



Bethesda Outlook

February 2012

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***non-voting Council
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**WE ARE HERE TO
SERVE YOU! CALL US
FOR ANYTHING!**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

Thank you, for who you are, and for your generous gift and your generosity of spirit. Your generosity blesses me and humbles me and for that I am very grateful. Thank You

It is a pleasure to serve with you in our mission field and to wonder with God how we are called to serve our world and community

With gratefulness and love,

Pastor Malcolm

Shrove Tuesday



Pancake Supper

February 21st 6:00-7:00pm

The day before the beginning of Lent is known as Shrove Tuesday. On Shrove Tuesday, many Christians make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs we need to repent, (turning our hearts back towards God), and what changes and ways of life or areas of spiritual growth we need to ask God's help in dealing with.

Shrove Tuesday is also called Fat Tuesday, because on that day the fats that have been kept around such as bacon, sausage or the drippings for cooking are to be used up as they were not to be used during Lent. Since pancakes are a good and helpful way of using up fat, the day is also called Pancake Tuesday.

We invite you, your family, friends and neighbors to Bethesda's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please come with an appetite for pancakes, sausage and much more. A free will offering will be taken to cover the costs but there



Ash Wednesday Worship February 22nd - 7pm

We like many churches use ashes during the *Ash Wednesday* worship in a ritual called the *Imposition of Ashes*. In this custom, ashes are mixed with a small amount of oil and applied to the forehead of each worshipper. In the Ash Wednesday bulletin these words are written: *Earth to Earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

*We recall these words as ashes are placed on our heads and we are vividly reminded that: 'we are dust and to dust we shall return'. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of **discipleship** that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from truly being alive. Lent is an invitation to a journey that will lead to the new life and resurrection of Easter."*



The 5 Wednesdays of Lent!

February 29th, March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

6pm- Soup Supper - *Please sign up in Fellowship Hall*

7pm- Evening Prayer Service

During the season of Lent, we will be holding a special mid-week worship service as part of our Lenten journey together. This year it will again be preceded by a simple soup and bread supper at 6pm then followed by a ½ Hour simple Evening Prayer Service of meditation with a short Lenten message.



Lent Anglo-Saxon: "spring"

As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and lasts for 40 days taking us through Holy Week, (April 1st-7th) to Easter Sunday (April 8th). The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

Lent is a time of simplicity and preparation.

I invite you to take a 40 day journey, together, with Jesus to Easter !

In Epiphany we walked with Christ while he was among us on the earth, joining with him in establishing his kingdom. Much was revealed to us and we too were called in Epiphany to also reveal God breaking into our world with love, grace and mercy. Now we retreat with Jesus into the wilderness to reflect. God be with us and bless us on our journey together.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY 2011-2012

We truly enjoyed our fall financial stewardship program, MAKE IT SIMPLE. We thank you all for participating in this response method and hope that we all grew in our understanding as to what it means to be a faithful financial steward at Bethesda.

It has been a very long time since Bethesda has used commitment cards as an active sign of our faith. This was a positive experience and has made a difference in our tithing.

We had a 50% return of the commitment cards totaling about \$80,000. By the request of the members there were a number of commitment envelopes that were not opened, so we don't know the amount pledged by them. Everyone who was unable to attend our Commitment Ceremony Sunday received a letter in the mail with a commitment card and a stamped return envelope. A few members returned these cards in the mail.

If everyone had responded with a written commitment, our tithe to God and the mission of Bethesda could be \$160,000. Wouldn't that be a great!

A more realistic response based on our commitment cards, is an additional 25 % are probably already committed tithers. That makes our tithe look more like \$107,000.*

We must pray and have faith that God is abundant. We, as the stewardship ministry team, will continue to find ways to encourage members to review their tithe. We need to have faith that God will provide and Bethesda will move forward in its mission.

Please take a look at some possibilities for other sources of revenue. We, invite you to embrace one or two of these suggestions and move forward with them. Please have conversations with yourselves, with us and with God.

*Our tithe for the first 3 quarters of 2011 is about \$80,324.00. If we divide that by 3, we see that we have an estimated additional income of about \$27,000. This gives us an estimated income of about \$107,000.

Dena, Ron & Pat

God's grace is his gift to us. It shows up wherever we are and in whatever we are doing. Think of God's grace as the glue that connects us together, as people of this earth, as people of this congregation and as people of our work and neighborhood communities. God has blessed us so abundantly that our cups are overflowing! Grace is undeserved and it is free. God wants us to have grace. Can we all look for the good in every one and every situation to feel our gifts and the gifts we share? As Spiritual Stewards of this earth, we can accept God's invitation to move forward, to recognize our mission and "Be Grace." What is your cup half-full of? What do you have to be thankful for?

Remember! The right time is NOW, the right place is HERE, and the right people are WITH YOU NOW!

Let's celebrate together!

"Gifts of the Spirit Concert"

Saturday, February 11th

3:30 pm

Sanctuary

***Sweets & Savories Potluck to follow
in the Fellowship Hall***

In addition to YOU, we will celebrate the GIFT of Music & Word in our congregation and our community.

