

April 2010

# THE LOOP

## New Life *in Christ*

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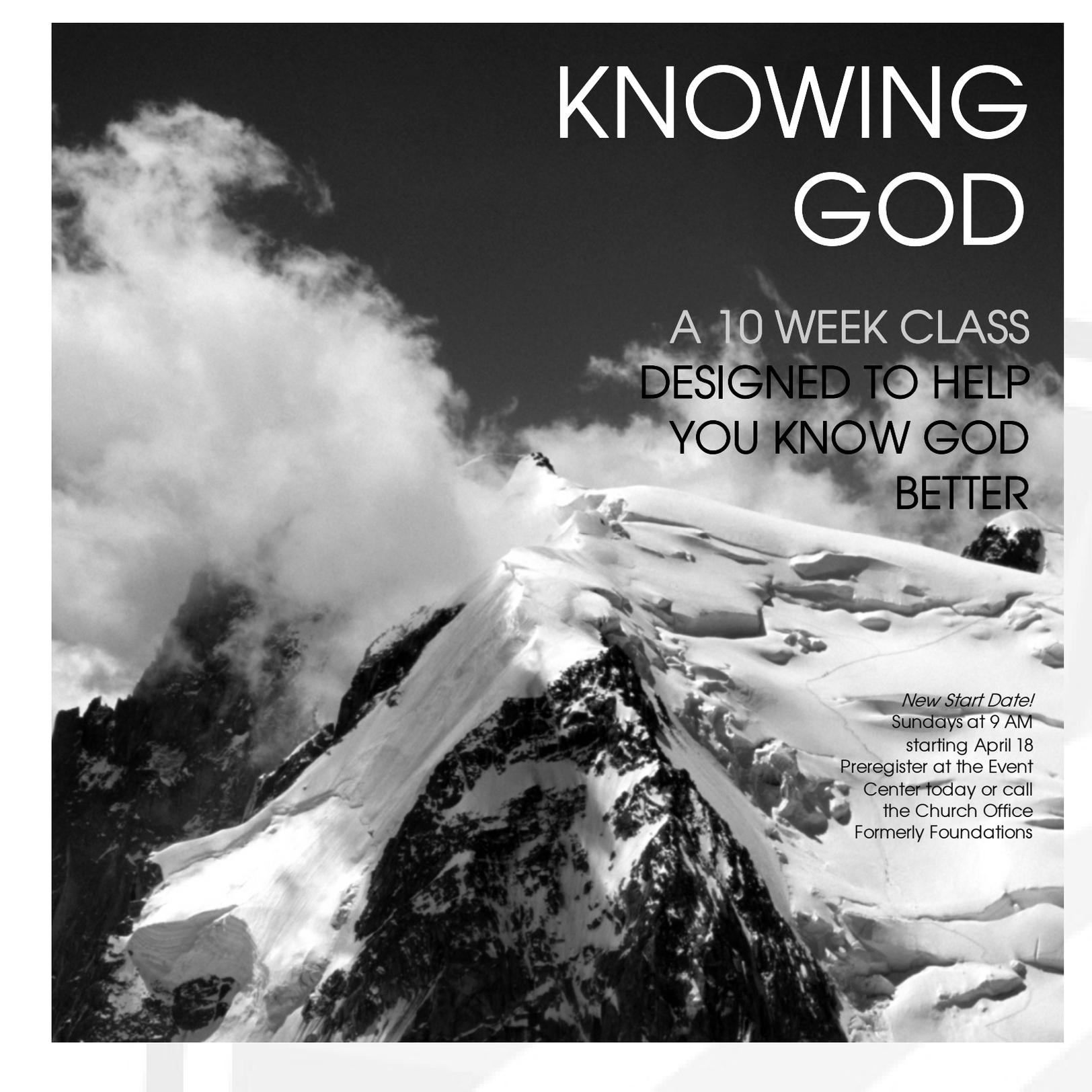
What does new life  
*look like?*

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Famine Strikes  
*SPCC!*

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Helping your child  
*Experience New Life*



# KNOWING GOD

A 10 WEEK CLASS  
DESIGNED TO HELP  
YOU KNOW GOD  
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*New Start Date!*  
Sundays at 9 AM  
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Preregister at the Event  
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*The Loop* is the monthly newsletter of Smokey Point Community Church. To obtain your copy, pick one up in the Church Lobby. You may also view *the Loop* online at our web site. To learn more about Smokey Point Community Church, visit our web site at [smokeypointcommunitychurch.org](http://smokeypointcommunitychurch.org), or stop by the Guest Services Desk in the Lobby. Send *Loop* questions, comments to [elizabeth@spcc-cma.org](mailto:elizabeth@spcc-cma.org).



# NEW LIFE in Christ

One huge example of my new life in Christ is the peace that I have found in Him. When I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I was diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome, which also included a severe anxiety disorder.

For two years, I was constantly at the doctors with my family, searching for a medication that could help me cope with my anxieties. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, my anxieties started to shift and be about death and what would happen after I die. It continued until that April. Now, at that time, I had been going to Jr. High RAGE for several months and the

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this month, several SPCC members share their stories of real change brought about by their faith in Him.

"Though this disorder had served as a hindrance in my life, it has now become a display of what Christ has been able to do in my life."



