

The Call

A Publication Of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

August 2009

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

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*Deadline for
July Newsletter
August 23, 2009*



Wine Auction

Saturday, September 12th

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Graciously hosted in the home of

Flia and Lyn Manor

452 Salem, Big Bear City

Please bring 2 bottles of the same wine.

*One will be opened for tasting; the other auctioned for
pleasure. Tasting begins promptly at 4:00 p.m. with
auction at 5:00 p.m. Minimum bid is \$10.*

Cash and checks only please.

Non-alcoholic beverages also available.

*The festivities include exquisite hors d'oeuvres, fabulous
desserts and a silent auction and 50/50 drawing*

For more information, call Linda at (909) 585-6026.

*A Benefit Fundraiser
for the Outreach Ministries of
Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church
Big Bear City*



From The Pastor

Timothy Edmondson

Dear Friends—

Here's a true story—believe it or not! (Google it and see for yourself!)

A few years ago, 33-year-old truck driver Larry Walters made national news. Larry had a habit of spending his weekends in his Los Angeles backyard, just south of L.A. International Airport, drinking . . . Pepsi. . . and eating peanut butter sandwiches. He would sit in his favorite lawn chair staring at the houses around him in the subdivision where he lived. Not a real exciting life.

One day abject boredom prompted Larry Walters to buy some balloons and a tank of helium. He figured on tying the balloons to his lawn chair, filling them with helium, and floating up for an aerial view of the neighborhood. He judged he'd get no higher than 100 feet, but just in case, he got out his BB gun and loaded it.. He planned to regulate his altitude by shooting out a couple of balloons. I'm not sure how many sixpacks of . . .Pepsi (???) . . .he had consumed when he came to that idea, but he decided it was worth a try.

So Larry Walters of Los Angeles went out and bought 45 weather balloons, a huge tank of helium, and some rope. First he secured his lawn chair to the ground, then he filled the balloons with helium. One by one he tied them to his lawn chair. Before liftoff he went in the house and got another six-pack of . . .Pepsi, a couple of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and his BB gun. Then he went out and sat in his lawn chair. He had instructed his neighbors to cut the ropes securing the chair when he was ready. "Let's go!" he yelled, and the ropes were cut.

But he didn't go 100 feet. He went up 16,000 feet! Shot straight up in the air! And the BB gun? It was useless since he was using both hands to hang on to the chair for dear life.

He zoomed straight up into the landing pattern at L.A. Airport. The pilot of an approaching Continental DC 10 reported that he had just passed a man in a lawn chair, and the control tower told him to report in immediately upon landing. They thought the pilot may have been drinking a little too much . . .Pepsi. Can you imagine being a passenger in that plane? "Look, mom, out the window! There's a man in a lawn chair!"

Eventually they sent up helicopters to rescue Larry Walters. They closed the airport and diverted all landings and takeoffs at LAX while they played tag with this fellow in his lawn chair at 16,000 feet.

When they finally got him down, he was surrounded by TV crews, the police, the fire and rescue squads, and plenty of curious people. It was a major event.

"Were you scared?" asked one of the TV reporters thrusting a mic in his face.

"No, not really" said Larry.

"Are you going to do it again?" asked another reporter.

"No," said Larry.

"What in the world made you do it the first time?"

Larry Walters thought about it for a moment and said, "Well, you can't just sit there."

Larry Walters is right. You can't just sit there. God has something exciting for each of us to do. Larry Walters may not be the sharpest tool in the shed, but you've got to admire his chutzpah!

How many of us are content to just sit in the lawn chair as life passes us by. In John 10, Jesus says, "I have come that you might have life, and might have it abundantly." He speaks here not about length of life, but rather fullness. And therefore, could it be a sin, but to live a drab, dull, and colorless life? Might there be a challenge in Larry Walter's example to live a little? To risk a little? To do something that the rest of the world might call irresponsible and crazy? (Which by the way, was one of the accusations leveled against Jesus.)

And what does it mean for our mission work as a congregation. Are we content to sit in the safety of a church pew Sunday after Sunday? And is that an offense to God who has placed within our hands an exciting opportunity to develop and grow a brand new congregation? Should we go buy some balloons and a tank of helium?

You can't just sit there! Because if you think you can, then you have never heard the message of the Gospel. If you think you can, then you have never seen the fullness of what Jesus did for you so that you could live. He didn't die on a cross so we could sit in our lawn chairs. . .He died for one reason and one reason only: to place in our hearts the love of God that would so burn within us that we would live with passion and commitment, that we would climb walls and break through barriers, that we would soar to 16,000 feet for the sake of those who have yet to hear the good news of the Gospel.

For Christ's sake, you can't just sit there! For the sake of others, you can't just sit there! And for the sake of your own well-being and the fact that you were created to live not just a long life, but a full one. . .you can't just sit there!

Deep Peace,
Pastor Tim



Some are content to just sit in the lawn chair and let life pass them by. . . And some are content to just sit in the safety of a church pew Sunday after Sunday.

Making More Full the Joy of Our Fellowship. . .

