



The Connection

Volume 9, Issue 8, August 2011

Missions Trip Planning Begins

by Ken Paine

The mission trip team had their first meeting on Monday night, July 18. We met with Mark and Kim Agrellas to talk about what to expect in Guatemala, and discussed many aspects of the trip. We then talked about commitment, team building, fundraising, and trip costs. We'll be meeting at least monthly (the third monday of each month - this month it will be Aug 15, at 6:00pm for a potluck) to start setting goals, plan fundraisers, do some team building, pray, and prepare for the trip. It's very important that those planning on going on the trip attend as many of these meetings as possible, so put this on your calendar. We also appreciate all the prayer coverage we can get as we go through this process.



Summer Celebration on the Way

by Julie Caton

August 28th



Games 3:00 PM

Potluck 5:00 PM

Bring a salad or dessert

Service 6:00 PM

Come and celebrate a year of change and growth. In the afternoon, we'll play volleyball, Frisbee, and maybe bring out the slip and slide. Hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments and drinks provided by BMCC — please bring a side dish, salad or dessert and your own chairs. In the evening we will celebrate with music, sharing, and maybe some baptisms.

Building & Grounds Update

by Larry Wachtel

Our refurbished youth kitchen area is finally nearing completion! The new cabinets and countertops are now in and just need to have the tile grouting completed. The new flat screen TV monitor has been hung and just needs to have the speakers attached. Final trim painting should be completed in the next week. Special thanks go out to Steve Leamy for the exceptional work on the cabinets and countertops. We continue to explore ways to get the pool table resurfaced, as it is in very poor shape.

Our outside painting project continues – with the north end of the building slated to be painted beginning August 15th. The front (east side) of the church office wing will be painted soon as well.

Hopefully you've all noticed the new flat screen monitors which have been installed as you come in the main sanctuary entrance and the entrance near the church office wing. These monitors will assist in giving you the latest information on all that is going on at BMCC.

Next we'll be replacing the worn siding and windows on the west wall of Baker Hall. The sun has deteriorated the existing siding so badly that simply re-painting the wall won't work. Since we're replacing the siding, it only makes sense to replace the old single pane windows with more energy efficient insulated units. We plan to schedule a work party weekend for this project soon.

Another project soon to be tackled will be some much needed reinforcing in the barn. Pressure treated posts will be added to help support the second floor.

Notes from the Board

by Debbie Sands and Bret Larreau

The following are some highlights from last month's board meeting:

- We will be selling some of our stocks/assets and using the proceeds to further the ministry goals of the church.
- Julie Caton is now our full time Director of Ministry Development. She will be working with ministry leaders to help them reach their goals and communicate their events throughout the church.
- Hopefully, you all had a chance to meet Jason Kelske, a potential youth pastor and have joined us in praying for Pastor Jim's wisdom in choosing who comes on to his staff.
- We are making progress on defining our guiding principles. One of three areas has been completed.
- Starting this fall, we will be offering two worship services. The Sunday morning service will continue and the plan is to add an informal service on Sunday evenings in the youth area. One of the purposes of an additional service is to encourage people to "serve one, attend one."
- Repairs to the parking lot are needed. We are assessing plans to fix the north and east parking lots at a cost of approximately \$75,000.
- Building and Grounds is also working on painting the outside of the building and are in the process of getting bids for the project.
- Many thanks to everyone who participated in the week of fasting and prayer for Children's Ministry. We are hoping great growth for this critical part of our church.

The Beauty of Pain

by Julie Caton

I am broken and restored, in ways I don't understand. Even as I write this it boggles my mind, how can I be grateful for being broken? But there is no mistaking the joy and freedom and thanks in my heart for my brokenness. This is my story.

I had a wonderful life: marriage to a caring husband, the gift of a beautiful child, it was much like happily ever after. Then one day, my body failed. At first I believed I had overextended myself. Rest brought no improvement. As a matter of fact, it only made the pain worse. The pain and the fatigue drained me everyday. I was an invalid. And I feared it would last forever.

No matter how technologically advanced we are, how many things we've discovered, so much of modern medicine is poking in the dark, guessing at what might be going on. I felt like a medical experiment as I went through tests and treatments for a year and a half, finding no answers.

In my best moments, I prayed for healing. I knew all the stories where Jesus healed people because they asked. So I asked. Day after day. No response. In my worst moments, I imagined slowly withering away as my body chewed itself to death. It was during this darkness that I clung to God's promises when I couldn't see clearly. Clung to hope when all is hopeless. It was also at this time that I had to accept help from others. Being physically incapable of helping another, I found great blessing in accepting the aid that I knew I needed.

At long last, I started to find relief. Now the pain was held at bay, but by powerful medicine that came

through injections. Did I mention that I'm needle phobic? Because of my fear, I depended on friends to give me my medicine.

