

# The Brethren Baptist Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Representing a Church of the Brethren and an American Baptist Church, September / October Issue, 2023

## THE MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

September 15 will be my one-year anniversary of being your pastor. Of course, you are welcome to make jokes about how you've managed to stand me this long. For my part, I seize every opportunity to tell people how much I enjoy being the pastor at WBBC, how amazing our congregation is, and what an honor this ministry is for me.

Now before you ask, "Is he looking for a raise," hear me out. I know church "success" is often judged by size of congregation, rate of growth, annual income, etc. I don't believe that is how God judges such things. When we look at the Bible's teaching on faithfulness, we see that God does not set up arbitrary measures, like some spiritual standardized test, and rate everyone compared with others' scores. Jesus speaks in wonder of the elderly widow in the Jerusalem Temple who gives extravagantly—and she gives the equivalent of two pennies. She is faithful with what she has to give.

When we read the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father does not scold the son for failing to bring home profits on his inheritance, or even for failing to bring home the money he'd had when he left. The defeated, ragged young man's father rejoices that he's even alive, and that he acted faithfully *to come back home*. So not only is faithfulness not measured on a scale of comparison with others, but God takes into account our sins and failings and sees faithfulness in how, after we horribly messed up yesterday, we live today.

I find that tremendously encouraging. When I lovingly refer to our congregation as a "motley crew," I am thinking in these terms. Everyone ages. Everyone dies eventually. An older congregation that has fewer members than it once did is not failing, nor falling short. Faithfulness in God's eyes has a different measuring stick, a different point of reference. Faithfulness in the Kingdom of God is showing up today, looking to love others and offer shalom today, praying for others today. Faithfulness in the Kingdom of God is using the gifts we have and recognizing God provided these gifts.

Paul writes in I Corinthians, "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they do not show good sense. We, however, will not boast beyond limits but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you." That's our reassurance. Your faithfulness today will not look like someone else's faithfulness, and may not even look the same as your faithfulness last week or last year. Certainly, it will look different at 80 than at 30, or at 54 than at 24. We grow in wisdom, and at the same time we grow in humility and in the knowledge that we live by grace. I was so confident that Jesus was lucky to have me as a disciple when I was 24. Thirty years later, with all the scars and mileage I've added, all the great things at which I've failed and the small things at which I've succeeded, I can tell you about God's grace with a depth I could not grasp back then. The Prodigal Son understood grace when he'd returned home in a way that his older brother, who never left, had yet to learn.

Jesus calls us to be faithful today—and delights in us when we try. By this measure, Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church has been faithful—not perfect, but faithful—for a very long time.

Pastor Mike



The Church of the Brethren Mission offering is one of two special mission offerings WBBC collects each year. America for Christ offering is collected in the spring and goes to support the work of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. This year's CoB Mission offering will be collected on **Sunday, September 10**. This offering supports Brethren missions of evangelism and service around the world. We encourage you to give generously.

**CHURCH HISTORY SCRAPBOOK**

If you haven't seen the book about our church from its beginnings, you really would enjoy looking at all the old pictures and stories written over the years about Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church United. People are 'checking out' the scrapbook for a week at a time (Sunday to Sunday). If you are interested, speak to Leanne Ford and she will check it out to you. You can look at it in the church office, as well.

**PRAYER REQUEST FROM NIGERIA**

-from Church of the Brethren Newslines:

News was received yesterday from the EYN Media Office that one of the Chibok schoolgirls who was abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014 has been rescued by a Nigerian military operation in Borno State this past Monday, August 21. "Glory be to God, one of our Chibok abducted girls Mary Nkeki from Kubumbula was released 4 days ago. We talked with her father by the grace of God they will go and bring her back from Maiduguri soon," said a text message from Joel Tabji, the EYN District Church Council secretary for Chibok, which was shared by email with Church of the Brethren staff in the US. EYN Media head, Zakariya Musa, shared this prayer request: "Pray for Mary who is now 27, to reunite with her parents after almost 10 years in captivity."

