



Bethel's Ladder



September 2009

Volume 1 / Issue 6

Dear Readers:

The last issue of the Ladder was #5 in July. August proved to be more daunting than some of the ladder staff could handle, so we skipped an issue. Lots of interesting and fun things happened in the interim. We hope you will enjoy reviewing them in this issue.

As always, we welcome your input and contributions. If you have comments, questions, or would like to contribute an article, please let me know through the church secretary, drop me a note in the Bethel's Ladder basket at the back of the church, or send an email to Sallycox42@comcast.net.

Just as we were going to print, our dear brother Bob Miller went home to be with the Lord. Pastor Wes and Harlean were with Cleo at Bob's bedside. We are so sad yet so touched by all of the love and prayers.

Thank you.

Sally Cox, Editor and Greg Kuper, Sr.

BETHEL CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

August 7 and 8 found your Church Council once again camped out at Pastor Jake and Lynda Krestinski's beautiful home on Camano Island – thanks so much for your hospitality, Jake and Lynda. This was our second Bethel Church Council retreat and was wonderfully productive.

A parable for our weekend together:



Sense Light Swing "Made from plastic with fibre optic lighting inserted. On a dark summer night the swing creates a spectacular light show that lights up a whole garden in the most beautiful way."

Looking Back...Looking Up...Looking Ahead

Our parable: the light of Christ shines brightly in the night as we swing backward to learn from the past, as we look upward into the heavens, and as we swing forward into the future. When we swing clear back, we ponder where we've been, as we look up to the sky to the Lord, we consider his eternal mission, as we swing forward, we gaze to the horizon of our future. And, it's fun!

We reviewed our mission and celebrated actions we see the Lord doing that shows us he is working with us and through us.

Below is a brief summary of some of the insights we gained:

What have we learned about our core values? Event	Core Values (Service, Faith, Character, Team) Revealed/Tested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move that Bus 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service—we served orphans in their distress 2. Faith—we had to trust the Lord 3. Character—Mmassa's character was solid 4. Team—we did it because of Bev's strong history with Mmassa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased budget in time of recession 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faith—we trusted and God's people have been meeting the challenge 2. Team—we value our staff and funded essential raises 3. Character—showed courage 4. Service—we keep on serving even in tough financial times
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's ministry takes on childcare and hospitality ministry 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service—it's all about servanthood 2. Team—they filled the gap 3. Character—these women are solid servants 4. Faith—they trust God to supply the servants to do the job
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Youth Director process 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team—this value was tested by dissent. We did well to listen to the dissent and made a plan to mitigate the concerns.

Another insight that we found especially informative is the suggestion that the Council serves as project

engineers; the practical ministry teams, such as Trustee\Ground Zero Women's\ Worship\ Education\ Missions are process engineers. Project lays out the big picture. Process details out how it gets done.

So, following this format, we set to work suggesting the Big Picture for Bethel Church in the coming year. Among the suggested projects that were received with enthusiasm was Lynda Krestinski's vision to make our "family" entrance more prominent. Our handicap accessible entrance to the church is used by those in the know; but newcomers are often confused as to how to enter. The idea is to make this entrance the primary entrance by enhancing the doorway and building a canopy that would be welcoming. Inside, the Worship Team office area would be turned into a more inviting entrance by opening the wall into the overflow area. The entire area would be redesigned and redecorated.

Additionally, in keeping with our desire to accommodate our handicapped and elderly, Lynda suggested we turn the closet in the overflow room into an ADA restroom.

The Council is now consulting with building professionals to find out if these plans are feasible and to develop a budget.

We will keep you posted in the Ladder as to the progress of this vision.

OTHER COUNCIL NEWS

At each meeting we review our giving and expenses. We are glad to let you know that we are close to meeting our budget projections. And we have a good solid savings account to back up our Faith Promise commitments.

Jake Krestinski reported that his Sunday school class was doing a series called *Life Together*. This last week the 5th of 6 lessons had to do with Christian Service. He has very much enjoyed the discussion in this class.

Preliminary plans for the Mexico mission continue. A team of Christian engineers will be at the site within a few weeks. It looks as if an all male team, except for one or two women for food preparation will make the trip.

The Council voted to send \$700 to Nancy Musoki-Mutie in Kenya so she can visit Amissa (Mmassa's widow) and

connect her to the World Vision to widows and orphans in Tanzania. Included in our gift is funding for a microloan to get Amissa started in small business.