This state of affairs continued for years. I had stopped praying for healing. Obviously if God hadn't answered my request by now, He wasn't going to. So I decided to accept it and learn from it. In this time I learned compassion for others' pain. I learned strength, fortitude and forbearance in ways only chronic pain teaches. I learned about true friendship, that rides the waves with you.

I met a woman who shares my particular malady. Her gnarled hands are the result of a lifetime struggle. But I was struck by her joy and enthusiasm for life, her energy and effervescence. If she could go through life with my pain and have so much joy, why couldn't I?

Once I learned to embrace my lifelong struggle, the disease loosened its hold on me. I weaned from the dependency on medicine, and now I have stopped taking it altogether. I have not felt this healthy in seven years. The medical, scientific part of me knows that this relief will not last forever, but instead of worrying about how or when it will come back I choose to be thankful for the reprieve and believe that God answered my long abandoned request.

The truth is that I am blessed beyond imagining. My all powerful God loves me, knows what I can handle, pushes me to the brink and even a little bit further to show me just how far I can trust Him. My God is bigger than my disease and He can do what he wants with it, increasing or decreasing pain as He sees fit to show me the world I need to see. That sounds like an amazing adventure that I wouldn't miss, for all the pain it may cost.

Connecting to Ministries

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Everyone is invited! Meet Friday nights at 7:00 PM to share in support and encouragement to conquer your hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Dinner provided the fourth Friday each month at 6:00 PM for a small donation.

Senior Adult Ministries meets August 18th at 10:00 AM. Anyone 55 years or older is welcome to come and see what they're all about. Laughter is the best medicine. Come join in the fun and fellowship.

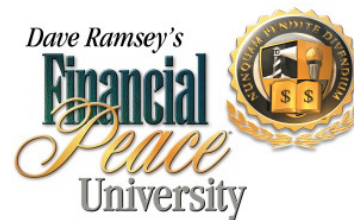
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Christmas Is Almost Here!

by Pete Erb

I know it really isn't. But it seems like it just sneaks up on us and BANG there it is! As I write this, we just had our first big meeting to plan our next mission trip to Guatemala. We now have to plan for Christmas and big down payments for travel. As we talked and planned the numbers are staggering. Thirty people want to go and that means we need upwards of sixty thousand dollars of airfare and donation costs. Yeah, I said it \$60,000!



I will be kicking off a new session of Financial Peace University in September. The planning is intentional -- we

kick off in September to finish before Christmas so that we can all have habits in place for the New Year. We can have a plan for Christmas.

God wants us to be free and what better present is there than to begin with a plan of financial restraint and the gift of financial freedom going into 2012? Watch the monitors around the church for information. We will have some informational meetings before the kickoff on September 8th. The classes will follow every Thursday night (except Thanksgiving) through December 8th. For the investment of under \$100 you can have your family on a whole new financial path. If you have been through the class before I am looking for co-leaders to help others find their way! Just give me a call at 301-9219.

Connecting to the next Generation

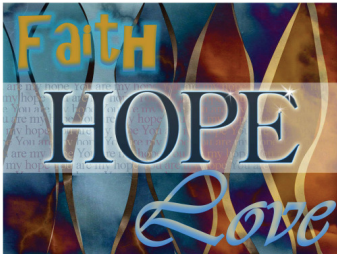
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Youth Happenings

by Ken Paine

In August the high school and middle school groups will go back to meeting on a weekly schedule (contrary to information you may have received earlier), with a few exceptions. Middle school will meet Sunday evenings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on July 31, Aug 14, and Aug 21. On the 7th, there will be no middle school youth because of the high school trip, and on the 28th is the all-church barbeque. High school group will meet Thursdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Aug 11, 18, and 25. We won't have it on the 4th because we're leaving for camp the next day, and we won't have it on Sept 1 because of the fair.

High school summer camp is Aug 5 through 8. The theme is 'Faith, Hope, and Love', the cost is \$50, and it's a great time to swim, canoe, hike, play on the beach, study what God has to say about the theme, and of course, eat. Contact Ken Paine (386-4959 or youth@blue-mountainchurch.com) by Aug 2 if not already signed up. Participants need to memorize Romans 5:1 - 5.



I hope to schedule a Jubilee Lake trip at the end of August or early September to kick off the new school year. Watch the bulletin for details.

Keep praying for the youth as the summer winds down and a new school year begins.

What's Happening at. . .

by Candy Whittaker

The month of August we will have 2 week-long camps. One week we will have a Culinary camp. Some of the things we will



be doing that week is making bread and dessert as well as preparing an ethnic meal. Dance and Music camp will involve learning about different instruments and having musicians come and demonstrate their instrument. The classes will make instruments and learn about different ways to dance.

Fall Registration is now open. We are accepting enrollment in all classes.

