



The Connection

Volume 9, Issue 2, February 2011

Building & Grounds Update

by Larry Wachtel

B & G now has a full complement of 7 members to plan for and take care of the long term maintenance of the church – supporting Donovan’s tireless day to day work as best we can.

Recently completed projects include having some potentially dangerous limbs taken down from a tree which overhangs the Ark playground, opening up a wall in the Ark to give more flexibility in classroom use and the installation of a new basketball backboard and rim in the Push (youth meeting room).

We’ll soon be replacing the carpeting in one of the upstairs classrooms, installing gutter heaters to thaw ice dams over a number of our exterior doors, and installing new counters and cabinets in the youth lounge area. We’re also still searching for a reasonably priced snow plow.



MOPS Fundraiser Provides Baked Goodies for Valentine’s Day

by Shannon Naftzger

All the components of the MOPS ministry, from the relationships in the group to the resources for moms and leaders, intentionally point toward a relationship with God through Jesus. The season of early mothering is a time when moms are more open to spiritual truth as they are seeking a foundation for their family life.

February 13th before and after service MOPS moms will be taking donations for an amazing assortment of baked goods in the main entry with “grab and go” bags AND in Baker Hall, where you can enjoy your delicacies with friends. For those still sticking to New Year’s resolutions, a silent auction in the main entry will be stocked with items donated by MOPS moms.

We are grateful for the support of friends of MOPS through prayer, volunteer participation and financial giving and we look forward to seeing what God will do in future generations of moms as we continue with the calling God has placed on each of the leaders to reach moms during the essential seasons of mothering young children.



Are there men in the church?

By Peter T Erb

Men have a hard time at church. Many of them attend Sunday morning. They come and listen, they may actually sing! However men have a difficult time finding depth. The depth of a relationship with Christ as well as the relationship we can share with a group of other men. This relationship is where the rubber of a life lived with the Lord meets the road.

Men have a few opportunities to try to dig deeper into relationships in our Church. Men's Ministry is the most visible but, perhaps, the goal of this group is misunderstood. Men's Ministry was created for the benefit of the MEN! Yeah, OK, often the ministry is most visible as it finds ways to serve the families of the church and the church itself but that is not the mission. However service is a normal product of walking the road Christ sets before us. It is not a required part of attending men's ministry events. Men's Ministry is not in place to get a shovel, rake or paintbrush in your hand.

The ministry is always looking for new ways for the men to interact with each other and grow in Christ. It is amazing the number and quality of women's faith organizations and conferences that are out there. Tri-Cities Men's Ministry, a cooperative effort of many Tri-City churches, is actively seeking ways to engage the male Christian. One of these is the "Iron Sharpens Iron" conference.

The ministry is working on different types and styles of men's groups and activities. If you are ready to challenge your faith and share with other men then I encourage you to make the next Men's

Breakfast, come to the next Men's Ministry meeting and throw your ideas out there and hear what is being done for the men of our church and our valley. I am sure you will find a deeper, more fulfilling experience, the depth of a faith shared with other men. You may also find the freedom of discovering that you are not the only man dealing with the problems you encounter!



Church & Parents...can they partner together?

by Brent Dumler

I recently had the opportunity to hear Reggie Joiner passionately talk about *The State of the Church and Family* (2010), a study done by the re-Think Group and the Barna Group. They surveyed parents all over the U.S., both churched and unchurchd. When asked if they thought that leaders in the church were a good source for help with developing a parenting plan, this is what they said:

57% - churchd parents - VERY HELPFUL

19% - unchurchd parents - VERY HELPFUL

These results give us immense insight that the church in America must address. First, less than a fifth of unchurchd parents would think to go to the local church for help with their parenting efforts. Personally, I'm not overly

shocked with that finding. It's the 57% of churchd parents that share the same feelings on that subject that...to me...is unacceptable & inexcusable! The Word of God contains valuable information on parenting, and I know that many churches teach those principles from the pulpit, in their adult elective classes, and in their small groups. Why then, are so many parents doubtful of the church's ability to support families in this area? Do parents not think that anyone else knows what they are going through? Is the church not willing to openly discuss issues like physical discipline (spanking), sexual orientation, drugs & alcohol use at home, domestic violence, etc?

