

The Connection

Volume 6, Issue 5, May 2008

*Dear Church Family,
Many of us need to learn to laugh, especially during hard times. This article from Pastor Rick Warren really encouraged me and I hope it will lift your spirits as well.*

Love, Pastor Mike

Learn to laugh by Rick Warren

Did you know that people who laugh live longer? It's true. Proverbs 14:30 says, "A *relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life.*" (TLB)

Humor is an amazing thing. It's a tension dissolver. It's an antidote to anxiety. It's just like a tranquilizer, but without any troublesome side effects. And it's free! You don't even need a prescription.

Laughter is life's shock absorber. If you want to have less stress in your life, learn to laugh at your circumstances. Somehow, you must find the fun in the frustrating.

Someone once asked President Lincoln how he handled all the stresses of the Civil War. He said, "If it hadn't been for laughter, I could not have made it." Many famous comedians grew up in poor neighborhoods with lots of problems. They coped with their troubles by learning to laugh and making others laugh.

So learn to laugh. If you can laugh at it, you can live with it. And besides, if you learn to laugh at your troubles, you'll never run out of anything to laugh at! Life is full of funny situations. Will Rogers once said, "I don't know any jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." Proverbs 17:22

continued on page 6

2008 PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Dr. Ravi Zacharias
2008 Honorary Chairman
National Day of Prayer Task Force

Holy Father, in a world where so many are hungry,
You have given us food in abundance;

In a world where so many are hurting,
You offer to bind up our wounds;

In a world where so many are lonely,
You offer friendship to every heart;

In a world longing for peace,
You offer hope.

Yet, we are so stubborn and resistant.
Have mercy upon us, Lord.

Our nation is at a crossroads this year;
we look to you to be our strength and shield.

Please give us the guidance to elect one who will
honor you and to respond to the wisdom from
above so that our hope may be renewed and our
blessings be treasured.

In God's holy name.

May 1, 2008 is the designated National Day of Prayer. Blue Mountain Community Church will be open all day for prayer.



From Your
Administrative Pastor

**We call it a Worship Service on Sunday
but what about the other six days?**

Recently I used the following thoughts from John Fisher concerning worship with our staff...let me know what you think.

Until next time-

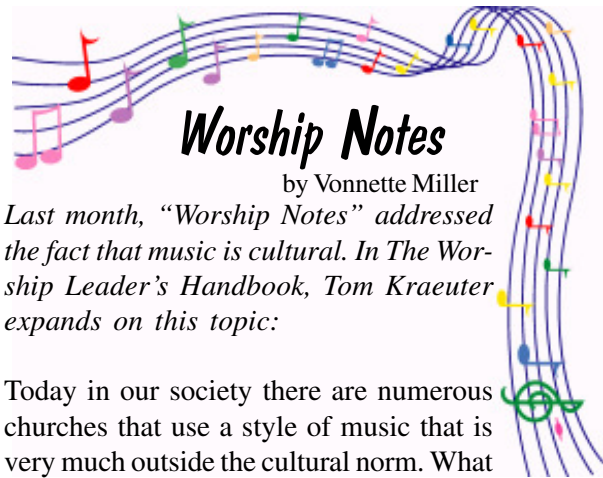
Pastor Dan II

I will worship God today because it is good and right to do so. I will worship God today, not because of what it will do for me, or because it is popular, or because it is Sunday, or because I like the worship music, but for the simple reason that I was made to do this. To worship God is what I am here for.

Worship is not an asset. It is not an added benefit to my life like working out or taking vitamins. Nor is it a secret formula that will add a deeper dimension to my life. Worship is the air I breathe. It is the blood pumping through my veins. It is the cells in my body that reproduce and keep me alive for this. Everything else I do is extemporaneous. To worship God is the root of my being.

Remember the pet rock craze? Or canned air? Or anything else that someone tries to make a buck off of packaging, in a clever way, what everyone already has for the taking? In the same way we risk the danger of belittling worship by marketing it or using it as a means to an end. Worship is the end. The Westminster Catechism calls it the "chief end" of man. That's another way of saying it is the most important thing we were created to do.

The Lord our God is one God, and we will love him and worship him because of who he is and who we are. It is arrogant not to do so. We are his creatures; he is the creator. We are mere people; he is God. To do anything but worship him is to inadvertently put us in his place, and I don't think anyone in his or her right mind really wants to be there.



Worship Notes

by Vonnette Miller

Last month, "Worship Notes" addressed the fact that music is cultural. In The Worship Leader's Handbook, Tom Kraeuter expands on this topic:

Today in our society there are numerous churches that use a style of music that is very much outside the cultural norm. What often happens in these churches is that visitors cannot relate to the style of music and therefore go elsewhere. The truth of God's Word may be there, but the music is too far removed from the experience and understanding of the people.

I am not suggesting that we throw out traditional hymns. Never! They are a vital part of our Christian heritage. I have seen many churches refuse to use hymns much to their detriment. However, to stay locked in to a style of music that is one hundred to three hundred years old is just as detrimental.

