



The Pastor's Pen...

Greetings to the Mature Adult Community of Northwest Family Church!

As I write this note to you, we are planning to tour the beautiful gardens at Weyerhaeuser in Federal Way next week. Last month, our outing was to Sumner with a visit to the Windmill Nursery and lunch (or breakfast) at Dixie's Café. Everyone who attended enjoyed the food, fellowship and tour.

We try to plan outings and events that are within reach of most. Our goal is 100% participation in whatever we do. We do not seek to be a "closed" group, but want to be "inclusive". I encourage you, whenever possible, join us on the outings and you will be blessed.

We also want to recruit seniors who are 55 plus to attend our weekly fellowship on Wednesdays. You will see some "free" tickets that you can pass along to someone who is not involved, to encourage them to join us.

Please feel free to share your opinions (and any suggestions you have to make our senior's group stronger) with us.

The next big event will be our Annual Seniors Alive Picnic" on June 24. We will meet at Game Farm Park at 11:00 a.m.. Watch the bulletin for details as to what food items you are to bring. The Seniors Group from Sound Life in Spanaway will be joining us again this year. Don't forget to bring your lawn games, board games, etc. along with your lawn chairs, etc., etc.

May the Lord richly bless you is our prayer!
Pastor Don Howard

Always in our prayers

Millie Butler	Al Goodhue
Rosie Price	Joseph Punnoose
Merriam Raulston	Judy Shannon



WOLF (Word of Life Fellowship)

Your opportunity to make new friends and get acquainted

June 3: Fireside Room
11:00 a.m. – Bible Study (on 3rd, 10th, and 17th)
12:00 p.m. – Potato Bar -- Stephanie Minton

June 10: Fireside Room -- **Potluck! See your group list!**

June 17: Fireside Room -- Fried Chicken, Pasta Salad, Fruit -- Stephanie Minton

June 24: Seniors' Picnic at Game Farm Park (Potluck)
Spanaway Seniors will join us for a great day of fellowship. Bring your lawn or board games as well as lawn chairs if you like to visit away from the food tables. Seniors with names ending in **A-H** will bring salad and an entrée. Seniors with names **I-Z** will bring dessert and an entrée.

Featured Senior

Marie Bratsch



Marie was born 2/11/1929 in Albert Lea, Minn. Sadly, her father (who worked for the railroad) was killed in an accident before she was born. Her childhood was hard, but hardships made her resilient. Her outlook on life was shaped by the appreciation of little things. Her son Scott says his mother has learned that contentment lies her heart not her circumstance.

Marie and her husband moved to Washington from Minneapolis in the summer of 1966. They had eight children: Frank, Vaughn, Cynthia, Mark, Andrea, Bryan, Scott, and Bonita. Marie has 23 grandchildren and 18 great-grand children. Most of her children still live in the area.

Marie lost her husband of 33 ½ years to cancer in July of 1981. Shortly after that, she took a job as a bus driver for Auburn Christian School under Principal J. Arthur Stewart. She loved the job and the kids loved her. She currently volunteers at Auburn Regional Medical Center on a weekly basis and enjoys time with her family.

She has earned a reputation as a hard worker and a prayer warrior for her family -- always seeking God on their behalf. She is a faithful prayer partner for those in at church also.

"I'm just not going to let it get me down!" is a common statement Debbie Christian says she still hears today from Marie. The "it" may be any one of a hundred different things that could discourage her – just fill in the blanks! She is a positive, God-loving, wonderful woman. (Thanks to Scott Bratsch and Debbie Christian for above.)



Looking Ahead

September 23: Johnny and Ruth Larring will be with us!

November 18: Seniors' Thanksgiving Banquet

December 9: Christmas Potluck!

Center Provides Support Group

Share and hear ideas about caring for friends and relatives and information about available resources in a special support group meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2-3 p.m. at the Auburn Senior Activity Center. Caregivers can take a much-needed break and stop by to get acquainted with group facilitator, Social Worker Veta Howard. This group is free.

(See page 2 for information on Center's Respite Group.)



Gene police: "YOU! Out of the pool!"

Seniors Alive! is a ministry to and ministry opportunity for mature adults over 50 including Word of Life Fellowship (WOLF) – Bible Study and lunch on Wednesdays, trips, and volunteer opportunities such as those shown on page 2.

June Birthdays

2—Judy Inkster
 4—Mona Fouts, Brigitte Wilson
 5—Jack Storer
 7—Bob Ziegelman
 8—Byron Ditty
 11—Joyce Brown
 12—Ellen Barr, Joann Clausen,
 Flora Cruz
 13—Harry Lawson , Helen Lozier
 14—Al Doll, Fred Helser
 15—Claudia Henning
 19—Bob Pogue
 23—Severt Easterby



25—Shirley Rose
 27—Marybell Blakeley, Pat Plattner
 30—Curtis Brisbane

Please note:

If we missed your special date or that of a friend, please tell us!