**JEREMY THOMPSON**

messages there kept gnawing at my anxieties and fears. I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior in April of 2007 and since then He has been the sense of peace in my life. To this day, I struggle daily with worries and anxieties from school, friends and family. God has

been faithful to me and has given me peace to move on. Though this disorder had served as a hindrance in my life, it has now become a display of what Christ has been able to do in my life.

Jeremy Thompson  
*Junior, Arlington High School*

**J**oel, my husband, and I met at Smokey Point Community Church.

Well...it's a longer story than that and would take up more time than you would care to hear, but our beginning started here.

Not only is our church like family to us (in some regards more than our biological families), but it is also the sole place where we can actively worship in community, living out what it means to be the Body of Christ. We have both been attending here for about 20 years. During this time, we have experienced God growing and stretching us in ways that were very uncomfortable at times, yet rewarding.

Shortly after attending, Joel stepped into ministry on the worship team and has continued serving here since. The first stretching experience I had, on the other hand, was going to the annual Women's Retreat. I couldn't believe

how welcoming everyone was and, even though I didn't know anybody prior to coming, I made friends quickly. God was also calling me to serve and

"We love that we are a work in progress and that it is okay that we don't have this Christian walk all figured out."

**JOEL AND LAURIE BISSETT**



He led me towards the youth. If I had been asked what ministry I would like to serve in at that time, youth would not have been it - let me tell you!! But God is faithful and He pushes us outside of our comfort zones and always knows best what our gifts and talents are. I have served in the youth ministry for 15 years and couldn't be more blessed!

The way He uses the crumbs and mistakes of our lives to mold us into people that imitate Him continues to blow me away. This will be my third year serving on the Governing Board and it is exciting to see how God uses His people. The leadership team is a dynamic group that seeks to love and

serve God by loving and serving the body of SPCC. Joel has been involved in several Men's Retreats as well, serving as worship leader. Together we

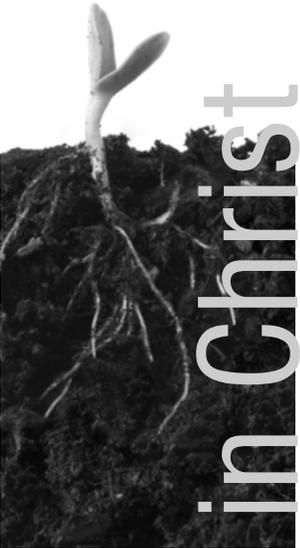
belong to a Life Group, whom we consider family. We all seem to be in similar stages of life and have been able to bear one another's burdens, become transparent and live out several of the core values that we as a body of believers hold

important to our growth and sharing the gospel with others.

And did I mention that we know how to have fun? This past year our Life Group ventured off to Hawaii to share some sweet time together (some could not make it, but another trip is planned in two years!). What's not sweet about Hawaii, right?! Again, it really isn't the circumstances or activities but the people who God has brought together that remind us every day how blessed we are to be part of this church body.

We believe that we are instruments to be used to glorify God and grow His

*Continued on Page 6*



# NEW LIFE in Christ

*Continued from Page 5*

Kingdom. And the only way to be truly used by God is to daily humble ourselves before Him. It is definitely not easy, but surrendering daily to Him is what we desire. Attending, worshiping and serving in a local church that does not compromise on the truth of God's Word is huge to us. It's not always "the popular church," but then again, Jesus wasn't popular either. We're more than okay with that truth.

We've experienced God give and take away while changing and molding our hearts into His likeness. Nothing is sweeter. We love that we are a work in progress and that it is okay that we don't have this Christian walk all figured out. What we do have is the love, community and support of SPCC to come beside us and help mature us as believers. What could be better than that?

Serving Together,  
Joel and Laurie Bisset

This Easter we are focusing on the Risen Savior and the real change He brings about in the lives of people who put their hope and trust in Him. The life that follows with all of its struggles and joys and with all of its failures and victories becomes a story, a unique, one of a kind story.

I'd like to share a bit of my story with you, although it's really not my story, it's God's story, lived and told for HIS glory. You see, the story of a person who has been redeemed, saved, forgiven and transformed is not about the person, he is only the recipient. The story is really about the One who did the redeeming, saving, forgiving and transforming. The main character in every believer's story is Jesus Christ; it truly is His story and He really does deserve all the glory. *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."* (Ephesians 1:13&14) So to that end I share my (HIS) story.

I grew up in a church going family. I have

childhood memories of making origami-like creations from the paper I found in the pew rack. For those unfamiliar with the ultra comfortable seating known as a pew, a pew rack is a neatly organized holder on the back of each pew containing hymnals, prayer cards, a tiny pencil and round cut out's for communion cups. A veritable 'fun forest' for church kids in my era! I digress...the point is I grew up in church; I knew the culture, the traditions and the secrets of church going folks. I quickly learned that what you do in church and what you do at home don't always match.

I experienced family dysfunction and watched my older brother and sister walk away from church and down the road of rebellion. I didn't want to go there; I sensed at an early age that there WAS something real about this Christian thing, despite the inconsistencies I had seen.

When I was thirteen years old, out of the blue, my parents asked if I wanted to go to a Christian school. God used a divinely timed encounter with an old neighbor, who had since become an on-

fire believer, on the way to check out the school. He said that he would give anything for a chance like that and it moved me to say "yes" to the opportunity. God used that environment and some very down to earth, godly teachers to reveal Himself to me.

