

CHURCH CHATTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH?	2
THE GIDEONS ARE COMING!	2
TOP TEN CHURCH OXYMORONS	2
THE PASTORS' PASSION	3
KNAPPA DAYS: A FULL REPORT	3
CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS	3
IN STEP WITH FRIENDS	4

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- National Back to Church Sunday: September 18
- Youth Group Anniversary #1: Sunday, September 18
- Gideon Service, Sunday, October 9
- Paul Anderson, GFU Professor, speaking, Sunday, October 30

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY 2011

National Back to Church Sunday is a special day set aside each year on the third Sunday of September when thousands of people who do not regularly attend church are invited and welcomed to a church near them. On a grand scale that day, thousands of churches will open their doors and welcome everyone who would like to rediscover church. National Back to Church Sunday kicks off on **September 18th, 2011.**

A roster of participating churches are mapped out on the Back to Church website: <http://backtochurch.com/roster>. There you'll find us, Crossroads Community Church, as well as Bethany Lutheran, in Astoria, and Clatskanie Baptist! Back to Church Sunday coincides with the end of sum-

mer vacation season and the annual Back to School trek for schoolchildren. This initiative seeks to reach the "un-churched" and "de-churched" – people who once attended church, but don't any more – for whatever reason - and invite them to return.

Because of the deep need for spiritual truth and reality in the inner person, church is a natural place to look for spiritual growth and guidance.

Current church research shows that most people who attend church are there because someone invited them. Word-of-mouth is our most important, most effective, form of advertising. Pray over the names of folks you know who could use an invitation ... and invite them Back To Church!

"This campaign will help you strategically reach out to those who have come and gone but might come back to your church. Many de-churched people are a simple re-invitation away."

— Mark Batterson,
National Community
Church
Washington, D.C.

OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The Svensen Friends Church started from a nucleus of young people meeting under the direction of Miss Enid Briggs on Sunday evenings at the Warren Thompson home.

It soon became evident that a Sunday School was needed also, so the Village Missions was contacted and

sent two young ladies, Miss Annette Jones and Miss Mary Johnson. At first meetings were held in the Grange Hall, which proved to be too expensive.

The group moved to Finn Hall, a building with no indoor plumbing, infested with mice. The mice built a nest in the piano and enlivened

several services by their panic to escape when the instrument was played.



WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH?

Evangelism refers to the primary mission of the church to spread and teach the gospel to those who are not yet Christians. Christ left instruction before He ascended, after His resurrection from the dead, Read Matthew 28:19-20. The more we, as believers, become like Christ, we will adopt His heart of compassion for those who do not know Him. Such a heart is a powerful motivator to share the Good News. **Edification** or, "equipping

the saints", refers to the many tasks that a church undertakes to foster the spiritual growth of its members. We are each given spiritual gifts which, according to Ephesians 4:12 "...equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God..." . Love among Christians means taking care of each other's spiritual life by encouraging, admonishing, and

building each other up with a devoted commitment, one to another as exemplified in Acts 2:42,44,46. **Benevolence**, ministering to the poor, is a task that is emphasized throughout the Bible. In 1 John 3:16-18, the Apostle teaches us about Christ's love for us and our reciprocal responsibility toward others. God's people are clearly taught the importance of taking care of those who cannot care for themselves.

Our desire is to teach and obey the whole gospel as revealed by Christ's reply in Matthew 22:37-40:
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
 This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:
"Love your neighbor as yourself."
 CCC/AFF Mission/Vision Statement

GIDEONS TO HEADLINE OCTOBER 9 SERVICE

"Gideons International is an evangelical Christian organization dedicated to distributing copies of the Bible in over 94 languages and 194 countries of the world, most famously in hotel and motel rooms. The organization was founded in 1899 in Janesville, Wisconsin, as an early American para-church organization dedicated to Christian evangelism. It began distributing free Bibles, the work it is chiefly known for, in

1908...(Since then)... close to 1.7 billion copies have been distributed."
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gideons_International
 "We distribute Bibles and New Testaments because we believe God's Word is relevant and powerful and that people can grow spiritually by reading it and applying God's truth in their lives."
<http://www.gideons.org>

The Gideons have been making annual presenta-

tions about their Bible distribution work for a number of years at Crossroads Community Church.

We look forward to welcoming the Gideons again during the October 9th service.

