



THE CONNECTION

March 2009



'09 FAITH PROMISE WEEKEND

Faith Promise is March 21-22.

Theme: "Changing World, Unchanging God." Our special speakers will be Joe and Carole Hoover, missionaries we support in Guinea. They are home on furlough and hopefully the whole family will be here. Their passion for the Lord and His service will inspire you. Key verse: *Hebrews 13:6-8 "So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper: I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?' Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus*

Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (NIV)

Schedule of Events:
Saturday (3/21)

Men's breakfast @ 8:30am in WHC. Joe Hoover speaking of what God is doing in Guinea. All money donated for breakfast will go to Faith Promise Fund. This is for All men, young and old.

Ladies luncheon @ 12:30pm in WHC. Carole Hoover speaking. Cost = \$10.

Sunday (3/22)

All church breakfast available from 9:00am to 10:15am in the WHC,

followed by ONE Worship service @ 10:30am.

Fireside Campfire storytelling time @ 6:00pm at lower patio off the Fireside room.

Joe is a master storyteller, you won't want to miss this time together. We also are expecting to see Pete and Amy Riley here during this time also. This will be a weekend full of sweet reunions, information and table fellowship.

Please remember to sign up for these special events on the sheets in the foyer, so that appropriate planning can be done. ~ Thank you.

Inside this issue:

John 's Corner - special story	2
Ministry Council meeting	3
Youth News	4
Dawn Rauwolf's Baby Shower	4
Small Group Fair	4
World Aware Christians - India	5

WEEK OF PRAISE & ENCOURAGEMENT

We are designating this particular week a week of Praise and Encouragement. The week will start on Sunday evening with "Praise Night". This will be a sing-along service where we will sing our all time favorite praise songs, followed by a time of refreshments and warm fellowship.

Transportation to and from the church will be available that evening. Then on Wednesday, March 4, we will have an Encouragement Night" prayer meeting. Personal testimonies that surround encouraging scriptures will be shared with prayer times throughout the evening.

March 1 - 7

May we all be refreshed with this week of being encouraged in our walks with our most beautiful Lord, and praising His name.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The deadline for congregational input will be Sunday, **March 29, 2009.** We thank you for your prayerful considerations of any and all nominations you wish to submit. For questions, see Ed Gegen (*chairman*), Patrick Mooney (*vice-chair*),

or Dale Clark (*deacon chairman*). Richard Curtis, Mary Ramey and Jeff Ingstad (*committee members at large*).

Nomination form inserts will be in your Sunday bulletin, as well as at the Information counter in the foyer.

Remember to stay informed and educated as to the qualifications for these positions. Handouts are also available at the Info counter to aid you in understanding these qualifications.

Special Points

- * Don't miss Don's story about Molly and the Big Pooh Pile.
- * Senior Saints are going to the La Conner Historical Museum on 3/17
- * Be watching for a new look on our website soon
- * Financial Peace University course being offered again this month.
- * ACC Preschool begins fall registrations this month.
- * Celebration potluck time for the life of Lilia McKinley

John's Corner - "Molly and the Big Pile of Pooh" by Don Wenke

I want to pass this story on from Don Wenke, one of our elders:

Molly the Dog and the Big Pile of Pooh

Now my Dog is smart! Not in an Albert Einstein kind of way, but from the day we brought her home from the pig farm it was readily apparent that she had above average intelligence, for a dog that is. She loves to be a helper. For instance when the phone rings and Kathy is in the back room sewing, I can give the phone to Molly and she will carry it back to her saving me the trip. After delivering the goods, she just sits there wagging her tail at 100 mph waiting for Kathy to give her something else to bring back to me. Back and forth she'll go bringing anything she can carry until we finally get tired of the game. She also learned to fetch my newspaper in the morning and drop it in my chair, saving me the agony of getting cold wet feet in the morning because of the inaccuracy of the delivery guys arm. But without a doubt, the activity that gives her the most pleasure is chasing a tennis ball. Before we moved I would take her to the beach or an open field and hit the ball till she quit, she will go for hours sometimes. After she finds it she'll come prancing back with the ball hanging out of her lips. She'll spit it back at me and sit there staring at it, tail wagging until I pick it up and repeat the exercise. I was worried that when we moved to our new apartment our little game wouldn't be practical, I mean where can a dog run at an apartment complex? Well as we have all adjusted to our new living arrangements, it so happens that next to our place there is this great big field which has taken our game to new heights. Once I hit the ball into this field which has fairly high grass. I thought the ball was lost for sure, but I let her go try and find it. I was amazed! My dog, by some instinct way in the back of her springer spaniel brain started working that field from side to side, back and forth, running all over that 5 acre piece of ground, sticking her nose up in the air occasionally to get a whiff of the ball until all at once she stopped and pounced on it, bringing it proudly back to me like it was dinner for all of us or something. I noticed that not only was this great physical exercise for her, it seemed like it was great for stretching her mental capacity as well. Kind of like

