



SUMMER
BREAK?

Knowing God

Knowing God is a 9 week adult class exploring the truths of Jesus as our Lord, our Savior, our Treasure and our Sanctifier. Whether you are new in your walk with God or a long-time believer desiring deeper growth, this class will strengthen your faith and offer practical help in your daily Christian experience. The relaxed, interactive format gives an opportunity to explore any questions about God, His Word and how we relate to Him. The class starts June 26, and will be held during the 9:00 AM Sunday service in D101. Sign up through the church office or contact Pastor Tim at 360.659.2844.

KNOWING GOD



Smokey Point Community Church

the LOOP

May—June 2011

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The Loop is the monthly newsletter of Smokey Point Community Church. You may view *The Loop* online at our web site. To learn more about Smokey Point Community Church, visit our web site at smokeypointcommunitychurch.org, or stop by the Guest Services Desk in the Lobby. Send *Loop* questions or comments to paul@spcc-cma.org.

CAMP is COMING!!

LITTLE LIGHT PRESCHOOL CAMPS

LLP Summer Day Camps Week 1 "Digging In": June 6-10; Week 2 "Little Chefs": June 13-17. For more info, see pg. 18

CAMA CAMP FOR KIDS



CAMA Camp For students currently in 3rd and 4th grades at SPCC.

Dates: **July 31 - August 6th** Camp Brochure and Registration forms are available for download at: www.camacamp.org. For more info. see pg. 11

JR. HIGH SUMMER CAMP

Jr High Summer Camp comes sooner this year; **June 26-July 1** at Lake Retreat. This is the camp offered to all students currently in Grades 5-7. Information to register will be available late May.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

High School Summer Camp at Black Lake is **July 24-30**. For all students currently in Grades 8-11. Registration will begin late June.



BREAKOUT GOES TO BLODGETT

Our third year Breakout discipleship students are once again traveling down to Oregon to assist Blodgett Community Church with their annual Vacation Bible School. After completing their third year of Breakout Discipleship training during Discovery Club, the students are invited along with their parents to participate in this ministry trip where many of the lessons learned through the years of Breakout are put into practice. The students typically assist the Blodgett Church leaders by leading preschool groups, helping in crafts, leading the games, or teaching the Bible lessons. Each year the leadership at Blodgett Community Church has appreciated the help in reaching out to over 80 kids, many who are unchurched. Since the average weekly attendance including adults and children is around 80 people, the assistance our team of students and parents provides is critical to holding a successful VBS.

- Pastor Duane (SPCC Children's Pastor)

This year's trip will be June 25th - July 1st. Please pray for:

- . Great attitudes to serve
- . Finances to cover trip costs (Students will be raising funds to cover costs, gifts can be given to Smokey Point Missions Fund "Blodgett trip").
- . The gospel will be heard and understood by the children who come to the VBS.
- . The students will be challenged to continue living lives of service to Jesus.

Above Picture from Left to Right:

Top: Jennifer Satterfield, Noah Satterfield, Emily Senn, Linda Senn, Derek Hermann

Bottom: Casey Hermann, Duane Weaver

Spiritual Health Check 2011 Follow-Up



During the weekend services of April 16-17, Pastor Jim called SPCC to participate in a Spiritual Health Checkup. In conjunction with our church's commitment to intentional discipleship, this annual exercise is aimed at helping us seek God's insight into our personal progress in spiritual growth. Using the Spiritual Health Checkup booklet's 5 day format, many of us recorded ways we have seen God growing us in the past year and identified areas of needed growth in the coming year. Those of us in Life Groups will spend several weeks sharing our Health Check findings and discussing ways we can practically support each other to take steps of spiritual

growth in 2011. At the time of this writing, most Life Groups have only had one week to discuss their checkups. Following are some quotes from a few people after those initial discussions.

"Thank you all for devotion to our Lord and to the body at SPCC! This Spiritual Health check up is AWESOME! It not only is showing me how I have grown, which is a great encouragement, it is also challenging me to grow more. Without your leadership this little black sheep would be a feast for the wolves; glory to God."

"Our group had great discussions. One member shared how in the last year (especially the last couple of months), spending time with God is something he cannot wait to dive right into each day. We talked about some of our spiritual disciplines and shared that prayer is one discipline that for most of us has become sweeter, more intimate. For most of us, our time in the Word is less "something we have to do," and more something we really thirst for. Looks like God is still at work within all of us - stretching us and growing us"

"I was really encouraged by the depth of our group's discussion in this first week talking through the Spiritual Health Checkup. People shared some really significant things about their need for spiritual growth. We also talked about specific ways we can

support each other in the next year to take practical steps of growth in the things we talked about."

"I loved the way we spent time encouraging each other as we talked about our Spiritual Health Checkup. There was some real transparency about weaknesses and need for more faithfulness in pursuing Jesus but there was also consistent affirmation of the ways we've already seen God at work transforming each other. It was one of our more meaningful group discussions."

"Even though there was some fear as we approached sharing our answers to the Spiritual Health Check, everyone in our group participated and shared with real transparency. We only got through 2 questions in our first discussion; but we all agreed that because of the importance of these discussions, we are committed to taking as much time as necessary to not rush through this crucial group experience."

"Our group only got through one question in our first week. The question about our motive behind spending time with