All of those Sunday school lessons and sermons suddenly took on a new meaning as I discovered MY need for a savior. I was also afraid that Jesus would come back before I had given Him my whole life and so I did. I confessed my sin, my rebellion, my selfishness and asked for forgiveness. I asked Jesus, the Risen One, to be my

"That year changed everything for me; something was ignited in my soul that burns to this very day."

**JIM JOHNSON**



Savior and Lord. And from that moment on I knew, I knew that it was mine, not my parents or my church's, but my own personal faith. That year changed everything for me; something was ignited in my soul that burns to this very day. I shared this

new found faith with my friends and neighbors and total strangers. God's Word became living water and I was a sponge, soaking it all in. God used a teacher and some words that were directed by God to challenge me, to call me to give my future to full time ministry. It all happened that year, 1981, the year when my story, GOD'S story of new life in me began. What a year, what a change, what a God!

Since then my story has many new chapters. Some have been painful and required healing. Some have been sinful and required repentance. Some have been joyful and required

thanksgiving. But every chapter of my life, my story, has been one page of grace, one page of mercy after another. It is to God's glory that I serve Him today. It is to God's glory that the cycle of dysfunction has

been broken in my family. It is to God's glory that I am becoming patient with my kids. It is to God's glory that I will continue to change and be transformed into the likeness of Jesus my Savior! That's my story, that's God's story!

Jim Johnson  
Lead Pastor

# *Missions* **UPDATE**

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## { *Prayer* WARRIORS }

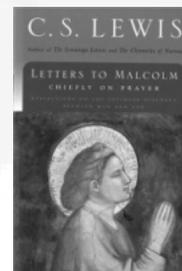
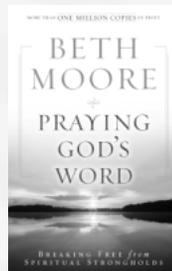
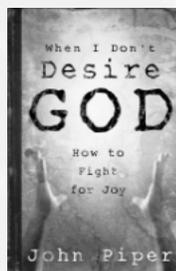
A prayer warrior is a person who is willing to pray for others without any expectation of reward. Prayer warriors may not personally know the people they are praying for, but they pray for them as if they were a beloved family member or friend. The prayer of a prayer warrior is specific to the needs of the person they are praying for. They are filled with love and compassion for the person that is in need of prayer. They have complete faith that God will answer the prayer according to His heavenly plan.

Felicia Flagg  
*Library Staff*



**JONI EARECKSON TADA's** prayer warring began in a hospital bed after she broke her neck when she was seventeen. She is known for saying "Prayer is seeking God. And it's a personal journey. No one else can do your work of prayer." She believes in interceding for the people you know and offering praises in a unique way. We have sixteen books by Joni Eareckson Tada in the church library.

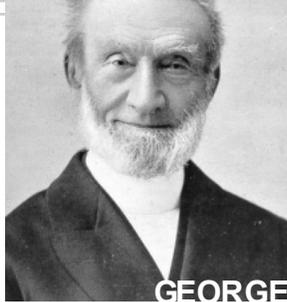
## On our Bookshelf





**STORMIE  
OMARTIAN**

is a dedicated prayer warrior who has helped hundreds of thousands of individuals pray more effectively. Her deep knowledge of scriptures and examples from her own prayer life, have guided many to fully trust the Lord. We have thirteen books by Stormie Omartian in the church library.



**GEORGE  
MULLER**

was a great man of faith and a diligent prayer warrior. Psalm 68:5 became a scripture for life. He fervently believed that all of his material needs would be supplied through faith and prayer alone. George Muller's daily dedication to God's Word and prayer helped him begin a Ministry in 1835 for orphaned children. He based his support on God alone and changed the lives of thousands of orphans by being able to meet their needs. We have three books about George Muller in the church library.

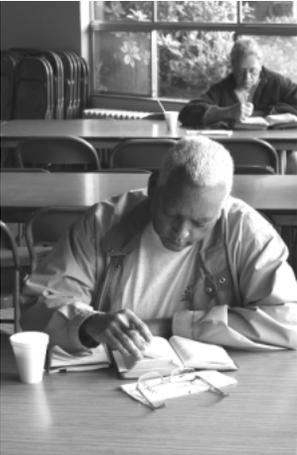


**BETH  
MOORE**

How many times have you sat down to pray and felt like you were boring God with the same old prayer? Have you ever considered using God's very words in prayer as found in Scripture? Beth Moore's book *Praying God's Word*, available in the church library, will show you how.

To help you strengthen and enrich your prayer life, there is a list of books for all ages on prayer in the church library. If you need additional help in locating materials contact the Librarians: Brenda Voelker (360-435-5072) or Felicia Flagg (360-652-3864).

Brenda is in the Church Library Sunday Mornings before and after Sunday service and Tuesday Mornings. Felicia is in the Library on Saturday Evenings and Thursday mornings.



# A Real MAN Weekend (Retreat) 2010

Before we know it, we'll find ourselves at this year's Men's Retreat. Well, not *all* of us. But, those who have made the pilgrimage in the past and those who know they need to go no matter what will.

