

Volume 27 Issue 10

October 2011

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# I'M BEGGING



She called asking if I'd have a chat with her husband. Bruce's routine physical had revealed a mass that had them both worried. The

follow-up visit confirmed the worst possible prognosis. So now we sat on his back porch, overlooking Little Butte Creek. I had plans for a fishing vacation. The odds were pretty good that, come November, I'd be stuffing myself with turkey. In December there would be a Christmas party or two. But Bruce. His future amounted to mere weeks.

I asked him if he was prepared to stand before God. He stared at a beaver messing around in the creek, some yards away. "You don't live your life the way you'd \_\_\_ well want to and then come crawling to God when you get news like mine. I just have to face the music."

It was the first time I begged anybody to hear me out. I told Bruce the story of the farmer who hired workers throughout the day, but at quitting time paid them all the same amount.

The early bird complained that he should have received more for eight hours work than those who put in an hour or two. The farmer explained that so long as he paid everyone what he'd promised, his generosity with the last guys hired was of no concern with those hired earlier.

I told Bruce that God was prepared to welcome him...even at his eleventh hour. It wasn't fair, he protested. Indeed, I explained, there is nothing fair about God's offer. It is all designed to favor us. We call it grace. For my dying friend this seemed almost too much to take in. When we opened the Bible and walked through the sacred offer his face took on a look of immense relief. And it only got brighter as we walked out into Little Butte Creek, to water deep enough for him to be immersed.

Long before I appealed to my friend to say Yes to God, God had been making his own appeal. Isn't that the message of the cross? And since then he has done his begging through us. And those with a death sentence hanging over their head may still think it is too good to be true. So we beg harder. Don't we?

## SOME REAL MEN ARE REALLY JUST BOYS

This group gives has its own slant on diversity. We are old and young. Some good looking guys and others. About half of the bunch come from our congregation at Second and B. We are a bunch a fellas who love Jesus. And we love the Bible.



And apparently we love to get together for study, chow and chat. Lately we've been blessed to have some young guys in attendance. And we love it! Mondays...7:45 Breakfast...The Old Farm House...Phoenix (Oregon!)



## SAINTS ALIVE

The name gives us away. We are the saints who are still alive and lively. So many of our dear ones have departed...graduated to glory. But you'll find our bunch full of zest and happy to be spending our First Saturday morning together. New? Young? Wondering if this is for you? Come join the fun...all of you. Just show up at the Iron Skillet Restaurant in Phoenix. Pick your way through the ample buffet or order from the menu. You'll not be disappointed. And bring a story to tell...even if you have to borrow something from the internet. Come with laughter on

the brain. Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m.

## DEFINE MISSIONARY

I recall a time in my life when my idea of what a missionary is was close to opposite of me. Many of you may have the same idea about yourself. So why are Janice and I getting ready to leave for our third missionary stint in Austria?

It wasn't because I have changed much in terms of what I am qualified to do. It is because I discovered that most of the skills needed in mission work are things I already know how to do. I just needed to be willing to look at the opportunities and make myself available. The same is true of you.

Common skills and energy are needed to make it possible for mature students from many countries in Eastern Europe and Asia to concentrate on their studies. They earn degrees that will make them more useful in the Christian vocations in which they are already working. While they concentrate on their studies we maintain the facilities and grounds, do housekeeping, cook meals, clean up after meals and many things you routinely do around your own home. So you say why would I want to buy airline tickets so I could spend my time doing such things?

There are several answers to this question. There is a great deal of satisfaction derived from being fer-



The kitchen team at Haus Edelweiss during Session 2 2010.

vently and deeply appreciated for mundane efforts. Many of these students come from places where Americans are often viewed as self-absorbed money grubbing snobs. It is a gratifying to have a small part in helping to change this picture of Americans. During the strong interaction afforded during meals together, informal interactions between classes, sharing prayer concerns, and getting to know the students personally you become aware of the privilege we have to be able to worship God freely and openly. A bond develops. You also get to know and appreciate some mighty fine Christians from the USA while working together with them intensely for 3-4 weeks. Your faith will grow as you share daily devotions with your team.

Finally, although the days are long it is not all work and no play. There are several day trips to exciting and interesting places. The Vienna woods surrounding Haus Edelweiss are beautiful and enticing with many hiking trails, wildlife, flowers and a stream. For much of the history of Europe Vienna was the center of culture and power. Many vestiges of that glory remain to be explored in free time after your responsibilities end. Once you have purchased your airline ticket and passport there is little else you will need to buy. Room and board are provided as well as transportation.