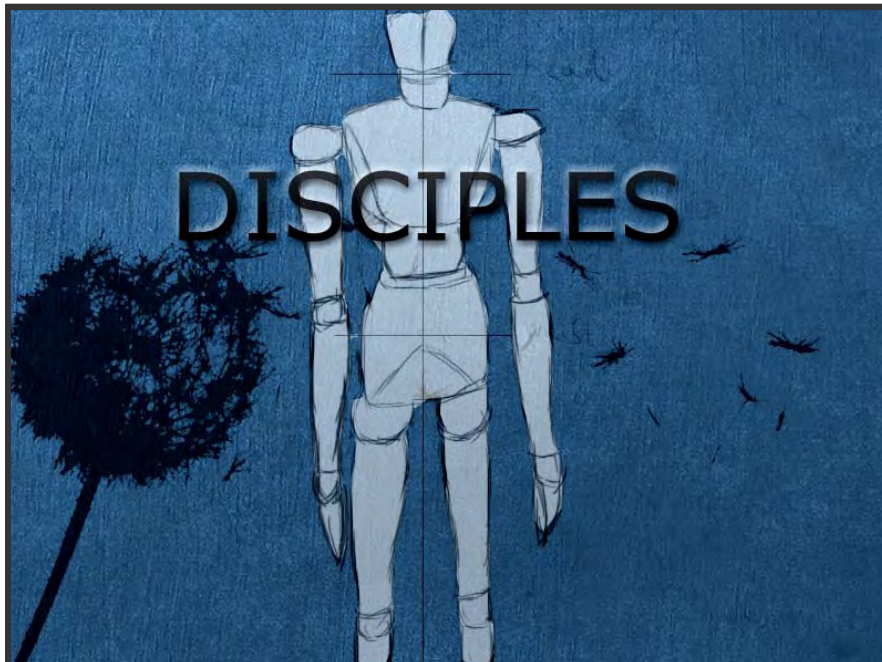
Continued on Page 8

Discipleship Focus: Testimonies, Examples

Taking Practical Steps of Discipleship

Beginning with our Vital Signs study last Fall, SPCC is making a concerted effort to bring to the forefront the essentials of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Specifically, this means for us, a refocusing on Discipleship. We have been, and will continue to, bring to the forefront the central elements of Discipleship. What is discipleship? What does it look like in the life of a believer, as practice, as fruit, as identity? We'll be working to define discipleship, according to its biblical principles, and seeking to lead our congregation into a

d e e p e r
understanding
and experience
of discipleship
throughout
2011, and
beyond.,



Throughout
this issue of the
Loop, you will
find testimonies
of people who
have already
w a l k e d
intentionally

into discipleship in their lives and with others. May these testimonies encourage your faith, teach about what discipleship looks like, and give examples of practical ways you can seek to be a disciple of Christ Jesus.

Three months ago, 4 men covenanted together to spend time with Christ through His Word every day for 15 weeks. They met weekly on Sunday mornings to share insights and questions from their daily devotional times and talk through some Scriptural truths of discipleship. Dan Wenceslao led these men through a course called **“One on One With God,”** teaching them principles of daily time in the Word for the purpose of knowing and honoring Christ. Their theme verse for this 15 week study is Phil 3:10, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Following are some statements from guys about the affect this commitment has had in their lives.

Continued on Page 10

God sparked some great discussion. We admitted how challenging it is for many of us to make time with Christ a daily priority.”

"Thank you Jesus!!! Our group really broke through some tough barriers this past week talking through the Spiritual Health Checkup!! Not that all things were resolved, but we had a lot of things brought out. I think it was the best (revealing) meeting we've had to date, in my humble opinion."

One life group leader shared with me that he had used TV's The Biggest Loser as a helpful illustration

for his group in the week leading up to sharing their health check answers. "I reminded them that the first step for the Biggest Loser contestants is to get on the scale and weigh-in in front of everyone else. For those contestants, it can be scary and embarrassing to have everyone see what kind of physical condition they are really in. In a similar way, it can be scary for us to reveal our true spiritual weaknesses to a group of people. But we all have spiritual flab which needs to be taken care of and our honesty about it before God and our fellow believers is the first step in allowing God to improve our spiritual condition."

I hope that you took advantage of this tool and took time to prayerfully and honestly assess your own spiritual health. I also hope that you have since shared your assessment with at least one other believer.

Moving forward from this exercise, it's crucial that we follow our discussions up with practical support and accountability to the needs we've shared. God's desire is to use our relationships with other Christians to encourage, challenge, and support us, in

continuing to grow up in Christ this year.

As Pastor Jim said in his message on April 16th & 17th, none of us are ever done taking steps of growth. We should never get to a place where we feel we can 'coast' into heaven. Pressing into honesty about ourselves and taking steps of accountable growth can be an uncomfortable experience. But God's intent for believers is not a life of leisure and maximizing comfort. Our purpose in this life is to bring glory to Jesus Christ and

point others to Him. Each step of growth we take toward being more like Jesus is a step that accomplishes God's purposes in and through us. Let's continue as a Body to do what the author of Hebrews urged us to do.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set

before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God...Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all men and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-14)

If you haven't yet participated in this year's health checkup, the church office has some copies available for you. Next year's Spiritual Health Checkup will take place in mid-January and will begin with a look back at this year's answers and reflection on how

we have seen God at work in each other, to grow us in the areas we've made ourselves accountable.

Jesus Christ is worth pursuing!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Tim



BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, May 16, 2011



Dear SPCC, I want to give you a big thank you for a great job putting together the blood drive, February 14, 2011.

We **registered 49 donors, collected 42 pints of blood, and had 6 first time donors!** This was another great turnout! This was the most donors registered since April of 2005!

Because 1 pint of blood can save up to 3 lives, 126 patients lives will benefit because of all your efforts.

Thank you Smokey Point Community Church for your ongoing support in our blood program. We couldn't do it without you!

We look forward to your next blood drive on Monday, May 16, 2011.

Thank you all again for your partnership with the Puget Sound Blood Center!

Gayle Richards

Donor Resources Representative
Puget Sound Blood Center

(425) 740-2911 - office

1-888-475-4022 - toll free

Gayler@psbc.org

Anthony DuRyea:

During One on One With God, I have developed a habit of reading God's Word, Praying, and Meditating on Scripture every morning. I like to think of it as strategically placing my day in God's hands and trusting his plan for the day. Proverbs provides daily bites of wisdom and reminders of God's promises, while the Old and New Testament combine to provide a picture of God's love and grace. My day starts with Jesus as the center of my life. Without this, I would not have been able to be calmly focused at work, because of my child's special needs struggles.

We are all bombarded by temptation in many ways every day. I commonly find myself repeating 1st Cor 10:13 *"No temptation has seized you except that which is common to man, and God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."* God's promise to provide a way out turns me from temptation and helps me to be an example of Christ to others, so they can see that my faith is genuine. There are so many more promises of God's grace and love, I would need hours to share all that I am learning.