when I complete a crossword puzzle or solve a complex problem at work. She and I both have made it our regular routine. I get home from work at about 3 pm. She hears me come through the door, I put down my lunch box and coat and pick up the tennis racket. She grabs the tennis ball and begins wiggling all over. We walk the 100 feet or so to the edge of the field, where she quickly does her business. (Hey, she has been cooped up in the house for about 8 hours, and a girl has got to go right?). Then I'll whack the ball as far as I can and she takes off like a rocket and for a short time we are in doggie/master heaven. Over and over again we repeat the drill. She is totally engrossed in the moment and I am just enjoying watching her doing what she was born to do. But something has entered into the equation that has caused some trouble. One of the things that she has really gotten good at is exercising her sense of smell again. After years and years of being a house dog, I think her nose kind of went to sleep. And lately she is totally curious about exploring smells again. One day last week in the middle of our game, with both of us totally into it, running back from one of her successful hunts, she stopped dead in her tracks, made a sharp right turn, dropped her ball and started sniffing for something else. Now, I don't know what causes the attraction to some other animals pooh that most dogs have. Maybe it is their way of communicating to each other, kind of like us and e-mail. Maybe they want to see what other animals are having for dinner....eeeew! Whatever it is, I was OK with her taking a little side trip, after all she was probably getting a little tired, plus she gets pretty bored sitting around the house all day while Kathy and I are at work. So I figure whatever she can do to give herself a little excitement, who am I to stop her? So she goes up to this big ole pile of pooh, sniffs it good, looks over at me, wags her tail, then proceeds to rub her head in it, followed by her whole body, over and over again, covering herself from head to toe in some form of excrement, greenish in color and smelling to high heavens. I had run toward her yelling no.....no....but she could not hear me, or maybe just chose to ignore me, lost in some primal desire to become one with whatever had left the prize. I was so mad!!!! Here we were, having a

blast, enjoying ourselves, all in the world was right, she was focused on me and her ball. Then she got distracted and everything fell apart. I was mad, she didn't know what happened. I grabbed her by the scruff of the neck and yanked her back to our apartment where I unceremoniously hosed her off as best I could with cold water from the outdoor the spigot, ensuring she wouldn't leave a trail of the offending substance on our living room carpet. I then threw her in the tub and gave her a bath that was not the gentle type she has come to almost enjoy. I was talking to her in harsh tones that let her know she was in trouble. Her facial expression went from a smile to fear.

...instead of getting mad I started thinking, and I believe God was teaching me something about sin in my life.

It was not a great way to end the day. We made up as best we could, went to bed and tried to put it behind us. The next day I was anxious to get back into our routine, so at 3pm I walked through the door, she met me and we proceeded to our spot like nothing happened. Now I am not an idiot.... I aimed my tennis racket shot in a direction far away from the pile of pooh. No sense in giving her any opportunity to make that mistake again, right? Off she goes, eye on the prize, nose in the air, tail wagging, all is good! She grabs her ball, runs back towards me and whamo! Like the sirens in the tale of Homer's Odessey, straight for the pile of pooh....head first, in she goes again. How could there be so much left? I had hosed off a bucket full the day before. This time though, instead of getting mad I started thinking, and I believe God was teaching me something about sin in my life. What if God reacted at me the way I did to Molly when I continually stray from the path He has shown me and jump in one of the piles of "pooh" that soil my life?

Continued on pg. 3



“Molly...continued”

Here I am enjoying the life He gives us, recognizing the joy of daily interaction with Him, and He with me, when from out of nowhere I get a whiff of something from my pre-Christian life that seems like it might be enjoyable again. But what I forget during my side trip is that you can't go into the house when you smell like "pooh". There can be no "pooh" in the presence of God. It amazes me sometimes in retrospect how easily I can stray. It usually starts with neglecting to put on my armor. Armor will protect you from "pooh" if you remember to put it on everyday. "Pooh" can hit armor, but it won't stick to it like it might to, say for instance, fur or you. And it's easy to hose off your armor. But armor is kind of like seatbelts right? It's such a short ride this time, I don't need it. Before you know it, there is the armor sitting in the corner, bright and shiny while I get stinkier and stinkier. Eventually, the smell gets so bad that even I can't stand myself. Imagine what my God who loves me must think. There is no "pooh" in heaven so I must surely reek in his presence. Here He gives me this grand pardon and washes me in the blood of his own Son, and time and time again I head off on my little excursions often where "pooh" is prevalent while God scratches his head and wonders "what is he thinking"? It's like when I give my dog the bath she so desperately needs, clean her up and give her a fresh start, except the dog doesn't know any better, I do! Even so God's grace is given to me when I do not deserve it. Jesus' blood cleanses me (again and again) I promise to put on my armor every morning before the