**"The sower soweth the word."
 — Mark 4:14**



TOP TEN CHURCH OXYMORONS

THANKS TO LEADERSHIP JOURNAL & WWW.HALIFE.COM/CHURCH

- 10. Work Party
- 9. Board Consensus
- 8. Brief Report
- 7. Creative Worship
- 6. Early Sign-up
- 5. Pastor's Day Off
- 4. Volunteer Waiting List
- 3. Simple Request
- 2. Realistic Budget
- 1. Concluding Remarks



THE PASTOR'S PASSION

"In the church, there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to pray and
 a time to listen,
 a time to plant the word and
 a time to harvest
 souls,
 a time to sing hymns and
 a time to worship
 Him,
 a time to be the giver and
 a time to be the
 receiver,

a time to die to self and a
 time for re-birth,
 a time to be sorrowful and
 a time to giggle,
 a time for funerals and
 a time for
 celebrations,
 a time to retire the old rituals
 and
 a time to institute new ones,
 a time to hug and
 a time to shake
 hands,

a time to testify and
 a time to amplify
 a time to honor
 established
 friendships
 and a time to foster
 new ones
 a time to be pruned and
 a time to be
 fertilized
 a time for loving all and
 a time for hating sin
 a time for wrestling and
 a time for peace."

"Churched-up"
Ecclesiastes
3:1-8

KNAPPA DAYS

This year's Knappa Days Worship Service on the twenty-fourth day of September shone like the sun as believers and creation alike turned their faces Heavenward.

While some toted lawn chairs and some brought umbrellas for shade, the united Christian worship experience of the Knappa Assembly of God Church and Crossroads Community Church was a testi-

mony of our unity in God's deep love.

While the sounds of lawnmower races were in the not-so-distant future, songs of worship and adoration filled the meadow just off the Knappa junction on Highway 30.

With both congregations blended together for "outdoor church", the visible presence of the Lord was a strong testimony to

all in the vicinity.

Together, as the church presence in the Knappa-Svensen area, we'll continue to uphold our local community in prayer for repentance and revival.



*"Light of the World,
 Illuminate our churches
 and our community for
 your Glory.
 Amen."*

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

The "Crossroads Christmas Sampler", a craft fair for the whole family, is BACK!

This unique event will run two Saturdays, November 12, and December 10, from 9 am to 5 pm.

With the great success of this community event in recent years, it will be expanding to the Wickiup

Grange Hall. In the past we've seen: Christmas ornaments, jewelry, hand made soaps, pomanders of various scents, homemade candies, Native American-inspired objects of art, wreaths, hand made lace doilies, collectable vintage ornaments, and more! In addition to the crafts,

this year will feature an additional new venue: Native American food! Whether you are one of the crafters or one of the shoppers...you won't want to miss this pre-holiday opportunity!

(Table space is available for \$20/day. Contact Vicki Sullivan or Kat McQuilliams.)



CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH: A FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP

40618 Old Highway 30

Astoria, OR, 97103

Phone: 503-458-6846

Email: crossroadfriends@centurytel.net

Website: www.crossroads-friends.org

Also on Facebook!

IN STEP WITH FRIENDS

FROM: WWW.PEFCPA.COM/FRIENDS.HTM

In 1817, Elizabeth Gurney Fry, a Friends minister and the wife of a banker, walked alone into the woman's quarters of Newgate Prison in London. Surrounded by the most jaded, bitter and dangerous women prisoners, she picked up one of their children and all became quiet. She suggested that they might start a school for the children who were in prison with them, serving as teachers themselves. They discussed the idea for awhile. She told them a Bible story, prayed with them and then left. Soon the women were clamoring to be taught to read and sew. They began

to meet daily in a work room under the direction of monitors of their own choice. The days began and ended with Bible readings sometimes given by Elizabeth Fry herself. As time progressed even those who had shown almost every sign of depravity were transformed into industrious, contributing members of an orderly community. Elizabeth Fry came to be recognized throughout the world as the pioneer of prison reform. In her book, 'Prison Pioneer', June Rose says: "Through her personal courage and involvement, Elizabeth Fry alerted the

nations of Europe to the cruelty and filth in the prisons and revealed the individual human faces behind the prison bars. Her own passionate desire to lead a useful life disturbed the placid, vapid existence of women in Victorian England and changed forever the confines of respectable femininity.

The name of Elizabeth Fry broadened the appeal of the Quaker faith . . . Over two hundred years after her birth, she seems a brave and modern woman, battling with the injustices of her time."

Quaker

Pronunciation: 'kwĀ-ker

- Function: noun
1. one who quakes
 2. also known as: Friend.

Member, by birth and/or conviction, of the Religious Society of the Friends of Truth, a Christian sect founded in England by George Fox, circa 1652

Originally "quaker" was a derogatory term referring to a physical shaking which often occurred when Friends were moved to speak from the Holy Spirit.

Quakers are not necessarily connected to birds, oil or oatmeal.

definition provided by QuakerShop.com