There is really only one problem. People who have discovered the rewards of this type of mission service keep coming back. One couple told us this was trip number 23 for them! This means you will have to schedule up to 2 years in advance for your chance to go. If you are retired and can go on short notice like Janice and I then you can express interest in replacing those who need to cancel at the last minute. Find out more by visiting the website [www.tcmi.org](http://www.tcmi.org) where full details and information are available. Of course we are always eager to answer your questions as well.

Gene Stringer

## MARLIA-LARSENS TO PERU

Brian, Lori Jo and Cielo will travel to Portland on October 10. Brian and Lori Jo will run the Portland Marathon while Cielo's grandparents take him to the Portland Zoo. On the 12<sup>th</sup> their family will fly to Lima and on to Tacna.

A medical clinic has been in the planning stage for



two or three years. The necessary money is available. This seems to be the time for the clinic to become a reality. A Christian doctor has been secured. Both of the Marlia-Larsens are RNs. So their hope and prayer is that their presence will hasten the completion of the clinic and get the team to work applying healing hands. Cielo will be home-schooled. Brian is just getting started on the track toward becoming a Nurse Practitioner certification. The first year of the program can be done online. After a year they will return to the Rogue Valley where he will be mentored for a year.

You may recall that this family spent a chunk of time in Tacna before returning to the states for their medical training. God bless you good people as you serve the Lord on foreign soil. Our prayers go with you. We'll miss you in many ways...including your leadership in worship services.

## 39PLUS ...INTO YEAR 12

Hasn't this been a great piece of every month? Service is rendered every time the newsletter is sent out...we do the folding. The Bible is studied with application being the goal. A little competition... cards, dominos, Chinese checkers and such...keeps us sharp. And food! Do we have a knack for snacks! At the First Wednesday event (at Marie Hoffman's place) we are treated to a magnifico

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luncho. Marie provides the main dish but others often chip in with other items. Time frame: 10 until about 1. Marie lives at 61 N. Mountain Ave.



The Last Wednesday is always centered around getting the newsletters folded and sorted. Our second priority is Bible study. If time allows we'll pull out a game. And then...potluck lunch. Newcomers are always welcome. Show up at 10 and head for home before one.

## GET THE WORD OUT...CUSTOM BUSINESS CARDS

I write a little article/ad for the Ashland Daily Tidings every week (Thursdays). Some time ago Eleanor Olson started making copies of the ads to distribute to people. I love the idea. So we print up lots of these ads...actually a little larger than the originals...and put them on card stock. I hand out dozens every week. The book mark has lots of info on it. Each one has a message from me, plus the church's address and sometimes our website and/or my phone number.

So pick up a few from the table near our entrance (double doors) and see if you can find opportunities to distribute them. Thanks, Eleanor!

Jim Larsen



Dr. Jim  
Larsen,  
Pastor

### 45 AND HOLDING

Karen and I walked down the aisle in Flagstaff, AZ, forty four years ago. I've often wondered what would have become of this union without the modeling we both had from godly parents. The good stuff which has contributed to the present joy certainly includes heaven's help. Speaking the truth... forgiving... offering grace... accepting grace... and having a common purpose... these have all made for a marvelous journey. So we hold on to each other and to the Mighty One who exemplified true love.

Christian Church of Ashland  
Corner of 2nd and B Streets  
Sunday Mornings at 10:45  
[www.cc-ashland.org](http://www.cc-ashland.org)

## MOUNTAIN VIEW SERVICE

Jim tries to lead us in singing, accompanying us with his guitar. There are always tasty cookies and ice tea to share. And we study the Bible. Come by and join us...Tuesdays at two...Mountain View Retirement Center.

## JACKSON HOUSE... FOURTH SUNDAYS

Jim leads 10 or 12 oldsters in worship each fourth Sunday at 2 p.m. Actually, our first time of doing this was in September. Care to join us? Just drop in. Jackson House is in Talent, on Suncrest Road, a block from the Larsen's home. Next meeting: Sunday, October 23

## OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

What a magnificent way to meet our neighbors... classic movies. And what better place for this than Ashland? And who better to direct this marvelous project than Mike Royer? Every month Mike selects two smashing movies from yesteryear. And attendees love it! Our snack bar is manned by outgoing and generous folk from our church family. Our friends drive here from Gold Hill, Rogue River, Medford, Central Point, Phoenix and Talent...plus Ashland.

