

Volume 24 Issue 2

February 2008

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outsidethewalls.com

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CRISS-CROSSING WITHIN OUR CULTURE

I am so fortunate to be a pastor. Every day I get to do what I really want to do...serve God without having to pump gas or sell shoes to pay the bills. Because of my vocation I daily have opportunity to mingle with citizens of our community and engage in potent conversations.

So very often I urge (harangue?) you to develop such connections with the unchurched. Yet when I reflect on your busy schedule I realize that many of our people have little discretionary time. You slave away all week, take a breather on Saturday (if possible) and still manage to head to Second and B on Sunday. This is why I'm encouraging you to consider **BuddyTime**. Every week Buddys gather with a few other folk with the intent of *making our world a better place*. Here is the gist of it all.

CAMARADERIE...Spend a few minutes catching up on what is going on in each other's lives. It's all about cultivating genuine friendships. The group consists of 3-6 or so people. **CHARACTER CONVERSATIONS**...Your group of Buddys will read and discuss an article about character issues we all face.

COMPASSIONATE ACTION... Finally, you'll lay out plans for touch-

ing individuals or families with compassionate service. There is even potential for some or all of your group to participate in **PERU RENDEZ-VOUS**...an annual work trip to Trujillo, Peru. The first trip is scheduled for Spring of 2009.

Later this month I'll be meeting with a dozen churches in Phoenix, Arizona, to present and launch **BuddyTime**. Their pastors are eager to get on board. They, too, long to see their members engage Christians and others in meaningful and loving relationships that lead to *making our world a better place*. Here are some reasons I believe in **BuddyTime**:

- It gets us out into the world as Jesus commanded. It is 'Good Neighbor' behavior.
- This is for men, women and older children.
- It is an opportunity to get in the harness with co-workers, neighbors, family members and others for personal growth, fellowship and compassionate labor.
- It taps into the nobility that resides in most people...the desire to help bring positive to change to the lives of others.
- It provides a setting for genuine conversations, real friendships and working together.

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- Meet with whoever, wherever and whenever the group decides.
- It's more than more talka, talka, talka.
- You don't need to be a Bible scholar to participate. Just be real!

Have you even wondered when you'd have the chance to move beyond theorizing and listening to sermons to actually move out into the world to do some lasting good? As a preacher who has delivered thousands of messages I'm especially thrilled to lead a ministry that helps our folk be witnesses in our Jerusalem, Judea and beyond. This isn't a Bible study and the meetings probably won't include prayer, but **BuddyTime** springs out of our hours and hours of Bible study and will be bathed in prayer by believers.

On Wednesday, February 27, we'll have an information meeting in Fellowship Hall for anybody interested in being a Buddy to the world. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Your Pastor and Buddy

REAL MEN MEET ON MONDAYS

An hour or so well spent. That's my testimony. You can count on a Bible study and discussion time that will have you asking and answering questions that are at the heart of your existence. I hate to miss the Monday gathering at Annie's Restaurant in Phoenix (Oregon!) at 7:45 a.m. Of course the food is good but the dessert is what each guy feasts on from the Word.

POTLUCK DINNER

Hey, aren't those new round tables contributing to our fellowship time, especially on Pot Luck Sunday? Thanks to those who purchased tables and to the church board for voting to buy some as well. Our February 'Love Feast' is being coordinated by Laurie Royer and Linda Cornwell

Is your favorite a soup, stew, casserole, or macaroni and cheese? Whatever it is, bring it to share at the potluck on January 20th.

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

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

39PLUS...FUN AND GAMES... BIBLE STUDY ...VITTLES



Hal squeezes his brain to remember where he put the good card.

You might call this a Seniors ministry since most everybody attends is at least in their fifties. But you young'uns would like this. You've never seen Uno or Dominos played this way. Then comes a lesson from the Bible brought by our pastor. Finally...a wonderful meal by the host...or a potluck (on the last Wednesday of the month). Here's the plan for February:

- Feb 6 Laurie Royer's Home, 2780 Cedar Links Dr., Medford 772-0689
- Feb 13 Larsen's Home 114 Autumn Ridge, Talent 890-3209
- Feb 20 Rogue Riders
- Feb 27 Fellowship Hall Fold Newsletter, Games, Study and Potluck



Laurie hits it big in King's Corners...a fun card game.

