



CONNECTIONS

Oak Hills Church Newsletter

April 2010 – May 2010

The last six weeks have been prep time for us during Lent ... prep time for Good Friday and Easter. We spent much time in worship throughout each week and in corporate worship on Sundays reflecting on ways to deepen our devotion to Jesus. Were you better prepared?

As we studied the “capital vices and virtues”, the Holy Spirit led us through periods of personal repentance and renewal. We wanted to be ready for Good Friday to remember Jesus’ great sacrifice for us and to celebrate his resurrection on Easter. Were you more ready?

Whether this is your first Easter or you’ve celebrated many, we explore and deepen our relationship with Jesus. Paul describes it this way: *“You have been raised w/ Christ ...your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”* So (we) *“you ...set your hearts on things above ...set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.”* Colossians 3:1-3

So what happens when we engage in Lent and Easter? We make a time commitment to worship daily. We commit to reflect

carefully on what Jesus has done for us. We ask the Holy Spirit to shape our lives. We make ourselves available for the Spirit to change us from the inside out. Little by little, God in grace transforms us into people who more deeply and intentionally **love Jesus, obey Jesus and serve Jesus.**

So how can we encourage each other to live out our commitment to Jesus? You already have as a church community! As a church we’ve valued and provided Christ-centered worship for Lent, Good Friday and Easter. Your participation in daily, weekly worship and in dialog with others encourages the people of God! Faithfully doing your work or study every day honors God and makes a difference in people. On April 17 many will be putting time and energies together to serve our community in the name of Jesus. I challenge you to invest yourself in Christ’s love and once again live out your commitment with and for our community.

God be glorified in shaping and transforming our lives in small, powerful ways!

Several of our congregation donated their time on either Saturday or Sunday, March 27 & 28, to participate in the Second Annual Outreach Team Plant Distribution. The Outreach Team would like to thank those who participated in distributing the 700 beautiful Golden cypress plants to residents of the Oak Hills Community. Each plant contained an invitation to attend the Oak Hills Church Easter service and brunch.

The Team would also like to thank Fisher Farms, owned by Bob Terry, Sr. and Bob Terry, Jr. for donating the plants, as well as Ron Bome, Carla Ernster’s brother, for providing the invitations.

Thank you to all who reached out to share God’s love to our neighbors within the Oak Hills Community.

Daniel Helm – Region 10 Diving News - By Floyd Helm

On March 6th and 7th, 2010, Tualatin Hills Dive Club hosted a Region 10 meet for USA diving. Daniel Helm (from Oak Hills) led his team to a 2nd place finish, right behind a very strong Stanford team.

Daniel, currently a senior at Westview and headed to LSU in the fall on a diving scholarship, had a historic day on March 6th. He broke an 11 year old State record in the 3 meter event. Daniel's previous high for the dive was 479 points and the State record was 547 points. After his last dive, with the crowd screaming with excitement, Daniel achieved an amazing 622.10 points. It was his "perfect event" said his club coach, Joe Lyons. If he dives like that in a senior event or at NCAA, he'll finish in the top 8 of all divers. It was beautiful!!!

It was also nice to have Daniel set the record so high on his last official meet at

THPRD's aquatic center where Daniel has been diving since the 6th grade (Meadow Park). Within the last 5 years, there has only been one person who has scored more points in the 3 meter event. His name is Kristain Ipsen (a future Olympian). Joe believes that Daniel's future is full of potential and that his athletic ability combined with his competitiveness will put him on an international stage (probably sooner than later).

His college coach, Doug Shaffer, sent an email saying "AWESOME!!!!!! CONGRATS!!". He later noted that "Coach Doug is very EXCITED for Daniel's diving to begin at LSU".

If you are interested in seeing the video of Daniel's 10 dives in the 3 meter event, go to YouTube and search under: 3 meter March 6, 2010 Daniel Helm

Summer is on the way! - By Nan Van Dyke

It won't be long before summer vacation arrives. Do you know what you will be doing this summer? By the second week of July will you be sitting around the house, wishing you had something to do? Do you enjoy fishing, swimming, pickleball, Frisbee golf, and climbing ropes? If you do, here is the perfect place to spend a week - Camp Calvin Northwest!

If you have completed grades 6th-8th, why don't you plan to join friends from around the Pacific Northwest at camp this year? It is a wonderful time of fun and learning about our God who created the wonderful world in which we live. The camp is in the beautiful

North Cascade Mountains of Washington State at Lost Creek Village Campground. This year's camp is from July 12-16 and prior to May 26th, the cost for non-stop fun is \$125 plus and additional \$20 for the optional ropes course.

