

Volume 24 Issue 3

March 2008

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ARE WE A CROSS EYED CHURCH?



I hope so! Each day I work through my seven stations of prayer. You've heard about this. The colored beads help me keep on track. Purple triggers my brain to focus on God as our King/Creator. I commend God...praise him...for who he is and his mighty acts of creation and love. Black has me confessing the shadows in my life. I call the red one my 'take me to the cross' bead. It is pretty easy to slip on through a week without giving thought to the exorbitant price paid for our new life, the good life...eternal life. An old prof at Pepperdine University used to say that a hog can eat acorns all day and never look up to see from whence they fell. But, he went on, we are not hogs. We were made to remember, appreciate, be grateful and

worship the great blesser of humanity.

As we approach this glorious season of the year called Easter, I'm hoping you will bring your friends to worship with you, at least on Resurrection Sunday. Ours is more than a new philosophy, a mere appreciation for God's goodness and a self-help club. We are a people who worship the one who gave his son and the one who gave his life that we might become sons and daughters of the King of Glory. We are people of the cross. We have been called to carry our own cross. God has designed Sunday that it might be one of 52 Easters throughout the year. We gather at the sacred table and ponder the meaning of a parcel of bread and a thimble of juice. That ritual is intended to take us to the cross at least weekly, even if we should be reckless about our faith on Monday, Tuesday and so on.

When your friend sits with you on Easter Sunday I promise that they will hear a message which will take them to that horrible Friday 2000 years ago. There will be a bit of gore, for such is the nature of crucifixion. There will be moments of depression and the macabre, for such is death and burial. But before the morning is over we shall recall that first intoxication of joy

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experienced by witnesses to an alive-again Jesus. Before we leave the Easter gathering we'll petition that great Holy Spirit to enliven our hope and assurance and send us on our way with the wind of resurrection power in our sails.

Indeed, we are a cross eyed, spirit filled and heaven bound cadre of redeemed pilgrims. Anything less would tether us to this earth, which is far, far less than what our designer had in mind.



OUR PASTOR APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES FOR MISSION GROUP

Jim Larsen has been asked to direct the Bible teaching avenue of Project New Hope International, a mission group headed by John Hendee. Twice annually Jim will travel to Trujillo, Peru, to present seminars and workshops for the staff and pastors of the area, also inviting the professionals of Trujillo to attend. In 2008 the emphasis will focus on the narratives of the Bible...the big stories. It is essential that leaders know how the plot of the Bible...how the stories from Genesis to Revelation...are tied into God's plan for the world. In 2009 Jim's teachings will move to more of a theological application. In addition to Jim's instruction, he is responsible for recruiting other qualified pastors and teachers to teach the Peruvians. Most of them do not have access to Bible college training so this program is a way of bringing college level courses to them.

Flowering Cross. Easter turned the cross into something precious and beautiful to the church. The cross is a picture of unselfish love and extravagant grace. So we bring lots of fresh flowers to place on the wire mesh which covers the wooden cross we provide. During the worship service there will be a time when all who wish to participate may come forward and turn an old rugged execution instrument into an object of beauty. Please pick or purchase some flowers for your own use and perhaps extra for others who attend.

BUDDYTIME WELL RECEIVED BY WESTERN STATES PASTORS

Last week I journeyed to Phoenix, Arizona, to extol the merits of BUDDYtime. You'll recall that this is a new venture which has its roots in my recent mission trip to Peru. One Pastor, Vernon Rodgers, sped to the podium to exclaim that BUDDYtime is 'exactly what our people have been looking for'. He said, "Count us in!" Scott, from Tacoma, made the same response. He noted that most of the activities of his church are aimed at those already inside. This new program is a way of moving out of the church building and engaging our friends, associates and neighbors in life-changing and world-changing compassionate service. My brochures were all snatched up with both men and women promising to return home to Idaho, New Mexico, California, North Carolina, Nevada, Arizona and Washington to spread the word of BUDDYtime. How does it work? Small groups are formed of any combination of Children, Women and Men. They meet for 45 minutes to an hour each week with a format of Camaraderie, Character Conversations and Compassionate Action. If you have already logged plenty of hours listening to sermons and sitting in on Bible school classes, you may be ready to step out of the comfort of church walls to move from Words to Work...from talking about love to showing love. In the Peru mission group all leaders are required to start up four groups by May 1. That is when the website, www.BuddyTime.Org, is scheduled to be launched.

