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The Nutshell

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News and Information from Chestnut Street Baptist Church

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 Youth Director, Stacia Harmsen
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The Nutshell, March 2019

New Directory Coming This Spring!

We are putting a new directory together for our church body! We would love to have all of our current member and regular attenders included. By taking new photos and updating contact information, we hope to facilitate better connection with one another. Here is the schedule and plan:

- o Photography dates: April 12 & 13 (Fri., Sat.)
- o Sign up in the foyer after Sunday services.
- o Questions? Contact Lydia Gross or Lacey Myers (church office phone: 509-925-2424, or email: office@csbcfamily.com).

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As I See It ... by Pastor Frank Johnson

Lent for the Non-Liturgical Followers of Jesus

This year on Wednesday, March, 6, the faithful among Jesus' followers in liturgical traditions will gather for Ash Wednesday. It is the first day of Lent, a period of 40 days concluding on Holy Saturday, the day before Resurrection Sunday (aka, Easter). It is called Ash Wednesday because ashes are used to write the shape of the cross on the foreheads of the devoted. For Roman Catholics, the ashes are from the palm leaves from the past year's Palm Sunday. Being from a non-liturgical tradition (Baptist), I have typically not paid that much attention to these details of Lent. In my preaching ministry, however, I often spend several weeks in the build-up to Resurrection Sunday focusing on the cross of Christ, sometimes including a series on the Seven Sayings from the Cross. We also hold a Good Friday service each year during Holy Week, the week before Resurrection Sunday.

I am thinking that Lent is worth a second look for non-liturgical Christians. The Lenten season is an extended period of personal spiritual review, of acts of private devotion, and of a focus on serving others. Since I am looking on this from the outside, I find little to criticize in such spiritual disciplines. Examining our hearts before God, turning aside from our busy and often self-serving lives to spend additional times in prayer and thoughtful reading, and taking time to serve others in Jesus' name are always beneficial. I suspect that focusing on these for 40 days can have a valuable effect on the next 325 days in the year until the following Ash Wednesday.

Fasting is also practiced during Lent. Nowadays, even liturgical Christians only call for a fast on Ash Wednesday

and Good Friday. In ancient times, partial fasting lasted three weeks in Rome and up to seven weeks in Eastern churches, eating only one limited meal a day during those weeks. Now, liturgical Christians often "fast" from something they enjoy during the season—maybe pizza, a favorite television program or TV altogether, or chocolate [It doesn't seem to be all that devoted to me to give up *broccoli* for Lent]. Again, we non-liturgical Christians might be so afraid of appearing to try to earn our salvation that we miss the spiritual value of self-denial.

As I see it, a scheduled time of intentional focus on the grace and goodness of God in Christ and of my need for what only Christ can do for my human spiritual brokenness is a very good thing. Paul speaks of the training of the athlete as an appropriate comparison for spiritual discipline (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). He says, "I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27, ESV). Lent is the spiritual opportunity to "discipline my body and keep it under control" by self-imposed limitations on personal freedom. It is an opportunity to enter a season of preparation, so that we can better "run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1, ESV). I am praying about how I might learn from our historical and liturgical family in Christ.

My Love in Christ,
 Pastor Frank

In the Coming Month: March 2019

Sundays	9 a.m. Bible Study Hour, and 10:15 a.m. Worship
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Johnson's, 808 E. Capitol
Mondays 7:00 p.m.	Women's Prayer Walk (beginning March 11)
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Prayer Group at the church's facilities, room 202
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Cornerstone Kids' Club (grades 1-5)
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Ignition (youth group, grades 6-12)
Thursdays 6:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Jim & Laura Bisonnette's, 2406 N. Ellington
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	LIFE Group at Boudreau's, 1001 E. Mountainview
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	Crosswalk (Collegiate students and young adults)
Fridays 4:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Briarwood Commons, 1001 S. Chestnut St.
Sunday, March 3, 10:15 a.m.	Lord's Supper Observance
Sunday, March 3, noon	Fellowship Potluck
Saturday, March 9, 8 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m.	Women's Breakfast



Youth Ministry Update

Ignition

This winter, we have started our series' on Big Dreams and Leadership. The last few weeks we have looked at different leaders spread across God's word. Each week our youth continue to come to enjoy fun together and to learn more about God. We are trying to work in small groups for certain discussion questions, and it has been encouraging to see how the youth are coming together to try to understand what God is teaching us. Ultimately, we look to Jesus as our example on how to lead others, and I can see that leadership coming through the youth. Bryce and I thank you so much for your prayers of encouragement! Please continue to pray for Stacia while she is away from youth director duties and on mom duties right now! May God be with us each and every day!

