



Volume 26 Issue 5

May 2010

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# HEAVENLY STRAWBERRIES

A few years back a wandering strawberry plant 'runner' crept through our fence and took root. From that quiet beginning a ministry has blossomed. Could I have guessed into November I'd still be plucking large berries from that plant and the others who chose my soil over their home turf? With such a hardy cadre of producers, and mighty tasty too, I have never been able to toss the new plants which come along each year. As a runner streaks out across the bed and deposits a baby a few feet away, I now let it take root, then put it in a pot to be given away as it matures a bit.

I graduated from college and seminary and even went on to get another degree. But it isn't theology or a canned evangelism program that has me connecting with new folk these days. It has come down to berries... strawberries. Service station attendants and waitresses alike hear my favorite question: 'How'd you like a couple of fabulous strawberries plants? They're free. And I'll even throw in a bag or bucket of my own Black Gold...compost'. At this moment I have a little basket on my dresser, filled with cards and scraps of papers, all with the names and places of business where people have said Yes to my question. Out in the back

yard the blossoming plants are lined up like sissy soldiers. By Mother's Day they will all have been delivered to a new friend who finds the thought of Fall strawberries appealing. And I'll be checking in from time to time to see how the wonder berries are faring.

What will become of these friendships? Heaven knows. What I do know is that I could saved a few tuition dollars years ago and gone straight into horticulture. Sometimes the common interest is canoeing. But it is a bit awkward inviting a cashier or waitress to join me on a canoe trip. This is safe. Plants are delivered to the work place. I never ask for last names. And it is pretty inexpensive. Free plants, thanks be to God. And the compost is simply recycled foot scraps, leaves and other organic material left to decompose. And, hey, it's a ton of fun for me!

I'm wondering how you might devote an interest to God's use? How might your devotion to reading, golf, gardening, music, walking or the like, be used to open doors, lead to friendships, and possibly bear fruit of a spiritual kind?

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As those gorgeous berries are being harvested, long after summer has slipped away, my new friends might be happy to receive an invitation to our big outdoor Thanksgiving Feast out at Tou Velle Park on the Rogue River. For the potluck event, who knows, they may offer to provide a bowl of berries and ice cream...big, juicy, bright red, November strawberries. I can hardly wait.




yard sale....to be held this Saturday, May 1! If you'd like to convert 'stuff' into cash for my airline ticket to Lima, Peru, just give me a call. I'll gladly pick up items. The sale will be held at our home (114 Autumn Ridge Drive) in Talent, from 8 to 1. Even if you would come by on Saturday with items for sale, I'll put them out. So far I have a folding bike, an elk hunting tent, power lawnmower, a sail kit for a canoe, plus other neat goodies.

Your assistance in this is much appreciated for these pricey tickets. Thanks for your encouragement! Jim Larsen 890-3209

## **PERU...DENTAL CLINIC, PASTOR TRAINING AND HIGH COUNTRY INVESTIGATION**

Every year I head to Trujillo to participate in Rendezvous in Peru (I helped coin the name). Dozens of people from churches in New Mexico, California, Idaho and Washington (and Oregon!) converge on this city of one million residents. We take on building projects, install chimneys in primitive homes and share the Gospel as we go. Last year my Rotary Club sent along a \$2000 check so I could host a dental clinic. A Rotarian dentist in Trujillo donates his time and, along with a fellow dentist and a host of assistants, is able to provide fluoride treatment, cleanings and fillings. Most of these children have never seen a dentist. What a wonderful gift!

Other than those three days at the clinic, I'll be traveling with John Hendee as we scout out some high country villages for possible future work. Lastly, I'll be teaching those young pastors I've spoken of. They are excited to be in the ministry but have little opportunity for ongoing education and training. My missionary friends have asked me to travel there at least once a year for several days of teaching. I'm grateful to serve a congregation that encourages these forays to distant lands. They are productive for others, but also stimulating and growing experiences for this old preacher too. I'll leave on June 14 and return June 25. Your prayers are coveted. Jim L.

## **REAL MEN**

These are good men. But they want to be better men. They pray and want to be effective in prayer. They



## **SAINTS ALIVE ...SUDDENLY UPON US!**

Hopefully you'll receive this newsletter in time to nudge you to come on down to the Iron Skillet in Phoenix on May 1. This feast and fellowship event has been going on for years. We never tire of it. No sermon or singing. Just tall tales, laughter and fine vittles. Newcomers...this is a great time to get acquainted with our zany flock. Saturday...9 am...Iron Skillet in Phoenix (Oregon!)

