

Volume 25 Issue 1

January 2009

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# THE REAL JESUS ...A SOLID ROCK

Jesus business is doing quite well these days. I'm not referring to what takes place at the corner of Second and B streets on Sunday morning. These days there is an immense interest in most any book, article or documentary that claims to have discovered something new about Jesus. Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, would have you believe that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had a thing going. The so-called Gospel of Judas (not written by Judas) claims that Jesus and Judas collaborated as close friends to bring about a phony 'salvation'.

Were I a gambling man I'd have bet a bunch that in the weeks prior to Christmas the networks would be scrambling to air shows which would debunk Christianity. By now I'd be rolling in dough. Folk lacking in scholarly credentials needed only to say they had a document which once and for all settled the matter, and reporters came a runnin'. The claim is that all documents needed to be viewed as having the same spiritual content and historical significance, regardless of when they were written, the special agenda of the writer or dating of the material. If such claims are true then we are camped on a sand bar rather than a solid rock.

will probably not send letters to Newsweek or the History Channel decrying their weak cases for an ordinary Jesus and 'smoke and mirrors' Gospel writers. I'm afraid this sort of toning down Jesus will persist. So I'm suggesting that you do some homework, friend. For my part, I'll preach from the Gospel of Luke throughout 2009. Perhaps you would be willing to read a few reliable books...including the Bible. My second suggestion is *The Case for the Real Jesus*, by Lee Strobel. Call Evangel Family Book Store at the Mall, 772-2849, to have them hold or order a copy for you. It is well worth the \$22 price tag. I remember Mr. Strobel writing that sales in scandal are high. Simply saying that the Bible is the Word of God and reliable won't stir much interest. But tell the world that you have found a new piece in the Jesus puzzle and you'll create a stir.

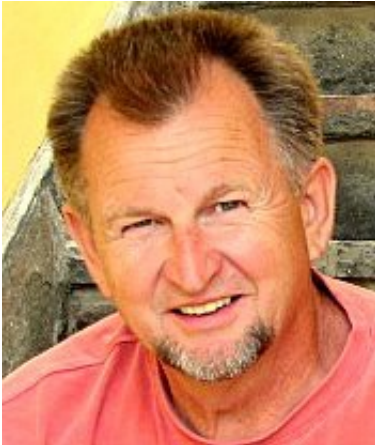
This flurry of books, articles and documentaries objecting to Jesus being God in the flesh is not new. What is different is the way that such attacks can be communicated to the whole world these days, including the internet. So don't be shaken. A storm is always a good time to check out the sturdiness of your dwelling.

Yet we have little clout. Our members

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So here we go...into a new year where your faith will find fortification or your ship will be rocked. Share the journey with me, won't you? Start reading Luke now and rediscover 'Jesus Christ, the same today, yesterday and forever'.



## FRIENDS OF FAITH MAKE KLAMATH FALLS SPARKLE

I'm the lucky guy who heads over the Cascade Mountains to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ who meet there. Christmas was especially wonderful. Karen and I drove over for the big party. These are mainly young families so we see a change in the children of the group from month to month. Now Cherry and Ross have a baby on the way. We accept 'church growth' anyway we get it.

These dear people feel a real kinship with our church family. They pray for us and enjoy making the early Sunday morning drive to visit from time to time. So keep on praying for these friends separated from us by a mere range of mountains. Jim Larsen

## 39PLUS...A GROWING GROUP

Marie Hoffman will once again play hostess to us on January 7. Expect games, Bible Study and Lunch. Marie lives at 61 N Mountain, just a block east of East Main Street. We have some newcomers so drop in by 10 to get acquainted via a game of Skipbo, Uno or Dominos.

No 39PLUS gathering the second Wednesday of January.

On the 21st we'll join Rogue Riders for the glorious

luncheon at Tin Tin. Meet at the church at 10:30 to caravan.

On Wednesday, January 28 we'll quickly fold the monthly newsletter (in Fellowship Hall) and move on to Games, Bible Study and a Potluck lunch. Come one, come all.



## ROGUE RIDERS

Rogue Riders will meet **January 21<sup>st</sup>** at 10:30 at the Church parking lot to carpool

to lunch @ Tin-Tin Buffet. What a splurge, eating at this modestly priced oriental buffet! All available adults are invited. Do hope it isn't snowing and hailing as some of our days have been in December. Also hope you had a great holiday with friends and families. And we wish for you a Happy & Healthy New Year, 2009!

Helen Jane

## REAL MEN...WEEKLY POW WOW CAN LAUNCH YOUR WEEK



Our men's group has become a fixture at Annie's Restaurant in Phoenix (Oregon!). We pull tables together and get right into the Word. We order one of Annie's fine breakfast specials and the rest is history. Guys, walk-ins are always welcome. Can't stay for the whole study time? Join us for a while anyway.

First-timers get breakfast free...complements of Jim Larsen (while Jerry Moore is hiding out in Arizona).