Dave Watson:

I could write a book on what a wonderful experience **One on One** discipleship has been, but I will try to be concise. It starts with "My determined purpose is to know him." That theme takes on more and more meaning through each week of the study. I have lived my whole life knowing about God. Now I have a real relationship with my Lord and Savior. Last year I read the whole Bible; it was not easy, it was a chore. Now, each day I look forward to my time in the Word, I devour it.

I used to wonder where people get the courage to evangelize (Jehovah's Witness or Mormons etc.), especially to potentially hostile recipients. Now I know it does not come from knowledge of God, but from a personal relationship and understanding what His love is. This course has shown me how to actively seek Jesus and try to put each day fully in His control. In knowing Jesus more deeply, intimately, and personally, I can share Him with everyone, feeling more clearly the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding each decision I make. Praise God!

Bob Walker:

Last December, the word saturate just did not come to my mind; marinade, yes, but not saturate. More recently 'saturate' has begun showing up as four of us have been walking through a lifestyle changing tool that is intended to draw us closer to God. Saturating my life with Christ is only accomplished as I yield control of everything to Him. I struggle with that.

I benefited from studying techniques that would help me turn my life over to Him. They are not new; Scripture reading & memorization (that was tough), deliberate conversations, prayer, and daily alone time with Christ. The point of it all was to renew the passion and focus that we once had when we first came to know Him. Additionally, we concentrated on the task that we have been given by Him, to make disciples. For me, this has brought to light the faces of three men I know that I need to disciple, but have been ignoring.

Norm Carbajal

At the end of last year, before I started this class, I was lost. I knew I needed to go in a totally different direction. I needed to pursue knowing God through His Word. In One on One with God, reading new scriptures each day and putting it to use, asking the important questions of what it tells me, and putting myself in the picture with the words, really changed my way of reading. I have learned that God's Word, the Bible, is a love letter from God directly to me. It is full of direction and correction, love and discipline, commands and promises, truth and eternity. Reading each and every day seemed like a chore at first, but quickly turned into a desire to get more out of each day. There is a lot of excitement in my heart now and I want to share it with everyone.

I am now learning that sharing God with unbelievers is actually my duty as a disciple. I am looking for different things in everyday people now, so that I can recognize the signs of someone in search of God, because I now feel comfortable sharing what I have learned.

Continued on Page 17



Rooted in thirty years of history, this is a one of a kind camp supported by the PNW District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. CAMA Camp has been a 'favorite family gathering spot' for generations. Once the kids come together at camp they feel like family!

Wonderful memories are built at camp for everyone.

C.A.M.A. Kids Camp
Grades 4th—5th

July 31 - Aug. 6, 2011
at Millersylvania State Campground, Olympia

Registrations Accepted
<http://camacamp.org>




Stoked LIT's




THIS YEAR Vacation Bible School IS GONNA ROCK!

Smokey Point Community Church
17721 Smokey Point Blvd, Arlington

July 11-15th
6-8:30 pm

A VBS the Whole Family Can Enjoy Together

Learn more about Backstage With The Bible
www.smokeypointcommunitychurch.org

SUMMER STOKED SCHEDULE for LITs.... If you are a Leader in Training at SPCC for any of our Children's Programs then STOKED events are for YOU!!! Connect with your leaders and peers, get some training, and have a whole lot of fun! Mark your Calendars! Don't forget to bring your sack lunch!

June 5th 12:30-3pm

August 21st 12:30-2pm

September 11th 12:30-2:30pm FALL KICK OFF
(Lunch provided)



SPCC Do It Yourself Makeover & All Church Work Week!

JUNE 11-18



Early Childhood Rooms are getting a face lift.

Thanks to a substantial refund of monies from our church health insurance premiums for 2010, we are able to proceed with some much needed renovations in our early childhood department.

Beginning June 11, we will transform our Early Childhood rooms (Downstairs B Building) to reflect our new NW Park theme. Each room will receive new carpeting, wainscoting, fresh paint, and feature wall, painted with a kid friendly mural reflecting a NW park theme. The plan is to do all the demolition in just two days (over the weekend).

In order to keep the costs affordable we will need to do most of the work with volunteer labor. Just a few of the ways you could help are:

- . Emptying the rooms before construction begins. (6/11)
- . Resetting rooms after remodel is complete (6/18)
- . Drywall repair (Anytime before 6/12)
- . Painting walls (6/12-14)
- . Putting up wainscoting (6/13-15)
- . Trimming doors and Windows with new moldings and sills.
- . Painting feature murals in rooms under guidance of seasoned artists. (Over the Summer)
- . Sewing window treatments.
- . Installing new Audio Visual equipment.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Architectural floor plan of the second floor of a building. The plan shows the following rooms and areas with their dimensions and square footages:

- CLASSROOM 1**: 805 sf
- CLASSROOM 2**: 565 sf
- CLASSROOM 3**: 641 sf
- CLASSROOM 4**: 453 sf
- OFFICE**: 129 sf
- RESOURCE STORAGE**: 2
- EQUIP.**: 4
- LOBBY**: 1
- RAMP**: 155 MAX (1120)

Other features and dimensions include:

- ADJ. SHELVES**: 30'-0"
- END WALL OF 2ND FLOOR ABOVE**
- END OF BUTT-OUT 2ND FLOOR ABOVE**
- EXISTING BUILDING**
- EXISTING CONSTR.**
- NEW CONSTR.**
- STAIRS**: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100
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- EQUIP.**
- LOBBY**
- RAMP UP**: 55' MAX (1120)

The plan also includes various corridors, stairs, and structural elements. Dimensions are provided for all rooms and corridors. A north arrow is located in the upper right corner. The plan is labeled "EXISTING BUILDING" and "NEW CONNECTOR".

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Did You Know...

We currently only have 24 of those 49 individuals in place each weekend...

- 1 Nursery Supervisor
- 7 Nursery Helpers
- 6 Lead Teachers
- 2 Assistant Teachers
- 8 Leaders in Training

Did You Know...

We need YOU! Those of you who have a heart for children to step out in faith and join the Children's Ministry Team! We would love to have you on the team!

We provide orientation training and support, we will be their leading along side you to help children celebrate the supremacy of Jesus Christ and grow in their relationship with Him!

Did You Know...

