

Volume 23 Issue 3

March 2007

**Staff:**

Dr. James Larsen, Pastor  
Brad Fish, Office Manager

**Ministry Leaders:**

Karen Larsen, Worship  
Helen Jane Slack, Adults  
Sande McDaniel, Children

**Elders:**

Gene Stringer  
Doyle Cornwell  
Michael Wing

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## 'Being' the Church vs 'Going to' Church

Some years ago I was out of the ministry for a time. For a season I worked as a river guide in Washington and Alaska. Taking guests to the haunts of Brown Bears, Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans was a childhood dream come true. Every day was great... but Sunday. I found church disconcerting. Actually services went about the same as the ones I had conducted for 30 years. And that's what troubled me. I'd never had this view from the pew. The preacher usually had a good sermon and the music was consistently uplifting. But it was mostly a spectator event. I decided right there (if God ever allowed me to preach again) to make the Sunday assembly a time of participation. Evangelicals have talked a good talk about how we have abandoned the clergy/laity system... but it was in full force.

These days I want every Sunday to be a time of involvement. You recently saw that in an even bigger way when Juanita Hernandez and her crew led the service. There is more of that on the horizon. I think Jesus must like it. While a pastor may have more religious training than some in the congregation, there are plenty of folk with great experience, wisdom, skills and a passion for God. I'd like to see that all unleashed.

The Rogue Valley has a good supply of polished speakers. And I admire that in a preacher. But we have an op-

portunity to experience 'being' the church instead of 'going to' church. This doesn't mean there's no place for leaders and coordinators, elders and a pastor. But those roles ought to open doors for the congregation, not close them. Part of my slowness in this matter has been simple laziness. It is easier to find an order of service that works and just work it. Sermon preparation is already a collaborative effort. I write it. David Bruce puts it in PowerPoint format and adds his magic. Brad works on it too. Karen adds appropriate songs. David Lockwood runs the computer on Sunday. Jim Farmer is the living concordance. I tell people that the sermon is actually preached by the whole congregation, since everyone is invited to contribute, come Sunday.

These days I  
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involvement.

But what I'm really committed to these days is having Sunday gatherings where there is more give and take...testimonies, stories of faith,

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teachings, prayers, meditations and assistance in the greeting and announcement blocks. What better church than ours to see this happen. What a great time to be learning from each other. While we are still a smaller congregation this move to 'let the church be the church' is quite achievable.

I'm hoping that you'll let me keep on being the primary teacher/preacher. It is my calling. Still I know how blessed we are to have a cluster of other preachers in our midst. You are privileged to hear our elders deliver the goods on a quarterly basis. Soon you'll hear Dr. Bob Harrison as well.

Maybe someday a preacher on a sabbatical will wander into our midst, say from Washington, Alaska or somewhere. Perhaps he will be challenged and inspired by what he experiences and will go back home determined to let his church be the church.



## TIME CHANGE CHANGED

Just a reminder: This year the Daylight Savings time change will be **Sunday, March 11.**

That means that moving our clocks **AHEAD**

for Sunday. Eight o'clock suddenly becomes 9 o'clock, or whatever time you make your change. If you forget this you'll be arriving for worship just when everything is winding down. Just a reminder.

## PREGNANCY RESOURCE FUND DRIVE

Pick up a baby bottle in the foyer, fill it with change and return it to the church by April 1. That's the plan. Your gifts help support this fine ministry to women...both those who are seeking guidance re-

lated to their pregnancy and moms with little. You know that we have donated office space to the Center and enthusiastically endorse their important labor of love.

## PIECE CORPS

Are you a "puzzler"? Are you creative? Do you like to put things together?

There is a wonderful palette of fabrics just waiting to be put together, much like in a puzzle. It's great to take squares of fabric and spread them out on tables to see if we can create some sort of design. We pin them together and sew them into "blocks". Then all the blocks are sewn together, put with batting (filling) and a backing into a frame. We "tie" the quilt with cotton crochet thread.

The Piece Corps could be for you! We create laprobes, baby quilts and full size quilts. The quilts are given as gifts when there is a new baby born to a church member, there is a wedding of a church member, or when there is a need.

Each year we create one special quilt for a drawing towards the end of the year. The funds raised help to buy supplies for the next year's quilt(s). Soon we will be looking at patterns and fabric for our next quilt.

Let us know your ideas! Better yet join us, all are welcome! Tuesday mornings at 9:30, weather permitting. This is a nice time to visit with others during the week. We have a snack, sometimes courtesy of Katie's Tasty Treats. (Thank you Katie!)