Mondays, 7:45 am at Annie's in Phoenix

## BUDGET APPROVED

Once again the annual budget received overwhelming support (no negative votes), the ballot passing on December 28. Of course the challenge is not to get a budget approved. The real need is for a year of financial faithfulness to make this blueprint become a reality. Thanks for your vote of faith.

## SAINTS ALIVE...SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

What a saintly bunch we harbor here at the Christian Church of Ashland! These good 39-plus folk invite all adults to join them for breakfast and some ha-ha-ha at the Iron Skillet each First Saturday. So come on down to the Iron Skillet in Phoenix (Oregon!) on January 3. Order from the menu or graze at the buffet. Saturday, Jan 3, 9 in the morning.

## WEEKLY AD ASHLAND NEWSPAPER

Our community gets a glimpse of our church via Thursday article (ad) in the *Ashland Daily Tidings*. It is a low pressure, often pithy bit of prose to get the attention of would-be church attenders.

## SERMON SERIES FROM LUKE

My preparations for the upcoming Luke sermon series has already been a great blessing to my heart. Of the Gospel writers, Luke is the best (writer). He records so many of the stories in which Jesus lifted up the downtrodden, honored women and had compassion for the poor. His recordings of the life of Jesus are meant to help us see that Jesus is the savior of everybody, including us. I hope you'll bring a bit of paper of taking notes. We embark on this adventure Sunday, January 4. Come walk the Jesus Trail with me. Jim Larsen

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE GARNERS PROMISES TO JESUS

It was a fine evening with plenty of participation, capped off with Ted Killian's meditation. Children walked about gathering gift lists from those present. One person indicated a desire to be baptized in 2009. Others pledged to do physical labor around the church next year, including leaf raking,

window washing and such. Still others volunteered to cook meals for the hospitalized who return home to recuperate. Money will be given to cover the expenses of producing and mailing the newsletter one month. Many promised to pray for our church's leaders. Some declared their intentions to faithfully pray for those listed in our weekly bulletin.

It was a good even, Christmas Eve, followed by coffee, eggnog, cookies and other goodies. Many thanks to all who endured winter weather to assembly on that blessed night.

## KARL AND HELEN JANE CELEBRATED THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup>



It was a splendid afternoon there in our Fellowship Hall. Betty Tine Metcalf and ladies from the Slack's family decorated so well. Dessert was fabulous and the fellowship warm and wonderful. Congratulations to Helen Jane and Karl on reaching this milestone, and 'good going' for giving the rest of us a fine model of partnership, love and loyalty. God's best to the two of you!

## THANK YOU FROM JIM AND KAREN

Sunday, December 14, was snowy and icy. We knew that would keep most sane people off of the road. Still a good number of friends found their way to our place for our annual Open House. What fun! Thanks to all of you, attendees of the Open House and not, for your Christmas greetings and blessings. We looked about the living room all afternoon and realized that our church is changing and growing. You'll find newcomers already involved big time...on the worship team, helping with Old Time Movie Night, assisting at the Christ-

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Our Beloved,

We are honored and privileged to bring further testimony of God's goodness. We greet you in the spirit of this joyous season with reflection on our Heavenly provision, and prayers that the gift of God's peace may dwell with you this very moment and guide you into the new year.

It is hard for us to believe how little time remains before the last page will be turned on this chapter of our lives. It is surreal that in a short 6-7 months we will be given the opportunity to move from nursing student to becoming a peer amongst those from whom we have learned. We acknowledge and rejoice in the support of the Church and the faithfulness of your prayers which have seen us through this much arduous process.

During these last couple of years God has continued to further reveal himself in astonishing ways. The most manifest example is certainly by the support offered by so many of you, especially by helping us care for Cielo during our busiest moments. We are so grateful that the village raising him is so grounded in the truth and love of Jesus. We would like to also specifically give thanks to Hillary whose testimony and wise advice has inspired us during moments of doubt. We are also very thankful for the constant encouragement of Ed & April McCauley, who continue to give of themselves selflessly in hopes that we might become trained as pilots before we return to the mission field. How exciting this opportunity is for us!!! To thank everyone of you individually would require every page of this newsletter, but we would like to thank the Church as a whole for your continued faith in what God is doing in our lives and for the honor you have given us in allowing us to continue participating on the worship team.



We invite you to continue in prayer for the deepening of our relationships with those whom we met both in school and the workplace. Our prayer is that we are able to finish these last two terms with a faith and confidence in the Lord that exudes a sweet aroma to those who have either forgotten or never known the fullness of His offering. While we always strive for academic excellence we are more excited by God's invitation to a spiritual revival that has been stirring within us these past few months. Please partner with us in prayer that we be receptive to God's voice and plans for this coming year. Our heart is to know Him more fully so as to share his love with others more fully to the glory of His Name and Kingdom. We love you all so much and thank you for being God's hands in the world.