It takes at least 49 individuals to run our Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten classrooms **EACH** weekend

- 3 Nursery supervisors
- 9 Nursery Helpers
- 12 Lead Teachers
- 12 Assistant Teachers
- 12 Leaders in Training
- 1 Service Supervisor

Did You Know...

We have 25 opportunities **EACH WEEK** for individuals to serve in Children's Ministry

- 2 Nursery Supervisors (weekly commitment)
- 9 Nursery Helpers (every other week or weekly)
- 6 Lead Teachers (every other week or weekly)
- 10 Assistant teachers (every other week or weekly)
- 4 Leaders in Training (9th-12th graders as the need is at the 10:45am service)

Did You Know...

You can call Ms. Diona anytime to ask questions at 360-659-2844 ext 2230, email at diona@spcc-cma.org or just stop by and pick up an application by the office in the children's ministry hall in the B building!

Children's Ministry Spotlight:

Meegan Burr

Nursery Supervisor

Doing Children's Ministry at SPCC is impossible without God's direction and the work He is doing in the hearts of the people in our body to serve. It takes a willing heart, a little courage, and a whole lot of reliance on God when he works in and through us to be a part of this ministry! Meegan Burr is just one of our volunteers; a woman with a heart for loving God by serving others. She took a step of faith a few years back, and has been blessed ever since, by how God has been using her in the Children's Ministry. I will let her share a little bit about herself...

Hi, I am Meegan Burr, I've been married for 19 years to my husband Casey, and we have two beautiful children, Zachary(18) and Kailah (17). Casey and I have been coming to SPCC for four years, and I've been serving in the nursery for about two years now. I learned about the position through a flier that had been going around. I was hesitant, but I felt like God wanted me to help in some way, so I gave it a chance, and I'm so glad I did. I started out on Sunday mornings as a helper and now I am the supervisor Sunday mornings (2nd service), and Tuesday evenings for Life Groups. You might also recognize my husband and I, as Celebrate Freedom leaders. CF is another great ministry that I'm grateful to be a part of. The blessings I've received while working in the nursery are immeasurable. I get to spend time with the babies at our church when they're at their best; all smiles, playing, dancing, singing and even when they're sleepy or sad they are so precious. The babies in this church always make me so happy. I get to watch them go from brand new tiny babies, to toddlers learning how to walk and talk... How exciting is that? I usually learn your baby's name before I learn yours... so forgive me if I call you "Someone's Mom" or "Someone's Dad" instead of your real name. It's always sad, at first, when the babies graduate to the 'big kid' classrooms but I love it when they come back to introduce a new brother or sister and give me hugs. I hope God wants me to serve at SPCC for a long time to come. This is my home, this is my family... I love it here. - Meegan

It has been a privilege serving with Meegan, seeing how God is using her to provide comfort and care to our littlest ones. She does so in such a selfless manner. Meegan is committed to the care of your baby, and so are her helpers; loving and supporting our little ones as well as being a big part of our ministry team! Meegan is dedicated to serving. What a blessing



it has been for our little ones who feel comfortable entering the room with a familiar smile each week! God is at work in the Nursery, growing those who step out in faith, like Meegan, and using their love and care to plant seeds of faith in the littlest of hearts!

- Ms. Diona



LIVING BEYOND MYSELF

A FOUR WEEK SERMON SERIES & LIFE GROUP STUDY

Living Beyond Myself is a four-week church experience that will help us explore the call to servant hood and inspire us to flourish as the power of everyone is unleashed.

Week 1. May 21/22 – “The Great Gamble”

** Great Commission Weekend

Week 2. May 28/29 – “What, Me A Priest?”

Week 3. June 4/5 – “Just Jump In pt. 1”

Week 4. June 11/12 – “Just Jump In pt. 2”

**This is a busy weekend!

- Family Services (During Early Childhood Makeover)
- Volunteer Celebration in Services (Pool party “Jump In” theme!)



SUMMER SERIES

“SUMMER STORIES - PARABLES JESUS TOLD”

JUNE 18 - AUGUST 28

The Little Light Preschoolers are about ready to graduate!

Lately I've been reflecting on the past year and rejoicing in the mighty works of our God. He has revealed himself in the little things that we often forget come from His heart. What an amazing year it has been in our preschool!!!

It is time to register for next year. I am excited as I look ahead, anticipating the impact next year will have on a new group of children and families. Registration forms are in the foyer, the church office, and online. We also give tours on Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 PM, just call to set up an appointment!

Rejoicing,

Lavaun Camp

LLP Summer Day Camps!

Week 1 June 6 - 10 "Diggin In"

Get your hands dirty, exploring dirt, worms, seeds, plants, and more. Special performance for parents on Friday.

Session I 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Session II 12:30 pm - 3:00pm

Cost is \$75.00 per session. Registration is now open to a limited number of campers. For ages 3 1/2 - 5 (Going into Kindergarten). Must be potty trained.

Week 2 June 13 - 17 "Little Chefs"

A hands-on week of food exploration. Get messy as we measure, mix, bake, and eat. Friday field trip. Session I 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Session II 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Cost is \$75.00 per session. Registration is now open to a limited number of campers. For ages 3 1/2 - 5 (Going into Kindergarten). Must be potty trained.

Each camp is designed to promote early childhood education through teaching, pre-math skills, and science skills of observation, prediction and evaluation. Your little camper will also be encouraged to express their ideas verbally and in writing. They will experience art, and music, developing their gross motor skills through non-complective play.

Grown-up Summer Opportunities:

We are looking for several volunteers who love to cook or garden, who want to share their talents for a day with our little campers. Call Lavaun Camp at the church office if you are interested.

A MINISTRY OF SMOKEY POINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Little Light Preschool



BAPTISM

March 19/20 Baptism

Weston Sage

Ezri Noe

Josh Basher

Olivia Weaver

Darrin Noe

Corinna VanKlaveren

Connor Guthrie

Darius Storm

Keith Millet

Tanner Goheen

Sage Elsea

Sonya Burdic

Tristan McFadden

MEMBERS

March 19/20 New Membership Covenants

Gerald Baldwin

Jodi Sears

Doug & Laurie Schmidt

Cheryl Voges

Joe Woodard

James & Luann Ragonesi

Edie Storm

Jenny Day

David & Mary Burke

The Wiebe family is working on memorizing Ephesians Chapter 1 with their four boys – Austin (9), Caleb (7), Jacob (6) and Micah (5). Since September, Karen and I have had the privilege of having the Wiebe's share our home as they raise financial support for their future work as missionaries in Africa. It has been a blessing to hear them practice their memory verses as a family. I asked Danny to share some thoughts about why they decided to memorize together with the boys, and how they've seen it affect the family. – **Pastor Tim**



Psalm 119 says, *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* What better motivation is there for memorizing? We want our boys to know God's Word so that they can grow in their knowledge of Christ and be equipped to fight against sin & temptation. Over the years we've picked specific passages that have given an opportunity for them to accomplish this.