Those from our congregation who attended last year had a terrific time and most are planning to attend again this year. You don't have to be a middle schooler to join in the fun. We are also looking for adult leaders. Please contact either Curtis Holm or the camp director, Howard Spaan, to register or to volunteer.

Oak Hills was the location for the February 23rd bi-annual meeting of Classis Columbia. Classis representatives from Oak Hills included Pastor Carl, Elder John Westra, and Deacon Ruth Korver. Pastor Howard was also in attendance in his role as Stated Clerk of Classis Columbia.

Highlights included the following:

- Curtis Holm was reelected to a three year term on the Youth Committee
- Mary Van Buren was elected to serve for three years on the Diaconal Committee
- Pastor Carl Leep was reelected to another term on the Home Missions Board and also reelected Chairman of this group
- Ms. Jill Friend, from the Faith Foundation Committee of the Christian Reformed Church was unable to attend this session but will make a special session in The Dalles on March 15.
- A special session will be held on March 15 in The Dalles to dialogue regarding the recent synodical decision to admit children to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. This session will focus on the best method of implementing this change.
- The Home Missions Committee announced that three emerging churches, located in Vancouver, Quincy, and Toppenish along with two established churches, Hope and Zion, will be presented in three different languages. This is a change from a century ago when three of our denominational churches conducted their services in the Dutch language.
- A film was shown by the West Coast Team Leaders describing the changes taking place in the outreach program. Included in the film was an interview with Evelyn Vander Veen and Tausha Ibarra Contreras followed by comments by Pastor Carl.
- The Youth Committee announced that Camp Calvin's Summer Camp program will be directed by 90 year old Pastor Howard Spaan.
- The World Relief committee member, Jack Jansons of Kennewick, informed the session that more than 3,000 volunteers worked on disaster relief organizing, assessing damage, and construction, reconstruction, and Community development. Bev and Jerry Baarspul were among those who dedicated massive amounts of time to this endeavor.
- Delegates extended their thanks and gratitude to the ladies of Oak Hills for an outstanding dinner. These ladies included, Margaret Spaan, Nan Van Dyke, Pam Hitt, Kara Leep, Aldine Leistra, Janet Vreugdenhil, and Sharry Kragt.
- A special event concerned Pastor Donald Recker who was endorsed for retirement. He was declared a candidate for ministry, and endorsed and ordained by this Classis in 1968. Pastor Recker served in Anchorage, Alaska prior to moving to Flanders Valley in New Jersey and in 1995 he began his current pastorate in Yakima. Following the close of the session, Pastor Recker was honored at a special reception.



**MISSION STATEMENT FOR NAVAJO AND ZUNI NATION
RELATIONSHIPS - By Bev Baarspul, Jerry Baarspul, and Hugo
Kuylman on behalf of the Outreach Committee.**

Mutual Godly growth through long-term relational fellowship.

VISION STATEMENT

Oak Hills Church (OHC) wishes to establish a long-term relationship with Rehoboth Christian School (RCS), Zuni Christian School (ZCS), and the Navajo (NN) and Zuni Nations (ZN). It is our desire to be a friend, an encourager, a financial support, a prayer partner and a servant to the schools and the Navajo and Zuni Nations. Through this ministry, OHC members will have an opportunity to use their God given talents in service of others for the increase of God's kingdom within these Native American Nations and within us.

We hope to accomplish this through prayer, special offerings, budgeted giving and mostly through interactions between us and the schools. We desire to send volunteers to these schools to work wherever the help is needed, from

tutoring to carpentry, from cooking to administrative work, from painting to yard work, from special projects to routine maintenance. This work will start out within the confines of the schools and hopefully lead to work within the NN and ZN Christian churches and the local communities. In addition to OHC sending servants to New Mexico, it is our hope that the schools will send students to OHC. The students could assist in our Summer Day Camp, go to a local school for a period of time, the RCS choir could sing in the Northwest, students could attend a local college while housing is provided by OHC members, or ...

This long-term relationship is an opportunity for all of us to grow in love and respect for one another, to respect each other's cultures, to learn about each other's history and to grow through our sharing of Christ's love for us.

Passover Quiz – answers on page 6

Match the Jewish Passover terms in column A with their definitions in column B

Chagigah
Charoset
Chazeret
Haggadah
Karpas
Maror
Matzoh
Pesach

Bitter root
Unleavened bread
Greens
Ground bitter herb
Mixture of apples, cinnamon and nuts
Book containing the Passover service
Passover
Roasted egg

Women's Discipleship Spring Events - By Allison Bates

April 23-25th - Oak Hills Women's Retreat

Ladies, mark your calendars! We will be heading to Mary and Dave Slotemaker's lovely beach home in Long Beach, WA, for a weekend celebrating tranquili-tea, beau-tea, sereni-tea, availablili-tea and communi-tea! Come relax, stroll on the beach, share how God has been working in your life, and enjoy a few cups of tea and some delicious comfort food!