When traveling from Phoenix to Flagstaff I was the only passenger in the shuttle van. I explained this new program to Chris, the driver. He stopped attending church years ago and considers the woods his church. I don't need a preacher telling me what to



FLOWERING CROSS... EASTER SUNDAY

It has become a glorious tradition...the

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do, he said. I replied that millions of Americans feel just as he does. As I explained BUDDYtime, Chis said, "Now that's something I could go for." We traded phone numbers. I'll check in with him at the first word of a group getting started in Flagstaff, where he lives. I thank my church family for your enthusiasm for a ministry that has potential for reaching thousands of lives.

Your Buddy
Jim

ROGUE RIDERS

Seven hardy souls braved the February blast and went to see how glass-blowers make the beautiful bowls, plates, vases, etc that you admire in shops and galleries. It is quite an involved process demanding a lot of patience and routine repeated motions in front of a very hot oven. It was very interesting and something that you don't have an opportunity to see very often. Lunch was at Chun's Place. A good place for Chinese food here in Ashland.

Watch the bulletin for our next outing, March 19th
Helen Jane Slack

SAINTS ALIVE...VITTLES AND GIGGLES

Come hear Karl Slack tell a tall tale...or Helen Calhoun read her latest zany email joke. It's a great morning for all who show up at the Iron Skillet on the first Saturday of the month. This month that day shows up right away...March 1. Who is invited? You! You and your friends. Nine a.m. lets you sleep in and take your time in driving to Phoenix (Oregon!), across the freeway from the Outlet Stores.

MCDONALD GIRLS AND PASTOR APPRECIATION

I want to thank those precious McDonald girls for inviting me to Pastor Appreciation Day at Grace Christian School in February. I was treated to a nice breakfast, a tour of the fine school and sat with Kasey during the chapel service. She is in the



choir, as you can see in the photo. I visited Kiley when she was out in the playground. It was a fine morning with two beautiful young ladies.

Jim Larsen



FRIENDS OF FAITH TO INVADE ASHLAND

At our last Klamath Falls pow wow our 'Over the Mountain' brothers and sisters firmed up plans for a spiritual retreat in early March. They'll come on over to the Rogue Valley for the week-end and join us for worship on Sunday, March 2. I've invited these special friends to participate in our morning service. How wonderful! A warm and generous welcome certainly awaits them here at 2nd and B. Jim

BUDGET APPROVED... UNANIMOUSLY

For the first time in recent memory the annual budget was approved without a single 'no' vote. It is challenging, for sure, including an increase from

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10% to 12% of general giving going to World Missions. The new financial road map is quite challenging, but reachable. It will require faithfulness on everybody's part and growth in overall annual giving.



POTLUCK

Our March Feast' is being coordinated by Helen Jane Slack. We will have an Irish theme, so everyone think GREEN! Whatever your favorite dish might be, bring it to share at the potluck on **March 16th**.

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 bring your food already cooked.

NEW BIBLE FOR NEW MOMS

Our dear friend, Andrea, heads up the pregnancy center which is housed in our church building. Pregnant ladies are assisted in considering other options than abortion when they counsel with Andrea or one of her staff. In addition to this noble work the Ashland Pregnancy Center works with young moms who chose to give birth to the young life they carry. Would you consider purchasing a new Bible to donate to the center so they can, in turn make it a gift to a new mother? The next time you visit a book store or Evangel you might consider buying the Word of God as a gift.

EASTER CELEBRATION... INCLUDING BREAKFAST SERVED BY OUR GUYS

How about inviting your friends and neighbors to an inspiring celebration of Christ's resurrection? We are planning a worship experience which will focus on the implications of an empty tomb and the grand life we can live now and throughout eternity. Our guys will start serving breakfast from 8:45 till 10:15. This will give you time to enjoy vittles and still make it to Bible school. For those attending the 10:45 service only, be sure to arrive in time to get served before the 10:15 cut off.

Want to have us send an invitation to your special ones? We'll provide information sheets on Sundays, March 2 and 9, so you can provide their names and address.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

The annual Ashland Good Friday Service is scheduled for Friday, March 21st. It will take place from Noon - 12:55 PM at the Ashland Christian Fellowship (located at 50 West Hersey Street - on the corner of Oak & Hersey Streets). This is a popular and well-attended event, so come and reflect on the true meaning of Good Friday during this very special time! Pastor Bob Mathers (from the Alliance Bible Chapel) will be sharing a wonderful message. For more info, call 482-8539 or 482-3836 Monday - Thursday mornings.