## **YARD SALE TO BENEFIT PERU TREK...SOON!**

Our people have donated some neat items for my



have a heart for the Kingdom and want to be used of God to help his Kingdom grow. If any of this matches up with who you are and what you'd like to be, come on over to the Old Farm House Restaurant any Monday morning at 7:45 for breakfast with us. Jerry will gladly buy chow for first-timers. Mondays...7:45...Old Farm House...Phoenix (Oregon, Buster!)

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting was called to order by Doyle Cornwell at 6:40 PM Thursday, April 22, 2010. After a short presentation about CCA, the ballots were distributed to the attendees. Those present numbered 19.

There were 19 votes cast for the following candidates: Elder, Michael Wing; Deacon, Jerry Moore; Deaconesses, Janice Stringer, Julia Hamilton, Emily Rogers; Trustee, Mel Metcalf. 18 votes were cast for Treasurer, Eleanor Olson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM, to listen to the concert given by the St Mary's School Choir. Afterwards, pie and ice cream was enjoyed by all.

Mel Metcalf, Recording Secretary

## 39PLUS...A MUST!

There is no better place to get acquainted with the top tier, the upper crust, the top-drawer people of the church than 39PLUS. Maybe that is little over the top...but they really are a hearty group who love life and truly enjoy each other...and newcomers. Join us at Marie Hoffman's place (61 N. Mountain Avenue) on Wednesday, May 5, for a lovely morning. Count on bare-knuckles games at 10...probably dominoes or SkipBo, followed by Jim's pacifying Bible study at 11. Marie always

whips up a fine lunch which is complemented by fare that others bring as well. Newcomers...here's a place to get connected with a snap-shot of our loving congregation.

Later in the month (May 26) we'll gather in Fellowship Hall to fold the newsletter and possibly enjoy a game or two before Jim's Bible study and the pot-luck lunch. Show up at 10 to catch all of the fun and work.

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, May 11 at Noon. Watch Bulletin for details.

## PASTOR INCREASES NUMBER OF HIS BOOKS FOR LOAN

Believing that our congregation can benefit from reading many of his study and devotional books, Jim has added a dozen more books for you to check out. Stop by the church library to see Jim's and other fine book offerings (use the clipboard to check out Jim's).

## PRAYER

Dear Family,  
I had lunch today with a friend, one who falls into that rare and luxurious category of someone who has known me practically "forever". You too are lucky enough to have a person (or persons) like this in your world; hopefully . . . a person who relates to you well enough that he/she "gets" your sense of humor. This special someone also has a similar background and perhaps shares similar interests with you. The most amazing and comforting part of all, though, is that he/she knows the stuff that might get you thrown in jail if it were ever made public. When I say amazing and comforting what I mean is that your friend loves you and continues to think you're terrific anyway.

As my friend and I parted ways this morning I got to thinking about how I pray for my friends. Now I know this may sound like no-brainer stuff to some of you, but really. . . I tend to take those I love for granted at times. It's easier to feel "spiritual" when I think I'm investing myself in something "hard"

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like being kind to someone who rubs me the wrong way---an “enemy” (putting a loose construction on the definition, of course) like Jesus talked about in one of his famous teachings. But what about those who love me and bear with me, warts and all, day after day and year after year?

Some of you will recognize the following verses from attendance at the last prayer retreat, but I think that for me they make an excellent refresher course in how I pray for some really great folks in my life. For that matter, it wouldn't be a bad idea to pray consistently this way for those around us, period. The reference is Colossians 1: 9-12:

“... We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

Are you---am I --- catching this? I want my friends to know God's will. I want them to grow to their maximum potential so that their “walk matches the talk”. I want them to have strength and to be prepared when the waves swamp the boat in this ocean we call life. More than anything I want them to be blessed with joy, because I am blessed with the joy of having them as part of my inheritance, and they me.

So let's keep on praying, folks. We not only need one another but we are each a treasure chest worthy to be “unlocked” and enriched by one another in this wonderful ongoing process we call friendship.

Happy to pray with you, friends----  
Julie

## **NOTE FROM GIDEONS**

Dear Pastor Larsen,

It was a great blessing to be a part of your Sunday

worship. The warm and gracious reception on the part of your church family was genuinely felt and appreciated.

Your congregation's love for the Word is obvious. The offering that was given is evidence of what we consider a partnership between the church and Gideon's International. Thank you especially for your gracious hospitality and your prayerful support of the Gideon work. We pray that you continue to enjoy God's abundant blessings for yourself, your family and your ministry in the days ahead.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Les Connell, Gideon Presenter

## **OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT COMPLETING EIGHT YEARS OF VIEWING PLEASURE**

Ashland's Old Time Movie Night has been splashing classic movies on our big screen for 95 months. With evening a double feature, that's a bunch of flicks. Intermission was where we met many folk who eventually came members of our congregation. So thanks to Charlie Chan, the Lone Ranger and the Marx Brothers for helping us meet one another.



