



Volume 23 Issue 8

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# FISHING FOR MEN... CATCH AND RELEASE

If Jesus had lived in Oregon maybe his parables and stories would have included different analogies. Most of us don't know much of sheep here in Southwest Oregon. We know about Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout. So maybe preachers wouldn't be called pastors but guides. That's why I've started up JC's Guide Service... Fishing For Men Hunting For God. I'm a guide more than a farmer type... a Life Guide.



And the fishing for men analogy has always been a little awkward for me. I know what *I* do with a fish when I'm lucky enough to land one. I gut it, keep it cool until I get home, and once there put it on the grill. That hardly compares to what I do with people when I help lead them to Jesus. But then maybe Jesus was way ahead of

the current trend of 'catch and release'. I'd like that. I help pull a guy from murky, stinkin' water and turn him loose in Jesus' eternal river. Hey, that's better.

I guess in Jesus' day fishing was mostly a matter of tossing a net into the lake and corralling fish into the big purse. Weights at the bottom of the net and floats on the top created a trap. In our day...here in the Northwest we can't fish like that. Ours is more a matter of deceit. We create these little lures to imitate real aquatic life... crayfish, frogs, minnows, insects and such...and convince a fish that our booby trap is a tasty meal. I don't like to think of 'catching' a person that way...using tricky and little lies. Sorry...I don't mean to criticize Jesus.

I guess for our Savior the parable looked more like this: Hey, you fisherman! All day long you watch the weather, mend you nets, go out to sea and work so hard to catch those fish. And what becomes of them? They are sold at the market, eaten and that's that. I have a better job in mind for you. It will take the same kind of effort and lots of smarts. I want you to pursue people. Yes...I'm calling you to go into the highways and byways in search of the greatest prize of all...

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human beings. So leave those nets. Take up the gospel. It is sufficient for capturing the hearts of men, women and children. No trickery, please. No deceit or overpowering people. Just cast the word before folk so they can get a good look at it, ponder it and through that message hear my heartbeat, my love.

The analogy carries over into any line of work. Jesus just happened to be talking to fisherman, so he used language they'd understand. To a mechanic he'd have a nuts and bolts analogy. To a teacher or salesperson there'd be yet another comparison.

In the end I find myself liking the fishing model. When I clean out my little backyard pond I have to catch all of the Koi before putting in the bleach to kill the algae. The little guys scurry here and there. If they had any sense at all they'd realize that my catching them will help them escape certain death. So they are gathered up and placed in safe water until the pond is sparkling and safe. When I share the gospel with a cautious listener I want so bad to convince the person that giving in to Jesus is not the end. It isn't defeat. It isn't death to fun and good times. Turning from Jesus means being netted and rescued from life's cesspool and released into God's River of Life. It is the 'being caught' that results in the good life...the life of freedom. There is no gutting and grilling. That's more the devil's m.o. With Jesus it is truly catch and release.

So I fish.



Jim Larsen  
Life Guide  
JC's Guide Service

## SCHOOL DAYS SCHOOL DAYS AUGUST 19 POTLUCK

It's getting close to school time again and parents are having to buy school supplies. As a way of helping, the deaconess' have been having school supplies as

the decorations for the potluck, in the month of August, for the last few years, then these are available to take home for any families with children in school.

So if you would like to donate any school supplies, bring them to church on the Sunday before potluck Sunday and give them to Betty Tine.

On potluck Sunday, August 19, if your last name begins with **A - K, please bring a main dish & a salad.** If your last name begins with **L - Z, please bring a main dish and a dessert.**

Remember to bring hot dishes already cooked! The ovens are set to just keep food hot.

Betty Tine Metcalf



Member Nyla Fenning holds little Colton Christopher McDonald during his first visit to church.

## COLTON CHRISTOPHER MCDONALD

Colton Christopher McDonald arrived June 29, 2007 at 8:08 a.m. weighing in at 7 lbs 4 oz and 19 inches long. Kacey and Kiley are proud big sisters. Congratulations Chris and Corey on the new addition to your family.

## SAINTS ALIVE

The first Saturday of August is the 4<sup>th</sup>. At 9 a.m. a bunch of senior adults will be gathering at the Iron Skillet, as they have done for years. The occasion is called Saints Alive. This lively bunch will share tall tales, serious prayers, jokes and fine food. Join us,

please. You don't have to be older or retired. Just come on by.



