

Volume 27 Issue 12

December 2011

Staff:

Dr. James Larsen, Pastor
Brad Fish, Office Manager

Elders:

Gene Stringer
Doyle Cornwell
Michael Wing

BRIAN, POLAR BEAR FOR JESUS

Inside this issue:

- Real Men Get Along
- Our Board is not Boring
- Good Reading
- Christmas Morning Service
- Rogue Riders
- The End Game
- Old Time Movie Night
- Saints Alive
- Jackson House Worship
- 39 Plus
- Nursery Staff
- Sunday Christmas Breakfast
- Josue & Laura to Wed
- Rendezvous in Pere
- Hear Ye, Here
- Potluck Dinner
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Calendar



We camped near Siskiyou Lake in Northern California. Brian and son Nick sacked out in their tent while I slept in the back of my pick-up. The next morning family members began to arrive for the hike to Hart Lake maybe a mile up the mountain...one of Brian's favorite spots. The trail wound uphill. Before long the group was stepping in each other's tracks...in deep snow. I could hear somebody's brain working...wondering what shape Hart Lake would be in, since that was where Lori Jo's fiancé would be baptized...by me. Finally we stood there...in the snow...on the bank of Hart Lake...frozen ice-covered Hart Lake.

What is that? At the far end of the lake we spotted a tiny section of open water, mere feet in diameter. Brian didn't bat an eye. He quickly tromped through the crystalized snow toward

the world's coldest baptistry. We all followed and looked down into the chilly water, unsure just how deep it was. Prayers were offered and Brian confessed his need for and his faith in Jesus Christ.

Somebody tied several towels together, making a rope for our escape to high ground. Suddenly Brian was sliding down the bank, splashing into the cold stuff. I joined him. It was a rather fast-paced event. I dipped him quickly. He seemed unfazed by the frigid water. We were pulled up the bank by our families and changed into dry clothes. Brian was so full of joy.

I've often reflected on that glorious day. Brian never complained about the shock of near-freezing water. He'd have done much more for Jesus if God had allowed it. The apostle Paul spoke some about such things...filling up the suffering of Jesus. I know Paul's remark was connected to the persecution he had endured. And there was no way Brian or anybody else could ever earn the marvelous blessing Jesus bestows to those who obey him. Yet having a baptism filled with sensations must have been amazingly wonderful for dear Brian.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I think Baptism is designed to impact us physically. It marks a time...a place...a feeling when we took the big step. There is nothing fuzzy about it. We can take a picture and put a date on it. A married couple will tell me they have been together for five years and married for three. Whatever time we have been loving Jesus, our baptism marks a new day of commitment and blessing. God bless you, fine son-in-law...my teacher in so many ways.




REAL MEN GET ALONG



These guys are huggy and mushy. Really. Half of the men attend other churches so this is an important weekly reunion of sorts. We care about our spiritual matters and health issues too. They inquire about each other's kids and grandkids. Perspectives and opinions are important. Listening goes on. Of course we love to study the Bible. And we pray. But along the way, these guys reach out to one another and genuinely care about what's going on in their lives. Meet us any Monday morning at 7:45 at the Old Farm House in Phoenix (Oregon!!).

OUR BOARD IS NOT BORING

On Sunday, November 13, Eleanor Olsen launched our monthly board meeting with a reading from Peter Marshall's devotional book. It was all about 'For thou art with me', out of the 23rd Psalm. Nice inspiring, Eleanor.

In my 'Minister's Report' I told how I've started sending out email devotions to people who have responded to my offer to be their pastor. I have lots of contact with people each week who live all over the valley. Many of them have no immediate plans to attend our fine church, but are willing to keep in contact with this preacher-man. My main focus was my upcoming mission trip to South America. But another upcoming event is Christmas. I've invited a bunch of our folk to participate in the Christmas Sunday service (following breakfast in Fellowship Hall). It (Christmas morning) should be a grand time.

The Treasurer's Report was better than last month. A nice refund from SAIF helped. Also, our expenses were down. Our contract with nursery workers ended in October. That saves us some cash. The church bus was recently sold. That saves us insurance money, plus we received cash for the bus. Our air heating/cooling fan needed to be replaced in October...that was a \$460 unexpected expense. Then too, some money came in from the Silent Auction. All in all, an encouraging month.