The group cost for Room and Board is \$300.00 which will be divided equally among all who attend. (\$30.00 or less per person) Financial assistant is available! Please speak with Allison Bates or Sharry Kragt regarding this.

Please RSVP (yes -or- no) by April 11th to Allison Bates. If you are able to assist the Women's Discipleship Committee with planning this special event, please let Allison Bates know. Three small

committees will be formed: food, carpooling, devotions.

The Women's Discipleship committee looks forward to spending this special weekend away with you!

Women's Discipleship May Potluck-Spring Cleaning

It is just about that time of year to throw open the windows, air out the house and declutter! On May 16, from noon until 2pm we will gather for the last WD Potluck before summer arrives. Along with a dish to share, we will be collecting gently used clothing, coats, winter accessories, boots, shoes, and blankets to pass along to Portland Homeless shelters. This event will take place in the Fireside Room. If you are unable to attend, but have some items to donate, please place them in the Fireside Room by May 16, mark them as donations for the homeless and we will gladly deliver them to the shelter.

Helpful Hints - By Carla Ernster

Tired of fighting mosquitoes and seeing droopy flowers in your vases? Here are some techniques for you to try.

Buy a bottle of Listerine® mouthwash and a spray bottle. Before your next outdoor event spray the area with the mouthwash and the mosquitoes will disappear.

(I haven't tried this to see if it keeps bees and wasps away too or not).

When you bring home cut flowers like tulips, after you put in water and the cut flower powder, put a copper penny in the bottom of the vase. Your flowers will be like little soldiers standing straight and tall.

Answers to Passover Quiz:

Chagigah – Roasted egg; Charoset – Mixture of apples, cinnamon and nuts
Chazeret – Bitter root – horseradish; Haggadah – The book from which the Passover service is read; Karpas – various greens, such as parsley; Maror – ground herb, generally horseradish eaten with Matzoh; Matzoh – unleavened bread;
Pesach – The Passover celebration

Calvin College Professor Visits Oak Hills – By Shelley Bosch



More than 40 people attended a talk given by Professor Jamie Skillen. This was sponsored by the Calvin College Alumni Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington. Dr. Skillen is a professor in the Department of Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies at Calvin College. He received his bachelor's degree from Wheaton College and his Ph.D. from Cornell. He also has a Masters in Divinity from Gordon Cromwell.

Dr. Skillen is an example of the changing face of Calvin College. In the past, Calvin College had a predominantly Christian Reformed student body and staff and the majority of the students were of Dutch ancestry. Now, more than 50% of the faculty and students are no longer Christian Reformed or of Dutch ancestry. Calvin College is now a mid-sized Fine Arts College with a reputation for academic excellence as well as turning out successful workers in God's kingdom.

The topic of Dr. Skillen's talk was "Who Owns the West?... and why does it matter at Calvin College". The land in the west is owned predominantly by the government. The land rights are layered over time and space. For instance, one group may own the surface land and another party might

own the subsurface land. This makes establishing land rights especially tricky. One of the most recent land rights issues is the water rights in the Klamath Basin that has been in the news in the last few months.

Calvin College has a growing number of students who are interested in the issues addressed by Dr. Skillen. In fact, there were parents of one of Dr. Skillen's students in the audience. There will be a class from Calvin coming to Oregon in May. Dr. Skillen also asked if there were any members of the audience who might have opportunities for some students to do work studies. Several people approached him after the talk to tell him of possible opportunities they might be able to arrange. After the talk, there was a time to meet Dr. Skillen and have refreshments.

As an added bonus, one of the two students who received a scholarship from the Pacific Northwest Calvin Alumni Association was present to receive his scholarship award. Two students were given awards totaling \$1,000 each. The funds were raised here in the Northwest with Calvin matching our funds. We would like to continue to offer these scholarships and are currently raising money for future scholarship awards. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact Mary VanBuren.

Newton's Third Law of Motion:

"To every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction: or the forces of two bodies on each other are always equal and are directed in opposite directions".

"What, then shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:31-32

Newton's Third Law of physics and motion states that every time a force is put upon an object, there is always an equal force in the opposite direction. Most of us know this by the phrase, **FOR EVERY ACTION IS AN EQUAL REACTION.**

This Easter season we are reminded of what it means to receive a free gift. I have been thinking more about God and this gift of grace through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This monumental event in history is a major action by God which requires a reaction on our part. But how do we respond to the overwhelming sacrifice of Christ on the cross? Better yet, how do we respond to the supernatural event of resurrection? It is one thing for Jesus Christ to die on a cross. It is even more significant for him to literally rise from the dead. Without a resurrection, you have just another political criminal dying in public on behalf of the Roman Empire (1 Corinthians 15:12-15). How do we respond or react to this overwhelming gift of grace?