## ROGUE RIDERS ENJOYED THE ROGUE IN JULY

The Osprey were diving, Great Blue Herons were out in force, rafts and inflatable kayaks went streaming by. Lunch was grand and the ice cream in Rogue River (on the way home) was delightful. Our new (to us) bus, thanks to the White City folk, ran like a top. Join Rogue Riders on August 15th for another adventure to an undisclosed location.



## 39PLUS...

### A SUNSATIONAL SUMMER

Jim and Karen invite us to their home for a summer brunch and Bible Study on Wednesday, August 1. It is time for corn-on-the-cob, watermelon, barbequed chicken and blackberry cobbler. You need not be a regular member of 39PLUS to enjoy this

special day. Come one, come all. This is a RSVP deal...so please call if you intend to join the party...890-3209 (Jim's Cell). Arrive at about 9 for the Bible Study with brunch on the patio at 10:30. **Wed-August 1-Larsen's**

**August 8** Marie Hoffman invites us to her home for a morning of fun, games and Bible study. Games start at 10; Bible study is at 11, followed by Marie's special lunch at noon. Summer fun is sizzling.

### August 15 Rogue Riders

**August 22** With 5 Wednesdays this month, let's take a day off and go our own ways. Have fun. Take a nap. Visit Lithia Park. What ever you want.

**August 29** Let's help Brad by folding the newsletter in Fellowship Hall. See you at 10 for our work...then comes Jim's Bible study and our potluck lunch. This is always great fun. See you at church!

## HOLLYWOODJESUS.COM CONTINUES TO GROW...AND INCLUDE US

I'm so very pleased to be working with David Bruce. This guy has a heart for Jesus and never slows down in his effort to get the Good News to a world increasingly bent on using the internet. Sermons that are produced and preached at our little church find their way onto the monitors of computer people all over the world. Our 'Church at Louie's Bar and Grill' gets tons of action. A website made possible by our White City friends is [OutsideTheWalls.Com](http://OutsideTheWalls.Com). Every sermon preached at our church ends up on [OutsideTheWalls](http://OutsideTheWalls). People from every continent view and download these messages.

What all of this means is that the ministry of the Christian Church of Ashland reaches far beyond what we can imagine. It is truly amazing. A few years back God brought us together with David Bruce. The Bible refers to this kind of path-crossing as 'the fullness of time'. It is like bringing

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together oxygen, fuel and a spark. Whoosh! A fire!

Dr. Leroy Lawson encouraged me to try my hand at writing books. He said it is a shame to work so hard at preaching a sermon to just deliver it and have it float off into thin air. He enjoyed putting his sermons into a book form so more than just his congregation in Mesa, Arizona, could enjoy them. Ah! The internet has given us something much better than books. We can offer dozens of sermons, 600 movie clips and plenty of episodes of Church at Louie's...all for free! I'm celebrating God's goodness, David's partnership and a church that loves pushing the envelope for Jesus' sake.

Jim Larsen



## CROSS GENERATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL

Ah! Maybe this is what the Bible means by the Body. The young and old helping each other out. Grandpas and grandkids sifting the scriptures in search of treasure! Delaney draws a picture of David and an old guy sketches Goliath. The Killian guys help other students...some 60 years older and others 10 years younger. What fun! Come join us on Sunday mornings...9:30 a.m.



## CAMPOUT...FRIENDS OF FAITH

Most of our Klamath Falls friends will only be able to camp out one night...July 27. But on Saturday Meghan will be baptized in Hyatt Lake. She'll be buried with Christ, rising to walk in a brand new life. Want to witness that special event? Talk to Jim about where the encampment will take place and how best to get there.



## CHURCH PARKING LOT GETS A FACE-LIFT

The home formerly occupied by the ICCA is now a beautiful Traveler's Accommodation. In the course of remodeling the place, their section of the alley was paved. We got in on the action and had our section of the alley paved as well. Our parking lot was power-washed and new parking bumpers were added. Soon you'll see new striping and fresh handicapped parking logos installed. Add all of this to the revitalized landscaping, new doors and awnings... well...the church is shaping up. Thanks to all who have contributed money, time and effort to these worthy projects!





## THANK YOU GUYS,

All the church wants to give a BIG thanks to all the men who helped Kim Kent put in the new lights in the fellowship hall.

Brad, Mel, Jerry, Gene, these guys worked many long hours to get this done in a timely manner. The light is wonderful! The Piece Corps really appreciate it, as does everyone else.

In His Love,  
"the church mouse"



## THANK YOU GWEN

Quietly working, Gwen Jarrell has been painting classrooms & making them much more attractive. Rumor has it, she also made the skirt around the sink in the hall by the nursery.