MARIE HOFFMAN... EXTENDED VISITS WELCOME

Marie Hoffman recently underwent serious heart surgery and is now recuperating at home. Her family would appreciate our church bunch being of assistance in an easy but vital way. It is important that Marie have somebody around her all day and night for a little while. Can you manage a few hours a week to visit with this wonderful lady?



There is no need for nursing or other special skills, just a desire to be Marie's eyes and ears and maybe a steadying hand while our precious friend is getting back on her feet. Overnight stays by ladies are part of the need and might be easier for those who have day jobs. Call the office and we'll get the word to Marie's family. Marie would also love visits by phone: first dial 1-877-243-2823 then follow the prompts to enter Marie's number 541-482-1459.

MEALS ON WHEELS...DRIVERS NEEDED

I volunteered to recruit drivers for delivering meals to shut-ins from Wednesday to Wednesday, March 5-12. It is an easy task and requires less than an hour of your time. Two drivers are needed for the 11 a.m. route with another two needed at 4 p.m. If you'd care to assist in this mission of mercy and love please call me soon.

Jim Larsen 890-3209



REAL MEN MEET ON MONDAYS

Even without those fine guys who winter in the sunny south and balmy Hawaii we are having excellent Bible studies and

stimulating conversations. When? Every Monday at 7:45 a.m. at Annie's Restaurant in Phoenix, as usual. First timers are treated to a free breakfast, so long as you bring this ad and recite the books of the Old Testament. In these less prosperous days we are having to be a bit less generous than in 2007.



39PLUS...CUT-THROAT GAMES, THEN BIBLE STUDY

Hey, what fun we oldsters have. Join us on March 5,12 and 26 for loud and competitive games of dominos, Skipbo or King's Corners, then participate in Jim's Bible study that focuses on loving each other.

A great mix that concludes with great food. Here's the scoop on March:

- Mar 5 Laurie Royer's Home 2780 Cedar Links Dr., Medford Arrive at 10
- Mar 12 Larsen Home, 114 Autumn Ridge Dr., Talent Arrive at 10
- Mar 19 Rogue Riders (See article)
- Mar 26 Fellowship Hall, Fold Newsletter...then games, study and Potluck lunch...Arrive at 10

SUMMER PICNIC BREAKFAST

A wonderfully fun activity which offers an opportunity for inviting friends is our Breakfast Picnic in the Park. This year I'd like to have a few folk



help me in planning carrying out these dramatic outings. Please give me a call if you are up to serving on this team. Jerry and Mel...I know you want to help, so I'll sign you up. That's what you get for heading off to Arizona as Snow Birds. Jim Larsen, 890-3209

EVANGELISM MEETING PLANNED FOR MARCH 1ST.

I am eager to meet with those of you who would help me in developing an evangelism strategy for our church. Let's get together to pray about this vital ministry and seek God's leading. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall on March 1st at 9:00 a.m. and spend a few hours in prayer and planning. I'll provide some pastries and fruit.

OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE EXTENDED TO PHYLLIS SMITH

A memorial service was held for Harold Smith at the Eagle Point National Cemetery with Jim Larsen presiding. A large number of friends and family gathered to bid him farewell. Our church family extends its condolences to Phyllis, who has been Harold's

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wife, partner and nurse. Harold endured a leg fracture that left him in great pain for several decades. We rejoice that he is now pain-free and no longer needs to be on oxygen. Farewell, friend.



TWO "THANK YOUS" FROM PHYLLIS SMITH

To all who sent food out to us the evening of Harold's funeral. THANK YOU.

There were eighteen of us that went to the Home-town Buffet after the services. I didn't think anyone could eat after that. But around 6:00 p.m. those that had gathered at the house started snacking. The food was delicious. The potato salad was just right to go with the meat and cheese platter. And the cake was lovely. Others brought in fresh homemade rolls – still warm brownies, sliced ham etc. Jim's sons and Larry's family had not seen each other in twenty-five years. There was lots of talking and remembering going on here until 10:00 that night.

I was pleased with the service. Jim L. did it just like Harold wanted it done. And it was a beautiful day. Thank you so much for the support you gave us Friday AND for your prayers and support for the past 33 years. God has been with us every day—and when Harold was ready to go, he took him home.