Since we started working on our memory verses, it's given us something really positive to do together as a family. While we work on it together, we often see one of our boys encouraging another one, and we laugh together when we get stuck. We work on it while we're driving around, really enjoying the unity it's brought to our family - not to mention the core doctrines of the faith that we get to talk about as we work through some of the harder words of our passage. For instance, what does it mean that we have "redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses"? And, how can we be encouraged by the truth that God "chose us in him before the foundations of the earth"? And, how have we been "sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it"? And the list goes on. They have been very successful at memorizing what we've asked them to. And as we've talked through what the verses mean and what God is teaching us through His Word, we've had some really great conversations about some really big ideas.

Personally, as I've meditated on the passages each day while working, driving around or whatever, God has been using His Word to reveal Himself to me in new ways. He is confirming in my heart "old truths" that I've known for years, being blessed to be reminded of things like God's sovereignty, goodness, grace and power.

- **Danny**

Continued on Page 28



Should Life Groups Take a Break for the Summer?

During the summer months, the majority of Life Groups here at SPCC take a break from their regular weekly meetings. Some groups break when Discovery Club ends and begin meeting again in mid-September when it begins. Other groups have traditionally decided to meet less regularly during the summer months because of vacation schedules. For a variety of reasons, it may be necessary for some groups to take a summer break. If that's the case for your group, my hope in this article is to encourage that you continue the most important aspects of your group, even while meeting less frequently.

If you're in a group that breaks for the summer, think about this: just what is it that your group takes a break from? In large part, how you answer this question will depend on

the practical ways that your group currently depends on each other in their day-to-day spiritual lives.

We could use many different Bible verses to describe the ways Life Groups can support our Christian walk, but I think two passages from the book of Hebrews together paint a compelling picture for the culture we hope to see occurring in every group.

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Heb 3:12-13)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Heb 10:23-25)

As believers, we are to regularly, almost daily it seems, be giving and receiving encouragement from fellow Christians in our walk with Christ. To be seeking the kind of accountable encouragement that comes from close relationships; the kind of encouragement that points out the dangers of sin in our lives, and helps us take steps of loving and serving others.

I'd like to ask you a question. Are you depending on your Life Group for encouragement and accountability in your daily walk with Christ? If your answer is "Yes," how does that play out for you in a practical sense? Do the members of your group help you keep watch against falling into sin? If so, how does that happen? Do they spur you on to "love and good deeds" – in what ways? Essentially what I'm asking is, do you need your group members in order to be strong in

your daily Christian walk, battling against sin and trying to be more like Jesus?

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Gal 6:2)

We Christians aren't meant to function independently in our spiritual lives. We are meant to *depend* on the Body of Christ for growth. This means, if we aren't functionally and relationally dependent on other believers in our daily walk, we can't grow in the way God intends.

In what practical ways do you find yourself leaning on brothers and sisters in Christ? How crucial are they in your day-to-day life? Are you and your group members calling on each other for strength when you're tempted? Are you reaching out to each other when you're discouraged? Do you share what God is teaching you in your daily times in the Bible? When you need biblical wisdom, do you seek their counsel? Do you miss their fellowship when you're apart?

If these things are happening in your group, praise God! If they aren't, let me encourage your group to explore how the relationships can become more than they are; more relationally and functionally encouraging to your walk with Christ.

One thing I know for sure, if your group truly depends on each other for spiritual encouragement and growth, you won't stop depending on each other during the summer months. If you are able to "unplug" from the relationships in your group over a period of months, then you haven't found what it truly means to need each other in your daily walk with Christ.

If your group is taking a break for the summer, keeping your group well connected when you're not meeting every week will take some creativity and effort. And

even if you don't interact as deeply as when you meet weekly, your group will greatly benefit from an intentional effort to spiritually support each other during the summer break.

I say all this in the hope that it spurs discussion in your group. Use the weeks left before you move into your summer schedule to discuss how you can lean on each other in deeper ways. If your group takes a break from weekly meetings, discuss how you can **not** take a break from depending on each other for spiritual encouragement and growth. Will you call each other, text or email each other, hang out with each other?

In addition to doing social things to connect, like monthly dinners, here are some practical suggestions for staying meaningfully connected: Email detailed weekly prayer requests and updates. Have regular pre-work breakfast meetings. For a couple's group with kids, alternate weeks with guys and gals watching kids while the other gender meets here at the church or out for coffee. Pair off in two's and meet weekly during the summer for accountability and encouragement. Commit to calling each other each week by phone. Meet on Sunday during first service and then attend the 10:45 service together as a group. Get creative, but whatever you do, remember that the goal for the summer is not just social connection but maintaining deeper spiritual encouragement and accountability. If you must take a break for the summer, make sure it is only a break from weekly meetings and not a break from regularly depending on one another.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Eccl 4:9-12)

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Tim





Ms. DIONA'S SUGGESTION FOR A FAMILY/GROUP **OUTING**

Its not about the “best” place to go or even just keeping the kids busy enough to not drive us crazy... Its more about what we can intentionally do to help our children grow in their relationship with God this summer! The best part is, it can happen just about anywhere.

What is it, you ask? It is helping our children marvel at God's creation; experiencing the wonder of all He has made. God's creation points us to Him. It calls us to worship, and draws us into His presence. When we take our kids

outdoors we have so much to marvel at. Children need nature. This is how they ground themselves, both literally and figuratively. God's creation is the

Children need nature. This is how they ground themselves, both literally and figuratively.

best way for children to experience their connection to their Creator God. Children have a unique sense of the reality of the world and its wonder. With exploration they come to know God as the Creator of so many wondrous and amazing things.