This year, we are excited to welcome Jan Hettinga back as our teacher. Jan spoke at our retreat about five years

ago and he made quite an impact. As a former chaplain to the Green Bay Packers in the 60's and now as Pastor Emeritus of well-known Northshore Baptist Church in Kirkland, Jan brings a wealth of pastoral experience and spiritual maturity that has spoken directly to the heart of our men in the past, and we know he will continue to do so this year.

## Lakeside Bible Camp June 4 - 6

There'll be time for some great teaching and reflecting on what God wants to do in your life. And plenty of time to connect with the guys of SPCC; time to relax through sports, fishing, games, hanging out, and just having fun. We are planning some new features this year that will enable us to know our pastors and leaders better and to grow closer together as a community of men. Bring your Life Group members, friends, family members, co-workers – anyone that you can think of that needs this time away, which we all do.

You are challenged to join us, because you need to. You *have* to. Without a time set aside for spiritual renewal and re-training your entire life suffers – your spiritual life, your marriage and relationships, your children, your work, your finances... **everything** is affected because **everything** is connected to your relationship with God.

So, accept the challenge. Make the pilgrimage. Join your community. Friday, June 4 through Sunday noon June 6. Cost is \$95. Scholarship assistance available. Registration begins the weekend of May 15 & 16.

- Danny Wiebe  
*Men's Retreat Coordinator*

## Relay for Life



Please join the Smokey Point Community Church team for Arlington's first annual Relay for Life to be held at

the Arlington High School stadium on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign up by April 15<sup>th</sup> to get your participants t-shirt. Contact Gayle Yunker at 360-435-7947 or ry9988@verizon.net or Kathy McCone at 425-879-0936 or kathymccone@lmbcpas.com for more information.

## Thank you

A big thank you to the Thursday morning Women's Bible Study. They took one of their Thursday mornings in March to give back to the church through spring cleaning around the church! The women tackled eleven bathrooms, three kitchens and a variety of other indoor and outdoor projects. Thank you for your service!



## LiveWires Event

Join the Seniors of SPCC on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> for a local outing that will take us on a morning tour of the Arlington Fire Department and an afternoon tour of the Stilly Valley Museum. Cost of van/museum will be \$6, with lunch on your own at the Eagle Crest Restaurant. Call Mae Kurtzenacker (659-7164) to make your reservation. We will leave the church at 9:30 AM.

## So Long, Insecurities

Bethany Christian Assembly is hosting a Simulcast Event from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, April 24, featuring speaker Beth Moore on "So Long, Insecurity." Kiss your insecurities goodbye and discover the joy of living with confidence! The ticket price is \$25 and includes a breakfast. For more information, contact Bethany Christian Assembly (2715 Everett Ave. Everett) at 425.339.3303 or online at [www.bca-online.com](http://www.bca-online.com). Details on the topic and speaker are also available at [www.ccn.tv/bethmoore2010](http://www.ccn.tv/bethmoore2010).



## Child Dedications

We are having child dedications at the May 8/9 weekend services. Parents must take the child dedication class, offered on Sunday, April 25 at 12:30 PM in the Children's Chapel, prior to having your child dedicated. Pick up your child dedication application at the Event Center in the Lobby or call the Church Office at 360.659.2844.

## ARE YOUR CALENDARS MARKED FOR FRIDAY APRIL 30TH?



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will be having our 3rd annual fundraiser auction. Our theme is the 50's...you will not want to miss this exciting event! \$5 tickets will be on sale starting the first two weeks of April in the Church Lobby. Your ticket purchase includes your bid number, a full dinner and priceless amounts of entertainment.

This year some of the items we will be auctioning off include Disney tickets, trips, restaurant gift certificates, northwest hot spots like the Woodland Park Zoo and Aquarium and spa treatments to mention just a few. Think Mother's Day, fun summer family outings and wonderful unique gifts for those you love.

We still need your help to make this a successful event. We are accepting donations of all kinds... services, gift certificates, themed baskets, new items. Please contact Lisa Harding, at 360.403.8948, with questions or to schedule a pick up for your donated item.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY**

## SPCC Women's Breakfast



Saturday May 15, 2010  
8:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Purchase tickets: May 1/2 or 8/9  
Cost: \$5

Childcare available at the  
cost of \$5 per child



Being a Woman: War and Peace  
*A conversation about God's design for  
women, relationship, self-image & sexuality*

*Featured Speaker*  
Gina Waggoner

**P**lease come and join the women of SPCC for a breakfast buffet on May 15th! Bring a friend from your life group, a friend who doesn't have a church home, or come and make some new friends! If you are new to SPCC we would love to meet you!

This will be a great time to connect with other women from our church body as well as listen to a deeper talk on spiritual matters that pertain to women specifically. Our featured "in house" speaker will be Gina Waggoner! We are so excited to hear from her. You may have seen her singing on the worship team or may have had her husband, Pastor Byron, work with your teenagers. She is a caring, sincere woman of God who is also a pastor's wife, counselor and mother of four grown children. We look forward to what God will share with us through her.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets at one of the services the two weeks prior to the breakfast so that the planning team can be well prepared. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the breakfast. See ya there girls!



## Toes Needed!

MOPS is in need of some toes, hands, and arms to help with childcare each Tuesday morning on a CASUAL and REGULAR basis. 'Mothers of Preschoolers' serves over 70 mothers, many of them unchurched. MOPS teaches and mentors moms in their roles as parents, wives, and individuals. MOPS ultimately points them to the One who can meet all their needs: Jesus.