Why do people in our society generally wear Western styles of clothing? Why do teachers in the church use modern English instead of the vernacular popular in the 1600s? Music, just like language and dress, is a cultural issue.

We must be willing to try new ideas and new ways of doing things. Remember, from a scriptural perspective, there is no particular music style that is inherently godly or ungodly.

What new ideas in worship are you willing to try? For some of us who are not familiar with them, the traditional hymns are new, while for others it is the modern worship music that is new. Whatever our perspective on "new" may be, let's join together and sing a new song unto the Lord!



The Truth about Hugs!!!

There's no such thing as
A bad hug, only good ones and great ones

Hugs are

Non-fattening and
They don't cause warts or cavities..

Hugs are

All natural with no preservatives,
artificial ingredients or pesticide residue...

Hugs are

Cholesterol-free, naturally sweet,
100% wholesome and they are a
completely renewable resource...

Hugs are

Easy to care for,
they don't require batteries,
Tune-ups, or x-rays...

Hugs are

Non-taxable, fully returnable
and energy efficient...

Hugs are

Exceptionally effective in treating
problems like bad dreams or tests...

Hugs are

Safe in all kinds of weather...

In fact,

Hugs are

Especially good for
cold and rainy days
And 100% Free...

Give your Mother, Grandmother, Aunts, and all
the important women in your life a great big hug
with an "I love you"!!!

Happy Mothers Day!!



MISSIONS CORNER

by Kathy Wood

Chris and Karen from Graham, Washington
have accepted the call to leave their jobs and
home to go and serve missionary children at
Sahel Academy in Niger, West Africa.

They are now in the process of raising
monthly financial support for a one year commitment.
They applied for a one year leave of absence from
their present school district, but the school would not
approve the request. Fully understanding the ramifi-
cations of quitting their jobs, they know without a
doubt that God is in control and will provide for their
family's needs.

They will not have access to high-speed internet or
have conveniences of local shopping centers. They
will not own a car, and will live in a simple concrete
home that does not have kitchen or laundry facilities.
Chris, Karen and their two small children will have
to say goodbye to relatives, friends, neighbors, class-
mates and family pets, but their hearts are filled with
joy and their faces radiate with smiles as they talk
about how God is leading and directing them to this
new place.

Please join us in giving thanks for Chris and Karen
and the work they they will accomplish during their
time in Niger. Pray that God will continue to provide
all their needs as they prepare to leave for West Af-
rica this summer.

If you are interested in more information about Sahel
Academy or how you can serve at an International
MK School, please feel free to contact
teachabroad@cten.org!

- 1 *Andrea Gonzalez*
Ken Jurgensen
- 2 *Linda Cline*
Teresa Maxwell
- 4 *Skip Harrold*
Joshua McDaniels
Rachel McMillan
- 5 *Bettie Baker*
Pat Hanford
Patty Phelps-Lydon
- 6 *Darby Clark*
- 7 *Dodie Bruggeman*
- 9 *Frank Aichele*
Dan Huntley
Talise Minteer
- 10 *Ryan Houk*
Bev Kuljis
- 11 *Kris Eagon*
Tanner Gorze
Maggie Miranda
Christene Thrasher
- 12 *Anna Rice*
Herb Smeed
Maranatha Snider
- 13 *Caleb Mountain*
- 14 *Ed Voss*
- 15 *Alec Carrera*
Frankie Weed
- 16 *Cindy Blair*
Judi Easton
Kelly Hutcherson
Marissa McBride
Deborah Minteer
Joan Owens

- 17 *Jared Burns*
Timothy Goodwin
Adam Hinrichsen
Jarod Mings
Adora Osborne
- 19 *Mary Fleming*
Dora Wilson
- 20 *Janice Aichele*
Spencer Conwell
Ethan Harris
Dianne Mosher
Joelie Voeks
- 21 *Dina Anderson*
Lin Myers
Andrew Somers
Chelsey Wood
- 24 *Abigail Berger*
- 25 *Beverly Lemons*
Rebecca Oertel
Bernice Shivley
- 26 *Bekah Kraut*
- 27 *Dave Hale*
Vonda Rand
- 28 *Brenda Jones*
- 31 *Jennifer Edwards*
Donnette Filan
Jerry Musick
Donna Raugust



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 *Gene & Cheryl Cowles*
- 4 *Michael & Wendy Baird*
- 7 *John & Betty Hamby*
- 9 *Ric & Sharon Wiles*
- 13 *Rick & Cyndi Walters*
- 17 *Bob & Diane Benfield*
- 25 *Jim & Cindy Tackett*
- 29 *Tom & Cindy Angotti*

Special Days

- 1 National Day of Prayer
- 11 Mother's Day
- 26 Memorial Day

Monthly Events

- 1 SAMS 10:00 AM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 8 MOPS 9:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 11 Jeremiah People 10:15 AM
- 12 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 15 SAMS 10:00 AM
Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 17 Prayer Partner Breakfast 8:00 AM
Family Movie Night 6:00 PM
- 18 Basket Auction for Scholarships
Musical Celebration 6:00 PM
- 19 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22 MOPS 9:00 AM
- 26 **Office Closed for Memorial Day**
- 30 Annual Reports Due

* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers



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 6:30 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

continued from page 1

says, “*Being cheerful keeps you healthy.*” (GNB) We all need to develop a sense of humor.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Psalm 2:4, “*The One enthroned in heaven laughs.*” Isn’t that a great verse? God has a sense of humor. God laughs! Do you want to be more like God? Learn to laugh. A sense of humor can preserve your sanity.

