

Volume 26 Issue 1

January 2010

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Blooming Where Planted

Every time I visit Peru or Chile I find myself a bit envious. Envious of the old days. Walking the streets of Trujillo is reminiscent of my childhood in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, back in the fifties. Traveling into the Andes and visiting Ayacucho is more like



what I'd think our town was like in the 1930s and 40s. What beckons me to yesteryear or a land in a time warp? Life is still pretty simple and uncluttered. Hearts are still open to the Gospel. One person accepts Jesus and gets baptized. Before you know it that one soul has infected a dozen with the glorious Jesus bug. So I'm a tad envious.

You know that I love working in Ashland, but in terms of spirituality our neighbors are grasping for meaning and significance...but have decided that Christianity is not a possible solution. In this age of pluralism every religion and philosophy is considered of equal value. Truth is relative, it

seems. This is truly a post-Christian culture. So I have to invite God to keep nudging me along on this rocky road. In South America converts are jazzed by the intimate walk they have with a personal Jesus, in contrast to the formalism and oppressive experience some endured as Catholics. Sometimes I'm drawn to work where the Gospel is reaping such great harvests. But today, after a day or two of contemplation, I know that this is my place. My place to engage a culture which is running on empty. As somebody said, Christians are no longer the 'home team'. We are the *visitors* now. Once I get home and shake off nostalgia...and the yearning to plant and harvest in more friendly soil...I thank God for the joy of working here. I remember those long ago days when evangelistic meetings netted dozens of baptisms...sort of like receptive places in Peru today. But up and down the streets of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford and the rest of the Rogue Valley, are faces of people Jesus wants to see in Heaven too. And I have an 'in'. Twenty two years in this Valley have left me with an abundance of friendships and countless other acquaintances. God is calling me to stay rooted this weedy soil...to sow his precious seed here...and join him in the harvest. It happens in the normal footsteps of life, but it must include intentional behavior as well. If I had a

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cure for cancer but only offered chicken soup to the ailing, what kind of friend would I really be. So I'm asking God for a holy boldness in 2010. I'm not sure what that will look like yet. But I do know that I have more than chicken soup to offer...and so do you. And a bunch folk who have tried every other remedy seem ready and open to hearing about the real deal.



Where I Belong,



EVANGELISM TRAINING...MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Years ago John Hendee developed an evangelism tool called Peace Treaty with God. It has been put into plenty of languages and is used all over the world. When in Peru I met a lady who is presently using this tool with six people every week. In April John will be here at the Christian Church of Ashland, sharing his experience in presenting the Gospel in an orderly and effective way. I'm hoping that we'll have a good percentage of our congregation on hand to get some precious training.

Save Saturday, April 17, for this exciting workshop. We'll start the morning at 9 and conclude by 1. You'll hear much more on this as the date draws near. But for now...please save the date, please.
Jim Larsen

OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

Everybody keeps asking where Mike Royer gets all of these amazing old classic movies. Some people have been a part of this ministry since the days that Greg Luce first launched Old Time Movie Night seven years ago. Some 'addicts' travel from Rogue

River, Gold Hill and other distant towns for these vintage flicks. Check the regular Old Time Movie Night section on the back page to see what Mr. Royer has in store for January.

FINANCES...ALWAYS IN NEED OF ATTENTION

It hasn't been easy navigating these rough waters of the economy. Like every church we know of there has been major surgery done on our spending. You have been a giving bunch. How grateful your church board is for your faithfulness. That is all we can ask of you...faithfulness. Keep an eye on the treasurer's graph in the foyer and keep an eye on the giving report which is included in each week's bulletin, please.

VERA LASHUA, GRADUATES TO GLORY

She was the oldest living graduate of Ashland High School. Vera was a longtime member of our church. Remembered by hundreds of students (taught at Bellview Elementary School for twenty five years), she was a picture of compassion, contentment and joy. A service was held for her at the Litwiller/Simonsen chapel in Ashland the Sunday after Christmas. Farewell, wonderful lady!

39PLUS...A NEW YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

This gathering has proven to be an oasis for many. We begin every month (January 6) by meeting at Marie Hoffman's home and conclude the month (January 27) with a potluck in Fellowship Hall.