Over 120 preschool-aged children also come to MOPS each Tuesday. As volunteers we have the ability to be used by God to lay the foundation for their faith in God – and allow God to do a mighty work in us as well. Please pray about these opportunities and let us know if you have three hours on a Tuesday morning available to worship God through this ministry.

RELIEF teacher  
(substitute or as-you-can basis)  
REGULAR teacher (every week)  
Craft teacher  
(train now for 2010-2011 position)  
Gym teacher  
Music teacher (2010-2011)

Contact Sarah Cookston at 425-232-7472 or [scookston@hotmail.com](mailto:scookston@hotmail.com) for more information or to sign up

# FAMINE STRIKES SMOKEY POINT!



*Poor Third World group waiting for their meal*

SMOKEY POINT — Love was in the air on February 14 and 15 for a group of 20 junior high and high school students. In lieu of indulging in Valentine’s candy and dreaming about the love of their lives (or of their weekend), these students volunteered to go without chocolate or cake or meat or potatoes or...well, you get the picture. Instead, they participated in a fast—the bi-annual Planned Famine—and spent their time and attention drawing closer to the heart of God while engaging the issues of poverty, injustice, hunger and fasting.

documentary clips and teaching times. Kris Millett expressed the plight of the world’s poor in this way: “They are against extreme odds that they can’t beat themselves.” “One of the things that impacted me the most



*Elizabeth Kern, 8th grader, sleeping on bathroom counter*

Students participated in an in-depth study of the scriptures, prayer and reflection, and poverty simulations. Throughout the weekend, they engaged in lively discussions, processing what they were learning from

was that we as Americans spend, like, nine billion dollars on Starbucks, and it would cost nine billion to give everyone clean water and sanitation,” says Kyle Millet. “That’s messed up!” Chelsea VanDer Meersche agreed, “It was really eye opening how much time, food, money and other things we waste. It’s really quite disgusting.” Kris offered some perspective on the situation: “Other people can help them beat the seemingly impossible odds just by sacrificing a little of themselves or their own resources.”

Before the students came, they were required to raise money from friends and neighbors (not just family!) for their fast, raising over \$2,000. After the students brainstormed different projects, they finally voted to designate the funds toward building a bridge in the Philippines near the HECA Center. A neighboring community is situated across from a creek which floods frequently, preventing youth from attending school and farmers from transporting their crops to the markets. This project will provide a long-lasting solution to this problem. It will also help to develop relationships

FAMINE continued on Page 17

## Introducing Smokey Point Community Church **PRESCHOOL**

*Learning, Loving, Growing* is the sound of things to come from our new Preschool ministry at Smokey Point Community Church. With Praise and Promise Preschool relocating to Marysville after this school year, the church board has approved a new preschool to be opened this fall to continue providing this ministry at SPCC. The director will be Lavaun Camp who is presently teaching at the Praise and Promise Preschool. Joining together in unity with our church body, the Preschool will support the vision of SPCC.

Lavaun is passionate about our new school. Her desire is that the school be a beacon of light reaching our church families with preschool aged children and shining Christ's love to families in our community. The preschool will provide a safe, stable Christian environment with a Bible-based curriculum that honors Jesus Christ, incorporating biblical instruction and character development with firm academic fundamentals. The children will be encouraged to play, discover, participate, inquire, experiment, and interact with others, nurturing a child's natural love for learning. We will provide an atmosphere where each child feels special and loved.

The church body can join together with this ministry through prayer. There is much to be accomplished before the new year begins and Lavaun is looking for a new teacher and helpers to join the preschool ministry team. If you have any questions or would like information about the positions that are open, please call the church office at 360.659.2844.

**Open registration** for the 2010/2011 school year will take place on **Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** from 9 AM—12 PM in the current preschool classroom. Four classes are offered for children ages 3-5 years old. Registration forms can be picked up in the Church Office. Informational brochures are available in the Church Lobby.



*Byron teaching about the poverty wheel and Irelyn Callaghan on bike*

FAMINE continued from page 16

between this community and the church that meets at the Center.

As the fast came to an end, students were encouraged to think about practical ways they could “spend themselves on behalf of the poor” (Isaiah 58). Some made commitments to living simply, giving money and praying for world concerns. Each student considered how their future vocations might enable them to serve those in need. Chelsea summed it up this way: “This was one of the most interesting and thought provoking events I've ever been to, and hopefully I won't forget it.”

Reported by Laura Mettler,  
*High School Ministries Staff*





Spotlight:

# Teresa Smith

TERESA SMITH is our Nursery Supervisor at the 9 AM Sunday morning service. Teresa and her family began attending SPCC in January 2007. When Teresa shared with me about her life she said, "I was a busy person most of my life. I was in the military and worked long hours, went to school for four years, then back into the military working longer hours: I used to be a Chinese Linguist for the Navy (yes, I did speak, listen, and read Chinese fluently). I was also a nurse, all while being a single parent. There was no time for God in my life. I was just too busy. I did not have time to pray or go to church or read my Bible. I had my own agenda and career to follow. This was who I was five years ago."

Now Teresa is married to Ryan and they have three children; Taylor (14), Zeph (3) and Eli (2). "I no longer work so I am able to stay home with my children. Life is still busy, but I have God as a focus, not a side note."