THANK YOU – and may God Bless all—

Phyllis

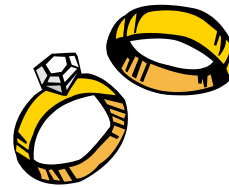
LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

The March Ladies Lunch Bunch will be hosted by our gracious Helen Jane Slack in the Fellowship Hall at noon on Tuesday, March 11. Please contact Helen Jane to let her know you are coming so that she can plan accordingly.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Karen Larsen
- 7 - Ernest Potter
- 10 - Desire' Vellinga
- 13 - Vera Lashua
- 14 - Mat Wing
- 14 - Irvin Jace Smith
- 26 - Corey McDonald
- 26 - Irma Potter
- 27 - Brad Fish
- 27 - Frieda Fuller
- 27 - Matt Sutton



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 - Jerry and Janie Moore
- 17 - JD and Bonnie Maulsby
- 30 - Bill and Jean Doods
- 30 - Ernie and Irma Potter

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
2 9:00 AM Ladies Ministry Mtg Daylight Savings-set ahead 1 hour	3 7:45 AM Men Alive-Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study- Ruby's home Karen Larsen, B'day	4 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch- Bunch	5 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Laurie Royer's Home	6	7 Ernest Potter, B'day	8 9:00 AM Saints Alive Breakfast - Iron Skillet
9 9:00 AM Ladies Ministry Mtg Daylight Savings-set ahead 1 hour	10 7:45 AM Men Alive-Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study- Ruby's home Desiree Vellinga, B'day	11 9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch- Bunch	12 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Larsen's Home	13 Vera Lashua, B'day	14 Matt Wing, B'day Irvin Jace Smith, B'day Jerry & Janie Moore, Ann	15 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night
16 12:15 PM Potluck Palm Sunday	17 7:45 AM Men Alive-Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study- Ruby's home JD & Bonnie Maulsby, Ann St. Patrick's Day	18 9:30 AM Piece Corps	19 10:00 AM Rogue Riders	20	21 12:00 PM Community Good Friday Service - Ashland Christian Fellowship Good Friday	22
23 8:45 AM Easter Breakfast Easter	24 7:45 AM Men Alive-Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home	25 9:30 AM Piece Corps	26 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship Hall - Newsletter Corey, Mc Donald, B'day Irma Potter, B'day	27 Brad Fish, B'day Frieda Fuller, B'day Matt Sutton, B'day	28	29
30 Bill & Jean Dooms, Ann Ernie & Irma Potter, Ann	31 7:45 AM Men Alive-Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home					

April

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			

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

MARCH 2008

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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

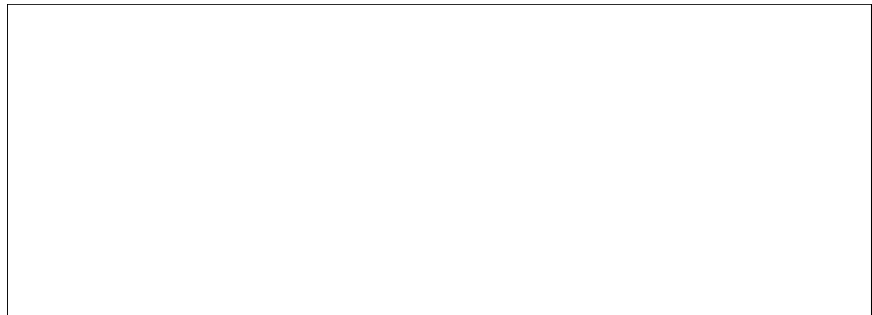
Phone: 541-482-1561
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Service Schedule

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



Faithful to God, Responsive to People



"**STARS IN MY CROWN**", the heart warming, moving story of a quiet but persuasive minister, played by Joel McCrea, set in the rural 19th century post Civil War West. Watch for the pre-GUNSMOKE appearances of Amanda Blake and James Arness. 89 min.

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



John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara in *The Quiet Man*

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

OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT... SMASHING SUCCESS!

Those exiting both movies praised Mike Royer for selecting such grand old classics. The February crowd was our best in over 5 years! On **Saturday, March 15** Mike will fill the silver screen with two more classics....

The evening's entertainment begins with the 1952 John Ford directed classic "**THE QUIET MAN**", the story of an American boxer, played by John Wayne, who returns to his native Ireland and what happens when he falls in love with a spirited lass played by Maureen O'Hara. 129 min.

Our second feature is a piece of Prime Americana,

Remember—Daylight Savings begins at 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, March 9, 2008. Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.