

Volume 28 Issue 5

May 2012

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# STRIPPED OF THE GLORY

A sight he must have been, stripped of the glory. An eagle plucked of his feathers, a lion shorn of his mane. The earth maker, world shaper... now a mere babe in arms, nursing on a cold winter night...dependent and fragile. He was not God condensed...not God made little...nor a miniature king. He had become much less than that.

He had volunteered to strip down to nothing at all but a bundle of humanity...needing lessons to walk and talk, like other boys and girls. He emptied himself of heaven's privilege and comfort. And though he brushed aside all ministering spirits, he could not restrain them from singing the news to shepherds that glorious night. Could those caroling angels understand his vision and the dream which spawned this divine descent? And had those great prophets who predicted his regal visitation have known how deep and daring his pilgrimage? I think not.

Born to mere earthlings, he tented among us amid our vacillating and wavering loyalty...never certain of our clearly fickle friendship. Yet his bold descent belied a dream larger than any angel could fancy, or prophet could fathom.

For upon commencing his earthly ministry of preaching the Good

News, he announced his intention to establish a kingdom without boundaries, limits or end. In time he would explain that the first to be inducted into such a realm would be the very ones demanding his execution.

Here was a pronouncement of the ultimate victory of love over hate, good over evil, and spiritual over all that is of the flesh.

No playwright, however endowed with fanciful notions of grandeur or the outrageous, could have contrived a more magnificent plot of such pure and unfettered love and self-sacrifice.

The saga began with God stripping himself of glory. It would conclude with much of humanity taking flight to an everlasting city...the City of God. It defies logic or justice. It is a story which the old never grow tired of telling, nor the young of hearing.

In the dead of winter the story sprang to life. Amid braying donkeys and star-struck shepherds came the words...the Gospel words. God so loved the world that he gave...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...we beheld his glory...He made of himself nothing...that whosoever believes in him might not perish.

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It is rags to riches. Ruin to reigning. In love, the maker of the universe invades his creation and buys us back...redeems us...pays the ransom...destroys our enemy...draws us into his arms...fending off our protests of unworthiness.

It ends with the promise of not ending...if we will but love and embrace this condescending, inviting and stripped down king.



## ROGUE RIDERS TO SLIP INTO CALIFORNIA



Karen and I happened upon Fish Hook Restaurant last summer when taking a drive along the Klamath River. There, near Hornbrook (California), with a view of the Klamath, sits this unique eatery. So in May our wagon master will lead a caravan of us southward, over Siskiyou Pass down into the Golden State. Our May 23 outing will begin in the church parking lot at 10 a.m. Plan to be back in Ashland by 3 for sure...probably sooner. We'll make a quick stop at the hatchery, just a mile or so up river from the Fish Hook. If you plan to attend, please notify me...541-890-3209. Jim L

## REAL MEN DON'T NEED A REASON

These guys like their weekly pow wow. Any part of what transpires on Monday mornings would be enough to have them rolling out of bed and driving down to The Old Farm House. The lesson from the Lookout would be enough. Coffee and a plate of eggs-hash browns-bacon



would do it too. These gentlemen stand to greet one another. They hear each other out. Some stick around afterward to finish up plans for giving somebody a hand. So take your pick...or enjoy the package. It's all good.

Monday mornings...7:45...The Old Farm House... Phoenix (Oregon!)

## SAINTS ALIVE...AND NEEDING EACH OTHER

Unfortunately, Sunday morning doesn't afford large chunks of time for visiting and relaxing



together. So we drive over to the truck stop in Phoenix (Oregon!) to hang out together and enjoy breakfast in the process. Somehow this became a time of telling tall tales and practicing our joke-telling skills. Don't be shy. Bring that 'forward' from your computer. Borrow a story. Create your own. Most of all...come join the rest of us oldsters at the Iron Skillet on Saturday, May 5, at 9 a.m.