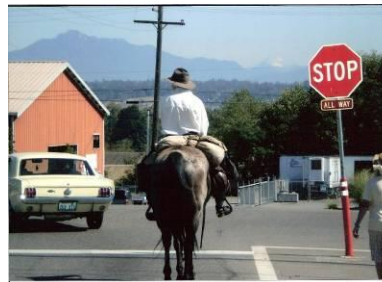
THE CIRCUIT RIDING PREACHER

Bethel members met Pastor Ken Downey and Pilgrim Blue at noon on Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the park in Lowell to walk and/or drive along behind as he made his way to the church.



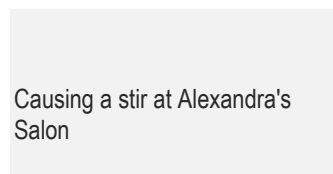
Pilgrim the horse, Ken Downey, and Dr. Wes Johnson

Ken Downey is a tall cool glass of water. Think about covering 3,390 miles in 25 mile increments, meeting dozens and dozens of people,



staying in their homes, speaking in clubs and churches, reflecting on life and God and the condition of our country.

When he rode through Everett, he attracted all kinds of people's interest. At the park a few families gathered around. One couple in Lowell came out of their house and talked as he stopped by. We stopped by the mission and talked with a few guys on the sidewalk.



Causing a stir at Alexandra's Salon



At an apartment house on Wetmore little kids gathered around while the cowboy kept his magnificent horse from stepping on anybody! At one point on Hoyt Ave he emptied out an entire hair salon, gals standing on the sidewalk with their hair in various states of repair.

He rode down to the 10th Street boat launch and put Pilgrim Blue's feet in the waters of the Pacific. That concluded his long ride, from sea to shining sea. Started

March 15 in North Carolina. From the boat launch he called for his friend Russ to drive down and trailer the horse back up to the church! He didn't want to ride another mile!

When he spoke in church it was like cowboy wisdom...rolling from one subject to another...like you were riding with him and he was just sharing his thoughts, the result of a lot of reflection in the wide open spaces. A very simple, impactful communicator.

Kristi O'Harran wrote us up in her column in the Herald! "Pastor rides horse cross country to spread word. "

Check out more photos on the church Facebook or the bulletin board outside Pastor Wes' office.



Pastor Ken completed his 3,390 mile ride at the 10th Street boat launch at Port Gardner Bay.

Our Women's Ministry provided dinner for Pastor Ken and his entourage after the parade. At 7:00 Saturday evening Pastor Ken led an old fashioned worship rally.

Sunday, September 13, Pastor Ken was the central feature for our annual Ministry Fair.

Following Sunday's service, the Men's Ministry group grilled the hot dogs and the Women's Ministry provided all the fixin's.

BIBLES FOR OUR MILITARY

We were able to raise over \$831 for Bibles for servicemen and women. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

HELLO FROM PASTOR ABE

Pastor Abe has written three letters home from boot camp. He even got to make a two-minute call! Katie says it's miserable (who would have thought?), but that he's found a Christian brother and has been able to go to

worship. The guys gave them a hard time for going to church, but, as you know, Abe can hold his own!

Who Am I?

Our Who Am I individual for Issue #5 was Tom Harp. Freda and Dan McKernan both guessed our member correctly, so we have prizes for them when this current issue is published.

Who Am I? Issue #6

1. I am a loyal Husky, no Cougars for me.
2. I set off the metal detectors at airports with the extra titanium in my body.
3. My high school graduating class had 1 member.
4. My first paying job was pouring concrete.
5. I served in the U.S. Navy.
6. I cannot swim. (Good thing I was not on any sinking ships) ed.
7. I play the fiddle, but not well. (Participant comment, not editors)
8. My favorite author is Aldo Leopold.
9. I am currently a college student working on a BS degree.
10. Learned that hiking with children is slow work. One 6 mile hike took all day.

Who Am I? You may use the answer card here, give it to Greg Sr. or Greg Jr. or send your e-mail response to gpsr_43@yahoo.com. If you don't see Greg Sr. Sundays, give your guess to Greg Jr. in the tech booth. Thanks for participating and learning about your fellow parishioners.

Who Am I? September 2009

My guess is

My name is

BETHEL HISTORY

Did You Know? The Shogrens arrived in March 1945. The church was expecting and very much hoping for a lengthy ministry. As VE day was celebrated in May 1945, the church and Shogren family were still getting acquainted with one another.