We hope ALL of you will attend and bring some friends, too!

May Grace and Peace Be Yours

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Stewardship Ministry Spring 2012!

CARE OF CREATION EVENT AND PLANT SALE!

Saturday, May 5th

10 am- 3 pm

Bethesda Fellowship Hall and Lawn

Join the fun! Invite your friends & neighbors!
Volunteer! Watch for more information!

*** Gardeners!*** It is NOT TOO EARLY to start planting! Houseplants, vegetables, annuals, perennials, and more!

Watch for updates coming your way soon!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February 2012</h1>			1 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	2 Brownies 6:30pm	3 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	4 Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am
5 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	6 Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00pm @ M. Seale's Community Dinner 5:30pm WAM Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis' Girl Scouts - 6:45pm	7 Brownies 6:30pm	8 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	9 Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	10 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	11 "Gifts of the Spirit Concert" 3:30pm
12 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	13 More Than Membership 10:00 am Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	15 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Jammers Rehearsal 8:30pm	16 Brownies 6:30pm	17 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	18 Family Movie Night 5:30pm
19 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	20  <i>(office closed)</i> Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	21 Shrove Tuesday  Pancake Supper 6:00pm	22 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm <i>Ask Wednesday Service - 7:00pm</i>	23 Life Group 6:00pm Brownies 6:30pm	24 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon AA Mtg. 6:00pm	25 Men's Fellowship 8:00am
26 Worship - 10:15am All Nations Harvest Church - 1:00pm Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm	27 Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm	28	29 Milk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Lenten Service Soup/Bread—6pm Worship—7pm			



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|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Erik Olson | 8 - Teresa Bueing | 16 - Jeanne Krahn |
| 2 - Dick Anstice | Betty Teichgrab | 26 - Nina Wyzinski |
| 3 - Bill Rasmussen | 9 - Cyndy Wesley | 27 - Melissa Anstice |
| 6 - Marit Brodersen | Tangikina Tonga | |
| 7 - Sam Harpst | 14 - Tangiloto Motuliki | |
| Ron Olson | 15 - Hilary Anstice | |

SHARING MY THOUGHTS

by Cliff Pearson

ROMANS 12:4-8

We have many parts in one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully."

Have you ever listened to Christian radio station FM 105.3? They play a song called "If We Are the Body". The artist is Casting Crown. The chorus lyrics go along with Romans 12:

*But if we are the body
Why aren't His arms reaching
Why aren't His hands healing
Why aren't His words teaching
And if we are the Body
Why aren't His feet going*

For the church to function fully and be healthy we must all fulfill our role in the church; each member should exercise their spiritual gifts.

Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

Are you glad God changes our seasons and times? Billy Graham writes: *“Life is not only a beautiful statement about four distinct seasons—it is also a healthy and balanced diet of hope for the discouraged, a refuge for the hurting, a challenge for the weary, and a friend for the lonely.”* Winter is to be a season of reverence. It’s mid-season January as I try to focus on February when truly not sure what time or season we’re in. Twelfth Night—Epiphany for us was a magic time when all our “kids” were home from Texas, wherever David is flying, kids around here, etc. I don’t know how Laurie managed to get them all to Yuen Lui’s Friday morning—photos of the 8 Krahn kids, then one of all with spouses, including dear Gary and Dee, spouses of my son and daughter now in a “different world”. What a wonderful time for all of us! Thank you Laurie!

In our home we do grace, we do mistakes, we do sorry, we do read, we do funny, we do loud, we do hugs, we do family, we do love! Did we ever! It was all over everyone’s smile and doings! How blessed we are! That’s not settling the here and now with snow everywhere outside and still snowing. What season is this, God? Two weeks ago the camellia bush was budding and the pussy willow tree was waving Spring willow everywhere. But in our home—Christmas doings everywhere! A poster on the front door, *“Do You See What I See”*. Open the door and first sight is the Nativity set with angels of all sizes, shapes and colors to surround the Baby Jesus. Even Jeremiah, definitely male with his beard, keeping watch (but is it even important to know an angel’s gender?). Then a tree and tables with decorations from our “families” all over the world. Come see and share coffee before its back in the boxes for this year. Why so late—past the Scandinavian January 14th, their put away time?