We appreciate you and your work around the church.

Love in Him,  
"the church mouse"



## FRIENDS OF FAITH

Every month sees new people attending our every-other-Sunday gatherings in Klamath Falls. You know of Abbie and Beth Halverson's decisions to be baptized. Beth's folks will take the plunge for Jesus too. Meghan Lovell will be baptized by the time you read this. God is doing a good work in the life of this young congregation. In July we used our offering money to minister to our soldiers in Iraq. Good stuff is happening in this little flock located just over the Cascade Mountains. Thanks to the Mission Committee for making funds available for fuel expenses so I can make this love-journey without cost to our Friends of Faith. Jim Larsen

## REAL MEN MEET AT ANNIE'S

Okay, so these are not the only real men and not all real men gather with us. But the men who pow wow at 7:45 a.m. every Monday are real and they mean business. There is laughter and plenty of talk about work, families and such. But the heart of our time is study of the Word and a serious look at how God wants to impact our lives. The food is fine. The morning is cool. All we are missing is you. First-timers can expect breakfast, compliments of Jerry Moore. Bring this ad to collect.

## TONY KANCLIER MAKES BEAUTIFUL COMMUNION KITS

Thanks to Tony for these dandy boxes which we use for home communion visits! Are any church ser-

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wants using boxes anything like Tony's creations? Gene Stringer is finishing off the kits by installing receptacles in the boxes for the little cups and juice containers. Beautiful! Thanks, good man.



### EVELYN LEANN NORMAND

Mom Genice and Dad Sam are pleased to announce the birth of Evelyn Leann Normand. Evy (rhymes with ivy) arrived July 4, 2007. She weighed in at 8 lbs 4 oz and 20 1/2 inches long. Mom, Babe, Daddy and doggie brother Toby are doing fine.



### CHURCH CAMPOUT

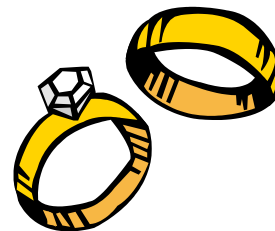
Mark your calendars, prepare your camping gear! We will be camping at Wildcat Campground at Hyatt Lake on September 21, 22, 23. More details and directions as we get close.

Mel Metcalf, Jerry Moore



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Ty Davis
- 4 - David Ellis
- 6 - Phyllis Silver
- 7 - Evelyn Sayles
- 11 - Marie Hoffman
- 13 - Paul Creel
- 15 - Amber Kent
- 19 - Maryanne Rossini
- 20 - Dominic Hernandez
- 21 - Cielo Marlia-Larsen
- 22 - JD Maulsby
- 25 - Jesse Vermillion
- 27 - Erich Tiller
- 28 - Nadine Jones



### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 26 - Michael and Kathy Wing

*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>July</div> <div>SMTWTFS</div> <div>12345678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031</div>	<div>September</div> <div>SMTWTFS</div> <div>23456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930</div>					
5	6 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe Phyllis Silver, B'day	7 9:30 AM Piece Corps Evelyn Sayles, B'day	8 10:00 AM 39 Plus	9 10:00 AM 39 Plus	10	11 Marie Hoffman, B'day
12 9:00 AM Ladies Ministry Mtg 12:30 PM Board Meeting	13 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe Paul Creel, B'day	14 9:30 AM Piece Corps	15 9:30 AM Rogue Riders Amber Kent, B'day	16	17	18 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night
19 12:15 PM Potluck Maryanne Rossini, B'day	20 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe Dominic Hernandez, B'Day	21 9:30 AM Piece Corps Cielo Marlila-Larsen, B'day	22 JD Maulsby B'day	23	24	25 Jesse Vermillion, B'day
26 Michael & Kathy Wing, Ann.	27 7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe Ench Tiller, B'day	28 9:30 AM Piece Corps Nadine Jones, B'day	29 10:00 AM 39 Plus -	30	31	

AUGUST 2007

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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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](http://www.cc-ashland.org)



### THE CIRCUS COMES TO OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT!

Join Mr. and Mrs. Chan, their twelve children, a lovely contortionist, a snake charmer, a midget dancing act and a very angry gorilla as we start the evening off with 1936's **CHARLIE CHAN AT THE CIRCUS**. Running time 72 minutes.

Our second feature, 1939's **YOU CAN'T CHEAT AN HONEST MAN** pits W. C. Fields against snappy one-liners from Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy in a frantic comedy classic set, where else (?), in a circus. Running time 76 minutes.

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