I'm sure the causes of these survey results are many & complex. But church...we cannot let this knowledge go unattended. The very backbone of our society is the family unit. If parents can't/won't look to God's church for guidance, where will they turn? We must raise our hand and clearly say, "We can help."



Connecting to Ministries

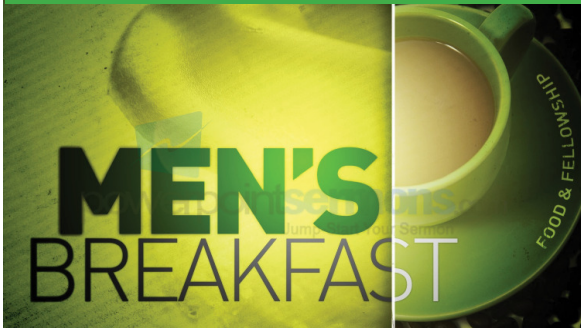


Everyone is invited! Meet Friday nights at 7:00 PM to share in support and encouragement to conquer your hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Dinner provided the fourth Friday each month at 6:00 PM for a small donation.

Senior Adult Ministries meets February 3rd and 17th 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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All are invited
Saturday Morning, February 12
8:00 AM



home groups
FIND A PLACE RIGHT WHERE YOU FIT AND START GROWING TODAY.

Grow close to others in relationships centered on our faith in Jesus. For more info on joining a home group, contact the church office at 529-1212.

All ladies are invited to *The Well*
a place where . . .

Women Encounter the Love of the Lord
Women of Faith Panel

Monday evening,
February 28th
6:30 - 8:00 PM



Better Moms Make A Better World

MOPS
Mothers of Preschoolers

Mothers of Preschoolers and MOMSNext meet February 10th and 24th from 9-11 AM in Baker Hall. They exist to encourage and equip mothers. Guests are always welcome! Contact Shannon Naftzger at 876-1302.



Connecting to the next Generation

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Youth News

by Ken Paine

January was pretty quiet as far as youth events at BMCC, but we're cranking things up as we roll into February.

On Sunday, February 6, the youth will be hosting a Superbowl party with the game shown on the big screen in the gym. This will be open to anyone who wants to hang out with youth and watch the big game. There will also be ping pong, pool, foosball, and basketball, and of course, lots of food. So bring some snacks and come join us.

The high school group will go on a retreat over winter break, Feb 17 - 19 (Thursday thru Saturday) by Lake Cle Elum. This will be a time of sledding and snow play, games, food, (probably no canoeing this year) and digging into the Bible.

We'll be taking the middle school group on a retreat to Meadowood Springs on Friday, March 4, leaving around 5:00 PM, and returning Sunday morning, March 6. This will also be a time to play in the snow, play games, eat, and study God's word.

Other events may get scheduled - watch the Sunday bulletins and sorta-weekly emails for these. If you want to be added to the email list, send an email to youth@bluemountainchurch.com.

Remember our weekly events:

Sunday School for all youth at 9:00 AM where we'll be starting a new series on the life of Christ

Middle school group

Sunday evenings, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

High school group

Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

High school girls Bible study - First Tuesday of each month - call Andrea

Young adult group (YAG) - Thursday evenings, 7:30 PM until everyone leaves, at 636 Whitman St, currently studying James

Please keep the youth in your prayers as they face many challenges, but also are given unique opportunities.

What's Happening at. . .

Our community service project for the month of February will be helping out the Blue Mountain Humane Society.



Look for a donation box

at Ministry Central. If you would like to donate items or have extra pet items you would like to donate. The Preschoolers will have a visitor from the Humane Society as well as a field trip to a veterinarian clinic to learn about the proper care for pets. The After school children will be making puppy treats and also talking about how they can care for animals of all kinds.

We will also have a Math and Science Activity night—spaghetti dinner will be provided. Families will have the opportunity to participate in various math and science activities in each classroom.

