

# The Connection

Volume 5, Issue 1, January 2007

*from Pastor Mike...*

**Become a Church of the Future**

Whitney Hopler

Your church's style isn't nearly as important as its mission: to stay fresh and change the world. No matter whether your church is traditional or contemporary, small or large, there are core values you can embrace to bring the gospel to a world that desperately needs it. If you leverage the post-seeker age culture around you to the gospel's advantage, your church can reach young adults and help usher in a future full of hope. Here's how you can become a church of the future:

**Get creative.** Use the arts – such as dance, paintings, sculptures, poetry, or drama – in your worship service. Know that God will often use words and images to work together to communicate His messages. Teach in innovative ways. Tell stories, as Jesus did, because stories touch the deepest parts of people's souls.

**Get spiritual.** Don't pay nearly as much attention to marketing or entertaining people as you do to what's truly important – helping people encounter God. Don't water down your teachings, or tone down the intensity of your worship services. Rather than asking, "What do people think?" ask the vital question, "What does God think?" Instead of focusing your services on believers or seekers, focus them simply on God. Strive to make disciples of everyone in your congregation. Provide ways for them to grow spiritually outside of worship services, such as through Bible studies, service projects, and prayer meetings.

**Get radical.** Have the courage to embrace a lifestyle that clearly shows the world you follow Jesus Christ, and encourage others in your church to do the same. Don't bother with small ambitions; have big ones instead. Ask God to help your church participate in nothing less than changing the world for the better.

**Get real.** Acknowledge the reality that life in a fallen world includes sin and suffering. Don't pretend to be happy all the time or to have all the answers. Don't give your congregation sugar-coated pop psychology, oversimplify complex issues, or mince words with them. Admit your frailties. Be humble, open, and honest. Let your authenticity lead you to confess your sins and turn from them so your congregation can see a holy God transforming a broken human being. Speak as freely about your doubts and pain as you do about your faith and joy, because each extreme gives context for the other to glorify God's work.

**Get truthful.** Don't be afraid to proclaim the absolute truth of the Bible in our relativistic age. Remember that it's far more compassionate to tell people the truth than to tell them what they want to hear but cause them to miss out on the truth. But when you proclaim universal truth, do so kindly and gently, with respect for your listeners and without a condescending tone. Never compromise your convictions. But allow people to make up their own minds about what to believe, after carefully considering your message. Rather than simply telling people what to believe, become a guide who helps them discover truth on their own.

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## *From Your* Administrative Pastor

A few weeks ago, Claudia and I drove to Colorado Springs, CO to see our two newest grandchildren. Our youngest daughter, Katey gave birth to Jaela Dallas on 10/23 and our son, Jason and his wife welcomed Spencer Markham into the world on 11/11. We now have four unbelievable grandkids...what a joy and blessing! God has been so good to us through the years.

As I held each of these beautiful babies, I couldn't help but wonder how their little lives would be shaped and how God would be reflected in them because He has an incredible plan for them.

Being a grandparent is such an amazing gift. This year I want to continue to create precious memories for our children and grandchildren. I want our home to be a safe place for them; a place filled with joy and love.

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for blessing me with such beautiful grandchildren. I look forward to play times, emails, phone conversations, school and church programs, and every birthday celebration. Most importantly and sincerely I want to be a tool in Your hand, cultivating my grandchildren's minds in You. Bless my precious grandchildren, I pray-  
Amen.*

### **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.

## Missionary Moments

by Ron Groom

This month's article is the first in a series of articles highlighting the missionaries and mission organizations we are currently supporting with our Faith Promise and the 10% of our Tithes and Offerings that are received throughout the year.

Wayne and Kathi Sellers, serving in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, are our featured missionaries for the month of January.

Wayne was raised in Oregon, and Kathi was raised in California; however, they met in Portland, Oregon, at Warner Pacific College. They married three weeks after graduation in 1974, and served for several years as a youth or senior pastor in several churches in Washington and Oregon. Serving at a work camp in Costa Rica in 1990 was a turning point for them. In 1992, Kathi, Wayne, and their two daughters accepted the call to go to Costa Rica to begin their missionary service.

In a recent newsletter, the Sellers related a story about 15 people who were candidates for baptism in the Jabillos church. One man, Carlos, was saved from his alcohol and drug addiction. As the Sellers said, "under the water dead to sin and the old life, out of the water to resurrection and a new life in Christ." There were also three couples whose marriages were on the rocks before they met Christ and now they are rejoicing in their newfound, happy marriages.

In the town of Jinotepe, Nicaragua, Guillermo and Juanita prayed for years that God would provide the land and money to build a church in their community. This month they are dedicating a new church and parsonage on a beautiful, walled lot. The 100 members of this church will be eternally grateful to the Lord and His people who gave so generously.

## New Classes coming in the New Year

For all classes that require registration, call the church office (529-1212).

### Monday Nights

Health 2007

7-9 PM Starts Jan 22

registration required

Topics centering around preventative medicine, taught by our very own Frank Trapani.