Some of our guests have decided to make this their church home. And don't we love that too! So bring a friend or neighbor. You can expect wholesome entertainment, fellowship and cheap treats. Check out October's selections on the back of the newsletter. Thanks Mike and crew!

## SILENT AUCTION EXPANDS

Last year's Silent Auction brought out the best in us. Our folk offered professional massages, yard work, handy man services, photography, graphic designs, meals and all sorts of physical items. Kay Killian's leadership was terrific. This year the effort to buttress our church's lagging financial state will be enlarged by the use of Craig's List, Face Book, eBay, the Nifty Nickel and our in-house Silent Auction.

Some items may be best suited to an in-house auction. On the other hand, you may have larger items which would be better sold via the internet. We'll

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gladly help you get your sale items before the eyes of thousands of shoppers by using online sites. Speak to Gene Stringer, Crystal Garcia or Jim Larsen if you'd appreciate help with your item. The deadline for listing Silent Auction stuff is October 16... Potluck Sunday. It is also the day when the auction will be held at the church. Forms are available in the foyer and Fellowship Hall. For more bulky items, please wait until October to bring them to the church. Let's have fun...and buy, buy, buy!

Jim

### SILENT AUCTION REMINDER:

Reminder that the auction ends and winners will be announced at the Spaghetti feed potluck

- large items should not come to the building until a week before the auction
- pictures of large items are encouraged
- last time to post an auction item is the week before the potluck (Oct 9), but bidding will go up to and on the day of potluck
- forms are available at the Greeter's table and downstairs in fellowship area where they will be posted

Kay Killian

### NEW BIBLE SCHOOL CLASS

A new and exciting class is just getting started on Sunday mornings. Join us in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. for a thorough study of the book of Galatians. Our instructor is Dr. Gene Stringer...with Doyle Cornwell serving as the back-up teacher. Bring your Bible! Your knowledge of the Bible is guaranteed to increase. A lite breakfast is available by 9:15 a.m.

### ROGUE RIDERS HEAD TO JACKSONVILLE...THE BACK PORCH

Our October trip will have us trekking to Jacksonville for lunch at The Back Porch BBQ...then a stop at White's Market to size up their pumpkins. To car pool or caravan meet at the church parking lot at 10:30 on Wednesday, October 19...or meet us at the restaurant at 11 or thereabouts. If you plan to participate please give our wagon master, Jim, a call: 541-890-3209. Everyone...all ages...invited! By the

way, wasn't the September excursion to Crater Lake terrific!

### SPAGHETTI FEED POTLUCK

We are having a Spaghetti Feed for the October Potluck on October 16th so it will work a little differently.

If your last name begins with **A-L, please bring (uncooked) Spaghetti, Can or Jar of Sauce, and Salad or side vegetable.** If your last name begins with **M-Z, please bring (cooked) Meat or Meatballs, Bread, and Desert.** Single folks bring grated cheese or salad toppings..

We'll cook the pasta & warm the meat the day of the Potluck. If you would like to assist in the kitchen, please check in at the kitchen on the day of the potluck always glad to have you're an extra set of hands that make the preparations! If you have a favorite apple recipe or dish, please share it!

*Remember to bring hot dishes already cooked! The ovens are set to just keep food hot.*

### LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

On Tuesday, October 11th the ladies will gather in the Fellowship hall at noon for the monthly Lunch Bunch. The Piece Corp is hosting the October Lunch Bunch. The menu is Papa Murphy's pizza—Hawaiian, Pepperoni Veggie Delight, and Cheese along with salad and a surprise or two. Everything is provided and there will be a donation basket. Please contact any of the Piece Corp ladies or mark your connection card so they know how many to plan for.

### BABY BOTTLES FOR RVPRC

Our Baby Bottle drive to support the Rogue Valley Pregnancy Resource Center along with their satellite office here at the church is underway. You can put in any form of currency and even a check if you like. If you include a check please make it payable to RVPRC. If you would still like a baby bottle to fill contact Brad in the office. Return Bottles on Sunday October 16.



## FACEBOOK

It's been a little over a month since we launched our Facebook page and we have 22 "Likes". When we reach 25 we can create our own Facebook URL to make it easier to remember. One easy way to get there now is to just go to our website ([www.cc-ashland.org](http://www.cc-ashland.org)) and click on the "Find us on Facebook" box at the bottom of the home page. I am now posting Jim's Thursday Tiding's ads each week.