In Jesus our Rock,  
The Marlia-Larsen's



# NORMAL IS **BROKE** BE WEIRD!



Dave Ramsey's

**Financial** *Peace*  
UNIVERSITY

***Financial Peace University***  
is a 13-week, video-based  
small group study that  
teaches families how  
to beat debt, build  
wealth, and give  
like never before.

## **CLASS STARTS SOON!**

Wednesday, January 7th in the  
Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFO CALL

Brad at 482-1561

***daveramsey.com***

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mas Eve service, serving communion, attending Bible school classes and participating in other ways.

So as we sipped hot cider and made those little crackers/cheese/salami sandwiches we reveled at the sight of you all having a great time, laughing and getting better acquainted. Every passing year draws us nearer and nearer to one other...and to God. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, dear ones.

Jim and Karen Larsen

## POTLUCK -JANUARY 18

Ava Fish with assistance from Laurie Royer will be decorating for our "snowflake" themed potluck in January. You won't want to miss this special time of good food and good fellowship. Well keep the heat on for you.

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.*

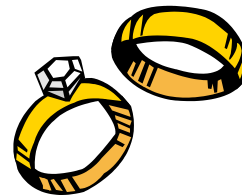
## NEW CLASS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

With a good gang of Middle School boys attending services these days Jim Larsen and a cadre of other men will soon launch a Sunday morning Bible School class. During the month there will be other activities where these young guys can spend quality time together and pick up some special skills along the way. How about canoeing, wood working, camping, cooking and map reading? This is being put together right this minute so be alert to further announcements.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Helen Calhoun
- 1 - Jason Rudy
- 1 - Bonnie Maulsby
- 2 - Robin Witt
- 2 - Jim Witt
- 2 - Kacey McDonald
- 3 - Terry Hayes
- 8 - Katie Anderson
- 9 - Hal Bosworth
- 9 - David Lockwood
- 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
	<div>December 08</div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</div> <div>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</div> <div>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</div> <div>22 23 24 25 26 27</div> <div>28 29 30 31</div>	<div>February 09</div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</div> <div>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</div> <div>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</div> <div>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</div>				
4	5 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study	6 9:30 AM Piece Corps	7 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home	8 Katie Anderson, B'day	9 David Lockwood B'day Hal Bosworth, B'day	10
11 9:00 AM Ladies Minist- ry Mtg 12:30 PM Board Meeting	12 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study	13 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch Betty/Tina Metcalf B'day	14	15 Ed Macnealey, B'day	16	17 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night
18 12:15 PM Potluck Audrey Morrison, B'day Joshua McDaniell, B'Day	19 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study Martha Luther King, Jr.	20 9:30 AM Piece Corps	21 10:30 AM Rogue Riders - Tin Tin Buffet	22	23 Karl & Helen Jane Slack, Ann	24 Lynda Bell, B'day
25 Jim Vermillion, B'day Shelly Vermillion, B'day	26 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Monday Afternoon Bible Study	27 9:30 AM Piece Corps	28 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding	29 Harold Russell, B'day Teri, B'day	30	31

# JANUARY 2009

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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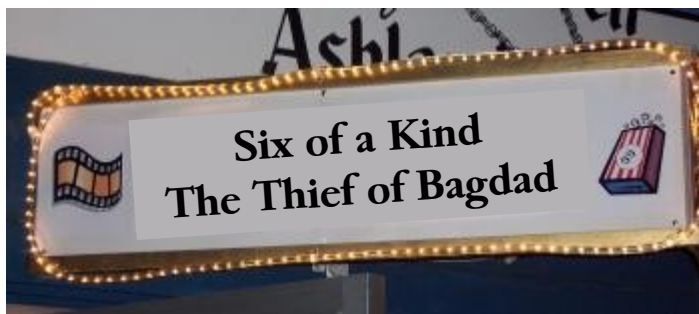
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Sunday Service Schedule

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

*Faithful to God, Responsive to People*

*We're on the Web*  
[www.cc-ashland.org](http://www.cc-ashland.org)



### OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

Who'd have thought the church would fill up like that on a snowy and icy December night? Yet the crowd gathered and two fine classic movies were enjoyed. Now what, Mike Royer? What can we expect in January, good man?

### MAGIC AND LAUGHS!

Let's start the New Year off on **January 17** with an ensemble comedy classic and a Technicolor fantasy. First up is "**SIX OF A KIND**" (1934 62 min.) a zany adventure that befalls a couple who advertise for someone to share expenses on a road trip. You don't want to miss W. C. Fields, the pool playing sheriff and George Burns an' Gracie Allen in this wonderful

nonsense charmer. Next up is the 1940 Arabian Nights inspired "**THE THIEF OF BAGDAD**." No, no...not Haliburton. This magnificent Academy Award winner (106 min) is the tale of a betrayed King and a street thief (16 yr. old Sabu) who work together to defeat the treacherous Jafar (Conrad Veidt). There's even a giant genie! The evening is a fabulous family journey into the magic of movies of yesteryear. Plus the usual extras and surprises.

**Join us for the fun. Snack bar opens at 6 pm. First movie starts at 6:30 pm.**