Elder's Report. Your elders met in October and made a list of possible cost saving actions we may have to take in the new year...all the way from paid staff reductions to keeping a better eye on the thermostat. Also mentioned were a reduction or elimination of the magazines we provide for our people each week, recovering costs of books provided to adult Bible school students, and Jim analyzing his pay package in hopes of spotting savings opportunities. The Deacons reported on having a work day with plans for yet another.

The budget needs to be prepared for presentation to the church in December. Doyle called a budget committee meeting for November 16.

Under New Business, we all expressed gratitude to Chrystal Garcia for offering to take photos of our

people, with all proceeds to go to the church. Thanks, Chrystal. See her amazing work at Crystal Garcia Photography on the internet.

Missions. The Stringers have just returned from a short-term mission trip to TCMI. They hope to host a meeting of all folk interested in possibly joining them on such a trip. More later. It was also mentioned that our support of SABI (South African Bible Institute) will cease with our December payment.

Worship. We commend Chris M. for doing a good job of leading our worship time. Thanks, Chris. It was a fine gathering. The spirit was on of optimism and excitement.

Reporter: Jim Larsen

GOOD READING IS WAITING FOR YOU

Perhaps you haven't noticed that several of our folk have loaned special books to the church library... good books. This month we'll hear from Jim Larsen about a few books he thinks you may appreciate:

The Incomparable Christ has been around for a while. I use it quite often in sermon preparation. It is doctrinal and devotional. J Oswald Sanders did a great job in writing this winner. Check it out.

Blue Like Jazz isn't Donald Miller's most recent book, but probably his most well-known. It is described as 'nonreligious thoughts on Christianity and spirituality'. Miller will definitely have you thinking and rethinking ideas you've held for a long time.

God In The Dock is a reference to God being 'in court', a British term. C.S. Lewis wrote this collection of essays on theology and ethics. It is deep water, but worth your best effort.

The Apostle...A Life of Paul is superb. Since I'm preaching from Acts these days, you may find this to be a timely read. I love it.

Jim Larsen

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Come to church Christmas morning! We promise a

grand time of singing Christmas carols, mixed with drama and a celebration of Jesus' birth. The service will be kept to one hour, for sure. Of course the nursery will be tended, along with the preschool and children's classes. Bring the family early for breakfast and stay for a grand time with your church family.

ROGUE RIDERS HEAD TO JACKSONVILLE...AGAIN

This ornate village is just minutes away. Jacksonville draws visitors from all over the country. So we'll meet at the church on Wednesday, December 21, at 10 a.m. and head for a bit of shopping and wandering. Before heading back to Ashland, how about a stop at the Bella Union for chili or something else on the menu? Please call me (541-890-3209 if you plan to join the car pool/caravan or even if you want to join us for lunch. We'll need to make reservations. Wednesday...December 21... Jacksonville.

Jim Larsen



THE END GAME

What does the Bible say about the future? What does it all mean? Are you curious? If so, here is a suggestion. Attend our next series of lessons during Sunday school hour, 9:30-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. You will follow along as we work our way through a new PowerPoint slide set prepared by a pastor/friend of many years. In fact, he married Janice and me nearly 50 years ago and has

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

been in the ministry for many years. We will all benefit from his many years of study on this topic. If you are curious about what the Bible says about the future you will want to attend "The End Game" starting in January 2012.

Gene Stringer

OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT... A CHRISTMAS GIFT

Do a friend or family a favor in the spirit of Christmas. Offer to pick them up for an evening of clean and marvelous entertainment. Offer to purchase a Polish dog and a soda...popcorn too? This can be a cheap treat for you. There is no ticket to buy...and the snack bar is way beyond reasonable. Check out Mike Royer's selections for Ashland's Old Time Movie Night (back of the newsletter). What fun!

SAINTS ALIVE ADD TABLES



It happens every month. The staff at the Iron Skillet sets up a bunch of tables and chairs...only to have us needing more seating. And why not? How can you beat this sort of Saturday morning? The food is superb, including a trucker's buffet. Seniors get a discount. You know the routine by now. Jokes are old...some funny. Riddles and crazy stuff from the internet get their time in the sun. So bring something to share...dare us to laugh. Saturday, December 3... 9 a.m.

JACKSON HOUSE WORSHIP

On Sunday, December 18, I'll conduct a worship time at Jackson House in Talent...2 p.m. Care to join me? These retirees are so grateful for our participation in their lives. I'll have song sheets for everybody and could use a bit of help with the singing. Just drop in. I'll see if we can have a cup of coffee too.