SAINTS ALIVE



Hopefully these pictures capture the fun and joy that we experience every 'first Saturday' at the Iron Skillet in Phoenix. Lots of truckers call this restaurant their favorite, so expect hearty food and plenty of it. The Senior's Menu gives a break to most of us who attend. Bring your favorite joke or tall tale. February 2...9 a.m.

ROGUE RIDERS



It's time to be thinking about the destination for our February Rogue Riders, but there are nine inches of snow on the ground in Ashland. Our ever faithful leader, Helen Jane is keeping an eye on the weather and will let us know later what destination will be in store for the intrepid riders.

FRIENDS OF FAITH...OUR "OVER THE HILL" FAMILY

Plans are underway for a Spring Retreat...perhaps at Hyatt Lake. At our last meeting our Klamath Falls brothers and sisters decided to rendezvous in the high country. Jim Witt is making arrangements to rent cabins for a week-end of recreation and getting a fresh hold on God. The plan calls for FOF to the head to Ashland on Sunday morning where they will participate in our service by bringing testimonies, joining the worship team, leading in prayer and such. Keep your eyes and ears open to news of more specifics!



It is a real treat to head over the Cascade Mountains twice monthly to fellowship and help lead this exciting congregation of mainly younger families and singles. Thanks to the Mission Committee for covering my traveling expenses.

Jim Larsen

JOE AND MARGOT KELLY... NEW AND INVOLVED

We thought you'd want to know the name of our newest Worship Team guy. Joe Kelly served for a long time as pastor of the Cascade Christian Fellowship up in the Green Springs, along with his dear wife, Margot. His guitar and worship leading skills have made this gent a true blessing to the rest of the team and the congregation. Welcome to the Kellys as they bless us with their lives, experience and true love.



TED AND KAY KILLIAN... TEACHERS AT HEART

Thanks to Kay Killian for accepting leadership of the Bible school hour for elementary school age. Her creativity and love for kids guarantees that any youngsters who show up at 9:30 on Sunday morning will be greeted with genuine interest and taught the Bible.

Ted Killian houses his class in the church balcony. Teens and young adults are always welcome and can expect to have light shed on the scriptures and care given to each participant.

JANICE STRINGER, MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

Thanks to this veteran teacher for providing a place for Middle School youth to learn, grow and be tended with love. Head down through Fellowship Hall to the classroom at the end of the corridor... Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Donuts and fruit provided!

ADULT CLASSES WITH PUNCH

What a fine teaching duo! Michael Wing and Gene Stringer handle our Adult Bible School classes every Sunday. Michael is concluding a study of the Book of Romans, his class meeting in the church library. Gene Stringer is walking his group through the Gospel of John, his group meeting in the catacombs. Both gentlemen would welcome your presence...Sundays at 9:30 a.m.,

EVANGELISM TEAM...LET'S JOIN HANDS...MEET MARCH 1

This is an invitation to get involved in the most important work of the church...helping people put their feet on the Jesus Trail. On Saturday morning, March 1, I'd like to meet with everyone who has a heart for teaming up to pray for God's leading in reaching out to our community, valley (and beyond?) with the Gospel. We'll meet at 9 a.m. (fruit, pastries, juice and coffee provided) and try to head home by 1 p.m. The location for our 'seeking the Lord' has yet to be determined. More details coming.

Jim Larsen

OUR TRAVELING FOLK SEND WARM GREETINGS

It must be tough having to wear sunglasses every day...down there in Arizona. Jerry and Janie Moore abandoned us to snow duty and are currently checking out flea markets and ghost towns with Mel and Betty Tine Metcalf. Both of these fine couples send their greetings and complain of temperatures in the 70s most days.

