

The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 11, November 2009

What's Happening at . . .



by Candy Whittaker

The Ark will be doing monthly service projects this year. The month of October we had a canned food drive and also collected items for the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

In November we are putting together shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Through this project, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, millions of children receive gift-filled shoe boxes and hear the Gospel through Christian literature and follow-up discipleship programs. The children who receive these boxes are from war-torn, poverty stricken, third world or disaster-stricken areas. Many of the children have never received a gift before.

If you would like to help, we will leave a box at Ministry Central for your donated items.

Gift suggestions:

Toys: Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument. For boys trucks and cars, for girls dolls, clip on earrings etc.

Educational supplies: Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.

Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc.

Other items: Sweets (sell by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

No thanks, these items should not be included...

No food especially chocolate. Only exception, non chocolate sweets are allowed.

No medicine or vitamins of any kind.

No war related items: Toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind.

No clothing other than listed above.

No fragile items: Glass containers, mirrors.

No liquids: including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols.

No dangerous items: Any sharp objects, scissors or razors.

Nothing of a political nature.

No hand knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark.

We will be collecting these items on November 14th.





Colossians 3:15 reminds us to always be thankful. I have so much to be thankful for:

- God's love and grace
- Christ going to the cross for my sins and my acceptance of his atoning sacrifice for me
- Heaven
- God's calling on my life
- Our church
- Our church team and their families
- A loving wife
- Our son and his wife
- Our two daughters
- Our five grandchildren
- My dad
- My brothers and my sister
- My friends
- My neighbors

These are just a few of the blessings that come to my mind. Each of these have made me a better man...thanks!

So how about you...have you thought about the things you are thankful for? You might want to jot down a few of them like I have done and then lift these to the Lord daily. Be a blessing to those that have blessed you.

Until next time-

Pastor Dan Huntley II



Faith & Family: A Fantastic Journey!

By Cailey Dumler

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

This past month was especially energizing as we witnessed a young child exit the church facility and proactively study the Bible story at home with his parent. In his words, "I wanted to know if I was being told the truth so I decided to go home and study the Bible myself." How awesome is that! This child's response led to a challenge for all kids: remember the passage taught, tell your parent(s), ask them to study God's Word together.

I fully realize that life gets chaotic but if we are too busy to read the truth that God has for us, then we are simply busier than God intended for us to become. Everyday counts as we help our children to grow in Christ. I encourage *all* families, including my own personal family, to take time throughout the week to read the Bible together.

We will grow closer to God and closer to each other in the process. Furthermore, the Word serves as a daily guide for the purpose God has for our lives. It is living and active. We must nourish our spirit just as we supply our physical bodies with the necessary nutrients to survive. Let us not live in survival mode. Instead, we should strive to have childlike faith that is capable of moving mountains. This begins with spending intimate time with Him. Trust me, you won't be sorry!



Mission Trip Gears Up

by Ken Paine

In late July of 2010, up to 14 people from BMCC will be heading for Africa for two weeks of 'being good neighbors.' We will be working at a school in Uganda, spending time in the classrooms, working on a building project or two, possibly doing a medical clinic, and helping out in any way we can. This will be an opportunity to see what life and education is like in a third world country. Conditions will be a bit primitive (think 'camping'), but still a bit more comfortable than the way the students and teachers live.

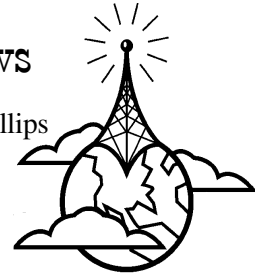
In Kenya, we'll be staying at KIST (Kima International School of Theology in Kima, Kenya, which Church of God supports/runs) and help with construction projects and anything else we can do to make life easier for those working and studying there.

We should be able to keep the cost of the trip under \$3000 each, and are starting to do fundraising to cover as much of that cost as possible. Anyone coming on the trip will need to help with the fundraising and be involved with some teambuilding activities.

We still have room for several more people to join this trip. If you're interested in traveling to Africa with us, have questions about the trip, or are interested in supporting us, please contact Ken Paine at 386-4959 or paine@whitman.edu.

Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips



Last year a number of you donated money to purchase a loom for Carmen in Guatemala. There have been some major changes to Carmen and her siblings since that time. They have been taken in by a family in foster care. I asked Kim Agrellas about the loom. Here is her reply.