There is glorious fellowship, high-spirited card games, rich Bible study led by our pastor and out-of-this-world vittles. It doesn't get much better than this. All adults are welcome. We gather at 10 o'clock for the games, followed by an 11 o'clock study time with lunch served at noon.



The last of the month pow wow includes a short time of folding the newsletter, wedged into the morning.

Need a ride? Call Jim at 890-3209.

Marie lives at 61 North Mountain Avenue in Ashland

ROGUE RIDERS (NOT A MOTORCYCLE CLUB)

I recently invited a mature adult to enjoy a Third Wednesday trek with our Rogue Rider bunch. She replied that she didn't care for motorcycles. Ah... maybe that is why more of you haven't rushed to sign up for one of our monthly trips led by Helen Jane Slack. Over the eight years of taking jaunts up toward Roseburg, over the Cascade Mountains and the Coastal Range and down into Northern California, we've been to fairs, festivals, picnics, parties, restaurants, Crater Lake, museums, parks and more. If you have yet to heed our 'all aboard' January is a great time to get started. What's up in January, HJ?

Rogue riders will travel to Central Point to see the Crater Rock Museum on Jan. 20th. We should leave the Church at 10:00 and arrive at the Museum around 10:

30 A.M. After viewing the displays, we will journey to Tin Tin Buffet for lunch. We have been to the Museum some time ago, but there are new displays to see and I'm sure you will enjoy the trip. Please plan to join us and call (541-482-8225) if you have questions. Helen Jane Slack



REAL MEN...GROWING

December proved to be a good month for our guys. As you see in the photo, men bring sons and grandsons, too. What draws these gentlemen to The Old Farm House each Monday morning at 7:45? The food is fine. But the fellowship (we sometimes

hang around until nearly 10) is even better. Our Bible lesson always has us connecting with God and each other. Although we are becoming genuinely connected to each other, new guys would find a warm welcome and a free breakfast on their first visit. Mondays...7:45...The Old Farm House... Phoenix (Oregon!)



ALPHA IS BACK

Alpha

It has been a while since we last ran the Alpha (<http://www.alphausa.org/>) course here at Christian Church of Ashland. During that time we have been blessed with many new faces in our gathering so it is timely to again offer this basic course on the Christian faith. Even long-time Christians can benefit from a refresher on the basics which are addressed in this course. We begin each evening with a buffet style meal at 6 pm. This is a great chance to meet your fellow participants and get to know each other. A bit of humor and announcements transition us to the DVD lecture by Nicky Gumble, who developed the Alpha Course in London. The finale of the evening is small group discussion on the questions raised during the video. Any question is quite okay...even encouraged. All inquiring mind types are welcomed regardless of their orientation to Christianity. All that we ask is mutual respect and courtesy. This coming Wednesday, January 6, 2010 we will have the Invitation Dinner to give you a taste of the course and answer questions. This is a great chance for you to check it out. Come and see. Bring a friend. Let us know though so we can plan appropriately. Call 541-482-1591 or send an email to alph@cc-ashland.org. This will also be our first opportunity to use our newly updated DVDs. Brochures are available at the church or can be downloaded from alpha.cc-ashland.org. Why not download a copy and invite a friend to join you for the Invitation Dinner.

REFLECTIONS ON PERU

Thanks for encouraging me to take these annual or twice yearly forays to South America.



Young pastors and blossoming leaders have no opportunity to attend a Bible college or seminary. Most of their training takes place in their home church. Now that they are on the mission field it becomes obvious that addition, deeper, study would be beneficial. So the old guy from Ashland teams up with Project New Hope International to bring some foundation courses to them. I've been teaching 'Overview of the Bible' for Northwest Christian University for some time now. It is sort of like an accordion. The course can be delivered in one day or expanded to an eight week class. The prayer regimen which I've shared with folk all over the West Coast is much appreciated in

Peru as well. I'm thinking that my visits with team leaders, community leaders and the director of PNHI, my friend John Hendee, is encouraging too. I hope so.



On this trip we managed to insert a short trip to the high country (Andes Mountains) to do some prospecting. We searched out possible locations for planting churches in the future. I've been invited back to share some of the instruction which has touched other Christians in the coastal areas. So, friend, thanks for your prayers, love and encouragement. Jim Larsen (pictures of Peru here, Brad?)