Order from the menu or graze at the ample buffet. Bring a friend or family member. Let your hair down. Enjoy!



## THIRD WAY MEETINGS

We have two Third Way groups, and each meets every other Wednesday. Meetings consist of developing Camaraderie, conducting Character Conversations, and planning Compassionate Action endeavors. Recently a backyard was given a great spring work-over...pruning, weed-eating, rain gutter clearing, composting, and general clean up.



In June a group will tackle a house-painting project. If you'd like to be a part of this sort of loving care and service, please give Jim Larsen a call...541-890-3209. He'll get you connected up with a group effort.

## SERMON SERIES TO PROMOTE FAITH-LIVING

I'm eager to start a new series of sermons in June. We've spent many months mining the riches of Acts. Now we'll explore ways to tap into God's power for our lives. It is possible to experience life, even a Christian life,



without a sense of victory or purpose, isn't it? I've been there, for sure. Each week we'll look at an aspect of life which can only find deep joy, satisfaction and focus if there is a strong connection with God. Jim L

## OUTDOOR BREAKFASTS, DRAG A FRIEND ALONG



Nearly all of our church's gatherings are designed to serve as entry points for our friends and neighbors. You drive to Emigrant Lake on one of the Last Saturdays of the summer months, right? Why not invite a few folk to tag along...even come early with you to do prep work? My intention, when planning these superb breakfasts, was never simply to supply dandy vittles for our own people. From day one we've hoped that we'd be putting our feet under the table with a mix of us and others.

So that is my challenge for May, June, July and August of 2012...inclusion, invitation and participation. Offer a ride. Bring an extra lawn chair. Be prepared to make introductions.

We launch this summer ministry on May 26. Expect Dutch oven biscuits and gravy. Follow the aroma of onions, peppers and hash browns on the griddle. Enjoy hot coffee and the other stuff. Be prepared to pay four or five dollars to park. Toss a few dollars in the donation basket. Most of all... come on out to the lake. Cookers...8 a.m. Eaters...9 a.m. Jim Larsen

## JACKSON HOUSE SUNDAY MINISTRY

Georgiana, almost one hundred, is deaf. So we bring a laptop computer to facilitate communica-

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 tion with her. Mary is sharp, and would enjoy some stimulating conversation. Wiley is a strong believer. He'd love to talk about faith matters. I enjoy this Sunday afternoon gathering as much as anything that happens all week. Come by some Lord's Day...2 p.m. Or...make your visit at some other time of the week. You'll be appreciated, for sure. Jim L



## TUESDAYS AT TWO... AT MOUNTAIN VIEW

Several of our folk live at Mountain Retirement Living. So some of us head there every Tuesday afternoon. You'd like what goes on in the special dining room they provide for us. We pray together, study the Word, have fine fellowship...with ice tea and donuts to boot. Come on by.

## OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

This amazing and unique ministry began not long after the turn of the century...projecting classic movies on our silver screen. Some of our current members first walked through our church doors, not for Sunday worship, but to view a movie from the forties or fifties. Attendees rave about Mike Royer's choice of films. And intermission is filled with old footage from drive-in intermission stuff...including a warning to not drive home with the speaker or heater still attached to your car window.

We've developed marvelous friendships which might well have never happened, except for standing in line together, waiting for a beefy dog or popcorn. Again, movie night provides a special opportunity to introduce friends and neighbors to your nifty church family. See the back panel of the newsletter for details of this month's offering.

## 39PLUS...POPULAR AS EVER

Who doesn't like a spirited game of Uno, SkipBo or dominoes? That is the first item on the schedule... fun and games. Then we do some mining of the scriptures. Finally, at noon, we set the table and prepare to enjoy Marie Hoffman's zesty lunch. Bring a little something to share, if you'd like, but it isn't a true potluck. This *First Wednesday* event will occur on May 2. Marie lives at 61 N. Mountain Avenue... 10 a.m.