A trip we like to take as a family, to marvel in the wonder of God's creation, is to take a drive up Highway 20. A day trip with no movies or DVD player, just time for good old conversation! The First stop is Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport. We walk around the park with our heads turned up to the tree tops, looking for breathtaking views of the mighty eagles... You might only see one or two on a warm sunny day close to the river, because the bluer the sky, the higher they fly. We also like to walk over the bridge and watch the water of the river race by, trying to figure out how those fish actually live in water

that is moving all the time! We then head up to Marblemount for a picnic lunch at Clark's Cabins. It's a little diner and cabin rental with a picnic area. As we eat lunch there, within minutes we're being joined by 50 to 100 wild rabbits coming out from under the cabin porches, nearby bushes, and rabbit holes to join us in our meal! Luckily, the diner leaves a bunch of bread out back to feed the rabbits with. After lunch, we head just up the road a few miles to the Marblemount Fish Hatchery, where we get a self-guided tour. If the "fish man" is there he will give us a little tour and let us feed the baby salmon, as well as tell us all about the fish hatchery process. While we are there we can take a walk down the stream that leads into the river, and find ourselves at the point where the Cascade river and the Skagit River meet. It is beautiful! We might even see an eagle or two! It is here where we got our first look at a Turkey Vulture, yes one of God's own! Boy did we wonder why he made such an interesting looking thing. But it was so cool!

Up the road another 23 miles (it is worth the drive), we find the North Cascades Visitor Center in Newhalem. There we find short trails, an amazing lookout of the massive peaks of the North Cascade mountains. The Visitor Center has a mini museum of the North Cascades, with a huge topical



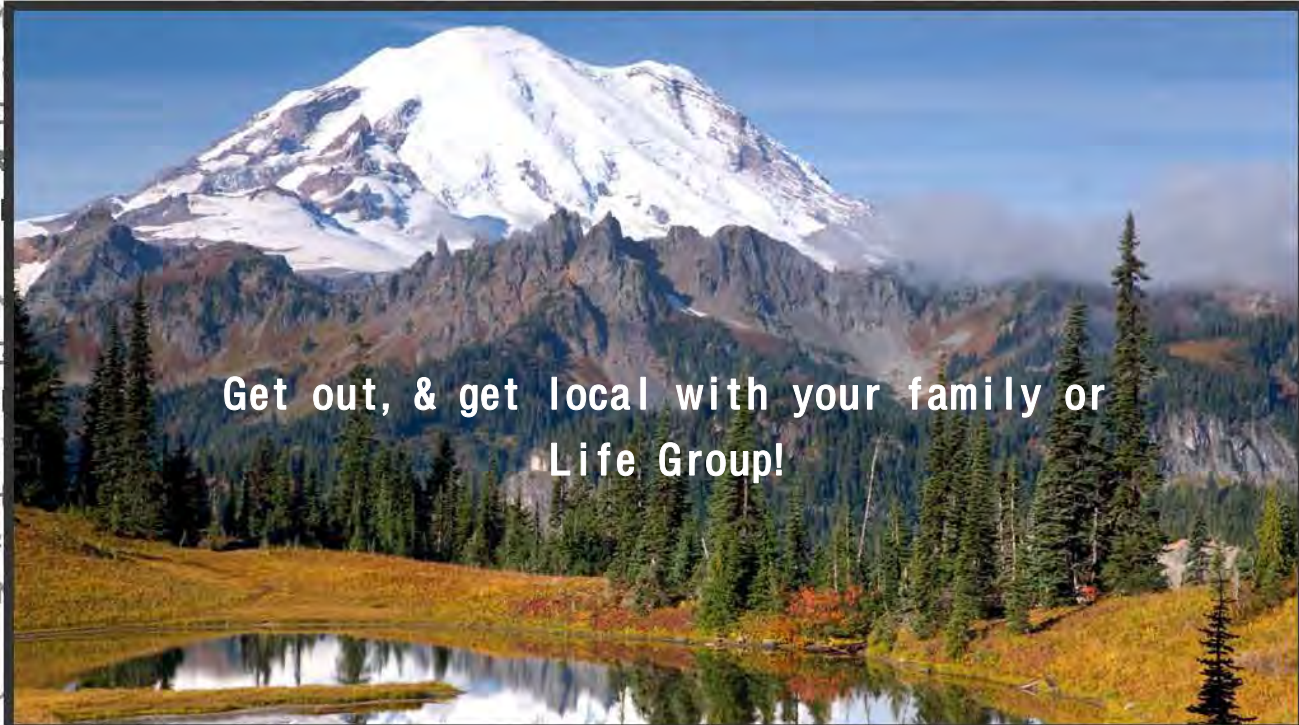
map with all the bells and whistles, a touch and feel area, or for the younger kids, a movie theater to relax in and enjoy a 20 or 40 minute movie on the nature of the North Cascades. It is a day of opportunity to share the wonder of the mighty hand of God, our Creator, the Creator of everything, from the smallest bug to the tallest mountain!

The North Cascades is a great way to spend intentional time to see what God has made, to marvel, and to know that it is very good. I would ask that we not only recognize the beauty in creation, but the beauty in the people around us; our family, our children; are they not something to marvel at as well? We are all gifts to each other, created by the same hand that created the mighty eagle, the snow-capped mountain, and the bright blue sky! "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

~ Ms. Diona

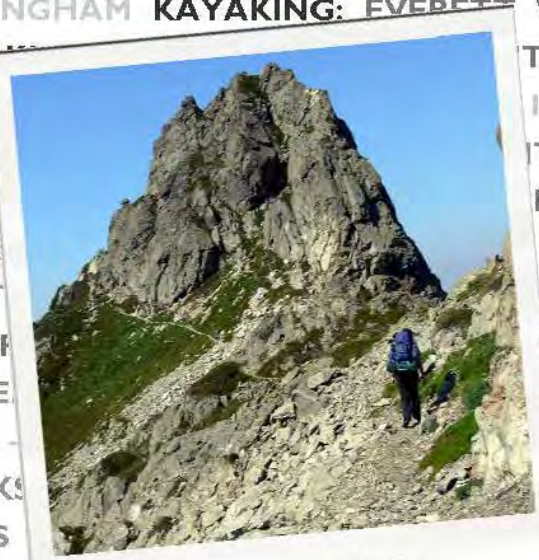
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LOCAL IDEAS!

