

The Connection

Volume 5, Issue 4, April 2007

from Pastor Mike...

Externals and Internals

Last night I was searching through my library looking for a specific resource when I stumbled upon a book I had read back in seminary. This book challenged many of my thoughts concerning the church. Its importance and impact has influenced me even to this day. I also remember reading some specific thoughts Dr. Charles Swindoll had about this book. Listen to his words and see if they don't touch your heart and challenge you as they have challenged me.

The Problem of Wine Skins— Tough book. And don't let the title throw you. It has little to do with literal wine and even less with wineskins. But it has a lot to do with the principles behind Jesus' words in Luke 5:37-38.

"No one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the new wine bursts the old skins, ruining the skins and spilling the wine. New wine must be put into new wineskins." (TLB)

Our Lord is distinguishing there between things that are essential (the wine) and things that are useful but not primary (the skins). Who needs wineskins if there is no wine? Wine, you see, represents the basics, the changeless, timeless, everpotent, always-necessary message. The gospel. The Savior. The pristine truth of Scripture. And the wineskins? Clearly, they represent that which is secondary, subsidiary, manmade. Stuff

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"AMERICA, UNITE IN PRAYER" ...MILLIONS GATHER TO HONOR GOD

Michael Calhoun

As American troops wage the War on Terror, fighting for democracy and liberty around the globe, citizens of the United States are preparing to celebrate their freedom to gather, worship and pray. Millions will answer the call to prayer on May 3rd in observance of the 56th annual National Day of Prayer (NDP). Organized events will be held in thousands of public venues where intercession will be made for our nation, government leaders, media, schools, churches, and families.



Psalm 33:12
This year's theme, "America, Unite in Prayer," is based on 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." National Day of Prayer Task Force Chairman Shirley Dobson said "At this crucial time in history, with our armed forces engaged in a desperate struggle in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, we encourage all people of faith to set aside their differences and publicly seek God's wisdom and direction for those in harm's way and for our homes, communities and country. Our Founding Fathers recognized the power of prayer and gathered regularly to ask for God's blessing. We can do no less."

Read next month's newsletter for more information about the National Day of Prayer in our area.



From Your Administrative Pastor

The other day, I was reading “Catch of the Day”— a series of daily devotions from John Fischer. He was saying that the church ought to be a little like heaven — full of a whole bunch of people who can’t believe they got there, know they don’t deserve to be there, and can’t wait to find out what happens next.

He went on to say that the church is not a building full of people who pretend that the Christian life is working for everyone but them. It’s a community of folks who know they shouldn’t be there in the first place, and yet they got there anyway, through no merit of their own, and because of that, they have nothing to lose.

There is power in conformity; we just need to decide to what we will conform. Will we all conform to being something we’re not, or will we make a group decision to be who we are, whatever the cost, and let Jesus be the one who conforms us to his image as he sees fit?

Just be you. . . that’s the way Jesus found you, and that’s how He will make you into the person He wants you to be.

In fact, Romans 12:2 reminds us not to conform to the pattern of the world but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you will be able to know God’s perfect and pleasing will for you. Allow the presence of the Holy Spirit in you to transform you.

Until next time. . .
Pastor Dan II

From the Worship Commission

You are invited to an evening of musical celebration in the church sanctuary on Sunday, May 6th! Please join us for a Hymn Sing followed by an ice cream social in Baker Hall. There will be a variety of special music both instrumental and vocal, and interspersed with these performances will be congregational singing. In addition, we will be taking requests for your favorite hymns, as time allows. Whether you grew up with hymns or are new to them, don’t miss this opportunity to hear them in a fresh and exciting way. We will be singing hymns in lots of different styles including barbershop, traditional, southern gospel, and contemporary — something for everyone! So bring the whole family — and all your friends — and everyone you know who loves ice cream!

If you wish to submit a hymn request or if you are interested in helping with the hymn sing, please contact the church office at 529-1212. Be watching your bulletin for further news. The Worship Commission hopes that musical celebrations will become a regular occurrence here at BMCC. This is an exciting new opportunity for our church family to worship and fellowship together while exploring a variety of musical genres and styles. Come, Sing to the Lord a New Song!



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.

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like structure, traditions (now don't stop reading) and patterns of doing things which have grown up around and encased the "wine." Got the picture?