This is a unique and fun way to meet new people from all over the Rogue Valley. Chat with a visitor. Strike up genuine friendships. Who knows what God will do with this? Thanks to Mike Royer for serving as host of this innovative and popular family activity.

Check out the back page to see what Mike has in store for May

## GROVELING PAYS OFF... THANKS CLYDE

Thanks to Clyde Fuller I have a like-new refrigerator to handle Summer Breakfast and Rotary food. Others called with offers to help me lay hold of a frig... thanks to those folk as well. The Lord provides... often through his responsive people.

## OUTDOOR SUMMER BREAKFASTS

Friends, this is one of the most wonder treats of summer...breakfasts at Emigrant Lake on the last Saturday of May-June-July-August. Attendees share prep and cooking duties...and clean-up too. We enjoy a true feast under the Oak trees. Jerry Moore and Earl Rogers bake up those marvelous Dutch oven biscuits. Sometimes we have hash browns and grilled onions. At other time it's eggs to order or scrambled. But always the fare is delicious. Out-of-towners who receive this newsletter may want to plan a trip through Southern Oregon so it coincides with one of these adventures. On Saturday, May 29, the cooking team should arrive about 8 a.m. Eaters will want to be on hand by 9. Bring a little something for the donation basket if you'd like.



Parking runs \$4 per car. When you stop at the toll booth just take a look at the parking lot to your right...and just beyond you'll see us set up under the Oak trees. Ya'll come!

## THANKS TO ST. MARY'S CONCERT CHOIR!

This has become a good habit...having Michael Wing's school choir perform at our church right after our annual meeting. They have never failed to deliver a smashing performance. Thanks as well to the many who came to hear the teens and to bring pies and other desserts for the social time that followed.

## STRINGERS SERVING IN AUSTRIA

As you read this, Gene and Janice Stringer are Austria, working hard at TCM, a mission our church supports. While students from Europe and Asia are taking classes, a host of Short Term Mission workers are preparing meals, doing house-keeping chores and other labor such as gardening and landscaping. All of this allows the theology students to devote their time and energy to their studies. You'll remember that this is the Stringer's second stint at TCM. Look for them to return in mid-May.

## MONTHLY POTLUCK

Everyone is invited to participate in this wonderful time of food and fellowship. What a great time to relax and enjoy getting caught up with old friends and getting to know new ones.

You won't want to miss this special time of good food and good fellowship, **Sunday, May 18** following our morning worship

If your last name begins with **A-K**, please bring a **main dish and a salad**. If your last name begins with **L-Z**, please bring a **main dish and a dessert**. Single folks just bring one item to share.

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

## WORK DAY...SATURDAY, MAY 8

Calling all men...to work with us! The second Saturday of each month your Deacons schedule a day of clean up, yard work, and other maintenance activities. We'll plan to gather at the church. So bring your tools and join us about 9:00 a.m. We'll try to wrap things up around noon.. All men are invited.

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Ladies, we'd be most happy to have you join in too.  
The Deacons

## ROGUE RIDERS!

Helen Jane is keeping her eye open for an opportunity for our May outing on Wednesday, May 19th. Watch your weekly bulletin for details as they become available.

## LOOKING FOR AN AREA TO SERVE

Check out the sign-up lists in the back of the sanctuary or on the Volunteer Opportunity board next to the Volunteer Office in the Fellowship Hall. We are especially in need of helpers for our monthly potluck. Any individual or group may sign-up to help. Other opportunities for service include Lunch Bunch Hostess, Laundry, and Communion preparation. If you haven't tried it before why not stretch your comfort zone and see what a blessing it is to serve.

## MOTHERS

*"When I was young Mom took time out of her busy life to spend time with me and share her wisdom in the form of lectures. Thank you Mom"* Hal Bosworth

*"Mom shows me what it means to love unconditionally; even through the most challenging of circumstances."*

Ava Fish

*"My Mom worked so hard for our family of kids."* Nell Creel

*"My Mom could go into most any kitchen and fix a meal you would enjoy"* Helen Jane Slack

*"My Mom is almost 90 & she has been sweetest mom you could ever have!"*

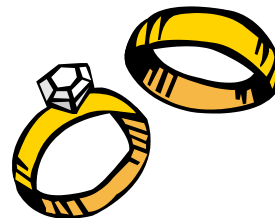
Arlene Scharich

*"Mom' is just another word God uses to explain love"*



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Austen Tiller
- 2 - Fred Kannasto
- 2 - Madge Center
- 4 - Karl Slack
- 4 - Logan Ellis
- 5 - Amanda Vellinga
- 21 - Ethan Phillips
- 22 - John Doods
- 24 - Bill Evans
- 28 - Roxanne Wilson
- 29 - John Daniel Sutton
- 29 - Nyla Fenning
- 31 - April Rudy