In Christ,

Aren Blackwood

Sunday School

We are continuing our study through Mark in the youth Sunday School class. Thank you to MaryDawn Buntin, Susan Cutlip, and Genie Jones for helping lead the Bible study time and participate in conversation with the youth. I know for myself I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing different youth students open up about things they are passionate about and asking hard questions. Please pray for relationships to be strengthened among the students in their communication with one another, and also in their walk with God.

In Christ,

Lacey Myers



Collegiate Ministry Pastor Jeremy's Update

Collegiate Ministries

God is so generous, isn't He? We are praising Him for provisions for Spring Break, and continue our preparations to take a small team to SAFE Family Ministries in Chehalis this month. Thank you for your part in making this mission a successful one. Whether you were one who gave or are lifting us up in prayer, we could not make it a be a blessing without you. So thank you! Total Variety Show gifts added up to \$1,225. Praise God, and our team is coming together to serve.

We have not been given details on what we will be doing while there, but we think we'll be planting in their garden, painting and doing other maintenance projects for the week. Every time we have been with them, the staff and residents of SAFE have been such a blessing to each one on the team. Pray with us for Shirley Cunningham, executive director, and Natasia Grable, volunteer coordinator. Pray that God would direct their every move as they give leadership not only to us but also to all the women benefiting from being at SAFE. And pray that as our team is finalized, God would grant us unity and give us wisdom on how to divide labor most effectively to accomplish all He desires.

In the meantime, we continue to seek Him week after week during Crosswalk, worshipping and studying Scripture to learn more of God's great salvation plan. The first couple weeks of March we will wrap up a mini-series on relationships, and next quarter we look forward to focusing on God's call to go. You are all welcome to join us March 28 when we have special guests The Traveling Team with us to share about God's heart for the nations. And we would love to have some of you as guests throughout the spring, sharing how God has called you to serve Him in your occupation and neighborhoods. Let me know if you would like to come be with us some Thursday!

We are still praying that God would bless Stacia with rejuvenation despite the fatigue that comes with having a newborn. Thankfully, Stacia, Bryce and Liliana are all doing well. And ministry to young adults and mid- and high-school students continues as well. Pray with us that these first months of Lily's life will be rich for the Harmsen family.

Thank you for your love and prayers, we desire to serve God always more fully and reach out more effectively to CWU students. You are a big part of that as you pray!

His,

Jeremy



- March 16, 9 a.m. - Women's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- March 11, 7 p.m. - Weekly Women's Prayer Walks begin and will continue every Monday evening in March. We will meet at the Wildcat Statue outside the CWU SURC.
- Keep your eyes and ears open for news about our **retreat** coming up.

Men's Ministry Events

Monthly Breakfast

All Gentleman are invited to join together Saturday, March 9, at 8:00 a.m. for a time of Scripture, food and fellowship. Pastor Frank and Ron Ness will be cooking, and Merle Woody will share the devotional message. Put this on your calendar!

Fellowship Potluck March 3

The schedule was pretty crowded around Valentine's Day, so we are planning our next fellowship potluck for **noon-ish on Sunday, March 3**. All our members and regular attenders are asked to bring a main dish and a side dish/dessert with enough to share with guests. It is always the right time to share good food and fellowship!

New Study Offered Prior to Resurrection Sunday

As a follow-up to the Bible study we are offering on Sunday mornings entitled *Making Your Case for Christ*, we have obtained a new series from Lee Strobel entitled *The Case for Easter: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for the Resurrection*. We will be offering this four-part study in the weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday, April 21. Look for the schedule announced in our weekly bulletins, either for LIFE Groups or at another time. We will also have a short book (96 pages) to give away, both to our school bus drivers and then to those who attend worship on Resurrection Sunday.



Business Meeting Re-scheduled

The Business meeting was re-scheduled for Sunday, March 3, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall due to anticipated hard snow. As it happened, the snow held off until overnight. Go figure!

Choir Prepares Resurrection-Music

Our choral ensemble is preparing music to augment our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on Sunday, April 21. They are rehearsing every Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. The choir hopes to lift the spirits of all who attend to trust in the One Who is able to raise the dead and give spiritual life to all who call upon Jesus.

Deacons Coordinate Practical Ministries

In the next few weeks, the deacons are hoping to distribute a list of ways to meet people's needs in the Church. A *Serving Others in Jesus' Name Survey* is being created for church members who are willing to assist when needs arise. Once compiled, the deacons will reference this confidential information to help better those in our Church family. Watch for the survey to be distributed soon.



*"Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can
fathom."*

Isaiah 40:28