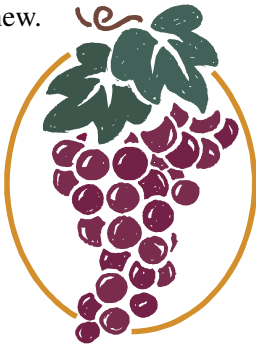
The wineskins are the point of contact between the wine and the world. And as the surrounding pressure mounts from society, the skins tend to cease being flexible. They are seldom replaced. They get thicker, hard, less elastic...and are ultimately unable to contain that volatile, vigorous vino within. They have reached the extreme of inflexibility. And, unfortunately, few indeed are those who can tolerate fresh, new, supple bags to contain the wine. We much prefer the old – even if it's brittle and leaks – rather than the new.

That was the rub in Jesus' day. He was too radical and fresh in His approach. Frowning, they kept asking questions like: "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread" (Matthew 15:2). "Why do you eat and drink with the tax-gatherers and sinners?" (Luke 5:30). I mean "Shame on you, Jesus! If your going to expect our respect, keep your hands off our wineskins!" You see, they confused the external container with the internal treasure — even though the old Judaistic hand-me-downs were leaking badly. But the barriers He scaled increased the level of public anger to intense proportions. He wound up nailed to a cross, remember. And many returned to their old wineskins of religious traditions, thinking they were safe from His words that had worried them for over three years.

But a remnant had tasted the wine. They had cultivated a new appetite. With new hearts they sang

new songs. They preached a new hope from the new covenant. As new creations in Christ they offered "a new and living way" (Hebrews 1:20). Emerging from a cocoon of fear and intimidation, they flew free and bold. Willing to live in dens and caves of the earth, they swept the old world off its feet... "they turned it upside down," they literally "upset the world" (Acts 17:6).

And what about you? Busy protecting and trying to preserve the wineskins? Working overtime carrying a torch of external traditions? Hey, I understand. I did that for almost twenty years of my Christian life. The wine got little of my attention as I patched up wineskins year after year. What a waste! Through a process of time and very painful events, I am breaking that nervous habit. The older I get, the less I care about the traditional skins and the more I crave the pure wine, the essentials, the internals.



FROM THE WORKBENCH a Men's Ministry Update

Men's Breakfast on April 14th is going to be a very special occasion. "Take a Buddy to Breakfast" is an opportunity for guys to invite thier wives, co-workers, family, or friends to a terrific breakfast. We will have a special guest speaker and the best food in the valley will be served.

- 1 *Bob Branscum*
Gene Cowles
Brett Fleming
Seth Harris
Evan Jameson
David McDaniels
Dorothy VanStone
- 2 *Nicole Culbertson*
Joyce Paine
Carolee White
- 3 *Roy Clark*
- 6 *Bill Greiner*
Ernie Silva
Ariel Skifstad
- 7 *Marty Huie*
Orvil Wilson
- 8 *Terry Conwell*
Brianna Elmore
Aimee Royse
- 9 *Mike Adkins*
Vic Phillips
- 10 *Donna Hendricksen*
- 12 *Kailee Davisson*



- 9 *Don & Carolyn Groat*
- 12 *Paul & Janice Davisson*
- 18 *Ernie & Gail Silva*
- 21 *Jim & Debi Evans*
- 28 *Gary & Kim Burns*

- 13 *Sandy Goodson*
- 14 *Christopher Eagon*
Kyle Jameson
Ibbie Steen
- 15 *Dorothy Palmer*
- 16 *Allen Alexander*
Pam Gregerson
Patty Harmon
Samuel Hinrichsen
Raymond Kelso
Pamela McBride
Tracy Shea
Matt Stephens
- 17 *Joseph Crosby*
Kyla Greiner
Larry Harris
Maddie Redman
- 19 *Wendy Baird*
Ken Paine
- 20 *Michele Burr*

- Timothy Hoppen*
Betty Zier
- 21 *Frank Trapani*
- 23 *Paul Howard*
Nya Neissl
Dan Wooton
- 24 *Angela Queen*
Sonia Trapani
- 25 *Emily Redman*
- 26 *Kathy Fry*
Andrew Paine
- 27 *Bob Stewart*
- 28 *Connor Dumler*
- 29 *Devin Paine*
- 30 *Anna Pettyjohn*
Robert Rice



Weekly Events

Sunday

GriefShare 3:00 PM
Middle School Group 6:00 PM
Sunday Night Live 6:00 PM
Prayer for Missionaries 6:00 PM

Tuesday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM
Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM
High School Group 7:00 PM

Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM
Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

Saturday

Financial Peace University 10:00 AM

Special Days

- 1 Palm Sunday
- 5 Maundy Thursday
- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter Sunday
- 25 Administrative Professionals Day



Easter

Monthly Events

- 2 Small Group Leaders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 5 SAMS 10:00 AM
Passover Meal 6:00 PM
- 8 **EASTER**
- 10 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 12 MOPS 9:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders Meeting 7:00 PM
- 14 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 16 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 19 SAMS 10:00 AM
Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
- 21 3D Inc Cafe 7:00 PM
- 26 MOPS 9:00 AM
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM





Beginning April 15

Understanding Islam

Sundays at 11:00 AM Matthew 1

Taught by Vic Phillips and Glenn Vogt

Come to discover answers to all your questions about Muslims and how Islam compared to Christianity in a powerpoint and discussion format. Much of the class will be based on the book Unveiling Islam.