Hi Vic, Thanks for asking about Carmen. We still have her loom but she is not currently able to use it. First of all, the very, very small home that the family of 13 lives in does not have room for it. We have looked at options of setting it up elsewhere where Carmen could come a couple times a week to work on it, since she does enjoy the work and it is a great skill to keep her connected to the village. However, the foster family does not want her weaving and making money from it.

This culture is already suspicious of someone who would take in other people's children and the automatic assumption is that they must be using the children to work for them. So, for that reason, the family doesn't want Carmen weaving until she turns 18, which is next July. They are concerned that even an accusation that they brought the children in to work for them could cause them to lose not only their foster children but also their biological children.

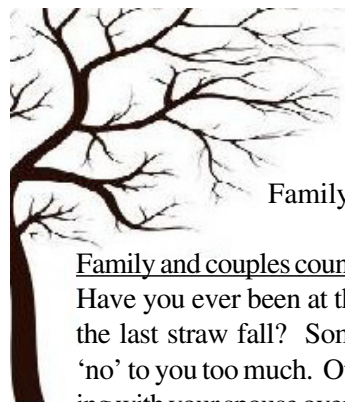
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Celebrating November

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Hallie Adkins
Megan Agrellas
Harold Benzel
Roland Schirman | 17 | Karl Dahl
Ashley Ramsey |
| 2 | Shaunna Bennett
Wyatt Guse
Ryan Harmon | 18 | Roberta Bardsley
Earl Stanley |
| 3 | Bettie Freiberg | 19 | Katrina Bender
Aaric Easton
Lanetta Romero |
| 4 | Shea Matheny | 21 | Melanie Berger
Sonny Reyburn
Dustin West
Blake Woelfle |
| 5 | Cameron Mountain | 22 | Julie Caton
Jinny Daniels
Rob Voeks |
| 6 | Susan Huie
Amaris Spence
Audrey Wright | 23 | Nicolai Carrera |
| 7 | Nick Caton
Patrick Nachtigall
Aaron Tackett
Skylar Wood | 24 | Kathryn Logosz
Jim Moss |
| 11 | Zachary Agrellas
John Hamby
David Waltner | 25 | Tom Fox
Donny Hoppen |
| 12 | Lois Hobbs | 26 | Daniel Miranda
Shirley Musick |
| 13 | Felicia Wachtel | 27 | Emilia Harris
Paul Jones
Sue LaFont
Tara Krivoshein
Rachel Scott |
| 14 | Yvonne Henline
Madelyn Pellicer
Crystal Wood | 28 | Mailen Carrera |
| 15 | Stephanie Harmon
Connie Stanley
Dorothy Stephenson | 29 | Justin Hutcherson
Evelyn Schmidt |
| | | 30 | Ron Groom
Elaine Kerby |

- 1 *Harold & Kay Benzel*
Kevin & Cindy Blair
- 14 *Bill & Marlene Saager*
- 20 *Bill & Barbara Parker*
- 24 *Rod & Patty Harmon*
- 27 *Frank & Deanna Aichele*



Family Life

by Pastor Brent

Family resources for you...

Family and couples counseling

Have you ever been at the end of the rope...had the last straw fall? Sometimes your child says 'no' to you too much. Other times it can be arguing with your spouse over bills. Still, something as small as spilling your Starbucks in the parking lot or locking your keys in the car (while it's still running!) can send you over the edge. Have you been there?

Well, fortunately most of these things tend to take care of themselves with a little time and patience. Once in a while, however, the help of a non-biased third-party person can be beneficial. If you're like me and the term 'counseling' doesn't quite sit well for you, call it 'life choice advisement.' For those who may not know, this is a service offered at BMCC through the Family Life office -- confidential and free of charge. Appointments are made by calling the church office.

Parenting newsletter

Are you a parent with kids still at home? How would you like to have a monthly newsletter with Christian-based articles on entertainment, communication, and social issues that pertain to your kids? Well...it's here! You can have it emailed directly to you, or snail-mailed. Simply email bmcc_pbrent@charterinternet.com and specify which one you would like to receive... children, teens, or both! You can also call the church office. Get in on the first edition by emailing me a specific question or topic that you would like to see addressed.

Be Encouraged

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.
 John 16:33



Women's Ministry



The Well

a place where....

Women Encounter the
Love of the Lord

Baker Hall
November 16, 2009*
6:30- 8:00 PM
"A Word Fitly Spoken"

"Beyond the Well" from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

*We'll meet on the third Monday in November,
due to Thanksgiving.