Sew Happy In Christ!  
Ava Fish

## ROGUE RIDERS

Helen Jane Slack is at it again! Last month she led us on short trek to the Avalon in Talent. On Wednesday, March 21 we are off to...(It's a surprise...Watch the Bulletin for details.

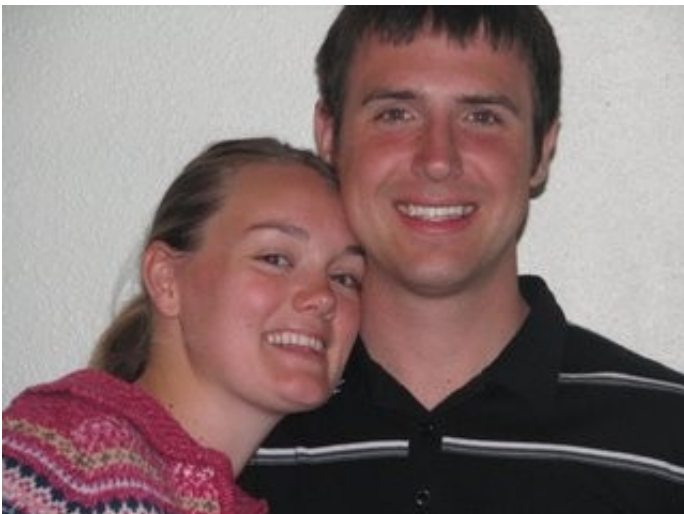
## TAKE ME TO THE RIVER... OR A LAKE

Our Friends of Faith from Klamath Falls are eager

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for the water to warm a bit before they take the plunge for Jesus. We had considered waiting for the ice to break up on Fish Lake but that just seems to far off. So be looking for an announcement of a Baptism Sunday. Another lady from Klamath Falls told me this week that she plans to be baptized on Easter Sunday when she has family in town. Perhaps there will others who will want to be obedient to Christ in baptism.

## FRIENDS OF FAITH... MEET FAITHFULLY



**Ross and Cherry Wolf**

The first March FOF gathering will be at Jason and Roxanne's place. We'll enjoy dinner, Bible study, watch The Gospel of John (DVD) and touch each



**Meghan and Natalie Lovell**

other's lives. The second assembly will be at the home of Meghan Lovell. Offerings are used to help needy folk.

Pray for this growing group, please.

## CHURCH AT LOUIE'S BAR AND GRILL

David Bruce and Jim Larsen invite you to the weekly pow wow at Louie's in Ashland. Sometimes David is busy doing a live phone interview with a radio station somewhere or is being interviewed by a magazine reporter. When that is the case Jim will show up anyway and we'll still have a great time. These days we meet on Thursdays at 11 a.m. *(Note: no meeting March 6)*

Louie's is located on the Plaza in Ashland.

## WWW.OUTSIDETHEWALLS.COM

As you can see I never tire of telling people about this helpful website. There are those videos of our Church at Louie's conversations, of course. And each month we add new sermons to the collection. It's pretty amazing how many people around the world make use of these resources. PowerPoint sermons are available on the internet...but for free? Thanks to the Heritage Outreach Project, sponsored by our White City brethren, people in far flung places can access gospel sermons at no charge. I have to think Jesus likes this.  
Jim Larsen

## REAL MEN MEET ON MONDAYS

Guys, if you can manage to stop by Annie's Restaurant some Monday morning at 7:45 you'll leave feeling challenged, encouraged (maybe convicted) and well-fed. This group of men is developing a close bond, for sure, but new gents will feel right at home. Jim Larsen will buy breakfast for first-timers.

## SAINTS ALIVE AND WELL AT THE IRON SKILLET

Just a reminder...since the first Saturday of March springs upon us...it's that time again.

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Shall we gather at the Skillet? Newcomers are welcome. No age limit. Order from the menu or graze at the breakfast buffet. Saturday...March 3...9a.m.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND CONCERT

Okay, April 19 is over a month away, but this is a good time to put it on your calendar: Annual Congregational Meeting. We'll approve a slate of Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses, Trustees and others too. The 6:30 p.m. meeting will take place in Fellowship Hall with a concert by Michael Wing's choir from St. Mary's bringing a concert at about 7:00 p.m. This is our 109th anniversary.

This is our fourth or fifth time of inviting these talented musicians to bless us. And they seem to enjoy the prospect sitting down to pie and ice cream with us afterwards. More later.