We have two Preschool classes. Our Otters class (formerly the Ducklings) is designed for 2 1/2—3 year olds and our Pandas class is for 4 year olds. Most of the curriculum is centered around themes. Activities related to the theme may include crafts, baking, language arts, movement, art, music and more. Children learn by doing so our goal is to make everything a learning experience.

Our Before and After School program is an activity based program. Some of the activities offered are arts and crafts, science and math experiences, cooking, sports, games and more.

We are excited about our program! Our classes are fun, creative and geared to the child's development level. The teachers love what they are doing and have fun working with the children at their level.

Please give us a call or visit our website if you are interested in Preschool or Before-After-School Care.

Connecting to One Another

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Celebrating August Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Julianne Hoppen | | 4 | John & Noralea Ordway |
| | Robert Taylor | | | Ron & Kim Skifstad |
| | Burl Wallace | | 5 | Matt & Shaunna Bennett |
| | Katheryn Watson | | 6 | Ed & Zenada Voss |
| | Samuel Watson | | 8 | Bob & Phyllis Branscum |
| 2 | Matt Bennett | | 9 | Pete & Sara Erb |
| | Laura Rice | 16 | Vi Loar | |
| | | | Jodi Stewart | |
| 3 | Jim Tackett | 17 | Wes Hibner | |
| | Larry White | | Lee Lynch | |
| 4 | Carolyn Criss | 18 | Shelby Grewell | |
| | Matthew Hutcherson | | Robin Sherrod | |
| 5 | Kelsie Davisson | 19 | Robin Harris | |
| | Florence Lamb | | Vonette Miller | |
| | Erica Rice | 22 | Renee Krivoshein | |
| | Jennifer Stephens | | Michelle Paine | |
| 6 | Tammie Herron | 23 | Karen Skifstad | |
| | Samantha Brink | | Matthew Wallace | |
| | Rich Eagon | 24 | Linda Clark | |
| 8 | Steve Irwin | | Sarah McNeil | |
| 10 | Aaron Burns | 25 | Kobee Carrillo | |
| | Peggy Slosted | | Joel Redman | |
| | Sherry Tucker | 26 | Leslie Kroum | |
| 11 | Betty Hamby | | Jo Ann McAlvey | |
| 12 | Ron Knight | 27 | Gary Simmons | |
| 14 | Kyle Knudson | 28 | Austin Hutcherson | |
| 15 | Susan Akers | 29 | Jerry Eyestone | |
| | Ethan Haen | 30 | Zarabeth Bierman | |

August

At a Glance

- 2 Missions Commission 6:30 PM
- 3 Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- 4 Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 5-8 High School Camp
- 8 Ark Commission 6:00 PM
- EOD Commission 6:30 PM
- CE Commission 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission 6:30 PM
- 9 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 15 Mission Trip Potluck 6:00 PM
- 18 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Financial Peace Preview 6:30 PM
- 28 Celebration Service (See Page 1)

Our mission is to lead people
into a growing relationship with
Jesus Christ.

On Mission

by Jean Bell

What do you think about when you hear the words “mission” or “missionary?” Daniel Webster says a mission is a special task on which one is sent or a calling, and a missionary is a person who is sent out on a special task. Therefore it follows that all Christians are missionaries because we have been given the task of spreading the gospel. We are sent out to tell others of our Lord and Saviour.

Some are sent to foreign lands and exotic places. Their task is not as easy as it might seem. Many have to endure extreme living conditions and hostility from the local people. All have to leave their everyday lives behind. Home, loved ones, friends, are all left behind. Are you beginning to see their great need of support? Support financially, encouraging support and prayer support.

Others have not been sent to far away places, but have been sent nonetheless. All of us have family members, friends, neighbors or coworkers who do

not know the Lord. We have been sent to reach out to them. Just to be there when they need us. Show that we care, offer a helping hand and listening ear when necessary. Tell them how the Lord has sustained us in our times of need and invite them to come to church with us.

Each of us is a special person because God made us that way. When he looks at us, he calls us by name and he says, “You are my special child and I have a special mission for you.” He made us all different and gave a different mission to each of us. He made some to go to the faraway exotic places, some to work in the community and others to work in their own backyards. To all of us, he has given what we need to complete the mission he has sent us to do.

In Matthew 9:37 Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” All of those in the far away places have said, “Yes, I will be a worker. I will complete the mission you have sent me to do.” The questions remaining are: Will we be workers? Will we complete the mission God has for us?



Quick Connect



All Church Celebration

August 28

Games 3:00 PM

Potluck 5:00 PM

Bring a salad or dessert

Service 6:00 PM

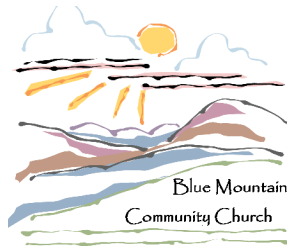


High School Camp

August 5-8

Lake Cle Elum

Canoeing, playing in the water, enjoying the outdoors, and spending some time in God's Word.



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