Jim Larsen

39PLUS...AT MARIE'S AGAIN!

Take your pick! Show up early (10) and you'll end up getting in on the competition...a vicious card game or Chinese Checkers. Come by at 11 and we'll settle into a Bible study. Noon has us gathered around Marie's table and enjoying her vittles and whatever the rest of the group totes to her place. It is a grand time and you'd be made to feel quite welcome...win or lose. This month our First Wednesday is December 7. Marie lives at 61 N. Mountain Avenue.

NURSERY STAFF

Thanks to Ava Fish for stepping forward to recruit ladies to staff our nursery during Bible school and Worship. We are interested in seeing that our young moms not get stuck in nursery each week, after tending to their little ones all week. If you are willing to staff the nursery one Sunday per month please contact Ava or the church office so we can distribute this vital responsibility to a number of loving ladies.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Karen and I will be staying in Oregon this Christmas. We'll be having our breakfast at the church, so why not join us? This invitation is for you...dear reader. Whether you generally attend church at the corner of Second and B or not...you are invited to enjoy Ham, baked French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, and Fruit. Of course you'll have your choice of Coffee, Hot Chocolate (a special holiday concoction), Tea and Juice.

Since Christmas lands on Sunday, we'll serve our delightful meal from 9:30 to 10:15 so everyone is ready for the 10:45 worship service. It would be helpful to have an idea of how many guests to prepare for...so how about giving us a call (Jim-541-890-3209, Karen-541-890-1138), use the sign-up

(Continued from page 4)

sheet in the library or make a note of you intentions on the Connection Card in your Sunday bulletin? Any of these will work just fine. If it turns out that you can join us, even if you never do the RSVP routine, come anyway. The main thing is this...we really want to share Christmas Breakfast with you...yes, you!

Jim Larsen

JOSUE AND LOVELY LAURA TO WED



Our Real Men cadre congratulates Josue Delgado, our youngest regular, for his good fortune. In early January Josue and Laura will be married at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland. More about this fine couple next month...

RENDEZVOUS IN PERU

Cielo was asked what he'd like his grandma and grandpa to bring to Peru on our visit. His answer was simple. *A warm shower and oatmeal.* Lori Jo and Brian traveled to Tacna in October and set up housekeeping for their one year stay. They don't have hot water. Cielo is following in the footsteps of his parents...keeping life pretty simple. So we took along two camping solar showers. They are simple tough plastic bags (one side is colored black) with a nozzle. The sun shines every day so getting water warming up will be no tall order.

Our plan in Tacna was to teach classes and deliver the Sunday sermon. Jeff (my nephew) and Jennifer Rockwell have traveled to South America with us.

Jeff is a photographer, Jen a journalist. After Tacna we traveled north to Trujillo with plans for more teaching and preaching there. As I've mentioned before, my Rotary Club sent money along for us to underwrite a dental clinic for poor children who live on the fringe of Trujillo. Our Medford dentist, Dr. Pearson, donated dental hygiene supplies for a hundred children. By the time you read this Karen and I are about ready to fly home. We are grateful for this annual time of mission work as well as the money provided by the Mission Committee this year which allowed Karen to join me.

Jim Larsen

HEAR YE, HEAR YE



Come one, come all....we're celebrating Gene and Janice Stringer's 50th Anniversary with a potluck celebration in the Fellowship Hall at The Christian Church of Ashland on December 30th 2011. The celebration will start promptly at 4 p.m. We'll have a meal, enjoy a short program, reflect on this couple's dedication and influence in our lives, have a time to share memories, and enjoy cake afterwards. Families welcome. Please be sure to come!

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Potluck requests: Please bring a main dish, salad, rolls, or a side dish. Please bring the item already baked, ovens will keep food warm as necessary. Cake will be provided. If you have any questions, please email Angie Stringer at angstringer@gmail.com



POTLUCK DINNER



You Are Invited to the December Potluck scheduled for **December 18th**. There will be sign up sheets for a traditional holiday fare at the sign up table in the Library. Any Questions? Check with Kay Killian who is coordinating this potluck.

Remember the ovens are on for keeping food warm, so please bring your food already cooked.