She found SPCC while searching for a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group online. Ryan is in the Navy and she knew he would be gone a lot so she felt that MOPS would be a good foundation for her to develop relationships with other mothers. On her first day at MOPS she was given a flyer for a Military Love Banquet. It was at that event that they met their current Life Group leaders, Shawn and Becky Schrader. That spring she began going to Port of Hope (the name of their Life Group) and felt like she joined a family. She says "God knew our needs and He provided this group to be a source of growth for our faith. My husband and I were both 'new' at becoming followers of Christ. I began searching for more understanding of God

through service and life group. I would volunteer at church events or in the nursery and participate in women's Bible Studies. Finally, at the beginning of 2009 we studied the "Experiencing God" series with our group. I realized that I did not need to expect a grand entrance from God in my life. He was already there. God is everywhere. He had already begun a work in me. I became aware of my need to observe where He is working and to join Him."

*"There was no time for God in my life. I was just too busy."*

During this study she was asked to be a Discussion Group Leader for MOPS. The idea of being a group leader had never crossed her mind and she did not feel 'spiritually qualified.' She said "Satan had his way of discouraging me and I began doubting my ability to be involved in ministry to mothers. I questioned myself. *You don't even pray out loud, how are you going to lead women to God? You are so unorganized, how are you going to organize an auction basket? You don't like talking on the phone, how are you going to call 6-11 ladies every week?* She began to pray for guidance and courage. "God had a plan and, as long as I was

willing to allow Him to use me for His work, things came through. I am currently a DGL and I have learned so much from the ladies in my group."

*Life is still busy, but I have God as a focus, not a side note."*

We have been blessed by Teresa and Ryan at the Honey Bee Nursery since 2007. They have been volunteers on a consistent basis and now Teresa is serving weekly as our 9am Nursery Supervisor. It is so good for our babies to have a consistent, loving and prayerful leader like Teresa.

This winter the Navy is moving Teresa and her family out of Arlington and sending them to Texas. "My time here has

allowed me to see my husband get baptized and grow in Christ. And it has allowed me to establish a relationship with God that I did not know I could have," says Teresa. Her goals for the future are to continue to follow in the direction she feels God is leading her family, continue in prayer and remain close to the Lord. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not upon you own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.* Proverbs 3:5-6

- Ms. Diona  
Early Childhood Director

# BACKYARD ADVENTURE

Mark Your  
Calendars

July 20-21-22, 2010  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
Followed by the **FAMILY FUN FAIR**  
on Friday July 23<sup>rd</sup>

This year we are expanding this summer's children's ministry outreach to our local parks and making it a Family event! Mark your calendar so that you and your family are sure to be there. Stop by and talk with Pastor Duane or Ms. Diona to find out how you and your family can get involved in this great adventure. More details to come in the May Loop!





# Helping your child Experience **NEW LIFE**

As Christian Parents one of the great joys we can experience is to see our children make Jesus Lord of their lives and experience the New Life that comes with their sins being forgiven and freedom from the chains that enslaved them to sin.

This passing along of faith from parent to child is the parent's primary responsibility. All other responsibilities as parents are secondary and done to support the ultimate goal of seeing each child experience the new life found in Christ Jesus. Often this primary goal can get lost in all the demands of raising a child such as providing shelter, food, clothing, a safe

environment, helping them succeed in school and dealing with the many crises both big and small that come with being mom or dad. However, if we are to see our children experience new life in Jesus we must find ways to pass on the baton of faith to our children.

The good news is that those very things which seem to distract us from having the time to share our

faith with our children are often natural bridges we can use to share our relationship with God, if we are intentional as parents. In fact God's Word proposes this very methodology for passing along our faith to our children.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 states, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (ESV)

It is clear from this passage that the first step in passing on a living vital faith to our children is that we as parents have a love for God that literally consumes us. We need to love God with all our heart, soul and might. This kind of love will be evident to our children and difficult to ignore. They will be challenged by it and attracted to it as a beautiful flower attracts the honey bee.

The second step for parents is to learn God's Word. This does not mean memorizing it, although that can be helpful, but it means we must know what God's word teaches us about our world and our place in it. As we learn God's heart and mind, and begin to see the world through His eyes, we will be prepared to pass this worldview on to our children in a manner reinforced by the way we live our

lives. As parents we must be living examples of the New Life found in Christ Jesus.

The third step is to talk with your kids about your faith and what you know about God and His love for us. Deuteronomy tells us that these conversations should happen throughout our day, in the morning (when you rise), at bed time (when you lie down), during your leisure time (when you sit in your house) and while you go about the business of the day (when you walk by the way). The point is no matter where we are at or what we are doing, we as parents can make connections with our children that demonstrate God's love and care for them and His desires for their lives.

# Church Plant **UPDATE**

AT MILLTOWN Neighborhood Church, it seems that *growing into ourselves* has been the driving theme this month. Conceptually nothing has changed, but during the last month, our community has been probing what it means to embody our values and beliefs. Some of the values we've been fleshing out are our values of proximity and incarnational presence.

We've asked our congregation and membership to live within a specific geographic area. At first glance this value may seem to be a value of exclusivity instead of inclusivity, and to some degree that is correct. As a community we've been compelled by the words of Jesus that, "all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." We're further compelled by the evidence we've witnessed in our community of lives changed, simply by proximity.