Candy Whitaker
Director

Connecting to One Another

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Celebrating February Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Jamie Nachtigall
Elissa Stites
Nick Swisher | 20 Terry Burner
Zachery Harris
Sarah Wood | 7 Gordon & Nancy Jennings |
| 2 Peter Erb
Kraig Kushar | 22 John Bender
24 Kaeldra Caton
Marcia Napier | 14 Mark & Mary Ellen Farr
Bill & Mary Luisi |
| 3 Alex Carias
Scott Haen
Rose Paul
Levi Sands
Evelyn Wallace | 25 Paula Hoppen
27 Polly Josifek
Jackie Kuljis | 20 Bill & Christene Thrasher
21 Steve & Rebecca Mize
22 Don & Lee Lynch |
| 5 Bob Conwell
Amanda Gorze
Walter Zier | 28 Gail Johnson
Erika Swenson | |
| 7 Rebecca Mize
Phillip Somers | | |
| 8 Abby Larreau
Jessica McDaniels
Adam Voss | | |
| 9 Leanne Howard | | |
| 10 Samantha Cobb
Dan Kilmer | | |
| 12 Kathy Wood | | |
| 13 Emily Larreau | | |
| 14 Phyllis Branscum | | |
| 16 Joseph Watson | | |
| 17 Davin Sands
Jack Sands | | |
| 19 Ed Hendricksen
Esmerelda Spence | | |

February

At a Glance

- 2 Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- 3 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 6 Superbowl Party 3:00 PM
- 7 Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 8 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 10 MOPS 9:00 AM
- 12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 14 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Ark Commission 6:30 PM
- 15 Missions Commission 6:30 PM
- 17 SAMS 10:00 AM
- High School Retreat
- 21 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 24 MOPS 9:00 am
- Math and Science Night at the Ark 5:00 PM
- 28 The WELL 6:30 pm

Food for the Hungry

by Vic Phillips

Gail McGee reports that 897 families obtained food from the three Walla Walla food banks in November 2010. Those 897 families included 2659 people. 113 families were new to the food banks.

There is already a huge need for supplies in the food banks. The number of families in Walla Walla requesting food rose 12% from October to November. We believe that the need will continue to increase dramatically.

Jesus gave two commissions to his followers. One with which we are familiar is found in Matthew 28:19 *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”* Christians call this the great commission.

The other is in Matthew 25:34-40, *“Then the King will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’”*

“Then the righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’ And the King will tell them, ‘I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’”

Notice that Jesus was not talking to the government. He was talking to His individual followers.

Unfortunately, many believers dropped the ball and the government took over with the welfare system. Now is the time for the Church, the body of believers in Jesus Christ, to pick up the ball and follow Jesus’ direction. There are groups in Walla Walla that do: the Realtors, Post Office, grocery stores and others. But Christians can do more. Our food banks need regular donations to keep their shelves filled.

Walla Walla has three food banks that distribute food to those in need: The Salvation Army, St. Vincent De Paul Charity Office, and the Pantry Shelf at First Presbyterian Church. The Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) acts as a collection point and distributes food to the food banks. Helpline has a backup food bank.

The Free Methodist Church has a soup kitchen that provides free lunches a couple days during the week. We also have the Christian Aid Center which provides regular meals, shelter and spiritual guidance. There may be others of which we are unaware.

But are we doing enough? Are we prepared if the welfare system collapses? We welcome help from anyone but direct these questions especially to followers of Jesus Christ. The Missions Commission has taken the lead, providing a permanent place to bring food. All that remains is for the body to fill these shelves year- round.

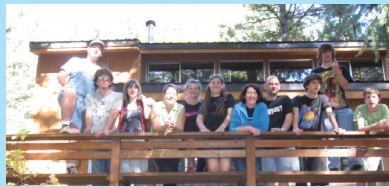
“Yes, happy are those who delight in doing what He commands. . . . “They give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will never be forgotten.”
Psalm 112:1&9 (NLT)

Quick Connect



MOPS Silent Auction and Bake Sale February 13th

Come get some sweets for your sweet
and bid on silent auction items to
raise money to support our MOPS
group!



High School Retreat February 17-19

Lake Cle Elum
Contact Ken to register
or for more details.



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