Rick and Connie Griffith regularly convey their love and best wishes to us from Hawaii. Making snowmen would probably be preferred by them, but their tennis partners pressured them into making the journey to the Islands. They'll head back is way in early March. We really do miss you two!

THANKS PIECE CORPS

Five Arbor Place Residents receive quilts from the Piece Corp. Emi, Alice, Warren, Bea and Charlotte are enjoying their new quilts which were delivered in December. The Arbor Place caregivers appreciate the helpful gifts and thoughtful actions and are willing to help deliver more quilts in the future. Keep up your compassionate ministry Piece Corp folk. We love you.

MEALS ON WHEELS...OUR TURN TO BE A BLESSING MARCH 5-12

We are looking for two people to deliver meals during the noon hour and another three or four at 4 p.m. Care to help? The week assigned to our church is Wednesday, March 5, through Wednesday, March 12. This is a time commitment of about an hour. Two drivers are needed to pick up meals from Ashland Community Hospital at noon and deliver them to 5 or 6 homes. The other drivers meet at Southern Oregon University and deliver meals between 4-5 p.m.

Anyone who has participated in this program knows the fulfillment that comes from this compassionate service. Call Jim Larsen if you can help or sign up in the church foyer.

BUDGET APPROVAL DATE SET FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

A church budget is a map which declares where we intend to go in the new year and what we expect it will cost to get there. While it carries an awareness of where we have been and the financial picture of previous years, it is more a visionary declaration to follow God's lead and a personal commitment to faithfully work with Him.

Your affirmation of the 2008 budget will carry with it a personal commitment to pray for our combined ministry, participate in faithful giving and involve yourself in the loving labors of this congregation. This is an opportunity to put 'feet on our faith'. We have seen new people come to our church family this past year and expect that God will continue to add to our numbers. So please be on hand to combine your 'yes' with those of the others who call CCOA home. A ballot is prepared and will be available at the conclusion of the 10:45 a.m. service.

OUTSIDETHEWALLS.COM CONTINUES TO TOUCH CHURCHES AND LIVES

I used to have my usual hamburger and coffee at Louie's Bar and Grill while working on a sermon or lesson. It became my second office and a super location for connecting with the citizens of our unique city. In time Brad and I held our weekly pow wow there and have had so very many opportunities to witness to folk and pray for others.

A while back David Bruce and I also began videotaping brief conversations there...conversations which were then added to www.OutsideTheWalls.com. In one such segment, entitled How To Love A Woman, we had Hal Bosworth sit in on our session to tell what it is like to show love to his dear wife, Martha, in her special time of need. Other conversations focused on what it means to live in a world that is somewhat open to Jesus but quite turned-off by 'organized religion'. It has been quite a journey...one that continues on. Can we begin to count the number of encounters we've had with people who were puzzled by the seeming contradiction: Church at Louie's Bar and Grill?! In the old days I'd have been holed up in the

church office, hardly rubbing shoulders with the rest of humanity. Now, as I write a sermon I look into the faces of ordinary people...people like you and me. And the result is a sermon and ministry that is less about theory and more about reality. Check out our unique website that offers PowerPoint sermons, movie clips, Church at Louie's and other goodies...all for free. Countless thousands around the world pay us regular visits and borrow our stuff. You can too.

Jim Larsen

WEEKLY ARTICLE ASHLAND'S DAILY TIDINGS

Here is a simple way to introduce your friends to Christian Church of Ashland...use a newspaper clipping. Our pastor writes a short article for each Thursday edition and it is intended to serve as a teaser or invitation to inquire further about our church. Members of the community have come to look for this item and have called for more information and dialogue. So keep your eyes peeled for Jim's picture and accompanying thoughts.