### Saturday Morning

**Financial Peace University**

registration required by Jan 14

\$96 for class kit

10AM-Noon Starts Jan 20

### Sunday Afternoon

**Griefshare**

A place to journey from morning into joy.

This class includes video teaching and time to share.

registration required

\$12 for workbook

3-5 PM Starts Jan 21

### Sunday Evening

**Marriage Class**

Are you looking to add a spark or to fan the flame in your marriage? This class is for you.

Taught by Pastor Mike.

6:00-7:30 PM

Starts Jan 21

*continued from page 1*

**Get “multi.”** Strive to have a multigenerational, multiethnic and multicultural congregation. Make it a priority to welcome, value, and include people from all walks of life in your church. Encourage everyone to fully participate in the life and leadership of the church, regardless of their gender, race, age, economic status, personal appearance, etc. Ask God to help you overcome your prejudices and look past the surface of people to see their souls for whom Jesus died. Don’t tolerate sin just to be tolerant; be discerning. But when you must confront someone about sin, do so in the spirit of redemption rather than condemnation.

**Get connected.** Accept people as they are and support them as they grow toward who God wants them to be. Encourage your church members to give and receive grace to each other. Strive to connect people to God and each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Build deep bonds that go beyond shared fellowship at a church picnic. Help your congregation form friendships in which they can count on each other to share their lives in significant and meaningful ways, both inside and outside of church.

Adapted from *Future Church: Ministry in a Post-Seeker Age*, copyright 2004 by James L. Wilson. Published by Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tn.

2 *Kelly & Mary Fleming*  
 8 *Steve & Sharon Dalke*  
 9 *Jack & Debbie Sands*  
     *Paul & Leanne Howard*  
 17 *Rick & Jolene Queen*  
 24 *Vincent & Kelle Cannone*

1 *Jeana Hobbs*  
     *Marty Ybarra*  
     *Sierra Ybarra*  
 2 *Sabastian Alban*

*Reva Ewing*  
 3 *Jeff Simmons*  
 4 *Doris Cook*  
 5 *Michael Klicker*  
 6 *Jason Cowles*  
     *Elizabeth Thomaston*

7 *Holly Carrera*  
     *Melissa Home*  
     *Sara Huie*  
 8 *Carol Schirman*  
 9 *Gary Burns*  
     *Kariss Carrillo*  
     *Travis Haen*  
     *Rosalie Vogt*

10 *Xander Freiberg*  
     *Dona Rahn*  
 11 *Ben Brink*  
 12 *Reed Bond*  
     *Russ Kroum*  
     *Kendra Voeks*  
 13 *Shelby Mountain*

15 *Carol Grubb*  
     *Marie Hickman*  
 16 *Ethan Guse*  
     *Shane Mings*  
 17 *Louise Doyle*  
     *Rick Guse*  
     *Keilsee Leisle*  
     *Frances Winters*

18 *Rick Maxwell*  
     *Austin Walker*  
 19 *Carrie Freiberg*  
     *Erik Jensen*  
     *Elise Pettyjohn*  
     *Nancy Stewart*  
     *Sadie Tonn*

21 *Andrew McMillan*  
     *Sharon Wiles*  
 23 *Lori Brown*  
     *Chelsea Steiner*  
 24 *Jessica Groat*

*Michael Hinrichsen*  
 25 *Robert Joshlin*  
 26 *Morghan Carrera*  
     *Jerold Cook*  
     *Betty Eyestone*  
 27 *Jean Lamb*  
     *Steve Mize*  
 28 *Jerry Yokel*  
 29 *Kaci Cook*  
     *Brenda Hobbs*  
 30 *Anna Frazier*  
     *Ron McBride*  
     *Bill Parker*  
 31 *Randy Knudson*  
     *Myron Rogers*  
     *Bob Zier*



## *Weekly Events*

### **Sunday**

SNL 6:00 PM

Level 2 6:00 PM

### **Tuesday**

TOPS 5:30 PM

Young Adult Gathering 7:00 PM

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Bible Study Fellowship 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth Group 7:00 PM

### **Thursday**

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM

### **Friday**

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

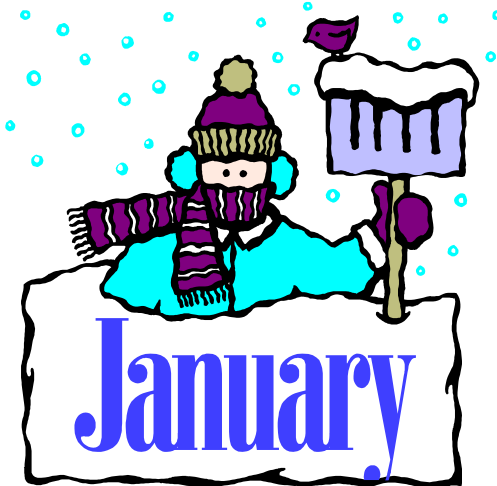


## *Special Days*

**1 New Year's Day**

**6 Epiphany**

**15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



## *Monthly Events*

- 1 Office Closed
- 4 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
- CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 11 MOPS 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- Revolution 7:00 PM
- 15 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 SAMS 10 :00 AM
- Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
- 20 3D Inc Cafe 7:00 PM
- 21 Semi- Annual Business Meeting
- 25 MOPS 9:00 AM
- 27 Revolution 6:00 PM

## The New Years Tradition

by Sharon Wiles

Ever wonder where the traditions of the New Year came from? Why your mother always made you eat sour-kraut? What is up with those New Years resolutions?

