

### February 2012

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## Paid to Be Nice

Whew! What a storm!

It never ceases to amaze me how much I take for granted the basic elements of daily life ... until they are gone.

Our neighborhood never lost its power from the snow and ice, but try getting up the cul-de-sac where our house is located! If you brave the elements to venture away from our house as a cure for "cabin fever" or to run to the store for provisions, you can never be sure you will get the car back into the garage again. One day after the snow (Wednesday), I left the house and in returning home had to make four attempts at driving up our cul-de-sac before getting onto the driveway. [By the way, this makes for great entertainment for all my neighbors as they watch me spin the car's tires in the snow. After a good laugh, they came to push.]

I noticed on Friday morning - two days after the snow storm - that nobody had gone in or out of the houses on either side of my home. No tire tracks and no footprints in the snow. It does not take a talented detective to guess that my neighbors had not been in or out of their homes in two days. Seeing as how both my neighbors are retired and have health problems, I decided to investigate. As I dodged falling snow, tree limbs and ice in approaching my neighbor's front door, I rang the doorbell and waited. It took a while for the first neighbor I visited to get to the door. I guess she was not expecting visitors! I asked if she and her husband were okay and if there was something I could do for them. She thanked me for asking and assured me they were fine, but could I go get their mail from the mailbox at the bottom of the cul-de-sac and put the trash out on the curb. Completing this mission, I went to the front door of my other neighbor. They were fine and did not need anything, but we stood there at the door visiting for a while.

It was a few days later that I was outside on my way to the mailbox when I happened onto one of my neighbors. He said, "I want to thank you for coming by our house the other day and asking my wife about our health. I appreciate that kind gesture very much." I told him it was my pleasure and we talked of other things for a short while.



Here is something that neither my neighbor nor you know: for various reasons, this particular neighbor has been my own mission field for the twenty years I have been in the neighborhood. I want him to experience the kindness of Christ in my words and actions. This may not seem like much of a goal, but you have to realize that he knows I am a pastor and that I am "paid to be nice." However, he is coming to realize that I am kind for reasons other than being a pastor.

But isn't this true for all of us as followers of Christ? Someone knows you "go to church" and expects you to be kind - not because it is how Christ has transformed you but because this is what is required of church-going people. I guess we have to keep on being kind until a person "gets it" that kindness is not a motion Christians go through, but it is who we are as transformed by the love of Christ.

Jesus was in Cana of Galilee one day (John 4:43-54). Lots of people already knew a lot about his teaching and healing. Jesus was quite popular. As Jesus was going about his business a non-Jew came to Jesus (some type of government official). He was an important person. He asked Jesus to heal his son who was dying back at home. Jesus said, *"Unless you people are dazzled by a miracle, you refuse to believe."* The government official would not relent. He wanted Jesus. He believed without dazzling proof. Jesus said, *"Go home. Your son lives."*

We are kind because it is the character of God to be kind. This is who Jesus is: kind (among other things). We can do no less. In the meantime, keep being kind. Not because you are "paid to do so." But because it is the character of God (kindness) that is transforming your life into kindness.

See you Sunday -

*Gary*

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## Adult Education Class: *"Serving from the Heart"*

A new class, "**Serving from the Heart**" will begin **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** at 9:15am in the Calvin Room. Through use of a DVD, a workbook, and class discussions we will examine what it means to serve from the heart by discovering your Spiritual gifts, taking stock of your Talents, making use of the Resources under your stewardship, investigating your unique Individuality as an aid in considering the ways to serve God, looking at your Dreams to determine where you might make a difference in serving God, and finally reflecting on your Experiences to aid in determining where God has worked through you in the past. - The class will be moderated by George Snyder. According to George's experience, the tools you develop and take away from this class can serve you a life time in determining where and how to serve God. All you need to do is attend the class, pick up a work book, take part in discussions and *Service from the Heart* can be a rewarding experience for you.



# Sunday School

Let's Buy a Flock! Our offering for Sunday school will go towards purchasing a flock of chicks, ducklings, and goslings for a needy family through Heifer International. Our goal is \$60, and so far, after two weeks we are almost a quarter of the way to our goal!

Fish Banks! Fish banks will be given out during Sunday school on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Kids can collect spare change with these banks for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, and return them on Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. If yours becomes lost or broken, never fear! Find Susan for a replacement bank.

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> - Michael Newman  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Nancy Doty  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Emily Mathiesen  
4<sup>th</sup> - Deanna Shafar  
7<sup>th</sup> - Jenn Hawley  
9<sup>th</sup> - Emma Miller  
9<sup>th</sup> - Karlie Watson  
9<sup>th</sup> - Dave Williams  
19<sup>th</sup> - Anne Bennett  
20<sup>th</sup> - Susan Jankelson  
21<sup>st</sup> - Grace Thomas  
24<sup>th</sup> - Annette Kenyon  
24<sup>th</sup> - Kelsey McCrady  
29<sup>th</sup> - Jennifer Engle

### ANNIVERSARIES

10<sup>th</sup> - David & Carol Telling  
11<sup>th</sup> - Gary & Mary Mathiesen  
14<sup>th</sup> - Don & Margaret Wagaman  
18<sup>th</sup> - Frank & Sharon Veitenheimer  
20<sup>th</sup> - Dick & Leone Chauner  
21<sup>st</sup> - Dave & Cyndi Harkness  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Brad & Becky Maxa

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact the church office!*



## Puyallup Food Bank Emphasis for February:

Canned Fruits & Vegetables - Canned & Bottled Juices

**The donation box is located in the narthex.**

## In the Life of the Church . . .

### Sisters of Shepherd Potluck Brunch

All women of Shepherd of the Hill are invited to the Sisters of Shepherd Potluck Brunch on **Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** at 10am! This will be a fun morning of fellowship and tasty food. We will also be holding elections for the 2012 SOS Board. For more info, contact Susan Boyles at (253) 262-1844 or susan.boyles@gmail.com.