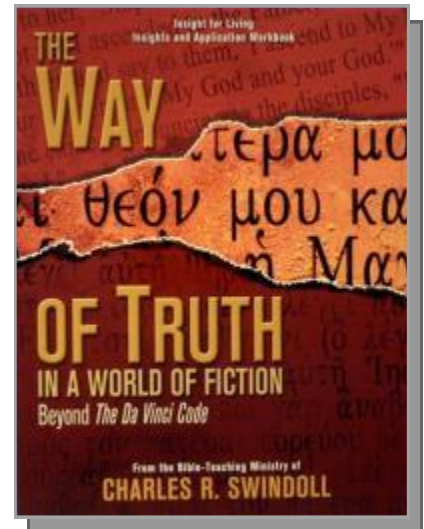
On the *Last Wednesday* (May 30) our 39PLUS folk will gather in Fellowship Hall to fold the newsletter, study the Bible and enjoy a potluck lunch (bring something to share, please). It all starts at 10 a.m.

## HAND TO HAND EVANGELISM

Every Thursday my little article runs in Ashland's newspaper, the Daily Tidings. We make book marks of those writings, to be handed out to friends and neighbors. Please take a bunch with you to share. Each one contains church's address, time of worship, our website, as well as my little ditty. For real, I hand out 30 or more every week. Give it a try. They make fine conversation starters. Find the bookmarks on the table at the side entrance of the church.

## ADULT BIBLE SCHOOL CLASS HALF TRUE

Well not really... actually we are about half way through what has turned out to be a very interesting study. Chuck Swindoll is author of our textbook, *The Way of Truth in a World of Fiction*. We have been sensitized to the overwhelming abundance of false teachings concerning God and how it affects those who swallow these heresies. Clearly something to avoid.



In the weeks ahead we will systematically focus attention on the person of Jesus Christ, his birth, life,

ministry, sacrificial death, resurrection...the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So if you are tired of half-truth here is a way to find the rest of it. Hope to see you here, the Fellowship Hall downstairs, 9:30 AM every Sunday. If you want to enjoy a light breakfast and some great conversation show up 15-20 minutes early. Gene Stringer

## **JIM'S THIRD THURSDAY SUMMER COURSES...FIRST ONE JUNE 21**

Join me on Thursday evening...**June 21**...for the first of three workshops to be offered this summer. *The Helping, Healing, Wonder of Listening* has been appreciated and well-attended each time it has been offered, as a short course for businesses, a university class and (like this one), when the community is invited. I know so few people who are accomplished in the area of active listening. It empowers others to tell their story, make their point and work through problems...without interruption, side-tracking or dishonoring the speaker.

So I'll help attendees harness five skills which can enhance relationships, give value to others and harvest the most joy from conversations. Each of the summer courses, including this one, is limited to 30 participants. We'll start at 6 and end promptly at 9...with a break midway through the evening. Sign up early to be assured of getting a spot. Give me a call at 541-890-3209. Jim Larsen

Date: Thursday, June 21  
Place: Fellowship Hall  
Cost: \$10 per person  
Time: 6-9 p.m.

## **OTHER SUMMER COURSES OFFERED**

On Thursday, July 19, I'll offer **PRAY, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!**, a daily regimen of walking and talking with God. This three hour course has potential to get you on a path of worship, confession, petition and commitment. Isn't that what we want? I've had the job of presenting this popular class in a half dozen states and on the mission field. Perhaps it will help you find strength for the journey and a strong relationship with God.

Thursday, August 16...yet another summer session for your growth. **ROLE RENEGOTIATION** has blessed so many folk. I've shared it with small businesses, volunteer organizations, as well as at marriage retreats and such. Relationships evolve as time moves us along. How do you deal with unmet expectations? What is a good way to express disappointment in another's performance in a relationship? Plenty of difficulties can be avoided if we can just learn to renegotiate.

Again...a three-hour evening. Seating is limited.