Proximity or nearness is no magic bullet; however, it is one obstacle to the gospel that we can eliminate. We believe that by eliminating this obstacle, over time we'll be able to plant more proximal churches to reach those currently on the outside of our current geographic scope

as God grows us as individuals and a church through our concentrated interactions with each other. We believe that if we continually flesh proximity we can create a community that makes love for each other evident often, and the reality of the gospel clear to all who encounter us in our limited geography.

Incarnational presence is another consequence of our value of proximity. As we

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*We want our lives to constantly be the front door of our church.*

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live lives that are rooted in North Everett and integrated in our community, our prayer is that our church's repute and force will be felt more regularly than our weekly worship times and Bible studies.

Each day is a new day at trying to shake off ourselves and beginning to create proximal/incarnational patterns with our lives. It may be as simple as frequenting the same restaurant, coffee shop, market, or gym at the same time each week, or as in depth as intentional meetings set-up to discuss the Gospel.

The idea is centered on the reality that we do not wait for the corporate worship gathering to be the church, but we are the church, Milltown, on display all day everyday somewhere in North Everett. We want our lives to constantly be the front door of our church. This pursuit is only possible with the grace of God, the presence of the Spirit and a submitted heart focused on letting God and others inside.

This is a simple and complex pursuit, but one that is already yielding results. Just this month, a store manager (where a couple of our members are employed) noted that the church members that visit the store almost daily and the ones that work for her seem different and more attractive than the 'typical God people' she has had experience with. I know this isn't exactly a Billy Graham result, but it is a sweet step toward producing fruit in our ministry.

We are called to view the people of North Everett as our people, people we are yoked to from now until God grants release. So, we are taking the long view of discipleship and relationship with all that we encounter. We share the gospel verbally always, but give access to it just



Pastor Jeff Feinberg

the chaplain's office at the Naval Base to conduct a weekly worship/devotional service on Sundays. We've been able to establish three weekly Bible studies that have been meeting and enriching our community relationally, as well as enhancing and adding depth

Please join us in prayer. We continue to pray that God will bring more seasoned (older) people to our community, but trust that this church is His and He can do and will do what he desires in His time. In the last month, God has shown us several options of meeting spaces that are available to us and we need wisdom to decide when and where to move. Finally, we'd appreciate your prayers for God to help us be a church marked by our engagement with "sinners." As we've been journeying through Luke together as a church, we have an earnest desire to have the same reputation as Jesus in this way. Please pray that we would be people, both individually and corporately, that are constantly reclining at the table with those who do not know the Father yet.

Thanks for all of the interest and support in what God is doing with our body. Please know that you are being prayed for as well, and we are collaborators together in this work in North Everett. Your support is vital and necessary to what God is doing with our body each day.

as often by testifying to its practical reality in our own lives and the lives of those we meet.

So that's a theoretical discussion about our values, but maybe you're wondering what's going on day to day. Since beginning public worship services on February 28<sup>th</sup>, we've been blessed to meet new people at every subsequent service. These new friends are not simply checking us out because they see a sign (we're actually quite difficult to find, being in a basement), but rather they are coming through the vehicle of relationship.

Furthermore some of these new people are beginning to get involved with our weekly Bible studies after encountering and reviewing our statement of faith/values. We've been invited to work with

to our Sunday preaching/teaching times.

In the coming months we'll be integrating our leadership development and furthering neighborhood outreach into our weekly routine. One of our principals of ministry is to allow God to show us where He is at work in our neighborhood and to join Him there. We wait patiently for the leadership of the Spirit and the needs of the community to present, before we add ministry projects and programs to the life of our church. The naval base ministry is beginning simply because we introduced ourselves as their neighbor and let them know we were available. This is a simple approach; one we believe God will continue to use to open doors for new life and new churches in North Everett.



## FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: **KARLA MARSH**

Karla Marsh is the hard-working, tireless Coordinator of our bustling Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program. Her role is about "encouraging and equipping a fabulous leadership team, scheduling guest speakers, meeting with Smokey Point leadership to share a vision and meeting amazing new moms each week," she describes.

She is married to Travis, her amazing husband of eight years, and mother of Hannah (6 ½) and Haley (4). After becoming a mom, she struggled with where her new ministry of being a mother would take her worried about what she would have to offer. In 2006 the Marsh family moved to the Smokey Point area and were introduced to the MOPS group at SPCC. "This led us to SPCC as our family's home of worship," she explains, "and to involvement in a couples Life Group. What I've found through MOPS is a community of women who understand and need to be understood. It's an incredible mission field - being a mom - we need saving everyday!"

God has slowly revealed His plan for Karla over the last three years. "It was never my plan to coordinate this ministry," she says. "When I was originally asked, I said 'No way - I'm not equipped for that' . . . and through the past few years, God has indeed shown me - I am not equipped for this - but I can do all things through He who strengthens me."