I read this account in the The Encyclopedia Britannica’s 1982 Yearbook, under the heading “Strange and Unusual Events:”

Brian Heise had more than his share of luck, and most of it was bad. When his apartment in Provo, Utah, became flooded from a broken pipe in the upstairs apartment, the manager told him to go out and rent a water vacuum. That’s when he discovered his car had a flat tire. He changed it, then went inside again to phone a friend for help. The electric shock he got from the phone so startled him that he inadvertently ripped the instrument off the wall. Before he could leave the apartment a second time, a neighbor had to kick down the apartment door because water damage had jammed it tight. While all of this was going on, someone stole Heise’s car, but it was almost out of gas. He found it a few blocks away but had to push it to the gas station, where he filled up the tank. That evening he attended a military ceremony. He injured himself severely when he somehow sat on his bayonet, which had been tossed onto the front seat of his car. Doctors were able to stitch up the wound, but no one was able to resuscitate four of Heise’s canaries that were crushed to death by falling plaster. After Heise slipped on the wet carpet and badly injured his tailbone, he said he began to wonder if “God wanted me dead, but just kept missing.”

And you think you’ve had bad days! Sometimes, all you can do is laugh. Take my advice: acquire a sense of humor. Learn to laugh. It’s relaxing and healing and a buffer to all the stress the world throws your way.



REJUVENATION UPDATE

Prayer and planning continues to help us move forward on the Rejuvenation Project. Members of the staff, Board of Elders and Building Committee met with our designer, Chris Hopkins, April 7th for yet another round of discussions. We’re working very hard to ensure the very best design possible for serving all of our needs. Several major changes to the plans were agreed upon, most of which will be on the ground floor. We’ve eliminated a couple of the bathrooms, moved others, added a drinking fountain, enlarged the upstairs mezzanine area, and added a set of doors on the west wall of the multi-purpose room, just to name a few.

The stage at the end of the multi-purpose room was reduced in size to allow us more flexibility of space. The reception area for our children was moved closer to the entry doors to make it more visible to new families as they enter the building, and we’ve added interior windows for the nursery; allowing parents easy viewing of their young ones. Other changes were agreed upon as well.

Chris is now working on making the changes to the drawings. As always, you will find the latest drawings on the bulletin board in the narthex as you enter the church, along with the latest meeting notes.

Once again, thank you all for your prayers, ideas, and support for this much needed project. The support you have shown has truly been amazing. Please keep in mind that we have a long way to go on our fund raising effort if we are to see this project completed.

In His service
Larry Wachtel



Celebrate Recovery

By Gary Stewart

Early in my recovery and Christian life I thought, as long as I wasn't using drugs and breaking the law I was doing great. I thought things would get better, and they slowly did. When I would go to recovery meetings, (there was no Celebrate Recovery yet so I went to N.A. and A.A.), I would listen to the others share and would compare my life to theirs. In my mind I would think "I wasn't that bad, I never did that" or "that isn't that bad, I did worse things than that."

By taking other people's inventories I could justify my actions and did not have to look at all my hurts, hang-ups and habits. That reminds me of 1Corinthians 10:12 "So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall." The Holy Spirit started to show me that not using drugs and staying out of trouble with the law were not the only things I needed work on. I needed to stop taking other people's inventories and start taking my own.

Celebrate Recovery Principle 7 says ~ *Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.* Step 10 says ~ *We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.* The principle doesn't say ~ daily time with God to examine **others** and the step doesn't say to take **others** inventories and promptly tell **them they** are wrong. No, I need to look at **myself** and admit **I'm** going to be wrong on a daily basis and make mistakes. There is saying "Would you rather be right. . .or well?" I'm trying to be well.

Special Performance for Mother's Day

The JEREMIAH PEOPLE, America's premier Christian musical drama group, will be performing at Blue Mountain Community Church on May 11 at 10:15 am. For 30 years, the JEREMIAH PEOPLE have been on the cutting edge of Christian Music Theater, entertaining audiences throughout the United States with the best in Christian drama and music for the entire family. Comprised of five to eight actors/musicians/cast members, The JEREMIAH PEOPLE continue their tradition of laughter, tears and relevant ministry using the very best in drama, music and testimony. So . . . gather up your family, bring along your neighbors, and prepare for a morning of fun-filled comedy, life changing drama, hope-inspiring music, and heart-felt ministry. Don't miss the JEREMIAH PEOPLE!



Happy Mother's Day

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.

*Give her the reward
she has earned,
and let her works
bring her praise
at the city gate.*



Proverbs 31:31

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

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. 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.
© 2008 Blue Mountain Community Church.