

The Connection

Volume 5, Issue 10, October 2007

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

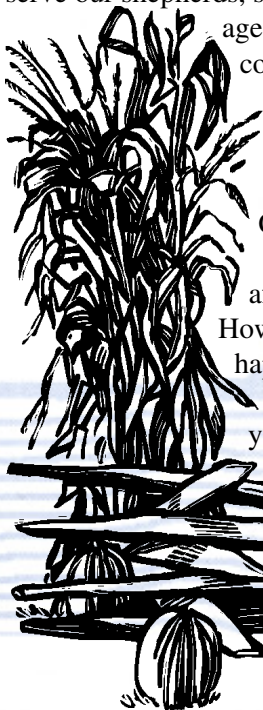
Pastors are often the loneliest people in the church. Most work long hours, are constantly on call, sacrifice family occasions to tend to congregational crises, carry long term debt from the cost of seminary, are subjected to constant and considerable criticism and are rewarded with below average compensation. Trained in theology, they are expected to master leadership, politics, finance, management psychology and conflict resolution. Nobody can handle the wide range of responsibilities people expect their pastors to!!

With prayer and repentance, let's lay aside our our personal agendas and preferences and let's serve our shepherds, so that they will be encouraged, and feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy.

7 PRACTICAL STEPS :

- *Cut the criticism* – Clergy are critiqued constantly, particularly after each weekly service.

How would you feel if this hapened in your job? Let's be constructive. Know your pastors gifting and appreciate it.



continued on page 3

THE HARVEST CARNIVAL IS FAST APPROACHING

Summer has come to an end, and autumn has arrived. That can only mean one thing in the thoughts of the children—HARVEST CARNIVAL IS COMING AGAIN!!!

Blue Mountain Community Church will be hosting its 6th annual Harvest Carnival on Halloween night, Wednesday, October 31st, from 5:30 until 8 pm. This event, initially founded as a safe and fun alternative to trick-or-treating, has become a church tradition and an event attended by many families in the Walla Walla community.

Last year over 350 children and 500 adults attended, and this year an even larger turnout is anticipated. As always, there will be games, candy, prizes, and fun for everyone! Admission is still free—it's the best deal in town! Food will be available for a nominal cost, and all proceeds from these sales will benefit the John Eagon Memorial Scholarship Fund.

continued on page 2





From Your Administrative Pastor

Why I love being a pastor: Part 1

1. **It's my calling.** It's what God called me to do. I know deep down in my bones this is what I was made for. If you don't have a calling, you may never understand why we often say we can't walk away from the ministry. That would be to live in open defiance to God. And that's not something we can do.

2. **I love the gospel.** It's changed my life. I've lived it many decades and it's still as powerful, still as sweet as it ever has been. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so" still moves me as much as it did 39 years ago when I met Jesus Christ.

3. **I love people.** I love being around people who come together with the same purpose, same heart, organized around a great mission to accomplish something really great for God and good for people.

4. **I'm a leader.** I was born that way. I've also been working hard to be made that way. I love leading people, influencing people to become more together than we ever could become separately.

5. **I love what happens when a person is converted as a follower of Jesus Christ.** I love seeing life change. I love seeing marriages being put back together. I love seeing people be set free from addictions and sinful habits that are destroying their lives, into a lifestyle of love, freedom, and joy.

6. **I love being part of something that redeems culture in the world in which I live.** I love being a part of a movement that knows no geographic or cultural barrier; that like water, finds its way into every crease and crevice of humanity.

(to be continued next time...)

Pastor Dan II

continued from page 1

An event like this just doesn't happen by itself. That's why we need you! You can assist by providing us with....

- Prayer support! Pray that our schools and community will continue to be receptive and that God's gracious hand will be on all attending and helping
- Candy! We are well stocked with lollipops, but we will be needing any other varieties of candy (remember, think candy for 400-500 kids!)
- People! We will need you to help with serving and cooking the night of the carnival, setting up games, assisting in the games booths, and clean up afterwards.

This is a great way for home groups to get involved in a ministry opportunity within the church that impacts the entire community. Don't panic! Most of our volunteer positions will only require an hour or two of your time! If you would like to help please contact Michelle Paine at 525-0772.

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.

continued from page 1

- *Pray regularly* – Pray that he/she may be showered with an abundance of God’s love, hope, joy, faith, peace, power, wisdom and courage.

- *Express appreciation in writing* – A spoken compliment is always welcome but a written one can be read over and over for years. Write appreciative notes...impact of sermons...life change etc.

- *Use your skills to bless* – What skills do you have that could be used to bless your pastor? Mechanical then fix his car, dentist, doctor, accountant, computer, gardener...

- *Squelch gossip* – If you have a negative comment, respond with a positive one. Correct misinformation. If people are gossiping – walk away. James 1:26 “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.”

- *Offer to meet a need* – Many approach their pastors with “You need to...!” This is counter productive. Change your attitude. Rather say “I’d like to help with...” Be an active participant!

- *Throw away the measuring stick* – Focus rather on how your pastor is being used by God. No two churches are the same! God’s not in the franchise business! Your leader is unique, leading a unique set of people with unique gifting to achieve a unique God given mission. Let’s find out what that is and let’s keep our eyes fixed on HIM and obedient to HIS calling.

Pastors we salute you and give thanks for your obedience and courage in heeding God’s call on your lives!!