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Get out, & get local with your family or
 Life Group!

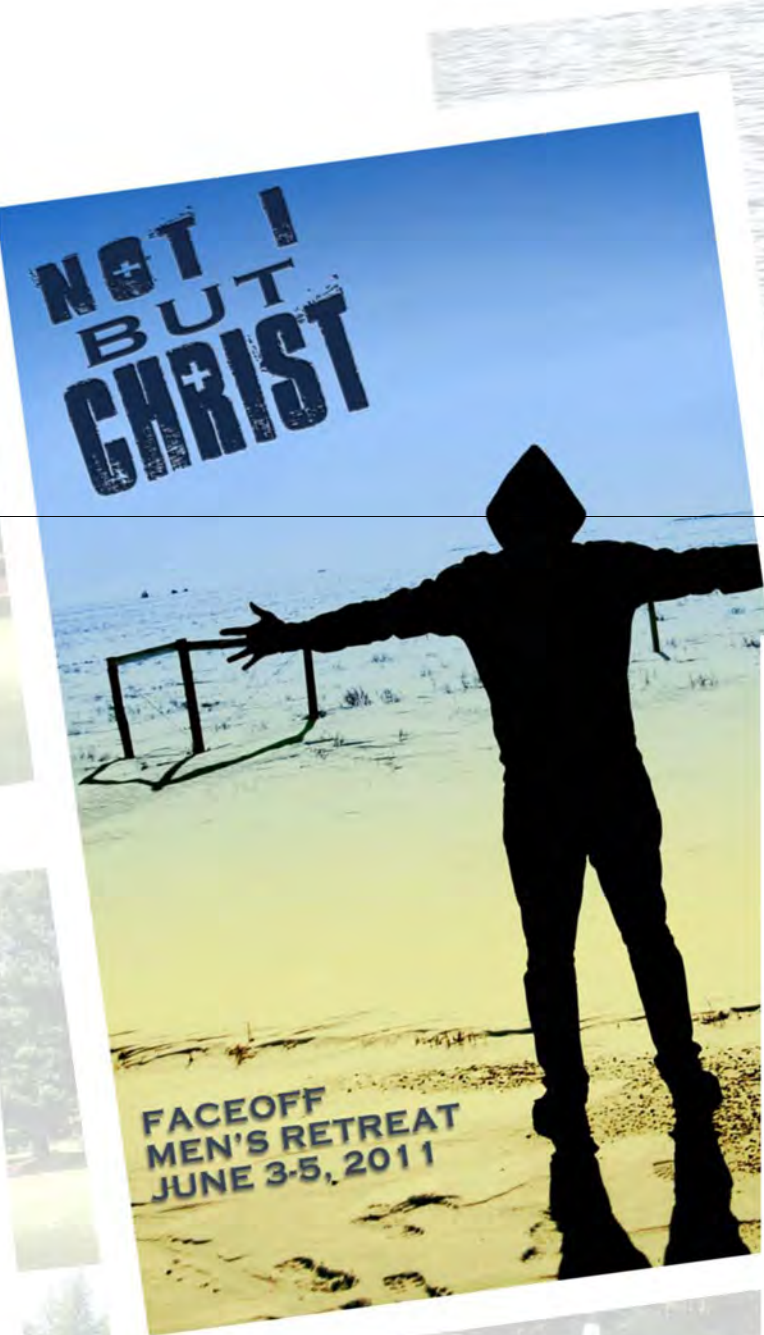
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 CREEK HIKING: THREE FINGERS - MT. PILCHUCK - WALLACE FALLS - MONTE CRISTO - MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK - THE ICE CAVES/BIG FOUR - OYSTER DOME - MT BAKER - MT SHUKSAN - SAUK FALLS - NOOKSAK



Go On a Hike!



Go on a Bike Ride!



JUNE 3-5

A weekend just for the guys...

Join us @ Lakeside Bible Camp on scenic Whidbey Island where you can canoe, fish, play, or just relax and enjoy God's creation. There's plenty of time for games, food, and shooting the breeze with the fellas.

Prepare to be challenged by our speaker, Fred Schuller. Fred spent 28 years with AT&T, retiring in 1990 as Director of Regulatory Affairs, 27 years in the Georgia Air National Guard as a pilot, retiring in 1995 as Colonel, and 14 years as a pilot with American Airlines, retiring in 2004. After that, Fred decided to go for his MDIV at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, graduating in 2008. Married with two adult daughters, he has one beautiful four year old granddaughter, Halle Ruth who loves her Papa. A member of Watkinsville FBC for five years Fred is actively involved in teaching and mentoring college students. Fred's bringing the heat from the book of Galatians: Not I, but Christ...



RETREAT F.A.Q.

Cost: \$100 (\$45 deposit)

Check-In: 5-7pm Friday

BBQ starts @ 6pm Friday

First Session: 7pm Friday

Retreat ends: Sunday noon

Bring: Sleeping bag, pillow, towel, snacks to share

For directions, links to ferry schedules, and other information, visit:

thefaceoff.org

Lakeside
BIBLE CAMP

lakesidebiblecamp.org

or

2011 Youth Philippines Short Term Missions Trip

Bake Sale to support Philippines Trip

After weekend services June 3rd & 4th, our high school ministry will be offering a Bake sale to raise money for the Philippines trip this August. Our Smokey Point Missions Fund is virtually empty right now so this year we will be depending more on this event! Come hungry, leave happy!

Men: This is the weekend of the Men's Retreat. If you will be at the retreat and want to support the team, please mark any contribution "Philippines". Thanks!

Hire Students to do Stuff.

If you want something done, but don't want to do it, and an enthusiastic, able bodied, but relatively unskilled high schooler could get it done, call Tamie at the office. Hire one or seven, pay them more then they are worth and invest in eternal things as you will be supporting our Philippine's Trip.



