

# *The Parish Pulse*

Greater Parish of the Cascades Newsletter  
Cle Elum Community Church 509-674-2472  
Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church 509-649-3572

January/February 2011  
Dee McCuen-Editor

## From Pastor Worth's Blog

Wow a new year has begun and another birthday has breezed right by. I truly do not know where 2010 went. It seemed like it just started yesterday. Yet, as I review the year so many things that were unforeseen happened. I would have never believed that my granddaughters would be living four blocks away. At the beginning of the year I did not begin to imagine that Matthew would be off training to become an US Army officer. I never would have guessed that the Mount Pisgah Presbyterian church would remain unfinished now two years after the flood. It is hard to imagine that two years has passed since the flood.

One of the reasons that I dislike making a new year's resolution is that you can never anticipate all the events that will affect your life during the year. In past years I thought I knew where things were going and I would make some new year's resolution that I would resolve to achieve. But then a curve ball would come and life heads in a different direction leaving the resolution in the dust. In the past that has often made me feel like I was failing at something while in reality most of my resolutions were driven from my human perspective and not God's will.

As I mulled over some thoughts regarding the new year I began reading the book, *The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living as if He Doesn't Exist*. Craig Groeschel, the author, challenges readers to put in proper perspective their attitudes toward Christian living. He describes three lines in the sand which represent Christian attitudes. Line 1 represents those who believe in God and the Gospel of Christ to benefit from it. Line 2 represents those who believe in God and Christ's gospel enough to contribute comfortably from it. Line 3 belongs to those who are willing to say I believe in God and Christ's gospel enough to give my life to it. The question that immediately plopped into my mind was, do I give my whole life to Christ? Not in my words but truly live it in my daily activities? Or am I one who hangs around lines one and two but never fully trusts Christ with my life. That is the ultimate question for all of us who claim to be followers of Jesus.

Several Scriptures race to the forefront of my mind. "I have been crucified with Christ; and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:19-20, HCSB)

"But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace." (Acts 20:24, HCSB)

“More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ ” (Philippians 3:8, HCSB)

Does everything I own in this world come second to knowing Jesus? Am I willing to sacrifice my will, my dreams, my aspirations, my agenda, my possessions for the cause of allowing Jesus to live in me fully? Do I believe God and Christ’s gospel that I am willing to give my whole life to His cause? I, like many of you, still allow the hurts, the fears and habits of the past control my decisions or my attitudes instead of trusting in God’s guidance or direction. Why? Because the comfort of the known pain is often better than the unknown. Therefore, we live lives paralyzed by worry and fear that is marked by ineffective decisions. How do we change? Craig Groeshel articulates the answer with simplistic clarity, “Everyday, we’ll choose to live out our belief in God instead of believing in the world or ourselves.” That is my goal and my challenge for you in this coming year. Will you live everyday of the year 2011 choosing to live out your belief in God rather than anything else, in order to allow God’s grace, acceptance and unconditional love to transform your life forever?



### January Birthday's

01/02 Dee McCuen  
01/03 Carlton Wilson  
01/03 Tom Burrows  
01/04 Claude Renfro  
01/08 Shirley Miller  
01/10 Lorna Martin  
01/11 Tony Luchau  
01/17 Betty Varner  
01/20 Saviera Romano  
01/21 Makenzie Nestor  
01/23 Jessica Copp  
01/25 Bryan Ritter  
01/28 Landyn Beal  
01/29 Molly Ballard  
01/30 Kim Willette  
01/30 Gina Agostinelli  
01/31 Beth Matanich



### January Anniversaries

01/08/        Repin, Mike & Eby  
01/27/1979 Maggs, Tip & Renee

Cle Elum Community church has a **RED** bucket set up to take in donations for the local food bank. This is so helpful to those families that just need a little help. We thank you for everything you have donated in the past. We are happy to accept non-perishable food items: some examples are... canned vegi's, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, crackers, soup and cereal. Thank you again!



### February birthdays

2/04 Jennie Kerman  
2/06 Wayne Neuberger  
2/12 Staci Cordahl  
2/13 Evan Jones  
2/15 Katie Renton  
2/22 Ted Colden  
2/24 Gale Powell  
2/24 Garrett Jones  
2/25 Breanne Luchau  
2/26 Jonathan Dunn  
2/27 Randy Martin  
2/28 Elaine Darrow  
2/28 Mary Warstler

### February anniversaries

02/09/1957 Fiksdal, Marvin & Byrna  
02/12/2010 Dunn, Clint & Caoimhe  
02/12/2005 Neuberger, Wayne & Jeri  
02/18/1955 Burrows, Tom & Jean  
02/18/1994 Wilson, Worth & Sue

### **Cle Elum Community Church & Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church**

Annual reports are coming due. Our annual meetings will be held February 13th so please get your committee reports to Dee (church office) by Wednesday January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Cle Elum Community church will be voting to rescind the fiscal year amendment to the bylaws. We will be going back to a calendar year. This will help those keeping track of financial information.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Mt. Pisgah ladies will gather Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> (no January meeting). 1:00pm at the temporary church behind Roslyn Post Office. Questions, please call Jean Burrows.**

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## MOPS

**We had a fun time at our Open House December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cle Elum church. MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) groups exist to encourage, equip and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a women, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. Activities and speakers will be designed to be a getaway for moms to build friendships in the community and outreach to bring these women into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to build friendships within the church. It's about loving God and loving people. If you have a talent or gift for moms and children, please contact Sue Wilson at 674-2747 or email to Sue at [sueworth204@gmail.com](mailto:sueworth204@gmail.com) Our next get together will be Tuesday Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm and will also be posted on facebook and/or our website [www.cleelumcommunitychurch.org](http://www.cleelumcommunitychurch.org)**

## **Men's retreat coming up February 4-5**

at Ross Point Baptist Camp Post Falls, Idaho



Join the Pastor and other men for a great weekend of fellowship and praise and worship time. The more men, the cheaper the price. And MORE FUN....

Contact the Pastor to get on the list for registration.

## **Benevolence Fund - Aid and Assist**

The potential ways of blessing others are nearly infinite. One such way is through the benevolence fund set up at Cle Elum Community Church. If you shop at Safeway and have a Safeway card, we can register that number to earn a percentage towards the benevolence fund. If you don't have a card, you can sign up at Safeway and then let us know what the number is. This fund has helped families to pay the electric bill, purchase propane, get caught up on the water bill, bought gasoline, and purchased food among other things. These families are grateful for the help in a time when they just need a little help to get back on track. We thank you for all you do to help! You are also welcome to just drop an offering in for the benevolence fund if you'd like. Thank you again.



### Lentil Soup

#### Ingredients

1 onion, chopped  
1/4 cup olive oil  
2 carrots, diced  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
1 bay leaf  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
1 (14.5 ounce) can crushed tomatoes  
2 cups dry lentils  
8 cups water  
1/2 cup spinach, rinsed and thinly sliced  
2 tablespoons vinegar  
Salt and ground black pepper to taste

### Lentil Soup

1. In a large soup pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions, carrots, and celery; cook and stir until onion is tender. Stir in garlic, bay leaf, oregano, and basil; cook for 2 minutes.
2. Stir in lentils, and add water and tomatoes. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer for at least 1 hour. When ready to serve stir in spinach, and cook until it wilts. Stir in vinegar, and season to taste with salt and pepper, and more vinegar if desired.

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PO BOX 430  
Cle Elum, WA 98922

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