POTLUCK -JANUARY 17

Let's keep the potluck "*simple*", bring your favorite simple and easy comfort food(s). One pot wonders and/or just a few ingredients. It may be cold outside, but you'll be warmed by the good food and fellowship at the potluck.

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.



SAINTS ALIVE...AND LAUGHING

You'd like it. It hardly matters how old you are. Attend the 'First Saturday' gathering at the Iron Skillet and you'll be smiling in no time. This isn't a revival meeting but spirits are always lifted. We laugh, joke, tell tall tales and simply enjoy being together. The good food is an extra...frosting on the cake. So head on over to the Iron Skillet at the Phoenix (Oregon!) exit on Saturday, January 2. Arrive by 8:50 a.m. to get a good seat. Order from the menu or check out their fine breakfast bar. See you there!

OUR SYMPATHY TO ARLENE SCHARICH

We were saddened to hear of Harry Scharich's passing on December 11. Harry and Arlene were enjoying their usual winter stay in Bullhead City, Arizona, when Harry experienced a stroke. He was airlifted to a Las Vegas hospital and seemed to be recovering when he slipped away. Their pastor from Bullhead City conducted Harry's funeral in Las Vegas, with family in attendance. Arlene, please know of our love for you and your dear husband. May God grant you strength and solace.

PIECE CORPS...2009 QUILT

Every week the Piece Corps meets in Fellowship Hall. These good ladies give quilts to newborns and lots of other folk. One means of gathering funds to replenish their supply closet is the annual Quilt Drawing. This year the new owner of a beautiful quilt is Jean Vermillion. All ladies interested in the

fine craft of sewing and quilting are welcome to join our Piece Corp team Tuesdays from 9:30 to Noon in the Fellowship Hall.



Congratulations to Jean Vermillion who won the drawing for the 2009 Piece Corp Quilt

PRAYER

I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.
Psalm 116:1-2



Dear Family,
Happy New Year! I am grateful for the privilege of sharing my thoughts with you in the months to come. I now come to you with “Julie’s Translation” of the above Scripture:

I love the LORD because He listens! I will keep up an active, ongoing conversation with him until I draw my last breath.

He pays close attention to what you and I have to say. He wants us to “keep on keeping on” in conversation with Him. What could be better news to carry into the New Year than the fact that God wants to be on speaking terms with all those who will come to Him with humble hearts! Talking to God simply and honestly in ordinary, everyday language is the mar-

velous opportunity we try to sum up in one word: prayer.

There will be ample opportunity in the year ahead to write to you and give voice to my own thoughts on the subject. Before I do that I would like to use this first column to acknowledge some folks who have been faithful in the practice of “ongoing conversation” with God for many years. You will find most of them regularly occupying a seat in worship service each Sunday morning. Marie Hoffman, Nyla Fenning and Irma Potter are all names that most of us will recognize as individuals who have gone before God on an ongoing basis in prayer with concerns from members of the congregation. Many of us will also remember Lucille Sisson and Nellie Creel who now celebrate Christmas and New Years with Jesus. There are other names I could also mention---you know who you are---who consistently pray on behalf of others, each of you believing that God does indeed bend His ear to listen when one of His children comes to talk to Him in regard to the welfare of another.

I mention these folks simply because I am honored to be part of a congregation that views prayer as vital to an ongoing connection with Jesus. Many of you have already carved out time in the past year to be part of the scheduled prayer retreats that are based on Jim’s regimen using the colored beads. I am excited to tell you that in the coming months another retreat is in process of coordination, this one involving an overnight stay with more extended opportunity to share our hearts with God and each other. More on that later!

I want to conclude with a thought expressed by another dear saint who is well loved by all among us. Sybil Laredo likes Romans 12:12, which gives a great model for our attitude as Christian people: “. . . rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer. . .” Sybil says this verse helps her to be grateful to God for all the blessings around her and stay focused in prayer for the people around her at the same time. I hope that as we journey together in prayer in the coming year we will grow in following her example!

Happy to be praying with you,
Julie

GET ON THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL PEACE

Financial Peace University
is a biblically based, video-driven
small group study that teaches families
to beat debt, build wealth and
give like never before!

CLASS STARTS SOON!

Our next class begins
Tuesday Evening, Janu-
ary 5, 2010 at 7:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall.