Three days after our wonderful gathering word came my brother is very ill, my only sibling.* I was sort of the “nagging” big sister when we had to move to our paternal grandmother’s when our mother died in 1940. Christmas might go on for some time yet in this winter season. Years ago when Michel returned from the Viet Nam war January 1970, Christmas all over the house was awaiting his safe return, and still we bask in Christmas lights. Billy Graham writes, *“May you find the living Lord opening His arms of love to you as you move through each of these four seasons. Take your time. Walk slowly. Feel God’s presence as you consider the days and weeks and years that He has given to you. Ask Him to bring new strength to your soul.”*

How’s your strength been for your New Year’s resolutions? Even one month is a help! Our lives are always better and brighter for us and those around us if we don’t burn up needless energy carrying our bag of anxieties and worries. Easier said than done, isn’t it? I think every mother will agree that the household worry seems to be more on their shoulders. When the “argument” comes up in our home, I just tell whoever “God puts a computer chip in our brain the day children are born and it’s there until we die”, so how can you not fret? Don’t we all know someone in our lives ... harassed and suffering because they wait for some big disaster or something unpleasant to happen, or they just know something calamitous is going to happen immediately ahead? One woman, when asked how she felt responded, “Oh, I feel good, but every time I feel good I feel bad because I know I’m going to feel worse.” The Serenity Prayer written by Reinhold

Niebuhr for American servicemen in World War I is still helpful in every generation: *“God give me the serenity to accept what cannot be changed. Give me the courage to change what can be changed and the wisdom to know one from the other.”* But don’t we need help sorting out human problems here on earth; God will sort out the rest of the problems later and can you imagine how dull our world would be if He didn’t paint nature’s scenes in different colors often during our year—even this snow time now with snowy white over winter’s brown.

Whoosh! “Nuf of that! Happy Holiday! Is you life looking up? It seems not much is shifting the balance for the better. People want to blame the president, the Democrats, the Republicans or whomever else seems to be “out there” agitating for something. Sorry, it’s our fault. We elected every one of our “leaders”. When I think of the money spent for such “folderol” it’s sinful. Wish we would do as so many European countries do for the elections. Six weeks is all the time they get—populace figures if they can’t say what, how and when they are going to tackle problems—time’s up! Think of the millions of dollars saved here and also giving younger ones wanting to run for election but can’t afford it—and I like the thought they have more than two parties running instead of the two we have yakking at one another. I still haven’t figured out exactly what any of them are going to do.

Our own global systems, social structures and the global economy break down because they are not working. Why? The answer is? “Is our universe stagnant? Our human race is an incredible mixture of differences, a treasure trove of valuable experience and understanding that could benefit all. Isn’t it fair to say that everyone needs and deserves the basic necessities of food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education? So is it fair to deny any of these?” Many overlap, but in all we find identity, even inspiration, connections and a sense of belonging to something bigger and greater than ourselves. Remember to love your fellow human beings and all life.

Time for a couple of smiles from children’s letters to God.

“Dear God, I am sorry I was late for Sunday School but I couldn’t find my underwear. Norman”

“Dear God, The candles we always light in church. Do you blow them out? Love Helen”

“Dear Holy God, Would you make it so there would not be any more wars? And so everyone could vote. Any have plenty of food for meals. Also everybody should have a lot of fun. I hope you do not think this is to selfish. One of your friends, Nancy”

Happy Valentines for all you sweethearts!



* After sending in this article, Jeanne’s brother passed away on January 23rd.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FUNDRAISERS

In 2011 we received from Thrivent from the fundraisers - \$1,525.00.

For the Easter Breakfast, we raised \$600.00 and we received a 50% match of \$300.00. These funds went to Compass Housing Alliance.

For the auction portion of the Auction/Yard Sale, we raised \$600.00 and we received a 50% match of \$300.00, for Bethesda Community Services.

For the Wreaths, Swags, Centerpieces and Poinsettias, we received a total of \$525.00, which was a 100% match for Bethesda Community Services.

The Monday Night Dinners are a hands-on fundraiser and we turn in receipts so we received \$400.00.

Thank you to all of you who helped with all the fundraisers and Monday Night Dinners.

Your Thrivent Congregational Coordinators,

Joan Minnis, Jeanette Anstice and Donna Veveris

THRIVENT FINANCIAL UPDATE

It was suggested that we let our congregation know the amount of money we have received in 2011 from Thrivent for the Choice Dollars program.

Jan.	\$ 185.00
Feb.	\$ 757.00
Mar.	\$ 296.00
Apr.	\$ 993.00
May	\$ 118.00
June	\$ 79.00
July	\$ 802.00
Aug.	\$ 70.00
Sept.	\$ 93.00
Oct.	\$ 386.00
Nov.	\$ 518.00
Dec.	\$ <u>79.00</u>
	\$4,376.00

Thank you to all of you who requested your Choice Dollars from Thrivent. They are going into the kitchen fund.

Your Thrivent Congregational Coordinators,
Joan Minnis, Jeanette Anstice and Donna Veveris

SAVE YOUR GREETING CARDS AND STAMPS...

Remember to save all of your greeting cards, any kind, from Christmas on. We collect them and send the fronts to Medical Lake people where they make postcards for the servicemen everywhere. Last month we mailed 48 pounds to Medical lake.

Also, save stamps, used or new. Maxine Helms is "Chief Boss" of them and Bethesda has received a letter of thanks from Lutheran Mission Church in Texas where she sends them.

Mail you greeting cards and stamps to:

Bethesda Lutheran Church
23406 56th Ave. W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

**Bethesda Lutheran
Church**

23406 56th Ave. W
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: 425-778-6390
Fax: 425-361-7781

jean@bethesdalcm.com

Pastor: Malcolm Brown

Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

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