will open and it will be much better." Bill and I will respect Mike and LaVonda's decision, wish them well and put the pure white light of the Christ around them. Then send them in what ever direction God is leading them. Please remember "If you are in the drivers seat and Jesus is in the passenger seat, change seats." Life will go a lot smoother and a lot simpler.

With Love  
Lydia and Bill Whipple



*Women's Ministry*

WELL . . . It's "In the Bag"

October 26      6:30 PM  
Baker Hall

## Faith Promise Weekend October 17 & 18, 2009

### David Pavish ignites Faith Promise Weekend

By Jeanne Fox

This year's Faith Promise speaker is David Pavish, Area Director of Young Life in Galena, Alaska. David is the grandson of the late LaVerne Pavish and the nephew of Don and Leila Lynch. Also serving in Galena are his sisters Karrie and Kim.

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.

School began in Galena on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> with over 200 high school students registered, a major increase over last year. Not only is the student body much bigger this year, but also nearly 100 of the students are new to the boarding school and Galena. The Lord has given them a huge opportunity to deliver the Gospel to village teens this school year!

In the face of this literal flood of teens, David and the Young Life volunteers are excited about the great ministry opportunity the Lord has given to them. However, they'll need strength and encouragement to keep from feeling overwhelmed by all the new names, personalities, and family histories to keep track of while they work to develop relationships with teens.

### Faith Promise...The Eyes of Faith

from the Church of God website

Perhaps the most amazing thing that happens in Faith Promise is not what God does for us, but it is that we begin to see what God is always doing for us.

Sure, the history of Faith Promise is filled with stories of people promising to make a difference and God answering that faith with so many blessings.

"I wanted to help, so I chose an amount to give and watched with joy for all the little unexpected blessing and opportunities to find the money for my commitment. How I found those opportunities! It was fun!"

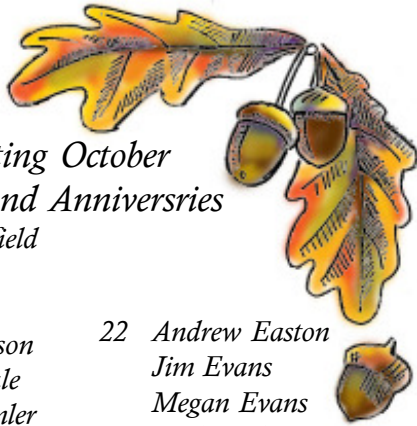
"I wanted my children to see that giving is a priority and how God works in our lives. Every time I saw God's blessing, it was an opportunity for a lesson for my kids."

Yet perhaps the real miracle in Faith Promise comes as we learn to see the many ways God blesses us. We fail to see not because we are selfish, but because we simply do not notice.

When we make the Faith Promise commitment, it is not that God has changed anything; it is that we have changed. We begin to see how God can use us and that there are resources all around us if only we would see.

In Faith Promise, many of us will have our eyes opened as we learn to see through the eyes of faith, the eyes of possibility. We are not blind, and yet the miracle is that he helps us see.

REACH UP  
Reach out



*Celebrating October Birthdays and Anniversaries*

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Diane Benfield    |                          |
| Kyle Erb            |                          |
| Bill Luisi          |                          |
| Elijah Wilson       | 22 Andrew Easton         |
|                     | Jim Evans                |
| 4 Nathan Hale       | Megan Evans              |
| 6 Cailey Dumler     | 23 Nathaniel Rice        |
| Irene Fisher        | Jaela Rucker             |
| Don Lynch           | Ron Skifstad             |
| 7 Syvila Priday     | Rebecca Stewart          |
| Julie Wooton        | 24 Evelyn Cornelius      |
| 8 Francesca Cannone | 25 Jillian McDaniels     |
| 9 Kriss Pettyjohn   | Karen Nielsen            |
| 10 Alijha Robertson | Noralea Ordway           |
| 11 Scott Leamy      | 27 Sara Erb              |
| Lorene Buff         | Amanda Agrellas          |
| David Houk          | Frank Johnson            |
| Alison Knight       | 28 Brandon Hoppen        |
| Bonnie Raugust      | 29 Alyvia Huntley        |
| Houston Rice        | 31 AJ Bennett            |
| 12 Levi Haen        |                          |
| Delmer Criss        |                          |
| 13 Teri Stewart     |                          |
| Laura McNeil        |                          |
| 14 Michael Baird    | 3 Cary & Dona Rahn       |
| 15 Joshua Dumler    | 5 Glen & Bernice Shivley |
| Wayne Kaaen         | 6 Glenn & Rosalie Vogt   |
| 16 Tanner Baslee    | 12 Rick & Brenda Jones   |
| 17 Jeremy Groat     | 15 Skip & Jane Harrold   |
| Gary McAlvey        | 20 Mike & Pat Hanford    |
| 18 Kathy Wallace    | 21 Jack & Tracy Shea     |
| 19 Steve Drumheller | 23 Jerold & Doris Cook   |
| 20 Nicole Redman    | 29 Don & Nicole Redman   |
| Nate Swisher        | Earl & Connie Stanley    |
| 21 Sonia Walker     |                          |

# PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

by Karen Skifstad

October 25th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We have the opportunity to show our pastors how much they are appreciated. Baskets for cards will be placed in the Narthex.

Ephesians 4:8-13 reads, *“When Jesus ascended to the heights, He led a parade of captives and gave gifts to His people . . . He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. . .”*

When Jesus celebrated His victory over sin and death He chose to send gifts to those He set free. He could have chosen to give us anything: knowledge, spiritual growth, protection from the evil one, or even comfort during trials. In the end, he chose to give us all these things because, pastors, HE CHOSE TO GIVE US YOU.