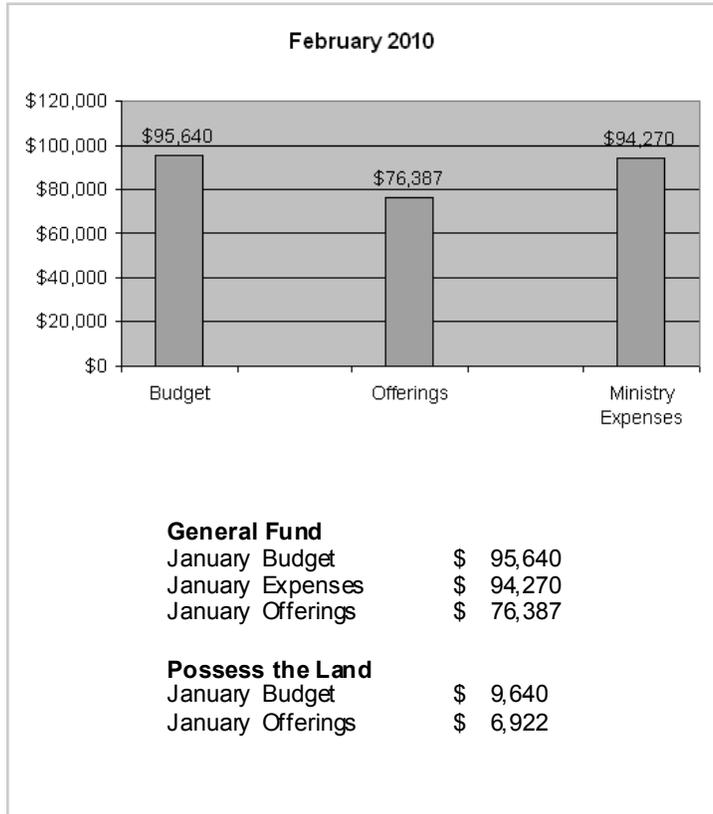
"Working with MOPS moms is like coming home - where else can you share in the joys and struggles of everything in between with an audience who fully understands? We talk about poop . . . a lot. Not sure that's normal," Karla shares. "We also laugh a lot. But in the middle of the 'poop talking' and the laughing, we are growing together. We are learning about God's will for our families and ourselves and are amazed at how God can still use us "moms" to make a difference and what that difference can make in our families and our communities around us."

Being MOPS Coordinator has been a two-way relationship. Over the past two years, Karla has struggled with severe asthma, which has required several hospitalizations. "Thanks to the incredible women in MOPS, my family has been loved on and provided for like I never could have imagined. I feel like the moms of MOPS fill me each week way more than I could ever give. God has blessed me with some lifelong friendships as well as allowing me to get right down and live life with other families. It's not always pretty, and sometimes it's down right messy, but it has been incredibly humbling to get involved with so many incredible women."

Thank you, Karla, for all the time, effort and energy you put into serving and supporting SPCC mothers! Please continue to pray for the restoration of Karla's health and for the MOPS ministry.

- ◆ Her favorite food is Thai Soup with rice . . . or chips and homemade guacamole . . . or ice cream . . . or brie cheese and crackers
- ◆ She loves to blog (and read them) . . . read more about her family and the crazy adventures they get into at [www.marshshortyears.blogspot.com](http://www.marshshortyears.blogspot.com)
- ◆ She is VERY clumsy ("My bruises get bruises")





## February General Fund Report

Offerings in February were significantly below average. With only \$76,387 coming into the general budget for the month, cash reserves were needed to pay monthly expenses. Contributions have only reached the weekly goal two times between January 1 and March 15. Church expenses for the year have been kept under budget, but our cushion is decreasing quickly. Please continue to keep the financial health of our church in your prayers.

## Possess the Land

Thank you for your continued commitment to our Ministry Expansion Fund. The five acre parcel that would relieve our debt on this property is still for sale. Giving in February of \$6,922 was not enough to cover our mortgage payment, but with a excess giving from previous months and a \$300 transfer from savings our obligation was met.



## AT A *GLANCE*

Live Wires Event	April 8
SPCC Preschool Registration	April 10
Knowing God Class Begins	April 11
Childrens Baptism Class	April 17/18
Adult Baptism Class	April 18
Child Dedication Class	April 25
MOPS Benefit Auction	April 30
Baptism	May 1/2
Child Dedications	May 8/9
Women's Breakfast	May 15
Philippines Trip	May 22-June 6
Relay for Life	June 4/5
Men's Retreat	June 4-6



Can't remember that Bible class date and time? No worries. For the most current info, our website, [smokepointcommunitychurch.org](http://smokepointcommunitychurch.org) is the place to go. Listen to a sermon, send a prayer request, read articles, and more....



**SMOKEYPOINT**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

**Saturday Evenings @ 6:00 PM**

**Sunday Mornings @ 9:00 & 10:45 AM**

17721 Smokey Point Blvd. Arlington, WA 98223

PO Box 3247

360.659.2844

*SmokeyPointCommunityChurch.org*

# Baptism

Baptism will take place on May 1 & 2 at the weekend services  
*Individuals must take a baptism class to be baptized*

## Baptism Classes

**ADULTS**      **Sunday, April 18th** at 10:45 AM in Room A102  
*(Mandatory for being baptized)*

**CHILDRENS**   **Saturday, April 17th** at 7:30 PM in the  
Children's Chapel

**Sunday, April 18th** at 12:30 PM in the  
Children's Chapel  
*(Mandatory, with one parent)*

*If you would like to be  
baptized, pick up your  
baptism application at  
the Event Center or  
contact the Church  
Office.*