day begins and I approach my life with a new vigor, God grants me forgiveness knowing full well that complacency will set in eventually and "pooh" will again soil my clothes. Can you imagine, walking in to a banquet hall after being invited for a great feast, covered in some slimy, smelly substance that you just rolled into while you were on your way? It would be one thing if the host of the banquet made an invitation to someone along the way and they came wearing whatever they had on at the time, smell and all. How embarrassing to show up with your invitation in hand, wearing the barnyard on your once clean white robe. CS Lewis uses this example. "Would it not break our heart if God said to us, [“It is true, my son, that your breath smells and your rags drip with mud and slime, but we are charitable here and no one will chastise you with these things, nor draw away from you. Enter into the joy”?] Should we not reply, with submission, sir, and if there is no objection, I'd rather be cleaned first. [“ It may hurt, you know”] -----Even so sir.” (CS Lewis, Letters to Malcolm, chiefly on prayer published 1964) What a beautiful picture of God's grace and our repentance. We could take grace for granted (I know I do), sinning away, knowing that forgiveness is ours for the taking (isn't that what willful sin amounts to if you are a confessed believer?). True repentance requires a sincere and heartfelt concern for the Giver of grace, not because He needs it, but because we do. If it is truly sincere, sanctification is happening, if it is not sincere, we are just postponing the inevitable "hosing off". Our desire to

stay clean is not a "work" it's a "response". In my past, while an active member of the Roman Catholic Church, we were required to say a ready made prayer while participating in the sacrament of confession or "repentance" to receive "Reconciliation" This is how it went.... "O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin." When I was a kid in Catholic School this was just another ritual I had to do. Now that I am an adult who has sinned plenty it takes on new meaning. Dear God, help me mean it this time...

Contritefully submitted by Don Wenke



Pooh, not pictured. 😊

Deacon Corner

Capital Improvement Project if finally complete! Dennis Asseln, Frank Mann, Lyle Mooney and Bud Adams are to be thanked for finishing the paint job in the entryway, hallway and stairwell. Another big thank you to Doug Findlen for repairing the lights in the WHC. We wish to thank **ALL** of the members of this congregation who work so hard in the service of our Lord Jesus and for this Body of believers.

~ Sincerely, Dale Clark

All deacons are encouraged to attend all Deacons' Meetings and Ministry Council Meetings. The next Deacons' Meeting is Sunday, March 29, 2009, after second service. *(The meeting will be efficient, so as to allow you time to go to the small group fair)*

If anyone has a Power Lawn Edger and a Power Leaf Blower and are willing to either use them at church or loan out their use, please contact Dale Clark at 293-7043.

Ministry Council

Ministry Council reminder! Don't forget to come to the Ministry Council meeting on Tuesday, March 17 @ 7pm. Come, listen, ask questions, get answers about all kinds of ministries and plans for ACC. It is open to everyone.



YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to all who participated in Teen Encouragement Week. Aaron Bryant was our featured speaker, and he gave us a lot to think about. Those of you who were prayer partners, please keep in mind how valuable you are to the teens you are praying for, they need positive influences in their lives. If you didn't get to participate this year, there's always next year! But if you're really on fire, you can contact Teresa and she will give you a teen's name for the rest of the year.

Juniors and Seniors, it's scholarship time. ACC scholarship applications are

available from Nancy or Sandy in the office, and are due back no later than March 31. These scholarships are available to those going into ministry or planning to attend a Christian/Bible College.

There will be no Acquire the Fire trip this year. However be planning on our annual retreat to Pleasant Valley Christian Camp over Memorial Day Weekend, and the Salmon River Raft Trip through YD Adventures in July.

SOCCER CAMP

Planning and organizing is ON. We have a signup sheet available for those interested in this event in the foyer...but we also have specific needs. - We are looking to borrow any size pop-up tent coverings. - We need people to take brochures around to other churches in town. - We also are looking for someone to volunteer to copy DVDs. There are a variety of areas that we still help with...this lists only a few. Can you be of help? Reiko and her team need you! The kids need you! Next volunteer meeting will be Sunday, March 15 @ 12:30pm. *(Brown bag lunch in Room 205)* Hope you can come.