June Anniversaries

5—Charlie and Modena Cruthers
 11—Jean and Irene Dewitt
 15—Frank and Marie Berger,
 Bob and Janice Halsted
 17—Blaine and Donna Franklin
 18—Bob and Doris Ziegelman
 22—Don and Helen Cleveland
 23—Cliff and Pat Crandall
 24—Bud and Donnette Burns
 26—Ron and Jan Engen
 27—Bill and Mona Fouts
 28—Ace and Polly Mills
 30—Severt and Ethel Easterby!

Keep Our Nametags Working!

Thanks for wearing your nametags. Should you lose yours or not have one, please use one of the blanks on the counter (may be in the basket). If there are no holders in the basket, ask Ruth or Sylvia as we have many.

If a visitor or newcomer doesn't have one, make one out for them. We will periodically check all the nametags and replace hand-written ones with a computer-printed one.

Senior Center's Respite Group (continued from Page 1)

Respite Care Program: A separate program is provided (for a nominal fee which can be negotiated) for those who wish to bring family members with disabilities such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's or frail health for a day of socialization, companionship, music, activities, and lunch. Volunteer provide one-on-one care for seniors participating in the program.

This care is given every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This gives caregivers an opportunity to take care of their own needs and perhaps attend the Caregivers' Support Group. Call Sheila Pankratz at (253) 875-9163 for information.

THE RICH FAMILY IN CHURCH By Eddie Ogan

I'll never forget Easter 1946. I was 14, my little sister Ocy was 12, and my older sister Darlene 16. We lived at home with our mother, and the four of us knew what it was to do without many things. My dad had died five years before, leaving Mom with seven school kids to raise and no money.

By 1946 my older sisters were married and my brothers had left home. A month before Easter the pastor of our church announced that a special Easter offering would be taken to help a poor family. He asked everyone to save and give sacrificially.

When we got home, we talked about what we could do. We decided to buy 50 pounds of potatoes and live on them for a month. This would allow us to save \$20 of our grocery money for the offering. When we thought that if we kept our electric lights turned out as much as possible and didn't listen to the radio, we'd save money on that month's electric bill. Darlene got as many house and yard cleaning jobs as possible, and both of us babysat for everyone we could. For 15 cents we could buy enough cotton loops to make three pot holders to sell for \$1.

We made \$20 on potholders. That month was one of the best of our lives. Every day we counted the money to see how much we had saved. At night we'd sit in the dark and talk about how the poor family was going to enjoy having the money (cont. col. 2)

The Rich Family Continued from column 2

the church would give them. We had about 80 people in church, so figured that whatever amount of money we had to give, the offering would surely be 20 times that much. The pastor often reminded everyone to save for the sacrificial offering.

The day before Easter, Ocy and I walked to the grocery store got three crisp \$20 bills and one \$10 bill for all our change. We ran all the way home to show Mom and Darlene. We had never had so much money before. That night we were so excited we could hardly sleep. We didn't care that we wouldn't have new clothes for Easter; we had \$70 for the sacrificial offering.

On Sunday morning, rain was pouring. We didn't own an umbrella and the church was over a mile from our home, but it didn't matter how wet we got. Darlene had cardboard in her shoes to fill the holes. The cardboard came apart, and her feet got wet.

We sat in church proudly. I heard teenagers talking about the Smith girls wearing their old dresses. I looked at them, but I felt rich. When the offering was taken, Mom put in the \$10 bill, and each of us kids put in a \$20. As we walked home after church, we sang all the way. Mom had a surprise for us at home – a dozen eggs! We had Easter eggs with our fried potatoes! Later, the minister drove up in his car. Mom went to the door, talked with him for a moment, and came back with an envelope in her hand. She didn't say a word. She opened the envelope and out fell three crisp \$20 bills, one \$10 and seventeen \$1 bills. The minister had brought us the money for the poor family.

Mom put the money back in the envelope. We didn't talk, but stared at the floor. We had gone from feeling like millionaires to feeling very poor. I looked at my dress and worn-out shoes and felt ashamed. I was in the ninth grade at school, at the top of my class of over 100 students. I felt I should quit school as I had finished eighth grade. That was all the law required at that time. We didn't want to go to church on Sunday, but Mom said we must.

We had a missionary speaker who talked about Africans needing money for church roofs. He said \$100 would put a roof on a church. We looked at each other and smiled. Mom reached into her purse for the envelope, passing it to Darlene, who gave it to me. I handed it to Ocy. Ocy put it in the offering.

When the offering was counted, the minister announced that it was a little over \$100. The missionary was excited. He said, "You must have some rich people in this little church."

Suddenly it struck us! We had given \$87 of that "little over \$100." We were the rich family in the church! Hadn't the missionary said so? From that day on, I've never been poor again. I've always remembered how rich I am because I have Jesus!

Editor's note: Reminds us of our youth when we never "felt" poor!