

The Connection

Volume 6, Issue 2, February 2008

from Pastor Mike...

We have just completed one month of 2008 and we are beginning to settle into our regular routines and schedules. Many of our New Years resolutions are fading fast. Are you still keeping up with that diet and exercise program, how about your financial goals and your spiritual goals for this year?

As I continue to embark on fulfilling my goals for this year I came across this article on holiness. It resonated in my soul. God has called us to be a holy people and yet at times I am reminded that God still has much to do in me. I trust that this article will remind you as it did me that holiness is a process and that God is the one who makes us holy as we surrender to his will. My number one goal this year is that there would be more of Jesus and less of me in my character, so that I can fulfill my life mission for His glory.

Love,
Pastor Mike

A Perfectly Reasonable Request

by Jon Walker

“Then I said: Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, [and] because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.” (Isaiah 6:5 HCSB)

There are days when I think I’m doing pretty good in my pursuit of holiness. Other days, I find myself in the dirt, grit between my teeth, and the mud and crud of life all over my less-than-saintly face.

What a Welcome!

by Sharon Hale

Looking for an easy way to minister in the church that makes a huge impact with a smile and a handshake? Do you want to be a blessing and be blessed? Be a greeter. You see them everytime you enter the building on a Sunday morning, making the difference between entering some random place and being welcomed into the family of God. Webster defines it this way



— to greet is to welcome, to receive, an expression of good wishes. We are being an instrument of God’s love when we reach out to others, inviting them into God’s house.

Welcome Guests

The first time I came here, the greeters made me feel like I belonged, like I was someone special and that I mattered. Now, I have a passion for sharing that welcoming with others.

Being a greeter requires no “inside” knowledge of BMCC, nor do you have to take a spiritual maturity test. All it takes is a willing heart and a warm smile. Oh, and it helps if you like people. To find out more about being a greeter, contact Sharon Hale at 529-7813.

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From Your Administrative Pastor

As we enter 2008, a new year of promise, there are challenges we all face. They will take different forms for each of us, but the requirement will be the same: the New Year will ask something of us. It will throw us into the midst of conditions that demand more of us than we think we have. Not always, but sometimes, we will feel overwhelmed. Some of this may even be amplified by the fact that we have been off for a while because of the holidays, and returning to normal responsibilities is a little like being pulled back into the fray.

Here are some thoughts from John Fisher's "Catch of the Day" that I like...

For such a time as this, I offer some advice from "Elastigirl," the "super" from the animated movie, "The Incredibles." Bob and Helen Parr are superheroes trying to have a normal life, raising a family in the suburbs, when they get sucked back into their superhero stint of saving the world. The children have untested powers they have inherited from their parents DNA that they will need to draw upon in the current crisis. In a moment of truth, Helen ("Elastigirl") has to leave two of her children to fend for themselves while she goes off to rescue her husband, Bob ("Mr. Incredible"). It's her speech to the children that got my attention as we saw this movie again over the holidays.

Up until this moment, Helen has been discouraging her kids to play around with their latent powers so that they wouldn't stick out among the other kids in the neighborhood. This time, she has to reverse that rule.

"But things are different now," she says to her daughter as she prepares to leave her and their son, Dash, in enemy territory, "and doubt is a luxury we can't

afford any more, Sweetie. You have more power than you realize. Don't think, and don't worry. If the time comes, you'll know what to do. It's in your blood."

As followers of Christ, we have more power than we realize. Don't think, or in other words, don't psyche yourself out with rules and requirements. Step into the situation because you know you have what it takes, and it will come to you when you need it. And remember... "It's in your blood."

Marriage Conference Coming to Tri - Cities



Marriage is defined by memories. They can be memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. It all depends on how well you apply the principles that make marriage thrive. For thirty years, the **Weekend to Remember** conference has been helping couples create the kind of memories that build a healthy marriage.

Weekend to Remember is a weekend marriage conference that teaches God's design for marriage and family. The environment is fun, non-threatening, and sometimes hilarious. And it's a wonderful time for couples to refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones. Registration is open to individuals, couples, or groups.