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Our Shut-ins:  
Mary Kintner  
Carolyn Storme

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Whitley  
12<sup>th</sup> John Clevenger  
Avery Fletcher  
24<sup>th</sup> Lael Vickery



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

8<sup>th</sup> Annalise Rumley-Wells  
9<sup>th</sup> Mike Rumley-Wells  
18<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Storme  
19<sup>th</sup> Cathy Madsen

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

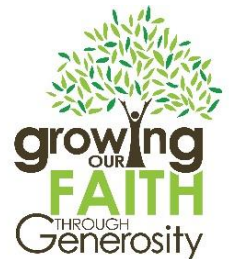
NO Anniversaries

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

NO Anniversaries

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY OCTOBER 8**

Each year we have a special Sunday devoted to stewardship. Stewardship is how we use and share the resources God has entrusted to us. On Stewardship Sunday we offer our "pledge cards" and commit ourselves to giving of our time, talents, and money in the coming year. This helps us reflect on our own stewardship, and it helps the church prepare next year's budget.



This year, Stewardship Sunday is on October 8. Our theme is *Growing Our Faith Through Generosity, 2 Corinthians 9:6*. In the coming weeks you will be receiving a mailing with more information and your pledge cards for 2024.

**REMINDER**

**Church Board**  
**Tuesday, September 19 at 9:30am**

**Attention Committee Chairs:** Please get your report to Board in by Tuesday, September 12.



## KITCHEN TABLE ACTIONS TO CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

You have the power to make a real difference in how you impact earth, God's gift to us. The following decisions are ones you and your household can make, they are kitchen table actions.

The first word in the familiar phrase "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is **Reduce**.

- Buy fewer consumer goods in general. This cuts down the plastics waste stream, transportation costs and saves you money.
- Eat lower on the food chain. Reduce your consumption of red meat. Visit the Farmers Market for local produce. Cut down on junk food, saving you money and your health.

The second word is **Reuse**.

- Visit stores that sell "vintage" clothing like the YWCA Thrift Store, Goodwill, or the Senior Center. Look for items on Craigslist and other resale sites like ThredUp and Poshmark.
- Watch for reuse and repair businesses such as: Cascade Creative Reuse in Cashmere, opening this fall to accept donations of arts and crafts materials and selling these supplies at accessible prices.
- Colchuck Consignment in Cashmere selling and renting donated quality outdoor gear and clothing.

The third word is **Recycle**.

- Keep on recycling #1 and #2 plastics, as well as paper, cardboard and metals in your Waste Management recycling bins.
- In this valley we are fortunate that Dolco recycles styrofoam, styrofoam blocks, foam take-out clamshells, foam egg cartons and meat trays, foam cups, and #6 plastics —hard plastic CD/DVD cases, #6 clear plastic food containers, #6 plastic drinking cups, crystal clear plastic cutlery. (Dolco Packaging at 1121 South Columbia Street in Wenatchee).

- Glass can be recycled at the Leavenworth Recycling Center and in Chelan at 911 Glass Rescue.
- Recycle plastic bags, resealable zip-lock bags, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, outer plastic wrap, and bubble wrap at Fred Meyer and some other grocery stores.
- Consider switching to different products or brands (ones with more recyclable packaging).
- Learn about Waste Wizard through SustainableNCW. Residents of our two counties can use their search tool to find places to recycle, donate, or properly dispose of items.

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** —remember that order. First reduce your consumption, then reuse or share what you have, and third, recycle what is no longer usable.

*Take care of Creation. It's God's gift!*

Creation Care Team

---

### Pacific NW District Conference Scheduled For October 13-15

The 2023 Pacific Northwest District Conference has been scheduled for Friday, October 13 through Sunday, October 15. An additional session specifically for pastors and ministry leaders will precede District Conference, beginning on October 12.

The theme for this year's conference will be "Living Love in Action," drawn from 1 John 3:18, which reads "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions" (NLT). The District Conference is an opportunity for District members to come together to reflect on the past year of District life as well as discern together the future for our collection of congregations.

This year's conference will be a hybrid conference, with District members gathering both online and in-person. The in-person conference will be held at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Washington. Camp Koinonia, one of the Pacific Northwest District's camps, is nestled in beautiful, wooded nature, providing an enriching environment for our spiritual community, and church-business discussions and activities. This will mark the first official District in-person gathering since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keep an eye out for District-wide email announcements, as well as event updates on the District website, [www.cobpacificnorthwest.org](http://www.cobpacificnorthwest.org)