FOR THE LADIES...

Baby Shower for Dawn Rauwolf is Sunday, March 8 @ 2pm in the Fireside room. Dawn is registered at Target and Babies R Us. Oh, and did you know? IT'S A BOY!! Know that monies are also being collected for a stroller. Monies for this can go to either Ami Bryant or Penny Rustad. Ladies, come, celebrate this upcoming new life and enjoy some great fellowship!



Northwest Christian Women's Conference @ Warm Beach Camp is April 17-19. Theme:

"Simply Love" Key speaker: author, Keri Wyatt Kent. God longs for your life to be full of living, not stress. Imagine the relief you might experience if you were to slow down your fast pace and embrace greater simplicity. Join other women at the '09 NWCWC for a time of receiving and expressing God's love with the hope of transforming our daily experience. Registration packets, and full descriptions of all the workshops being offered at this year's retreat are located in the kiosk in the church foyer.

Pick one up and decide. Scholarships are available to help female undergraduate students, ages 18-24. Scholarship application forms are included in the registration packets and must be postmarked by March 7, 2009. See Sena Moreland for more info regarding this event.



SMALL GROUP FAIR!



Curious about Small Groups? Like to eat after Sunday

services? Then join us for a Small Group fair after the second service on March 29th in the Welcome Home Center. Each group will have a table with information available as well as a prepared dish to share with everyone. Come and learn about what other groups are doing, what might be available for you to join, or opportunities for starting new Small Groups and ConneXion Groups. It should be a great time to network and fellowship with one another. For questions and info, contact Mike at the church, 293-3729.

WEBSITE

We are currently putting the finishing touches on a completely new and redesigned web site for the church. We are excited to be able to show it to you. Our goal is to have it posted by the end of March or early April. Along with a totally new look, there will be several new features that should be helpful, like easier navigation, listings of available Small Groups and ConneXion Groups, a page dedicated to missions and outreach, and much much more. Stay tuned, and we'll keep you posted.

SR. SAINTS TRIP

Let's get-together for some St. Patrick's Day fun! We are going to the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner on Tuesday, March 17. Yes, that's St. Patty's day...so wear something green! We will leave ACC @ 10:30am. Bring some money to purchase lunch, or bring your own sack lunch. Cost for entrance to the museum: \$3 for 65+, \$4 for under 65. If you have any questions, contact Jean Vance (299-9090) or Elizabeth McLean (299-1982).



WORLD AWARE CHRISTIANS ~ CONTINUED FOCUS ON INDIA

Here's some random facts about India.

When you call Customer Service for computer assistance, have you noticed that many times the voice answers in English with an Indian accent? Yes, although Hindi is the official language of India, many of the educated people speak good English and have superior technical skills.

What language do the schools in India use? The people are proud of their regional languages (14 of them), and much of the teaching is done in those.

More than 83% of the people in India claim the Hindu religion.

What are some ways its influence has spilled over into the Western culture?

1. Reincarnation – Hindus believe the soul never dies, but is re-born in the

next life in a different form. We sometimes hear people joke, "In my next life I want to beor do.....".

2. Yoga – presented these days as a "good form of meditation & relaxation" – is actually a religion born from the roots of Hinduism.

3. New Age Movement – acclaimed by such well-known people as Oprah Winfrey – believes that all the different religions in the world are paths to the same God. Hindus worship many gods. There are so many they cannot name them all.

4. The Caste System – is it still in effect? Although officially outlawed, many citizens do not want to lose the advantages, influence, and special privileges it offers to some of them.

5. The Group Below all others = the Dalats ["Untouchables"] are considered not to have a soul; are given the lowest jobs. They may not enter the temples or draw water from public wells.

THE BIG PICTURE -- Some Indians have great wealth...But many others can spend only a few cents a day for the bare necessities of life. Some cannot afford shelter and must sleep in the streets. Some Indians are college graduates...but many others have never gone to school at all.

THE CHALLENGE TO US WHO KNOW CHRIST, We can PRAY!

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to equip, encourage, strengthen and use the local Christians to reach out effectively to their neighbors who have never met Jesus.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Need Financial Peace?

Don't we all? If you missed the 15 week course that we offered here...another opportunity is available in town. Financial Peace University (by Dave Ramsey)

will be starting again on March 16 @ Bayshore Office building, on Sunday evenings 7-9pm.

Leader: Andy Culbertson (293-9339) Call if interested, and want to know the fee for this course.