The church radio ministry was begun again 5 days a week in the mornings on KRKO. Rev. Steele had had a very well received and successful radio ministry in the evenings during his service at Bethel but that ended when the station was sold to new owners who had other types of programs in mind for their station.

Incidentally on May 6, 1945 a couple of fairly newly weds were accepted into membership. Some of you may recognize the names of Charlotte and Ben Westmoreland.

That very active spring and summer for Bethel included the resignation of Louisa Roach, known to many of you many years later along with Joel Anderson as they reunited with Bethel. Louisa was the missionary to the city in 1945 and also the church clerk. She resigned to enter other ministries out of town.

The new church parsonage at 2601 Hoyt was completely remodeled inside and the Shogrens moved in the latter part of June. The parsonage was officially dedicated Sept. 9, 1945, three days after the final surrender of Japan aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo harbor.

My how times change! The church decided that carrying a mortgage on the parsonage was not good stewardship, so the church instituted dime-a-day banks to members to retire the mortgage. The church records do not show how much the mortgage was nor how much the monthly payments were but the dime-a-day banks succeeded in retiring the mortgage within a year.

At the suggestion of pastor Shogren, the church council discussed, voted upon and presented to the church a proposal to hire an architect to draw up plans for a new church building for Bethel and post the plans for all to see, as the church began to save money toward the new building project.

All of that was put on sharp hold when Pastor Shogren delivered a letter of resignation to the Church Council on Aug 1, 1945. He had been contacted by Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to join their faculty as a member of

their Extension Staff. The church discussed the possibility of asking Pastor Shogren to reconsider his resignation, but after a close vote it was decided to grant his request to be released to Moody with regret, but best wishes and encouragement. His ministry had lasted from the end of March to the first of August 1945.

In addition to Ben and Charlotte some Bethel old timers will also recognize the names of Bob and Lois Dexter as new members in 1945.

There is not much about the proposed church building in the records, and this reporter has never seen the drawings in question. If an entirely new building was proposed or if a major remodel was proposed appears to be up in the air. At any rate the building had an addition and major remodel later

FAITH PROMISE TRANSITION

A Letter from Pastor Wes and the Church Council

Dear Church Family,

We are so thankful for the generosity of God's people through the Faith Promise program. Your giving has enabled Jake and Abe and now Justin, to give their life and strength to the mission of Christ. We have all been blessed; as a church family we feel a strong determination to walk this road for the long term.

Faith Promise began as a short term, three-year commitment. Our current commitment will conclude in March of 2010. Our giving has kept pace with the need; in fact, we still have a significant savings account that backs up our program. In addition, our Columbia Baptist Conference has supported Faith Promise with \$800 per month. Their giving will end in March of 2010.

Now our Church Council is recommending that beginning in January of 2010, we fold our current Faith Promise giving into our General Fund.

At the Family Forum on August 2, we concluded that by moving our Faith Promise giving into the General Fund, we would be telling our associate pastoral staff that we believe their ministries should be a permanent part of our mission to the world. The Church Council agrees. ***On October 4, we are seeking a vote of the Church to ratify this recommendation.***

We understand that this impacts you and the Faith Promise commitments that you have made. When we began Faith Promise, everyone understood that it was for

a limited time. Now we are asking that these promises be made for the long term. That's a big ask. You may want to consider how this impacts your giving plan. Perhaps using these questions that we discussed at the Family Forum might give you a place to start. (There is no need to let us know your response...this is simply for you to think about)

I would roll my Faith Promise giving into the
General Fund

Yes ___ No ___ Ask Me Later ___

I would keep giving to support our associate
pastoral staff, and I might be open to consider some
other long term giving project as well

Yes ___ No ___ Ask me later ___

Here is the recommendation of the Council: *That beginning in January, 2010, the associate pastoral salaries that are funded through Faith Promise be rolled into the General Fund. And that beginning in March, 2010, the church launch a new Faith Promise program to*

cover the \$800 per month that the CBC will no longer be funding.

On Sunday, October 4, during the morning service, the Church will vote on the above proposal. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Wes, vice moderator Sally Cox, or another member of the Church Council.

For the Mission of the Savior,

Pastor Wes

Many Many Thanks!!

Jim and Sally Cox wish to thank the many Bethelites who visited, called, prayed, cooked, knitted, and upheld us during Jim's recent illness. God has once again been more than merciful and is restoring Jim to full health. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

To those who participated in the Women's Ministries' **Labor Day Rummage sale.**