With prayer and repentance, let’s serve our pastors with love, so they will feel encouraged and valued, enabling them to continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy. Do something special this month to show them how much you care!

*continued from page 1*

## *Fish and Loaves Ministry*

by Dyan Nelson

A little over a year ago my husband accepted a new job here in Walla Walla. Even though the pastor at our church in California knew we were getting ready to move, shortly after our second son was born, he arranged for meals to be delivered to our family. I remember how relieved I felt knowing that dinner was going to be provided right up to the day we moved. More importantly, I remember how blessed I felt knowing that there were people who cared so deeply for us. I felt guilty we wouldn't be able to give back in some way, but my husband gently reminded me we would have the opportunity to give back at our new church.

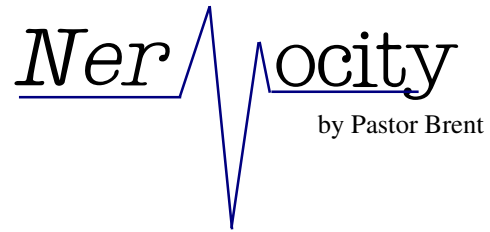
We started attending Blue Mountain Community Church in the Fall of 2008 and I made my first meal for a family in need in January 2009. After making a meal for this family, I knew I had a passion for making meals for families in our church during difficult and/or life changing times. Needless to say, when I volunteered to help with this ministry, I never imagined I would actually be asked to lead it.

I didn't think I would ever be asked to oversee a ministry like this because, quite frankly, I thought the "two fish and five loaves of bread" I had to offer were inadequate to provide for the needs of the church body. However, the story of the two fish and five loaves taught me that what we have, as little as it may seem, is more than enough when in the hands of Jesus. I knew I had to open my heart and my hands and allow the Lord to multiply what I had to give for His glory. I have only been working with this ministry for a short time, how-



ever over the past few months I have witnessed volunteers from our church body minister to others in amazing ways through the simple act of making a meal.

And while I knew how it felt to receive meals during a difficult time in my life, I never imagined how rewarding it would be to give back to other families in need. If you have a heart for giving and/or like to cook, this ministry is always looking for more volunteers. Also, if you know of a family in need, please contact me at 876-2530 or [sdbanelson@charter.net](mailto:sdbanelson@charter.net).



## New Family Life Ministries!!

“**Climb**” is a new ministry resource for Single Parents. Some topics may include dating, how to raise your kids by yourself, dealing with loss, etc. The next “**Climb**” is on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

“**Link**” is a new ministry resource for Blended Families. Some topics may include how to deal with your ‘Ex’ in your new marriage, who parents who’s kids, etc. The next “**LINK**” is on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

Childcare will be provided through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and by RSVP only. Please contact the church office by noon on the prior Monday to register for the ministry you plan to attend. Pastor Brent would also like to address specific issues that families are dealing with @ BMCC. Please email him or drop a quick note at his office door with ideas.

Dear Friends of Blue Mountain Community Church,

Mark and I want to thank you for your warm welcome while we were in the states this summer. It is such a blessing to come back to our home church and feel welcomed and loved. Many of you went out of your way to share a meal with us or take time to chat. Others opened their homes to our family and organized get-togethers. We are so thankful to have you as our church family.

We also want to thank you for your donations and coffee purchases. We are looking at personally financing four students in school this year and the coffee donations will cover almost two-thirds of that expense! You will be helping to send Ronnie and Geydi to middle-school and Eric and Jocelyn to elementary school! Your donations to our work through Emmanuel’s Heart and for our personal support through CTEN are a huge blessing. Without the personal support we wouldn’t be able to be here to serve. We appreciate your prayers and encouragement for our work here. Know that you also are in our prayers.

God bless you,

Mark, Kim, Amanda, Megan and Zachary Agrellas

### Newsletter Deadline

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



## Celebrate Recovery

By Teri Stewart

Gary and I just got back from vacation. After a couple days, I noticed that we were joking around with each other. We waited on each other and shared whole days together full of laughter and relaxation. I realized that we have been so busy with work and service that we hadn't done much of that lately. It was awesome to have the time to enjoy my husband and have fun like we did in our early days.

We spent time in a beautiful place and after an incredible day, we spontaneously thanked God for the breathtaking world He created just for us. We prayed for our friends and our church, but much of our prayer was thanks and recognition of our awesome God. There just is **no** better place to see God at work than in nature.

In our CR workbook it calls us to take inventory throughout the day, daily, (meaning at beginning or end of the day), and then periodically. It says we need to get away for a mini-retreat every few months. We need to use that time to review our lives, and together with God to deal with what happens in our daily living.

Having fun with Gary made me really think. I believe that when we take a mini-retreat time and share our lives, hopes, sorrows, and regrets with God – that maybe He says things like, “Wow it’s been so long since we have laughed together, so

long since we connected.” I can imagine the joy and relief He feels when we **take extra time** and choose to spend it with Him. I can imagine Him saying, “I guess he/she **does** still care about me,” and – “what an **incredible** day we had.”

I feel better equipped to deal with our busyness now that I’ve had vacation. I can imagine God dealing with all the sorrow and negativity of the world and yet feeling better after a good mini-retreat with one of His children that takes time to praise Him and give Him credit for all He does.



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## *Weekly Events*

### **Sunday**

Middle School Youth 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth 7:00 PM

### **Thursday**

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

### **Friday**

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

## *Monthly Events*

- 1 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 8 MOPS 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 11 CLIMB 7:00 PM
- 12 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 15 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Missions Commission 6:30 PM
- Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- 17 Faith Promise Dinner 6:00 PM
- 19 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22 MOPS 9:00 AM
- 25 LINK 7:00 PM
- 26 The WELL 6:30 PM