Rev. Margaret Duttera

Pastor Margaret has been retired for a little over a year, having served a large Lutheran Church in San Clemente for 19 years —ask her about “Beach Church.” She is a part-time resident of Big Bear and plans to spend much more time here now in retirement. She loves to fish and is a certified deep sea diver. Pastor Margaret is a great preacher as we discovered at our combined Pentecost service at St. Columba’s. She has also preached when Pastor Tim has been gone. She is a delightful and gifted person and we are blessed to receive her as a member and partner with us in ministry.

Jim Lyon

Jim has been part of Spirit of Peace for a very long time. . .so long that we all thought he was already a member! Jim was born in New York, raised in New Jersey, and is an active member of this community, serving in all sorts of ways, most especially in Search and Rescue operations on the hill. Jim has saved lives and while he is looking for someone who is lost and/or in trouble on this mountain, prays constantly asking for God’s help. Ask him about some of the ways God has answered those prayers! He has lived all over the country from the east coast to the west; was in the Air Force; and eventually sold sailboats for a living —one time selling 44,000 of them at once. Jim loves to sing and is active in our congregation’s musical events.

Merrilee Ragsdale (formerly Seidel)

Merrilee has been an active part of the Bear Valley for over 20 years and a beloved partner in ministry with us at Spirit of Peace. She (like Jim) has just taken a while to officially join in membership. Merrilee is a recent newlywed, married to Michael Ragsdale, local photographic artist. They have built a beautiful barn out in Irwin Ranch and plan to build a house there as well. Merrilee is known for her artistic qualities too —having owned the “Memories by Merrilee” store in the village and now continuing her work in custom picture framing at home. She spent a very long time with severe back pain and we are thrilled that after her surgery, she has found a brand new quality of life. Merrilee missed the new members reception Sunday because she was on her honeymoon. She sends the following note: “Dear Church Members: Missing our fellowship but having a memorable trip. Love & Peace, Merrilee.

Dale & Joanne Woolley

Dale and Joanne live in Costa Mesa when they are not on the hill. They hold their primary membership at King of Glory in Fountain Valley and join us as Associate Members. Dale was born and raised in Santa Ana, acquired a BA in Agricultural Economics at UC Davis, later going on to receive a counseling degree at USC where, by the way, he met Joanne, his wife of 42 years. Dale became a school counselor and administrator while Joanne was an educational psychologist. Both of them, licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, lead premarital counseling programs at a Newport church. They have been coming up the hill for 18 years.



After Much Prayerful Discussion, The Congregation Has Decided. . .

. . .not to pursue a building project with St. Columba’s. Such was the vote at the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, July 26th. While the prospect was very exciting, the challenges of the arrangement seemed complicated. In addition, the larger question seemed to be in regards to where we are in our development as a mission congregation and the long term feasibility of any such joint congregation occupancy. With concerns of the contractual agreement and severability provisions it appeared judicious to discontinue these discussions.

All agreed though on one thing. . .to affirm our current relationship with St. Columba’s including ongoing commitment to current and expanded combined ministries. We should all be mindful and thankful for the graciousness shown to our committee and our congregation who were welcomed into the building discussion. A letter of gratitude will be sent to the folks of St. Columba’s.





Women's Bible Study and Prayer Group

Our women's Bible Study and Prayer Group is going strong. Our meetings are held on Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. We are studying the book of "Acts." All women are welcome to come and join in this spiritual fellowship time. Please feel free to join us whenever you are available. Bring a friend. We are using the book "Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action" by Phyllis J. Le-Peau, as a study guide. It is a LifeGuide Bible Study. Copies are available at the Ark Book Store on Big Bear Blvd., near Pine Knott. Due to individual's personal schedules we meet in various homes. Be sure to call Linda Griffith to check on the location and what chapters we are studying. Home: (909) 585-6026. Cell: (562) 884-4477. Linda is also in the office on Monday mornings —(909) 878-2650.



Who Knows?

In case of emergency where are your written wishes kept? At a relatives? At a good friends? How about a place like the church office in addition to other locations.

Items that might be included:

- Who to contact with phone numbers;
- What to do in regard to medical treatment (including "Right to Die" document)
- Funeral or Memorial Service Requests
- Organ Donation information

These records, kept in a locked file, can assist greatly in a time of difficulty. Something to consider.

Submitted by: Tom Williams

Detach and return to the Church Office or give directly to the Griffiths

Your Help is Needed!



ANNUAL WINE TASTING

& AUCTION FUNDRAISER

This year's auction will take place on September 12th at Ella Mae and Lyn Manor's home.

Several areas are needing to be coordinated. Please sign up below.

I would like to help in the following areas:

- ___ Coordinate Gift Baskets
- ___ Solicit Items for Gift Baskets
- ___ Coordinate the Silent Auction
- ___ Solicit Community Donations for Silent Auction
- ___ Assist with Food by making hors d'ouves
- ___ Assist with Food Preparation/Serving
- ___ Host Wine Bar
- ___ Coordinate 50/50 drawing
- ___ Set-Up
- ___ Clean-Up

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO LINDA/BILL GRIFFITH, AUCTION COORDINATORS



It's a Girl!

