

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Quarterly Newsletter

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THE BEAUTY OF OUR JOURNEY

Every person's life is a journey. As Jesus followers, we seek, however imperfectly, to walk as Jesus walked and to follow where Jesus leads. I don't mean that we have to make all the “right” decisions in order to follow Jesus. In fact, our journeys are all shaped by God's grace for us and for our (occasional or frequent) terrible decisions.

Throughout our lives, we learn that the God-who-is-love (I John 4:7-8) does actually love *us*. We learn this not merely as a nice thing to say in church gatherings, but as a truth *and an experience* that forms our lives. The hardest thing to believe is that God can love us when we have done something horrible. But until that happens, we may harbor the false belief that God loves us *because* we are obedient to Scripture, or because we are good people—however we happen to define that.

I suspect for every Jesus follower, a moment comes when we grasp, with certainty and breathtaking clarity, that we don't want to love someone in our life, or that we have *no* interest in forgiving someone who hurt us, or we just want what we want, right now, consciously knowing it's wrong...and we want Jesus to mind his own business! If we were together, I'd ask you to raise your hand if you've *never* had this experience. I trust I would see a room with no hands up.

For many of us, that moment—or those moments—become a crucial signpost. “Here I tested God's love and the answer is Yes”; I'm still beloved.”

We may imagine, when we are young and proud and confident, that we can muscle through the difficult parts of our journey. We may believe we can follow Jesus because we are the kind of people—unlike those *other* people—who know what is right and will stick to it.

When we come face to face with our own hatred, prejudice, fear, selfishness, bitterness, which I've learned will always happen when we hang out with Jesus long enough, we also discover that we *are* those other people. Then, if our hearts will remain open, we come to understand that we are *all* those other people, the imperfect kind, and when we say, “God loves everyone,” we start to grasp God loves people we consider unlovable.

But no one is unlovable to God. That includes me. That includes you.

That, my friends, is the beauty of our journey. That is the course Jesus has set for us, to grow in love for the “other,”—*those* people—until we start to understand that there is no “other.” For some of us, we ourselves are the ones we have the hardest time believing God could love. That's why we need our signposts: “I'm still beloved.” For some of us, there is a person or group of people who do such horrible things—maybe objectively horrible things—that we cannot understand how God could *possibly* love them the way God loves us. They don't deserve it!

Correct. That is what we mean by grace. That is what we always mean by grace. We are God's beloved not for what we deserve, but because God is love. If we do not love, we do not know God—but that does not mean we stop being God's beloved! The beauty of our journey is that as we learn to love, we know God better, and as we know God better—God's love for *everyone*—we learn to love.

Fondly, Pastor Mike

A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons have decided to suspend the position of Greeter at the ramp door. With diminished attendance we have fewer people to do the work of the church. Finding greeters was not sustainable any longer. We are happy that people greet each other in the sanctuary before worship and in the Narthex after worship during our social hour. Bulletins will be available on the table inside the ramp entry and at the sanctuary entry. In lieu of greeters, Pastor Mike will be welcoming people at the ramp door. If anyone would like to accompany Pastor Mike, he would welcome you.

A couple of more things:

- We are looking for new recruits to act as Worship Leaders. If you are interested, speak to Leanne Ford.
- If you feel led to be a “Support Deacon/Person, talk to Linda Vickery (co-chair). It’s easy and is an important thing the church does for its attenders. It involves sending cards to people who are ill, for a birthday, sympathy, or just a “hello” etc. You can provide your own cards, or we have cards available to use. The responsibility is for one month.

MARCH 9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!

(Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour)



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our Shut-ins:

- Mary Kintner
- Carolyn Storme
- Shirley Beck
- Darlene Ball
- Warren & Evelyn Eikenberry
- Jim Hart
- Jay Stockwell

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 14th Merry Roy
- 30th Diane Stober

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Evelyn Eikenberry
- 7th Virginia Crowl
- 10th Barbara Miller
- 24th Jay Stockwell
- 27th Warren Eikenberry
- 28th Dan White

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 15th Karen Whitley

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6th Dennis & Betty Radke
- 31st Don & Barbara Miller

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 22nd Dave & Karen Whitley

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to You (sung to the usual tune)

Happy Birthday to you!
To Jesus stay true!
May all of God’s blessings
Rain down upon you!



2 CENTS WORTH OFFERING Sunday, February 23

The 2 Cents Worth Offering is where every person sets aside 2 Cents for every meal every person eats in their home to go toward world hunger and the Heifer Project.



Happy New Year 2024!



COMPOSTING AND CARING FOR THE EARTH

You know that composting our food scraps is a good thing to do. Composting keeps food waste out of the landfill and helps to reduce the production of methane gas—a gas that is worse than carbon dioxide for our earth.

But how do we compost when we live in an apartment or in senior housing like Garden Terrace or Colonial Vista? Or even if we have a house with a backyard, how can we compost without attracting “critters” like rats?

There is an answer: Winton Composting uses food waste from homes and businesses in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee and communities in the broader Wenatchee Valley, hauls it to their state-of-the-art facility on Highway 2, and turns it into high quality compost for farmers, landscapers and gardeners in the area.