## MARCH POTLUCK ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup>

Green always seems the proper color for celebrations in March; however, green piecrust and green mashed potatoes never seem very popular. So, do not worry about the food being green. Just bring some homemade or purchased goodies to share and join with your 2<sup>nd</sup> and B friends and family directly after church on the 18<sup>th</sup> for our monthly fellowship meal. Sandee McDaniel and family are the coordinators for the March potluck. During the March potluck we want to honor and thank our children's ministry volunteers for the love they show and their commitment to our children.

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. See you there.

*Remember to bring hot dishes already cooked. The ovens are set to just keep the food hot not cook it.*

## CONSISTENCY

A friend recently told of getting the giving statement from his church in January. He was shocked to find that he had given about \$1800 last year,

compared to the \$2700 he had guessed had been given. When he looked more closely it dawned on him that he had given \$50 each week every single Sunday he was in church. But, he recalled, he had not given when he was not present. Work and vacation had resulted in enough absences that the final tally was more than 25% less than he'd have thought.

In most any church, including ours, that kind of behavior would have a large impact. Or in a positive sense, consistent giving by everyone (whether present or not) has the power to keep a church financially healthy.

So, as one of the six steps that I invited you take with me this year, this may be a good time to take that leap of faith to consistency in financial stewardship. When a bunch of us take that step every week Kingdom work goes on triumphantly.  
Jim Larsen

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, March 13, Helen Jane Slack will be our hostess for the Ladies Lunch Bunch. Watch the bulletin for the location. Please contact Helen Jane at 482-8225 to let her know if you plan to attend so she will have a good count for the restaurant.

## EASTER SERVICE...WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN MIND

The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. On Easter Sunday I plan to conduct a worship service that will help your friends get a glimpse of Jesus that will inspire hope and commitment. Here's what you can do throughout March and early April:

- Pray for your friends and family who have yet to take the leap of faith.
- Invite them to attend our service that morning, April 15.
- Give us their name and address so we can send an invitation. Forms will be ready in mid-March.

Studies have made it quite clear that many people would start attending church if they were just asked.

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*Philippine College of Ministry*, located in **Baguio City** in the Cordillera Autonomous Region of Luzon, is a four year college founded in 1992 for the purpose of educating church leaders for the newly planted Churches of Christ among the mountain peoples of northern Luzon. The Churches of Christ are the offspring of missionaries of the **Restoration Movement** inspired by such New Testament thinkers as Alexander and Thomas Campbell and Barton W. Stone.

# Philippine College of Ministry



The mission of *Philippine College of Ministry* is to prepare Christians for full-time Christian ministry of teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and oversight of the church's ministry as well as in vocations associated with the Church (Christian schools, children's homes and hospitals). PCM also offers opportunities to study Christian faith and ethics to those expecting to follow other professions.

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Students at *Philippine College of Ministry* are exposed to a balanced program of study, worship and practical experience. In addition to course work, students are required to attend chapel and are given opportunity to sharpen their skills by serving in preaching, teaching and music ministries in local churches in and around Baguio. Many journey to villages on weekends to serve in recently planted churches.

Gene and Janice Stringer will be traveling to PCM with some friends, Tom and Roberta Fort, who first introduced them to the college during Winema Week of Missions in 2005. The plan was to travel together to PCM in the spring of 2006 but that plan fell through and ended up being delayed until March 2007.

In the meantime it was learned that PCM was looking for someone to teach a physical science course for their students in order to qualify their degree programs for full accreditation. Dean James Huckaba learned of Gene's background in teaching and invited him to become an adjunct faculty member at PCM specifically to develop and teach the needed course. The first edition of the course is now scheduled to commence on March 19, 2007 with 32 students. It is an intensive course running 6-8 hours a day for four days. If all goes as planned this will become a regular offering of the college alternating with the life science course every other year in March.

The week of intensive course work at PCM ends with commencement on Saturday March 25, where Gene has agreed to deliver the commencement address. After that a few days will be spent visiting the rice terraces north of Baguio and some of the mountain people of central Luzon. The trip will also provide opportunity to revisit some of the friends and familiar places around metro Manila where Stringers lived around 20 years ago while teaching at the University of the Philippines.

(Continued from page 4)

Let's do some asking.

Jim Larsen

## WALK WITH ME CAMPAIGN OFF AND RUNNING

I'm delighted that folk from all over are getting on board our 6-month spiritual journey.

Included in the Walk are...