Your Local Kiwanis Aktion Club {many Church members} are now recycling old Computers, monitors and TV's for FREE. You can finally get rid of that old junk in a responsible way. Collections happen the 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month. If you have something you want to get rid of sooner see Ed Gegen, Shelley Longacre or Dick Gerlach. We can make other arrangements.



LILIA MCKINLEY

A Celebration of Lilia's Life

We will be having a time of table fellowship (potluck meal) as we celebrate and bring honor to the life of Lilia McKinley. Everyone is invited to join in this time with her family and friends on Saturday, March 7 from 12:00pm-3pm in the Welcome Home Center.

(A-L =
dish, M-
side
dessert.

main
Z =
dish or
Bever-



DIRECTORY UPDATES

Jacob Fry: add to Fry family

Ryan Saindon: add to Saindon family

David & Kristine Juhl:
primary phone #840-3800

Chad Lapine: ph# 293-4056

Kristy Nelson: 3220 Rye Court, Anacortes, WA 98221 ph#770-7887

Bob & Judy Owens: 1785 Douglas Rd. #63, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 ph#360-378-9400

Dave & Sue Sprinkle:
P.O. Box 5207, Glacier, WA 98244

ACC PRESCHOOL

Fall registrations begin this month. The preschool will open enrollment to church families the week of March 9th and to the community March 16th. Please check out our NEW webpage at www.accpreschool.com



BUILDING

Update...

We received \$428.00 towards the building loan this last month.

Thank you again, you are all helping so much. Keep it up! Pick up a new cup whenever you need! We have lots. Every penny, coin, bill goes directly to this loan.



NON PROFIT
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 ANACORTES WA
 PERMIT NO 84

1211 M Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221
 360-293-3729/ Fax: 293-8122
 Email: office@accweb.net

TO:

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:15AM & 10:45AM
 SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30AM
 JOLT WED. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP: 7:00PM

STAFF

John Douglas Preaching Minister
 Mike Rauwolf Associate Minister
 Teresa Goldstein Youth Minister
 Bill French Volunteer Administrator

Nancy Yount Office Manager/secretary
 Julie Findlen Bookkeeper
 Sandy Moffit Front Desk p/t
 Bud Adams Maintenance Manager

Lori Keller Preschool Teacher
 Michelle Costanza Preschool Teacher

We're on the Web:
www.accweb.net

MARCH

ACC GENERAL INFO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Praise week Reverse offering available 6:30p - Praise Night	2 Encouragement 6:30p - Perspectives 6:30p - HS Girls 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study	3 Praise 9:30a -Moms in Touch 4:30p- 6-8gr. Girls 7p - Clark, men 7p - Ladies study 7p - Elders meet	4 Encouragement 10a-Women'sgroup 6p - Draw Near 7p - Prayer meeting 6p - HS Boys 6:45p-Ruddell group	5 Praise 7p - Kendall group 7:30p-Band practice	6 Encouragement	7 Praise 12p - Celebration potluck for Lilia McKinley
8 Daylight Savings time 2p - Baby Shower for Dawn R.	9 6:30p - Perspectives 6:30p - HS Girls 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study	10 9:30a -Moms in Touch 4:30p- 6-8gr. Girls 7p - Clark, men 7p - Ladies study	11 10a-Women'sgroup 6p - Draw Near 7p - Prayer meeting 6p - HS Boys 7p - JOLT Youth	12 7:30p-Band practice	13	14
15	16 6:30p - Perspectives 6:30p - HS Girls 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study	17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30a -Moms in Touch 10:30a - Sr. Saints 4:30p- 6-8gr. Girls 7p - Clark, men 7p - Ladies study	18 10a-Women'sgroup 6p - Draw Near 7p - Prayer meeting 6p - HS Boys 6:45p-Ruddell group	19 7p - Kendall group 7:30p-Band practice	20	21 Faith Promise 8:30a - Men's bfast 12:30p - Ladies luncheon
22 Faith Promise 9a - Breakfast 10:30a - One Worship service 6p - Campfire storytelling	23 6:30p - Perspectives 6:30p - HS Girls 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men's study	24 9:30a -Moms in Touch 4:30p- 6-8gr. Girls 7p - Clark, men 7p - Ladies study	25 10a- Women's group 6p - Draw Near 7p - Prayer meeting 6p - HS Boys 7p - JOLT Youth	26 7:30p-Band practice	27	28
29 12p - Small Group Fair 12p - Deacons meet	30 6:30p - Perspectives 6:30p - HS Girls 7p - Bryant group	31 9:30a -Moms in Touch 4:30p- 6-8gr. Girls 7p - Clark, men				