Anya Marie
Turney
Born
July 16, 2009
5 lbs, 13 oz
19 in

Proud Parents:
Emily & Eric

Proud Sister:
Gretchen

Proud Brother:
Garret

Proud Church
Family:
All of us!



Healing

- Trudy (co-worker/friend of Nancy Hilliard) —heart surgery
- Grace Beyer —cataract surgery
- Rick Coelho —surgery
- David Max —back problems
- Bastian Berkhoff (uncle of Penny Coelho) —cancer
- Fran Palmer (friend of Clarks) —cancer
- Melissa Flahive (friend of Linda Wilson) —health concerns
- Virginia Mitchell —severe osteoporosis
- Marilyn Vecchio —Leukeimia
- Renee Marquez (friend of Cyndi Bauer) —Leukemia
- Helen Coelho (Rick's Mom) —Leukemia
- Ike VanKampen (Martha McKinley's uncle) —cancer
- Char Williams
- Betty Owens (friend of Warren's) —Alzheimer's/cancer
- Guido (Anna Weiner's brother) —severe nerve pain
- Christine Race (Janet Webber's daughter) —MS health concerns
- Danny (son of Doris Angerhofer's friend) —Parkinson's
- Marian Bacon (friend of Linda Wilson's) —brain cancer
- Lynn Thompson (friend of Kathy Kerr's) —brain tumors
- Andy Mearse (friend of Bartos) —chronic pain
- Candy Seimers (family member of Sandy Groom) —cancer
- Lori Baltus (Linda Wilson's friend) —blood cancer
- Janice Schlieder —lupus and knee problems
- Alma Bauer (Paul's mom)
- Glenn Beyer
- Betty Adams —cancer & Alzheimers
- Sierra Meadows —Crohn's disease
- Michelle (Neal Hertzmann's niece) —breast cancer
- Joe LaMura (friend of Judy Hollander) —cancer
- Anni Ruther (Doris Angerhofer's mother) —chronic pain
- Norb Hesch —Parkinson's disease
- Sue Griffith (Bill's mother) —Alzheimers; in assisted living

Safety & Protection

Those in the military: Nick Caretto (Army); Peter Caretto (Marines); Sam McCullar (Navy); Tim Lauer (Navy Submarine); Scott (Rick Coelho's friend), LCpl Tyler Craig (Wendy Craig's son in Angola, Africa), Cory Amelsberg, Sean Parrish; Sgt. William VanSickle, Marc DiConti and Son; Jeff Taylor (Keyson's Son serving in Iraq), 2nd Lt. Michael Nguyen (Air Force); Prvt 1st Class Devin Barto (Colorado Springs); Prvt 2nd Class Davin Barto (Colorado Springs), Brian McCoy (basic training/Texas); Tom Hastin (Jr Navy Seal); Travis Hastin (Army Ranger)

Answered Prayer

Central Lutheran in Van Nuys has called a new pastor, Rev. Jennifer Amos, after a five year vacancy. We've been praying for this congregation for a long time asking for God's Spirit to bring the right person. Barry and Betty Smedberg, Associate Members of Spirit of Peace, worship at Central Lutheran.


Prayer and Praise Page

*"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for In prayer."
Matthew 21:22*



Strength, Comfort, Guidance, Peace, Direction—

- The Bauer Family at the death of Paul's Father, Herb
- Rob, Jacquie, Emily Hall (KJ's brother and family)
- Danessa Barto
- Kellie Lemon & Family (daughter of Bill & Linda Griffith)
- Ruth & Pat —friends of the Clarks
- Caregivers

	8/4	Connie Bramlette	
	8/6	Ed Cedergreen	8/16 Bill & Linda Griffith
	8/6	Lauren McKinley	8/17 Pr. Tim & Sharon Edmondson
<i>Whose Birthdays!</i>	8/13	Keith Adams	8/20 Bill & Pat Crain
	8/14	Devin Barto	8/24 Rick & Anita Holden
	8/17	Neal Hertzmann	8/26 Jim & Patty Ryan
	8/21	Florence Nesland	8/27 Charlie & Robin Gehrke
	8/21	Gretchen Turney	
	8/23	Jack Kunz	
	8/29	John Bartley	



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Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2997

Big Bear City, 92314

Office Location and Hours:

41619 Big Bear Blvd. Suite 1A

Big Bear Lake

9 am—12 Noon Mon.—Wed.

9 am—12 pm Fri.

Worship Location:

349 E. North Shore Dr.

Big Bear City, CA 92314

(The Seventh Day Adventist Church)

Worship:
Informal Blended Liturgy

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

A Little About Us:

We are a Christ-centered, Bible-based community of faith that welcomes all people and serves God by serving the needs of those in the Bear Valley.

We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"The Call" is published monthly by

Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 2997

Big Bear City, California 92314

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Mailed on
August 3rd

**Try Our Sundays.
They are Better
than Baskin-Robbins!**