The HECA Center
Directions Search nearby Save to map more ▼

Before SPCC introduced the Our Time with God reading plan, my devotional time in the word was sporadic at best; the slightest interruption would create an excuse to simply say "I don't have time." By not being in the word on a regular basis I wasn't consistently able to draw on God's strength to get me through the difficulties and frustrations I was dealing with - either in the workplace or at home - instead I would just try to "power" through it. This has never been sufficient.

When the church introduced the reading plan last year I thought it would help as a way to keep me on track. However, I didn't want it to be like following a law - that I would only be doing it because I'm supposed to. Rather, I wanted to know Christ better and what that means.

Initially the reading was a struggle because of inexperience being in the word, particularly the Old Testament with all the difficult names. But after a few weeks the reading plan became only a part of my daily reading, as I was also reading a Gospel or another book of the Bible. I realize now that the reading plan has become part of my morning routine. I have a dedicated chair, and its what I do first thing every morning, consistently Monday - Friday and generally one day per weekend. The funny thing is, I rarely read the newspaper anymore. I don't "power" through my day as much anymore, I give that to God, he's plenty sufficient."

- Kevin Lloyd

One of the most important ways I have grown in Christ over the last year is through consistent time reading my Bible. I can't emphasize its impact enough! Along with my Bible reading, I read books, commentaries, and use study guides as much as possible, to help me understand the Gospel and how to apply what I find in it to my life.

Classes offered here at SPCC have also been a great help to my growth. I don't seem to have enough of me to go around for all the great resources offered here. It's ok though, it teaches me patience.

- Noel Easton

Prior to the daily reading challenge, I had recently started a daily devotion using the In Touch magazine. It was only a scripture or two a day, then a description about what it meant and how it applies to today. That was it as far as Bible reading went. I followed along with Jim's sermons on the weekends and did a verse or two on my own.



Our Time With God, Cont'd from pg. 17

When the daily reading came out, I decided to give it a try and see how long it would last. As I started reading, I couldn't stay on schedule because I couldn't stop in the middle of a story! As I read more, I became familiar with stories

that I had only heard about from others. I would say to myself, "I remember so and so referring to this story," or, "now I know what they were talking about when they said this..." It all became so intriguing.

I have been doing the readings now for nearly a year and a half and the changes

are dramatic! Through being consistent, God has put more and more Godly people in my life that I am continually learning and drawing strength from. He is showing me more and more about loving and living His way. Not only is He bringing Godly people to me but also those that are lost without Him. He is opening my eyes to the sadness of life without Him and He is giving me a heart to share the gospel with those who don't know Him. God has grown me tremendously through His Word, and I look forward to continued growth in love, service

and obedience to my God. Through Him alone, my husband and I will start leading a Life Group in the Fall. I would not do something like that on my own. I would not be in a place to do it without being in the Word daily and having a growing relationship with Christ.

- Anonymous

At first, I read the Bible as a duty. After a while I wanted to read it because I could feel God working in me. For about a year, I left my Bible on my dining room table because if something is out of my sight I have a tendency to forget about it. It was a reminder to read it. I told my 5 year old that he is not to bother me before 7 or 7:30 because that is my time with God in the morning. He can have me afterwards.

Now that reading my Bible is a way of life, I can put it in the drawer and I don't forget about it. My Bible sees the light of day just about daily. It is not a duty or a chore to read, because I am learning something new about God, His character, and what He has for each and every one of us on a daily basis. I can always tell when "I just didn't have time" for God on a particular day. There is just not as much peace, contentment, or grace flowing from me on those days.

- Anonymous

Time
God

testify
things and
ascended to
heaven. 14:1 And
lifted up, 15:1
so loved the
perish but
world

Daily Bible Readings For 2011

Financial Update

APRIL 2010 - MARCH 2011
BUDGET YEAR TO DATE



General Fund –

March was the last month of our budget year, and we ended the year well. Contributions have been consistent since November when the budget was adjusted so that our church can live within our means. Although expenses were larger than offerings in March, our cash balances are becoming healthier.

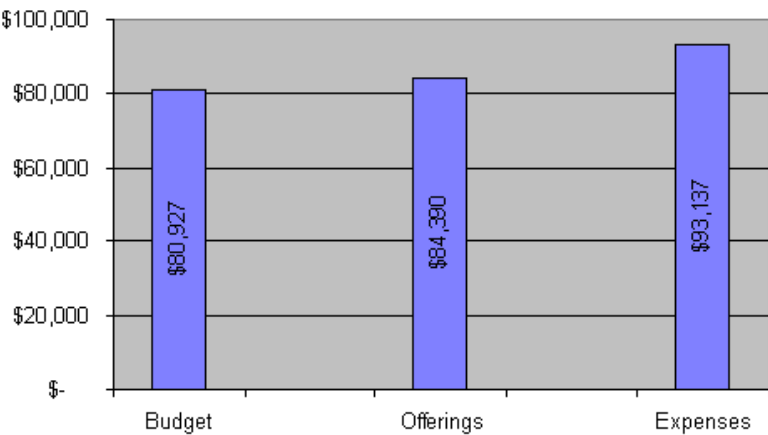
South Property Fund –

Recently giving to our South Property Fund has been lower than our mortgage payments. The amount allocated from our church planting fund to help fund any deficiencies has been tapped into, for February, March, and April.

South Property

March Giving	\$ 7,287
Monthly Budget	\$ 9,640

MARCH 2011



LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

- 16 Blood Drive
- 21-22 Great Commission Weekend
- 22 Empty Nester's Picnic

JUNE

- 3-5 Men's Retreat
- 11-12 Volunteer Appreciation Weekend. Family Services
- 11-18 SPCC Work Week
- 26 Knowing God Starts
- 26-1 Jr. High Camp

JULY

- 11-15 VBS



SmokeyPoint
Community Church

Come Worship
Saturday Evenings @ 6:00 PM &
Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 & 10:45 AM

SmokeyPointCommunityChurch.org

Celebrating the supremacy of Jesus Christ and leading
people into a growing relationship with Him.



THIS YEAR
Vacation Bible School
IS GONNA ROCK!

Smokey Point Community Church
17721 Smokey Point Blvd, Arlington

July 11-15th
6-8:30 pm

A VBS the Whole Family Can Enjoy Together

Learn more about Backstage With The Bible

www.smokeypointcommunitychurch.org