BIBLES FOR NEW MOMS

You know of our partnership with the Ashland Pregnancy Center. Our main contribution to their work is prayers and the donation of office space. Andrea, who heads up the center, is looking for Bibles to give to young moms. Not only are they/we interested in women being encouraged to see their pregnancy through there is also a concerted effort to help young moms on their faith journey. Do you have a nice Bible that you'd give to the center? We are looking for Bibles and New Testaments in very good shape. Just give yours to Jim or Brad or, if you wish, make a financial donation to help purchase one. What a fine ministry to a fine ministry!

OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT APPLAUSE

The team that purchases snack bar supplies, sets up tables and inventory, runs the snack bar, cleans up and generally works hard for this ministry includes two guys who get few thanks. So here goes: Mucho gratitude to Tim and Thomas Killian for giving up

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one Saturday evening per month to give themselves to helping our community members have a great night of wholesome entertainment. Of course we tip our hats to the Moore's, Royers, Karen Larsen, Tim and Tom's parents, Ted and Kay, and Brad Fish. Thanks, young men, for your labor of love. See you on February 16!

PARTICIPATION, ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTION

I recently received a note from a family from California that had visited our bunch one Sunday morning. "What a wonderful morning we experienced with you! Everybody is involved in the service. We felt so included, even as first time visitors. Participating was so natural and welcome. We are hoping to get back to Ashland and will certainly plug into this warm and energized congregation." We are always hoping that people will walk feeling this way. I was raised in a church that was more 'sit and be quiet'. I know that being away from the pulpit for a time convinced me that the morning service ought to be more of a family gathering than a lecture. Thanks for speaking up, volunteering and keeping our special time participatory and inviting.

Jim Larsen

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Nyla Fenning is the hostess for the February Ladies Lunch Bunch. Tuesday, February 12th the ladies will meet in Medford at Shari's Restaurant for the noon luncheon. Please contact Nyla at 535-3854 or make a note on your attendance slip so that she can give Shari's a good idea of how many to expect.

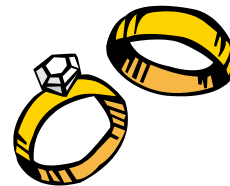


Photo by Darla Case, January 28, 2008



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Velma Johnson
- 2 - Jenny Acery
- 4 - Christa Phillips
- 7 - Angie Vermillion
- 7 - Frank Loyd
- 12 - Jessica Witt
- 15 - Emily McKinney
- 15 - Marie Ellis
- 16 - William Doods
- 19 - Dona Heath
- 21 - Kecia Collins
- 24 - Lila Dotson
- 1 - Ella Rose Wilson



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 - Jim & Velma Johnson
- 18 - Jim & Angie Vermillion

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"

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FEBRUARY 2008

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



OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

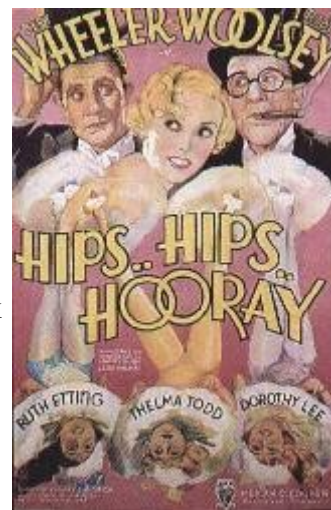
*AN EVENING WITH BERT KALMAR
AND HARRY RUBY*



The evening's fun begins with a cheerful screen bio of the famous stage-and-screen songsmiths Kalmar and Ruby ("Who's Sorry Now", etc.) bearing the title of one of their famous collaborations "**THREE LITTLE WORDS**." Fred Astaire (Bert Kalmar) and Red Skelton (Harry Ruby) head a cast of glittering

MGM stars in this Technicolor treat, featuring an early screen appearance of Debbie Reynolds. 1959. 102 min. (G)

The evening's second feature is an uproarious Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey gagfest "**HIPS, HIPS, HOORAY**" with story, music and lyrics by Kalmar and Ruby, set amongst the glamorous world of lipstick peddlers(!). RKO 1934 68 min. (PG)



Plus the usual extras and surprises.
Join us for the fun!

Snack bar opens at 6:00 p.m.
First movie starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.