In His Service
GERRY COUCHMAN

This article originally appeared in Willow Creek’s newsletter May 2007

God’s Glorious October Sun

You don’t approach the October sun with any dreams of a suntan. No, this is a sun to be enjoyed by the eyes, not the skin. In most parts of North America, the clear days of October are charged with a filtered, silvery sort of light that

clarifies the view, both close and distant. The changing colors of the foliage, the golden stalks of the field grasses, the chilly dews of morning, are etched needle sharp by the delicate sunlight. Morning fogs are iridescent with it, and afternoon hazes deepen from pearl to gold as the distant orb makes its way down. You may have to wear a sweater, but the Oc-



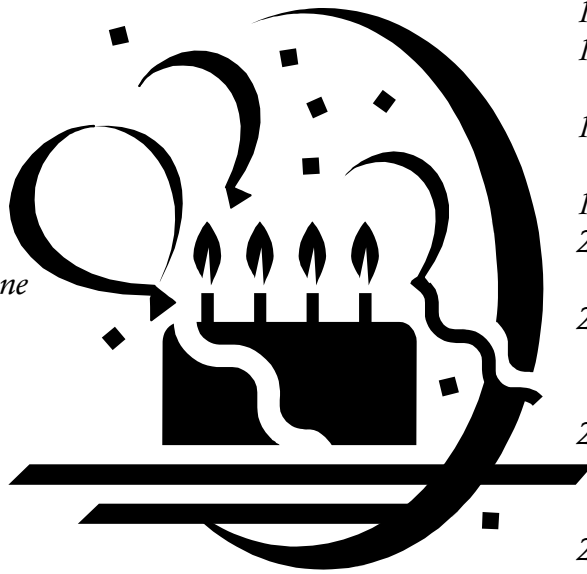
tober sun is gentle and makes your face feel dry and rosy as you walk outdoors. And you appreciate it more, because it’s so rare.

October 28th has been set aside as a special time to show our love and appreciation for our pastoral staff. You are encouraged to bring cards of appreciation. There will be baskets for these cards in the Narthex on that day.

- 3 Cary & Dona Rahn
- 5 Glen & Bernice Shivley
- 6 Glenn & Rosalie Vogt
- 12 Rick & Brenda Jones
- 15 Skip & Jane Harrold
- 20 Mike & Pat Hanford
- 21 Jack & Tracy Shea
- 23 Jerold & Doris Cook
- Willis & Paulette Goodwin
- 29 Don & Nicole Redman
- Earl & Connie Stanley



- 2 Diane Benfield
- Kyle Erb
- Sharon Hall
- 4 Nathan Hale
- 6 Irene Fisher
- Don Lynch
- 7 Syvila Priday
- Julie Wooton
- 8 Francesca Cannone
- 9 Kriss Pettyjohn
- 11 Scott Leamy
- Lorene Buff
- David Houk
- Alison Knight
- Tim Home
- Bonnie Raugust
- Houston Rice
- Sharron Watkins
- 12 Levi Haen
- Delmer Criss
- 13 Teri Stewart
- Laura McNeil
- 14 Michael Watkins
- Michael Baird
- 15 Wayne Kaaen



- 16 Tanner Baslee
- 17 Jeremy Groat
- Gary McAlvey
- 18 Kelly Fleming
- Kathy Wallace
- 19 Steve Drumheller
- 20 Nicole Redman
- Nate Swisher
- 22 Andrew Easton
- Jim Evans
- Megan Evans
- 23 Nathaniel Rice
- Ron Skifstad
- Rebecca Stewart
- 24 Evelyn Cornelius
- 25 Jillian McDaniels
- Noralea Ordway
- 28 Brandon Hoppen
- Alyvia Huntley
- Karen Nielsen
- 29 Jaela Dallas Rucker
- 30 Chester Steen
- Sandy Swenson

**Happy
Birthday**

Monthly Events

- 4 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
- 9 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 11 MOPS 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders 6:30 PM
- 13 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 14 Faith Promise Sunday**
- 15 Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- Missions Commission 7:00 PM
- 20 Faith Promise Dinner 6:00 PM
- 25 MOPS 9:00 AM
- CE Commission 6:30 PM
- 28 Pastoral Appreciation Sunday**
- 31 Harvest Carnival 5:30 PM

Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Group 6:00 PM

Tuesday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM

Families in Training 6:30 PM

Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM





Pastor Sharon

Bible Stories by Kids

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then He gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Honor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

To be continued:



Partnership with Promise

by Joyce Paine

What's Happening?

Faith Promise weekend Sunday, October 14 with Wayne and Kathi Sellers as our guest speakers. In their ministry in Costa Rica they train and prepare pastors and leaders as well as host 75 work camps.

What is Faith Promise?

It is a personal covenant with God expressing your intention to give a specific amount to the support of missions. Faith promise links your "promise" to give with your "faith" to believe that God will provide.

Where Does the Money Go?

Lebanon Orphanage, Mediterranean Bible College, Frano Santonocito, Angela Rajnus (Intervarsity at Whitman College), Wayne and Kathi Sellers, Charlotte McPherson, H.E.A.R.T. Institute, Kelly Rasley (Campus Crusade for Christ), Birthright, Egypt Church of God, Young Life (Galena, Alaska), Chris & Karen Carlile (Flying H Ranch), Julie Yerger (Rwanda).

Why?

"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."

2 Corinthians 8:3

Celebration Dinner: Saturday, October 20th, 6:00 pm. Come celebrate with us what God has done through Faith Promise.

Faith Promise missionaries are supported in addition to those supported by the church budget.



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. I realized that we had been so busy lately with work and CR that we didn't do much of that anymore. 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. There just is no better place to see God at work than in nature.

Our CR workbook 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.



MAY GRACE AND PEACE

BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

I P E T E R 1 : 2 , N R S V

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Children's Pastor — Sharon Wiles
Student Ministries Pastor — Isaac Freeman
Worship Interim Pastor — Richard Easton

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