The nearest conference will be held February 22-24 at the Pasco Red Lion. We have procured a group rate (at any conference) of \$89 per person. Register at familylife.com and use group # 14324.



A Family Valentine's Day
by Pastor Sharon

When we think about Valentine's Day many think of heart shapes boxes of chocolates, hearts, flowers, and true love. Valentine's Day is typically for couples to celebrate their love and commitment to each other. Let me challenge you this year to make Valentines Day a family event. Here are a variety of ideas for families to celebrate the true meaning of Valentine's Day.

1) Create Homemade Valentine Cards.

Instead of buying Valentine cards try making your own. There are many really good stamps and colorful paper and creative writing utensils available.

2) Personal Valentines Day message.

You could work on a poem, creative writing, drawings, or cut out pictures from magazines or use other old cards. Mom loves these kinds of gifts.

3) The "Just Because I Love You" Heart.

This is a red wooden heart that has the words "Just Because I Love You" painted on it. Whoever has the heart first has to do some loving deed or present someone with a gift and put this heart by it. Then this person in the family finds someone else to do something for. The object is to keep the heart moving. You can do this for the week, month, or all year long in the family.

4) Baked Heart-shaped cookies.

Eat them together or give them as a gift. Better do both: give and eat the cookies.

5) Plan a Valentine's Dinner for Mom.

Plan a special dinner for Mom. She does not have to cook or clean up. And the family is required to help in some way, either the meal preparation or cleanup. You might try her favorite dish or dessert.

6) Hershey Big Kiss Treasure Hunt

Take a giant Hershey's Kiss and hide one for each person. You can have each person in the family hide one or only parents hide them and write a clue on a valentine's card. If the child can not read add a clip art picture to help them solve the clue. Every one will love the hunt and the reward!



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.

- 1 Jamie Nachtigall
Elissa Stites
Nick Swisher
- 2 Peter Erb
- 3 Alex Carias
Scott Haen
Jared Pattee
Rose Paul
Levi Sands
Evelyn Wallace
- 5 Bob Conwell
Amanda Gorze
Walter Zier
- 6 Bill Keyser
- 7 Rachael Adkins
Rebecca Mize
Phillip Somers
- 8 Willis Goodwin
Marilyn Groom
Abby Larreau
Jessica McDaniels
Adam Voss
- 9 Rick Grubb
Leanne Howard
- 10 Samantha Cobb
Dan Kilmer



- 11 Irene Buttice
Aaron Grubb
- 12 Kathy Wood
- 13 Emily Larreau
- 14 Phyllis Branscum
Linda Joshlin
- 16 Laine McMillan
Joseph Watson
- 17 Davin Sands
Jack Sands
- 18 Joshua Hinrichsen
- 20 Terry Burner
Zachery Harris
Sarah Wood
- 22 John Bender
- 24 Kaeldra Caton
Marcia Napier
- 25 Paula Hoppen
Talitha Kelly
- 27 Corey Hobbs
Claudia Huntley
Polly Josifek
Jackie Kuljis
Darlene Mings
Rich Young
- 28 Gail Johnson
Erika Swenson

Celebrating February Birthdays and Anniversaries



- 7 *Dan & Deborah Minter*
- 14 *Mark & Mary Ellen Farr*
- 20 *Bill & Christene Thrasher*
- 21 *Steve & Rebecca Mize*
- 22 *Don & Lee Lynch*
- 28 *Mike & Kriss Pettyjohn*
- 29 *Bill & Kay Keyser*

Special Days

14 *Valentine's Day*

18 *Presidents' Day*



Weekly Events

Sunday

Families in Training 5:30 PM

Tuesday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth Group 6:30 PM

Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

Monthly Events

- 7 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
- 9 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 11 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
- 12 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 14 MOPS 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 15- 18 High School Winter Camp
- 18 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 21 SAMS 10 :00 AM
- Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
- CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 28 MOPS 9:00 AM

* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries

MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers



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It makes me wonder if Peter engaged in wishful thinking when he restated God's call from Leviticus, that we're to be holy, just as our heavenly Father is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

This is perfectly reasonable because it is God who makes us holy – not our own pursuit of holiness. Isaiah's vision of heaven helps me to understand how this works. An angel-seraph sings out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; his glory fills the whole earth," and Isaiah's response is, "Woe is me, for I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, [and] because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts" (Isaiah 6:3,5 HCSB).