Most of the time, and rightly so, we respond in worship. This takes on all kinds of forms and shapes. Our worship ranges from attending a church service weekly, to practicing several spiritual disciplines and everything in between. Our worship comes as a reaction of overflowing adoration and love for God. While all these things tend to be legitimate forms of worship they focus more on the individual and his/her reaction back at God. Is it possible that an equal reaction to God's action might require a little more?

Lately I have been watching people suffer through some difficult relationships. The economy of relationships is usually about taking and giving. To not give a reaction defines the relationship as nothing more than

a mere chance meeting. The closer our relationship is to someone, the greater the reaction will be. Because we have been created by God, a relational being (the Trinity), our reaction to the free gift of grace should somehow be relational. We receive love without condition therefore we should extend this unconditional love out to others. Our natural reaction to is to "pay it forward," to give back to others the action that was first given to us. Obviously, we can NEVER come close to loving others the way that God first loved us. We are a fallen and broken people. Therefore, our reaction to his action will never be close to equal (unlike Newton's Third Law). By definition, human relationships can be messy and never easy. That is not an excuse for us to hold back the love and hope brought into the world by the resurrection.

Our reaction to sacrifice and resurrection begins now, whether it is Easter Sunday or next Tuesday. There are opportunities for us to shine light in the darkness, bring hope for the hopeless, and distribute love for the loveless. From the grocery store lines, to your front yards, there are unique opportunities to put forth action in response to the great acts of God. A kind word, an encouraging note, an unexpected embrace; these are true reactions to resurrection.

Indeed, Jesus is risen, but so have we in some way. As we have died with Christ, we have now arisen to a new life, a new journey of hope (Romans 6:5-11). We have been acted upon by the love and grace of God and we respond in authentic worship to God Almighty and compassion upon all of humanity.

Nursery Schedule

4/4/10	Bev Baarspul	Dale Andre	Tristan Andre
4/11/10	Kim Veenhuis	Jared Carpenter	Dalene Stukey
4/18/10	Bonnie Yonker	Amanda Carpenter	Kara Leep
4/25/10	Camille Andre	Kimberly Vreug.	Heather McDuffie
5/2/10	Maureen Holm	Mary vanBuren	Nathan vanBuren
5/9/10	Brad Buchholz	Chris Buchholz	Makenzie Gerbracht
5/16/10	Joey Kragt	Melissa Hoekert	Jenny Fuller
5/23/10	Allison Bates	Ivona Slotemaker	
5/30/10	Beth Spaan	Susan Buchholz	Paul Buchholz

Greeter Schedule

4/4/10	Sharry Kragt/ Georgette Sezonov
4/11/10	Sharry Kragt/ Georgette Sezonov
4/18/10	John & Shauna Westra
4/25/10	John & Shauna Westra
5/2/10	Lloyd & Sally Hoekert
5/9/10	Lloyd & Sally Hoekert
5/16/10	Dan & Allison Bates
5/23/10	Dan & Allison Bates
5/30/10	Art & Rebecca Armour

Coffee Host Schedule

4/4/10	Andy & Dalene Stukey
4/11/10	Phil & Nan VanDyke
4/18/10	Matt & Mary vanBuren
4/25/10	Stan & Evelyn VanderVeen
5/2/10	Todd & Kim Veenhuis
5/9/10	Gord & Janet Vreugdenhil
5/16/10	Brad & Candy Weber
5/23/10	John & Shauna Westra
5/30/10	Debbie Wilhelm/Carolee Zapp

Coming Events

April 2	7 pm	Good Friday Service
April 4	9:30 am	Easter Service
	10:45 am	Brunch
April 11	2 pm	Show for Shauna Westra at Bonnie Yonker's
	3 pm	3 rd -8 th grade Bowling for Food
April 17	9 am	Faith In Action Day
April 23-25		Women's Retreat at Mary & Dave Slotemaker's cottage
April 25		High School Bowling
April 30-May 2		Middle School Spring Explosion Retreat
May 1		High School Girls' Night out
May 8		Love Inc. Bowl-a-thon
May 16		Women's Discipleship luncheon
May 21-23		High School Beach Retreat
June 1	7 pm	Congregational meeting
June 28-July 2		SonSeeker Day Camp
July 12-16		Camp Calvin Northwest (Middle School)
July 18-23		Greatest Camp Ever Part 9 (High School)