### PHD's Luncheon

Please make plans now to attend the next PHD meeting on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The Traditional Potluck Luncheon will be at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Bruce Carpenter will give a presentation on a "Recap of his life with the fire service".

Hosting the meeting are John and Philliss Steinley (537-4501) and Betty Young (435-5433). Give one of the above a call if you need more information.

### Movie Nights!

Everyone is welcome to come and see the movies on the big screen! Movies start at 7 pm, popcorn and lemonade are provided. Come out for time to fellowship, have a snack, and see a great show! Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>: Soul Surfer, rated PG

### Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club meets every third Tuesday of the month in member's homes at 7:00 p.m. Members pre-read the book, and then discuss their thoughts at the meeting.

All women are invited to attend!

February 21<sup>st</sup>: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Junot Diaz

March 20<sup>th</sup>: *The Handmaid and the Carpenter*, by Elizabeth Berg

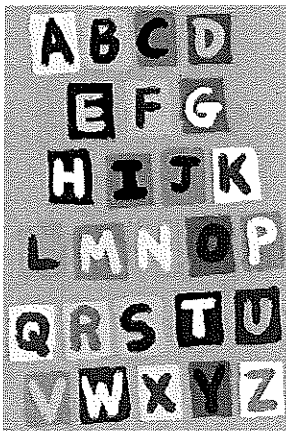
### All-Church Potluck & BUNCO Night!

Please join together with your church family for a night of food and fun! On Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 5pm, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck (please bring a dish or two to share!) – followed by a entertaining game of BUNCO! For those of you who have never played – it is a very easy game to learn! Watch for more details in upcoming Sunday announcements.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit items to the March Newsletter is **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am**. All items must be in written form (hard copy or email) and submitted to the church office.

## God's Gang



We're talking about you and your friends: having confidence in yourself, being a good friend, and where God is in your relationships with others. Come out to God's Gang for a fun night of games, snacks, music and discussions!

January 30<sup>th</sup>: "I" Night: Interesting Ideas Instantly Included

February 6<sup>th</sup>: "J" Night: Joking and Jumping and some Jesus, too!

February 13<sup>th</sup>: "K" Night: Know some Knowledge of the Kingdom of God.

February 20<sup>th</sup>: "L" Night: Laughter. Love. Lemurs?

February 27<sup>th</sup>: "M" Night: Melodious music! Maniacal Monkey Shark!

March 5<sup>th</sup>: "N" Night: Noise? yes.

March 12<sup>th</sup>: God's Gang Field Trip: more info to come!

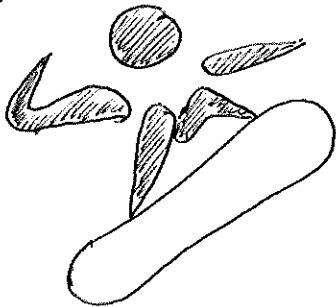
God's Gang is a weekly youth group for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students that meets Monday nights from 6:30-8:00pm at Shepherd of the Hill. Bring yourself and bring a friend!

# YOUTH NEWS



LOW-TECH POWER-OUTAGE  
MEMORIAL EDITION

JAN-FEB 2012



## WINTER SR HIGH RETREAT

FEB 17-20, 2012

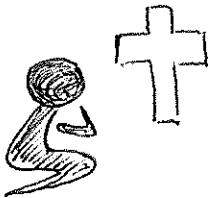
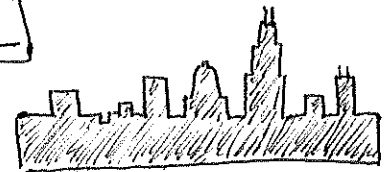
Silver Mtn. IDAHO

with Gloria Dei Lutheran, Olympia  
REGISTRATIONS DUE SOON!

July 7-15  
Contact Brett ASAP  
if interested!

## CHICAGO 2012

Youth Mission Trip  
MEETINGS HAVE  
STARTED!



## CONFIRMATION

FOR 7-8 graders  
Coming this Spring

Stay tuned for  
details!

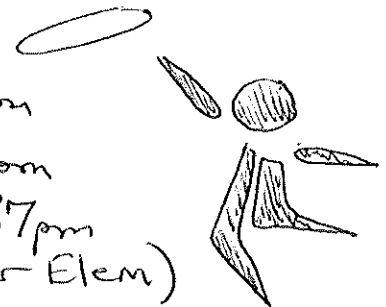
## OTHER EVENTS

SR HIGH: Wednesdays 7:00-8:37pm

JR HIGH: Sundays 5:00-6:37pm

ULTIMATE: Sundays 3:30-4:37pm  
(at Zeiger Elem)

FREEZING NIGHTS: March 3, Youth Take  
Charge!



ALL INFO ABOUT EVENTS FOUND AT:

WWW.SOTHYOUTHGROUP.BLOGSPOT.COM