## **MOTHER'S DAY...HONOR WHERE HONOR IS DUE**

What better time to honor our moms and grandmoms than on their day...Mother's Day? We'll be handing out flowers and accolades during the worship service. A bit of music honoring these dear ladies will make the morning all the more special. Mother's Day...May 13.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

So far, we have had some very fine and thoughtful reviews from various members of the congregation. I would like to discuss a few books that may speak particularly to women.

The first is The Power of a Praying Wife by Stormie OMartian. This is an oldie but goodie. Stormie organizes the book by categories of challenges or trial which your husband may need prayer support for. She also deals with the "why do I have to be the one to change" and the "I don't want to pray for him, I want God to smite him" dilemmas [sorry, guys]. For times when words won't come, her prayers and scriptural "power tools" are a great help. Often, praying first, and talking second, brings greater results and rewards and allows the Holy Spirit more latitude to work. This is a deceptively powerful book.

The second book is Chocolate Chili Pepper Love by Becky Freeman. A light and humorous read, it nonetheless gives thoughtful insight into the "wild, high-maintenance" marriage: not peaches and cream, but chocolate and chili peppers. It's full of "I've been there" stories and enlightening scriptural annotations.

(Continued on page 6)



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Lastly, I recommend Made to Crave: Satisfying Your Deepest Desire with God, Not Food by Lysa Terkeurst. The title is pretty self-explanatory. This is not a diet book, but a book that leads us to an exploration of our relationship with food, God, and trust. It doesn't say what to do, but opens doors to a "want to do." It suggests a way to greater self-acceptance and peace about our bodies and our desire to use them as fully as possible for God.

Emily Rogers



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Austen Tiller
- 2 - Fred Kannasto
- 2 - Madge Center
- 4 - Karl Slack
- 11 - Ted Killian
- 13 - Nick Marlia-Maxwell
- 29 - Nyla Fenning
- 29 - Andrew Blore
- 31 - April Rudy

## MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28 the Ashland Posts of the American Legion and VFW will sponsor their annual Memorial Day Remembrance at Mountain View Cemetery on Ashland Street. The program begins with a band concert at 10:30 a.m. and the main program at 11:00 a.m.

The American Legion and VFW thank our church for providing the folding chairs for the program and Ashland Boy Scout Troop 112 for picking up and returning them.

Brad Fish

## ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Business Meeting on April 19th. All persons on the ballot were confirmed and included:

- ◆ Elder—Doyle Cornwell
- ◆ Deacon—Brad Fish
- ◆ Trustee—Doyle Cornwell
- ◆ Treasurer—Eleanor Olson



## ST MARY'S CONCERT



For the ninth year in a row Michael Wing has shared the talented members of the St Mary's Music program. This year we were entertained by both the Chamber Choir and the Concert Choir.

Brad Fish

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 25 - Robert & Dona Heath
- 31 - Jim & Robin Witt

*Editor's Note: If I have missed your birthday or anniversary please let me know so I can update my calendar and include them in the future. If I have included any that you would like removed please let me know that also. Just send corrections to the church office. Brad*