- A commitment to reading one Gospel each week and two other New Testament books each month.
- An intimate talk with God every day. I'll supply the colored prayer beads to help you.
- In addition, each person in this adventure makes a personal vow to be diligent and consistent in financial stewardship to Kingdom work.
- A determination to be watching for God to use our genuine relationships for Kingdom advantage.

Lastly... Keeping our eyes open for God Experiences OutSideTheWalls. What is God doing around me and how can I fit into his work?

Other congregations have asked to join us in our Walk-With-Me campaign.

It's not too late to get on board. Give me a call, please. I've had the joy of handing out flyers on this to 6 or 8 visitors at our February Old Time Movie Night. Walk with me, please!

Jim Larsen

## LORI JO AND BRIAN LINKING UP WITH TEAM IN CHILE

The Marlia-Larsens and their little Cielo (Sky or Heaven) arrived safely in Ecuador, then moved on to Chile to get united with their work team before their upcoming move to Peru. Keep these young ones in your prayers as they get settled.

## CHRISTIAN COLLEGE OF ASHLAND

I think of it that way sometimes. Two of the best teachers around offer us great lessons from the scriptures every Sunday.

Michael Wing walks us through that precious book of Romans each Sunday in the church library... 9:30 a.m. Walk-ins welcome.

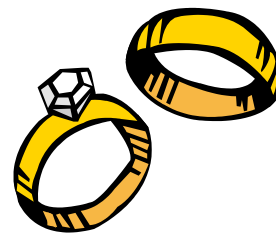
Gene Stringer uses the video, *The Gospel Of John*, to launch rich discussion of this 'fourth Gospel'. Meet professor Stringer in Fellowship Hall any Sunday morning at 9:30... free tuition includes coffee and donuts.

Jim Larsen



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Karen Larsen
- 7 - Ernest Potter
- 10 - Desire Vellinga
- 13 - Pat Lyon
- 13 - Vera Lashua
- 14 - Mat Wing
- 25 - Joe Christensen
- 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
<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Madge Center's Home Ernest Potter, B'day</div>	<div>8</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Desire' Vellinga, B'day</div>
<div>11</div> <div>9:00 AM Ladies Ministry Mtg 12:30 PM Board Meeting--set ahead 1 hour</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch Pat Lyon, B'day Vera Lashua, B'day</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall Matt Wing, B'day Jerry &amp; Janie Moore, Ann</div>	<div>15</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night JD &amp; Bonnie Maulsby, Ann St. Patrick's Day</div>
<div>18</div> <div>12:15 PM Potluck</div>	<div>19</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps</div>	<div>21</div> <div>12:00 PM Rogue Riders</div>	<div>22</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>Joe Christensen, B'day</div>	<div>26</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Corey McDonald, B'day Imra Potter, B'day</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps Brad Fish, B'day Frieda Fuller, B'day Matt Sutton, B'day</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall</div>	<div>29</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Bill &amp; Jean Dooms, Ann Emie &amp; Irma Potter, Ann</div>	<div>31</div>

MARCH 2007

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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

Phone: 541-482-1561  
Fax: 541-482-1638  
Email: [office@cc-ashland.org](mailto:office@cc-ashland.org)  
Web: [www.cc-ashland.org](http://www.cc-ashland.org)

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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 MOVIES

Without a doubt the last two Movie Nights were the most appreciated and best attended. The word is out on this community treat, hosted by Greg Luce. June will mark the fifth anniversary of this superb ministry event. This month Greg plans to show another double feature, starting at 6:30 p.m. on **Saturday, March 17**. Here's the plan:

We will be treated to *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, 1951, with a running time of 92 minutes. Our second feature will be *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, 1956, with a running time of 80 minutes.

**Snack bar opens at 6:00 p.m.**

**First movie starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.**

### 39PLUS...A SPECIAL MID-WEEK OASIS

The other day Marie Hoffman and I were discussing the wonder of Wednesdays. Since 39PLUS and Rogue Riders began back in 2001 we've journeyed all over Southern Oregon on 75 sight-seeing and tummy-satisfying expeditions. In addition to that our little band has had nearly 200 of those joyous sessions of games, Bible study and lunch. It doesn't get much better than that.

If you are available, even a Wednesday or two per month, we offer a place to share, grow, enjoy good company and exciting jaunts around the territory. Here's the March schedule: 10-Games 11-Study 12-Potluck

- March 7... Madge Center's Home 1932 Ashland Street (Behind NAPA auto parts)
- March 14... Fellowship Hall
- March 21... Rogue Riders
- March 28... Fellowship Hall... Fold newsletters at 10, then Study and Potluck

Jim Larsen