Winton provides a special 5 gallon collection bucket and biodegradable bags. Participants collect their food waste—vegetable peels, citrus rinds and even leftover cheesy foods and bones, pizza boxes and paper napkins—dump them into the collection bucket and drive it to a local collection center every week. In Wenatchee the collection centers are Sunnyslope Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and Wenatchee Valley College, and in East Wenatchee it’s the East Wenatchee City Hall, Celebration Lutheran Church, and Columbia Grove Church. They are helping us to care for God’s Creation.

When kitchen workers at the hospital saw how much food was going to waste in their food

services, they urged Confluence to start composting through Winton. Now the hospital diverts a ton of compostables from the landfill each month, and they have plans to expand.

Wenatchee Valley College is participating as well as many restaurants in addition to the hospital. Commercial businesses and groups like these arrange to have Winton collect their larger volumes of food scraps. The Wenatchee Business Journal reported that composting is economically pragmatic as well as sustainable. Winton Composting provides good green jobs in the community, supports agriculture and healthy soil for growing our food, and saves money by reducing landfill costs for businesses in addition to protecting God’s good earth.

We can do it! Make composting your new year’s resolution. Consider it for your household. Talk to the staff and administration of your senior housing. Get more information from: Winton Manufacturing, Community Composting Program.

Creation Care Team

TWO SIMPLE QUESTIONS

Every crisis known to humankind boils down to two simple questions:

Is God in control?

Does God love me?

If God *is* in control, and *does* love me, then there are no crisis, only circumstances sent by a loving God to bring me closer to Him. God’s will is not a crisis.

The great thing about faith in God is that it keeps one undisturbed in the midst of disturbance.

(Source has been lost.)

RAISING KIDS AT CAMP (KOINONIA)

by Jackie Eichhorn

Many people tell me on a regular basis how lucky we are to be raising our children at a summer camp, and we could not agree more! Although they sometimes strut around the property like they own the place, we know that they are experiencing childhood in a completely different way. Kevin and I both grew up in the Chicago suburbs, riding bikes and playing outside until the streetlights came on. While we don't have paved roads or streetlights at camp, our kids are raising chickens, fishing at the pond, walking to the lodge for hot cocoa, going on horseback rides, working at the shop with Dad and meeting hundreds of new friends each year! They get to experience nature in all its glory as they participate in camp activities year-round.

While the pandemic brought on new challenges for Camp Koinonia, we were fortunate enough to be "locked down" in a 111-acre camp. In the summer of 2020 Kevin had reinvented the camp as a family experience since we weren't allowed to have summer camps. We spent a lot of time at the pool, pond and playground, and I remember one time Miles came home very sad after spending time at the basketball court. I asked him why he was upset, and he said something like "I keep making friends at the playground, and then they leave." We talked about how lucky he is to make new friends each week from different cities and states, and since then he has turned into quite the young camp director, greeting campers and telling them about his favorite camp activities.

This past summer our two sons had the opportunity to attend an overnight camp through Cascade Camp Cedarbrook for a week. I thought we were crazy to send our 6-year-old to sleep in a cabin for 6 nights without us, but since I could see his cabin from our kitchen window, I knew we would be okay. And when our 8-year-old would see me at a meal at the lodge he would barely take the time to say, "hi Mom!" I knew he was having a blast. The boys learned how to build rockets, survive in the outdoors, make new friends, build a fire, and most importantly strengthen their relationship with God. They came home singing songs and talking about Bible stories that they had learned at camp. What an awesome experience for them and for us.

Our kids also had the chance to attend a few weeks of our new summer day camps this past summer. They loved meeting new friends and spending time with old

ones, and of course hanging out with their favorite counselors Moose, Goose, Rooster and Toucan. They came home completely exhausted each day, and usually missing a sock or lunchbox. They enjoyed swimming lessons, making ice cream, the bounce house and crafts and the yurt, but their favorite part of the day was morning chapel. Each morning the counselors would sing songs, perform a skit, and teach a Bible lesson. Once again, my kids came home each day singing a song and talking about what they learned at camp.

I could go on and on about how our children are so lucky to live at a camp and enjoy the freedom of the outdoors, but I think our favorite part has been watching them strengthen their bonds with each other and with God. We get to spend a lot of time together as a family, which gives us more opportunities to help them in their faith (and ours too). We go to church each Sunday, pray before meals, and blast Christian music as they rollerblade around the house (when you have gravel roads you get creative). We are truly blessed to call camp our home. The next time you visit feel free to ask our children what they love most about camp- they will probably talk your ear off!

Jackie Eichhorn will be working at camp year-round starting in 2025. She will be primarily responsible for all bookkeeping and administrative tasks as well as helping Megan around the camp in hospitality and Lexie in programs.



Free Community Event | Friday, January 17 5-9pm

All ages welcome with separate kid's hill and teen/adult hill. There will be Hot dogs, chili dogs, cookies, and hot cocoa included. Indoor games and activities available as well. Helmets required; bring your own helmet for faster transition times and your own sled if you don't want to wait in as long of a line!