# "JESUS, LORD OF ALL"

"The Family of God"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<p>12:30 PM Board Meeting 2:00 PM Jackson House Ministry</p>	<p>7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home <i>Austen Tiller, B'day Fred Kannasto's B'day Madge Geater's B'day</i></p>	<p>National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>Karl Slack's B'day</p>	<p>9:00 AM Saints Alive Breakfast - Iron Skillet <i>Cinco de Mayo</i></p>																																																	
<p>6 12:30 PM Board Meeting 2:00 PM Jackson House Ministry</p>	<p>7 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Ted Killian's B'day</p>	<p>12</p>																																																	
<p>13 2:00 PM Jackson House Ministry <i>Nick Maria-Mazewell, B'day</i></p>	<p>14 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>15 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night <i>Armad Horses Day</i></p>																																																	
<p>20 2:00 PM Jackson House Ministry</p>	<p>21 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Rogue Riders - Fish Hook Restaurant</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Robert &amp; Dona Heath, Ann</p>	<p>26 9:00 AM Summer Breakfast - Emigrant Lake</p>																																																	
<p>27 2:00 PM Jackson House Ministry</p>	<p>28 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe <i>Memorial Day Remembrance-MT View Cemetery Memorial Day - Office Closed</i></p>	<p>29 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group <i>Andrew Blare's B'day Nyla Penning's B'day</i></p>	<p>30 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding</p>	<p>31 April Rudy's B'day Jim &amp; Robin Witt, Ann</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="7">June</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>M</td> <td>T</td> <td>W</td> <td>T</td> <td>F</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		June							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
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# MAY 2012

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND**

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Web: www.cc-ashland.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sunday Service Schedule**

9:30 AM Adult Bible Study

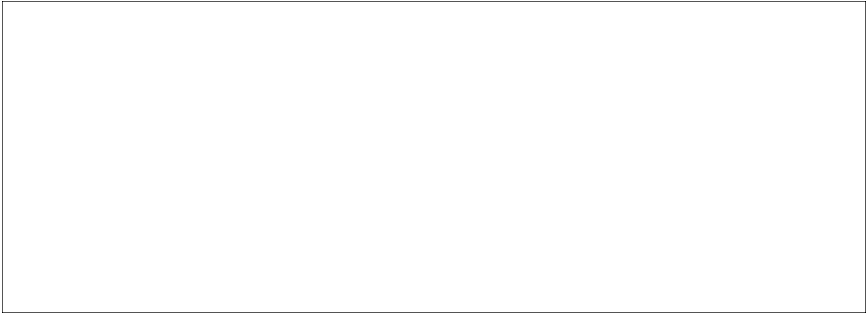
10:30 AM Junior Church

10:45 AM Worship

Podcast available at:

[podcast.cc-ashland.org](http://podcast.cc-ashland.org)

*Faithful to God, Responsive to People*



**AN EVENING OF SPINSTER SLEUTH AND RUTH-  
LESS EMPIRE BUILDER!**



Put on your thinking caps and join us for mystery writer Stuart Palmer's first novel about Miss Hildegarde Withers which came to the silver screen in 1932 and starred Edna May Oliver, *perfect* in the role of the the educator with keen deductive abilities. **"THE PENGUIN POOL MURDER"** derives its title from the aquarium where a murdered man is found, an event witnessed by visiting Miss Withers and her school class. Police Inspector Oscar Piper (James Gleason) is at first leery of the school teacher but soon learns to respect her

abilities in this well produced, excellent screenplay about Miss Hildegarde Withers, schoolmistress turned detective. The fine cast also features Mae Clarke, Robert Armstrong and Donald Cook.

After an intermission of vintage drive-in snack-bar ads and coming attraction previews we present a film made in 1932 that

could have been *ripped* from resent newspaper headlines.

**"SKYSCRAPER SOULS,"** is a potent drama about a towering edifice taller than the Empire State Building which houses a group of interconnected souls: a ruthless empire builder (Warren William) and double-crosser, a winsome secretary (Maureen O'Sullivan,) to name just two, in a story about *stock manipulation, investment hysteria,* stock that goes through the roof only to *plummet* to the basement and ruining **all** but the evil business mogul determined to gain sole ownership of the magnificent 100-story skyscraper. Others in this perhaps relevant, for our times, and risque pre-code film for its time, glossy MGM studio's production includes Anita Page, Norman Foster, Jean Hersholt and some stunning art deco sets.



Our reasonably priced snack-bar will be open most of the evening so bring a hearty appetite.

Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors about this event! Spread the word: The movies are **FREE**. But, donations are gladly accepted.

*While you're at it, consider bringing something for the Ashland Emergency Food Bank.*