This is Isaiah, the MVP of prophets, yet as he moves into God's holy light, he can see more clearly than ever that his righteous acts are more than filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). He says, in effect, "I am ruined; I cannot match your holiness, Lord."

Just then, one of the angel-seraphs flies to Isaiah with a glowing hot coal from heaven's altar. He touches it to Isaiah's lips and says, "Now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, and your sin is atoned for" (Isaiah 6:7 HCSB).

The thing to remember today – and forever – is that God initiates the cleansing; God does it himself. He will complete the cleansing as you submit to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8a NIV).

So what?

· God is holy, and you can only become holy through his work in you.

· The closer you get to God, the more you'll realize how far short of holiness you are. We all fall short of the glory of God.

· God cleanses you for a mission – "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Who should I send? Who will go for us? I said: Here I am. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8 HCSB).

· Not by works – Ask God to show you the place in your life where you rely on good works and not upon his grace. Ask him to help you embrace the grace (Ephesians 2:8 NIV).



From Pastor Ike

Sr. High Events:

- Winter Retreat @ Double K Ranch
2/15 – 2/18
 - o \$135
 - o skiing, snowboarding, tubing, music, competitions
- Wednesday night Youth
 - o Going through "Life Hurts, God Heals" thru April
- March 14th & 15th "Survive"

Jr. High Events:

- Jr. High Winter Retreat March 6-8th
Lake Cle Elum cabin



Celebrate Recovery

by Melanie Clark

Here we are starting another year, and no doubt, many of you will be making some New Years resolutions. I encourage each of you to consider making Celebrate Recovery a part of this new year.

When I started attending C.R., I was convinced, as are many of you, that I did not need such a program. Sure, I had some struggles in my past, who doesn't? But since I was attending church, and by all rights doing the best that I had probably ever done, why now would I reach out for a support group? Well, let me tell you what I found when I walked through the door on that first Friday night.

I found a room full of people that all love God. Each and everyone of the Christians at Celebrate Recovery are grateful beyond belief for their lives, even with the trials, that God has allowed them to have. I also found some of the best friendships I have ever had, with people that are honest and real about how God is working in their lives.

The other thing I found was freedom. Freedom to examine my faults, and confess them to myself to God, and to someone I trust. Matthew 5:8 says "Happy are the pure in heart." I come every Friday because I want to, and because I know that I am needed there. I am needed by my friends, and I am needed because I am called into service by the Lord.

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



MISSIONS CORNER

By Jeanne Fox



This month I would like to tell you a little about **Julie Yerger**. She is one of the missionaries we support with our Faith Promise dollars.



Julie has been involved in missions since she was a child and went on her first mission trip at the age of nine. Her first mission trip was to Mexico to build a covered meeting area. She "helped" by mixing cement, carrying drinks out to the workingmen, and playing with the neighbor kids. On that trip she knew she was hooked on missions and wanted to be a missionary!

Julie participated on five mission trips before finishing high school and found it difficult to make friends with kids from her church youth group where the important things to them were designer clothes and make-up. She had seen kids who had nothing and had watched others die from malnutrition.

Julie went on to college and received her RN and is now working at Kibogora Hospital in Rwanda, Africa. Her job includes nursing education to improve the quality of nursing care as well as starting a nursery for the sick newborns. Kibogora is a 260-bed hospital that serves a population of about 200,000.

As I write this, Julie has been at Kibogora for three months and is now the only missionary at the hospital. Both the other missionaries have had to return home for health reasons. She is on her own and needs our prayer support.



God has poured out his
love into our hearts

Romans 5:5

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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