For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NLT

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Janie Moore
- 7 - Phyllis Smith
- 10 - Jade Rudy
- 12 - David Wing
- 18 - Catherine (Kitty) Ellis
- 19 - Kiley McDonald
- 21 - Timothy Killian
- 21 - Isaac McDaniel
- 22 - Allicia Pepper
- 25 - Ala Jones
- 25 - Dan Tiller Jr.
- 25 - Keith Nixon
- 26 - Donna Beize
- 26 - John Wing
- 27 - Kay Killian
- 27 - Theo Killian



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 - Mike and Laurie Royer
- 30 - Gene and Janice Stringer
- 30 - Russ and Marge Russell

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>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home Phyllis Smith, B'day</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Jade Rudy, B'day</p>
<p>11</p> <p>12:30 PM Board Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe David Wing, B'day</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night</p>
<p>18</p> <p>12:15 PM Potluck Catherine (Kitty) Ellis B'day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe Kiley McDonald, B'day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM Rogue Riders - Jacksonville - Bella Urzon Timothy Killian, B-day Isaac McDaniel, B'day</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Alicia Pepper, B'day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Mike & Laurie Royer, Ann</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:30 AM Christmas Breakfast - Fellowship Hall Christina Kathy Nison, B'Day Aly Jones, B'Day Don Tillis, B'day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe Dorrea Beize, B'day John Wing, B'day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group Kay Killian, B'day Theo Killian, B'day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Alice Sweeney, B'day</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Dan Acery, B'day Gene & Janice Stringer, Ann Russ & Marge Russell, Ann</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Brendan Ellis, B'day Muriel Ellis, B'day</p>

November 11

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	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	31				

January 12

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	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	31				

DECEMBER 2011

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

318 B Street
PO Box 959
Ashland, OR 97520
Jim Larsen, Minister

Phone: 541-482-1561
Fax: 541-482-1638
Email: office@cc-ashland.org
Web: www.cc-ashland.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 84
Ashland, Oregon

Sunday Service Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Discovery Club
10:45 AM Worship

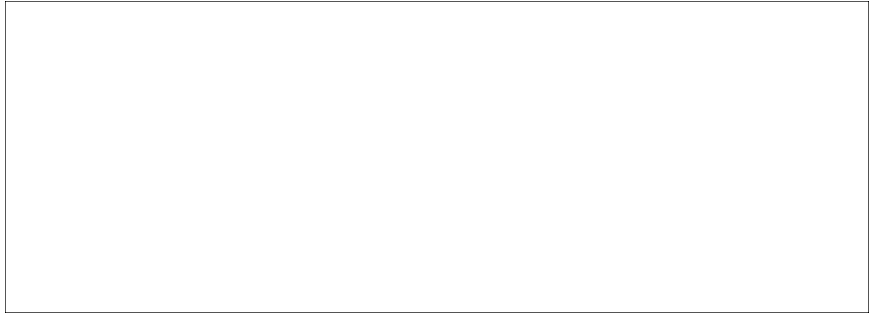
Podcast available at:
podcast.cc-ashland.org

Faithful to God, Responsive to People

Find us on
Facebook

We're on the Web
www.cc-ashland.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**HEARTWARMING SURPRISES FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Saturday, December 17, 2011**

Join us Saturday evening Dec. 17 at 6:00 pm for a couple of Holiday Treats. We start at 6:30 pm with a 1947 little known (but worthy of classic status) gem "IT HAPPENED ON 5TH AVENUE," in which a homeless man finds a way to stay warm in the

winter by taking up residence in the elegant mansion of a New York millionaire while he is away for the winter. The thoughtful bum invites hordes of friends and even the real owner, in disguise, who pretends to be poor to find out what is going on! Stars Victor Moore, Charles Ruggles, Don DeFore and Gale Storm head the fine cast.

The evening's 2nd feature is just a bit squirrely...yep...a squirrel named Rupert, to be exact. It's the 1950 comedy-fantasy about The Great Rupert



(created by producer George Pal's Academy Award winning animation technique) who finds a cache of cash in the attic and gives it to impoverished performer Jimmy Durante (at his best) and his family in the Holiday color gem retitled "A CHRISTMAS WISH." Durante co-stars with Terry Moore, Tom Drake and a cast of seasoned veterans. Durante shines when he sings "Jingle Bells" in his distinctive voice that made him one of America's entertainment legends.



Of course, nostalgic drive-in snack bar ads and vintage coming attraction previews will be featured between the movies and a snack bar will be open most of the evening.



Tell all your friends and neighbors. The movies are FREE...but donations are accepted...and think about perhaps bringing something for the Ashland Food Bank. After all, this is the season for giving.

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