## 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

Brad

# "JESUS, LORD OF ALL"

"The Family of God"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 12:30 PM Ladies Ministry Mtg Austen Tiller, B'day Fred Kammer's B'day Sledge Center's B'day</p>	<p>3 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study</p>	<p>4 9:30 AM Piece Corps Karl Slack's B'day Logan Ellis, B'day</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting <i>Anarda Velazquez's B'day</i> Casa de Mayo</p>	<p>6 National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 9:00 AM Saints Alive Breakfast - Iron Skillet</p>
<p>9 12:30 PM Board Meeting Mother's Day </p>	<p>10 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study</p>	<p>11 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>12 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night Armed Forces Day </p>
<p>16 12:15 PM Potluck</p>	<p>17 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study</p>	<p>18 9:30 AM Piece Corps</p>	<p>19 11:00 AM Rogue Riders - Lunch? 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Elhan Phillips' B'day</p>	<p>22 John Dooms' B'day</p>
<p>23 12:30 PM Deaconess Meeting - Volunteer Office</p>	<p>24 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study <i>Ed Biers' B'day</i></p>	<p>25 9:30 AM Piece Corps Robert &amp; Dona Health, Ann</p>	<p>26 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Roxanne Wilson, B'day</p>	<p>29 John Daniel Sutton's B'day Nyia Fenning's B'day</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study <i>April Zuby's B'day</i></p>	<p>April S M T W T F S 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</p>	<p>May 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</p>	<p>June 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</p>		

# MAY 2010

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND**

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Jim Larsen, Minister

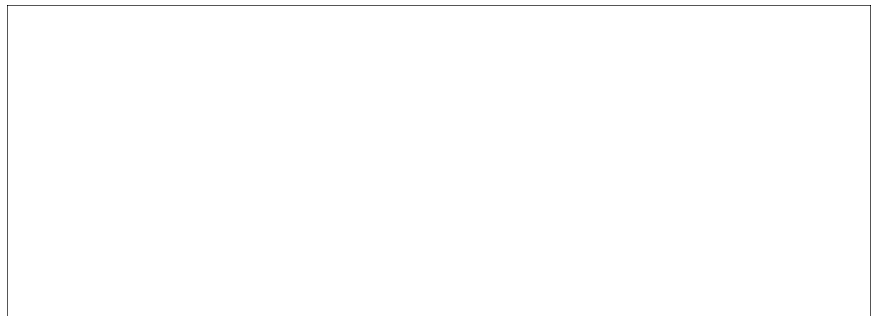
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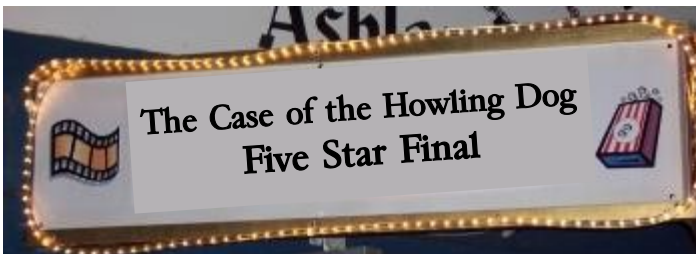
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sunday Service Schedule**

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



*Faithful to God, Responsive to People*



wood's Golden Age. Doors and snack bar open at 6:00 pm and the cinematic fun starts at 6:30 pm. Bring your friends and neighbors and expect a surprise or two.



**Doors and  
Snack bar  
open at  
6:00 p.m.**

**OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT**

Please join us Saturday May 15 for an evening of terrific movies from the 1930s. We begin with the first ever Perry Mason movie. Yep, before Raymond Burr ever set foot in the courtroom, everyone's favorite lawyer was brought to life on the silver screen by Warner Bros. and actor Warren William. It's 1934's "THE CASE OF THE HOWLING DOG". What begins as a client's request for Mason's help in stopping the howling dog next door evolves into a case of missing persons, possible murder and a dog that is now mysteriously quiet. This is the Perry Mason we know and love: He's not above suppressing evidence to benefit his beautiful client, played by Mary Astor. Next up is an uncompromising look at the consequences of journalistic irresponsibility. Hounded by his publisher to increase circulation with a sensational story, editor Edward G. Robinson complies, with very unexpected results. It's the Warner Bros. 1931 Academy Award nominated Best Picture "FIVE STAR FINAL." The movie might be from 1931 but the subject matter is as timely as today's tabloid/gutter press. Don't miss out on these two gems from Holly-



**First movie  
starts at 6:30  
p.m.**