Hearing God

Sundays at 11:00 AM Blue Room

Taught by Pastor Sharon Wiles

Every Christian has a unique, divinely ordained purpose. What is yours? Using an easy-to-follow interactive format, this revised study features six weeks of five short daily lessons, personal testimonies, and thought-provoking discussion questions to equip you to respond to our Lord's amazing invitation: Come and bear fruit that lasts for eternity!

Mission Commission News

"And then He told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe. They will cast out demons in my name and they will speak in new languages.'"
Mark 16: 15-17

What a great opportunity we have as a church body to support and help others in our community as well as around the world. Your Mission Commission is continually receiving requests for support from around the world, as well as in Walla Walla. It challenges us both as a group of Blue Mountain Community Church members, and individually to seek ways to address those needs.

Our goal this year is to help teach and inform you about the importance of mission work. What each of us brings to God as our mission might not seem like much, but as a body of believers we can do great things through prayer, financial support, and volunteer time. The Missions Commission has set dates for a mission trip late this summer in August to send a group to Guatemala in support of the Agrellas family. Please pray that God would lead you to discover how you can become involved with this mission trip.

If you are interested, please contact any member of the commission for details: Steve Mize, Ron Groom, Ken Erb, Joyce Paine, Zelda Kelso, Shirley Musick, Darlene Mings and Steve Hood.

We would like to see a good number from BMCC be blessed as we share in this opportunity to serve others.

In His Love, Steve Hood



Celebrate Recovery

by Gary Stewart

Celebrate Recovery Team Value #1: **The “I” becomes “We”**. *Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves. Rom 12:10.*

Value #2: **Seek to be part of the solution**. *But encourage each other every day while it is today. Help each other so none of you will become hardened because sin has tricked you. Hebrews 3:13.*

It is very important that each team member be not only fully committed to God, and to Celebrate Recovery, but to the team as well. It is easy to discover and focus on the problems in life, as well as in a ministry. But, it takes a committed, encouraging team member to look beyond the problems and offer constructive solutions, not only with their words, but with their actions.

Tom Fox and I love the CR team values. They apply to all of us in any group situation. We can all get critical at times. People think: no one’s job is as important as their own, the leaders show their vulnerability in their mistakes. It is good to be reminded that if we focus on the Lord and work on our common goal, on what is good for the all, we **should** be too busy to worry about what other people aren’t doing right.

Reading the CR Team values helps me when people are critical of what I do in CR. I look at the values, judge whether someone’s criticism is matching up with the values, and then discard any useless baggage that will result in dragging me or the leadership down.

Here are the rest of the Team Values — maybe they could help in your group situation.

#3: **Seek to listen.**

#4: **Embrace our differences.**

#5: **Seek to be cooperative, not competitive.**

#6: **Strive for Excellence.**

#7: **Expect mistakes to be made.**

#8: **Seek accountability.**

#9: **Honor all CR Volunteers.**

Praise God for team values!

What’s happening at the Ark

by Candy Whittaker

In April, we are opening registration for the Fall Preschool Program. Most of the cur-



riculum is centered around themes. Activities related to the theme will involve crafts, language arts, movement activities, science, and more. We provide child care from 6:45 AM to 6:00 PM. The Preschool program, which is more structured than the rest of the day, runs from 8:30 -12:30.

The month of April we have many fun activities planned. This Spring Break will be Crazy Days. Each day will be a special day, ie. Pajama day, Crazy Hat Day, Face Painting, etc. This week will also be Spiritual Emphasis week. Each day all the classes will combine for “chapel.” We will have a fun skit or puppet show and worship songs as well.

Also this month, the preschoolers will have a presentation about poison safety. They will learn about things that grow and, after visiting a nursery, will be planting their own miniature garden!



*"Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here but has risen."*

Luke 24:5

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Children's Pastor — Sharon Wiles
Student Ministries Interim — Adam Hinrichsen
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, Editor: Julie Caton, bmccbulletin@gmail.com. Webmaster: Holly Graves, graves356@msn.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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