Brad Fish

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's that time again. We have empty shoe boxes just waiting to be filled. Look for shoeboxes in the foyer and Fellowship Hall. There is also a box in the Fellowship hall if you would like to bring something and our children will fill some boxes with what is brought in. Bring your filled boxes in any time. We will dedicate the shoe boxes and send them on their way on Sunday, November 13th.



Brad Fish

## HOLIDAY SHOEBOX PROJECT

For the past several years Access, Ink has had a Holiday Shoebox Project that provides "Cheer in a Recycled Shoebox". This year we will offer the opportunity to provide these shoebox gifts for Seniors in our area.



If you would like to participate just find a shoebox and wrap the box and lid separately. Then fill the box with items for a seniors. Flyers are available at the Greeters Table. Turn the boxes into the church by Sunday, November 27th.

Brad Fish



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Jerry Moore
- 3 - Spencer Hayes
- 3 - Adam Christie
- 4 - Kathy Wing
- 5 - Phil Fullerton
- 10 - Ava Fish
- 10 - Linda Cornwell
- 21 - Janice Stringer
- 25 - Benjamin Stringer



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

none

*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	
2	3 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe Adam Christie, B'day Spencer Hayes, B'day	4 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group Kathy Wing, B'day	5 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home Phil Fullerton, B'day	6	7	8 9:00 AM Deacons & Deacons Work Day	
9 12:30 PM Board Meeting	10 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe Ava Fish, B'day Linda Cornwell, B'day Columbus Day (Observed)	11 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch - Fellowship Hall 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group	12	13	14	15 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night	
16 12:15 PM Potluck	17 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe	18 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group	19 10:30 AM Rogue Riders - Jacksonville	20	21 Janice Stringer, B'day	22	
23	24 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe	25 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group Benjamin Stringer, B'day	26 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding	27	28	29	
30	31 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe						

November

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				

September

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				

# OCTOBER 2011

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND**

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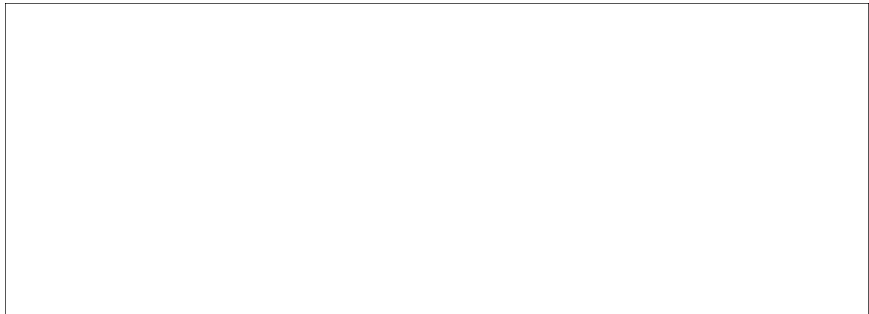
**Sunday Service Schedule**

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Discovery Club  
10:45 AM Worship  
Podcast available at:  
[podcast.cc-ashland.org](http://podcast.cc-ashland.org)

*Faithful to God, Responsive to People*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**THE SHADOWS AND A HOUSE BORN BAD  
Saturday, October 15, 2011**

It's October and you know what that means. It's time for our annual Halloween Old Time Movie Night presentation. We commence an evening of chills and thrills at 6:30 p.m. Saturday Oct. 15 with a little 1942 thriller from Universal (the Golden Age house of horrors) with an all-star cast including Bela Lugosi, Lionel Atwill and Ralph Morgan in "NIGHT MONSTER."



It's an intriguing little chiller about a creepy supernatural figure stalking a country estate...a murderer who's mastered the art of "mind over matter," in a tale filled with secret passages, strange characters, dark storms and...murder.

The little 1942 programmer is followed by one of the silver screen's great chillers, 1963's "THE HAUNTING," about a group of people who come to a house to study its supernatural phenomena with hair-raising results. Mysterious Hill House is a "90-year-old mansion that was born evil!" Starring Julie Harris, Richard Johnson, Claire Bloom and Russ Tamblyn, this psychological horror story will unnerve you...a truly sinister scare movie. Bring someone to cling to because even if you don't believe in ghosts, you cannot deny terror. Recommended for audiences 15 years and over.



Expect the usual surprise or two.  
**The doors open at 6:00 pm  
and movies start at 6:30 pm.**



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