The first day of a calendar year is one of the world's oldest holidays. The Babylonians are known to have celebrated the New Year approximately 4,000 years ago on March 23.

The Romans used a different calendar and named the first month of the year after the mythical figure of Janus, a symbol of beginnings and endings, whose two faces allow him to look both forward and backward in time.

The church for many years did not approve of the celebration of New Year's, for it was viewed as a pagan holiday. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the holiday of New Year's and making resolutions came into fashion as a party joke.

New Year's Traditions range from country to country throughout the world.

In the Soviet Union, Santa is replaced with Grandfather Frost. He looks much like Santa Claus but arrives on New Year's Eve with his bag of toys. Father Frost can punish any evil doer by freezing them.

The Spanish eat twelve grapes at midnight.

The Chinese give the front door a fresh coat of red paint.

In Sicily, they feast on lasagna.

Australians celebrate with picnics and camping on the beach.

People in The Netherlands burn Christmas trees on the street.

The most popular resolutions are losing weight, saving more money and spending more time with their family. Some of the children's resolutions here at BMCC were:

Bethany & Nathaniel - I will not fight with my brother.

Sarah- Eat less candy.

Davin- Pay more attention at school.

Lucas- To play more soccer.

Nick- Dream more.

Robert- Get up earlier.

Matthew- Go to bed earlier.

Scott- Exercise and read more this year.

Sheila- Eat healthier.

Hannah and Shelby- Read and learn more.





## *Celebrate Recovery*

by Teri Stewart

Step 2: We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to Sanity.

When I was small, Mom was a firm Christmas activist for “more is better.” She would spend all our money at the dime store so we would have piles of presents under the tree. I really wished my mom would give me one good dress for school or a comfortable pair of shoes instead of all the impractical and cheap gifts that were so useless to me.

After I accepted the Lord, it still took me years to get the commercialism out of our Christmas. I would charge up my cards to give my family a good set of gifts. My gifts were practical and wanted but I paid bills for months and even years after.

Then a Christian friend set me a good example. She said that our own Birthday was OUR day and that it was the time to give the best gifts. Christ’s day was for worship, simple gifts or food, and fellowship. What practical and SANE advice. Instead of frustration, exhaustion, and bitterness over the busyness of the season; peace reigns in our household. It is a lot easier financially too, to give good birthday gifts throughout the year instead of piling our entire financial burden onto one day.

This year’s best gift for me is a phone call from my son in a treatment center for drug addiction. We have used 12 step’s tough love on him, and at times I wondered if we were doing the right thing. I was very blessed to hear him praise our parenting and say he totally knows that how we handle his addiction is the only sane thing to do. He was full of hope for his new future, full of love for us and full of praise for God. I told him I was very proud of him.

I can tell you this statement is true: “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all else will be added to you.” Matt. 6:33.

## *An Everyday Miracle*

By Kathy Nelson

WOW! What an amazing God we serve! Mothers of Preschoolers International has been meeting at our church for six years. This year MOPS had an explosion of growth, with 47 mothers and 70 children — ages birth to 5! God is multiplying this ministry and, as we have seen in other areas, multiplication from God creates some unique challenges. The best part is that God understands these challenges and takes great delight in using His people to meet every need.

God and I have been on quite a journey. He called me, quite unexpectedly, to oversee the care of these 70 wonderful children, just two weeks before the first meeting! At minimum, fifteen workers were needed for that first meeting, not including an infant nursery. Though faced by what seemed an impossible task, I knew that God would be faithful to provide, so we went forward in faith. Miraculously, God found enough people for that first week, but many of them were temporary help.

Through much prayer and a little effort, all staffing needs are met, including infant care, by 22 fabulous workers. These workers consist of volunteers and paid staff from both our congregation and other churches in our community. Wow! (I just had to say that again.)

God is faithful when you step out in faith and trust Him for what He has called you to do. My journey with God has taken me into a ministry I had never personally attended or even knew much about, but Amazing God has given me a deep love for these moms and their children. Some of these women do not attend a church or have not even heard about the love of Jesus, but each time they come they are loved and encouraged by women who show Jesus through their words and actions. Their children hear a Bible story and experience the love of Jesus through the hands and heart of a MOPPETS worker. Whole families are being touched and transformed by this ministry. What an amazing God we serve!

*For surely*  
I KNOW THE  
plans  
*I have for*  
YOU,  
says the  
*Lord...*  
TO GIVE YOU A  
future  
WITH  
*Hope.*  
Jeremiah 29:11. NRSV

*Our purpose is to help people become  
passionate followers of Christ by:  
Loving the Lord  
Lifting the Lord  
Learning the Word  
Living to Glorify God*

### *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

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