See you there!

Fall Festival of Gifts

Baker Hall
Saturday, November 7th
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

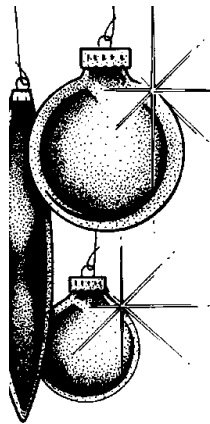
LOTS of vendors!! LOTS of Gifts!!
LOTS of fun!!

Soup & Homemade Pie Luncheon
(By Donation)
served from 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Smell those homemade cinnamon rolls
hot from the oven first thing in the morning!

COME ON OUT & JOIN THE FESTIVITIES
.... & BRING YOUR FAMILY!

Coming in December . . .



"Christmas Remembered"

Annual Women's Christmas Tea

Monday December 7, 2009 6:30 pm

A beautiful candlelit night of fun, laughter and
remembering Christmas past.

Tickets go on sale November 8
Limited seating so buy your tickets early!



Autumn Leaves

by Louis Gander

How do those leaves expose bright, vivid colors -
that are seen throughout autumn's day,
when those same leaves in the darkness of night
are simply a cold shade of gray?

The works of the flesh are futile and worthless -
when cloaked in the darkness of sin.
Only grace proves God's light is so brilliant -
and faithfully shines truth within.

So even the greatest of all Christian trees
can't be proud of colorful deed -
but humbly drop several acorns around
while faithfully planting the seed.

This poem found at: <http://www.faithwriters.com>

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This has been a disappointment to us because of all that went in to training Carmen in an effort to help her but ultimately a family and an education are way more valuable to her than her loom. The loom has been in storage, part with me and part with Teri, but we are hoping to meet with the family two weeks from today to discuss if we are going to continue to store it until Carmen is 18 or if we should sell it and bank the money for Carmen. A lot will depend on what Carmen is thinking.

There was a time where weaving was the best possible option for a village girl without an education, but Carmen is doing well in school and has had her eyes opened to the possibility of continuing on in school and having other opportunities open to her.

Again, thanks for asking! God bless,
Kim Agrellas

Although the loom is not being used or may be sold the money was well spent. One thing we emphasize in missions is building relationships. The money we send, the short term mission trips, the prayers we lift up are all aimed toward building relationships and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles are always welcome from any member of Blue Mountain Community Church. Submit it to bmcc_newsletter@charter.net. The deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



Celebrate Recovery

By Pete Erb

THINK

Celebrate Recovery, like most ministries from Saddleback Church, loves the use of acrostics. Above is one of my favorites. It has always been my belief that all can use Celebrate Recovery and the events unfolding in our church over the last few months make that plain to me.

Celebrate Recovery is based on the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. Beginning with “*Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor.*” Through “*Happy are the merciful*” All the way to “*Happy are those who are persecuted for they do what God requires.*” There exist lessons for us all.

Part of my recovery is learning that fear led me to make terrible statements. Often this was because I was afraid of the unknown or I felt out of control. God will put us in situations to feel that we are out of control because He wants us to allow ourselves to be in His care. One way that I have chosen to discipline myself is to sign each and every thing that I put to paper. If I am afraid to say what I have to say and put my name to it I probably ought not to say it at all.

Writing can be a safe place to ponder our thoughts before we send, post, e-mail or say them. It allows us to consider what we really want to say so I choose to write often. To really THINK I use this acrostic:

Is what I am trying to say-

TTrue? **H**elpful? **I**nspiring? **N**ecessary? **K**ind?

If I answer “No” to any of the above I need to reconsider my motives. Celebrate Recovery has shown me how to become a more productive part of God’s world. Please stop in on Friday.



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Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Youth 7:00 PM

Tuesday

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth 7:00 PM

Thursday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

Monthly Events

- 1 **Daylight Savings Time Ends**
- 5 SAMS 10:00 AM
 - Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 7 Festival of Gifts 9:00 AM
- 8 Scholarship Auction and Lunch 12:00 PM
 - CLIMB 7:00 PM
- 9 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
 - Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
 - The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 12 MOPS 9:00 AM
 - Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 16 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
 - The WELL 6:30 PM
- 15 SAMS 10:00 AM
 - Ark Thanksgiving Program 11:00 AM
 - Missions Commission 6:30 PM
 - Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- 22 LINK 7:00 PM
- 26-27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving**