

Volume 26 Issue 9

September 2010

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DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT?

I feel a little funny pronouncing these days as glory days, considering that the Wings are taking flight to a church in Medford and Chaz Burke is packing up his harmonicas and fly tying gear and heading for Southern Cal. Despite the loss of these terrific people, these are good days for the church. I never hear a squabble. Never. If you've spent a few years in churches you know that this is pretty good place to be.

Every month I pow wow with your elders. These men love each other... Doyle, Michael, Gene and me. Although we face the same financial strains as other churches, these gentlemen are always focused on how we can be about the King's business. They long for our church to raise up leaders, touch the world for Jesus and made a difference in our community. They approve of my unconventional ways of trying to put Jesus' footprints all over the valley. I have to love 'em.

The monthly board meeting comes along. I have a history of not being particularly fond of the 'board' system. No so here. Come on by some second Sunday, after the worship service. These deacons and their female

counterparts are eager beavers... holy beavers. They don't see themselves as committed to physical stuff, while the elders are up to spiritual and lofty church work. We are all in the Master's service... and it is all spiritual. Mission giving and mission trips are always on our minds. And the trustees. Recently they have had the joyous task of figuring out what to do with financial gifts to the church. It all started with the Wilson estate, some years back. More recently the McGees left a portion of their earthly treasures to us. The trustees are guiding us in how to handle these blessings. Much more recently the Wagner trust gifted us with \$8,500. At this very moment we are waiting news of how Vera Lashua's estate will impact our congregation. The trustees are wise guys who will point us to solid ground in all of these matters.

Am I a lucky pastor or what? I get to go on short term mission trips where I can make a real difference. I am never accosted by uptight members (only one death threat in 10 years). Although never measuring up to Jesus in any way, my ministry resembles his a bit. The bar ministry, rubbing shoul-

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ders with business leaders as well as the homeless...I think Jesus would approve of this.

And you! No need to apologize to your family for church being stuffy and rigid. In fact, my hardest job is getting you to sit down after the greeting time when the Sunday service begins. You act like you really miss those you've not seen all week. Have a tattoo or an ear ring? I do. It's okay. This group is so much what a church family should be. We have baptisms right along. Newcomers seem to like us. These are days to work hard, love generously and be thankful.

Glad to be here,




POTLUCK

On **September 19th** we will gather for our monthly time of food and fellowship. As always this is a great time to get acquainted with someone new or maybe just someone you haven't met yet. This is always a great time to invite someone new to join you. Bring enough for you and your guest and let them know they are a guest and don't need to bring anything, but themselves. Good food and great fellowship! See You there! The September theme is 'Operation Christmas Child' so be prepared for some surprises.

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.

LIBRARY THOUGHT

At a time when people spend much of their time skimming websites, text messages and e-mails, an English professor at the University of New Hamp-

shire is making the case for slowing down as a way to gain more meaning and pleasure out of the written word. He is encouraging schools from elementary through college to return to old strategies such as reading aloud and memorization as a way to help students truly "taste" the words. *Eleanor Olson*



SAINTS ALIVE...AND TAKING IN THE BUFFET

A stop at the Saints Alive breakfast may benefit you in any number of way. Discover the latest hair fashion (inside joke at the expense of Bob Ridinger). Or you may pick up a new joke to impress your friends. Of course the buffet is nothing to sneeze at...please! One might very well have a nice long conversation with somebody you've never chatted with. Who knows? Saturday, September 4, may be your lucky day. You may overhear somebody say they have a car to give away...or at least a few zucchini. Whatever your motive...fellowship, the chow or more funny stuff to pull on your friends...the Saints Alive Breakfast has real possibilities. Iron Skillet. Saturday. **September 4. 9 a.m.** You!

BOARD MEMBERS NOT BORED

Okay, so we started off the monthly meeting with the expected red news. Red because of a shortfall in July offerings of about \$1300. That isn't unexpected in the summer time, but it still isn't good news. We thought you'd want to know about this. The good news is that a gift of \$8500 has been received from the Wagner estate. The trustees will meet to discuss whether to simply place this in the general fund or use it for special projects. The trustees noted that our church will receive funds from an additional trust, although the amount is not yet known. How we dearly appreciate those fine souls who, during their lifetime, make plans to give to the church even after

they have graduated to Heaven.

More good news! Although we paid for our Middle Schoolers to go to camp, donations of more than that amount came in for that purpose. Mighty fine!

Karen Larsen has agreed to manage the congregation's data base related to membership. This is the core information we need to publish a 'Members and Friends' directory of Christian Church of Ashland'. Jim L. will be placing photos of our folk on the Gallery Board in the foyer. Speaking of the foyer, we are interested in getting Ms. Rossini to give us some guidance on making that place more beautiful. Hear that Maryanne?

The deaconess team is meeting regularly and finding ways to be of service to each other, the congregation and God. They call themselves STARS (Sisters That Are Ready to Serve). This fine cadre of servants met recently and reports great interest in spiritual growth, taking on service projects, promoting fellowship among our folk and such.

The deacons and deaconess reported on a successful work day at the church, with hedge trimming, weeding, edging and lawn work. While the deacons and Emily were outside, members of the deaconess team were in the church kitchen sorting and taking inventory of linens.

The board expressed gratitude to those who have been working hard to encourage our congregation to do more reading of the Bible and other books in our library. Read Red, our ladies say, hoping we'll start by reading the Red Letter portion of the New Testament.

Old Time Movie Night is going real well. We like the idea of providing wholesome entertainment for valley residents, and introducing attendees to our congregation and our facility.

Gene and Janice reported on their mighty fine experience at Week of Missions at Wi-Ne-Ma up on the Oregon Coast. The board discussed the idea of providing scholarships to our folk who'd like to attend next year. We'll need to start promoting the camp earlier next year. We agreed that DVDs of

Dr. Mike Sweeney (the featured speaker) would be good for a Bible School class in the near future. Kay Killian brought some ideas for a church fundraiser, perhaps in September...maybe a silent auction.

Ed told us of flying the campers to Cottage Grove. Seems everybody had a terrific time. (We all applauded Ed)

We've been having a Variety Hour each month when there is a Fifth Sunday. There wasn't much interest in carrying this on at this time. We discussed the idea of having a church picnic yet this summer or early fall. Meeting adjourned and fellowship followed. Jim Larsen, reporter

39PLUS AT MARIE'S HOME

Sybil Laredo is off to Maryland for weddings and a class reunion, but the rest of us will gather at our usual site, Marie Hoffman's home at 61 North Mountain Avenue. We never tire of our routine: cards at 10, Jim's Bible study at 11 and a nifty meal at noon. This has proven to be a great venue for newcomers to get acquainted with the upper crust of the church. **Wednesday, September 1**

MICHAEL WING ACCEPTS NEW MINISTRY ROLE...IN MEDFORD

Of course we hate to see Michael and Kathy Wing leave us. But we know they will be serving God in a way that truly suits them so well...music. Michael has accepted a position at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Medford. The Wings live just moments from the church. You know that both of these fine members have been involved in the music ministry of our church. Michael is a beloved Elder, has chaired the worship committee and has been teaching one of our adult classes for years. God bless you in your continued service to the Kingdom! We plan to move ahead in planning and conducting worship services, using worship team members already in place.

39PLUS PLANS BOAT TRIP

Okay, 39PLUS folk, we're heading to Lost Creek Reservoir for a morning of cruising the big lake on

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September 22. After our usual Wednesday group has had an opportunity to sign on, we'll offer remaining spots to others who may be interested. The plan calls for us to meet at the church and caravan to the Lost Creek Marina. There we'll board the 28-foot pontoon boat and head to who knows where. Snacks will be served on the boat, with lunch to follow at Stewart State Park. Cost for the excursion: \$20 (covers rental and chow). Exact time of departure from Ashland to be announced.

CHAS BURKE AND HARMONICA HEAD TO S. CALIF

In early September our dear friend, artist, fly-tier, harmonica specialist and member will depart for Long Beach, California. You will be missed, good man. We love you. Your harmonica playing brought a beautiful depth to our Sunday worship services. You are unforgettable! What follows are Chas' words about his experience with us.

"OUR BIG LITTLE CHURCH"

I belong to a little church; 'the" Christian Church of Ashland, Oregon", located at the corner of 2nd & B Streets.



In 2002 I started to check it out after meeting with their Pastor, Jim Larsen, at Lithia Park one day. It was a while after our happenstance meeting that I first attended Sunday service there. What impressed to check it out was the warmth and sincerity of Reverend Larsen's behavior. I was curious to witness true kindness and empathy by those in his group feeding house-less folk, and other strangers, a warm meal on a regular basis at Lithia park. No prayers, no monies exchanged, no guilt trips...just honest to goodness kindness!

I was having some internal struggles, spiritually, mentally and emotionally, at this period of my life. I worked part-time at ICCA and Ashland Food Bank with the most wonderful woman, director Jean Hallinan.

When first attending Church I was apprehensive and somewhat skeptical. I had been exposed to Christian-

ity and other religions in my early and teen-age years and, I must be honest, I felt I didn't fit in and sat in the back pews hoping not to be noticed. After all these folks, well...just couldn't accept someone like me!

In time I realized It was I who was not was accepting them! They are now my family and my inspiration. Our Church may be small in size but more than makes up for it in fellowship and dedication to the common good of mankind. I feel as though we are all different but just the same. Here's a group of folks all trying to better themselves and others through our Lord Jesus Christ and the sincerity and loving way they come together to achieve this endeavor is to be admired.

The Rev. Jim Larsen delivers his sermons by personalizing each lesson and giving us the opportunity to chew on the information with humor and humility that comforts us all.

You know I just didn't get it before , but now I can tell you , "I Just want what the Christians Got".

I could tell you more great stuff about our Big Little Church, but better yet I would rather extend a warm welcome.

Please consider coming to our Sunday Service and experience for yourself this Unique and wonderful Church,
Chas Burke
(Chas will sing one last song this coming Sunday... August 29.)



DOZE GIZE (MONDAY MORNING MEN)
This group of gents is made up of one of our elders, two deacons, a pastor, guys from three other congregations and a few more men from our church. What a great mix! We are still meeting at The Old Farm House. Mondays...7:45...Phoenix (Oregon!)

PRAYER THOUGHT

Dear Family:

This letter comes to all of you with an advance apology to our pastor: sorry, Jim; I'm going to take a little poetic license with the following text:

Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!" (Nehemiah 4:19, 20)

For those who may not be familiar with the context of the verses, the book of Nehemiah tells the story of an enormous group effort in which the people of Jerusalem come together under Nehemiah's leadership and reconstruct the wall surrounding Jerusalem. Countless Bible commentators have written about the spiritual parallels between the reconstruction of the wall and the way God moves in all our lives to "reconstruct" us as we participate in the ongoing adventure of our journey with Him.

I bring up these verses and the story they contain because ---at least to me--- the most obvious feature of this account of rebuilding is the emphasis on united group effort, and this is where the story turns personal as I look at our congregation these days. My own journey has included group experience in church bodies of many flavors, but I can tell you without hesitation that I have never been anywhere that has given me a sweeter sense of unity---whatever the "effort" that is being undertaken---than I have when I consider my memories of shared life with the people of 2nd and B.

I am writing these thoughts after learning yesterday that some folks who are very dear to all of us will be continuing their journey elsewhere. Michael and Kathy Wing will be assisting worship with another local congregation for an extended time, and Chaz Burke is moving to California. If you will bear with the analogy, they will be "widely separated" from us as they respond to a calling to move to a different portion of "the wall" and the work of the Kingdom.

My point in bringing this up is simple: We need to pray (in an ongoing fashion) for these dear ones who are moving on. (You knew I'd get around to the sub-

ject of prayer sooner or later, didn't you?) And please, as we consider the ongoing, loving task of praying for each other, let's not assume that such a precious thing as unity "just happens" all by itself. We all know (if we're honest) it does not.

I want to take a moment to encourage you to do something simple and perhaps challenging at the same time. Take a little time to pull out your calendar and look ahead as we approach fall: if you are not currently part of a small group that involves meeting together for Bible study and prayer, could the coming months perhaps be the time to begin? There are several groups available for both men and women that are always happy to welcome newcomers. . . . Also consider marking your calendar for October 9th (that's a Saturday) to picnic with the people you see each Sunday, plus maybe a few that you might invite along to get acquainted. Tentative plans are to reserve space at Touvelle Park. Jim will be treating us to more of his famous Dutch oven cookery. There will be outdoor games available for the young (and the young at heart) as well as plenty of table space to spread out and spend time with folks that perhaps we don't connect with as often as we'd like on a Sunday morning.

I keep returning in my mind to the image of that wall I mentioned earlier. Life spreads us out in all kinds of ways and even within the kingdom of God it's easier at times to give in to circumstances that create distance than it is to find ways to stay in touch. In certain instances we say goodbye for a while (we'll miss you Chaz, Michael and Kathy) and phones, prayer and e-mail do much to span the distance; in others opportunity to strengthen bonds is right in front of us. Let's keep a great thing going by doing the simple stuff: meeting together, eating together, playing together . . . the next thing you know we're praying together, and that's the "stuff", after all, that real unity is made of, right?

Happy that we are family, *Julie*

JACKSON HOUSE TEAM RECEIVES KEYBOARD

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we now have a keyboard for Eleanor to play at our Tuesday worship

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time at Jackson House. If you care to join us in this fellowship-singing-Bible study, come on by at 3 p.m. any Tuesday. And thanks for your generosity Dave (anonymous) L.

COMBINED BIBLE SCHOOL CLASS MOVES INTO SEPTEMBER

Interest is growing for this new class which is studying First Thessalonians. Gene Stringer is our teacher. Come a bit early for a light breakfast and pastries. Sunday mornings: Breakfast at 9:15, class starts at 9:30. Adults and older youth welcome.

LISA PRIETO AND JOSE VILLA- LOBOS TO MARRY

Lisa and Jose are regulars here at CCA. Soon they will be married...September 18. Congratulations are in order. Lisa is the daughter of Jesus and Connie Prieto and has been a part of this church for years. Jose is newer to us and has spent a good part of last year teaching in Southern California. They both show up at the outdoor breakfasts ready to work and serve. Congratulations.

OUTDOOR BREAKFAST, AUG. 28

Here it is, folks...the last picnic breakfast of summer. Expect biscuits and gravy, eggs to order, hash browns, sautéed onions and peppers, fruit, hot chocolate, coffee and juice. You know where we meet... Emigrant Lake. Bring \$4 for parking and a little something for the donation basket. Cookers arrive about 8. Eaters come by at 9. Be on time or you may miss out.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year we will again pack shoeboxes for children around the globe. Last year our area collected 8,436 of the 8.14 million shoeboxes collected world wide. In September and October we will share more information about how to be involved in everything from packing shoeboxes to praying for those who will receive our shoeboxes. We have even invited our Old Time Movie Night friends to participate in this program of sharing. You won't want to



miss 'Shoebox Bingo' at the September Potluck. We have plenty of pre-printed shoeboxes that just need to be filled and prayed for.

Ava and I attended a training session recently and are very excited about how God can use our 'Big Little Church' to share the Good News with children all over the world. *Brad Fish*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Jocelyn Jarrell
- 5 - Connie Griffith
- 6 - Jean Vermillion
- 7 - Helen Jane Slack
- 25 - Jennifer Doods
- 27 - Heathyr Wing
- 29 - Christopher Macauley
- 29 - David Smith



SEPTEMBER ANNI VERSARIES

- 13 - David and Heathyr Wing
- 15 - Hal and Martha Bosworth
- 16 - Jim and Karen Larsen
- 24 - Brian and Lori Jo Marlia-Larsen

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*

"The Family of God"

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 5 Connie Griffith, B'day | 6 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group Jean Yermolova, B'day Labor Day | 7 9:30 AM Piece Corps Heleen Jane Slack, B'day | 8 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home | 9 | 10 Jocelyn Jarrell, B'day | 11 9:00 AM Deacons Work Day 9:00 AM Deacons Work Day |
| 12 12:30 PM Board Meeting | 13 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 Carol & Heather Wang, Ann | 14 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch | 15 Hal & Martha Bowweth, Ann | 16 Jim and Karen Larsen, Ann | 17 | 18 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night |
| 19 12:15 PM Potluck | 20 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 | 21 9:30 AM Piece Corps | 22 39 Plus - Boat Trip to Lost Creek Lake | 23 | 24 Brian and Lori Jo Martin-Larsen, Ann | 25 Jennifer Downs, B'day |
| 26 | 27 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 Teresa Wang, B'day | 28 9:30 AM Piece Corps | 29 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding Christopher Macaulay, B'day David Smith, B'day | 30 |  | |

SEPTEMBER 2010

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

318 B Street
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Jim Larsen, Minister

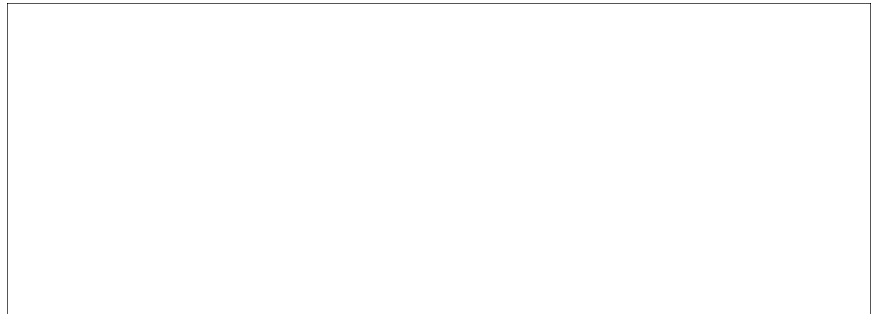
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Sunday Service Schedule

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

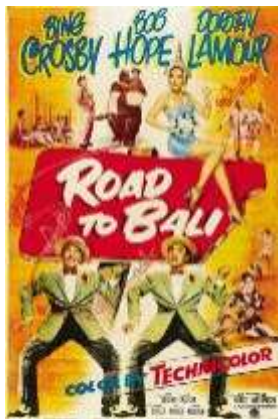


Faithful to God, Responsive to People

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



COMEDY AND ROMANTIC DRAMA FOR OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT!



Join us Saturday evening Sept. 18 for laughs, romance, drama and a screen full of classic motion picture stars. Doors and snack bar open at 6:00 pm and the show starts at 6:30 pm. In the 1952 color fun fest "ROAD TO BALI", Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, two slick witted Romeos, take a trip to the South Seas and fall for the lovely Princess Lala (Dorothy Lamour) in a hilarious adventure that inevitably leads to much mayhem and romance. Along the way keep an eye out for Bing's brother Bob,

Humphrey Bogart and Jane Russell. Following intermission the screen lights up with an all-star cast, including Orson Welles, Joan Fontaine, Agnes Moorehead and

Margaret O'Brien in the 1944 masterful production of Charlotte Bronte's gothic romance novel "JANE EYRE." Watch closely for an uncredited young Elizabeth Taylor in the early orphanage sequences. For you lovers of great film scores, you won't be disappointed in the stirring score by Bernard Herrmann. Of course, expect the usual surprises. Tell your friends and neighbors...strangers on the street...shout it from the rooftops. It's FREE! Those who haven't been in a church for a long time will see and feel our warm fellowship, rather than being struck by lightning...our chance to share and invite. If you can, rustle up something non-perishable for the Ashland food bank, and don't forget the "shoe boxes." See ya! You'll have a great time.



Doors open at 6:00pm, movies and FUN start at 6:30pm.

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