Dave Ramsey's

Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

FOR MORE INFO

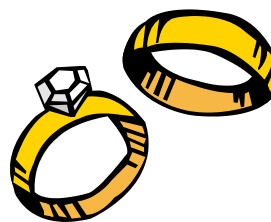
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info@cc-ashland.org

daveramsey.com



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Helen Calhoun
- 1 - Jason Rudy
- 1 - Bonnie Maulsby
- 2 - Jim Witt
- 2 - Robin Witt
- 2 - Kacey McDonald
- 3 - Terry Hayes
- 8 - Katie Anderson
- 9 - David Lockwood
- 9 - Hal Bosworth
- 13 - Betty Tine Metcalf
- 15 - Ed Macauley
- 18 - Audrey Morrison
- 18 - Joshua McDaniel
- 24 - Linda Bell
- 25 - Jim Vermillion
- 25 - Shelly Vermillion
- 29 - Harold Russell
- 29 - Teri



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Greg and Rebecca Luce
- 23 - Karl and Helen Jane Slack

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
3 12:30 PM Ladies Ministry Mtg Terry Hayes, B'Day	4 7:45 AM Men Alive-Old Farm House Cafe 8:00 AM Ladies Monday Morning Study Group	5 9:30 AM Piece Corps 7:00 PM Financial Peace University-Fellowship Hall	6 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home 6:00 PM Alpha Invitation Dinner	7	8 Katie Anderson, B'Day	9 David Lockwood B'Day Hal Bosworth, B'Day
10 12:30 PM Board Meeting	11 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	12 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch 7:00 PM Financial Peace University-Fellowship Hall	13 Betty Time Metcaiff B'Day	14	15 Ed Maccauley, B'Day	16 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night
17 12:15 PM Potluck	18 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>Audrey Anderson, B'Day</i>	19 9:30 AM Piece Corps 7:00 PM Financial Peace University-Fellowship Hall	20 10:00 AM Rogue Riders 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting	21	22	23 Karl & Helen Jane Slack, Ann
24 12:30 PM Deaconess Meeting - Volunteer Office Lynda Bell, B'Day	25 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>Jim Vermillion, B'Day</i>	26 9:30 AM Piece Corps 7:00 PM Financial Peace University-Fellowship Hall	27 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting	28	29 Harold Russell, B'Day Teri, B'Day	30

February 10

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28						

December 09

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28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2010

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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

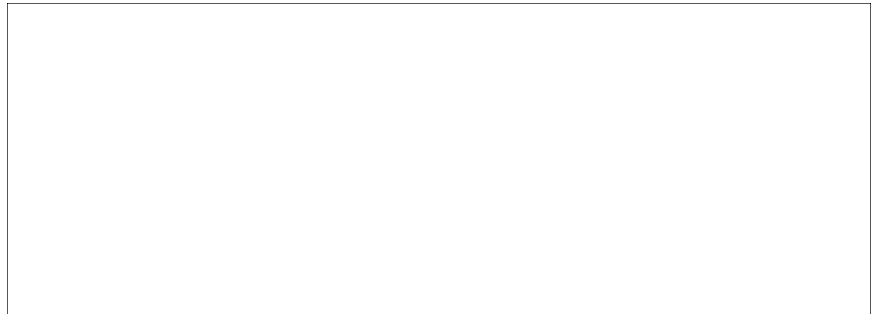
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Sunday Service Schedule

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



OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

A truly all-star evening awaits those who will be attending Old Time Movie Night **Jan. 16**. Two films that are funny, tuneful and joyous historical documents of another time when stars of radio filled the silver screen and major studios produced all-star cast musicals during World War 2, as morale boosters for the fighting men overseas and those here on the homefront. First up is RKO's biggest box office hit of 1941 "**LOOK WHO'S LAUGHING**" starring Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy, Lucille Ball and radio personalities Fibber McGee and Molly, Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve and the other wonderful characters of Wistful Vista. This fun-fest is followed by the 1943 "**STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM**" featuring many of Paramount's greatest stars of the day, two score of the screen's best character actors and

several directors playing themselves. WOW! Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Betty Hutton, Dick Powell and a list too long to fit in this newsletter...most of the stars on the Paramount roster. Of course, expect the usual surprises, too. You'll probably leave humming a tune by Johnny Mercer or Harold Arlen.
Doors and Snack bar open at 6:00 p.m.
First movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

